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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

KATY

City OKs annexations, planning contracts

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

During its regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 11, Katy City Council approved a plan to annex multiple pieces of property into city limits or the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction and approved an agreement with Kendig Keast Collaborative, a planning consulting firm, to help the city develop its Comprehensive and Parks, Trails and Recreation Master plans in unanimous votes.

"What we do on the comprehensive planning side is look at where you are today - numbers plus community input, leadership input, what's on the agenda today - then look ahead at the next 10, 20 years," said Kendig Keast Collaborative President Gary Mitchell.

The process to develop the Comprehensive Plan and Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan will be all-inclusive, Mitchell said. The company will take a systematic approach that incorporates current

projects, community priorities and past versions of the city's Comprehensive Plan to create an updated one which provides both consistency and progress while working to preserve the city's character. The parks plan will involve much the same process and will include an inventory of the city's current parks assets, public and private recreation facilities nearby and opportunities to coordinate with neighboring entities

See **CITY COUNCIL**, page A3



Katy City Attorney Art Pertile III of Olson & Olson, LLP, explains the annexation process to councilmembers at Katy City Council's regular meeting held Oct. 11. Council later approved the annexation of land into the city on the west side of the Cane Island master-planned community and land into the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction near Woods Road with some provisions.

CITY OF KATY/SWAGGT

YOUNG CENTER RECOGNIZED FOR Excellence IN DESIGN

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Texas Association of School Administrators and Texas Association of School Boards have recognized Katy ISD's Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center with five stars of distinction in the 2021-22 Exhibit of School Architecture event, according to a press release from VLK Architects, the firm that designed the facility.

"With the construction of the Agricultural Sciences Center, Katy ISD was able to provide active learning opportunities about agriculture, animals, and nature in an effective, modern environment," said Lisa Kassman, Executive Director Facilities, Planning, and Construction of Katy ISD.

Located at 5825 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, just north of the city of Katy, the \$34 million facility houses the district's Future Farmers of America events, has been used for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing and is used for community events throughout the year. It first opened in 2019 and includes resources for students of

See **YOUNG CENTER**, page A3



The Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center has been awarded five stars in the annual Exhibit of School Architecture competition. The competition recognizes educational facilities for excellence in architectural design that incorporates usage, educational value and value to the community.

COURTESY VLK ARCHITECTS



R. HANS MILLER

Pattison City Council has been meeting for years at the Royal ISD Administration Center at 3714 FM 359 in Pattison. With the purchase of a new building in downtown from Waller County though, the city will soon have its own City Hall.

Pattison moves forward with City Hall project, passes budget

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Pattison City Council unanimously approved the city's roughly \$475,000 budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year which includes almost \$68,000 to purchase the old Waller County Precinct 4 Annex at 3410 First Street and convert it into a new City Hall.

"I would like to tell council that the \$150,000 is an estimate. We might not need to spend all that," Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia said.

Other higher-end line items on the budget include \$40,000 for payroll, \$30,000 to maintain city streets, \$25,000 for attorney services, \$10,000 each for drainage maintenance and professional services, \$8,000 for utilities, \$7,500 for parks maintenance and \$12,000 for permitting and

inspections expenses.

According to a copy of the budget provided by the City Secretary's Office, the city will receive about \$150,000 in anticipated sales tax revenue, its largest income line item. Below that is about \$57,600 in Texas Department of Emergency Management grant funding, \$50,000 in franchise revenue, \$15,000 in professional fees and \$12,000 in building permit revenues. Other items, including the city's reserve funds of about \$185,000 bring the city to a balanced budget overall.

Garcia said City Council will have workshops to take into account community input on renovations to the new City Hall building which will likely include improvements to the restrooms at the facility.

See **PATTISON**, page A3

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October 14 2021
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The Source provides holistic women's care

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Source's motto is "your place for women's health" and volunteers and staff with the nonprofit clinic work hard to make that happen, says Matt Kouri, interim CEO of the organization.

"We have just recognized over the years a deeper need by the women that we serve for a more holistic approach to their health," Kouri said. "And so, we focus heavily on the woman and delivering a woman-centered, customized sort of higher-touch health care, as opposed to the traditional crisis pregnancy center."

Kouri said The Source does not provide abortion services and takes a pro-life stance, but the main focus isn't to be a pro-life organization, but

See **HEALTH**, page A8

COURTESY THE SOURCE

The Source's Spring Branch Clinic Director Alicia Purvis and Lead Nurse Practitioner Jihye Sim attend an event for the nonprofit which provides well-woman services to ladies of all ages. The Source focuses on counseling women facing the difficult choice of whether or not to abort a pregnancy and works to steer them toward options that allow the woman to carry the child to term and to provide a healthy living environment afterward.



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MEMORIAL HERMANN

Christ Clinic's Breakfast for a Blessing helps the uninsured

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Christ Clinic held its annual Breakfast for a Blessing fundraiser Thursday, Oct. 7 at Crosspoint Community Church and raised about \$40,000 of the nonprofit's \$100,000 goal said Christ Clinic Executive Director Lara Hamilton.

"Thank you to all who participated. We hope you enjoyed hearing Julie Aftab's inspirational story about true forgiveness and that it served as a reminder of how blessed we are to live in a place where we can bless others regardless of their background or beliefs," Hamilton said.

About 160 attendees went to the New Orleans-themed breakfast which featured sweet pastries on elegantly decorated tables with a French-Cajun theme. After time spent visiting with clinic staff and other guests, attendees heard from Aftab, a Christian refugee from Pakistan who was persecuted there for her faith.

During her keynote speech, Aftab said that, after her father was injured and unable to work when she was 16 years old, she had gotten a job at a local shop. While there, a man came in and tried to harass her with bribes and threats of violence in an attempt to convert her from her Christian faith to the Muslim religion. After



Christ Clinic's staff members took the stage after Aftab spoke for a brief awards presentation and to be acknowledged for their hard work. Clinic staff members are a mixture of paid employees and volunteers who work to provide medical care to uninsured and underinsured patients in the area. Employees and volunteers include doctors, nurses, clerical staff and others who handle all of those challenges on a tight budget.

Aftab repeatedly refused to convert and continued to profess her Christianity, the man left - only to later return with an accomplice. The two attacked her with vials of acid which seriously injured her eyes, blinding her and pouring a vial down her throat, destroying her ability to speak for a time as well.

"He pushed me down and threw me on the ground and he poured acid into my throat," Aftab said. "And my mouth and 67% of my esophagus were damaged."

Aftab said a woman later helped her and she eventually was shuffled from hospital to hospital seeking care, with

most hospitals refusing to treat her because of her faith and the pressure not to assist a Christian. When she did find care, the nurses tortured her, she said.

Aftab said that, despite the challenges she faced, she ended up growing closer to God as a result of the attack. Eventually, she regained the sight in one of her eyes and was able to speak again, and with the help of a local clergyman in her area was able to escape to the Houston area as a refugee.

"It was inspiring and very truthful," said Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President Rick Ellis.

Ellis said he was impressed with Aftab's story and found it to be touching.

Crosspoint Community Church Head Pastor Paul Goeke said he found Aftab's story inspiring each time he hears it as well, and that he feels stories like hers are why it is important to support the missions of nonprofits like Christ Clinic. He sees the impact of local nonprofits every day, he said, and relayed to the attendees that even as Hamilton was working to set up for the fundraiser the day before, he had brought a young immigrant woman to her who had just found out she is pregnant.

"So I walked her right across the courtyard. I indiscriminately interrupted (Hamilton) in what she was doing, and I said, 'Lara, can you help,'" Goeke said. "We told her the story and immediately Lara dropped what she was doing and immediately began getting this young woman connected with resources."

Goeke said he feels that the people at Christ Clinic help people to see their

CAN YOU HELP?

Christ Clinic has seen increased demand for its services during the pandemic. As demand increases, costs do as well, clinic staff said. As a result, they are asking the community to aid them in their efforts to support the health care needs of the community. To donate, area residents can use the following resources:

- ChristClinicKaty.org/Donate
- Contact Michael Peterson for any major gifts at 832-913-8476 or email him at michael@christclinic Katy.org.
- Contact Lara Hamilton for annual or planned donations at 281-574-1540 or email her at lara@christclinic Katy.org.
- Hamilton may also be contacted for information on how to donate to the clinic via the Venmo app.



Pakistani refugee Julie Aftab speaks during Christ Clinic's Breakfast for a Blessing event at Crosspoint Community Church. Aftab shared her story of challenges faced because of her faith and how people following their faith and good conscience helped her escape to the U.S. to recover from brutal acid attacks inflicted upon her because she wouldn't abandon her Christianity.

worth and that they are worthy of love - thus reflecting the image and care of God. He praised the staff at the clinic for their work in the community and expressed appreciation for their efforts.

Hamilton said the clinic hopes to make up some of the shortfall caused by reducing attendance to allow for social distancing through ongoing donations that tend to trickle in after the annual event. She said she hopes that area residents

will continue to support the clinic in its efforts to support the uninsured and underinsured who are needing help, especially during the challenging times caused by the pandemic.

"The people we care for at Christ Clinic are often lost, alone, and in need of the kind of hope Julie was given. Please consider donating to Christ Clinic to allow us to continue to be a reflection of God's love and healing grace," Hamilton said.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Flat-topped hill
- Move upward
- Admiration
- It's useful for serving food
- Kidnap
- One of the Greek Muses
- A type of media
- Sunscreen rating
- Former Michigan coach Brady
- German town devastated in WW2
- Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
- Leave
- Forearm bone
- Very fast airplane
- Helps little firms
- Defunct economic organization
- Science-based students organization (abbr.)
- Feels ill
- Indicates position
- Beverage containers
- Assists
- Science accreditation organization (abbr.)
- Purpose
- Group of elected officials
- Hebrew prophet
- They help you drink
- Lawmaker
- Charitable

CLUES DOWN

- Where wrestlers work
- Dueling sword
- Practice fight
- Genus of clams
- Fear of heights
- What some tell their dog
- The Golden State
- When you expect to get there
- Pointed ends
- Extinct flightless bird
- Feeds
- Nape of neck
- Descendant
- Small boats found in Turkey
- To avoid the risk of
- Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
- 13th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Brew
- Feeling of anxiety
- Young girls group
- Perform on stage
- White clerical vestment
- Popular musical awards show
- Bumpkins

38. One who acts on another's behalf

40. Direction

43. Look at with fixed eyes

45. One who helps professors (abbr.)

48. A large number of

50. Type of powder

51. Large jug

53. ___ Christian Anderson, children's author

54. American state

55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines

57. Witness

58. Landscapers lay it

59. Type of bread

61. Of 1

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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.

HCSO investigating prisoner death

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harris County Sheriff's Office investigators with the Office of Inspector General and Homicide Division are looking into the death of a 42-year-old man who was transported to the Harris County Sheriff's Office Joint Processing Center by Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies for open municipal warrants and additional follow-up work related to a DWI investigation.

On Sunday, October 10, 2021, at around 4:35 a.m., deputies were investigating a single-vehicle crash at the 15400 block of Kuykendahl Road northeast of Katy.

According to deputies, the male involved in the crash became combative, and they utilized a taser to stun the male.

EMS was summoned to the location and medically cleared the suspect and found that he presented no signs of medical distress or condition and was transported

to the Harris County Joint Processing Center.

Upon arrival at the processing center at around 5:45 a.m., the male became unresponsive and received CPR. The Houston Fire Department responded at 6:20 a.m. and transported him to St. Joseph Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased at 7:28 a.m.

A complete and thorough investigation will be conducted surrounding the man's death by

the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division and Internal Affairs Division, a statement from HCSO said.

All evidence and reports will be delivered to the Harris County District Attorney's Office for review. In accordance with state law and policy, the Texas Attorney General's Office will be notified of the investigation as well. The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences will determine the cause of death.

PATTISON

from page A1

Other items will be considered to ensure the facility meets the city's operational needs.

Council also heard a presentation from representatives from development firm RJ Miller regarding the proposed Riverwood Farms subdivision. The new neighborhood is expected to be in development soon said Michael Foley, an RJ Miller representative. The total acreage for the subdivision is about 174 acres and lots are expected to be 50-60 feet wide, Foley said. The developer is working on land plans and looking at options to establish utilities in the new community.

"It's too early to tell what home prices may be," Foley said.

Fluctuations in the housing market, supply line concerns and other factors make it difficult to anticipate the cost of new homes prior to more details for the development being finalized, he explained.

Council members also:

- Approved meeting minutes for the month of September and the finance report for October.

- Approved adding about 12,057 acres of land to the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction in three separate motions.

- Conditionally approved waivers for small buildings at the Garden of Prana project at 34582 Royal Road provided the Fire Marshall has no objections to the small buildings not having fire control systems.

- Asked the city attorney to review options to push for the removal or concealment of propane tanks stored at the intersection of FM 359 and Durkin Road near Royal Elementary School.

- Approved the replat of a portion of the Quinteros Subdivision located at 4685 Sterling Road.

YOUNG CENTER

from page A1

all grade levels within the district, according to the Katy ISD website. The overall facility includes a pond, show arena, pavilion, project center and rodeo arena which hosts the KISD Livestock Show and Rodeo each year.

The Exhibit of School Architecture awards are chosen by a 12-member panel which includes four school board members, four school administrators and four members from the Association for Learning Environments Southern Region. Educational facilities such as the Young Center are evaluated for distinction of design, value, innovation, community value and transformation. The Young Center received recognition for its incorporation of student expectations, graduation requirements, district growth and community usage opportunities, the press release said.

VLK Architects designed the facility and has offices across Texas in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

Construction of the facility was paid for via a 2014 bond authorization for \$99 million which voters approved.

Design of the facility by VLK Architects included opportunities for community input, which was incorporated into the final design.

"The design of this facility was truly a community effort that began in 2013 with the formation of a design committee made up of community members, business leaders, rodeo and FFA members, students, teachers, and administrators as well as family members of the individuals that the facilities were named after," said Managing Partner of VLK Architects Todd Lien. "The resulting buildings and grounds reflect the strong history of Agricultural Science in the Katy area and Katy ISD."



READY FOR THE RODEO IN 2022?

Planning is already underway for the 2022 Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show and Rodeo. The event will run from Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 to Monday, Feb. 21, 2022. The preliminary schedule is below:

TUESDAY, FEB. 15	THURSDAY, FEB. 17
3:30 p.m. All Swine must be in place	8 a.m. Swine Show
4 p.m. Swine weigh-in	1 p.m. Steer Show
5 p.m. Broiler Show	7 p.m. Rodeo Performance
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16	FRIDAY, FEB. 18
10 a.m. Special Rodeo	8 a.m. Goat Show
2 p.m. Rabbit Show	10 a.m. Lamb Show
3 p.m. Steers, Goats, and Lambs must be in place	1 p.m. Auction Sale Meeting
3-4 p.m. Steers, Goats, and Lambs weigh-in	7 p.m. Rodeo Performance
SATURDAY, FEB. 19	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21
7 a.m. Barn Sale	Students must have all shavings removed from pens by 4:00 p.m.
9:30 a.m. Parade	
11 a.m. Buyers' Luncheon (By Invitation Only)	
1 p.m. Auction	
7 p.m. Rodeo Performance	

CITY COUNCIL

from page A1

such as subdivisions and counties.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan process is expected to take about seven months to draft the plan with adoption of the plan being anticipated in about 10 months. For the Comprehensive Plan, the process will be 15 months to a drafted plan with adoption anticipated about three months later.

Information to develop the plans will include small group listening sessions, workplace visits, workshops and town hall meetings. Once initial data and input is collected from the community, the initial notes will be reviewed with local leaders to confirm consensus on both plans before they are adopted.

The last time the city developed a strategic plan was in 2001, according to Councilmember Janet Corte of Ward A.

Council also voted to annex a new portion of the Cane Island subdivision which includes about 79 acres of land in Waller County into city limits. According to city documents, the acreage was within Katy's extraterritorial jurisdiction and is south of Morton Road and has Franz Road as its southern border. It is located on the west side of Cane Island.

The second annexation is conditional, allowing about 145 acres to be brought into the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The land in question is in both Waller and Fort Bend counties and begins at Highway 90 and goes south of I-10 with Woods Road as its western boundary. The property is near the Amazon

facility to the west of Katy and is expected to be used for industrial purposes. Councilmembers unanimously approved the annexation with the condition that Houston agrees to release the property from its jurisdiction.

"I just want to say that this process started about four years ago when we gave some of our land that Amazon's on to the city of Katy," said Dez Woods, whose family owns the land. "We put some of our rice farm in then, and we very much would like to put some more in the city, and all I wanted to say is all of the things that we need to do, we're going to give them anything that needs to be done to complete this process we're working on. We've got our ducks in a row."

Council also:

- Approved the use of about \$203,000 to support the Southland Basketball Conference at the Leonard E. Merrell Center in the first quarter of 2022.

- Approved a contract to review software for the city for gaps in functionality.

- Postponed consideration of a contract with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP for fines and fee collection services for the Katy Municipal Court at the request of city staff.

- Approved an agreement with Fifth Asset, Inc. to provide a repository for debt contracts, leases and amortization tables.

- Approved an update to the city's investment policy.

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the District's 2022 Strategic Plan!



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Texans united on using stimulus funds for Texas-sized projects

As Texas lawmakers meet this week for the third special session of the year, it's easy to get drawn into the hot-button issues that amplify partisan and cultural divides. That's the narrative we read about daily on the local, state and federal levels.

But on one of the key issues in this special session – how to spend \$16 billion in federal stimulus funds – Texans, regardless of party, geography, and demographics, are in significant agreement about what they want our leaders to do.

And lawmakers have a generational opportunity to seize on that unified confidence from voters to assign those federal dollars toward big-picture, long-term improvements. These should be for infrastructure, technology, water quality and other projects that will have an immediate and sustained impact on the lives of all Texans, including in many rural communities.

That's the key message from the most recent Texas voter poll conducted by our organization, Texas 2036. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy organization focused on ensuring Texas remains the best place to live and work as we approach our bicentennial in 2036.

Our poll of 1,000 Texans shows that voters share similar concerns about issues the state is facing today and will face tomorrow – and that they expect state government to do something about it.

The poll shows that 92 percent of Texas voters are concerned about the state's future – 58 percent of them are very or extremely concerned. And 52 percent believe the state is in worse shape than it was this time last year. Only 13 percent say the state is headed in a better direction.

Most strikingly, more Texas voters (26 percent), for the first time in six years of being asked this question, said they feel financially worse off than they did last year, compared to those (20 percent) who believe they are better off today than they were a year ago.

These results are consistent with other recent, statewide polls and should be deeply concerning to our lawmakers now gathered in Austin. But they also highlight the opportunity



A.J. RODRIGUEZ
TEXAS 2036

Nearly nine in 10 Texans want to use the money for water projects that improve drinking water quality and access. Close to 80 percent support electricity grid and generation improvements, better broadband infrastructure, stronger cybersecurity and technology systems and improved flood-prevention capabilities.

to use this one-time funding for large-scale projects that will reap economic dividends today and in the future in hundreds of local communities.

Nearly nine in 10 Texans want to use the money for water projects that improve drinking water quality and access. Close to 80 percent support electricity grid and generation improvements, better broadband infrastructure, stronger cybersecurity and technology systems and improved flood-prevention capabilities. More than two-thirds of voters want to create new state parks and improve existing ones, and a majority endorses replenishing the state's unemployment trust fund.

The data demonstrates that Texans share similar aspirations for our state. We see the same opportunities and want to capitalize on them. And we recognize the challenges that Texas must overcome to maintain and grow a thriving economy.

So let's leverage this moment to work together and invest in Texas, in a Texas-size way.

A.J. Rodriguez is executive vice president of Texas 2036. He is former vice president for external affairs at Zachry Group and a city and Chamber leader from San Antonio.



Texas Congressional delegation should oppose taxing workers

With the pandemic, an uneven economic recovery, inflation, and the almost impossible task of finding employees, this has been a trying year for small businesses in Texas. And with the border crisis, it seems like Texas has been the focus of too much bad news. But the Texas Congressional delegation – Democrats and Republicans alike – can do one thing to bring some good news to those struggling in this region.

Congress is considering raising taxes on working families by raising the Federal Excise Tax for tobacco products by over \$100 billion. Texas Democrats should oppose this measure and help keep costs down for struggling families and keep jobs for Texas retailers.

This tax will double the federal cigarette tax from \$1.01 per pack to \$2.02 per pack and increase taxes on other tobacco products like snuff by over 1,600%.

President Biden and his administration have repeated many times that they would not increase any taxes on any American making less than \$400,000 per year. But this tax increase would do exactly that. Adult smokers and dippers are overwhelmingly working class.

In fact, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, which assessed this proposal, two-thirds



PAUL HARDIN
TEXAS FOOD & FUEL ASSOCIATION

of this tax will be paid by taxpayers making under \$75,000. Over a third of the tax will be paid by those making under \$40,000.

Texas adult tobacco consumers already send \$1.3 billion dollars in excise taxes, fees, and settlement expenses each year to the federal government. The government should live within its means, just like families have to, before raising taxes for more government programs. The economy can't recover with more taxes targeted at working families. Any tax imposed at the cash register is money out of their budgets.

This tax won't just hit working families. A study by Chmura Economics & Analytics commissioned by the National Association of Tobacco Outlets finds that this proposal will cost Texas \$267.3 million a year in lost sales, tax revenues and labor income, and result in over 1,100 lost jobs.

Retail merchants like us generate over a third of our in-store sales from tobacco, so this is an

existential threat. Small businesses have been essential during this pandemic and can't afford to lose sales, and South Texas simply cannot afford those job losses in 2021.

The sale of tobacco products are already highly regulated and taxed. But we can't compete with illicit markets that will flood the state with untaxed tobacco products when consumers are faced with huge tax hikes. This is exactly what happened when the Federal Excise Tax was raised in 2009. And illicit markets don't card minors.

Right now, there are more important issues for the government to focus on – starting with the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation. These issues are stretching family budgets and small businesses beyond the limit.

The Texas Congressional delegation should do everything possible to remove this massive tax increase from the budget reconciliation bill. I hope all members, in a bipartisan fashion, will look to closing loopholes and other methods before taxing working Texans.

Contact: Paul Hardin, President/CEO Texas Food & Fuel Association 401 W. 15th Street, Suite 5101 Austin, TX 78701 t 512.617.4305 - m 512.560.3334 f 512.477.4239 phardin@tffa.com

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



TRIBUTES

Born Nancy Ann McCoy on January 24, 1942, she was the second child of William and Nelva McCoy in Indianola, Iowa. William and Nelva were farmers. William was a master hog producer and won multiple conservation awards.

Nancy had two sisters, Carolyn and Kay.

She started dating Larry Ripperger, a boy from the farm next door, when she was fifteen. Larry didn't grow up going to church, so Nancy made sure to take him. He came to know Christ as a result. They were married on November 24, 1961 when Nancy was 19 and Larry was 20. They would have been married sixty years this November.

In July of 1968, they had their first son, Tim, in January of 1969 they had their second child, Bryan, and in May of 1972 they had their third son, Jeff.

Their three boys and daughters-in-law, Julie, Keri and Tara blessed them with



NANCY ANN RIPPERGER
1942-2021

12 grandchildren (16 including spouses)...Derrick and his husband Bobby, Gavin, Kendi, and her fiancé, Denver, Maranda, Halle and her husband, David, Chris, Grant and his wife Emma, Jenna, Camden, Gracen, Blaine and Elizabeth. They also have one great granddaughter, Eden.

Nancy and Larry have lived in Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Wisconsin and Texas. They have made their home in Katy, Texas

since 1988. They were some of the original members of Westland Baptist Church from its humble beginning in an old Mexican restaurant on Apple White in Katy.

Nancy loved serving the Lord by serving others. For more than a decade, she cooked meals every Wednesday night for the entire church to make it easier for families to bring their children to AWANA and attend Wednesday evening service. She loved hosting gatherings at her home and feeding everyone. It was a common occurrence for baby showers, wedding showers, birthday parties, Easter, thanksgiving and Christmas meals, graduation parties, bunko and late-night card games to be hosted in the Ripperger home.

Nancy had a green thumb. She loved flowers and they flourished in her yard. She planted a grapefruit seed in a pot nearly 50 years ago. When she moved to Katy, she planted it in her backyard. It produced thousands of

grapefruit over the years. One of our family's Christmas activities each year was harvesting the grapefruit. Sadly, the tree died this winter after the hard freeze we had in February and had to be cut down in May.

Nancy was reserved and quiet. She was as close to a Proverbs 31 woman as a person can get. "She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:26

She was consistent and predictable - the calm in the midst of chaos. She was a compassionate encourager. She did things behind the scenes and wasn't one to boast or draw attention to herself. She spent countless hours making scrapbooks for all twelve of her grandchildren. Her home was a place of comfort and joy. She always made sure there were fun activities and everyone's favorite snacks when the grandkids came to visit. She loved cuddling her grand babies. She had a knack for

comforting the crankiest of babies and rocking them to sleep. Although she and Larry did a lot of traveling over the years, Nancy was happiest in the comfort of her home.

In July of this year, she started to feel bad. She was constantly dealing with allergy symptoms so at first she thought that's what it was. By the end of July, she was hospitalized. She spent two weeks in the hospital only to be sent home with no answers or diagnosis. By the end of August, she was hospitalized again. September 9th, she was diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer that had spread to her lungs and lymph nodes. Her doctors said there was nothing that could be done. Nancy came home September 11 to be cared for by her husband, Larry, and Blue Star Hospice. During her time at home, she was visited by all three of her sons, Tim, from Brookshire, Texas, Bryan, from Augusta, Kansas and

Jeff from Coweta, Oklahoma. Her sisters, Carolyn and Kay, and her niece, Kathy, all from Iowa, her grandson, Derrick and his husband, Bobby, from Kansas and her granddaughter, Maranda, from Brookshire, Texas also came to visit her. She received an outpouring of love and encouragement through cards, texts and calls. Several close members of her church family came to visit and bring meals. She continued to show grace through her suffering.

The Lord mercifully and peacefully took her home at 10:32 in the morning on September 30 with her husband, Larry, son, Tim, and daughter-in-law, Julie, holding her hands and comforting her while listening to her favorite hymns, Amazing Grace and It Is Well. All those that are close to her will miss her dearly, but ultimately know she is blissfully enjoying her new heavenly home in the presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Patricia Frances Tydlacka was born in Moulton, Texas and passed away Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at the age of 74 in Katy, Texas. She was born to Joseph Frank Jasek and Agnes Bernadette Lev Jasek.

Patsy was married to Leonard Tydlacka for 53 years and has been a well-respected member of the Katy community for over 50 years. She loved dancing and listening to polka music. During her work years as a teacher's aide in Junior High School, she created a warm and comforting environment for her students. Anyone



PATRICIA "PATSY" FRANCES TYDLACKA
1947-2021

that knew her could testify that she worked very hard at teaching students how

to focus and put forth their best effort. Her title was "teacher's aide" but she operated a high level of interaction with her students. She had a way of delivering teaching material that was both powerful and gentle at the same time. She had control of every student's attention span. Patsy went beyond her job description by making lessons incredibly interesting and profoundly tailored to each student learning style.

Not only was she a die-hard Katy Tiger fan, she loved the Houston Astros, Houston Rockets, and the Dallas Cowboys. She trea-

sured her friends and family. She valued the relationships that she had with each and every person that was a part of her life.

Patsy is survived by her husband, Leonard Tydlacka of Katy, Texas; her two daughters, Christy Thompson and husband, Rodney of Lakeway, Texas, Shauna Tydlacka of Katy, Texas; her granddaughters, Kendall Thompson and Mallory Thompson; her brothers, Joe Jasek and wife Kay of Victoria, Texas, Charlie Jasek of Houston, Texas and Bennie Jasek and wife Barbara of Praha, Texas, and numerous other relatives

and friends.

She is preceded in death by son, Shannon Lee Tydlacka, her parents, Joseph and Agnes Jasek, brother James Jasek; sister, Lillie Zimmerhanzel; sister-in-law, Gary Zimmerhanzel; and nephew, Darrell Jasek.

There will be a visitation held on Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel where there will also be a rosary recited at 7:00 p.m. The family will also receive friends from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 8, 2021

at the St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Praha, Texas, where a rosary will be recited at 9:30 a.m. on Friday. Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Praha, Texas on Friday, October 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Gabriel Marrison, Celebrant. Interment will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Praha, Texas immediately after the service.

Arrangements under the direction of:
Schmidt Funeral Home
1344 West Grand Parkway South
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The Katy Times

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When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalms 141:5

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A Katy tradition celebrated



PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER

The Katy Rice Festival offered a wide variety of craft items for attendees to find and take home. Home décor, woodworked items, custom knives, baked goods and a host of other options were available. This year saw more vendors at the festival than any of the last four years with multiple rows of vendors along Second Street and additional space taken up around the festival area.



The Keeshea Pratt Band performs on the stage set up in front of Katy City Hall on Avenue C in downtown Katy. This year's festival included several musical acts including On the Side, Hybrid 7, Moodafaruka, Katy's own Hayden Baker, Meagan Tubb & Shady People, Cooper Wade and Amanda Shaw. Many attendees were dancing.

The children and teens area of the festival, just east of KT Antiques included several bounce houses, a live DJ and a child-friendly booth. Throughout the festival, children could be seen playing and having a fun time with their families, while nearby a few babies napped in strollers.



History, heritage and community service are a tradition of the Katy Rice Festival. Organizations such as the Sons of the Republic of Texas, Katy Masonic Lodge, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars were represented throughout the carnival. These organizations work to preserve history and honor those who have served their nation and to promote service to the community.

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy honored a decades-old tradition over the weekend with the Katy Rice Festival. The annual event celebrates the town's history as a rice-growing community and allowed the city to put its new Katy Downtown Plaza to use for the first time since it was landscaped earlier this year. The plaza hosted a stage for musical performances as well as serving as a respite from the Texas heat on a shaded, grassy lawn. Proceeds from the event go to the Rotary Club of Katy which uses the money for a variety of charitable work in the Katy area such as scholarships for Katy ISD students and other programs.



Former Katy Mayor Skip Conner (far right) helps volunteers at a drink tent. The Katy Rice Festival is mostly run by volunteers with the help of city staff and consultants to ensure everything stays on track. Over the last few years, the neon shirts worn by festival volunteers have become somewhat iconic.



Avenue B in downtown Katy was set up as a sort of a food court. Attendees could enjoy steak kabobs, gyros, funnel cakes and several other tasty treats while they attended the event. Many of the booths, especially the ones serving cold beverages, kept a steady flow of traffic throughout the weekend.

Texas Renaissance Festival celebrates opening weekend

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Texas Renaissance Festival opened its gates Saturday morning for its 47th season. The 70-acre festival which pays tribute to the sixteenth century will run through Nov. 28 and has added several new features this year.

"This place is magical," said TRF Chief Marketing Officer Cory Brock. "Somehow we manage to coordinate 2,000 people who put on the greatest time ever for us."

The festival's new attractions include a wine tasting at Odin's Table by Haak Vineyards and Brewery near the jousting field, a pub crawl hosted by the Holy Heralds of Hops, the Royal Scotch or Royal Bourbon and Rum tasting at 10 a.m. each day, escape rooms for visitors 14 and older, high tea with the Tea and Strumpets crowd and the new Del Lago near the jousting arena with several new shops and the wine tasting pavilion. Alcoholic events, as always, are for those 21 years of age and older.

A new, fully-air-conditioned pub, The Wyrwood Public House, will offer various stage shows including a burlesque show and offers an elevated patio to allow visitors to watch the regular parades that wander about the faire.

"The goal is to try to transport people from a sixteenth century-esque village outside to a late nineteenth century - 1800s to early 1900s - steampunk Victorian fantasy land," Wyrwood proprietor Louie Milligio.

Wyrwood is among more than 30 new vendors at the festival this year, said.

Traditions remain intact though with The King's Feast - a formal Renaissance-era dining experience hosted daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. More than 50 globally-known performers and acts are returning to the faire as well, according to

TRF staff.

Among the returning acts is Birds of Prey. Run by a family that has been in the raptor-training tradition for more than 30 years, the act features owls, falcons and even a South American King Vulture - the most colorful vulture in the world with a wingspan of about 7 feet. Altogether, the show features a dozen birds with three trainers, festival staff said.

More than 400 shops will also be open for patrons to enjoy. Camping facilities and wedding venues are also available on site.

The eight-week season began Saturday, Oct. 9 and goes through Nov. 28 each weekend day and the Friday after Thanksgiving. Each day concludes with a fireworks show near the jousting field.

In light of the pandemic, the festival asks that anyone with any symptoms remain at home until they are sure they are well. Additionally, the festival is offering vaccinations and COVID-19 testing near the festival gates for those that would like them. All fair staff must have either gotten their vaccinations or must have a negative COVID-19 test prior to working each weekend, said Brock, in order to ensure visitors and staff are as safe as possible.

Visitors should also be aware of road construction along FM 1774 just outside of the gates to the festival, Brock said. However, he said a traffic plan is in place and the festival is excited to have the construction finished after this year which will help ease congestion near the park.

Tickets are on sale at local HEB stores or at TexRenFest.com. Prices for tickets vary from \$13.50 to \$30. Valet parking is available for \$40 and various special events throughout the TRF season are available at an extra cost such as the King's Feast, alcohol tastings and camping. Season passes are also available.



R. HANS MILLER

Da Vinci's Flying Machines is a new ride this year at the Texas Renaissance Festival. Like all rides it is manually operated and riders can add to the fun with various attachments on each flying wonder on the merry-go-round-like ride. Many of the new rides focus on being child-friendly to ensure younger festivalgoers enjoy their visits.



Birds of Prey returns for this year's Texas Renaissance Festival. The performers and even some of the trained raptors in the show have been touring various celebrations across the U.S. for 30 years or more and educate the audience while wowing them with aerial displays.

R. HANS MILLER

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Redistricting skirmish continues in Austin and 5 other Texas-sized issues

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Along party lines, the Texas Senate passed a redistricting plan Friday that pits the only two Black members of Congress from Houston against each other and does not create any more minority-majority districts, reported the San Antonio Express-News. Attempts to amend the plan by Democratic legislators were all rejected by the redistricting map's principal author, state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston.

The Texas House has yet to release any redistricting proposals for Congress during the third special session, which ends Oct. 18. If the House doesn't pass a redistricting bill, it's likely both chambers will have to return for a fourth special session this year, the Express-News reported.

1 COVID-19 cases still dropping

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the state is steadily dropping, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 45,884 cases reported in the past week, along with 1,201 new deaths. Both categories are down more than 20% compared to the previous week. Lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas also continue to drop, with 6,730 reported Sunday by the Texas Department of State Health Services, a drop of 18% from the previous week.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated has crossed the 15 million mark, which is 51.6 percent of the state's total population.

2 State climatologist: Texas getting hotter

The state climatologist recently predicted that Texas will continue to get hotter and for longer periods



RUBEN REYES

Redistricting continues to be hotly debated in Austin at the state capitol as each party works to shore up their power while individual members fight to keep enough of their party in their districts to remain in office when their terms are up. State Representative Mike Schofield (R - Katy) says he believes as many as two more special sessions may be required in order to finalize redistricting in the wake of the 2020 census.

of time during the next 15 years. In "Assessment of Historic and Future Trends of Extreme Weather in Texas, 1900-2036," John Nielsen-Gammon predicted the average annual temperature in Texas will be three degrees warmer than the average from 1950-1999, and the number of 100-degree days could nearly double compared to 2000-2018.

The report, sponsored by Texas 2036, a nonpartisan nonprofit group named for the state's bicentennial in 15 years, indicates that the average coldest monthly temperatures will continue to rise, though that will vary across the state, as will rainfall predictions.

Extremely severe weather is expected to increase.

"Storm surges from hurricanes will tend to be more severe because of higher relative sea levels, and a possible increase in extreme hurricane intensity may further increase storm surge risk," Nielsen-Gammon wrote.

3 Arts commission seeks 'young masters'

The Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust are seeking applications for the 2022 class of Young Masters. The program provides

"exemplary Texas-based arts students" in grades 8-11 with financial assistance to pursue study in various areas of the arts, such as visual, literary, folk arts, music, dance, theater and media art.

Those chosen as "Young Masters" receive grants of \$5,000 per year to further their studies. More information can be found on the TCA website: arts.texas.gov.

4 October is Bullying Prevention Month

One in five children report being bullied, according to the Texas Department of Family and

Protective Services. In Texas, at least 40% of those bullied have seriously considered suicide. The agency "provides caregivers the tools to empower their children to be anti-bullying champions and to get messaging out about bullying prevention" at GetParentingTips.com.

The content is designed to help parents and other caregivers to have conversations with their children about bullying. "The conversation to prevent bullying can start as early as when a child learns the difference between kindness and unkindness," according to TDFPS.

5 Nearly 1,000 died due to drunk driving last year

A statewide impaired-driving campaign aims to cut the number of Texans killed in drunk driving crashes, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. In 2020, 963 people in Texas were killed and 2,114 injured in alcohol-related crashes, according to TxDOT. Drinking and driving is completely preventable and can cause serious physical, emotional and financial consequences. Sober ride options include a designated driver, calling a cab or rideshare service, using mass transit or calling a sober friend.

TxDOT's Drive Sober, No Regrets campaign is conducting outreach events at college campuses across the state in conjunction with football season. The events include video testimonials of Texans who deal with the daily consequences of drunk driving, either as a survivor or offender.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gbborders@texaspress.com

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend/ Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 2 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 12:00., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027 or by teleconference at Telephone Number: 888-363-4734, Access Code: 8706826. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal:	S. Corbin, G. Whitt, C. Davis, D. Montgomery & S. Wallingford
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year*	This Year*
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.800/\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.800/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 0	\$ 0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 0	\$ 0
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 0	\$ 0
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$0.00 0.0000%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

* There were NO residential homesteads for comparison purposes.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 538 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Monday, October 25th, 2021, at 11:00a.m. at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, STE 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Members of the public may attend the hearing in person. Due to the COVID-19 virus epidemic emergency and the high threat level warnings issue by various governments and agencies, members of the public may also attend this hearing by telephone at (866) 434-5269, Access Code: 9617275. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal:	William Jordan, Jacob Baker, Cameron Franz
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	William R Murphy Jr, Andrew Clark

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.50000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.45000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.05000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-3.33%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$287,946.81	\$329,439.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$287,946.81	\$329,439.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$4,319.20	\$4,776.87
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$457.66 10.60%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

Due to current and future debt obligations and operations and maintenance of District facilities, the District requires the \$1.45 total tax rate.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

Katy area Aggie promotes collectible cards as investments

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy area Texas A&M student Zachary Lynch and his cofounders Michael Goeden and Joseph Escobar launched Card Stock Exchange through Texas A&M's McFerrin School of Entrepreneurship last year. Over the summer, they formally launched their website which allows collectible sports card enthusiasts to monitor the values of their collections and as a research tool for investors in sports memorabilia, Lynch said.

Lynch said the idea for the company came from his own love of collecting trading cards and his work as a masters student studying finance at Texas A&M.

"I was thinking of it from a stock perspective," Lynch said. "How can you buy a stock without the information we want to know about buying a stock and find the ticker?"

Lynch's answer was to standardize card descriptions and establish a database that records and tracks values for people that use Card Stock Exchange's services. He partnered with Goeden and Escobar who were both card fans, and the company moved forward from there.

Lynch's love of cards stems from a trip to Books-A-Million at Katy Mills when he was 10, Lynch said. His grandfather had taken him into the bookstore

CARD STOCK EXCHANGE QUICK NOTES

- www.cardstockexchange.com
- Founded January 2019
- Winner of the Rice University Napier Launch Pitch Competition March 2019
- Top 6 at the Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition November 2019
- Formal launch summer 2021

on an outing together and he'd found some cards there. Later he found other area stores that stoked his passion for memorabilia - especially collectible cards - and he was hooked on the hobby, he said.

"I opened up that first pack there with my grandpa and that's what got the creative edge going," Lynch said.

A dozen years later, Lynch and his partners have been recognized for their work in setting up Card Stock Exchange as a business. In March of 2019, the company competed in and won the undergraduate division of the Rice University Napier Launch Pitch Competition. In November of last year, they placed in the top six of the Blackstone LaunchPad

Pitch Competition. In June of 2020, Lynch said the group was able to hire WDI Coding to help them establish their website which launched over the summer and their mobile app which is still in development and expected to be released in the next few months.

Other upcoming innovations include partnering directly with athletes that have shown interest to help them release their merchandise exclusively through Card Stock Exchange. This option will allow athletes to sell items directly to their fans such as exclusive shoes, clothing and trading cards, he said.

"The big thing is going to be partnerships with the athletes," Lynch said. "Each (sports organization) that we partner with will direct their athletes towards us."

The main thing though, Lynch said, is to connect with other collectors that have a passion for investing in sports cards - and potentially other cards and collectibles in the future. He and his team want people to understand that each card is unique with its own story and can be a true investment, not just as a collector but as a financial investment and the tools at cardstockexchange.com can help them manage those investments.

"I really want people to come to our platform and see it as truly an investment platform," Lynch said.



COURTESY ZACHARY LYNCH

Zachary Lynch poses with a portion of his own collection of collectible sports cards. Lynch is a finance student at Texas A&M and has worked with two partners to form Card Stock Exchange, a website that tracks trading card value with a mindset that each card is a financial investment - not just a collectible.

EDC announces interim president and CEO

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Area Economic Development Council Board of Governors has appointed Angie Thomason as interim Katy Area EDC president and CEO effective Friday, October 29 in an Oct. 6 announcement.

Thomason, who has been with the organization since January 2020, currently serves as manager of musi-

ness development. She fills the role of outgoing President and CEO Lance LaCour who announced Sept. 8 that he will be leaving the organization for a new role with Partnership Lake Houston in Northeast Harris County.

"I look forward to working with our board and ensuring a smooth transition as we seek a new President/CEO," said Thomason.



ANGIE THOMASON

VARGAS AGENCY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY



R. HANS MILLER

The Vargas Agency held a rope cutting with the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 7 from 5-7 p.m. to celebrate the agency's two-year anniversary. The business is located at 5718 Third Street in downtown Katy and will also host a branch office for the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber as well. Chamber president Don McCoy said he was excited to have the branch office to serve the chamber's members that are located on the north side of I-10 closer to the city of Katy. "It's necessary in order to serve the large membership that we're growing to," McCoy said. And we have a lot of members in the Katy proper area. . . . I think it's important to have a presence."

HEALTH

from page A1

rather an organization that provides support to women facing unexpected pregnancies so that they do not feel they need to have an abortion. As such, The Source's clinics provide well-woman care such as pap smears, breast exams and connect women to resources such as ultrasounds, mentoring and counseling, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy tests, Medicaid enrollment help and professional counseling.

"We have clinical staff who can provide health care - pregnancy care - during at least the first trimester of pregnancy with prenatal vitamins, prenatal care to help the pregnancy to be healthy in the hopes that the woman might choose life for her child," Kouri said. "And, if she does so, we provide her with lots of supports whether its mentorship, someone to walk with her if she needs that, clothing, baby food (and) training on how to be a parent."

The Source also assists women in finding adoption resources if they prefer to carry to term but are not able to raise the children themselves, Kouri said.

Birth control is also provided by The Source, but the nonprofit's medical staff are very particular about which options they choose to offer, Kouri said. All birth control provided at The Source's clinics prevent fertilization rather than causing a fertilized egg to be discarded because the organization's stance is that life begins at fertilization.

Health care remains the priority for The Source's clinics though. In 2019, The Source's Houston clinics served 2,181 women over the course of 9,489 visits with parenting classes, material assistance, referrals and other services. That number dipped in 2020 due to the pandemic with 1,394 women being served across 6,539 visits, according to data provided by The Source.

For those women who have chosen to have abortions, The Source's staff recognize how traumatic that decision and experience is, Kouri said.

"We are as pro-woman as we are pro-life," Kouri said. "And that's an important distinction, and we approach (helping women who have had abortions) with love and care and compassion and understanding - not with guilt or shame or judgment."

In early October, The Source an-

TAPPING INTO

The Source

The Source has two clinics in the Greater Houston area, once of which is in the Katy area near the Texas Medical Center. Each clinic provides a wide array of services to women to ensure their health on a holistic level. Like all nonprofits, the organization depends on volunteers and donors to assist with its work. More information on obtaining services or supporting The Source is available online at www.thesource.org.

• **TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER**
10023 S. Main, C-8
Houston, TX 77025
713-780-0030

• **SPRING BRANCH**
8312 Long Point Road
Houston, TX 77055
713-637-4141

nounced a merger between its two Houston area clinics and its Austin clinic. The two Houston area clinics are located in the Texas Medical Center and in the Spring Branch area. According to the press release, the goal of the merger is to provide services that make abortion unnecessary across the state.

"Our unique focus on providing high quality, whole-woman care and our bold plan to build a statewide network of clinics are truly what sets us apart and positions us for success," said The Source's Executive Director of Services Mary Whitehurst.

Kouri said the move will also help pro-life clinics such as The Source catch up to pro-choice organizations that have historically marketed themselves better. With that mindset, the merger helps The Source in reaching more women overall in the Katy area, Greater Houston and Texas in general.

"Our vision is that within 10 years we are matching Planned Parenthood's footprint in the state of Texas - that we've got 25 clinics in the state," Kouri said.

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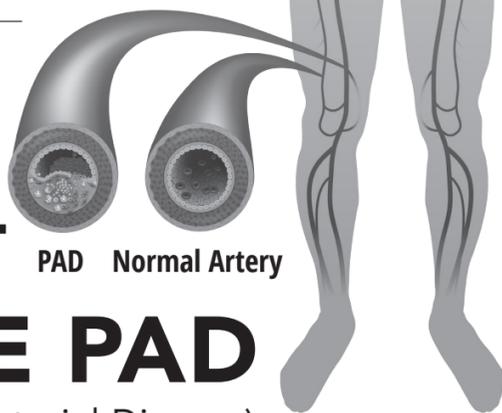
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WEEK SEVEN SCORES & SCHEDULES



FOOTBALL

Thursday, Oct. 7

District 19-6A

- Tompkins 52, Taylor 7

District 19-5A

- Paetow 77, Widso 0

Friday, Oct. 8

District 19-6A

- Seven Lakes 21, Morton Ranch 18
- Katy 65, Mayde Creek 7

Friday, Oct. 15

District 19-6A

- Morton Ranch vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium
- Taylor vs. Mayde Creek, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

District 19-5A

- Paetow at Terry, 7 p.m., at Traylor Stadium

Saturday, Oct. 16

District 19-6A

- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 11 a.m., Legacy Stadium

Non-District

- Jordan vs. Lake Belton, noon, Rhodes Stadium



VOLLEYBALL

Friday

District 19-6A

- Tompkins vs. Morton Ranch, 4:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Katy, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 4:30 p.m.

District 19-5A

- Jordan at Waller, 6 p.m.

Seven Lakes moves closer to playoff berth

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Hamon would trust Scott Stanford with anything.

So, with time running down on the clock and Seven Lakes needing a score, he knew there was only one person to give the ball.

"He's like our Swiss Army knife," Hamon said. "He holds our field goals, he punts, he plays outside linebacker and he'll come in and play quarterback when we need him to. I'm going to miss him when he's done."

Stanford only played two snaps at quarterback all game, but he made them count, as he ran in a one-yard

touchdown with 22 seconds left in Friday's game against Morton Ranch to give the Spartans a 21-18 win in a humongous game with playoff implications in District 19-6A.

"We we're a little worried because he was tired tonight," Hamon said. "They ran the ball well and they ran the ball down our throats it felt like in that second half. He was in on a lot of those plays and he was pretty tired, but we had trust in him making a play."

See **SEVEN LAKES**, page B3



Seven Lakes QB Grayson Medford #3 carries the ball to the outside during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium in Katy on Friday.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

RUBIO, BETANZOS WIN GOLD

AT 19-6A CHAMPIONSHIPS



BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Isabella Rubio and Ruben Rojas Betanzos went both went into Tuesday's District 19-6A cross country meet with one goal.

Win a district championship. The two runners had consistently placed high in their respective meets this year and both came into the meet confident.

Both met their goals, as Katy's Rubio and Seven Lakes' Betanzos went on to win gold at the meet, with Rojas coming in 17 seconds faster than any other runner and Betanzos outpacing his nearest competitor by 22 seconds.

"It's really my teammates that have got me here," Betanzos said. "I've had amazing teammates throughout my four years. Every year I've had really good teammates that have helped me."

Rubio was motivated by the fast start by some of her competitors, and continued to stay the pace with them, eventually passing and taking the lead.

"I wanted to go out there and stick with whoever was in front," Rubio said. "I was actually surprised by who was in

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, page B5

TYLER TYRE

Isabella Rubio races towards the finish during Tuesday's District 19-6A meet at Paul Rushing Park.

Falcons back to winning ways, top Taylor in 52-7 victory

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Flush it. That was Cole Francis and Tompkins' message heading into this week.

Don't think about what happened the week prior, don't worry about the noise anywhere else, flush what happened in the past and focus on the game and day ahead of you.

"You can't let it sit on you because if it sits on you and you think about the past, then that's all you're going to think about," Francis said. "We focused on just moving forward

and doing what we can do. You can't focus on what other teams can do, because you can't control it. We have to focus on what we can control, which is ourselves, and not focus on what you can't control."

Tompkins controlled everything on their end of things and also controlled everything on the field Thursday night, as the Falcons came away with a 52-7 win over Taylor in a District 19-6A matchup at Legacy Stadium, bouncing back from the team's first loss of the season the previous week.

"It starts with our preparation in practice, we talked about flushing it and coming out and focusing on

us. When you have a game like that before then it gives you a chance to look at yourself and see what you can do better, you learn from those things," said Tompkins head coach Todd McVey. "The kids did a great job in practice, we talked about coming out and being strong and having high energy and keeping that throughout the game. I thought the kids did a really good job of that. That's probably what I'm most fond of is having that complete game is the way we played for four quarters."

Tompkins was focused from the first snap, as the Falcons forced a three-and-out to start the game and Francis hit Collin Marshall on

a screen pass on the teams second play from scrimmage that the senior running back took 51 yards for a touchdown.

But it was Josh McMillan II that stole the show. On Tompkins' next drive the senior scored on a 65-yard touchdown pass from Francis that would end up being his first of three touchdowns of the night, as the wide receiver also finished with a career high, 215 receiving yards.

"I take a lot of pride in being able to beat people in different ways," McMillan said. "I'm a fast guy and I have to be fast. So, I just use that straight-line speed and I maneuver around people. I just

tried to catch the ball short and then make it into a big play, you don't have to throw me the ball deep I can break it upfield."

Francis found McMillan for the duo's second score of the night early in the second, as McMillan took a slant from Francis and broke it upfield for a 66-yard score. After a Tyler Collins interception, McMillan got his third on a go-route on a 48-yarder from Francis.

It was also a huge night for senior quarterback, who went 14-21, throwing 365 yards and five touchdowns in the win.

See **FALCONS**, page B8



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Special teams mistakes haunt Texans

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Two extra points, a missed field goal and a blocked punt.

It's hard to win games when your special teams make those types of mistakes.

Those three mishaps were the difference between a win and a loss for the Texans on Sunday, as Houston fell 25-22 to the New England Patriots at NRG Stadium.

"They kicked a field goal to win it, we missed two extra points and we missed a field goal," said Texans head coach David Culley. "You can't have that."

The Texans built up a big lead and had strong performances from the defense and offense most of the day, but a fourth-quarter collapse by the offense and those mistakes on special teams led to a last-second loss, the fourth straight for Houston.

Nick Folk kicked a game-winning field goal with 15-seconds left, after the Patriots had run off seven minutes off clock on a 15-play 84-yard drive as the Patriots escaped with a win in a game they only led for those final 15 seconds.

"For us to go forward and be the team that we want to be, we have to start capitalizing in the fourth quarter," said safety Justin Reid. "We have to start playing our best ball in the fourth quarter in order to finish opponents off and not let events like today happen."

It was a great start for the Texans, who went on a 16-play, 79-yard drive to start the game. The team kept New England on its toes with a mix of misdirection and used lots of different personnel while largely running the ball. The touchdown however came off a pass, as Houston lined up in a power formation, ran play action and Davis Mills found Anthony Auclair in the back of the endzone for an 11-yard touchdown pass.

The Patriots had an answer, as they went on a 10-play, 60-yard drive to tie the game as Damien Harris ran in a 1-yard score. But the Texans weren't done in the first half.

On the third play of the ensuing drive, Mills rolled out to his right



Houston Texans wide receiver Chris Moore (15) carries the ball during an NFL game between Houston and New England on October 10, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The Patriots won 25-22.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

and threw a prayer down the sideline towards Chris Moore. Moore leaped over Patriots cornerback JC Jackson, tiptoed the sideline and went 67-yards to give as the Texans regained the lead.

"The guys around me were just making plays," Mills said. "It felt good going out there and scoring some touchdowns. I think we might have just left a little on the plate in the second half, but overall we're close."

Then, it was the Texans defense that made a play, after the Patriots drove the ball all the way to the Texans 5-yard line. Terrence Mitchell forced a fumble on Damien Harris just before the running back crossed the plain for a touchdown that Houston recovered. The Texans went on to make a field goal on their ensuing drive before New England made a field goal to close out the half, as Houston went into the locker room

with a 15-9 lead.

The Patriots started with the ball in the second half but Lonnie Johnson got it right back for the Texans, diving to make an interception on the second play from scrimmage in the half and the Texans capitalized. The team ran a flea flicker and Mills found Chris Conley streaking down the sideline for another score.

The Texans defense continued to bend but not break, allowing two field goals to the Patriots in the third quarter.

Then, the collapse came. Ka'imi Fairbairn missed a 56-yard field goal on the next Texans drive to give New England a short field and the Patriots capitalized heading into a fourth quarter that was all New England.

Mac Jones found Hunter Henry on a 13-yard pass for a touchdown to tie the game. After the Texans were forced to punt, New England drove down the field and were aided by a roughing the passer penalty by Maliek Collins on a third down incompletion where the Patriots would have most likely been forced to punt. The drive continued and led to the game winning field goal.

"The defense was flying around and making plays on the ball," Reid said. "We created some turnovers and fumbles and we have to continue to do that. At the end of the game we can't let offenses bleed clock with the run game."

The Texans know they let one slip away, and it won't be one the team forgets about quickly.

"This one hurts a lot," said running back David Johnson. "Especially with everything with the Patriots and that organization and the success they've had. It definitely does hurt."

Mills developing

Mills had his best game in the NFL, as the rookie quarterback completed 21-29 passes for 312 yards and three touchdowns, without throwing an interception. Mills thoroughly outplayed first round pick Mac Jones, but the Texans did not do enough around him to come away with the victory.

"Davis played well. The thing that Davis did today was he protected the football," Culley said. "He was very good in the pocket and ran our offense very well."

Offensive line woes

Mills was sacked three times and the Texans may be without their best offensive lineman going forward, as Laremy Tunsil had to leave the game in the first half with a hand injury. Culley said they do not know how serious the injury is.

Practice Team to big game

Chris Moore was called up from the practice squad this week after the Texans cut Anthony Miller and declared Danny Amendola inactive and the wide receiver did not disappoint. Moore caught 5 passes for 109 yards, both top marks for the Texans.

"I was just able to win my matchups and they called some great plays that gave me the opportunity to make some plays," Moore said. "I'm mad I left some stuff on the field, I wish I could have done more but Davis Mills, he keeps getting better and I'm just excited to go out there and make some plays for him."

Up Next

The Texans will take their four-game losing streak to Indianapolis to take on the Colts next Sunday at noon.



Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) passes the ball during an NFL game between Houston and New England on October 10, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The Patriots won 25-22.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN



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PLAYOFF RACE HEATS UP

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Friday

District 19-6A

Morton Ranch (3-3, 1-1) vs. Tompkins (6-1, 2-1), 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

• Morton Ranch will have a larger hurdle to jump to get back into the thick of the playoff chase with its loss to Seven Lakes last week. The Mavericks took the lead with two minutes remaining, but Seven Lakes marched down the field on a final drive and the Morton Ranch defense was unable to stop them. Morton Ranch will need to find some wins down the rest of its district schedule and hope for slip-ups from teams in the playoff race to get back into things. The key for the Mavericks will be finding a consistent defense and passing game. The run game is a threat for the team but the defense was inconsistent last week, playing one bad and one great half, and the passing game is improving but can get better.

Tompkins got right back into its groove after losing to Katy two weeks ago as the team trounced Taylor to get back in the win column. Cole Francis and Josh McMillan II both had huge days, and the Tompkins offense was rolling while the defense also made plays, limiting Taylor to 178 total yards and nine first downs. The question this week for Tompkins will be how well can they stop the run. Morton Ranch's Santana Scott and Josh Johnson make a formidable backfield threat, and the key for the Tompkins defense will be to slow those two players down.

Taylor (1-6, 0-3) vs. Mayde Creek (2-4, 0-2), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

• Taylor continues to slip down the district standings and are now the owners of a six-game losing streak. The Mustangs have also been ravaged by injuries and have had plenty of bad luck along the way. It all came to a head against Tompkins. The Falcons did anything they wanted against the Taylor defense and there was no answer from Taylor. The team's lone big play came on a run

from Michael Whitaker III, and the pass game is a work in progress as Taylor has had to make multiple quarterback changes this year due to injuries. The Mustangs are badly in need of a win and have the opportunity in facing a rebuilding Mayde Creek team.

Mayde Creek ran into Katy last week and put up some decent numbers in the pass game on offense but continued to struggle in the run game. Overall the team passed for 113 yards but combined ran for -19. Jordan Kelly did his best to lead the team as he had 2 catches for 95 yards and a touchdown, but that ended up being Mayde Creek's only score of the game. The defense struggled against Katy but did get three sacks and forced a fumble while the special teams unit blocked a field goal. Mayde Creek will look to get back in the win column this week as they continue to develop their quarterbacks and run game while Taylor will be determined to halt their losing skid and look for a stronger performance from the defense.

District 19-5A

Paetow (6-0, 4-0) at Terry (2-5, 1-4), 7 p.m., at Traylor Stadium

• Paetow continued its march through district with a 77-0 stomping of wisdom and has Terry up next. CJ Dumas threw for 121 yards and three touchdowns. Eight different players carried the ball for Paetow, ending up with 233 yards and six rushing touchdowns on the ground. Wisdom was held to -50 yards by the Paetow defense, and the defense also created two turnovers, both interceptions. Terry has also had its fair share of struggles this year and Paetow should be able to continue its dominance, setting up a huge matchup with Fort Bend Hightower next week.

Saturday, Oct. 16

District 19-6A

Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 11 a.m., Legacy Stadium

• Katy continued its dominance with a blowout of

Mayde Creek, and the Tigers now get a game against Cinco Ranch. Katy did what was expected against the Rams, controlling the game on offense and creating turnovers and playing strongly on defense. The Katy defense forced an interception and three fumbles, recovering one of them, and held Mayde Creek to the negatives in rushing yards. Mayde Creek did hit one big pass play but that was the only mistake from the Tigers' defense.

Cinco Ranch comes off a bye week and will be trying to stay in a strong position in the district playoff chase. The Cougars' last game came against Mayde Creek, and they put together a strong performance, with Gavin Rutherford passing for 216 yards and two scores and also rushing for 60 yards and another two touchdowns. Grayson Williams had 96 receiving yards and Seth Salverino caught two balls for 87 yards. The defense held Mayde Creek to under 200 yards but will be tested by the Katy offense. This week Katy will look to continue to march towards a district championship.

Non-District

Jordan vs. Lake Belton, noon, Rhodes Stadium

• For the second time this season, Jordan will take on Lake Belton. Jordan had a bye week last week after coming off a heartbreaking loss to Hitchcock in which Jordan almost came away with a victory. In Jordan's last game against Lake Belton, Jordan allowed Lake Belton quarterback Connor Crews to throw for 180 yards and three touchdowns on 7 of 10 passing while he also ran for 77 yards. D'Arius Wilkerson rushed for 58 yards and Micah Hudson had 52 yards rushing and two touchdowns while Hudson also had five receptions for 134 yards and two scores. Jordan put up 28 points in the game but it wasn't enough, as Lake Belton put up 35 points. Jordan's defense will have to make a concerted effort to slow down Crews and Hudson and the defense must have a strong game if the Warriors are to come away with the victory.

SEVEN LAKES

from page B1

Stanford was tired heading into the play, but that didn't matter to the senior, he knew he needed to deliver.

"Last year we ran that same exact play in an overtime game and I'd done it before and I knew all I needed was a yard," Stanford said. "I just put my head down and that's what I did, everyone blocked and all I did was just reach the ball over and get us the score."

It took some late game heroics for Seven Lakes to get to that position, as Morton Ranch dominated the time of possession in the second half and got two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to erase a 15-point deficit.

The Mavericks took an 18-14 lead with 2:01 left in the game when Josh Johnson found Santana Scott for a 26-yard score and looked to be heading to a victory, but Seven Lakes came out with a plan on its last drive of the game.

Senior quarterback Grayson Medford engineered a 75-yard drive, running the teams two-minute offense to perfection, taking what the defense gave him in both the pass game and running the ball when it was open.

"I just tried to go out there and make plays on that last drive," Medford said. "I tried to deal with the pressure, step up in the pocket and take what they were giving me."

Seven Lakes was able to hang on after building a lead in a dominant first half for the Spartans. Michael Amico ran in an 11-yard run for a score early in the game, but Josh Johnson found Mike Gerald for a 6-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter.

Stanford blocked the extra point on a huge play and Seven Lakes went right down the field again and Amico scored on a 12-yard run, going into halftime with a 14-6 lead.

Morton Ranch controlled the game in the third quarter but were unable to get any points as Seven Lakes stopped the Mavericks on a fourth down fake field goal, but Morton Ranch had a chance to tie the game



Seven Lakes Michael Amico #32 carries the ball cutting back up the middle during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium in Katy on Friday.

in the fourth when Johnson kept a zone read and ran in a 5-yard touchdown to trim their deficit to two-points.

Johnson again kept the ball on a zone read for the two-point conversion try, but this time it didn't work, as Stanford snuffed it out and stopped him in the backfield.

"The play before that, he scored on that exact same read," Stanford said. "I was like, you're not doing that again. I baited him a little bit by going inside but I knew he was going to pull it because he was looking right at me. I just went out there and tackled him."

The win puts Seven Lakes in a very good position to clinch a playoff spot if they are able to take care of business the rest of the way in district.

"It was super important to get this win," Medford said. "We can't go easy on anyone, but this was a great win. We get our bye week, we're going to get healthier and we are going to get right. We're going to be ready."

Morton Ranch will need to bounce back if the team has any shot of making the playoffs but will be in for a tough test when they face Tompkins next week. Seven Lakes has a bye week before they also will face Tompkins.

"Our whole team is going to get healthy this week and then we come back and play Tompkins," Stanford said. "That's going to be a really good battle for us. We've been going at it for seven straight weeks with a scrimmage as well. We're all beat up and sore and

this week will be perfect for us to get healthy and ready."

Seven Lakes 41, Taylor 20

Seven Lakes	7	7	0	7	--	21
Morton Ranch	0	6	0	12	--	18

First quarter

SL: Michael Amico 11 run (Keegan Sneedon kick) 7:29

Second quarter

MR: Josh Johnson 6 pass to Mike Gerald, 5:12

SL: Amico 12 run (Sneedon kick) 3:50

Fourth quarter

MR: Johnson 5 run (run failed) 6:16

MR: Johnson 26 pass to Santana Scott (pass failed) 2:01

SL: Scott Stanford 1 run (Sneedon kick) 0:22

Team stats

	M. Ranch	S. Lakes
First downs	19	18
Yards rushing	37-168	40-257
Yards passing	137	67
Passes	8-17-2-0	7-8-0-0
Punts	4-36	3-39
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Penalty-yards	3-25	9-117

Individual Statistics

Rushing - Seven Lakes: Barrett Hudson, 15-103; Grayson Medford, 12-81; Michael Amico, 10-55-2; Marcel Davis, 1-15; Scott Stanford, 2-3-1; Morton Ranch: Santana Scott, 26-116; Ryan Hall, 7-33; Josh Johnson, 3-12-1; Mike Gerald, 1-7;

Passing - Seven Lakes: Grayson Medford, 7-8-67-0-0; Morton Ranch: Josh Johnson, 8-16-137-2-0; Mike Gerald, 0-1-0-0-0;

Receiving - Seven Lakes: Landon Ross, 3-26; Brayden Phillips, 2-21; Kyle Foster, 2-20; Morton Ranch: Santana Scott, 4-98-1; Mike Gerald, 3-24-1; Josiah Mills, 1-15;

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Texans face key division game against Colts

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

There's no time for the Texans to feel sorry for themselves.

Despite coming off a heartbreaking loss to the Patriots, Houston has to find a way to shake off the loss and bounce back, as they face a divisional rival this week in the Indianapolis Colts.

The Texans are off to a 1-4 start and have lost four straight games, and the team knows that is not good enough in a league like the NFL.

The Texans played a strong game against the Patriots, but fell apart in the fourth quarter, despite the offense playing well all game. On the last drive of the game the Texans decided to try and create a turnover instead of allowing the Patriots to score and giving the Texans' offense a chance. It backfired as the Patriots brought the clock down to 22 seconds before kicking the winning field goal.

"That's not what we expected, and I have to do a better job of making sure I put our football team in the best situation to win," said Texans head coach David Culley. "The way our offense had played when we were doing the right things, to give them a chance at the end of the game to score a touchdown to win, would have been the best thing to do for us."

The Texans missed two extra points, a field goal and had a blocked punt on special teams. Culley knows that the team will have to be better in that area if they want to win

ballgames.

"We have to play better from the standpoint of our guys doing the right things, especially, first and foremost, in our return game," Culley said. "We haven't got much out of our return game yet and that's not just on our returner, that's just with guys doing the right things. Going back to the field goal and extra points, Ka'imi Fairbairn is our kicker — he missed them and he's got to make those. We just didn't execute with the kicking and punting game; they just didn't get the job done and he didn't make the kicks."

The Colts come into the game boasting a strong defense but a mediocre offense. The Texans were unable to capitalize and turn Davis Mills' best game as a pro into a win, but the team hopes he can continue to play well and has confidence in him.

"He (Davis Mills) played unbelievable," said offensive lineman Charlie Heck. "As a rookie to be able to shake off that poor game against the Bills and be able to go out and execute and correct all his mistakes, it really showed he played a lot older than just a rookie."

The Texans aren't focused on previous weeks, and believe they have put the Patriots — and the losing streak — behind them.

"We just got to go in the film room and flush it," said safety Lonnie Johnson Jr. "Watch the film and correct our mistakes and then go out there this next game. It's a divisional game; we have to go out there and try our best to win that game."



Houston Texans safety Lonnie Johnson (1) reacts after being flagged for unnecessary roughness on a tackle during an NFL game between Houston and New England on October 10, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The Patriots won 25-22.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

CROSS COUNTRY

from page B1



Ruben Rojas Betanzos runs towards the finish line during Tuesday's District 19-6A meet at Paul Rushing Park.

TYLER TYRE

front in the beginning, but I was like, just stick with her, don't lose her. I just kept pushing and eventually got in front. I didn't really have a strategy, I just wanted to get out there and run."

Betanzos finished with a time of 15-minutes, 39.3 seconds, while Rubio had a time of 18-minutes, 23 seconds.

Betanzos, who finished seventh at last year's district meet, improved his time from last year by over 22 seconds and credited the result to hard work.

Rubio, who finished fifth last year, was happy she was able to win her final district meet as a senior.

"It felt really good to win because three years ago as a freshman I got first place in the freshman race," Rubio said. "It just felt really good to be getting first place as a senior in a varsity race. That feeling of finishing my senior year off by winning district was really good."

The top three teams and top 10 runners overall advanced to the Region III-6A meet at Kate Barr Ross Memorial Park in Huntsville on Oct. 25.

On the boys side, Tompkins claimed its fourth district championship in five years while Seven lakes and Mayde Creek also advanced. Cinco

Ranch won the district team title on the girls side for the second straight year while Katy took second and Seven Lakes finished third.

"My strategy was to go out hard and try and tire out some other guys," Betanzos said "We knew that Tompkins, Mayde Creek and Cinco all had good teams, so if I could go out hard and take some of those guys and make them go at my pace, then our guys could come in later on and beat them with their late kicks. That was the strategy, and I think it worked. Our No. 2 Reese Sullivan ran really well today and had a big part in that."

Both Rubio and Betanzos are going to enjoy their victories, but have bigger goals in mind than the regional meet.

"I want to try and get in the top three again the way I did last year," Rubio said. "Hopefully I can get first, I'm just going to keep training and get good sleep and prepare for that day so I can be at my best."

"The nice thing is that it's too the point where and I've worked hard enough to where I feel like this is a stepping stone for me," Betanzos said. "My main goal is to get to state and challenge for a state championship there."

DISTRICT 19-6A QUALIFIERS

GIRLS TEAMS

Cinco Ranch, 37 points
Katy, 47 points
Seven Lakes, 69 points

INDIVIDUALS

1. Isabella Rubio, Katy, 18:23.7
2. Alison Mueller, Cinco Ranch, 18:40.4
3. Rachel Solano, Mayde Creek, 19:25.3
4. Anika Mueller, Cinco Ranch, 19:40.6
5. Helen Ullrich, Cinco Ranch, 19:49.1
6. Ingrid Vargas-Castaneda, Seven Lakes, 19:51.7
7. Laine Heiser, Seven Lakes, 19:58
8. Christian Rodriguez, Katy, 19:59.9
9. Larissa Carr, Katy, 20:03.1
10. Courtney Richman, Tompkins, 20:12.4

BOYS TEAMS

Tompkins, 44 points
Seven Lakes, 66 points
Mayde Creek, 76 points

INDIVIDUALS

1. Ruben Rojas Betanzos, Seven Lakes, 15:49.3
2. David Livingston, Mayde Creek, 16:11.8
3. Adrian Hahn Vadstein, Cinco Ranch, 16:14.6
4. Noah Howard, Tompkins, 16:27
5. Reese Sullivan, Seven Lakes, 16:26.2
6. Adam Elbanna, Cinco Ranch, 16:32.3
7. Aiden Ramshaw, Tompkins, 16:32.5
8. Anthony Perez, Mayde Creek, 16:38.7
9. Colton Howard, Tompkins, 16:39.4
10. Matthew Montgomery, Seven Lakes, 16:42.8

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Katy Times

Katy, Paetow ranked in state football poll



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy fans cheer on the Tigers during a District 19-6A game against Tompkins at Legacy Stadium on Oct. 1.

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy is No. 2 in this week's Dave Campbell Texas Football Class 6A state high school rankings. The Tigers are second only to Austin West-

lake, and are trailed by Southlake Carroll, Denton Guyer and Duncanville, which round out the top five.

In Class 5A, Division I, Paetow is ranked No. 9, with Denton Ryan, College Station and Highland Park as the top three ranked teams. Fort

Bend Hightower is ranked No. 10, and the Panthers will take on Hightower next week in a game that could decide first place in District 10-5A, Division I.

Following are the Class 6A and 5A, Division I rankings.

CLASS 6A

1. Austin Westlake (6-0)
2. Katy (7-0)
3. Southlake Carroll (7-0)
4. Denton Guyer (7-0)
5. Duncanville (4-1)
6. Humble Atascocita (6-1)
7. Rockwall-Heath (6-1)
8. Spring Westfield (6-0)
9. Galena Park North Shore (6-1)
10. Austin Lake Travis (5-1)
11. Allen (5-1)
12. Spring (5-1)

13. San Antonio Brennan (6-0)
14. Rockwall (5-2)
15. Arlington Martin (5-2)
16. Eules Trinity (5-1)
17. Cibolo Steele (6-0)
18. Midland Legacy (5-1)
19. Cypress Park (6-0)
20. Lewisville (6-0)
21. Austin Vandegrift (6-0)
22. Houston King (6-0)
23. Smithson Valley (6-0)
24. The Woodlands (4-2)
25. Fort Bend Ridge Point (5-1)

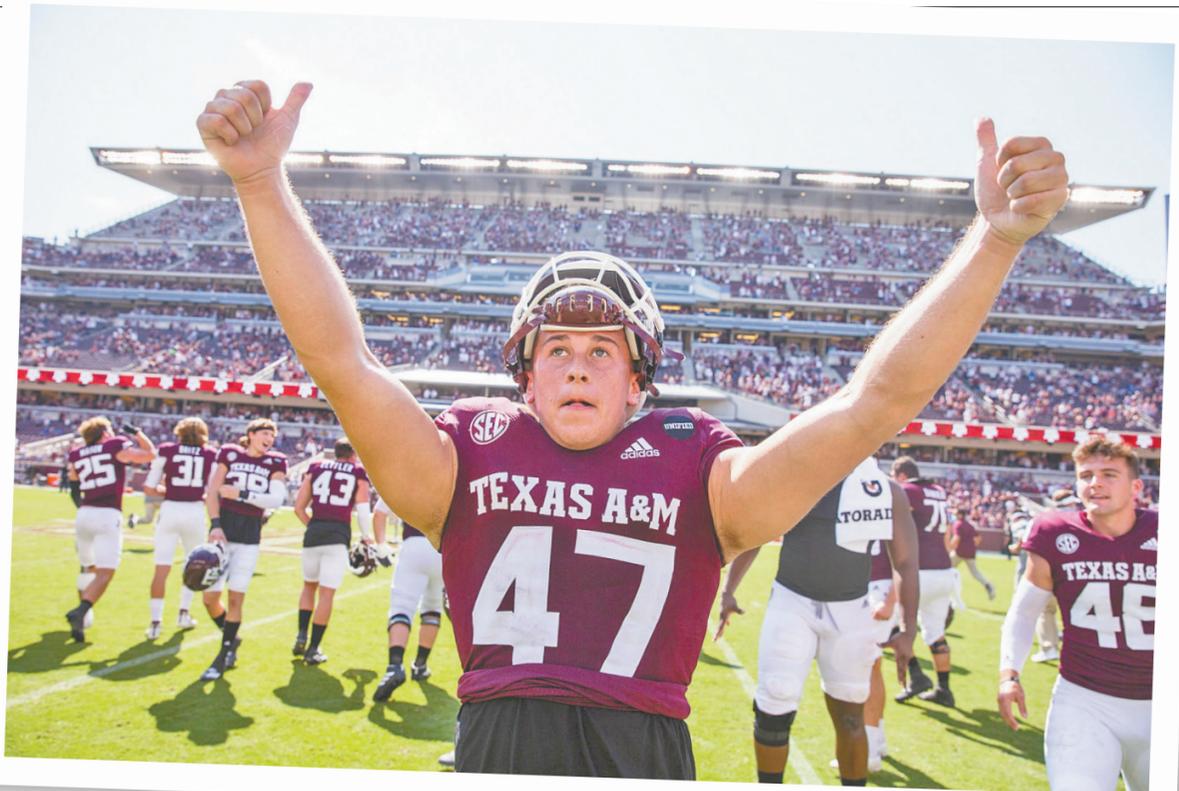
CLASS 5A DIVISION 1

1. Denton Ryan (6-1)
2. College Station (6-0)
3. Highland Park (5-1)
4. Amarillo Tascosa (6-1)
5. Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial (7-0)
6. Colleyville Heritage (5-1)
7. Longview (5-2)
8. Frisco Lone Star (5-1)
9. Katy Paetow (6-0)
10. Fort Bend Hightower (5-1)

REASON TO CELEBRATE

Texas A&M kicker and former Katy Tiger Seth Small kicked the game winning field goal in A&M's 41-38 upset win over Alabama on Saturday.

CRAIG BISACRE | TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS



Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 163 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Brazos Room, Houston, Texas. *Members of the public may attend the hearing in person. Due to Covid-19 virus epidemic emergency and the high threat level warnings issued by various governments and agencies, members of the public may also attend this hearing by telephone at 866-390-1828, Access Code: 7607880. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: C. Maluski, R. Patrick & A. Yoder

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: J. Hundl

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.900 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.890 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.010 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$559,382	\$606,089
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$559,382	\$606,089
Tax on average residence homestead	\$5,034.44	\$5,394.19
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$359.75 7.1458%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Waller County Municipal Utility District #33 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: J. Ross, S. Grisham, J. Berry & T. Beasley

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: A. Halevy

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year*	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ - /\$100 Adopted	\$ 1.00 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$1.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 0	\$ 0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 0	\$ 0
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$0.00 0%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

* There were NO residential homesteads for comparison purposes.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.



United States forward Ricardo Pepi (16) watches as his shot on goal scores during a FIFA World Cup qualifier between the United States and Jamaica on October 7, 2021 in Austin, Texas. USA won 2-0.
SCOTT W. COLEMAN

El Paso's Pepi leads USMNT past Jamaica

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Ricardo Pepi seems to like Q2 Stadium.

The El Paso native led the way in the first-ever World Cup Qualifier in his home state, scoring a pair his second international goal in his second start and leading the U.S. Men's National Team to a 2-0 win over Jamaica.

"It's a special feeling being able to score here in Texas," Pepi said. "It means a lot, being able to play and score in front of those fans. We felt like we needed to come out and get the win for them."

The 18-year-old forward has four goals in two career games in Austin after is finished with a brace in FC Dallas' 5-3 win over Austin FC on August 29. Despite making just two appearances, he's tied with Cecilio Dominguez, Diego Fagundez and Alex Ring for the most career goals at Q2 Stadium.

Pepi is the second-youngest player in U.S. Soccer history to score multiple goals in a game.

"We're all excited," USMNT head coach Gregg Berhalter said. "We're just sitting there, and we're on



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

United States defender Walker Zimmerman (3) leaps to head the ball during a FIFA World Cup qualifier between the United States and Jamaica on October 7, 2021 in Austin, Texas. USA won 2-0

a train. What you see and what I really like is they have an instinct, and that's really hard to teach in a player."

Texas is the third most listed state by the USMNT, hosting 27 matches, includ-

ing a 1-0 victory over Qatar in the Gold Cup semifinal at Q2 Stadium in July. But Thursday was the first-ever World Cup Qualifier in the Lone Star State.

U.S. Soccer has been im-

pressed with Austin FC and its brand-new facilities.

The sellout crowd of 20,500 did not disappoint, especially in the second half.

"It was great," Berhalter said. "Austin certainly did their part. We'd love to come back."

The U.S. drew El Salvador and Canada in the first international window last month, and Pepi led the Americans to another second-half surge, scoring a goal and recording two assists in a 4-1 win in Honduras.

Five players made their World Cup Qualifying debut on Thursday night, bringing the total to 21 in the cycle.

"I mean, I don't even think we think of ourselves as young guys anymore," 20-year-old midfielder Brenden Aaronson said. "We're put in a situation where the whole country is looking at us and we need to perform."

The U.S. had a shout for a red card less than 30 seconds into the match when Paul Arriola was brought down near midfield.

The Jamaicans continued to bunker, putting 10 men behind the ball for long stretches, and the USMNT couldn't break through.

The Americans had another possible red card go against them in the 34th minute.

Weston McKennie's free-kick sailed over the crossbar.

Jamaica had the only shot on goal in the first half.

Things opened up in the second half, and Pepi headed home a cross from Sergiño Dest less than five minutes after halftime. Aaronson

centered a ball to a sliding Pepi about 10 minutes later to double the lead.

"Everything just clicked tonight, and it was an all-around great performance," Aaronson said.

The win moved the USMNT up in the CONCACAF qualifying table, with eight points from four matches.



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"It's a special feeling being able to score here in Texas. It means a lot, being able to play and score in front of those fans. We felt like we needed to come out and get the win for them."

—RICHARDO PEPI

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FALCONS

from page B1

“I have all the confidence in the world with Cole throwing me the ball,” McMillan said. “Me catching for him is special; we have this bond that is unexplainable.”

Michael Whitaker III had a special moment late in the second quarter, as he broke off a 72-yard run for a touchdown, but that would end up being the Mustangs’ only score.

Tompkins completely controlled the second half as Caleb Blocker ran in a 21-yard run in the third quarter, Francis threw a touchdown pass to Matthew Ogunrin early in the fourth quarter and Wyatt Young ran in a 49-yard score to close things out.

“It’s amazing to have all these weapons around me,” Francis said. “They try to cover one person up, but they can’t cover all of them. It’s just awesome to know that they all are going to be there for me and that wherever I look, I’m going to have



Tompkins’ Cole Francis hands the ball off to Collin Marshall during a game between Katy Tigers and Tompkins Falcons at Legacy Stadium in Katy.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

someone open.”

Tompkins will take on Morton Ranch next week, while Taylor will take its six-game losing streak into a matchup with Mayde Creek. The Falcons are confident and are just looking to keep things going.

“We’re going to be where our feet are,” McVey said. “We don’t live back there in the past anymore. We learn from it, but we don’t live there. When we get to Monday’s practice

the kids are looking forward, and it’s like I told them, ‘we need to enjoy this journey too.’ There’s gonna be some bumps in the road and we don’t have control over that. So, let’s control what we can control, let’s go 1-0 in everything we do, and that’s what tonight was about. We went 1-0 and that was it. It was a really simple mindset and I thought the kids did a really good job of coming out and executing that.”

**Tompkins 52,
Taylor 7**

Taylor	0	7	0	0	--	7
Tompkins	17	14	7	14	--	52

First quarter

Tompkins: Cole Francis 51 pass to Collin Marshall (Mario Garcia kick) 8:12

Tompkins: Cole Francis 65 pass to Josh McMillan (Garcia kick) 5:56

Tompkins: Garcia 25 field goal, 1:25

Second quarter

Tompkins: Francis 66 pass to McMillan (Garcia kick) 1:58

Tompkins: Francis 48 pass to McMillan (Garcia kick) 0:25

Tompkins: Michael Whitaker 72 run (Slei Sabek kick) 0:07

Third quarter

Caleb Blocker 21 run (Garcia kick) 7:57

Fourth quarter

Francis 49 pass to Matthew Ogunrin, 7:56

Wyatt Young 49 run (Garcia kick) 5:57

Team stats

	Taylor	Tompkins
First downs	9	14
Yards rushing	35-178	29-162
Yards passing	35	365
Passes	8-15-0-2	14-21-5-1
Punts	8-42	2-24
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-0
Penalty-yards	1-5	2-20

Individual Statistics

Rushing -- Tompkins: Caleb Blocker, 11-61-1; Wyatt Young, 3-57-1; Collin Marshall, 9-27; Julius Mourning, 2-6; Cole Francis, 1-7; Jace Miller, 3-4; Taylor: Michael Whitaker, 10-98-1; Chase Cobbin, 13-31; Tyler Irving, 6-27

Passing -- Tompkins: Cole Francis 14-21-365-5-1; Taylor: Chase Cobbin, 5-9-7-0-1; Jake Webster, 3-5-28-0-1; Daniel Bruns, 0-1-0-0-0

Receiving -- Tompkins: Josh McMillan, 7-215-3; Wyatt Young, 4-64; Collin Marshall, 2-54-1; Matthew Ogunrin, 1-32-1; Taylor: Dante Archie, 2-24; Alejandro Zubia, 1-6; Michael Whitaker, 3-4; Alei Sabek, 1-4; Jamon Hines, 1-(-3)



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