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VOLUME 109, ISSUE 47

THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

KISD OKs renovation plans for Katy Elementary

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

When voters in Katy ISD approved a \$676.2 million bond package this past May, the package included about \$22.9 million to renovate Katy Elementary. The facility was opened in 1964 and expanded in 1994 – and now it's set to grow again. "We have been so fortunate – my leadership team and I – to be involved with the district and the architect team to create a design that we believe preserves the unique features of our building, including the bell that was on the two-story 1909 building, while also providing us the updates and (additional space)," said Katy Elementary Principal Beth Grimet. Renovations at Katy Elementary

will include a new roof, updates to the restrooms and kitchen, mechanical, electrical and plumbing updates, added common areas and a new building to increase the school's capacity, according to the KISD bond website. Details of the plan to make those renovations and upgrades were provided at the Nov. 15 meeting for the KISD Board of Trustees. The project, which is under the direction of KISD Project Manager Ryan Wotipka, was designed by Kirksey Architecture with feedback from Grimet and her staff. Construction will be completed by Satterfield & Pontikes Construction. Both companies are based out of Houston. With the initial design concept approved unanimously by trustees, Wotipka said construction documen-

tation will be developed by the end of January. Once that is done, a cost will be presented to the Board of Trustees during its March 2022 meeting. Wotipka said preserving the campus's history was a priority as the redesign process moved forward. Not only was the bell from the old schoolhouse preserved, but it was incorporated into a new bell tower at the front of the building. Additionally, with multiple prior renovations having been done to the campus during different eras, the architectural styles of the facility varied among those used since it was opened in the 60s. The new look, he said, needed to be cohesive while still nodding to the work of prior genera-



KISD

The drawing above was produced by Kirksey Architecture as a concept for the end result once renovations are completed at Katy Elementary School. The new design looks to update the layout of the campus and add capacity to the school to address a growing student population while honoring the facility's heritage. A larger entry will be featured in addition to a bell tower that will place the original school bell from the first Katy Elementary building that was put up in 1909.

See **RENOVATION**, page 3



COURTESY STREAM REALTY PARTNERS

Stream Realty Partners broke ground on six new buildings at the Empire West Business Park on Thursday. The new buildings will make the facility one of the largest overall industrial developments of its type in Greater Houston and are anticipated to bring jobs to the area.

Growing Empire: Development breaks ground on six new buildings

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy area residents driving along Highway 90 between Katy and Brookshire will see increased activity in the southwest corner of the intersection of the highway and Woods Road after Stream Realty Partners broke ground on six more buildings at the Empire West develop-

ment Thursday, Nov. 18. "Our belief in Houston and the west submarket is self-evident with the addition of these six buildings," Stream Houston Managing Director and Partner Matteson Hamilton said. "We are the only new development project in (Greater) Houston that can accommodate users from 120,000 square feet (to) over 1 million square feet in 2022."

Stream Realty's Houston Managing Director, Justin Robinson, said the new facilities in the second portion of construction at the site will help tenants get easy access to various parts of Texas while they take advantage of the proximity to I-10 and Port Houston to distribute products and import supplies, respectively.

See **EMPIRE**, page 3

Two Harris Co. commissioners join residents in redistricting suit

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Commissioners R. Jack Cagle of Precinct 4 and Tom Ramsey of Precinct 3 have joined three Harris County residents in a lawsuit to nullify the recent redistricting plan adopted in a 3-2 partisan vote on Oct. 28. "Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey and I joined a group of Harris County voters today to file a state lawsuit challenging Harris County's recent radical, unconstitutional

See **REDISTRICTING**, page 3



HARRIS COUNTY

Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey (left) had previously represented much of the Katy area until a new precinct map was adopted for the county on Oct. 28. That plan incorporated the majority of the Harris County portion of greater Katy into Commissioner R. Jack Cagle's (right) Precinct 4. The two Republicans have joined with multiple county residents in a suit to nullify the redistricting map.

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November 25, 2021
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Fort Bend entrepreneur program graduates first class

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County officials celebrated the first graduating class from its Entrepreneur Business Accelerator program on Nov. 18 from 4-6 p.m. at the Landmark Community Center in Missouri City. During the program, more than 90 small business owners received \$5,000 business grants funded by the American Recovery Act, according to a Fort Bend County press release. "Our small business owners and residents have faced unprecedented challenges over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fort Bend Entrepreneur Business Accelerator program provides business owners with the assistance and resources they need while jumpstarting Fort Bend County's economic recovery," said Fort Bend County Judge KP George. The program utilizes federal funds in an attempt to help



COURTESY FORT BEND COUNTY

Fort Bend County Judge KP George (center, in dark suit) poses with the first graduating class of the Fort Bend Entrepreneur Business Accelerator Program. The goal of the federally funded business mentorship initiative is to help small businesses recover from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to foster the development of small businesses in the county.

small businesses shore up their operations in order to be more successful. Entrepreneurs participate in an 11-course program that guides them in developing their business plans and operating policies. It also guides participating businesses in obtaining essential small business and minority-owned business status with local, state and federal agencies. Once the program is completed, the participants that finish the

See **ENTREPRENEURS**, page 3

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KATY AREA EVENTS

DECEMBER

ALL MONTH

THE LIGHT PARK AT TYPHOON TEXAS

Typhoon Texas at 555 Katy Fort Bend Road, near Katy Mills Mall, will host The Light Park. This holiday event features a drive-through light display that is family friendly. While enjoying the glitzy Christmas-inspired display, attendees can listen to DJ Polar Ice with seasonal music and a touch of humor. This event began in November and runs through Jan. 2, 2022. Tickets cost \$30-\$35 per vehicle. Visit www.the-lightpark.com for additional information and to purchase admission.

DEC. 2

KATY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The City of Katy invites the community to its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Katy City Hall located at 901 Ave. C in downtown. This free event will include special guests such as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Additional activities include a reading of "A Christmas Story," pictures with Santa, cookie decorating and more. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. and continue to 8:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/CoKTREE2021>.

DEC. 3

LIVE NATIVITY

Celebrate Life Church of the Nazarene at 6205 Franz Road in Katy invites the public to stop by for a live nativity. The show, entitled "A Christmas Journey" is an outdoor, walk-through show which tells the story of the birth of Christ. Guides will take guests through a series of live-action scenes that retrace the journey of Mary and Joseph. Show runs 7-9 p.m. Free admission. For more information, visit www.wecelebratelife.org/celebrateholidays or call 832-606-3304.

THE ARC OF KATY GALA

The Arc of Katy will celebrate the season with their annual gala at Beckendorff Farms located at 28533 Morton Road in Katy. This year's theme is "A Taste of the Holidays" and the event will feature an evening of dining and holiday-themed entertainment. Proceeds from the event will go to support The Arc of Katy's mission to empower and enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. A curated auction, raffle and wine pull will be included in the event along with a few surprises. The fun goes



from 6-11 p.m. Individuals \$150. Sponsorship opportunities available from \$225. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/ARCGala2021>.

DEC. 4

PANCAKES WITH SANTA

Join the Katy Fire Department at 1417 Avenue D in downtown Katy for breakfast with a jolly old elf. This event is cohosted by the department and the Katy Professional Fire Fighters Association to help raise funds for the KTFirefighters Scholarship Fund which helps area high school students become EMTs. The crews with KFD have set a goal of providing four scholarships this year. Strap on your breakfast bib from 7:30-10:30 a.m. \$5 per plate. Donations appreciated. For more information visit www.facebook.com/ktfirefighters.

KATY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Have a blast at the Katy Downtown Plaza at the intersection of Avenue D and Second Street in downtown Katy with this annual event. Now in its eleventh year, the one-day festival runs from 4-11 p.m. and includes more than 180 vendors, food trucks, entertainment, a beer garden, inflatables for youngsters, a visit from Santa and more. Proceeds from the event will go to support Katy Christian Ministries and donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted. Event and product prices will vary. For more information, visit www.katymarketday.com or call 281-391-1993.

DEC. 5

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Visit Holy Covenant Methodist Church at 22111 Morton Ranch Road in Katy for a concert by the Lone Star Symphonic Band. Director Bob Bryant will lead the musical ensemble in a show honoring the holiday season. Showtime is at 4 p.m. \$7 advance tickets. \$11 at the door. For more information, visit www.lssb.org and click on the "Join the Celebration" link.

DEC. 11

KATY COMMUNITY RUN AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Run out for a quick jog or sprint and join the staff of Good Times Running Co. for their fourth anniversary run and a free pancake breakfast. The run event begins at 6 a.m. and is followed by a pancake social from 7-9 a.m. All levels of running experience are welcome to participate. Attendees are asked to RSVP via Good Times

Running Co.'s Facebook event at <https://bit.ly/GoodTimes4th> and clicking the "going" button.

DEC. 16

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce will host this event at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston West-Katy at 16435 I-10, Houston to provide Katy area residents with the opportunity to meet Fort Bend County Commissioner Vincent Morales and Harris County Commissioner Jack Cagle. Morales and Cagle each had their districts altered recently to include portions of the Katy area in their respective counties. \$40 chamber member. \$50 non-member. \$500 corporate table for eight. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/ChamberCommissioners>.

DEC. 17

80'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Wildcatter Saloon will host its tenth annual 1980s-inspired Christmas celebration starting at 9 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by The Spicolis for this totally rad event, so pop and lock into your parachute pants, grab your neon and hypercolor and don't forget to pop your collars for a fun night with this free show at 26913 I-10 on the west side of Katy. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/WildcatterChristmas>.

DEC. 18

"POLAR EXPRESS" AT THE PARK

Stop by Central Green at LaCenterra from 4-7 p.m. for a free showing of this holiday film that celebrates the joy of the season. The event will include a party with mascots, face painting and other family-friendly activities – including giving children a chance to make their own cardboard railcars and join others in a parade around the park. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/POLARPARK>.

DEC. 31

NEW YEAR'S AT MO'S PLACE

Head out to Mo's Place at 21940 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy for live music and a New Year's celebration that will make you tap your toes. Steel Country takes the stage to keep folks on the dance floor and ready to ring in 2022 and say goodbye to 2021 and all its challenges and blessings. For more information visit www.mos-placekaty.com or www.steelcountrylive.com.

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Katy Times

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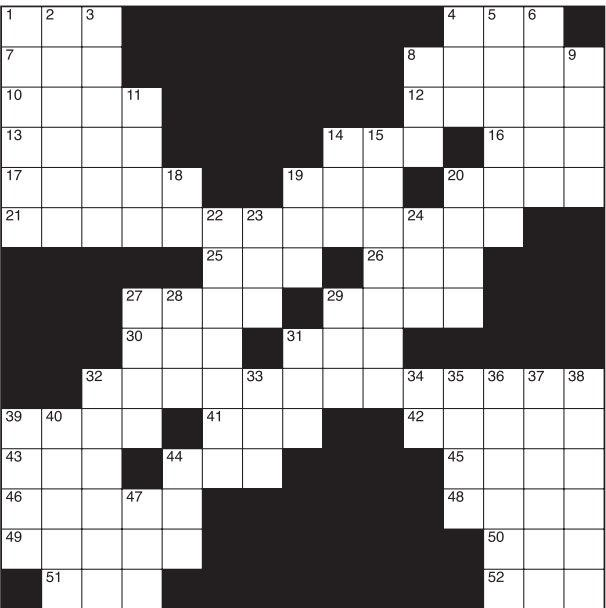
CLUES ACROSS

- FDNY's union
- Hideout
- Trent Reznor's band
- Old World tropics plants
- Places to stay
- Group of organisms from a common ancestor
- TV character Goodman
- Not around
- Title of respect
- Ceramic jars
- British legal authority (abbr.)
- A companion (archaic)
- Where groups of people live
- Indigenous person of NE Thailand
- Red-brown sea bream
- Ridge of jagged rock
- Meat from a pig (French)
- A way to save for the future
- Opposite of bottom
- A term of endearment
- Weight used in China
- You need it to hear
- Frighten
- Basics
- Computer data collection (abbr.)
- The best point of something

- Jewelled headdress
- Spoke
- Mammary gland of female cattle
- Midway between north and northeast
- Defunct European economic group
- Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

CLUES DOWN

- In tune
- Ending
- Ring-shaped objects
- Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
- Removes from record
- The lowest point
- Plant cultivated for its tubers
- Dry or withered
- Stony waste matter
- Speedometer reading
- Each of two or more forms of the same element
- A baseball stat
- Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
- Insures bank's depositors
- Made dim
- Uncultured person
- Paddle
- Currency of Cambodia



- Pitching stat
- A place to put mail
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 10 years
- Resinous substance secreted by insects
- Losses
- S. American plants
- Void of thought or knowledge
- Stout-bodied moth
- Transferred property
- Russian pop act
- Accept
- A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
- A type of center

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

REDISTRICTING

from page 1

redistricting of more than 1.1 million county residents,” Cagle announced via a Nov. 16 press release.

The lawsuit alleges that the rights of citizens to vote were taken from them unconstitutionally by Democrats – both Cagle and Ramsey are Republicans. The case accuses County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia of adopting a plan proposed by Ellis that Cagle and Ramsey feel will ensure a 4-1 partisan split favoring the Democratic party.

Ellis has defended his plan, saying it was brought about using priorities agreed upon by all five members of the court. These included maintaining communities of interest and balancing populations among the districts without regard to partisanship. Ellis had initially proposed a plan that would have created a horse-shoe-like Precinct 4 that would have spanned from Katy, north

to FM 529 and across to Baytown and then south again. However, that plan was highly critiqued by Ramsey as “corrupt” and impractical. Ramsey said Ellis’s initial plan would have created an immense precinct for Cagle to manage with an equal budget to that of his counterparts on the court while giving him a proportionately greater amount of roadways, parks and other county assets to maintain.

“I think the process – at this point – is corrupt. Corrupt in the sense that there’s a map that’s been generated, referred to as Commissioner Ellis’s Map (One), a week ago,” said Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey during an Oct. 21 special meeting of the commissioners court. “Clearly – clearly – it is obvious to everyone that’s the map preferred by the majority of the court.”

For their part, the Democrats stated that the new map – generally referred to as Ellis Three – corrects past gerrymandering after the 2000 and 2010 censuses under majori-

ty-Republican administrations for Harris County.

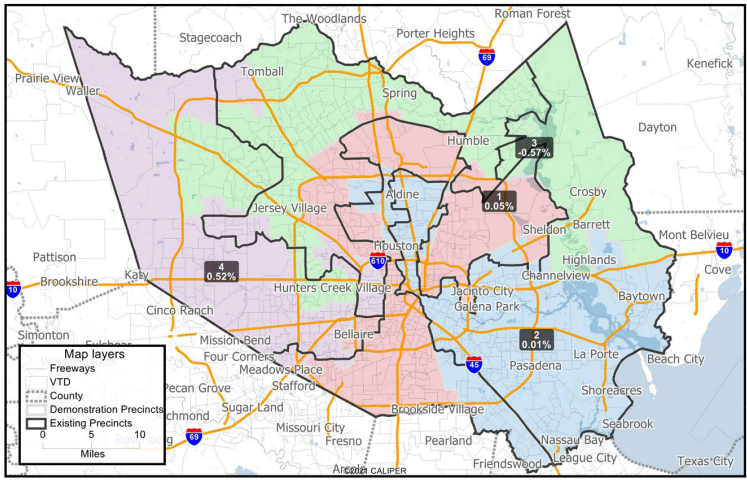
Cagle, Ramsey and fellow complainants Ranya Khanoyan, Alan Vera and David Lugo are asserting that the redistricting is not only a radical change from past precinct boundaries but also will prevent more than 1.1 million voters from casting ballots in the upcoming 2022 county commissioners primary and general elections.

According to court documents the plaintiffs are claiming that voters were moved from even-numbered to odd-numbered precincts which prevents them from casting ballots in elections they otherwise would have.

Cagle’s current term will expire in Dec. of next year while Ramsey will continue to represent Precinct 3 on the court through the end of 2024.

The plaintiffs are represented by redistricting attorneys Andy Taylor, Chris Gover and Joe Slovacek.

Partisanship was mentioned during the overall debate with



HARRIS COUNTY

The map above was proposed by Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and adopted on Oct. 28. The map has been criticized by Republican members of the Harris County Commissioners Court as partisan and unconstitutional. The shaded areas represent the old precinct boundaries with Precinct 3 in light blue and Precinct 4 in green along on the northwestern portion of the county while the solid lines represent the new precinct boundaries.

Hidalgo capping her arguments in favor of Ellis’s third plan, which was eventually adopted.

“I think, despite your concerns, that ‘Ellis Three’ is the better map, because I am concerned that your party is on a race to the bottom to literally not be able to pay for

lifesaving services when you’re rejecting a tax cut – Cut! – so that you can defund the hospital district by \$17 million in the middle of a pandemic,” Hidalgo said shortly before the vote along party lines with finalized the decision to adopt Ellis Three.

EMPIRE

from page 1

“The national trend of supply chain optimization has been pulled forward, and speed to market is more important than ever,” Robinson said. “That is our strategy for phase two (of Empire West): to provide high-quality, plug-and-play solutions for distributors that will allow them to be up and running by peak season 2022.”

According to a press release from the development company, Empire West already has three industrial buildings completed in April of this year with about 1 million square feet of space that is fully occupied. Warefor Solutions, LLC, a provider of integrated solutions for product development, manufacturing, logistics, sales, marketing, warehousing, distribution and fulfillment takes up the first building’s roughly 163,000 square feet. Home appliance manufacturer Winix America, Inc., which primarily focuses on air purifiers, has purchased the second building with about 122,000 square feet. The final building is taken by Ferguson Enterprises – the nation’s largest distributor of plumbing supplies, waterworks and fire and fabrication products – with that organization fill-

ing the roughly 751,000-square-foot facility.

The current phase of construction will add more than 2.3 million square feet of warehouse space, making it one of the largest industrial developments in Greater Houston.

Brookshire Alderperson Kim Branch attended the groundbreaking for the new facility.

The new warehouses will join neighboring distribution centers run by Amazon, Costco, Domino’s, Igloo, Medline and Rooms To Go which have been filling in the space between Katy and Brookshire over the last several years.

Stream representatives are hopeful that the development will be a boon to the economy of the area.

“(Greater) Houston is a major beneficiary of this trend (in distribution development) due to the consumptive engine of our 7-million-people, explosive population growth, regional reach to Central and South Texas and the unique offering Port Houston presents for importers and exporters,” Robinson said.

ENTREPRENEURS

from page 1

program in full with grant funding they can use to invest in their businesses’ development.

“We are so excited for the participants of this incredible program because we know these graduates will take the valuable information they learned and apply it to their businesses to see massive growth,” said program facilitator Stephen Levi Carter.

The training includes curriculum related to sales, marketing, finance, human resources, technology, business planning and operations, revenue models, negotiation tactics and other competencies essential for small businesses. Participants also receive one-on-one guidance from mentors and access to online coaching.

The Entrepreneur Business Accelerator program was created to help small businesses in Fort Bend County recover from the financial challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is free to participants and is open to all business owners in Fort Bend County.

The program culminated in the Thursday afternoon graduation ceremony which included a Pitch Day wherein the top 10 business pitches by members of the first class were demonstrated to those in attendance.

The second class of the program is already full according to the program’s website, www.fortbend-entrepreneur.com and it is unknown if a third class will be offered at this time. However, mentors with the

program hope their efforts assist local businesses in shoring up their situations in difficult economic times.

“Strong, thriving businesses are a marker of the strength of our local economy. Fort Bend County and the Greater Houston area will surely benefit from the growth of these companies,” Carter said.

George expressed support for local business owners and appreciation for the backing of the program by his fellow members of the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court.

“Economic downturns can be chaotic and uncertain, that’s why together, with our County Commissioners, we have and will continue to do everything we can to support our business community,” George said.

RENOVATION

from page 1

tions of Katy residents.

“And, one thing you’ll notice is, there’s a lot of beautiful trees on the site that we’ve really worked hard to maintain, and in some cases, hopefully incorporate those better into the design,” Wotipka told trustees.

The new plan removes portable buildings from the site and replaces them with a new two-story structure in the northeastern corner of the campus which will also add student capacity to the campus, Wotipka said. The new building would be used mostly by fourth and fifth-grade students

The main entry has also been redesigned to modernize it to meet current campus security needs, Wotipka said. The building will have one main entry with a large lobby that will reflect an increase in natural lighting using larger windows and skylights throughout the facility, where possible.

Bathrooms will be moved

to make them more practical, Wotipka said. This includes placing them in more convenient locations for office staff to use and closer to the gymnasium.

Administrative offices for Grimet and her staff have also been rearranged to make the use of space more efficient and friendly to parents, students, faculty and staff, Wotipka said.

Grimet said the collaborative process of developing the design focused on not only functionality but ensuring the legacy of the campus – Katy’s first school – was preserved.

“I’ve had the privilege to work at Katy Elementary for 26 years as a teacher and an administrator, and it has become like a second home to myself and to our staff and to many in our community,” Grimet said. “We currently have students who are sixth-generation descendants of the students who attended the one-room schoolhouse on our property.”

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Katy Times

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Should churches have a dress code?

Where do you reside on the “holier than thou” versus “holeyer than thou” spectrum?

I make only passing reference to squabbles over “proper” church attire in my 2020 motivational book “Yes, Your Butt Still Belongs in Church” (still available in paperback and Kindle formats on Amazon), but the subject is indeed divisive.

Between the judgmental churchgoers who second-guess the wardrobe choices of fellow worshippers and the slightly paranoid parishioners who assume they’re under a microscope, unease often permeates the fabric of church life.

Some church leaders do a lot of hemming and hawing about their expectations. (“Harumph, no, we don’t have an official list of specific prohibitions for you. Just like we don’t have an official, specific special corner of hell reserved for you, but...”)

Good taste and self-respect should reign supreme, but some traditionalists do take it to an extreme. Some of these people should spend more time clinging to the Old Rugged Cross instead of clinging to the 1958 Montgomery Ward catalog clothing section.

Yes, it’s easy to get caught up in memories when you constantly practice reciting lists such as the 7 Deadly Sins: “Pride, envy, gluttony, denim, flip-flops, spaghetti straps...”

On the other hand, some daredevils dress in a way that just invites panic attacks. When they’re within proximity of the baptistry, you can’t help but imagine them shouting, “Cannonball!”

Some offenders go the ragamuffin route, but others are more into ostentatious displays of wealth. (“Preacher says you can’t take it with you...so MY bling is getting a workout every Christmas and Easter! More money than God! More money than God! But less patience. Please look!”)

Perhaps church life would be more harmonious if Bible class teachers clarified principles better. (“No, it’s ‘an eye for an eye,’ not ‘a stink eye for a stink eye!’”)

Better enunciation might



eliminate some unfortunate mix-ups. (“It’s Song of Solomon, not Thong of Solomon!”)

Most true Christians will not object to someone being a tad relaxed or laid-back, but laid-back soon degrades into downright gelatinous!

(“Never mind the communion tray. I think I’ve still got some crumbs from last time in my PJ bottoms. Yum.”)

I was a generation too late for the “ubiquitous hat era” and I gradually got away from neckties a decade or so ago; but I do try to shave, pick out a decent shirt and don some non-distressed slacks. I acknowledge that more free-spirited people are focused on “sticking it to the Man.” Of course, if the Man is a kindly old double-amputee veteran, the chip on the shoulder loses some of its appeal. (“Thanks for your service...and the birthday card...and the job referral...but the Cheech & Chong shirt stays, Greatest Generationer!”)

I’m not making excuses for the easily tempted, but some attention-seekers routinely distract from important lessons with their provocative attire. The minister is making a point about Noah and the Flood, while half the menfolk are wondering how to make it Rain Dollar Bills for 40 days and 40 nights.

Ideally, congregations should welcome even the most inappropriately dressed visitors. And visitors should err on the side of caution.

Let’s put our rancor and insecurities in the garbage heap.

Hey, there’s also a 1958 Montgomery Ward catalog in the garbage heap!

“Yeah, that pelvis looked like it was about to get too much action from a Hula Hoop! Can’t be too careful!”

Sigh

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page “Tyree’s Tyrades.”

Research: Christianity declining in US...



Texas GOP pleased their own voters, most of the time

Texas voters weren’t impressed by the work of the Texas Legislature this year. That might make for some interesting arguments leading up to next year’s elections, but it could also fall flat, since lawmakers drew so few truly competitive districts in the new political maps that will be used in those elections.

The latest University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll found a mixed set of reactions from Texas voters:

Voters approve of lawmakers’ work on Second Amendment rights by a 46%-32% margin, but when it comes to the legislative response to gun violence, 35% approve and 41% disapprove.

Approving voters were outnumbered by disapproving voters on immigration/border security, responses to COVID-19, abortion, transgender student athletes, public education, redistricting, property taxes and foster care.

More voters than not approved the Legislature’s work on election and voting laws and public safety.

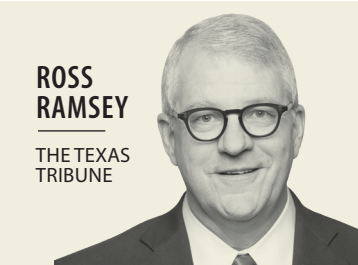
The biggest reaction to a list of issues was in the 60% of voters who disapprove of lawmakers’ handling of reliability of the electric grid, after a nearly statewide loss of electricity during last February’s polar vortex.

You might see all of that as fodder for next year’s elections. For challengers chasing incumbents in the party primaries, that might be the case. But new redistricting maps drawn after the 2020 census are designed to protect incumbent lawmakers in general elections, along with preserving the Republican majority in the Texas Legislature.

Few legislative districts are competitive. Nearly all of the 181 contests in the November 2022 general election will be decided in favor of the political party — and most often, the incumbent — chosen by the mapmakers this year.

The issues are there. The contests are not.

Elections have consequences. It’s a cliché because it’s true.



One consequence of the 2020 election is that it reaffirmed solid Republican majorities in both the Texas House and Senate, and those legislators drew maps that reduce future threats to their majority. In the process, they also protected themselves from everything but challengers in the party primaries.

That’s cheating, but it’s the nature of redistricting — no matter who’s in charge. The people in charge take care of the people in charge. Their maps are being challenged in courts — the first lawsuits were filed before lawmakers were even finished. But unless the courts decide the maps need significant revisions, the new maps will be used in next year’s elections.

Voters will get their best shot at the issues in just a few months. The party primary elections are set for March 1. Candidates can officially file for office as early as Saturday, and the filing period will last a month.

The first threats to incumbents — and for most of them, the only real threats — will come from within their own parties and within the next four months.

For the state’s attorney general, the issues are personal. At least three Republican elected officials — a former Texas Supreme Court justice, a land commissioner and a state representative — say they will challenge Ken Paxton. He was indicted more than six years ago on securities fraud and still hasn’t gone to court during years of procedural legal folderol. What’s more, he’s the subject of an investigation sparked by top aides who claim he used his state office to benefit a political donor.

For others, starting with the governor and the lieutenant

governor, the work of the Legislature during 2021 will be the content of the 2022 election. Their primary voters like some of that work. In that most recent UT/TT Poll, strong majorities of Republican voters generally approve of the lawmakers’ work on the Second Amendment (80%); elections and voting (75%); immigration and border security (73%); public safety (69%); and abortion (67%).

Among all voters, none of those issues won the approval of more than 46%. On two issues — immigration/border security and abortion — disapproval outpaced approval.

The state’s incumbent lawmakers didn’t get winning scores on other issues, like their COVID-19 responses and their work on public education, property taxes and the foster care system.

But the sharpest differences in voters’ responses fall along party lines. They reveal the careful path taken by the Republican majority during a marathon year of legislating. They stuck with their own party’s voters even when it meant going against most of the state’s general election voters.

And since the political maps put most of the competition in next year’s elections in the primaries and not in the general election, those partisans are the voters who’ll grade their work.

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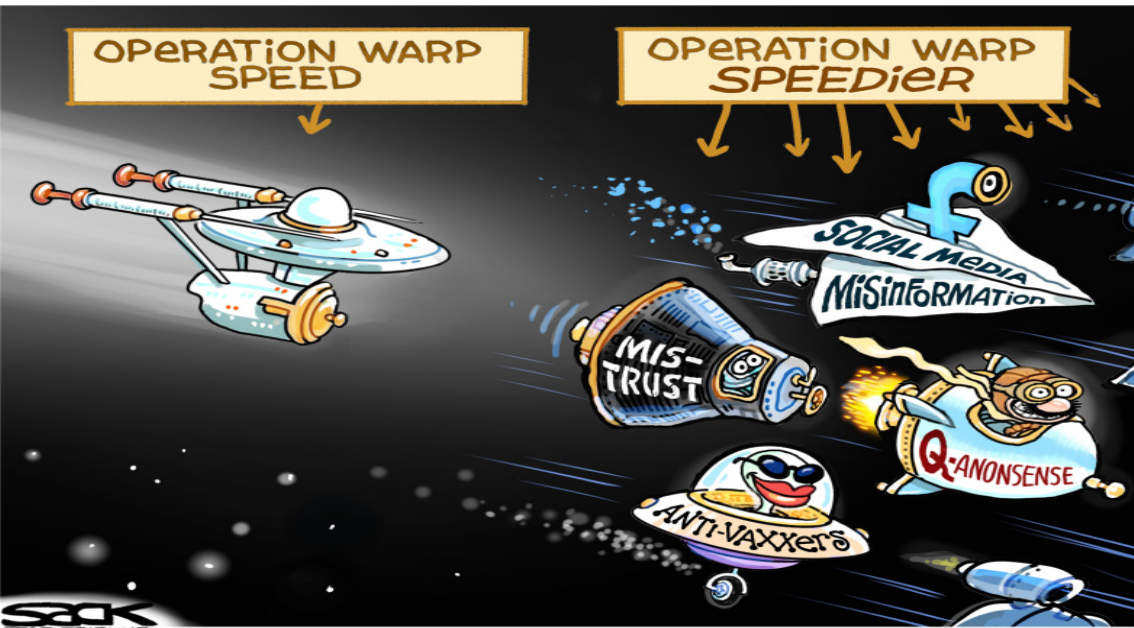
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KCM visitor seeks to help others overcome challenges

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy Christian Ministries had a unique visitor at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18 when author and philanthropist Frank McKinney stopped by as part of his book tour for his new release, "Aspire!"

"Katy Christian Ministries was honored to welcome our new friend, Frank McKinney. We were definitely empowered and inspired by his words, but more so by his servant and selfless heart. Truly making a difference in the lives of many who are going through various hardships," said KCM Executive Director Deysi Crespo.

McKinney is in the midst of a 20-city, 6,000-mile book tour for the new book which is subtitled "How to Create Your Own Reality and Alter Your DNA." The book discusses McKinney's interactions with the homeless, billionaires and others as well as his personal challenges in life. The tour is somewhat atypical because he is traveling to food banks, soup kitchens, women's shelters, juvenile detention centers, veterans hospitals and other community services locations to try to reach people in need.

McKinney's own story started out with difficulty in school with a 1.8 GPA in high school and seven stays in juvenile detention facilities when he was young. Since then, he has improved his situation and worked in real estate to design, build and sell more than 40 beachfront mansions with average prices of about \$14 million.

As a philanthropist, McKinney has built dozens of villages in Haiti over the last 19 years and



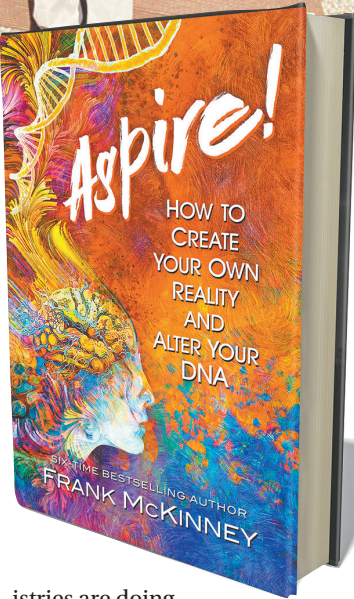
Author and philanthropist Frank McKinney poses with Katy Christian Ministries Executive Director Deysi Crespo as he donates to the local nonprofit. McKinney has achieved success after a challenging life as an adolescent and hopes his new book, "Aspire! How to Create Your Own Reality and Alter Your DNA" (inset) will help others overcome challenges as well.

CONTRIBUTED BY PR BY THE BOOK

proceeds from his book will go toward the Caring House Project Foundation which continues that work.

McKinney said he hopes that the work of groups like KCM helps others realize they can overcome challenges and rewrite their proverbial DNA in the same way that he did.

"Deysi Crespo and all the angels at Katy Christian Min-



istries are doing just that for the hundreds of children and their families who count on them daily. I saw aspiration in action today in a manner few ever witness," McKinney said after the event.

ROYAL FFA COMPETES IN BLUEBONNET LEADERSHIP EVENT



ROYAL ISD

On Saturday, Nov. 13 Royal Future Farmers of America students traveled to Sealy High School for the 2021 Bluebonnet District Leadership Development Event competitions. After several events, Royal FFA advanced a total of five teams to the upcoming Area XI competition. A total of four, first-place teams and a second-place team advanced to the next round. The individual teams were Senior Chapter Conducting which placed first (Members: Alondra Melendez, Melani Alanis, Juan Grimaldo, Emily Contreras, Angel Velasquez, & Kayla Jung); Senior Agricultural Skills, which which also won their event (Members: Samantha Lopez, Jessica Payton, Hanna Ulbricht); Radio Broadcasting for another first-place banner (Members: Litze Gonzalez, Kayla Jung, Kayla Longoria); Public Relations at the top of its event (Members: Kayla Longoria, Kaylee Meader, Kaelyn Hein, Elizabeth Ibarra). The Junior Agricultural Skills team placed second (Members: Keylin Aragon, Karime Melgar, Janet Quinter). Additionally, Ag Issues placed fourth in its event (Members: Litze Gonzales, Vladimir Moreno, Salma Reyes, Stephanie DeLaRosa, Cynthia Rivera). Ag Advocacy also took the fourth tier (Members: Katia Mendoza, Deysi Rivera, Isabell Bishop, Averi Ronney and Brianna Diezi) alongside the Senior Quiz team which also took fourth place in their event (Members: Jaylyn Danz, Lauren Hillsman, Elyssa Pruner and Dana Smith). Kimberly Pedraza took fifth in the Greenhand Creed event while Vladimir Moreno placed sixth in the Senior Creed competition. Finally, Jaylyn Danz took seventh place in the Job Interview event. Royal FFA will now move on to the Area XI competitions at Blinn College on Saturday, Nov. 20.

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KATY ISD

REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PREVIEWS

COMPETITION **HEATS UP** IN THIRD ROUND

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Friday

CLASS 6A, DIVISION II

Katy (12-0) vs. C.E. King (10-2), noon, Legacy Stadium

• Katy continued to roll through its opposition when it faced Stratford in the area round, but its run of dominance will get a lot tougher this week against C.E. King. Katy has dominated by running the ball all year and continued that in the area round as Seth Davis scored on a 79-yard run and the team used play action to its advantage. The Tigers now have two 1000-yard rushers in Davis and Glass and will look to continue what they have been doing. But C.E. King is not a pushover — the Panthers are built a lot like Katy in that they feature multiple talented backs and rely on the run game. In their area round game, the Panthers rushed for 527 yards with Jerrell Wimbley rushing for 323 yards and five touchdowns and D’Koreion Hammond rushing for 204 yards and two touchdowns.

That’s been the recipe for success for King all season; the team has thrown for 1567 yards but the run game is where it shines. The team has 3567 yards on the year, including 1972 and 25 touchdowns from Wimbley and 1175 and 15 touchdowns for Hammond.

Katy’s run defense will need to be at its best when they face the Panthers while the Tigers offense will look to continue playing like it has all year.

CLASS 6A, DIVISION I

Tompkins (11-1) vs. North Shore (12-0), 1 p.m. Galena Park ISD Stadium

• Tompkins defense is on fire and it will need to stay that way when the team faces North Shore. The Falcons come off a game where they intercepted Jersey Village six times, coming just a week after they intercepted four interceptions against Fort Bend Travis. The Falcons have also found a way to be a power running football team in these playoffs, through two playoff games, Tompkins has rushed for 576 yards and has been a run first offense. This should open up opportunities for Cole Francis off play action and help with the pass game as well. Caleb Blocker and Wyatt Young have formed a terrific sophomore duo and have combined to rush for over 1100 yards and 20 touchdowns.

North Shore is a power once again this year. The Mustangs come off a 41-13 win in the area round and have been dominant on both sides of the ball. Wyn-dell Mitchell was an efficient 14-21 in North Shores latest win, throwing for 181 yards, while the run game has been effective as well. Xavier Owens rushed for 90 yards in the win. David Amador is a threat on the outside and caught 7 passes for 119 yards and a touch-

See **PREVIEWS**, page 7



TOMPKINS SECONDARY FEASTS IN AREA WIN OVER JERSEY VILLAGE

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It didn’t seem like Tompkins secondary could have a better game after intercepting Fort Bend Travis four times in the bi-district round.

But the Falcons’ defensive backs weren’t satisfied and were out for more against Jersey Village (11-1) in the Class 6A, Division I area round at Pridgeon Stadium.

“We’re always hungry and we always want interceptions,” said junior free safety Cody Chapman. “Our safeties coach, any time a safety gets a pick he buys us a double cheeseburger. That’s what we want, before the game we’re always thinking, ‘let me get a burger for lunch.’”

There will be plenty of burgers to go around the safety meeting room next week, as Tompkins (11-1) came away with

See **TOMPKINS**, page 7



Above, Tompkins QB #9 Cole Francis delivers a pass during the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pridgeon Stadium in Houston. Left, Tompkins #1 Caleb Komolafe rushes for a TD during the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pridgeon Stadium in Houston.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco Ranch’s Noah Abboud #19 rushes for a touchdown during the first half of their UIL area playoff game against Memorial at Tully Stadium in Houston.



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco headed to regional semis after win over Memorial

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch has worked on its run game all season. The Cougars have been a pass first team most of the year, throwing for 2567 yards while rushing for 1165 yards heading into the teams Class 6A, Division II area round matchup on Saturday. But that has been flipped on its head during the playoffs, after rushing

for 135 yards and throwing for 195 in the bi-district round, Cinco Ranch (8-4) went even more run heavy against Memorial. “When we have a good run game, it opens up our pass game even more,” said Cinco Ranch quarterback Gavin Rutherford. “Coach emphasized that we aren’t only a passing team, we’re a running team as well. As the year has gone on we’ve tried

See **CINCO**, page 7

REGIONAL SCORES & SCHEDULES



FOOTBALL

Scores

- Tompkins 42, Jersey Village 14
- Katy 59, Stratford 7
- Cinco Ranch 48, Memorial 13
- Paetow 58, Manor 22

Friday

Class 6A, Division II

- Katy vs. C.E. King, noon, Legacy Stadium

Class 6A, Division I

- Tompkins vs. North Shore, 1 p.m. Galena Park ISD Stadium

Class 5A, Division I

- Paetow vs. Cedar Park, 1 p.m., Waller ISD Stadium

Saturday

Class 6A, Division II

- Cinco Ranch vs. Summer Creek, 1 p.m., TDECU Stadium at the University of Houston



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Calvin Nelms Charter Schools will hold
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At 11:30 am December 14, 2021
In the Conference Room
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20625 Clay Road
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The purpose of this meeting is to discuss
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November 18 Puzzle Answers

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

H	E	G	E	L		E	T	H		R	E	D	S
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T	O	A	D		E	N	C	I	R	C	L	E	D
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TYLER TYRE

Izzy Denton, left, digs the ball during Katy's Class 6A Region III Final match against Ridge Point at Sam Houston State University. Above, Maddie Waak serves during Katy's Class 6A Region III Final match against Ridge Point at Sam Houston State University.

Tompkins' Herrman named district MVP

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Paris Herrman was named the District 19-6A volleyball most valuable player, the district announced on its All-District volleyball team.

The senior outside hitter finished the season with 361 kills, 54 aces, 445 digs, 28 blocks and six assists while helping Tompkins to an undefeated district record and regional quarterfinal appearance. Herrman is committed to play volleyball at the Texas Tech.

Katy's Maddie Waak was named outstanding setter of the year and Izzy Denton was named defensive player of the year. Waak finished the season with 341 kills, 910 assists, 524 digs, 57 blocks, and 69 aces. Denton finished the season with 833 digs, 8 kills and 53 aces. Waak is committed to play volleyball at Louisiana State University while Denton is committed to play at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Tompkins' Cindy Tchouangwa was named outstanding setter. The junior hitter finished the year with 402 kills, 59 blocks, 263 digs, 15 aces and five assists.

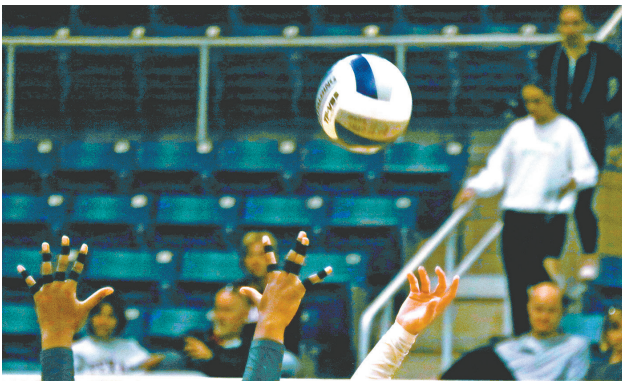
Cinco Ranch's Kassie O'Brien was named newcomer of the year. The setter closed out her freshman campaign with 419 assists, 181 digs, 63 kills, 22 blocks and 21 aces.

Danielle Wells was named coach of the year after leading a young Cinco Ranch team to third in district and a regional quarterfinal appearance.

Following is the full District 19-6A volleyball team.

Distinct Awards

MVP: Paris Herrman, Tompkins
Outstanding Setter: Maddie Waak, Katy
Outstanding Hitter: Cindy Tchouangwa, Tompkins



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Paris Herrman tips a ball over the net during a Class 6A regional quarterfinal match against Ridge Point at the Merrell Center.

Defensive Player: Izzy Denton, Katy
Newcomer: Kassie O'Brien, Cinco Ranch
Coach of the Year: Danielle Wells, Cinco Ranch

1st Team

Paris Herrmann, Tompkins; Maddie Waak, Katy; Cindy Tchouangwa, Tompkins; Izzy Denton, Katy; Kassie O'Brien, Cinco Ranch; Tendai Titley, Tompkins; Natassia Baptiste, Tompkins; Jordan Gamble, Katy; Chandler Lee, Katy; Courtney O'Brien, Cinco Ranch; Catalina Martinez, Cinco Ranch; Casey Batenhorst, Seven Lakes; Emma Schrodter, Seven Lakes; Bria Dixon, Taylor; Mecca Freeman, Mayde Creek; Mallory Lampert, Morton Ranch; Neveah Donahoe, Morton Ranch.

2nd Team

Kailey Wyckoff, Katy; Maddy Chaapel, Katy; Ken-

nedy Pike, Katy; Brooklynn Merrell, Tompkins; Presley Powell, Tompkins; Mia Blum, Seven Lakes; Andrea Urzua, Seven Lakes; Sameena Burns, Seven Lakes; Grace Lanier, Seven Lakes; Temi Sam-Olibale, Seven Lakes; Gracie Gibbens, Taylor; Daniela Taborda, Mayde Creek; Sania Thomas, Mayde Creek; Emily Presley, Cinco Ranch; Kayla Atkinson, Cinco Ranch

Honorable Mention

Jessica Mendoza, Morton Ranch; Kyler Maple, Morton Ranch; Charelize Reyes, Katy; Brooke Pagel, Katy; Kennedy Davis, Cinco Ranch; Makenna Loo, Cinco Ranch; Hannah Fan, Taylor; Jana Saad, Taylor; Simone Romriell, Seven Lakes; Isabella Deuel, Seven Lakes; Mya Hill, Mayde Creek; Jada Mackey, Mayde Creek; Erica Dellesky, Tompkins; Skylar Skrabanek, Tompkins.

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Katy ISD inducts hall of honor members

STAFF REPORT

Katy ISD recently announced inductees into its Athletic Hall of honor for both 2020 and 2021.

The hall of honor recognizes the efforts of former athletes, teams, coaches and individuals who have brought distinction and excellence to themselves and the district.

Nominations were reviewed by the Katy ISD Athletic Hall of Honor Board and voted on by the committee.

Among recipients were Olympic Gold Medalist Tamyra Mensah-Stock and her sister Tarkyia Mensah. Katy's state championship football teams from 2007 and 2008 were also inducted.

Following is the full list of inductees.

2020 Teams

- 2007 Seven Lakes High School Cross Country State Champions
- 2007 Cinco Ranch High School Boys Wrestling State Champions
- 2007 Katy High School Football State Champions
- 2008 Katy High School Football State Champions

2020 Individuals

- Nate Bryan
- Cynthia Ashley Carter
- Aundre Dean
- Rhonda Anderson Demel
- Melissa Terry Dixon
- Ryan Doer

- Terrence Frederick
- John Gioffre
- Brad Graham
- Matthew Harris
- Sam Holl
- Trent Hunter
- C.J. Jesset
- Shep Klink
- Dr. Leonard Merrell
- Bo Levi Mitchell
- Lara Gandre Mitchell
- Will Morris
- Susie O'Malley Murray
- Chase Rathke
- Chris Roberson
- Jamie Sheets
- Markham Stayton
- Elvin Tapong
- Jimmy Welin

2021 Individuals

- Dana Abbott

- Stephanie Figgers Barna
- Don Brown
- Casey Clendenon
- Karl Matthew Falk
- Alicia Ferguson
- Alton Frailey
- Leah Forrest Gibson
- Adam Hall
- Farah Mensik Holder
- Kam Hunt
- Michael Johnson
- Erin Gibson Lechler
- Shanna Dauchy Marhofer
- Tarkyia Mensah
- Nicole Morris
- Christina Denson Poehlmann
- Cameron Reeves
- Neil Schneider
- Lauren Prewitt Shane
- Tamyra Mensah-Stock



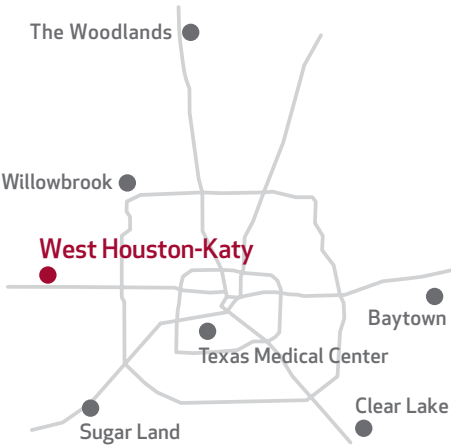
Katy ISD Athletics
Katy ISD Athletic Hall of Honor members were recognized during halftime at Legacy Stadium on Nov. 5.



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