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KatyTimes



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Katy Area EDC hires new president



BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Area Economic Development has hired Chuck Martinez as its new president and chief executive officer. Martinez begins his new job Feb. 14.

Martinez comes to Katy area after serving as executive vice president of

business development at the Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation. He was with that organization for 15 years.

Over his time with Brazos Valley EDC, he worked to improve the area's economy through attracting and supporting businesses to the area. These businesses included startups, commercial real estate investors, and

domestic/international companies considering Brazos County.

Martinez said it was a blessing and thrill to join the Katy Area EDC.

"I look forward to hitting the ground running side by side with the EDC board, amazing staff team, and community stakeholders," Martinez said. "The organization's commitment and focus to build regional coalitions

and provide unequivocal support to companies shaping the growth of the Katy area is clear to me."

Martinez said this is a good time to win business projects for the Katy area, as it already hosts large companies and has what he described as "world-class infrastructure."

See **EDC**, page A3



Keith Dalton, President and CEO of Kingham Dalton Wilson, shares information about the Katy Boardwalk Project at the Feb. 8 West I-10 Chamber of Commerce meeting at Los Cucos. City Administrator Byron Hebert stands at left.

Groundbreaking for Katy Boardwalk Project hotel expected this summer

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Officials said groundbreaking for the hotel in the Katy Boardwalk Project is expected this summer, with the hotel expected open for fall convention season in 2024.

Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert and Kingham Dalton Wilson President/

CEO Keith Dalton shared the latest news about the project at a Feb. 8 meeting of the West I-10 Chamber of Commerce, held at Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant, 5831 Highway Blvd.

The Katy Boardwalk Project's hotel, expected to be a Hilton Curio, has yet to be named. But with the ongoing commercial growth of the Katy area, the city expects the Boardwalk—and the

hotel and convention center in particular—to become a significant economic resource.

Visualizing the commercial possibilities for the Boardwalk site along Kingland Avenue, directly across from the Katy Mills Mall, has been in the works for over a decade, Hebert said. But the

See **GROUNDBREAKING**, page A3

Katy Police arrest Houston man for illegal gun possession

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy Police arrested a 28-year-old Houston man and charged him with unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

At about 9:15 a.m. Feb. 1, Katy Police officers received a Flock license plate reader notification in their patrol cars indicating a wanted vehicle from a previous theft case had recently entered the 25100 block of Market Place Drive.

Police located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. As the officers made their initial



CORDELL MCCARTER

See **ARREST**, page A3



Katy Police say Cordell McCarter threw this 9mm pistol out of the car he was driving.

2 teens arrested for aggravated robbery in Katy

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputies arrested two teenagers for aggravated robbery at a Katy apartment complex in the 6800 block of Gaston Road.

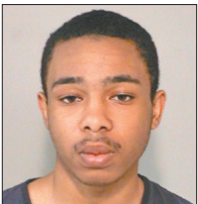
Arrested were Prince Ivery, 17, and Pharoah Bloodsaw, 17.

On Jan. 28, deputies responded to a call in which the victim reported two suspects known to him had entered his vehicle, threatened him with a rifle and stole the victim's vehicle before fleeing.

Deputies said both Ivery and Bloodsaw were located at a nearby shopping center. Deputies recovered the victim's



PHAROAH BLOODSAW



PRICE IVERY

See **ROBBERY**, page A3

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February 10, 2022
16 pages | \$1

Fort Bend County to buy body cameras for law enforcement

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County officials have purchased new body camera equipment to be used by all law enforcement agencies in the county.



KP GEORGE
Fort Bend County Judge

The county is purchasing the equipment from Axon Enterprise in a 10-year deal worth more than \$22 million. Officials said the technology would be updated every 30 months and refreshed every five years.

In addition to the body cameras, the deal also includes improved tasers and fleet cameras for police vehicles. Approximately half of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office will have the equipment within the next six

"In some situations, what you have in law enforcement is not all-the-time cordial. People have different versions of the incident. With body cameras, we can see what actually happened."

—Eric Fagan, Fort Bend County sheriff

to eight weeks.

Each agency—sheriff, constables, district attorney, and municipal police departments in the county, and so forth—will have their own separate account. Officials said the videos will be encrypted and easy to share with other offices as needed. The data is cloud-based which will help with data storage.

See **CAMERAS**, page A3

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners 22nd Annual Fruit Tree Sale
Feb. 12, 2022
9 am – noon
or until sold out

Apples, bananas, kumquats, tangerines & more!

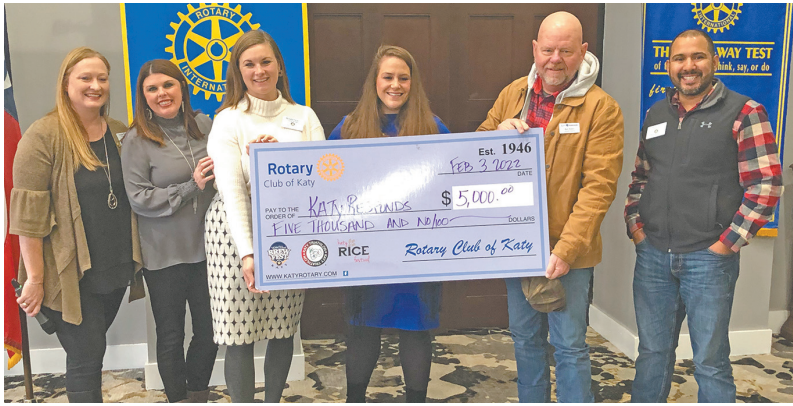
What trees will YOU buy?

Come early and bring your wagon

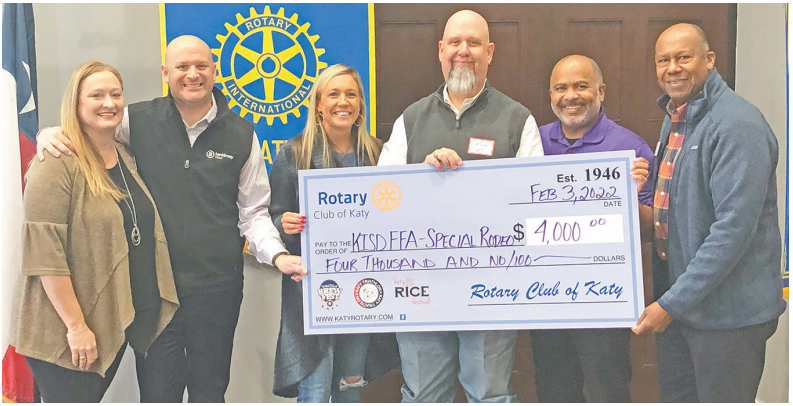
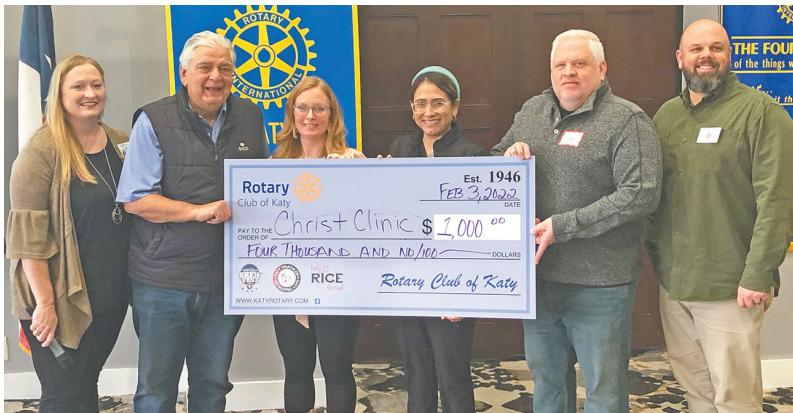
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds/George Pavilion
4310 Hwy. 36
South, Rosenberg
Check out fbmg.org for more details

The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to support Katy Responds. Pictured are, from left, Kellie Sissom, Heather Schuren, Kristin Searcy, Christina Kurt, Ron Peters and Chris Garcia.

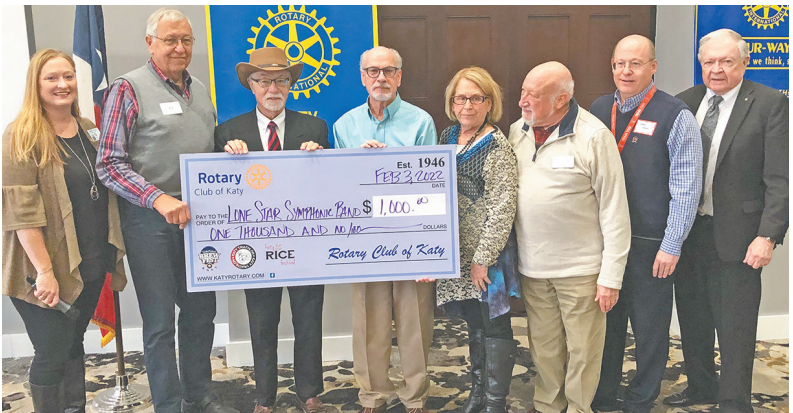
GEORGE SLAUGHTER
PHOTOS



The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to support the Christ Clinic. Pictured are, from left, Kellie Sissom, Nick Schrader, Lara Hamilton, Maria Alcantar, Michael Peterson and Rocky Blair.



The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to support the Seven Lakes High School FFA chapter. Pictured are, from left, Kellie Sissom, Jennifer Royo, Joe Bochat, Ralph Brock and Alton Frailey.



The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to support the Lone Star Symphonic Band. Pictured are, from left, Kellie Sissom, David Frishman, Terry Crummel, Carol Levin, Stu Levin, Stephen Johnson and Ken Burton.

TRIBUTE

Wisper Katelyn Johnston, age 48, was born on June 27, 1973, in Augsburg, Germany and died recently in Alvin, Texas. Wisper is survived by her father, LeRoy; mother and stepfather Catherine and Jack; son, Parker; sisters Jennifer and Laura and their families; brothers LeRoy (Fred) and Michael and their families; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and loved ones.

As the saucy second-born, Wisper was a free spirit and always kept fiery red hair to display her eccentric personality; she enjoyed cooking, jewelry-making, leather working, Amtgard, and many other creative activities.

A memorial service was held at 10 a.m. on February 9, 2022, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - 15940 Old Conroe Rd, Conroe, Texas 77384. Condolences may be offered via email to wisper.memorial@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



WISPER KATELYN JOHNSTON
1973-2022

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

League of Women Voters produces online voter's guide

The League of Women Voters has produced an online guide intended to help educate voters about the upcoming March 1 primary election.

The website, vote411.org, helps voters register to vote, verify voter registration, and find what's on their local ballot.

The league is a nonpartisan organization that was created after the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was ratified in 1920.

Here are upcoming election dates for the March 1 primary.

- Feb. 14: First day to vote early in person
- Feb. 18: Last day to apply for vote-by-mail ballot
- Feb. 25: Last day to vote early in person
- March 1: Election Day and vote-by-mail ballot receipt deadline.

Kingsland Park Apartments open in Katy

Kingsland Park Apartments, an affordable living development for senior citizens, has opened in Katy.

The complex, at 23430 Kingsland Blvd., is the first of 16 proposed



COURTESY KELLIE SISSOM

The Rotary Club of Katy awarded Officer Isaac Hinojosa with the Exemplary Police Service Award. He poses with Police Chief Noel Diaz in this photo.

affordable housing projects in Harris County. Total funding for the project is about \$31 million, with approximately \$19.5 million in federal CDBG-disaster recovery funding awarded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The balance was paid through private investments.

"This has been an exciting opportunity to work with HUD and the


Texas General Land Office," Adrienne Holloway, Harris County Community Services executive director, said. "The relationships we fostered with local developers and partner organizations have yielded high-quality housing for senior county residents in the Katy area."

Holloway said this is the first of many housing projects coming to Harris County in 2022.

"We couldn't be more honored and excited to help our partners and stakeholders lead the charge in creating tangible progress to address the housing needs of our community, through strategic planning and execution of projects like Kingsland Park," Holloway said.

Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle said the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey on Harris County was unprecedented, and lower-income seniors were among the hardest hit.

"Harvey affected more than 3,000 rental units around the county and sent many of our oldest, most vulnerable neighbors fleeing their homes, never to return," Cagle said. "Now, thanks to these federal block grants, Harris County can step in and help them return home and finally put the nightmare that was hurricane Harvey behind them."



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IT'S COMING!


- Nominations open **February 28th** and close **March 20th**
- Voting opens **April 4th** and closes **May 1st**
- Results – the top three businesses in each category – will be published in a special keepsake edition of the **Katy Times on June 23rd** (available in print and online)

All nominations and voting are conducted online at katytimes.com

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Katy Times

For more information, contact Susan Rovegno at publisher@katytimes.com or 281-391-3141



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

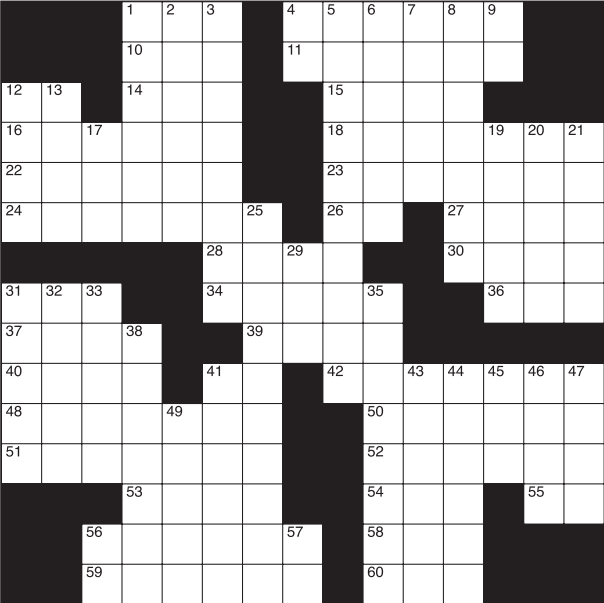
CLUES ACROSS

- One point east of due south
- City in Maine
- Inquire too closely
- Make dirty
- Small Greek island
- Bitterly regret
- Millisecond
- the ante
- Without value
- Eurasian ryegrass
- Authentic
- Having a mournful quality
- Not out
- Salvador __, Spanish artist
- Cargo (abbr.)
- This (Spanish)
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Slang for trucks with trailers
- Helps you hear
- Steer a boat
- British School
- Genus of olive
- Computer term (abbr.)
- Horse gear
- Give off
- A type of salt

- Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- One who watches birds
- Sailboat
- A major division of geological time
- Sodium
- American state
- Soak in water
- Thin decorative covering of fine wood
- Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- One of the four seasons
- Its sultan is famous
- A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye
- College degree
- Soldiers need it
- Japanese car manufacturer
- A way to address
- Obstruct
- Atomic number 45
- Ill-mannered
- Opaque gem
- Indicates before
- Remove
- Populous Argentine city
- More cunning

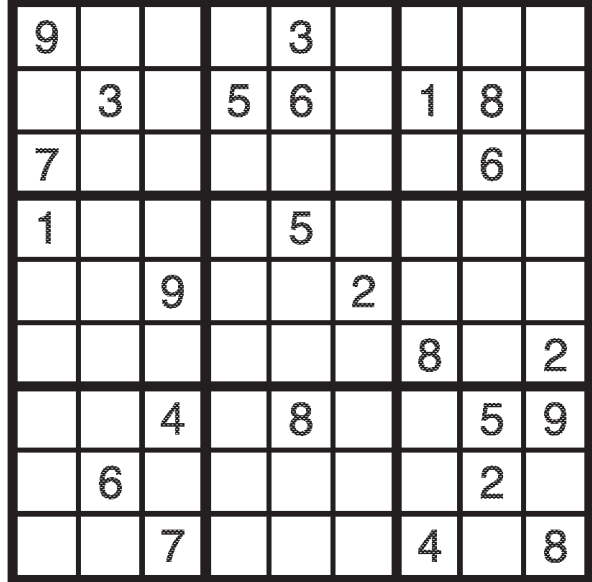


- Rich dessert
- Payment (abbr.)
- Footwear
- Famed Alabama city
- Sheep's cry
- Arrogance
- Clerical vestment
- Serving no practical purpose

- An evening party
- Print errors
- Not good
- Egyptian Sun god
- Industrial German city
- Scottish island
- Early multimedia
- Atomic number 18

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.

Local youth win floriculture contest at Fort Worth Stock Show

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Megan Stevens, Jillian Liuin, Taylor Ochoa and Oluwanif Haas-trup from Taylor High School FFA were named second place team in the second annual 4-H and FFA Floriculture Contest in the

Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo held Jan. 28. They were awarded \$2,000 for the chapter. Stevens was ranked Second High Individual for a \$1,000 scholarship out of 63 individuals. Hosted at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, students

were tested on identified plant material, tools and pest identification, as well as floral design. Sixteen teams and 63 individuals participated in the contest's second year. The goal of the contest is to enhance participants' knowledge of the floriculture industry in support

of high school floriculture programs as well as awareness of the increasing business and career opportunities presented in this rapidly expanding field of agriculture. "The Stock Show continues to expand opportunities for unique competitions and educational

opportunities for Texas youth," Stock Show President and General Manager Brad Barnes said. "We are committed to experiencing growth and providing a one-of-a-kind experience to our exhibitors when it comes to quality competition and Fort Worth hospitality."

Nach-Yo Ordinary Tequila Tasting Tour returns to Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Nach-Yo Ordinary Tequila Tasting Tour returns this month to Katy. The event is set for 5:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at The Ark at Norris, 21402 Merchants Way. Tickets are \$45 for a full night of spirited education with tequila specialists, sampling, food, and fun. Attendees will meet brand ambassadors, tequila specialists and educators who share their unique craft products. With this all-inclusive ticket, attendees can taste them all and enjoy great eats from many restaurants. These restaurants include BB's Tex-Orleans, Bundtcake-A-Holic serving alcohol-infused cupcakes,

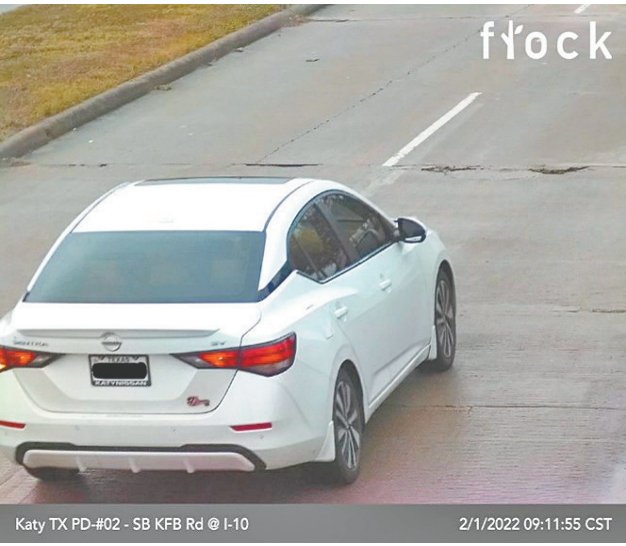
Gauchos do Sul Brazilian Steakhouse, Mason's Creative Catering, and more. Attendees can enjoy tastings of gold, silver (also known as blanco), barrel-aged selections of reposado, añejo, and extra añejo tequilas, plus mezcal, sotol, and even fun, flavor-infused selections. Included in admission tickets are tequila forum seminars presented by Correlejo and Los Arango. On a first-come, first-seated basis, guests can experience Tequila 101 or The Art of Aged Tequila, both with formal tasting mats and a tequila specialist presenter serving various styles of tequila while one tastes and learns the differences.

Nach-Yo Ordinary Tequila Tasting offers a selection of craft products including Tequila Corralejo, 1800 Cristalino, El Bandido Yankee Tequila, G4 Tequila, Hacienda de Chihuahua Sotol, Lalo, Los Arango, Maestro Dobel Tequila, Mezcal Vago, Milagro Tequila, Mijenta Tequila, Number Juan Tequila, Patron Smokey Selections, Republic Tequila, Tequila Ocho, Revel Avila, Tres Agaves, and the very special Tears of Llorona Extra Añejo. The event features a party wagon raffle worth over \$1,000 in tequila, swag and more. Proceeds benefit the Ballard House. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online at the website nachyo.com.

ARREST

from page A1

approach, the driver threw an object out of the open passenger window, which was later found to be a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Upon identifying the driver as Cordell McCarter and detaining him, police learned that he was a convicted felon. McCarter was placed in custody without incident and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. During the inventory of the vehicle, a second loaded 9mm pistol was recovered, along with narcotics. McCarter was taken to the Harris County Jail, where he posted a \$5,000 bond, according to court records.



Katy Police said Cordell McCarter drove this car, which is a wanted vehicle from a previous theft case.

ROBBERY

from page A1

stolen property. After further investigation, detectives learned that both Ivery and Bloodsaw were connected to a previous aggravated robbery reported on Jan. 19. In that case, deputies said the victim was leaving a restaurant in LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch when both Ivery and Bloodsaw showed a firearm, stole the victim's vehicle and fled. The vehicle was later recovered in San

Jacinto County. Both Ivery and Bloodsaw are in the Fort Bend County Jail. Ivery is charged with two counts of aggravated robbery with a bond set at \$75,000 for each charge. Bloodsaw is also charged with two counts of aggravated robbery, as well as possession of controlled substance and assault. Bond is set for Bloodsaw for a total of \$151,000.

CAMERAS

from page A1

The technology will enable audio recording and GPS tracking, officials said. The standard technology will encourage both transparency and accountability, County Judge KP George said at a Feb. 3 news conference. The idea for standard technology for law enforcement agencies in Fort Bend County has been in the works for some time. George said Fort Bend County commissioners began working on a policy last year and adopted it in November. "We have noticed that everyone was following similar policies (regarding the use of body cameras), but we wanted to bring everything under one policy," George said. Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said officer safety is paramount, as is public transparency and trust. He said the technology saves time, money and possibly lives. "In some situations, what you have in law enforcement is not all-the-time

cordial," Fagan said. "People have different versions of the incident. With body cameras, we can see what actually happened." Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton said the technology provides great accountability to law enforcement personnel because they know they're being recorded. "We behave differently when we're being watched," Middleton said. George said the 2020 murder of George Floyd helped inspire the discussions about how to proceed. George said county leaders asked young people for their input and body cameras were suggested. One view that came from those discussions was that police officers needed to feel safe while also being held accountable for their actions. "It's all about our young people," George said. Axon Enterprise is based in Scottsdale, Ariz.

EDC

from page A1

Paul Kurt, board chairman, said the EDC looks forward to working Martinez. "Chuck will bring timely EDC communications and strong working partnerships with public officials, business professionals, academic institutions, and association groups," Burt said. "He will focus on realizing the current prospects in the EDC's pipeline, bringing immediate domestic and international deals to the table, and attracting additional sponsors to our organization - ultimately expanding the competitiveness brand profile of the Katy area."

Martinez has previous economic development experience in San Antonio, Laredo, Beaumont and Galveston. His economic development experience also includes a stint in Alexandria, Va. Martinez earned dual bachelor's degrees in political science and business from Lamar University. He earned an MBA in international trade from Texas A&M International University and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. Martinez succeeds Lance LaCour, who now heads Partnership Lake Houston.

GROUNDBREAKING

from page A1

"The hotel and conference center are designed to be south-facing on the lake, so it's going to be beautiful. We call it the suburban oasis."

— Keith Dalton, Kingham Dalton Wilson President/CEO

actual movement on the project began in 2015. "There was a time when there was a pond that was built behind the mall," Hebert said. "It was a retention pond." Hebert said he was told the land was worthless, but when he expressed interest on behalf of the city for buying the land, the price suddenly went up. But the city went ahead and is working with developers to build the Boardwalk. Dalton said things are back on track following the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ic. "We're back on, and we've got a ton of momentum," Dalton said, adding that he was excited that the new hotel will be part of the Hilton chain. Actual name will come after going through the branding process, he said. Yet as important as the hotel will be to Katy's economy, both it and the convention center are only part of the overall project. "We have what's called our retail and entertainment district," Dalton said. "The hotel and conference center are designed

to be south-facing on the lake, so it's going to be beautiful. We call it the suburban oasis." Dalton said the hotel and convention center would be a 30-minute drive from Houston's central business district and would have a state-of-the-art, post-COVID-19 design. He said it would host all kinds of events. Including more weddings "than I can shake a stick at." Dalton said the entertainment district is meant to complement the hotel and conference center. The district is also expected

to complement the two Katy Boardwalk Lofts apartment complexes. The first phase opened last October. Dalton said he was resident 001. "There's life at the Boardwalk now," Dalton said, urging people who have not visited the site, particularly the lake, to go and see for themselves. "It is a hidden gem," Dalton said. "Walk to the lake and see." Hebert said that a traffic light is planned for the Kingsland-Katy Fort Bend Road intersection.

JUDGE

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Tim Davis is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to safe money strategies for retirement.

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Planning a romantic getaway for Valentine's Day?

I dare you to google news about Valentine's Day. Faster than you can say "Romeo and Juliet," you'll be inundated with results for "romantic getaways."

Whether the story is touting a single night on the town or an extended trip, you'll find an abundance of adjectives such as "adventurous," "quaint," "unconventional," "sun-soaked" and "luxurious."

With such verbiage, you don't know whether to expect a king-size bed or a "bed of locally sourced Romaine lettuce cradling a generous serving of succulent, pre-chewed-by-ferrets turnip hearts."

The headlines presuppose that the entire world has a year's worth of pent-up demand for a Valentine extravaganza, but not all of us signed off on that memo.

Can couples really spring into Valentine mode just because influencers promise "Love is in the air," when the other 364 days of the year have been characterized by utterances such as "There had better be three cans of Glade in the air before I enter the bathroom?"

We've been programmed to believe that Valentine's Day should be marked with grand romantic gestures such as hot air balloons, mariachi bands, champagne tsunamis and exotic animals bearing engagement rings; but not everyone is into socializing. For many couples, the most romantic gesture is the hand signal to "close the curtains, turn out the lights and pretend we're not home because I want to finish this 'Wheel of Time' novel."

I know the media tell us that February 14 is the time to dance until the cows come home. But many couples are just as likely to wave a pitchfork at anyone who suggests going out after dark. ("Yeah, I'll kick up my heels - as long as they land on the ottoman.")

Multigenerational families have special problems. Seems like only yesterday you were learning to unhook a bra and suddenly you're overpaying a babysitter so you can go teach your parents to program their jitterbug phone.



The commercialization of Valentine's Day gets worse and worse. What used to be an occasion for stimulating neglected affection (or at least stimulating primal urges) is now more about stimulating the local economy. ("Cheer for the martyrdom of Saint Valentine and repair the school roof! Patronize the upcoming Donner Party festival and pay for a whole new municipal parking lot!")

The patriotic pressure doesn't ease up just because you're between partners. No, that's when the Chamber of Commerce initiates the Presley Protocol. ("If you can't find a partner, use a wooden chair - now on sale for a limited time at Forbush's Furniture Emporium.")

It's unreasonable for society to assume that everyone will have the time, money, health and inclination to celebrate extravagantly, and especially on that exact date. As with compromising about birthdays and Christmas get-togethers, many folks must settle for commemorations that are merely in the ballpark of February 14.

Someday someone of my ilk will tell an interviewer, "Not only are we the first couple to renew our vows in the Mars colony, but we're also celebrating Valentine's Day 2022!"

My wife and I will probably mark a quiet Valentine's Day at home; but don't let my curmudgeonly commentary stop you if you are interested in a cabin, spa or resort. Everyone needs a place where they can ignore inflation, the border crisis and international turmoil.

And I'm sure the fact that most of these venues have a "presidential suite" is pure coincidence.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."



Clarence and Ginni Thomas, poster kids for Supreme Court corruption

When word spread last week about an imminent Supreme Court retirement, I hoped against hope that it would be Clarence Thomas.

No such luck. Replacing Clinton appointee Stephen Breyer with a Biden appointee is really no biggie. Ridding the court of Clarence, and his blatant conflicts of interest, would be a major upgrade - at least in terms of repairing the court's record-low reputation. Because for more than 20 years it has been an open secret, and a patent disgrace, that wife Ginni has been a right-wing activist working on a range of hot-button issues on which hubby sits in judgement.

Perhaps it's sheer coincidence that he was the lone dissenter in the 8-1 ruling that bars Donald Trump from blocking the release of documents about the Jan. 6 insurrection - the same event that Ginni agitated for on Facebook, the same event to which she helped send busloads of insurrectionists. At the very least, it sure looks bad. In fact, the official Code of Judicial Conduct, embedded in federal law, specifically states that "any justice, judge, or magistrate judges of the United States shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned" by a reasonable, objective person.

Yup, the code says "any justice." Problem is, the Supremes exempt themselves from the code.

There are no Supreme Court rules governing conflict of interest. The justices police themselves, which of course means that, in practice, they don't police themselves at all. All other federal judges in all the lower courts are



inhibited from putting themselves in any situation that might convey an appearance of impropriety. But not the nine folks at the top of the pyramid.

That's long been a great deal for Clarence and Ginni. As far back as December 2000, while the high court was weighing whether to stop the Florida recount and award the White House to George W. Bush (which it did, with Clarence voting in the 5-4 majority), Ginni, as a staffer at the conservative Heritage Foundation, was already screening resumes for the incoming Bush administration. A decade later, Clarence sat in judgement of Obamacare while Ginni was earning roughly \$165,000 working for several groups that lobbied to repeal Obamacare. During the Trump administration, Ginni worked closely with (and was paid by) a prominent anti-immigrant activist who filed amicus briefs defending Trump's Muslim travel ban - while Clarence was hearing cases about the travel ban.

The conflict-of-interest episodes are too numerous to list here. Suffice it to say that Clarence steadfastly refused to recuse himself, despite repeated demands over the years that he do so. It's a blatant breach of judicial ethics - and the all-important perception of impartial justice - that he's still on the bench when gay rights cases get debated (Ginni is on record railing against "transsexual

fascists"), and when national security cases get weighed (Ginni is on record railing against "the Deep State").

Last year, a bipartisan coalition of 107 law professors from 76 law schools asked Congress to require that all federal judges with perceived conflicts at least explain in writing the reasons why they'd refused to recuse themselves. A tepid reform, for sure. But right now Clarence doesn't have to explain anything.

The only available constitutional remedy is for the House to target the guy with an impeachment probe. Democrats, who run the Judiciary Committee, could subpoena Ginni and ask pointed questions about her actions on behalf of the Jan. 6 insurrectionists. With that matter under investigation, Clarence might actually be compelled to recuse himself on all Jan. 6-related cases. But alas, as we all well know, hand-wringing Democrats shrink from that kind of hardball.

So I suppose there's only one solution. President Biden, having pledged to replace Breyer with a well-qualified Black woman, should simply announce that his choice is Anita Hill. Having long survived Clarence Thomas' sexual harassment, the attorney and law professor is rested and ready.

Perhaps forcing Clarence to share the bench with Hill would be sufficient impetus for him to quit.

Dick Polman, a veteran national political columnist based in Philadelphia and a Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, writes at DickPolman.net. Email him at dickpolman7@gmail.com.

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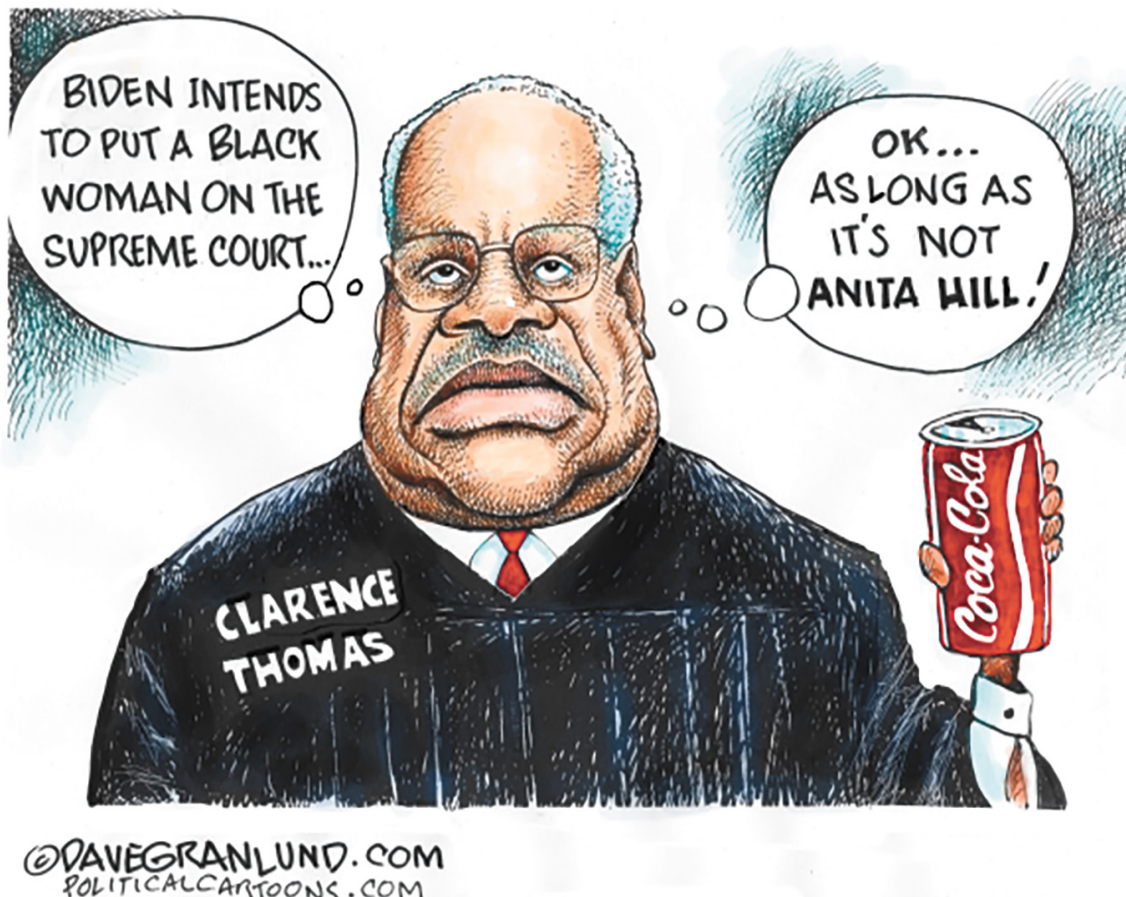
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TRIBUTES

Keith Alden Rabe, loving father, brother and friend, died on January 29th, 2022 at the age of 65 at Houston Methodist West Hospital in Katy, Texas.

He was born on July 4th, 1956 in Port Arthur, Texas to the late Andrew Rudolph Rabe and Carolyn Joy Rabe. He attended Stilwell Technical Center, where he learned his trade, before graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1974. He loved the outdoors and rehabilitating vehicles. After working in sales for many years, he went back to his family roots of auto repair and opened his own business, "Start Me Up" Auto Rehab, where he served the community for more than 30 years.

Keith was a devoted follower of Jesus, and always spoke openly about his faith. His auto repair business was



KEITH ALDEN RABE
1956-2022

his ministry – it gave him the opportunity to share his witness and serve people with honesty and humility in an industry that is often the opposite. Just as he did with cars, Keith always saw the best, the gold in people (Proverbs 11:27). Keith was loved by all who knew him.

Keith is survived by his children, Jennifer Arnold (Nate), Anna Rabe-Cruz (Nicholas), Andrew "Buddy" Rabe and Abby Rabe; girlfriend, Georgette Dietz; sisters, Darlene Morrison and Anita Rabelo; grandchildren, Brady, Tyler, Journey and Layla; numerous nieces and nephews, and a dear cousin, Faye Crowley.

He is preceded in death by his parents, beloved daughter Crystal Nicole, and brother Gary.

Funeral services were held at Tri-County Baptist Church (5715 Peek Rd, Katy) on Saturday, Feb. 5th at 11:00 AM. A visitation/reception for family and friends followed immediately, along with a graveside service.

Flowers can be sent to Claire Brothers Funeral Home before Friday at 4:00PM.

Barbara Ann Coats Rice was born April 18, 1940, in Dunn, North Carolina and died January 30, 2022, in Katy, Texas.

A thirty-four-year resident of Knoxville, Tennessee, Barbara considered Knoxville her home even after moving to Texas in 2013. One of her favorite past-times was reading. While living in Knoxville, she was able to fulfill a lifetime dream to educate children through literature by becoming the Librarian at Thackston School. She was both humbled and honored when upon her retirement, they renamed the library the Thackston School Rice Library and the City of Knoxville declared May 6, 2002, Barbara Rice Day.

Barbara, also known as "Bobby" or "Bobby Ann" was a true Southern Woman. She loved her husband and family, and her life was centered around both. She was an avid gardener, creating "GG's Garden" in the lots across from their home where her plants were dedicated to each of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. It became a beautiful garden park that the neighborhood enjoyed.

She also loved camping and fishing, never afraid to bait her own hook and her family has many fond memories of the camping trips they shared. She loved birds and animals, adopting many a stray that crossed her path. Traveling was also a favorite activity, especially trips to the beach, to Scotland with family or North Carolina to



BARBARA ANN COATS RICE
1940-2022

visit her siblings.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Knoxville and upon moving to Texas became a member of the Katy First United Methodist Church. Over the years, she was active in both churches through the United Methodist Women's group.

Preceded in death by the love of her life, her husband of almost 34 years Monford C. (Monte) Rice, her infant son David Vickers, her parents Stewart and Esther Coats, and her siblings Duncan, Judy, Jerry, and Jackie Coats.

Survived by one sister, Sarah Elizabeth (Becky) Bland; nine children, Sharon (Randy) Haydon, Ronald (Michele) Callis, Tracy (Te-

resa) Callis, Bradley Callis, Mark (Karen) Rice, Catherine (Frederic) Smith, Monte (Beth) Rice, Lynn (Bill) Pitt, and Tonya "Toni" Rice; as well as twenty grandchildren, "GG" to fourteen great grandchildren, and Aunt Bobby to numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews; all of whom she loved dearly.

A receiving of friends for Barbara will be held Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Berry Funeral Home, 3704 Chapman Highway, Knoxville, TN 37920. A funeral service will occur Friday, February 11, 2022 at 10:30 AM, 3704 Chapman Highway, Knoxville, TN 37920. Family and friends will immediately proceed to East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, 2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37920, for a 12:30 PM interment following the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, "Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400 McLean, VA 22102."

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.berryfuneralhome.com for the Rice family.

Shirley Marie (Lemke) Polk, 78, of Weimar, Texas, passed away on February 4, 2022.

She was born on April 23, 1943 in Hallettsville, Texas. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, granny, and smiling friend to all who knew her. Shirley was a published author and loved to both write and read books. She enjoyed sewing and previously owned her own costume shop in Katy, Texas. Road trips with family were a joy to her. Shirley is fondly remembered for always giving of herself and her time to family and also those she called her family, treating both equally the same in love.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Leroy James Polk of Weimar; daughter Pam Pfile and husband Bryan of Katy, Texas; son Michael Polk and wife Charlotte of Bellville, Texas; daughter Mary



SHIRLEY MARIE POLK
1943-2022

Duty and husband Wade of Weimar, Texas; sister Loretta Kacal of Beasley, Texas; sister-in-law Bobbie Lemke of Muldoon, Texas; grandson Justin Pfile and fiancé Jessica of Katy, Texas; granddaughter Katy Dunn and husband Chris of Katy, Texas; grandson Tanner Bratton of Bellville, Texas; grandson

Cash Duty of Weimar, Texas; grandson Cole Duty of Weimar, Texas; granddaughter Lily Polk of Bellville, Texas; granddaughter Evie Polk of Bellville, Texas, along with numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

She is preceded in death by her mother and step-father Rose and Jimmie Mazoch and brother Clyde Lemke.

A Rosary will be held on Thursday, February 10 at 9 a.m. and Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Weimar, Texas. Father Wayne Flagg will be officiating. Burial will take place at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church cemetery in Weimar, Texas.

Memorials may be given to St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School in Weimar, Texas or St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, Texas.



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Psalms 94:19

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Cybersecurity
author: Businesses
must prepare for
ransomware attacks

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A cybersecurity author said small business owners assume their companies are not subject to ransomware attacks. This miscalculation puts them at greater risk when those attacks do happen.

Charles Swihart, of Pre-active IT Solutions, spoke at a Feb. 3 Katy Area Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Katy YMCA, 1350 Main St. "Ransomware is a malicious software that encrypts your files," Swihart said. "It demands a ransom to get your files back and to not release them to threaten clients and vendors."

Texas trails only California and New York in the number of ransomware attacks in business interruptions, Swihart said.

Swihart asked the audience to imagine themselves in a scenario.

"You get to work on Monday, and something seems off," Swihart said. "A few people seem to be freaking out. You try to log in, and you cannot access your files and email. You step out to see if others are having the same problem."

Continuing his description, Swihart said other people are having the same issues, The IT personnel are sweating.

"They have no idea how you got there," Swihart said. "They're frantically trying to deal with the situation. It's an extremely stressful situation to be in. Your business is stopped in its tracks. It might be a few weeks to recover your files."

Swihart uses this scenario to get people to think about how they can protect themselves. But he said IT security isn't only on management or the IT department. Employees must play a role in IT security. Otherwise, they could be out of a job if the business fails.

"Don't think that since you're not an owner or the it guy, it won't affect you," Swihart said.

For home networks, Swihart said it was wise to regularly back up one's files. Storing those files on another drive, such as Microsoft OneDrive, is also helpful.

"Microsoft OneDrive is your friend," Swihart said.

Swihart said a recent report claimed that 31% of ransomware attacks came from China. But most attacks, he said, come from countries such as Russia, Ukraine and Romania. He said the ransomware pro-



Cybersecurity author Charles Swihart speaks at the Feb. 3 Katy Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

grammers are very professional in their work.

"They do this as a profession, and they're very good at it," Swihart said.

In some cases, opening a malicious email can unleash a ransomware attack. But he said every ransomware attack which he helped to address came from a lack of network security. He said management often assumes that the IT people were cybersecurity

experts. Yet he said in most cases the IT people weren't even properly managing the antivirus software. The security software might not be updated, or it might be

missing on some computers, Swihart said.

Among recent ransomware attacks that received public attention involved Colonial Pipeline. The attack forced the company to shut down its pipeline system to the eastern U.S. in 2021 and pay a \$4.4 million ransom. Federal authorities got involved, and was able to recover \$2.7 million of that amount, Swihart said.

"Colonial Pipeline has more than 800 employees," Swihart said. "You'd assume a company that size had good practices. They didn't."

Swihart said management assumes all is well when employees can access files and print documents. But it isn't so. Management fails to invest in computer security or keeping current on security issues. When the next ransomware attack happens, management doesn't know how to respond.

Swihart said companies should develop and use checklists to prevent possible IT issues. Such checklists can promote safe practices and cut risk.

"Don't think that since you're not an owner or the it guy, it won't affect you."

Charles Swihart, cybersecurity author and speaker



The Interstate MUD has released a plan that offers its vision for Rick Rice Park.

Rick Rice Park to be expanded, upgraded

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Rick Rice Park on Westgreen Boulevard is undergoing an expansion and upgrade.

The park, owned by Interstate Municipal Utility District, recently purchased 4.2 acres of land from CrossPoint Community Church, 700 Westgreen Blvd. The purchase coincided with the release of a plan from Interstate MUD for both the existing park and the newly acquired space.

"Our goal is to create a distinctive park for people to enjoy, and we look forward to offering new amenities as we expand the park," Barry J. Kaplan, president of Interstate MUD's board of directors, said.

LJA Engineering's Land Development Division designed a space that will create a multi-use area reminiscent of European parks and Central Park in New York City. The area will be an open meadow surrounded by grassy knolls where families can picnic, couples can relax, and kids can fly kites. In addition, the space can be used for sporting events or other gatherings.

The new land will be known as The Commons at Rick Rice Park. It is behind the church and next to the main entrance into the park.

The park now includes about 13 acres with the added land.

Upgrades to the existing park will include terraced concrete steps by the current lake, upgraded walking trails, and a new deck that

will overlook a second pond with a fountain.

LJA is working on a drainage study before construction can begin. Interstate MUD said initial construction on the park is scheduled for the latter part of 2022, and will begin with new heads-in parking on the east side of the park. It will take several years to fully implement the plan.

Rick Ellis, board member and incoming 2022 Interstate MUD president, said more than 5,000 people visit the park every month.

"We have a variety of classes, including donation-based yoga and Zumba classes that raise money for non-profit groups in the city, like Citizens for Animal Protection and Hope Impacts," Ellis said.

Elyson Commons opens in March

BY TIM SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Master-planned communities like Cinco Ranch, Firethorne, Grand Lakes, Cane Island and Cross Creek Ranch help drive Katy's success. These communities promised and delivered great schools, shopping, and amenities to our community. Among the next heirs to the master-planned community crown appears to be the emerging and stylish community of Elyson.

Located just west of Grand Parkway on FM 529, Elyson boasts 1,900 homes with plans for over 4,000 more. Featuring Katy ISD schools, this community is positioned for long-term success. The community reserved 500 acres for future shopping, entertainment and professional partners. Elyson's Marketing Director Heather Gustafson promised to announce new shopping soon. Target started construction on its newest retail and grocery prototype designed for the modern shopper at the entrance to Elyson.

Still, the community's first focus remains offering its residents luxury amenities and incredible family networking opportunities. Amenities include Elyson House, a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired community center. The prairie styled structure has a fitness center, game room, meeting room and the Elyson Café, which opens for lunch and dinner every day.

Other features include almost



An entry monument marks the entrance to the Elyson masterplanned community.

30 miles of trails (planned), 750 acres of amenities, lakes and open space, a year-round resort style pool, tennis and more. The community's Event Lawn recently featured the dog-themed Tails and Ales Event - along with other fun events like movie nights, concerts and more.

The upcoming Elyson Commons promises 145 acres of wildflower trails, a basketball court and playground. It also promises an outdoor fitness training park, picnic areas with BBQ grills, a pooch playground and more.

A full-time Elyson lifestyle director plans events for kids, families and adult-only events to ensure

everyone feels welcome.

The Elyson Commons grand opening is March 5. The public is invited to attend. Marketing Manager Nancy Hyde and her team assembled a builder roster including Perry Homes, Lennar, Chesmar, Pulte, Westin, Highland, Taylor Morrison and Beazer. Additionally, a city center style neighborhood will be opening soon.

Elyson's development team oversaw development in Cinco Ranch. They understand how to build and maintain strong communities. Each team member promises to deliver homeowners fantastic homes, amenities and great lifestyle opportunities.

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FILE PHOTO BY RODNEY COPELAND

Cattle such as this, from the 2020 Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show, will be among the main attractions at this year's show, which coincides with the Katy Rodeo.

Back in the Saddle Again

Livestock show, rodeo set for next week

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

For the Katy Rodeo, "Back in the Saddle Again" is not only a popular country song written in 1939 by the late Gene Autry. It is instead a theme as it comes back following last year's pandemic-compelled cancellation.

"We're back, and were back in the works," JimE Voight, Katy Rodeo chairman and president, said.

The Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show is from Feb. 15-19. The rodeo is from Feb. 17-19. Both events will be at the Katy ISD Agricultural Services Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

The livestock show and rodeo are separate entities. But until last year, they were staged together for decades, with rodeo proceeds benefiting the FFA programs at the Katy ISD high schools.

Last year, the livestock show went on as scheduled, albeit with coronavirus protocols. But the rodeo was cancelled.

There is one big change as things return to normal for the rodeo this year. Voight became rodeo chairman and president, taking over for Gary Johnson, who retired and is a board adviser now.

Johnson held the position for the last 14 years. He said he's helped groom Voight for the role.

"He's done a real good job of putting things together," Johnson said. "He's been on the board for the past 20 years."

Voight, 63, said he began his rodeo participation when he was six years old.

"I wasn't working on a committee back then, but I was competing," Voight

said. He said he was a roper and that remains his favorite part of the rodeo.

"That's what I do," Voight said. "I prefer to watch them. The whole rodeo is great. But I love the view youth events, especially the calf scramble. I enjoy watching the kids giving it their all they've got to catch a calf."

The last day of the livestock show and rodeo features the Katy Rodeo Parade. The parade is set for 9:30 a.m. Feb. 19. It runs from the Rhodes Stadium parking lot south on Katyland Drive, then west on Highway 90 west to FM 1463, where it turns south and ends at Katy High School.

"If the weather's good, it's just a good event for local businesses and youth organizations and even older organizations, like the Elks or the Lions Club, to be seen by the public," Voight said. "You don't necessarily have to have a float. It's just an old-time standard. The parade goes along with the livestock show and rodeo. People can go to the parade. It's free. You see a lot of things. Maybe they can't go to the rodeo but they can at least go to the parade."

Raymond and Liz Dollins are the parade marshals. Voight described Dollins as a rice farmer for a lot of years, lifelong Katy resident and an active rodeo supporter.

"His kids all went through the Ag program at Katy," Voight said. "I don't remember not knowing him."

Voight said no new events have been added, nor were any events removed. Looking forward, he said, the rodeo hopes to put in place online ticket sales.

"People like to go online and buy their tickets," Voight said.

"We haven't added any events, or taken any events away," Voight said.

Local service organizations remain an important part of the rodeo's operations.

"The VFW does a lot of our ticket

sales," Voight said. "They do the pre-sales and gate sales. They man the gates to get the tickets. They have been a big blessing to us. We make a donation to them each year."

Voight said the Lions Club runs the rodeo carnival.

"They work with the carnival contractor," Voight said. "Whatever proceeds they get from the carnival, they split with us."

The rodeo has a similar arrangement with the Knights of Columbus for concessions.

"They run all her concessions," Voight said. "The cooking, serving, everything. The profits they make they split with the rodeo."

Voight said the rodeo is always looking for sponsors, though if one were to sign up right now, it would be difficult to create a sign saying as much in time for the show.

"If nothing else, we would like to have them contact us and talk about them being included next year," Voight said. "It's all about the kids anyway. If we can't get something done, and they want to help this year, we redirect them to the livestock auction on Saturday."

The scholarships the rodeo awards is a fairly new program, Voight said.

"We have been doing it for 4-5 years now," Voight said. "We've got a committee that is really good at it. We had nearly 40 applications this year. What we're trying to do is really build up the scholarships."

Voight said the rodeo is considering holding other fundraising events. These might include a golf tournament or a barbecue, to raise more money for scholarships.

"That way, we can give more \$1,000 scholarships or we can give larger ones," Voight said. "I'd love to give a lot more."

2022 KATY ISD FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW AND KATY RODEO SCHEDULE

Here is the schedule for the 79th annual Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show & Katy Rodeo. Events will be held at the Katy ISD Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

- 4 p.m., Swine Weigh-In
- 5 p.m., Broiler Show

Wednesday, Feb. 16

- 10 a.m., Special Rodeo
- 7 a.m., Broiler Barn Sale
- 2 p.m., Rabbit Show
- 3 p.m., Steers, Goats & Lambs Weigh-In

Thursday, Feb. 17

- 7 a.m., Rabbit Barn Sale
- 8 a.m., Swine Show
- 1 p.m., Steer Show
- 7 p.m., Rodeo Performance

Friday, Feb. 18

- 7 a.m., Swine & Steer Barn Sale
- 8 a.m., Goat Show
- 10 a.m., Lamb Show
- 1 p.m., Auction Sale Meeting
- 5 p.m., Goat & Lamb Barn Sale
- 7 p.m., Rodeo Performance

Saturday, Feb. 19

- 7 a.m., All Species Barn Sale
- 9:30 a.m., Katy Rodeo Parade
- 11 a.m., Buyers' Luncheon (By Invitation Only)
- 1 p.m., Live Auction
- 7 p.m., Rodeo Performance



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Katy ISD and Kailee Mills Foundation representatives pose for a picture as “Buckle Up – Someone Loves You” signs are posted on Katy ISD campuses. Pictured are, left to right, Ted Vierling, district chief operations officer; Henry Gaw, district police chief; David Mills, father of Kailee Mills; Courtney Doyle, Kailee Mills Foundation representative; and Chris Mallett, State Farm agent.

KATY ISD BRIEFS

Katy ISD partners with Kailee Mills Foundation for seat belt awareness

Some new signs posted across the Katy Independent School District aim to remind motorists, especially teenagers, to wear their seat belts to protect themselves and others.

The district has partnered with the Kailee Mills Foundation to prevent injuries and fatalities resulting from non-seat belt use by educating its students and impacting the culture surrounding this issue.

All nine Katy ISD high school campuses have these signs on display at nearby intersections.

The Kailee Mills Foundation began in October 2017 following a fatal accident involving the young student for which the foundation is named. Kailee Mills, Klein Collins High School student, had unbuckled herself in the back seat of a moving car to take a selfie. Seconds later, she was ejected from the car and killed instantly.

In a separate incident, on Dec. 26, 2020, now-former Tompkins High School student Samuel “Sam” Mills, no relation to Kailee, lost control of his vehicle causing it to flip. He too was ejected from the car.

In both incidents, neither person was wearing a seat belt. Sam survived the accident and today uses his experience to educate other teenagers through public speaking opportunities coordinated by the foundation.

“Through Kailee and Sam’s story, we can save lives,” Ted Vierling, district chief operating officer, said. “The signs serve as a reminder to buckle up on every trip, no matter how far you’re going or how short your trip might be.”

Courtney Doyle, a foundation representative and former school trustee, said the foundation also provides financial and counseling assistance to family who have lost a loved one due to non-seat belt use.

“Likewise, a scholarship is also awarded to a student who lost a family member in such a tragedy,” Doyle said.

Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly secured in the front and back seats, or they could face fines of up to \$200. State Farm Insurance spon-

sors the Kailee Mills signs. For more information about the foundation, visit the website kaileemillsfoundation.org/.

Katy ISD trustees to participate in first-of-its-kind state advocacy program

The Katy ISD Board of Trustees is one of nine boards from across Texas selected to participate in the newly formed Raise Your Hand Texas Trustee Advocates Program.

The program aims to provide trustees and their superintendents the tools they need to positively influence policy-making. The training, in turn, is intended to ensure the perspectives, values and priorities of school districts are at the forefront of appropriate legislative deliberations.

Superintendent Ken Gregorski said legislative decisions made in Austin impact all Texas school districts and the students and families they serve.

“The advocacy training and work with Raise Your Hand Texas will expand beyond our Trustees and myself,” Gregorski said.

The program lasts 18 months. In it, participants will learn to build a local public education advocacy network that encourages school district communities to build awareness on state legislative issues.

Additionally, local school leaders will share expertise and critical information with policymakers developing legislative bills.

Libby Cohen, Raise Your Hand Texas’s senior director of advocacy and outreach, said trustees provide education oversight and citizen governance both to their schools and larger communities.

“Katy ISD serves a large number of Texas students, and we are ready to partner with them on their advocacy efforts because these local leaders bring critically important expertise and insight that will be valuable to state policymakers,” Cohen said.

A total of 27 school districts applied to participate in the Raise Your Hand Texas Trustee Advocates Program and nine were selected.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORT

CATCHING UP WITH *Royal ISD*



PHOTOS COURTESY ROYAL ISD

Royal High School football player Zamarion Gipson has signed a letter of intent to play and continue his education at Friends University.



Brianna Diezi won first place cattle at the 2022 Royal FFA Progress Show.



Kaylee Meader won first place, senior goat, at the 2022 Royal FFA Progress Show.



Erika Drake won first place senior swine at the 2022 Royal FFA Progress Show.



Ekon Ferro won first place junior swine at the 2022 Royal FFA Progress Show.



Jaylyn Danz won first place junior goat at the 2022 Royal FFA Progress Show.



Elyssa Pruner won first place junior cattle at the 2022 Royal FFA Progress Show.



Colleagues and friends of Ervin Paben, seated on left, celebrated his 13 years of service at a retirement luncheon. Paben worked in the district’s maintenance department.



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UIL REALIGNMENT

**PAETOW, JORDAN JUMP TO 6A,
JOIN ALL KATY DISTRICT**

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD will have its own UIL Class 6A district in every sport, now with every Katy ISD school joining the district in the 2022-2024 district realignment.

Paetow and Jordan will jump up to 6A and join District 19-6A, as Katy, Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Morton Ranch, Seven Lakes, Taylor and Tompkins will remain in the district as well.

Seven Lakes is the biggest school

in Katy ISD with an enrollment of 3,591 students, followed by Cinco Ranch (3,485), Tompkins (3,261), Katy (3,197), Paetow (3,169), Taylor (3,058), Mayde Creek (2,586), Jordan (2,586 with its enrollment multiplied by 1.33) and Morton Ranch (2,565).

The cutoff for Class 6A was an enrollment of 2,225 students.

It is the third straight realignment where Katy schools have had their own district in Class 6A. Before 2018 Katy schools were aligned with Houston Memorial and Strake

Jesuit.

Paetow comes off a state championship in Class 5A, Division I, but will be presented with a new challenge when jumping up to the 6A district.

"The teams we played at the 5A level have prepared us for this," said Paetow head coach B.J. Gotte. "The good teams at the 5A level can compete at the 6A level. Playing the Manvel's, the Foster's, the Hightower's. A&M Consolidated and Huntsville too – the list goes on and on. Those are good quality football

teams. It was a good way to prepare us and help us steadily grow in the direction we want. We're just excited to compete against these teams in our district, it gives us a chance to be at our best."

Jordan will have to make an even bigger jump than Paetow. In the program's second year of varsity play, the Warriors will jump from a team without a district into one of the toughest districts in the Houston area.

See **REALIGNMENT**, page B3

DISTRICT 19-6A (ALL SPORTS)

Katy
Cinco Ranch
Mayde Creek
Morton Ranch
Paetow
Jordan
Seven Lakes
Taylor
Tompkins



WEEK OF FEB. 12

SCHEDULES

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

- Paetow at College Station, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 1 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Morton Ranch, 1 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Rudder, 7:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Tyler, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Seven Lakes, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Morton Ranch vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:45 p.m.
- Jordan at Rudder, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, 4 p.m.
- Katy vs. Ridge Point, 4:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Kingwood Park, 4:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Dulles (Scrimmage), 4 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Strake Jesuit, 4:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Spring Woods, 4 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Thursday

- Seven Lakes at Fulshear, 6:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Elkins, 5:30 p.m.

Friday

- Cinco Ranch at Summer Creek, 6 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cy-Fair, 6 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Richmond Foster, 5:45 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Cy-Falls, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Springs, 6 p.m.
- Tompkins at Langham Creek, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday

- Jordan vs. Morton Ranch, noon
- Paetow vs. Westside, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Clements, 10 a.m.

Tompkins ties things atop district standings with win over Seven Lakes



Tompkins' Macy Spencer drives past a defender during Tuesday's game against Seven Lakes at the Seven Lakes gym.

TYLER TYRE

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins hadn't forgotten how things went the last time they played Seven Lakes.

In the two teams' first District 19-6A meeting, Seven Lakes came out in dominant fashion, scoring 74 points and beating the Falcons by 22 points.

That was flipped on its head Tuesday, as the Falcons went into the Spartans' home court and came away 55-45 winners.

"We just keep growing, we've grown exponentially," Macy Spencer said. "Not just me, but the whole team. We've been trying a lot harder in practice, which isn't to say we weren't trying hard before, but the energy has gone up since that loss. This game was really big to us, so we knew we had to step up."

Step up the Falcons did. From the opening tip, Tompkins brought energy and a plan to beat Seven Lakes, and even in what turned into a back and forth contest, it was good enough to come away with a victory as Tompkins took it to a different gear in the fourth quarter to pull away.

"We played to the gameplan," said Tompkins head coach Tammy Ray. "We stuck with the gameplan. We didn't do that the first time, but we were able to tonight."

Much of this was due to the play of Spencer, who has grown by leaps and bounds in her junior season. In total, Spencer scored 26 points, but never forced anything, taking what the defense gave her and getting

See **TOMPKINS**, page B8

Tompkins rises up to tie district race

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins wanted revenge.

In their last matchup against Seven Lakes, the Falcons felt they didn't compete and didn't play the defense that has become so synonymous with the team.

Tompkins sat on that result for a month and was motivated by it, as the team worked every day, waiting for the chance to prove how good of a team they were.

That motivation paid off for

the Falcons, as they held off a late run from Seven Lakes to beat the Spartans 50-45.

"Our defense last time we played them was awful," said senior forward Jason Clark. "It wasn't very good at all. We were able to fix up the match-

See **FALCONS**, page B3

TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Sean DuBose gathers the ball under the basket during Wednesday's game against Seven Lakes at the Tompkins gym.



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Jordan clinches playoff berth with win over Brenham

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan has made the most out of its inaugural season. Many schools struggle in their opening seasons, but Jordan has turned expectations on its head, finding success and making a push towards the top of District 19-5A.

Jordan has suffered only four district losses all season and the team has gained confidence and belief in itself as the season has gone along.

“We’ve just gained more confidence is the biggest thing,” said junior forward Trevor Martz. “Our defense has been more of a team defense and we’ve just started to gel as a team. It’s been fun.”

The team had its biggest moment so far on Saturday, when they beat Brenham 73-40 to clinch a playoff berth for the first time in school history.

“It’s a cool feeling,” said junior guard Shawn Mitchell. “It’s the first time in Jordan history we’ve been able to make the playoffs, so it’s good that we could get there so we can compete in the playoffs for the first time.”

The Warriors lost for the second time this season to A&M Consolidated on Tuesday, dropping to third in district, but bounced right back with their win over Brenham to clinch a playoff spot.

The team continues to respond to every challenge thrown its way this season, with Saturday’s game just being the latest occurrence.

“I tell them all the time, ‘what you guys are doing is not normal, it’s hard,’” said Jordan head coach Charlie Jones. “Schools that just open up, they don’t make the playoffs, they haven’t won 19 or 20 games, so I want them to not put too much pressure on themselves and keep doing what they’re doing.”

Jordan jumped out to a 6-7 lead in the first quarter and stretched that to 32-13 heading into the half, showing off an improved defense that had strength and toughness.

“Our defense has gotten so much better,” Mitchell said. “At the beginning of the year, it was all right, but we’ve practiced really hard over and over. It’s gotten to where it’s so much better. To

hold a team to 13 in a half is really good.”

Mitchell finished the game with 19 points and six rebounds, while Martz had 18 points and five rebounds. Junior guard Jacob Ryan had 11 points and had multiple steals.

“I came in here and I’m the new guy,” Ryan said. “I had to make sure that I can show them that I can play defense. Defense is huge, so I just try to be as active as I can and yell and do everything I can possibly do. I just wanted to show them that I can play defense as well as offense.”

Jordan runs a motion offense and when it works correctly and there is ball movement and cutting it can be hard to stop. The team has had to work hard to get to where they can use it so successfully.

“In practice, we do it all the time,” Jones said. “Everyone gets to shoot as well. They don’t ever feel like ‘I have to take a shot,’ because everyone has the freedom to be able to shoot. All of them out there have the belief that, if I’m open I’m going to be able to take the shot, and that’s a good freedom to have.”

While others may not have predicted the Warriors’ success, no one within the program is surprised by what they’ve done this season.

“We weren’t surprised by any of it,” Martz said. “We know we’re a good team, we know that we can be a great team and compete with anyone. We’re confident with where we’re at.”

District 19-5A
Jordan 73, Brenham 40
Points: (J) Shawn Mitchell 19, Trevor Martz 18, Jacob Ryan 11, Trae Gage 9, Quinn Ford 5, Grant Black 5, Ethan Black 3, Kaleb Houze 3; (B) Shaun Ray 14, Ashton Behrens 6, Josiah Ferguson 6, Deontae Franklin 4, Justin Garza 2, Jamey Rogers 2, Waymond Watkins 2, Delvin Gantt 2, Kaden Watts 2
Halftime: Jordan 32-13; 3-pointers: (J) Gage 3, Ryan 3, Martz 2, Mitchell, E. Black, G. Black, Houze; (B) Ray 2; Records: Jordan 19-10, 10-4; Brenham 11-21, 3-10;



“It’s a cool feeling. It’s the first time in Jordan history we’ve been able to make the playoffs, so it’s good that we could get there so we can compete in the playoffs for the first time.”

—Shawn Mitchell, Jordan junior



Kole Wilson signed to play football at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Wilson caps off stellar senior year by signing with UIW

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Kole Wilson has always thrived on proving what he could do.

Wilson’s goal heading into his senior season was to prove to coaches that he was a Division I talent on the football field and could compete against the best teams in the country.

Wilson went on to lead the Paetow receiving core in catches, yards and touchdowns while helping the team win a state championship.

His work culminated in a number of offers late in the season and after the state championship from Division I teams, and on Wednesday, Wilson made his choice in schools, signing to play at the University of the Incarnate Word.

“It was kind of wild,” Wilson said. “I had to wait but I stayed patient, kept my faith in God and I kept playing, kept working. I knew every-

“It’s the best feeling. We’ve been dreaming about this since forever, me and my family. So just to actually finally do it, to make it official, it felt great.”

—Kole Wilson, Paetow senior

thing would happen for me if I did and thankfully I got recognized.”

Wilson made his presence known in every phase of the game he played in. Along with being Paetow’s leading receiver, he also returned punts for the team. On the year, he returned three punts for touchdowns and averaged over 15 yards per punt return.

He also amassed 51 receptions for 998 yards and 14 touchdowns receiving to

go with two rushing touchdowns in his senior year.

“I’ve been working for as long as I can remember for this,” Wilson said. “Since I was like two or three years old, I’ve been playing. When I hit high school, I knew it was time to really grind and work every day. I’m just glad it paid off.”

Wilson was drawn to UIW by the coaching staff and the ability to stay in Texas while competing at a high level school.

“The love the coaching staff gave me, it was just great from even before anything,” Wilson said. “It was like a real personal connection and I felt really good with it. Then you add into that the kind of playbook they’re running and the area it’s in being in San Antonio, everything just fell in to place.”

Paetow head coach BJ Gotte had six players sign with collegiate programs during the February signing period, including Wilson and cornerback Michael Jordan, and it meant everything to him as a coach to see his players move on to the next level and earn scholarships.

“I’m just proud of them, happy for them and excited for them,” Gotte said. “It’s the culmination of all their hard work and it’s paying off. To see them get to enjoy this moment with their family, it’s a pretty neat thing.”

It meant everything to Wilson for his hard work to have paid off and knowing that his goal of becoming a Division I athlete will become a reality.

“It’s the best feeling,” Wilson said. “We’ve been dreaming about this since forever, me and my family. So just to actually finally do it, to make it official, it felt great.”



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Kentrell Webb signed to play football at Tulane University.

Webb ready for challenge of D1 ball, signs with Tulane

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Kentrell Webb has always had a goal in mind through his high school career.

Find himself the best collegiate program that can help him continue his football career, not just through college, but potentially professionally.

Webb kept his options open through his senior season and even into the new year. Piling up offers from a number of programs and figuring out what would be the best fit for him.

Webb officially made his decision on Wednesday, as the Paetow senior signed to play football at Tulane University.

“It’s a great culture and for me it was like I was finding a new family,” Webb said. “They treated me like family out there. I just felt like this was the place for me because of the way they treated me and the situation is good where I can come in and play. I want to elevate to the next level.”

Webb was instrumental in Paetow’s state title run last season and Paetow head coach B.J. Gotte called him the “heart and soul” of the defense a number of times.

“He’s such a well rounded leader and athlete,” Gotte said. “The thing that was so impressive to me was watching him grow from the time he was in eighth grade to his senior year. The type of person and leader he has become, it just makes me really proud.”

Over the course of his senior year, Webb accumulated 46 tackles, 10 interceptions, six tackles for loss, one sack and one fumble recovery.

“It’s been great this whole year, really a wild ride,” Webb said. “I’m just so grateful for my teammates and friends and family. It’s been a great year and a great season. I’m just ready to elevate it to the next level.”

Tulane made an impression on Webb, who was a three year starter for the Panthers.

“They have a really good strength program as well as football program,” Webb said. “As a person you have to think about the education, and it’s a really good education I’ll be getting. You get those two things together and it was an easy decision. I just felt like definitely I have to do it.”

Webb had offers from Texas State, Stephen F. Austin, Air Force and Houston Baptist among others. He will face competition as Tulane has also added two safeties through the transfer portal this offseason and is bringing in another safety in their ’22 signing class.

But that is just more motivation for Webb, and he can’t wait to get to New Orleans and start to prove himself.

“I’m feeling it, it’s great,” Webb said. “I’m ready to start getting workouts in and I’m already talking to the coaches about getting the playbooks and stuff. I’m just hoping to come in, play early and make my mark. I just want to prove myself and once I do, hopefully I can make it to the NFL.”

Dumas’ journey leads to Prairie View A&M

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

CJ Dumas always knew he wanted to end up at an HBCU.

It wasn’t only about the athletics for Dumas, he wanted to end up at a college where he felt he was at home. In the classroom, on the campus and around the students.

Prairie View A&M provided that for Dumas and on Wednesday, the Paetow senior officially signed his national letter of intent to play for the Panthers.

Dumas will be going from a championship program to another highly successful program, as Prairie View won the Southwestern Athletic Conference last season.

“It’s truly a great relief to know that all the work I put in throughout my entire life to get to this moment paid off,” Dumas said. “I get to play for a great program, they were Southwestern Conference champs last year. To finish my senior season with all the success we had and then jump in to another great program is awesome.”

Dumas had a few offers heading into his senior season but wasn’t in love with any of the schools who had offered scholarships. Dumas used that as motivation to prove he belonged on the collegiate level and he picked up an offer from the Panthers heading into the seventh week of the season.

“A lot of people, they don’t want to have to work and keep pushing to get the offers,” Dumas said. “But for me it just pushed me to work even harder and made me want to get to the next level. The whole season I just wanted to prove myself and it got me to this point.”

When Prairie View offered Dumas, he knew it would be



CJ Dumas signed to play at Prairie View A&M University.

near the top of his list, but once he visited the campus and met people there it became a no doubter, especially once he knew that former Houston Oiler Bubba McDowell would be the team’s next head coach.

“You want to fall in love with the school itself, not the coaches, not the program but the school,” Dumas said. “Prairie View just has a truly rich culture. Being able to go to an HBCU has been a dream of mine from the very beginning. I feel like a lot of people discredit HBCU’s but the competition is just as great if not more so than a lot of these other programs. It’s just great to be able to go out there and compete for a school that wants me.”

Paetow head coach BJ Gotte has no doubt that Dumas will have success at the

collegiate level.

“His leadership and his character are going to pay dividends for him,” Gotte said. “He was one of the main reasons we were even able to win a state championship this year. We lose CJ Dumas we aren’t able to do anything that we did this year. It will pay dividends for him. His maturity, work ethic and his commitment to his craft are going to have him do well.”

Dumas has only had a month away from football, but he’s already hungry to join the Panthers this summer and get to work.

“If I could suit up right now and get out there I would,” Dumas said. “Having this month off has been good but I’m ready to get back. I’m itching to get back on the field and get out there. I can’t wait to get up there and get suited up as quick as possible.”



Seven Lakes’ Tahaad Davis drives past Tompkins’ Carmelo Yakubu during Wednesday’s game at the Tompkins gym.

FALCONS

from page B1

ups, we were able to lock up and know what we had to do on defense. When we play like that, the offense just comes by itself.”

The Falcons fed off a crowd that was at max capacity and was louder than any Tompkins player had played in front of before. Behind the crowd and the motivation going into the game, Tompkins built a 17-11 lead after the first quarter.

“We lost to them by 15 last time, so it felt really good to get a comeback game,” said senior guard Carmelo Yakubu. “Even though we were down in the fourth quarter, even though we trailed four minutes into the game, we were locked in at all times. That’s how we got the win tonight.”

Tompkins knew that Seven Lakes would make runs, and the first of them came in the second quarter as the Spartans built a 21-17 lead heading into halftime. But that was something the Falcons were prepared for and they took back the lead in the third quarter as they scraped their way to a 32-31 lead heading into the fourth, with the crowd roaring the whole way.

“I told the the team before the

game, people in other professions, they don’t get to experience things that get as hype as this,” said Tompkins head coach Bobby Sanders. “There’s nothing like it. The guys fed off that and it was really fun to have our students come out and do what they did tonight.”

Seven Lakes regained the lead in the fourth and led with two minutes remaining, but Tompkins, led by Yakubu down the stretch, made the plays they needed to win the game.

“It’s what he does,” Sanders said. “He’s Draymond Green out there. He guards the other team’s best player, the handles the ball and he made huge free throws and layups for us down the stretch. He does anything and everything you could ask of him.”

Yakubu finished the game with 18 points, while Luke Coughran had 15 and Clark had 9.

“Luke was able to knock down some big shots in the second half,” Clark said. “He was off a little in the first half but I told him at halftime, you gotta keep shooting. He did and it paid off. He’s grown a lot, not just offensively but defensively as well. He played great defense today, it was amazing honestly.

He was working and he did a great job on both end.”

The win ties Tompkins and Seven Lakes at the top of the District 19-6A standings with four district games remaining on the schedule for the regular season, meaning if both teams won out the rest of the way, they would be co-district champions.

“It was such a huge night,” Yakubu said. “If we lost this game then I don’t think we could have won district. Now we have another opportunity at it, we just have to show Texas who Tompkins is.”

District 19-6A

Tompkins 50, Seven Lakes 45

Points: (T) Carmelo Yakubu 18, Luke Coughran 15, Jason Clark 9, Sean DuBose 4, Nick Lancit 4; (SL) Tahaad Davis 19, AJ Bates 12, Josh Akpovwa 7, Grant Van Hoozer 3, Ethan Van Horn 3

Halftime: 21-17 Seven Lakes;

3-pointers: (T) Coughran 4, Clark 2, Yakubu; (SL) Bates 2, Davis, Van Horn;

Records: Tompkins 22-8, 8-1 ,Seven Lakes 28-4, 7-1

NON-DISTRICT SCHEDULES

- **CINCO RANCH:** Week 1: vs. College Park; Week 2: vs. Klein Oak
- **KATY:** Week 1: vs. Clear Springs; Week 2: vs. Atascocita
- **MAYDE CREEK:** Week 1: at Westside; Week 2: vs. Waller
- **MORTON RANCH:** Week 2: vs. Aldine Eisenhower; Week 2: vs. Kingwood Park
- **PAETOW:** Week 1: vs. Conroe; Week 2: vs. Cy-Ranch
- **JORDAN:** Week 1: vs. Aldine Davis; Week 2: vs. Kingwood
- **SEVEN LAKES:** Week 1: vs. Memorial; Week 2: vs. Klein
- **TAYLOR:** Week 1: vs. Cy-Woods; Week 2: vs. George Ranch
- **TOMPKINS:** Week 1: vs. Cy-Ranch; Week 2: vs. Bridgeland

REALIGNMENT

from page B1

“We’ve got a long way to go to get there,” said Jordan head coach Mike Rabe at the end of football season. “We have to have a good offseason, we have to have a good spring. We know what we’re up against coming into this district and it’s going to be really important to have this momentum rolling into it.”

Jordan will play its first ever varsity game in week three, when the team takes on Mayde Creek.

“It’s going to be a lot of hard work and dedication,” Rabe said. “As long as we get a big-time commitment from the kids, we’ll be all right.”

Paetow will play Conroe and Cy-Ranch before it plays its first district game.

“It’s been a process over the years to continually and incrementally take steps over the years to get better from the time it was just freshman and sophomores to now,” Gotte said. “We’ve taken a systematic approach to prepare

us to be able to give us the best chance of having success. Our kids are excited about it and they know they’ve got a big challenge ahead of them, but they’re working hard.”

Another intriguing matchup early in the season will be when Katy takes on Atascocita in week 1.

The Paetow players are excited about the chance to take on other Katy ISD teams.

“We played Morton Ranch the past two years and you could just tell, when we got to that week, it was just a bit different,” Gotte said. “Those are the guys they grew up competing against. Those are the guys they were teammates with. To get to go compete in your own backyard against those teams you know, that gives you a bit of extra excitement. We tried to schedule Katy ISD teams over the past couple years to at least give them a taste so when we got into it, we would be as prepares as we could be.”

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2022 Street Maintenance Project, until 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves pavement repairs at various locations within the City of Katy. The repairs will involve removal of existing pavement and replacement with reinforced concrete pavement, joint sealant, minor storm sewer repairs, and all labor, materials and equipment required to perform the work. This project also involves the restriping of Pin Oak Road from US 90 to Katy Flewellen Road.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.**

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

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EVENTS

Southeast Texas Boat, Sport & RV Show – March 4-5-6, Ford Park, Beaumont, Texas. The Place to buy your new Boat or RV! See 50 Boat and RV Brands in 1 Location! SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com.

Golden Triangle Home & Garden Show – March 4-5-6, Ford Park, Beaumont, Texas. EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME! See a multitude of Home Improvement Professionals in 1 location! GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Jones & Carter, Inc., attention Cameron M. Miller, PE, will be **electronically** received until 10:00 a.m. local time, **February 17th, 2022**, and then publicly opened and read for “Construction of Water, Sanitary, Drainage, in Sunterra Section 37 & Collector D Segment 2 for Katy 1039, Ltd. on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 569, Harris County, Texas.”

The bids will only be received electronically bid through CivcastUSA. The electronic bids will be publicly opened and read via conference call. Physical bids will not be accepted.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large public gatherings are not permitted by law. Bids will be publicly read aloud at the time bids are due via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 458146680# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Water, Sanitary, Drainage, and Paving Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on February 10th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. **The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 967721468# when prompted.**

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

Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the following locations:

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Pulte, Homes of Texas, on behalf of Fort Bend Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 2, Attention Chett Wignall, Project Manager, will be received **electronically** until 11:00am, Monday February 21st, 2022 and then publicly opened and read for the construction of: **“Water, Sanitary, and Drainage Facilities in Katy Court Section 1B”** for Fort Bend Waller Counties MUD No. 2, Harris County, Texas.

The bids will only be received electronically bid through CivcastUSA. The electronic bids will be publicly opened and read via conference call. Physical bids will not be accepted.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large gatherings are not recommended. Bids will be publicly read aloud at the time bids are due via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 328356158# when prompted.

Scope of work of the contract includes construction of water, sanitary, and drainage facilities. The project is located within the future Katy Court Development in Harris County, TX. It is within the boundaries of Fort Bend - Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 2 and is in the City of Katy. It is approximately 900 feet south of the Clay Rd and Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd intersection. The project is located in Harris County, Key Map No. 444-G, 444-H, 444-L, and 444-M.

Bids received after the closing time will not be accepted. An **OPTIONAL** pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, February 11th, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Central Standard Time, via teleconference. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 977922885# when prompted. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **OPTIONAL**.

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

Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the following locations:

Plans, specifications, and bidding documents are available at www.civcastusa.com. Said documents may be examined without charge in the office of Jones and Carter, Inc., 2322 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 150, Katy, Texas 77449.

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

PULTE, HOMES OF TEXAS obo FORT BEND WALLER COUNTIES MUD NO. 2

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received at the Elyson Café, 23623 Elyson Falls Dr, Katy, TX 77493, from **1:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, March 3rd, 2022**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of **“Elyson Basin K Trail Landscape”**, Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened.

A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, February 17th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time, at the Elyson Café, 23623 Elyson Falls Dr, Katy, TX 77493. Bid will not be opened unless the bidder or a representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search the Project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download bid documents for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 171

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2022 Lift Station Wet Well Rehabilitation Project, until 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project involves the rehabilitation of the lift station wet well, internal walls of influent structure, and manholes with an approved spray-on corrosion resistant wall liner at the City of Katy Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 25839 Interstate 10 Frontage Rd., Katy, TX 77494. The purpose of the project is to restore the structural integrity of the lift station wet well structure and manholes to extend its useful life. Mechanical and electrical improvements to the pumps, controls, valves, and piping are not part of this project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.**

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Jones & Carter, Inc., attention Cameron M. Miller, PE, will be electronically received until 10:00 a.m. local time, February 24th, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Water, Sanitary, and Drainage, in Sunterra Section 39 for Katy 1039, Ltd. on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 569, Harris County, Texas."
The bids will only be received electronically bid through CivcastUSA. The electronic bids will be publicly opened and read via conference call. Physical bids will not be accepted.
Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large public gatherings are not permitted by law. Bids will be publicly read aloud at the time bids are due via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 643088673# when prompted.
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Water, Sanitary, Drainage, and Paving Facilities.
Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on February 17th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 478405648# when prompted.
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.
Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the following locations:
Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Owner's judgment will be most advantageous to the Owner and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.
The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the FY 2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project, until 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.
The project involves the rehabilitation of approximately 1,470 L.F. of existing 6-inch thru 8-inch sanitary sewer lines by pipe bursting, manhole rehabilitation, services reconnections as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project. This project also includes one (1) Add Alternate. Add Alternate No. 1 involves cleaning and television inspection of approximately 2,840 L.F. of existing 21" thru 24" sanitary sewer.
Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:
a. Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the City of Katy.
b. Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
c. Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.
Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.
Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.
A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.
Equal Opportunity in Employment - all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.
A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

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Jacob Brown signed to play football at Houston Baptist.

TYLER TYRE

Brown overcomes injury, adversity to sign on with Houston Baptist

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jacob Brown had to work to get himself an opportunity at the college level.

The Paetow senior came into the season as a relative unknown to recruiters after backing up Damon Bankston his junior year. Brown knew he would have to show Universities what he was capable of and he did just that in his senior season, spearheading a rushing attack that helped lead Paetow to a state championship.

His effort started to pay off late in the season when teams took notice and after the state championship, Brown received a number of scholarship opportunities from schools.

The senior running back took his time finding the right place for him and signed his national letter of intent to play at Houston Baptist University on Wednesday.

“The education was the biggest thing for me,” Brown said. “It’s a great education and environment. As soon as I got there, the coaches and the players were so great and it felt like home. I knew it was exactly where I wanted to be.”

Brown didn’t have the normal recruitment experience for a most athletes. Many of his offers came pouring in after the state final, and it made for a difficult month of decision making for Brown.

“It was crazy, it wasn’t the normal recruitment experience when you kind of get your junior and senior year to think about it,” Brown said. “It was really only the last few months of my senior season. With it being such a long season it kind of was the short end of the stick on trying to figure out where you want to go. But I found a place that’s home and I’m excited for what’s next.”

Brown was dominant in his senior season despite suffering an injury shortly before district play. He ended the season with 1558 yards rushing and 27 touchdowns, averaging over nine yards per carry and over 155 yards per game.

“The work was every day,” Brown said. “Not only physically but mentally, it’s wear and tear on your body. Day in and day out I just had to stay focused and determined. It paid off.”

Paetow head coach B.J. Gotte was extremely proud of what Brown did to accomplish his goals.

“His personal story is one that is unbelievable,” Gotte said. “The things that he has had to overcome over the last five years, you could probably make a movie about it. For him to be able to persevere through the different challenges that he and his family have had over the years is just a credit to his family, to his teammates and it’s a credit to his belief in himself. I’m so happy for him.”

It wasn’t just about football for Brown — the education he will be getting at Houston Baptist is the most important thing to him and he can’t wait for the opportunity.

“It just feels great,” Brown said. “It’s crazy, the last four years the stuff we’ve gone through, on and off the field. But I was able to do my part and the team did its part too. We won state, I get to go to college and I get a great education for free. It just feels amazing.”



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Paetow Panthers running back Jacob Brown (25) is tackled on a carry during the Class 5A-Division I state football championship game between Paetow and College Station on December 17, 2021 in Arlington, Texas.

Seven Lakes sweeps team titles in district wrestling

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes swept the team titles at the District 9-6A wrestling meet on Friday.

The Spartans earned 239 points on the boys side, while the girls earned 199 points as both took home gold at the meet.

Seven Lakes’ Mike Amico was named the boys wrestler MVP after winning the 170 pound weight class. Seven Lakes’ Kristen Bryant was named the girls wrestler MVP after winning the 110 pound weight class. Seven Lakes’ Jim Gumm was named the boys assistant head coach of the year and Mayde Creek’s Amanda Kelso was named the girls assistant coach of the year after helping the Rams to a second place finish at the girls meet.

Seven Lakes’ Michael Demarchi was named both the boys and girls head coach of the year.

Following are the regional qualifiers from the District 9-6A meet.



COURTESY RYAN DUNSMORE | FORT BEND HERALD

The Seven Lakes boys and girls wrestling teams celebrate after winning the team titles at the District 9-6A meet.

BOYS

106 POUNDS

- 1st Place: Jackson Ham, Strake Jesuit
- 2nd Place - Richie Walsh, Cinco Ranch
- 3rd Place - Garry Dolgener, Morton Ranch
- 4th Place - Tristan Nguyen, Seven Lakes

113 POUNDS

- 1st place: Jose Salinas, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Diego Lopez, Tompkins
- 3rd Place - Luis Mavarez Loaiza, Morton Ranch
- 4th Place - Travis Hutchison, Katy

120 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Jackson Herman, Cinco Ranch
- 2nd Place - Ty Ferguson, Mayde Creek
- 3rd Place - Fabian Mavarez Loaiza, Morton Ranch
- 4th Place - Aidan Roy, Seven Lakes

126 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Yaseen Refaie, Katy Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Vicente Veloquio, Katy
- 3rd Place - Vincent Echavarry, Cinco Ranch
- 4th Place - Anthony Tritico, Katy Taylor

132 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Owen Vaught, Katy
- 2nd Place - Raymond Marquez, Morton Ranch
- 3rd Place - Raef Kaafarani, Taylor
- 4th Place - Chris Ortiz, Seven Lakes

138 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Connor Timmons, Katy
- 2nd Place - Joshua Garcia, Morton Ranch
- 3rd Place - Sergio LeFebvre, Cinco Ranch
- 4th Place - Carter Demarchi, Seven Lakes

145 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Jeremy Manibog, Katy
- 2nd Place - Sulaiman Mulla, Seven Lakes
- 3rd Place - Colin Moore, Strake Jesuit
- 4th Place - Everett Nichols, George Ranch

152 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Juan Pablo Garcia,

- Katy
- 2nd Place - Calvin Wang, Cinco Ranch
- 3rd Place - Felix Vasquez, Morton Ranch
- 4th Place - Braden Noll, Tompkins

160 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Michael Bone, Taylor
- 2nd Place - Samad Al-Khatib, George Ranch
- 3rd Place - Matteo Nikolov, Tompkins
- 4th Place - Kaiden Stassen, Seven Lakes

170 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Mike Amico, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - John Gabbanelli, Strake Jesuit
- 3rd Place - Tomas Fuentes, Cinco Ranch
- 4th Place - Marcus Schwartz, Katy

182 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Paul Owino, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Kent Stovall, Strake Jesuit
- 3rd Place - Aaron Amyx, Mayde Creek
- 4th Place - Judson Mixon, George Ranch

195 POUNDS

- 1st Place - TaShawn Matthews, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Landon Parrish, Cinco Ranch
- 3rd Place - Sal Reyes of Katy
- 4th Place - Lucas Simoes, Taylor

220 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Ethan Holt, Strake Jesuit
- 2nd Place - Kyle Kerstann, Seven Lakes
- 3rd Place - Dimitrios Katsigiannis, Katy
- 4th Place - Lee Jones, George Ranch

285 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Rodney Trotter, Katy
- 2nd Place - Sam’Corious O’Connor, Morton Ranch
- 3rd Place - Morris Baker, George Ranch
- 4th Place - Blake Rogers, Seven Lakes

GIRLS

- 1st Place - Kristen Bryant, Tompkins
- 2nd Place - Maria Valecillos, Cinco Ranch

- 3rd Place - Cheyenne Curiel, Seven Lakes
- 4th Place - Amy Soto of Katy

119 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Annika Bruder, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Juliana Zavala, Tompkins
- 3rd Place - Noelle Adams, Katy
- 4th Place - Samantha Adigun, Morton Ranch

128 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Jemariah Ferguson, Mayde Creek
- 2nd Place - Tessa Brillhart, Katy
- 3rd Place - Laisy Sanabria, Seven Lakes
- 4th Place - Zitlaly Pena, Morton Ranch

138 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Shirit Holdeman, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Catalina Silva, Mayde Creek
- 3rd Place - Natalie Miranda, Taylor
- 4th Place - Sophia Lynch, Tompkins

148 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Camryn Strohman, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Sydney King, Cinco Ranch
- 3rd Place - Judea Higgins-Morris, Katy
- 4th Place - Madison Dutcher, Mayde Creek

165 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Nina Amico, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Abby Fonseca, Katy
- 3rd Place - Emma Dutcher, Mayde Creek
- 4th Place - Julianna Salyards, Tompkins

185 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Annmarie Janssen, Seven Lakes
- 2nd Place - Nina Valdez, Taylor
- 3rd Place - Karla Rodriguez, Mayde Creek
- 4th Place - Gabriela Marmolejo, Katy

215 POUNDS

- 1st Place - Rewa Chababo, Mayde Creek
- 2nd Place - Nolani Snagg, Seven Lakes
- 3rd Place - Jade Black, Taylor



Seven Lakes’ Kristen Bryant was named the girls wrestler MVP.



Seven Lakes’ Michael Demarchi was named both the boys and girls head coach of the year.



Mayde Creeks’ Amanda Kelso was named the girls assistant coach of the year.



TYLER TYRE
Tompkins' Brooklynn Nash shoots a layup during Tuesday's game against Seven Lakes at the Seven Lakes gym.

TOMPKINS

from page B1

her teammates involved when she was focused in on by the Seven Lakes defense.

"They didn't double team me at all at first so I kept attacking," Spencer said. "Once we got into the second half they started doubling me and I knew I'd have someone open every time if they did that. I just kept looking, kept my eyes up and made the right reads."

Spencer has continued to grow in her game even within the season. There was a stretch in the year where she was firing up too many three pointers and wasn't getting in the paint or to the foul line enough. After an adjustment in her game, she's now scored 20 or more in four straight games.

"Ever since then, she's taken off," Ray said. "She's starting to

understand, 'okay, they're giving me this then I'll take it.' It's a testament to her because she's allowing us to coach her and she just continues to get better."

Tompkins trailed at halftime, but only allowed four points in the third quarter as they continued to pull away in the second half.

The Falcons made a concerted effort to slow down Justice Carlton, who scored 38 in the team's last meeting, and they held her to just 13 points and five points in the second half.

"From the start, we knew the gameplan was to not let Justice touch the ball," said Tompkins junior Fiyinfoluwa Adeleye, who was tasked with guarding Carlton for a large majority of the game.

"Their offense runs through her, so we knew if we stopped what

she wanted to do offensively that it would all come together. We knew as a team that we had to make sure we knew where 30 was at all times, and it worked perfectly."

Adeleye also chipped in with eight points while freshman Rihanna DeLeon added nine points on three three pointers.

The win makes things even in the race for the district title, as both Seven Lakes and Tompkins have suffered two district losses. With one game to go in the district schedule for Tompkins and two for Seven Lakes, it looks as if the teams will be heading towards needing a tiebreaker to determine the top seed for playoffs.

"It was such a huge win for us," Adeleye said. "The past two years we've gone undefeated in district

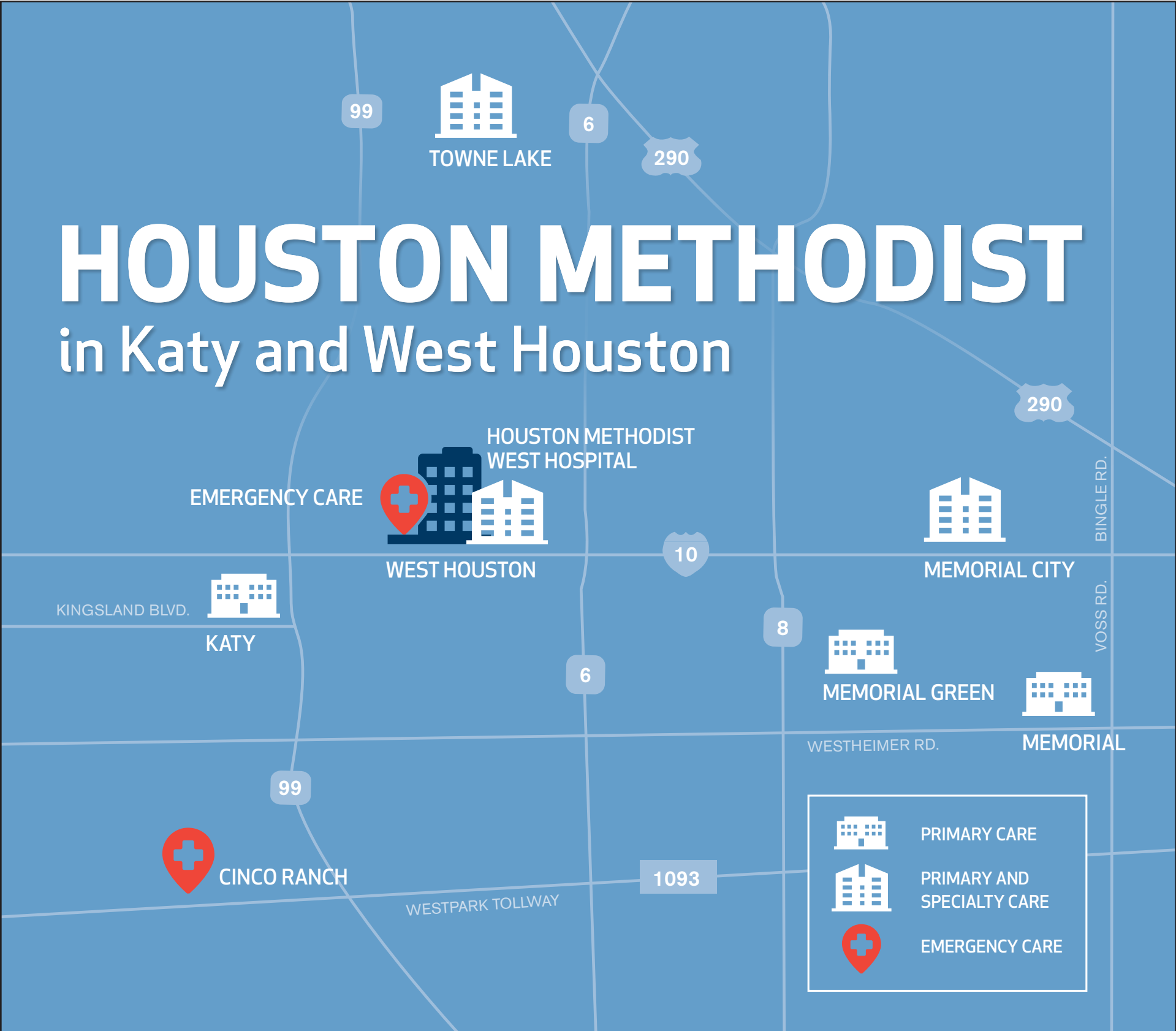
and won district, and I was part of those teams. I want to be a district champion again, to have that feeling. We all want that feeling, and it was huge to go out and get the win."

District 19-6A

Tompkins 55, Seven Lakes 45

Points: (T) Macy Spencer 26, Rihanna DeLeon 9, Fiyinfoluwa Adeleye 8, Brooklynn Nash 6, Gabby Panter 4, Kennedy Bourque 2; (SL) Justice Carlton 13, Caitlyn Quintero 9, Summer Halphen 9, Cailyn Tucker 8, Alex Kainer 6

Halftime: Seven Lakes 30-28; 3-pointers: (T) DeLeon 3, Spencer; (SL) Quintero 2, Tucker 2, Kainer 2, Halphen; Records: Tompkins 30-3, 8-2; (SL) 28-6, 8-2



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