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

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

City declines to act on Franz Court rezoning

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday updated its zoning ordinances as part of a forthcoming and revised comprehensive plan. However, it declined to move in a zoning change case involving nine houses near the southwest corner of the Franz Court-Avenue D intersection.

In the case, residents of those houses requested that the city change the zoning classification from residential to commercial. They had done so in part because, resident and former Ward A Council Member Gary Jones said their properties are equal to the other commercially zoned houses.

The proposal died due to a lack of a motion from a council member to consider it.

The zoning changes approved by the council ensure that the commercially zoned houses can keep that status so long as the commercial use does not change. A house now zoned as commercial, and being used as an office, cannot be replaced with a gas station, for example.

“It’s a happy medium,” Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said. “We tried to make the status quo better for residents.”

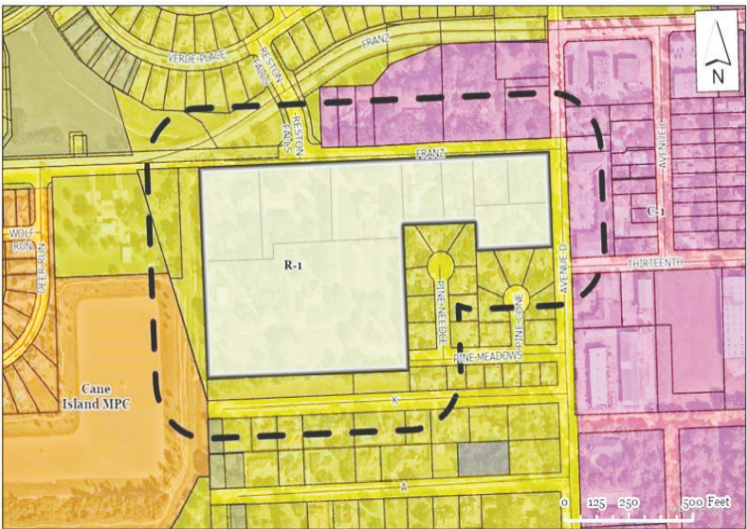
The council at its April 11 meeting denied the request. City staff recommended denial, saying

that the commercial zoning district land uses were being updated — which they were Monday — as part of the city’s comprehensive plan. That plan is expected to include future land use projections and maps. The city’s planning and zoning commission denied the request at its Feb. 8 meeting.

City officials were expected to hold a discussion about the comprehensive plan Tuesday evening, after press time.

The map at right depicts the homes (circled) that are zoned as residential, but for which its residents requested commercial zoning to match the homes across the street.

CITY OF KATY



Husband charged with wife's murder dies in Harris County Jail

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Benjamin Pierce, charged with murder in the stabbing death of his wife Leslie Ann Pierce, died Saturday morning at the Harris County Jail, sheriff’s deputies said.

Pierce was found unresponsive in his cell. Deputies said lifesaving measures were taken but unsuccessful. Pierce was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Deputies said Pierce was in a single-man cell for most of the time he was in custody. No apparent signs of trauma or foul play were found. Deputies said an independent investigation would be performed, as required by state law.

Deputies said Pierce, 39, told them Friday that he stabbed his wife. The stabbing occurred in the 3200 block of Painted Meadow Circle near Fry Road.

The couple have a seven-year-old child who was inside the residence when the incident occurred. Deputies said the child was unharmed.

Deputies said the couple argued about a divorce and child custody before the incident.

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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May 26, 2022
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Hurricane prep should begin now

Hurricanes such as Harvey, pictured here, are a reality of life on the Gulf Coast. Officials are urging residents to begin their preparations.

PEXELS

With hurricane season approaching, here’s the truck you hope never to see

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

This year marks the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, which hit Texas in August 2017. Hurricane season officially begins June 1, and officials are encouraging residents to begin their preparations.

Better to be prepared, with no storms, than the other way around.

One couple is helping local residents prepare in a big way — specifically, an LMTV M1078 Deuce-and-a-half truck.

Aaron and Rosemary Jackson are founders of ARHTX Army, a non-profit dedicated to educating the community about hurricane preparedness.

“We were out in Harvey with our lifted GMC 2500 pulling cars out of ditches, rolling through high water to help people fleeing their homes, but we realized

it wasn’t enough,” Aaron Jackson said. “We knew we needed to do more.”

The Jacksons found the vehicle, which they named “General Max” in honor of General Maximus Decimus Meridius from the movie The Gladiator. Meridius never gave up and aided others with their survival.

General Max, the truck, can hold up to 20 people. The Jacksons added a 25,000-lb. winch and solar panels providing on board electrical backup for any type of medical device or emergency equipment creating a vehicle that can operate with dependability in any high-water disaster. The truck would be used to move people to designated shelters in an emergency.

Having such a truck—and hoping it never has to be used—is one thing. But the Jacksons worked to develop relationships with first responders as well. Such rela-

tionships with Houston Fire and Rescue and with Harris County Pct. 5 Constable Ted Heap enable the Jacksons to bring current hurricane preparedness knowledge to the community.

The Jacksons are working to make a difference by bridging the gap between first responders and those in need. Such activities involved educating children and those most at risk, informing them of what to do before, during and after a hurricane or flooding event.

“We’re the couple you don’t want to see in front of your home,” Aaron Jackson said, smiling. That would mean high water had immobilized you and we would be your lifeline to safety.”

Rosemary Jackson offered these tips, which are listed in the CDC guidelines.

- Have an emergency food and water supply.

See **PREPARE**, page A3

DPS reminds drivers to buckle up, drive safely for holiday

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Memorial Day is the unofficial kickoff to summer, and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding drivers to celebrate safely as they enjoy their holiday. From Monday through May 30, the Texas Highway Patrol will participate in Click It or Ticket, as well as Operation CARE (Crash Awareness Reduction Effort).

Click It or Ticket is an enforcement campaign that encourages people to wear their seat belts. Operation CARE is a specialized campaign in which troopers look for drivers who are speeding, intoxicated or violating other laws. Troopers will also watch for drivers not complying with the state’s Move Over, Slow Down law.


“Memorial Day always means busy highways across the state, and we encourage all drivers to take their time to get to their destinations safely,” DPS Director Steven McCraw said. “By following traffic laws, paying attention to other drivers and buckling your seat belt, we can all do our part to make the roads as safe as possible and enjoy the long Memorial Day holiday.”

During the 2021 Memorial Day campaign, troopers issued more than 115,700 citations and warnings. This includes 6,513 citations for speeding; 1,860 for no insurance; and more than 1,200 citations for individuals without seat belt or child seat restraints. DPS also arrested 445 people on DWI charges, 333 fugitives and 667 people for other felony charges.

DPS encourages drivers to follow these safety tips during Memorial Day weekend and beyond.

- Don’t drink and drive. Make alternate plans if you are consuming alcohol.
- Move Over or Slow Down for police, fire, EMS, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) vehicles and tow trucks stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. Show the same courtesy to fellow drivers who are stopped on the side of the road. So far in 2022, there have been 3,423 violations.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle — it’s the law.
- Slow down, especially in bad weather, heavy traffic, unfamiliar areas or construction zones.
- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices. Texas law prohibits the use

See **DRIVING**, page A3




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Community Calendar
June

**JUNE 4
BREAKFAST WITH OUR VETERANS**
Come and join the American Legion Post 164 on the first Saturday of every month for Breakfast with our Veterans at Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road. The event is from 7-10 a.m. and is all you can eat. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$4 for kids under 12 and free for little ones.

HOLISTIC MARKET
Local vendors, intuitive readers, and classes, among other attractions at Serene Beans, 5609 3rd St. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No cost.

LEARN EMBROIDERY
McDougal Sewing Center will host a class on basic embroidery using a sewing machine. These classes are open to beginners and intermediate students. Students are encouraged to bring their own sewing machine in addition to other supplies. Cost is \$75.
The event is from 1-3 p.m. at McDougal Main Store, 20141 Park Row. For more information, call 281-347-0453 or visit the website mcdougalsewing.com.

DIAMOND RIO TO PERFORM
Diamond Rio will perform at Mo's Place, 21940 Kingsland Blvd. Standing room only tickets are \$20, reserved and day of show tickets are \$25. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit outhousetickets.com or call 281-392-3499.

**JUNE 7
HOUSTON GRAND OPERA STORY TIME**
Storytelling like you've never heard it before takes center stage as an opera singer presents an engaging and enjoyable introduction to opera for students in Pre-K-2nd grade. This program brings singing storytellers to your school or library for an hour of fun. The event is at 3 p.m. at the Katy Library, 5414 Franz Road.

**JUNE 8
FULSHEAR KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Chuck Martinez, president/CEO of the Katy Area Economic Development Council, is the guest speaker at the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce June meeting.
Networking begins at 7:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 8 a.m. at Parkway Fellowship 27043 FM 1093, in Richmond. No cost to attend. For more information, call the chamber at 832-600-3221.

**JUNE 9
KATY AREA CHAMBER INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT**
The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosts an infrastructure summit, at which local officials will discuss the state of local infrastructure.
The summit is set for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy.
City Administrator Byron Hebert will speak about Katy city mobility bonds at 8:30 a.m. Former Harris County Judge Ed Emmett will give the keynote address at 11:30 a.m.
Half-day ticket is \$50, full-day ticket is \$100, corporate table of four is \$500, supporting sponsor admission is \$1,000 and title sponsor admission is \$2,500. For more information, call the chamber at 281-391-5289.

**JUNE 10
KATY SUMMER NIGHTS MOVIES IN THE PARK**
Get together with your friends, family, and neighbors of the community to watch Sing 2 at VFW Park. Grab chairs or a blanket, some bug spray, and warm up your singing voice for this night of fun. Kick off the night with some pre-movie activities, mini donuts available for purchase and free popcorn. Then settle in after dark (around 8:30 p.m.) to enjoy a movie full of good music and fun characters.
Attendees can bring chairs, blankets, food/drinks. No glass, alcohol or pets, however. An adult must accompany all minors. The event takes place in VFW Park, 6202 George Bush Dr.

TWIRL LIKE STEVIE
Nightbird, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, will perform at Central Green Park, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. The band performs songs from Fleetwood Mac's discography and Stevie Nicks' solo career in



Diamond Rio will take the stage at Mo's Place, 21940 Kingsland Blvd., on June 4. Tickets are \$25.

full costume and character.
The event is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and is free. For more information, call 713-332-0161 or visit the website nightbirdofficial.com.

**JUNE 11
DESPERADO TO PERFORM**
Desperado, an Eagles tribute band, will perform at the Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Freeway. Tickets start at \$5. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website wildcattersaloon.com.



**JUNE 12
LACENTERRA FARMERS MARKET**
Local vendors and artisans sell their goods at the Heritage Square.
The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. No cost. To become a vendor, email customer@yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com.

**JUNE 17
CITY OF BROOKSHIRE JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL 2022**
The City of Brookshire hosts its 2022 Juneteenth Festival at Hovas Park on Hovas Lane in Brookshire. The festival features prizes, along with a Zydeco contest, basketball and volleyball tournaments, a mini-carnival, waterpark, children's activities and fireworks show.
Admission is free. Vendors are asked to call 281-475-5050.

**JUNE 18
CANE ISLAND LOCAL MARKET**
Vendors are bringing artisan crafts, homemade goods, health and wellness goods, coffee, food and more. The event is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Cane Quarter, 2100 Cane Island Pkwy. For more information, email info@localmarketmaker.com.

RUN FOR BEER
The 5K Beer Run, sponsored by No Label Brewing, will be walker and stroller friendly. Registered runners will receive a t-shirt, a pint glass and a beer flight. Event proceeds benefit the Rotaract Club of West Katy. Cost ranges from \$45-\$65.

The event begins at 8 a.m. at No Label Brewing Co., 5351 First St. For more information, call 713-332-0161 or visit the website runintexas.com/beerrun.

HAYDEN BAKER AT WILDCATTER
Katy's own Hayden Baker will perform at the Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Freeway. Tickets start at \$10. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website wildcattersaloon.com.

KATY MARKET DAY
The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, beer garden, entertainment, and inflatable attractions for children's entertainment. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy. For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.

**JUNE 27
LINE DANCE FOR FITNESS**
Norma Perez of Swaybody and Fitness will host a line dance and cardio class at Cane Island Community Center's yoga studio. The class will teach line dancers the "Footloose" line dance, "Copperhead Road" line dance and a bonus surprise at the end.

Spaces are limited.
The event is set for 5:30-7 p.m. at Cane Island Community Center's yoga studio, 2100 Cane Island Pkwy. Cost is \$15. For more information, call 832-267-8944.



**JUNE 30
ACHIEVING A WORK-LIFE BALANCE**
Working women are encouraged to believe that the perfect balance between work and home life is a myth. Sheila Garcia of Life as She Does It, who will speak on how women can balance their work and home lives, and excel in both.
The event is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Katy Area Chamber office, 814 East Ave., Suite G. Cost is \$25 for members, \$40 for prospective members, and \$250 for title sponsors. For more information, Call the chamber at 281-391-5289.

Katy Times

will be closed on

Monday, May 30, 2022

in observance of

Memorial Day

Deadline for display advertising and editorial copy for June 2, 2021 publication is Thursday, May 26, 5 p.m.
Deadline for classified line ads is Friday, May 27, Noon.

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Remembering Their Lives. Celebrating Their Memory.**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

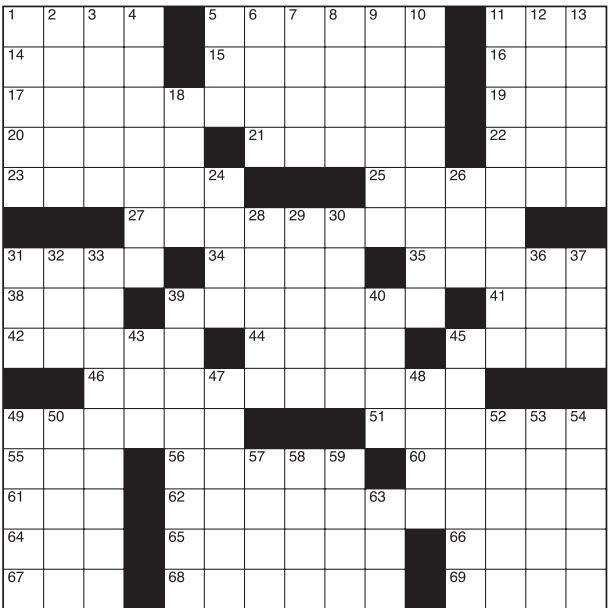
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. English river
- 5. Particular part of something
- 11. Cool!
- 14. Welsh for John
- 15. Given name meaning "great spirit"
- 16. Wrath
- 17. Social occasion
- 19. Mechanical belt
- 20. ___ de la ___
- 21. Commands
- 22. Body part
- 23. Caught sight of
- 25. Funeral car
- 27. Skin infection
- 31. Sometimes they "burn"
- 34. Russian river
- 35. Famed soap opera character Kane
- 38. Pie ___ mode
- 39. Endangered
- 41. Socially inept person
- 42. Romanian river
- 44. Swerve
- 45. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 46. A type of approach to please
- 49. Form of Hebrew name for God
- 51. "Carry On My Wayward Son" rockers
- 55. A team's best pitcher
- 56. A woody climbing plant
- 60. Long, edible marine fish

- 61. Human rights group in Africa (abbr.)
- 62. Data
- 64. Corporate bigwig
- 65. Climbs
- 66. Relating to the ear
- 67. Commercials
- 68. You need it to eat
- 69. Political extremists

CLUES DOWN

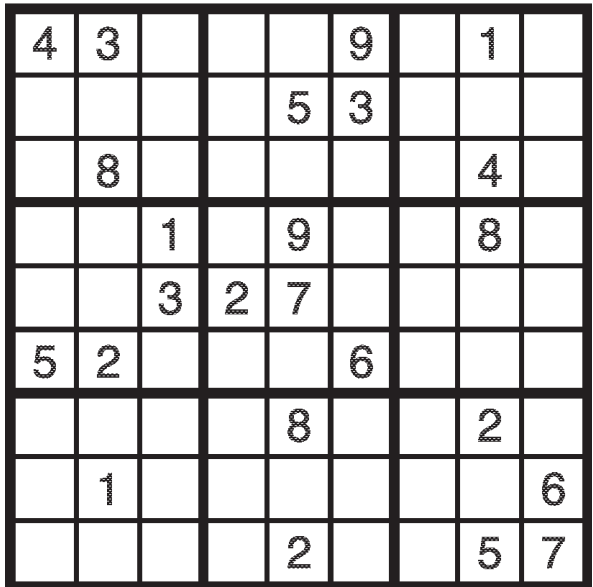
- 1. Reconnaissance (Brit. military)
- 2. Asserts to be the case
- 3. Starchy food made of dried orchid tubers
- 4. Foes
- 5. Rheumatoid arthritis score
- 6. Ruler of Iran
- 7. The top of the head
- 8. Lilly and Manning are two
- 9. Purchase attire for
- 10. Glittering with gold or silver
- 11. The bank of a body of water
- 12. Regions
- 13. Makes tractors
- 18. Adult beverage
- 24. Force unit
- 26. Swiss river
- 28. Cater to
- 29. Woody climbing plants
- 30. Seems less impressive
- 31. Consume



- 32. Boxing's GOAT
- 33. Southwestern farmers
- 36. Beverage holder
- 37. A way to deteriorate
- 39. Judge
- 40. Norse explorer ___ the Red
- 43. Farm resident
- 45. One who helps to govern
- 47. Plant-eating ground bug
- 48. History Finnish county
- 49. Conifer native to Jamaica
- 50. Longed
- 52. Small Japanese city
- 53. Arum family plant
- 54. Puts together in time
- 57. From a distance
- 58. ___ contendere: no contest plea
- 59. Region
- 63. Mountain Standard Time

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.

DRIVING

from page A1

of portable wireless devices to read, write or send an electronic message unless the vehicle is stopped. If you're using a navigation device or app, have a passenger operate it so you can keep your eyes on the road.

- Drive defensively, as holiday travel can present additional challenges.
- On multi-lane roads, use the left lane for passing only. Not only is it courteous driving and avoids impeding traffic, Texas law requires slower traffic to keep to the right and to use the left lane for passing only (when posted).

- Don't cut in front of large trucks and try not to brake quickly in front of them. They can't maneuver as easily as passenger vehicles and pickup trucks.
- If you can Steer It, Clear It: If you are involved in a non-injury crash and your vehicle can be moved, clear the traffic lanes to minimize traffic impact. Leaving vehicles in a traffic lane increases traffic congestion and leaves those involved with an increased risk of harm or a secondary wreck. On some highways, if you don't move your vehicle when it's safe to do so, it's against the law.
- Keep the Texas Roadside Assistance number stored in your phone. Dial 1-800-525-5555 for any type of assistance. The number can also be found on the back of a Texas Driver License.
- Check your vehicle to make sure it is properly maintained and always ensure your cargo is secure.
- Report hazards or anything suspicious to the nearest law enforcement agency.
- Monitor weather and road conditions wherever you are traveling. For road conditions and closures in Texas, visit the website drivetexas.org.



Harris County Pct. 5 Constable Ted Heap, third from left, Rosemary Jackson, fourth from left, and Aaron Jackson pose with others in front of a rescue truck the Jacksons purchased—but hope never to use—for hurricane victim rescue operations.

PREPARE

from page A1

- Have an emergency medicine supply.
 - Make sure you have power sources such as flashlights and batteries. Have a battery backup charger for your phone. That can be a great source of information and communication.
 - Have a fire extinguisher.
 - Have a plan for safe evacuation if necessary. Know where you'll go, how you'll get there and where you'll stay.
 - Have a battery powered radio to keep up with announcements.
- The Jacksons offer these tips for dealing with rain events:
- Stay informed by listening to local news or weather channels.
 - Never walk, swim or drive through floodwater.
 - Call 911 for a medical emergency or immediate evacuation.
 - If you're in danger and need rescuing, you can also call the Houston command center of the U.S. Coast Guard: 281-464-4851, -4852, -4853, -4854 and -4855.

DID YOU KNOW?

Katy-area residents can stay informed through an automated alert notification system set up by the city. Enrollment is free and can be done through the city's website, the abbreviated URL for which is <https://bit.ly/3sTqg3u>.

- Make a Go Kit. Such a kit includes personal items and important documents such as passports, flood insurance information, and appropriate medical documents. Such a kit should also include clothing, toiletries, medicine, three days of nonperishable food, cash and credit cards, a multipurpose tool, rain gear, batteries and flashlights, cell phone and chargers, work gloves. Including

reading material, or even a deck of cards, is a good thing.

- Stay calm and move to higher ground until help can arrive, not in an attic, but somewhere the responders can see you.

Katy-area residents can stay informed through an automated alert notification system set up by the city. Enrollment is free and can be done through the city's website, the abbreviated URL for which is <https://bit.ly/3sTqg3u>.

The system, launched in 2019, sends emergency and official city information through email, text and voicemail messages. While one does not have to be a Katy city resident to enroll, one must use a Katy address when enrolling.

Katy Emergency Management Coordinator Greg Goedecker said people should also follow the National Hurricane Center, the National Weather Service, and the Harris County Flood Control District for updates.

Aristoi Classical Academy names valedictorian and salutatorian

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Aristoi Classical Academy proudly announces that Katelynn Turner is the class of 2022 Valedictorian and Therese Williams is the class of 2022 Salutatorian. Aristoi Classical Academy is also proud to name Paul Jackson as the 2022 Aristoi Award Winner.

Valedictorian Katelynn Turner will attend Howard Payne University where she will major in clinical psychology. She won numerous academic awards as an Aristoi student in Humane Letters, Latin, and Theatre and is the National Honor Society historian. Additionally, Turner served as an Aristoi Ambassador, a peer tutor, and was active in Aristoi's theatre department all four years of high school. Turner attended Aristoi Classical Academy for the past five years.

Salutatorian Therese Williams will attend the University of Dallas where she will major in biology. She is a member of the National Honor Society, student body president, a student ambassador, and an accomplished actress, performing in several Aristoi plays. Williams also began the "Cooking with Character Club" where she teaches younger girls character development and culinary skills. Williams attended Aristoi Classical Academy for the past six years.

Paul Jackson, the 2022 Aristoi Award winner, will attend Trinity University in San Antonio where he will double major in physics and philosophy. Selected by faculty and administration, the Aristoi Award recognizes a virtuous young man or woman who seeks the truth in all things and is the highest honor awarded to an Aristoi graduate. A celebrated student in science, math, and humanities, Jackson is also a gifted athlete, winning Aristoi's 2022 Athlete of the Year award. Jackson has attended Aristoi Classical Academy for the past six years.

CORRECTION

The printed version of the "Tompkins graduate appears in TV commercial" story (May 19) in some instances incorrectly spells Rimi's name. The Times regrets the error.

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY
JUNE 3 & 4, 2022**

Sales will be along Hwy. 90 and throughout the towns.

Maps will be available by Wednesday, June 1, at the Chamber offices, Visitors Centers or on facebook.com/90milesOn90

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Students will also participate in a business plan competition for the chance to win \$850, a trophy, and feature in Today's Youth's newsletter and website.

LSC-CYFAIR

Y.E.S. begins on June 15th - July 27th
9:00a.m.-12:00 noon
Every Wednesday

Location:
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KATY TIMES

Is this what Memorial Day means to you?

So I can spend more time with my family, I am turning this week's column over to a bright fourth-grade student from an unnamed American small town.

Hi. My name is Liam. My history teacher, Mr. Burkhalter, assigned us to write a 500-word essay about lack of public appreciation for the significance of Memorial Day.

My grandpa suggested titling the essay "They've fallen, and our enthusiasm can't get up." Grandpa says a lot of things that make us check his pill box.

Mr. Burkhalter, whom you may recall I already mentioned two paragraphs ago, drives a long, long, long way to instruct us kids, including Jenny and Claire and Eliot and Noah (how am I doing with the word count?), so I paid close attention when he said that Memorial Day is a day to honor those Armed Forces members who made the ultimate sacrifice.

After he explained that these brave men and women died so the rest of us could enjoy our freedoms, I decided that "ultimate sacrifice" is indeed an appropriate term. But I just want to state for the record that sharing a room with my little brother must rank as the next to ultimate sacrifice. Sure, the Kaiser used chemical warfare, but he never tossed Petey's dirty socks into the trenches. Google it.

It's hard to imagine the hardships our heroes endured, often short of food, short of medical supplies, short of pronouns...

The beginning of the observance that evolved into Memorial Day took place way back in 1868. Gen. John A. Logan probably had lots of time to organize such solemn ceremonies because I understand that the video games back then were totally lame. Don't get me started on the Pony Amazon riders.

Even though many people treat Memorial Day as just another three-day weekend (Indy 500! Action movies! Trip to the



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

beach!), it has become part of the American fabric. (Speaking of fabric, they are having a big Memorial Day sale at Clem's Clothing Castle. Sing a verse of "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" —whatever that is—and get 10 percent off your order.)

Grown-ups often refer to Memorial Day as "the unofficial start of summer." You would think that summer would be grateful that humans granted it an unofficial start, but it is usually a case of "I got your mosquitoes and heat right here, pal."

Memorial Day has become a lot like fun-focused Independence Day, except without the fireworks (unless Mom catches Dad showing off his "Kiss the Cook" apron a little too suggestively with Ms. Houlihan down the street).

Do you know what would be a neat way to

celebrate Memorial Day? You know all those books about the cities you must visit before you die and the foods you must eat before you die and the movies you must watch before you die? Maybe one of my classmates will write "The 100 Warmongering Politicians You Must Get Rid of Before You Die."

I appreciate our hard-won opportunities. If not for fallen patriots, I might be speaking a foreign language, with phrases like "three channels" and "play outdoors" and "here's the change from your fill-up."

Thanks, Liam. I hope you've inspired everyone to observe a moment of silence at 3 p.m. on May 30.

I can almost smell the bombs bursting in air...No! Wait! It's Petey's socks!!!

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



No, it's not COVID

For the past few weeks, I've been engaged in a WWE cage match against allergies. No, it's not COVID. I promise, it's not COVID. Really, even when I blow my nose so loudly that it triggers nearby home and car alarm systems, it's still not COVID.

It's pretty sad that I feel obliged to defend my old-fashioned sinus "crud" against false assumptions, but it is what it is these days as news networks are constantly broadcasting some newly-recommended but recently-reversed, rescinded, revised, reconsidered and resurrected COVID protocol to defend against the latest sub-variant that's filling in while all the regular variants are on vacation in Cancún.

Seriously, though, I get this same sinus ailment every year in late spring. It's sort of a tradition. Maybe I should start buying it a gift and taking it out to dinner. My three teenage daughters would argue that I should buy them gifts for putting up with me when I'm in full-blown man-flu mode with Kleenex dangling from both nostrils when I greet their boyfriends at the door.

Just the other day, my youngest daughter reminded me to cough into the inside of my elbow—rather than directly onto her iPhone screen when I confiscate it after she's reached her daily 12-hour limit of YouTube videos. Who came up with that hygiene strategy, anyway? Certainly not the inside of my elbow. In fact, the inside of my elbow has considered lodging a formal protest with the CDC,



JASE GRAVES
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

suggesting that coughing and sneezing into the inside of the knee would be far more sanitary—and promote Kegel stretching.

I suppose the responsible thing to do would be to drag out one of my crusty, retired masks while I have this cold, but since I have to blow my nose about once every ten seconds, it would be like wearing pants part-time, which sort of defeats the purpose. Besides, I have my sense of fashion to think about, and face masks are so last surge!

The cause of this yearly sinus malady, other than the fact that my nose is roughly the size of a standard 100-watt light bulb, is mostly geographical. Those of us who live in the heavily-forested East Texas Piney Woods can only stand by helplessly as our aroused foliage engages in a shocking public display of unprotected relations every spring, the result of which is a yellow pollen plague of biblical proportions. This powdery menace coats every car, creeps into every crevice, and occupies every orifice—especially mine.

My allergy attack always begins with my throat feeling like I tried to swallow my wife's shower loofah thingy (that I may or may not use to exfoliate my armpits). It then

progresses to my head, which transforms into a fully-inflated Violet Beauregarde after she chewed Willy Wonka's magic gum. And throughout the entire ordeal, I cough and hack like a toddler trying his first cigar.

Despite the symptoms, though, there are a couple of benefits to having "the crud." First, my raspy voice takes on a sultry and ultra-masculine tone, and I sound like the love child of Barry White and Tone Loc, making my hymn singing in church especially soulful and funky. And then there's the sympathy I get from my caring wife, who insists that I avoid working too hard and get plenty of sleep, which happen to be two of my main goals in life.

Because this year's allergies developed into a sinus infection, my doctor prescribed a round of powerful antibiotics, which have basically turned my bowels into active lava tubes, but at least they've changed the subject.

Yes, I'm confident that good nasal health is just over the horizon as sure as our pollen-plagued East Texas spring turns into a blistering, humid summer – and we all seriously consider wearing pants part-time.

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

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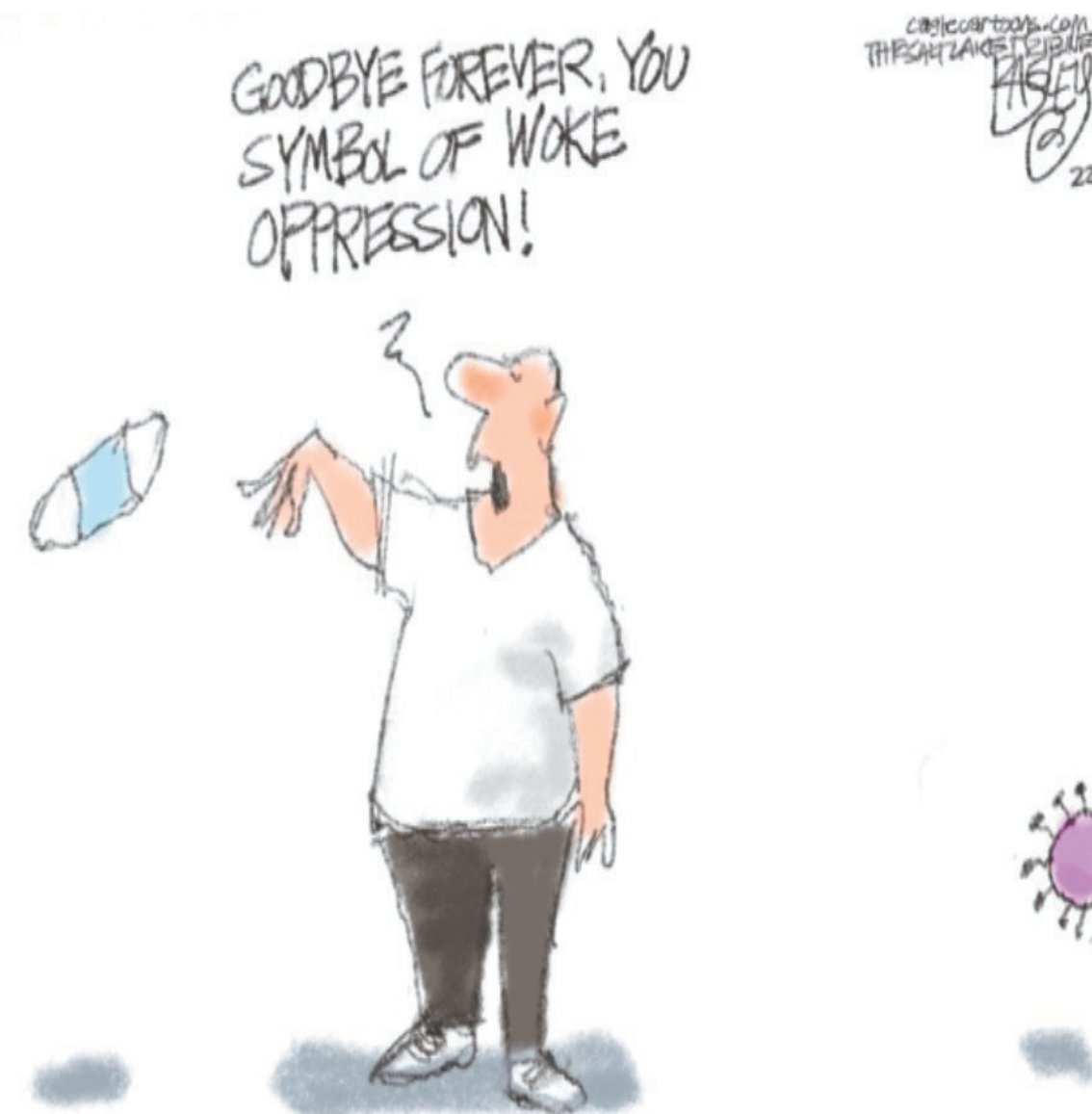
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TRIBUTES

Glenda Jo Fielder went home to be with her Heavenly Father on May 2, 2022, in Katy, Texas surrounded by all her family and close friends. She was born on February 13, 1952, in Levelland, Texas to Edith Shirley and Charles DeFreese. She grew up in Ft. Worth and attended L.D. Bell High School in Hurst as the class of 1970. Her favorite memory growing up was spending time on the farm with her Shirley family in Levelland. She loved sharing her summer memories of farming and cooking with her aunts and uncles in Levelland.

On January 4, 1974, she married Larry "Rick" Fielder. Their loving union gave them four children and 6 grandbabies. Glenda and Rick were married for 48 years and have lived in Katy for 45 years. Rick works as a



GLEND A JO FIELDER
1952-2022

consultant in the Oil & Gas industry which gave them the wonderful opportunity to travel and see the world together.

Glenda is survived by her loving husband Rick Fielder and their 4 children: Jason Fielder and wife Teri Fielder, Corinda Presley

and husband Jason Presley, Chris Fielder and Emily Mc-Broom, and Jackie Nething and husband Greg Nething. She is also survived by her 6 grandbabies; Katelyn Fielder(16), Kaycie Fielder(15), Brayden Cooper(14), Londyn Presley(11), Kristyn Fielder(10) and Kyleigh Nething(9). She was fortunate that all of her children and grandbabies lived in Houston which kept her involved in their everyday lives. She felt so blessed and honored to have raised such a wonderful and loving family.

Glenda was a loving wife, Mom, Nana and will be truly missed. She touched everyone that crossed her path and always knew the appropriate advice to give. But we can rest assured that she is happy where she is at as she has completed her

journey God set her out to do. She is all-seeing now and will continue to guide and watch over us.

The family welcomes all to join in the celebration of her life on earth on May 27, 10:00am at Second Baptist Church, 19449 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77094. The Service will be given under the direction of Dr. Chris Hopf of Second Baptist Church of Katy. Flowers may be sent directly to Second Baptist Church no later than 8:30am on the 27th. Alternatively, a donation may be made to Glenda's non-profit school for special needs children. More information on the school can be send to Rick Fielder at oil_fielder@yahoo.com.

Further inquiries regarding the service can be directed to jasonrfielder@gmail.com.

Katy-area student set to compete in Scripps National Spelling Bee

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Perhaps the only thing better than winning a national spelling bee is to win it in two languages. Kirsten Santos, a sixth-grade student at International Leadership of Katy, a charter school, will soon have a chance to achieve that goal.

Santos in 2019 won the National Spanish Spelling Bee, held in Denver. In 2020, she appeared on the NBC television program Little Big Shots. More recently, she won the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee, which qualifies her for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, to be held May 31-June 2 in Washington, D.C.

Santos works hard to master her words. She said she studies six hours a day, every day. She said she hopes to be a neurosurgeon one day.

Margaret Donaldson, one of Santos's teachers, described Santos as an amazing student. "She is an amazing leader," Donaldson said. "She's a motivator. She is always willing to help teachers and students. She's just an inspiration. She gave a really great speech at our May 20 honors banquet."

CHARLES ALLAN HUFFMAN 1955-2022

Charles Allan Huffman, 66, passed away on May 17, 2022 in Starkville, MS surrounded by loved ones.

Mr. Huffman, known as Chuck, was born on September 16, 1955 in New Orleans, LA. Chuck grew up in Metairie, LA where he met his wife and partner in life, Suzanne. They both graduated from Mississippi State University in 1976 and soon after moved to Houston, TX. He worked for Shell Oil Company throughout his career where he made lifelong friendships.

Chuck was an avid fan of NASCAR and the MSU Bulldogs and enjoyed the freedom of a motorcycle ride on Saturday mornings. Upon retirement,

Chuck and Suzanne's passion for MSU led them back to Starkville. Known as an entertaining storyteller, Chuck often reminisced about RV trips to NASCAR races and unforgettable MSU football victories. He enjoyed hosting crawfish boils for any type of celebration and highlight his Louisiana roots. He was also known for deep frying turkeys Thanksgiving mornings for all of his family and friends to enjoy.

In addition to his wife, Suzanne, Chuck is survived by his two children, Aaron Huffman and Lauren Opperman, and five grandchildren. His grandchildren affectionately called him "Chuck-Guy" and he enjoyed nothing more than being a grandfather. He was predeceased by his parents, Benjamin

Huffman and Mary Huffman.

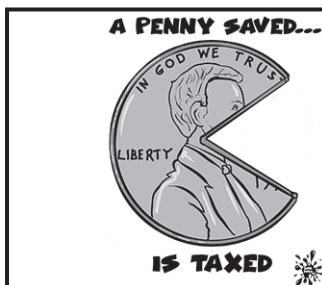
Visitation will start at 9:30am and the funeral service will follow at 10:30am at the Welch Funeral Home, 201 W. Lampkin St., Starkville, MS 39759, on May 24, 2022. The family will be there to welcome friends and relatives.

In lieu of flowers, Chuck's family would be honored with donations to the Dell Children's Trust in Austin, TX where his youngest grandson receives exceptional medical care.

Dell Children's Trust (Select Non-Member Donation)

Dell Children's Trust, Dell Children's Foundation, 4900 Mueller Blvd Austin, TX 78723.

You can leave the family a condolence at: www.welchfuneralhomes.com.



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EDUCATION BRIEFS



Laura Merlina



Toni New

St. John XXIII College Preparatory announces 2022 valedictorian and salutatorian

Laura Merlina and Toni New are the 2002 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at St. John XXIII College Preparatory.

Merlina will be attending the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in the Plan II Honors Program on the pre-med track, minoring in social and behavioral sciences. She hopes to work and research in the field of addiction psychiatry.

At St. John XXIII, Merlina served Neri House as a Senior Rep while playing varsity volleyball, club volleyball, and golf. With Campus Ministry, she led both Quest and grade-level retreats. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Science Honor Society, along with various school clubs. She is also a Lion Ambassador.

Merlina is a frequent volunteer at the Brookwood Community, along with the Ballard House, Mess Outreach, and the Marie George Food Drives. She was also a Vacation Bible School group leader at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church and worked part-time throughout her senior year.

New is going to Texas A&M University to study Mechanical Engineering. She hopes to work with innovative ideas that will aid in advancing society both technologically and environmentally.

At St. John XXIII, New served as Lisieux House Captain, softball captain, editor-in-chief of The Pride yearbook and a contributor to the Lion News. With Campus Ministry, she was a part of the Faith and Leadership Program, the Altar Guild, and Quest and Kairos retreat leadership. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Science Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, and various school clubs. She is also a Lion Ambassador and an St. John XXIII Scholar Athlete.

New also volunteered at the Brookwood Community, along with Catholic Charities, The Lord's Kitchen, and the Friends of Rosenberg. She is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

St. John XXIII College Preparatory is an accredited, competitive, coeducational, college preparatory school of 410 students in Katy. Its mission is to form the hearts and minds of young men and women in a Christ-centered community dedicated to academic excellence, the pursuit of virtue, and service to others in the Tradition of the Catholic Church. Thirty-three teaching faculty are employed, over half holding master's degrees or higher.

KARE announces scholarship winners

The Katy Area Retired Teachers (KARE) announced the awarding of eight scholarships to Katy ISD high school students. Scholarships are funded through KARE member donations, support of spirit nights at various Katy venues and an anonymous donor.

KARE thanked Samantha Riggs from Outback Steakhouse for her and her company's help. This year each recipient, which included two boys and six girls, will each receive \$1,200. The scholarship recipients are:

- Brynna Pate, Cinco Ranch, Texas State

University, Elementary Education

- Reece Morrison Seven Lakes Stephen F. Austin State University, 4-8 Elementary
- Joshua Holycross. Katy, Sam Houston State University, History & Coaching
- Colin Regwall, Taylor, Tarleton State University, Science
- Brooks Stanley, Paetow, Houston Community College and Texas A&M University, Art K/1 grades
- Sophie Huynh, Tompkins, University of Texas-Austin, Chemistry
- Elaine Tramall, Morton Ranch, Sam Houston State University, Elementary and Special Education
- Isabelle Rivera, Tompkins, Southwestern University, Kinesiology K/1 grade

Katy High School FFA Chapter wins state championship title

The Katy High School FFA Poultry team recently won the state championship title for the third time.

During the Career Development Events (CDE) State Competition on April 30, the team won the poultry judging contest. Additionally, 37 Katy ISD FFA teams competed at the state level. Sixteen teams earned Top 10 spots, seven placed in the Top 5 category and ultimately the Katy Tigers FFA took home the coveted championship title.

The team will participate in the National FFA Convention & Expo scheduled for October 26-29 in Indianapolis.

The following FFA chapters placed in the Top 10:

- Poultry: Katy, 1st; Seven Lakes, 8th
- Floral: Katy, 2nd
- Vet Med: Taylor, 2nd; Katy 4th; Mayde Creek, 5th
- Horse: Katy, 4th
- Dairy Cattle: Seven Lakes, 4th
- Nursery/Landscape: Katy, 5th; Jordan, 8th; Taylor, 10th
- Land: Katy, 6th; Cinco Ranch, 10th
- Farm Business Management: Taylor, 7th
- Wildlife: Katy, 9th

"For the past five years, Katy ISD FFA chapters have earned 11 Texas FFA State Championships and three FFA National Championships," David Laird, Katy ISD FFA events coordinator, said. "Whether it's at local, state or national competition, students are challenged to develop critical thinking skills, practice teamwork and exercise communication amongst their chapters. We are very proud of all Katy ISD FFA students."

CDE competition is designed to help its members prepare for a career in agriculture by testing and challenging their technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills, as well as their knowledge of the subject matter. The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 154,000 active FFA members.

Two area students awarded Phillips 66 college scholarships

Two students from the Katy area are among the 44 high school seniors across the U.S. who will each receive \$16,000 college scholarships from the Phillips 66 Dependent Scholarship Program.

The competitive program is open to outstanding college-bound students whose parents work for Phillips 66 and certain of its subsidiary companies.

- The area honorees are:
- Kaycee McCoy of Katy High School, daughter of Phillips 66 employee Stacey McCoy.
 - Walker Tally of Cinco Ranch High School, son of Phillips 66 employee Craig Tally.
- The scholarships are based on academic excellence, community service and financial need. The award reflects the company's vision of improving lives and supporting its

communities.

"We congratulate Kaycee and Walker on their exceptional academic achievements and dedication to community service," Claudia Kreisle, Phillips 66 Manager of Social Impact, said. "Education is a core focus area for Phillips 66, and we are proud to support these promising young students in the next chapter of their academic journey."

Phillips 66 has awarded \$7.6 million in scholarships to 549 students since the start of the program in 2013. Scholarship America, a neutral, third-party administrator of educational assistance programs, selects the recipients and manages the program for Phillips 66.

HCC receives \$25,000 from Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has donated \$25,000 to support HCC's Public Safety program and students. The donation was made before the HCC Board of Trustees at a meeting on May 19.

Since 2017, the longtime area organization has awarded \$200,000 to the HCC Public Safety Center of Excellence and an additional \$20,000 in private scholarships to HCC students. Over the past 17 years, \$1.2 million has come from the Rodeo to support HCC.

"We are grateful for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's continuous support of Houston Community College and for their leadership, vision and commitment," Karen Schmidt, HCC Foundation president, said. "We appreciate their philanthropic dedication, which is an inspiration to us all."

Dr. Michael Edwards, HCC Northeast College president, said the donated funds underscore the difference for good the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo makes for HCC and its students and to education in general.

"Their deep passion for education, including public safety, has helped many HCC students achieve their goal of becoming first responders," Edwards said. "They understand that education is truly the epicenter if students are to access rewarding, in-demand and sustainable careers."

The college's Public Safety Center of Excel-

lence provides programs in basic, intermediate and advanced certificates and licensing for first responder professionals. Classes include those in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement, Basic Firefighting, Emergency Medical Services, Peace Officer Licensing and In-Service Training and Fire Science and Safety.

Harmony Public Schools, Texas State University System announce unique new partnership

The Texas State University System and Harmony Public Schools have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish and expand collaborative efforts aimed at supporting Harmony graduates as they apply to, advance in, and graduate from a Texas State University member institution.

Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall and HPS Deputy Superintendent Umit Alpaslan, joined by the presidents of TSUS's seven member institutions, signed the agreement May 20 on Sam Houston State University's Huntsville campus. The agreement allows Texas State University System institutions to inform Harmony students about the benefits of pursuing higher education and to work closely with Harmony to support students who choose to attend a Texas State University System institution.

Alpaslan said Harmony's primary mission is to provide students a path to a better future by equipping them with the academic knowledge and life skills they'll need to succeed.

"We are extremely proud to partner with an organization such as the Texas State University System which shares those values and can support our graduates with an affordable, high-quality college education," Alpaslan said.

McCall said the system looks forward to working with Harmony Public Schools.

"Our member institutions are proud to provide a welcoming environment where first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students feel at home and, importantly, succeed in ever-increasing numbers," McCall said.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Hull's walk-off leads Katy past Taylor

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Sutton Hull watched last year as a freshman and saw a Katy team that dominated in the first two rounds of the playoffs fall short in

the regional quarterfinals. He saw the pain every player on varsity went through and how they felt their season was cut short. So when Katy was in the same position on Saturday, Hull wanted to make sure that the outcome was

different, and make sure he and his teammates didn't feel that pain. Sutton stepped up to the plate in extra innings of a tie game Saturday between the Tigers and Taylor in game two of their regional quarter-final matchup with a runner on and

delivered a walk-off RBI double, leading the Tigers past the Mustangs, 3-2, in a thrilling matchup that saw great baseball played from both teams.

Katy Tigers celebrate the win after a home run hit by Katy's Sutton Hull during the eight inning during a Region III-6A quarterfinals baseball game at Langham Creek High School, Saturday, May 21, 2022.

See **KATY**, page B3

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIALS TO THE KATY TIMES



Seven Lakes' terrific run ends in with regional semifinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

At the beginning of the school year, no one in the Seven Lakes locker room had a belief that they would go deep in the playoffs. Before the start of Seven Lakes' softball season, first-year head coach Holly Koopmann had a meeting with the team and asked them what they wanted to accomplish in the upcoming year. A couple of players said that they wanted to finish better than fourth in district, but no one brought up bigger goals. "I looked at them and I said why don't we shoot for first," Koopmann said. "They looked at me like I was crazy, but I told them right then, 'ya'll are good, you don't realize how good each and every one of you are.'" The Spartans took Koopmann's message to heart, and after defeating Katy during the first round of district play, the team truly started believing they could do something special this season. That season culminated in a memorable playoff run and a regional semifinals appearance for Seven Lakes, the team's first in six seasons. But it came to an end on Friday with a 10-0 loss to defending state champion Deer Park in a one-game series. "We may not have won tonight, but this whole run, this whole experience was so awesome," said senior shortstop Mackenzie Stutts.

See **SPARTANS**, page B3



TYLER TYRE

Kamryn Wallman reaches to catch a fly ball during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Seven Lakes and Deer Park at the Summer Creek softball field.

1-game advantage not enough for Katy in regional semifinals loss

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cameryn Harrison knew how tough things would be in the regional semifinals. The sophomore pitcher had dominated all playoffs, but going up against a Pearland squad which had not lost throughout its playoff run, she knew this would be a different animal. "They have such a strong lineup and have a lot of people committed to good schools and we knew that," Harrison said. "I just knew coming in, if I can keep them off balance, use my changeup and my curve to not let them get comfortable then it would be huge. If they still hit it then they hit it, but that's the most I can do." Harrison's approach and determination on the mound yielded results, as she struck out 11 batters and allowed only four hits in a 2-1 win over the Oilers as the Tigers took a one game to

See **SOFTBALL**, page B3

WEEK OF MARCH 27

SCHEDULES

BASEBALL

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Thursday

• Game 1: Katy vs. Strake Jesuit, 7 p.m. at Jersey Village

Friday

• Game 2: Katy vs. Strake Jesuit, 7 p.m. at Mayde Creek

Saturday

• Game 3: Katy vs. Strake Jesuit, 1 p.m. at Jersey Village (if necessary)



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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Jacob Brown hugs Paetow principal Mindy Dickerson during Thursday's ring ceremony at Paetow, above. At right, Paetow players head on to the field at Panther Stadium for Thursday's ring ceremony.



Paetow caps off school year with ring ceremony

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

You could hear the excitement from the parking lot at Paetow on Thursday. It was buzzing — every football player and fan that headed to Panther stadium was excited for what was coming.

It was the moment they all had been waiting four months for. The Panthers received their 2021 state championship rings, seeing them for the first time on Thursday as the community came together with the team, coaches, administrators, trainer, family and friends to celebrate the historic season for a final time.

"It was beautiful, the entire thing was just amazing," said junior linebacker Alex Kilgore. "We waited so long for today and to come out here and have this moment and see those rings, it was a beautiful moment."

The ceremony included a speech from each of the 2021 state captains, in Kentrell Webb, C.J. Dumas, James Bailey and Kilgore. They also had a speech from Paetow principal Mindy Dickerson and a mention of the efforts of everyone involved from the captains to the student trainers and film crew.

After they all received their boxes containing the rings, the Panthers opened them as one. Then the party started, as they brought out a DJ who played music, the food trucks opened up and the fans spilled onto the field to celebrate with the players and staff.

At the end of the ceremony the players looked over and saw their former head coach, B.J. Gotte, who had come to watch his players celebrate the season. Kilgore ran to Gotte to give him a hug and told the coach how much he had meant to Kilgore. Other players followed behind to show their appreciation to their former coach.

"It's why you do this stuff," Gotte said. "It was so great to see them all and I'm just happy that they are happy. That was a special moment."

None of the players had seen the rings before the ceremony and there was a collective shock from the team.

"It was just amazing opening that box and seeing the ring," Bailey said. "I was so anxious heading into this, and with having



C.J. Dumas talks during Thursday's ring ceremony at Paetow.

the box in my hand not being able to open it. But it was so worth it the moment we opened it up. Amazing is the only way to describe it."

The ring features the Paetow logo on the front, with the player's last name, number and the year of the state championship on the sides.

For the Panthers it was a special moment as they had never had the experience of getting state championship rings before, and for the younger players, it provides even more motivation to go out and get another ring next season.

"It just makes me want to show people what we can do again," Kilgore said. "I feel like no one really put respect on our name until we won state, and now that we are moving up to 6A, the same thing is happening, but it's OK. We're going to go up there next year and do what we do."

The Panthers will lose some key contributors to that state championship team this coming season, but still return plenty of firepower, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

"I'm excited for those younger guys to go out and prove themselves again," Gotte said. "The foundation is here and the kids have done such a great job of buying in to what it takes to be successful. They hired a great head coach in Lonnie Teagle, who will do great things. This place is going to be good regardless of who is



Paetow's state championship ring.

here. Coaches come and go, but these guys have that foundation already laid, they know how to do it and everyone is behind them. I'm going to be their No. 1 fan."



Jacob Brown and Anthony Fuentes show off their championship rings during Thursday's ring ceremony at Paetow.



CJ Dumas, above left, and Alex Kilgore, above right, show off their state championship rings during Thursday's ring ceremony at Paetow.

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MARK GOODMAN | SPECIALS TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy's Sutton Hull doubles to left field scoring a run during the fourth inning during a Region III-6A quarterfinals baseball game at Langham Creek High School, Saturday, May 21, 2022.

KATY

from page B1

"I remember watching last year, seeing how devastated they were," Hull said. "I knew and they knew that's not how their season should have ended, and I didn't want to feel that way this year. I'm just glad I was able to help my team."

Katy took game one of the series 3-0 behind three runs in the top of the seventh inning, and the game two win did not come without drama either, as the Tigers had to come from behind twice in the game to earn the victory.

"Everyone in the dugout has that belief that the next guy up can get it done, and fortunately we were able to," said Katy head coach Tom McPherson. "I think that belief in each other got us through, but I'd like to score more runs. Our pitching staff has been outstanding, but we have to hit better if we are going to get to that next level."

Both starters had strong games to keep their teams in it. Caleb Koger pitched six innings for Katy, allowing six hits and one earned run while striking out four and walking two. While Jar-

ed Schaeffer pitched 7.1 innings for Taylor and allowed three runs on five hits while striking out five and walking three.

Parker Kidwell pitched the final two innings of the game for Katy, striking out two and walking one without allowing a hit.

Taylor struck first in the second inning as Adam Fitzgerald hit an RBI triple to drive in Tyler Irving. But Katy tied things up in the bottom of the fourth, and it was Sutton Hull who did the damage by hitting a double to drive in Kidwell, who had singled earlier in the inning.

"We just have this great chemistry," Kidwell said. "We just love coming out to the ballpark and playing for each other. You can see it when we go down, we come together, no one blames each other. We just get better and get after it."

Taylor retook the lead in the next inning on a Carson Marshall RBI single, but when it mattered most, Katy had the answer. As they loaded the bases and Brady Englett drew a walk in the bottom

of the sixth to tie things.

Neither team could find a run in the seventh, leading to the game going to extra innings.

Taylor was unable to score in the eighth, leading to Katy's chance to take the win.

Kidwell led off the inning with a double to deep left field, after a Jhonnatan Ferrebus strikeout, Hull stepped up to the plate and ended things with a double.

"I just wanted to start the inning off the right way," Kidwell said. "I went up and tried to get us going, our offense had kind of been slow throughout the game and I wanted to get us a big hit. I'm just glad I did that."

Katy advances to play Strake Jesuit in the regional semifinals.

"It was a great feeling getting that hit," Hull said. "Just a huge weight lifted off my chest and it was so exciting to help the team get to the next round. We're going to have to swing it better if we want to keep going though. Our pitchers have done a great job in limiting other teams and it's on us now to score more runs."

SPARTANS

from page B1

"My freshman year we didn't even make playoffs, last year we lost in the first round, so it was so fun to go this far. To play these high pressure games. None of this have ever experienced this before so I'm really happy I was able to in my senior year."

Seven Lakes could never get the bats going in the loss, with a lack of baserunners keeping the Spartans from getting anything on the board.

Deer Park scored one run in the second, one in the third and two in the fourth to take a commanding lead before putting up five runs in the fifth and one in the seventh innings.

But despite Seven Lakes taking the loss, it was a night for celebration of a great season and the culmination of the hard work from the group the entire season.

"These girls completely bought in to everything we were doing," Koopmann said. "You could see it every day in practice, every single day. I never had to ask them to buy in, none of the coaches did, they just were in it from the beginning. To have that from a group is really special."

Koopmann came in wanting to build a culture and did just that, with a playoff run that will improve the returners in the future.

"The experience alone is so huge," Koopmann said. "Even if they didn't play, they got to see these games, see and feel this



TYLER TYRE

Haley Welch hits during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Seven Lakes and Deer Park at the Summer Creek softball field.

pressure and see what it takes to be successful at this level. I don't think any of them had ever played a game as big as this, so next year it won't be a first."

The Spartans will bring back a strong class of returners next year despite the loss of Stutts, Meghan Kelly and other seniors. Stutts wants to make sure that those players believe in themselves and push themselves to go further.

"I just want to tell them to have confidence and know you can go far," Stutts said. "If anyone had told us at the beginning of the season that we would make it to round four, none of us would have believed it. I just want them to know that they can do it again. This should give them confidence they can go far."



TYLER TYRE

Haley Welch makes a throw to first base during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Seven Lakes and Deer Park at the Summer Creek softball field.

SOFTBALL

from page B1



TYLER TYRE

Cameryn Harrison comes to plate after her home run during Wednesday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal game between Katy and Pearland at the Katy softball field.

zero lead in the best of three series.

"She's just a really really good ballplayer," said Katy head coach Kalum Haack. "She came through, had a big game and pitched very clutch when she needed to."

And it wasn't just on the mound where the sophomore made the difference. At the plate, she had for one of the Tigers' two hits and accounted for both of the team's runs with a two-run homer in the bottom of the second inning after Montgomery Henderson reached on an error.

"I just go up there and my approach is 'see the ball, hit the ball,' Harrison said. "That's just how I process it. For me, if I think too much I won't be able to see it so I went up there and was like 'hey, this is the second inning and you have nothing to lose.' I saw a pitch I liked and hit it — thankfully it found its way over the fence."

Those two runs would be all Katy needed, as Harrison backed up her home run with an even gutsier performance on the mound.

Pearland scraped one run across in the third with great small ball play, but Harrison got out of the inning without further damage. She faced the minimum for the next two innings before the top of Pearland's order came up again in the sixth. The Oilers tried to get another run across that inning, getting two singles to start things off. But Ashtyn Reichardt made a great play in center field to get the first out of the inning before Harrison struck out the next two batters, escaping the jam with the lead still intact. Katy then went on to clinch it with a clean seventh inning.

"I just ran through my mind the situations that could happen and I knew no matter what, my team would back me up," Reichardt. "I just took a deep breath,

knew what I knew how to do and it all worked out."

Katy didn't an error on the night and showed great signs of maturity in the field, but with only two hits on the night, the team knows it will have to be better at the plate.

"The defense was great, we were mature there and on the mound, but we have to have a better approach at the plate," Haack said. "We're looking at too many pitches and striking out too many times. We have to put the ball in play, we have to advance runners, it's all the little things like that. We've talked about it all year long. We got the win tonight but that area has to be better."

But things weren't meant to be for the Tigers in the next two games of the series, as Katy lost 1-0 in game two and 9-4 in game three. With the losses the Tigers' season came to an end in the regional semifinals and Katy finishes with a record of 31-7.



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Rocket's Green named to All-Rookie first team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Rockets shooting guard Jalen Green was named to the NBA All-Rookie first team, capping off what was a tremendous end to the 2021-2022 season.

Green earned the honors after averaging 17.3 points, 2.3 rebounds and 2.6 assists in his rookie season. Those numbers went up as the season progressed and Green settled in as well, as he scored 20 or more in 17 of the Rockets' final 25 games and had a five-game streak

of scoring 20 points or more late in the season. In those last 25 games, Green averaged 22 points, three rebounds and 3.1 assists, while shooting 47.8 percent from the field and 39.3 percent from three-point range. The Rockets now have had play-

ers named to the All-Rookie first team in back-to-back seasons, as forward Jae'Sean Tate was named to the team last season. Other members of the All-Rookie first team were Toronto's Scottie Barnes, Detroit's Cade Cunningham, Cleveland's

Even Mobley and Orlando's Franz Wagner. Chicago's Ayo Dosunmu, Indiana's Chris Duarte, Oklahoma's Josh Giddey, Denver's Bones Hyland and New Orleans' Herbert Jones were named to the second team.



Tompkins' season ends in regional quarterfinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins fell in two games to Ridge Point as the Falcons' season came to an end in the regional quarterfinal round. Game one was a heartbreaker for Tompkins, as they lost 2-1 with a come from behind effort by Ridge Point in the seventh inning. Trevor Esparza took the loss for Tompkins despite a huge game on the mound, allowing two runs on five hits while striking out four and walking none over 6.2 innings. The Falcons took the lead in the fourth inning. Drew Markle hit a one out single and advanced on an error before Landon West drove Markle in on a single. But the offense was a struggle for Tompkins all night, as they mustered just five hits and were unable to get a run across. Things stayed a one run game until the bottom of the seventh. After two quick outs, the Panthers were able to get a single and then tied things on an RBI double before another single gave them a walk off victory. But game two was a different story, as Ridge Point jumped out to an early lead and never gave it up in a 9-7 win that clinched the series. The Panthers got a run in the first on a sacrifice fly and doubled their lead in the second on an error, before making things 3-0 in the third on an RBI single. Tompkins trimmed the lead to one run in the third inning when Jack Little drove in two runs on a single, but Ridge Point scored four runs in the top of the sixth to break things open. Tompkins though, didn't go down without a fight, almost pulling off the comeback in the seventh inning. The Falcons got a walk and a single to start the inning before the first out came, and got another single before Drew Markle drove in two on a single of his own. After a hit by pitch and another single, Adam Benavidez was hit by a pitch, trimming the Ridge Point lead to three. After the second out of the inning came, Ridge Point walked in a run, making things 9-7, but a line out by the next batter ended things as the Falcons fell just short.

Jace LaViolette rounds third base after a home run during Thursday's Class 6A area round game between Tompkins and Lamar at the Tompkins baseball field.

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Katy Times

Katy ISD athletes named TISCA All-State

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Eight Katy ISD swimmers were named to the Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association All-State first team after the 2021-2022 swimming and diving season.

Taylor and Tompkins led the way for the school district, having athletes from six events named to the all-state team. The Taylor girls put three events on the all-state team, which was the lead for 6A on that side for swimming and diving.

The Jordan girls had four athletes named to the team, which was the lead for any girls team.

Kaeli White was first in the 200-yard freestyle in 5A with a time of 51.13 seconds while also making all-state in the 100-yard backstroke and 500-yard freestyle.

Three of Taylor's boys relay teams

were named to the list: 200-free relay, the 200-medley relay and the 400-free relay, while Nick Schmid, Logan Pack and Andrew Lee were named to the all-state team.

Cinco Ranch's Marley Barnard was named to the team and was seventh in the 100-meter breast stroke. Katy's Avery Coates was 10th in the 1-meter dive. Seven Lakes' 400-meter team along with Kailey Koval were named to the team.

The Taylor girls placed their 200-meter free relay, their 200-meter medley relay and Mariana Diaz Ponce on the team.

On the boys side, Cinco Ranch placed its 200-meter free relay and Brandon Guo on the team. Seven Lakes had its 200-meter relay qualify for the team, and Tompkins had its 200-medley relay, 400-medley relay and 400-free relay qualify for the team, along with Matthew Aigner, Daniel

Barrientos and Carter Gray.

Along with White for Jordan, Emma Aumagher made the team with a fourth place finish in the 100-fly, while Violet Hardy was named to the team in the 200-free, and Haley Kim was named to the team in the 100-breast.

For the 5A boys, Jordan's Kaiden Duvall and Kai Walker were named to the team, as was Paetow's Kaleb Velazquez.

For private schools, the British International School's 200-medley relay, 400-medley relay and Rachel Gough were named to the all-state team. Faith West's Elisha Su was named to the team in the 100-breast stroke, and St. John XXIII's 400-meter relay was named to the team.

On the boys side, the British International School's 400-free relay was named to the team to round out the Katy area selections.

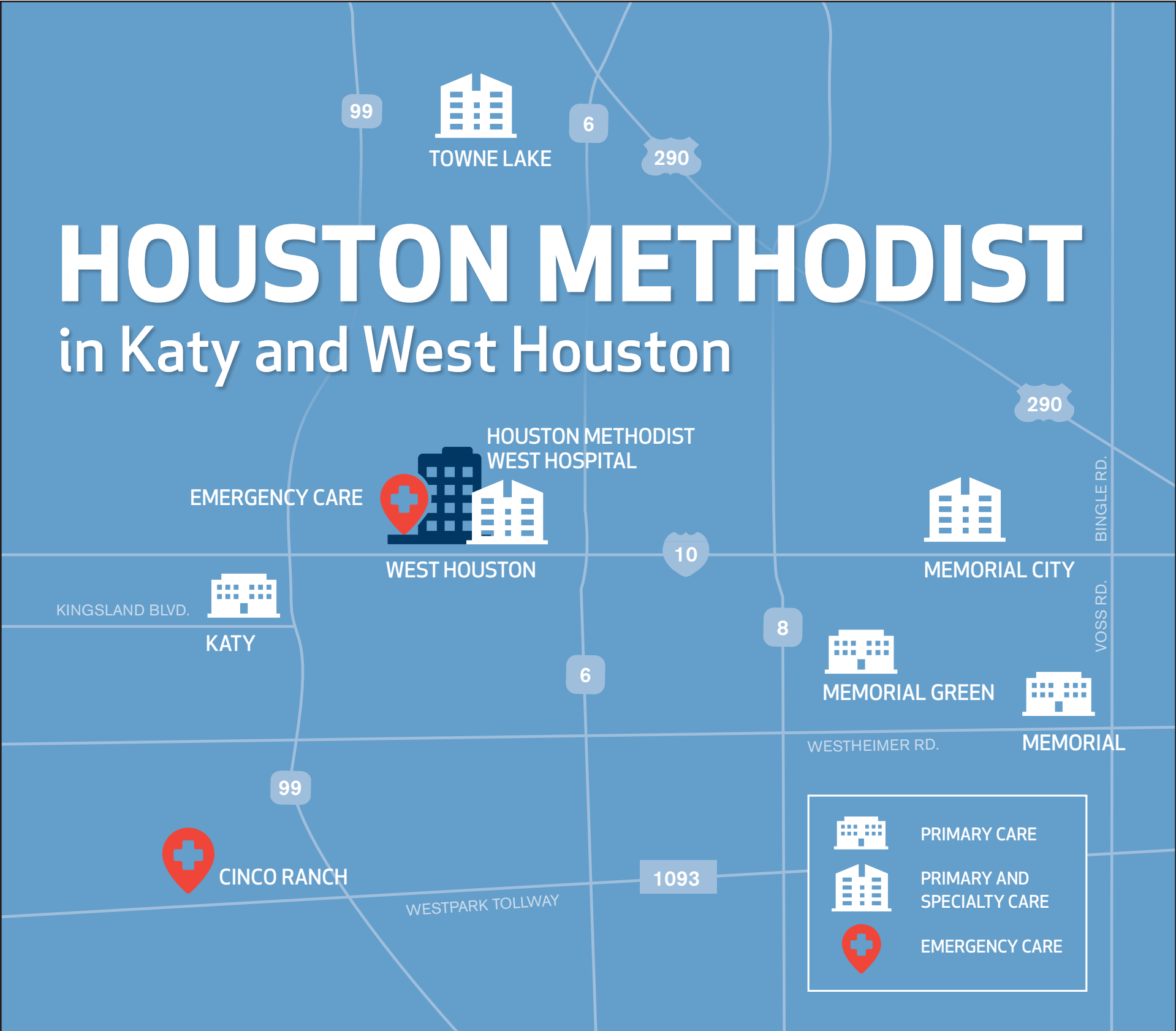


Jordan's Kaeli White was named TISCA first team all-state.



Taylor's Nick Schmid was named to the TISCA all-state team.

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