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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

Former county judge offers infrastructure insights



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Former Harris County Judge Ed Emmett poses with Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle following a presentation by Emmett at an infrastructure summit hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

If the U.S. interstate highway system were to be built today, how and where would it be built? Former Harris County Judge Ed Emmett shared his thoughts about these questions, and perspectives on infrastructure in Harris County, Thursday.

Emmett today is a fellow in energy and transportation policy at the Baker Institute at Rice University. He spoke at an infrastructure summit held at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event.

“Interstate highways are old, and for people like me that’s a problem because I remember when they were

being built and towns fought over which ones got the interstate highways and which ones didn’t,” Emmett said. “Everybody wanted them. They increased mobility. They made everybody’s lives better. If you go back and look at the economic boom that occurred in the United States, I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that the interstate highway system contributed more than anything else to that boom.”

On where and how highways would be built today, Emmett shared a quote out of the New York Times that said highway expansions increase traffic and pollution.

“Do they really increase traffic or do they accommodate the traffic?” Emmett asked. “And do they increase

pollution or do they actually cut down on it because you don’t have all those cars stuck and spewing things out the exhaust pipe.”

Emmett said there is a new theory, espoused even by some of his colleagues at the Baker Institute, that says some of the most dangerous pollution comes out of tires, not out of the exhaust pipe.

“You never think about that,” Emmett said. “But particulates and all that is the tires wearing out. Anyway, that’s something else to think about.”

Emmett described another article as saying that an infrastructure bill could address past harms to black and low-income neighborhoods

See **INFRASTRUCTURE**, page A3

Trash talk

Council hears concerns about garbage removal

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The president and owner of the city’s waste services provider apologized for recent garbage pickup headaches Monday, and said his company has made changes and hired new personnel to ensure more consistent service for city residents.

Kevin Atkinson, of Texas Pride Disposal, said his company, like others nationwide, is having staffing shortages following the pandemic and the February 2021 winter storm. He gave a report to the Katy City Council at its Monday meeting at City Hall.

“We tried to insulate customers like you,” Atkinson said. “It’s a challenge I’ve never faced in my career.”

Atkinson said the company hired a consultant to help it navigate its personnel issues. The company also rerouted its pickup routes.

At one point, Atkinson said, the company had 96 routes and 92 drivers. Today, he said, it has 108 drivers, though some of them are still completing their training. He said the company has also restructured its pay setup.

“People in our industry realize they can make good money,” Atkinson said.

See **TRASH**, page A3

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PEXELS

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Katy a 2021 Tree City USA in honoring the city’s commitment to effective urban forest management.

Katy earns Tree City USA recognition

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Katy a 2021 Tree City USA in honoring the city’s commitment to effective urban forest management.

Kathy Wiesner, a member of the Keep Katy Beautiful board of directors, said the city achieved this recognition by meeting four foundation-set criteria. These include forming a tree board or department, creating a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Wiesner said the foundation sponsors the program in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association

See **TREE**, page A3

KATY HERITAGE MUSEUM MARKS MILESTONE



CITY OF KATY

Mayor Dusty Thiele reads a proclamation issued to honor the 20th anniversary of the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum, 6002 George Bush Dr. The museum features exhibits focusing on Katy’s history and was named in honor of Nelson, a former mayor and city administrator, in 2018.

Waller County imposes burn ban

Communities take other measures as drought continues

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Waller County has instituted a burn ban in response to the ongoing summer drought, with Fort Bend and Harris counties likely to follow suit, perhaps this week.

Waller County Deputy Fire Marshal Dean Hensley made the recommendation at the June 7 Waller County Commissioners Court meeting. Given the extended hot and dry conditions, neither County Judge Trey Duhon or the other commissioners needed persuading.

“It’s been pretty hot, and I thought the latest forecast shows high pressure in place, and now we’re inching up to 100 (degrees),” Duhon said.

Asked if any particular part of the county was worse off than the others, Hensley said no, and that things were tough all over. He described the drought as being on the west side of Texas and slowly moving to the east. According to the Texas A&M Forest Service, counties with major Texas cities such as

Bexar (San Antonio), El Paso (El Paso), Nueces (Corpus Christi) and Travis (Austin) have burn bans now.

“It will trickle down to Harris County, I’m sure,” Hensley said.

Commissioners asked if the burn ban would prevent staging of July 4 fireworks shows. Duhon said they would restrict certain types of shows, but was not more specific.

Fort Bend County last weekend opened public facilities to serve as emergency cooling shelters. County Judge KP George said county residents should prepare for the intense temperatures. One of those buildings opened was the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

The county urged its residents to reduce electric use by taking the following actions:

- Setting their thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
- Turning off lights and pool pumps, and avoid using large appliances like

See **BURN**, page A3

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Craving some fatherhood advice?

Wow! Will this really be my 19th Father's Day as a father?

My biggest regret is that I've had to learn so much the hard way. To make life easier for other fathers and prospective fathers, I'm sharing reader-submitted pearls of wisdom:

Resign yourself to the fact that the mother of your progeny will probably never admit that you deserved an epidural for the paper cut you suffered from the Lamaze brochure.

Remember that whatever doesn't kill you only makes you available to encounter the next contender for Dirty Diaper from Hell.

The heck with stepping on Legos in the dark. Tell the kids you overheard their imaginary friend saying he/she prefers to play with imaginary toys.

Learn to deflect confrontations. ("Are you sure Justin said, 'My dad can whip your dad'? Your mother says you never clean your ears, so isn't it possible Justin instead declared, 'My uncle can whip your uncle'?")

Reward entrepreneurship. Fork over some cash for the mud pies. But don't fall for the extended warranty.

Ward off the annoying "Are we there yet?" whine by waxing endlessly philosophical during car trips. ("Is anyone ever really there yet? And if they do arrive, and they celebrate their arrival by clapping with one hand, what is the sound of...?")

Don't skimp on corny dad jokes. Revenge is a dish best served while attending a doll tea party.

Understand that the American Medical Association has determined that the act of circling a "date night" on the calendar is the leading cause of tonsillitis, appendicitis, bubonic plague, unionization of babysitters, etc.

Beware the Three G's when lecturing. Don't try the old "When I was your age" gambit when the unholy alliance of Google, Grandma, and Grandpa is there to fact-check you. ("Yes, your dad dutifully mowed the lawn for hours and hours—if, by 'hours and hours' you mean 'until he remem-



DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

bered where he hid his porn stash.")

Be a big shot by helping your offspring with their homework. ("The only thing faster than the speed of light is the speed at which families pass through the 'Kids Eat Free' sweet spot.")

Do not cause a scene over disagreements with coaches and umpires. You may, however, play it by ear if someone uses a hideous color for the "participation" ribbons.

Plan ahead. Manufacture a five-year supply of slightly altered videos of Spot frolicking at a farm upstate, in case you ever hear a disturbing noise while backing out of the driveway.

The earlier your child performs in a piano recital or dance recital, the more forgivable it is to test the fire alarm. (Editor's note: "Parents, don't try this at the auditorium!")

When those teenage attitudes bubble up, keep telling yourself, "This is just a phase, this is just a phase..."—pausing only long enough to tell the nice clerk, "Yes, I know I'm past due to sign up for Medicare, but..."

Let your daughter's suitor know that you remember what it's like to be a 16-year-old boy. And what it's like to be an expert on unsolved disappearances.

Beam with pride when your child decides to attend your alma mater. Beam a little less when they ask, "Which dorm has monsters under the bed?"

Retreat to the early "Goodnight Moon" days of fatherhood if your descendants wind up moving back home.

"Goodnight, man cave. Goodnight, speedboat. Goodnight, date night..."

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



Learning to enjoy life's real agitations

Americans are so angry about so many things—with partisan politics topping the list.

Politics is important, to be sure, because as we know from experience the ideas and policies implemented by our highly fallible government leaders can have beneficial and/or grave outcomes.

But in the social media era—as we carry our angry politics on our smartphones in our pockets all day—it's taking up much more of our daily lives, and making us more miserable than ever.

As I get older—as I realize I've taken politics a little too seriously over time—the real agitations of everyday life are becoming much more noticeable to me.

For example, I love banana cream pie, but few restaurants serve it because the bananas turn brown before all the pie is sold and people who don't know their bananas won't buy it.

Which means I must go without it.

How about parking tickets? I've had far too many for one man. Lots and lots of them.

I can afford parking tickets, but, boy, do they fry my bacon—especially when the meter maid is sticking the ticket under my windshield wiper as I walk back to my truck.

I especially dislike how "squeeze" mayonnaise dispensers stop dispensing when only half of the mayo in the bottle is gone.



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

While we're on condiments, I really hate how that vinegary water comes out of the yellow mustard bottle and saturates your burger with ick before any mustard ever comes out.

Or how about coffee?

The first cup every morning is glorious, but why is the second always a monumental let down?

And why do they put cotton in my vitamin bottles that my fingers are too fat to remove?

Same with texting. My fingers are too big to text—so I use voice translate, which mangles my words and leaves my friends and loved ones in a perpetual state of confusion.

A few more daily agitations I'd like to point out:

- Summer goes by way too fast every year. Why doesn't winter do that?
- I used to think that computing power and access to endless information would make us all smarter, so why are they making us less nimble and much more rigid-minded?
- Why is it so that in a large, wonderful country like ours, a handful of people too often have

way too much power to influence what we think and do by restricting what we read, see or say on social media?

I love freedom, but the trouble with freedom—real, genuine freedom—is that when you truly embrace it you unleash all that is good in the human heart as well as things we may find unpleasant.

I am sorry so many humans are suffering in our world and that troubles me most of all.

We may try to blind ourselves to it, but it does have a way of clarifying your mind and making you realize how good we have it.

It's a realization too few of us are able to have even though we live in a free, prosperous place, albeit one with imperfections that need to be worked on.

In any event, there are a lot of things more agitating to our daily lives than the improper place we give to hyper-partisan politics.

How much better off we'd be if more people put on their curmudgeon glasses and started enjoying real agitations as I am learning to do!

Because real daily agitation abounds, people. Now open your eyes and enjoy it like I am learning to do!

Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

Katy Times

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INFRASTRUCTURE

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caused by the interstate system.

“That’s what got me interested,” Emmett said. “Then we put together a research project at Baker because if you’re going to rebuild the interstate highway system, you have to go back and look at why was it built, where was it built in the first place. And now we live in a mobile culture where everybody’s going back and making judgments of what’s happened decades ago based on today’s values.”

Emmett said he didn’t know who made the decisions at the time, but somebody said that the interstate highways were all going to go into downtowns.

“Does that make sense really?” Emmett asked. “Not necessarily. I’m not sure I want to go to downtown. But the promoters in various cities said their goal they’ve got to go in to downtown. Why? Commuters, I assume. But then what’s the first thing they did when they

actually made them into downtown. They built loops so you didn’t have to go to downtown.”

Emmett said if one were to build anything in the 1950s and 1960s into a downtown area, that construction would likely go through minority neighborhoods that ring the downtowns because that’s where people of color lived then. That had an effect, Emmett said.

“There’s no point in saying no, it didn’t destroy the neighborhoods because frankly, it did,” Emmett said. “But was it the intent? I think not, but we’re going to go back and try to figure that out.”

Building highways often means relocating longtime residents.

“There’s going to be headwind and there’s also a big movement of, frankly, to not build any more highways,” Emmett said, quoting but not naming a present Harris County Commissioners

Court member who, he said, felt “we should build highways for people, not cars.”

Emmett said the last time he checked, cars all had people in them.

“Even autonomous vehicles are going to have people,” Emmett said. “That’s the whole purpose. But it also ignores freight, but underlying is a belief and you can decide if it’s right or wrong. The belief is that if we just don’t build highways, then people will move back into town and we will restore urbanism is the way it should be in their point of view.”

Emmett said the flaw with that view is that people moved out of the inner city for schools. Another reason, he said, was more property. He said the COVID pandemic will affect the situation because more people are working from home and the downtown office buildings aren’t filling up as they had previously.

TRASH

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Roger Lowry, a retired maintenance worker, was a complainant.

“The last three weeks I’ve had bad service with them,” Lowry said in an interview before the council meeting. “They don’t come on Tuesdays. I’d call the number on the box, but nobody calls you back. You have to call the city.”

The last couple of weeks, Lowry said, trash has been dumped on his block. He said the trash was not just his, but that of “a bunch of people on my street.” He said he received a letter from his homeowner’s association that complained about the debris.

Atkinson said the garbage trucks have cameras and can see where things went wrong. If debris is in the street, Atkinson said it can be determined whether the debris was there when the crew arrived or whether the crew somehow left it behind. He and Lowry sat together during the meeting and spoke about Lowry’s situation.

City Administrator Byron Hebert said the city continues to grow west and asked Atkinson whether he thought any changes would have to be made to accommodate the growth. Atkinson said the company has added another crew to its Wednesday and Saturday schedule and was flexible.

“I think our routing and schedule that we’ve got is still favorable,” Atkinson said.

The city entered into its contract with Texas Pride Disposal in September 2020. Texas Pride Disposal replaced Republic Services as the city’s waste services provider. Republic Services had held that contract for about 20 years.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Waller County has enacted a burn ban as drought conditions worsen and temperatures inch toward 100 degrees.

BURN

from page A1

ovens, washing machines, and dryers.

- Turning off and unplug unnecessary electrical items that are not being used.

The Fort Bend County Health and Human Services Department urged residents to protect themselves from the heat by taking these actions:

- Avoiding the sun, staying indoors when the heat index is the strongest.
- Drinking 2-4 glasses of water every hour during times of extreme heat.
- Replacing salt and minerals by drinking low-sugar fruit juices or sports drinks during exercise or when working outside.
- Avoiding alcohol.
- Pacing oneself by reducing physical activity and avoid exercising outdoors during peak heat hours.
- Wearing appropriate clothing, such as wide-



WALLER COUNTY

Waller County Deputy Fire Marshal Dean Hensley speaks at the June 7 Waller County Commissioners Court meeting.

brimmed hats and light-colored lightweight, loose-fitting clothes when outdoors.

- Staying cool indoors during peak hours, and setting air conditioners between 75° to 80°.
- Monitoring those at high risk, such as elderly neighbors, family members, infants

and children up to 4 years of age, and friends who do not have air conditioning.

- Keeping pets indoors.

If pets will be outside, make sure they have plenty of water and a shaded area to help them keep cool.

Residents are also being asked to monitor for signs

of heat exhaustion. If you suspect heat exhaustion, call 911, and move the person out of the heat right away.

In Katy, the city is experiencing Stage 1, or mild, drought conditions. The city is asking residents to help conserve water by taking the following actions:

- Voluntarily reduce watering/irrigation of landscape. Water between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Voluntarily reduce water usage in the home/business.
- Assess and repair any irrigation leaks, hose leaks, toilet leaks and any other potential leaks that may cause unexpected water loss.
- Reduce draining and refilling of swimming pools.

The National Weather Service said conditions will remain hot and dry, with a slight chance of thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday.

The trees being planted and cared for by the City of Katy ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program helps cultivate a sense of stewardship and pride for the trees the community plants and cares for.”

—KATHY WIESNER,
Keep Katy Beautiful board member

TREE

from page A1

of State Foresters.

“Tree City USA communities benefit from the positive effects that an urban tree canopy has a year after year,” Wiesner said at Monday’s Katy City Council meeting at City Hall. “The trees being planted and cared for by the City of Katy ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program helps cultivate a sense of stewardship and pride for the trees the community plants and cares for.”

Wiesner said planting trees in an urban space comes with many benefits.

“Urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the city as well,” Wiesner said. “In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values up to 20%. Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.”

In a statement, the foundation said that since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests around the world.



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Information and knowledge are important!

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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Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

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JUNE IS NATIONAL MEN’S HEALTH MONTH

MEN’S HEALTH: SYMPTOMS NOT TO IGNORE



‘It’s nothing.’

That’s the classic retort you hear when you suggest that the man in your life see a doctor for symptoms he’s having.

But it could be something—something which could endanger his health and interfere with his quality of life. Minor complaints needn’t worsen, especially since many of the latest treatments at Memorial Hermann can be minimally or even noninvasive.

So, here’s how to get him to see a physician for some common health complaints.

FATIGUE, HEAVY SNORING

Symptoms: He gasps, chokes or even stops breathing while dozing.

Likely culprit: He may suffer from acid reflux, the upward surge of acid from the stomach via the esophagus (food pipe) to the throat, says Murtaza Arif, MD, gastroenterologist affiliated with Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

Heartburn may be gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), in which stomach acid erodes and damages the esophageal lining, and can lead to Barrett’s esophagus, a condition which increases cancer risk, Dr. Arif says. “White men over 50—especially those who smoke or drink—are more vulnerable.”

Treatment options: If he is under 50 and over-the-counter antacids don’t correct the symptoms, he may be prescribed acid-suppressing drugs called Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs). He should avoid late night meals.

If those measures don’t work, an upper endoscopy is performed which sends a narrow tube with a camera to the stomach and upper intestines to rule out ulcers or inflammation.

“The gastroenterologist can check for scarring, narrowing or tumors, and do biopsies of any abnormal tissue,” Dr. Arif says.

If he is over 50, losing weight, having swallowing problems or is anemic, the physician may do an endoscopy before prescribing medication. To confirm GERD, the doctor can do another procedure, in which a tiny acid- or pH-measuring probe (Bravo capsule) is attached to the lower esophagus. It comes with a monitor, with buttons the patient presses when symptomatic. Bravo stays attached for 4 days, then passes through the digestive tract.

Reflux can be cut down by losing weight and stopping smoking and drinking. If not, he may need surgery to repair the valve (or sphincter) that serves as a flapping door between the esophagus and stomach. The operation, fundoplication, strengthens the flap by wrapping the top of the stomach around the lower esophagus.

FREQUENT BATHROOM BREAKS

Symptoms: He urinates urgently, slowly and with difficulty.

Likely culprit: An enlarged prostate (benign prostate hyperplasia) can constrict the bladder neck and restrict urine flow as it moves through the prostate, says Ramesh Krishnan, MD, urologist with Memorial Hermann Medical Group Katy. “Eventually the obstruction may lead to bladder dysfunction, inability to urinate and urinary tract infections. It also can progress to kidney (renal) failure,” Dr. Krishnan says.

Treatment options: Medications can shrink the gland or relax the prostatic tissue, making it easier to urinate.

Urologists can perform minimally invasive

procedures to ease the flow, Dr. Krishnan says. The UroLift procedure inserts tiny implants to separate prostate lobes, which lessens pressure on the urethra.

Some treatments must be performed in the hospital. Transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) uses heated electrodes or a laser to take out the central part of the prostate. Surgeons also can cut through the abdomen to do a simple prostatectomy, in which they remove the interior tissue of super-sized glands.

INTIMACY PROBLEMS

Symptoms: Difficulty achieving or maintaining erections or decreased libido.

Likely culprit: Erectile dysfunction or low testosterone. Erectile dysfunction may be an early sign of cardiovascular disease. Other causes of erectile dysfunction include diabetes, obesity, stress, depression. Patients with low libido and erectile dysfunction may be low in testosterone.

Treatment options: “There are many effective and safe treatment options for men with erectile dysfunction” says Dr. Krishnan. First line treatment involves lifestyle changes, like diet and exercise. If that is not successful, there are several treatment such as medication and testosterone replacement. Urologists can even perform surgery in which a penile implant is placed which results is 90-95% satisfaction rating in patients and their partners.

LARGE WAISTLINE

Symptoms: He snores loudly, urinates often and has heartburn.

Likely culprit: Obesity. His organs are surrounded by visceral fat and crammed into his tummy—and that’s bad news. “Obesity is a

major killer because it’s linked to diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular and other grave diseases,” says Brad Snyder, MD, an assistant professor of surgery at McGovern Medical School and bariatric surgeon affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital. “Yet men don’t address their weight till their pain and medical problems are unbearable.”

Treatment options: According to Dr. Snyder, it’s important to increase physical activity to keep the weight off and improve heart and lung health, but making changes to your diet is the key to losing weight. For eligible candidates, bariatric surgery can lead to faster and perpetual weight loss.

The minimally invasive surgery resolves not just obesity, but also many of the above issues. Yet only 1 percent of those eligible get the

operation. “And of those, just one of five are men,” Dr. Snyder says, “even though they need it as much as women do.”

According to Dr. Snyder, gastric bypass creates a thumb-sized pouch from the top of the stomach and connects it to the small intestine. Gastric sleeve, also called sleeve gastrectomy, cuts down your stomach by 70 percent until it’s the size of a banana “People can eat very little, yet they feel full,” she says. “Once men lose the weight, their quality of life is so much better.”

MAINTENANCE

Why it’s needed: His body is more complex than his car, but just like it, he needs regular checkups and maintenance. Providing those visits is his primary care physician (PCP), says

Chioma Azolibe, MD, internal medicine physician with Memorial Hermann Medical Group Katy. “If he has any health issues, the PCP often is the first to recognize them. We prescribe or adjust medications and decide what treatments are right,” she says.

Treatment options: He should have an annual physical at least yearly to measure his vital signs including blood pressure, height and weight, cholesterol, blood sugar and other key body metrics. His doctor may urge other tests or health screenings, based on his family or personal health history.

It’s never too late to rev up for better health. Regular tune-ups will spare him from major mishaps down the road. “Screenings can discover a problem early and help stop it from worsening,” Dr. Azolibe says.



Murtaza Arif, MD
Gastroenterologist



Ramesh Krishnan, MD
Urologist



Brad Snyder, MD
Bariatric Surgeon



Chioma Azolibe, MD
Internal Medicine Physician

Learn more about men’s health and recommended screenings by age at [memorialhermann.org/menshealth](https://www.memorialhermann.org/menshealth)

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Fort Bend chief deputy named Deputy of the Year

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Mattie C. Provost has been named the 2022 Melvin Drum Chief Deputy of the Year by the Texas Chief Deputies Association (TCDA).

Chief Deputy Provost was recognized at the TCDA Banquet on June 9 at its annual conference hosted this year in San Marcos.

The annual Melvin Drum Chief Deputy of the Year Award is the TCDA's highest honor, named for Melvin Drum who was the chief deputy of Ochiltree County. Chief Drum was not only an outstanding chief deputy but also was extremely involved in his community. Chief Drum lost his life in the line of duty while conducting a traffic

stop connected to a domestic disturbance on March 28, 1987.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan commended Chief Deputy Provost on her honor.



MATTIE C. PROVOST

"Mattie Provost is a well-respected, exemplary leader who serves with excellence as chief deputy. It's no surprise to me that her peers would recognize

her in this way," Fagan said. "We are blessed to have her on our executive command team and our Fort Bend citizens are blessed even the more."

Since the start of her FBCSO career in January 2021 as chief deputy, Provost provides overall leadership and direction on all aspects of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. She brings more than three decades of professionalism to the agency. Chief Provost earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Corrections and Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management from Sam Houston State University. She began her career at the Houston Police Department, moving up the ranks to Assistant Chief. She retired from that department in March 2017.

Provost is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy, Session #241, the Senior Management Institute for Police and a graduate of Lead-

"Mattie Provost is a well-respected, exemplary leader who serves with excellence as chief deputy. It's no surprise to me that her peers would recognize her in this way. We are blessed to have her on our executive command team and our Fort Bend citizens are blessed even the more."

—Eric Fagan, Fort Bend County Sheriff

ership Houston, Class XXV. She is a member of the Police Executive Research Forum, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement. A certified mediator and Texas

Crime Prevention Specialist, Chief Provost earned the Texas Law Enforcement Master Peace Officers' Certificate. She has served on numerous committees within the law enforcement arena as well as in the community.

BRIEFS

City of Katy hosting ice cream social

The City of Katy is hosting an ice cream social where people can enjoy yummy treats, network with local organizations, and enjoy fun activities.

The social is set for 2-4 p.m. June 24 on the downtown plaza.

Katy resident wins in global Walmart Associate Talent Search contest

Latasha Jackson, general manager for Walmart Katy store #786, at 1313 N. Fry Road, was named a winner in the global Walmart Associate Talent Search competition. The competition featured Walmart associates from stores from around the world.

Winners were invited to the annual shareholders meeting.

Jackson sang a cover of "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys while playing the piano.

Coffee with the Mayors set for June 23

Coffee with the Mayors, an informal opportunity to visit with former Katy mayors over coffee and breakfast pastries, will be at 7:30 a.m. June 23 at the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum, 6002 George Bush Dr.

The event, held monthly, provides a relaxed opportunity to visit with friends and visit the museum, which celebrated its 20-year anniversary this month.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

CIVIL JUDGE
Mike Engelhart
FOR
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fort Bend County sheriff's office cracking down on speeding drivers

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is putting the brakes on speeding drivers to stem the growing number of fatalities in Fort Bend County.

To remind Fort Bend drivers that driving too fast can be dangerous, the sheriff's office is partnering with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to enforce speed limits as part of "Operation Slowdown" June 7-21. The sheriff's patrol unit is stepping up enforcement on Fort Bend roadways to remind motorists to follow posted speed limits and drive safely.

In Texas, speeding causes one out of every three traffic deaths. In 2021, speed was the leading cause of over 163,000 traffic crashes, resulting in 1,500 fatalities according to TxDOT. That



ERIC FAGAN
Fort Bend County Sheriff

year saw a 16% increase in speed-related crashes on Texas roadways.

This year, to date, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office reported 74 speed-related traffic collisions.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan says the public safety campaign is not about his deputies writing citations, but about reducing preventable crashes that can seriously injure drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. He says it is up to everyone to make the roads safer.

"Let's face it. Sometimes we all get in a hurry trying to reach our destination. But ask yourself—is it worth risking your life or someone else's life?" Fagan said. "It's just not worth the risk."

Here are a few safe driving tips:

- Watch for signs alerting you of reduced speed limits ahead.
- Adjust your speed to road conditions when there is bad weather or you're driving through a work zone.
- Slow down and allow for more distance to stop when traffic is heavy.
- Give yourself extra time to reach your destination.

Katy VFW Post 9182 to hold silent auction

Katy VFW Post 9182 is celebrating Independence Day with a silent auction and free luncheon on July 4 at the post, 6206 George Bush Dr. The live auction preview and silent auction begin at 10 a.m. The lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. and features hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, cookies, coffee, tea, sodas and water.

The live auction begins at 12:15 p.m. Mayor Dusty Thiele and Post Commander Terry Higginbotham will give speeches commemorating the occasion.

Midsummer Festival set for July 16

Midsummer Festival is a celebration of community through music, food and fun. This event's highlight is the main stage with three incredible bands, starting at 4 p.m.: the Bo Phillips Band, The Chee-Weez and Queen Nation.

The event will also feature food trucks, a carnival, BBQ cook-off, kids zone, vendors and fireworks to close the night.

The festival is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 16 at 700 Westgreen Blvd. Tickets are \$25 for

general admission, \$95 for VIP admission.

This family-friendly event is a joint fundraiser between Christ Clinic, Compassion Katy, and The Ballard House, nonprofits that aid the under-served in the Katy community.

Come for the entire day or stop by in the evening to catch Queen Nation and the fireworks show.

NBD Graphics holding nonprofit fundraiser as it celebrates 15 years in business

NBD Graphics, 917 S. Mason Road, is hosting a nonprofit fundraiser as it celebrates its 15th anniversary.

The fundraiser/celebration is set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 30 at the NBD Graphics office and offers a free breakfast and a free lunch. The public is welcome to stop by during this time and help NBD Graphics raise money for Children like Loni, Friends of Sundown, Katy Responds, Special Pals, Sunshine Thru The Rain and Supply Bridge Ministries.

Attendees are urged to bring business cards and be prepared to network. For more information, call 281-574-8200.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

EDUCATION BRIEFS



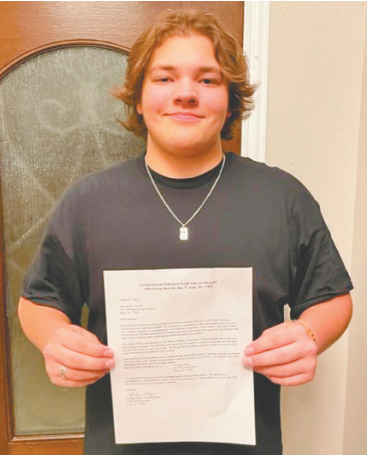
LYNN PAULSEN

The Katy Area Retired Educators (KARE) installed new officers at its May 11 meeting. Pictured from left to right are Marsha Smith, president; Fran McGrit, first vice president; Brenda Owen, co-treasurer; Earlene Hopkins, past president and secretary; Kathy Land, treasurer; MayDell Jenks, co-second vice president; and Tracey Patterson, second vice president.

Katy senior wins \$3,000 scholarship

The VFW 9182 Auxiliary has awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to Katy High School senior Naasson Crowell.

This scholarship is open to a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a veteran who has served honorably or a military member with active-duty status. In this way, the VFW 9182 Auxiliary hopes that high school seniors become more aware of the sacrifices our veterans and service members have made and give them the honor they deserve.



Naasson Crowell

Local student achieves top ACT score

Abhinav Tiruveedhula, a rising senior at Tompkins High School, earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36.

Fewer than half of one percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2021, only 4,055 out of 1.29 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1-36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. The score for ACT's optional writing test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score.

"Earning a top score on the ACT is a remarkable achievement," Janet Godwin, ACT CEO, said. "A student's exceptional score of 36 will provide any college or university with ample evidence of their readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead."

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. Students who earn a 36 composite score have likely mastered all of the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in first-year college courses in the core subject areas.

ACT scores are accepted by all major four-year colleges and universities across the U.S.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



Newly designated spots for hopscotch (left) and leap frog enthusiasts (above) at Rick Rice Park.

INTERSTATE MUD

Rick Rice Park continues upgrade

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Rick Rice Park continues to undergo an upgrade, which now includes designated areas for games such as hopscotch and leapfrog.

Interstate Municipal Utility District owns the park. Recently it purchased 4.2 acres of land from CrossPoint Community Church, 700 Westgreen Blvd. 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. Planned upgrades include terraced concrete steps by the current lake, upgraded walking trails, and a new deck that will overlook a second pond with a fountain.

About 5,000 people visit the park every year, a board official said in February.



INTERSTATE MUD

A spot in Rick Rice Park calls for calm.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

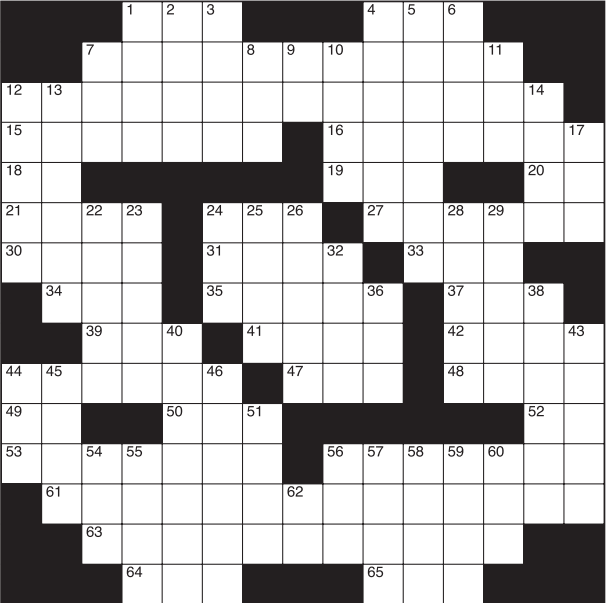
CLUES ACROSS

1. Moved quickly
4. Ocean temperature
7. Scholarly book series
12. Irregular
15. Hairstyle
16. Indigestion fixer
18. Special therapy
19. Mock
20. Partner to Pa
21. Strays
24. Swedish currency (abbr.)
27. Desired
30. Soap product
31. Traditional fishing boat
33. No (Scottish)
34. Spy organization
35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
37. Married woman
39. Blood relation
41. German river
42. Genus of clams
44. Parts of a movie
47. Residue
48. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
49. Atomic #77
50. Where wrestlers work
52. Northeast
53. Type of lettuce
56. Abstain

61. Communication between two
63. One who administers medicine
64. Sun up in New York
65. Having eight

CLUES DOWN

1. He played "Milton"
2. Elsa's sister
3. Digital wallet
4. About backbone
5. Type of weapon
6. __ Turner, rock singer
7. Microgram
8. Hair product
9. Health care pro
10. Holy fire
11. Military ID (abbr.)
12. __ the ante
13. Containing nitrogen
14. Green citrus fruit
17. Male parent
22. Bring up
23. Murdered
24. Soviet Socialist Republic
25. Supreme ruler Genghis
26. Social media hand gesture
28. Semitic Sun god
29. Land
32. Database management system
36. Similar

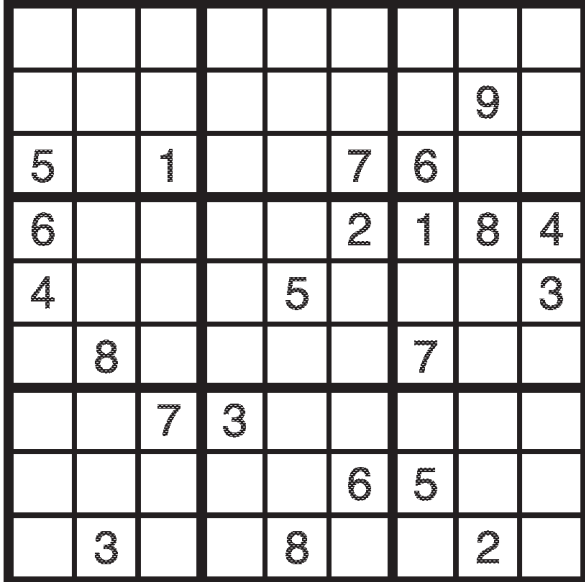


38. Nice to look at
40. Covered with mud
43. Simple dry fruit
44. Title of respect
45. Type of footwear
46. Most lucid
51. Exam
54. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand

55. "Rule, Britannia" composer
56. Small Eurasian deer
57. "Within"
58. Insures bank's depositors
59. A pause for relaxation
60. Social insect
62. Expresses acidity

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.

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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.

Project Barker continues to seek public investment

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Project Barker, a \$24 million drainage improvement and community park project for the Barker Reservoir, continues to seek public investment, an official said Thursday.

Willow Fork Drainage District President Wendy Duncan gave an overview and update on the project at an infrastructure summit held at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event.

Duncan said the district oversees about 15 miles of drainage channels, 50 miles of storm sewer and outfalls, and 30 miles of off-street trails. The district oversees three parks. Central Green Park was completed in 2013. Exploration Park, was completed in 2015. Willow Fork Park was completed



Wendy Duncan, Willow Fork drainage District Pres., speaks at an infrastructure summit hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

in 2017. Duncan said the district has overseen approximately \$7.7 million in Hurricane Harvey-related recovery projects.

The Texas Water Commission,

the predecessor to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, created the district in 1985. The district finances the acquisition and construction of drainage facilities, sewer facilities and related drainage projects.

Drainage has been an issue in the Katy area for decades before Hurricane Harvey's 2017 appearance. Duncan showed a map of Houston, circa 1940, with two projects that were to help with the floodwaters but were never built. One project was building a levee near Cypress Creek north of Katy. The other project was a diversion channel that would move floodwaters from north of Katy to Fort Bend County. These floodwaters would be moved south of Houston and empty into the Gulf of Mexico.

To solve flooding issues, Duncan said, two things were needed. One is conveyance, or moving the flood-

waters downstream. An example of this, Duncan said, is a recent \$390 million project to improve the Sims Bayou channel.

The other way to deal with flooding, Duncan said, is storage, which involves excavating reservoirs to enable more floodwater storage. This is where Project Barker can be useful.

Duncan said the goal for Project Barker was to increase the reservoir surface area to approximately 12,036 acres, with the ability to hold approximately 209,600 acres to cubic feet, or 210 Astrodomes, full of water when necessary.

The project would also increase park space and features, with additional trails to connect to the existing regional system, Duncan said. It would enable environmental enhancements and educational opportunities as well, she said.

The district would maintain

the vegetation, natural plantings, sediment and silt removal, and park facilities, Duncan said.

Duncan said the district has committed \$10 million to the project. It continues to seek other public investors for the remainder of the money.

Duncan said Project Barker has been envisioned as a "first domino," with successful implementation making it easier for similar flood mitigation projects to happen in the future.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed both the Barker and Addicks reservoirs to prevent downstream flooding of Buffalo Bayou, according to the Texas Water Development Board website. Barker Dam construction began in 1942, and ended in 1945. The dam is a rolled earth embankment that is 71,900 feet long and rises up to 36.5 feet above the streambed.

Brookshire, Washington County put together Juneteenth celebrations

CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Brookshire will celebrate Juneteenth with its annual Juneteenth Festival Saturday. The festival is from 12-8 p.m. Saturday at Hovas Park, 1400 Hovas Lane, in Brookshire. Admission is free.

The festival features prizes, a Zydeco contest, basketball and volleyball tournaments, a mini-carnival, waterpark, children's activities and a fireworks show.

Food will also be available, with fried ribs and fried chicken wings. Presale plates are \$10.

Meanwhile, in Washington County, the Washington County Historical Juneteenth Association has resumed Juneteenth observance with a series of family-friendly celebrations.

The association, a 501(c)3 organization, was founded in November 1982 with the vision of preserving African American history. It has worked to revitalize the Juneteenth celebration in the county.

Upcoming events are as follows:

- Juneteenth Jubilee Kick-Off featuring the Brown Sugar Band: 6 p.m. Friday at Fireman's Park.
- Juneteenth Opening Ceremony and Annual Parade: 9:30 a.m. Saturday in Downtown Brenham.
- Juneteenth Annual Jubilee: Following the parade in Fireman's Park.

Betty Wilson, association president, said the 2022 parade theme, "A Celebration of Diversity," is fitting for our times.

"Brenham is a unique

place, and our history is extremely rich," Wilson said. "We feel this year's commemoration of Juneteenth is needed to lift spirits and fellowship after two years of isolation and separation. As we move forward, this event is an opportunity for everyone to learn and embrace cultures in ways that will allow the community-at-large share a sense of belonging towards society."

Throughout the year, the association examines the state of the community to ensure that current and future residents are adequately educated on the dynamic African American history of Brenham and Washington County. The association works to preserve local and add to what will become future history.

The 2022 parade grand marshal is the Rev. Randy Wells, executive director of Faith Mission and Help Center, Inc. Faith Mission is an ecumenical, Christian based non-profit organization created to be a central clearinghouse for assistance to the homeless and working poor in Washington County.

For more information, contact the association at wchja.brenham@gmail.com.

Juneteenth honors the day in 1865 in which U.S. Army General Gordon Granger announced the abolition of slavery in Texas. The proclamation, today marked with a historical marker in Galveston, came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth became a Texas state holiday in 1980 and a federal holiday in 2021.

Hebert gives update on city road projects

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The City of Katy is moving forward with \$33.5 million in local road projects, funded by both bond money and cash from METRO.

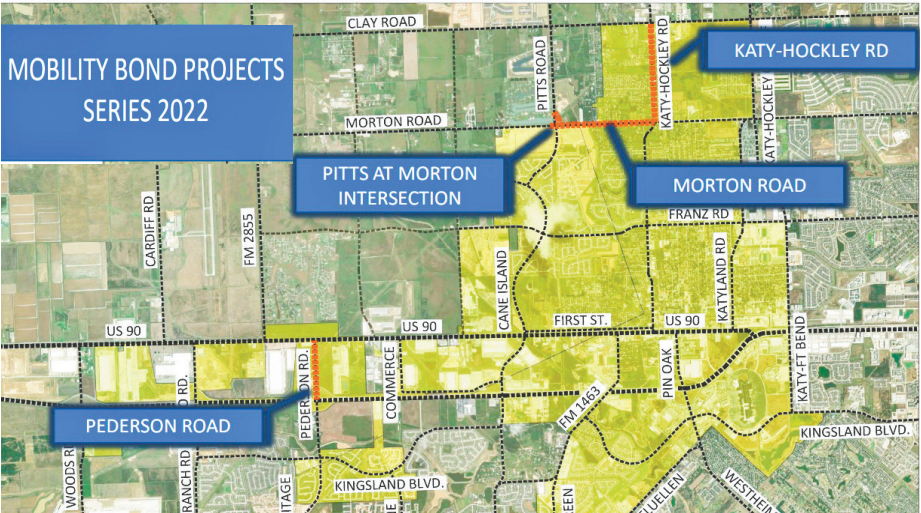
Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert gave an overview and update on the projects at an infrastructure summit held Thursday at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event.

The Katy City Council in January approved issuance of approximately \$26 million in road bonds for four projects intended to provide drainage, mobility and traffic improvement. The remaining \$10.5 million is in cash and being used for other road projects.

Bond projects

Hebert said the bond money is for these projects:

- Morton Road will be widened from two to four lanes, from Katy Hockley Road to the end of the Katy city limits. The widening will include a new bridge crossing at the Cane Island Branch. Estimated cost is \$7.7 million. Estimated completion is Summer 2024.
- Pitts Road will be realigned in Cane Island with the existing Pitts Road north of Morton Road. The work will include new concrete boulevard pavement, a traffic signal and a sewer system. Estimated cost is \$2.3 million. Estimated completion is early Fall 2024.
- Katy Hockley Road will be widened from two to four lanes from Morton Road to Clay Road. The project will also include storm sewers. Estimated cost is \$7.7 million.



This map shows the location of four bond-supported local road projects.

Estimated completion is Fall 2025.

- Pederson Road will be widened, with a new center turning land for truck traffic. The project will also include a storm sewer system running from I-10 to U.S. 90. Estimated cost is \$4.2 million. Estimated completion is Summer 2024.

Cash projects

Hebert said the cash is for these projects:

- Katy Fort Bend Road will be extended into the Katy Boardwalk District. The project includes a decorative traffic signal and monument bridge. Estimated cost is \$2.4 million. Estimated completion is Spring 2023.
- Prairie Parkway will be extended into the Katy Boardwalk District. Estimated cost is \$1.9 million. Estimated completion is August.
- First Street will be

widened from Bartlett Road to Avenue D. The project includes a new bride crossing of the Cane Island Branch. The project is in design. Estimated cost is \$2.7 million. Estimated completion is Summer 2023.

- Second phase of boulevard lanes at Pitts Road from Cane Island Parkway to Morton Road. Estimated cost is \$1.7 million. The project is estimated to start in 2023.
- Second phase of boulevard lanes on Cane Island Parkway, from Franz Road to Swift Way. Estimated cost is \$1.9 million. The project is expected to start in 2023.

Hebert said the city this spring unveiled a new webpage that enables the public to track the progress on the various road projects. The abbreviated URL for it is <https://bit.ly/3IWA9Ti>.

Other road projects

Hebert said the city is

working with the Texas Department of Transportation on other road projects, which include:

- Widening and adding sidewalks to a 6.7-mile section of FM 1463 from I-10 to FM 1093 in Fort Bend County.
- Adding a lane in either direction (totaling four lanes) to U.S. 90 between Katy and Brookshire. The improvements would include reconstruction and widening of bridges at Kellner, Brookshire, Willow Fork and Snake Creek. The improvements would also include installation of a closed stormwater system.
- Adding two managed lanes and two general-purpose lanes between FM 359 and US 90/Katy Mills Boulevard on I-10. This includes the extension of frontage roads from Pederson Road to US 90/Katy Mills Boulevard.

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For more information please contact Shwanda Green at 346.762.6391 or 346.280.2911 or sgreen@vibrallifekaty.com

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2022 BAYOU BOWL



Tompkins #32 Bryce Shaink makes the stop on Jersey Village, Rashon Estes #24 during the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pridgeon Stadium in Houston.

Bayou Bowl helps prepare players for collegiate ball

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Every Katy ISD graduate who participated in Saturday's Bayou Bowl was focused on one thing, doing what was best for their college futures.

The players sang the praises of the bowl all week for not only its fun and competitive spirit, but for how it gave them a test of what to expect at the next level, as all four Katy ISD graduates who competed in the game are signed to play football in college.

"This is the kind of experience you need, it was different," said Mayde Creek graduate Jordan Kelly. "It was just way different than preparing for any high school games. I was away from my parents all week and I had a lot more freedom than I usually do. It just showed me what's expected of me at the next level and how you have to be ready."

Kelly, a Central Michigan signee, is getting prepared to make the jump to Division I. Cinco Ranch's Fordham Parks is preparing for FCS football with Central Michigan, Tompkins graduate Bryce Shaink is heading to Navarro Junior College and Morton Ranch graduate Ja'Kobe Hinton is taking the NAIA route, as he will attend Benedictine College in Kansas.

The bowl game and week of preparation provided all of them with a good learning experience.

"The whole week was crazy," Shaink said. "Every hour we had something new to do. We'd practice, then eat, then practice again and then go out and do something. It was a really fun experience and we went to a lot of fun places but also got a lot of work in to get ready. It really showed me what I need to be doing."

Each of the four has been working on improving their game before they get to the next level. Shaink has been working on getting stronger and making sure he can handle the rigors of college ball as well as upping his speed, Parks has also been working on his strength and putting on weight, Hinton has been putting work in in the weight room while also working on his agility and footwork while Kelly has been working to get even faster as well as on improving his hand

See **EXPERIENCE**, page B3

KATY ISD GRADS SHINE IN BAYOU BOWL

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

ROSENBERG — Saturday gave an opportunity for four Katy ISD graduates to put on for their team one last time and the quadruplet did not disappoint.

Fordham Parks, Bryce Shaink, Jordan Kelly and Ja'Kobe Hinton all strapped up their pads for one last time before they start their collegiate careers as the four played in the Bayou Bowl at Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg.

The four put on a show for the crowd, with Kelly making a big catch early in the

game, Parks playing defense and special teams, Shaink making a number of plays defensively and Hinton holding his own against some of Houston's top defensive lineman.

"This was the greatest opportunity you could ever have to cap off your high school career," Kelly said. "Any kid that is coming out of high school, this is such a great opportunity for them and something I'll always be thankful for."

Parks was all over the field for the West team. He played in the slot on offense, making plays in the backing and being a key part in the West's defensive backfield.

"It was a really good game and I had a fun week meeting new people," Parks said. "It really just felt good to hit people again. It had been a while and I'm just glad I got the chance to do that again before I head to college."

Kelly, a Central Michigan signee, was huge in all areas for the West team despite a 24-20 loss.

Kelly was a threat deep in the game when he had the chance to go after the ball, hauling in a 46-yard reception in the first quarter and drawing a pass interference in

See **BAYOU**, page B3

University of Houston will join Big 12 in 2023

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The answer that University of Houston fans have been waiting for came Friday and it's news that will bring joy to all of the Cougars' fans faces.

Houston announced that it will start Big 12 play in 2023 after the school agreed to an exit fee with the American Athletic Conference, freeing itself to join the Big 12 early.

The Cougars will pay the AAC \$18 million over a 14-year period as they join the conference. \$10 million of that will be due by 2024 while the rest will be paid out over the remaining years.

"Today's announcement comes with tremendous optimism and excitement. This is the product of many years of vision, leadership and dedication. As we look forward to the opportunity ahead, we also thank the American Athletic Conference for the decade-long partnership," said Chris Pezman, Houston vice

See **BIG 12**, page B3



COTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Cougars center Josh Carlton (25) protects the ball during an NCAA men's basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.



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Paetow's Shy'Lynn Brown was named the newcomer of the year on the District 19-5A All-District team.

Brown, Ortigoza named District 19-5A newcomers of the year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow's Shy'Lynn Brown was named the newcomer of the year on the District 19-5A All-District team. Brown was the only distinct selection from Katy ISD, as Magnolia West's Haiey Toney was named District MVP to lead the honors. Paetow had six overall selections to the team, with Samantha Guillory making the first team and Jade Catherwood being named to the second team, while Mia Galarza, Peyton Luna and Alexis Rodriguez were named honorable mentions. Jordan had two overall selections: Cady Bowyer was named to the second team while Madeline Williams was named honorable mention. On the baseball side of things, Jordan's JD Ortigoza was named the newcomer of the year in the district, leading the way for Katy ISD picks. College Stations' Blake Binderup was named the District MVP. Paetow had four people named to the All-District team. Gabriel Velasquez and Josh Prieto were first team all-district selection, while Anthony Diaz and Kayin Tillman were named to the second team. Ortigoza was Jordan's only All-District selections. Following is the full list of Katy ISD athletes who made the District 19-5A softball team.



Jordan's JD Ortigoza was named the newcomer of the year in the district.

- Distinct Awards
- District MVP: Hailey Toney - Magnolia West
- Newcomer of the Year: Shy'lynn Brown - Paetow
- Defensive Player of the year: Aiyana Coleman - A&M Consolidated
- Offensive Player of the Year: Sage Scarmardo - College Station
- Coach of the Year: Katie Roberts - Brenham, Lise DeBruin - Waller
- Pitcher of the Year: Della Jasinski - Brenham
- 1st Team
- Samantha Guillory - Paetow, First Team - At-Large
- 2nd Team
- Jade Catherwood - Paetow, Pitcher
- Cady Bowyer - Jordan, Catcher
- Honorable Mention
- Mia Galarza - Paetow
- Madeline Williams - Jordan
- Peyton Luna - Paetow
- Alexis Rodriguez - Paetow

- Following is the full District 19-5A baseball team:
- Distinct Awards
- District MVP: Blake Binderup - College Station
- Newcomer of the Year: JD Ortigoza - Katy Jordan
- Coach of the Year: Taylor Shiflett - Magnolia
 - 1st Team
Pitchers: Ryland Urbanczyk CSHS, Nathan Love MHS, James ellwanger MWHS, Ethan Jezierski BHS
Catcher: Noah Huff MWHS
First Base: Christian Letendre AMC
Middle Infield: Gabriel Velasquez PHS, Rylan Wooten BHS, Mikey Elko CSHS
Third Base: Mason Lampe (U) BHS
Outfield: Montgomery Bognar WHS, Lane Sparks BHS

- Chris Benavidez RHS
Dalton Carnes CSHS
TJ Peters MHS
Utility: Designated Hitter: Josh Prieto (U) PHS
- 2nd Team
Pitchers: Anthony Diaz PHS, Caylon Dygert MWHS, Sam Nitzke AMC, Hunter Bond AMC
Catchers: Davis Rivers WHS
First Base: Gunner Gee BHS
Middle Infield: Tyler Middleton MHS, Trey Leggett MWHS, Carson Kerbel AMC
Nathan Hodge AMC
Dawson park MWHS
Rylan Deming CSHS
Kayin Tillman PHS
Garrison Hefner MHS
Hayden Hupe BHS
Brayton Davis RHS
Utility: Designated Hitter: Caden Shields BHS

Texans' defense making strides during OTA's

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Love Smith has built his entire career on building excellent defenses. The Texans head coach wasn't satisfied with a defense that ranked 27th in the league last season, allowing 26.6 points per game while ranking 26th in sacks. So the Texans went out and made moves this offseason, both in free agency and in the draft to better that defense. It seems to be paying dividends at organized team activities so far, especially at the back end of the defense. "They're getting better," Smith said. "Especially in the secondary is, you had different guys making plays and that's big. Defensively, you have to show up. It's not just about coverages or tackling, it's about taking the ball away. We were able to take the ball away through the air and with punching the ball out quite a few times today. That's good for the defense." Among those new additions is Steven Nelson, who signed a two year deal with the Texans and brings good experience to the team from his time with the Chiefs, Steelers and Eagles. "It's been going really well," Nelson said. "For the two months I have been here you can just see that there's great guys here. The coaches have done a great job making a group that wants to compete and get better. There's a like-mindedness from everyone and it's going really well right now." Jalen Pitre also has had a strong showing thus far and has shown why the Texans invested a second round pick in the Stafford native. "Those rookies that can go right now are really settling in," Smith said. "Pitre for one has been outstanding. He has a knack for the football and has done a lot of good things. You can say the same thing about Kenyon (Green), Christian Harris was out there with the starters a lot of the day too. The young rookies are progressing well and the way we want them too. With this offseason they get to have a lot of work." With OTA's at their end the Texans will continue the off-season with mandatory minicamp for three days this week. It will be the first time that the team has fully gathered together since January. Most are in attendance for OTA's but a few players will join the team for the first time for minicamp. It will also be a chance for those young rookies to prove themselves once again. "I always tell those young guys, those veterans don't care about you being young or inexperienced, if we put you out on the field, we have to expect that you know what you are doing out there and you're ready," Smith said. "Those veterans, they read the papers too, they know what people are saying, they know when these guys are drafted and the expectations. It's up to the young guys to prove it to them on the field. That's what these rookies have done. It seems like they never leave the building and when they get their opportunities they have stepped up and made plays. They have been coming in and working and that leadership is wearing off on them."



Houston Texans defensive back Desmond King (25) wraps up Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. (10) during the second half of an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Jacksonville Jaguars on September 12, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

Subscription form for Katy Times, including fields for Date, Name, Address, Email, and payment options (Cash, Check, Card).

Katy Optiks advertisement featuring a collage of people and contact information: 701 S. Fry Rd. Ste. 125, Katy, TX 77450, 281.492.1209, www.katyoptiks.com

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SKILLS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Knowledge of home builder accounting a plus
- Thorough knowledge of basic accounting procedures
- In-depth understanding of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Aptitude for numbers and quantitative skills
- Reconciliation of vendor accounts
- Reconciliation of bank accounts

BENEFITS

- Maintain vendor communication and relations
- Ensure all AP Schedule payments are submitted on a timely basis
- Problem solver and multi-tasker
- Excellent time-management and organizational skills
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Paid time off

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As a Senior Accounts Payable Specialist, you will verify, allocate, post, and reconcile ac-counts payable for multiple companies. In this role, you may process payment invoices, help create reports on financial activity, and coordinate with other accountants to ensure all records are accurate. Senior accounts payable specialists often help resolve problems and discrepancies, respond to vendor inquiries, research invoice copies, check billing documentation, and manage other financial processes as needed.
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- Health insurance
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Sale to be held ONLINE at StorageTreasures.com

The facility is BEAR CREEK MINI STORAGE, 17730 Ki-eth Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on June 20, 2022, and end at 12:00 pm on July 11, 2022. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: William Lopez, Jeremy Williamson, Juan Manuel Rosales, Amanda Hale, Leo Will-turner, Tiffany Kirkeby, Jalin Sims, and Jose G. Hernandez.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SLUDGE CAKE HAUL AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR SLUDGE CAKE HAUL AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL FOR THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2022 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew
City Secretary
City of Katy, Texas

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: *Lara Investor Group LLC, Hector Lara owner*, is requesting to be allowed to revise Lot 45 and a Portion of Lot 46 West Magnolia Forest Sec One. The revision will *CREATE 2 RESIDENTIAL LOTS*. These newly configured lots would consist of *RESIDENTIAL LOTS 45A AVERAGE AC. 7.152 AND 45B AVERAGE AC.7.151*. West Magnolia Forest Sec One is situated in the *OWEN WINGFIELD SURVEY ABSTRACT-269*, Waller County, Texas recorded in Vol-ume *CABINET*, Page *CABINET B-96*, in the Deed Records of Waller County, Texas.

This replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicant's property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on (*JULY 13TH AT 9AM*) at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Sale to be held ONLINE at StorageTreasures.com

The facility is FRY ROAD MINI STORAGE. 20150 Park Row, Katy, TX 77449. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on June 20, 2022, and end at 12:00 pm on July 6, 2022. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Carlos Saravia, Melina Martinez, Thomas Roach, Joanne Rosemin, Rodolfo Carreno.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
July 13, 2022 @ 9:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the Authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment and the installation of "No Thru Trucks" signs at the following roads:

Robinhood Lane – "No Thru Trucks"
Lakeside Drive – "No Thru Trucks"
Clear Creek Road – "No Thru Trucks"

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Special Education Department provides screenings for students with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. The screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of three and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISO Special Education office at 281-396-2066. The Special Education office will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees and its agents, officers and staff members shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

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WET DIGESTER SOLIDS HAUL AND DISPOSAL

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR REMOVING, TRANSPORTING, AND LEGALLY DISPOSING OF WET DIGESTER SOLIDS FOR THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2022 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:15 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

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Becky L. McGrew
City Secretary
City of Katy, Texas

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Tompkins athletes pose for a photo after signing to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.



Morton Ranch's Mallory Lampert signed to play volleyball at Mississippi Valley State University.



Mayde Creek's Esveidy Fabila signed to play soccer at Multnomah College.



Mayde Creek's Jermariah Ferguson signed to wrestle at Texas Women's University.



Mayde Creek's Kirsten Baxa signed to play soccer at the United States Naval Academy.



Mayde Creek's Alex Tarhini signed to play football at Coe College.



Mayde Creek's Madison Mathis signed to play basketball at Northland College.



Mayde Creek's Rewa Chababo signed to wrestle at the University of the Ozarks.



Mayde Creek's Sania Thomas signed to play basketball at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

22 Katy ISD student-athletes sign to play at next level

STAFF REPORT

A total of 22 Katy ISD student-athletes committed or signed to college or universities in May in the school district's final signing day of the school year. Tompkins led the way with 12 signings in May while seven Mayde Creek athletes signed. Cinco Ranch had one athlete sign to the next level as did Paetow and Morton Ranch.

Following is the full list of signees from ay 2022.

- Cinco Ranch High School**
- Wyatt Green – Boys Track – University of Arkansas
- Mayde Creek High School**
- Sania Thomas – Girls Basketball – Milwaukee Area Technical College
 - Madison Mathis – Girls Basketball –

- Northland College**
- Rewa Chababo – Wrestling – University of the Ozarks
 - Jermariah Ferguson – Wrestling – Texas Women's University
 - Alex Tarhini – Football – Coe College
 - Esveidy Fabila – Soccer – Multnomah College
 - Kirsten Baxa – Soccer – United States Naval Academy
- Morton Ranch High School**
- Mallory Lampert – Volleyball – Mississippi Valley State University
- Paetow High School**
- Luke Fitch – Football – Trinity University*
- Tompkins High School**
- Blake Harris – Track – Texas A&M

- Mitchell Wiemuth – Track – Miami University
- Luke Mitchell – Football – University of Saint Mary
- Rafa Gonzalez-Socas – Soccer – Gardner-Webb University
- Charles Kuchler – Tennis – Denison University
- Spencer Hobbs – Swimming – Lynn University
- Jace Walker – Swimming – University of Nebraska
- Colt Tenpenny – Golf – Colorado State University
- Ana Martinez – Track – Mount Saint Mary's University
- Maddie Lee – Cheer – University of Houston
- Isabelle Rivera – Track – Southwestern University
- Hailey Tenaro – Cheer – Sam Houston State University



Cinco Ranch's Wyatt Green signed to run at the University of Arkansas.

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Lewis inducted into USTFCCA Hall of Fame

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Olympian and former Houston track and field phenom-enon Carl Lewis was inducted into the inaugural class of the USTFCCA Collegiate Athlete Hall of Fame, on Monday evening in Eugene, Oregon.

ESPN's John Anderson hosted a two-hour event that celebrated 30 inducted athletes with a look back at their collegiate careers via video tributes, roundtable panel discussions, and special guest appearances.

Known as one of the greatest athletes in the world, Lewis was a six-time All-American and six-time national champion at Houston. He won nine individual conference championships during his two seasons. Lewis currently holds Houston's school records for the indoor 55-meter dash (6.07) and both indoor and outdoor long jump records at 8.56 meters (28-1) and 8.62 meters (28-3.5). He went on to win 10 Olympic medals, nine of those gold, and 10 world championship medals.

Lewis came to Houston to run for head coach Tom Tellez in 1979. As a freshman, he appeared on the national scene when he qualified for the United States team to compete at the 1980 Olympics in the long jump and 4x100-meter relay team. Because of the U.S. boycott of the Moscow Olympics, Lewis had to wait four years for his Olympic glory.

During his sophomore year at Houston in 1981, Lewis set an indoor world record and three other collegiate records. The indoor standard came in the long jump with a leap of 8.49 meters/27-10¼, which he followed three weeks later at the NCAA Indoor Championships winning the 60-yard title.

He set collegiate records outdoors in the long jump (8.47 meters) and in 100 meters (10.00), then followed two weeks later with a collegiate-best of 8.62 meters (28-3.5).

In his final year in Houston, the Willingboro, New Jersey, native became the first athlete to win a track event and field event at the same NCAA Indoor Championships. He then repeated the feat at the NCAA Outdoor Championships the same year.

By the time the 1984 Olympics came around, Lewis had already ranked No. 1 in the world in both the 100 meters and long jump for three consecutive years. In Los Angeles, he matched Jesse Owens' 1936 feat with four gold medals in the same events -- the 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump and 4x100-meter relay. At the following 1988 Olympics, he continued his winning career, taking home gold medals in the 100 meters and long jump.

The year before the 1992 Olympics, Lewis broke the 100-meter world record with a time of 9.86 which he held until 1994. At the 1992 Olympics, he again won the long jump as well as the 4x100-meter relay, anchoring the U.S. team to a world record of 37.40. In 1996, in his final Olympics, Lewis won his fourth consecutive gold medal in the long jump.

At the conclusion of his competitive career, Lewis' achievements were, and still are, unprecedented in track and field. He is one of two athletes to win nine Olympic gold medals and one of two to win four golds in the same event. He also holds the record for winning 10 medals at the World Outdoor Championships, including eight golds.

Lewis was named Assistant Track and Field Coach at the University of Houston in 2014 and since has helped the program to 17 combined conference championships including guiding the Houston Men's Track and Field team to a third-place finisher at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in 2019.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Five Cougar track and field athletes earned All-American honors at the NCAA Track & Field Championships

Cougars garnered seven All-American Honors at NCAA Championships

STAFF REPORT

The Houston men's track and field team concluded its 2021-2022 season with seven All-American honors on Friday evening at the NCAA Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field.

A team of Jordan Booker, Dylan Brown, Edward Sumler IV and Shaun Maswanganyi clocked a season-best 38.64 in the men's 4x100-meter relay for a third-place finish. All

four athletes earned First-Team All-American honors in the event.

Maswanganyi added two All-American honors with a sixth-place finish in the men's 200-meter with a 20.51 time as well as a ninth-place finish in the men's 100-meter with a 10.26.

Quivell Jordan-Bacot concluded his Houston career with another All-American honor finishing fifth with a 49.52 in the men's 400-meter hurdles.

Cougars hit high marks in turnaround year

STAFF REPORT

The University of Houston posted an 18-game turnaround en route to the American Baseball Championship game this season, matching the best year-to-year improvement in program history.

Houston, which finished third in the league standings, led The American in hits and finished second in batting average one season after ranking seventh in both categories last year. The Cougars finished second in saves and set a program record with a .984 fielding percentage.

"We have a high bar for success and are proud of what our student-athletes, coaches and staff accomplished to move Houston Baseball in the right direction this season," Vice President for Athletics Chris Pezman said. "We're excited about the future and are focused on competing for championships as we head into 2023."

The Cougars' run to The American Championship title game, the program's fifth in eight seasons, saws the club set a league record with 61 hits while establishing a program record with nine home runs. Four players were named to the all-tournament team.

With fans back in full force at Sanders Field at Schroeder Park for the first time since the beginning of the 2020 season, the Cougars did not disappoint, winning seven of eight home three-game series while racking up their most home victories (22) since 2018.

"As I mentioned in a few press conferences, this (2022 squad) was



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS
Houston reached the American Championship game to cap off its 2022 season.

one of my favorite teams I have coached," Head Coach Todd Whiting said. "The grit, resiliency, and never quit attitude they displayed was a testament to the leadership we had on the team and in the clubhouse. I am excited about the trajectory of the program and look forward to winning our sixth American Athletic Conference Championship in 2023."

The 2022 season also featured the return of the Silver Glove Series against Rice and Don Sanders Cup against Sam Houston. The Cougars took 2 of 3 against the Owls, bringing the Silver Glove back to Cullen Blvd. for the first time since 2018. With a sweep against Sam Houston, the Cougars captured both trophy series for the first time in the same season.

Individually, redshirt soph-

omore Anthony Tulimero was named a semifinalist for the Buster Posey National Collegiate Catcher of the Year while redshirt junior Ian McMillan was recognized as a semifinalist for the Brooks Wallace Award, honoring the nation's top shortstop.

Tulimero led The American with 23 runners caught stealing and junior closer Ben Sears topped the conference with 12 saves. The duo was among five all-conference honorees, being joined by senior Ryan Hernandez, McMillan and junior Brandon Uhse.

Houston closed its season with a 37-24 record, surpassing the 35-plus win mark for the seventh time in 10 seasons. The Cougars will open the 2023 season in mid-February with schedule and ticket information forthcoming.

Katy grad Small signs with Canadian Football League's Tiger-Cats

Anderson signs with Giants following successful mini-camp

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy graduate Seth Small signed to the Canadian Football League's Hamilton Tiger-Cats late last month.

Small had initially attended mini-camp with the Indianapolis Colts, but after not getting signed for OTA's and training camp, the kicker took other options and ended up with the Tiger-Cats.

A 22-year-old, Small played 46 games for Texas A&M and converted 78% of his field goal attempts while becoming the

Aggies all-time leader in points scored and career field goals.

Small will compete with Michael Domagala and Tadhg Leader for the starting spot on the Tiger-Cats this upcoming season.

Anderson signs with Giants

Katy graduate Ryder Anderson also garnered a deal, but his was from an NFL team, as he parlayed a successful rookie minicamp invite into a three-year deal worth \$2.56 million, as he attempts to earn his place on the upcoming season's roster.

Anderson played at Ole Miss for four seasons before transferring to Indiana for his final year of college eligibility. He garnered 2.5 sacks, 7.5 tackles for loss and 47 tackles last season while earning All-Big Ten honors. Anderson, who is 6-foot-6



COURTESY CRAIG BISACRE | TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS
Katy graduate Seth Small signed with the Canadian Football League's Hamilton Tiger-Cats.



Katy graduate Ryder Anderson signed with the New York Giants.
COURTESY RYDER ANDERSON

and 276 pounds, has made an impression on the team and he could end up being part of the team's practice squad or final roster when things are said and done.





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SOFTBALL

Texas falls to Oklahoma in WCWS Championship

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

There were times this season when Texas softball coach Mike White didn't know what to do.

The Longhorns gave up 15 runs to UCF early in the season. They allowed to 17 to Baylor in the penultimate game of the regular season.

Yet somehow, Texas came together to make a magical run to the championship series at the Women's College World Series, which came to an end after a 10-5 loss to top-ranked Oklahoma Thursday night.

"(Oklahoma) is supposed to win, they have all the studs and they're a destination," White said. "This here is a scrappy bunch of young women who stood up against Oklahoma and gave them a damn good game today and I couldn't be more proud."

In her last game as a Texas player, four-time All-American and hits leader Janae Jefferson finished 1-for-3 at the plate on Thursday. She finished the NCAA Tournament with 17 hits and four RBIs.

"The best part was our senior class," Jefferson said. "I felt like we were all strong. If our bond was strong, then it spread throughout the whole team. Ending my career here is the best feeling in the world."

Estelle Czech allowed six runs on nine hits with a pair of strikeouts in 4.2 innings in the circle for the Longhorns.

Czech was one of three Texas players to be named to the All-Tournament team, joining outfielders Courtney Day and Bella Dayton.

"It was an amazing journey," Czech said. "This season didn't start the best in Clearwater. No one expected us to be here. We had great leaders that had our backs all season. For next year, we want to pass on their legacy to new girls coming in."

The Longhorns' made the championship round of the WCWS for the first time in school history while becoming the first unseeded



OLIVIA RAMIREZ/TEXAS ATHLETICS

Texas softball dropped game two to No. 1 Oklahoma, 10-5, at the WCWS on Thursday to complete the 2022 season with the program's best-ever finish as the national runner-up.

team to do so.

They were 6-1 in elimination games in the postseason, staving off elimination one in the regionals against No. 11 Washington, twice against No. 4 Arkansas in the super regionals, once against Arizona and twice against No. 6 Oklahoma State at the WCWS.

"All the seniors can say they've left the jersey in a better place," White said. "We've set all sorts of new records and standards for our program. We're not at the standard of Oklahoma, but this program is rising, and that's what we want."

Oklahoma's Jocelyn Alo was

named the Most Outstanding Player after batting .666 with five home runs — tied for the WCWS record — and scoring a tournament-record 12 runs over the last seven days.

Texas held off Oklahoma early on, jumping out to a 2-0 lead after Washington and Iakopo each hit a sac fly in the first inning and the Sooners were held scoreless through the first three innings.

White called the Oklahoma offense an avalanche on Wednesday, and it started to roll in the fourth inning.

The Sooners scored on an

error in the fourth. Kinzie Hansen launched a three-run home run in the fifth, and Grace Lyons followed that up with a grand slam one inning later to put the game basically out of reach.

Mia Scott hit a three-run home run for Texas in the bottom of the seventh to close the gap, but it was too little, too late.

"You know they're going to come back and make adjustments at the plate," White said. "They're tough, and that's what they do."

Before White took over as head coach in 2019, the softball program was stuck in a bit of a rut, consis-

tently making the NCAA Tournament but failing to advance past the opening round.

Jefferson stayed, and Iakopo and outfielder Lauren Burke transferred to Texas, joining White from his successful run as head coach at Oregon.

This year was the culmination of that journey.

"I think it was all worth it," Iakopo said. "The hardships, the hate and all the love, meeting new people and being in a new place. In the end, we left it all out there and emptied our tanks to get to where we are. I'm proud."

Texas advances to College World Series for 38th time

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

There was a time on Saturday afternoon when it looked like the Texas baseball season was about to end.

By the time Monday morning rolled around, the Longhorns were Omaha bound.

No. 9 Texas overcame a late five-run deficit to win beat No. 8 East Carolina 9-8 in Game 2, and beat the Pirates 11-1 in Game 3 after more than five hours in delays to win the Greenville Super Regional and advance to the College World Series.

"We never gave in, and that's kind of been the theme of this team," Texas head coach David Pierce said. "I'm just very proud of how they stuck together through a couple of very tough weekends. They continued to believe in each other and competed well."

Texas advances to the CWS for an NCAA-record 38th time and will face Notre Dame, which upset top-ranked Tennessee in the Knoxville Super regional in the first game on Friday.

No. 9 Texas A&M and Oklahoma are the other two teams in the double-elimination bracket.

Sixth-year senior pitcher Tristan Stevens was a workhorse for the Longhorns the entire weekend against East Carolina, pitching in all three games and starting and picking up the win in Game 3.

"I didn't need a lot to get going tonight with what was at stake,"



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Senior pitcher Tristan Stevens was a workhorse for the Longhorns the entire weekend against East Carolina, pitching in all three games and starting and picking up the win in Game 3.

Stevens said. "This is exactly why I came back, to get to Omaha and win a championship. Getting the opportunity to do that tonight has made everything I ever worked for worth it."

He allowed one run on five hits with five strikeouts and three walks, throwing 101 pitched across six innings and two weather delays.

Stevens threw just nine pitches in Saturday's 9-8 win and had one strikeout in less than an inning in Game 1 on Friday.

"With Tristan, we felt like he

was fresh enough," Pierce said. "We felt like his maturity and his experience in this environment in Game 3 to send us to Omaha was the right choice. We stuck to what we've been doing, and he's been in that role a lot."

Before any of the delays on

Sunday, Ivan Melendez launched a three-run home run to give Texas an early lead. It was his 32nd homer of the season, breaking Kris Bryant's single-season BBCOR-era record.

"I'm just trying to help the team win," Melendez said. "I feel like we just strung a few hits together. One through nine, we were tough out. I'm very proud of our guys."

Skyler Messenger drove in a run to push the Longhorns' lead to 4-0. The game was delayed at 4:25 p.m. CT and did not resume until 9:15 p.m. CT.

"This team is so built for anything that's thrown at us," Stevens said. "We were calm and relaxed and did what we needed to do and turned the switch back on when we needed to and go back out there and keep putting pressure on."

East Carolina got a run back in the bottom of the first.

Texas stayed hot in the second inning as the Longhorns score five runs, including a two-run double by Murphy Stehly after the Pirates decided to intentionally walk Melendez to load the bases.

The Longhorns added some insurance later on when Trey Faltine launched his 15th home run of the season in the fifth inning, and Silas Ardoine added another run with his 12th homer of the year in the ninth.

"The job's not done," Stevens said. "This is just a stepping stone. When we go to Omaha, we want to win it. That's our plan."

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Hymel makes move to Mineral Wells

BY TYER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Ty Hymel announced his move to Mineral Wells on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old race car driver, who was born and raised in Katy, made the move for the betterment of his racing career as he hopes to move up the ranks.

“Katy will always be home and I hope to make Katy proud in the future,” Hymel said in his announcement. “I love y’all and thank you for the support.”

Hymel scored his first racing win in 2021 and is looking to move up towards higher goals.

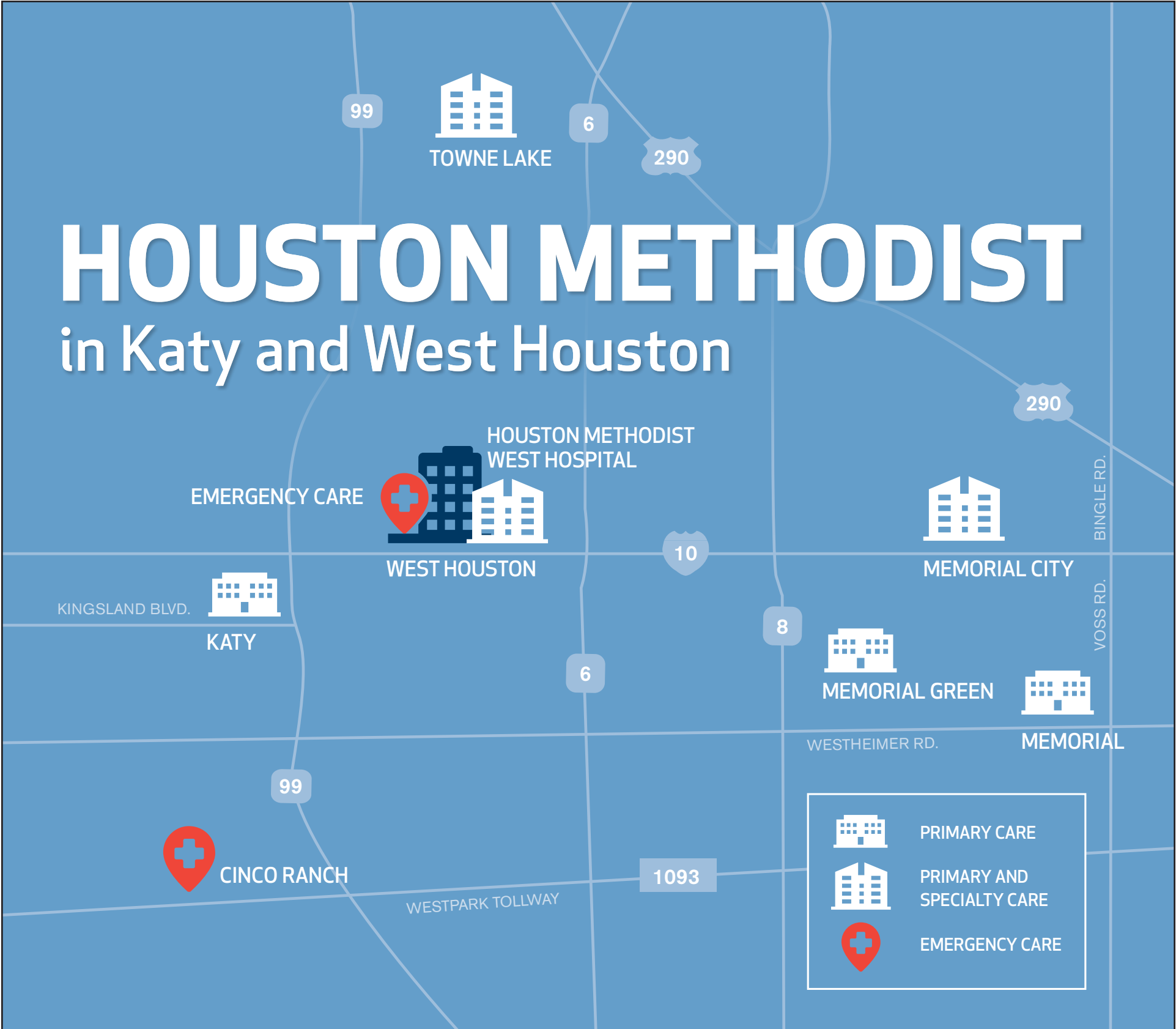
Hymel will continue to race throughout Texas in the hopes to move up different series.

“Goodbye for now Katy I’ll see you soon,” Hymel said. “And as always I promise to bring home a championship.”



Ty Hymel stands in victory lane at Houston Motorsports Park after winning the NASCAR Advanced Auto Parts Weekly Series race last year.

COURTESY TY HYMEL



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