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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

## Katy fire marshal talks fireworks safety

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Gregg Peterson has a confession to make: He used to enjoy fireworks shows before he became what he calls “the bad guy.”

As Katy fire marshal, Peterson and his colleagues have responsibility for putting out local fires and investigating their causes. Shooting fireworks inside the Katy city limits is illegal, he said.

They can also be a potential fire

hazard.

“The biggest problem with these fires is that people don’t dispose of fireworks materials properly,” Peterson said.

Peterson suggested that used fireworks materials be put in separate trash cans, and not mixed with regular household trash. Used fireworks materials can also be put in buckets, similar to what one might buy at a home improvement store such as Home Depot or Lowe’s.

“We actually recommend that

they wet them down,” Peterson said. “It’s kind of nasty to clean up after the fact, but it’s safer than just putting them in dry. There are a lot of fireworks components that can still smolder after the fact. It can be dangerous.”

Fireworks can also be tough on family pets. Pets kept outside can react badly to ongoing fireworks explosions. Peterson said bringing family pets inside the house and comforting them during that time is a big plus.

“Try to isolate them as much as you can inside the house,” Peterson said. “Pay a little more attention to them.”

With things settling down after the pandemic, Peterson said he expected plenty of people to shoot fireworks this weekend. He urged residents to shoot fireworks safely and in places where it is legal to do so. He said not to shoot fireworks near churches, schools, elderly care facilities or hospitals. If shooting on private property, Peterson

said, get the property owner’s permission first.

“Most people shoot them in the street,” Peterson said, adding that there are neighborhood ordinances that prohibit fireworks.

Peterson said the Cane Island subdivision, which is inside the Katy city limits, has many new residents who are unaware of the city’s fireworks ban.

“There’s a lot of confusion in

See **FIREWORKS**, page A3

## Mayor, senior officer supervising Brookshire Police during interim

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Brookshire Mayor Darrell Branch said efforts are underway to find a new police chief following the June 8 firing of Chief Brandal Jackson.

Branch spoke Thursday after a planned city council meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. Position 2 Alderman Lyndon Stamps and Position 1 Alderwoman Monique Taylor were not in attendance. Branch said four council members make a quorum.

Branch said he and Captain Oscar Garcia are overseeing the day-to-day operations of the department. Branch was police chief before he was elected in 2019, defeating then-Mayor Eric Scott.

Branch said while he hoped to have a new chief for council approval soon, the city wanted to find the right person for the job first.

The council, by a 3-2 vote, voted to fire Jackson for cause at the June 8 meeting, though it remains unclear just what the “for cause” is.

In comments he made before the council vote, Jackson told the council that it didn’t have to admit that his firing was for political reasons and implied that litigation was

forthcoming.

“You don’t have to admit it here,” Jackson said. “You don’t have to admit it to me. But you will have to admit it under oath.”

Citing that pending litigation, Jackson and Branch declined comment on what, precisely, the cause of termination was.

Jackson’s LinkedIn profile said he became Brookshire

police chief in October 2010 after having served as San Felipe police chief for the previous two years.

Jackson’s profile said he began his career in 1992 as a correctional officer with the Texas Department of Corrections. In

1988 he became a correctional officer with the Texas Youth Commission. In 2000, he joined the Austin County Sheriff’s Office as a deputy.

The council is to meet July 7 at the Brookshire Municipal Building, 4028 5th St. in Brookshire. On the agenda is an executive session where council members are expected to discuss the police chief position. The council is also expected to discuss the city secretary, municipal court director and public works director positions as well during that executive session.



CITY OF KATY

Mickie Christy stands with Mayor Dusty Thiele, left, and her family as she is honored Monday at City Hall.

## Mickie Christy honored as Katy's Senior Citizen of the Year

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Flowers are known to freshen things up a bit. So perhaps it is not surprising that a former floral shop owner turned local volunteer has been honored as Katy’s Senior Citizen of the Year.

Mickie Christy, a volunteer at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. 5th St., was honored by the city

Monday in a brief City Hall ceremony.

Amanda Di Dio, the city’s social services director, said Christy grew up in Houston and spent much of her adult life in Texas City. She and her husband owned a floral business there.

“She has spent a great deal of time volunteering,” Di Dio said. Christy has volunteered with many organizations, including the AARP,

Campfire Girls, Cub Scouts and the Galveston County Orchid Society. Di Dio said she has been a volunteer with the Memorial Hermann Gift Shop for over 10 years, and has sold homecoming mums and corsages for local schools.

Today, Christy is active in the Katy community, where she plays a helpful role, Council Member-at-

See **SENIOR**, page A3

### HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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June 30, 2022  
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## City authorizes emergency repairs for water plant

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday authorized \$251,254 for emergency water well rehabilitation at its water plant at 6850 Franz Road. The plant is near the Cane Island subdivision.

The bid, from Weisinger, Inc., is for \$174,034. The \$251,254 total project cost includes previously authorized previously related work, pump rental, and engineering services.

“The critical path on this work is to authorize the contract to arrange for the fabrication of the replacement pump discharge head, which is expected to take 6 to 10 weeks to complete,” David Kasper, senior project manager/principal of ARKK Engineers, wrote in a letter to the council urging Weisinger’s selection. “When the discharge head is received, and all equipment is ready for install, the city may choose to install immediately, or wait until water demand subsides. This will be a function of rainfall received and wheth-



CITY OF KATY

Mayor Dusty Thiele speaks at Monday’s Katy City Council meeting.

er the current drought conditions continue. Weisinger has agreed to the rental charges at 60 days, even if the installation work needs to be postponed until early fall.”

See **REPAIRS**, page A3

## Seminar featuring a Katy-area school spotlights school gardens

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will present a mid-summer conference on “Cultivating School Gardens” for educators to prepare youth for healthy learning. The effort works as illustrated by an Katy-area elementary school that has provided students a hands-on gardening experience for eight years.

“Students are getting gardening experience and taking that home to their families,” Stacy Slater, Stephens Elementary science teacher, said. “Several students have shared that they have started their own

See **GARDENS**, page A3

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Community Calendar

July

**JULY 1**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY LUNCHEON**  
A hot dog lunch and entertainment from the Almost Heaven Bluegrass Band. The lunch is set for 12 p.m. at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road. For more information and to register, call 832-927-3000.

**JULY 2**  
**KATY HERITAGE SOCIETY FREEDOM FESTIVAL**  
The Katy Heritage Society hosts a festival that includes yard games, family activities, Cajun Comforts and Texas Sno snow cone trucks, patriotic fun, a movie at dusk and more.  
The event is set for 6-8 p.m. July 2 at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Dr. Tickets are \$5. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3QMtyQ9.

**GENE WATSON TO PERFORM**  
Gene Watson at Mo's Place, 21940 Kingsland Blvd. Standing room only tickets are \$20, reserved and day of show tickets are \$25.  
For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website outhousetickets.com or call 281-392-3499.

**JULY 3**  
**CAR CULTURE SHOW AT LACENTERRA**  
Over 50+ exotic and muscle cars on display, along with a DJ spinning tunes and other exciting amenities. The show is from 8-11 a.m. in the Alamo Theater parking lot.

**JULY 4**  
**FULSHEAR FREEDOM FEST 2022**  
The event features a children's area, food trucks, live music and vendor booths and is from 6-9 p.m. at Fulshear High School, 9302 Charger Way, in Fulshear. Sponsorship opportunities exist. For more information, contact Amy Norvell at Amy@fulshearkaty.com or call 832-600-3221.

**CITY OF KATY 4TH OF JULY FREEDOM CELEBRATION**  
The city's annual fireworks show begins at 9 p.m. at Katy Mills Mall/Typhoon Texas.

**VFW LUNCH AND SILENT AUCTION**  
Katy VFW Post 9182 is celebrating Independence Day with a silent auction and free luncheon 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 a.m. Mayor Dusty Thiele and Post Commander Terry Higginbotham will give speeches commemorating the occasion.

**JULY 9**  
**KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES COMMUNITY FOOD FAIR**  
Join Parkway Fellowship (North Katy) and KCM as they fight to end food insecurity in the Greater Katy area with their ongoing community food fairs. Food will be distributed to families in need.  
The event is from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Parkway Fellowship (North Katy), 5819 10th St. for more information, visit the website ktcn.org/foodpantry.

**MERMAID STORY TIME**  
Mermaid Grace comes from the Gulf of Guinea, which is at the northeastern most part of the tropical Atlantic Ocean. She is coming to Katy to sing songs with her fishes and merfriends.  
The program, which is at 10:30 a.m. at the Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road, is open to children of all ages.

**JULY 10 AND JULY 26**  
**LACENTERRA FARMERS MARKET**  
The Farmers Market returns to LaCenterra. Make plans to come out from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. There will be local

vendors selling homemade goods and fresh produce. For more information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3HXgpQe.

**JULY 13**  
**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**  
This preschool story time is for children who are almost students ages 3-5. Join Ms. Kathy and Ms. Shannon every second and fourth Wednesday for a good story.  
The program is from 10:30-11 a.m. at the Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road. Tickets are required and will be handed out at the front desk starting 30 minutes prior. Children must have a ticket to attend.

**SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS**  
Frozen, a Walt Disney movie, begins at 7 p.m. at Mary Jo Peckham Park, 5597 Gardenia Lane. Admission is free.

**JULY 13-29**  
**TGA PREMIER SPORTS GOLF & TENNIS SUMMER CAMPS**  
Golf and tennis camp for kids ages 4-14. The camps are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Katy City Park, 5720 Franz Road.  
For more information, visit the website playtga.com/westhouston.

**JULY 16**  
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
First Christian Church Katy (Disciples of Christ), 22101 Morton Ranch Road, has partnered with the Houston Food Bank to distribute food boxes each

month. Volunteer arrival is at 8 a.m. Distribution is from at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

**NOTHIN' BUT 90'S TO PERFORM**  
Nothin' But 90's Night with Patrick Murphy, Brian Sacco and Gina Marie at Mo's Place, 21940 Kingsland Blvd. Standing room only tickets are \$15, reserved seating and day of show tickets are \$20. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website outhousetickets.com or call 281-392-3499.

**A TRIBUTE TO JOURNEY**  
Eclipse is a five-piece regional touring band that brings to life the rock sound of Steve Perry and Journey. Eclipse will perform at the Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Fwy. Tickets start at \$12. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website wildcattersaloon.com.

**JULY 19-22**  
**TIPPI TOES PRINCESS CAMP**  
A dancing camp from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for ages 3-7, and from 1-4 p.m. for ages 5-9. Classes will be at the Woodland Park Community Center, 443 Danover Road. For more information, visit the website tippitoesdance.com/katy.

**JULY 21**  
**CHRISTIAN BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION**  
The Christian Business Fellowship Association will hold its monthly business networking lunch. The lunch will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ray's Mexican Restaurant, 870 S. Mason. For more information, call 832-232-2049.

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The Katy Times will be closed on

**July 4, 2022**

in observance of Independence Day.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **July 7 edition** is **5 p.m. on Thursday, June 30.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

**Katy Times**

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Basics  
4. In a new way  
10. \_\_\_ Paulo, city  
11. Jailhouse  
12. Expresses surprise  
14. Trigraph  
15. A small stream  
16. Dissimilar  
18. Promote  
22. Gives a boost  
23. Lawmaker  
24. Orthodox Jews  
26. Actor Harris  
27. Wild cherry  
28. Participate in democracy  
30. Opposite of begins  
31. A Brit's mother  
34. Set of moral principles  
36. Very fast airplane  
37. Czech river  
39. Private school in New York  
40. Israeli dance  
41. Electron volt  
42. Adjusting  
48. Duct by the bladder  
50. Small burger  
51. Begin again  
52. Unstuck  
53. Jai \_\_, sport

54. Get free of  
55. For instance  
56. Hotel chain  
58. A team's best pitcher  
59. Extracts from various sources  
60. Indefinite period of time

**CLUES DOWN**

1. St. Francis of \_\_\_  
2. Supported  
3. United in working  
4. It cools your home  
5. Predicting  
6. Irritated  
7. Popular talk show host  
8. Fabric edge  
9. A resource for employees  
12. Broadway's Jackman  
13. Small water buffalo  
17. City of Angels: \_\_\_ Angeles  
19. Asteroids  
20. Tailless amphibians  
21. German expressionist painter  
25. What drives you  
29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group  
31. Gold coin used in British India

32. Have deep affection for  
33. Ponds  
35. Breaks between words  
38. Hairstyle  
41. Print errors  
43. Family of iron alloys  
44. Sidelined in bed  
45. Many couples say it

46. Brazilian hoopster  
47. Allman Brothers late frontman  
49. German city  
56. One hundred grams (abbr.)  
57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

**SUDOKU**

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



REPAIRS

from page A1

ARKK Engineers is the city’s engineering firm. Kasper wrote that the other two bids were from CC Water Service, for \$185,552, and Alsay Inc., for \$296,244.

Despite Monday’s rain, the city remains under stage 2 drought conditions, which calls for voluntary conservation of water. Mayor Dusty Thiele, speaking before the vote, said the city’s public works department has been working to hold off stage 3, which would require mandatory measures, for weeks.

“These emergency repairs are part of the reason,” Thiele said, adding that the city has been working to bring a new well at Young Ranch online. Thiele said that new well went online Monday.

City residents are asked to continue using less water. This includes reducing watering and/or irrigation to three times per week and refrain from establishing new landscaping until the current drought has passed. It also includes reducing water use for power washing of buildings, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts or other hard surfaces.

The city has halted landscape irrigation use at all city facilities. It has also halted nonessential government water use including street cleaning, vehicle washing and operation of ornamental fountains. The city said it has halted the establishment of new landscaping and has limited hydrant flushing, except for water system repairs.

Other city leaders posted social media appeals for city residents to conserve water despite the heat. Thiele praised city residents for their efforts.

“We made it through the weekend, but we have a long way to go,” Thiele said. “Please continue to conserve water and follow the plan.”

At press time, the National Weather Service said Katy can expect continued hot weather for the next few days. Thursday afternoon calls for a 40% chance of thunderstorms, with Friday’s forecast calls for a 60% chance of thunderstorms. The weather service said there was a 20% chance of rain Saturday and Sunday, and mostly sunny conditions Monday.



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Katy Fire Marshal Gregg Peterson said those planning to shoot fireworks should heed safety precautions.

FIREWORKS

from page A1

that neighborhood,” Peterson said.

Peterson said those planning to shoot fireworks outside the city should check their neighborhood association ordinances. They should also check with the county where they plan to shoot fireworks and be aware of any burn bans—and possible restrictions—that might be in effect.

While shooting fireworks is illegal within the city limits, selling them is not. Peterson said some organizations sell fireworks to raise money to support charitable causes.

One such place is the fireworks stand at 23222 Kingsland Blvd. The American Legion Post 164 has members who staff it. One of them, Wallace Klekar, said this is the second year the post has had such a stand and the first at this location.

He said the post sells fireworks as a fundraiser to supports veterans, children and youth.

“The stand belongs to Galaxy Fireworks,” Klekar said. “We did it last year in a Randall’s parking lot. This year we have a larger stand and are hoping to raise more money.”

A larger stand means a wider selection of merchandise. Klekar said kids prefer sparklers and old firecrackers. Teenagers prefer fountains and some rockets. Adults, he said, prefer large, bigger fireworks.

“We hope people will buy fireworks from us and support the American Legion post,” Klekar said. “It’s a bunch of hardworking veterans.”

The stand opened June 23 and will operate through Tuesday.

SENIOR

from page A1

Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said.

“Every time I visit the Fussell Senior Center, she is there and greeting young and old,” Harris said. “She is always helpful and makes the senior services department one of the most outstanding city departments.”

Di Dio said Christy has three names. Her given name is Isabel. Her nickname is Mickie. Her family calls her Nana.

She has a large family. It includes a son, two

daughters, two grandsons, two granddaughters, two great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters. She enjoys watching her kids in their respective activities and enjoys following the Houston Astros.

“Mickie is welcoming, kind and friendly,” Di Dio said. “She supports others without question and is always the first in line to help at the senior center. Mickie is an amazing person and an asset to the City of Katy Fussell Senior Center.”

TRIBUTE



ROBERTA "ROBY" LAWRENCE  
1949-2022

Roberta "Roby" Lawrence was a loving mother, aunt, grandmother, and cat-lady. She passed away on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at the age of 72. After surviving her first bout with cancer in 2017, she struggled with recent breathing complications due to its recurrence. She was surrounded by her children and at peace when she passed.

Roby grew up in New Orleans, and part of her heart never left. She was raised by her father, her mother (who passed away when Roby was 13) and then by her grandmother, and alongside her sister, Bonnie and brother-in-law, Pete. She adored playing with her nephews, Robert and David, and watching them grow into adulthood. She cherished her relationships with them throughout her life.

She had various jobs, but found her passion in sales at the Pocketbook, where she worked for nearly 30 years. She loved her Pocketbook family dearly.

She was a dedicated friend who loved talking on the phone and coffee dates. Not one to hold her tongue, but always there to listen just the same. She valued her friendships and believed in showing--as much as telling--people what they meant to her. She trusted her friends to accept her exactly as she was, and never took for granted those who did. Even when illness made it harder to connect, she spoke often of much it meant to her when people reached out to check on her.

Roby always said being a mother was the best job ever, and that she was “the luckiest mother since Mary.” She spent countless hours at the baseball field and band concerts, dance recitals and school plays. As her children grew into adults, she felt blessed to have them close by and to be able share in their growth as people and as parents themselves.

Her grandchildren remember their Grandmama for her joy, her generous and thoughtful gifts, and sleepovers with no rules. And when it came to her grandchildren, there was no such thing as too many sweets. Time spent with her family was more precious to her than all else. She insisted that pictures be taken at all family gatherings, and she would be very diligent in following up to be sure she got copies of the pictures, as they would commonly end up printed and either taped to her computer monitor wherever she could find room or given out as gifts.

Roby is survived by her children: Stephanie (and John) Anderson, Patrick Dillon (and Nicole Gates), and Michael (and Cristalynn) Dillon; her step-daughter, Sandra (and Jason) Walker, her nine grandchildren, and her beloved cat, Tia. She always had room in her heart for more. We love and miss her dearly.

GARDENS

from page A1

garden because of these efforts. Our garden provides hands-on, real-life experiences that make learning meaningful.”

The online AgriLife conference is set for 8 a.m.-4:20 p.m. on July 20, and will cover the topics of preparation, planting and care, support and success stories. The Texas Education Agency recognizes the seven hours of continuing professional education.

The fee for the online course is \$30. To register, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is <https://bit.ly/3nnk5S4>.

The seminar includes preparation such as garden types, site, layout, planning, irrigation, soil and common challenges. Plant-

ing and care include vegetable varieties, seeds, transplants, timing, harvest, beneficial insects and maintenance.

Support will focus on volunteers, funding, partnerships, resources, the Junior Master Gardener Program and curricula. Success stories will include first-hand accounts of gardens as outdoor classrooms for learning, health and wellness.

Slater said one benefit of a school garden is that students get to see where fresh produce comes from.

“It also increases their interest in eating fruits and vegetables by sampling food they might not otherwise get to taste,” Slater

said. The school garden allows students to see science in action, she said.

“It encourages collaboration, teamwork and a sense of accomplishment and pride as we see our plants grow and produce,” Slater said.

The Stephens garden got started in 2014 with a Katy Education Foundation grant. Slater said the original grant was an integration of all subjects but mainly science, math and writing.

The idea was to create an environment where students could do life science “in their backyard” and find inspiration/ motivation to write fiction and non-fiction based on their garden

experiences.

The project has since expanded and improved through various grants and donations, she said.

Slater offers advice to educators considering a school garden:

- Apply for grants and ask for donations. There is money out there for school gardens.
- Get community support through Rotary Clubs, churches, Boy Scouts, Extension Agencies, master gardeners etc.
- Let students have ownership in the garden. Let them weed, plant, harvest, add soil, mulch etc.
- Start a garden committee and share the responsibilities.

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

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# Should 'Eyes Up Here' be enforced?

**“D**id you know that your rear passenger tire is a little underinflated?”

I harbor a grudging appreciation for a potentially life-saving hint like that.

I mean, it makes me feel like an idiot that I can stare at the tire, repeatedly kick it and still need a gauge to verify what someone standing 150 yards away in a hailstorm recognized immediately. But I do swallow my pride and express gratitude.

Not so much with “Hey, you got your ears lowered” and other impertinent observations.

I suffered more than my share of insecurities and embarrassments during school, so I currently lead a life of quiet desperation. I just want to stay under the radar and survive another day without umpteen people “helpfully” pointing out my every physical blemish or fashion faux pas.

“I couldn’t help but notice” is the icebreaker for many a would-be benefactor. Yes, if you’re utilizing a ladder, spotlight, binoculars and bloodhound to scrutinize someone, you probably can’t help but notice.

Sure, if a 12-pack of Charmin is following me from the public restroom, stage an intervention. But I consider it a microaggression to be notified about every almost-untied shoestring, elbow smudge or crammed-in-a-boot pants leg that disrupts someone’s OCD worldview.



DANNY TYREE  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

**Sure, if a 12-pack of Charmin is following me from the public restroom, stage an intervention. But I consider it a microaggression to be notified about every almost-untied shoestring, elbow smudge or crammed-in-a-boot pants leg that disrupts someone’s OCD worldview.**

for comments; but most of us who are finally experiencing a good day aren’t in the market for some clown to sympathize, “Hey, you look tired, buddy. And your parade looks soggy, too.”

If you want to think positively, convince yourself that your friends, family and acquaintances are just gilding the lily and stroking your ego when they deliver an unsolicited pointer. More realistically, they probably think, “He’s a Dumpster fire, but at least I can toast a few marshmallows.”

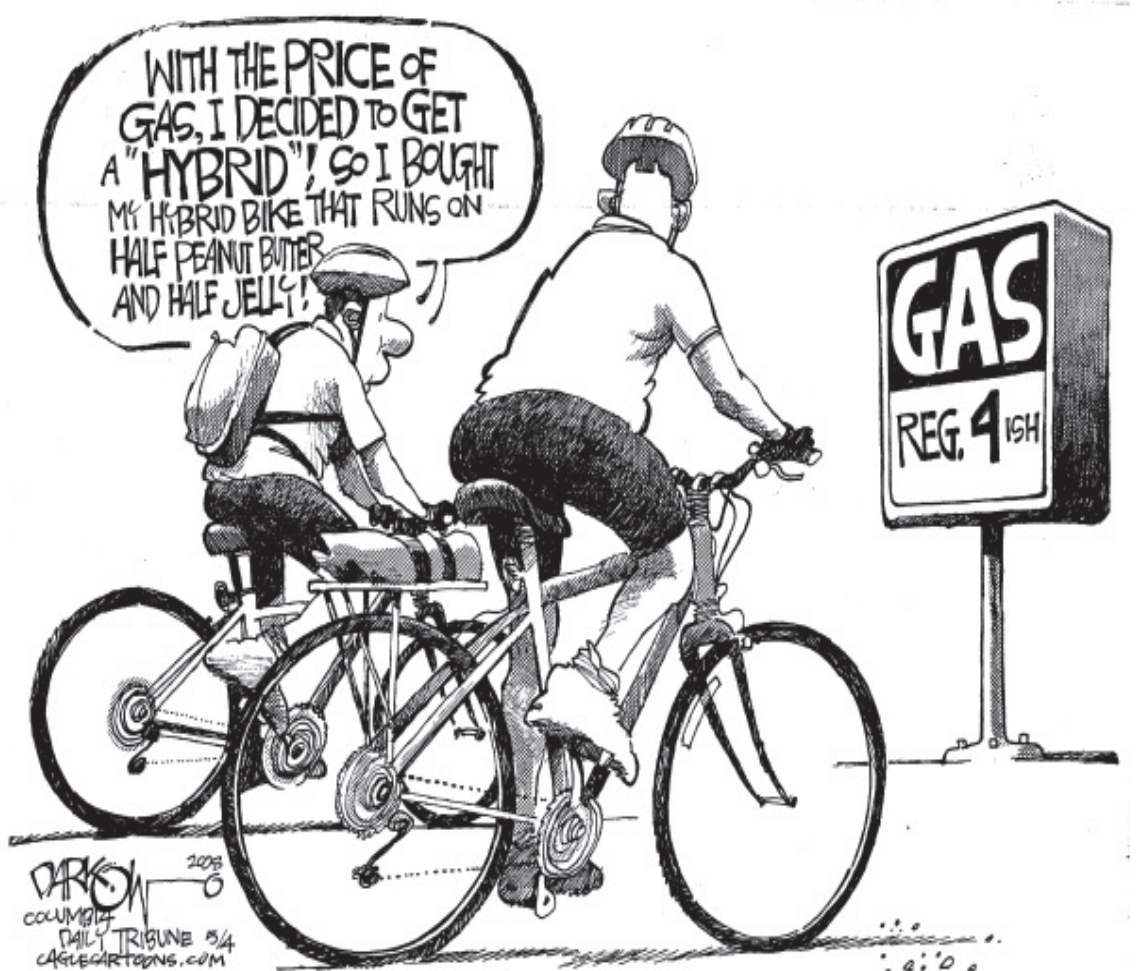
My anxieties constitute a double whammy. On the one hand, I worry that my slightly askew shirt collar will sully the family name for eternity. (Didn’t Dante Alighieri scribble something about “Abandon all hope, ye who miss buttoning a button”?)

On the other hand, I ponder whether “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em” is the guiding force of the universe. Is there some social compact that requires each of us to play “color-code the armpit hairs” with everyone we encounter?

No. I refuse to believe that. Someday we’ll outgrow the darting eyes and the snap judgments. Someday “mind your own bee’s wax” will be our guiding principle.

“I couldn’t help but notice, your fly-adjacent body zone, keep the ladder, spotlight, binoculars, bloodhound and candy—I’m still not getting in your van.

Granted, people sporting windchime earrings or head-to-toe tattoos are probably fishing



# Summer bike hikes have become a relic of the past

**S**itting in my home office I am greeted by a cool breeze coming through my open window and the sweet sounds of summer outside.

It’s late June, which used to be peak bike-hiking season for kids—but now it’s mostly adults who go on long rides on their expensive high-tech bikes.

The bike has come full circle, I suppose.

From its inception in the 1800s the bicycle had been produced mostly for adults.

In the early 1900s it offered an inexpensive way for working-class folks living in urban areas to get to and from work.

As America prospered—as the automobile became the chief mode of travel for the masses — bike sales plummeted.

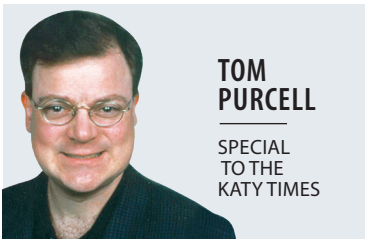
Sales wouldn’t begin to grow again until millions of Baby Boomer kids living in the wide-open suburbs drove up demand.

I got my first “spyder” bike, a red Murray one-speed, when I was nine and rode the wheels off it in only a few years.

The 1970s was the Evel Knievel era, you see. Every kid with a bicycle sought to emulate the iconic daredevil.

We built ramps from scraps of warped plywood set on uneven blocks.

Then we took our bikes to the top of Marilyn Drive—so steep it might as well have been a cliff—and roared downhill, made a hard left onto Janet Drive, and pedaled



TOM PURCELL  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

like mad until liftoff.

Our parents didn’t make us wear helmets or pads back then, which is why the average kid was covered with more scrapes and bruises than an NFL player on Monday morning.

When a landing went totally wrong—when a kid went down especially hard and wouldn’t get up—his family was alerted, a wood-paneled station wagon would arrive and the moaning kid would be carted off to St. Clair Hospital for stitches or a cast.

Despite the risks, or maybe because of them, our love affair with spyder bikes was common to every kid in every community across America in those years.

There were three reasons.

First, we were surrounded by wide-open roads and a county park—we had plenty of places to ride.

Second, parents weren’t yet terrified by the 24/7 news media to let their kids out of their sight and we were permitted to go on long bike hikes so long as we were home by supper.

Third, as the post-World War II economy continued to boom, our parents had just enough excess

dough to buy us new bikes—something their parents could never afford to do for them.

None of us kids back then had any idea how lucky we were to have bikes and the freedom to enjoy them to the max.

It’s too bad today’s kids reportedly are losing interest in bikes.

As a Washington Post article says, “The number of children ages 6 to 17 who rode bicycles regularly—more than 25 times a year—decreased by more than a million from 2014 to 2018, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association.”

Bike sales did increase during the COVID pandemic, but it’s mostly adults who are buying and riding them now.

Adults have been reclaiming all kinds of activities—dressing up for Halloween, summer camp for grown-ups, prom do-overs—that only young people used to do.

Add bikes to the list—including electric bikes that more adults are riding to work to offset the high cost of gasoline.

Meanwhile, today’s kids are inside engaging with their electronic devices.

I hope, at the very least, they’re sitting by an open window enjoying a cool breeze and the sweet sounds of summer.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site *ThurbersTail.com*, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at [Tom@TomPurcell.com](mailto:Tom@TomPurcell.com).

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## TRIBUTES

Daniel G Pearson (“Danny”), beloved father, brother, and friend, passed away on June 15, 2022, peacefully in his sleep in Katy, Texas, where he had been living with his loving companion Sharon Bishop for the past five years. A Celebration of Life will be held on July 3, 2022 at Beckendorff Farms in Katy, Texas, where he constructed many of the interior structures by hand.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 30 years, Georgia Kay Pearson.

Danny was born in Boerne, Texas in 1950 to George Pearson and Hazel Mauldin. He spent most of his school years in Cypress. He moved to Katy, Texas his senior year and that is where he spent most of his life. Danny was a 30-year retired firefighter; however, he was best known for his skill as a carpenter and craftsman. He was an artisan like no other.

Danny loved both his and Sharon’s family deeply. He enjoyed the outdoors, get-togethers, cooking, gardening, antiquing, and hunting. He will be dearly missed by all his



**DANIEL G PEARSON**  
1950-2022

family and friends.

Danny is survived by his son Dan Pearson and wife Shelly; his son Douglas Pearson, wife Nydia and their children Seth, Jonas and Elise; his daughter Elizabeth Pearson and her daughter AnnaMae Newland; his daughter Laura Aston and her husband James and their children Kellen, Knox and Beau; his sister Gretchen Collier and her son Mel; and his faithful dog, Jackson.

PATSY JEAN GINN WIL-LIAMS, 86, died peacefully on June 23, 2022. She was born on July 6, 1935, to John David Ginn and Minnie Frances Garrett Ginn in Tyler, Texas. She grew up in Houston and Bay City, Texas, where she was raised by her loving grandfather, Harry Weldon Garrett, and his wife, Gusta Mae Majors Garrett. Patsy graduated from San Jacinto Senior High School in Houston, where she made many life-long friends as a member of the Gauchos pep squad who shared trips and outings together for almost 70 years as the “Foolish Hearts” club. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration in 1957 from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, where she served as president of her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. Patsy never met a stranger, and her outgoing personality and genuine interest in people from all walks of life cultivated life-long friendships wherever she went.

It was at Southwestern University that Patsy met the love of her life, James Earl “Jim” Williams from Tomball, Texas, who precedes her in death. Their marriage on December 22, 1956, commenced 53 happy years together until Jim’s death in 2009. Together they raised four children. She is survived by Laura, husband Randy Williams, children Scott, Kyle and Grant; Clay, wife Jenny, children Hannah, Libby and Sam; Brad, wife Michelle, children Garrett, Cole, and Lauren; Leslie and husband Luis Cerezo; and four great grandchildren, James, Jace, Zachary and Jolie.

Following college and a few



**PATSY JEAN GINN WILLIAMS**  
1935-2022

years in Bay City, Patsy and Jim moved to the small farming community of Katy, Texas in 1961 to establish Jim’s dental practice. Patsy embraced the community and its residents, befriending all she met and becoming the town’s chief cheerleader. In addition to supporting her husband’s service on the KISD School Board, she served as Girl Scout leader, PTA and home room mother, and Sunday School teacher at the First United Methodist Church. Patsy later served as Director of the Katy Chamber of Commerce, and was a charter member of the Katy Business Association which she helped found after she started a real estate brokerage, Williams & Poorman Real Estate, in 1983. After Jim retired in 1996, the two of them set off in their travel trailer for a great camping adventure, touring all lower 48 states and many Canadian provinces, in what Patsy described as the best years of their lives together. They began returning more frequently to

Katy starting in 2000 to read to children on Fridays at James E. Williams Elementary School, the district’s 18th elementary school which it named in Jim’s honor. Patsy was a proud Williams Wrangler to the end, and she and Jim were both honored with the Sunshine Award presented by KPRC-TV in 2004 for their dedication to all the wonderful children they came to know and love through their service. Patsy was later honored as Senior Citizen of the Year by the Katy Chamber of Commerce in 2014 for her service work in the community.

Time spent with her children and grandchildren brought her joy, and the memories of her love for us will never be forgotten. We will miss you dearly, Mom. The family will be forever grateful for her many friends, including the Southwestern University Chicken Fried Steak Club which she organized for her college friends, as well as the staff at The Village at the Triangle and Magnolia Hospice in Austin, who were so caring of our mother. The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on June 26, 2022, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel, 1508 East Ave., Katy, Texas. Funeral services were held at 9:30 AM on June 27, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church, 5601 5th Street, Katy, Texas, with Rev. Jason Smith and Rev. Judy Teffeller officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery. Patsy’s grandsons Scott, Kyle, Grant, Garrett, Cole and Sam Williams served as pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Katy First United Methodist Church.

## Cinco Ranch Branch Library presents introductory course on MS Word

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Libraries’ Adult Services staff at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library will present a free, introductory computer class, “MS Word Survival Basics,” for version 2016.

The class is from 2-3 p.m. July 13 in the computer lab of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

The class is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register at the library’s website, [fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on “Classes & Events,” select “Cinco Ranch Branch Library,” and find the program.

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# Tompkins students form mental health support group

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Some Tompkins High School students have begun an adolescent mental health support group, and they are reaching out to the community to promote their cause.

Soha Jashwant, who this fall will be a senior, is the founder of Share 2 Care. She said today's adolescents face pressures that social media accelerates, such as FOMO (for fear of missing out), body insecurity and cyberbullying.

In an essay she wrote on the group's website, she said academic pressures have risen, "with kids bred like racehorses to breeze through standardized tests from a very young age. Not to mention having to walk around shards of glass when navigating

the social politics of high school groupism."

Jashwant wrote that adolescents are, in a way, having to grow up with these factors in play in addition to what she called the "simple truth that we haven't even figured out who we really are spells disaster for our minds."

Jashwant said in an interview that she and her fellow students—Regina Wu, Jiajun Chen and Kailin Huang—have seen these issues and how it affected others, both at Tompkins and at other schools. They wanted to do something to help. They reached out to students at other schools to learn what was being done and what might be done.

"If you know you have an army of support, that makes things 100% easier," Jashwant said.

Jashwant and her fellow stu-

dents were at the June 23 Coffee with the Mayors event to discuss their Swear 2 Care group and its activities. This fall, Wu will be a senior. Chen will be a junior, and Huang will be a sophomore.

Jashwant said the group started to come together in January and has been active for about a month.

She said the group has received over 400 pledges made through its website and social media in the last month. Building such a support group makes it easier for someone to face the pressures.

"We felt it was imperative to bring up this issue, especially now," Jashwant said. "We're trying to build a community a support."

For more information, visit the website [swear2care.com](http://swear2care.com).



Regina Wu, Soha Jashwant, Jiajun Chen, and Kailin Huang were at the June 23 Coffee with the Mayors event to discuss their Swear 2 Care group and its adolescent mental health care support efforts.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### Katy ISD provides free summer meals for kids

The Katy Independent School District is continuing its commitment to ensuring all children in the Katy area have access to healthy, well-balanced meals through its summer meals program.

The program began May 31 and runs through July 28 at designated district schools. The program offers breakfast and/or lunch at no cost for kids 18 and younger.

Summer meal sites include:

- Morton Ranch Junior High: through June 30; no breakfast, lunch from 9:30-11 a.m.
- Schmalz Elementary: through June 30; breakfast from 7:30-8:20 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- West Memorial Elementary: through June 30; breakfast from 7:30-8:20 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Stockdick Junior High: through July 21; no breakfast, lunch from 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- Mayde Creek High (Ninth Grade Campus): through July 28; no breakfast, lunch from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

"Summer meals will consist of a hot breakfast and/or lunch, which will be served in the school cafeteria area," Donna Pittenger, the district's nutrition and food service executive director, said. "All meals must be eaten on the campus and parents

are welcome to purchase a meal to enjoy with their children."

Children must be present to receive a meal and identification is not required.

### Fox elected to state association board

Katy school trustee Rebecca Fox has been elected to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors for Region 4, Position E.

Fox served as a member of the Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees from 2004-19 and was re-elected in 2021. She has held every board officer position, including three times as president. Fox is a graduate of the class of 2007 Leadership TASB and has earned the distinction of Master Trustee. She is also a member of the TASB Legislative Advocacy Network.

"I'm honored to represent our thriving district at the state level and to be a voice for the children we serve every day," Fox said. "As a member of the Board of Directors, I look forward to collaborating with TASB to continue providing districts the support and services they need to achieve educational excellence for every learner."



REBECCA FOX

Fox holds a bachelor's degree in consumer and family science from Southeastern Louisiana University and works part-time as a motivational speaker and parent educator. Apart from being a board member, she is best known as a long-time volunteer.

Fox has served on PTA boards at Hayes Elementary, Creech Elementary, Beck Junior High and Cinco Ranch High School. She has also served on district committees such as the Campus Advisory Team, bond committees and rezoning committees, and served three years as an executive board member of the Katy ISD Volunteers in Public Schools.

Throughout the school year, Fox visits district campuses, volunteering through the KEYS mentoring program, teaching Junior Achievement and participating in Promise-to-Read, among other programs. Fox also helped establish the vision of the Katy ISD Education Foundation and is a ground-breaking investor.

Fox has been recognized with numerous awards such as Volunteer of the Year, Texas PTA Lifetime Membership and Extended Service Award, Citizen of the Year by Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, Top 100 Women of Katy by Katy Magazine and the Backbone of Katy Award by the Noyes Foundation.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school boards. School board members are the largest group

of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 5.4 million public school students. For more information on TASB, visit the website [tasb.org](http://tasb.org).

### Pre-registration now open in Katy ISD

Pre-registration has begun for Katy Independent School District students. Parents of new students can pre-register for the 2022-23 Katy ISD fall semester through the PowerSchool Enrollment website, the abbreviated website for which is [bit.ly/3xO6p7u](http://bit.ly/3xO6p7u).

Important dates:

- Through July 1—Online PowerSchool pre-registration for new students. A new student is defined as a K-12 learner who has never attended a school in the district, or a previous district who withdrew and is re-enrolling.
- July 2-27—PowerSchool pre-registration for new students temporarily closed.
- July 28—Online PowerSchool pre-registration for new students re-opens.
- August 1—PowerSchool Annual Student Update begins (for returning Katy ISD students. A returning student is defined as any student who was actively enrolled during the 2021-22 school year.

All new and returning Katy ISD students must use PowerSchool Enrollment to submit a new student registration or their Annual Student Update.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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# KATY TIMES SPORTS

THE KATY TIMES  
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022  
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B1

## 7 ON SEVEN

### Cinco, Jordan take lessons from state tournament pool play

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

COLLEGE STATION — Both Jordan and Cinco Ranch took hard lessons on day one of the Division I state 7-on-7 tournament.

The Warriors and Cougars combined to go 1-5 in the state tournament's pool play, as both teams weren't able to find enough success on offense to carry their struggling defenses into the win column.

Cinco Ranch, which was considered a favorite to make noise in the winners bracket on Saturday, took lessons from their three losses to Harker Heights, Hebron and Wichita Falls Rider.

"Today kind of humbled us," said Cinco Ranch senior linebacker Braden Williams. "We have to work ten times harder than we were before and this taught us that. We

thought we were going to come out here and lay everyone out and I think maybe we came in a bit too confident. But that's fixable. We are going to fix this and come out and treat everyone the exact same and give them our best.

All three games came down to the wire and were one possession games, with Cinco just coming up short. The Cougars hope to take lessons from that and they know that even though these games ultimately don't end up in the win or loss column in the fall, they can show what the team needs to work on.

"It's just a way to overcome adversity," said senior Cinco Ranch receiver Noah Abboud. "Going through these things, we know what we need to fix, and we learn about ourselves. The good thing is we can critique it and look at

See SEVEN, page B3



TYLER TYRE

Cinco Ranch's Gavin Rutherford throws during a game against Wichita Falls Rider on Friday at Veterans Memorial Park in College Station.



TYLER TYRE

Jordan's Andrew Marsh makes a diving catch in the endzone during Saturday's game.

### JORDAN GAINS CONFIDENCE THROUGH STATE 7-ON-7 EXPERIENCE

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

COLLEGE STATION — Jordan just wanted to see what kind of noise they could make at the state 7-on-7 tournament.

The Warriors came in without expectations, with the main goal of

the team being to gain experience through the tournament, but that didn't mean they weren't confident they could show other teams that they are no slouch heading into their first season with a district.

"We had our goals heading into the tournament and we just wanted to put together a good performance,"

said junior quarterback Colin Willetts. "We're getting every bit of work in we can everyday and this was a huge part of that. I'm just glad we got to come out here and compete."

Jordan didn't just compete, but also won games at the tournament.

See JORDAN, page B3

### CINCO FALLS TO WAKELAND IN CONSOLATION BRACKET FINAL

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

COLLEGE STATION — Cinco Ranch was determined to have a bounce back day after a disappointing day one at the State 7-on-7 Tournament.

The Cougars went 0-3 in pool play, dropping to the consolation bracket on Saturday, but Cinco Ranch wasn't deterred and wanted to show that they have one of the best teams in the state.

The Cougars bounced back in a big way, going 4-1 on Saturday and advancing all the way to the consolation bracket final to put a strong end to the team's summer season.

"It just shows our character and the way we will fight back from anything," said senior quarterback Gavin Rutherford. "We're not going to give up just because we had a bad day. We went 0-3 yesterday, but we can't let that define us. So even though we didn't do our job the first day, we came out and made sure that we fixed our mistakes and got better today."

Cinco started the day with a close game against San Benito, winning 25-22 and that win seemed to rejuvenate the team, as they strolled past North

See CINCO, page B3



TYLER TYRE

Cinco Ranch's Noah Abboud catches a touchdown on Saturday.



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# University of Houston starts fundraising drive

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston Athletics Department announced Thursday that it has officially launched a comprehensive fundraising campaign centered on competitive excellence in the Big 12 Conference once the Cougars join in 2023.

Titled “Houston Rise” the \$150 million fundraising campaign follows the recent announcement that Houston will formally begin competition in the Big 12 Conference in July 2023. “Houston Rise” will also be an integral component of an overall, university fundraising initiative designed to position the University of Houston as a Top 50 public research institution.

Through “Houston Rise” the Athletics Department will address essential capital priorities including the construction of a state-of-the-art facility to house Cougar Football.

Fundraising for the Football Development Center (FDC), the future home of Houston Football, began in January. Over the past six months, the Athletics Department has been actively engaging donors and key stakeholders to support this needed project.

Head Football Coach Dana Holgorsen, on the heels of a 12-win season, will contribute \$1 million to “Houston Rise” in support of the Football Development Center.

“When I returned to the University of Houston nearly four years ago, I had a vision for what Cougar Football could become,” Holgorsen said. “We are getting there. We are coming off a 12-win season, excited about the prospects for this upcoming year, preparing to enter the Big 12 in 2023, and building one of the best football facilities in the country. Houston has been committed to me, and I am committed to Houston and, as part of that commitment, I am honored to do my part to help make the new operations building a reality. My hope is that this small gesture may generate further excitement for the “Houston Rise” campaign.”

In addition, Houston Athletics intends to use funds generated through “Houston Rise” to modernize the aging Athletics-Alumni Center for use by Houston’s Olympic sports programs, complete important enhancements to the Guy V. Lewis Development Facility (Men’s and Women’s Basketball) and make improvements to other existing athletics facilities as funding/needs are identified.

“President Khator has made it clear that we enter the Big 12 to win,” Vice President for Athletics Chris Pezman said. “We need to elevate to a Power 5 standard to provide our coaches and student-athletes the tools they need to compete for championships in our new conference. This is the mission of “Houston Rise.”

Facility enhancements aside, “Houston Rise” will also concentrate on expanding Athletics’ support base. Growing engagement by enrolling new season ticket holders and Cougar Pride Athletic Fund members is a cornerstone of the “Houston Rise” campaign.

“Through the years, we have been blessed by the amazing generosity of a strong core of ardent Cougars, but the time is now to diversify and grow our support base,” Senior Associate Athletics Director John Gladchuk said. “We owe it to the benefactors responsible for the foundation we stand on today to expand engagement and incentivize those currently on the sideline to rise and be counted.”

“Houston Rise” will emphasize factors that demonstrate community confidence, namely active donor membership and season-ticket holder accounts. These focal points drive life-changing scholarship support for Houston student-athletes.

“Membership in the Big 12 is the result of exceptional leadership, unwavering courage and relentless drive – all qualities that define a Houston Cougar,” Pezman said. “This campaign embodies that spirit while reminding us that our journey has only just begun. We are a year away from Big 12 competition and assuming our place in the Power 5. We’ve worked for three decades to get to this point. Rest assured that we will rise to this ultimate challenge.”



An artist's rendering of the University of Houston's upgraded athletic facilities.





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TYLER TYRE

Jordan's Braden Franklin deflects a pass away from a receiver during Saturday's game.

## JORDAN

from page B1

Jordan finished with a 2-4 record at the tournament, making it to the second round of the consolation bracket on Saturday morning.

The Warriors started Saturday morning with a 28-19 win over Prosper before falling to Shadow Creek in a very close game 27-26.

That kind of success and ability to stay in games has proven to the Jordan players that they have what it takes to compete at the 6A level.

"Going into the fall it just gives us that mojo that we need," said sophomore wide receiver Andrew Marsh. "We can see and we know now that we can really hang with people. It's all about us just making sure we do our assignments and do our jobs. We're locked in and just playing together as a team and really that's all you can ask for."

The Warriors displayed a strong passing attack with Willetts slinging the ball to a number of different receivers and both Marsh and Zechariah Sample displayed a huge ability to play both ways, making impact on both offense and defense.

The whole Jordan team is still relatively young compared to other programs within Katy ISD, and having these extra games to work out the kinks and play against high level competition is a huge benefit for them.

"We know that we're a young team, so just getting here is a big accomplishment," Marsh said. "But we wanted to make sure we left here with a dub too and I'm glad we did that. It's built chemistry and it's helped us get ready for the season. It's everything you could want for a summer thing to get you ready for the year."

The chemistry at Jordan has been a huge talking point for everyone on the team and in the coaching staff. They want to instill a long lasting chemistry that will last and help bring underclassman along in the future.

Accomplishing things like they did this weekend does just that.

"We're working together everyday to build that chemistry and instill it for everyone," Willetts said. "We have a bond together throughout the team and we want everyone to be a part of it from varsity to freshman. We just have to keep building it and get to where we want to go."

## CINCO

from page B1

Crowley 25-8 before beating Plano 35-13 and beating Coppell 28-26, to reach the final.

"Yesterday was just a complete off day and we knew that," said senior receiver Seth Salverino. "We've been winning games all summer — we just had a bad day at the worst time we could have. But because of that we knew that we needed to show what we could do today. So it was big for us to come out and win four in a row."

The Cougars' run came to an end in the final, as they lost 26-20 to Frisco Wakeland. But the team knows that they still put up a great performance on the day.

"This whole thing really is about building that chemistry and getting better as a team," Rutherford said. "There's no better way to do that than by overcoming adversity. Offensively and defensively we stepped it up a notch today from where we were and we spent time yesterday bonding and building that chemistry too. That's what the offseason is about is just coming together and getting ready for next year."

Rutherford will lead a high powered of-

fense that includes targets like Salverino and Noah Abboud as well as other key players such as Fischer Reed. While the summer helps them with that chemistry, 7-on-7 also helps with the conditioning of the team, especially on a morning like Saturday where Cinco played five games over a four hour period in over 90 degree heat.

"It builds you into such better condition," Rutherford said. "It feels like its 100 degrees right now and has felt like that all day, but that's why we need it. All of us have to get into better shape before the season and this helps us do that. It really helps build up that conditioning and your character because you have to keep pushing."

Cinco will get an early start to the season since the Cougars didn't participate in spring practice and all of the players can't wait to get out there come August.

"It's going to be great," Salverino said. "Getting that extra scrimmage, being back out there. We just have to be smart and stay healthy until then, and then go full speed once we get back out on the field."



Cinco Ranch's Noah Abboud breaks away in the open field during Friday's game against Harker Heights at Veterans Memorial Park in College Station.



Jordan's Zechariah Sample makes a catch for a touchdown during Friday's game against Bellaire Episcopal at Veterans Memorial Park in College Station.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

## SEVEN

from page B1

how we can get better when we go through these losses. It's not a bad thing, it's just a way we can evaluate ourselves and any time you can do that it's a good thing."

Jordan dropped its first two games of the day, before bouncing back with a 25-12 win over Austin LBJ in the Warriors third game of the day to go 1-2 in pool play.

Like Cinco, the Warriors' two losses were both one score games, and playing in those tight environments will do nothing but help Jordan as it prepares for the jump to 6A.

"It's a winning culture that we are trying to build and you have to go through games like that if you want to start winning," said Jordan receiver Zechariah Sample. "I'm trying to be part of that and that's why I came here was because I wanted to try and set that foundation for a new school. We know we're underdogs but we embrace that."

The Warriors have embraced the grind to prepare for the season and are taking on any challenge they can, including qualifying for the state tournament. And they know any time they get playing against 6A competition is going to be huge for the players.

"It's all about getting that experience and continuing to get better and prepared," said senior Jordan receiver Nathan Salz. "At the end of the day it's a competition and were trying to win, and it was nice to end the day with one, but it's just all about that team chemistry, having fun and getting better before we get to football season."

Both teams will be back in action on Saturday morning, with game times TBA.

"For us the biggest thing is to learn for this but then we step on the field tomorrow, just forget about everything and play the way we should be playing," Abboud said. "It's all a reset tomorrow, it's 0-0 and we have everything to play for."



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RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins senior Jace LaViolette takes a swing during Game 3 of the Falcons' Region III-6A semifinals against Strake Jesuit in 2021 at Cy-Falls High.

# Tompkins' LaViolette named All-American

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins graduate Jace LaViolette was named an American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings High School All American this past week.

LaViolette had a huge senior season, hitting .601, with nine doubles, 13 triples and 11 homers while driving in 51 and scoring 53 runs.

He helped Tompkins reach the regional quarterfinals for the second straight season and to a District 19-6A championship.

LaViolette was just one of five players named an All-American from Texas and was one of just three from Texas to make the first team. He was also just one of three outfielders on the first team.

Rawlings names the All-American teams each year with the ABCA. The ABCA is the primary professional organization for baseball coaches among the amateur level, with 13,000 members in

all 50 states and they release All-American teams for NCAA Division I, II and III along with NAIA, NJCAA, High School and Youth.

First recognized in 1969, the ABCA/Rawlings High School All-America Teams are selected by the ABCA High School All-America and Coach of the Year Committee, which is chaired by Jimmy Harris, head baseball coach at Stillwater High School (OK). The committee also includes coaches Scott Steltz of Chatham High School (NY), Aaron Haigler of Franklin County High School (VA), Tom Losaurro of Lake Mary High School (FL), Ray Benjamin of St. Charles Prep High School (OH), Heath Gerstner of McPherson High School (KS), L. Scott Bullock of Rocky Mountain High School (CO) and Rigoberto Ledezma of Santana High School (CA).

Along with being named to the All-State team, LaViolette, a Texas A&M signee, was also named to the All-Region team that included some Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas players.

## 2022 ABCA/RAWLINGS HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA FIRST TEAM			
Pos.	Player	Cl.	School
C	Malcolm Moore	Sr.	McClatchy CA
1B	Will Furniss	Sr.	Nacogdoches TX
IF	Jackson Holliday	Sr.	Stillwater OK
IF	Blake Mitchell	Jr.	Sinton TX
OF	Judd Utermark	Sr.	Charlotte Christ. NC
OF	Druw Jones	Sr.	Wesleyan GA
OF	Justin Crawford	Sr.	Bishop Gorman CA
OF	Jace LaViolette	Sr.	Tompkins TX
DH	Dylan Carey	Sr.	Ponderosa CO
UT	Owen Murphy	Sr.	Riverside-Brookfield IL
P	Brock Porter	Sr.	St. Mary's MI
P	Robby Snelling	Sr.	McQueen NV
P	Eli Jerzembeck	Sr.	Providence NC

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA SECOND TEAM			
Pos.	Player	Cl.	School
C	Camden Ross	Sr.	Broomfield CO
1B	Xavier Isaac	Sr.	East Forsyth NC
IF	Cutter Coffey	Sr.	Liberty CA
IF	Patrick Forbes	Sr.	Bowling Green KY
IF	Jett Williams	Sr.	Rockwall-Heath TX
OF	Nicholas Morabito	Sr.	Gonzaga DC
OF	Roman Anthony	Sr.	Stoneman Doug. FL
OF	Dakota Jordan	Sr.	Jackson Acad. MS
DH	Brendan Summerhill	Sr.	Whitney Young IL
UT	Austin Charles	Sr.	Stockdale CA
P	Justin Lamkin	Sr.	Calallen TX

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA THIRD TEAM			
Pos.	Player	Cl.	School
C	Ethan Frey	Sr.	Rosepine LA
C	Ike Irish	Sr.	St. Mary's Prep MI
1B	Luke Anderson	Sr.	Snow Canyon UT
1B	Brett Norfleet	Jr.	Francis Howell MO
IF	RJ Austin	Sr.	Pace Academy GA
IF	Cade Kurland	Sr.	Berkeley Prep FL
IF	Jackson Lovich	Sr.	Blue Valley West KS
IF	Grant MacArthur	Sr.	Granite Hills CA
OF	Harrison Didawick	Sr.	Western Branch VA
OF	Max Clark	Jr.	Franklin IN
OF	Korbyn Dickerson	Sr.	Trinity KY
OF	Dylan Dreiling	Sr.	Hays KS
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DH	Sal Stewart	Sr.	Westminster Christian FL
UT	Ky Hoskinson	Sr.	McMinnville OR
UT	Mitchell Voit	Sr.	Whitefish Bay WI
P	Nolan Perry	Sr.	Carlsbad NM
P	Thomas White	Jr.	Phillips Andover MA
P	Jaden Noot	Sr.	Sierra Canyon CA
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Houston Texans wide receiver Chris Moore (15) makes a 28-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter of an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The Titans won, 28-25.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

# Veterans lead the way in minicamp

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Lots has been made of the new, young talent the Texans have brought in for the upcoming season.

With players coming in from the draft like Derek Stingley Jr., Kenyon Green, and John Metchine III, it's hard not to talk about the young core, and how it may grow together in the future.

But quietly, the Texans have been reinforcing the team with respected veterans, and they are making their presence felt, leading the way and showing the rookies what it takes to last at the NFL level.

Among those players are Mario Addison and Jerry Hughes. Both come to the organization with over 10 years of NFL experience and both bring skill and know-how to the defensive side of the ball.

"It's been really impressive what those two guys have already brought to the organization," said Texans General Manager Nick Caserio. "Mario hasn't necessarily been practicing, but he's been involved, and when you play against players you can see what they do on the field. You can see how they play and the level of productivity they have. Both of those guys, it was a really easy decision to bring them into the organization."

Both players come from a highly successful organization with the Buffalo Bills and have been very productive throughout their NFL careers. Now they both hope to bring their success, leadership and experience to a young team and help take a defense which struggled last year to the next level.

"There's a reason these two have had the longevity they've had and have had the success they've had," Caserio said. "You can see it everyday with Hughes. The overall day to day with him, how he prepares and his thought process. We've talked at different points about leadership and what it's about, how it manifests itself and in both of those players case they aren't necessarily the loudest, but they make a huge impact. They way both of them interact and communicate, how they are with the team, it's just been really fun to watch."

That impact has been felt not only with rookies, but also with the second year players. Every player entering their second NFL season is looking to make a jump, and with those two veterans taking the younger players under their wing, it



Houston Texans running back Rex Burkhead (28) congratulates tight end Brevin Jordan (9) after a touchdown during the first half of an NFL game between the Seahawks and the Texans on December 12, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

has made that process a lot easier for all of the younger players within the Texans organization.

"Overall, those guys in their second year are much more comfortable now with everything that comes with being an NFL player," Caserio said. "They've been able to go through the full year and find what works and doesn't work for them. Figuring out what's important for the team and for them at this point in the year and figuring out what they can work on every day to get better. There's just an overall familiarity with the program, with the staff and everything they're going through that makes things easier and allows them to take that jump."

The Texans completed mandatory mini camp last week and now will take a month long break before joining up again for the beginning of training camp on July 29. Things will then kick into high gear as they prepare for the first week for the preseason when they take on the Saints on August 13 at NRG Stadium.

# Rockets take Jabari Smith with third overall pick

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

A big surprise came on draft night for the Houston Rockets.

For months, almost every mock draft had Jabari Smith Jr. going No. 1 overall to the Orlando Magic, but come draft night, the Magic had different plans.

Orlando shocked everyone by passing on Smith, not to take Chet Holmgren, who had been mocked to No. 2 in most drafts, but to take Paolo Banchero, who most Rockets fans expected to fall Houston with the No. 3 pick.

The Rockets had the presumed No. 1 pick fall in their laps and took no time pouncing, as Houston took Jabari Smith with the No. 3 pick in the draft, adding to an already exciting young team brewing in Houston.

Smith, who spent one year at Auburn, brings two elite skills that are greatly needed for the Rockets in 3-point shooting and defending on both the perimeter and in the post. He knows what it means to have his name selected in the NBA draft, and is ecstatic to get to Houston and get to work.

**"I feel like I have something to prove out there. But the most important thing for me is to win games, that's just how I was raised and who I am."**

—Jabari Smith, Houston draft pick

"Houston is getting somebody who is a hard worker, who's going to come in with a chip on their shoulder and compete from day one," Smith said. "I'm someone who doesn't care about stats and someone who is going to do anything that the team needs me to do. Whether that's defend, score, anything they need — I'll be ready. They're getting a guy who is going to work from day one and they're getting someone who hates to lose. All I care is that W and I want to help Houston."

Smith excelled during his time at Auburn, averaging 16.9 points, 7.4 rebounds and over one block and steal per game. He also shot 42% from the three point line, showing his prowess as a catch and shoot player.

He also is coming to Houston with a chip on his shoulder, wanting to prove that he deserved to be a No. 1 pick, the same way that Jalen Green came to Houston a year ago.

"I feel like I have something to prove out there," Smith said. "But the most important thing for me is to win games, that's just how I was raised and who I am. I'm just going to come in and try to win games and I know that if I do that and I come in trying to win it, everything will take care of itself. I'm looking forward to a big year."

Houston followed up the No. 17 pick, selecting Tari Eason out of LSU, who will also add strong defense to the Rockets as he was widely considered one of the best defenders in the draft.

And after Houston traded back from the No. 26 to the No. 29 pick, the Rockets selected Kentucky freshman point guard TyTy Washington.

Washington was a force for the Wildcats early on in the season, shooting 50% from the field and 40% from three while also providing solid defense over his first 19 collegiate games. But after an ankle injury he was not the same for Kentucky and he didn't have the type of workouts teams liked, causing him to slip from a projected top 10 pick all the way to No. 29.

All three picks are excited to get to Houston, and for Smith, he knows he has the drive to succeed at the next level.

"I'm going to keep being someone who goes the extra mile and someone who always thinks they aren't working hard enough," Smith said. "Whether that's doing extra after the workouts or whatever it is I'm going to do it. I want to have extra left in the tank and always want to be better, that's the type of person I am."

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