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Greg Schulte, Katy ISD school board president, addresses the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Schulte discusses school budget

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy school trustees are focusing both on a budget for the district's upcoming fiscal year, along with the possibility of a tax ratification election, the school board president said.

Greg Schulte, an engineer and project manager, was elected to the school board in 2020. His fellow trustees elected him president in 2021. He spoke at the Aug. 4 Katy Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Schulte said the budget, now being prepared by district staff, will be considered and voted on later this month. Last year's budget was \$1.1 billion.

"The goal of the budget is that we have a balanced budget," Schulte said. One feature of the budget, he said, was that the district's healthcare plan is self-funded, and that saved the district about \$90 million per year.

Schulte said safety is another issue trustees are working on as students return to school Aug. 17.

"The board is having a special meeting (Aug. 15) to go through our preparedness for something like that and make sure that we have the schools, the systems and the procedures set up that if that did happen we would react better than I think they reacted (in the May 24 Uvalde school

See **SCHULTE**, page A3

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August 11, 2022
16 pages | \$1

City establishes community development director position

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday established a new community development director position that, when filled, will oversee the city's planning, permits and inspections.

The position will report to Elaine Lutringer, who herself is being promoted to a newly created position of executive director for public works and community development. She will supervise both the public works director that will succeed her, as well as the new community development

director, when they are hired. City Administrator Byron Hebert said the city will look to interview candidates for both positions.

Requirements for the community development director position include a master's degree with 8-10 years in urban development, municipal planning, code administration, or broad and extensive experience in economic development and 3-5 years of supervisory experience. Experience in a home-rule city such as Katy is preferred.

Hebert said the new community development director would begin by "taking a snapshot" of the city's situation.

"We're landlocked," Hebert said. "We're surrounded by Houston extraterritorial jurisdiction."

The director would be expected to ensure completion of projects, now being done, to improve the city's permit process. Overseeing the city's grant applications is another priority.

"We have grants out there, and we want to get them completed," Hebert said.

The city has for some months been working on revising its comprehensive plan. Hebert said the new director would be expected to help guide the city based on the plan.



Isikel is moving its headquarters and manufacturing operations to this building at 28350 West Ten Blvd.

ISIKEL

New neighbors: Medical supplies manufacturer relocating to Katy

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The pandemic brought a growing need for medical supplies. Yet supply chain issues have made it tougher for some of those products to reach the American market.

A company that is moving to Katy Sept. 1 is working to meet those challenges—and looks to add about 250-300 local jobs in the process.

Isikel—pronounced icicle—is a medical supplies manufacturer headquartered in Tomball, created in 2016. It is consolidating its management and manufacturing operations under one roof at its new Katy location, 28350 West Ten Blvd.

"We strictly stick with medical supplies," Valerie Vickrey, Isikel cofounder and CEO, said. "We do source and distribute currently short supply medical items, so anything that hospitals are looking for that maybe they can't get from the big suppliers, or hard-to-find items, we'll track them down and get them for the customers. When we go to production, we are going to produce the nitrile gloves, normal saline in bags and then also saline flush and syringes. Those are our three production lines we'll have there in Katy."

The demand for medical supplies isn't coming just from doctors and hospitals, however.

"People want to wear gloves, keep your hands clean, make sure they aren't touching things," Vickrey said. "PPE and



ISIKEL

Valerie Vickrey is the cofounder and chief executive officer of Isikel, a medical supplies manufacturer.

medical supplies have just become relevant to the everyday consumer now."

Supply chain issues have also played a part in the company's growth and development.

"I really think the COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the holes that we have in the supply chain, and that's what we are doing, really, is looking to be a solution to help fill in those gaps because demand is on the rise for all of these products, but even more so domestically produced items are really sought after," Vickrey said. "What we have done is created a strategic marketing plan around domestic manufacturing. And through our research and studies, we found that domestic manufacturing can best compete with foreign suppliers when transit lines are kept to a minimum."

Vickrey said over 70% of

normal saline comes from Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory still working to recover from a 2017 hurricane.

"Anytime that there is a major disruption or storm in the gulf, then that creates supply chain issues, and it's one of the biggest headaches for hospitals," Vickrey said.

The new facility features 197,000 square feet. Isikel now has 40 employees, and Vickrey said it wants to hire more workers.

"We are looking to ramp up to somewhere between 200-300 employees," Vickrey said. "What you find with a lot of larger companies is they have their distributor or manufacturer and it's very hard with their contracts for them to deviate from that. But because we didn't have these large manufacturing and distribution contracts, we were able to go in and buy a pallet of items here, 20 pallets of items there. And then we'd build relationships as we were going, so we were able to get more and more allocation as we both trusted the vendors and they trusted us. We were able to grow organically that way."

Vickrey is a University of Alabama graduate with a degree in marketing analysis. She worked with a marketing firm before becoming a stay-at-home mother. Her son is 16 now, and she wanted to get back into the business world.

"I started selling promo-

See **SUPPLIES**, page A3

Royal ISD committee to help prep bond package

Voters have rejected four of the last six bond package proposals since 2000

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Royal Independent School District has launched a facilities advisory committee to help design a bond package for voter consideration in the May 2023 election.

The district hosted its first committee meeting Aug. 4 in the Royal ISD Early Childhood Center, 2300 Durkin Road in Brookshire.

The district is dealing with a growing student population as the Brookshire and Pattison areas see rapid residential development. Superintendent Rick Kershner said that two subdivisions, Freeman Ranch and Sunterra, are being expanded or under construction. Kershner said the Sunterra development will total about 7,000 homes, with 2,000 of them being in Royal ISD. The others, he said, would be in Katy ISD. Other developments, including the new LGI community, Blue Stern, La Sagarra, New Long Lake, New Pulte, Sofi Farms, and Jasek Farms, are in the works now. He shared a map that showed the growing development on the western side of the district.

"We can drive through all of these, so you know what's happening," Kershner said.

Kershner said the district has an enrollment of 2,680 students. Going forward, he said, the district's demographer predicted enrollment growth of about 200 students per year in the next two to three years. The demographer predicted enrollment growth of about 600-800 students per year in the next four to six years.

See **ROYAL**, page A3

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Roland Parker of Impress Computers to talk about the biggest mistakes to avoid in technology

Roland Parker of Impress Computers will speak about the biggest mistakes to avoid when it comes to technology at the next Katy Area Chamber of Commerce meeting. The meeting is set for Aug. 25 at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, 814 East Ave., Ste. G. Topics to be covered include backing up computers, dealing with insecure emails, dealing with outdated software, lack of protection against power outages and surges and no preventative maintenance or monitoring. Admission is \$25 for members, \$40 for prospective members. For more information, call the chamber at 281-391-5289.



Fort Bend County Judge KP George.

is encouraging top semiconductor chip manufacturing businesses to extend their operations to Fort Bend County following Congress' bipartisan approval of the \$280 billion "CHIPS and Science Act," which is aimed at building up America's chip manufacturing and developing other critical technological innovations. The act authorizes Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Defense (DoD), and Department of State (DOS) activities to develop onshore domestic manufacturing of semiconductors critical to U.S. competitiveness and national security. Currently, only 12% of chips are manufactured domestically and the United States lacks the capabilities to produce the most advanced chips at volume. Microchips play a crucial role in the operation of daily consumer products including automobiles, smartphones, medical equipment, washing machines and more. "Fort Bend County is known for our highly trained employees, strategic international location, and a business-friendly environment. Many major technology companies like Amazon and Texas Instruments already call Fort Bend County home, and appealing to technology manufacturing businesses is important for our local job growth in Fort Bend County, the state of Texas, and the Country," George said. George said opening more semiconductor manufacturing plants in Fort Bend County will strengthen American technology and supply chain, giving the nation a competitive edge in the future. Letters from George were sent to the CEOs of Intel Corporation, Texas Instruments, Broadcom Corporation, Qualcomm and Samsung Electronics North America.



PEXELS

Clothed by Faith is seeking clothing donations as local students prepare to return to school.

Wild West Brewfest looking for volunteers

The annual Wild West Brewfest, organized by the Rotary Club of Katy, is seeking sponsors, volunteers, leaders and auction items as preparations continue for the event. The Rotary Club of Katy has donated proceeds—almost \$1 million since its inception—to local schools, organizations and charities. Over 100 brewers will be featured with over 750 different types of beers. The brewfest also features live music, with the Queen Legacy Band closing the event on the final night. The brewfest is set for Nov. 3-5 and will be held for the first time at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road. Tickets range in price from \$25-125. For more information, visit the website wildwestbrewfest.com.

Clothed by Faith helping with clothing donations

Clothed by Faith, 802 Dominion Drive, Ste. 100, is hoping to help 1,500 students get ready for a successful school year. Clothed By Faith gives a week's worth of school clothing to children and teens across Katy and the Greater Houston area. The organization is seeking donations that will give these students confidence, hope, and dignity. For more information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3ply1gx, or call Clothed by Faith at 281-676-8837.

George touts Fort Bend County to tech company executives

Fort Bend County Judge KP George

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Dr. Shawn and (the late) Tina Isdale of Harker Heights announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their daughter, Sagen Ember Isdale, of Liberty Hill, to Keith Wayne Kmiec, of Liberty Hill, son of Mark Kmiec of Rockport and Elizabeth Aiken of Katy.

The bride-elect is a 2006 graduate of Harker Heights High School. She then went on to Kilgore College where she was a world famous Kilgore College Rangerette from 2006-2008. Sagen then pursued her degree with a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion and Retail Management and a minor in interior design from The Art Institute of Dallas in 2010. She currently works at Realty Austin and is the owner and operator of 'Simplify with Sage' based in central Texas, established in January 2020.

The bridegroom-elect is a 2001 graduate of Mayde Creek High School. Keith received a Bachelor of Arts in Business with a focus in finance from Texas State University in 2005. He was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity from 2001-2005. He is currently a financial advisor with an FSCP designation.

The couple plans a January 21, 2023 wedding at The Preserve at Canyon Lake in Canyon Lake, Texas.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Breezed through
- Time units (abbr.)
- Pigeon's murmur
- Moves aside in fright
- Partner to "ahh"
- Taxis
- Monetary units of Turkey
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Prolific Italian opera composer
- Restaurants
- One's grandmother
- Ancient Greek City
- Italian mountain ranges
- Data
- Acted in an obedient way
- Autonomic nervous system
- Not on the up-and-up
- Mock lightly
- Mimic
- Built
- A neighborhood
- Inflammation of the kidneys
- Semitic fertility god
- Temporary name of Seaborgium
- Wise people
- Tear down
- __-fi (slang)
- Diamond weight
- Frosted

CLUES DOWN

- Sign language
- In style
- Norwegian river
- People with impaired hearing
- Large stinging paper wasp
- Bucharest is its capital
- River in Ireland
- Type of TV
- Double-reed instruments
- Spanish motorcycle manufacturer
- Midway between south and southeast
- French commune
- Alike
- A bachelor's apartment
- Foot part between the ball and ankle
- Belonging to a thing
- Japanese classical theater
- Supervises flying
- Not even
- Capital of Saudi Arabia
- Electronic countermeasure
- Consumed
- American politician (abbr.)

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

KATYTIMES.COM

Growth in Royal ISD

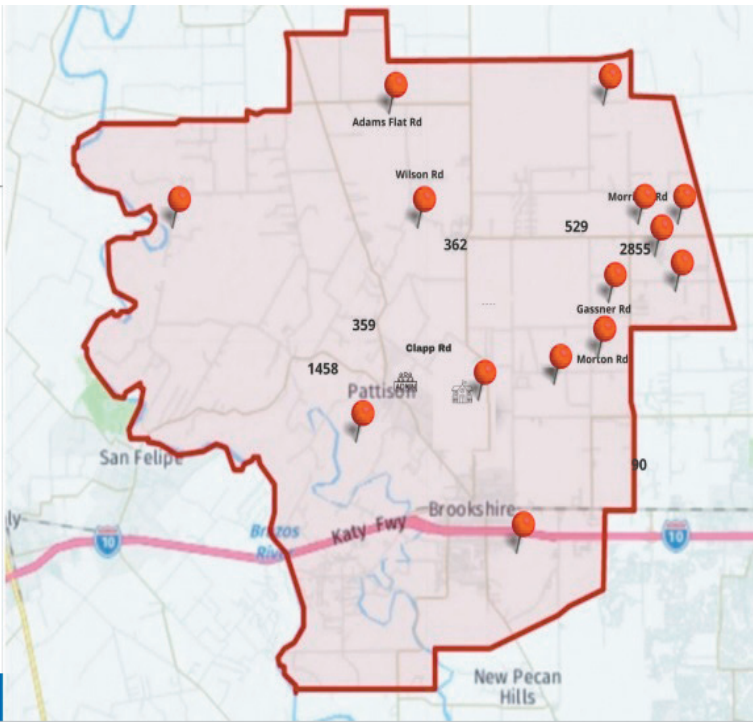
Expansions / Under Construction

- Freeman Ranch Expansion
- Sunterra (Land Tejas)

Upcoming Developments

- New LGI Homes Community
- Blue Stem (Signorelli)
- La Sagarra (Bold Fox)
- New Long Lake Community
- New Pulte Community
- Sofi Lakes
- Jasek Farms

Royal FAC Meeting #1



ROYAL ISD

ROYAL

from page A1

Despite the growth, district voters have rejected four of the last six bond package proposals since 2000. The most recent was in November 2021, when voters rejected a \$99.5 million package. Kershner said that package included an additional Pre-K through 5th grade elementary school, a replacement junior high school, and renovations for the STEM Academy, existing elementary school, early childhood center, existing junior high school, and transportation center. Had voters approved the package, the existing junior high school would have been repurposed, Kershner said.

Committee members were asked to discuss reasons why they felt the last three bond packages failed. Three reasons cited were a lack of information, poor marketing and promotion of the bond package, and low voter turnout.

The last voter-approved bond package came in 2006. The package, for approximately \$63 million, went towards the construction of the current Royal High School,

which opened in 2009. It also included the Royal Early Childhood Center and other renovations and improvements.

Committee members will hold a series of meetings over the next few months to review the district's needs and decide what to include in a potential bond package. Next month, committee members will tour district facilities.

Kershner said the district will provide ideas and suggestions for what might go into a bond package, but committee members will also provide input. Security will be among those issues.

Kershner said if he could pick just one item to be addressed, it would be to replace the junior high school. It is the district's oldest school, built in 1967.

"That facility has the greatest need as far as an upgrade for the facility," Kershner said. "We did some upgrades with restrooms and HVAC. It's an older facility and we're close to capacity there already. It has some great needs for an upgrade. That's a tough



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Michael Glover, Royal ISD board president, speaks at the facilities advisory committee meeting.

question, because we're ultimately going to need a new elementary school as well."

Michael Glover, Royal ISD school board president, encouraged committee members.

"No matter where these students are from, they can succeed in this global society and would want to use these facilities to help them do that," Glover said. "We can do it through commitment, through accountability, through trust. We can get this thing done and we can make sure that we're presenting the best instructional environment for our kids to thrive in."

Katy ISD adjusts elementary bell schedule for school year

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

When the 2022-23 school year begins, Katy ISD elementary students will see a slight adjustment to their bell schedule. The adjusted elementary bell schedule will help alleviate transportation challenges related to route times and driver shortages.

Effective August 2022, elementary campuses will fall under one of three tiers:

- Tier A (7:50 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- Mid-Tier (8:10 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.)
- Tier B (8:30 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.)

"In an effort to maximize bus routes, minimize service delays and accommodate for our current driver shortage, the adjusted elementary bell schedule is a mechanism to assist the Transportation Department in improving the services it offers eligible bus riders," Ted Vierling, the district's chief of operations, said. "Additionally, this allows the district to better utilize its drivers."

The bell schedule adjustment only affects elementary campuses. There will be no change to the 2022-23 Katy ISD junior high

and high school bell schedules. Below are the three tiers with assigned campuses:

Tier A Elementary Campuses (7:50 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Alexander, Campbell, Cimarron, Hayes, Hutsell, McRoberts, Memorial Parkway, Rhoads, Rylander, Sundown, Winborn and WoodCreek.

Mid-Tier Elementary Campuses (8:10 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.)

Bear Creek, Bethke, Bryant, Exley, Fielder, Franz, Golbow, Griffin, Holland, Katy, Mayde Creek, McElwain, Morton Ranch, McElwain, Morton Ranch, Randolph, Shafer, Stanley, West Memorial, Williams, Wilson, and Wolfe.

Tier B Elementary Campuses (8:30 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.)

Creech, Davidson, Jenks, Kilpatrick, King, Leonard, Pattison, Robertson, Schmalz, Stephens and Wolman.

Parents can determine if their child or children are eligible for bus service by visiting the Katy ISD Transportation WebQuery page, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3di6dq.

SUPPLIES

from page A1

tional products and women's boutique items," Vickrey said. "That's how Isikel came along. We started as a promotional products company and we were able to shift during the pandemic when actually some of our promotional products people are looking for masks and gloves. We were able to use her contacts define masks and

gloves and we were like, hey, this could really be something. We ran both parts of the business simultaneously for almost a year and then we decided to split off and really just focus on the medical supplies."

Vickrey said the company expects to have its formal ribbon cutting later this year, when temperatures cool down a bit.

CORRECTIONS

In its Aug. 4 story, "Backpacks, school supplies being gathered and distributed for students returning to school," the Times reported the Operation Back 2 School took place Aug. 2. It took place Aug. 6.

In its July 28 story, "Brookshire planning to create city administrator position; Pattison looking to remodel its city hall," the Times reported that establishing a city administrator position would mean an update to the Brookshire City Charter. Brookshire is a Type A General Law City and does not have a charter. Katy, by contrast, is a home rule city and has a charter.

The Times regrets the errors.

SCHULTE

from page A1

shooting)," Schulte said. "So, safety is very important. (We want to) make sure they've got the funding for that."

The district is building more schools to meet its growing enrollment, which earlier this year reached 90,000 students.

"This is something that I really didn't understand until I got on the board is the way the funding happens," Schulte said. "Everybody would come to me and say, why don't we just print more money? Why doesn't the school district get more money? It doesn't work that way."

Schulte said the state of Texas determined that every student gets \$6,160 on a given day.

"And as property values go up, you'd think, well, we're going to make more money and the \$6,160 should go up," Schulte said. "It doesn't work that way. The \$6,160 is here. We split it with the state and if property values

go up, then what happens is the tax rates go down. There's no way to get more than \$6,160. The only way to get more money is with more students. And the rate, by the way, has remained unchanged since 2019."

In May, trustees approved a 5% pay increase for teachers and hourly personnel, with all other personnel receiving 3% increases. The budget is being revised to accommodate this change, but Schulte said approximately 88% of the budget focuses on staff salaries and benefits. What to change in the remaining 12% will be a challenge.

"We don't want to certainly rob Peter to pay Paul and end up having problems with our facilities," Schulte said. "So, it's a complex situation when you want to do things and you don't have the money to do it."

Schulte said trustees heard concerns about differing raises.

"I understand a lot of people were upset about it," Schulte said. "We thought it was the right thing to do and it hasn't been done. It hadn't been done so we that. That resulted in a minor (approximately \$12 million) deficit. We wanted to do more."

One option trustees are considering is a tax ratification election, which if set would take place in November. In such an election, district

voters must approve a proposed tax rate.

"Let's decide if there's a compelling case to do this TRE," Schulte said. "If we waited, we wouldn't have the option. We've got the option. We can do it. We cannot do it. We don't know if we're going to do it or not. That's what we're going to be deciding on here pretty shortly."

Schulte said property taxes went up significantly in Katy, and the district was therefore making a lot more money.

"This is constant, so the tax rate went down," Schulte said. "What would happen this year if we don't do the TRE is the tax rate is actually going to go down to 4.69 cents. That's what would happen."

Asked what the harm would be in proceeding with a TRE, Schulte said there was one downside.

"In the current environment, people are frustrated with taxes," Schulte said. "They think their taxes are too high so this would be something where now if you give the tax dollars back—the downside is you're letting me keep the tax dollars we were going to give back. So, the downside is, for the average household it's \$150 a year that you would have to not take back and let the school district keep it so we could give it to the staff."

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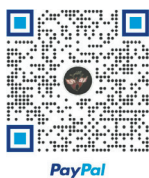
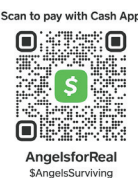
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Is the gardening craze growing on you?

According to the National Gardening Association, the number of households growing their own vegetables, fruit and other foods has tripled since 2008. (Coincidentally, the number of households stocking up on earplugs to keep from hearing neighbors brag about growing their own vegetables, fruit and other foods has also tripled since 2008. But I digress.)

Since last year alone, multi-family community gardens have increased by 22 percent. Such gardens would spread even faster if organizers could weed out the “participants” who try to abuse the division of labor.

For instance, the “researcher” who helps out by lying all day on his sofa, analyzing the 1978 film “Attack of the Killer Tomatoes.” (“Hey, Mike—I’m going to need another bucket of that locally produced popcorn, with locally produced hot butter. Chop chop!”)

In times of high inflation, a home garden can be a lifesaver. Financially strapped consumers can save money while also eating a more nutrient-rich diet. Consequently, they will have the funds and energy to go out campaigning for the politicians who got them into times of high inflation to start with! Some people’s gourds have been out in the sun too long, if you catch my drift.

Today’s gardeners love communing with Mother Nature—assuming Mother Nature recognizes them through all the insect repellent and SPF bazillion sunscreen.

Neophyte gardeners revel in the convenience of walking right out and plucking an edible from the vine—after first scheduling an emergency visit with the chiropractor. (“I’m tired, doc, but it’s a good... golly, are those x-rays even human???”)

Gardeners take pride in doing their small share to reduce their carbon footprint. Or is it that they take pride in doing their small share to use soil stolen from Indigenous peoples to cut migratory farm laborers, truck drivers and grocers out of a job? I always get those confused.



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Today’s gardens hearken back to the patriotic Victory Gardens of World War II. But our modern culture can reduce their status to more of a “Waving the White Flag” garden. (“Okay, Junior, but you have to promise to help shell these nutritious peas after I drive you around the corner and buy you a 64-ounce Medium Gulp. And no, there’s not an app for shelling peas.”)

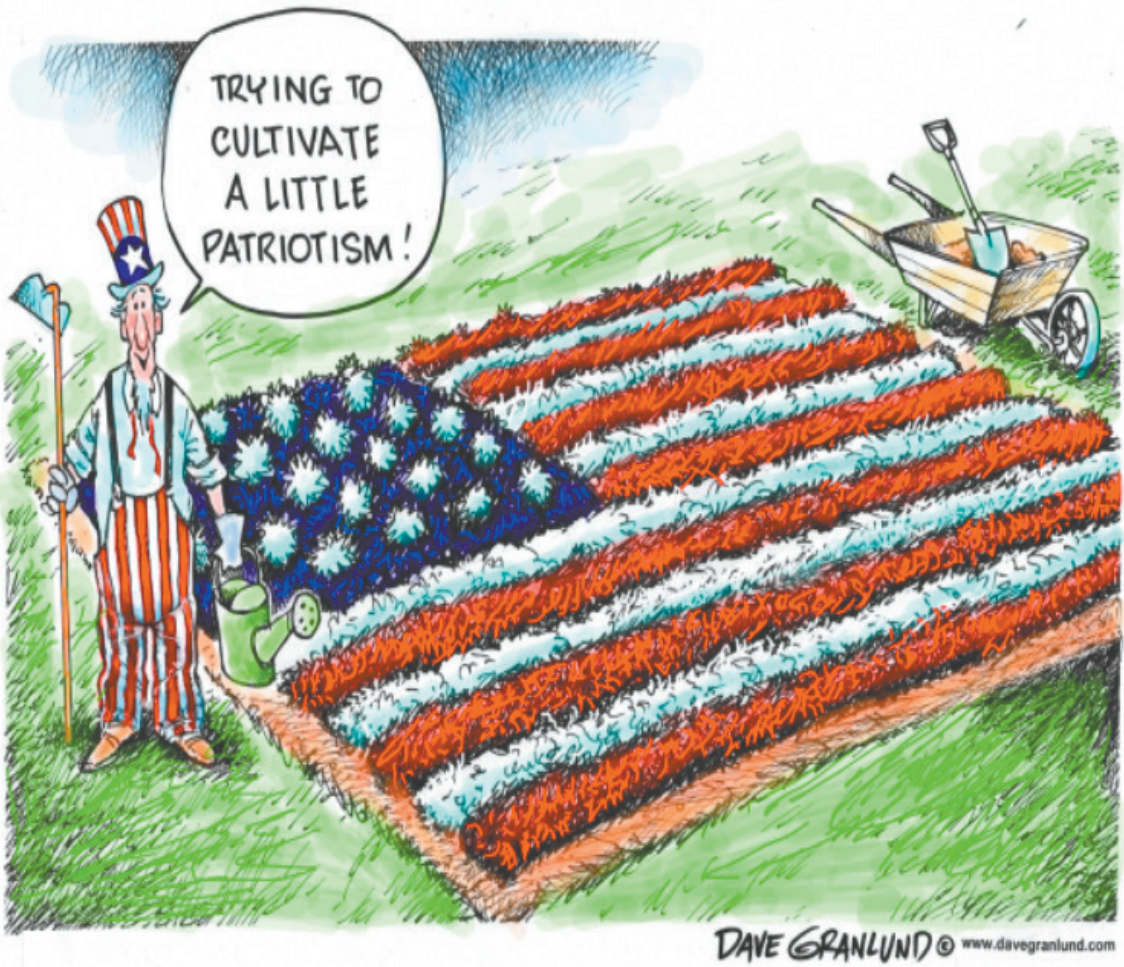
Sometimes gardeners get a little too emotionally involved in their horticultural hobby. They aren’t satisfied to let professionals 2,000 miles away tend to pesticides. No, they insist on going the “This time it’s personal!” route when dispatching aphids, worms and beetles. If these people load me down with a two-year supply of rutabagas, I thank them profusely and walk backwards all the way to the car.

Believe me, I understand about dissatisfaction with cardboard-adjacent vegetables that are engineered for transportation and storage. On the other hand, gardeners sometimes get on their high horse and twist everyday words into strong pejoratives. (“Yes, my husband is a vegetable since his accident, but at least he’s not a store-bought vegetable!”)

It will be interesting to see how many gardeners are in it for the long haul (pardon my French, logistics-phobes) and how many are just dabbling with a new pastime in the post-pandemic era.

Overheard at a dinner party: “I am serious. This is not a fad. I don’t do fads. Now pass the brussels sprouts and help yourself to more of the Tide Pods soufflé and Beanie Babies casserole.”

Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetygrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page “Tyree’s Tyrades.” Danny’s weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.



The keys to living well

Comedian Carl Reiner was good at living well—and he lived well until the age of 98. I recently watched his 2017 HBO documentary, “If You’re Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast.”

It introduces viewers to several people who are flourishing in their 90s—running races at 100, doing yoga at 98, playing the piano professionally at 100—and it really does inspire people of all ages to get off their duff and take life by the horns.

Average life expectancy has taken a hit in the past few years due to COVID which claimed 1 million Americans, and opioid overdoses, which claimed 100,000 in 2021, reports Fortune.

It’s particularly heartbreaking that so many of the opioid deaths were young people, who had their whole lives still before them.

What a loss of human potential. Despite recent life-expectancy setbacks, however, the truth is, technological innovation will continue to extend our lifespans.

According to the World Future Society, advances in nanotechnology and cell and gene manipulation may eventually keep humans alive for 120 to 500 years.

I have zero desire to live 500 years, but after watching Reiner’s wonderful documentary, I am inspired to dive into life with more passion and gusto right now, at age 60.



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Living well and living an active life has nothing to do with age, but with the decisions we make every single day.

And choosing to live with greater vitality is not so hard to do.

Reiner says the key to having vitality in your life is to do something that makes you eager to get out of bed every morning.

In his case it was writing. He wrote a book every year in his 90s. He found a way to share his legendary humor with the rest of us.

I am finally embracing such wisdom.

I wake now at 6 a.m. and once I get my lovable lab, Thurber, situated, I go to a writer’s nook I created in an unused bedroom and work on a new dog-related blog and a book about my first year as a new dog dad. (The website is ThurbersTail.com.)

Such simple writing brings me tremendous joy and gives me a burst of energy to manage the often-stressful communications consulting work I do for corporate clients during the rest of my working day.

Reiner’s documentary says that another key to vitality is to keep moving. Get up. Get out. Meet friends. Make eye contact.

We are social animals and eye contact, conversation and a hearty laugh shared with friends are the foundations of vitality.

If there is something you’ve always wanted to do, there’s no time like the present, so get off your butt and do it.

Reiner explains how his wife Estelle didn’t start her jazz singing career until she turned 60. She recorded seven albums and performed in jazz clubs until she passed away at the age of 94.

It’s easy to let unpleasant current events—inflation, recession, political bickering—weigh our spirits down.

It’s important to follow what is happening in our government and exercise our right to vote.

But what is even more important is that we choose to live fully doing something meaningful and doing something we love every single day, no matter how old we are.

We become better sons and brothers and neighbors and citizens that way—to the benefit of us all.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

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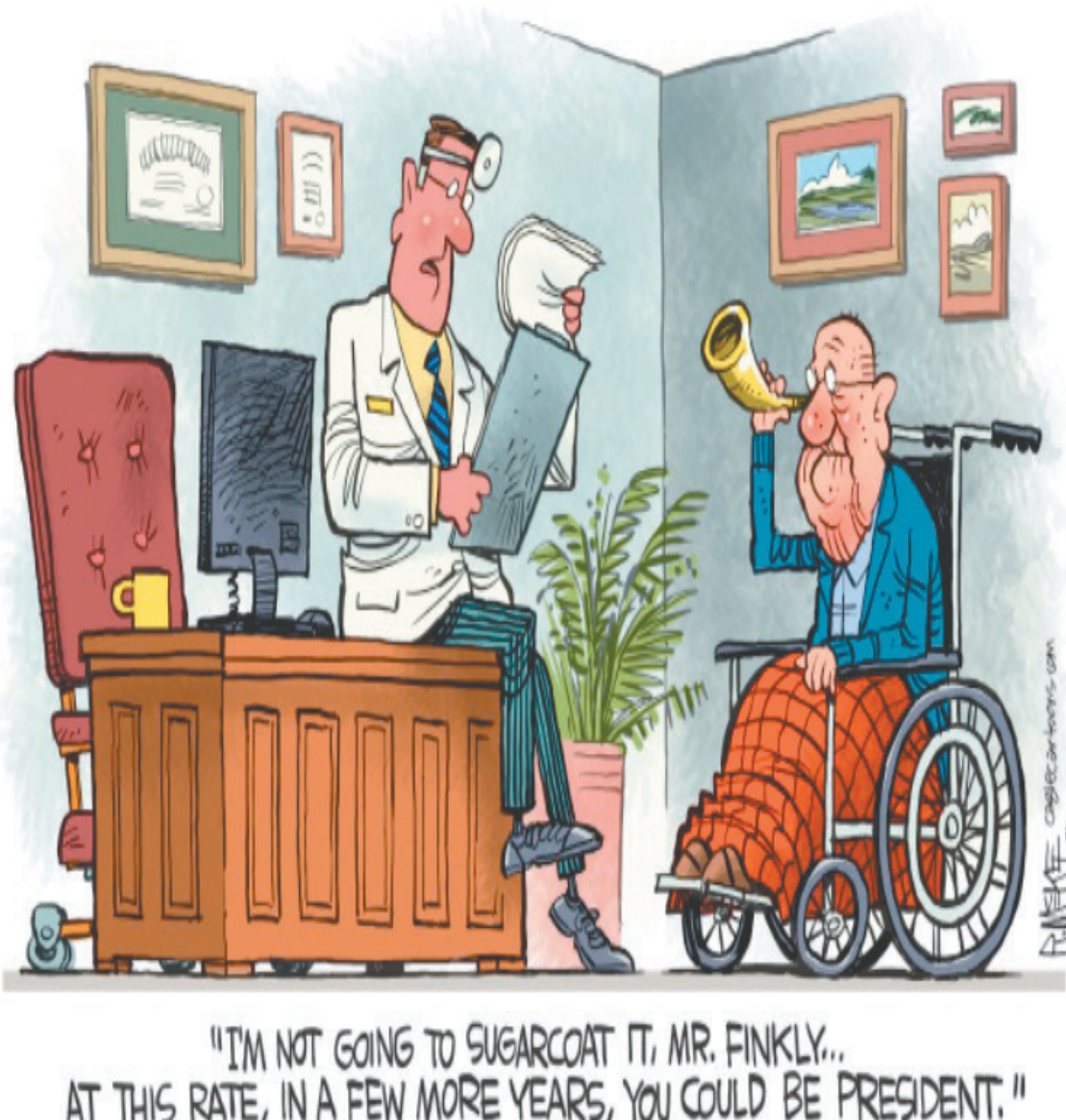
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TRIBUTES

This is the story of Shaan Ann Tippet, an extraordinary woman who was deeply loved, adored, and cherished. Shaan was the best wife, mom, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, friend, and co-worker anyone could be blessed with. Jesus called her home on July 24th, 2022, and she passed with great peace at home in Sugarland, Texas, surrounded by Dallas, David, Judy, Justin, and some dear girlfriends, following a two-and-a-half-year battle with ovarian cancer.



SHAAN ANN TIPPETT
AUGUST 1966-JULY 24, 2022

Shaan's story started in August 1966; born the first child of Pat and Judy Caradine in Tennessee and raised in Childress, Texas, with a few years living overseas and graduating from high school in Amarillo, Texas. She began her adult life's adventure in Dallas / Ft. Worth, where Shaan and David met and began their 33-year romance. They created their lifelong dreams while sailing countless nights on Lake Grapevine. Shaan and David were married in 1990 at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Shaan and David were blessed to experience the Four Corners region in the big city of Farmington, New Mexico, and that is where God blessed them with His gift of their precious daughter, Dallas. From there, the family of three relocated to Sugarland, Texas. Shaan and David spent the last 28 years enjoying life together, raising their extraordinary daughter and living out the promises of Jeremiah 29:11.

Shaan dedicated her life to serving others in Sugarland in many ways; She founded the local New Territory Women's Association and helped organize and support numerous church women retreats, countless church events and prayer groups. She had a strong passion for helping others experience Jesus. She enjoyed the pleasures of a life well lived through many family gatherings, girls' trips, concerts, bunco, UM Army mission trips, parties, and Christmas cookie exchanges.

She loved her professional calling as a

church bookkeeper for Parkway United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church – Missouri City. This calling fueled her passion for serving others, bringing diverse groups of people together, and sharing her optimistic spirit and her fun "Shine On" attitude.

Shaan's greatest happiness came from spending time with her family and numerous girlfriends. Her positive outlook on life and caring for others were her greatest gifts. She so loved being a mom and wife and was entirely devoted to loving Dallas and David.

Shaan's final wish was that we celebrate a life well lived, fulfilled, loved and the many blessings that Jesus provided her and every person that touched her life.

And so, the story goes on until we see Shaan again; we love you and miss you.

Shaan is survived by her husband, David Tippet, daughter Dallas Tippet Scheeler and her husband Justin Scheeler, mother Judy Caradine, stepmother Linda Caradine, father-in-law Jim Tippet, and uncle Benny Land. She is also survived by her brother-in-law Steven Tippet and sisters-in-law Shari Weade and Gloria Caradine, in addition to numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. She is preceded in death by her father, Pat Caradine, brother Patrick Caradine, and mother-in-law, Patricia Tippet.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Shaan's life will be held at 1 pm on Tuesday, August 30th, 2022, at her Church home – Grace Fellowship Church (main campus), located at 2655 South Mason Road in Katy, Texas. The service will also be live streamed for those unable to attend in person, and additional login details will be provided on social media a few days before the service.

Flowers are welcome and will only be accepted on August 29th and the morning of August 30th before 10 am at Grace Fellowship Church (main campus). The family encourages Memorials to be made to the charity of your choice.

John Lloyd Hartman, 74, of Katy, passed away Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, August 11, at Grace Fellowship Church, 2655 Mason Rd., Katy, Texas 77450.

John was born in Newark, Ohio to Orville and Helen Hartman on May 30, 1948. He was the youngest of three brothers, James and Arnold. He graduated from Newark High School, and pursued a business degree at Ohio State University. He also served as first lieutenant in the Ohio National Guard. During this time, John married Vicki Jo Mansfield in 1969. He started his career with Dow Chemical and after several moves, was sent to Houston, Texas.



JOHN LLOYD HARTMAN
MAY 30, 1948-JULY 20, 2022

He enjoyed living in Texas so much that he wanted to stay. John eventually owned and managed Spring Branch Exterminators for over 30 years.

John volunteered as a Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 424. This eventually led him to his favorite activity, scuba diving. John instructed hundreds of people to scuba dive and organized trips annually to Cozumel, Mexico for many years.

John is survived by his wife, Vicki; daughter, Holly Burleson; son, John (BJ) Hartman; grandchildren, Megan Burleson, Ashley Burleson, Ryler Hartman, and Emery Hartman.

GLEN ROY MOYER

APRIL 10, 1962 - JULY 20, 2022

Glen Roy Moyer passed away of a heart attack on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at his residence in Burton, Texas. Glen was born April 10, 1962 in Kingsville, Texas. He is survived by his greatest love, his daughter, Irish Katherine "Mookie" Moyer of College Station; his devoted partner and love, Leah Janes of Wesley; sisters Kathy Sue and husband, Martin Cornelius of Bryan; Shirley and husband, Wayne Beum of Industry; Barbara and husband, Mike Keese of Medina; Gaylene Chambers Moyer of Riverside; Kim



Moyer of Jewett; brother Michael Kyle "Mike" and wife, Jamette Moyer of Bandera; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at 4:00 pm at the Overlook Park Pavilion, Lake Somerville on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

You are invited to wear a sleeveless shirt in honor of Glen to this casual service.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Schmidt Funeral Home, PO Box 610, 12029 Hwy 36 S., Bellville, Texas, 77418 - (979)865-2424 www.schmidtfunerals.com.

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PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

CrossPoint Community Church merges with Emmaus Road Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

CrossPoint Community Church, founded in 1997, and Emmaus Road Katy, founded in 2016, have merged to become CrossRoad Church.

As one church member, Lupe Sosa, said, “I’ve never been a part of a church before, and never wanted to. But this is different.”

Pastor Paul Goeke said this feeling directly illustrates the heart of what CrossRoad has become.

Their official launch will be held during its regular worship time at 10 a.m. Sept. 18 at their campus on 700 S. Westgreen. CrossRoad is reaching out with an open invitation to the community with a circa 1970s NASA-inspired “Ready for Launch” theme.

The merger of CrossPoint and Emmaus Road Katy led by Lead Pastors Paul Goeke and Mike Weider, respectively, is the result of an 18-month effort—yet their history of working together goes

much further.

Emmaus Road, a relatively new church, was renting office space at CrossPoint at the time the pandemic had shut down in-person worship gatherings. “It just made sense for us to join forces and produce the Sunday morning worship experience together for livestream,” Weider said.

Said Goeke: “By this time, Pastor Mike and I had fully realized how much our mission and vision for reaching the Katy community were aligned.” After hearing several somewhat light-hearted statements of “This is fun, why don’t we just join the two churches into one,” church leadership began to seriously consider the possibility.

After several such conversations that also included CrossPoint’s Associate Pastor Curtiss Lanham, they felt it was time to approach their respective leadership teams.

“Ultimately it comes down to the decision of the congregation

with the blessing of our lay leaders,” Lanham said.

After a six-month feasibility study with the pastors and a cross-section of each church’s lay leaders, the congregations held a series of town hall meetings and eventually voted on the same Sunday afternoon last December in separate venues at the Westgreen campus. Both congregations voted yes.

“The alignment and unity we have experienced is nothing short of supernatural,” Weider said. “Not just among the pastoral staff, but all the way through our lay-leaders and beyond. The complementary nature of the two churches has been amazing. Everyone in our community seems to be sharing a similar feeling: ‘Something is not right in our world—in the way we view God, others, and even ourselves.’ We agree. And we want to create environments where people can experience peace with God, others, and themselves.”

Said Goeke: “People at



SUSAN ROVEGNO

CrossPoint Community Church, pictured, is merging with Emmaus Road Katy.

CrossRoad are accustomed to the pastors sharing their flaws from the pulpit. We all experience the messiness of life, so we may as well be honest about it. When people experience this and also get to serve alongside Hope Impacts as we host a bi-weekly ‘Supper and Showers’ homeless outreach, it really brings the spiritual into the everyday mess of life. Compassion for others and being honest about our own flaws fosters an intentional shepherding culture that

inspires every person to take their next spiritual step.”

CrossRoad’s mission is to create environments where people can experience peace with God, others, and themselves by taking intentional next steps following Jesus while shepherding others to take theirs.

CrossRoad includes CrossPoint Christian School, a preschool that has been named “Best Preschool in Katy” over 6 consecutive years (2016-2022).



TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Aircraft used to fight fires, such as this one, have seen action as hot and dry conditions continue in Texas.

Caution warranted as Texas continues to experience hot and dry conditions

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As hot and dry conditions persist, extremely dry vegetation will continue to support wildfire activity across much of the state, even as surface moisture increases in some areas.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms were forecast for the upper Texas Panhandle and near the Red River, while sea breeze activity and thunderstorms are possible for the upper Gulf Coast and East Texas. This moisture will provide short term improvement in vegetation dryness for these areas. While rainfall is forecast for some portions of the state, many areas will remain dry.

There is potential for larger wildfires to occur in the Eastern/Western Hill Country, Cross Timbers and eastern Rolling Plains into early next week.

Persistent temperatures above 100 degrees will continue to draw moisture from live vegetation. Mid-July live fuel samples in the Cross Timbers, Rolling Plains and Hill Country are at critical levels, making tree torching, or the transition of fire from the ground to the canopy of trees, likely with elevated fire weather conditions.

Texas A&M Forest Service monitors live fuel moistures across the state. The data

“It is imperative that everyone remains diligent with any activity that may cause a spark and check with local officials for burn bans or other restrictions.”

—Emily Wall, Texas A&M Forest Service

collected from these sample sites is used to determine the condition of vegetation and assists fire managers in deciding where to position resources.

“As conditions continue to deteriorate for much of the state, we remain proactive in ensuring the state has the necessary resources to respond to any wildfire,” said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. “Wildfire activity is occurring across the state, from border to border, and requires a lot of support. Texas A&M Forest Service continues to mobilize additional firefighters, equipment and aircraft, positioning them across the state for a quick response.”

In addition to the 300 Texas A&M Forest Service firefight-

ers, there are 1,080 firefighters from land management agencies across the nation as well as via the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System mobilized by the agency to assist with wildfire response.

Texas A&M Forest Service has also positioned 40 aircraft at 17 airports across the state to respond to wildfire incidents. Texas A&M Forest Service does not own any aviation resources but instead uses federal aviation contracts through the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for all firefighting aircraft.

“We need Texans to prevent wildfires from occurring under these conditions,” said Emily Wall, Texas A&M Forest Service Chief Operating Officer of Forest Resource Protection. “It is imperative that everyone remains diligent with any activity that may cause a spark and check with local officials for burn bans or other restrictions.”

There are currently 224 counties under a burn ban — the most the state has seen since Oct 24, 2011. During periods of drought and high wildfire danger, a county judge or commissioner’s court may enact a burn ban to protect the public and prevent human caused wildfires.

As hot temperatures and dry conditions continue, please consider the following:

Always obey local burn bans and outdoor burning restrictions. Wait to conduct any outdoor burning or light campfires until the burn ban has been lifted and weather conditions are not extremely hot, dry or windy.

Nine out of ten wildfires are human caused. When your county is under a burn ban, residents should avoid outdoor activities that may cause a spark, this includes welding, grinding, and using heavy machinery.

Many areas of Texas are experiencing high temperatures and dry weather. Residents should stay up to date on weather conditions and always use extreme caution when performing outdoor activities even if not under a burn ban.

Some areas of Texas have recently received rainfall. While rain can reduce wildfire danger temporarily, areas with limited rainfall will become dry again. Continue to obey burning restrictions until they have been lifted by your local officials.

For more information about burn bans in Texas, visit the website tfsweb.tamu.edu/TexasBurnBans/.

Stay wildfire aware. If a wildfire is spotted, immediately contact local authorities. A quick response can help save lives and property.

I want to sell my home; is top dollar still out there?

BY TIMOTHY GENE SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

As a top performing Realtor, my job is not just selling homes, but educating homeowners on market cycles. The real estate market as a whole, and Katy specifically, bask in the glory of rising home prices. For the last few years, almost any home that hit the market sold, no matter how ill-prepared the home was for presentation.

But, oh, how quickly the cards turn. This rabid seller’s market of the last few years has not morphed into a buyer’s market. Still, the market feels more, and is more, balanced.

With the new balanced market and rising interest rates, home sellers ask one question repeatedly: Can I still get top dollar for me home?

The answer is a resounding yes...but: Yes—but understand rank odors rank as number one deterrent to home sells. I have witnessed the smell of pet urine, smoking, sweaty athletic gear, or cooking spices keep buyers from entering a home.

Yes—but your home must no longer hit the market looking like a frat party occurred there the night before your open house. You think I’m exaggerating. I’m not.

Yes—but you must have your home professionally cleaned the day before it hits the market and once a week until it sells. Pay special attention to removing dead bugs and cleaning all toilets.

Yes—but you must remove all proof animals live onsite. Especially the first week the home hits the market. Some buyers do not believe animals belong in a home. I love my dog too, Sadie, she’s adorable—but I digress. If a friend or neighbor owes you a favor, have them pet sit.

Yes—but take down all religious symbols, sports logos, and cultural iconography. I’m betting your stuff is cool. So cool, in fact, that you should pack it in advance to make sure it gets to your new home safely.

Yes—but take down family pictures. I’m sure your family looks Ralph Lauren-esque, but the buyers need to see themselves, not you in the home.

Yes—but remove all boisterous color, make your home as neutral as possible.

Yes—but you must think like a real estate flipper, and make your home stand out with stylish features. Flippers focus on lipstick and rouge, and they make the home pretty.

Yes—but have a professional stager maximize your furniture and artwork to show your home in its best light.

Most importantly, yes—but you must have a real estate agent willing to have tough talks with you about the new market and the steps necessary to maximize values.

It sounds like a lot of work. The great news is that it is not. An experienced, professional Realtor should have all the resources to help you. You’ll know you’ve hired the right person when they present you with a list of contractors in their initial interview.

So, can you get top dollar for your home? Yes—but make the right phone call to get the process started.

Timothy Sojka is the broker of the See TIM Sell Team at Keller Williams; his team has sold over 2,500 homes. Tim is also the author of the Amazon #1 political thrillers Payback Jack and Politickill.

KATYTIMES.COM

5K supports charity focused on special needs runners

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Area Running Club's (KARC) Back to School 5K not only provides the local running community with a fun Labor Day event but supports a charity focused on including special needs children and adults in running events.

The Back to School 5K is set for 7 a.m. Sept. 5. New for 2022 is a title sponsor, the British International School of Houston, and the addition of a kids' 1K race.

The race course will run on Peek Road, starting and finishing at the Villagio Town Center on Westheimer Parkway.

KARC was founded in 2016 to provide group running opportunities and social events for local runners. From the very beginning, the club also wanted to host a race for the general running community. KARC ultimately decided to donate the bib fees from the race to a local charity. Initially, the bib fees were donated to the Katy Students Run (KSR), a program in which local high school students learned to set goals through mentorship and training for a half-marathon. From 2016 to 2018, KARC donated a total of \$19,000 to KSR. After that organization folded, KARC looked for a new charity to support.

Ainsley's Angels, a group that provides opportunities for special needs children and young adults to participate in endurance events, came to KARC's attention through KARC members Shawn and Paige Siemers. Shawn and his daughter had participated



KATY AREA RUNNING CLUB

The Katy Area Running Club's Back to School 5K run is set for 7 a.m. Sept. 5. The race course will run on Peek Road, starting and finishing at the Villagio Town Center on Westheimer Parkway.

in races with Ainsley's Angels, with Shawn pushing Anna in a specialized wheelchair. Over time, other KARC members became wheelchair pushers for other Ainsley's Angels members.

The group was founded by Major Kim "Rooster" Rossiter, who had a child with a disability. Rossiter and his wife noticed that, when they took her on walks in her wheelchair, her face would light up and she would smile. Rossiter decided to take her on a run, and the same thing happened.

Rossiter started running races with his daughter, and then got the idea to start an organization that would ensure everyone can experience an endurance event no matter what disability they have. He also wanted

to build awareness of America's special needs community through the inclusion of the disabled into local racing events.

Named for Rossiter's daughter Ainsley, Rossiter started the first chapter in Louisiana. Today, more than 70 chapters exist throughout the country, said Tracey Finch, southeast Texas ambassador for Ainsley's Angels. Finch works with local race directors to provide entries for Ainsley's Angels and recruits runners to push the riders.

Ainsley's Angels participants have all kinds of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, epilepsy, and autism. "For the disabled, just signing up for a race is not that simple," Finch explained. "Not all races are wheelchair friendly."

Making a race more accessible to wheelchair participants can include giving them a head start before other runners. This way, they can spread out across the course, giving space to other racers once they start. Since riders and their families often must pay for a custom-made wheelchair for races, Ainsley's Angels ensures that their race entrance fees are comped.

A lot of work and coordination goes into allowing riders to participate. But once things are set in motion, it's a lot of fun, Finch said.

Finch has been overwhelmed by the generosity of KARC. At the 2019 race, Finch got to speak about the Ainsley's Angels mission. "They really seemed to care about who we were," Finch recalled of KARC's reaction to Ainsley's Angels. After the event, KARC con-

tacted Finch and said they had decided to donate 100% of the race bib fees, \$7,500, to Ainsley's Angels. KARC donated the \$6,000 in bib fees from the 2020 Back to School 5K to Ainsley's Angels, and again will donate fees from this year's race to the group.

"It was clear that KARC cares more about having a good time and pushing riders than they care about the time they get at a race," said Finch. "To me that is extremely special."

Ainsley's Angels used the money donated from the 2019 Back to School 5K to purchase a 20-foot trailer to transport specialized running chairs. The money the group fundraises primarily goes to pay for these chairs, which can range in cost from \$1,000 for smaller children to up to \$6,000 for older participants.

"Because we have riders with all kinds of disabilities, the chairs won't fit certain body types," Finch said. "When a family decides they want to ride all the time but may not be comfortable in a chair because of legs or back, we hook them up with Rooster and his team and they work with designers to make custom chairs for the riders."

Working with the riders and their families, Finch has seen the joy they get from participating in Ainsley's Angels. Her own life also has been enriched by pushing riders in races. "There's just something about doing something for somebody else," Finch said. "You realize that there are so many more important things in life than going to the mall."

Runners and walkers can sign up at the website, the abbreviated URL for which is <https://bit.ly/3A0NHvB>.



OFFICE OF REP. JACEY JETTON

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan, in the foreground, joined school officials from Fort Bend County school districts to discuss safety measures before school resumes for many area students this month. Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz is third from left, wearing his hat.

UHV enters partnership with Amazon Career Choice Program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The University of Houston-Victoria, along with other University of Houston System schools, recently has joined a partnership with the Amazon Career Choice Program to help Amazon employees complete a higher education degree.

Amazon's Career Choice program is an educational benefit that empowers Amazon employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. Amazon provides a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including full college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs, and foundational skills such as English language proficiency, high school diplomas and GEDs.

Katy is home to both an Amazon distribution center and a building where students can take UHV courses.

The partnership, which includes all the schools within the University of Houston System, officially began this spring, and UHV is accepting Amazon employees in the program for student enrollment.

"I am excited about this added partnership to UHV because we strive to make higher education accessible to working adults, and this is another partnership that can help us achieve those goals," Karla DeCuir, UHV assistant provost for distance learning, said. "UHV has focused on making an adult admissions and transfer-friendly program, as well as flexible and affordable class schedules so that those who want to finish a college degree can do so. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students joining us from Amazon."

The Amazon Career Choice Program launched in 2012 and is live in 14 countries, including the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, South Africa, Costa Rica, Slovakia and Australia. More than 80,000 Amazon employees have participated globally since its inception, including more than 35,000 in the U.S.

The program offers three education paths for employees: foundations, which includes high school diplomas, GEDs and English as a Second Language proficiency certifications; education and job training in

academic programs and skilled trades; and college credits toward a certificate, associate degree or bachelor's degree. In the U.S., the company is investing \$1.2 billion to up-skill more than 300,000 Amazon employees by 2025 to help move them into higher-paying, in-demand jobs. The program's most popular fields of study globally include health care, transportation and information technology.

"We are very pleased to be a part of this initiative with the Amazon Career Choice Program," Chance Glenn, UHV provost and vice president for academic affairs, said. "Programs like this are aligned with UHV's commitment to providing students with a quality education and the skills they need to be successful. We look forward to our future with helping Amazon employees obtain their degrees."

UHV is in a great position to be a part of this program as the university works with many working adults around their schedules to earn degrees, DeCuir said. While students could have the option of taking classes in person, UHV offers options that can be completed online. One program UHV offers is FastTrak, bachelor's and master's degrees offered in eight-week online courses. Depending on the program the student enrolls in, and their schedule, students can attend classes in the evenings as well. There are also Amazon hubs within 30 minutes from the UHV Katy instructional site.

The Amazon Career Choice Program is available to hourly full-time and part-time employees who have worked at Amazon for at least 90 continuous days. Amazon will provide funds for tuition and fees for the student through a voucher. Employees must apply for funding through the voucher process, and they must also follow the UHV admission and application process.

Amazon employees interested in enrolling in the program and attending UHV for the fall semester should aim to have their vouchers turned in to the university by the beginning of August. Vouchers can be submitted via email at billing@uhv.edu or mailed to the university labeled "Attention: Student Billing."

For more information, visit the website uhv.edu/amazon.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Teach Plus Texas names two Katy educators to its sixth cohort of policy fellows

Teach Plus, a national nonprofit that empowers teachers to lead improvements in educational policy and instructional practice, has named two Katy educators among a group of 45 demonstrably effective teachers from around the state of Texas as its 2022-2023 Policy Fellowship cohort.

Chosen were Dwayne Lacy, a teacher at Beckendorf Junior High, and Tompkins High School teacher Karen Sparks, of the Katy Independent School District.

The Fellows, all of whom are classroom teachers, will focus on a range of issues of importance to Texas' teachers, students, and parents, including teacher preparation, recruitment and retention of teachers of color, assessments and accountability, mental health, teacher compensation, and much more.

"Teach Plus Texas is excited to welcome the sixth cohort of Policy Fellows to our Texas Policy Fellowship," Kevin Malonson, Teach Plus executive director, said. "We are proud to have over 250 Fellows and alumni across the state of Texas and are excited to continue to elevate teacher voice while highlighting the power of teacher leadership. With challenges such as the lingering effects of COVID-19 and the shrinking teacher pipeline, our Fellows are poised to advocate for data-driven solutions that benefit Texas teachers and students. When the 88th Legislative session commences, Teach Plus Fellows expect to weigh in on critical issues such as teacher preparation, education funding, and mental health support for teachers and students."

Tanitra Robinson, a Teach Plus Policy Fellow and elementary teacher in the Houston Independent School District, said being a Fellow is an opportunity gain an understanding of how educational policies are created at the local, state and federal levels.

"I look forward to developing and utilizing skills that will assist me when advocating for scholars in my classroom, representing educators, and creating new solutions for the greater good of all," Robinson said.

With 73% of the new Fellows being teachers of color, this Teach Plus cohort is representative of the diversity of the state of Texas and its students. The Fellows' teaching experience ranges from two to twenty-six years and they teach grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade and all subjects including English Language Arts, special education, CTE health

science, theater arts, music, social studies, and more. They have attended a variety of preparation institutions, from traditional to alternative teacher preparation programs.

The mission of Teach Plus is to empower excellent, experienced, and diverse teachers to take leadership over key policy and practice issues that affect their students' success. Since 2009, Teach Plus has developed thousands of teacher leaders across the country to exercise their leadership in shaping education policy and improving teaching and learning, to create an education system driven by access and excellence for all. teachplus.org

British International School of Houston to host open house

The British International School of Houston, 2204 N. Westgreen Blvd., will host an open house from 10-11 a.m. Sept. 14 at its campus.

For more information, call the school at 713-290-9025.

Fort Bend officials hold school safety briefing in preparation for back-to-school activities

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan, Rep. Ron Reynolds, and Rep. Jacey Jetton led an Aug. 2 briefing on increased security and innovative measures to ensure the safety of Fort Bend schools.

"All the school safety policies and procedures in the world are not helpful if there is no follow-through," Jetton said. "Our state, school, and local law enforcement leadership are working together to ensure our school safety policies are robust and fully implemented. As a community, we have a responsibility to be vigilant in recognizing potential threats and ensure we are reporting concerns to authorities. We must also recognize and stand up for those around us who are in need."

Law enforcement officials provided updates on the improved methods used to assess and eliminate active-shooter threats and incidents, including improvements to mental health resources. School leaders, Reynolds and Jetton spoke on school safety funding, security policies, and incident response procedures.

Lamar Consolidated Independent School District Roosevelt Nivens urged the public to not forget about school safety as a new school year begins.

"Let's make sure school safety is the first thing on our minds every day," Nivens said.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, center, celebrates with Daxus Nesossi and Tasha McDonald, who were recognized at the Aug. 4 Region 4 Teachers of the Year ceremony. The annual Teachers of the Year program honors teachers who exemplify best practices in student instruction and innovative classroom environments throughout the region.

OPERATION BACK 2 SCHOOL



Compassion Katy held its annual Operation Back 2 School event Saturday at the Merrell Center. The event provides backpacks and school supplies to over 1,500 students at the 18 Katy ISD Title I schools.

DESIGN HONORS



Alyssa Treadway, a Jordan High School student, won honors in the Star Event at the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA) National Leadership Conference held in San Diego this summer. Only the top 2 competitors in each state were able to compete in a Star Event. Alyssa competed in Fashion Construction, where she designed and created a dress, prepared a speech and assembled a presentation board.



Notice

**Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option
FARM-TO-MARKET (FM) 529
FROM STATE HIGHWAY (SH) 99
(GRAND PARKWAY) TO FM 362
CSJ: 1006-01-074, 1006-02-009, 1006-01-079
HARRIS AND WALLER COUNTIES, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing improvements along Farm-to-Market (FM) 529 from State Highway (SH) 99 (Grand Parkway) to FM 362 in Harris and Waller counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that the project team will be conducting a virtual public hearing with an in-person option on the proposed project. **The virtual public hearing will be available starting on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at 5 p.m. through Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.** To view the presentation and materials, go to the following web address beginning at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov, and type “**FM 529 from SH 99**” in the search box.

The virtual public hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the date and time listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call 713-802-5137 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person, instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation as posted online, which will be playing on a screen; review hard copies of project materials; ask questions of the project team; and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Patricia E. Paetow High School, Cafeteria, 23111 Stockdick School Road, Katy, Texas.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call 832-409-2567 to provide verbal testimony during the comment period. Written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All comments received before the end of the comment period will be considered equally and will be included as part of the official record. Responses to comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search “**FM 529 from SH 99**”.

The proposed project would include both an urban and a rural roadway configuration along FM 529 to match the needs of the surrounding communities. The urban configuration, from SH 99 to Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, would widen FM 529 from two to six lanes (three lanes in each travel direction), and would include 10-foot-wide shared use paths for bicycle and pedestrian use on both sides of the roadway. The rural configuration, from Katy Hockley Cut Off Road to FM 362, would widen FM 529 from two to four lanes (two lanes in each travel direction), and would similarly include 10-foot-wide shared use paths on both sides of the roadway. The total project length is approximately 12 miles.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 109 acres of additional right-of-way and potentially displace one commercial business, one non-residential structure of unknown use, and one overhead utility tower. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program regarding services and benefits for those displaced, as well as other affected property owners, and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling (713) 802-5260.

The proposed project would require acquisition of approximately 13.1 acres of new right-of-way from two historic sites, the Eba Hebert Ranch and Beckendorff Farm (6.3 acres and 6.8 acres, respectively), which represent approximately one percent of the acreage within the boundaries of each of the historic sites. TxDOT anticipates making *de minimis* determinations for these uses under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the historic sites may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Any environmental documentation or studies, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for review by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. An appointment can be scheduled by calling (713) 802-5137. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search “**FM 529 from SH 99**”.

The public hearing will be conducted in English and Spanish. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English or Spanish is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English or Spanish, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the public hearing, please contact Jason Holloman, Environmental Specialist, at 713-802-5137 no later than 4 p.m. Central Daylight Time, Thursday, August 25, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the project team to arrange.

Comments from the public regarding the proposed project are encouraged. Written comments may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, Advanced Project Development Director, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 832-409-2567 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2022. All comments must be received on or before Thursday, September 15, 2022. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search “**FM 529 from SH 99**” once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual public hearing, please contact Sam Ainabe, Project Manager, at 713-802-5260 or by email Samuel.Ainabe@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



Aviso

**Audiencia Pública Virtual con Opción Presencial
FARM-TO-MARKET (FM) 529
DESDE LA CARRETERA ESTATAL (SH) 99 (GRAND
PARKWAY) HASTA LA FM 362
CSJ: 1006-01-074, 1006-02-009, 1006-01-079
CONDADOS DE HARRIS Y WALLER, Texas**

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas propone mejoras a lo largo de la carretera Farm-to-Market (FM) 529 desde la Carretera Estatal (SH) 99 (Grand Parkway) hasta la FM 362 en los condados de Harris y Waller, Texas. Este aviso informa al público que el equipo del proyecto llevará a cabo una audiencia pública virtual con opción presencial acerca del proyecto propuesto. **La audiencia pública virtual estará disponible comenzando el martes 30 de Agosto del 2022 a las 5:00 p.m. hasta el jueves 15 de Septiembre del 2022 a las 11:59 p.m.** Para ver los materiales y presentación, vaya a la siguiente dirección web empezando en la fecha y hora indicadas anteriormente: www.txdot.gov, y escriba “**FM 529 from SH 99**” en el cuadro de búsqueda.

La audiencia pública virtual consistirá en una presentación de video pregrabada e incluirá componentes de audio y visuales. Tenga en cuenta que la presentación no estará disponible en el sitio web hasta la fecha y hora indicadas anteriormente. Si no tiene acceso a internet, puede llamar al 713-802-5137 entre las 8:00 a.m. y las 5:00 p.m., de lunes a viernes, para hacer preguntas y acceder a los materiales del proyecto durante el proceso de desarrollo del proyecto.

Además, TxDOT ofrece una opción presencial para los individuos que deseen participar en persona en lugar de hacerlo virtual. Los asistentes en persona podrán ver la misma presentación presentada virtualmente la cual estará siendo presentada en una pantalla, revisar copias impresas de los materiales, hacer preguntas al equipo del proyecto y dejar comentarios por escrito. **La opción presencial se realizará el martes 30 de agosto del 2022, de 5:00 p.m. a 7:30 p.m. en la escuela Patricia E. Paetow High School, Cafeteria, 23111 Stockdick School Road, Katy, Texas 77493.**

Tanto para la audiencia pública virtual como para la opción en persona, los miembros del público pueden llamar al 832-409-2567 para brindar testimonio verbal durante el periodo de comentarios. Los comentarios escritos también pueden enviarse por correo postal o electrónico, como se explica a continuación. Todos los comentarios recibidos antes del final del periodo de comentarios se considerarán por igual y se incluirán como parte del registro oficial. TxDOT preparará las respuestas a los comentarios, las incluirá como parte de la audiencia y el registro del proyecto, y estarán disponibles en línea en www.txdot.gov, busque la palabra clave “**FM 529 from SH 99**”.

El proyecto propuesto incluiría una configuración vial tanto urbana como rural a lo largo de la FM 529 para satisfacer las necesidades de las comunidades circundantes. La configuración urbana, desde la SH 99 hasta la Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, ampliaría la FM 529 de una carretera de dos a una de seis carriles (tres carriles en cada sentido de circulación) e incluiría carriles laterales de 10 pies de ancho de uso compartido para ciclistas y peatones en ambos lados del camino. La configuración rural, desde la Katy Hockley Cut Off Road hasta la FM 362, ampliaría la FM 529 de una carretera de dos a una de cuatro carriles (dos carriles en cada sentido de circulación), y de igual manera, incluiría carriles laterales de 10 pies de ancho de uso compartido en ambos lados del camino. La longitud total del proyecto es de aproximadamente 12 millas.

El proyecto propuesto, sujeto a consideraciones de diseño final, requeriría aproximadamente 109 acres de derecho de vía adicional y potencialmente desplazaría un negocio comercial, una estructura no residencial de uso desconocido y una torre de servicios públicos elevada. La asistencia de reubicación está disponible para personas y negocios desplazados. Se puede obtener información sobre el Programa de Asistencia de Reubicación de TxDOT con respecto a los servicios y beneficios para las personas desplazadas, así como otros propietarios afectados, e información sobre el itinerario tentativo para la adquisición y construcción de derecho de vía de la oficina de distrito de TxDOT llamando al (713) 802-5260.

El proyecto propuesto requeriría la adquisición de aproximadamente 13.1 acres de derecho de vía nuevo de dos sitios históricos, el Rancho Eba Hebert y la Granja Beckendorff (6.3 acres y 6.8 acres, respectivamente), que representan aproximadamente el uno por ciento de la superficie en acres dentro de los límites de cada uno de los sitios históricos. TxDOT anticipa hacer una determinación *de minimis* para estos usos bajo la Sección 4(f) de la Ley del Departamento de Transporte de 1966. Los comentarios públicos sobre los efectos del proyecto propuesto en las actividades, características o atributos de los sitios históricos pueden presentarse como se describe a continuación.

El proyecto propuesto implicaría la construcción en áreas de humedales.

El proyecto propuesto implicaría una acción en una planicie inundable.

Cualquier documentación o estudios ambientales, mapas y dibujos que muestren la ubicación y el diseño del proyecto, los itinerarios tentativos de construcción y otra información sobre el proyecto propuesto están archivados y disponibles para revisión con cita previa de lunes a viernes entre las 8:00 a.m. y las 5:00 p.m. en la Oficina del Distrito de TxDOT en Houston, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. Se puede programar una cita llamando al (713) 802-5137. Los materiales del proyecto también están disponibles en línea en www.txdot.gov, busque la palabra clave “**FM 529 from SH 99**”.

La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo en inglés y español. Si necesita un intérprete o traductor de documentos porque el inglés o el español no son su idioma principal o tiene dificultades para comunicarse de manera efectiva en inglés o español, se le proporcionará uno. Si tiene una discapacidad y necesita asistencia, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para satisfacer la mayoría de las necesidades. Si necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción o si es una persona con una discapacidad que requiere adaptaciones para asistir y participar en la audiencia pública, comuníquese con Jason Holloman, Especialista Ambiental, al 713-802-5137 a más tardar las 4:00 p.m. Hora de Verano Central, el jueves 25 de agosto del 2022. Tenga en cuenta que se requiere notificación previa ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden requerir tiempo para que el equipo del proyecto los organice.

Se solicitan comentarios del público sobre el proyecto propuesto. Los comentarios escritos pueden enviarse por correo a la Oficina del Distrito de TxDOT en Houston, Advanced Project Development Director, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Los comentarios por escrito también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. Además, como se indicó anteriormente, los miembros del público pueden llamar al 832-409-2567 y proporcionar testimonio verbalmente a partir de las 5:00 p.m. el martes 30 de agosto del 2022 hasta las 11:59 p.m. el jueves 15 de Septiembre del 2022. Todos los comentarios deben recibirse el jueves 15 de septiembre del 2022 o antes. Las respuestas a los comentarios recibidos estarán disponibles en línea en www.txdot.gov, busque la palabra clave “**FM 529 from SH 99**” una vez que hayan sido preparadas.

Si tiene preguntas o inquietudes generales con respecto al proyecto propuesto o la audiencia pública virtual, comuníquese con Sam Ainabe, Gerente de Proyecto, al 713-802-5260 o por correo electrónico a Samuel.Ainabe@txdot.gov.

La revisión ambiental, la consulta y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales Federales aplicables para este proyecto están siendo o han sido llevadas a cabo por TxDOT de conformidad con 23 U.S.C. 327 y un Memorando de Entendimiento fechado el 9 de diciembre del 2019 y ejecutado por FHWA y TxDOT.



KATY TIMES SPORTS

THE KATY TIMES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022
KATYTIMES.COM

B1

WEEK OF AUGUST 12

SCHEDULES

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday-Saturday

- Katy, Jordan, Taylor, Seven Lakes, Paetow, Mayde Creek, Tompkins, Morton Ranch, Cinco Ranch at Katy/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic

Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch at Bellaire, 6:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Ridge, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Stratford, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Stafford, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Needville, noon
- Paetow vs. Santa Fe, 1:30 p.m. at Needville
- Seven Lakes at Fulshear, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Grand Oaks, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Clear Springs, 5:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium (Scrimmage)
- Tompkins at Tomball, 7:30 p.m. (Scrimmage)



TYLER TYRE

Kennedy Pike hits a spike during last years Class 6A Region III final at Sam Houston State University.

Strong field headed to Katy for Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The state's best will descend upon Katy this week.

Every year it seems that the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic brings in state powers as they hope to compete and prove themselves against strong teams in the Katy ISD and Cy-Fair school districts.

And this year will be no different, with four teams who made last year's UIL state tournament taking part in the tournament.

San Antonio Brandeis, the Class 6A state champs, returns to the tournament, while Bridgeland, which made it to the state semifinals will also compete in the tournament. Canyon, which made the 5A

semifinal returns as well, as does Bellville, which made the state semifinals in Class 4A.

Brandeis returns a very strong squad and are the returning tournament champs, while Canyon won the tournament in 2019.

Overall there will be 48 teams competing in the tournament, with more than 30 of them making the playoffs last season. The tournament will take place from Thursday through Saturday at Katy ISD and Cy-Fair ISD schools.

Katy is expected to be a force in the tournament, as they return a number of key players and are coming off back to back regional final appearances. The Tigers were ranked No. 8 in the preseason Class 6A Texas Girls Coaches Association poll.

Brandeis was ranked No. 1 in the poll while Bridgeland was ranked No. 7, Canyon was ranked No. 4 in 5A and Bellville was ranked No. 3 in 4A.

Tompkins is also expected to be one of the top schools in the Houston area, as they have a strong returning class and talented newcomers. The Falcons come off a district championship and an regional quarterfinal appearance, and they seem poised to be able to make noise once again in the district and area.

Seven Lakes looks to build into a strong group after a season which they had many newcomers last year and the Spartans do have a strong offensive group back with

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B3



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Chris Gilbert Jr. makes a pass during Tuesday's practice.

Tompkins embracing process to start season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

For Tompkins, everything is a process.

Practice, getting better, being prepared for the season — every one of these things is part of the process. Every player and coach in the program takes that process to heart as they seek to build and use that process to get better every day they step on the field.

"That's one thing that we talk about a lot is the process," said Tompkins head coach Todd McVey. "Their process has to be elite each and every day. That's what makes it special for these guys is how much hard work they put into it. Sometimes there may be things in the process they don't like but they buy in. It's a great thing to see and it's something that we just have to continue."

Tompkins is back on the field this week as they begin fall practice and work towards the season. The Falcons started off Monday with a decent practice, but they knew they could do better, so they came back Tuesday, attacked every drill and brought an intensity to every minute of the session.

"Our goal is to get one percent

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

Tigers excited for new season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy is ready to take the next step.

With a good mix of returners and newcomers, of youth and experience and of hunger and motivation, Katy is entering the season wanting to prove themselves, and wanting to one up what they did last year.

That was evident Monday during the team's first day of practice this season, as the Tigers sprinted from drill to drill, competed with one another and prepared for the season by attacking the day, just like the Katy coaching staff expects the group to attack every practice and every day.

"It was a good day," said Katy head coach Gary Joseph. "I think some of them were still feeling their way around, maybe didn't eat breakfast before they came out here, but it's part of the process you go through every year. They have to understand that it's not just about surviving the practice, you have to be getting better out here."

The Tigers were excited to be back on the field and gearing up for the season. With a new group they are trying to improve every day and be prepared



TYLER TYRE

Katy running back Dallas Glass carries the ball during Monday's practice.

See **KATY**, page B3



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7 Katy ISD players named to all-state baseball team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Katy ISD baseball players were named to the 2022 Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association All-State team, with Tompkins and Cinco Ranch leading the way with three selections each.

Tompkins' Jace LaViolette was the lone Katy ISD player to be named to the first team, as he was named a first team outfielder after a huge senior season in which he helped lead the Falcons to a district title as he was named the district's MVP and also was named an All-American.

Tompkins' Jack Little and Cinco Ranch's Charlie Atkinson were named to the second team, while Katy's Lucas Moore and Tompkins' Trevor Esparza were both named to the third team after tremendous year's being the aces for their respective teams.

The team was rounded out by Cinco Ranch's Gavin Rutherford and Blake Hansen being named honorable mentions, as both helped lead the Cinco program throughout the year.

Southlake Carroll pitcher Griffin Herring was named the player of the year for Class 6A after going 13-1 with a .24 ERA and striking out 145 over 87 innings.

Following is the full Class 6A All-State Team:

FIRST TEAM

- Pitchers – Griffin Herring, Southlake Carroll, sr.; Aidan Coleman, San Antonio Reagan, jr.; Kellen Gradisar, Fort Bend Ridge Point, jr.
- Reliever – Will Boylan, Coppell, sr.
- Catcher – (tie) Caleb Boswell, Odessa Permian, jr.; Evan Aslaksen, Clear Falls, sr.
- First baseman – Cole Johnson, Lake Travis, jr.
- Second baseman – Marco Villanueva, Laredo Alexander, sr.
- Shortstop – Jett Williams, Rockwall-Heath, sr.
- Third baseman – Ciro Benavides, Laredo Alexander, sr.
- Outfielders – Jace LaViolette, Katy Tompkins, sr.; Kasen Wells, Smithson Valley, sr.; (tie) Britton Moore, San Antonio Reagan, sr.; Trey Duffield, Houston Strake Jesuit, sr.
- Designated hitter – Owen Proksch, Southlake Carroll, sr.
- Player of the year – Herring, Southlake Carroll
- Coach of the year – Larry Vucan, Southlake Carroll

SECOND TEAM

- Pitchers – Gabriel Cook, San Antonio Stevens, jr.; Tate Evans, Flower Mound Marcus, sr.; Johnny Lowe, Rockwall-Heath, sr.
- Reliever – Magnus Nelson, Austin Westlake, jr.
- Catcher – (tie) Julius Ramirez, PSJA, jr.; Dillon Lopez, San Antonio O'Connor, jr.
- First baseman – Jack Little, Katy Tompkins, sr.
- Second baseman – David Medina, Aldine MacArthur, jr.
- Shortstop – Wilson Woodcox, Houston Lamar, sr.
- Third baseman – (tie) Ridge Morgan, Round Rock Westwood, soph.; Mike Dattalo, Keller, sr.
- Outfielders – Christian Fernandez, South Grand Prairie, sr.; Matthew Brooks, Round Rock Cedar Ridge, sr.; Stone Gomez, Weslaco, soph.
- Designated hitter – (tie) Charlie Atkinson, Cinco Ranch, jr.; Vinny Cano, PSJA, soph.

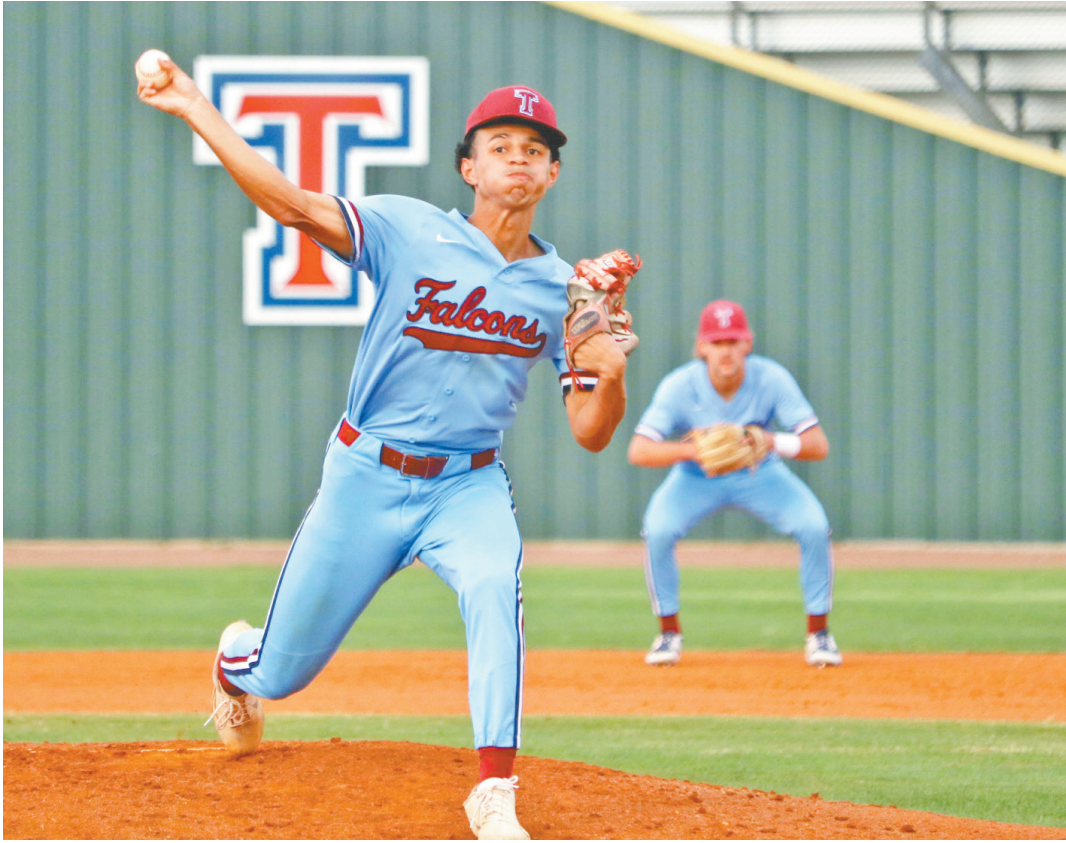
THIRD TEAM

- Pitchers – Lucas Moore, Katy, jr.; Brayden Sharp, The Woodlands, jr.; (tie) Cade Crossland, Rockwall, sr.; Trevor Esparza, Katy Tompkins, sr.
- Reliever – Grady Moore, Weatherford, sr.

- Catcher – Conner Bennett, Oak Ridge, jr.
- First baseman – (tie) Travis Bragg, Clear Falls, sr.; Chase Shores, Midland Legacy, sr.; Dayton Tockey, Weatherford, sr.
- Second baseman – Fisher Polydoroff, Keller, soph.
- Shortstop – (tie) Ryne Farber, San Antonio Johnson, jr.; Jalin Flores, San Antonio Brandeis, sr.; Chase Mora, Tomball, sr.
- Third baseman – (tie) Juan Guzman, Alvin Shadow Creek, sr.; Riley Nelson, Trophy Club Byron Nelson, sr.
- Outfielders – Jake Duer, Flower Mound Marcus, sr.; Viggo Lopez, PSJA, sr.; Kayson Cunningham, San Antonio Johnson, fr.
- Designated hitter – Zach Spradling, Hays Consolidated, sr.

HONORABLE MENTION

- Pitchers – Tim Arguello, Smithson Valley, sr.; Alec Beversdorf, Clear Falls, jr.; Lucas Davenport, Prosper, sr.; Zach Erdman, Keller, sr.; Charlie Feris, Cypress Ranch, sr.; Caden Ferraro, Pearland, jr.; Joey Gamez, Laredo Nixon, sr.; J.C. Gutierrez, La Joya, sr.; Collin McKinney, Clear Creek, sr.; Hayden Morris, Oak Ridge, jr.; Adrian Najar, South Grand Prairie, sr.; Hunter Nichols, Ridge Point, sr.; Brian Panneton, Tomball Memorial, sr.; Alex Renfrow, Cypress Ranch, sr.; Mason Ruiz, Bryan, sr.; Garrett Stratton, Houston Strake Jesuit, sr.; Adam Troy, Summer Creek, sr.; Preston Watkins, Deer Park, sr.
- Catchers – Brayden Buchanan, Vandegrift, jr.; Easton Carmichael, Prosper, sr.; Ethan Gonzalez, Smithson Valley, jr.; Trace Holcomb, Weatherford, sr.; Hudson Hutcheson, Wolfforth Frenship, soph.; Grant Simpson, Keller, sr.; Mac Rose, Rockwall, jr.; Tanner Wells, Harker Heights, sr.
- First basemen – Keegan Handal, Tomball, sr.; Joshua Ibe, Cypress Ranch, sr.; Carter Olson, Mansfield Lake Ridge, sr.; Armani Raygoza, El Paso Americas, sr.; Noah Wilson, Cy-Fair, sr.; Travis Vlasek, Ridge Point, jr.
- Second basemen – Ryan Black, Mansfield Lake Ridge, sr.; Chase Bourgeois, Clear Falls, sr.; Caleb Castle, Clear Lake, sr.; Alex Dunegan, Cy-Fair, sr.; Logan Elefson, The Woodlands, jr.; Jackson Harrell, Vista Ridge, jr.; Zachary Jimenez, San Antonio Johnson, sr.
- Shortstops – Christopher Casares, Weslaco, sr.; Easton Culp, Harker Heights, sr.; Jaden Flores, Garland Naaman Forest, sr.; Matthew Gula, Round Rock Westwood, sr.; Kaeden Kent, Lake Travis, sr.; Ethan Mendoza, Southlake Carroll, jr.; Josh Munoz, Los Fresnos, jr.; Brayden Randle, Rockwall, jr.; Clay Richardson, Houston Strake Jesuit, jr.; Antonelli Savattere, Rowlett, sr.; Anthony Silva, San Antonio Clark, sr.; Justin Vossos, Ridge Point, sr.
- Third basemen – Jason Flores, Garland Naaman Forest, soph.; Dylan Garcia, Weslaco, jr.; Isaac Herrera, El Paso Eastwood, sr.; Jayson Jones, Denton Braswell, sr.; Mateo Lamas, Spring Westfield, sr.; Gavin Rutherford, Cinco Ranch, jr.
- Outfielders – Aiden Baumann, New Braunfels, sr.; Brody Boushey, Prosper, sr.; Nolan Bushko, Eaton, sr.; Rocco Garza-Gongora, Laredo Alexander, sr.; Kendall George, Humble Atascosita, jr.; Blake Hansen, Cinco Ranch, sr.; Dasan Harris, Plano East, jr.; Xavier Hirsch, Mansfield, sr.; Jaxon Kirkhuff, Rowlett, sr.; Celdon Kiser, Frenship, sr.; Braylon Payne, Fort Bend Elkins, soph.; Luke Sasser, San Antonio Reagan, jr.; Caden Sorrell, Flower Mound Marcus, jr.; Gabe Watson, Waco Midway, sr.; Jake Williams, Weatherford, sr.



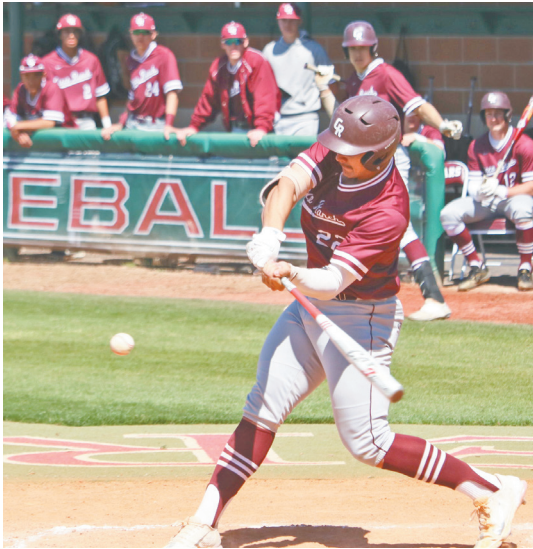
Trevor Esparza pitches during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Katy and Tompkins at the Tompkins baseball field.



Above: Gavin Rutherford hits during Friday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy baseball field. At left: Lucas Moore pitches during Friday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy baseball field.



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



Above: Jack Little rounds third base during a game between Tompkins and San Antonio Reagan at the Tompkins baseball field. Left: Blake Hansen hits during Friday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy baseball field.

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Katy Times



Cinco Ranch's Emily Killam tips the ball over the net during last year's bi-district round.

VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

Temi Sam-Olibale and Sameena Burns.

Then there's Cinco Ranch. Last year as a very young team, they managed to make their way to the regional quarterfinals and they feel that this year they can push further and make it to the regional tournament for the first time since 2018 and also compete for a district title. The Cougars return many key pieces from last years successful season and will be a fun team this year.

Paetow will also be a tough out and they have a number of talented players on their squad, and are out to prove themselves with the jump to 6A. Mayde Creek, Morton Ranch, Jordan and Taylor will all

also compete and hope to make some noise.

The tournament will be even more important to Katy ISD schools this year with nine teams competing in the district, as now the teams only have two weeks of non-district play.

Teams will play through divisions to get to the final bracket, before things break up, with the top four advancing to the gold bracket.

Katy, Taylor, Tompkins, Cinco Ranch, Bridgeland, Cy-Woods, Cy-Fair and Jersey Village will host the matches before Bridgeland hosts the gold and silver brackets, with the tournament concluding on Saturday.



Katy running back Seth Davis carries the ball during Monday's practice.

KATY

from page B1

to make another run at a district title and another run deep in the playoffs.

"It's unexplainable really, just the greatest feeling getting back out here," said senior wide receiver JR Ceyanes. "We've been lifting, conditioning, doing everything we could, but it's nice to finally put a helmet back on and finally play some football again and just be back out here."

Seth Davis felt the same way; the senior running back has been working hard to get himself prepared for this moment and be ready for his final high school season.

"We've all been putting in work and now we finally are to where we have to be even better now," Davis said. "We have to make sure we focus on the day in front of us and not look ahead, work as hard as we can and listen to the coaches. If we do that, we are going to really get better."

A big part of the Katy culture is working hard, listening to coaches and not getting too focused on the future, and both Davis and Ceyanes are working to uphold that culture with the younger players, and they're hoping that culture along with the team's talent will lead to plenty of wins this year. Ceyanes especially has focused on that part of things with the graduation of so many in the receiving room from last year.

"When I was named a captain, I knew that that was going to be a big part of this year for me," Ceyanes said. "I'm treated with a lot more respect now and people know that I'm trying to help them. So when I say something now, people listen and they try and get better from it. That's a bi thing for me and I just hope to be able to push some people in the right direction."



Katy quarterback Caleb Koger makes a pass during Monday's practice.



Tompkins' offensive line lines up for a play during Tuesday's practice.

TOMPKINS

from page B1

better every day," McVey said. "But the key to that is you can't go backwards. The intensity was better today and that's what we need because there's a crimson line standard that we expect to uphold at all times. One percent better is how we have to take that and that's how you continue to grow each day."

A big part of that crimson line standard comes from the standard that returners set, and Matthew Ogunrin, a senior wide receiver and Tulsa commit, has taken that to heart this year as he has stepped up into a leadership role and helped the teams younger players along as the Falcons get closer and closer to the season.

"I've really just tried to se the right example," Ogunrin said. "I'm listening more, paying attention to detail and trying to stay locked in. If you aren't locked in, you aren't going to get better and you won't understand those little things that make you better and help the team."

Ogunrin and the rest of the Tompkins players know how important it will be for them to take these first few weeks seriously, get conditioned and be prepared to play four full quarters against any level of competition.

The Falcons are ready to compete, and ready to keep getting better every day.

"One of our core values is finishing," Ogunrin said. "When you finish it gets you to another one of our core values, pay day. So if you're not going to be disciplined and tough, then you're not going to finish what you started. So you have to finish to get that pay day. And you have to work, in practice, out of practice, in games and everywhere you can, if you want that payday."



A Tompkins kicker kicks a ball through the uprights during Tuesday's practice.

Katy Times
2022 FALL FOOTBALL
PREVIEW SECTION
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Houston Cougars guard Jamal Shead (1) moves the ball during an NCAA men's basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

Cougars unveil non-conference schedule

STAFF REPORT

Nine home games inside the Fertitta Center highlight the University of Houston Men's Basketball program's 2022-23 non-conference schedule, Head Coach Kelvin Sampson announced last Wednesday.

Breaking it down

Nine of the Cougars' 13 non-conference opponents won at least 19 games in 2021-22 with Northern Colorado (22), Oregon (20), Kent State (23), Norfolk State (24), Saint Mary's (26) and Virginia (21) finishing as 20-game winners.

Eight teams played in the 2022 post-season with Texas Southern, Norfolk State, Saint Mary's and Alabama competing in the NCAA Tournament and Oregon (NIT), Virginia (NIT), Northern Colorado (CBI) and Kent State (The Basketball Classic) playing in their respective tournaments.

Six schools finished among the Top Three

in their respective conferences with Norfolk State capturing the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference regular-season title.

The schedule

The Cougars open the season when they meet Northern Colorado on Nov. 7 inside the Fertitta Center. From there, Houston will hit the road to compete at the Veterans Classic against Saint Joseph's on Nov. 11 in Annapolis, Md., in a game airing on CBS Sports Network.

From there, the Cougars return to Houston to compete in the Cougar Classic. The Cougars open that event against Oral Roberts on Nov. 14 inside the Fertitta Center. Oral Roberts takes on Texas Southern on Nov. 15 inside H&PE Arena on the TSU campus with the Cougars meeting Texas Southern on Nov. 16 inside the Fertitta Center.

It will be the first time Houston has faced Texas Southern since the 2012-13 season.

After a road game at Oregon on Nov. 20,

in Eugene, Ore., the Cougars meet Kent State (Nov. 26) and Norfolk State (Nov. 29) inside the Fertitta Center.

Houston then opens the month of December against Saint Mary's (Calif.) as part of The Battleground 2K22 inside Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas. The Cougars have enjoyed tremendous success inside that facility with an 8-0 record there, winning back-to-back American Athletic Conference Tournament titles as well as non-conference showdowns against nationally ranked Texas Tech and Oklahoma State during the last two years.

Houston returns home to play host to three straight games inside the Fertitta Center against North Florida (Dec. 6), Alabama (Dec. 10) and North Carolina A&T (Dec. 13) with the last contest played as part of the Coaches vs. Racism Game.

The Cougars meet Virginia on Dec. 17 in Charlottesville, Va., before closing out the non-conference slate against McNeese inside the Fertitta Center on Dec. 21.

First-timers

This will be the first time in Men's Basketball history in which the Cougars will face Northern Colorado, Saint Joseph's, Kent State, Norfolk State and North Florida.

The Cougars have faced Oral Roberts only once, dropping a 118-108 decision at the All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City on Dec. 28, 1973.

American Athletic Conference opponents breakdown

The Cougars and American Athletic Conference office recently announced the schedule matrix for 2022-23.

Houston will face Cincinnati, Memphis, SMU, Temple, Tulane, Tulsa, UCF and Wichita State in home-and-away games while meeting Tulsa inside the Fertitta Center only and playing at East Carolina only.

Houston's complete schedule with American Athletic Conference opponents, game times and networks will be released soon.

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AUCTIONS

Truck & Trailer Auction - Thurs., Aug. 18. All items sell no reserve. Inventory includes: semi trucks, dump trucks, equipment trailers, dry van trailers, walking floor trailer and more. All items are sold "AS IS." 10% buyers premium applies. Aaron McKee TX Lic. #16401. Bid now at purplewave.com.

101-Acre Commercial/Industrial Property - Aug. 30 - 3050 Hwy 16N, De Leon, TX (5 Miles North of Intersection - Hwy 6 & Hwy 16). ExxonMobil directs immediate sale. Low minimum bid: \$50,000. 1,367' frontage on Hwy 16. FineAndCompany.com, 312-278-0600.

Commercial/Industrial Land - Aug. 30 - Real Estate to be sold Absolute, Regardless of Price. ExxonMobil directs immediate sale: 3.7 Acres South of Marilyn St., Conroe, TX; 38,147 SF, 577 W. Santa Fe St., Conroe, TX; 5.37 Acres, Mc Farland Rd., League City, TX. FineAndCompany.com, 312-278-0600.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice Is Hereby Given That The Building And Standards Commission Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Hold A Public Hearing On **Tuesday, August 30th, 2022, At 4:00 P.M.**, In Council Chambers At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C. Said Hearing Is To Hear And Discuss Final Corrective Action For An Existing Residential Structure That Was Relocated to 917 Shetland Street For Failure to Obtain Required Permits and Inspections (Section R105.1). **Legal Description: 917 Shetland Street, West Katy Addition, Block 6, Lots 5, In Waller County.** Property Owner Of Record Is **Tanja Leyh**. All Other Vested Interests In The Property Are Hereby Notified.

The Building And Standards Commission Will Allow For Public Comment On This Matter.

August 4

Puzzle Answers

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

W	A	M	A	U	T	I	C	A	E	B	A	N
A	M	I	D	P	E	D	A	L	A	L	G	A
R	I	N	D	I	N	A	R	I	S	O	N	G
E	A	G	E	R	T	H	E	A	E	C	I	A
				R	O	N	H	O	W	A	R	D
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C	O	B	W	E	B	M	R	S	H	A	I	G
T	U	B	A	S	V	A	N	S	A	B	L	E
O	P	E	C	E	E	C	E	A	G	L	E	S
R	E	D	M	E	G	D	A	T	A	R	T	
				T	E	L	E	M	E	T	E	R
E	A	R	E	D	T	E	L	S	A	B	E	R
A	G	H	A	S	A	G	E	S	B	O	R	A
C	R	O	C	S	T	A	T	E	B	L	A	B
H	A	S	H	R	E	N	E	E	I	A	S	I

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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 Langham Creek Mini Storage 18619 FM 529 RD. Cypress, TX 77433 Bidding will open at 10:00 am on August 15, 2022, and end at 12:00 pm on August 19, 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: Angelica Long, Ocampo Rodriguez Gustavo, Daniel VanNolen, Kenneth Lattimore, Pablo Paez Perez, Carlos A Murillo, Tammy Williams, Juan Carlos Benitez, Yvette Shawndel Allen, Yaquelin Patino, Dominique Johnson, Bryan Hernandez.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

August 24, 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:

Clapp Road - "No Thru Trucks"

Sterling Road - "No Thru Trucks"

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



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco Ranch's QB Gavin Rutherford #12 carries the ball before being pushed out of bounds during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

Rutherford finds home at Stephen F. Austin

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch head coach Chris Dudley can remember the very first drive of Gavin Rutherford's varsity career.

"We're playing College Park to open the season and Gavin, first drive of the season as a sophomore, is just ripping balls left and right," Dudley said. "He led us straight down the field in his first ever varsity drive for a touchdown. You could see it that quickly."

That one drive was all it took for Dudley to understand he had a special player on his hands. A player that would go on to become one of Cinco Ranch's most prolific, even before he played a single game of his senior season.

Rutherford as he enters his senior year, already holds the Cinco Ranch career mark for most passing yards and passing touchdowns as a Cougar. His success brought him a number of scholarship opportunities to play collegiately at the next level.

Rutherford thought about his options and kept circling back to one place, Stephen F. Austin.

But, still, Rutherford went into this summer keeping his options

open, that is until he attended the Stephen F. Austin camp in Nacogdoches. From there, Rutherford's decision was made clear.

"I had been talking to them since before we went into spring ball this year," Rutherford said. "They came out here and they gave me a lot of love. They would text and call me and showed me I was in their plans. They were always in the back of my mind, and then when I went to camp and it made my decision easy. The energy was insane. I loved it, loved being around there, in the quarterback room everyone treated me so well and then I know a lot of people up there already. It just made me really want to make my decision."

Rutherford has already shown what he can do at the high school level, leading Cinco Ranch to the regional semifinals last season and throwing for over 2,750 yards last year and throwing 29 touchdowns to just five interceptions as a junior, averaging over 211 yards per game though the air.

But it isn't Rutherford's arm that sets him up for the greatest success at the high school level, or what will be his greatest strength at the collegiate level according to Dudley. Dudley believes that Rutherford's

biggest asset is his football IQ.

"He's one of our most heavily recruited players to ever come through here and there's a reason for that," Dudley said. "He checks off all the boxes, on and off the field. His football IQ, just ability to read defenses, have the pocket awareness to buy himself an extra second or two, picking his spots on when to run, and being a leader. Gavin makes everyone around him better, and that's what great leaders do."

Rutherford is over the moon about his decision, but as important as it was for him, it was also important to Rutherford that he get his recruitment process done before the start of his senior season.

As important as finding his collegiate home was, Rutherford wants to be singularly focused on Cinco Ranch this fall.

"I felt like, I really like this spot and I can get this over with and look forward to college while being able to focus on my team," Rutherford said. "Now I don't have to worry about anything. I just can go out there, perform the best I can and help my team win. This team is my brothers and I want to be here with them fully. I love them and this year is really important to all of us."



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco Ranch's QB Gavin Rutherford #12 celebrates after scoring a TD with team mate Cinco Ranch's Cade Snyder #72 during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

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PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Manchester City midfielder Rodrigo (16) heads the ball over Club América forward Roman Martínez (200) during a club friendly between Manchester City and Club América on July 20, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

Manchester City stops in Houston on preseason tour



Above: Manchester City forward Julian Alvarez (center) breaks up a scuffle during a club friendly between Manchester City and Club América on July 20, 2022 in Houston, Texas. At right: Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne (17) during a club friendly between Manchester City and Club América on July 20, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

STAFF REPORT

English and Mexican soccer powers collided at NRG Stadium as reigning English Premier League Champions Manchester City downed Club América 2-1.

Kevin De Bruyne scored both goals for Man City, while Henry Martin scored for América.

Norwegian striker Erling Haaland, who signed with Man City for \$60 million this summer, was in

attendance but didn't play.

Man City was completing a preseason tour of the United States and finished things off with a 1-0 win against Bayern Munich at Lambeau Field. The Premier League season begins this weekend.

América, which is Mexico's most decorated club with 13 league titles, is just five games into the Liga MX Apertura, currently sitting in 15th place out of 18 teams.



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Bowser joins UH men’s basketball team as grad transfer

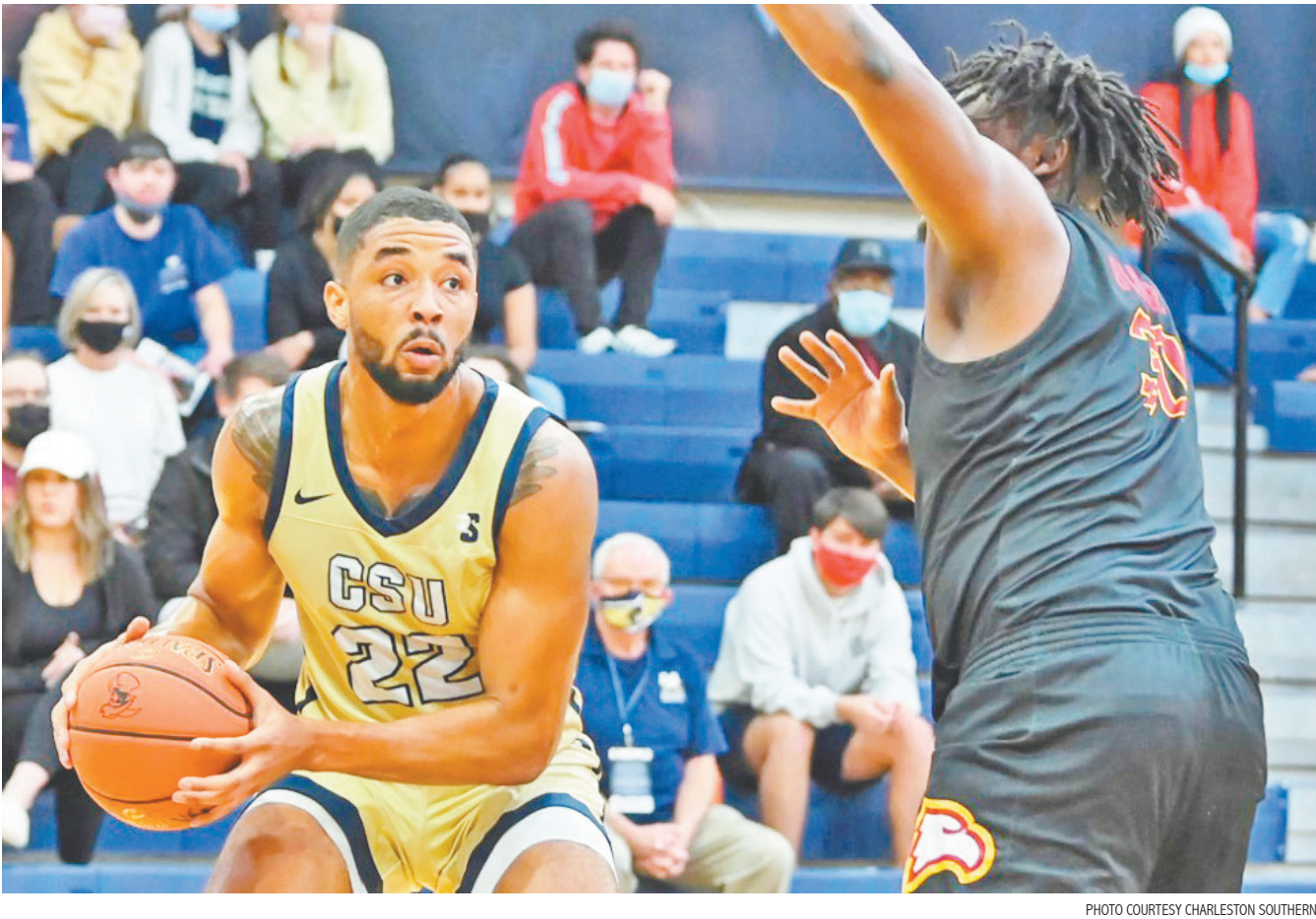


PHOTO COURTESY CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Darius Bowser has joined the University of Houston Men’s Basketball program after recently signing a scholarship agreement, Head Coach Kelvin Sampson announced Thursday.

A transfer from Charleston Southern, Bowser will compete immediately as a graduate student in 2022-23 with one year of eligibility remaining.

“Darius gives us depth in the frontcourt. Having that extra body and depth allows us to move guys around and be more versatile,” Sampson said. “Darius is going to help us.”

Standing 6-foot-9 and weighing 230 pounds, Bowser played for four seasons at Charleston State and received his bachelor’s degree in public health in May. He will study human resources development in graduate school with the Cougars in 2022-23.

A native of Gaffney, S.C., Bowser – whose name is pronounced Dare-E-Us Bow (as in now)-Zur – competed in nearly 110 games with more than 50 starts as a member of the Buccaneers. As a senior in 2021-22, he scored a career-high 14 points at USC Upstate and swatted three shots against Hampton and High point.

Bowser grabbed a personal-best nine boards against Longwood as a junior in 2020-21.

Bowser will be one of four newcomers to compete with the Cougars this season, joining freshman forward Jarace Walker and freshman guard Terrance Arceneaux. Guard Emanuel Sharp will play as a redshirt freshman in 2022-23, sitting out a year ago after joining the team as a freshman at the semester break.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

Gervarrius Owens selected to Bednarik award watch list

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

University of Houston Football senior defensive back Gervarrius Owens has been named to the watch list for the 28th annual Chuck Bednarik Award, the Maxwell Football Club announced Monday.

The award, presented to the college defensive player of the year, recognizes 90 of the best defensive players nationwide chosen by a selection committee consisting of the Maxwell Football Club, Pro Football Focus (PFF), and Phil Steele Publications.

Owens is one of 14 safeties on the preseason watch list and one of two safeties representing a program in the state of Texas alongside UTSA’s Rashad Wisdom. Houston is one of 10 schools from the state of Texas

to have a player represented on the list.

Houston is one of three programs in the American Athletic Conference to be represented on preseason watch list, as Owens joins Deshaun Pace (Cincinnati) and Quindell Johnson (Memphis).

A leader in the secondary, Owens finished fifth on the team in tackles (52), while racking up 33 solo tackles, 4.0 tackles for loss, three passes broken up and two interceptions, including a 45-yard pick-six against Tulsa (Oct. 1), a season ago.

Semifinalists for the Chuck Bednarik Award will be announced Nov. 1. The three finalists will be unveiled Nov. 22. The winner of the Bednarik Award will be announced as part of the ESPN Home Depot College Football Awards Show held on Dec. 8.

Dell and Tune tabbed preseason All-Americans

A pair of University of Houston Football standouts will enter the upcoming campaign with pre-season All-America status attached to their name.

Houston senior quarterback Clayton Tune and junior wide receiver Nathaniel Dell have been named Third-Team Preseason All-America by Pro Football Network, the sports media company announced Monday morning.

The recognition is the latest for the Cougars’ 1-2 offensive punch. Tune and Dell are among two returning quarterback-wide receiver duos nationally with 3,500 passing yards and 1,300 receiving yards in 2021.

Entering the 2022 season, the duo was recognized as the best at their positions in the state of Texas by Dave Campbell’s Texas Football.

Pro Football Network (PFN) is a comprehensive sports media company that



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Cougars wide receiver Jeremy Singleton (13) and wide receiver Nathaniel Dell (1) celebrate after a touchdown during an NCAA football game between Houston and Texas Tech on September 4, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

focuses on the NFL, fantasy football, NFL Draft, college football, and betting.

Houston opens its season on Sept. 3 at UTSA. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. from the Alamodome and can be seen on CBS Sports Network. The in-state matchup is the lone FBS contest nationally on opening weekend featuring two 12-plus win teams from a season ago.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Katy Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., August 22, 2022 in the Boardroom, Education Support Complex, 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy, Texas 77494. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.96170 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)				
School Debt Service Tax					
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.39000 / \$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)				
<u>Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget</u>					
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:					
Maintenance and operations	4.7342	% (increase) or _____ % (decrease)			
Debt service	12.7341	% (increase) or _____ % (decrease)			
Total expenditures	6.1044	% (increase) or _____ % (decrease)			
<u>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</u> (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)					
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year			
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 52,928,361,023	\$ 61,584,383,084			
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,688,107,126	\$ 2,087,370,537			
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 48,132,317,884	\$ 54,583,212,624			
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,419,373,103	\$ 1,578,871,008			
* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).					
** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).					
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).					
<u>Bonded Indebtedness</u>					
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$2,140,211,367					
*Outstanding principal.					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates</u>					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student	
Last Year's Rate	\$0.96170	\$0.39000	\$1.35170	\$7,465	\$4,399
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.88889	\$0.38945	\$1.27834	\$7,719	\$3,925
Proposed Rate	\$0.96170	\$0.39000	\$1.35170	\$7,958	\$4,040
* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence</u>					
	Last Year		This Year		
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 317,490		\$ 383,366		
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 285,193		\$ 324,213		
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.35170		\$ 1.35170		
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 3,855		\$ 4,382		
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes			\$ 527		
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.					
Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.34024. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.34024.					
<u>Fund Balances</u>					
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:					
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)		\$315,037,531			
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)		\$ 60,489,215			
A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.					
Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.					
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.					