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SPORTS | B1

Katy Times



VOLUME 111, ISSUE 12

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

City, state officials working to reduce water fees

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

At its Jan. 10 meeting at City Hall, the Katy City Council voted to increase the groundwater reduction fees charged by the West Harris County Regional Water Authority to \$2.19 per 1,000 gallons of water, effective Jan. 15. The vote

was unanimous but there was no joy at the council table that night.

At issue, as council members see it, is that city residents are paying for water they are not receiving.

"I've always had people asked me what that county charge is on the water bill," Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said. "Within the last year,

we've had people who are real upset because sometimes that added fee is higher than their actual water bill. Last summer, when we had the drought, it really came to mind, what we are paying for with that fee because we're not receiving surface water."

The authority, formed by the Texas Legislature in 2001, is tasked

with bringing surface water from Lake Houston to the Katy city water system, West Harris County and a small portion of North Fort Bend County. A pipe system, now under construction, would provide the surface water.

By providing surface water, the area would be less reliant on groundwater. In this way, the area

is less prone to subsidence, where the ground sinks and is therefore more vulnerable to flooding.

A nine-director board supervises the authority, which comprises the city and area municipal utility districts, called MUDs.

The city joined the authority when

See **WATER**, page A3

Katy ISD Trustees hear budget update

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A Katy ISD official told school trustees Monday that the district will be receiving more money from various sources.

Chris Smith, the district's chief financial officer, gave a budget update at a special March 20 school board meeting. On revenues, he said the district expects to receive an additional \$7 million in compensatory education (called Comp Ed) funding due to the growing number of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the district.

Smith said the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in Katy ISD has grown from the low 30s to about 44-45%. The district receives more money with that change in percentage, he said.

Smith said the district expects to receive \$3.4 million in insurance claim money following Winter Storm Yuri in February 2021.

"It's frustrating to talk about this yet again," Smith said. "I expected this money well over a year ago."

The district is looking, at least indirectly, at receiving \$2.5 million from the U.S. Government through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III fund. Smith said the district does not directly budget the money, and needed to budget based on what he described as "routine, but we can count on."

Smith said the district expects about \$1.9 million in additional interest earnings. Smith said interest rates have soared.

"It's continued to go up, and we think that's a conservative number," Smith said, adding that the district has about \$300 million invested, with more interest bringing in more money. However, he said, he was not to a point where he was ready to amend the budget. He said he wanted to look at the numbers again in the summer.

Smith said the district can also expect money

See **BUDGET**, page A3



Bill Fanning, left, Katy Crossing Icehouse owner, and Don McCoy, Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce president, show off their St. Patrick's Day attire in front of the icehouse.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

New icehouse serves as a downtown attraction

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

As Bill Fanning, Katy Crossing Icehouse owner, tells it, the goal was to create a classy, upscale date night kind of place in Downtown Katy. A place, he said, where people would feel comfortable in bringing their family.

The icehouse, at 5733 2nd St., is off to a good start. Following a last-minute sprint to finish the construction work, it opened on Super Bowl Sunday—perhaps "kicked off" would be a good term here—and has attracted visitors to the downtown area while serving drinks and featuring live music.

"It was pretty crazy," Fanning said. "We've just had nothing but great support from the City of Katy, and we

couldn't be more grateful."

On March 17, partygoers who came to the O'Katy St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Shindig in Downtown Katy saw—and heard—for themselves what the icehouse was all about. The shindig, organized by the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, was the first of its kind in Downtown Katy. It also served as a precursor to the Katy Market Day, held March 18 in Downtown Katy.

The icehouse opens at noon, Fanning said, but for Katy Market Day he planned to open it earlier to help welcome the crowds.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Fanning said. "People are just pouring in. The people of Katy have been nothing but supportive. They keep telling me,

"Oh my gosh, I'm glad you're here."

Fanning has worked as a home-building company CEO. His wife, Holly, is a real estate broker who has focused on properties in The Woodlands and Cypress.

Yet they always loved the Katy area. One day, they were shopping downtown and decided to get something to eat. There are restaurants nearby, but dining options in the heart of downtown, at that time, were limited. They decided to do something about that.

"It was kind of our a-ha moment," Fanning said. "When this building became available, we jumped on it. It came together. I wanted it to come together sooner, obviously, but a lot

See **ICEHOUSE**, page A3

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Former Seven Lakes student uses tutoring to benefit her native India

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The pandemic caused plenty of anguish for teachers and students, but one former Seven Lakes High student used it to benefit orphanages and low literacy areas in her native India.

Alisha Madhvarshi was born in New Delhi, India, and moved with her family to the United States before she was two years of age. While a student at Beckendorf Junior High, she learned of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in Denton. The academy is part of the University of North Texas. According to its website, the academy is the nation's first early college entrance residential program for gifted

high school-aged students.

Madhvarshi enjoys competitive math—she said she's been doing it since the third grade—and decided she wanted to attend school there.

After two years at Seven Lakes High, Madhvarshi made the move to Denton, where she is in her first year. She said she enjoys the independent lifestyle the program provides. Her parents remain in the Katy area. When she graduates from the academy, she said she hopes to attend the University of Texas at Austin and work with artificial intelligence programs.

When the pandemic occurred in 2020, Madhvarshi found herself learning both how to be an online student—and teacher.



ALISHA MADHVARSHI

Alisha Madhvarshi, second from left, is a former Seven Lakes High student who has helped create libraries for orphanages in her native India. She raises the money through tutoring students in math. With her in this photo are, from left, Rakesh Nikhaj, a student, and a teacher at a school to which she has donated money.

"When the quarantine hit, I had a lot of free time and I wanted to use it to do something productive and preferably be helpful to other people," Madhvarshi said. She said she was always interested in teaching and that she came from a long line of teachers in her family.

She began tutoring local

students in math, first online and then, eventually, in person. Her students' parents were asked for donations, and they gave nearly \$1,000.

Madhvarshi spoke with her parents, as well as a family friend, Rakesh Nikhaj, about how to

See **TUTOR**, page A3

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wild West Brew Fest set for March 23-25

The Rotary Club of Katy will host the 2023 Wild West Brewfest on March 23-25 at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road.

This will be the event's 10th festival in 11 years, and features beer, live music, food and more. The K-Town Throwdown will kick-off the multi-day event March 23, followed by the Launch Party March 24. The official Wild West Brew Fest will be March 25, featuring over 125 brewers and 800 different beers.

The Wild West Brew Fest showcases some of the best liquids, including pours from some of Houston's premier breweries like Karbach, Buffalo Bayou, 8th Wonder, True Anomaly and Katy's own, No Label Brewery. HEB will host a "Craft Beer Corral" in the WWBF's Texas Zone, featuring a tap wall with seven new release beers. WWBF patrons will get to vote for their favorite, and the winner will be featured in Houston and Austin-area HEBs.

No Label Brewery's fan favorite, Kevin's Mom, won in 2022, and is being released in the coming weeks.

Tickets start at \$50. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website wildwestbrewfest.com.

Brookshire Flea Market set for March 25-26

The Trading Market will hold its Brookshire Flea Market from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 25-26 at 1042 Stallknecht Road in Brookshire.

The flea market also features food trucks and kid-friendly activities, including miniature animals and a petting zoo.

The flea market is open every weekend. For more information, email thetradingmarket@yahoo.com or call 832-341-4066.

Kingsland Baptist Church International Festival set for March 25

Kingsland Baptist Church will hold its annual international fes-



DAVID FRISHMAN

The Wild West Brew Fest, hosted by the Rotary Club of Katy, is set for March 24-25 at Typhoon Texas.

tival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 25 at the church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd.

The festival features a full schedule of schedule of cultural performances throughout the day. Come experience community through an enriching celebration of the diverse cultures of the Katy area.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- 11:15 a.m. - Houston Highlanders Pipes & Drums
- 11:45 a.m. - McTeggert Irish Dancers
- 12:15 p.m. - Ballet Folklorico Mexico Y Tradicion
- 12:45 p.m. - USA Shaolin Xiu Kung Fu
- 1:15 p.m. - Victoria Orta
- 2:00 p.m. - NAYCO - North American Youth Chinese Orchestra

- 2:45 p.m. - Xin Yue Dance Group

For more information, including parking, food vendors and kids' activities, visit the website <http://www.kingslandinternationalfestival.com>.

Cane Island Spring Fling set for March 25

The Cane Island community

will hold its annual spring fling from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 25 at Cane Quarter, 2100 Cane Island Parkway.

In addition to home tours, the event will feature craft vendors, carnival games, food vendors and more.

For more information, visit the website caneisland.com.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Influential American political family
5. ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthe
11. Within
12. Pleasure seekers
16. Computer manufacturer
17. Home to college sports' Flyers
18. Fungal disease
19. Sleepwalk
24. Spielberg sci-fi film
25. Seasonable
26. Taxis
27. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
28. Thin, narrow piece of wood
29. "Mystic River" actor Sean
30. Ingenuous
31. Musical composition
33. Turkish surname
34. High or hilly area
38. Wilco frontman
39. Pour it on pasta
40. Electric car company
43. Sea eagle
44. Walk with difficulty
45. Sign of healing
49. Boy
50. Protein-rich liquid
51. Washington city
53. Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
54. Thought over
56. Scads

CLUES DOWN

1. Large, dangerous animals
2. Straighten out
3. Family tree
4. Large stinging paper wasp
5. European river fish
6. Cut down in size
7. Denotes past
8. Larry and Curly's partner
9. Samoyedic ethnic group
10. Male parent
13. Specific gravity
14. Demeaned oneself to
15. Rigidly
20. Yankovic is a "weird" one
21. Belonging to me
22. Path
23. Airborne (abbr.)
27. Level
29. Atomic #94
30. Born of
31. Midway between northeast and east
32. Northeastern bank
33. Defunct airline
34. Having no purpose
35. A low wall
36. Swedish city

37. Earn a perfect score

38. Atomic #81

40. Beginner

41. Give off

42. Incorrect letters

44. Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)

45. Idyllic

46. Popular beer

47. A way to fine

48. Evildoer

50. More withered

51. Seventh note of a major scale

52. Commercial

54. Abnormal breathing

55. Moved more quickly

57. City of Angels

61. Partner to Pa

62. Equally

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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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.

TUTOR

from page A1

move forward. She said she visited India before the quarantine went into effect, and shortly after returning she learned of Nikhraj.

"We just got to talking, and he told me his work was to travel India and work on charity projects around the country," Madhuvarshi said. "I found that really interesting."

Madhuvarshi said she felt Nikhraj would put the money to good use, and it also provided her

a way to stay connected with her culture.

Madhuvarshi began teaching paid math classes, the proceeds from which went to schools in India, where they opened libraries. Last year, she self-published a math textbook, available for purchase on Amazon at the abbreviated URL bit.ly/3lvqE7Q.

The success of these projects was the inspiration for what Madhuvarshi calls the Library Project.

Its goal is to open 100 libraries in low literacy areas in India. She said each library costs \$500 to open and stock.

But while Madhuvarshi raises the money through her teaching, her parents, along with Nikhraj, are part of the team. Her father, she said, helps communications, particularly when she speaks with Indian students in Hindi. She knows the

language, she said, but he's more fluent. Her mother, meanwhile, teaches at a Montessori school and works to secure donations. So far, the project has raised about \$5,000.

Madhuvarshi said her mother also gives advice on the project website, ourtoolbox.org, where donations are accepted.

"She's good at making sure things look marketable," Madhuvarshi said.

BUDGET

from page A1

through property value audits for 2020 and 2021. He said he did not want to guess the figure, but describe it as a "very good wildcard number." He said that figure would be the highest value of what he was sharing at the meeting.

Once the audits are completed, Smith said, they are sent to the state comptroller's office, where they will be reviewed. Such a review could take one month, Smith said, or it could go longer, perhaps six months. When the comptroller's office finishes the review, the audits are then given to the Texas Agency for processing.

"When they get that, they'll process it fast," Smith said. "They won't hold on to it until they get their budget renewed."

Despite the increases in revenues, Smith said the district was facing explosive student enrollment growth versus a sluggish average daily attendance. The district expects to bring in \$2 million less due to this issue, he said.

"It's going to hurt our budget," Smith said.

On expenses, Smith said the district expects to underspend on payroll by about \$10 million.

"We never spend our entire budget on payroll," Smith said.

Anticipated increases in expenses, Smith said, were for expanding self-insurance (\$3.4 million, which Smith suggested the anticipated Winter Storm Yuri claim funds be applied towards); additional funding for portable building moves (\$2.9 million); additional property insurance premiums (\$1.35 million); knowledge, abilities and tools (\$500,000), and additional program startup funding (\$250,000).

Overall, Smith said these changes decrease the budget deficit from about \$16.8 million to about \$2.4 million.

"Where I didn't need to be conservative when it came to expenses, I wasn't," Smith said, adding that he thought officials were also conservative on income figures. He said he wanted to think that the district would have a surplus, particularly after the two property value audits are completed.

ICEHOUSE

from page A1

of things got in the way and I got it opened as quick as I could."

Food trucks provide the food for the patrons. As for drinks, the icehouse offers a variety of draft, domestic and import beers. It also offers wines, cocktails and other liquors.

The icehouse is the first of two dining-and-drink options in the downtown area. Construction continues at the other restaurant, Southern Dough Baking Company, 908 Ave. B. The opening date has not been set as final preparations continue. When open, it will offer sandwiches, salads and dinners.

"Downtown Katy is a really cute town, loaded with history," Fanning said. "The antique shops are just loaded with some of your new best friends. There's soon going to be a lot to do down here."

WATER

from page A1

it was formed and a small monthly charge began appearing on water bills for city residents in Harris County and the district. But infrastructure costs and a growing population caused those fees to rise. The infrastructure remains under construction.

The fees wouldn't go away after the system gets built because the charge would be for the water. Surface water is more expensive than groundwater, he said.

Harris said he's spoken with Dennis Gorden, the authority director whose precinct includes Katy.

"I think they understand we're unhappy with it because our residents are unhappy with it," Harris said. "I'm unhappy with it because we all have to pay for something we're not receiving. We've spoken to all our state representatives about the issue."

Gorden, along with board vice president Larry Wepler and construction manager Troy Anthony, spoke at a Feb. 16 "Coffee with the Directors" event at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. 5th St.

Wepler said authority leaders thought they could have water to Katy by 2025 or 2026, but that could not happen.

"We can't be guaranteed that the City of Houston will give us water," Wepler said. "Some of it applies to getting pipes out here and tied to your wells in Harris County."

Currently, Gorden said, the schedule calls for Katy to receive surface water by 2035-36. But Katy officials went to the authority and requested the surface water be available sooner than that. Engineers studied the issue and believe the water would be available by 2027-28, but Wepler said there were no guarantees.

Some land must still be purchased for the pipe line. Officials must decide where to run the pipe and perform all the related activities, from surveys to dealing with landowners, before beginning construction.

"When money's involved, you don't always find people willing to work with you," Wepler said.

Harris said city officials have talked about legal options, but there aren't any.

"We're just a conduit for receiving that fee because we collect the water bills," Harris said. "As a

representative of the City of Katy, I'm not throwing up my hands about it. We're talking to the legislature about it. It is not a City of Katy issue, entity-wise. From the legislature, yes, we're having to be a part of it because of subsidence. We're paying a lot of money for something we don't have. We're looking for a better way to pay it out."

Both Harris and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson expressed confidence that state Rep. Mike Schofield, R-Katy, whose district includes the Harris County portion of the city, can help with a solution.

"I believe he's going to do something about it," Robertson said.

Schofield said he has been asking residents to send him copies of their water bills.

"We have some residents whose impact fees are two or three times their actual water usage bill," Schofield said. "That doesn't work."

Schofield said the project itself was not the issue. People understand subsidence, he said, along with the need to switch to surface water and developing the pipeline to supply it locally.

"The issue is whether a pipeline that's going to be in the ground for 200 years has to be paid for upfront by all the folks who are living here right now, when we know there's a ton of growth coming and those folks aren't paying for any of it," Schofield said. "As a result, you have impact fees that are two to three times their water usage fees. The cost of the project is not spread among the people who are going to use it."

Schofield said he has filed a bill in which requires officials from the Texas Municipal Finance Authority and the Texas Water Development Authority will form a committee to identify and recommend a way that the costs can be spread out over time. The committee, Schofield said, will have until September 1, 2024, to make its suggestions. Schofield said it was possible there was no way the costs could be spread out. If that were to happen, he said, the state would have to take what he called "more extreme" measures. But he expressed hope that if committee members could get together and find a solution, that was the better way to proceed.

CORRECTIONS

In its March 15 story "Willowfork Fire District #2 breaks ground for new administrative office," the Times erroneously referred to the Willowfork Fire Department as a district. Fort Bend County Emergency Services District #2 created the Willowfork Fire Department, which serves the district. In the same story, the Times reported that Robert Miller, president of the district's board of commissioners, said that the new administrative office was to be 2,000 square feet. Miller clarified that the office is to be 3,000 square feet. The story also said that during Hurricane Ike in 2008, firefighters had to back the fire trucks against the doors to keep the doors from collapsing against floodwater pressure. Miller clarified that the fire trucks were placed against the doors to prevent collapsing from wind pressure, not floodwater pressure.

The Times regrets the errors.



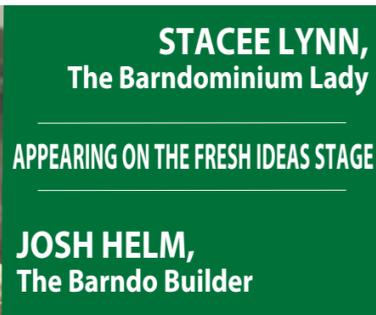
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Have you ever been on the radio?

Everyone should do it at least once in their life. Speak on the radio, I mean.

While promoting my new book (search for my name on Amazon if you're curious), I had the honor of being interviewed live (via telephone) on Nashville's Super Talk 99.7.

(Not that I haven't broadcast live from a studio before. Forty-something years ago, my career as a DJ came to a screeching halt after a single comedy-of-errors weekend. In the weeks following that catastrophe, when the word "frequency" came up locally, it had less to do with signal modulation than "Just how often will the sheriff let us tar and feather someone?")

I'm glad I built up the nerve to do the interview.

Like many people, I am self-conscious about my voice. Sure, when my utterances go straight from my mouth to my ears, I imagine myself subbing for Patrick Stewart onstage in "Macbeth" or exchanging urbane witticisms with the fabled Algonquin Round Table. But when I hear my voice on a tape recorder or other such device, I remind myself of Huckleberry Hound with his bow tie on too tight.

Some people have a face made for radio. I have a voice made for hieroglyphs.

I'll admit that I overprepared for the interview. Sure, the cough drops IV unit was marginally defensible, and I may yet find a venue for the six-act hand puppet biography of Guglielmo Marconi; but I could still face litigation for disabling every toilet within the range of hearing and simultaneously gagging the Ty-D-Bol Man.

The genial host invited me to relax and treat it like a normal one-on-one conversation, but my brain has a built-in translator. A benign query such as "What inspired you to write this book?" becomes as stressful as "When you sign this 40-year mortgage, you do realize we'll know where you live, right?" or "Just what are your intentions with my virgin daughter, you young punk?"

On the other hand, it's hard to take yourself too seriously when you know that while half the listeners are hanging on your every word, the thoughts of the other half drift toward, "Oooo, I hope they rerun the jingle with the yodeling vinyl siding today!"

All in all, it was a great experience. I hope you seize your own radio opportunities.



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Like many people, I am self-conscious about my voice. Sure, when my utterances go straight from my mouth to my ears, I imagine myself subbing for Patrick Stewart onstage in "Macbeth" But when I hear my voice on a tape recorder or other such device, I remind myself of Huckleberry Hound with his bow tie on too tight.

Voice your opinion on a political show. Phone in and prognosticate on a sports show. Compete in a trivia contest. Announce a birthday or anniversary. Publicize your civic organization. Don't be a wallflower when an on-air personality does a remote broadcast from one of your favorite businesses.

You'll get a priceless ego boost when friends and acquaintances laud you as a celebrity. But remain vigilant as you enjoy your 15 minutes of fame. I keep expecting the IRS to connect the dots. ("Hmm. 15 minutes of fame. Time is money. Audit time! KA-CHING!")

And it might be even more than 15 minutes of fame. We tend to think of radio broadcasts as having less permanence than a book, but those radio waves just keep traveling through the universe.

Perhaps someday they'll reach intelligent life thousands of light-years away.

"Dude! It's just like those earth signals I picked up forty-something years ago. Huckleberry Hound is still their leader! Have they never heard of term limits? Somebody just go ahead and give me an alien autopsy right now!"

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



New poll: Legislators have an opportunity to act on Texans' everyday concerns

At Texas 2036, we took March 2 — Texas Independence Day — to celebrate the 30 million Texans going about their daily lives, contributing in ways large and small to the ongoing miracle known as Texas.

With that in mind, we've chosen that day to release the second set of results from our Texas Voter Poll, gauging voters' thoughts on both the affordability and accessibility of services key to their day-to-day lives and on the need for rigor in the public education curriculum.

- Seven in 10 voters said most working Texas parents lack access to affordable childcare options.

- More than nine in 10 voters said they were at least a little concerned about the affordability of housing in Texas.

- More than three in four voters would allow advanced practice nurses to provide more primary care in areas without enough primary care physicians.

- Currently, 224 of Texas' 254 counties are classified as primary care shortage areas, meaning that there are not enough doctors available to meet the needs of the population.

Voters also strongly back maintaining rigor in the public education curriculum.

- Nearly three in four voters favored requiring schools to use instructional materials that have been reviewed by the state and shown to be higher quality.

- A recent analysis by the Texas Education Agency found that only 19% of surveyed reading assignments in Texas elementary schools were on grade level.

- Close to seven in 10 voters were against eliminating standardized testing of U.S. history.

With voters on the record about these issues of daily concern and where they would like to see future investments of their tax dollars, our poll demonstrates that lawmakers have a clear roadmap for taking real steps to improve the day-to-day life of Texans. Currently, 65% of Texas voters said the state government was doing either an excellent, good or fair job in solving problems and serving the needs of its residents.

"You can't solve a problem that you don't diagnose fairly and accurately," Margaret Spellings, Texas 2036 president/CEO, said. "Our hope is that citizens, lawmakers, partners and colleagues use this survey of our fellow Texans as a way to spur dialogue and inform decisions that affect all Texans."

And in a not surprising view of how Texans look at how we solve problems, they look to everyone to step up to the plate—from business leaders to elected officials to regular people—showing that it will take everyone to achieve success in the future.

Three in 10 Texas voters thought regular people can do the best to improve Texas. That was more than the 26% of voters who thought state government officials were best positioned to improve Texas and the 18% who believed local government officials were best positioned to advance the state.

Surveys like the Texas Voter Poll are vital to us as at Texas 2036 a data-based organization.



A.J. RODRIGUEZ
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

And in a not surprising view of how Texans look at how we solve problems, they look to everyone to step up to the plate — from business leaders to elected officials to regular people — showing that it will take everyone to achieve success in the future.

The results of this survey should galvanize the building of a coalition this year to insist the public sector act proactively to address the state's most pressing challenges and opportunities.

Voters overwhelmingly support lawmakers' use of portions of the state's historic \$32.7 billion current revenue surplus to make generational investments in key infrastructure like water, state government cybersecurity and IT, community colleges, broadband accessibility and the creation of new state parks, as highlighted by Texas 2036.

"We are in a blessed position relative to other states because of the state's historic revenue surplus. There are all these things out there that are big and impactful and directly impact people's lives, and lawmakers have a real opportunity this year to tackle them," John Hryhorchuk, Texas 2036 senior vice president for policy and advocacy, said. "Voters want to see action, and our polling data shows that they want the state to pursue generationally-impactful investments."

On Texas' 187th birthday, Texas voters embrace learning about history and ensuring students have access to high quality curriculum in Texas schools. While some have proposed eliminating state standardized testing in American history, Texas voters resoundingly reject that effort. And as state leaders look to combat COVID-

related learning loss, as well as historical student outcomes gaps, voters strongly approved of efforts to improve curricular materials in Texas public schools.

"Improving curriculum in Texas public schools can improve student outcomes and teacher quality of life," Mary Lynn Pruneda, Texas 2036 senior policy advisor, said. "With higher quality curriculum, teachers can focus on delivering instruction and helping meet each child's individual needs."

More than six in 10 of Texas voters said that they trust their local law enforcement to handle crime and public safety issues. But they also indicated they would not back efforts in the Legislature to make less transparent the state's system that governs the separation of a peace officer from their employers.

Texas 2036 released a report in November that documented problems with the form that law enforcement agencies use to describe the discharge of an officer. The report concluded that shortcomings in this system not only fails to adequately address the problem but can also facilitate a problem officer wandering to other agencies.

More than three in four Texas voters said their trust in law enforcement would decrease if lawmakers chose not to reform this system but instead chose to do away with it entirely.

"For Texas to be the best place to live and work, public safety, which is predicated on trust in law enforcement, is critical," Luis Soberon, Texas 2036 policy advisor, said. "That trust can be shaken and tarnished by a few who do not uphold the profession's high standards. The Texas Legislature can seize the opportunity this session to improve safeguards against wandering officers, strengthen the profession and better protect all Texans."

Baselice and Associates conducted the survey, polling 1,000 registered Texas voters on February 1-6, 2023. It has a margin of error of ± 3.1%. The interviews were conducted via phone (55%), SMS (13%), and online (32%). To view the poll results, visit the website texas2036.org/poll.

To learn more about Texas 2036 work, visit our website, texas2036.org.

A.J. Rodriguez is executive vice president at Texas 2036, a Dallas-based nonprofit policy research organization.



Texas state legislators have a chance to act on Texans' everyday concerns, a Texas 2036 poll finds.

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TRIBUTE

Patricia Carpenter Loveday, of Lake City, passed away on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at her home with her love, Dan Bowles by her side. She was 76.

Patricia was born to Ralph and Virginia Carpenter, in Nova, Ohio, attending Ruggles-Troy Schools and Mapleton High School. In 1961 the family moved to Irving, Texas. There she ultimately met and married James Loveday in 1963, having three children. Sadly, James died in 1997. Pat went on to establish herself in a career with State Farm Insurance. During a grade school reunion in Nankin, Ohio in 1999, Pat re-met Dan Bowles, a school friend. A relationship developed that forced Dan to drag Pat, kicking and screaming, back to Michigan, where they have resided ever since, currently in Lake City, MI. She chose to pass, in Dan's arms in the log cabin she so loved. Their life together has been overflowing with travel, unusual experiences, and a life of joy. Pat was a friend to all. Being from Texas, she con-



PATRICIA CARPENTER LOVEDAY

tinually reminded Dan that you had to talk to people. That could mean taking two hours at the grocery to buy a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk, but garnering the complete life history of the single mom behind the cash register. Once pictured in the local newspaper climbing up shelves to grab a can from the top shelf for an elderly widower, she went on to help him complete his shopping. That exemplifies her view of life. Affectionately known as "Miss Patty"!!

She traveled extensively on the back of Dan's motorcycle to Tennessee, Utah, and one 3,500-mile trip to Texas for her surprise 60th birthday party. After all that, she opted to get a license and ride her own bike. She was a force to be reckoned with! After a brief retirement, she chose to return to the work force assisting the HR department at North Star BlueScope Steel in Delta, OH. She claimed it was for a little extra money, but all reports indicate that she just loved to talk to people all day long. No complaints were ever recorded!

Pat was preceded in this current journey by her parents and a sister, Joyce Gorney Parades, and a daughter-in-law, Michelle Loveday.

She has moved on from us and the trials of Alzheimer's. Wish her safe travels. She will be greatly missed by those left behind, including: Dan Bowles of Lake City, MI; brother, David (Janet) Carpenter, Grove City, Ohio; sons, Troy (Deborah) Loveday of Allen,

Texas, Bryan Loveday of Jasper, MI; daughter, Tonya (David) Loveday-Ward of Broomfield, CO; step-sons, Danny (Edie) Bowles of Blissfield, MI, Jon (Jolene) Bowles of Adrian, MI; nine grandchildren; Jeremy Loveday, Jonathan Loveday, Mia Loveday, Sutton Ward, Anson Ward, Courtland Bowles, Elijah Bowles, Noah Bowles and Parker Bowles; treasured friends, her "Texas Girls"; Polly Dalton and Becky Hartford, as well as Debbie Kline, Ashland, OH; not forgetting her constant protector pup, "Molly"!

Funeral services took place Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2 p.m. at Young-Holdship Funeral Home in Lake City, MI with cremation to follow.

It is suggested that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the Ardis Missaukee District Library. Condolences and memories may be shared online at www.Young-Holdship.com.

The family is being served by Young-Holdship Funeral Home.

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Katy Taste Fest scheduled for April 22

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Taste Fest, the premier family friendly food festival for Katy foodies, celebrates its fifth anniversary from 12-3 p.m. April 22 at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road. The event enables Katy-area foodies to come together and sample delicious bites while supporting local non-profit organizations focusing on the environment, food security and vulnerable children.

The event features the diversity of Katy's dining community with over 20 of Katy's restaurants with unlimited bites while sipping on wine, beer, and spirit samples. Activities and fun for all ages including VIP lounge, cooking demonstrations, Kids' Zone, raffles, Best of Fest competition, and ax throwing while rocking out to live music by Sonic Seduction.

General admission tickets start at \$45, VIP tickets are \$80, and Kids' Zone for \$10. Early Bird pricing for discounted tickets available until March 31.

For the last four years Katy Taste Fest has grown to over 1,500 attendees and this year organizers expect over 2,000 attendees.

"We are excited to celebrate our fifth annual Katy Taste Fest,"



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

The Katy Taste Fest enjoyed good weather and great food at its 2022 event. Organizers are planning for more of the same for 2023.

Cyril Thomas, Katy Taste Fest event chair, said. "We love being able to celebrate and give back to our community. Our incredible venue partner, Typhoon Texas is an

incredible space to host the event." Money raised from the Katy Taste Fest benefits charities. "The only thing that Katy loves more than food, is giving back

to the community," Cherin Cox, Katy Taste Fest VIP committee chair, said. "We have granted over \$100,000 to charities since 2017 and love being able to give back."

Participating restaurants include: The Toasted Yolk Cafe, Whiskey Cake, Miss V Vietnamese Cuisine, Cabo Bob's, Mala Sichuan Bistro, HotBits Indian Cuisine, Panino's, Southern Dough Baking Company, Black Walnut Café, Chuckwagon BBQ, The Union Kitchen, Orleans Seafood Kitchen, Babin's Seafood, Halal Guys, The Crack Shack, Frankie's Italian Kitchen, Typhoon Texas Water Park, Social Sports Pub and more to come.

Sponsors include: Keller Williams Premier Realty, Rotary Club of Katy, DripBar, Renewal by Anderson, Waggin' Tails, Chiro Dynamics, and Andretti Indoor Karting and Games.

Katy Taste Fest aspires to turn tasters into diners. The festival explores the city's diverse dining scene by sampling tastes from local restaurants. Attendees can enjoy cooking demonstrations, live entertainment, a silent auction, and family-friendly activities for food lovers of all ages. Katy Taste Fest supports several local charities that focus on vulnerable children and zero waste.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website katytastefest.com.

Fort Bend County judge holds conversation series, engages with residents

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County judge KP George hosted the first in a series of quarterly community conversations March 16 at the Fort Bend University Branch Library, 14010 University Blvd., in Sugar Land.

Joining George was a panel of speakers that included Carlos Guzman, Fort Bend County economic opportunity and development director; Kevin Matchoa, Stonehenge Holdings LLC president; Tyrell Patel, White House deputy liaison, and Rick Staigle, Fort Bend County first assistant county engineer.

At the beginning of the program, George said that his top priority is to build dialogue with residents about the county's economic growth, infrastructure and mobility needs due in part to future population growth projections.

"My top priority is transparency and to always keep our residents updated on the various current and future projects and goals we have for the county," George said. "I want to make it easy for our residents to join the conversation and for us to listen to their concerns as well."

Matchoa's presentation of the multi-purpose EpiCenter drew some buzz as he announced the 10,000-seat venue, set to open this summer, just secured a contract with the ESPN for wrestling.

"My top priority is transparency and to always keep our residents updated on the various current and future projects and goals we have for the county. I want to make it easy for our residents to join the conversation and for us to listen to their concerns as well."

—KP GEORGE, Fort Bend County judge

Additionally, the EpiCenter can serve as an operations center and an evacuation emergency shelter during hurricanes, floods and extreme winter weather events.

Guzman said his department is conducting its first-ever comprehensive economic development strategic plan. Guzman said the study will be completed in six months and help maximize resources while aligning with the needs of the public and private sectors.

Staigle presented an overview of completed and ongoing mobility projects in the county. Patel gave a presentation on working effectively to create sustainable communities.

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS



SHERREL ROGERS

In response to ongoing residential and commercial growth in the Fulshear area, the caution light signal at the FM 359-Rogers Road intersection has been replaced with red light signals.



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON'S PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Fort Bend County Clerk Laura Richard has been awarded the Public Official of the Year for 2023 from the University of Houston Master of Public Administration Program. Throughout her tenure as county clerk, Richard has focused on making a positive impact on public service through excellent customer service, skilled personnel and leading-edge technology while being vigilant and efficient with taxpayer dollars. Fort Bend County commissioners presented Richard a proclamation in recognition of the honor. "Receiving this recognition during Women's History Month is especially meaningful," Richard said. "I am humbled to receive this acknowledgement and am honored to serve the citizens of Fort Bend County."

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Katy Chamber's TopGolf Chamber Challenge set for March 30, Katy ISD candidate forum for April 13

CONTRIBUTED AND STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's TopGolf Chamber Challenge is a fundraiser that supports first responders of Harris County Emergency Services District #48 and their work serving the community. Other portions of the proceeds go back into the chamber's programs and initiatives to support the local business community.

Sponsorships range from \$100-2,500. The tournament is from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 30 at Top Golf Houston-Katy, 1030 Memorial Brook Blvd., in Houston.

For more information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3FA2MXp.

Meanwhile, the chamber will host a

Katy ISD candidate forum from 7-8:30 p.m. April 13 at Cinco Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd.

Candidates invited include:

- Position 3: Bruce Bradford, Shawn Miller and Amy Thieme.
- Position 4: Erica Brettell, Morgan Calhoun and Cicely Taylor.
- Position 5: Mary Ellen Cuzela and Shana Peterson.

Jason Burdine and Robert Long will facilitate the forum. To attend, RSVP by visiting the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3Twa4RE. The forum will also be broadcast on the chamber's Facebook page.

Early voting begins April 24. The election is May 6. For more information, contact the chamber at 281-391-5289.

STUDENTS OBSERVE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



KATY ISD PHOTOS

Eight Katy ISD SkillsUSA members attended the SkillsUSA Texas Legislative Day in February. They observed sessions on the legislative process in Texas and learned how a bill becomes law. Here they are pictured in the rotunda with a portrait of Gov. Allan Shivers, who served from 1949-57.



The students also visited the Texas House of Representatives, where they participated in mock debates using parliamentary procedures they learned. Here they are pictured at the speaker's rostrum in the House chamber. Directly behind the students is the battle flag flown during the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. The portrait on the left is of Gov. James Stephen Hogg, the first native-born governor of Texas. He served from 1891-95.

FORT BEND COUNTY

New public challenge aims to close digital gap

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Judge KP George held a March 8 news conference to announce the launch of the public challenge initiative to encourage Fort Bend County residents to participate in the Federal Communications Commission's national broadband map. Data collected from the FCC's national broadband map public challenge will be used to determine eligibility for funding for future broadband expansion.



KP GEORGE

Residents can participate in the public challenge by going to the county's website at fbctx.gov and clicking the image that will take them to the Let's Connect Texas B broadband map to evaluate their accessibility.

Currently, the unserved and underserved areas of Fort Bend County include Fulshear, Simonton, Arcola, Fresno, Thompsons, Needville and Siena. Roughly, 61,000 households have been identified as not having adequate internet services. "Fort Bend County is ranked as the second richest county in the state of Texas, the most educated, most graduate degrees... We are one of the fastest growing counties in the United States; however, with all those good things, broadband is still a challenge," George said. "I urge our residents to complete the public challenge. This is about ensuring that all of Fort Bend County, no matter what zip code, can thrive."

A key component to the potential future investment in broadband connectivity in the county is to apply for funding through the broadband equity, access, and deployment (BEA D) program, established by the infrastructure investment and jobs action act (I IJ A), which allocated 42.45 billion towards expanding high-speed Internet across the United States. Joined by Stafford Municipal School District superintendent Robert Bostic, George emphasized the need to provide students with reliable internet access to support remote learning, allow educators to prepare lessons using Internet and digital technology and broaden the scope of current knowledge for students. Fort Bend County's director of information technology Robyn Doughtie echoed George's message for the public to participate in the public challenge so the county can be evaluated and address the infrastructure needs. Residents can participate in the public challenge by going to the county's website at fbctx.gov and clicking the image that will take them to the Let's Connect Texas B broadband map to evaluate their accessibility.

KATY ISD PALS ASSIST FOURTH GRADERS



KATY ISD

The Katy ISD PALS program recently presented Junior Achievement programs to fourth graders of WoodCreek Elementary. There, these peer assistant leaders dedicated their school day to teaching students about entrepreneurship, goods and services and international trade. For more information, visit the website katyisd.org/Page/8131.

REPAIR WORK



Royal Junior High principal Marcus McLemore asked his school's general trades class to repair the desks that had graffiti. The students rose to the challenge and refurbished 40 desks in three days.



As part of their refurbishing work, students hauled the desks to their work area, sanded the graffiti with orbital sanders to remove marks and scratches, cleaned off the dust and resealed the desktops.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Students win at Katy ISD spelling bee

Swastik Roy, from James E. Randolph Elementary, and Ahdav Vijay from Stockdick Junior High, won the recent Katy ISD spelling bee. Their victories advance them to the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee. Eric Dong, from Beckendorff Junior High, will serve as the alternate for secondary.

Online registration for new Katy ISD families begins April 3

Katy ISD announced that its online registration for the 2023-24 school year will be open from April 3-May 5 and will reopen during the summer. For questions or assistance during the registration process, please reach out to the schools to which you are zoned.

For more information, visit the website tx50010808.schoolwires.net/Domain/3797.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

HPE CODE WARS



KATY ISD

The Tompkins High CyberFalcons team won first place at the 2023 Hewlett Packard Enterprise CodeWars computer programming competition for high school students. The event was first hosted at the Hewlett Packard Houston campus in 1998 and has since expanded to multiple Hewlett Packard Enterprise and HP locations across the globe. The Tompkins team is the first team from Katy ISD to take first place at CodeWars.

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Royal ISD seeking Falcon Partners for upcoming district events

Royal ISD is seeking Falcon Partners to serve as sponsors for the following events:

- April 1 breakfast, district bus tour, and voter registration drive for the Royal ISD Bond 2023. To become a partner for this event, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3YXFOQG.
- April 29 breakfast, district bus tour, and early voting drive for the Royal ISD Bond 2023. To become a partner for this event, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/40aql1s.
- May 2 Teacher of the Year Banquet. The annual banquet honors exemplary performance. The district spotlights each campus teacher of the year, presents awards to retirees and presents 20 and 25 years of service awards. To become a partner for the banquet, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3Trvako.
- August 2023 staff convocation. To become a partner for this event, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3jpu1oK.

Graduation dates for Katy ISD high schools set

Katy ISD has announced the graduation dates for its nine high schools. Time for all the graduations is 8 p.m. at Legacy Stadium, 5070 Franz Road.

Here are the schools and dates:

- Paetow, May 18
- Katy, May 19
- Taylor, May 20
- Mayde Creek, May 21
- Cinco Ranch, May 22
- Morton Ranch, May 23
- Seven Lakes, May 24
- Tompkins, May 25
- Jordan, May 26



KATY ISD

The WoodCreek Junior High Jazz Band participated in a community tour recently and played for residents in two local assisted living communities.

Katy ISD journalism students encouraged to apply for emerging journalist program

The Scripps Howard Foundation and the University of North Texas Mayborn School of Journalism's Emerging Journalists Program is designed to prepare the next generation of journalists and help ensure newsrooms better represent the broader population.

This five-part program will create a strong mentor network between students and working journalists, a series of workshops that will encourage and recruit new cadres of students, "career bootcamps" in partnership with the national associations for Black and Hispanic journalists, opportunities for students to have their work published by major news organizations, and outreach and continuing education programs for regional high school teachers.

Sara Gonzales, Paetow High journalism teacher, has been selected as the 2023 Teaching Ambassador for

the Emerging Journalists Program for Texas.

For more information and to apply, visit the website journalism.unt.edu/emergingjournalists. Application deadline is March 27.

PPECF scholarship applications being accepted

The Phenomenal Pearls Education and Charitable Foundation is accepting applications for scholarships.

The foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that works with the Chi Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to provide programs and services that empower communities in need. According to its website, the foundation's mission is to intellectually and financially empower individuals and the community to achieve more by mobilizing the power and resources of volunteers and donors.

For more information, visit the website ppecf.org.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Upcoming Texas Select Event to display part of the Battleship Texas

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas Select Event, set for April 1-2 at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville, will recognize knifemakers who are donating their skills and time through the "Battleship Texas Artisans" program. The program creates new artwork, knives and swords using materials reclaimed from the iconic battleship. These items will be sold and the proceeds will benefit the repair efforts being made on the ship.

Phenix Knives originated and hosts the Texas Select Event, and is working with the Battleship Texas Foundation to promote public awareness of the ship's history and current restoration efforts. The Texas served in both the world wars. In 1948, it was decommissioned and permanently moored in a special anchorage next to the San Jacinto Battleground State Park.

Last August, the battleship was taken to Gulf Copper Galveston, where she was put into drydock for extensive repairs. The Battleship Texas Foundation preserves and enhances the battleships as both a museum and tourist attraction.

Those attending the Texas Special Event will also be able to see authentic historic relics from the ship, including one of the actual 20mm anti-aircraft guns on a trailer for children, and grown-ups, to explore.

In 2015 Cowboy Szymanski was invited to compete in the first season of the History Channel's competition "Forged in Fire" program. Through this experience, he gained new friends in the knifemaking industry. In 2018, he had the idea to invite the competitors from around the state to the Blacksmith Shop in Bellville so fans of the show could meet them in person, watch them work and hear their stories. That first year he hosted 18 bladesmiths



BATTLESHIP TEXAS FOUNDATION

This 20mm anti-aircraft gun will be on display at the Texas Select Event, which is set for April 1-2 in Bellville.

from five states at Texas Select from Forged in Fire Event and saw about 2,500 visitors come to the backyard event.

The Texas Select Event is a family friendly annual event, always on the first weekend of April. It has expanded to include reputable knifemakers through the professional guilds beyond just the Forged in Fire bladesmiths. Registrations for this year's event include over 140 knifemakers coming from 23 states, plus 30 more vendors.

The Texas Select Event benefits the local community in many ways. Each year, Szymanski has donated a custom knife to the local BEST Booster Club, which is raffled off to raise money for its scholarship program and summer science camp. To date, the knife raffle has raised \$22,500 in scholarship awards for Bellville High School graduates focused on science studies.

The event partners with the Bellville Lions Club to be the primary food/beer vendor, which benefits the Lions' charities in the community. And local Scout Troop 36 benefits from serving the awards dinner to the knifemakers.

For more information, visit the website TexaSelectEvent.com.

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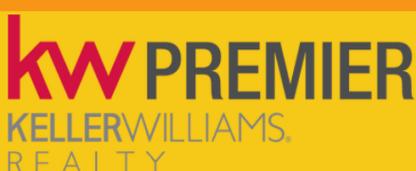
www.KatyTasteFest.com

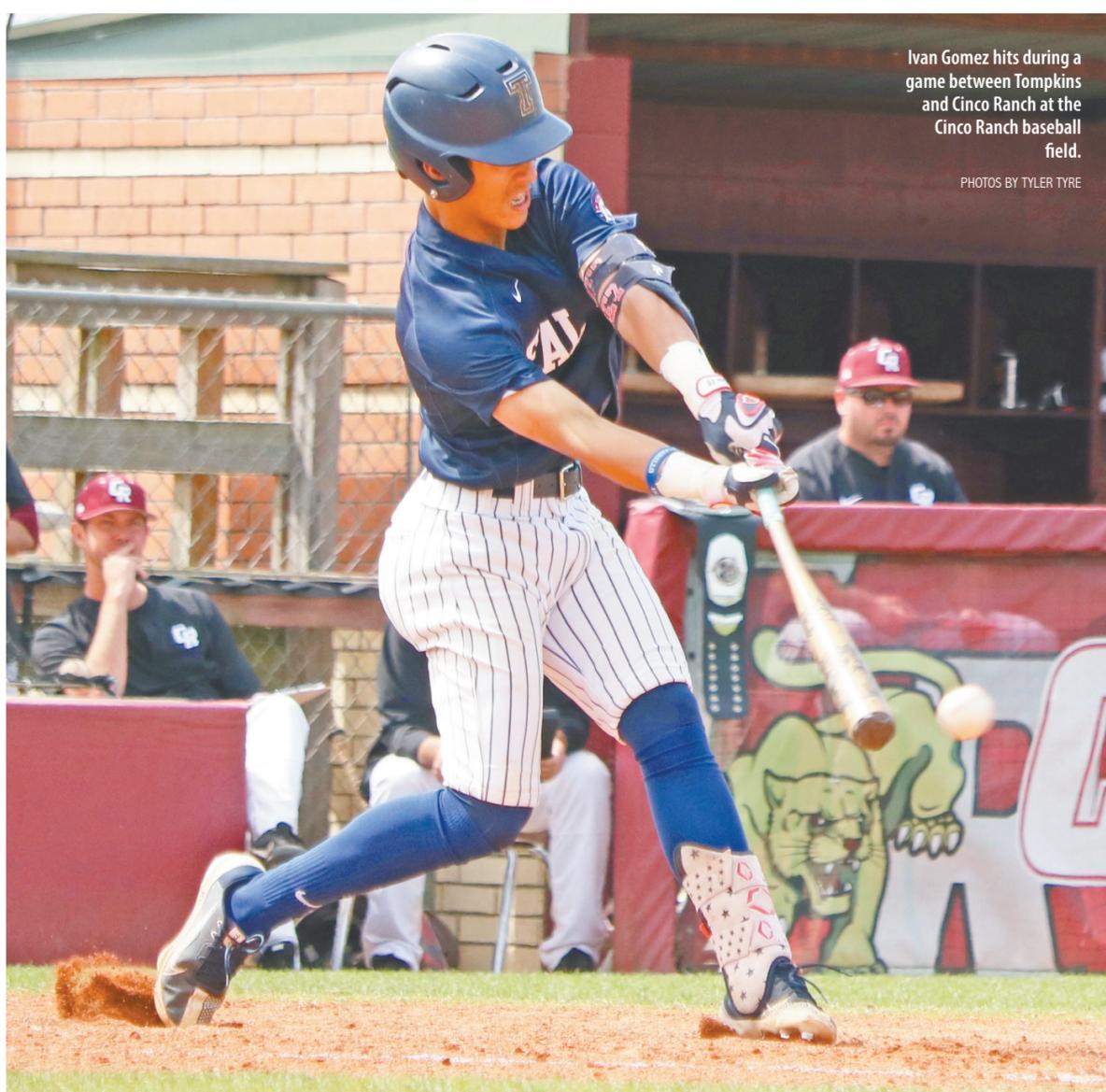
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Ivan Gomez hits during a game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes' Bates named a finalist for Guy V. Lewis Award

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior Seven Lakes guard A.J. Bates was named a finalist for the Guy V. Lewis Award last week, in another show of his strong season, leading Seven Lakes to one of the school's best years in program history.

The Guy V. Lewis Award is given annually to the best boys basketball player in the Houston area, with the winner being named the Great Houston Area Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

Lewis served as the head coach of the University of Houston for 30 years, from 1956 to 1986, leading the Cougars to five Final Four appearances and twice winning the AP College Coach of the Year Award.

Bates was named a finalist after leading Seven Lakes to a second

See **BATES**, page B7



Gavin Brewer pitches during a game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.

Tompkins run rules Cinco Ranch

Falcons maintain perfect district record

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has a goal in mind every time they take the baseball field.

The Falcons come off a district title last season, and their goal is to defend that title even while battling with some of the strongest teams in the region with the competition in

Katy ISD.

The Falcons have had some turnover with their team this season, especially among pitching that has had to step up from JV to varsity ball, but the team has answered the bell at the start of the season.

Tompkins won their first two

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

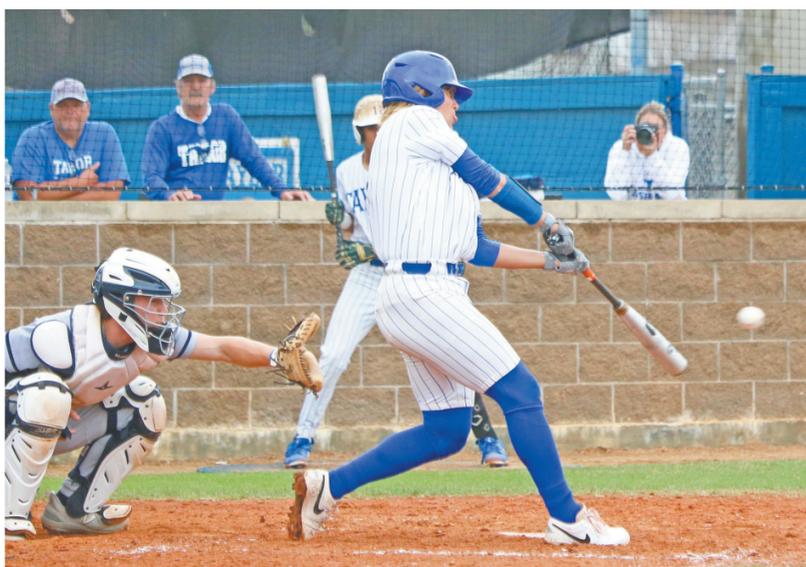
Taylor offense surges in win over Seven Lakes

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor knew how important Thursday's game against Seven Lakes was.

After a slow start to district, losing two against Cinco Ranch and following that up with a loss to Seven Lakes on Tuesday, the Mustangs needed to bounce back and find a way to get in the win column. They did just that by beating Seven Lakes 13-7 in an offensive slugfest where the Mustangs' offense came alive with big innings to lead them past the Spartans.

"It was a really big win for us, especially for us to respond like that after dropping the game on Tuesday," said Taylor head coach Russell Krenek. "Seven Lakes came out on fire Tuesday and we were able to make a game of it, but today we were able to put up a couple of crooked numbers offensively and it made a big difference for us in the game."



Layne Bishop hits during Thursday's game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

See **TAYLOR**, page B7

WEEK OF MARCH 24

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS SOCCER

BI-DISTRICT

Friday

- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Elkins at Mercer Stadium, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Ridge Point, 5:30 p.m. at Fort Bend Clements
- Seven Lakes vs. George Ranch, 7:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Tompkins vs. Clements, 7:30 p.m. at Mercer Stadium

BOYS SOCCER

BI-DISTRICT

Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Austin, TBD
- Paetow at George Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Jordan at Fort Bend Bush, 7:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Ridge Point, 7:30 at Fort Bend Clements

SOFTBALL

Friday

- Katy vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Tompkins
- Jordan vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.

Saturday

- Morton Ranch vs. La Marque, noon

Tuesday

- Katy vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.

Friday

- Katy vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Jordan, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy vs. Jordan, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 2 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 2 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 2 p.m.

Tuesday

- Jordan vs. Katy, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 6 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Thursday-Saturday

- Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Seven Lakes and Tompkins at Victor Lopez Relays



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Above: Jarace Walker (25) takes advantage of a fast break in transition to slam in a reverse dunk during an NCAA college basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Wichita State Shockers on Mar. 2, 2023, in Houston. No. 1 ranked Houston won, 83-66, claiming the American Athletic Conference regular season title. Left: Houston forward Ja'Vier Francis (5) looks to pass during an NCAA men's basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Southern Methodist Mustangs on Jan. 5, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 87-53.

Houston rolling in NCAA Tournament

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston locked in a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament over the weekend, being named the top seed in the Midwest region after winning the American Athletic Conference regular season and making it to the postseason championship game.

For the Cougars, it is only the second time in history that they have competed as a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and the first time since 1982-83.

The Cougars' first No. 1 seed in 40 years comes after a regular season where they went 31-3, and earned a game against Northern Kentucky, the No. 16 seed after winning the Horizon League. Houston will face Northern Kentucky on Thursday in Birmingham Ala.

"When you get a No. 1 seed, that's reflective of the respect they give your program," said University of Houston head coach Kelvin Sampson. "Our kids earned the right to be a one seed and I'm proud of them."

It won't be an easy path for the Cougars though, as the Midwest Region also includes No. 2 Texas, No. 3 Xavier, No. 4 Indiana. And though the Cougars topped both of their first two opponents, it will be a battle every game.

"I just watched Northern Kentucky play Cleveland," Sampson said. "They're a good team. I got reminded they beat Cincinnati and Cincinnati is pretty good. You have your work cut out for you every game in the tournament."

The Sweet 16 and Elite Eight is played in Kansas City for the region. The winners of that come back to Houston to play in the Final Four at NRG Stadium.

The Cougars could face the University of Texas in the Elite Eight.

Houston was ranked in the final AP poll of the season as the No. 2 team in the nation behind Alabama. The other teams to earn No. 1 seeds along with Houston were the Crimson Tide, Purdue and Kansas.

"We earned it," said senior guard Marcus Sasser. "We have a good team and it's tournament time. Anything could happen. This is what we've prepared for all season and it's here now. We have to go out and play like it's our last game, because it might be."

Houston guard Tramon Mark (12) goes to the basket against SMU forward Keon Ambrose-Hylton (22) during an NCAA men's basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Southern Methodist Mustangs on Jan. 5, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 87-53.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN



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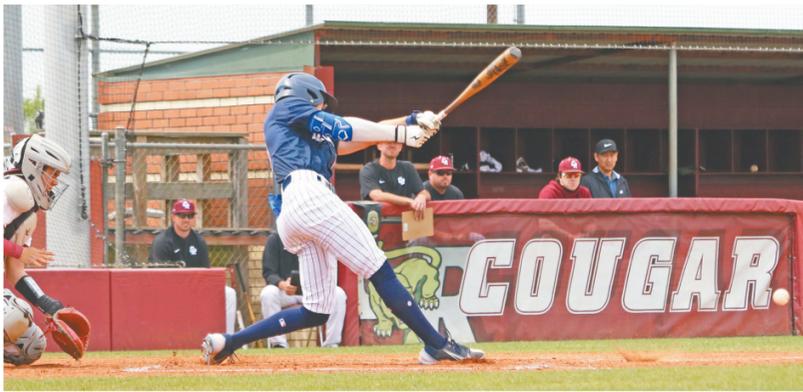
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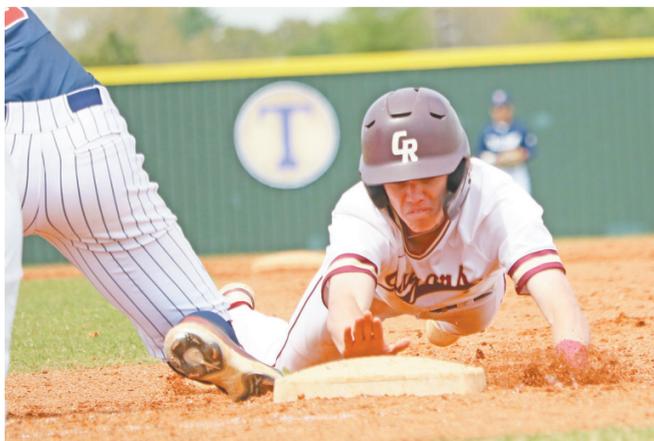
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Above: Cooper Markle hits during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field. Right: Brock DeYoung slides into first base during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.



TOMPKINS

from page B1

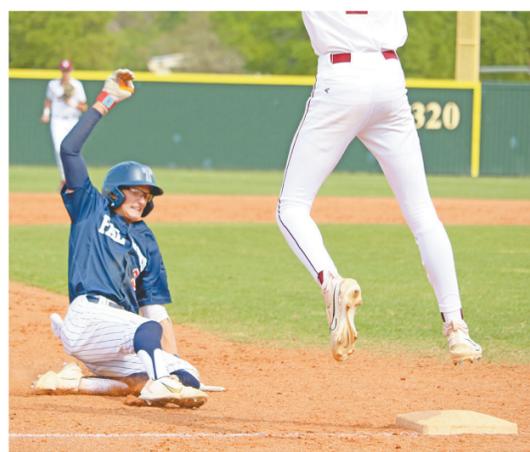
district games over Katy, with both coming in strong fashion and then followed that up with a huge run rule win over Cinco Ranch on Tuesday, beating a Cougars team that was out to their best start in program history 11-0 to stay undefeated in district.

"This game just shows we can beat anyone," said senior shortstop Drew Markle. "We just have to do our job at the plate. When we struggle, it's because we aren't doing that. When we keep fighting every at bat and put the pressure on opposing pitchers, we're a really good team."

Tompkins' offense was great in the game, but so was the team's pitching led by Gavin Brewer, who was a force on the mound, going four innings on the mound and pitching a shutout while allowing just two hits and striking out four.

"This is a different type of team than we've had in the past," said Tompkins head coach Kyle Humphreys. "This group, especially the pitching, a lot of them are juniors who were on JV last year. I've just been surprised at how much work they've put in and how hard they work. They've learned how to hit their spots with their fastball and pitch off that and they've done it all year. I'm couldn't be prouder of these guys, especially that group of juniors."

Neither team got on the board in the first inning, but Tompkins found a breakthrough in the second, getting two across to take the lead. The Falcons added



Drew Markle slides into third base after hitting a triple during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.

another in the third inning when Ivan Gomez drove in a run on a single before they truly broke the game open in the fourth inning.

Tompkins loaded the bases in the fourth and Markle came up to promptly empty them, hitting a three-run triple to double the Falcons' lead. Landon West, Gomez and Darius Woodson all drove in runs on singles of their own before Tompkins made things 10-0 after an error allowed another run to come in. The Falcons got one more in the top of the fifth before Daniel Deaton came on in relief to close things out, allowing just one hit in his inning of work to secure the win.

"I know when I'm finding the zone and I let the defense do the work that they will make plays for me," Brewer said. "I took some time and deep breaths and tried to execute my pitches

in the zone. They give me a lot of confidence and I know that all I have to do is attack the zone and make my pitches."

The win moves the Falcons to 11-4-1 on the season and 3-0 in district play and gave Tompkins the solo lead in district play after three games. But that run came to an end the following day when Cinco responded with a bounce back win.

"We've played some really good teams already — it's been a tough schedule in tournaments and it's really prepared us for what we're going to face throughout district," Humphreys said. "We were lucky enough to start 2-0 in district and it gave us confidence coming into today. The guys are starting to understand the really good pitching that they're going to see — that helps us a lot going forward."

Sasser is first UH First-Team All-American since 1984

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

University of Houston senior guard Marcus Sasser earned his latest postseason honor when he was named to the Associated Press All-America First Team on Tuesday.

He became Houston's first First-Team All-American since Hakeem Olajuwon was a Consensus All-American following the 1983-84 season.

Sasser leads the Cougars and ranks seventh in the American Athletic Conference with 17.1 points per game and stands among the league's Top-15 leaders in assists (3.2 avg, 13th), free throw percentage (84.0, 6th), 3-point field goal percentage (38.3, 8th), 3-point field goals per game (2.7, 5th) and assist-turnover ratio (1.98, 5th).

The Dallas native has posted 12 20-point games this season, including a career-best 31 points against South Florida on Jan. 11, with a team-high 28 double-digit scoring games.

"It's always rewarding to see a young man who has worked as hard as Marcus be rewarded with an honor as prestigious as AP All-America First Team," said Cougars head coach Kelvin Sampson. "Marcus is the face of our program and represents us with class and dignity."

Sasser also ranks seventh in the league with 1.7 steals per game.

He became the 50th 1,000-point scorer in Houston history earlier this season and currently stands 17th among the Cougars' career scoring leaders with 1,417 points to date.

He also has drained 268 3-pointers during his career, setting a Houston career record in that category.

For his efforts, Sasser was recognized as The American Player of the Year and was a unanimous choice by the league head coaches for the First Team.

This was only the latest postseason honor for Sasser. He recently was named to the All-America Second Team by Sporting News, Stadium and Field of 68.

This marked the second time in the last three years that a Cougar was named to an All-America Team. In 2021, guard Quentin Grimes was named to All-America Third Teams by Associated Press, National Association of Basketball Coaches, United States Basketball Writers Association and Sporting News.

"To me, this is a blessing, and it's an



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston guard Marcus Sasser (0) passes the ball during an NCAA college basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Mar. 2, 2023, in Houston.

honor to be listed with those great players. It just shows that hard works pays off. I give a lot of credit to my teammates," Sasser said. "I couldn't have done it without them."

2022-23 ASSOCIATED PRESS ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

FIRST TEAM PLAYER	CLASS	POSITION	SCHOOL
Marcus Sasser	Senior	Guard	Houston
Zach Edey	Junior	Center	Purdue
Jalen Wilson	r-Junior	Guard	Kansas
Trayce Jackson-Davis	Senior	Forward	Indiana
Brandon Miller	Fresh.	Forward	Alabama

SECOND TEAM PLAYER	CLASS	POSITION	SCHOOL
Jaime Jaquez Jr.	Senior	Guard/Forward	UCLA
Drew Timme	Senior	Forward	Gonzaga
Azuolas Tubelis	Junior	Forward	Arizona
Jalen Pickett	Senior	Guard	Penn St.
Oscar Tshiebwe	Senior	Forward	Kentucky

THIRD TEAM PLAYER	CLASS	POSITION	SCHOOL
Markquis Nowell	Senior	Guard	Kansas St.
Tyler Kolek	Junior	Guard	Marquette
Armando Bacot	Senior	Forward/Center	N. Carolina
Kris Murray	Junior	Forward	Iowa
Keyontae Johnson	Senior	Forward	Kansas St.

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FLURRY WARM UP FOR \$20
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9:45AM MANDATORY SAFETY BRIEFING
10AM SHOOT START TIME
12PM AWARDS, LUNCH, RAFFLE

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OF WEST HOUSTON
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MARCH 24

LAUNCH PARTY 7-10 P.M.

MARCH 25

BREWFEEST 3-9 P.M.

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Katy Times

March 16 Puzzle Answers

I	T	S	E	L	A	P	S	E				
M	A	C	T	O	P	I	C	S				
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8	4	2	9	1	5	7	6	3
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5	6	9	1	3	2	8	4	7

950 PUBLIC NOTICES **950 PUBLIC NOTICES** **950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 44-foot monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 6824 2/3 South Fry Road, Katy, Fort Bend County, TX 77494. Lat:[29-42-54.03] Long:[-95-46-33.85]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Alec, a.nimkoff@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704. 512.519.93888.*

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2023-01, The Application Of **Leslie Langford and Caliece Cureton**, Present Owners, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **2314 Jitterbug Ln.**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lot 1, Block 1 of Lilac Residential Section 1, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Platted Side Street Building Setback Of Fifteen (15) Feet For The Placement Of A Pool.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WALLER COUNTY

Waller County (County) is seeking to contract with a qualified firm which can provide professional hazards, preparedness, planning, consulting, and recovery services for the County. Please submit one (1) original, three (3) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Proposal shall be submitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Proposal shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm in a contract. Complete proposal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, TX 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: Project Number: 23-03-013 for All Hazards Preparedness, Planning, Consulting, and Recovery Services. Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.


INVITATION TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to City of Pattison for construction of the City Hall Renovations, LJA Job No. 1817-0001, will be received at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 4, 2023, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Scope of Work includes but is not limited to the demolition of existing walls, electrical, and plumbing and construction of new walls, flooring, electrical, and plumbing inside the existing City Hall.

Bidding Documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and Amtel or may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per set (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

City of Pattison will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 23, 2023. An additional non-mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2023. No additional site visits to City Hall will be granted outside of the two pre-bids. City of Pattison reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Successful Bidder, if any, is the Bidder offering the best value for the Owner based on the published criteria provided in the bid documents and on its evaluation. (Texas Local Government Code 252.043 and 271.116)

Bid security in the form of bid bond or cashier's check payable to City of Pattison in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid submitted, must accompany each Bid.

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

Bidder/Contractor declares that it has not received from a governmental body a notice of noncompliance with a provision of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code, or, if such notice has been received, bidder/contractor has taken adequate steps to ensure future compliance with such subchapter and has provided or upon request will provide documentation of same.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0013472001

APPLICATION. Curry Rail Services, Inc., 1425 11th Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0013472001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0090841) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 6,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 17000 Premium Drive, Hockley, in Harris County, Texas 77447. The discharge route is from the plant site to a country ditch; thence to an unnamed tributary; thence to Little Cypress Creek; thence to Cypress Creek. TCEQ received this application on February 28, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Lone Star College - CyFair Library, 9191 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.861944,30.025555&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director will prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Curry Rail Services, Inc. at the address stated above or by calling Miss Alexandra Creany at 814-224-7444.

Issuance Date: March 17, 2023



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL SUDHALTER

Above: TCU center Eddie Lampkin contests a shot during a game between TCU and SMU earlier this season. Left: TCU center Eddie Lampkin drives into the paint during a game between TCU and SMU earlier this season.

Morton Ranch grad Cryer headed back to NCAA Tournament



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Morton Ranch graduate L.J. Cryer made it back to the NCAA Tournament for the third straight season this year. The junior Baylor guard was part of a Baylor team that locked up a No. 3 seed in the tournament after finishing 22-10 in the regular season and tied for third in the Big 12. Baylor lost in their quarterfinal game of the tournament to Iowa State.

The Bears were placed in the South Region as the three seed and advanced to the round of 32 before falling to Creighton. Cryer did everything in his power to keep the Bears in that game, scoring 30 points and hitting four threes in the Baylor loss.

Cryer has had a strong junior season for Baylor, coming back from an injury plagued season his sopho-

more year to average a career high 14.5 points, 2.1 assists, 2.1 rebounds while shooting 44% from the field and 43% from 3-point range and hitting over 90% of his shots from the free throw line.

Cryer wasn't the only Morton Ranch graduate to be a part of a team that made the Tournament. Eddie Lampkin was part of a TCU squad made the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season, although he will not be with the team for the tournament.

Lampkin was hampered by injuries this season and played through injuries on the court. He did not take part in the Big 12 Tournament and announced his decision to enter the transfer portal on Monday.

TCU earned a No. 6 seed in the tournament.

Lampkin was limited to playing in 24 games this year, averaging six points and six rebounds per game while shooting 54% from the field. But Lampkin made the decision to leave the TCU team before the Big 12 Tournament.

Baylor guard and Morton Ranch graduate L.J. Cryer shoots a 3-pointer in a game against Washington State this season.

PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL SUDHALTER

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Nottingham Country M.U.D. in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on April 13, 2023, for Nottingham Country M.U.D. Fitness Station Enhancements.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including walk connections, fitness stations, drainage tie into existing, patch & repair.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Nottingham Country M.U.D. in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for April 03, 2023, at 2:30 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO AMEND THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN/MAP FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

APPLICATION: Eugene D. Mattern, owner(s), are requesting to be allowed to amend the Major Thoroughfare Plan/Map as noted in the application Property ID#s R11661, R11663 and R9470. The amendment will remove / abandon the Thoroughfare plan/map from these properties.

This amendment request, if approved, will only effect the applicant property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on April 12, 2023 at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, TX 77445.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2023

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, April 24, 2023

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: Private School (Mirus Academy) In A "C-1" Commercial District At 5506 Third Street; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists. Applicant And Property Owner Is Mary Kay Hafner, Agent Is Scott Hogan Of Mirus Academy.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WALLER COUNTY

Waller County (County) is seeking to contract with a qualified firm which can provide debris removal services for the County. Please submit one (1) original, three (3) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Proposal shall be submitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Proposal shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm in a contract. Complete proposal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, TX 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: Project Number: 23-03-014 for Debris Removal Services. Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Cinco Ranch outlasts Tompkins in 11 innings

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

WEDNESDAY

Cinco Ranch earned a huge bounce back win on Wednesday, overcoming a strong Tompkins side to win 4-2 in a game that went 11 innings, and avenge a loss to the Falcons on the previous day. The win was big in the district standings for the Cougars, as it brought them back into a tie with Tompkins in the standings at 3-1 while moving them to 15-3 on the season.

It was a huge day on the mound for the Cougars. Charlie Atkinson started and went nearly six innings, allowing two runs on six hits while striking out seven and walking four. And the relief pitching was just as big for them, as Logan Sosolik came on for four innings of relief, striking out four and Parker Booth pitched an inning without allowing a run to close out the game.

Lucas Franco got Cinco on the board in the first inning with an RBI triple, but Tompkins answered back in the second with a run driven in by Ivan Gomez. Gavin Rutherford gave the Cougars the lead back in the bottom of the third with an RBI double of his own and it stayed that way until the fifth inning when Drew Markle hit a home run to tie things back up.

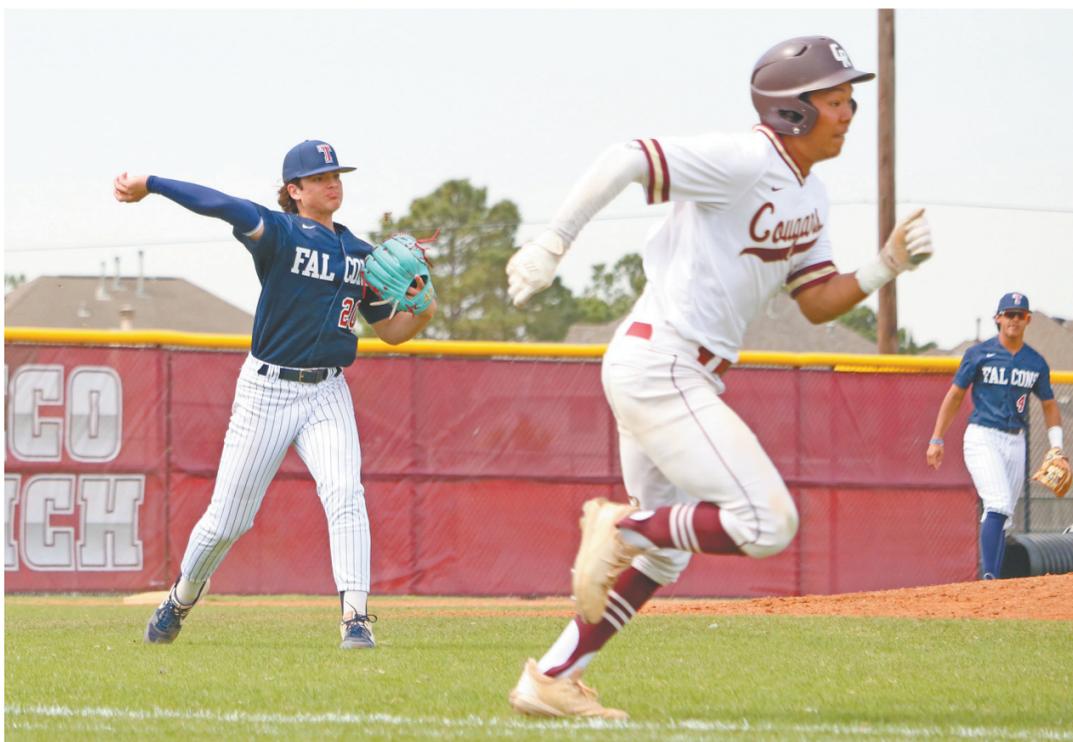
Pitching dominated from there on, as the game continued into extras and all the way to the 11th inning, where Rainer Castillo finally broke the tie by driving in a run on a single and Atkinson gave the Cougars an insurance run by drawing a bases loaded walk. The Cougars then got out of the bottom of the inning to seal the win.

Ty Dagley started and went six innings for Tompkins, allowing two runs on five hits while striking out seven and walking three. The Falcons' relievers combined for eight more strikeouts in the pitchers duel. Dagley, Markle and Gomez all led the Falcons' offense with two hits a piece. The loss dropped Tompkins to 11-5-1 overall and 3-1 in district play.

Katy survives extra inning scare with Morton Ranch

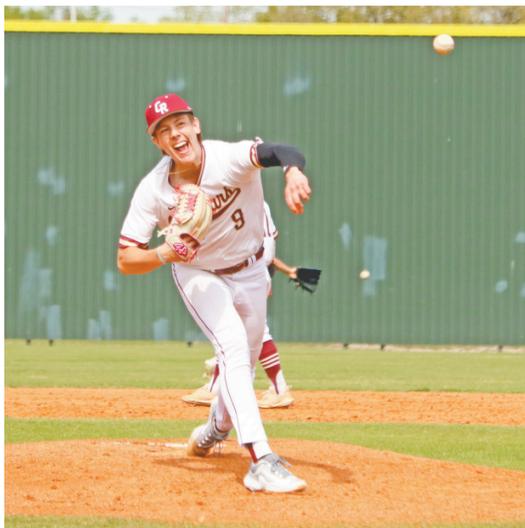
Katy also had a game go to extras on Wednesday, as the Tigers outlasted Morton Ranch to win 4-3 in a nine inning game and picked up a big win that put Katy at 12-4-3 overall and 2-2 in district play.

Lucas Moore was strong on the mound on the day for the Tigers, going six innings on his start and allowing just one earned run while striking out seven and walking four. Cameron Stukenborg pitched the final three



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

ABOVE: Gavin Brewer throws the ball to first base during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field. BELOW: Cooper Corkrean pitches during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.



innings for Katy and didn't allow a run, only allowing one hit while striking out six.

Katy took a two run lead in the first inning off a two-run double from Cole Kaase and they added a third an inning later when A.J. Atkinson hit a sacrifice fly to make things 3-0.

The game stayed that way until the fifth inning, when Morton Ranch got back into it. Justin Cryer made it a two run game when he drove in a run on a single and Morton Ranch tied it when an error by the first baseman allowed two more runs to come around. Neither team was able to get another across after that until the ninth inning, when Graham Laxton hit a solo home run to give the Tigers the lead for good as they went on to close out the win.

Zane Heiliger started on the mound for Morton Ranch and went five innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits while striking out

and walking four. Gerardo Gutierrez pitched the final four innings for the Mavericks, allowing just the one run on one hit while striking out four. The loss dropped Morton Ranch to 4-13 overall and 1-3 in district play.

Mayde Creek beats Paetow for first district win

Mayde Creek got its first district win of the season on Wednesday, beating Paetow 7-3 behind a strong offensive and pitching performance as they went to 6-9-1 on the season and 1-3 in district play.

Marcus Rodriguez started on the mound for the Rams and had a strong day, pitching a complete game and allowing two earned runs on four hits while striking out seven and walking two to earn the win.

The Rams got on the board in the second inning when they got a run on a

wild pitch and plated two more in the third when Pablo Lazcano hit a two-run single. Paetow trimmed the lead to one in the top of the fourth when Paul Gerke drove in two on a single but Mayde Creek answered back in the fifth getting runs on a sacrifice fly by Rodriguez, a single by Brandon Lumkins and a single by Cole Jensen.

Paetow tried to get back into things and got one run in the sixth when Christian Chacon hit a sacrifice fly, but Brian Oporta sealed things in the bottom of the sixth when he hit into a fielders choice to make things 7-3, as the Rams didn't give up another run the rest of the way.

Elijah Chisam started on the mound and went six innings for Paetow, allowing seven earned runs on 10 hits while striking out six and walking three. Gerke led the way for the Panthers' offense, driving in two. The loss dropped Paetow to 6-11 on the season and 2-2 in district play.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Katy run rules Morton Ranch for first district win

Katy earned its first district win of the year on Tuesday in emphatic fashion, run ruling Morton Ranch 12-2 in a big win for the Tigers, as they kept pace with other teams in district going to 11-4-3 on the season and 1-2 in district play

The Tigers earned the win behind a strong day on the mound from Cole Kaase, who allowed just two runs on three hits while striking out 11 and walking two in five innings, while Brady Englett was the biggest presence on the offensive end, driving in three runs on two hits to lead the Katy batters.

Morton Ranch took the lead in the first inning, as Justin Cryer hit a solo home run in his first at bat to put the

Mavericks ahead. Katy didn't get a run back in the first but found its bats in the second inning. Graham Laxton tied the game when he reached on an error to bring a run in and Andrew Hilton hit an RBI double to give Katy the lead.

Morton Ranch came back to tie the game in the third on a single from Isaac Cantu and it stayed that way for the rest of the inning, but Katy's offense exploded in the fourth inning.

Hilton started the scoring in the inning, driving in a run on a single. Englett drove in two more on a double before Sutton Hull made things 6-2 on a single. Nayden Ramirez drove in another run with a single before Laxton was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, bringing an eighth run home for Katy. Hilton came back up to bat and drove in two more runs and then A.J. Atkinson got another run in on a sacrifice grounder. Englett closed out the inning with another RBI single to put the Tigers up by 10 runs and Kaase didn't allow a run in the top of the fifth to seal the win.

Brandon Hasselbring started the game and went three innings for Morton Ranch, allowing seven earned runs on 11 hits while striking out and walking two. The loss meant Morton Ranch fell to 4-12 overall with a 1-2 record in district.

Seven Lakes starts district with big win over Taylor

Seven Lakes opened its district schedule with a strong win over Taylor, beating the Mustangs 5-3 to start off on the right foot.

Seven Lakes used a big performance from Lawson Moreno on the mound to secure the win, as he started and went five innings, allowing just one earned run off three hits while striking out

nine and walking four to earn the win.

The Spartans scored all of their runs in the bottom of the first, getting five, which is all they would need in the game. Seven Lakes scored a run on an error before Max Greathouse brought home a second on a sacrifice grounder. Greathouse then came around to score on a passed ball before Ethan Hernandez drove in two more on a double to make it 5-0.

Taylor was unable to get a run across for five innings, but heated up in the sixth inning on offense. Carson Marshall got the Mustangs' first run across with an RBI double and Davidenko Rodriguez hit a sacrifice fly, bringing in another. Carson Marshall then scored on a wild pitch to bring things to a two run game. That would be all that Taylor could muster though, as Seven Lakes got out of the inning and Collin Mills pitched a clean top half of the seventh to secure the win and get the save.

Layne Bishop started the game at pitcher for Taylor and went four innings, giving up five runs on three hits while striking out five and walking one. Marshall and Rodriguez led the Mustangs' offense as both had an RBI. The loss puts Taylor at 11-7-1 on the season and 0-3 in district.

Paetow outlasts Mayde Creek

Paetow came out winners in a close and continuous game against Mayde Creek on Tuesday, beating the Rams 4-3 as the Panthers moved into a tie for fourth place in district, with a 6-10 record on the year and a 2-1 record in district play.

Anthony Diaz was big on the mound for Paetow in the win, going six innings and allowing just one earned run on five hits while he struck out 10 and walked none to earn the win.

It was Mayde Creek that came out the gate strong. Alan Elliott drove in a run on a single in the top of the first and the Rams got another run on a passed ball. Paetow answered back in the bottom of the second. The Panthers got their first run on an error and Charles Radley tied the game on an RBI single, Garrett Smith then gave Paetow the lead on another single before the inning came to an end.

Paetow got another run in the sixth on an error, but Mayde Creek has a chance to come back in the seventh, loading the bases with no outs. But Paetow induced a ground ball, getting two outs while allowing just one run to score and a strikeout after that ended the game.

Alan Elliott started the game on the mound for Mayde Creek and went five innings, allowing three earned runs on seven hits while striking out six and walking four. Elliott also earned one of the Rams' two RBIs along with Nick Paul. Mayde Creek fell to 5-9-1 on the season and 0-3 in district play with the loss.

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TAYLOR
from page B1

It was a huge day for the Mustangs' offense, but also balanced, as they didn't depend on too many big hits and instead strung together singles and doubles along with walks, staying patient at the plate to earn 12 hits and seven walks to earn the win.

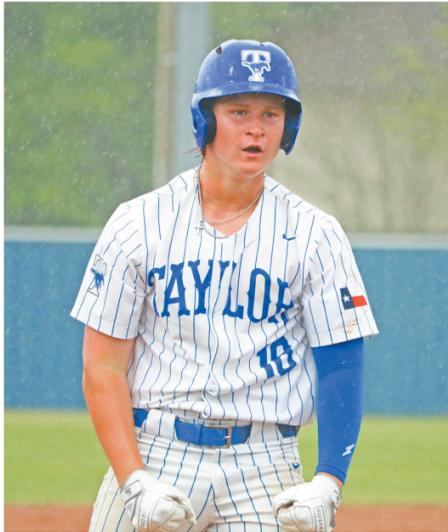
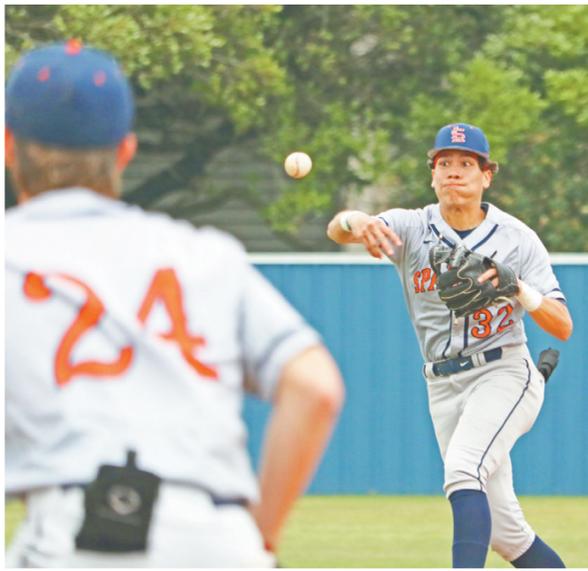
It was Seven Lakes that came out and struck first, scoring one in the first inning on an RBI single from Taylor Tite, and the Spartans added another in the second, as Miguel Acosta drove in a run on a single.

But Taylor started to heat up in the second, scoring one on a wild pitch before Davidenko Rodriguez tied the game on an RBI single. After not scoring in the third, the Mustangs' offense exploded in the fourth - they took the lead on a hit by pitch and added two more when Brett Dolejsi hit a single. Bryce Krenek opened things up after that with a two-run triple before Adam Fitzgerald made things 8-2 with a RBI single of his own.

"We do that a lot," Dolejsi said. "Sometimes we just have trouble scoring for a long time and then we just get a couple really big innings and turn around the game. It's good that we can do that but at the same time we have to be more consistent on offense as well."

Taylor added another in the sixth inning before scoring four more in the sixth inning. Seven Lakes tried to get back into the game, but the deficit was too much to overcome.

It was a strong day on the mound and at the plate for Taylor freshman Bryce Krenek, who had three RBIs which led the team along with Fitzgerald and also started and went nearly four innings, allowing two runs on five hits while striking out and walking five. Dylan Weaver was strong on the mound as well, pitching a clean seventh



Above: Miguel Acosta throws a ball to first place during a game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field. Left: Bryce Krenek celebrates after hitting a two-run triple during a game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

inning to seal the game.

The win propelled Taylor to 12-7-1 on the year and 1-3 in district play. And with a talented team that is starting to get players back from injury, the Mustangs still know they can compete to get in the playoff hunt.

"We had a good start today with this win. We needed that,"

Fitzgerald said. "But we know this is a tight district - there were some really close games last night and we're right there with everyone else in the district. We aren't out of things at all - we just have to take this win and use it for a snowball effect. Biggest thing is to keep going and string some wins together."



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

AJ Bates drives into the lane during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Stratford at the Merrell Center.

BATES
from page B1

straight district title, a berth in the regional tournament for the first time in 12 years and helping the Spartans break their single season win record. He averaged over 20 points and over seven assists on the year while the Spartans made it to the Class 6A Regional Semifinal.

Past winners of the award were PJ Haggerty (Crosby), Rasheed Sulaimon (Duke), Aaron Harri-

son (Travis), Justice Winslow (St. John's), Galen Robinson (Westbury Christian), De'Aaron Fox (Cy-Lakes), Nigel Hawkins (Cy-Falls), Quentin Grimes (College Park), KJ McDaniel (Klein Forest) Tramon Mark (Dickinson) and Ramon Walker (Shadow Creek).

Following is the full list of finalists for this year's Guy V. Lewis Award.

PLAYER	SCHOOL	CLASS
Anthony Bates	Seven Lakes	Junior
Glenn Bishop	Stafford	Senior
Keanu Dawes	Stratford	Senior
Corey Hadnott II	Cypress Creek	Senior
Orlando Horton Jr	Clear Falls	Senior
Jaland Lowe	Fort Bend Marshall	Senior
Chris McDermott	Booker T. Washington	Junior
Jace Posey	Strake Jesuit	Senior
JoJo Tugler	Cy Falls	Senior
Montana Wheeler	Houston Christian	Sophomore

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Katy Times

Texans make a number of moves as free agency opens

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Houston Texans were aggressive last week as free agency opened, making a number of signings and adding to the team both on offense and defense, as they build toward DeMeco Ryans' first season at the helm as head coach.

The Texans started free agency by signing veteran wide receiver Robert Woods to a two-year deal, in a move that will be good both for a new young quarterback that will likely be starting next year and that fits into Bobby Slowik's system.

Woods is a great safety blanket for a quarterback and has played in the offensive system that the Texans will be employing, and he has a strong reputation as a run blocker. He comes off a season though where he only finished with 527 yards, which was the least amount of yards he's had in a single season. The Texans also signed Noah Brown to a one-year deal after he had a productive season for the Cowboys, catching 43 passes for 555 yards and three touchdowns. They join a receiving corps that includes Nico Collins and Amari Rodgers.

Along with that the Texans made a move to improve their offensive line, which was a unit that struggled last season, as they traded a sixth round pick to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for Shaq Mason, who was one of the best pass protecting linemen in the league last season. Mason had over a 92% win rate in pass blocking while also being strong in the run game, winning 70% of his run blocks.

The Texans also brought back a former Houston starter, but this time to back up whoever they go with in the draft, as the franchise signed Case Keenum to a two year deal worth \$6.25 million. Keenum started his career with the Texans and has lots of experience in the west coast system. He will be a good backup that will bring experience and veteran leadership to the position as the Texans hope he can help along a young draft pick.

Defensively, the Texans made a number of strong moves, with the biggest being signing former first round draft pick Sheldon Rankins to a one year deal. The veteran defensive tackle played in a system much like DeMeco Ryans' with the Jets in New York. Rankins was strong with run defense last season — a huge area of



need for the Texans, who had the worst rush defense in the league last season, but he hasn't been the strongest pass rusher the past few seasons. The Texans also brought in Jimmie Ward, who played under the 49ers under Ryans. Ward played in a number of different types of positions in the system and had a strong year last season helping San Francisco reach the NFC Championship game. Ward has missed time with injuries though and the Texans will need a solid backup for him. The Texans also resigned Eric Murray and signed Hassan Ridgeway and Andrew Beck as they continue to make moves before the draft starts.



ABOVE: Houston Texans strong safety Eric Murray, left, (23) attempts to tackle Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Chris Godwin (14) on Godwin's 24-yard touchdown reception from Tom Brady during an NFL preseason game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on August 28, 2021 in Houston, Texas. LEFT: Los Angeles Rams center Brian Allen (55) gestures in celebration after a 2-yard touchdown catch by wide receiver Robert Woods (2) during an NFL game between Houston and the Los Angeles Rams on October 31, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

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