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SPORTS | A7

Katy Times

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VOLUME 111, ISSUE 28

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

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

HARRIS COUNTY

Sheriff's Office receives windshield donation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is pleased to announce a donation of ballistic glass windshields from the Harris County Sheriff's Office Foundation. The donation enables the agency to initiate a pilot program equipping select patrol vehicles with enhanced safety tools to help protect deputies.

On June 30, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, alongside representatives of the Harris County Sheriff's Office Foundation, including Franco Valobra, Chairman of the Board of HCSO Foundation, and Katrina Arnim, Executive Director of the HCSO Foundation, gathered at the Harris County Sheriff's Office to mark this occasion.

"The HCSO Foundation strives, principally, to help the Harris County Sheriff's Office in providing the safest and most efficient environment for deputies to operate so they can provide the public with safety and a high quality of life in our neighborhoods and in our city," said Franco Valobra. "These ballistic windshields will not only protect the deputies, but also will allow them the ability to better approach dangerous situations and to resolve them with greater safety and confidence."

By providing these cutting-edge safety tools, the HCSO Foundation aims to enhance the capabilities of patrol vehicles and ensure the highest level of protection for officers in the line of duty.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez expresses his gratitude for the generous donation. "The ballistic glass windshields will help us to bolster our ability to protect our deputies as they serve and protect our community," said Sheriff Gonzalez. "We are grateful for their unwavering support and commitment to safety."

This pilot program will enable

See **DONATION**, page A3

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PHOTO LEGEND:

- A** - 1 acre Parking Lot
- B** - Katy Beer Garden, 10,000 sq ft Building
- B.2** - KBG Patio and Garden, 15,000 sqft 45-foot tall native oaks
- C** - Main Street
1st floor Food Hall with 8 vendors
2nd floor Work Hub - Shared Workspace offices
3rd floor Banquet Hall
- D** - Historic Cardiff Rice Dryer
Katy Heritage Society Museum
Full-Service Restaurant
- D.2** - Event Space with Stage
- E** - No Label Brewery
- F** - Katy Mills Mall
- G** - I-10
- H** - Highway 90

Katy Beer Garden coming to the Cardiff Rice Dryer

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Beer Gardens will soon become a reality at the Cardiff Rice Dryer, according to a company announcement. The new entertainment venue will be located at 5345 East Third Street in Katy.

"We are thrilled to announce the inauguration of Katy Beer Garden, a strikingly fresh addition to

the Greater Katy community, said Steven Enrique Salazar, Founder, CEO, and beverage director. "Our novel establishment is an enchanting fusion of traditional Bavarian charm and the modern, vibrant Texas spirit."

Katy Beer Garden is set within a new development known as 'The Dryer' (thedryer.com), a remarkable property spreading

over approximately three acres, featuring the Historic Cardiff Rice Dryer. The development further boasts a three-story Main Street with diverse amenities. The first floor serves as a food court showcasing eight local vendors and chefs, while the second floor offers shared work and office

See **BEER**, page A3

West Houston Association to sponsor forum on growth

City administrator Byron Hebert to be featured panelist

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The West Houston Association has announced a special forum focusing on the significance of planning and development. Titled "Collaborating for Quality Growth," the half-day event will be held on Friday, July 28th, at the West Houston Institute, 2811 Hayes Road, Houston, 77082 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



BYRON
HEBERT

This forum will feature three panels each providing a unique perspective on the role of planning and development.

Byron Hebert, city administrator for the City of Katy, will participate in the initial panel.

8:45 a.m. Panel 1
Success Stories of Quality Developments in Rural Communities

- Russell Bynum, *General Manager, Hillwood Communities*
- Dan Davis, *Mayor, City of Manvel*
- Brett Walker, *President, Parkside Capital*
- Byron Hebert, *City Administrator, City of Katy*

Moderated by: Alia Vinson, *Partner, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson*

9:30 a.m. — Intermission & Networking

9:45 a.m. — Panel 2
Understanding Market Share & Lot Size Ratio

- Blake McGregor, *Senior Vice President, EHRA Engineering*
- Matt Stoops, *Planning Director, LJA Engineering*
- Elizabeth Gilbert, *Managing Principle, Clark Condon*

Moderated by: Rainer Ficken, *EVP - MPC Development, Caldwell Companies*

10:30 a.m. — Intermission & Networking

10:45 — Panel 3
Development, Growth, & The Workforce

- Shaun Theriot-Smith, *Senior Real Estate Manager, H-E-B*
 - Jay Sears, *Owner, NewQuest Properties*
- Moderated by:** Loren Morales, *Director of Municipal Finance, RBC Capital Markets*

11:30 — Adjournment

This event is offered at no charge thanks to the year round support of the West Houston Association's Quality Growth Partners and through a special collaboration with Houston Community College. West Houston Association's Quality Growth Partners (QGP) are organizations who provide an annual year-long investment commitment to support programming and advocacy by serving as sponsors for all of WHA's educational forums throughout the year.

To register for this event or to learn more about the West Houston Association, visit the WHA website at www.westhouston.org.

New area code proposed for Greater Houston area

PUCT accepting public comments on proposal until Aug. 5

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Austin, Texas - The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) is accepting public comments on a petition by the North American Number Planning Administrator (NANPA) for the addition of a new area code to accommodate continuing growth in the greater Houston area. Comments must be submitted by Aug. 5.

NANPA projects the four existing area codes (281/346/713/832) will run out of numbers by the third quarter of 2025.

The new area code would overlay existing area codes, which currently serve the greater metropolitan area of the City of Houston and smaller cities including Alvin, Baytown, Cleveland, Cypress, Dickinson, Friendswood, Humble, Katy, Kemah, League City, Richmond,

See **AREA CODE**, page A3

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

No Label Brewery scores 11 awards from the Craft Beer Marketing Association

The 2023 Craft Beer Marketing Awards (CBMAs) "Crushie" winners were announced recently LIVE from the 2023 Craft Brewers Conference in Nashville, TN - and Katy-based No Label came away as a big winner, taking home 11 total wins (eight global and three gold). There were 30 Crushie wins by breweries or local companies across Texas this year.

The Craft Beer Marketing Awards was established in 2019 to give recognition to the best of the best in the marketing realm of the brewing industry. With categories that range from the "Best Can Design" to "Coolest Taproom," and "Best Website Design" to "Best Original Videos," the competition showcases the best work in every area of marketing in the brewing industry.

Katy Heritage Society to celebrate 20th Anniversary

Join the Katy Heritage Society on July 29th at 8 a.m. to celebrate 20 years since the formation of Katy Heritage Park. There will be a scavenger hunt for families and a tour of the historic homes with a prize of a Texas Sno snow cone. Pioneer games in the lawn, free commemorative cookies, and ice cold water will be available to start your weekend. The festivities will be held at 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy. For more information, contact the society at kathyheritagesociety@outlook.com or (281) (281) 377-5710.-

Katy Prairie Conservancy reaches fundraising goal

Katy Prairie Conservancy board member Chris Harris announced via Facebook that the organization had met its fundraising goal, raising over \$2 million dollars. The campaign began with a generous donation from Bass Pro Shops and ended with over \$275,000.00 in individual donations. According to Harris' post, these funds will be used to save over 160 acres of the Katy Prairie. The conservancy now has over 30,000 acres and is still trying to grow. For more information, please visit coastalprairieconservancy.org.

O'Reilly Auto Parts opens in Brookshire

O'Reilly Auto Parts opened June 17th in Brookshire, according to a company Facebook post. Located at 341 FM 359 in Brookshire, the location will host a grand opening at a later date to be announced. According to the company website, O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. is an American auto parts retailer that provides automotive aftermarket parts, tools, supplies, equipment, and accessories to professional service providers and do-it-yourself customers.

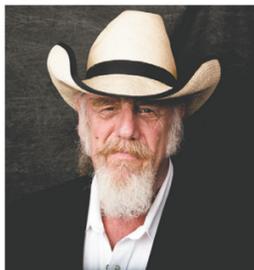


Traditional country troubadour Tracy Byrd will be performing on Saturday, October 7 at the Fort Bend County Fair.
FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR

Fort Bend County Fair reveals 2023 entertainment lineup

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo has announced its 2023 entertainment lineup. Six musical acts will be in concert, providing crowd-pleasing entertainment throughout the Fair's run. From September 29 to October 8, artists representing the Texas Music scene, Traditional Country, and the Latin genre will take the stage. "The entertainment lineup truly has something for everyone. Talented artists will bring their music and deliver an outstanding show for our fairgoers. It will be a spectacular fair run," says Jennifer Williams, 2023 Fort Bend County Fair



Ray Benson, legendary leader of the iconic Texas group Asleep at the Wheel, will be among the performers at this year's Fort Bend County Fair.

Association President. Houston raised Josh Ward will kick off the Fair on Friday, September 29. Ward amassed seven consecutive

#1 hits on the Texas Regional Radio Chart and continues to tour from Texas to Tennessee. Josh last played the Fair in 2012.

The Texas Music trend-setter, Josh Abbott Band, will take the stage on Saturday, September 30. With over 300,000 album sales and 2.4 million monthly Spotify listens,

On Sunday, October 1, Grammy-nominated La Energia Norteña, aka The Energy Boys, will bring their Latin sounds to the stage.

From cumbia to romantic norteño, the popular six-member band from Dallas, Texas, has over a million Facebook followers and a variety of Spanish and English language video collaborations that will impress any music lover. Their Mexican regional band sound includes the accordion and the saxophone. This will be their debut appearance at the Fort Bend Fair.

Southall, the band formerly known as Read Southall Band, will be in concert on Friday, October 6. The powerhouse singer/songwriter out of Oklahoma will bring his inspirations to the Red Dirt Music scene.

Known as a traditional country troubadour, fan favorite Tracy Byrd will be performing on Saturday, October 7. Byrd has had

six albums certified gold and earned with his song "The Keeper of the Stars" an Academy of Country Music's "Song of the Year" award in 1995.

And to close out the 2023 Fort Bend County Fair, the legendary music group and ten-time Grammy winner, Asleep at the Wheel, will take the stage on Sunday, October 8. Since 1970, the band has been a staple in Western swing and honky-tonk country. Ray Benson is the founder and heartbeat of the iconic band. Through the years, they have continued to grow their fan base reaching all generations.

The Fort Bend County Fair Association is on a mission to help youth achieve their educational goals. The Fair in 2022 provided over \$1.4 million in generated revenue through their four auctions (jr livestock, art, freezer, and heifer replacement) and scholarship program. During the fair's run, there will be 11 livestock shows with over 500 exhibitors.

The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo runs from September 29 to October 8. BBQ cookoff weekend is the weekend prior, running from September 22 -23. All concerts are included in the ticket price and are on sale at fortbendcountyfair.com.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Database management system
- Medical procedures
- Clapton, musician
- Defender
- Exert oneself
- Indicates position
- Prevents river overflow
- Atrocities
- Mister
- Ends
- Slope or tilt
- Taxi
- The very ends
- Actor Sean
- Japanese persimmon
- Sours
- Beneficiary
- Baseball official
- Muddy, boggy ground
- Not worldly
- Actress Lathan
- Soil
- Cola
- Asleep
- Angeles
- Give birth to a child
- Beach shelter
- Commercial
- Taste property
- Local jurisdictions
- It cools your home
- Dismounted from a horse
- Charge with a crime
- Close in
- Spoke
- Famed garden

CLUES DOWN

- Draw a scene
- Its sultan is famous
- Unlucky accident
- A way to ski
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Saw
- "Westworld" actor Harris
- Belonging to me
- Shoelace tube
- Takes to court
- Early multimedia
- In a way, produces
- Bowlers
- Of I
- Equally
- Gets some sun
- A place to stay
- Town in Galilee
- Aronofsky film
- Klingon character, "Star Trek"
- Equal to 100 square meters
- Atomic #58
- Arrived extinct
- Loosen grip
- A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
- Membranes
- Some is poisonous
- Partner to Pa
- Small brown gray rail
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- Sodium
- Military official (abbr.)
- Lighted
- Took off
- All
- Ohio city
- More abject
- A radio band
- Controversial tech product (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Passed with flying colors
- A way to win a boxing match
- The Golden State
- Home of the Longhorns

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

Royal ISD Boys & Girls Club to attend Texas History Youth Camp

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Washington County Historical Commission is pleased to announce camp dates for its third annual "Gone to Texas" Youth History Camp and that the Waller County Historical Commission and their county's youth will join part of this year's camp. The co-sponsors of the camp, Washington County Historical Commission, the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, and the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, are proud that twenty children from the Royal ISD Boys & Girls Club will be able to attend the camp on July 18 at the San Felipe State Historic Site. Washington County's thirty campers, ages 9-11, will experience both the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site and the San Felipe State Historic Site for the four-day camp, July 18-21, where the interpretive staff at those sites will provide the content.

"The Washington County Historical Commission is looking forward to our third annual "Gone to Texas" Youth History Camp and enriching our students with our state's unique history," stated Tom Stevens, Chairman of the Washington County Historical Commission. "The camp has been so well-received the past two years that the Waller County Commission has decided to bring kids from Waller County join us this year at San Felipe. Our goal is to ensure that our youth learn and appreciate our state's rich history and we are so pleased that kids from Waller County will be able to join us for part of our camp," he said.

"Our goal is to ensure that our youth learn and appreciate our state's rich history and we are so pleased that kids from Waller County will be able to join us for part of our camp."

– TOM STEVENS, Washington County Historical Commission chair

Jon Failor, Site Manager at Washington on the Brazos said, "This hands-on experience will immerse the campers in four sites- San Felipe, Barrington Plantation, The Star of the Republic Museum, and Independence Hall, and will engage each participant with the unique and diverse story of early Texas."

"We want to thank our partners that have generously committed to supporting the Gone to Texas Camp with either meals, funds, or in-kind contributions. These are Bank of Brenham, Blue Bell Creameries, Brannon Industrial Group, Brenham National Bank, Chappell Hill Bank, Citizens State Bank, HEB College Station, Legend Texas Properties, the Moorman Tate Law Firm, Sonic Drive-In (Brenham), Domino's Pizza (Sealy), Wagyu Wagon from Rouff Family Farm, and the Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation," stated Stevens.

For additional information contact: Tom Stevens at (979) 421-3365 or at t.stevens1933@gmail.com.

TRIBUTE

Andree Germaine "Gigi" Fox was born on July 6, 1924 in Le Havre, France. She passed away on Saturday, July 1, 2023 at her home in Katy, Texas at the age of nearly 99 years.

Andree moved from France to Hartford, Illinois in 1946, where she raised her family and lived until 2012 when she moved to Katy, Texas with her daughter.

She was an avid sports fan and especially loved the Katy Tigers and attended many of their football games. She also loved watching and supporting her granddaughter in the Katy Bengal Brigade. Andree loved reading on her Kindle and truly loved reading her Bible. Her faith in God was tremendously strong and she enjoyed attending the Living Stones Katy Church.

Andree never knew a stranger. She loved life and her family deeply. She was passionate about playing many games with family and friends, including Chinese Checkers, dominoes and Farkle. She was a big time,



ANDREE GERMAINE FOX
1924-2023

serious Croquet player and loved putting 2000 piece jigsaw puzzles together. Beautiful red cardinals had a special place in her heart. Remember Andree whenever you see one.

She is survived by a sister, Denise Braidotti of Le Havre and the many family members living in the area of La Havre, France. She is also survived by her four children, Perry and Nancy Fox of Troy, Illinois, James and Luisaura Fox of Miami, Florida, Susan Fox Thomas of Katy, Texas and John and

Marsha Fox of Louisville, Kentucky. She has twelve grands, Keri and Brian Buchanan, Heather and Robert Danek, Tim and Andrea Fox, Meghan and Martin Tompkins, Catherine Fox and Manny Diaz, Gabrielle and Michael Scott; and seven great grands, Mia and Alisa Buchanan, Lauren and Sophia Danek, Doug Tompkins, Aston Diaz, and John Scott.

Andree was preceded in death by her husband, James Verner Fox of Hartford, Illinois; and by her parents, Albert Vetu and Germaine Coquatrix of Le Havre, France.

A Celebration of Life Gathering of Family and Friends will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at LuciAnna's Pastries, 607 E. Broadway, in Alton, Illinois. Everyone is welcome.

She will be forever remembered by the many lives she touched. "Love you more!"

Schmidt Funeral Home
1344 W. Grand Parkway
South ~ Katy, Texas 77494
~ (281) 391-2424

DONATION

from page A1

the HCSO to assess the effectiveness and durability of the ballistic glass windshields, with the potential for broader implementation in the future.

The HCSO Foundation

plays a vital role in supporting the Harris County Sheriff's Office by facilitating partnerships and raising funds to provide resources, equipment, and training that enhance public safety

efforts. The donation of ballistic glass windshields is another example of their dedication to fostering a safer environment for law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

BEER

from page A1

space. A banquet hall on the third floor features the provide the bar and beverage program.

The Silo itself will also house the latest location of the Katy Heritage Society's museum, a full-service restaurant, an outdoor event space with a stage on the east lawn, and a charming children's playground complete with a functioning railroad track on the west lawn.

Housed in a sprawling 25,000 square foot space and enveloped by grand 45-foot oak trees, Katy Beer Garden promises an immersive experience where nature meets leisure.

The venture comes from a close-knit team of dedicat-

ed partners, spearheaded by a seasoned operator previously from the Kirby Group (Wooster's Garden, Heights Biergarten, Holman Drafthall, Pitch 25, Diversion, Degust). With an array of industry skill sets, the team behind the Katy Beer Garden has a shared vision to bring unique, passionate concepts to life. This launch marks the beginning of several future establishments which are planned for development over the next few years.

Joining the executive team is Taylor Percle as the Managing Partner. Percle, formerly the General Manager at Heights Biergarten and current Bar Manager of MAD, brings her wealth

of expertise to the table, strengthening the group's commitment to exceptional service and unforgettable experiences.

Katy Beer Garden boasts a 100-tap beer selection, a full cocktail program, an extensive spirit selection, a 100 bottle wine list, and a savory range of finger food, including pretzels and tacos. The workforce will employ approximately 40 team members and applications are now being accepted; interested individuals to submit their resumes to careers@katybeergarden.us.

For more information, visit the website KatyBeerGarden.us and or follow on social media channels @katybeergarden.

AREA CODE

from page A1

Rosenburg, Rosharon, Spring, Sugarland, and Tomball, within the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller

Adding a new area code to the region would not affect the phone numbers

of existing customers. Since the greater Houston area is currently served by four area codes, customers are already required to dial a 10-digit phone number to place calls locally. The addition of the proposed fifth area code would not change that requirement.

The PUCT is accepting public comments regarding the proposed new area code in PUCT docket number 54986. Instructions for filing a public comment are available at https://ftp.puc.texas.gov/public/puct-info/industry/filings/E-Filing_Instructions.pdf.

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Katy ISD recognized for energy conservation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As Katy ISD prepared to observe Energy Savings Week (July 3-7) across its 98 campuses and facilities, it was honored with the Best in Class: Energy Efficiency Plus Health recognition from the United States Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy and

the Environmental Protection Agency. This remarkable achievement highlights efforts to maintain good air quality while efficiently conserving electricity. Across the nation, six educational institutions received the prestigious recognition, with Katy ISD being the only school district in Texas to receive the accolade.

"With energy costs on the rise, Katy ISD has been proactive in modernizing its building control systems which have contributed to energy conservation as well as operational cost savings for the District," said Nathan Fuchs, Executive Director for Maintenance & Operations. "This effort is made possible because of voter-ap-

proved bonds which have allowed the district to optimize the HVAC and Building Management Control Systems (BMCS) at aged campuses and facilities," added Fuchs. In alignment with the State of Texas' call to conserve energy, Katy ISD will continue its District-wide BMCS upgrades across the district, as well as ensure new

campuses open their doors with energy efficiency and conservation approaches. As part of its environmental stewardship, Katy ISD technicians work closely with the District's Energy Management team to sustain efficiency gains and awareness which ultimately provide the best-in-class learning environment for students and staff.

Katy native continues a 123-year tradition of service under the sea

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

GROTON, Conn. - Submariners make up only 10 percent of the U.S. Navy's personnel, but they play a critical role in carrying out one of the Defense Department's most important missions: strategic deterrence. Petty Officer 3rd Class Lorenzo Zabala, a native of Katy, Texas, is one of the sailors continuing a 123-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans' safety.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Lorenzo Zabala

Zabala joined the Navy two years ago and today serves as a sonar technician aboard USS Indiana.

"I joined the Navy because I felt stuck in my situation at home," said Zabala. "I finally decided to take a step out of my comfort zone and do something I have always wanted to do."

Growing up in Katy, Zabala attended Katy High School and graduated in 2017.

Skills and values similar to those found in Katy are similar to those required to succeed in the military.

"I grew up in a big football town and was on the team all four years of high school," said Zabala. "Through that, I learned the importance of teamwork and hard work. I was always taught that I have to work to be the best. My dad was the same way and he also taught me that we have to work hard to provide for our family. Teamwork is important because you can't accomplish anything here without teamwork. In the Navy, we have to rely on others to make sure that everything is taken care of and that we can get home safely."

These lessons have helped Zabala while serving in the Navy.

Known as America's "Apex Predators," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technically-advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of

conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

There are three basic types of submarines: fast-attack submarines (SSN), ballistic-missile submarines (SSBN) and guided-missile submarines (SSGN).

Fast-attack submarines are designed to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; strike targets ashore with cruise missiles; carry and deliver Navy SEALs; conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions; and engage in mine warfare. The Virginia-class SSN is the most advanced submarine in the world today. It combines stealth and payload capability to meet Combatant Commanders' demands in this era of strategic competition.

The Navy's ballistic-missile submarines, often referred to as "boomers," serve as a strategic deterrent by providing an undetectable platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. SSBNs are designed specifically for stealth, extended patrols and the precise delivery of missiles. The Columbia-class SSBN will be the largest, most capable and most advanced submarine produced by the U.S. - replacing the current Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines to ensure con-

tinuous sea-based strategic deterrence into the 2080s.

Guided-missile submarines provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a clandestine platform. Each SSGN is capable of carrying 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, plus a complement of heavyweight torpedoes to be fired through four torpedo tubes.

"Our mission remains timeless - to provide our fellow citizens with nothing less than the very best Navy: fully combat ready at all times, focused on warfighting excellence, and committed to superior leadership at every single level," said Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations. "This is our calling. And I cannot imagine a calling more worthy."

Strategic deterrence is the nation's ultimate insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Zabala is part of a rich history of the U.S. Navy's most versatile weapons platform, capable of taking the fight to the enemy in defense of America and its allies.

"The Navy contributes to national defense by conducting strategic deterrence operations," said Zabala. "Our presence alone is enough to ensure adversaries don't take hostile aggression against us."

With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy.

Zabala and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"My proudest Navy accomplishment is qualifying an at-sea watch station," said

Zabala. "It makes me proud that I am able to support the boat and give flexibility to the watch bill. Qualifying also gives the person I am relieving the opportunity to move up, so they can qualify for the next watch."

As Zabala and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy means being a part of something greater than yourself," said Zabala. "It also means making sacrifices that not everyone is willing to make. Someone has to make them though, so why not be that person? I know that my sacrifices benefit my family though, and are setting me up for a better future."

Zabala is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I want to thank Oscar Perezurrutia for guiding me when I got to the boat, and showing me how I can set myself apart from my peers," added Zabala. "I also want to thank Chief Deline, for guiding me and supporting me. He showed me what good leadership is."

Construction begins on The Retreat amenity village at Sunterra

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Construction has started on The Retreat, a massive amenity village located in Sunterra, a master-planned community in Katy, TX.

The Retreat will feature a resort-style pool with a water slide, lazy river, splash pad and more. A large clubhouse — featuring a fitness center, meeting rooms and event space — will overlook the amenity village, which will cost an estimated \$12 million.

"The Retreat will provide a fun, safe environment for friends and family to relax and enjoy time together," said John Brian, Regional President of Starwood Land, developer of Sunterra.

Other features of The Retreat include tennis courts, a soccer field and a multi-use courtyard with an area for outdoor games. An event lawn, outdoor fitness lawn, shade structures and a playground for all ages complete the area.

The amenity village, designed by KGA DeForest Design, is planned to open late 2024. It will be one of two amenity villages planned for Sunterra.

Local student graduates Des Moines Area College

Sayed Shah of Katy was among the nearly 1,800 students who graduated from the Spring Semester from Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC's) Ankeny, Boone, Carroll, Newton, Urban and West Campuses. Shah studied Homeland Security.

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TRIBUTES

Richard Zee Coons was born on March 14, 1974 to Richard Earl and Olevia Carol (Stafford) Coons in Beaumont, Texas. He grew up in Katy, Texas and graduated from Katy High School in the spring of 1992. He married Kristie McCallie on October 16, 2009 in Tampa, Florida.

Richard loved the outdoors, especially when he was arrowhead/duck hunting, fishing, and hiking. He was a great dancer and loved different genres of music, which included Widespread Panic, Tool, ZZ Top, and Willie Nelson. Richard loved spending time with his dog, Maggie, especially the time they spent together camping in Alaska. He also loved spending time in New Mexico.

Richard Zee Coons passed away on May 12, 2023 in Oldsmar, Florida, at the age of 49 years.

He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Kristie McCallie of Oldsmar, Florida; Christian Kuczej of Oldsmar, Florida; parents, Richard and Carol Coons of Katy, Texas; sister, Ann Vana and her husband Charles of Katy, Texas; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Richard was preceded in death by his grandparents, Willie Stafford, Dolores Stafford and Elizabeth Coons; and brother, James C. Coons.

A memorial service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2023 in Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel in Katy, Texas with Chaplain Daniel Schramm.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home
1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493
~ (281) 391-2424

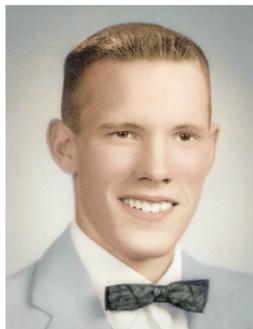


RICHARD ZEE COONS
1974-2023

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Larry Rue Axtell, age 82, peacefully passed away on July 5, 2023. Larry was born March 14, 1941 to Willard Clay and Aggie Lou (Hermes) Axtell in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The eldest son of four children, Larry was raised in rural Iowa and was active in 4H and FFA. His love of Father God and his personal ministry began at First Christian Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa where he accepted his Lord Jesus Christ as his personal savior and was baptized on this thirteenth birthday. He sang with the ABCs, a local spiritual vocal group and throughout high school with the ALHS Vocal department, graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1959. His college education was at Iowa State University where he studied mathematics. His college education continued at Denver University where he was also a student Professor for computer courses. He began his professional life working in insurance until he was selected to learn operation and maintenance of one of



LARRY RUE AXTELL
1941-2023

the earliest computers in Omaha, Nebraska. After that time computers and computer programming and development became his life work. He founded his own company, Comquest, while working as a programmer and systems analyst for other companies in Nebraska and Texas including Sysco. He married Faye Kathleen Lewis in 1970. He joyously adopted Kathleen's daughter Jaki and they were also blessed with three additional children, Patrick, Jennifer, and Heather. In 1978 Larry moved his family to Katy, Texas, where he raised his family. In the early 90's Larry moved to Industry, Texas. He loved the area and enjoyed fishing, working with his family (his brother Kirby and grandsons Daniel and Michael)

building a barn on his farm in Fayetteville, TX and being a faithful member and supporter of West End Baptist Church in Industry, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willard Clay Axtell; brothers Kirby Axtell and Dennis Axtell; and son Patrick Axtell.

He is survived by his mother, Aggie Lou Blaziek of Missouri Valley, Iowa, his twin sister Gerry Sue Rinella and husband Salvatore of Missouri Valley, Iowa, daughters, Jaki Axtell of Katy, Texas, Jennifer Ball and husband Matt of Coldspring, Texas, Heather Godwin and husband Brad of Katy, Texas. Grandkids Daniel Dismukes, Michael Wahoski, Amber Fonteno, Jeannene Higgins, Dustin Axtell, Victoria Gorrell, and Ryan Godwin. Great Grandchildren Sierra, Sandra, Dax,

Michael, and Mavis. Multiple nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will be held at the West End Baptist Church 7577 Ernest Parkway, Industry, Texas 78944. Visitation 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM with the funeral service beginning at 12:00 PM, followed by burial at Pilgrims Rest Cemetery, Industry, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the West End Church Men's Community Work Project. Checks may be made payable to West End Baptist Church (LA memorial). All gifts will be acknowledged by mail.

Funeral Arrangements are entrusted to Knesek Family Funeral Chapel 842 E. Main, Bellville Texas 77418. (979) 865-3121 www.knesekfuneralhome.com

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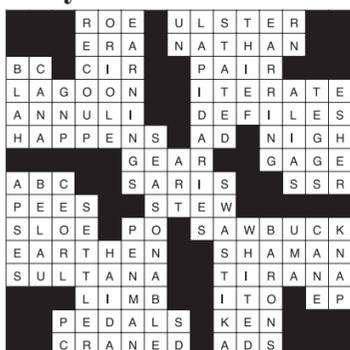
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7	6	1	5	9	2	8	3	4
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2	3	5	8	1	4	6	9	7

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2023-05, The Application Of **Kristin N. Schmidt**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **5930 Franz CT**, In The "C-1" Commercial District. Property Description: Tracts 5D, 5F-2 & 5G, Abstract 1711, H&TCRR CO, Section 43, Block 2, Harris County, Texas.

It Is A Request For A Variance To The Requirement That A Principal Dwelling And Accessory Dwelling Unit Have All Utilities Under Single Metering As Required Under Chapter 6.1-9 Of The Zoning Ordinance.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2023-06, The Application Of **AANN Interests, LLC.**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **705 Thomas Avenue**, In The "C-2" General Business District. Property Description: Lots 1, 2 & the South 10 feet of Lot 3, in Block E of Katy Townsite, Fort Bend County, Texas.

It Is A Request For A Variance To The Required Rear Yard Setback Of Fifteen (15) Feet As Required Under Chapter 10.2-4 of the Zoning Ordinance.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, **until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, July 27, 2023**, and then publicly opened and read for **"Kingsland Boulevard and Cane Island Parkway Improvements"** for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the construction of the additional lanes to complete the boulevard section of north side of Kingsland Boulevard. The total roadway length is approximately 1,200 linear feet. The project involves completing the boulevard section by constructing the other two travel lanes, associated turn lanes, median cuts and installation of drainage inlets. The project also includes modifications to the existing traffic signal at the Kingsland Boulevard and Cane Island Parkway intersection, additional curbs ramps and crosswalks, as well as constructing westbound travel lanes on Kingsland Boulevard.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** virtual pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82073078700>
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Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

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

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Seven Lakes forward Hunter Merritt (9) heads the ball toward the goal during the Class 6A boys state semifinal soccer game between Seven Lakes and Sachse on April 14, 2023 in Georgetown. SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Katy ISD coaches named THSA Coaches of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes head boys soccer coach Jimmy Kreuger was named a Texas High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year for his efforts this season, as he brought the Spartans' program to new heights.

Seven Lakes won their fourth straight district title before going on to advance to their second straight regional tournament and state tournament. Then the Spartans did something they had never done before, winning the state tournament for the first time as a program.

Seven Lakes went on a 29 game unbeaten streak during their run to the state title, finishing with a record of 28-1-1 with a 15-0-1 record in district play.

See **COACHES**, page A8

LONE STAR CUP

Seven Lakes finishes fifth

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes finished fifth overall in the final update of the school year to the Lone Star Cup standings. The Spartans finished the year with 79 points, becoming one of the top schools in the entire state in Class 6A.

The Lone Star Cup recognizes the best schools in sports and competitions among the University Interscholastic League.

Points are given for each school's performance in academic competitions along with baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, team tennis, track & field, volleyball, wrestling and other non-sports competitions.

Seven Lakes was the top school in Katy ISD for the 2022-2023 school year with their fifth place finish. Cinco Ranch and Tompkins were the next highest finishers, as the two tied for 31st with 48 points. Katy came in a tie for 43rd with 42 points, Jordan tied for 97th with 24 points, Taylor tied for 161st with 12 points, Paetow tied for 193rd with seven points, Morton Ranch tied for 227th with three points and Mayde Creek, tied for 240th with one point.

Seven Lakes had a very successful

See **SPARTANS**, page A8



Above: Tompkins celebrates after winning the first set during a Class 6A State Semifinal between Tompkins and Keller on Friday at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland. TYLER TYRE

Left: Nasir Price goes around a defender for a layup during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Stratford at the Merrell Center. DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Houston names Sean Kenny new pitching coach

STAFF REPORT

A college baseball coaching veteran, Sean Kenny has been named as the University of Houston's pitching coach, head coach Todd Whitting announced Saturday.

"I am thrilled to announce Sean Kenny as the pitching coach at the University of Houston," Whitting said. "His track record for developing pitchers and the success he has had in the SEC, ACC and Big Ten make him a huge asset to our program as we enter the Big 12 Conference."

Kenny's hiring is pending final approval from the University.

With 27 years of coaching experience, Kenny brings a wealth of knowledge to the Houston Baseball program. Kenny has spent the last 14 seasons with Power 5 programs and tutored 45 pitchers selected in the MLB Draft. A former New York Mets draft pick, Kenny spent the previous seven seasons as the pitching coach at the University of Georgia.

"I am very excited to be joining Coach Whitting and the rest of the University of Houston Baseball staff," Kenny said. "They have proven

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HOUSTON

from page A7

themselves as an outstanding program that wins on and off the field and I am excited to contribute to their success as they move to the Big 12 Conference."

With the Bulldogs, Kenny made a dramatic impact with the program, helping Georgia to three NCAA Tournaments, including two as a national seed and consistent Top 25 rankings, alongside several school records. He also mentored 12 Georgia pitchers who were selected in the MLB Draft over the last five years including junior left-hander Jaden Woods who is projected as a premium pick in the upcoming 2023 draft.

A native of Ann Arbor, Mich., Kenny followed head coach Erik Bakich to the University of Michigan after three seasons at the University of Maryland. With the Wolverines, Kenny tutored 10 pitchers selected in the MLB Draft while his staff consistently ranked at the top of the Big Ten Conference in multiple categories, helping the program to two NCAA postseason appearances.

"Sean Kenny is a perfect fit for the University of Houston and the excellent program that Coach Whitting has built over the last decade," Bakich said. "Sean has developed professional pitchers and winning teams from coast to coast. His success and experience in California, the Big Ten, the ACC and SEC are the exact combination to help Cougar Baseball and their pitching staff win championships in the Big 12 for years to come. Sean is also a dynamic recruiter and a great person who will add tremendous value to this high-energy coaching staff. Congratulations to him and Marissa, as well as Coach Whitting and the UH Baseball Team and pitchers."

Bakich is currently the head coach of the Clemson University baseball team after serving as the head coach at Michigan and Maryland.

Under the direction of Kenny, Maryland's pitching staff set school records while also ranking near the top of the ACC standings. With the Terrapins,

he also served as the recruiting coordinator and produced a recruiting class in 2010 that was the program's first top-25 ranked recruiting class, while developing three MLB Draft picks.

Kenny spent six seasons as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Pepperdine under Steve Rodriguez. He helped guide the Waves to five NCAA Regional appearances and three West Coast Conference (WCC) titles. He coached the 2005 WCC Pitcher of the Year and the 2005 WCC Freshman of the Year in Barry Enright who went on to be named the 2006 WCC Pitcher of the Year and eventually reached the Major Leagues with Arizona in 2010. During his tenure with the Waves, 12 pitchers were selected in the MLB Draft.

Before heading to Pepperdine, Kenny worked at the University of San Diego where he served as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator on Rich Hill's staff from 1999-2003. He helped USD to West Coast Conference titles in 2002 and 2003 and recruited the nation's 22nd-best class for 2004. One of his standout players was 2002 WCC Pitcher of the Year and Third Team All-American Ricky Barrett. A total of 12 Toreros including three pitchers were selected in the MLB Draft during his stint at San Diego.

Kenny began his coaching career as Volunteer Assistant at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, Calif., in 1997, working with the outfielders. He landed his first full-time coaching position at Laney Community College in Oakland, Calif., where he served as pitching coach in 1998.

Kenny is a graduate of Eastern Michigan where he earned All-Mid-American Conference honors as a pitcher for the Eagles. He was a 17th-round selection of the New York Mets in the 1993 MLB Draft and played three seasons of professional baseball. He earned a bachelor's degree in literature from EMU in the fall of 1997 and a master's in physical education from Saint Mary's in 2000.

SPARTANS

from page A7

year in a number of sports. The Spartans top points getter was boys soccer, where they won a state championship garnering 18 points, while boys basketball earned 12 points for reaching the regional semifinals and girls soccer earned eight points for reaching the regional quarterfinals. Girls basketball and volleyball got four points each for reaching the area round while baseball got two points for reaching the bi-district round.

Cinco Ranch's top sports were volleyball and baseball, where each earned 10 points. The Cougars reached the regional final in volleyball and reached the regional semifinals in baseball, while the Cougars earned eight points for reaching the regional quarterfinals in

football.

Tompkins' top points getter was volleyball, as the Falcons reached the state final, while girls basketball, girls soccer and baseball each earned six points for the regional quarterfinal.

Katy earned double digit points in three sports, getting 12 points from football with a state semifinal appearance and 10 points each from baseball and girls basketball where they reached the regional final and regional semifinal respectively.

The Woodlands finished in first place out of all Class 6A schools, finishing with 117 points which was 19 points higher than the biggest competitor. Allen came in second, Southlake Carroll came in third and Keller finished in fourth.

Lone Star Cup Standings, Class 6A

Place	School	Points
1	Conroe The Woodlands	117
2	Allen	98
3	Southlake Carroll	90
4	Keller	83
5	Katy Seven Lakes	79
6	Austin Vandegrift	76
7	Pearland	72
8	Austin Westlake	71
9	L'ville Flower Mound	64
10	Humble Kingwood	62
11	Dripping Springs	60
T12	Bridgeland	59
T12	Fort Bend Ridge Point	59
T12	Round Rock	59
T12	Waco Midway	59
T16	Arlington Martin	58
T16	Northwest Nelson	58
T16	San Antonio Johnson	58
19	Wolfforth Frenship	57
T20	Austin Lake Travis	56
T20	Rockwall	56
T22	Cypress Woods	54
T22	Denton Guyer	54
T22	DeSoto	54
T22	Northside Brennan	54



RENEE RICHARDSON



SEAN EWING

Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger gets a Gatorade bath after Seven Lakes win over Dripping Springs in the Class 6A State Final at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown.

TYLER TYRE

COACHES

from page A7

The Spartans also finished the year ranked as the No. 1 high school team in the entire nation by the United Soccer Coaches Association while finishing the year with a +93 goal differential.

Richardson named tennis coach of the year

Tompkins head tennis coach Renee Richardson was named one

of the regional coaches of the year after a strong year for her athletes.

The year was headlined by Ananya Sriniketh for Tompkins, who made a run to the state final after winning the district and regional tennis title.

Ewing named golf coach of the year

Seven Lakes' Sean Ewing was

named one of the THSCA golf coaches of the year as well.

Ewing oversaw a Spartans team that won the District 19-6A championship and finished high enough at the regional tournament to clinch a spot at state. At the state tournament, he helped Maelynn Kim to a gold medal individually while the Spartans finished eighth overall as a team in Class 6A.

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