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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024

# Katy chamber, Katy EDC host economic summit



SUSAN ROVEGNO

At Friday's Economic Summit, hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Area Economic Development Council at the Merrell Center, panelists (left to right) CRBE Restaurant Practice Leader Thomas Nguyen, Greatland Investments Inc. President Stephen Le Jr. and moderator Thanh Le who is the managing director of Crown ID Solutions discuss development in Katy Asian Town.

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

Experts from the national, state and local levels came together at the Merrell Center for a half-day meeting on June 28 to present economic updates as well as forecasts for the Katy and Houston area. The economic summit, jointly hosted at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Economic Development Council, was moderated by Mike Schofield, State Representative for District

132, whose district covers much of the Katy area.

Following opening remarks from KAEDC President and CEO Angie Thomason, the first speaker was Aaron Demerson, who serves as the president and CEO of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TxEDC), an independently-funded and operated 501 (c) 3 organization that strategically partners and markets the state of Texas both domestically and internationally as a premier business destination for companies seeking to locate, relocate or expand the

footprint of their existing businesses. He described "the great business migration," citing Texas as the eighth largest economy in the world and stating that "Texas is the future of America." Demerson said that upcoming international efforts to market the state would include trips to the United Kingdom, India and Asia. Energy is still number one, he said, adding that the state needs sustainable energy storage. Looking to the future, Demerson said that business leaders need

See **SUMMIT**, page A3

## FORT BEND COUNTY QUEER ALLIANCE LUNCHEON



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Fort Bend County Judge KP George (second from right) presents a proclamation recognizing Netrica Kendrick-Palmer (far right) as the Honoree of the Day at the second annual Queer Alliance luncheon held Friday, June 28 at the Fort Bend Museum in Richmond. Panelists at the event included (left to right) Brad Prichett, Deputy Director of Equality Texas; Avery Belyeu, CEO of the Montrose Center; Tammy Wallace, co-founder and president of the Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce; Liam Adair, CEO of Wholesome Healing; and Katy native Cameron Samuels, Executive Director of Students Engaged in Advancing Texas.

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July 4, 2024 12 pages | \$1

# Sienna passport facility opens following remodel

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Beverley McGrew Walker, Fort Bend County District Clerk, announced June 4 that the District Clerk's Passport Acceptance Facility located in the Sienna Annex at 5855 Sienna Springs Way, Suite 146, Missouri City, is now open for passport appointments and for walk-ins, as time permits.

The Sienna Passport
Acceptance Facility, closed
for remodeling earlier this
year, will now accommodate
more applicants. According
to Walker, "Fort Bend County Citizens always have a
need for a passport because
approximately 30% of all
Fort Bend County Citizens
are foreign born and have
familial or business ties in
another country. Fort Bend
County Citizens have the

monetary means to travel, as the average yearly income in Fort Bend County is over \$105,000.00."

During the first five months of 2024, the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Passport Acceptance Facility accepted 11,499 passport applications, took 5,823 passport photos and generated \$480,958.00 in revenue to the Fort Bend County general fund.

"Fort Bend County Citizens are welcomed to visit our facilities Monday through Friday at either the Fort Bend County Justice Center located at 1422 Eugene Heimann Circle in Richmond, or at the Sienna Annex at 5855 Sienna Springs Way, Suite 146, Missouri City, to apply for a new passport or to renew an existing passport on Form DS-11.

# Briones, Houston Food Bank partner to give free summer meals to children

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a June 25 press release, the office of Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones, whose district includes much of the greater Katy area, announced a partnership with the Houston Food Bank which will provide free meals to needy children during the summer.

The Houston Food Banks's Kids Café Summer Meal Program is open on a "drop in" basis from June 10 to August 9. The initiative helps alleviate child hunger by providing children up to age 18 with free nutritious meals on

a first-come, first served basis. The program is closed on county holidays.

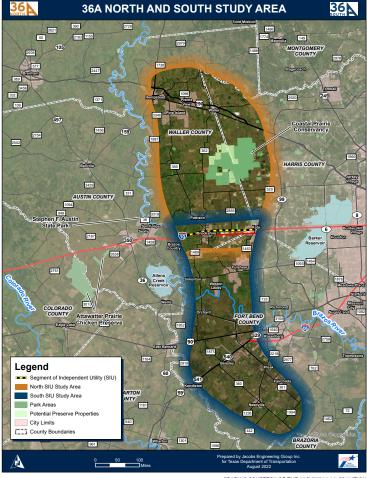
The following Precinct 4 community centers – all located north of I-10 – are open between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. for food distribution:

• Ĥockley Community Center, 28515 Old Washington Road, Hockley 77447

• Weekly Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress 77433

• Radack Community Center 18650 Clay Road, Houston 77084

• Freed Park Community Center, 6818 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston 77055



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE HIGHWAY 36A COALITION

# Mays: Proposed 36A scores high on TXDOT's Corridors of Interest

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The state's statewide and rural road connectivity program supports our economy and population growth through the efficient movement of people and goods, and the proposed highway 36A corridor is a key part of the state's

plans for developing that system, according to Caroline Mays, Director of Planning and Modal programs for TxDOT.

Mays was the speaker at a May 2 luncheon for 36A at Marriott Westchase, 2900 Briarpark in

See **HIGHWAY**, page A3



# **COMMUNITY**

KATYTIMES.COM

# **Katy ISD** hosting operations team job fair

#### STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD is seeking to hire talented professionals to join the district's operations team and will be hosting a Summer Operations Job Fair on Saturday, July 13, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Katy High School, 6331 Highway Blvd., Katy, TX 77494.

The district is seeking to hire for the following positions:

- Bus Drivers
- Custodial Workers
- General Maintenance Staff
- Grounds Crew
- · Security Guards

Benefits include competitive salaries, health insurance options, flexible hours, and full and part-time positions.

Katy ISD is the fifth-largest school district in Texas and is ranked as the #1 school district in the Houston area, earning an A+ overall grade on Niche. The district was also named a 2023 Forbes Best Employer in Texas and. Visit tx50010808.schoolwires.net/Page/7470 to learn more.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### **Dig World hosts Special Needs Night** on July 8th

Dig World, the construction-themed attraction located at Katy Mills Mall, 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy, near Bass Pro Shops, is hosting a "Special Needs Night" on Monday, July 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. Friends with special needs and their families are welcome to come and experience Dig World for free, due to the generosity of a sponsor. Dig World allows kids to safely operate heavy equipment construction equipment. For more information about the park, go to digworldtx.com.

#### Katy AARP Chapter to meet July 9

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday, July 9, at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd in Katy. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Afterwards, entertainment will be provided by saxophonist, Jack Carr and guitarist, John Steele, who are combining their talents to include a variety of genres of music for your enjoyment. Visitors are welcome. Allow time to purchase any food before the meeting starts.

#### **Cinco Ranch Branch Library** features performance of 'Chicken Big' on July 10

In conjunction with Fort Bend County Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge, the Cinco Ranch Branch Library will host a family-friendly production of "Chicken Big," a children's theater performance, on Wednesday, July 10, at 2 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy. The performance will be repeated at 3 p.m. In this quirky revision of the classic "Chicken Little" story, based on based on a children's book



written by Keith Graves and adapted to the stage as a one-act musical by Books Alive, a very small hen lays a big, giant egg. Out of this egg came one big, humongous  $\dots$ something. No matter how hard they try, these clueless chickens can't make sense of the gigantic new member of their family until he saves the day.

Recommended for children in grades 1-5, this performance is made possible by the Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

#### Enjoy an ice cream social with Mimi's Angels and Friends on July 14

Mimi's Angels & Friends welcomes the Katy community to an ice cream social to be held at the Elks Lodge 2628, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy, on July 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. The event will feature three flavors of Blue Bell ice cream (vanilla, strawberry and chocolate) and a variety of toppings,

including chocolate, strawberry, pineapple and whipped cream. Root beer and soda will be available to make floats. Please RSVP at facebook.com/groups/MimisAngels. Cash donations are accepted for the volunteer group, which helps the homeless and less fortunate in the Katy area.

#### Attend a free concert celebrating the first anniversary of Brandt 1910 on July 19

The Wallis Economic Development Corporation announces the first anniversary celebration of the opening of Brandt 1910 and Marini's Empanada Kitchen, two local businesses with Katy roots. Come to First Street in Wallis for an unforgettable evening of food, music, and community spirit on Friday, July 19th from 6 to 11 p.m. The family-friendly street fair will feature face painting, empanadas, drinks, a champagne toast, handmade Italian ice from Brownie's Ice Creamery and music by Deluxe DJs. At 8 p.m. a free 80's style concert will showcase the JoiLux Band.

# Texas author Mike Vance to speak at book shop in Bellville

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Story Peddler — an independent bookstore located at 538 W. Main in Bellville — will host author Mike Vance on Thursday, July 18th from 6 to 7 p.m. Vance will read from his first volume of short stories on little known Texas history titled "Undertold Texas."

"Vance is a prolific author of many genres of books including Texas true crime, historic true crime, Texas history, comedy and sports history," said Kris Graham, program manager for the store. 'Throughout his career, Mike has also done stand-up comedy, hosted a regional television history program, co-hosted a television

sports show and an afternoon talk radio program in Houston, and done voice over work as well as script and content writing. On top of all that, Mike fronted a band that performed original music in Texas, Mexico and the UK.'

Vance has an extensive background in writing, producing, and directing educational documentary videos, several of which appeared on select PBS stations. He created an American history podcast called Prick the Balloon which is an irreverent, funny take on lesser known history in America. He's a super history storyteller. Utilizing Mike's 501c3, Night Heron Media, his work continues through the Texas History Initiative which creates videos

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IN AS LITTLE AS

and books that teach Texas History in 7th grade classrooms.

Vance has served on three different county historical commissions in Texas. He's a member of the Historical Novel Society and since 2010 has taught various Texas history courses of his own design at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies.

**SPECIAL OFFER** 

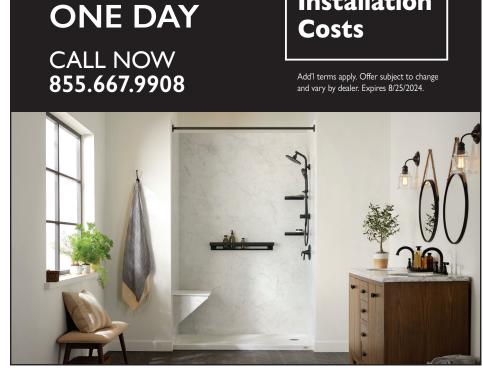
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Installation





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## DSSWORD PUZZLE

### **CLUES ACROSS**

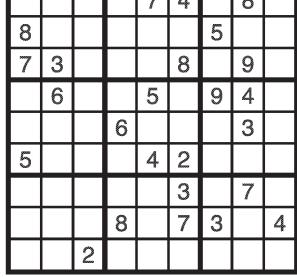
- 1. Prevents harm to young 5. "Losing My Religion"
- rockers 8. Partner to pan
- 11. Cavalry unit 13. Peyton's little brother
- 14. Mexican dish
- 15. Disseminates info to the public
- 16. Set an animal on 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Elongated mouths of
- anthropods 20. I (German)
- 21. Opposite of west
- 22. Glows 25. Measures how quickly a car
- moves
- 30. One who has gained wealth 31. Patti Hearst's captors
- 32. Extensive landed property 33. Male aristocrat
- 38. For each
- 41. More fidgety
- 43. Very happy
- 45. A place to store info 47. Helps to heal
- 49. 12th month (abbr.)
- 50. Broad, shallow craters 55. Nocturnal S. American
- rodent 56. Frost

- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Curved shapes 60. Company that rings
- receipts
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Sheep native to Sweden 63. Cars need it
- 64. Partner to relaxation
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Scientist's high-resolution
- tool (abbr.) 2. Type of school
- 3. Formal close (music)
- 4. Transmits high voltage 5. A way to occupy a certain
- 6. Draws out
- 7. His Airness
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. South American plants 10. Homestead
- 12. Bland or semiliquid food
- 14. Forest resident
- 19. The body needs it 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
- 24. Spell
- 25. Relaxing place
- 26. Political fundraising tool 27. Make a mistake
- 28. Partner to Adam
- 29. Tyrant
- 34. Unit of electrical resistance

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

- 46. Ancient Greek sophist 35. A history of one's life
- 36. Actor DiCaprio
- 37. Sea eagle
- 39. Avoiding being caught
- 40. \_\_ de Mornay, actress 41. Belonging to a thing
- 42. Not us 44. Motorcars
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 47. Practice boxing
- 48. \_\_ Grant, actor
- 51. Swiss river 52. S. Sudan river
- 53. A bumpkin 54. One point south of
- southwest58. Small island (British)

## 8 8 5 3 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.

#### TRIBUTE

Louis "Lou" Herald Pope, 67, of Katy, Texas, died suddenly on June 12, 2024. Lou was born on July 15, 1956, in Pontiac, Michigan, to Louis and Elisa Pope (Popp), both deceased. He attended the University of Miami and Central Michigan University where he studied journalism. He lived in Clarkston, MI, until moving to Texas in his 20's. His most recent and long-running business



LOUIS "LOU" HERALD POPE

venture was that of BlueRiver Capital with dear friends John and Anne Ondrusek. Lou loved his dogs, cats, writing, biking and hiking and the great state of Texas.

He is survived by sisters Marie (Roger) Nanney and Linda (Bud - deceased) Pope Hatfield, and stepdaughter Hailey (Helfenbien) Fangmeier, and nieces Kristine Mason, Victoria Estes, Colleene Hatfield, Maureene Moody, and nephews Nathan and George Hatfield, and Stephen Nanney.

### HIGHWAY

from page A1

Houston. Mays spent a significant portion of her remarks on the importance of Texas Trunk System, a rural network of four-lane divided highways or better. Its purpose is to serve as the principal connector for Texas cities with more than 20,000 in population and major activity centers, including border ports of entry and maritime ports such as Port Freeport.

A huge state like Texas has multiple economic activity centers, and those communities need to have efficient connections in order to promote their mutual interests, Mays said.

"Why do we focus on the statewide connectivity? Again, it's not a surprise to a lot of you here. The economic activities in the state of Texas is spread all over the state of Texas. Not just one region"

The statewide and rural connectivity corridors help promote economic development, freight movement, population growth, alternate routes and congestion relief, and safety for all the regions of Texas, Mays said.

The state identified five key corridors for the program, and has devoted funding to develop those corridors, turning key twolane and four-lane undivided roadways into four-lane divided roadways. However, significant funding gaps remain to complete the work, Mays said.

As for 36A, it currently is identified as one of the state's ten Statewide Connectivity Corridors of Interest that will support Corridors; this identifies

SH 36 and 36A as a priority for further development. These connectivity corridors fulfill several key priorities for the state, including providing connectivity to its Trunk System and 5 Key Corridors, serving as part of the Texas Highway Freight Network, serving as an international trade corridor, functioning as evacuation routes for hurricanes and other emergencies, and relieving interstate traffic demand. 36A meets most of these criteria currently. Although the current corridor of interest planning involves existing SH 36 only, once 36A's EIS study is completed, that will be updated to include an approved thoroughfare as indicated

by the study, Mays said. In addition, the criteria for the corridors of interest when it comes to international trade currently focus only on Mexico. The state will update those criteria to include international trade through the state's ports, including Port Freeport, whose Channel Harbor Improvement Project will increase the channel's depth to 56 feet, making it the deepest port on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Highway 36A Chairman Shane Pirtle said he appreciates the state's recognition of the vital role a proposed 36A highway corridor plays in meeting the state's regional trans-

#### SUMMIT

from page A1

to be proactive in addressing artificial intelligence and taking advantage of it.

A panel moderated by Thanh Le, currently the chair of the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association and also managing director of Growth ID Solutions, provided an update on commercial real estate and the restaurant sector of the Katy area, with a focus on Katy Asian Town. Thomas Nguyen, Restaurant Practice Leader at CBRE, said that Katy is one of the first areas considered by national brands who want to expand into the Houston area. He described Katy Asian Town as being in three sectors: the first is the northern part closest to HMart, which is similar to the Bellaire Blvd. area in that it has a lot of "mom and pop" operations. The middle section of Katy Asian Town is operated by NewQuest Properties and is attracting "best in class" restaurants such as Tim Ho Wan's first dim sum restaurant In Texas, and this portion will soon be adding about 150,000 square feet of commercial space. The third section of the complex is the "entertainment" portion, where attractions such as Tiger Woods' Popstroke, Home Run Dugout, Andretti's Karting, and other venues are located; Nguyen said that Electric Pickle would soon be opening a pickleball facility

Panelist Stephen Le Jr., president of Greatland Investments, Inc., noted that Asia is the fastest growing market in the world. He said that Katy Asia Town was able to attract new tenants even with lease rates of \$40.00 to \$50.00 per square foot, up from the \$30.00 range when the center first opened. Nguyen said that Katy was under consideration potentially in the top five cities -- by American Ninja Warrior Amusement Park for a Texas location. Stephen Le said that half of the visitors and customers of Katy Asian Town are non-Asian, and are people who enjoy good food and are knowledgeable about it. Nguyen predicted that "a lot of restaurants will close" and that development has slowed in the last 12 months, due to interest rates. "It's exciting but scary," he said. Stephen Le said that even though restaurants may fail, there is another person waiting to fill that spot, and that demand is not slowing

here, followed by a new loca-

tion for Pitch 25.

The national and regional perspective was provided by Jesse Thompson, senior business economist at the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Thompson studies and Gulf Coast economy

down anytime soon.

-- in particular, those issues affecting hydrocarbon industries. He said that the regional outlook showed that the Texas and Houston economy had stabilized near more sustainable and healthy levels and that job growth -- which he called the best measure of economic growth -- remained flat at the local level, having slowed to two percent last year and staying there. Normal growth post pandemic is about 1.7 percent and that "above trend growth" would continue in the region. Unemployment was ticking up slightly, he said, but noted that it was still a tight labor market and that it was still hard to find the right person for some jobs, but not as hard as a year ago. The Fed mandates full employment, "and by any definition we are there," he said. "Oil and gas is on cruise control," Thompson said, with the industry showing moderate growth this year and next, but it would not be the thing that drives the Houston economy up in the near term. Residential real estate remains mixed, he said, with commercial real estate and multi-family sec-

tors remaining challenged. The "trimmed mean inflation rate" nationally has slowed down to three per cent but has picked up the last three months, Thompson said. Inflation still has aways to go before it gets down to the Fed's target date, he said. The GDP growth in the first quarter of 2024 was slower than estimated but that a modest increase of 1.9 percent is anticipated in 2025. Thompson also said that unemployment will be about 4.1 percent in 2025. The national economy and job growth will be strengthened by a surge in immigration; the vast majority of newcomers are legally able to work and will be demanding housing, goods and services. Thompson said that Texas job growth had slowed to 2.8 percent

and the Houston area was at 2.2 percent but both areas outperformed the U.S. in a majority of sectors. Job losses in oil and gas and layoffs in the high-tech industries located in Austin drove down the state numbers. The price of WTI crude remains - and is expected to remain -- in the \$70.00-\$80.00 per barrel range, above the "break even" price this year and next. "The regional outlook is on autopilot this year and next," he said. Energy construction will increase as natural gas exports increase, he said. "We are still building LNG plants," he said but that the market would see some slack by 2030.

Regarding real estate and construction, Thompson said that residential real estate was coming into balance in Houston, with prices leveling off and home supply remaining tight. Incentives are driving sales, with inventory of existing homes at about a four-month supply and a leveling off of home prices. The multi-family real estate market has overbuilt and people are moving out of apartments into single-family and "build to rent" housing. Rents are likely to come down, along with a drop in multi-family permits. Houston's multi-family market is not as soft as the rest of Texas. Warehousing will remain strong. Office space has a 24 percent vacancy rate, but utilization of space being leased is low, with many companies looking to downsize their space or to relocate to the suburbs where employees may find shorter commutes and area amenities such as restaurants attractive - which would provide incentives for

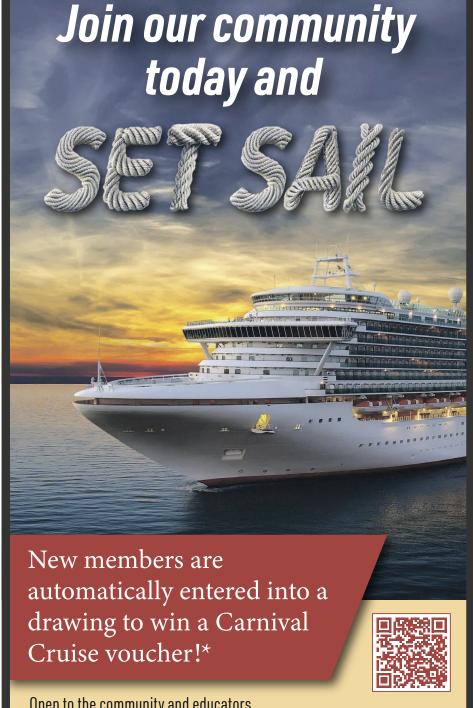
workers to come to the office. Texas real sales tax revenue, when adjusted for inflation, points to stabilizing consumer demand, he said. "Texas consumers are still operating at a high level," he added. In Houston, job growth would be "treading water" with modest growth

over the next six months. Geopolitics - events in Israel, Russia and Ukraine - are unlikely to affect the local area, he said. Tariffs in general, as an economic principal, tend to cause some problems in industries dependent on exports, such as those like the petrochemical companies in Houston, Thompson said, and that this would ultimately cause prices to rise for consumers.

A panel on sustainable energy, moderated by KAEDC board member and President of EMA Solutions Rick Lawler, included Bobby Hunt, general manager at Total Hydrogen Solutions; Jonathan Parella, CEO of TerraFlow Energy which specializes in flow battery technology and battery optimization software; Telicia Anderson, finance and accounting director for LiN; John Li, CEO of United Standard Materials Corporation; Alex Rohr, community affairs manager for Vesper **Energy whose Ochoa Energy** Storage recently held an open house for its Katy location; and Howard Lee, a partner in Preedom Power Development Partners. Lawler said that Hunt's company is at the forefront of bringing the hydrogen industry to the Katy

The keynote speaker during the luncheon portion of the meeting was Lt. Colonel Bob Darling, who retired from the U.S. Marine Corps with over twenty years of active-duty service. Darling, now the CEO of Quantitative Analytics, LLC, became a presidential pilot with Marine Helicopter Squadron One. In October 2000, he was selected to work for the White House Military Office, Airlift Operations Department and in that capacity, he supported the President, Vice President and National Security Advisor in the Presidential Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) on September 11, 2001.





\*Each new membership that includes a checking account and direct deposit during the membership drive will automatically receive an entry into a drawing for a Carnival Cruise voucher. Direct deposit must be received into the account by October 15th. Value of Carnival Cruise voucher \$2,500.00. Drawing will take place on October 18th. No purchase necessary. Open to All. One entry per person. One winner will be drawn from all eligible participants. If an individual does not qualify for the drawing by opening a new membership savings account and a checking account that includes direct deposit, they may enter by sending a 3x5 postcard with their name, address and phone number to BVSCU Marketing Dept., 25525 Katy Mills Pkwy, Katy, TX 77494. Postcards must be received by 5 p.m. on October 17, 2024, to be considered for the prize. The drawing will occur on October 18th at the Admin building, address above. A Form 1099-MISC will be provided to the winner. Restrictions, conditions and limitations may apply.



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# Fort Bend County Fair names Magana family as honorees

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

It's a family affair. The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo's 2024 Fair honorees will be the Magana Family. Family patriarch Sam Magana and his 8 adult children. Sammy, Roland, Wallace, Melinda, Ricky, Sandra, Sharon, and Barbara have long supported the Fair, from being involved in the Fair's rodeo competitions and exhibiting animals as well as being Life Members, Buyers Group contributors, award and buckle sponsors, and volunteers for the Exceptional Rodeo Committee, a rodeo experience for kids living with intellectual and physical disabilities.

"The Magana family's commitment to the Exceptional Rodeo is relentless. As a family, they share their passion for the sport of rodeo with these kids, and it is incredible to witness," says Fort Bend County Fair Association's President Alicia Casias. "It is a well-deserved recognition for a family that has been involved in the Fair for decades."

From the days of the original four-day fair run off Highway 90, the 84-year-old Sam Magana has been a part of the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo. "I can remember getting bucked off the legendary bull V61 at the old fairgrounds," says Sam, who has been a Fair Life Member for over 60 years. "Once the Fair moved over to where it is today, I have

had box seats, I watched my kids and my grandkids show animals, I have thrown my cowboy hat in the air to celebrate a winning ride or run in the rodeo arena, and I have spent a lot of money on turkey legs," says the Sugar Land resident with a smile. "But I am privileged to be honored as a family from our hometown Fair; it's a real honor, and I know my wife, Delia, is smiling down from heaven."

The family is no stranger to hard work. As volunteers to the Exceptional Rodeo Committee, this year they will be celebrating 11 years of putting on the event. Over 1,000 Fort Bend County kids who may be on the autism spectrum to being wheelchair bound, have participated in the annual event. When our family started putting on the Exceptional Rodeo, it was organized chaos. As long as I knew that my brothers and sisters were at their assigned areas to supervise, I knew I had nothing to worry about," says Barbara Magana Robertson, Chairman of the Exceptional Rodeo. "As a family, we have been blessed, so to be able to share my family's love of the Western lifestyle and the sport of rodeo with these kids who typically can't even take a field trip, it is an amazing effort, and I could not be prouder of my family, our friends, and all the dedicated volunteers who make it all possible."

In the livestock arena

the family have been top exhibitors in various livestock shows. "When Ricky was in the Grand Champion drive with his lamb, I think I swallowed my tobacco chew; by the time Sharon won Grand Champion Lamb, I knew not to have tobacco in my mouth," says Magana. Sam and his family have spent countless hours in the livestock barn, seeing his children and grandchildren show their animals.

The rodeo arena was a second home to all the siblings. From roping and riding to carrying the flags for the grand entry, the brothers and sisters have had their share of winning rides, smooth runs, and endless memories. "I have so many memories. Cheering on my brother during a bull ride, or my sister on making a barrel run, to watching my dad and brothers compete in the Fair's ranch rodeo, and seeing my dad get recognized for his induction to the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, as a family the rodeo has been a treasure trove of family time," says Barbara, who also serves on the Speakers Committee.

The Magana Family will participate in many Fair events, including the kick-off parade on Friday, September 27th, and various receptions. The 2024 Fair will run from September 27th to October 6th. For more information, call 281-342-6171 or visit fortbendcountyfair.com.



Graydon Rochelle (left), president of the Rotary Club of Katy, and Rocky Blair, past club president (far right) present a mock check for \$5,000.00 to The Boaz House, a six-month faith-based women's rehab facility in Brookshire, at the club's June 20 meeting at the Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Drive, Katy.

# Rotary Club awards grants

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rotary Club of Katy, under the direction of new club president Graydon Rochelle, awarded over \$25,000 in grants to six area nonprofits at its June

20 meeting at the Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Drive in Katy. Recipients included:

- Post It Love. \$1.000.00
- Keturah's Haven,
- Child Builders, \$2,500.00
- The Boaz House, \$5,000.00
- Eyes on Me, Inc., \$10.000.00
- · ARTreach of Katy,



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR

The Magana Family

# CenterPoint Energy Foundation accepting grant applications

### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

The CenterPoint Energy Foundation is currently accepting applications for its second and final 2024 grant cycle through July 26, the organization announced in a June 24 press release.

Funded separately and financially independent from the utility, the Center-Point Energy Foundation strives to be a catalyst in the communities it serves by leveraging everyday opportunities and resources to increase the vibrancy of these communities. Grants are awarded to eligible nonprofit organizations whose primary address is located

in CenterPoint Energy's footprint and has programs that support community vitality and education. Priority consideration is given to programs that serve low-to-moderate income families and under-resourced communities and provide increased access to nonprofit programs and services.

"We are proud of the impact our foundation has in helping our communities achieve extraordinary outcomes," said June Deadrick, Vice President, Community Relations at CenterPoint Energy. "Our focus remains on investing in initiatives enhancing lives today, while building a strong foundation for a better tomorrow. We encourage eligible organizations to apply for a grant during this funding

In the first cycle of 2024, the CenterPoint Energy Foundation awarded more than \$8 million in grants across Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas.

For more details on how the CenterPoint **Energy Foundation is** making a difference in the communities it serves and for information on how to apply for a grant, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/ Foundation.

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- PASTOR ROB

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# New single family rental home community opens in Sunterra

### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Eden at Sunterra, a 266unit single-family rental community, has opened in Katy's Sunterra, near the intersection of Clay Road and FM 2855, the company announced in a June 3 press release.

The duplex-style residences feature three-, fourand five-bedroom floor plans, ranging from 1,436 to 2,480 square feet, each with two-car attached garages and private fenced backyards. Rental prices start at \$2,450 to \$3,250.

Managed by Greystar, Eden at Sunterra provides focused home living without the hassle of ownership, the company said. Prospective residents who lease now will enjoy one month's rent free.

Homes boast personalized interior finishes, including smart home features such as keyless home entry, Calcutta quartz countertops, gourmet kitchens with gas cooking and waterfall islands, hardwood flooring throughout, frameless shower enclosures, modern matte black hardware, convenient mud-

rooms, and laundry rooms with full-sized washer and dryers. With pet-friendly accommodations, every member of the family is sure to feel at home. Located just minutes

from the planned Crystal Lagoons® amenity currently under construction at Sunterra, Eden at Sunterra provides residents with access to Sunterra's worldclass amenity villages, The Retreat — now open — and The Sol Club.

For more information about Eden at Sunterra, visit www.edenatsunterra.com.

# **Katy** Times

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# Local family receives Presidential recognition

**CONTRIBUTED REPORT** 

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The McLucas family of Katy, Texas, has been recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award. Awarded by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, which recognizes the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity as well as those who positively impact their community and inspire those around them. The achievement was announced in a June 24 press release from Global Cultural Exchanges (GCE), a designated sponsor of the U.S. Department of State's cultural exchange programs.

Joshua and Danielle, along with their sons, Jeremy and Jonathan, welcomed exchange students Darina Gubasheva from Kazakhstan and Emma Stanisic from Bosnia-Herzegovina into their home in 20223. "The McLucas' are taking part in one of our country's most important public diplomacy programs," said the press release. "[The program gives] high school students from around the world an opportunity to come to the United States to experience our culture and values. At the same time, it gives American students an opportunity to welcome global citizens and experience a different culture and society. This program has brought diversity to our nation while building lasting friendships around the world for over fifty



The McLucas family has received Presidential recognition for their work in hosting exchange students in their Katy home. From top to bottom (left to right): (top row) exchange students Darina Gubasheva from Kazakhstan and Emma Stanisic from Bosnia-Herzegovina; (middle row) Josh and Danielle McLucas; and (bottom row) Jonathon and Jeremey McLucas.

Darina and Emma's exchange was sponsored by High School in the USA (HSUSA) a division of Global Cultural Exchanges (GCE), a designated sponsor of the U.S. Department of State's BridgeUSA program. Not only was it a great experience for them, but the students at Katy High School now have lifetime friends in their respective European nations. "Most of our Host Families have no idea at first of the impact their efforts will have around the world," says Ellen Hoggard, President of HSUSA.

"The award states, in part, 'In recognition and appreciation for their commitment to strengthen our nation and communities through volunteer service." The service the McLucas family has provided in housing the exchange students go beyond shelter. It provides a life-changing opportunity, said the organization.

The McLucas family has shared family time with Darina and Emma and includes them in everyday chores, board games, baseball games with Jeremy and Jonathan, and everything else that involves being part of an "American family." Joshua helped with schoolwork and transporting them to various events for school and social activities. The McLucas family is involved in their community and assisted with getting the required community service hours the students' needs for grant programs. The students learned the importance of communication. family time, and working together to achieve their goals. They also watched the recent eclipse - a rare event they got to experience together. The McLucas family has hosted for multiple years allowing their family to grow their "family tree" beyond the four of them. They love how hosting exchange students has allowed their own children to learn from so many different people and cultures.

Joshua and Danielle are grateful for this hosting experience and for all the students in the past they

have hosted. "Thank you for the honor and nomination for this award. As a naturalized immigrant and U.S. Air Force retiree, my passion is to share the American culture with students, letting them experience the freedom of the United States and helping them understand this culture while studying the English language. We are so proud of our boys, Jonathan and Jeremy, for helping us love and add eight amazing kids to our family. After four years of hosting, we are excited to meet our next student in August from Mongolia. These kids are so courageous to leave their family and friends and trust the program to place them with people that will learn to love them as their own kids."

The exchange experience has allowed Darina and Emma to immerse themselves in our culture while sharing in both the classroom and home. Through exposure to new ideas, continued learning, and building relationships, participants explore the world, experience diversity, and gain valuable learning experiences that promote global citizenship. It should be noted that one out of every three world leaders have been in the United States participating in an exchange program, the organization said.

To learn more about HSUSA life changing program and how you can get involved, please contact Heather Wells at hwells@gecexchanges.com.

# The Katy Times Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship



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PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

# BIS Houston students to attend NAE-UNICEF summit

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

As part of Nord Anglia Education (NAE), one of the world's leading international schools groups, BIS Houston is proud to have three attending this year's NAE-UNICEF Student Summit, hosted for the first time ever in Houston, Texas from 12 to 19 June 2024, the school announced in a June press release.

A total of 123 students have been selected from across Nord Anglia Education's global family of schools to attend this year's NAE-UNICEF Student Summit.

Through Nord Anglia Education's global collaboration with UNICEF, students have been raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through social impact projects. The SDGs are a collection of 17 goals set by the United Nations regarding social and economic development issues.

Each year, students from Years 10-12 from Nord Anglia's international schools come together for the NAE-UNICEF Student Summit. This year's theme is "Innovation," and student ambassadors at the

• Join workshops led by UNICEF, World's Largest Lesson, Generation Global, and subject matter experts on the SDGs, building advocacy skills, impacting change in their communities, as well as student leadership.

 Present a project at the "Global Issues Solutions Fair" working with their international peers to address problem statements created by UNICEF on important topics such as nutrition, learning, and health. The partnership between Nord Anglia Education and UNICEF aims to support UNICEF in further developing freely accessible learning materials on the SDGs, while

helping Nord Anglia students gain the knowledge and skills required to make positive changes within their communities.

• Lead "peer talks" to share how they are taking action as leaders in their communities through social impact projects focused on sustainability, climate change, and social equality. The students will also take part in local community volunteering in Houston.

• New this year, attending educator chaperones will engage in professional learning to better support their students and schools in enhancing their social impact The event is being hosted at

Nord Anglia's two schools in the city: The Village School and the British International School of Houston. Houston was chosen as the ideal location for the Summit thanks to being the first officially

recognised "Child-Friendly City" in the United States of America, the press release said.

Dr Leslie Williams, Senior Programme Lead for Social Impact and Giving at Nord Anglia Education, said: "We're thrilled our student leaders are making their way to Houston to join our flagship event, which will inspire positive actions in their schools and communities. At the heart of our education philosophy is a vision to shape a generation of creative and resilient global citizens who will change our world for the better, and events like the Summit ensure our students are developing into real changemak-

"At the British International School of Houston we are proud to co-host and participate at the Summit to enable our students to take a leading role in the global discussion about key issues affecting our

world. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to make a change in their communities, and learn valuable skills that have real-world impact." said Barrie Scrymgeour, Principal at BIS Houston.

The NAE-UNICEF Student Summit is not the only way students get engaged with the SDGs and social impact efforts at Nord Anglia schools. Through the Social Impact Distinctions, schools work toward three levels of accreditation (bronze, silver, and gold) showcasing how they have embedded children's rights and the SDGs. Each year, students can also receive funding from the Social Impact Grants to expand and enhance their community activities addressing the goals.

The British International School of Houston is located in Katy at 2203 N. Westgreen Blvd. Visitwww. bishouston.org to learn more.

## KATV'C ICD MII ITADV ENI ICTEEC

KATY'S	S ISD MILITA	ARY ENLISTEES
Name	High School	Branch/Institution
Ariel Dar Arbel	Cinco Ranch	U.S. Coast Guard
Rheilyn Cox-Rodabaugh	Cinco Ranch	U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Tomas Forero	Cinco Ranch	Texas Army National Guard
Phillip Kim	Cinco Ranch	U.S. Air Force
Zackary Millen	Cinco Ranch	U.S. Coast Guard
Sydnee Simpson	Cinco Ranch	U.S. Marine Corps
Walter Umanzor II	Cinco Ranch	Texas Army National Guard
Elijah Chen	Jordan Jordan	U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Abhiram Thupakula Jesus Yepez	Jordan	U.S. Marine Corps U.S. Navy
Cole Barker	Katy	U.S. Marine Corps
Harrison Bauer	Katy	U.S. Marine Corps
Emily Coronado	Katy	U.S. Army
Zachary Hensley	Katy	U.S. Army
Jacob Manning	Katy	U.S. Marine Corps
Rolando Morgan	Katy	U.S. Air Force
Nolberto Ortega Perez	Katy	U.S. Army
Hareshvar Malarvizhi	Katy	Texas Army National Guard
Bernardo Larsen Rodrigues Campos	Katy	U.S. Marine Corps
Pedro Larsen Rodrigues Campos  Jacob Rodriguez	Katy Katy	U.S. Navy U.S. Navy
Xactziri Santos	Katy	U.S. Navy
Jake Vigil	Katy	U.S. Marine Corps
Victor Alaniz	Mayde Creek	U.S. Army
Ali Aljumaily	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Jacob Beezley	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Jonathan Brownell	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Madison Chavez	Mayde Creek	U.S. Air Force
Daniella Contreras-Ruano	Mayde Creek	U.S. Navy
Michael Fields	Mayde Creek	U.S. Army
Melany Garcia	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Terry Gwynn Samuel Miracle	Mayde Creek	U.S. Air Force
Jaila Osbourne	Mayde Creek Mayde Creek	U.S. Army U.S. Navy
Joseph Ramos	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Roque Solano	Mayde Creek	Texas Army National Guard
Kenji Vang	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Froylan Villa	Mayde Creek	U.S. Marine Corps
Andres Chicas	Morton Ranch	U.S. Marine Corps
Angelina Estrada	Morton Ranch	U.S. Air Force
Joshua Garcia	Morton Ranch	U.S. Marine Corps
Maria Marinescu	Morton Ranch	U.S. Marine Corps
Andres Orea	Morton Ranch	U.S. Army
Nataly Tobar Sara Veliz	Morton Ranch Morton Ranch	U.S. Marine Corps
Angel Alvarado	Paetow	U.S. Marine Corps U.S. Marine Corps
Santiago Amaya	Paetow	Texas Army National Guard
Robert Billingsley	Paetow	U.S. Department of the Navy
Yulu Chai	Paetow	Texas Army National Guard
Jean Osny Yacou Derneville	Paetow	U.S. Army
Raduni Mendis	Paetow	U.S. Air Force
Leo Morales	Paetow	U.S. Army
Marilyn Rodriguez	Paetow	Texas Army National Guard
Fabio Rodas	Paetow	U.S. Marine Corps
Alliyah Trainer	Paetow	Texas Army National Guard
Rhynia White	Paetow	Texas Army National Guard
Logan Murray Anuar Zhumagaliyer	Seven Lakes Seven Lakes	U.S. Navy U.S. Marine Corps
Allyson Campbell	Taylor	U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Roy Coronado	Taylor	U.S. Marine Corps
Aidan De Los Santos	Taylor	U.S. Navy
Alexandre Kpakote	Taylor	U.S. Army
Matthew Lemaire	Taylor	U.S. Marine Corps
Justin Lopez	Taylor	U.S. Marine Corps
Shandon Davison Mirasol Mattingly	Taylor	U.S. Navy
Tyler Lee Raines	Taylor	U.S. Army
Samuel Randle	Taylor	U.S. Navy
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Kekeli Tokouete	Taylor	U.S. Military Academy at West Point
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# Borgstedte named new principal at Fielder Elementary School

Tompkins

**Tompkins** 

## **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Donovan Kynard

Russell Collin Lao

Keith Taylor

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski has named Christina Borgstedte as the new principal of Fielder Elementary, the district announced in a June 24 press release. Borgstedte will assume her role on July 1.

Borgstedte holds 20 years of experience in public education, all in Katy ISD, and is known for her ability to build relationships among stakeholders and a culture of strong and effective communi-

"I am thrilled to be named principal of Fielder Elementary and look forward to building upon the school's long legacy of high achievement," she said. "I am dedicated

to inspiring our entire school community, students and staff, to reach their fullest potential." She most recently served in the role as

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Navy

**CHRISTINA BORGSTEDTE** 

Assistant Principal at Bryant Elementary, and previously as Assistant Principal at Williams Elementary. Borgstedte has been a student support administrator, instruction coordinator and coach, department chair and classroom

In addition to her instructional and school administrative experience, Borgstedte has served in other leadership roles, including as

a member of the Katy ISD Community Bond Advisory Committee and a presenter at the state conference of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Borgstedte holds a master's degree in Education Leadership from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M University. She is also a home-grown leader, attending Katy ISD schools as a student and graduating from Taylor High School.

# Katy ISD recognizes military enlistees

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Katy Independent School District announced May 24th that 78 students in the Class of 2024 will join the nation's armed services, reserve forces or military academies.

"We commend these graduates and their commitment to public service on our nation's behalf," said Ronnie Edwards, assistant superintendent for school leadership and support. "Whether they've chosen to continue their education or go directly into service, they will represent Katy ISD well."





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#### **Pool Play**

**DIVISION I** 

- Anna 32, Cinco Ranch 13
- Miller 33, Cinco Ranch 27
- Ciinco Ranch 25, Lewisville 12Lake Travis 25, Tompkins 6
- Eastlake 20, Tompkins 14
- Desoto 32, Tompkins 22

#### DIVISION

- La Grange 34, Royal 6
- Royal 21, Alvarado 20Royal 13, Austin LBJ 12

#### **Championship Bracket**

• Dumas 20, Royal 6

#### **Consolation Bracket**

DIVISION I

- PSJA 26, Cinco Ranch 20
- Tompkins 40, Lovejoy 19Berkner 25, Tompkins 7



TYLER TYRE

The Tompkins football 7-on-7 team.

# Cinco Ranch, Tompkins fall to consolation bracket at state 7-on-7

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch and Tompkins competed in pool play of the Division I State 7-on-7 Tournament on Friday, playing for a chance to advance to the championship bracket in College station against strong competition.

Both Cinco Ranch and Tompkins were unable to advance to Saturday's Championship Bracket, with both dropping to the consolation bracket after battling on Friday

Cinco went 1-2 on the day and put up a strong fight in Pool D, only falling to the consolation bracket on point differential. Cinco started the day with a loss to Anna 32-13 and nearly came out on top against Corpus Christi Miller, falling 33-27. Cinco closed out the day with a 25-12 win over Lewisville to improve to 1-2. All of Cinco Ranch, Lewisville and Miller finished with a 1-2 record in Pool D, with Miller advancing to the championship bracket. Anna topped the pool with a 3-0 record.

Tompkins battled in arguably the hardest group in the tournament, but ended the day with an 0-3 record to fall to the consolation bracket. The Falcons dropped their first game to Lake Travis 25-6 before battling but falling to Eastlake 20-14. Tompkins played DeSoto in the teams final game of the day and lost 32-22 to fall to fourth in their pool. DeSoto went undefeated in pool play with a 3-0 record, while Lake Travis went 2-1 to also advance to the championship bracket. Eastlake went 1-2 and fell to the consolation bracket along with Tompkins.

Tompkins ended the tournament with a 1-4 record and Cinco Ranch finished the tournament with a 1-3 record.



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Tompkins 7-on-7 team, which competed at the state tournament last week.

# Tompkins goes two rounds in consolation bracket

#### Cinco falls in the first round

BY TYLER TYRE

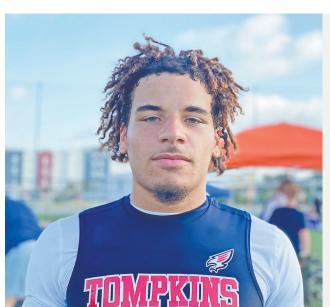
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins was shorthanded at this week's state 7-on-7 tournament. But the Falcons never looked at that as an excuse.

For Tompkins, it was an opportunity. An opportunity for young players to step up, to compete at the highest level and to continue to mesh throughout this offseason.

The Falcons were in what was likely the hardest pool in the entire state tournament on Friday but had an 0-3 record, battling but being unable to come away with wins against two of the best teams in the state in Lake Travis and DeSoto. But that didn't sway Tompkins in the slightest and the

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3



"This program is all about picking each other up and that's what we did. We came out and lifted each other, complemented each other and got ready to compete."

-JOSH DAVIS, Senior safety



CONTRIBUTED

Cinco Ranch went 1-3 at the state tournament, falling in the first round of the Consolation Bracket.

# Cinco Ranch falls in first round of state 7-on-7 consolation bracket

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch was unable to make a run in the Consolation Bracket of the Division I State 7-on-7 Tournament, coming up against a tough PSJA team in the first round and falling 26-20 in a very close game. The Cougars end the tournament with a record of 1-3 after also narrowly missing out on the Championship

acket. The Cougars had strong hopes heading into the tournament and as a young team had valuable time against good competition. The Cougars nearly reached the Championship Bracket and were close in nearly every game they played.

Cinco lost by one score to PSJA and PSJA went on to have a very good tournament. PSJA went all the way to the semifinals of the Consolation Bracket, only losing to PSJA North, who went on to win the Consolation Bracket. DeSoto ran away with the Championship Bracket. DeSoto beat every team they faced by at

least seven points and all but one team by double digits. Austin Anderson ended up as runners up of the Championship Bracket.

The Woodlands went the furthest of any Houston area team, going three rounds in the Championship Bracket, while Heights made it all the way to the final of the Consolation Bracket, only losing to PSJA North 26-24 in the consolation championship game. Gunter won the Division III Bracket and Hamshire Fannett won the Division II Bracket.

# Harrison named district MVP for third straight year

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Cameryn Harrison added one final district accolade to her list last week, being named the District 19-6A Softball MVP for the third straight season after a tremendous year where she helped led the Tigers back to the Region III-6A Final for the first time since 2019.

Harrison was named the district's MVP after a tremendous season she led the Tigers on the mound and was a huge part of the reason they only allowed 26 runs all season while being one of the best teams in the state.

Harrison was joined on the superlatives list by teammate and senior center fielder Ashtvn Reichardt. who was named the district's offensive player of the year. The duo were the leaders of the Katy team that won district and made it to the fifth round of the playoffs while scoring 412 runs and going 39-3-1 on the season. Both Harrison and Reichardt will attend the University of Arkansas to continue their softball careers.

Faith Piper was named the district's defensive player of the year for the second straight year to cap off her district honors. The senior short stop was Cinco Ranch's leader this season and led a young team on a big run. Cinco fought to finish fourth overall in district and clinch a playoff spot and once they did the Cougars peaked at the right time, beating George Ranch and Bellaire in the playoffs and advancing to the third round for the second time in three seasons.

The superlatives were capped off by Tompkins' Lex Cebrero who was named the district's newcomer of the year. Segura was a big part of a Tompkins team



Ashtyn Reichardt hits a home run during a Region III-6A Final between Katy and Kingwood at the Katy softball field.

that exceeded expectations this year, as a young team with a first-year head coach finished third in district and advanced to the second round of the playoffs in an extremely strong effort.

Katy led the way on the first team, placing six players first team all-district. E.K Smith, Hailey Gore, Brooke Fechner, Montgomery Henderson and Maddie Smith all notched first team all-district nods. Taylor, who finished second in district and went two rounds deep, finished with five first team nods after a tremendous year. For the Mustangs, Ari Hughes, Izzy Allen, Katelyn Wentzler, Kaelyn Lerma and Bethany Fan all made the first team. Cinco Ranch had four on the first team, in Sophie Hassall, Madison Rosario, Aubrey Ramirez and Savanna Henningson. Paetow placed three in Alexis Rodriguez, Alicia Briones and Jiselle Lopez. Mayde Creek also placed

Shut Up & Draw

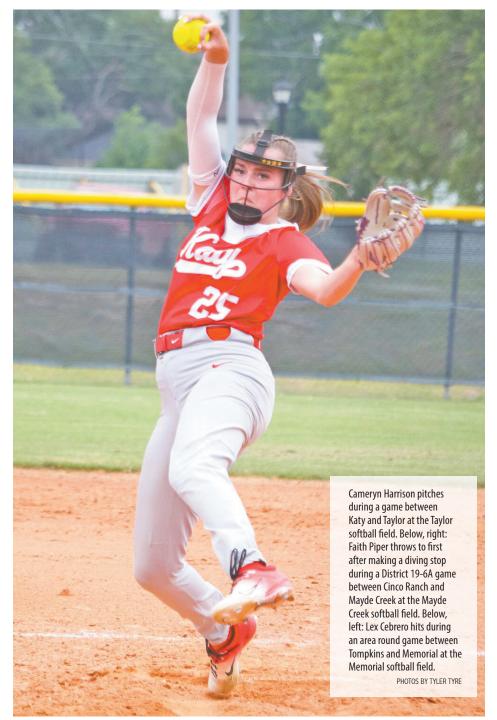
A Journey to Creativity

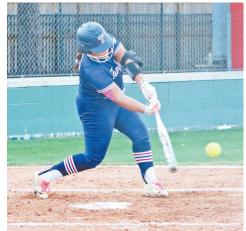
three, with Shy'lynn Brown, Kaitlyn Flores and Alexia Ruiz earning first team honors. Tompkins put Leah Gershman and Peyton Ebel on the first team, Jordan placed Madison Royse and Madeline Jovanovic on the fist team, Seven Lakes had Dulce Franco earn first team honors and Morton Ranch's Michelle Meeks rounded out the first team picks.

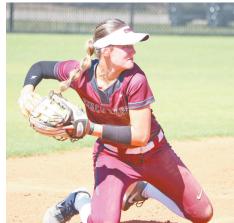
For the second team, Tompkins' Chloe Grigsby and Cami Hearn started off the infield honors and were joined by Katy's Avery Porter, Jordan's Aislyn Duhon, Cinco Ranch's Sydni Vandeventer, Tompkins' Kaylee Segura, Taylor's Sophia Ybanez and Seven Lakes' Hailey Welch were picked for the infielders list. For outfielders, Morton Ranch's Makenzie Rimmer, Mayde Creek's Madyson Rodriguez, Tompkins' Lainey Wilkerson, Taylor's Taylor Gray, Seven Lakes' Michelle Taboada and Sarah Petree and Katy's Lexi Waugh were named to the list. Paetow's Amanda Vasquez, Cinco Ranch's Ossie Cooper and Taylor's Alyssa Sharrock were named the second team utility players. The second team was rounded out by Tompkins' Samantha Crumrin, Cinco Ranch's Gaby Perez and Jordan's Ryan McIntosh who were named to the team as pitchers.

Mayde Creek led the way on the honorable mentions list by placing Eva Tyler, Hannah Barras and Jaila Osborne there. They were joined by Katy's Paige Schulze and Emily Bdd, Jordan's Halle Brazan and Lyra Berry, Tompkins' Kima Septic and Savannah Darling, Cinco Ranch's Katie Schmidt Pena, Tayor's Kenna Irvin, Seven Lakes' Kamryn Wallman and Morton Ranch's Gisselle Sanchez.

Ari Hughes pitches during Wednesday's bi-district round game between Taylor and Ridge Point at the Jordan softball field. PHOTO BY TYLER TYRE



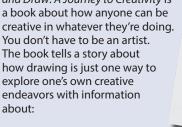






#### LOCAL AUTHOR BOB DOLL **COACHES ON CREATIVITY**

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- The creativeness of journaling
- How you're not locked into a mindset
- and more

The book is loaded with the author's own humorous illustrations to enhance your reading experience. Bob represents himself as an artist/writer who emphasizes creativity is for everyone regardless of your stage in life.

Available on Amazon: Shut Up and Draw: A Journey to Creativity

For more information, contact Bob at bob@bobdoll.com





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# Coll Tabbed ABCA/Rawlings All-Region First Teamer

#### **ABCA/RAWLINGS ALL-REGION HONORS**

#### **NCAA Division I Central All-Region First Team**

Pos.	Player	Cl.	School
C	Walker Janek	Jr.	Sam Houston State
1B	Jared Thomas	So.	Texas
2B	Harold Coll	Sr.	Houston
3B	Gavin Grahovac	Fr.	Texas A&M
SS	Jalin Flores	So.	Texas
OF	Carson Benge	So.	Oklahoma State
OF	Max Belyeu	So.	Texas
OF	Braden Montgomery	Jr.	Texas A&M
OF	Jace LaViolette	So.	Texas A&M
DH	Tom Poole	Jr.	Dallas Baptist
Р	Ryan Johnson	Jr.	Dallas Baptist
Р	Brett Sears	Sr.	Nebraska
Р	Brian Holiday	Jr.	Oklahoma State
Р	Payton Tolle	Jr.	TCU
RP	Evan Aschenbeck	Sr.	Texas A&M

#### NCAA Division I Central All-Region Second Team

NCAA DIVISION I Centra	i Ali-Keg	jion Second Team
Player	Cl.	School
Jake Holland	Sr.	New Mexico
Chayton Krauss	Jr.	<b>Dallas Baptist</b>
Miguel Santos	Sr.	Dallas Baptist
Jay Thomason	Sr.	Air Force
River Orsak	Sr.	Lamar
Nolan Schubart	So.	Oklahoma State
Cael Frost	Jr.	South Dakota S
Easton Carmichael	So.	Oklahoma
Kaelen Culpepper	Jr.	Kansas State
Seungmin Shim	Sr.	Air Force
Brooks Caple	Sr.	Lamar
Jakob Hall	Jr.	Oral Roberts
Ryan Prager	So.	Texas A&M
Caden Favors	Sr.	Wichita State
Ben Abeldt	So.	TCU
	Player Jake Holland Chayton Krauss Miguel Santos Jay Thomason River Orsak Nolan Schubart Cael Frost Easton Carmichael Kaelen Culpepper Seungmin Shim Brooks Caple Jakob Hall Ryan Prager Caden Favors	Jake Holland Sr. Chayton Krauss Jr. Miguel Santos Sr. Jay Thomason Sr. River Orsak Sr. Nolan Schubart So. Cael Frost Jr. Easton Carmichael So. Kaelen Culpepper Jr. Seungmin Shim Sr. Brooks Caple Sr. Jakob Hall Jr. Ryan Prager So. Caden Favors Sr.

#### STAFF REPORT

Senior second baseman Harold Coll was named an ABCA/Rawlings All-Region First Team second baseman selection for the Central Region on Tuesday.

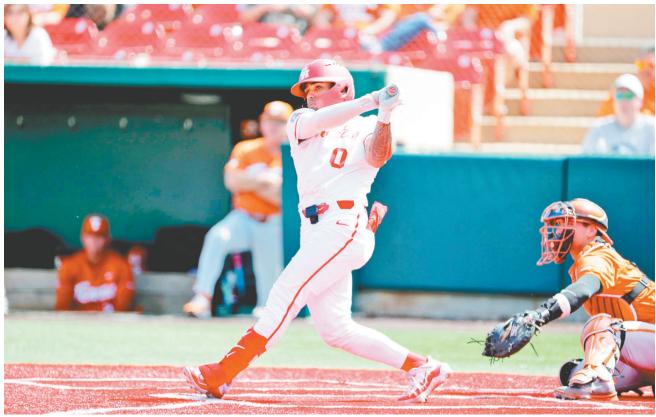
The Boston native was the first Cougar since 2008 with a 20 double-10 home run season while leading the team in RBI with 55. Coll stole the second-most

bases on the team with 13 while also posting the third-best average (.317), second-most hits (66) and second-best slugging percentage (.601). Coll's 20 doubles ranked sixth in the Big 12 Conference and was the 10th-most nationally.

The second baseman's 55 RBI and 20 doubles ranked fourth in the Big 12. Coll led the Cougars with 17 multi-hit games and 18 multi-RBI games while becom-

ing one of three Cougars with 11-game hit streaks in 2024.

Coll is the first Cougar to earn All-Region honors as a second baseman and just the fifth infielder to be named All-Region. The team-leader in doubles is Houston's second All-Region selection in the last three years, joining catcher Anthony Tulimero, who was a First Team honoree in 2022.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

The University of Houston's Harold Coll earned All-Region honors this year.

PHOTO BY TYLER TYRE

#### **TOMPKINS**

from page B1

team came out refreshed and positive on Saturday in the Consolation Bracket.

"We didn't get too down on ourselves because we knew that those guys were missing and this was valuable to get other people experience," said senior safety Josh Davis. "This program is all about picking each other up and that's what we did. We came out and lifted each other, complemented each other and got ready to compete."

The Falcons came out in the first round of the consolation bracket and dominated Lucas Lovejoy. Lovejoy took the lead first, but Tompkins came back to tie it up before taking a 21-13 lead at the half. The Falcons scored 19 more points in the second half while limiting Lovejoy to just one touchdown in the second half to take a 40-19 win.

"The guys just picked everyone up and we had so much energy going into today," said sophomore quarterback JP Vaclavik, who threw for seven touchdowns in the win over Lovejoy and eight in total on Saturday. "Everyone just was a hype man and we all were ready and picked it up — it was a lot of fun."

Tompkins took on a strong Berkner team in the second round of the consolation bracket and was unable to overcome them, falling 25-7. Tompkins scored first and got out to a hot start, but the offense wasn't able to keep

things going in the second half. But for the Falcons the important thing was the reps against quality opposition.

"That's what you want, playing the best is fun and it gets your guys to raise their level," said Tompkins head coach Todd McVey. "I told these guys the only thing you can focus on is yourself and they started doing that and playing well. Young guys are learning the process and figuring out how to do their jobs and this is a big part of that. It was great to get them out here and see them compete this weekend."

And most importantly, Tompkins got contributions up and down the depth chart, from sophomores like Vaclavik and Blake Jenkins to seniors like Davis who are helping the younger players get things down - all of that will help them once it gets to the fall.

"That's the good thing about this tournament, even with some guys out we got to see some of these other guys and they stepped up, that was the whole idea for us," McVey said. "There were some wide eyes at first, but they learned that we can only control ourselves — developing that is big. Once we started focusing on that, you could see how well we played. We always say the event plus the response equals the outcome and they really focused on that and did a good job responding. I'm proud of that."

Tompkins huddles up after Saturday's state 7-on-7 tournament.



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Anyone knowing the whereabouts of TEVIS DIGGS A/K/A TEVIS DENICE KELLY A/K/A TEVIS BROWN VICKS KELLY is requested to contact Attorney Raushanah S. Hunter in reference to a pending legal matter at (225) 356-5252.

## **June 27 Puzzle Answers**

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

Sale to be held ONLINE at storagetreasures.com

The facility is at Huffmeister Mini Storage 13710 Huffmeister Rd, Cypress, TX 77429. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on July 10, 2024, and end at 12:00 pm on July 18, 2024. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Patricia (Ann) Hudson, Eurydice Mofa, Dalila Martinez, Bobbie Rowland.

#### **INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Bids for Synova Ph. 1 Bid Package 2 will be received digitally through CivCast until 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 18, 2024, at which time the bid summary will be posted to CivCast for the furnishing of material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the Construction of Synova Ph.1 Bid Package 2. Proposals tendered after closing will not be opened. Scope of Project: 1. Concrete Flatwork, 2. Landscaping, 3. Irrigation, 4. Minor Site Grading and Preparation, 5. SWPPP coordination & removal. Bid documents in digital format will be available through CivCast. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on at the offices of Halff on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Questions submitted within 72 hours of bid opening may not be addressed. The successful bidder may be required to provide a performance bond, payment bond, and a maintenance bond as provided for in the bid documents, for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP **AGREEMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT: The CITY OF KATY, TEXAS will hold two public hearing regarding an amendment to a Strategic Partnership Agreement with WILLOW CREEK FARMS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT regarding certain limited purpose annexation and economic and property development provisions related to approximately one hundred sixty-five (165) acres of land generally located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Interstate 10 and Pederson Road in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Katy, Texas.

The first public hearing will be held on the 15th day of July, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. and the second public hearing will be held on the 22nd day of July, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., with both hearings being by and before the City Council of the City of Katy, Texas in the in the City Council Chamber of the City of Katy City Hall, located at 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, for all persons interested in the above proposed Strategic Partnership Agreement amendment. At the hearings, all such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard. Copies of the proposed amendments to the strategic partnership agreement will be available for view at the City of Katy City Hall upon request.

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## **INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 165, will be electronically received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Wednesday, July 24, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for Construction of "Avalon at Cypress Section 7 & 8 Landscape" for Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, Harris County, Texas"

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 933 8590 1573 and use Passcode: 803740 or

 $\underline{https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/93385901573?pwd=N7lfb0RK5rtGTlrzQI7RZfO}$ 

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 916 5742 4854 and use Passcode: 353403 or

 $\underline{https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/91657424854?pwd=wfsmDha7OVpIBHWNAb}$ V8L3q05ad8gK.1

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 two percent (2%) 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. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is  $\underline{\mathsf{NO}}$  charge to view or download documents.

Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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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# Tompkins graduate LaViolette leads Aggies to College World Series Championship Series

BY TYLER TYRE **SPORTS EDITOR** 

Jace LaViolette and Texas A&M had a historic season this year, producing the Aggies best ever season and coming up just two runs short of a college world series title in the Tompkins graduate's sophomore season.

'Tennessee has a really good pitching staff and you have to give a lot of credit to them," LaViolette said after game two of the championship series. 'If we made a few better swings and a few balls land differently, then this might have gone a different way, but that's baseball and it happens. Credit to them."

A&M had its best baseball season in school history this year and LaViolette was a huge part of that. The Tompkins graduate had a .305 batting average and a .449 on base percentage with a .72 slugging percentage. LaViolette had 79 hits, including 16 doubles, three triples and 29 home runs, driving in 78 runs and scoring 87 runs himself to cement his status as one of the top prospects in the 2025 draft.

He led A&M to a 53-15 overall record and the second-best record in the SEC-West with a 19-11 record in conference play. The Aggies got to the College World Series by not dropping a game in the regional or super regional round and then won three straight games in the college world series to clinch a spot in the championship

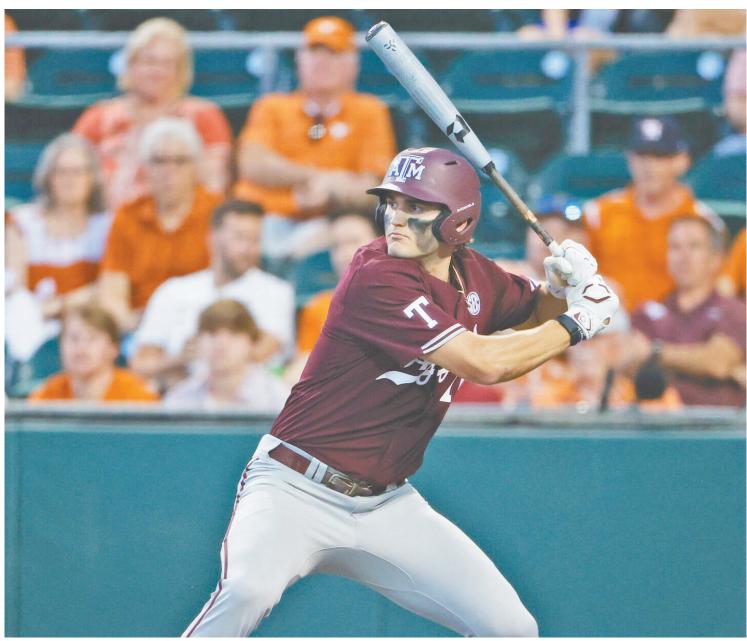
LaViolette went 0-4 in the 9-5 championship series opening win against Tennessee, but he turned heated up in game two, driving in the game's only run on a solo home run in the first inning and going 2-2 on the night and also drawing two walks in the 4-1 loss. In the closeout game of the series LaViolette went 1-5 with a single as A&M lost a heartbreaker 6-5.

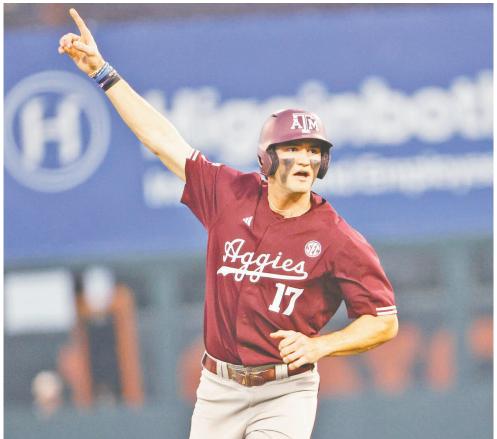
LaViolette had a small struggle at the plate before game two, but after a talk with former A&M head coach Jim Schlossnagle, he was able to clear his head and get back into a flow.

"You have to try not to ride the highs or lows too much in this game and I feel like I had been riding the lows too much recently," LaViolette said. "Coach talked to me about my body language and he told me I'm one of the best players in the nation and need to act like it. I feel like fixing that changed things today."

A&M will still have a loaded roster going into next year and LaViolette seems to love College Station. He sent a message to fans and to potential transfers and recruits after the end of the season. LaViolette has since placed his named in the transfer portal, after Schlossnagle left the Aggies to become the new head coach at the University of Texas. Players had until July 2 to put their name in the portal and just because a player does enter the portal does not mean they will transfer out.

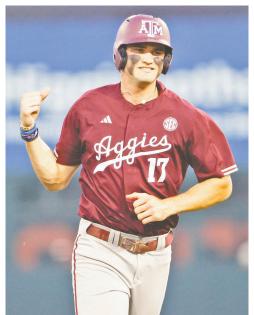
"Thank you @12thMan from the bottom of my heart for everything you did for us throughout the year," Laviolette posted on X (formerly Twitter). "If you're in the portal you are missing out if you don't want to be a part of the best University in the Nation. This is where people come to be great! Let's go get it done next year!"





Texas A&M outfielder Jace Laviolette (17) gestures as he rounds the bases to score on a two-run home run hit by Braden Montgomery during an NCAA baseball game between the Texas Longhorns and the Texas A&M Aggies on March 5, 2024. Texas A&M Above: Texas A&M outfielder Jace Laviolette (17) at bat during an NCAA baseball game between the Texas Longhorns and the Texas A&M Aggies on March 5, 2024. Texas A&M won, 9-2. Below: Texas A&M outfielder Jace Laviolette (17) gestures as he rounds the bases to score on a two-run home run hit by Braden Montgomery during an NCAA baseball game between the Texas Longhorns and the Texas A&M Aggies on March 5, 2024. Texas A&M won, 9-2.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN



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Royal made it to the first round of the Championship Bracket at the State 7-on-7 Tournament.

# Royal falls in first round of state 7-on-7 championship bracket

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Royal battled in the state 7-on-7 Division II bracket, competing in Pool B of the Division II bracket in College Station on Thursday before competing in Friday's Championship bracket for a chance at a state championship.

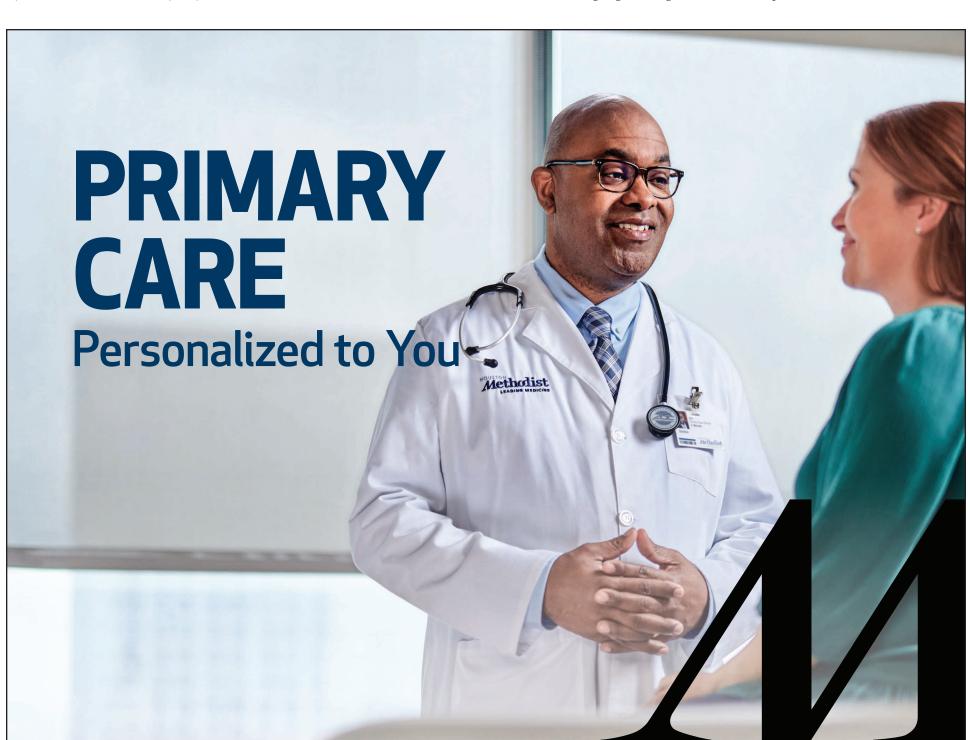
Royal dropped their first game of Thursday in pool play to La Grange, losing 34-6 but bounced back quickly in their next game against Alvarado by winning 21-20. A lightning delay forced pool play to be finished on Friday morning and Royal performed at an even higher level in their final game of pool play, beating Austin LBJ, which had been undefeated going into the game 13-12

and clinching a top two seed out of pool play with a 2-1 record.

Austin LBJ also ended with a 2-1 record out of Pool B, beating Alvarado and La Grange before falling to Royal. Alvarado lost to Royal and Austin LBJ but beat La Grange, La Grange beat Royal but lost to Austin LBJ and Alvarado.

Royal earned a spot in the championship bracket, where they played Dumas and fell 20-6 in a tough first round matchup that ended Royal's 7on-7 tournament. Dumas went all the way to the Championship Bracket final where they fell to Hamshire Fannett.

Hamshire Fannett ended up the winners of the Division II bracket, while Gunter won the Division III champion-

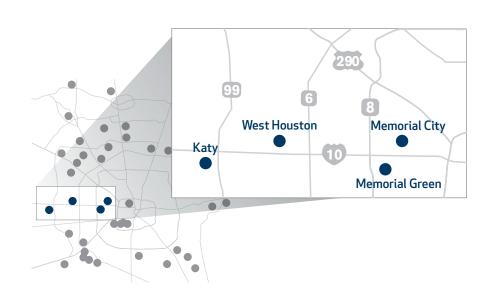


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