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SPORTS | B1

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

Texas House impeaches AG Ken Paxton

Attorney general is suspended from duties, will face Senate trial

BY ZACH DESPART AND JAMES BARRAGÁN
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Defying a last-minute appeal by former President Donald Trump, the Texas House voted overwhelmingly Saturday to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton, temporarily removing him from office over allegations of misconduct that included bribery and abuse of office. The vote to adopt the 20 articles of impeachment was 121-23. The stunning vote came two days after an investigative committee unveiled the articles—and two days before the close of a bi-

ennial legislative session that saw significant right-wing victories, including a ban on transgender health care for minors and new restrictions on public universities' diversity efforts. The vote revealed substantial divisions within the Republican Party of Texas—the largest,



KEN PAXTON

See PAXTON, page A3

Most, but not all, Katy-area representatives vote for Paxton impeachment

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Of the five Katy-area state representatives who voted May 27 on impeachment for Attorney General Ken Paxton, four voted for impeachment, while one voted against. State Reps. Gary Gates, Jacey Jetton, Stan Kitzman and Jon Rosenthal voted for impeachment, while Rep. Mike Schofield voted against. Gates, Jetton, Kitzman and Schofield are Republicans. Rosenthal is a Democrat. Gates and Jetton represent portions of Fort Bend County. Kitzman rep-



MIKE SCHOFIELD

resents Waller County. Rosenthal and Schofield represent Harris County. Schofield's district includes the portion of Katy that falls in Harris County. The House voted 121-23, with two present and not voting and three members absent, to impeach Paxton. He has been suspended from office and his case now goes to the Texas Senate for trial. Schofield, speaking of his opposition in a speech on the House floor, called the impeachment measure "a rushed motion to impeach a

See LOCAL, page A3



The Royal High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC was part of the Memorial Day remembrance in Brookshire. SHERREL ROGERS

Remembering the fallen

Katy area commemorates Memorial Day

CONTRIBUTED AND STAFF REPORTS

Katy-area residents remembered American service members who died in service to the nation during Memorial Day ceremonies held Monday. Katy's traditional remembrance ceremony

happened Monday morning at Katy Magnolia Cemetery, 6801 Franz Road. "It gives me that small town feeling, and people even comment on it because it has become such a community-focused event in honoring our veterans who have lost their lives," Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said. "It feels like it's time when the entire community comes together and there's always a big crowd there. They come together and

See MEMORIAL DAY, page A3



FORT BEND COUNTY



CHRIS HARRIS

Above: A sign at Katy Magnolia Cemetery spoke for Americans remembering those who died, and served, on Memorial Day. Left: Veteran Robert J. Fagan accepts a proclamation from Fort Bend County Judge KP George.

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June 1, 2023
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Hurricane season is here

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

While tropical storms and hurricanes are not welcome anywhere, they are part of life in Southeast Texas. Hurricane season begins June 1 and runs until Nov. 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, better known as NOAA, predicts between 12-17 named storms this season, of which 5-9 are expected to become hurricanes. Between one and four of these hurricanes will be major hurricanes, NOAA said.



Signing up for KTALERT

The City of Katy has an alert system, KTALERT, that shares time-sensitive information with subscribers. The system is free and one does not have to be a Katy city resident to sign up. However, one must have a Katy address when enrolling. Subscribers can decide how they wish to receive information, whether it be one's home, cell, or business phone, email, text messages, hearing impaired

See HURRICANE, page A3

Sailor from Katy serving aboard USS Ralph Johnson

BY JERRY JIMINEZ
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

YOKOSUKA, Japan—Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Scott, a native of Katy, serves in Japan aboard a forward-deployed U.S. Navy warship. Scott joined the Navy four years ago. Today, Scott serves as an electronics technician aboard USS Ralph Johnson, a destroyer. "I joined the Navy because I thought it was the best path for me," Scott said. Growing up in Katy, Scott attended Cy-Lakes High School and graduated in 2019.

See SAILOR, page A3

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Community Calendar

June

JUNE 3 SHRED DAY

Time to shred your old papers. Paper clips, staples and binder clips are OK. No discs or electronics, as these items could be fire hazards. Volunteers will also be collecting donations of canned goods for Katy Christian Ministries. The shredding event is from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Keller Williams Premier Realty, 22762 Westheimer Pkwy. Suite 420.

JUNE 3 FREE FISHING DAY

Join the celebration of Texas Parks and Wildlife's annual Free Fishing Day. Enjoy a day of fishing at John Paul Landing, no license required. A certified Angler Instructor will be available near the Environmental Education Center to assist with casting, fish identification, baiting, and fish removal. A limited supply of equipment will be available, or feel free to bring your own. The event is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center, 9950 Katy Hockley Road in Cypress. For more information, email johnpaulanding@hcp4.net or call 713-274-3131.

JUNE 3 KATY ROCK SHOP MINING EVENT 2023

A sluice mining and hunt through Katy Rock Shop's bags of rough ore from different regions of the world. The event is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Katy Rock Shop, 535 Pin Oak Road. For more information, call 832-437-4733.

JUNE 3 COLOR UP 4 AUTISM FUNRAISER

Come out to MKT and support the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program. According to research, nearly half of children with autism are at risk for wandering away from a safe setting. Project Lifesaver is a free program that provides wearable devices to children with Autism who Wander or Bolt. MKT has invited the children of Fort Bend County Project Lifesaver to Color Up the bottles of a High Wheat Bourbon. The event is from 1-6 p.m. at MKT Distillery, 5373 St. St. For more information, call MKT Distillery at 833-658-1870.

JUNE 10 LOCAL MARKET AT KTX BREWING

Join this family friendly event with local vendors, local music, and local food trucks. Vendors include:

Simply Polished Boutique, Renewal by Andersen of Houston, Simply Unique Permanent Jewelry, Soappins, Stacked with Sparkle, Ohana Pottery, Miraculous and Mav Bikes. The event is from 5-9 p.m. at MKT Distillery, 5373 St. St. For more information, call MKT Distillery at 833-658-1870.

JUNE 14 FULSHEAR KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING

Yvette Simmons Payne from The CodeMasters will speak about your key to valuable communication at the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's monthly business meeting, which begin 7:30 a.m. at Parkway Fellowship, 27043 FM 1093 in Richmond. For more information, contact the chamber at 832-600-3221.

JUNE 14 WORLD OF BUBBLES CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AT CINCO RANCH BRANCH LIBRARY

As part of the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge, Fort Bend County Libraries invites children in grades 1-5 to a fun, interactive program, "The Wonderful World of Bubbles." Learn about simple math and science and the art of bubbles when Shelly McBubbles creates mind-blowing bubbles, including giant bubbles, bubble clouds, bubble chains, and a cube bubble. The program is from 2-3 p.m. in the meeting room at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. This free program is open to the public. For more information, call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library 281-395-1311.

JUNE 17 NO LABEL BREWING 1ST STREET 5K BEER RUN

This chip-timed race, which starts at 8 a.m., starts and finishes at No Label Brewing Co., 5351 1st St. Run through the shady streets of Old Town Katy, then return to the brewery to collect your



This month learn about simple math and science and the art of bubbles at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

souvenir race pint glass and four 8-oz. tastings from No Label's taps! Tech t-shirt also included with race entry. Walkers and strollers are welcome. Food trucks available on site. This event is part of the 2022 Texas 5k 6-Pack Beer Challenge. For more information, visit the website RunInTexas.com/sixer.

JUNE 17 KATY MARKET DAY

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



JUNE 17 JOSH ABBOTT BAND TO PERFORM

The show is at 7 p.m. at Mo's Place, 21940 Kingsland Blvd. Tickets are \$30 for standing room only, and \$40 for reserved and day of show. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Mo's Place at 281-392-3499.

JUNE 19 KATY JUNETEENTH PARADE & FESTIVAL

The Katy African American Heritage Society is celebrating Juneteenth with a family-friendly parade and festival. The Katy community is invited to join in the celebration at Woodland Park, 443 Danover Road. The parade begins at 11 a.m. and

will run west along Roberts Road and turn south, down Danover Road. The festival, which features food, art, music and a kids' zone, is from 12-3 p.m.

JUNE 21 DISCOVERY DAYS: SKINS AND SKULLS

Learn about native wildlife by getting hands-on with their skins, skulls and tracks. The program is designed especially for school-aged children. Registration is required and space is limited. The program is from 2-3 p.m. at the John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center, 9950 Katy Hockley Road in Cypress. For more information and to sign up, email johnpaulanding@hcp4.net or call 713-274-3131. Be sure to say what time you want to attend.

JUNE 24 AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

The Houston Astronomical Society, in cooperation with the Harris County Precinct 4 Parks Department and the John Paul Landing Park Environmental Education Center, is hosting a monthly event that enables people to view the night skies above Harris County through a variety of different types of telescopes. View objects in the night sky such as the moon, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, star clusters and more. The members of the Houston Astronomical Society are excited to have this opportunity to spread their love of astronomy with the public and answer any questions you may have about this fascinating hobby. Viewings are from 8:30-11 p.m. at the John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center, 9950 Katy Hockley Road in Cypress. For more information, email johnpaulanding@hcp4.net.

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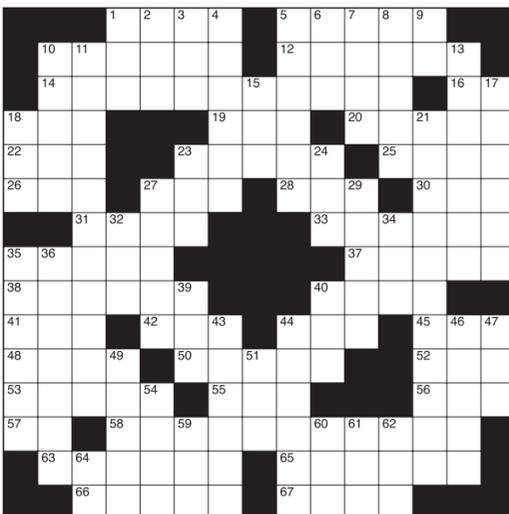
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Sloping position
- Descendant of a notable family
- Following accepted norms
- Root vegetable
- Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- Integrated circuit
- Records electric currents of the heart
- Used to anoint
- Japanese city
- After B
- Muffles
- Pass over
- Vase
- Soft touch
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Israeli politician
- Degrade
- Type of wrap
- Polyurethane fabric
- Avoids capture
- Vegetarians avoid it
- Decay
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Vessel to bathe in
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Frosts
- Dipped into
- Controversial replay system in soccer

CLUES DOWN

- Hill or rocky peak
- Initial public offering
- Type of light
- Test
- Flaky coverings
- Former NFLer Newton
- Part of the eye
- Roman god of the underworld
- Negative
- Indiana pro basketball player
- Replaces lost tissue
- Denotes one from whom title is taken
- Historic college hoops tournament
- Hut by a swimming pool
- Defunct European monetary unit
- Feeds on insects
- Adult male
- Melancholic
- Sheets of glass



- Slang for famous person
- Not good
- "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- The "World" is one
- Used to make guacamole
- Midway between south and southwest
- Wet dirt
- Ancient Egyptian name
- Set of four
- Strips
- Wife
- More dried-up
- Socially inept person
- Clusters on fern fronds
- Bar bill
- Prefix indicating "away from"
- Very important person
- Fiddler crabs
- Special therapy

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

PAXTON

from page A1

richest and most powerful state GOP party in the United States. Although the party has won every statewide election for a quarter-century and has controlled both houses of the Legislature since 2003, it has deep underlying fissures, many of them exacerbated by Trump's rise.

Few attorneys general have been as prominent as Paxton, who made a career of suing the Obama and Biden administrations. One of Trump's closest allies in Texas, along with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Paxton unsuccessfully sued to challenge the 2020 presidential election results in four states.

Attention next shifts to the Texas Senate, which will conduct a trial with senators acting as jurors and designated House members presenting their case as impeachment managers.

Permanently removing Paxton from office and barring him from holding future elected office in Texas would require the support of two-thirds of senators.

Impeachment was supported by 60 Republicans, including Speaker Dade Phelan and all five of the representatives from Collin County—where Paxton and his wife have lived for decades. All 23 votes in opposition came from Republicans.

Afterward, Paxton called the vote "illegal, unethical, and profoundly unjust," adding that he looked forward to a quick resolution in the Senate.

The move to impeach came less than a week after the House General Investigating Committee revealed that it was investigating Paxton for what members described as a yearslong pattern of misconduct and questionable actions that include bribery, dereliction of duty and obstruction of justice. They presented the case against him Saturday, acknowledging the weight of their actions.

"Today is a very grim and difficult day for this House and for the state of Texas," Rep. David Spiller, R-Jacksboro, a committee member, told House members.

"We have a duty and an obligation to protect the citizens of Texas from elected officials who abuse their office and their powers for personal gain," Spiller said. "As a body, we should not be complicit in allowing that behavior."

Paxton supporters criticized the impeachment proceedings as rushed, secretive and based on hearsay accounts of actions taken by Paxton, who they said was not given the opportunity to defend himself to the investigating committee.

The Legislature had impeached state officials just twice since 1876—and never an attorney general—but the House committee members who proposed impeachment argued Saturday that Paxton's misconduct in office was so egregious that it warranted his removal.

Under the Texas Constitution, Paxton is suspended from office pending the outcome of the Senate trial. The Senate had recessed before the House voted to impeach, and Patrick, who presides over the Senate, did not immediately respond to a request for comment about a timeline for an impeachment trial.

Because Paxton was impeached while the Legislature was in session, the Texas Constitution requires the Senate to remain in Austin after the regular session ends Monday or set a trial date for the future, with no deadline for a trial spelled out in the law.

The constitution also allows the governor to appoint a provisional replacement. Gov. Greg Abbott had not weighed in on the calls to impeach Paxton and his office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Saturday.

This story has been edited for length. Robert Downen contributed reporting.

SAILOR

from page A1

Modern U.S. Navy surface ships provide a wide range of warfighting capabilities in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface environments.

A Navy surface ship is capable of operating independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups or expeditionary strike groups.

Jobs aboard a U.S. Navy ship are highly specialized, requiring both dedication and skill, according to Navy officials. The jobs range from maintaining engines to handling weaponry along with a multitude of other assignments that keep the ship mission-ready at all times.

As a member of the Navy, Scott is part of a world-class organization focused on maintaining maritime dominance, strengthening partnerships, increasing competitive warfighting capabilities and sustaining combat-ready forces in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy is important to national defense because we have plenty of offensive and defensive capabilities," Scott said.

Scott serves in Japan as part of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. These naval forces operate with allies and partners to preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Service members in this region are part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, which has the largest area of responsibility in the world.

"As the largest force in our nation's front line against revisionist actors, U.S. Pacific Fleet meets this great responsibility with strength, resolve and confidence," Adm. Sam-



JAKE JOY

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Scott, of Katy, is serving aboard the USS Ralph Johnson, a destroyer.

uel Paparo, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander, said. "Together with our joint and combined partner operations, we are positioned to defend—across all domains—any attempts to threaten our nation, our allies and partner's security, freedom and well-being."

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

"I am most proud of fixing vital equipment that allow us to go underway," Scott said.

As Scott 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 is a hard-working job, especially when we're underway," Scott said. "It's rewarding for the training and opportunities that you get."

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

"I would like to thank my dad," Scott said. "He encouraged me to join the Navy."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jerry Jimenez is a mass communications specialist first class in the Navy. Jake Joy is a lieutenant commander in the Navy.

HURRICANE

from page A1

receiving devices and more.

For more information, visit the website member.everbridge.net/306355722256401/login.

Planning for a potential storm

The City of Katy disaster preparedness web page, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3oCsWDz, provides instructions on planning one's home and business for a storm.

In addition, the National Weather Service's Houston/Galveston office has prepared a 32-page hurricane in severe weather guide, which is free to download from the website weather.gov/media/hgx/HurricaneGuide2021.pdf.

The booklet is slightly outdated in that the storm names listed are from 2021. However, the booklet provides accurate information on hurricanes, storm surge flooding, heavy rain flooding, and damaging winds and tornadoes.

The booklet also covers topics such as preparing disaster kits, preparing contact lists, preparing one's home, preparing one's business and pets.

New pump station opened in Fort Bend County

Local governments are also getting ready for hurricane season. A Sugar Land neighborhood where nearly 600 homes flooded during Hurricane Harvey now has a massive new pump working to protect its residents and their homes, just in time for the start of the 2023 hurricane season.

The pump moves 150,000 gallons of water per minute, protecting Sugar Land's Riverstone neighborhood. It works alongside a pre-existing pump that moves 80,000 gallons of water per minute.

Levee Improvement District (LID) 19 and LID 15 worked together on the \$9.1 million project, their most significant major capital improvement for

flood protection for Riverstone since Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

A May 26 ribbon cutting at the Steep Bank Creek Pump Station in Fort Bend County's Precinct 3 commemorated the project's completion.

"Safety and security are critical priorities for me and my team," said Fort Bend County Pct. 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers. "Hurricane Harvey reinforced the importance of our levee systems and prompted these improvements, which were completed without raising taxes."

The devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey resulted from unprecedented rainfall and coincidental flood levels for the Brazos River. The Steep Bank Creek Pump Station had a total capacity to pump 80,000 gallons of water per minute. Today it can pump 230 gallons of water per minute, enough to have kept Riverstone from flooding during Harvey.

With contributed reports.

LOCAL

from page A1

statewide officer elected by the people of Texas."

Schofield said only two officials have been impeached by the House, the most recent a state district judge in 1975. (That judge, O.P. Carrillo of Duval County, was impeached, convicted and removed from office for misuse of public funds, among other crimes, according to the Texas Tribune. The first impeachment, in 1917, was of Gov. James "Pa" Ferguson for misappropriation of public funds, among other charges. Ferguson resigned the office before the Senate voted to convict, the Tribune reported, but the Senate did vote to convict Ferguson.)

In two other cases, Schofield said, the House considered impeachment cases but voted not to impeach.

"I began this week with no idea that the House was considering impeaching the attorney general," Schofield said. "Now, here at the end of the week, we are preparing to remove him from office before the day is out."

Schofield did not speak to the allegations against Paxton, but rather to the process by which the impeachment matter was brought to the floor of the House for a vote.

"There is no need to rush to judgment," Schofield said. "Impeachment in

Texas isn't just rare, but it's virtually unique."

In the two successful impeachment cases, Schofield said, the process took several weeks with open hearings and cross examination of witnesses by both sides. But in Paxton's case, Schofield said, most representatives did not know that an impeachment was being considered until "at most a couple of days" before that impeachment was introduced before the House.

Schofield said there was no public testimony, or a chance for either the public or the House to learn of the allegations against Paxton. He said it reflects poorly on the House when an

impeachment is suddenly sprung as it was in this case and there was little chance of public awareness and involvement.

"In an impeachment, the conclusion isn't the only thing that matters," Schofield said. "If we're going to remove the official, the people should be involved so they can draw the same conclusion as us."

The House appointed prosecutors, called managers, to present the case in the Senate trial. The articles of impeachment were delivered to the Senate May 29, which also happened to be the last day of the regular session.

To see the 20 articles of impeachment brought against Paxton, visit the Texas House of Representatives website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3007XZ9.

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A day to honor our war dead

Every year, polls show that a large number of Americans don't know why we celebrate Memorial Day.

According to People, a 2020 Onepoll survey found that fewer than half of the 2,000 people surveyed knew that the purpose of Memorial Day was not to honor those who served in the armed forces, but to honor those who gave their lives while they served.

Few Americans are aware that the original reason for Memorial Day dates back to the Civil War.

Originally called Decoration Day, its purpose was to remember the nearly 500,000 soldiers who died during that incredibly bloody conflict.

That large number becomes especially sobering when you realize that the Civil War claimed roughly half of the 1.1 million service members who gave their lives in all of our conflicts, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Department of Defense.

Consider the cost of our other wars:

The American Revolution was a hard-fought battle, but our successful fight for freedom claimed fewer than 1% of the lives of service members than the Civil War claimed — about 6,800 lives.

World War I—the “war to end all wars”—took 120,000 American service members. Regrettably, a lot more war was yet to come.

World War II—what many veterans of the great global conflict called “the Big One”—claimed approximately 405,000 U.S. service members, mostly young people whose lives were just beginning to blossom.

The Korean War, in which my father served, claimed 34,000 U.S. service members—and it's still not officially over.

The Vietnam War claimed 48,000 U.S. service members—again mostly claiming young lives. The pain and loss of that terrible war lingers for millions of families still.

The long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq cost the lives of nearly 7,000 service members.

It's a number that would have been higher if not for considerable gains in medical technology that resulted in



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

fewer battlefield deaths.

However, more than 52,000 U.S. service members were wounded in these conflicts and many are still suffering from both physical and mental disabilities—and higher than normal suicide rates.

We must never forget those who gave their lives serving the rest of us. But too many of us are forgetting to do just that.

PBS News Hour offers a partial explanation as to why.

During the Civil War, almost every American family suffered loss. The 500,000 Union and Confederate deaths accounted for about 2% to 2.5% of the total population.

During World War II, according to Census Bureau and Department of Defense data, about 12 percent of the total U.S. population were members of the armed forces—and everyone else at home was making sacrifices to support the war effort.

Today, however, fewer than 1% of our population serves or has served, which makes it easier for most of us to remain aloof from military actions.

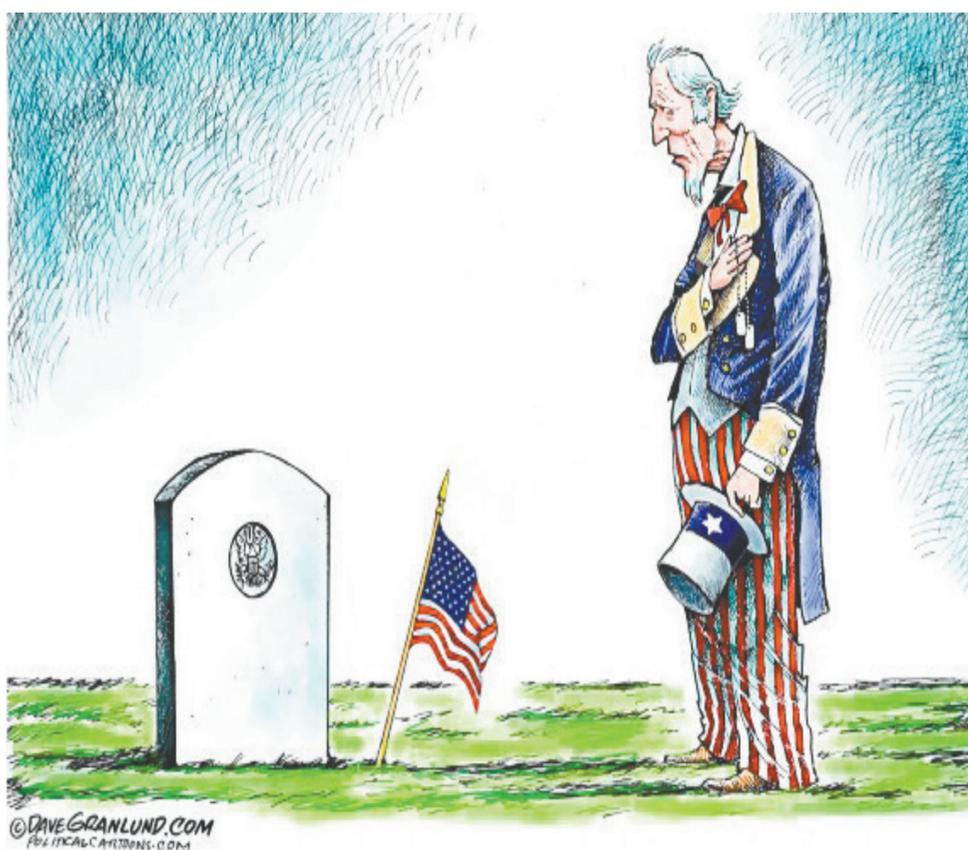
But we should be aware. War really is hell and it should be the absolute last resort for our nation to take.

We must hold our political leaders to account and stop them from so willingly getting us into new conflicts that will result in more service members giving the ultimate sacrifice.

So before we focus on our Memorial Day weekend parades and picnics, we must remember to honor those who have given their lives for our country.

And we must never forget the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



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Chatbots are speaking my language

In a much-anticipated chess match in February, 1996, the world champion Garry Kasparov faced IBM's Deep Blue, the most advanced chess-playing machine. Kasparov lost the first game but went on to win the match in Philadelphia, 4-2. It was humanity's proudest moment in competition pitting man vs. machine.

Fifteen months later in Manhattan, the two faced off again. In the intervening time engineers fixed a bug in Deep Blue's programming, while doubling its processing speed. Kasparov lost, stunning the chess community while boosting the hopes and spirits of the tech world.

Today, the notion of a human beating the best computer at chess is as far-fetched as a sprinter outracing a Bugatti.

I thought about that as I tested the AI writing software ChatGPT for the first time. No matter how much I'd heard and read about its capability, I was not prepared for the impact using the software had on my sense of the creative process—personally and professionally—and what the future might hold.

Developed by Open AI in San Francisco, ChatGPT (“Generative Pre-trained Transformer”) responds to plain-English queries and produces—with remarkable speed—text in the form of a simple statement or more complex documents such as letters, articles and even an entire book.

What surprised me most was how cogent the material was when compared with all the forms of AI we've come to rely upon



PETER FUNT

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Where this fits in the creative community's future isn't clear, but at minimum these so-called chatbots are useful for numerous mundane functions and in early research. Beyond that, many of us would like to believe that it is heart and soul that will always be unique to human creativity.

in everyday life, from Alexa and Siri to GPS and Google. I was also amazed at how advanced the output had become since 2018 when the Associated Press began distributing computer-written stories about minor league baseball games.

The ChatGPT software, still in beta testing, is available for free, though after just a few hours of dabbling I signed up for the more advanced version for \$20 per

month. While some of the output reads like a Wikipedia entry, or worse, much of it is surprisingly sharp.

I asked for an outline of a nonfiction book I've recently started writing and the treatment contained ideas and perspective I hadn't considered. I requested advertising copy for my current book, *Playing POTUS*, and a few of the lines were so compelling that I'm using them in promotion. I requested a birthday letter to my son and the message was eerily appropriate, certainly better than what Hallmark sells.

ChatGPT is lacking in whimsy, as several of my Hollywood colleagues discovered when they experimented with it to write sitcom scripts. On the other hand, it's quite proficient as an author of children's books and certain how-to guides—dozens of which are already showing up for sale.

Where this fits in the creative community's future isn't clear, but at minimum these so-called chatbots are useful for numerous mundane functions and in early research. Beyond that, many of us would like to believe that it is heart and soul that will always be unique to human creativity.

And that leaves readers and my editor asking two questions: Who or what created the previous sentence? And, does anyone really care?

Peter Funt's latest book is "Playing POTUS: The Power of America's Acting Presidents," about comedians who impersonated presidents.

Katy Times

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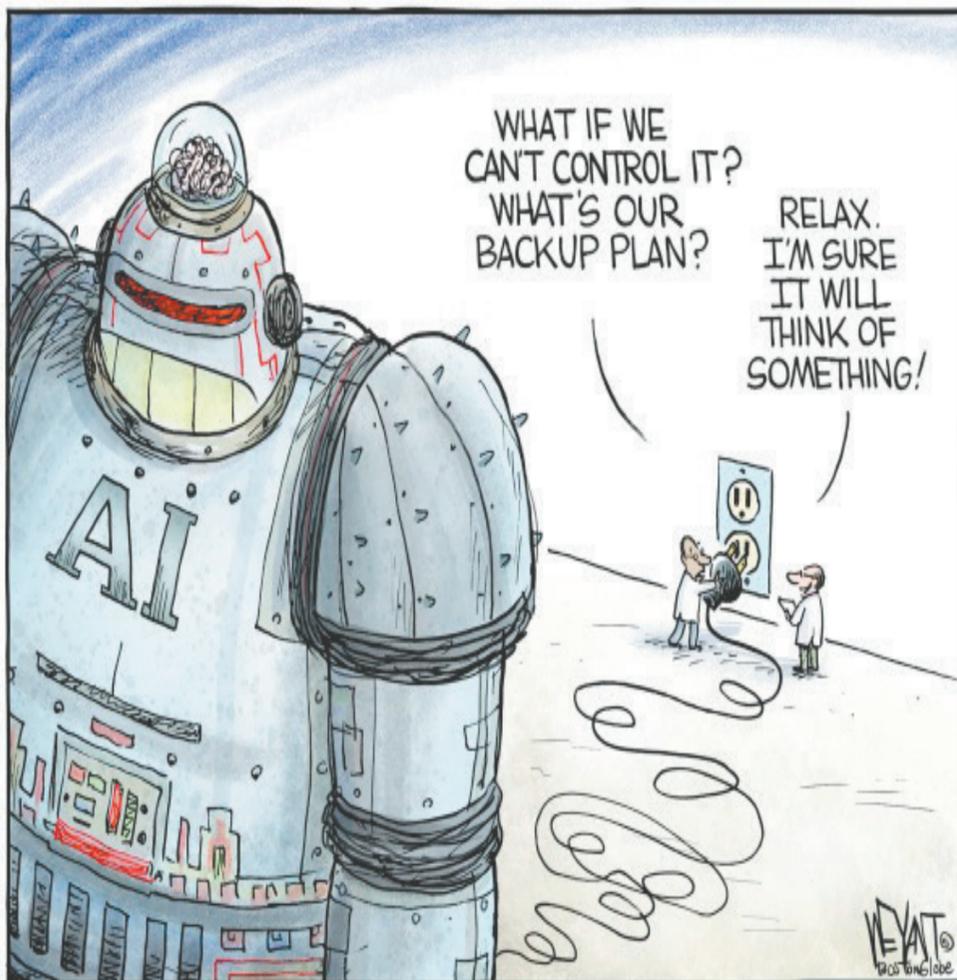
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday. Subscriptions are available for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend counties and \$45 elsewhere. Subscribe at www.katytimes.com or by mailing payment and delivery information to Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

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CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.



WHAT IF WE CAN'T CONTROL IT?
WHAT'S OUR BACKUP PLAN?

RELAX. I'M SURE IT WILL THINK OF SOMETHING!

VEAT
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SUNDOWN ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY



Sundown Elementary School, 20100 Saums Road, recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. The Armadillos celebrated with a carnival for its school community and returning families and staff. The carnival featured food trucks, carnival games, face painting and a cake walk. The carnival also featured the Armadillo Time Machine, an exhibit of artifacts, yearbooks and pictures from Sundown over the years.

KATY ISD

TRIBUTE



JACQUELINE FLORENCE GIBSON
1947-2023

Jacqueline Florence Gibson, 75, of Katy passed away May 17, 2023. She was born on October 13, 1947, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She grew up in Philadelphia and graduated from Upper Dublin High School and furthered her studies at the University of Illinois. Jacqueline had a long career in engineering at the Fluor Corp. in Houston. After her career in engineering, she lived a wonderful life raising her children and grandchildren, traveling around the world, and being a prominent part of the Houston Saengerbund. She is survived by her brother Ken Florence and wife Joan. Her son Raymond English, Robert English; son, Rachelle Williams; daughter, Nicholas Gibson; son, Ashley Gibson; daughter, grandchildren, Christopher and Austin. She was preceded in death by her beloved and cherished parents Val and Elsie Florence.

BBQ COOKOFF CHAMPS

To celebrate National Public Works Week, City of Katy Public Works participated in the American Public Works Association Southeast Texas Chapter Annual BBQ Cook-off. There, they competed against local public works departments from across the Houston area. Katy placed 1st in the rib category, 1st in the brisket category, and brought home the overall Traveling Grand Champions Trophy. Pictured from left to right are Jason Rivera, public works director; Andrew Shipes, streets department; Billie Oppenlander, parks department; Anthony Benavides, streets department; Toby Pattenau, street superintendent; Byron Hebert, city administrator; Steve Riley, fleet superintendent; Dillon Leppert, fleet assistant superintendent; Richie Kainer, parks superintendent, and John McGee, streets department.



The Katy Times

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD to stage mock emergency incident drill June 7 at Tompkins High School

Katy ISD announced it will stage a mock, full-scale emergency incident exercise at Tompkins High campus, 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd.

Katy ISD will conduct the exercise with Fort Bend County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, local EMS, fire and law enforcement agencies.

The district said the goal of the exercise is to test local agencies and the district's emergency response plans, as well as rehearse response operations for all participating entities.

In a letter to parents and Tompkins staff, the district said there was no need to be alarmed if there are road closures, emergency response vehicles or aircraft, en route to the Tompkins campus.

Also, please be aware, to create an exercise that appears and feels as realistic as possible, residents may hear special audio effects that sound like a weapon being discharged. Additionally, there will be a number of volunteers acting out various roles on site.

The district said volunteer actors may be seen in trauma makeup or situated near fake bodily fluids such as imitation blood. All volunteers will have received training and trauma support services prior to the event, and those services will also be available to volunteers and other onsite personnel during and after the exercise.

Those with questions are asked to call Katy ISD's Office of Emergency Management at 281-237-9176.

Aristoi Classical Academy announces Class of 2023 valedictorian and salutatorian

Aristoi Classical Academy announced that Olivia Schurtz is the class of 2023 valedictorian and Nora Benton is the class of 2023 salutatorian.

Schurtz will attend Brigham Young University where she will major in finance. Schurtz won numerous academic awards as an Aristoi student in Humane Letters, mathematics, foreign language, the sciences, and fine arts. Additionally, Schurtz was recognized during her junior and senior years as winner of the "Head of School Award" for



Royal High School's Sound Machine Band marched in the school's Senior Parade May 24.

SHERRYL ROGERS



Katy ISD will stage a mock, full-scale emergency incident exercise June 7 at Tompkins High School, 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd.

GOOGLE

her commitment to virtuous leadership within the school community. She is a member of

the National Honor Society and serves as an Aristoi Ambassador. Schurtz has attended Aristoi

Classical Academy for the past four years.

Benton will attend the University of Houston where she will major in sociology. She is a member of the National Honor Society, a biology peer tutor, and a section leader in the advanced choir. She also served as a summer school volunteer and basketball team manager, and has won several academic awards in Humane Letters, Spanish, and Choir. Benton has attended Aristoi Classical Academy for the past six years.

Student from Katy awarded scholarship by Montserrat College of Art

Ziggy Smith of Katy was awarded the Fran Carreiro Scholarship by Montserrat College of Art this spring despite the postponement

of the annual Student Showcase Ceremony until next fall.

Smith is a member of Montserrat's class of 2024 concentrating in Sculpture.

Montserrat's Student Showcase recognizes and honors the accomplishments of Montserrat students. Normally the event includes both visual and literary art forms for the enjoyment of the entire college community, the public, alumni, parents, and friends of Montserrat College of Art. Though the event itself has been rescheduled for the fall, the college's academic departments wished to recognize and reward students for their accomplishments.

Montserrat College of Art, in Beverly, Mass., is a private, residential college of visual art educating the designers, artists, entrepreneurs for a rapidly changing world that requires creative solutions to new challenges.

Student from Katy earns degree at Wharton County Junior College

Alexandra Bella of Katy earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing from Wharton County Junior College. A pinning ceremony was held at the conclusion of the Spring 2023 semester on the Wharton campus.

The Associate Degree Nursing program begins in August at the Wharton campus and in January at the Sugar Land campus. A 12-month LVN-ADN transition program begins in May for students already licensed as vocational nurses. Median pay according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is around \$75,000 annually.

Two students from Katy earn degrees at McNeese State University

Micah R. Chevannes of Katy earned a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance, General, and Christian C. Vega, also of Katy, earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at May 12 commencement ceremonies at McNeese State University, in Lake Charles, La.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Newborns born June 4-10 receive special welcome from Fort Bend County Libraries for Children's Book Week

Fort Bend County Libraries will continue their annual tradition of welcoming newborns to the wonders of books. Every Fort Bend County baby born during the libraries' Children's Book Week—June 4-10—may receive a special baby book bag, courtesy of the Friends of Fort Bend County Library.

Each bag contains a book, a bib, a special certificate, a list of suggested reading for children, and information on parenting and on

library services. These bags represent the library system's commitment to providing library services for county residents throughout their lives, beginning at birth.

"We hope to start every child born in hospitals in Fort Bend County on a successful road to life-long learning," Susan King, the library's youth services coordinator, said. "We distribute the baby book bags to babies born during that week at area Fort Bend County hospitals, but all Fort Bend County babies who are born during the week of June 4-10 are eligible to receive one, while supplies last."

Families of Fort Bend babies born at other locations during this period should

call the Youth Services department, at 281-633-4762, to receive their book bag, while supplies last.

Cinco Ranch Branch Library to host History of Fort Bend program June 6

Fort Bend County Libraries will present a special program on "The History of Fort Bend County" from 3-4 p.m. June 6 in the meeting room at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.

Created in 1837, Fort Bend County is deeply rooted in Texas history. In this program, Carol Beauchamp, a long-time staff member in



FILE PHOTO

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., will host a special program on the history of Fort Bend County June 6.

Fort Bend County Libraries' Genealogy and Local History Department, will talk about the early days of the county, from its inception through the mid-1900s. Hear about the fascinating people and events that made Fort Bend County what it is today.

Beauchamp will talk about the impact on the county of events such as the Texas Revolution, the American Civil War, and World War II. She will also share details on the colonization of the county, Imperial Sugar, Terry's Texas Rangers, and the Jaybird-Woodpecker War. The program is free and

open to the public. For more information, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

Harris County Sheriff's Office to host multi-agency Women's Job Fair June 8

The Harris County Sheriff's office and Sheriff Ed Gonzalez announce an upcoming multi-agency women's job fair where job seekers and employers will converge to explore a career in law enforcement. This event aims to bridge the gap between talented individuals seeking employment and public safety agencies searching for talented female professionals.

The job fair is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. June 8 at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road. Agencies represented include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Police Department, the Texas

Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Transportation Security Administration, Katy Police Department, Park Place Police Department, West University Police Department, Harris County Precinct 1 and many others.

The Harris County Sheriff's office has taken the 30X30 Pledge, a national initiative to advance women in law enforcement. The goal is to increase the representation of women in police recruit classes to 30% by 2030. Currently, women make up only 12% of sworn officers and 3% of police leadership in the U.S. Attendees can expect a wide range of career paths to explore.

The job fair is open to individuals of all experience levels, from entry-level job seekers to seasoned professionals seeking career advancement. Admission to the event is free.

For more information, visit the website HCSOJobs.com.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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Nayden Ramirez and Graham Laxton celebrate after a run during Thursday's Regional Semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Langham Creek.

Cinco Ranch's historic run ends in regional semifinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch threw everything it had at Pearland.

It didn't matter the circumstances, the frustration after an at bat or an inning. The Cougars were loud and uplifting, believing they could overcome whatever was in front of them.

In the end, Cinco Ranch came up just short of a regional final berth, falling to Pearland 1-0 in game two of the regional semifinals on Friday, after losing to Pearland 3-0 in the first game on Thursday.

But this wasn't a losing team, and the Cougars walked off the field with their heads held high knowing what they accomplished this year.

"This whole season was just remarkable," senior right fielder Charlie Atkinson said. "No one thought we would be here, but we just trusted and played for each other. We made history and we're super proud. It's an amazing feeling, this was a tough loss but we are proud of what we did."

It was a heartbreaking loss for Cinco Ranch, which had chances but were unable to find runs on Friday.

The Cougars loaded the bases with no outs in the second inning, but Pearland was able to get out of it with two strikeouts and a groundout. Cinco then loaded the bases with no outs again in the third inning. But Pearland found a way out of the jam again, getting a strikeout and a double play to end the inning. But even then, the Cougars heads didn't go down.

"It was everything to coach these guys," said Cinco Ranch head coach Brett Wallace. "When you have a group of kids who is willing to go out there and just work hard every single day from day one, you know it's special. This team has been together for the past three years, they played for each other and knew how to step up for each other and think for each other. That's what made them so special."

Pearland got their only run of the game in the bottom of the third inning, a runner reached after a hit by pitch and then got to second on a failed pick-off attempt to first base. Pearland then got him to third with a sacrifice grounder before he came around to score on a passed ball.

The Cougars offense stalled from there until the seventh inning, when they again had a chance. Ethan Muniz was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning, Karsten Kleiweg came in to pinch run and was able to steal second. Brock DeYoung then grounded out but got Kleiweg to third base with one out.

But the Cougars struck out and popped

See **CINCO**, page B3

Laxton walk-off lifts Katy to first regional final since '06

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Graham Laxton knew he had a chance to make history.

Coming to the plate in extra innings with a man on third, Laxton was aware of the situation he was in — having a chance to get where the Tigers couldn't last season and make the regional finals.

Laxton stayed composed, found a ball to hit and drilled it into deep left center field, sending the crowd and his teammates into a frenzy with a walk off single, lifting Katy to a 4-3 win over Clear Springs in the second game of their regional semifinal series, which Katy swept two games to none.

"My teammates set me up and I just had to finish it," Laxton said. "I got a hold of it and just seeing it go over the left field-

See **KATY**, page B3



TYLER TYRE

Cole Kaase slides into home plate during Thursday's regional semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Langham Creek.

WEEK OF JUNE 2

SCORES & SCHEDULES

BASEBALL

Scores

- Katy 4, Clear Springs 0
- Katy 4, Clear Springs 3
- Pearland 3, Cinco Ranch 0
- Pearland 1, Cinco Ranch 0

REGIONAL FINAL

Thursday

- Game 1: Katy vs. Pearland, 7 p.m. at Constellation Field

Friday

- Game 2: Katy vs. Pearland, 7 p.m. at Constellation Field

Saturday

- Game 3: Katy vs. Pearland, 5 p.m. at Constellation Field (if needed)

Hicks earns Whataburger Super Team, National Lineman of the Year honors

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

D.J. Hicks has been collecting quite a trophy shelf this year.

The Paetow senior defensive lineman has garnered many accolades, collecting All-State, All-American and other awards on the way to becoming one of the top collegiate football prospects in the entire country.

Hicks got to add two more trophies to his case on Monday, as he received awards for being named to the Dave Campbell

Texas Football's Whataburger Super Team and received an award for being named the Bobby Dodd National Lineman of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Atlanta.

"I'm really proud," Hicks said. "I'm just so happy that I was able to be put in this situation. I worked hard to make the team but if it wasn't for my coaches and teammates I never could have don't it. The credit goes to them and I'm just happy to be able to have this accomplish-

See **HICKS**, page B6



TYLER TYRE

D.J. Hicks being presented with his National Lineman of the Year award.

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PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans place kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn (7) kicks a 56-yard field goal in the third quarter, for Houston's only points of the game between the Texans and the Jaguars on Jan. 1, 2023 in Houston. The Jaguars won, 31-3.

Texans schedule set for 2023-24 season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Houston Texans learned their schedule for the 2023-24 season and with it comes some very intriguing matchups.

From Super Bowl contenders to other teams that have young, up and coming quarterbacks, the Texans' schedule is chock full of games that will be of interest to Texans fans, from seeing top talent on other teams to good matchups that the Texans have a chance to compete in.

The headliner for the Texans will be games against The Indianapolis Colts, Cin-

cinnati Bengals, Tennessee Titans, Carolina Panthers and Baltimore Ravens.

Houston will open the season against the Baltimore Ravens and a strong offense with Lamar Jackson at the helm. The new look Ravens will provide a very stiff test for the Texans early in the season as Baltimore looks to be among the best in the AFC.

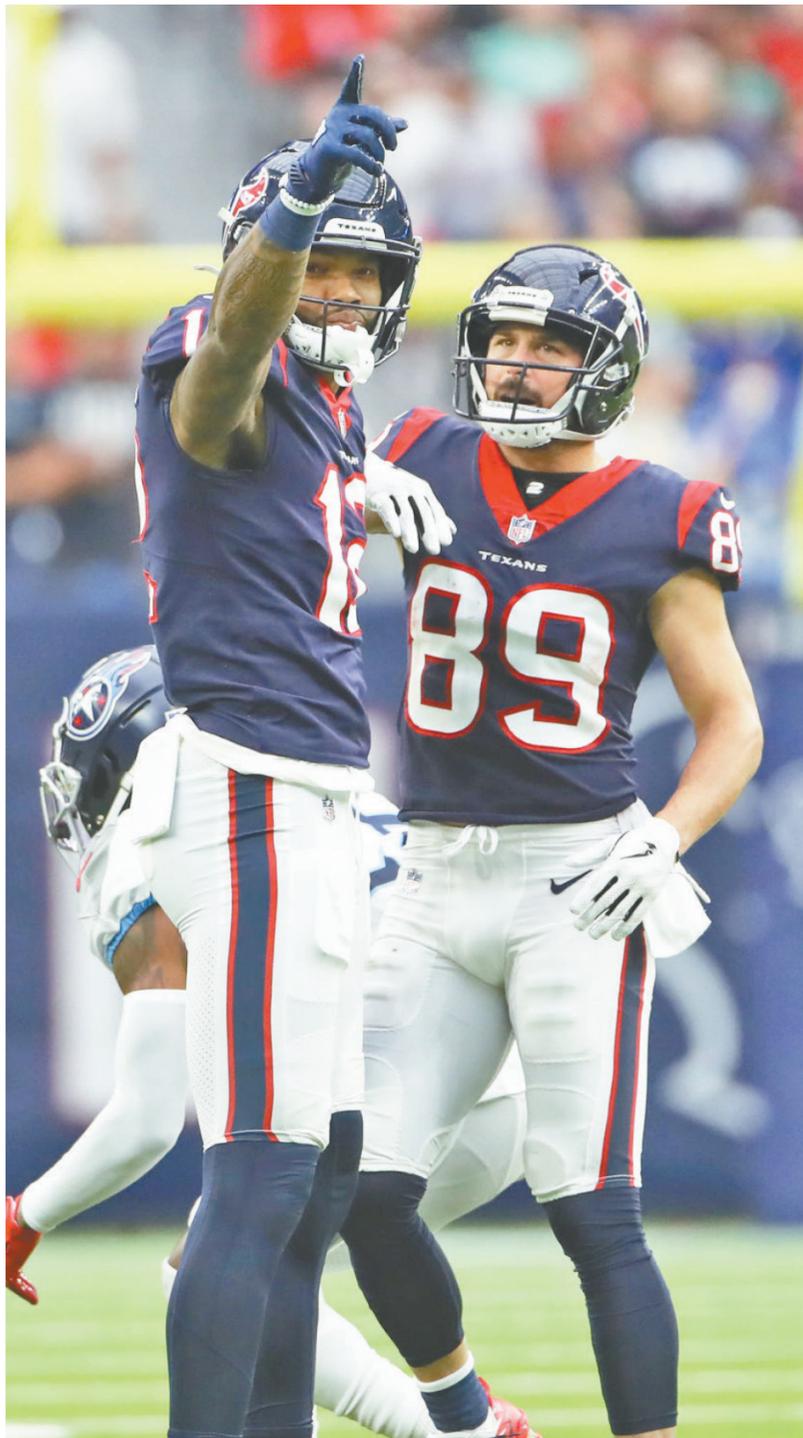
After that the Texans will face off against the Colts for the first of two matchups in the season in Houston's home opener. That could potentially provide everyone with their first look of CJ Stroud vs. Anthony Richardson, two quarterbacks picked in the top five of this year's draft. It seems like it will be an inter division battle for years to come with two young and seemingly up and coming teams with new quarterbacks and coaches.

Houston will travel to Cincinnati in week 10, in a chance to see Houston's defense go up against Joe Burrow and a very strong Bengals offense that will test for DeMeco Ryans. Texans fans will also be excited for the teams matchups with the Titans in weeks 15 and 17. The Titans added a new quarterback to the fold in the draft with Will Levis and there is a chance he could be starting those games, though it's yet to be seen if Tennessee goes with Ryan Tannehill or Levis to start the season. The Panthers game in week eight could give people a chance to see each of this year's top three picks in action in Bryce Young on the Panthers going up against Stroud and Will Anderson on the Texans. Houston will also get a game against the Browns, which will be intriguing with Houston owning Cleveland's first round draft pick next season and with the team having another chance to face former quarterback Deshaun Watson.

The preseason will start with matchups that will be great tests to get Houston ready for the season. The Texans will open against Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots before taking on the Dolphins in the Texans only preseason home game and finishing the preseason in New Orleans against the Saints.

The regular season does provide some opportunities for the Texans to secure wins. The Colts, Falcons, Panthers, Cardinals and Titans all have teams that aren't expected to be in the upper echelon of the NFL.

Below is the Houston Texans full 2023-24 schedule.



Houston Texans wide receiver Nico Collins (12) gestures after making a catch for a first down during an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The Titans won, 28-25. Below left: Texans safety Jalen Pittre (5) after an interception of Jaguars quarterback C.J. Beathard during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Jacksonville Jaguars on Jan. 1, 2023 in Houston. The Jaguars won, 31-3.

HOUSTON TEXANS 2023-24 schedule

PRESEASON

- Week 1: 8/10 at New England Patriots, 7 p.m.
- Week 2: 8/19 vs. Miami Dolphins, 8 p.m.
- Week 3: 8/27 at New Orleans Saints, 8 p.m., Fox

REGULAR SEASON

- Week 1: 9/10 at Baltimore Ravens, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 2: 9/17 vs. Indianapolis Colts, 1 PM, FOX
- Week 3: 9/24 at Jacksonville Jaguars, 1 PM, FOX
- Week 4: 10/1 vs. Pittsburgh Steelers, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 5: 10/8 at Atlanta Falcons, 1 PM, FOX
- Week 6: 10/15 vs. New Orleans Saints, 1 PM, FOX
- Week 7: BYE WEEK
- Week 8: 10/29 at Carolina Panthers, 1 PM, FOX
- Week 9: 11/5 vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 10: 11/12 at Cincinnati Bengals, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 11: 11/19 vs. Arizona Cardinals, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 12: 11/26 vs. Jacksonville Jaguars, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 13: 12/3 vs. Denver Broncos, 4:05 PM, CBS
- Week 14: 12/10 at New York Jets, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 15: 12/17 at Tennessee Titans, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 16: 12/24 vs. Cleveland Browns, 1 PM, CBS
- Week 17: 12/31 vs. Tennessee Titans, 1 PM, FOX
- Week 18: TBD, at Indianapolis Colts, TBD, TBD

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CINCO

from page B1

out to end their season.

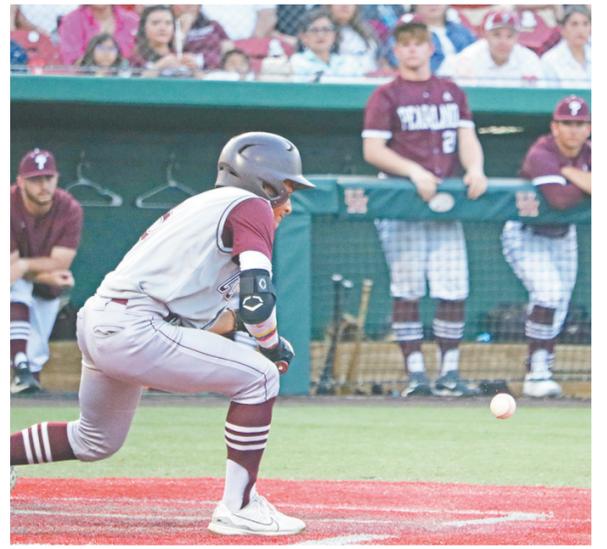
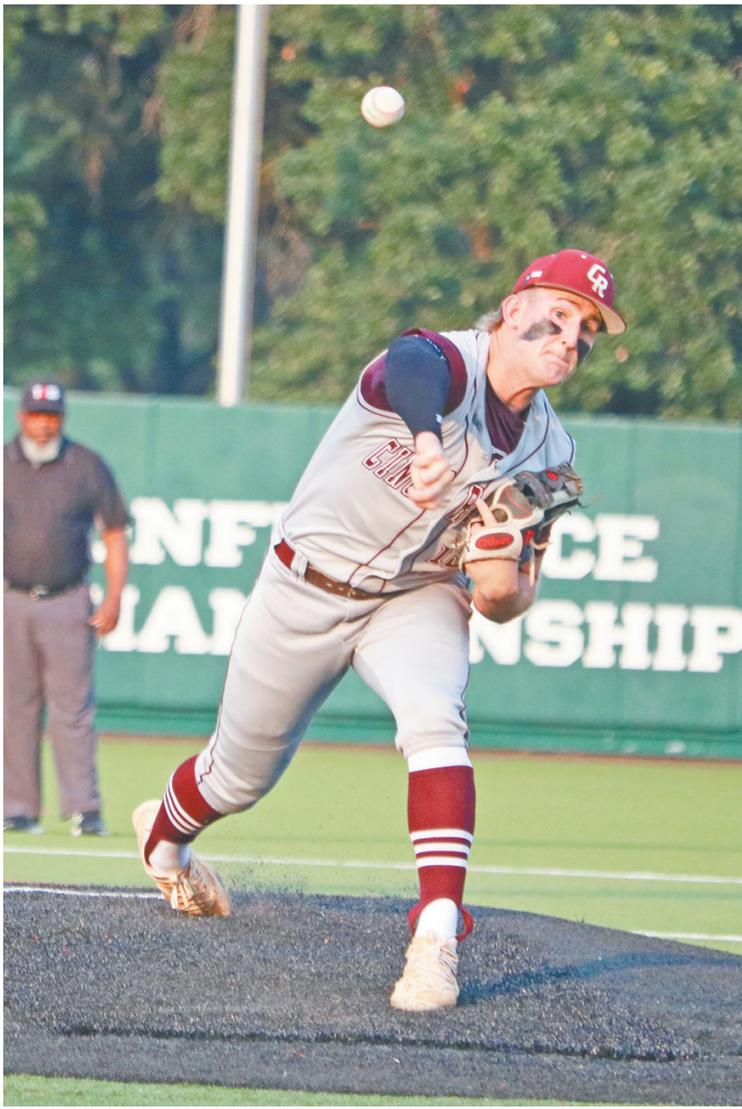
"These last two nights just weren't our night," Wallace said. "But you have to tip your hat to Pearland, that's a phenomenal team. I would argue were one of the best offenses in the state, so it tells you a lot about their pitching staff that they were able to do that."

The Cougars will graduate 15 seniors from this year's team that rewrote the Cinco Ranch record books, won their first district title since 2006 and went further than any Cinco Ranch baseball team in the playoffs.

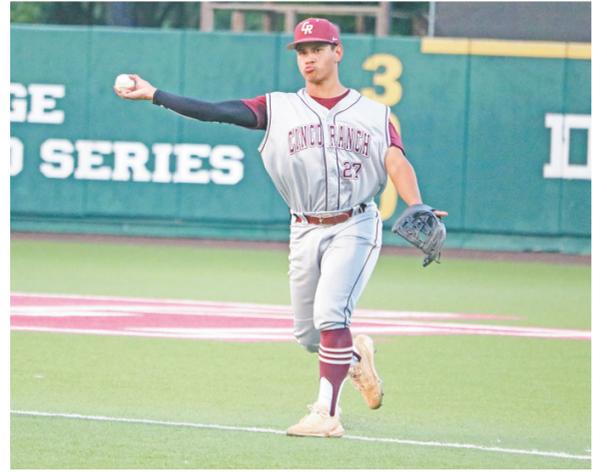
"Last year we didn't get to where we wanted to go so we made sure to do it this year," Atkinson said. "We just knew that we had to be leaders and set an example. We played for each other and that's what we hope to pass on. I think this year set a really good standard and now they can go build on that."

Gavin Rutherford pitches during Friday's regional semifinal between Cinco Ranch and Pearland at The University of Houston.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Above: Paul Acosta bunts during Friday's regional semifinal between Cinco Ranch and Pearland at The University of Houston. Below: Rainier Castillo throws to first during Friday's regional semifinal between Cinco Ranch and Pearland at The University of Houston.



KATY

from page B1

ers head, it's going to be unforgettable. It's something I'll remember the rest of my life. But this is the best group of guys I could ever do it with."

Katy needed the walkoff after Clear Springs mounted a comeback. The Tigers built a three run lead that slipped away, with Clear Spring tying things in the top of the seventh to send the game to extra innings.

It was a fast start for Katy, which kicked off the scoring in the second inning. The Tigers got a man on with two outs and started a rally. Josh Dunayczan hit an infield single and an errant throw allowed Cole Kaase to get around third and beat a throw home. Nayden Ramirez then hit a big triple to drive in a second before scoring himself on a wild pitch.

Clear Springs slowly started working back into the game, getting a run in the in the third inning on an error from a pickoff attempt and getting another in the fourth on a sacrifice grounder, before eventually tying it in the seventh on an RBI single.

The Katy pitching staff did a strong job on the night like they have all postseason. Lucas Moore went five innings, allowing just one earned run while striking out and walking two. Aiden Barrientes threw an inning without allowing a hit or run, Cole Kaase pitched an inning, allowing one run and striking out one before Aaron Brashear pitched a clean top half of the eighth inning.

"It was a really tight strike zone tonight and you just have to work around that sometimes and we did a good job of it," Moore said. "We did a pretty good job of that tonight and I think we did it just a

bit better than their guys with it. That's a big part of why we won the game."

AJ Atkinson started the bottom of the eighth with a double and Sutton Hull got Atkinson to third with a sacrifice bunt. Laxton then stepped up and delivered the game winning single.

"Graham is an impact player," said Katy head coach Wes Hearne. "He made a big defensive play in the top of the eighth and it kind of got the momentum back in our favor. Clear Springs had a mound visit with him up and I told Graham 'They're about to groove one to you.' He saw it and unloaded on it. I'm just proud of him."

The win was a special one for Katy — it was redemption for coming just short in the regional semifinals last year and it clinched the Tigers' first regional final berth since 2006. But for the Tigers, this isn't the end goal and they want to keep pushing.

Katy will play the winner of Pearland and Cinco Ranch in the regional final.

"We're excited, but our mantra since before this season started has been Round Rock and getting to state," Hearne said. "That's what we preached and that's what we break out on, it's kind of our thing. It's on them though, this is their team and if they want to do it they knew they would have to dedicate themselves to it. They've grinded and grinded to get to this point and I couldn't be more proud, but the job isn't finished."

Katy shuts out Clear Springs to take game one of regional semifinals

Caleb Koger has taken well to



PHOTO COURTESY INSTAGRAM: @LOUIES.PICS

Andrew Hilton makes a diving catch during Thursday's Regional Semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Langham Creek.

the No. 1 pitching role for Katy.

The senior had been a mainstay in the Tigers starting rotation all year, but when playoff time started, Koger was given the game one role. He hasn't looked back since.

In his four playoff starts, Koger has only given up two runs over 19.2 innings, good for a .73 earned run average this playoffs.

Koger's dominance continued on Wednesday, as he threw 5.1 innings of shutout ball in Katy's 4-0 win over Clear Springs, as the Tigers took an important game in the regional semifinals.

"Honestly I don't even think about it," Koger said. "I go and I just throw and I trust the guys behind me. "For me it's just I have to treat it the exact same. No game is too big or too small, it's just a step towards where we want to go."

It was a pitchers battle for five

innings in the game, but that was also because of some mistakes Katy made at the plate.

The Tigers got runners on second and third in the first inning but weren't able to get anything across, and the same things happened in the second inning when Katy loaded the bases but stranded all three after an inning ending pickoff.

"Our offensive approach wasn't very good tonight," said Katy head coach Wes Hearne. "We were chasing balls in the dirt, we were going after pitches that we usually are patient on and it was a struggle. It was a messy win, but at this point in the playoffs you take them any way you can get them."

From there the pitching settled down until the sixth inning, when Katy finally broke through.

The Tigers got a double and an

error to a runner in scoring position and then got their first run of the game off another error by the Clear Springs first baseman. Reese Ruderman then doubled the Katy lead by driving in a run on a single.

Cade Nelson came on in relief of Koger in the sixth inning with an out and men on first and second, he calmly retired the side with a pop out and line out to bring things to the seventh. Sutton Hull then made it a three run game on a sacrifice fly before Cole Kaase singled to bring things to 4-0. Nelson then shut things down in the seventh to end it.

Koger finished having given up three hits and three walks while striking out five. Nelson came on and didn't allow a hit, striking out two while walking one to close the game.

"Cade has been phenomenal for us," Koger said. "He's disgusting, and he throws some hard heat. He's a very different pitcher than I am and I think that helps us as well because there's no time to adjust."

With the win, Katy still is undefeated in the playoffs — they'll look to continue that on Thursday, when they play Clear Springs in game two of their matchup 6 p.m. at Langham Creek. The Tigers will go for the sweep and look to advance to their first regional final since 2006 and only the third regional final in school history.

"We'll have to be better tomorrow," Hearne said. "Be disciplined at the plate, play well offensively and keep trusting our pitching and defense. We like playing at Langham though — we're comfortable there having played a couple times. Hopefully we'll see the ball well and be able to score some runs tomorrow."



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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit (BG) by Toyama LLC dba Toyama, to be located at 1433 FM 1463 RD Suite 600, Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas. The owner of said corporation is Mu He and Xin Zhao.

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NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 3091 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON MAY 22, 2023:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF KATY BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM "R-1" SINGLE-FAMILY DISTRICT AND "M" INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO "C-2" GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 24.347 ACRES IN THE THOMAS CRESAP SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 369, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS; AMENDING THE CITY OF KATY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2000.00 FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, June 12, 2023

THE HEARING IS BEING CONDUCTED TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON A PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTION 3.02.053 (4), THE CITY OF KATY BUILDING AND RESIDENTIAL CODE, REGARDING HEAT DETECTORS.

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF KATY BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM "R-1" SINGLE-FAMILY DISTRICT TO "C-1" COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 4.21 ACRES IN THE JAMES CONNER SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 157, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS; AMENDING THE CITY OF KATY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2000.00 FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

Waller County (County) is seeking to contract with a qualified firm(s) which can provide professional hazards, preparedness, planning, consulting, and recovery services for the County. Please submit one (1) original, three (3) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) shall be submitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. SOQs shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm in a contract. Complete submittal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, TX 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFQ #: 230531-20 for All Hazards Preparedness, Planning, Consulting, and Recovery Services. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit SOQs. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to City of Pattison for construction of the City Hall Renovations, LJA Job No. 1817-0001, will be received at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 29, 2023, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

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

Bidding Documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://www.civcastusa.com/>.

City of Pattison will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 8, 2023. An additional non-mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2023. No additional site visits to City Hall will be granted outside of the two pre-bids. City of Pattison reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Successful Bidder, if any, is the Bidder offering the best value for the Owner based on the published criteria provided in the bid documents and on its evaluation. (Texas Local Government Code 252.043 and 271.116)

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

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

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

Dates of Advertisement: 06/01/23; 06/08/23

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2023 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project, until 3:00 pm Tuesday June 13, 2023**. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the rehabilitation of approximately 2,700 L.F. of existing sanitary sewer mains by pipe bursting, manhole rehabilitation, services reconnections as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the City of Katy.
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **Friday, June 2nd, 2023 at 11:00 a.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/81906424168>
Meeting ID: 819 0642 4168
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A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

First Publication: 5-25-2023
Second Publication: 6-1-2023

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	A	B	R	A	D	E		M	E	A	T			
B	A	L	L	O	T	E	D							
A	R	G	U	M	E	N	T	C	I	N	D	Y		
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T	H	Z					G	R	A	B				
S	T	O	A					A	S	H				
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B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	F	I	E	L	D		
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				G	D	E			P	A	R	A		
				R	A	I	D			G	I	B		
	R	O	B	E				F	R	E	U	D		
D	R	A	B	S			P	H	A	R	I	S	E	E
A	N	D	Y			S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S	
D	A	S				I	N	S	T	E	P			

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

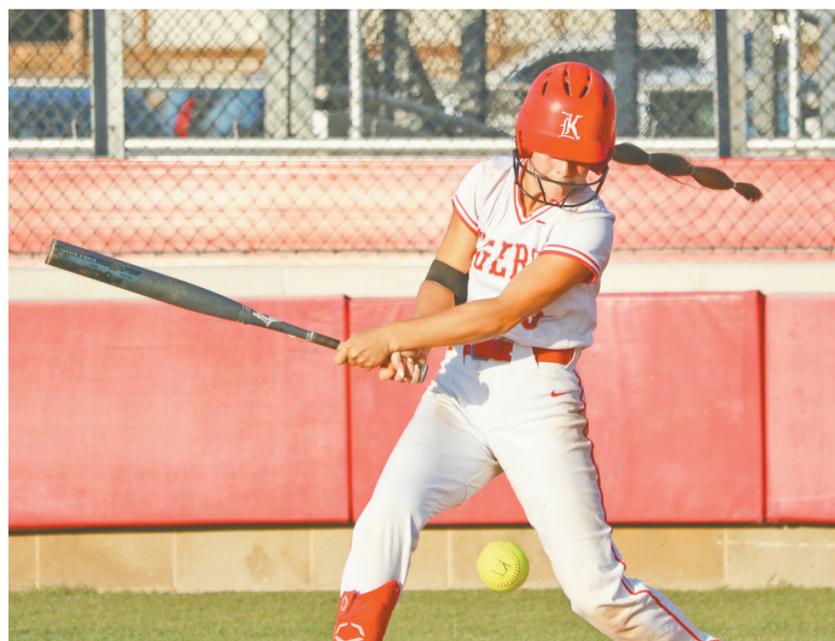
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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Kailey Wyckoff hits during a Class 6A Regional Semifinal game between Katy and Pearland at the Katy softball field. Left: Kailey Wyckoff hits during an area round game between Katy and Cy-Fair at Cy-Lakes last year.

Katy grad Wyckoff named Big 12 Freshman of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy grad Kailey Wyckoff added a major accolade after her freshman year in college, as she was named the Big 12 Freshman of the Year after a tremendous season where she was one of the best catchers in the Big 12.

Wyckoff helped Texas Tech to a 31-21 overall record with a 5-13 record in the Big 12, as the Red Raiders struggled in district play but had a strong year outside of the conference.

Wyckoff played in 51 games for the Red Raiders, hitting .401 overall with nine home runs, 31 RBIs, scoring 40 runs and totaling 111 bases.

She played 18 games in conference play which was tied for tops in the Big 12 while her four doubles were

fifth in the Big 12, her 31 total bases were fifth in the big 12 and her .596 slugging percentage was 11th best in the conference.

Wyckoff became a key part of the lineup for Texas Tech, while maintaining a perfect fielding percentage during conference play and being a strong help to the Red Raiders pitching staff.

Along with being named the conference freshman of the year, Wyckoff also was named to the Big 12 All-Second Team.

Katy's Kailey Wyckoff #13 slides safely into second base during the first inning of the Regional Quarterfinal playoff between Katy and Cinco Ranch at Katy High School.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



TENNIS ALL-DISTRICT AWARDS

Girls MVP
Ananya Sriniketh (OTHS)

Boys MVP
Allan Xu (SLHS)

District Coach of the Year
Mitch Findley (JHS)

First Team

Boys Singles

Allan Xu (SLHS)
Ethan Everk (PHS)
Vincent Rivas (JHS)

Girls Singles

Ananaya Sriniketh (OTHS)
Namrata Makhija (JHS)
Ally Lin (THS)

Boys Doubles (First)

Allan Xu/Diego Madrigal (SLHS)
Patrick Chen/Arjun Kumar (OTHS)
Rivas/Galloway (JHS)
Rolando Villarreal/Sawyer White (KHS)

Second Team

Boys Singles

Patrick Chen (OTHS)
Ved Rajagopalan (JHS)
Tyler Zou (SLHS)

Girls Singles

Remi Demblans Dechans (OTHS)
Jennifer Wang (THS)
Sofia Portillo (SLHS)

Boys Doubles (Second)

Tyler Zou/ Rafael Rovero (SLHS)
Rajagopalan/ Vierling (JHS)
Rishi Khot/ Kannaa Chockalingam (OTHS)

Third Team

Boys Singles

Diego Madrigal (SLHS)
Henry Galloway (JHS)
Rishi Khot (OTHS)
Gael Lamos (MRHS)

Girls Singles

Ella Wang (THS)
Ikshu Shandilya (JHS)
Nale Namunyola (SLHS)

Boys Doubles (Third)

Charlie Campbell-Watt (SLHS)
Tyler Simmons/ Harsith Rajesh (OTHS)
Melachuri/ Velderrain (JHS)

Fourth Team

Boys Singles

Miguel Bechtluft Cardoso (SLHS)
Erick Velderrain (JHS)
Kannaa Chockalingham (OTHS)
Aaran Onthuam (THS)

Girls Singles

Avni Singh (THS)
Ivory Cao (SLHS)
Sydnee Strohm (CRHS)

Girls Doubles (First)

Ananya Sriniketh/ Remi Demblans Dechans (OTHS)
Lin/J. Wang (THS)
Makhija/Shandilya (JHS)

Fifth Team

Boys Singles

Charlie Campbell-Watt (SLHS)
Luke Vierling (JHS)
Mateo Saettone (THS)

Girls Singles

Demi Van Waaij (SLHS)
Abigail He (OTHS)
Andrea Borges (THS)

Girls Doubles (Second)

Annie Wang/Demi Van Waaij (SLHS)
Abigail He/ Saraus Chockalingam (OTHS)
Borges/E. Wang (THS)

Sixth Team

Boys Singles

Ning Yu (SLHS)
Mayank Konduri (OTHS)
Chris Barras (THS)

Girls Singles

Annika Ahuja (SLHS)
Ashley Wang (THS)
Renata Antelo (JHS)

Girls Doubles (Third)

Annika Ahuja/Beatriz Cobo (SLHS)
Singh/A. Wang (THS)
Ashton/ Arante (JHS)

Mixed Doubles

1 Aidan Nguyen/Isabelle Nguyen (SLHS)
2 Mohnot/Saettone (THS)
3 Guzman/Boinpalli (JHS)
3 Sajjad/Gorman (MRHS)
3 Evie Hung/Andrew Chen (CRHS)
3 Perez/Barlow (PHS)



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD



Ananya Sriniketh was named the girls District 19-6A MVP. Allan Xu was named the boys District 19-6A MVP.

Sriniketh and Xu named district tennis MVPs

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The District 19-6A Tennis Team was announced last week, with Tompkins' Ananya Sriniketh and Seven Lakes' Allan Xu taking home the honors as district MVPs for their efforts this year.

Sriniketh was named the district MVP for the second straight season after making it all the way to the state title match and finishing with a silver medal at the state tournament.

Srikiketh had a tremendous sophomore season, winning the district singles tournament before qualifying for state

for the second straight year and making all the way to the final.

Allan Xu joined Sriniketh by winning the MVP on the boys side. Xu, a freshman, also made the state tournament after getting through a tough district and regional tournament, falling in the first round of state.

Ethan Everk, who also made the state tournament was also named to the first team for singles as well as Jordan's Vincent Rivas. Jordan's Namrata Makhija and Tompkins' Ally Lin were named to the first team on the girls side.

At left is the full District 19-6A tennis team.

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Katy Times



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: D.J. Hicks with his Whataburger Team of the Year trophy. Below: D.J. Hicks and Daymion Sanford were presented with frames of their All-American jersey's.



“I’m just so happy that I was able to be put in this situation. I worked hard to make the team but if it wasn’t for my coaches and teammates I never could have don’t it. The credit goes to them and I’m just happy to be able to have this accomplishment.”

—D.J. HICKS,
Paetow senior defensive
lineman



D.J. Hicks holds up his National Lineman of the Year and Whataburger Team of the Year Trophy while also being presented with a frame of his All-American jersey.

HICKS
from page B1

ment.”
Only 40 players from the state of Texas get named to the Whataburger Super Team each year, as fans from around the state cast more than 900,000 votes for the team. The Bobby Dodd National High School Lineman of the Year is even more select, as the Touchdown Club of Atlanta since 1987 a committee of 20 members to who deem as the best lineman throughout all of high school football in the United States each year.
“It’s been a lot of hard work to get to this moment but it’s not done,” Hicks said. “Waking up early at six in the morning, the workouts and the training. I give all the credit to my dad. He put me on the right path and kept me humble. That was so important and that’s the reason I am where I’m at today.”
The trophy ceremony was the last highlight at Paetow for Hicks before graduation and was highlighted by a

presentation to Hicks and fellow Paetow senior Daymion Sanford of their framed All-American jerseys. The two are the first All-Americans to come from the high school and the current and future teammates got one last celebration together at Paetow.
“It was a special moment to be able to share that with Daymion,” Hicks said. “Daymion is my dog, so for us to both accomplish that and be able to share it with each other today was awesome. He’s an awesome guy to be

around and I can’t wait until we both get up to College Station together”
The work isn’t done for Hicks. He is training every day in preparation to join the Texas A&M football team this summer, and the senior can’t wait to get his college career started.
“I’m grinding every single day,” Hicks said. “Any open time I have, I’m working out and I’m getting ready. I’m just ready for the moment to come and I can’t wait to get up there and try to prove myself.”

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