# Katy Times



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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

# County OKs bayou contract

By R. HANS MILLER SENIOR REPORTER

The Harris County Commissioners Court approved a \$49 million contract to James Construction Group, LLC of Houston to allow the Harris County Flood Control District to move forward with replacement of bridges and modifications to Brays Bayou. The contract was awarded at the court's Feb. 25 meeting, according to a Harris County Flood Control District press release.

"If all goes well and weather-permitting of course -hopefully we don't have a big storm – all the bridges should be complete in early 2022, HCFCD Director of Operations Matt Zeve said.

Bridges associated with Hillcroft Ave., Buffalo Speedway, Almeda Road, Calhoun Road, Telephone Road, Lawndale Street, South 75th Street and the Galveston Sub Union Pacific Railroad will be replaced during the project according to an HCFCD press release. Construction should begin in the spring, starting with the Lawndale Street, Telephone Road and Hillcroft Avenue bridges. Remaining bridge construction will be scheduled to minimize traffic impacts, according to the press release.

"We certainly can't close down nine bridges at the same time," Zeve said.

The statement said the majority of the Brays Bayou project is completed, but – including the items approved in this contract – there are 13 bridge replacements or modifications that need to be completed in order to see the full impact of bayou improvements.

To date, those improvements include 21 miles of channel improvements, replaced or modified 19 bridges and build four stormwater detention basins along Brays Bayou, making the overall project about 80 percent complete. More information on the project can be found at HCFCD's Project Brays website located at www.projectbrays.org.

The James Construction Group contract is one of the

See **COUNTY**, page A3

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March 5, 2020 12 pages | \$1

# KEEPING CRIME UNDER CONTROL



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WCSC

 $Lieutenant\ Shawn\ Darling,\ Deputy\ Zully\ Moreno\ and\ Sergeant\ Marcos\ Zepeda\ are\ members\ of\ the\ WCSO\ CATT\ along\ with\ three\ other\ department\ officers\ not\ pictured.$ 

## WCSO sees benefits of criminal activity team

By R. HANS MILLER

he Waller County Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in arrests and a reduction in theft from construction sites after it implemented its Criminal Activity Target Team, Waller County Sheriff Glenn Smith said. Increased visibility and using real-time data has helped the department address the need for prevention as the county sees increased growth, he added.

"The Criminal Activity Target Team, CATT, is one of the Waller County Sheriff's Office initiatives to focus crime control and crime suppression efforts on crime problems, such as the continuous theft of farm implements from Waller County residents, or robberies of retail stores, or even criminals who prey on women and children for sexual assault or human trafficking," WCSO said in a press release.

The CATT is a team of deputies that work hand in hand with the department's

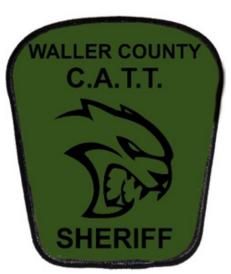
crime analyst, Smith said. The team uses mapping to look for crime trends and supplements that information with real-time feedback from the community on where criminal activity is happening or suspected.

This CATT allows a more focused approach than what a patrol deputy is able to do, a department statement said. Patrol officers generally respond to calls from the community that require an immediate response, while the six personnel on the CATT are able to focus on prevention efforts and suspicious activity in a given region of the county.

The department is proud of its innovative team that will help keep crime under control as it faces the growth it knows is coming, Smith said.

"We do see an increase in what we call construction theft – commercial theft – we've seen an increase in theft," Smith said.

See **TEAM**, page A3



Members of Waller's Criminal Activity Target Team are easily identifiable by this patch on their uniform. Additionally, they utilize marked vehicles which shows a police presence in a high risk area which can prevent crime, officials said.

## KISD penalized more than \$500K for payout

By R. HANS MILLER

The Texas Education Agency reduced funding to the Katy Independent School District by \$513,755 for the

2018-19 school year after the district informed the TEA of the payout to former KISD superintendent Lance Hindt upon his resignation which was in excess of the one year of benefits allowed under Texas law.

"The District's share of the Foundation School Program funds, which provides school districts monies for general operating costs, was reduced by the state due to a



HINDT

See **PAYOUT**, page A3

EDUCATION SUPPORT COMPLEX
KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

R. HANS MILLER Katy ISD has confirmed that its funding was reduced following a two-year-salary payout to former

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superintendent Lance Hindt.



GOOGLE

Three to four men broke into a home in the 18700 block of Sandelford Drive in the Katy area early in the morning of Feb. 28. HCSO is investigating the incident which led to the shooting of one suspect who is expected to recover.

## 21-year-old male shot during home invasion

By R. HANS MILLER SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a report of a home invasion at 3:35 a.m. on Feb. 28 after a homeowner reported that three to four unknown men kicked in his front door to force entry into his home. The homeowner picked up a handgun and shot one 21-year-old male suspect in

the arm, HCSO confirmed. The home invasion took place in the 18700 block of Sandelford Drive, southeast of the intersection of Greenhouse Road and West Little York Road.

EMS arrived at the scene of the incident and transported the injured suspect to Cypress Memorial Hospital.

The HCSO Violent Crimes unit was contacted and responded to the scene. Charges are pending for the injured home invader and the identities of his accomplices are being investigated.

## HCSO responds to homicide

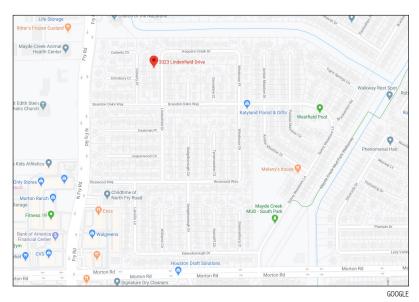
By R. HANS MILLER SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a report of a body at 3323 Lindenfield Lane at about 5 p.m. Friday afternoon, said Jason Spencer, a spokesman for HCSO. The victim, later identified as 32-year-old Neymer Escobar, was found by his estranged wife who had also reported the incident to police, Spencer said.

"At this time we're gathering evidence. We're talking to neighbors about possible video footage they might have [from their security systems]," Spencer said.

The victim's wife has been cooperating with the investigation as have neighbors, Spencer said. The department is looking to create a timeline for when the man might have been killed and the department had no suspects as of the Friday evening press briefing near the scene.

The incident occurred in a subdivision located in the northeastern corner of the intersection of Morton and Fry roads near the Mayde Creek and Ricewood communities.



HCSO deputies responded to a report of a body found at 3323 Lindenfield Lane Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. Investigators are still putting together a timeline to determine the man's time of death and who suspects may be

Suicide has been ruled out, Spencer said. No suspects have yet been identified and a the estranged wife had not been considered a suspect at the time of the press briefing, he said.

Escobar is a Hispanic male and no motive for his murder is known. Follow this story at www.katy-

times.com for more information as it

becomes available.



R. HANS MILLE

## Salt Grass Trail Ride rolls through Katy

By R. HANS MILLER

Katy-area residents may have noticed something a bit different in traffic patterns last Thursday morning if they headed to work after 9 a.m. – horses and covered wagons sharing the road with them. The Salt Grass Trail Ride picked up camp from Katy Park at 9 a.m. this morning, making their way to Memorial Park to be prepared to kick off the Houston Rodeo parade this weekend.

"Salt Grass is the oldest [trail] ride, and there's twelve rides that station into Memorial Park every year but Salt Grass opens up the parade," said Conni Meyer, chairman and public relations representative for the Salt Grass Trail Ride.

The trail ride began Feb. 21 at the trailhead in Cat Spring about 35 miles from Katy. It then meandered to Bellville, Hempstead, Miller Farms north of Pattison and then to Katy, according to the organization's website. The next leg of the trip will take the trail riders to one more stop at the Harris County Fairgrounds before ending Memorial Park in downtown Houston, Meyer said.

About 1,000 riders signed up for the nine-day event, Meyer said. Daily participation among the riders varies by day with 200 to 400 participating daily as their schedules allow. Riders can participate using their own horses or in one of the 24 wagons in the trail ride. But the focus remains on community, preserving traditions and a love of animals, she said.

"Salt Grass is a tradition which started in 1952 and it's just a tradition that we've carried on. A lot of these are three and five-generation wagons, so we've raised out kids around it," Meyer said. "It brings camaraderie, friendship, family – all of it – [and] you've got to have a love of the animals to enjoy this."





#### **PET OF THE WEEK**



#### DYNA AND TINKERBELL

Dyna (Dachsund) and Tinkerbell (Dachsund/
Australian Cattle dog mix) are a couple of lovable
youngsters who are both just over a year old. They
are two peas in a pod and BFFs. Dyna weighs 32
pounds and Tinkerbell 26. They are moderately
active and like fetch, running, tugging and toys
but not riding in cars. They are still learning how to
walk on a leash and won't run off while off leash.
They are submissive and tolerant of other dogs and
want to play with those they meet during walks
after barking at them. They know the sit, come,
down, and off commands. They are still working
on house training. They bark or whine when they
need to go out. They are protective of their family.

They were given up because their owner had a military transfer and they couldn't follow him. They are gentle, submissive, friendly and playful with children of all ages but because of their behavior when scared, we are requiring kids in their next home to be at least 12. They are very loving and affectionate and likes lots of petting. A joint adoption for these pets would serve them best.

Dyna and Tinkerbell are available at Citizens for Animal Protection located at 17555 Katy Freeway in Houston. The shelter can be reached at 281-600-0591 and is open for adoptions from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sun., Mon. and Tues.; from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri. and Sat.; and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thurs.

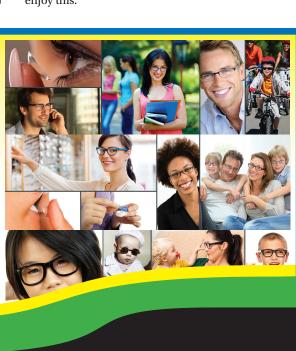


"I feel better about myself, sleep better, and have less aches and pains. I am better than yesterday and look forward to tomorrow."

– Maureen

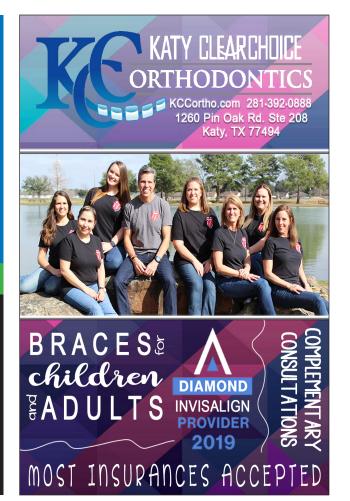
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## **COMMUNITY**

## Katy area election results

By R. HANS MILLER SENIOR REPORTER

With three counties, multiple congressional districts at the state and federal levels and a variety of other items on the ballot the Katy area had a plethora of elections March 3. The information below provides the data for the winners of some of the more prominent elections in the region. The results listed below are noncomprehensive and are not official until canvased.

Apparent Republican winners are listed in **red** while apparent Democratic winners are listed in **blue**. Races listed with multiple entrees in a given party will be decided via runoff election May 26. A runoff election is triggered in Texas when no candidate in the election receives more than 50% of the vote.

#### **Federal**

US President:
Donald J. Trump
Joe Biden

John Cornyn Mary "MJ" Hegar Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez

US House District 7 Wesley Hunt Lizzie Fletcher

**US Senator** 

US House District 10 Michael McCaul

Mike Siegel US House District 22

Troy Nehls Kathaleen Wall Sri Preston Kulkarni

#### **State Of Texas**

\*Total ballots cast: 3,476,049

\*Total registered voters: 16,211,198

\*Voter participation: 21,44%

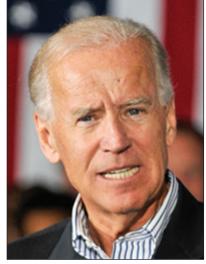
\*Voter participation: 21.44%

Railroad Commissioner

James "Jim" Wright Roberto R. "Beto" Alonzo Chrysta Castaneda

TX Senate District 18 Lois W. Kolkhorst

Michael Antalan



Joe Biden

**TX House District 28**Gary Gates
Elizabeth "Eliz" Markowitz

TX House District 132 Mike Schofield Gina Calanni

#### **Fort Bend County**

Total ballots cast: 128,853 Total registered voters: 457,338 Voter participation: 28.17% Fort Bend County Attorney

Steve Rogers
Bridgette Smith-Lawson

Bridgette Smith-Lawson Sonia Rash Fort Bend County Commissioner

Pct. 3
W.A. Andy Meyers

W.A. Andy Meyers Hope Martin

Fort Bend County Constable Pct. 3 Chad Norvell Patrick Quincy

Fort Bend County Sheriff Trever J. Nehls Eric Fagan Geneane Hughes

#### **Harris County**

Total ballots cast: 310,954 Total registered voters: 2,370,540 Voter participation: 13.12%



Donald Trump

Harris County Attorney
John Nation
Christian Dashaun Menefee

Harris County Commissioner Pct. 3
Tom Ramsey
Michael Moore

Michael Moore
Diana Martinez Alexander

Harris County Constable Pct. 5
Ted Heap
Randy Newman
Mark Alan Harrison

Harris County Sheriff Joe Danna Paul Day

#### **Waller County**

Total ballots cast: 7,822 Total registered voters: 33,448 Voter participation: 23.39% Waller County Sheriff

Troy Guidry

**Ed Gonzalez** 

Cedric Watson Sources: Tx Secretary of State; Fort Bend County; Harris County; Fort Bend County

\*Indicates voter turnout for Democratic and Republican presidential primaries combined statewide.

These unofficial results are current as of 5:10 a.m. on March 4, 2020.

"Katy ISD has not been

contacted by the University

of Houston concerning the

matter," DiPetta said.





COURTESY HCFCL

Comparison of the before and after for the Almeda Street bridge shows the improvements being put in along Brays Bayou. Support beams have been spread further apart and the bridge has been arched in order to allow debris to flow more easily along the waterway.

#### COUNTY from page A1

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largest ever awarded on behalf of HCFCD according to the press release. "This funding is from the [federal government]

Increases in theft have

through the 2018 bipartisan budget act which funded the US Army Corps of Engineers and [which makes it so] we can pay for [this work] then get reimbursed by the Army Corps of Engineers," Zeve said.

#### TEAM from page A1

been prevalent at construction sites and include appliances, generators and even tractors, Smith said. With Waller County deputies implementing the CATT now, it sets the county up to be more successful in crime prevention as it begins to see the rapid growth that has affected its neighbors in Fort Bend and Harris counties, he said. With the implementation of the CATT, more arrests are happening, and Smith said construction theft is starting to decrease. This is possibly because the CATT team increases visibility and the availability of CATT officers who are not pulled to assist with routine calls, he said.

"Nearly every large municipal and county [law enforcement] agency within the U.S. has developed specialized crime teams, and the impetus is intelligence-led, evidence-based, and event-specific planning to stop criminal offending before it occurs," the department said in the press release.

Smith gave credit to his deputies who came to him with the idea for the CATT. They actively sought the training and other resources necessary and have voluntarily worked overtime and put in extra effort to implement the crime prevention team, he said. He said he felt the option

of setting up the CATT as a proactive measure was a great idea his staff had brought to him and would help set the county up for the population growth it is facing.

"It's like look this is

"It's like, look, this is going to get worse not better, so why not try to get ahead of the game and put more presence out there," Smith said.

Members of the team receive additional training to develop their law enforcement skills, department officials said. Training involves learning to learn the latest technology and data management analysis practices to locate offenders and areas of risk for crime, as well as developing tactical plans to apprehend offenders before they commit crimes when a known criminal background is evident.

"Members of street gangs, drug offenders, and series criminals, such as robbers, sex offenders, and burglars, commonly serve as the target of suppression teams," the department said in its press release.

Smith said that, while he doesn't expect the CATT to prevent all crime in the county - something he categorized as an impossible task - the team will help prevent a great deal of crime by using best practices in law enforcement.

"This is real time crime analysis and we're taking action with it. We're taking real time statistics and saying, 'Let's shut it down before it gets bad," Smith said.

#### **PAYOUT**

from page A1

TEA rule concerning separations agreements with former superintendents," KISD spokesperson Maria DiPetta said in a statement issued on the district's

behalf.
DiPetta said there had been no reduction in the 2019-2020 budget for the

district.

"In 2018 the Katy ISD
Board and former superintendent made a decision to separate. As required by the former Superintendent's contract, a separation payment was paid," Di-Petta said. "It was expected that the District's Foundation School Program funds would be reduced for the 2018-2019 budget year due to that agreement."

DiPetta said Hindt was hired with a KISD Board of Trustees-negotiated contract that provided for a two-year separation clause. The payment was made as was required by that contract, and Katy ISD had informed the TEA of the payment to Hindt, DiPetta said.

"The District was aware in 2018 and developed a balanced budget," DiPetta said. "No program lost funding in 2018-19."

According to Jacob Kobersky, a spokesman for the TEA, the reduction in funding was required under the Texas Education Code Section 11.201 which requires the TEA to remove funding equivalent to the excess payout. Hindt's annual salary at the time of his resignation was \$442,041 but his payout in the severance settlement offered by the district was \$955,795 – a difference equal to the funding penalty after rounding. Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code was also part of the determination for the penalty, according to the letter sent by the TEA to KISD.

While the district said it was able to present a balanced budget and not cut funding, district officials did not say what the \$513,755 might have been used for had the budget not been reduced.

While the letter was

While the letter was addressed to current KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, KISD Board of Mr. Kenneth Gregorski, Superintendent Katy Independent School District P. O. Box 159 Katy, TX 77492-0159

Subject: Superintendent Payment Disclosure Form for Dr. Lawrence Hindt

Dear Mr. Gregorski:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has reviewed the Contract of Employment Superintendent executed July 1, 2016; and First, Second and Third Amendments executed through May 10, 2018 between Katy Independent School District and former Superintendent Dr. Lawrence Hindt and other information filed with the TEA. It is noted that the provisions in §11.201(c) of the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Title 19 §105.1021 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) have been applied. Based on the information submitted, the district's Foundation School Program (FSP) state-aid will be reduced in the amount of \$513,754.56.

This office will notify the Division of State Funding of the district's reduction of the FSP state-aid after 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (512) 475-2228.

A M
Paul Moreno

Manager of Financial Desk Reviews Division of Financial Compliance

PM

cc: Courtney Doyle, Board President, Katy Independent School District Christopher Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Katy Independent School District Brian Schuss, Assistant Superintendent for HR, Katy Independent School District

The Texas Education Agency informed the district that it had reviewed the self-reported payment to Lance Hindt and was assessing a reduction in funding through the Foundation School Program which provides state funding to schools in Texas.

Trustees President Courtney Doyle, KISD Chief Financial Officer Christopher Smith and KISD Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Brian Schuss were copied on the communication which was signed by Paul Moreno, TEA's manager of financial desk reviews.

Doyle did not respond to requests for comment from the board in time for publication. DiPetta spoke on behalf of the district's administration.

When asked to confirm the amount of the penalty assessed by the TEA, the date the district was notified of the penalty, the total amount paid to the former superintendent upon his resignation and for a copy of the letter issued by the TEA, Katy Times was told those items would need to be requested under the public information request.

Hindt resigned from KISD effective Jan. 1, 2019 after continued accusations of violent bullying in junior high and as a young adult, according to district records and previous news reports. When announcing his resignation, Hindt said he and his family had seen intense harassment from some

members of the community

regarding the allegations of bullying.

"In light of an organized and relentless, dishonest smear campaign against me, I cannot remain as superintendent of Katy ISD while fulfilling those duties and still fulfilling my sacred duties as a husband and father," Hindt said when announcing his resignation in May 2018.

Additional allegations later arose indicating Hindt had plagiarized his doctoral dissertation which was used to obtain his doctoral degree at the University of Houston. The University of Houston has removed Hindt's thesis from its website after an investigation into the plagiarism accusation.

The University of Houston's take down policy for academic papers explains that dissertations will only be removed, "under special circumstances, including copyright violations, plagiarism, or falsification of data."

When asked if the

When asked if the district was considering recovering funds from Hindt to recover the funding or for possible fraud regarding his doctoral qualifications, the district stuck with a statement from Jan. 16 of this year.

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The Katy Times will keep you informed about news in the Katy area including the latest on Katy ISD; the cities of Katy, Brookshire, Fulshear and Pattison; as well as Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties. From coverage of your children's sports teams to what happens at city hall, we'll keep you in the know.



# MAGA powers Trump stock market boom

resident Trump has presided over a booming economy and stock market, and trillion-dollar tech companies are leading the way.

"For 144 days, we set a record stock market. It means 401Ks, it means jobs. Four trillion dollar com-

> PHIL **KERPEN**

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

panies: Apple, Amazon, Google, Microsoft," President Trump recently explained. "You have MAGA. The trillion dollar club."

These four companies account for about 16 percent of the total value of the S&P 500. Tack on \$600 billion

Facebook and the MAGA

Five account for more than 18 percent of the index - nearly a fifth of the value of those popular funds in 401(k) accounts the president was referring to. The two largest MAGA companies - Apple and

Microsoft - are each at \$1.4 trillion, larger than four entire sectors. Since Trump was elected, the S&P 500 is up 58.0

percent - but the MAGA Five are up 141.9 percent while the other 495 companies are up only 44.5 percent, according to Strategas Research Partners

While the MAGA companies have powered the Trump boom, they have also come under increasingly withering attack from both ends of the political spectrum. Liberals like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders have been bashing them as too big and powerful in keeping with their anti-corporate philosophy, while conservatives like Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz have set aside free-market ideology to call for government crackdowns to satisfy conservative base anger at these companies. State attorneys general across the country also see these companies as attractive financial and political targets and have opened antitrust probes.

If these political headwinds result in actions that break up or hobble the MAGA companies, the consequences will be profoundly negative for millions of Americans whose retirements are heavily invested in them via popular index funds - whether they realize it

President Trump's new MAGA nickname for these companies should lower the volume on the attacks from the right. But the companies also need to do their part to calm the backlash against them from the president's conservative base, and it doesn't help when Google does things like fund the hard-left Young Turks channel on YouTube without balancing that with investment in comparable center-right productions.

Facebook seems to understand this best, with a remarkable speech from CEO Mark Zuckerberg defending the value of free speech and standing against an onslaught of calls from the left to censor, block, or "fact check" into oblivion political speech and advertising.

The best possible show of good faith would be for the MAGA companies to drop their longstanding call for public utility regulation of Internet Service Providers - their far smaller potential competitors for advertising business and the providers of the essential physical infrastructure that makes their own core businesses possible. It's hard to defend companies from big government attacks when those companies are themselves wielding big government as a weapon A statement that they now recognize it was a mistake to call for government regulation and now support a level playing field approach to issues like net neutrality and privacy for themselves as well as the ISPs would go a long way toward calming skeptics on the right.

The left, on the other hand, is so infused with an anti-business, anti-capitalist impulse that it is unlikely anything these companies do will stop Democratic calls to break them up, shut them down, regulate or nationalize them in the service of silencing conservatives and restoring a mainstream media choke point on political news and advocacy.

That gives President Trump a great opportunity to present voters with a stark contrast this fall: vote for him and keep the MAGA companies strong, the stock market and economy booming, and your 401(k) accounts growing, or vote for Democrats intent on stifling America's most successful companies.

Phil Kerpen is the president of American Commitment and the Committee to Unleash Prosperity. Kerpen can be reached at phil@americancommitment.org.



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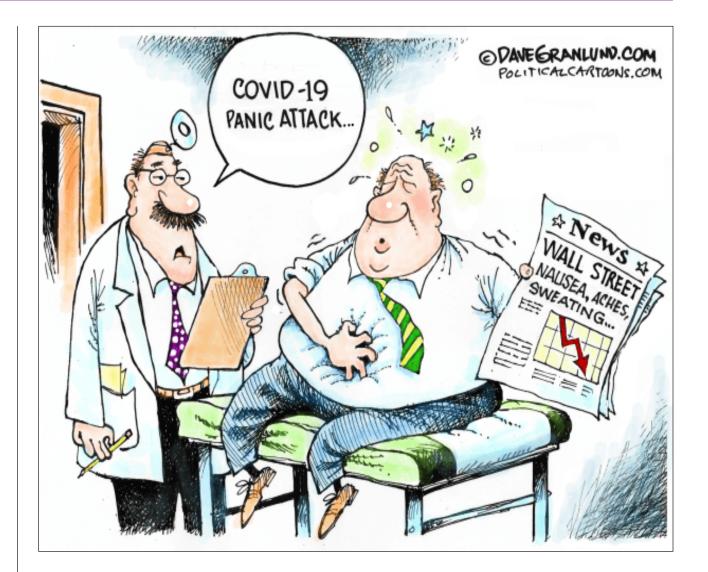
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### Can we have more middlebrow citizens?

iddlebrow." I sit typing this column on the 20th anniversary of the massive heart attack that took the life of my father, and "middlebrow" is one of the words that pops into my mind when remembering Dad.

Except for learning the skills of a medic during his year in the United States Army and taking a Dale Carnegie "How To Win Friends and Influence People" course while in the insurance business, Dad had no formal education beyond being the salutatorian of the Marshall County (Tennessee) High School class of 1943. But he was a voracious reader (history, highbrow classic literature, newspapers, Bennett Cerf jokebooks, B.W. Johnson's Notes on the New Testament, "Reader's Digest") his entire life and displayed a healthy balance between "book learnin" and common sense.

Dad expressed no resentment for classmates and kinfolk who moved cross-country for employment. He made many newcomers feel welcome when he was selling real estate. But his own happiness involved a simple life of exhibiting his kindness, generosity and problem-solving skills in his hometown.

Dad was much more extroverted than I am, but he commanded attention without being needy and domineering. Dad was a character, but he also HAD character - a distinction that is lost on many attention-seekers.

Dad relished deep thoughts and marched to the beat of a different drummer. but it was a very natural, easy-going pace. It was not a deliberate effort to be a chip-on-the-shoulder cantankerous coot or "weird for the sake of being weird"

Dad believed in an honest day's work (sometimes physical, sometimes cerebral) for an honest day's pay. He would be appalled by the hordes of people who clamor for "something for nothing" - as well as by well-connected manipulators who exploit the masses through crony capitalism.



Dad practiced the Old School traits of plugging along and "doing the right thing," as contrasted with the current trend toward narcissistic, no-skin-in-thegame "virtue signaling."

Dad tried his best to be a peacemaker and treat everyone the same. He did not spend every waking moment trying to verbally nuke the enemy or conjure ever-narrower subgroups of aggrieved parties.

Perhaps it's a blessing that Dad has been spared the past two decades of polarization. On one side is an overabundance of over-educated, smarmy, silver-spoon elitists who dictate how the commoners should live. On the other side is a growing underclass of "here, hold my beer" nitwits who wallow in their ignorance and their crassness and give renewed life to the worst

stereotypes. This great nation owes much of its prosperity to people infused with wanderlust, who made fame and fortune the driving force of their lives. But the glue that holds America together is good, decent people who stay informed and try on a modest scale to make their families, churches, neighborhoods and communities a little better. Middlebrow

citizens. There are many pundits, celebrities and movers-and-shakers who catch my attention. But I have never daydreamed, "What if HE had been my father?" On the contrary, it has been a priceless comfort over the years to have people ask me, "Who was your daddy?" and when I tell them, they gush, "He was a good man," instead of murmuring "Oh" and abruptly changing the subject.

**Edwin Lewis Tyree was** one of a kind and irreplaceable.

And I hope future gen-

erations produce millions more people just like him! Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and

visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.

#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B4**

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#### SUDOKU 8 9 2 3 2 5 3

6

2

8

3

9

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5. Defunct Syrian political

party

6. Thin wood

10. Multi-leveled

16. Current unit

24. Kids love him

27. Fencing swords

29. Payroll company

22. Tantalum

river

25. Before

12. Gambles

11. Influential diarist

18. Illumination unit

7. Polynesian garlands

8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)

13. Many subconsciousnesses

23. Steps leading down to a

28. Mountain range in China

30. A way to pack together

31. Business designation

33. Thyroid-stimulating

36. Greek temple pillars

9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas

CLUES ACROSS

1. Yields Manila hemp

6. A type of gin 10. Japanese ankle sock

14. Swiss city 15. Applied to

17. Achievements

19. Japanese title

20. Possesses

21. Belgian city 22. Child

23. Great delight 24. Petty quarrel 26. Gathered

29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire 31. Path

32. Legendary hoops coach Riley

34. A citizen of Denmark 35. Flat

37. Upper-class young women 38. Payment (abbr.)

39. Distort 40. Affirmative! (slang)

41. One who has a child 43. Without

45. Workplace safety agency

46. Political action committee 47. Period of plant and animal

life

50. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

49. Swiss river

53. State of being kept secret

57. Hobbies

58. One-time Korean ruler 59. Sudden attack

60. Born of 61. Assists

50. Trigonometric function

53. U.S. Treasury position

54. Midway between east and

37. Internet mgmt. company 39. Rouse oneself

hormone (abbr.)

35. Forage fish

42. In a way, covered

43. Elaborate silk garment 44. Cooling unit

46. Riley and O'Brien are two 47. \_\_ fide: genuine

48. Ancient Incan sun god 49. Poker stake

51. Interesting tidbit 52. Adieus

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more news and information

CLUES DOWN 1. Ancient Greek sophist

2. Famed composer

southeast

55. Doctors' group 56. Women's \_\_ movement

3. Spore-bearing fungi cells 4. Chief executive officer

## State won't do testing in low-level cases

By JOLIE MCCULLOUGH TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Texas Department of Public Safety is almost ready to roll out its long-awaited lab test to tell if cannabis is newly legal hemp or illegal marijuana. But DPS Director Steve McCraw notified Texas law enforcement agencies this month of a crucial caveat: The state labs won't do testing in misdemeanor marijuana possession cases.

That will likely entrench what has become a patchwork system of marijuana enforcement across the state. Possession of a small amount of pot could mean no criminal charges in one county and jail time in a neighboring one. In Texas, misdemeanor marijuana offenses include possession of up to 4 ounces and the sale or delivery of up to 7

The situation comes after the Texas Legislature changed the definition of marijuana last year in order to legalize hemp, drawing a new distinction between two substances that can look and smell the same. The illegal drug changed from the cannabis plant to cannabis containing more than 0.3% THC, the compound in the plant that produces a high.

As lawmakers moved that legislation forward, DPS asked them for additional funding to test THC levels — and thus determine if cannabis is marijuana — in both felony and low-level possession cases. McCraw's letter this month said the legislature did not provide money for testing in misdemeanor cases, so "DPS will not have the capacity to accept

Since the law change, prosecutors across the state began taking very different approaches to pursuing marijuana charges. Some are prosecuting pot cases as before, depending on circumstantial evidence without lab results. Others stopped accepting new low-level marijuana cases unless



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR. | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Legal hemp can look and smell the same as illegal marijuana.

police could hand over a lab report that showed what they had was illegal.

It was a report public labs in Texas couldn't produce yet, pushing local agencies to costly private labs or leaving pot cases to sit on the shelf as government scientists scrambled to come up with a new test to chemically distinguish legal hemp from illegal marijuana. McCraw said that test is nearly ready, but it's only for felonies — and only for plant materials, not oils or edibles.

The DPS decision not to accept misdemeanor cases was always a possibility, but "there were some prosecutors that were still holding out hope that they would get some help from the state," said Shannon Edmonds, director of governmental relations for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association.

"It is yet another unfunded

mandate, and it's another hurdle to successfully prosecuting these cases," he said.

The new THC test in state labs is expected to be finalized at the end of March, and DPS will need another two months to get it implemented, McCraw said in the letter. Afterward, the agency expects to take about 75 days to test the 845 felony plant cases local agencies have already sent over before moving on to cases sitting in police or prosecutor evidence rooms.

Some law enforcement agencies have already found their own solutions to marijuana enforcement in the months since the law changed. Denton County is one whose district attorney now requires police to submit a lab report before a case will be prosecuted, but it has not stopped arrests, said First Assistant District Attorney Jamie Beck.

"Most of our agencies are

using private labs," she said. "I'm going to assume they're going to continue doing that."

Beck said the county has seen a drop in marijuana cases, but not as large as the drop statewide, where cases have plummeted. She said some police agencies in her conservative county aren't pursuing low-level marijuana cases anymore, but most are pursuing them even though it now costs more to do so.

Big cities often have their own local crime labs, but the DPS labs have long been the testing agency for narcotics for most of Texas, according to Jackson County Sheriff A.J. Louderback. He said the DPS decision and the hemp law have "unequivocally" affected midsize cities to rural communities the most.

"At a minimum, it will affect rural law enforcement who don't have the resources for this and rural prosecutors," he said.

"DPS labs do not currently routinely test marijuana for misdemeanor charges unless the prosecutor or law enforcement officer makes a special request because it is needed for trial."

> — TEXAS DEPARTMENT **OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

But he acknowledged that DPS has limited resources and a history of large backlogs. In his letter, McCraw said DPS labs analyze more than 50,000 felony drug cases a year, and more than 80,000 misdemeanor marijuana arrests occur annually.

DPS told lawmakers last year that it would likely need millions of dollars tied to the hemp bill to be able to differentiate between marijuana and hemp in criminal proceedings.

"DPS can only speculate on the volume of cases where a defendant might claim the substance for which they are arrested is actually hemp," the agency wrote in a budget request attached to the bill. "Also, DPS labs do not currently routinely test marijuana for misdemeanor charges unless the prosecutor or law enforcement officer makes a special request because it is needed for trial."



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## How to help loved ones handle sundowning

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease can catch families off guard. When such a diagnosis is made, patients and their families typically have a host of questions, including how far the disease has progressed and what to expect as it advances.

One potential side effect of Alzheimer's disease that can catch families off guard is sundowning. The National Institute on Aging notes that sundowning refers to the restlessness, agitation, irritability, or confusion that can begin or worsen as daylight begins to fade. Sundowning is difficult for Alzheimer's sufferers, but also can be especially hard on their caregivers. As day turns to night, people serving as caregivers to Alzheimer's patients tend to wear down, only to suddenly realize that the people they're caring for are becoming increasingly difficult to handle. The NIA notes that sundowning can continue well into the night, compromising patient's ability to fall asleep and stay in bed.

Sundowning will not affect every Alzheimer's patient, but caregivers should prepare themselves to handle such a situation should it arise. Learning more about sundowning can be part of that preparation.

#### Why does sundowning occur?

The exact cause of sundowning, which is sometimes referred to as "late-day confusion," is unknown. However, the Mayo Clinic notes that certain factors may aggravate the feelings of confusion felt by Alzheimer's patients who experience sundowning. Those factors include:



Sundowning will not affect every Alzheimer's patient, but caregivers should prepare themselves to handle such a situation should it arise

- Fatigue
- Low lighting
- · Increased shadows
- Disruption of the body's internal clock
- The presence of an infection, such as a urinary tract infection

The NIA notes that one theory suggests

Alzheimer's-related changes in the brain can disrupt a person's internal clock, confusing their sleep-wake cycles as a result. That can confuse Alzheimer's patients and contribute to the feelings of agitation and irritability that are common among people who experience sundowning.

#### What can be done to combat sundowning?

The NIA recommends looking for signs of sundowning in late afternoon and early evening and trying to determine what might be causing these behaviors. Try to avoid anything that appears to trigger these behaviors, if possible.

Reducing noise, clutter or the number of people in the room when sundowning symptoms typically appear may help reduce the confusion Alzheimer's patients feel during this time of the day. In addition, scheduling a favorite activity or providing a favorite snack at this time of day can give Alzheimer's patients something to focus on, potentially cutting off the confusion before it surfaces.

The NIA also recommends making early evening a quiet time of day reserved for playing soothing music, reading or going for a walk. Caregivers who also have children to look after can explain the importance of this quiet time to youngsters and ask for their cooperation.

Closing curtains or blinds and turning on the lights at dusk can minimize shadows in the house, potentially making this time of day less confusing for Alzheimer's sufferers.

Sundowning is a symptom of Alzheimer's disease that can be difficult for caregivers to manage. More information about sundowning is available at www.nia.

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Psalms 94:19

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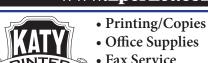
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2 Corinthians 1:3-4





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#### THURSDAY, **FEBRUARY 27**

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

 Class 6A Area Playoffs • Morton Ranch 71, Sam Houston 51

#### FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 28**

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

- Class 6A Area Playoffs • Tompkins 51, Houston Westbury 50
- Class 5A Area Playoffs
- Manor 73, Paetow 67 **BOYS SOCCER**
- · Cinco Ranch 1, Tompkins 0
- Mayde Creek 3, Katy 1
- Seven Lakes 3, Morton
- Paetow 3, Brenham 2 **GIRLS SOCCER**
- Tompkins 2, Cinco
- Ranch 1 • Katy 3, Mayde Creek 3
- Seven Lakes 1, Morton
- Ranch 0 • Brenham 4, Paetow 0

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

- Class 6A Regional **Quarterfinal Playoffs**
- · Morton Ranch 98, Fort Bend Travis 94 (OT)
- Bellaire 51, Tompkins

#### **BOYS SOCCER**

- Seven Lakes 4, Katy 0 • Taylor 3, Mayde Creek
- · Tompkins 5, Morton
- Ranch 0 Paetow 4, Waller 0
- **GIRLS SOCCER**
- Seven Lakes 4, Katy 0 Taylor 4, Mayde Creek
- Tompkins 7, Morton
- Ranch 0 Paetow 5, Waller 2

#### SOFTBALL Cinco Ranch 5, Mayde

- Creek 1 • Taylor 12, Morton
- Ranch 4
- Tompkins 8, Seven
- Paetow vs. College Station, N/A

#### MARCH 5

#### SOFTBALL

- · Manvel at Katy, 9 a.m.; Brazoswood at Katy, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Channelview, at Brenham High, 11 a.m.; Seven Lakes vs. Midland Lee, at Brenham High, 3 p.m. **BASEBALL**

#### Cy-Springs at Katy, 11

- a.m.; Huntsville at Katy,
- · Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ridge, at Lamar Consolidated High, Noon; Cinco Ranch at. Lamar Consolidated High, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Alief Taylor, at Pasadena Dobie High, 10 a.m.; Mayde Creek at Pasadena Dobie High, 12:15 p.m.
- Cy-Ranch at Morton Ranch, 11 a.m.; Fort **Bend Austin at Morton** Ranch, 5 p.m.
- · Paetow vs. Bellville, at Fulshear High, Noon
- Seven Lakes at Clear Creek, 12:30 p.m.; Seven Lakes vs. La

See AREA SPORTS, page B6

## Do-it-all Sellers a 'hidden gem'

By DENNIS SILVA II TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

It's a late morning practice, the playoffs are a few days away, and Morton Ranch senior Westley Sellers is doing one of the many things he does well on the basketball court.

Sellers, with head coach Khris Turner's practice game plan scrolled up in his hand, watches intently as players go through a dummy offense. Sellers shows disgust at missed open shots. He breaks up a play to tell a younger player where to run to in order to space the floor appropriately. He focuses on how players are passing and how quickly they get to spots.

"I hate jogging," Sellers scoffs. "I want everything with pace. And if

you jog through practice, then bad practices will simulate to games and even to your teammates. If they see you jogging, they think they can jog

See MORTON RANCH, page B6



Morton Ranch senior guard Westley Sellers is averaging 9.6 points, 6.3 assists, 6.2 rebounds and 3.3

## LIKE HOME

## *Up-and-coming St. Thomas building pipeline to area hoops*

By DENNIS SILVA II

niversity of St. Thomas men's basketball coach Anthony Medina remembers when he was sold on Nathan Thormaehlen. Medina went to

watch the sharp-shooting Katy High senior forward at a home game during the 2015-16 season. The Tigers lost.

"When the game was over, I was talking to his parents and he came over and said hello and thanked me for coming to the game," Medina said. "He then apologized and said, 'I hope you don't mind; I have to put these chairs away. We just got beat and our coach shouldn't have to do this."

So, Medina joined Thormaehlen in putting away the bench chairs and breaking down the scorer's table.

"I knew that day that that was who I wanted in our program," said Medina, who built his initial recruiting class around Thormaehlen and twin guards Kennard and Lennard Robinson. "What stood out to me about Nate that day was that selflessness and leadership and how much he cares about other people. I thought those characteristics would take us a long way."

See ST. THOMAS, page B4



From left to right, Katy natives Andrew Adebo, Austin Arnold, Nathan Thormaehlen and Nestor Daboin are part of a blossoming University of St. Thomas men's basketball program.

## Katy girls, Tompkins boys dominate Fife Relays

By DENNIS SILVA II TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High's girls and Tompkins' boys stood out as the best of the best at the prestigious Bubba Fife Relays on Feb. 29 at Paetow High

The track and field meet featured teams from all over Houston, including the Katy, Fort Bend, Humble, Cypress and Klein districts, and even as far south as the Rio Grande Valley, with two teams

Katy High's girls won the team title, scoring 131 points in a 26team field to stay undefeated this season. Katy ISD placed four girls teams in the top five. Tompkins finished second, followed by Cinco Ranch in third. Atascocita finished fourth. Seven Lakes placed fifth.

Of the six relays, Katy High won three: 4x100, 4x800 and 4x400. Senior Lindsay Simms won gold in the 300-meter hurdles and sophomore Jada Campos took gold in the 100-meter dash.

Paetow junior Tumi Onaleye set a meet record with a mark of 39'-10" in the triple jump. Cinco Ranch's sprint medley relay team of Heidi Nielson, Yasmine Naima Steele, Michelle Graham and Laila Ashraf set a meet record with a time of 4:07.44.

See **RELAYS**, page B3



Katy High's girls won the team championship at the Bubba Fife Relays on Feb. 29 at Paetow High, scoring 131 points in a 26-team field.

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## Rebe returns to H.S. coaching at Jordan High

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Following 21 highly successful years of coaching at the high school varsity level, Rennie Rebe stepped away in the spring of

Her hiatus, however, was brief.

After spending a year as the executive director and head coach of G10 Academy FC, an Austin youth training club, Rebe will find herself back on a high school campus this fall. She is the girls head soccer coach at Jordan High, Katy ISD's ninth high school that opens in August.

Rebe formally announced the move on

Twitter on Feb. 22.

"I missed it," Rebe said. "I love how the kids volunteer to be out there for the love of the game. They want to represent their school. When I train kids outside of school, I work with them and then I watch them go back to their teams and I go watch them play. I was like, 'I need to get back into

Jordan is Rebe's sixth high school stop. She has coached at Franklin, Stony Point, Kingwood, Austin Westlake and Pflugerville Hendrickson. She won a state championship with Hendrickson in 2017, beating Tompkins, 2-0, in the final.

'It's a huge accomplishment to beat a program like (Tompkins), so if I can jump in there and mix things up, I think that will be fun," Rebe said.

Rebe's teams have reached six regional finals, two regional semifinals, and won 14 district championships. The El Paso native is a Texas Coach of the Year, ninetime district Coach of the Year, and was a four-year starter and team captain at Texas

Tompkins assistant coach Hope Ward played for Rebe as a senior at Kingwood.

"She had mentioned to me in the past how she wanted to get back into high school coaching," said Ward, who is in her second year with the Falcons. "There's something about high school sports and that atmosphere. She's a competitor. She loves to be a part of programs that compete and are good and strong. She really thrives in that environment."

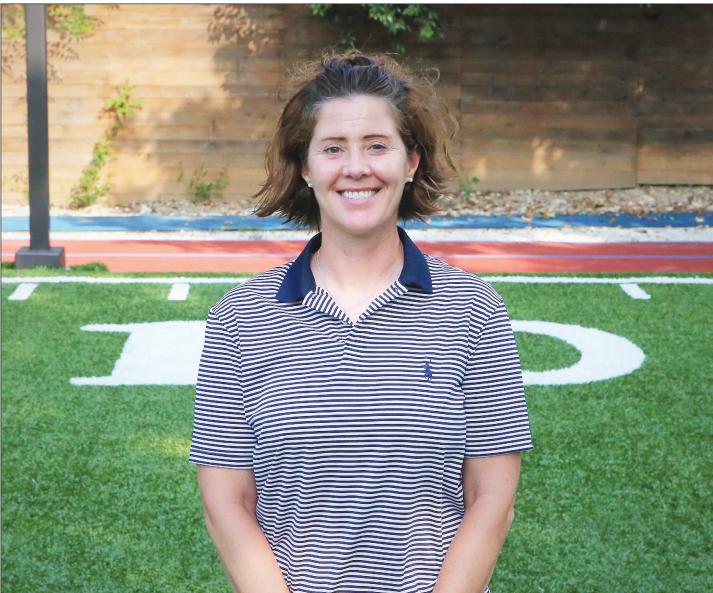
Ward said she loved playing for Rebe and expects Jordan players to feel the same

'She was a very hard coach who came in with high expectations and stuck to those expectations," Ward said. "Our team really enjoyed that. We absolutely loved her. We were a very fit team, and she made sure of that. She definitely taught me how to be more mentally tough."

Rebe has signed her contract with the district and formally starts at Jordan on Aug. 5 for new teacher orientation. Until then, she expects to be meeting with new faculty at Jordan often during the acclimation period this spring.

Rebe assumes there will be more preparation involved with a new school, and she is thrilled about what lies ahead. The Warriors will play junior varsity soccer in 2020-21 before going to varsity in 2021-

"I watched when they first opened Seven Lakes, which was at the top in getting to the final four a couple times, and then I watched when Tompkins opened," Rebe said. "When I saw Jordan was going to



After spending a year as the executive director and head coach of G10 Academy FC, Rennie Rebe will find herself back on a high school campus this fall. She is the girls head soccer coach at Jordan High, Katy ISD's ninth high school that opens in August.

draw from those two schools, I figured if the district does as good of a job opening Jordan as they did Seven Lakes and Tompkins, it has the potential for that same

Rebe spoke with the Katy Times more about her new job.

#### At what point did you realize that you wanted to get back to high school coaching?

Around the playoffs last year. I had coaching friends that I stayed in touch with, and when they were going through it, I was helping them game-plan or scout or bounce some ideas off of. There's nothing like the playoffs. There's something beautiful about high school, where the team is the most important piece. You only go so far and do as well as the team. I missed that. I knew at some point I was going to get back in. I was just waiting for the right opportunity.

What was it about Jordan that made that the right opportunity?

A. I've heard nothing but really good things about Katy ISD. I feel like their teams across the board, not just in soccer but in other sports, are successful. They obviously commit to all their high schools and all their teams doing well. I like the idea of starting a school from scratch and being able to create your own culture and establish your norms. I don't know if coaches really get an opportunity to do that. You're usually working with what was there before. This is a clean slate. The sky's the limit."

#### In what ways, if at all, did working with the G10 Academy make you a better coach?

A • I was able to work with the kids younger. When you get them in high school, you usually have a four-year window, so you hit the ground running. To be able to work with kids at the youth age, you can really help with skill development and impact the trajectory of their careers. That was really rewarding. I also liked to vary it up when I'm individually training, so it really challenged me as a coach to figure out how to focus on the same skillset, but in a way that was continually interesting and different and creative. It pushed me out of my comfort zone. I was able to get back to basics and figure out how to individually address particular needs in the context of soccer. It really rejuvenates your love of working with kids.

#### Q. How would you describe your coaching philosophy?

A: It's about individual player development. The whole offseason is designed to make each individual player better and build that player's confidence. I like my teams to be relentless, fit, never quit, battle. I want us to get into every game and compete. The outcome is not the goal, because I think when you do those things, the outcome will take care of itself. I want to outwork you, and if you bring your 'A' game and outwork us, then you win. But it's going to be daunting for them to outwork us.

#### You've mentioned the strong • tradition Katy ISD has in soccer. What makes the area so strong in the

A • It's the expectation for excellence.
I've been in districts where you had one or two top teams and then the district competition was weak. I do think that a district where you have to bring your 'A' game every game helps prepare teams for what they're going to see in the playoffs. I like the competitiveness of having to play hard across the board, or you can lose. That makes the preparation more fun, because kids have to learn how to deal with challenge and stress.



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#### RELAYS

from page B1

Tompkins' distance medley relay of Tiyan Ogbeide, Hayden Gold, Addison Stevenson and Ryan Little set a meet record with its time of 12:15.00.

Overall, Katy ISD had 12 individual or team champions in 17 girls events.

Tompkins' boys won their respective team title, finishing with 111 points in a 26-team field. The next closest Katy ISD team in the boys standings was Cinco Ranch, which finished eighth with 40 points. Strake Jesuit, Ridge Point, Atascocita and Elkins rounded out the top five.

The Falcons had two individual champions in senior Cole Lindhorst (3200-meter run) and junior David Foster (100 meter dash), and placed first in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Paetow senior Johnathan Baker set two meet records, scoring 49'-9  $^{1}\!\!/\!_{4}$  " on the triple jump and 26'-2 34" in the long jump. His mark in the long jump ranks No. 1 in the country.

Taylor junior Bryce Foster set a meet record in the discus with a throw of 198'-0 1/2" to improve on his national-best mark in the event. Foster also won gold in the shot put with a mark of 61'-7 3/4

Overall, Katy ISD had nine individual or team champions in 17 boys events.

Following are complete results from the meet.

#### **Girls**

#### **Team**

1. Katy High, 131 points; 2. Tompkins, 89; 3. Cinco Ranch, 79.5; 4. Atascocita, 78; 5. Seven Lakes, 67; 6. Cypress Ranch, 48; 7. Kingwood High, 44; 8. Elkins, 32; 9. Klein Cain, 26; 9. Klein High, 26.

#### **Events**

3200 M Run: 1. Avery Clover, Atascocita, 11:03.31; 2. Madeline Myers, Klein High, 11:32.05; 3. Macari Palliser, Atascocita, 11:40.45; 4. Katie Wiley, Tompkins, 11:44.36.

Sprint Medley Relay: 1. Cinco Ranch (Heidi Nielson, Yasmine Naima Steele, Michelle Graham, Laila Ashraf), 4:07.44; 2. Elkins (Asha Milan Abdullah, Faith Marchelle Holman, Courtney Brook Wilmington, Kayla Diane Redmond), 4:11.26; 3. Atascocita (Alaila Jones, Arayna Mickles, Sydney Bogan, Kaiel Kimble), 4:16.29; 4. Tompkins (Tami Odusanya, Marisa Marinchak, Jazmin Snow, Asia Reed), 4:18.32.

Distance Medley Relay: 1. Tompkins (Tiyan Ogbeide, Hayden Gold, Addison Stevenson, Ryan Little), 12:15.00; 2. Kingwood High (Rachel James, Peyton Varnadoe, Daniela Wisniewski, Carson Parker), 12:31.69; 3. Katy High (Olivia Einarsson, Christina Rodriguez, Audrey Witham, Asya May), 12:40.05; 4. Cinco Ranch (Natalia Corser-Castillo, Sydney Mc-Cray, Anika Mueller-Hickler, Sophie Atkinson), 12:51.21.

4x100 M Relay: 1. Katy High (Hannah Porter, Kaycee McCoy, Erica Grant, Jada Campos), 46.95; 2. Tompkins (Ryan Little, Morgan Marshall, Lanaye Keys, Anjie Saanumi), 47.59; 3. Morton Ranch (Joanna Bailey, Asia Richards, Sommone Sesay, Heaven Davis), 48.25; 4. Mayde Creek (Alaya Frazier, Michayla Ivory, Demetria White, Miracle Boudine), 49.38.

4x800 M Relay: 1. Katy High (Audrey Witham, Isabella Rubio, Christina Rodriguez, Olivia Einarsson), 9:54.32; 2. Tompkins (Gabriella Rico, Tiyan Ogbeide, Marisa Marinchak, Hayden Gold), 9:56.06; 3. Seven Lakes (Molly Humes, Natalie Foreman, Rose McAllen High (Sabrina Garza, Charlotte Beck, Leslie Segura, Aleah Saenz), 9:57.43.

100 M Hurdles: 1. Danielle Johnson, Atascocita, 14.67; 2. Lindsay Simms, Katy High, 14.99; 3. Kaycee McCoy, Katy High, 15.21; 4. Jayla Wilson, Mayde Creek, 15.60.

100 M Dash: 1. Jada Campos, Katy High, 11.68; 2. Alyssa Tate, Seven Lakes, 11.69; 3. Haley Tate, Seven Lakes, 11.70; 4. Sydney Kim, Seven Lakes, 12.05.

4x200 M Relay: 1. Seven Lakes (Haley Tate, Sydney Kim, Alyssa Tate, Ibiso David-West), 1:38.85; 2. Atascocita (Alaila Jones, Arayna Mickles, Lashavia Barclay, Lauren Thomas), 1:41.92; 3. Tompkins (Asia Reed, Morgan Mar-



Tompkins' boys won the team championship at the Bubba Fife Relays on Feb. 29 at Paetow High, scoring 111 points in a 26-

shall, Amara Odu, Tami Odusanya), 1:43.85.; 4. Mayde Creek (Demetria White, Miracle Boudine, Jayla Wilson, Michayla Ivory).

300 M Hurdles: 1. Lindsay Simms, Katy High, 46.74; 2. Danielle Johnson, Atascocita, 47.41; 3. Tumi Onaleye, Paetow, 47.59; 4. Olivia Allen, Kingwood High, 47.92.

1600 M Run: 1. Heidi Nielson, Cinco Ranch, 4:57.47; 2. Sophie Atkinson, Cinco Ranch, 5:01.57; 3. Carson Parker, Kingwood High, 5:16.07; 4. Addison Stevenson, Tompkins, 5:16.16.

4x400 M Relay: 1. Katy High (Hannah Porter, Erica Grant, Jada Campos, Maddy Blair), 3:56.17; 2. Atascocita (Arayna Mickles, Sydney Bogan, Kaiel Kimble, Lashavia Barclay), 3:56.73; 3. Cy-Ranch (Faith Bombito, Kelechi Agbara, Kemaya Armstrong, Jadin Williams), 4:03.87.; 4. Elkins (Courtney Brook Wilmington, Faith Marchelle Holman, Asha Milan Abdullah, Kaylah Rene Dove), 4:04.25.

Long Jump: 1. India Alix, Klein High, 18'-3"; 2. Lindsay Simms, Katy High, 18'-1 ¼"; 3. Reagan Gallagher, Pasadena Memorial, 18'-0 ½"; 4. Anaiya Midget, Ridge Point, 17'-8".

Shot Put: 1. Amelia Flynt, Cinco Ranch, 46'-2"; 2. Kiana Lowery, Klein Cain, 43'-7 34"; Joy Jegede, Katy High, 39'-8 ¾"; 4. Aaliyah Mathis, Cy-Fair, 39'-3 1/4".

Discus: 1. Kiana Lowery, Klein Cain, 154'-4"; 2. Amelia Flynt, Cinco Ranch, 144'-11"; 3. Aaliyah Mathis, Cy-Fair, 124'-1"; 4. Kaitlyn Thomas, Cy-Ranch, 107'-7".

Triple Jump: 1. Tumi Onaleye, Paetow, 39'-10"; 2. India Alix, Klein High, 38'-1"; 3. Myla Tate, Cy-Ranch, 37'-7"; 4. Camryn Clark, Cy-Ranch, 37'-5".

High Jump: 1. Asha Barton, Cy-Ranch, 5'-4"; 2. Jenna Sanders, Seven Lakes, 5'-2" 3. Bethany Moffett, Kingwood High, 5'-2"; 4. Sydney Elizabeth Schuerg, Cinco Ranch, 5'-0".

Pole Vault: 1. Madison Taylor White, Cinco Ranch, 11'-0"; 2. Kayla Shallenberger, Klein Cain, 10'-6"; 3. Lindsay Simms, Katy High, 10'-0"; 4. Lauren Schmitt, Seven Lakes,

#### **Boys**

#### **Team**

1. Tompkins, 111 points; 2. Strake Jesuit, 68.5; 3. Ridge Point, 60; 4. Atascocita, 58; 5. Elkins, 57; 6. Summer Creek, 43; 7. Klein High, 41; 8. Cinco Ranch, 40; 9. Seven Lakes, 38; 10. Kingwood High, 35.

**Events** 

3200 M Run: 1. Cole Lindhorst, Tompkins, 9:14.73; 2. Gavin Saacke, Tompkins, 9:16.71; 3. Ruben Rojas Betanzos, Seven Lakes, 9:33.40: 4. Luis Cavazos, Klein High, 9:40.70.

Sprint Medley Relay: 1. Summer Creek (De'Vion Hargrove, Elijah Bean, Sean Fisher, Darius Rainey), 3:31.67; 2. Cinco Ranch (Nathan Mermilliod, Enoch Ojo, Ramiro Rodriguez, Wyatt Green), 3:35.38; 3. Atascocita (D'Marcus Wolfe, Tyrus Winfield, Carl Finch, Sir Hubbard), 3:35.73; 4. Tompkins (Mark Ngei, Michael Ojoko, Jake Wiggington, Omonzogie Owobu), 3:36.10.

Distance Medley Relay: 1. Klein High (Eric Deluga, Luke Hardin, Christopher Daniels, Gerry Mendez), 10:40.08; 2. Elkins (Alejandro Colbert, Joshua Bello, Eric Holmes, Ciaran Chambers), 10:40.63; 3. Strake Jesuit (Erick Lara, Paul Houston, Adam Jimenez, Ryan Gubbels), 10:41.08; 4. Atascocita (Myles Jackson, Jaden Patterson, Blake Brock, Nahim Abdallah), 10:46.07.

4x100 M Relay: 1. Tompkins (Jose Hernandez, David Foster, Josh Dibrell, Taurean Muhammad), 41.12; 2. Ridge Point (Devin Gunter, Darek Hackett, John Paul Richardson, Jonathan James), 42.20; 3. Klein Cain (Joshua Arispe, Isaac Hudson, Isaiah Elmore, Jaydon

Blue), 42.40; 4. Stratford (Charlie O'Block, Landen Reed, Ben Moseley, Devin Baker),

4x800 M Relay: 1. Elkins (Ciaran Chambers, Eric Holmes, Joshua Bello, Trey Grant), 8:15.45; 2. Strake Jesuit (Anthony Gregory, Will Lindsey, Gabe Mount, Paul Houston), 8:15.63; 3. Ridge Point (Whitaker Bird, Jaden Garner, Josh Garner, Christopher Freeman), 8:19.28; 4. Cinco Ranch (Alex Norman, Derek Bryant, Wyatt Green, Adrian Hahn Vadstein),

110 M Hurdles: 1. Darek Hackett, Ridge Point, 13.80; 2. Barry Richards, Summer Creek, 13.38; 3. Cameron Wilmington, Elkins, 13.86; 4. Corey Johnson, Seven Lakes, 14.45.

100 M Dash: 1. David Foster, Tompkins, 10.29; 2. Taurean Muhammad, Tompkins, 10.41; 3. Trevion McCalla, Atascocita, 10.50; 4. Bryan Massey, Katy High, 10.60.

4x200 M Relay: 1. Strake Jesuit (Kevin Schott, Job Trahan, Malik Campbell, Lenny Saizan), 1:28.50; 2. Ridge Point (Xavier Mandiola, Devin Gunter, John Paul Richardson, Darek Hackett), 1:28.63; 3. Katy High (William Hollingshead, Bryan Massey, Matthew Heichal, Taylor Saulsberry), 1:29.56; 4. Stratford (Landen Reed, Ben Moseley, Devin Baker, Charlie O'Block), 1:29.83.

300 M Hurdles: 1. Cameron Willington, Elkins, 37.58; 2. Clayton Keys, Tompkins, 38.55; 3. JC Aquin, Tompkins, 40.73; 4. De'untre Cunningham, Klein Cain, 40.74.

1600 M Run: 1. Nick Majerus, Kingwood High, 4:27.43; 2. Nahim Abdallah, Atascocita, 4:29.70; 3. William Jackson, Houston Memorial, 4:31.12; 4. Erick Lara, Strake Jesuit, 4:32.75.

4x400 M Relay: 1. Tompkins (Koronje Gilbert, Clayton Keys, Mark Ngei, Jose Hernandez), 3:20.89; 2. Seven Lakes (Erich Esqueda, Alex Lopez, Bogdan Pazin, Siddhant Bhat), 3:22.26; 3. Kingwood High (Josh Jones, Steven Thomas, Jalen Gordon, Nick Majerus), 3:25.93; 4. Atascocita (Darius Edmonds, Jaden Patterson, Axavier Landry, Sir Hubbard),

Long Jump: 1. Johnathan Baker, Paetow, 26'-2 34"; 2. Clayton Keys, Tompkins, 24'-3 14"; 3. Blake Harris, Strake Jesuit, 23'-5 34"; 4. Bryan Massey, Katy High, 22'-9 34".

Shot Put: 1. Bryce Foster, Taylor, 61'-7 3/4"; 2. Justice Guillory, Morton Ranch, 60'-2"; 3. Briggs Barclay, Strake Jesuit, 51'-21/2"; 4. Reid Sims, Kingwood High, 48'-10 1/2".

2. Chris Mathes, Kingwood High, 177'-0 1/2"; 3. Justice Guillory, Morton Ranch, 175'-2 1/4"; 4. Kevin Grubbs, Summer Creek, 164'-5 1/2". Triple Jump: 1. Johnathan Baker, Paetow, 49'-9 34"; 2. Richard Aksel, Klein High, 45'-11

**Discus:** 1. Bryce Foster, Taylor, 198'-0 ½";

1/2"; 3. Enoch Ojo, Cinco Ranch, 45'-4 3/4"; 4. Aaron Cooper, Klein High, 44'-3 1/4". High Jump: 1. Darius Edmonds, Atascocita, 6'-8"; 2. Tory Wilson, Mayde Creek, 6'-6";

3. Garrett Mack, Tompkins, 6'-0"; 4. Drew Phillips, Summer Creek, 6'-0". Pole Vault: 1. Ben Conacher, Cinco Ranch, 16'-0"; 2. Colton Rhodes, Klein Cain, 15'-6"; 3. Justin Brannon, Ridge Point, 14'-6";

4. Josiah Martinez, McAllen High, 14'-6".

#### Jim Baker's Unified **Theory Of Everything** --- With God's Help

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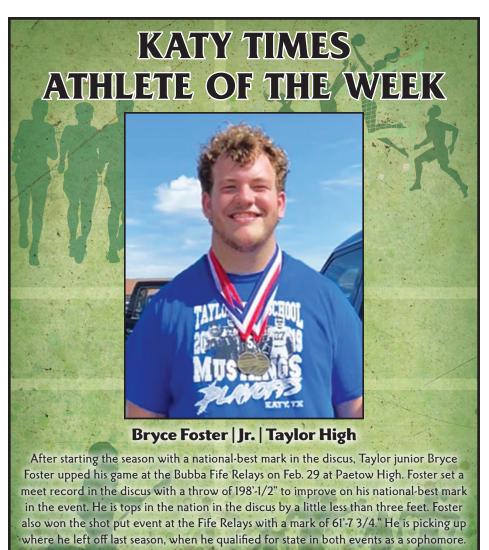


This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of God's Amazing Answer To Prayer, in 2012.



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#### ST. THOMAS

from page B1

Medina, now in his fifth season at the helm of St. Thomas, has built his program on those intangibles. It's paid off, with 62 wins, a NAIA conference tournament championship and NAIA Division I national tournament berth, and a NCAA Division III regular season conference tournament title over the last three seasons.

'We built the program on personality and character," Medina said. "It wasn't all about skillset and ability. I recruited the kids I thought would compete the way we wanted to and be the way we wanted them to in the locker room and on campus and in the community."

Not coincidentally, Medina has also found himself recruiting the Katy area more and more.

Five Katy natives are on the Celts' roster: Thormaehlen (Katy High), senior forward Nicholas Perez (St. John XXIII), and freshmen Austin Arnold (Taylor High), Andrew Adebo (Cinco Ranch) and Nestor Daboin (The Village/ Tompkins). The Celts have had a dominant first year of their probationary period in transitioning from NAIA to NCAA Division III this season, going 23-2 and winning the regular season Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference title.

While St. Thomas cannot compete for a conference tournament championship this season or next, being in provisional status for NCAA D3, it did qualify for the United States Collegiate Athletic Association postseason tournament later this month. The Celts are ranked No. 3 in USCAA's Division I in what has been their finest season in program history.

'It's huge," Arnold said. "We're just breaking records, putting St. Thomas on the map as a place to be at."

#### Like home

To understand how St. Thomas got to this point, or why Katy kids are finding a home off Montrose Boulevard, it's important to understand Medina. He's who makes it all come together.

Medina played at St. Thomas from 2009-2012 after graduating from The Woodlands. He is a native of El Paso but has lived in Houston almost his whole

He took over the Celts in 2015

"I inherited an entire team which none were my recruits," Medina said. "Going into the second season, we were going to have a very specific way of doing things. A number of kids quit early in the second season. They weren't happy, didn't enjoy it. It was the best thing that could've ever happened to the program because the



From left to right, Katy natives Nathan Thormaehlen, Nestor Daboin, Austin Arnold and Andrew Adebo are part of a blossoming University of St. Thomas men's basketball program.

right people were in the room when it was over."

Medina's second season at the helm was Thormaehlen's freshman season. It was rough. The Celts went 13-17, starting three freshmen, including Thormaehlen.

Thormaehlen, who was also a backup quarterback at Katy High, chose St. Thomas coming out of high school, but it was close. Texas Lutheran was another place he seriously considered. But staying close to home, the money being right, and strong academics were all factors for the criminology major.

And, there was Medina. "How consistent he was when he was recruiting me was impressive," Thormaehlen said. "I hadn't even heard of St. Thomas. But he was persistent. He called me frequently. He came to my graduation party, when I wasn't even sold on St. Thomas yet, and he showed up with his kid. He builds that relationship first, and it's what he does best."

Perez followed. Then, the 2019 recruiting class brought Arnold and Adebo.

"It was easy for me," Arnold said. "I was sold on them early. I really liked Coach, and he made it apparent he really wanted me. I shut my recruiting process down early. I committed before my senior season. He just made it feel like home.

"After every game, he'd text and ask me how I did. He called me every weekend. He also came to my graduation party, stayed the whole time. He had an in-home visit with me and was there for, like, eight hours. He brought his kid, Memphis. The way he recruits is (if) he can trust you around his kid, then you're someone he wants."

Medina said the NAIA has better individual talent than NCAA Division III, but the quality of teams and the coaching at the D3 level are

#### KATY INVADES ST. THOMAS

The University of St. Thomas men's basketball team has produced the program's best season ever this season, winning its regular season conference championship as it initiates its transition from NAIA to NCAA Division III. Of the 18 players on the roster, five are from Katy

	7.2 rebounds/game 53.8 3-PT% 2.2 rebounds/game 4 blocks, 7 assists 50 FG%
--	---

stronger. A primary difference is that NAIA can offer athletic scholarships, and D3 does not. However, about 75 percent of D3 student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid, according to ncaa.org.

All of that is fine and well. But to Medina, it should not be the purpose.

"If a kid's primary question is about basketball or how many minutes or style of play or what position they'll play ... I don't think we've ever gotten a kid that asked those questions first on their visit," Medina said. "Those just aren't my highest priorities. I believe in people and families and trying to do things in a way that can support growing individuals. When we talk to them, we talk about the education they're going to get or our high academic system or the support system. You can be comfortable, but develop long-term to be the best you

#### Finding their way

Daboin, who spent his first three years of high school at Tompkins before transferring to The Village for his senior campaign, hated the cold of Michigan. He chose to go to Davenport University, located in Grand Rapids, coming out of high school. He played a handful of games last semester. It was rough.

Now he admits that when he first went through the recruiting process, he did not have any idea what he was doing. So, when he looked for another school late last semester, Daboin remembered Medina, who was the first coach to recruit him.

Perez, too, is another Katy product who transferred to St. Thomas. He came over from Mountain View College in Dallas.

Medina is a reason why players end up at St. Thomas. He offers an empathy and

presence that they can't find elsewhere.

"He's a player's coach, in the true definition of it," Daboin said. "He cares about basketball, obviously, but his main thing is caring about who you are as a person and how you grow as a person. To me, that's big to have a coach who you can trust and be a good influence on you as a person, not just as a basketball player."

But the basketball is pretty good, too.

The Celts led the conference in scoring, averaging 89.4 points per game. Medina wants 75 shot attempts per game in order to get more players opportunities to catch a rhythm; his team averages 66.5.

Daboin has played in just two games, but figures heavily into the team's future as a versatile, rangy defender and rim-runner who can make plays with his length and athleticism.

St. Thomas prides itself on its aggressive man defense that is predicated upon a lot of switching. It does not shy away from mismatches because of how strong the help rotation scheme is.

The idea is to get stops and deflections and get out in transition, where Medina wants to play with pace and shoot a lot of 3-pointers on offense.

Thormaehlen is one of the team's top players, averaging 10.9 points, 7.2 rebounds and shooting 41 percent from 3. Arnold has been a revelation with his catch-and-shoot ability, leading the SCAC in 3-point shooting and averaging 6.9 points in 7.9 minutes per

"Offensively, he's one of the biggest weapons we have because he spaces the floor so well for us," Medina said of Arnold. "I haven't been around a kid that can shoot it like that, with the exception of another Katy kid, Sam Flores, who graduated last year. Austin is incredible.

"He recognizes what he does offensively is what makes him special, but what makes him valuable is the ability to continue to develop as a defensive player."

Strong words for a player who came in as a wide-eyed freshman and took "maybe two or three" shots, total, during the first few weeks of practice.

"Then I just started hitting a groove," Arnold said. "I wasn't playing at first, which I was OK with, and Coach threw me into some games, and I made some shots. I earned some time. My teammate Christian (Alaekwe) sat me down and told me, 'If you're not shooting, what are you really out there for?' And that opened my eyes. Ever since, every chance I could, I'm launching that thing."

Adebo has only played in 14 games but is remaking himself as a player. At Cinco Ranch, he was asked to do everything as, arguably, the team's best scorer and defensive player. At St. Thomas, he is more of a defensive specialist, where his focus is on things like using his hands less on defense and doing more film study and footwork drills.

"The speed is faster," Adebo said. "Getting into condition for that style and level of play is a lot harder. Shooting is more important and crucial; I've worked a lot on my range and shot. My role is different. At Cinco, I was one of the main people. Here, it's more about defense for me, moving without the ball and passing and cutting."

#### **Leaving a mark**

Medina credits the basketball success in Katy to strong youth programs that develop kids well in regard to skillset, teaching the game, respecting and

appreciating the game, and playing defense. "All of those things are a

priority with kids from Katy, and the high school coaches take that and grow it in their programs," Medina said. "(Taylor) Coach (Matthew) Brayton, (Katy) Coach (Danny) Russell, (Cinco Ranch) Coach (Neil) King. All do an incredible job of really teaching, so it's an area we always look to in recruiting, starting with the young kids coming through Katy High School, Cinco Ranch and Katy Taylor. We want to know who's coming up and who has the grades, because we know they'll be well-coached and well-developed."

The Katy kids take it as a source of pride that there is a pipeline being built from their university to their hometown.

"It's cool," Daboin said. "I grew up watching Big Nate when I was on the freshman 'A' team. I knew Austin. I knew Andrew. I've always seen and known these guys, and being able to get closer to them while on the same team is pretty neat."

Medina said he hopes to have more Katy kids coming in the next couple of recruiting classes. He feels the university has a recruiting advantage in proximity to home—"close, but not too close"—and academics.

And, now, he can add a winning culture to that list.

"Competing in the Red River was a privilege\_because it's such a respected conference in NAIA," Thormaehlen said. "But now in D3, we definitely want to make a mark. We won the conference and we're leaving a mark for these young kids coming in. Every school and player talks about leaving their imprint, but until you do, you don't really understand how much it will mean to you. This is an exciting time for all of us."

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#### NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT **OF ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT MEETING** PLACE OF THE BOARD OF **DIRECTORS OF FORT BEND** COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY **DISTRICT NO. 174**

To the residents and taxpayers of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 174 (the "District"), and to all the persons interested in the meetings of the Board of Directors of such District:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the District, at a meeting held February 20, 2020, established an additional meeting place outside the boundaries of the District at Pier 36, 8502 Farm to Market 359, Fulshear, Texas, 77441.

Said meeting place is hereby declared to be a public place and open to the public. All residents and taxpayers of the District and all other interested persons are hereby invited to attend any meetings of the Board of Directors at such location and other locations previously established by the Board of Directors as meeting places of the District.

> /s/Paula Rucky Secretary, Board of Directors

#### **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals for **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARKING** LOT IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURTS BUILDING, THE LIBRARY AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:15 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2020.

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received

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

Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for each project at the office of the Engineer, Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173, upon deposit of a check or cash only in the amount of \$40.00/set, payable to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. Bidder must telephone before coming to pick up plans. Said amount will be refunded if the bid documents are returned in good condition within one (1) week of the date of bid. Otherwise, no refunds will be made. Additional sets may be purchased for \$40.00. Subcontractors and Suppliers may purchase sets for \$40.00 which will not be refunded.

#### **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals for 2020 CITY OF KATY SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2020.

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MARCH 11, 2020 9:00 A.M. COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM, WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Public Hearing under the authority of Transportation Code Chapter 251, Subchapter E to consider the installation of No Parking Signs at the following location:

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a

Willowmoor Lane (South of Kingsland Blvd) - No Parking between 7:30 - 8:30 am and 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Ashcreek Court - No Parking Resident Only

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

#### **INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, will be received at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main Street, 6th Floor Houston, Texas 77002, until 2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, March 19th, 2020, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of "Elyson Basin C Landscape", Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, March 12th, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main Street, 6th Floor Houston, Texas 77002. Bid will not be opened unless the bidder or a representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will** be available for download on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020.

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.

#### **INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042, until 2:00 p.m., Local Time, Thursday, March 26, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Bergamo Vista Lift Station to Serve Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495 for Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, Harris County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: lift

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 or at https://bids.lja.com. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

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

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract 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.

> Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495

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#### **MORTON RANCH**

Spoken like a veteran coach. Except, Sellers isn't. He is the glue, Mr. Do-It-All, for the No. 14 state-ranked Mavericks, who advanced to the Class 6A regional semifinals for the first time after beating Fort Bend Travis 98-94 in overtime in the regional quarters on Tuesday.

Morton Ranch (27-8) plays Dickinson (30-5) at 6 p.m. Friday, March 6, at the Berry Center in Cypress.

Sellers is averaging 9.6 points, 6.3 assists, 6.2 rebounds and 3.3 steals per game. He is a basketball chameleon, adjusting to whatever needs to be done, whenever it needs to be done.

"Freshman year, I had to score a lot," Sellers said. "Sophomore year, my scoring went down because we didn't need it. We needed more defense, and I took that role. And as it's gone on, it's about doing whatever the team needs.

"If I need to score, I'll score. If we need help rebounding, I'm down there rebounding. Assists, I get it going. Steals. Whatever they need, I'm there."

The 6-foot-1, 161-pound guard can score in transition or from 3-point range. He can handle the ball and play point guard in a pinch. He can get into the trenches and fight for rebounds. He can defend four positions.

This season, Sellers has 14 games of double-figure scoring, seven games of double-figure rebounding and six games of double-figure assists.

Senior guard and Baylor signee L.J. Cryer wears the crown for the Mavericks. Sellers wears the hard hat.

"He's always done the dirty work," Turner said. "He's always done the stuff no one else wants to do. His freshman year, he played the '4' (power forward) for us as a small, 5-10, skinny kid. He does it all, and he works so hard to fix flaws. He's a hell of a player."

Sellers is quick and fast. He can shoot, pass, rebound and defend well above average levels.

But it's his smarts that separate him from most.

If Sellers isn't in the gym, he's in the film room. Turner said Sellers and Cryer watch the most film on the team, by far. When Sellers has early release during school, he doesn't go home or go grab a bite to eat. He's in Turner's office watching Hudl, the team's video review and performance analysis program.

"Coach recently pulled me aside and told me I could potentially be a coach one day," Sellers said. "I've been looking at it

Sellers is obsessive about studying his

On defense, when watching upcoming opponents, he will see which player has the ball, first and foremost. Studying plays

"That person is often the one that operates the offense," Sellers explains. "If you

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x-Seven Lakes

x-Cinco Ranch

Morton Ranch

Mayde Creek

x-Tompkins

Taylor

Katy

**GIRLS** 

x-Tompkins

x-Seven Lakes

take that person out and force someone else to handle the ball, you can knock that team off a bit. I'd rather deny the best player and let the ball go to someone else for the simple fact that some people aren't used to having the ball in their hands. It'll either break or make you, and hopefully for us it breaks them."

On offense, Sellers wants a team with versatile players who can play any posi-

"If I looked at our team, obviously the ball would go through L.J.," Sellers said of his high-scoring backcourt mate and longtime close friend. "But I would put in plays to where he's off the ball and we find two or three other people who can handle the ball. Everybody would be able to play every position and know every job on the floor, because you never know when it's going to be your time."

That is why Sellers is adamant during practices about players—not even just varsity starters, but reserves and junior varsity players who may be called up to varsity—running hard, knowing where to be and understanding not only where open shots come from, but why.

It's why he can conform to any lineup. He sees what is missing and fills that role.

In big lineups, Sellers is another ballhandler to Cryer and often guards the opponent's best perimeter player. In small lineups, he moves to the frontcourt, battles for rebounds and contests shots around the rim.

"Everyone can go out and shoot and score and play defense, but the biggest thing is knowing your personnel, and that comes with IQ," Sellers said. "You can be the best passer and still make a good pass in a wrong situation. Or you can over-help defensively. With me, it's all about timing. When to do things, and where. I like that split-second window when it's perfect to

Sellers is unsure of where, or if, he will play in college. Turner said colleges are missing out on a hidden gem.

"The numbers speak for themselves," Turner said. "Because he's not a dominant big or doesn't handle the ball all the time, they don't know he can play inside and bang or can handle the ball and run offense. He's still overlooked, being in the shadow of L.J., but he's helped hold L.J. up. Most of the time, the passes to L.J. come from Westley.'

Sellers takes it all in stride. Hidden gem, overlooked. Underrated. It all doesn't matter. What matters is the playoffs, a countdown to seven wins for a state championship. So far, the Mavs have three, and are two wins away from the state tournament in San Antonio.

And if all else fails, Sellers surely has a bright future, teaching others the game he loves, holding a folded game-plan with a whistle around his neck.

'I want to go to school for business and basketball, and I really want to play overseas," Sellers said. "But I for sure want to be a coach at some time in my life, whether it's middle school, high school, college, NBA. It just comes naturally."



Tompkins coach Bobby Sanders and his son, senior forward Hank Sanders (33), have a discussion during the Falcons' Class 6A regional quarterfinal playoff game against Bellaire on March 3 at the Merrell Center.

# Hoops chapter closes for Tompkins' Sanders duo

By DENNIS SILVA II TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

After each practice and game this season, Tompkins boys basketball coach Bobby Sanders had a departing message for his son, senior forward Hank Sanders.

"I'd tell him I love him," Bobby said. "It was never about his performance. It was about having him on this team as my son."

The Falcons' surprising playoff run came to an end on Tuesday in their 51-38 Class 6A regional quarterfinal loss to Bellaire at the Merrell Center. Tompkins was one of the more inspiring stories of the last couple of months, overcoming a significant injury to sharpshooting sophomore B.B. Knight, a top recruit in the Class of 2022, and a lack of depth to win 12 of its final 21 games after a 5-12 start to the

The Falcons finished third in District 19-6A, beat higher-seeded Ridge Point and Houston Westbury in the playoffs, and gave 18-6A district champ Bellaire a scare—Tompkins trailed just 43-36 with 3:33 left—before falling short.

Hank had nine points, five rebounds and a block in the loss, putting the finishing touches on a fantastic high school career. As a sophothe Falcons team that won the program's first district title and made it all the way to the state championship game. This year, he was huge in leading Tompkins to its second regional quarterfinal appearance in five years.

"It was fun starting on freshman 'A,' working my way up to varsity, making that state run," Hank said. "It was fun seeing this senior class continue to get better. What we did was a good thing."

And Dad was with him every step of the way.

"It's been the most fun

couple of years having him on varsity than any time I've had coaching," Bobby said. "He doesn't take the game too seriously, but he plays really hard and I love watching him play."

Bobby—who also coached his older son Jackson, who was a senior on the 2018 state finalist—has a standing rule in the Sanders' household, which is the basketball team is not talked about unless Hank brings it up. Bobby and Hank leave basketball on campus. It's coach and player at school. At home, it's father and son.

So, it was never really talked about over the last few weeks that the last game between coach and player was looming. Hank was aware, and Bobby was as well. But so much was put into just making the playoffs this season, after a disappointing absence last year, that it never really hit until after the loss to Bellaire.

"I knew it was going to come," Hank said. "I'm just surprised we got this far. Every game that we played in district was fun. I was just happy to be a part of this. It was good to get back this far after the state run (in 2018). Last year, we had a pretty bad season. This one was fun."

Bobby will remember his son going up to him after games and apologizing if he played poorly. That was hardly strong shooter and rebounder, and his effort is never in question. But he took a lot of the blame for losses upon himself.

"I tried to tell him to stop doing that, obviously," Bobby said.

Hank will take away the accomplishments left behind by the senior class, a talented group that included gifted playmaker Johnny Nash, gritty defender R.J. Smith, the hustling Alex Hakimzadeh, valuable role player Matthew Long, and shooting forward Bryson Morehead. Tompkins

was an unknown commodity in the Houston basketball scene when they stepped onto campus as freshmen. Now it is regarded as one of the more respected teams in Region III.

'Tompkins was so new when I came here four years ago, and to get as good as we got, and as fast as we did ... that's pretty neat," Hank said.

After the Bellaire loss, Bobby told his players to forget the game "as fast as possible." The Falcons were competitive throughout, but committed 21 turnovers and made just six of

"We couldn't have played much worse, and it's kind of an anomaly how bad we played," Bobby said. "We haven't played that bad in months. I don't know why it happens, but sometimes it does in sports."

What he wants his players to remember is the sensational run to get into the playoffs, overcoming Mayde Creek for third place, and finishing in the regional quarterfinals, three deep into the playoffs. The Falcons will have seven returners, including Knight (who was injured most of the district season and played the last two playoff games on a hobbled leg), sophomore forward Carmelo Yakubu (who had four points, eight rebounds and three steals against Bellaire), and promising sophomore guard Jason Clark.

Bobby told his seniors were district champions.

we go by, the 'Falcon Five': humility, intensity, unity, service and gratitude," Hank said. "I feel like knowing and understanding those things as a player will really help to build you as a person."

#### Cinco Ranch 3

x-clinched playoff berth

y-clinched district title

**AREA SPORTS** from page B1

Porte, at Clear Creek High, 3 p.m.

- Taylor vs. St. John's, at George Ranch High, Noon; Taylor at George Ranch, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Leander Rouse, at Smithson Valley High, 12:30 p.m.; Tompkins at New Braunfels Canyon, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

#### **CLASS 6A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS**

· Morton Ranch (27-8) vs. Dickinson (30-5), at the Berry Center, 6 p.m.

#### **BOYS SOCCER**

- Cinco Ranch at Morton Ranch, at Legacy
- Stadium, 7:30 p.m. • Tompkins at Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow at College Station, 7 p.m.
- **GIRLS SOCCER**
- · Katy at Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m. • Taylor at Seven Lakes, 7:30 p.m.
- College Station at Paetow, 7 p.m. SOFTBALL
- Katy at Taylor, 6:15 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Seven Lakes, 6:15 p.m. • Morton Ranch at Mayde Creek, 6:15 p.m.
- · Cy-Springs at Paetow, 6 p.m.
- BASEBALL • Cy-Ranch at Katy, 11 a.m.; Fort Bend Austin
- at Katy, 5 p.m.
- Consolidated High, Noon
- Cinco Ranch vs. Dulles, at Lamar
- Mayde Creek vs. Westbury, at Pasadena Dobie High, 10 a.m. · Cy-Springs at Morton Ranch, 11 a.m.;

Huntsville at Morton Ranch, 5 p.m.

• Paetow vs. Kinkaid, at Fulshear High, 2:30

• Seven Lakes at Clear Falls, 12:30 p.m.; Seven

Lakes vs. North Shore, at Clear Falls High, 3

Tompkins vs. Boerne, at New Braunfels High,

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7** 

SOFTBALL

• Katy vs. Flower Mound, at Sienna Sports

Complex, 9 a.m.; Katy vs. Ridge Point, at

Seven Lakes vs. Conroe, at Brenham High, 3

p.m.; Seven Lakes at Brenham High, 5 p.m.

BASEBALL

• Cinco Ranch vs. Edinburg, at Foster High, 10

· Mayde Creek vs. Alief Hastings, at Pasadena

· Paetow vs. Edinburg High, at Foster High,

· Seven Lakes vs. Alvin, at Clear Brook High,

10 a.m.; Seven Lakes at Dickinson, 1 p.m.

Taylor vs. Sweeny, at Fulshear High, 10 a.m.;

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10** 

SOFTBALL

BASEBALL

• Morton Ranch at Brazosport, 1 p.m.

· Clear Lake at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.

· Hastings at Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.

Clear Falls at Taylor, 6 p.m.

12:30 p.m.; Paetow at Foster High, 5:30 p.m.

a.m.; Cinco Ranch at Foster High, 3 p.m.

• Cy-Springs at Morton Ranch, 11 a.m.

10 a.m.; Tompkins vs. St. Michaels, at New

Braunfels Canyon High, 3 p.m.

Sienna Sports Complex, 1 p.m.

Cy-Ranch at Katy, 11 a.m.

Memorial High, 10 a.m.

Taylor at Fulshear, 3 p.m.

p.m.; Paetow at Fulshear High, 5 p.m.

Taylor vs. Ridge Point, at George Ranch

y-clinched district title

High, Noon

#### **AS OF THURSDAY, MARCH 5 DISTRICT**

**DISTRICT 19-6A SOFTBALL STANDINGS** 

0

	VV	L				
Cinco Ranch	1	0				
Taylor	1	0				
Tompkins	1	0				
Mayde Creek	0	1				
Morton Ranch	0	1				
Seven Lakes	0	1				
Katy	0	0				
x-clinched playoff berth						

Morton Ranch 3

x-clinched playoff berth

y-clinched district title

Mayde Creek

Katy

**POINTS** 

25

22

18

13

9

8

**POINTS** 

25

23

12

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**

#### **BASEBALL**

- Katy vs. Cy-Woods, at Jersey Village High, 9 a.m.; Katy vs. Oak Ridge, at Langham Creek High, 1:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Klein High, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 12**

#### **BASEBALL**

- Katy at Jersey Village, 9 a.m.; Katy at Langham Creek, 1:30 p.m.
- · Cinco Ranch vs. Pearland Dawson, at Friendswood High, 12:30 p.m.; Cinco Ranch vs. Dulles, at Alvin High, 3 p.m.
- · Mayde Creek at Summer Creek High, Noon; Mayde Creek vs. Aldine, at Summer Creek High, 3 p.m. • Morton Ranch vs. College Park, at Brenham
- Firemans Park, 9:30 a.m.; Morton Ranch vs. Brenham, at Brenham Firemans Park, 2:30 · Paetow vs. Huffman, at Kempner High, 1
- p.m.; Paetow vs. Chisholm Trail, at Kempner, High, 3:30 p.m. • Taylor at Kempner, 10:30 a.m.; Taylor vs.
- Bellaire, at Fort Bend Austin High, 3:30 p.m. • Tompkins at Klein Cain High, 10 a.m.

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

#### SOFTBALL • Paetow at Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.

BASEBALL · Cinco Ranch at Alvin High, 10 a.m.

- · Mayde Creek vs. Aldine, at Summer Creek High, 3 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Montgomery, at Brenham Firemans Park, Noon; Morton Ranch vs. Cedar Ridge, at Brenham Firemans Park, 2:30 p.m.
- High, 3:30 p.m.
  - · Paetow vs. Bellaire, at Fort Bend Austin

to remember their legacy of expecting to make the playoffs and expecting to go far in the playoffs, a distinct standard for the program's four sub-varsity teams, three of which

"We have five words that

#### High, 12:30 p.m.; Tompkins at Klein Collins High, 3 p.m.

Tompkins vs. George Ranch, at Klein Collins

• Taylor vs. Chisolm Trail, at Fort Bend Travis

High, 3:30 p.m.; Taylor at Fort Bend Travis,

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

- **SOFTBALL** • Ridge Point at Cinco Ranch, 1:30 p.m. • Magnolia West at Paetow, 2:30 p.m. **BASEBALL**
- · Cinco Ranch vs. North Shore, at Alvin High, 12:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Fair, at Brenham Firemans Park, 9:30 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Liberty Hill, at Kempner High,
- Taylor vs. Bridgeland, at Fort Bend Austin
- High, 10:30 a.m.

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 17 BOYS SOCCER**

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m. Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, at Legacy
- Stadium, 7:30 p.m. • Taylor at Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.
- Magnolia West at Paetow, 7:30 p.m.
- **GIRLS SOCCER** • Cinco Ranch at Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Taylor, 7:30 p.m. • Paetow at Magnolia West, 7 p.m.
- **SOFTBALL** • Mayde Creek at Katy, 6:15 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cinco Ranch, 6:15 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Morton Ranch, 6:15 p.m. • Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 6:30 p.m.
- BASEBALL • Mayde Creek at Katy, 6 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cinco Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Paetow at College Station, 7 p.m.