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# Katy Times

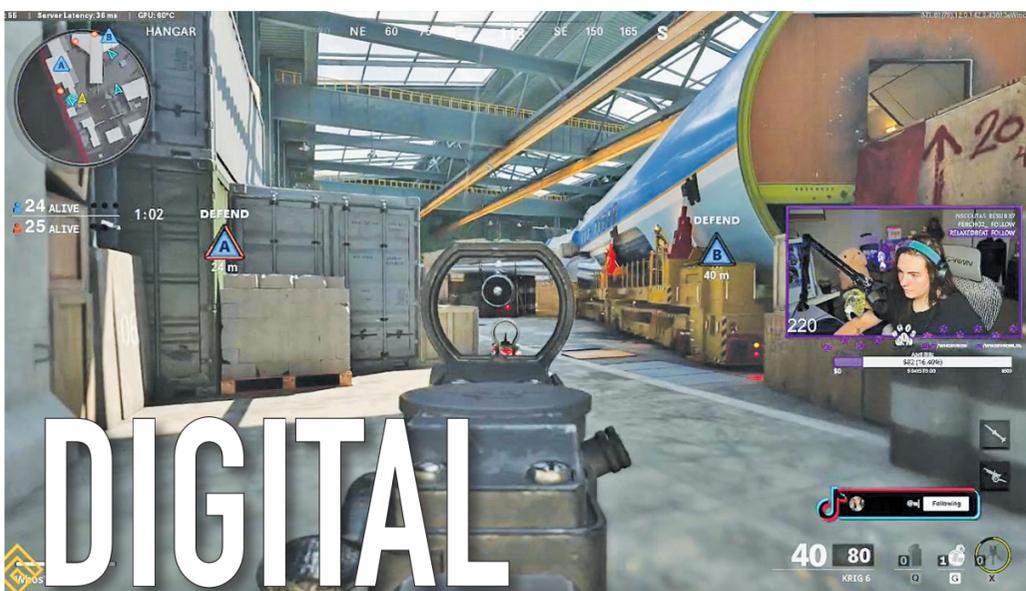
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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021



## DIGITAL

### IN KATY

Veronica Anderson – also known online as Whosvron – plays a “Call of Duty” game on the Twitch streaming platform. Anderson is a full-time streamer who has earned sponsorships from local gaming boutique Allegiant Gaming and from the energy drink company GFuel. She is one of many gamers making a living entertaining others through content creation which often involves witty commentary while playing.

## Local streamers find careers online

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Online content creation has become big business, whether that content is silly videos on TikTok or professionally produced video game streams on platforms such as Twitch or Xbox Live. Three Katy area video gamers, Veronica Anderson, Alek Farren and Devon Hatton, are working on tapping into the content creation market professionally.

“A lot of people don’t realize that it takes hard work to do this,” Hatton said. “And it takes a really good support system – your community becomes your support; your friends become your support, and the people that are entertained by you become your support.”

Hatton, Anderson and Farren – who go by the online names Panduhdon, WhosVron and Farrenheights, respectively – are all professional streamers to some extent. Hatton works at it as a part-time job while Anderson and Farren are full-time content creators. While all three focus on video games, cooking videos, question-and-answer livestreams, other content is peppered across their channels as well. While they haven’t had the big breaks like super-streamer Richard Tyler Blevins – also known as Ninja on his streaming channels – who has reportedly made millions of dollars, all three have garnered sponsorships with local gaming boutique Allegiant Gaming. Farren and Anderson have also gotten sponsorships from the gaming drink GFuel, which is popular among streamers. Meanwhile, Hatton streams part-time after his job working with developmentally disabled students.

All three said there’s no magic formula to make it as a professional streamer with enough income to live on through streaming.

“It can be hit or miss, but it can be a combination of grinding and putting in the work and luck,

because you can grind and put in the work for five years, 10 years and never hit, you know,” Farren said. “Or you could grind for five years, then finally, you get a raid from a big streamer (and it) can change your life overnight.”

Farren was a safety superintendent in the petrochemical industry before the pandemic but was laid off last April after the oil market destabilized due to the pandemic. He had a bit of a safety net and took a leap of faith to try streaming full time rather than just as a hobby. Anderson took similar steps and moved from New England to become Farren’s roommate and began streaming full time herself.

While the streamers did not want to talk about their incomes because it is a private matter, CNBC reports that the average full-time streamer can earn between \$3,000 and \$5,000 a month. However, all three Allegiant-sponsored streamers said it’s still a full 40-hour a week job, albeit a fun one. It is a career that takes social media marketing skills, dedication to putting out content regularly, computer skills and initial investment in a gaming rig that must be maintained and upgraded regularly. A gaming computer can run anywhere from the high hundreds of dollars to well over \$5,000 – just for the PC itself. HD monitors, lighting and other accessories add several hundred dollars on top of that – part of the reason sponsorships are important for gamers.

The industry has a culture that streamers have to plan for, the three said. Many streaming platforms have live chats appearing next to the main portion of the video. That chat must be moderated and maintained for a variety of reasons including profanity, racism and sexism, they said. However, there are digital tools that help monitor and eliminate those items from being seen, they said.

See **STREAMERS**, page A3

KATY

## City Council tables animal control pilot

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy City Council members tabled a budget amendment which would have added \$7,000 for a pilot program to focus on animal care at Katy Animal Control’s shelter. In a 3-2 vote most councilmembers voted to give a recently formed advisory committee more time to come up with a detailed plan for improvements to the department.

“I don’t want the (Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) to feel pressured to – I mean, yes, we’re all anxious to see a plan with associated costs – but I don’t want them to feel pressured that they may take any shortcuts,” said Councilmember Janet Corte.

Councilmembers Jenifer Stockdick and Rory Robertson argued in favor of moving forward with the pilot program to begin vac-

plan for improvements to the department. See **PILOT**, page A3



COURTESY: KATY PD

A budget amendment to vaccinate and provide veterinary care for more strays was debated heavily during Monday’s Katy City Council meeting. The measure was eventually postponed.

KATY ISD

## Trustees make staff moves, examine virtual high school

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD trustees appointed Nathan Fuchs as executive director of the Maintenance and Operations Department and Richard Merriman as principal for Raines Academy Monday night. Trustees reviewed results of a survey to gauge interest in a permanent virtual high school and approved a one-time lump sum payment to staff.

For the one-time lump sum payments, full-time employees will receive a \$500 check while part-timers will receive \$250. The bonus comes as trustees recognized the challenges that faculty and staff during the district have faced throughout the 2020-21 school year.

See **SCHOOLS**, page A3

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BROOKSHIRE/WALLER CO.

## County considers Brookshire animal control agreement

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Waller County Commissioners Court tabled consideration of an agreement between the county and the city of Brookshire which would have seen Brookshire paying \$500 per month plus boarding and care fees for the county to provide animal control services to the city. Commissioners expressed concern that the costs would exceed the amount paid by the city and doubt that Brookshire City Council would address animal control improvements in a timely manner.

“If we say (the agreement goes) to the end of the year, your council will wait until the end of the year,” Precinct Four Commissioner Justin Beckendorf said, addressing Brookshire Alderperson Kim Branch who represented Brookshire at the meeting. Beckendorf also praised

Branch for her proactive approach and described her as the defacto animal control person for the city. Branch has long worked with Belle’s Buds Rescue which works to assist the city whenever possible, as well as with other community members to try to address animal control.

Waller County Sheriff Troy Guidry, who oversees animal control in all unincorporated portions of Waller County, said the \$500-plus-expenses agreement was not sufficient to cover the costs of the program for his department. He currently has two animal control officers and, especially if other cities throughout the county asked for similar arrangements, the department would need to add more animal control officers in order to meet demand. He estimated that, with benefits and salary, personnel alone could add another \$60,000

See **BROOKSHIRE**, page A3



WALLER COUNTY/SWAGGIT

Brookshire Alderperson Kim Branch spoke before the Waller County Commissioners Court during the court’s April 21 meeting regarding the city’s animal control needs. The city has been without proper animal control services for years and Branch has often volunteered her time to address strays within the city.

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COURTESY JARED DAVENPORT/HOT CITY AUTOMOTIVE

Catalytic converters like the one shown here are a part of vehicles' exhaust system that eliminates toxic chemicals from exhaust by converting them into less harmful materials. Theft of these exhaust components is common because of the precious metals used to make them.

## 3 arrested in catalytic converter thefts

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy Police Department officers have arrested Jewrell Pinson, Jr (18) of Houston, Trazario Oneil (19) and Russell Roquemore and charged them with engaging in organized criminal activity and criminal mischief after a traffic stop led to their confessions to multiple catalytic converter thefts in the Katy area, according to a KPD press release.

"On April 18, 2021, Katy Police Department patrol officers conducted a traffic stop," the press release said. "Upon making contact with the vehicle's occupants, the officer observed a rear seat passenger removing gloves from his hands and placing them in the floorboard along with numerous used cordless saw blades. The officer also observed a cordless battery powered Sawzall that was in plain view."

The tools are known items used in catalytic converter thefts and there have been thefts near Katy Mills and the surrounding hotels, the press release said. Upon questioning, the suspects admitted to those crimes.

Catalytic converters are part of a vehicle's exhaust system that convert harmful pollutants and convert them into less harmful emissions prior to exhaust being pushed from the exhaust system, according to Edmunds, an automotive industry watchdog that tracks a variety of trends associated with motor vehicles. According to their website, stolen converters are often taken to metal recycling plants and sold as scrap for between \$20 and \$200 because they use valuable metals such as rhodium, platinum, palladium and gold in the process to convert exhaust fumes. Replacing catalytic converters can often cost \$1,000 or more.

Inside the vehicle, KPD officers found eight catalytic converters, multiple batteries and saw blades used during the thefts and clothing with metal shavings.

"Katy Police Department would like to thank Harris County District Attorney's Office for their assistance with this case," the press release said.

Katy PD made headlines last November for working with area law enforcement agencies to arrest suspects for the theft of catalytic converters, a crime that continues to be a trend throughout Greater Houston.



JEWRELL PINSON JR.



TRAZARIO ONEIL



RUSSELL ROQUEMORE

## MAY 2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

### MAY 1

#### JESTERFEST CRAWFISH COOKOFF

Stop by Stars Sports Bar & Grill at 414 Grand Parkway, Ste. 190 for Katy's oldest crawfish cookoff to enjoy mudbugs prepared by 15 different teams of cooks. The event is child-friendly with two bounce houses, free cotton candy, snow cones and face painting. \$30. Event runs 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### BREAKFAST WITH A VETERAN

The Katy Elks Lodge is bringing back a long-standing tradition with their Breakfast with a Veteran event cosponsored with American Legion Post 164 and its auxiliary. Enjoy sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy and other breakfast fixings. Adults eat for \$9. Children 6-12 eat for \$4. Children under 6 eat for free. Event runs 7-10 a.m. and will be followed by a BBQ brisket and sausage fundraiser from noon-4 p.m. at a cost of \$10 a plate. Fundraiser benefits the widow of late Katy-area veteran Greg Schroen. 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road, Katy. 281-391-2763.

### MAY 3

#### 22ND ANNUAL KCM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Katy Christian Ministries has rescheduled and relocated their annual golf tournament. The event will now be held May 3 at the Willow Fork County Club at 21055 Westheimer Pkwy. in Katy. The tournament will help the nonprofit raise funds to support families in need with food, counseling, crisis intervention and a host of other services. \$175 for individuals. \$700 for a four-player team. Sponsorship opportunities may be available. Contact KCM at 281-391-5261 for more info. Event details available at: <https://kcm.org/golf/>

### MAY 4

#### CELEBRATE 'STAR WARS' AT NO LABEL BREWING

Join Now Label Brewing Co. for their May the 4th Be With You celebration. Bedrock City Comic Co. will join the No Label team for this space-opera-inspired event at 5351 First Street in Katy. Event runs 3-10 p.m. Live music will be provided by The Homebrewed Brass Ensemble starting at 6 p.m. and a costume contest will be held at 7 p.m. for children and adults. Tx Birria Boyz will be there to provide food for two-leggeds and Pet Wants will be on hand for the four-legged family members. Free.

### MAY 5

#### CINCO DE RACE-O GO KART TOURNAMENT

Join the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at Andretti Indoor Karting & Games located at 1230 Grand West Blvd. in Katy for a karting tournament. The fun includes taco dinners, networking, arcade access and putt putt golf - not to mention the racing. 5-9 p.m. \$80 for a taco dinner, networking, unlimited arcade and putt putt. \$100 if adding the karting tournament. Sponsorship opportunities available. Visit [www.fulshearkaty.com](http://www.fulshearkaty.com) or call 832-600-3221 for more information.

### MAY 8

#### PUDDLE OF MUDD AND SALIVA - LIVE

Head out to the Wildcatter Saloon - 26913 I-10, Katy - for a rock concert featuring Puddle of Mudd and Saliva. The "Blurry" and "Click Click Boom" performers will share the stage at one of Katy's best-known music venues with the show starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are now on sale. \$68 (general admission). Visit <https://bit.ly/3tLCv0l> to buy tickets. Visit <https://bit.ly/3sQmk0u> for event details.

### MAY 11

#### PREVENT CANCER: THE HPV VACCINE

Join the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and doctors Laura De La Rosa and Patricia Priego of MD Anderson Cancer Center for this free webinar. Medical professionals will discuss the ins and outs of the vaccine which protects against Human papillomavirus - a virus responsible for at least six cancers in men and women. Webinar runs 11 a.m. - noon. Register here: <https://bit.ly/2QwEK9h>

### MAY 24

#### CLAY SHOOT TOURNAMENT

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a clay shoot tournament at American Shooting Centers (16500 Westheimer Pkwy, Houston) to give sportsmen a chance to support local businesses. Event begins at 9 a.m. with registration and breakfast, followed by a 10 a.m. safety briefing. Shooting starts at 10:15 a.m. and goes until 12:15 p.m. when lunch is served. Awards distributed at 12:45 p.m. Firearm rentals available. Sponsorships available. \$800 for a team of four. \$250 for single shooters. Contact Ashley DeWispelaere at 281-391-5289.

### MAY 22

#### VINTAGE MOVIE NIGHT

Join the Katy Heritage Society for a movie in the park with "Tomboy and the Champ" - a movie filmed in Katy. The movie tells the story of a young Texas girl that raises a calf for competition - just like many Katy teens still do today. Tickets are free but seating is limited. Snacks will be available for purchase or are included for Katy Heritage Society members. Event runs 8-10 p.m. at 5990 George Bush Drive, Katy. For more info and tickets, visit: <https://bit.ly/2PpJH3o>

#### KEVIN FOWLER AT MO'S PLACE

Need a little grown-up time and some country music? Step out to this 21+ show for a great country performance by artist Kevin Fowler. Mo's Place is a Katy country landmark at 21940 Kingsland Boulevard, near Mason Road. \$20 (general admission/advance) \$25 (general admission/day of show) Call Mo's Place at 281-392-3499 for reserve seating information. Visit <https://bit.ly/3sNR5mQ> for tickets.

### MAY 28

#### CASEY CHESNUTT LIVE

Start out Memorial Day weekend with a bit of live music and authentic Cajun food at Boudin Café located at 3808 Clemons Switch Road in Brookshire. (Note: Restaurant is in Pattison, but has a Brookshire address due to postal zoning.) This BYOB event includes crawfish and all the fixings. 6-9 p.m.. Free admission. <https://bit.ly/32OwunU>

### MAY 29

#### HONOR FALLEN VETERANS

Katy Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 will host a ceremony honoring those Katy veterans and first responders who are no longer with us the Saturday before Memorial Day which falls on May 31. The event will be held at Magnolia Cemetery (6801 Franz Rd, Katy) and begins at 10 a.m. The event will include flag placement upon veterans' graves, reading the names of local veterans and first responders that passed within the last year and participation of the Katy Fire Department. There is no cost and all area residents are welcome to attend. For additional details, follow the VFW 9182 Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost9182>

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7	1	6						8
						9		
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		3						2
6	9			7		5		
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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Switches
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Sweeties
- Competition
- Measures electrical resistance
- Psychotherapy researcher
- Causes injury to
- Open
- Polish peninsula
- Hebrew calendar month
- Whale ship captain
- Children's accessory
- Unknown point
- Exists
- Extremely confident
- Expression of disgust
- The government has many
- Small constellation
- Northern Indian city
- The best pitchers
- Naturally occurring solid
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal

**CLUES DOWN**

- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
- The \_\_\_ of March
- Healthy
- Where golfers begin
- Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- Of the cheek
- Injury reminder
- Statesman Franklin
- For an unknown reason
- Brain parts
- Islamic calendar month
- Avenue where ad men work
- Possesses
- Accept
- Stake
- Former British PM May
- US battleships circa 1939
- Greek alphabet letter
- When you hope to get there
- Top lawyer
- Fiddler crabs
- Intolerant
- Persons that cause extreme fear
- Car mechanics group
- Capital of Ghana
- Famed ballplayer Hank
- Emphasizes insignificance
- Light-colored
- Distinctive smell
- Muckraking journalist Jacob
- Sunscreen rating
- Short-term memory
- Japanese delicacy
- One point north of due east

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



COURTESY DEVON HATTON

Devon Hatton – known online as Panduhdon – plays “Apex Legends” during a recent streaming session. Many of the popular games among streamers are first-person battle-royale style games similar to this, though many streamers also use more family friendly games such as “Roblox” or “Minecraft” in their streams as well. Parents are urged to use caution and monitor who their children are following on Twitch and similar platforms.

## STREAMERS

from page A1

Features like bots – automated programs that monitor the chat – can be set up to look for phrases that are undesired by the streamer, Hatton said. With those, Hatton, who is Black, and Anderson can filter for racist or sexist commentary in their feeds. This helps them curate the environments they want viewers to experience. Streamers can also set up friends as moderators for chat feeds so any inappropriate comments that slip through automated filters can be addressed. This lets streamers focus on the games they’re playing and their audiences, Hatton said.

Anderson said she appreciates chat monitoring features because they make her feel safer online.

“It’s the kind of things like, ‘get back in the kitchen

– why are you playing (“Call of Duty”),” Anderson said, “... I’m not going to drop every single (slur) but if there’s any word in the book that you would think they’d call a female, it definitely gets thrown at you.”

However, despite the need to curate the experiences of both themselves and their viewers, all three streamers said that, with the right preparation, it was worth jumping into the streaming industry.

“Whether you realize it or not, it’s like riding a bike,” Hatton said. “You keep going out riding, you keep going on rides. Of course, it’s going to be slightly sketchy in the beginning, but after you’ve gone on so many rides on this bike, you get really good at it and you perfect it.”

## BROOKSHIRE

from page A1

or more in expenses to his staffing budget.

Beckendorff suggested a temporary, 45-day agreement in place to allow Guidry and Branch to develop a more equitable plan with reasonable costs and fees. However, Guidry objected.

“I say if we’re putting a \$500 a month for 45 days (plan in place), we’re in the red on that already, just starting tomorrow,” Guidry said.

Branch, Guidry and the court spoke at length regarding options with Commissioner John Amsler stating that he was concerned that offering animal control services to Brookshire at such a reduced rate would set a precedent for other cities throughout the county.

Commissioner Walter Smith agreed with Amsler and said he felt the price tag for having the county

come in to provide animal control services should be higher, even if the rate were set to \$20,000 a year rather than \$500 per month.

“Commissioner Amsler is right,” Smith said. “Once we do it for one municipality, we’ll have to do it for all of those that request it. Who wouldn’t want to get rid of their animal control problem for \$20,000 a year?”

Guidry said that, regardless of costs, the county does need to address animal control in cooperation with municipalities throughout the county because state law may still hold the county liable for any incidences where strays cause injuries or other issues for residents.

County Judge Trey Duhon said that, given the need for the county to address the issue, Guidry should work with Branch and other members of Brookshire City Council to establish a

plan with feasible rates. He said that the plan could act as a benchmark for cities that may need the county’s help and establish efficiency in animal control without the county taking on an excessive expense.

Guidry and Branch agreed to work on a plan that would serve the needs of both the county and the city and would bring the item back to commissioners for consideration at a future meeting.

“I think that’s a fair plan moving forward is to give (Guidry) an opportunity to sit down with Mrs. Branch (and the) city of Brookshire – and you know, at the end of the day ... I think there are some efficiencies of scale that can be accomplished, where everybody can get the benefit of having (county help for animal control, but the cost) right now is an arbitrary number.”

## PILOT

from page A1

cination, spay and neuter programs earlier rather than later, which can lead to more successful outcomes for strays or feral animals picked up by animal control.

Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz, who oversees Katy Animal Control, said the advisory committee has met three times now and has had productive conversations. Members of the committee, he said, have discussed challenges faced by the department and are examining what can be done to improve systems and procedures.

Stockdick said she was not getting regular updates from her appointee to the committee and asked Diaz if updates and meeting notes could be provided to the council. Diaz said he was open to the idea and City Secretary Becky McGrew said she and her staff would coordinate with Diaz to ensure notes and reports were made.

Diaz also highlighted improvements al-

ready taking place in the shelter. All puppies are now being vaccinated upon intake using a ten-in-one vaccination which is purchased locally for \$15.99 at Tractor Supply. Worming medications are given to puppies and kittens as well, Diaz said. The medicine is mixed with foods for the cats and is a tasteless liquid when given to puppies.

The department has gotten offers for volunteers, Diaz said, but currently does not have enough animals to warrant the need for volunteers to come in. Additionally, the department has partnered with the Houston Humane Society to assist with feral cats, injured animals and the disposal of animal remains when needed. The sally port at the kennel has been set up as a dog run and the construction of a new fence for the shelter area is set to ensure animals do not run loose, especially near I-10, Diaz added.

Diaz also said cameras have been installed throughout most of the animal control facility to monitor activity in the shelter. One additional camera will be installed in the shelter’s office soon once the installer has recovered from a health issue, he said.

Body cameras have been issued to the two existing officers as well and after Diaz identified the need for two additional cameras, two city officials volunteered to pay for the cameras at a cost of about \$300 each.

“I would like to go on record that (City Attorney) Art Pertile and myself will each buy a body camera,” Mayor Bill Hastings said.

Fort Bend County Animal Cruelty has begun surprise inspections of the city’s facility to monitor for quality care for animals, Diaz said. One inspection has already been completed with no concerns.

Hastings, who rarely speaks on agenda

items during meetings, asked for the budget amendment to be tabled until the advisory committee could come up with a detailed plan.

Stockdick and Roberts both maintained their objections to waiting to begin the pilot program, saying that it had been detailed in the April 12 meeting.

“I would like to not table it,” said Stockdick. “I just think if we wait until June to get a full report, (after) the ... five months that they’ve been working on it when we can make changes to animals’ lives now. By doing vaccination upon intake, and I know you’re doing it for puppies and kittens, but we’re not doing it for all the animals that come in. And so, I don’t think moving \$7,000 over to make immediate improvements is going to affect the overall project that the board is going to come back and tell you what they want.”

## SCHOOLS

from page A1

“From our operations staff to food services employees, to our teachers, principals and support staff, the board and I want to personally thank employees for everything they have done this year to help our students continue learning and stay motivated, amidst the circumstances and challenges presented,” said Katy ISD Board President Ashley Vann.

To be eligible for the one-time lump sum payment, employment with Katy ISD must have begun by January 4, 2021. In addition, substitutes who have worked at least 70 days during this pandemic year will receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$250.00.

“A global pandemic, coupled with the recent winter freeze, has made this an extremely challenging school year for Katy ISD families and our staff members. I am in awe of everyone who has gone above and beyond during these trying times,” Vann said.

Fuchs will be replacing long-time maintenance director Mark Tiedt who is retiring, said KISD Manager of Media Relations Maria DiPetta.

Fuchs has been with the district since 2003 and was promoted to construction project manager the following year. In 2016, he was promoted to director of maintenance and special projects. Fuchs is a U.S. Army veteran and holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial supervision from the University of Houston.

Richard Merriman will be taking over Raines Academy. Merriman will take charge of the academy for the 2021-22 school year but has been with KISD since 2007. He has previously worked in teaching, coaching and administration at Mayde Creek and Cardiff junior high schools and Katy High School. He holds two bachelor’s degrees from Saginaw State University in history and public administration and a master’s degree in educational administration from Lamar University.

Raines Academy is the former Raines High School and former Simon Youth Academy – now the Katy Flex Program – which are housed at the old Raines High School which has a new building being added to accommodate growth in those programs.

Trustees also heard the results of a survey sent to parents intended to gauge the public’s interest in a potential permanent virtual high school.

The survey was sent to nearly 37,500 parents, of which 1,238 parents said they would be interested in their children attending a stand-alone virtual high school for the 2021-22 school year. The total number of current KISD students who would be eligible to attend the virtual high school is slightly more than 26,000.

Respondents to the survey indicated they were concerned about health risks due to COVID-19 or felt their child learned better online or believed virtual learning was less stressful for their children.

The board is continuing to review and consider this item, alongside any future guidance the state may issue on virtual schools, DiPetta said via a press release.

“If the Board decides to move forward with exploring this option, which seems to be a consensus tonight, as a District we will also need to wait for guidance from the Texas Education Agency on how they also would approve the district to move forward,” said KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski.

**The next Katy ISD Board meeting will be held May 17. Meetings may be viewed at: <https://www.katyisd.org/dept/sb/Pages/BoardMeetingVideos.aspx>**

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# RAILS & TAILS

**MUDBUG FESTIVAL**

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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 P.W.R. 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.

# Transparency bills on the move in the Texas Legislature

BY KELLEY SHANNON  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

Transparency bills are moving forward in the Texas Legislature with bipartisan support to promote open government and correct public information access problems that arose amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

With about five weeks left in the legislative session, here's a status report on bills backed by the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, the Texas Press Association, the Texas Association of Broadcasters and other members of the Transparent and Accountable Government Coalition:

## Texas Open Meeting Act improvements

House Bill 2683 by Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburg, won unanimous approval in the Texas House of Representatives. It addresses online meetings allowed under the Texas Open Meetings Act. Though the virtual meetings provision of the law worked well for many governments during the pandemic, in some cases rules for public comment were unfairly imposed and telephone call-in lines were not provided to accommodate those without Internet. HB 2683 corrects those problems. It now moves to the Senate.

## Texas Public Information Act compliance

House Bill 1416 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, received approval in the House State Affairs Committee. The legislation defines business days under the Public Information Act to ensure timely responses to public records requests. Throughout the pandemic, many government offices have not responded to requestors, citing the physical closure of their offices or because they were operating on a "skeleton crew" with staffers working remotely. However, many records today are available electronically, meaning they likely can be accessed remotely. The bill next moves to the full House.

House Bill 3627 by Rep. Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, clarifies existing law pertaining to "catastrophe notices" that governments can file to briefly suspend TPIA responses during a disaster. This legislation adds specifics to the law to prevent abuse. It was approved by the House State Affairs Committee and is now moving to the full House. Senate Bill 1225 by Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, is the identical bill in the Senate and recently had a public hearing

in the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.

House Bill 3015 by Rep. Ana Hernandez, D-Houston, won approval in the House State Affairs Committee and is heading to the full House. Enforcement measures in the bill require governments to respond to public records requestors even if no responsive documents are found so that requestors remain informed. It also calls for additional training if public officials aren't following the public information law.

## Nursing home pandemic transparency

Senate Bill 930 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, won passage in the Senate and is now in a House committee. Zaffirini's bill, including a key provision added from similar legislation by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, ensures nursing home residents and their loved ones can get the information they need about communicable disease outbreaks such as COVID-19. A House version of the bill, HB 3306, by Rep. Mayes Middleton, R-Wallisville, was approved in committee and is headed to the full House.

## Other information access measures

House Bill 3535 by Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, which won approval in the House State Affairs Committee and now heads to the full House, reopens access to dates of birth in public records. Birthdates help ensure accuracy and aid citizens vetting a candidate for office; journalists identifying a person in a crime report; and banks, car loan companies, credit report firms and employers relying on public record background checks to conduct business.

House Bill 1810 by Capriglione was approved by the House State Affairs Committee and is headed to the full House. It provides access to searchable-sortable records, meaning that when government information is stored in spreadsheets or other electronic formats that can be searched and sorted a requestor has the right to ask for and obtain the records in that format.

A little more than a month remains for lawmakers to act, so it's time for open government supporters across Texas to let legislators know they support these proposals. Let's remind our elected officials how crucial transparency is to government accountability, and that's important to us all.

*Kelley Shannon is executive director of the non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.*

"HAVE ANYTHING TO INOCULATE AGAINST HUMANS?"



# Texas lawmakers are working on an incomplete budget

A lot of the money available to the Texas Legislature for programs and services isn't part of the state budget yet. It's not even part of the debate.

As the Texas House begins debate on its version of the quarter-trillion-dollar spending blueprint for the next two years, billions of dollars of federal Medicaid money are in limbo, and Washington D.C., is waiting to see what Austin plans to do with programs that are jointly financed by the state and the feds.

At the same time, the state government hasn't decided how to use the \$38.6 billion in federal COVID-19 relief money sent our way by the Trump and Biden administrations.

The budgets under consideration by the Legislature are in the \$250 billion range — about as high as they've ever been. But they don't include billions that are likely to be spent here, one way or another, over the next two years.

Texas is one of a dozen states that has not expanded its Medicaid program since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, back when Rick Perry was governor and Barack Obama was president. The federal incentives have been sweetened on a program that already offered about \$9 in federal money for every \$1 spent by the state. One big current incentive would give Texas a more generous federal match on its current Medicaid spending if the state opts for Medicaid expansion.

Texas conservatives have held their ground, resisting an expansion they say would eventually raise taxes, create new entitlements and comes with federal requirements they can't abide. Bills have been filed every session, including some



by Republicans, without any change. There's a new effort bubbling in the House this session. Expansion supporters say their legislation, still awaiting a committee hearing, has the support of more than half of the 150 members of the House — most of the Democrats and enough of the Republicans to have a majority. Expect that stalled legislation to appear in the form of an amendment to the state budget when it comes up.

If it passes, it could add more than \$5 billion to state health care programs and services every year.

Another Medicaid program is in doubt. Last week, the Biden administration rescinded changes to the state's "1115 waiver" — a federal funding agreement that would have extended the safety net for some of the state's uninsured residents. That program covers uncompensated care in hospitals in Texas.

That funding won't stop until the end of September 2022, so there's time for the state to negotiate. But the administration's move raised the stakes in a running back-and-forth between the state, which has pushed for compensation for hospitals while resisting Medicaid expansion, and a federal government that is trying to get Texas and other holdouts to cover more of their uninsured residents with expansion.

One way to analyze it: The

Trump administration granted a 10-year 1115 waiver at the end of Donald Trump's term; the Biden administration included those "sweeteners" in their COVID-19 relief bills that would improve the federal match in existing Medicaid plans. And when that didn't work, they rescinded the waiver.

The 1115 waiver extension gave the state some room to work, removing pressure to expand Medicaid. Without that, talk of expansion has increased. It started coming from some new voices, too: A huge chunk of the Medicaid money coming into Texas — money in that 1115 waiver — comes in as supplemental payments to compensate hospitals around Texas without first making a stop in Austin. It's not on the state's books, but it's critical to the state's health care economy.

Now it's time for the state to finish up work on the two-year budget that runs through August 2023, and Medicaid funding is up in the air.

But that's not the only thing fluttering around. The federal aid coming out of various pandemic relief bills includes \$16.7 billion for the state, \$11 billion for local city and county governments, and \$17.9 billion for public and higher education, according to the state comptroller. Most of that, and other money in the relief bills, would flow through the state government — a total of \$38.6 billion.

Like the Medicaid money, that's not folded into the state budget yet, either. That's especially true of that \$16.7 billion intended for state use. If it's not in the budget, the Legislature might be leaving it for the governor to spend, without their advice and consent.

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R. HANS MILLER | News Editor  
DENNIS SILVA II | Sports Editor  
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Bookkeeper  
MARISSA FERREIRA | Page designer

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## CONSTITUTION CORNER

### Texas Constitution

#### Article I: Sec. 8.

**FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS; LIBEL. Every person shall be at liberty to speak, write or publish his opinions on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege; and no law shall ever be passed curtailing the liberty of speech or of the press. In prosecutions for the publication of papers, investigating the conduct of officers, or men in public capacity, or when the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence. And in all indictments for libels, the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court, as in other cases.**

## TRIBUTES

Gail Anne Moore, 71, of Sealy, Texas, passed from life to death on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Gail was born on October 28, 1949 in Burlington, Iowa the first child of David and Lorraine Gerdes. Her sister, Barbara, joined the family three years later.

Gail attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa where she received a bachelor's degree in geology. She met Leonard Moore at a geology field camp and they fell in love. They were married August 21, 1971 and moved to Dallas where Leonard attended SMU. The pair moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma when Leonard started his career with Phillips in 1975. Gail joined Leonard working in the oilfield while they welcomed two sons. When Leonard was offered the opportunity to move overseas to work for Phillips as an expat, the family of four moved over-



**GAIL ANNE MOORE**  
1949 – 2021

seas and welcomed their third son and fourth child, their first daughter.

The family of six settled in Katy, Texas and Leonard began working for Exxon. Gail stayed occupied with raising her kids, volunteering with the PTA and Boy Scouts, taking them to all of their after-school activities.

Gail joined the Nottingham Country Garden Club in Katy and served as president for several years. She and Leonard were active members at Second Baptist Church and moved out to the new Katy location when it was built. Gail loved crafting, specializing in unique crochet pieces and beautiful afghans.

After all four of her children had left for university, Gail and Leonard built a new home on property in Sealy, Texas. Gail then purchased a shop in downtown Sealy and transformed it into a quilting shop, selling fabric and supplies for needlework. Gail continued her volunteer work by teaching adult ESL at Second Baptist Church. In the ten years she owned and operated her quilting shop in downtown Sealy, Gail greeted all her customers with a smile and a story, offering them a place to shop, relax

and read quilting magazines, and complete projects for their loved ones.

Gail is preceded in death by her loving husband, Leonard, who passed June 8th, 2020. She is survived by her sister, Barbara Lentz and Barbara's husband, Ken Lentz of Waterloo, Iowa. She is also survived by her four children and their spouses; Alexander Moore, Benjamin Moore, Alfonso Pelayo, Andrew Moore, Amanda Moore, Katherine Patrick, and Luke Patrick and her six grandchildren, Hunter Moore, Anderson Moore, Vivienne Patrick, Nathaniel Moore, Oliver Patrick, and Asher Moore.

A Celebration of Life Service and interment will be held at 10am on May 21st at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home and Cemetery, 13001 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77079.

### DANIEL LEE NAFF 1948 – 2021

Daniel Lee Naff passed away on April 9, 2021. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Daniel was born August 25, 1948 in Bastrop, Louisiana to Tom Frank Naff and Helen Dean Naff. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Daniel moved to Katy, Texas in 1989. He served his country as a proud member of the Louisiana National Guard. Daniel worked as a Project Manager for Azteca Enterprises in Dallas, Texas.

Daniel is survived by his loving wife, of 38 years, Linda Naff of Katy, Texas; daughter Virginia Valls of Katy, Texas; brothers Tom Frank Naff Jr. of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Barry Dean Naff of Calhoun, Louisiana, Kenneth Wayne Naff of Ferriday, Louisiana; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, and a host of other dear family and friends.

Private services will be held in Bastrop, La.

## Katy Virtual School program recognized

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD's Katy Virtual School – a separate program from the district's Katy Virtual Academy – has been recognized by the Texas Distance Learning Association as the 2021 K-12 winner for the Outstanding Commitment to Excellence and Innovation in Distance Education award.

"Katy ISD was the only K-12 school district in Texas to receive such a prestigious award," said Katy ISD Instructional Technology e-Learning Manager Susan Richards.

The district sent out a press release indicating that the district's long-term online learning platform has been increasing in popularity in recent years due to student and parent support. The program also

offers expanded learning opportunities, the district said.

The program launched in 2013 with the goal of offering choices and flexibility for online coursework developed and taught by KISD faculty. More than 45 advanced placement, Katy Advanced Program and academic courses were available to students during the 2020-21 school year. More courses are expected to be added in upcoming years and have been added as the program has grown.

Last year, more than 4,000 students participated in KVS.

"KVS has expanded over the years to provide secondary students quality instruction outside of normal school hours and during the summer to support their graduation plans," added Richards.

## HCSO deputy loses battle with COVID-19

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is mourning the death of Deputy Alexander Gwosdz, who died Thursday, April 22 from COVID-19 complications.

"We are devastated and saddened by another loss of life and reminded again of the dangers of this terrible virus," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said via Twitter.

Deputy Gwosdz – pronounced Guush – (32) was a nine-year HCSO veteran. He joined the agency in 2012 as a detention officer responsible for the custody and care of those in the largest jail in Texas. Since graduating from the Sheriff's Office Basic Peace Officer Course



**HCSO DEPUTY  
ALEXANDER GWOSDZ**

in 2014, he has served as a patrol deputy in northwest Harris County.

Deputy Gwosdz's father, Chris Gwosdz, retired from the

Sheriff's Office in 2020 after 34 years of service.

He is the fourth HCSO deputy and the fifth employee agency-wide to die after contracting the virus. The others are:

- Sgt. Raymond Scholwinski, 70, who died May 6, 2020.
- Deputy Juan Menchaca, 70, who died June 13, 2020.
- Deputy Johnny Tunches, 56, who died Nov. 2, 2020.
- Detention Officer Robert Perez, 54, who died Feb. 2, 2021.

"Deputy Gwosdz loved his job. He had a servant's heart. He came from a law enforcement family; his father is a retired Sheriff's Office deputy and our brother in blue. His whole life was ahead of him," Gonzalez said.

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AREA SPORTS  
NOTEBOOKFILE PHOTO BY RAY BORCHERT | SPECIAL  
TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins junior receiver Joshua McMillan II verbally committed to HBU on April 23. McMillan had 522 yards and eight touchdowns for the Falcons last season.

TOMPKINS'  
McMILLAN  
COMMITTS  
TO HBUBY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins junior receiver Joshua McMillan II verbally committed to Houston Baptist University on April 23. McMillan caught 31 passes for 522 yards and eight touchdowns in 2020, averaging 16.8 yards per catch. McMillan is also the anchor for the Falcons' state-bound 4x100 relay that finished second at the Region III-6A meet April 24 with a time of 40.71 seconds. ... Cinco Ranch senior Amelia Flynt's throw of 52-feet, 12-inches in the discus at the 19-20-6A area meet two weeks ago is No. 7 on the World Athletics (formerly the IAAF) rankings for athletes under 20-years-old (U20). Flynt's mark ranks second in the U.S. ... Former Mayde Creek star Shaylon Govan made Stephen F. Austin softball history when she drilled her 14th home run of the season in a 3-0 win over Central Arkansas on Saturday, April 24. Govan's 14 homers are a single season record for the Ladyjacks, who are 28-9 this season. Govan's record home run was a two-run shot over the left field wall. Govan is a sophomore and has 20 home runs through her first 61 games as a Ladyjack. ... On Friday, April 23, two Morton Ranch coaches, Matt Sciba and Daniel Pacer, helped a young lady to safety whose car was hit by a man crossing the median at Mason and Park Row. "We really appreciate your efforts and selfless response," Angelica Blanco-Muniz, the mother of the young lady, wrote to the coaches in a tweet. "I want (to) express my sincere gratitude from my family to yours." Sciba is the offensive coordinator for the Mavericks' varsity football program. Pacer is a varsity football and varsity baseball assistant coach. ... In this week's Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Class 6A state rankings, Katy High is ranked No. 3 and Tompkins is ranked No. 8. In the Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 6A softball rankings, Katy is ranked No. 25.

*(The weekly sports notebook highlights notes and news that occurred in the Katy area within the last week. To submit a news item, email dennis.silva@katy-times.com or message on Twitter @densilva02).*



COURTESY: KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Tompkins senior Kaitlyn Bryant won her second straight undefeated Class 6A state wrestling title on Saturday, April 24, at the Berry Center in Cypress.

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

## TWICE IS NICE

*Tompkins' Bryant back-to-back as undefeated state champion*

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

To Kaitlyn Bryant, the UIL Class 6A state wrestling final on Saturday, April 24, was just another match.

A been-here, done-that feeling for the Tompkins senior.

And while she was nervous, as she typically is before matches, Bryant was also cool, calm and poised in defending her 165-pound title and making it back-to-back seasons as an undefeated state champ.

"I thought she performed extremely well," Tompkins coach Derek Ankney said. "The idea of not only winning a state title but trying to repeat and to do so in another undefeated season, that's a tremendous amount of pressure at a very high level. How she wrestled was extremely measured. She took the opportunities that were given to her and was just really smart."

Bryant defeated Clear Falls' Camryn Tresler by decision, 7-1, at the Berry

Center in Cypress to finish 24-0. She is the only Falcon to win a state wrestling championship.

"Get back to state and win it," Bryant said of her mindset. "You still just have to step out and wrestle. I feel I've definitely improved some, but in the end, I do everything the same."

Nerves weren't enough to overcome Bryant's will.

"The other girl (Tresler) was very strong with hand ties, but I wanted to win," Bryant said. "It's my senior year, my final match. I wanted to take the gold."

She did that, and in doing so helped the Falcons finish second to Allen in the 6A girls team standings. Tompkins seniors Lily Broadrick and Nicole Blinn finished second in their respective classes, the 119-pound and 185-pound divisions.

"It's been beyond fulfilling to watch all these girls grind every single day and

See **WRESTLING**, page B6

## REGIONAL TRACK &amp; FIELD ROUNDUP

Seven Lakes girls win  
Region III-6A titleBY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

As soon as his girls track and field athletes were done with their events on the second day of the Region III-6A track and field meet Saturday, April 24, at Turner Stadium, Seven Lakes coach David Pollack made sure his athletes were aware.

They were Region III-6A champions. Not only that, they made history in doing so. The Spartans girls are the first regional track and field champion, ever, boys or girls, at Seven Lakes.

"They had no idea," Pollack said. "A couple years back, we had a really exceptional boys team and I think they assumed those guys had won region. They forgot how good Strake (Jesuit) was with Matthew Boling and that group. When I told them, you kind of saw jaws hit the floor, like, 'Oh, my God, we thought this had been done.' It's always great to make history."

The Spartans finished

with 82 points, eluding Cinco Ranch (68) and Summer Creek (55). Seven Lakes had strong showings in the relays, winning the 4x100 (45.81 seconds, the second-fastest time in Class 6A this year) and 4x400 (3:44.43, a season-best time for the Spartans) and finishing third in the 4x200. Junior Haley Tate took silver in the 400-meter dash (53.82 seconds).

Senior Paige Boucher was third in the long jump with a personal record of 18-feet, 9-inches. Although only the top two in each event advance to the Class 6A state meet May 8 at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas in Austin, Boucher, who signed to play soccer and compete in track and field at Abilene Christian, qualified as an alternate to state since her mark is the top No. 3 qualifier among the four regions.

Coming into this season, Pollack knew he had a team that could compete for the

See **TRACK & FIELD**, page B6

COURTESY: KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Seven Lakes' girls track and field team won the Region III-6A meet Saturday, April 24, in Humble. The Spartans girls are the first regional track and field champion in school history.

## 2021 NFL DRAFT



COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN ATHLETICS

Former Katy High star and Northwestern standout Paddy Fisher is expected to be selected in this week's NFL Draft. Fisher was a leader on the Tigers' 2015 undefeated state championship team and was Big 10 Linebacker of the Year last season at Northwestern.

Former Katy star  
Fisher looking  
forward to NFL draft

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the third of a three-part series on former Katy High star Paddy Fisher. Fisher is a middle linebacker out of Northwestern preparing for the NFL Draft.

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Paddy Fisher has more than enough accomplishments in his football career to warrant the spotlight.

He was a leader and dominant playmaker on Katy High's 2015 undefeated state championship team, regarded as one of the best high school football teams ever in Texas. At Northwestern, Fisher was a two-time All-Big 10 selection, the 2020 Big 10 Linebacker of the Year, and the 2021 Ronnie Lott IMPACT trophy winner, awarded to the defensive player with the biggest I.M.P.A.C.T. (integrity, maturity, performance, academics, community and tenacity)

on his team.

Still, Fisher shies away from attention. Even his dreams of one day being picked in the NFL draft as he watched ESPN broadcasts over the last few years were subdued.

"I've never been one for the limelight, but I always thought it'd be cool to shake the commissioner's hand and put on a team's hat and a jersey behind the curtain. Behind the scenes," Fisher said. "It's not my personality to be a show."

Fisher, 23, may not have a choice this weekend, though, as the 6-foot-3, 240-pounder is expected to be selected in this week's NFL draft. Over the last three months, Fisher has sat down for interviews and had follow-up Zoom meetings with Minnesota, Arizona, Oakland, Chicago, Miami, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New Orleans, the New York Jets, and the New York Giants.

See **FISHER**, page B5

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REGIONAL GOLF ROUNDUP

# Falcons' Tenpenny makes history, wins Region III-6A

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

During practice rounds in the weeks leading up to the regional golf tournament, Tompkins junior Colt Tenpenny started scheming.

Tenpenny was intensely focused on every shot he took at practice. He established an understanding of what he wanted to do and how he wanted to play each hole. He "studied the heck" out of the course's yardage books.

Tenpenny's game plan going into Day 2 of the Region III-6A boys golf tournament on Thursday, April 22, at Gleanloch Pines Golf Club in Spring was simply to know.

"There really wasn't one shot that I didn't know what to do," Tenpenny said. "It gave me the confidence I needed to pull through."

Tenpenny's due diligence was the catalyst for his regional championship. Tenpenny won with a two-day score of 140 (69-71), beating Cypress Creek's Braeden Hoyt by one stroke. Tenpenny, Tompkins' first boys regional qualifier as a freshman two years ago, is now the Falcons' first boys state qualifier after setting program records for two-day (140) and one-day (69) scores.

Despite the pressure that typically accompanies a postseason tournament, Tenpenny was confident and assured. On the course's toughest holes, Nos. 16-18, Tenpenny lost no ground in his lead.

"People come here with a drive to make it to state," Tenpenny said. "You're not talking to friends or warming up nonchalantly. Everyone is motivated to do well. It's a matter of who has the most drive and who put in the most work. With the hours and hours I spent coming into this tourna-

**"Every tee shot, he knew where he wanted to put the ball and how to attack pins. He knew when to play it safe and when to play aggressive. He's a really cerebral player and he thinks through every shot."**

JEFF MUDD, TOMPKINS COACH

ment, I felt I worked as hard as anyone here. There was no need to be nervous."

After his first regional tournament appearance in 2019, Tenpenny said he had something to build off of this year.

"I felt like I'd been here before and it was just about executing," he said.

Tompkins coach Jeff Mudd said Tenpenny was never rattled and was impressed by his player's focus and composure.

"He was super competitive and tenacious," Mudd said. "Every tee shot, he knew where he wanted to put the ball and how to attack pins. He knew when to play it safe and when to play aggressive. He's a really cerebral player and he thinks through every shot."

Tenpenny made one key adjustment to his game. After the district tournament last month, he realized he was choking his hands too far up on the club on shots off the tee. Heading into regionals, he worked on gripping farther away and swinging shallower.

"Any shot off the tee, I felt I was putting myself in position with a good opportunity to attack from there," Tenpenny said. "It really set me over the edge compared to a lot of the players I played with."

As a team, Tompkins

enjoyed a program-best regional performance, setting records in one-day scoring (303) and two-day scoring (607). The Falcons finished fifth as a team. Houston Memorial (579), Clear Creek (576) and Cypress Creek (591) advanced to state. Individually, joining Tenpenny at state will be Cy-Fair's Thomas Pickrell (70-72-142) and Katy High sophomore Reese Tortone (69-73-142). Tortone and Pickrell finished tied for third.

The Class 6A boys state tournament is May 17-18 at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown.

"State will be different for me because I haven't played that course before," Tenpenny said. "But my coach has, and to win regionals, it gave me a stepping stone. This is one of the better regions in the state. To come through and beat guys, I can use that. I know I have it, and it's a matter of preparation."

## SPARTAN GIRLS WIN 3RD STRAIGHT REGIONAL TITLE

Seven Lakes senior Lauren Nguyen missed a tournament earlier this season for the Spartans because she wanted to play in the Sergio Garcia and K.J. Choi tournament. She promised Spartans coach Sean Ewing she would make it up to him by winning district and regionals.

Earlier this month, she won district. On Tuesday, April 20, Nguyen made good on her promise, winning the Region III-6A tournament and shooting a two-day score of 137 to lead the Spartans to the regional team title, nipping Kingwood by one stroke. Seven Lakes shot a consistent 302 each day for a two-day score of 604, but needed a dramatic rally after trailing first-round leader Ridge Point by five strokes after Day 1.

Nguyen, however, was dominant Day 1, shooting 65 before shooting 72 on Day 2 and winning by three strokes.

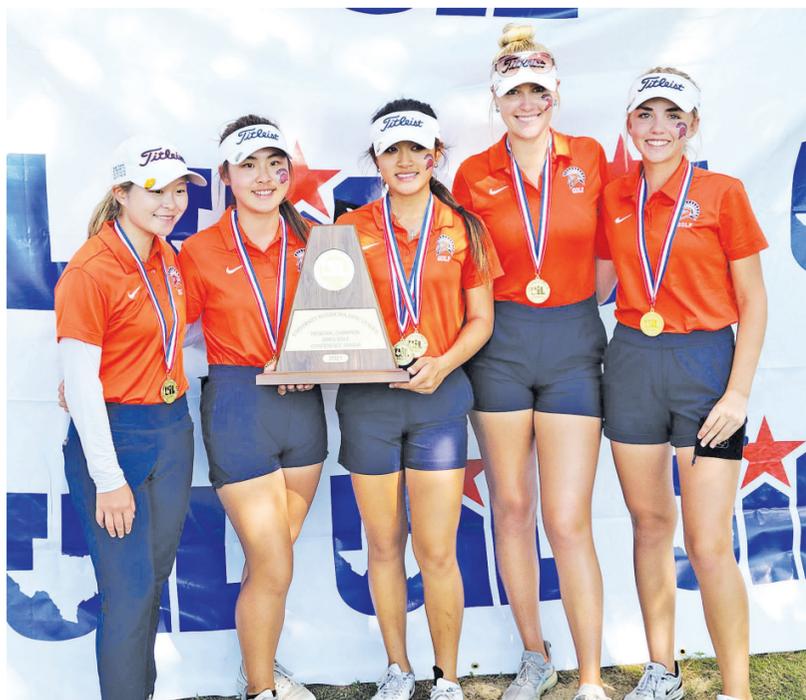
"She's capable of doing that. She's shot under par several times," Ewing said. "But a 65 is pretty special, especially when she bogeys (hole) 17 and could've had a 64."

It was the third straight regional team championship for Ewing's girls. The Spartans include Nguyen, senior Grayson Heilman, sophomore Maelynn Kim, and freshmen Floortje Rade-maker and Kay Song.



COURTESY: TOMPKINS ATHLETICS

Tompkins junior Colt Tenpenny won the Region III-6A boys individual golf title after shooting a two-day score of 140 to become the Falcons' first boys golf state qualifier.



COURTESY: KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Seven Lakes' girls won the Region III-6A team golf championship for the third straight season. Senior Lauren Nguyen, middle (holding trophy), won the individual girls title, shooting a two-day score of 137.

"We were confident about our chances," Ewing said. "After the first day, the girls were down a little bit and I told them nothing was going to be given to them. They regrouped, went to the range after that first round and worked on some things, and came back and performed."

Cinco Ranch junior Mallorie Luitwieler finished

as a runner-up to Nguyen and is also headed to state. Luitwieler shot a two-day score of 140, 71 on Day 1 and 69 on Day 2. As a team, the Cougars finished sixth overall.

The Class 6A girls state tournament is May 10-11 at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown.

"I have the big three of Lauren, Grayson and

Maelynn, but our Nos. 4 and 5 (players) are freshmen, so state will be brand new to them," Ewing said. "It's about keeping them in the moment and not letting them get too nervous. There will be cameras around and people everywhere, so it will be pretty nerve-wracking for them. We don't want them thinking about too much. If we can do that, it'll help our chances."

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

# Sophomore Abke leads Spartans to playoffs

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Champions want to win, Seven Lakes softball coach Katie Spencer stresses to her players. A perfect example is sophomore Amy Abke.

“Champions work hard behind the scenes,” Spencer said. “They work hard when it’s uncomfortable and they have discipline and structure. Amy has all of that.”

Abke showed as much as she led the Spartans to the playoffs last weekend. With Seven Lakes needing two wins to make the postseason as part of a District 19-6A round-robin play-in tournament, Abke was spectacularly dominant, striking out 16, walking one and allowing one hit in a 7-0 win over Taylor on Thursday, April 22, and striking out eight and walking two in another one-hit gem in a 2-0 win over Mayde Creek on Saturday, April 24, at Morton Ranch High.

Seven Lakes, which started the district season with five losses in six games but has won five of its last eight games, is 10-12 heading into the bi-district round of the playoffs this week.

Along with the two complete-game shutouts, Abke also contributed a booming solo homer to lead off the fifth inning against Mayde Creek that provided needed insurance.

“I just felt like whenever I got up on the mound, I couldn’t let it slip through my fingers,” Abke said. “I made sure to work extra hard and finish for my team.”

Against Taylor, Abke’s curveball and rise ball were daggers as the Mustangs swung away helplessly. Against Mayde Creek, it was Abke’s location on and around the plate that kept Rams hitters off balance as she made a concerted effort to keep the ball low.

The Spartans scattered six hits against Rams pitching, but it was Abke’s ninth home run of the season that seemed to tilt the game in Seven Lakes’ favor for good.

“Coach Spencer always tells me to go with the pitch, and I knew they were going to throw the ball off the plate,” Abke said. “I think them thinking that they’d go off the plate or on the plate would screw me up ...



SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes sophomore Amy Abke delivers a pitch during a District 19-6A playoff play-in game against Mayde Creek on Saturday, April 24, at Morton Ranch High.

my favorite pitch to hit is the inside pitch.” Abke’s shot to deep left was impressive. “She’s a rock star physically,” Spencer said. “She’s emotionally and mentally balanced. She’s a leader. She does the right thing when no one’s looking. The ethics are huge.”

Mayde Creek, which finished its season 6-10, played admirably.

The Rams brought the tying run to the plate after Madyson Rodriguez tripled with two outs in the seventh inning before Abke got the final out with a strikeout looking.

Both teams overcame a lot to put themselves in position for the playoffs.

Mayde Creek had three starters out of its lineup due to COVID-19 in the first four games of the district season. Coach Jill Voss’s

team also dealt with tragedy within the families of multiple players because of COVID-19 throughout the course of the season.

Seven Lakes is a young team. Spencer starts six sophomores, a freshman and no seniors. The Spartans persevered through a 10-day absence from Abke early in the district season because of injury, resulting in two losses.

“All year long, we talk about how much growth we’ve had day in and day out,” Spencer said. “These kids work their butts off. They had adversity in the beginning, didn’t like the feel of that, so we used that and tugged on those feelings. For young kids to bottle those feelings and say, ‘I don’t want to feel like that,’ they knew it was their time to shine.”

Abke’s absence initially created a sense of apprehension. But a 4-3 loss to Morton Ranch actually left the Spartans inspired as they saw they could hold their own without their top pitcher and power hitter.

“When she came back, they had a sense of ownership,” Spencer said. “Yes, Amy sweetens our pot, but they knew then they’d all have a role.”

The Spartans have come a long way. In 2019, they did not win a district game. Last year, they were loaded with wide-eyed, yet precociously talented, freshmen in an abbreviated season that was cut short due to the pandemic.

This year, they’ve essentially won two playoff games, and now await the postseason late this week with momentum, optimism and appreciation.

Junior leadoff hitter Makinzie Stutts, who is hitting almost .500 this season, often brings up that 2019 team she was on that went winless in district play, explaining to the younger players to be grateful for what they have now.

“My goal for them is to have a remembrance of the experience, down to the smell of the field and the fact that it’s not just a game and not everybody gets to do this,” Spencer said. “So, they can remember how we got here and what it actually means. These girls aren’t quitters. They’re not embarrassed by errors. They pick each other up when things are down. They’re winners.”

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

# Miracle Mustangs rally to secure playoff spot

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Trailing by two runs into the seventh inning, Taylor’s baseball players stayed true to what coach Nick Jones told them after the first inning when Seven Lakes plated those early runs.

“Relax and don’t press,” Jones said. “I told them the first inning wouldn’t dictate this game.”

In yet another example of how bizarre the game of baseball can be, the Mustangs watched as their hopes were quickly revived and the Spartans’ were slowly doused in that final frame. Taylor’s unbelievable come-from-behind 4-2 win over Seven Lakes in their win-or-go-home District 19-6A finale on Saturday, April 24, awarded the Mustangs the district’s fourth and final playoff spot and handed the Spartans an abrupt, unexpected end to the season.

In Jones’ first year at the helm, Taylor (15-12-1) is in the playoffs for the first time since 2017.

“It was about as hyped as it could be,” said senior cleanup hitter Trevor Woods, whose RBI fielder’s choice produced the go-ahead run in the seventh. “We’ve got 14 seniors and we knew that could’ve been our last inning. We didn’t want that to happen. Through our four years, we were so close. So many times, we were fifth (in district). We wanted to be the team to make the playoffs for the first time in a while.”

Seven Lakes relief pitching accounted for three consecutive hit batters to quickly load the bases to start the top of the seventh.

Then senior pinch runner Eric Marrero scored on a wild pitch. Senior J.C. Barry drew a walk. Junior Nate Lopez followed with an RBI flyout to center for the first out. Senior Josh Jimenez singled. Woods grounded into a fielder’s choice and the go-ahead RBI. Senior Bryce Bourgeois stole home while the Spartans tried to unsuccessfully nail Woods in a rundown. Then sophomore Hunter Ham flew out.

After all that, the Mustangs scored four runs on one hit, turning a 2-0 deficit



DENNIS SILVA II

Taylor junior Nate Lopez, left, produced the game-tying RBI in the seventh inning and senior Trevor Woods had the go-ahead RBI moments later as the Mustangs rallied for a 4-2 comeback win over Seven Lakes on Saturday, April 24, to earn their first playoff berth since 2017.

into a 4-2 advantage.

“Really, nothing changes,” Jones said of his team’s approach through the wild seventh inning. “Sit on the fastball, make him throw you something. But at the same time, I didn’t want our guys to be uncomfortable. I tell them all the time—foot down, hands on top (of the bat), hands back. They really did. They’re finding ways to make great approaches with two strikes and put the ball in play.”

Taylor junior reliever Jared Schaeffer hit the first batter he faced in the bottom of the seventh and then struck out the next three in fiery fashion to finish off the bewildered Spartans, whose season ended at 14-15-2.

Junior Blake Wolf got the win, throwing six innings and allowing two runs on seven hits while striking out two and walking none. Both of those runs and four of those hits came in the first inning.

“You can’t give up. We’re that kind of team,” Lopez said. “We’re going to come back. We came out, we didn’t have it going early on, but we fought. We came back and did what we had to do.”

Prior to the seventh, the

Mustangs were scoreless and had just four hits. Seven Lakes senior right-hander Thomas Gilbert pitched well in his 5 1/3 innings of work, allowing three hits, striking out one and walking one.

But Spartans relievers struggled in his stead. It didn’t cost Seven Lakes in the sixth when Taylor loaded the bases with two outs before second baseman Jake Steffes mishandled a ground ball, recovered impressively and tossed to first baseman Jack Coultas to get out Tomas Torres. But the Spartans’ bullpen issues proved a precursor of what was to come.

Seven Lakes used three relievers in the seventh. All had difficulty with location. In all, Spartans relievers accounted for four earned runs on two hits with one walk and four hit batsmen in just 1 2/3 innings.

When Lopez got up to bat with the bases loaded and no outs and the Mustangs down 2-1, he was not nervous or anxious. He was as sure as could be, considering the situation.

“I just wanted to get that run,” said Lopez, whose fly ball to center scored Wolf. “I had that mentality that I knew I was going to do it.

I set a goal; I achieved the goal. It happened. I was ready for whatever was going to come.”

When Woods stepped up to the plate two batters later, with the game now tied 2-2 and the bases still loaded with one out, he was asked if he wanted to sacrifice bunt or swing away. He wanted to swing. He was confident.

Woods justified that faith and swung at the first pitch, putting the ball on the ground and scoring junior Camden Champness.

“I like to swing at the first pitch anyway, because usually guys are trying to get it in the strike zone to get ahead in the count,” Woods said. “That’s why I’m confident.”

Schaeffer mowed down the Spartans’ 2-3-4 hitters, and the Mustangs were left with a win they won’t forget.

“It’s been a battle this season,” said Jones, whom players said brought a no-nonsense mentality of discipline and work ethic. “Sometimes, I’m fighting with what the players are doing and they’re fighting with what I’m doing. But it’s been healthy because it’s helped us grow. We’ve worked hard to get here.”

## FINAL SOFTBALL STANDINGS

### DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
XY-KATY	12	0	14	2	2
X-TOMPKINS	9	3	11	3	0
X-CINCO RANCH	8	4	11	7	0
X-SEVEN LAKES	4	8	8	12	0
TAYLOR	4	8	5	13	0
MAYDE CREEK	4	8	6	9	0
MORTON RANCH	1	11	6	11	0

Y-CLINCHED DISTRICT TITLE  
X-CLINCHED PLAYOFF BERTH

### DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
PAETOW	7	7	9	9	0

Y-CLINCHED DISTRICT TITLE  
X-CLINCHED PLAYOFF BERTH

## FINAL BASEBALL STANDINGS

### DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
XY-KATY	12	0	25	3	0
X-TOMPKINS	9	3	24	5	1
X-CINCO RANCH	8	4	17	11	2
X-TAYLOR	6	6	15	12	1
SEVEN LAKES	5	7	14	15	2
MORTON RANCH	1	11	1	26	1
MAYDE CREEK	1	11	5	18	0

Y-CLINCHED DISTRICT TITLE  
X-CLINCHED PLAYOFF BERTH

### DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
PAETOW	4	10	12	18	0

Y-CLINCHED DISTRICT TITLE  
X-CLINCHED PLAYOFF BERTH

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# Mayde Creek's Murphy to compete in rodeo state finals



COURTESY OF VYCKIE AVILA

Mayde Creek High senior Donovan Murphy will compete in the Texas High School Rodeo Association state finals in June.

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Mayde Creek High senior Donovan Murphy will be traveling to Abilene June 6-12 to compete in the Texas High School Rodeo Association state finals.

The state finals rodeo is an annual, week-long event where high school students across Texas and surrounding states compete. Numerous awards, scholarships and the opportunity to represent Texas at the National High School Finals Rodeo held each July are up for grabs.

Contestants compete in rodeos throughout the year in one of 10 regions across the state. At the last rodeo of regional level compe-

tion, the top 10 competitors in each event are announced. These contestants are given the opportunity to represent their region on the state level at the THSRA state finals.

Murphy, THSRA Region 7 member, will be competing on the state level in the tie-down calf roping events.

"It took hard work and dedication to make it to finals. I practiced every day or competed in rodeos to keep me competitive," Murphy said.

Murphy will compete in the tie-down calf roping in the first round competition on June 9 and in the second round competition on June 11.

Rodeo performances are open

to the public each morning and afternoon. Shuttle services will be offered on the Taylor County Expo Center grounds and tickets will be sold at the gates. Schedule updates will be posted to the THSRA Facebook and Instagram pages regularly.

The Texas High School Rodeo Association is a 501-C non-profit organization, which is the largest, most prestigious state high school rodeo association in the nation. THSRA sponsors over 125 rodeos per year throughout 10 regions across Texas. The rodeo year begins in August and concludes with the Texas High School Finals Rodeo in June.

## FISHER

from page B1

The Athletic draft analyst Dane Brugler has Fisher ranked No. 25 as a linebacker prospect and a likely seventh-round pick or priority undrafted free agent. Barry Gardner, Fisher's agent and a former eight-year NFL veteran who played for the Eagles, Browns, Jets and Patriots, said Fisher could go anywhere from rounds four to round six, based on teams he has talked to.

The NFL draft will be held in Cleveland on April 29-May 1. Round one will be Thursday, April 29. Rounds 2-3 will be Friday, April 30. Rounds 4-7 will be Saturday, May 1. The draft will be broadcast on ESPN and the NFL Network.

Gardner compares Fisher to current Denver Broncos linebacker and former Iowa standout Josey Jewell, a fourth-round pick in the 2018 NFL Draft. Fisher's strengths are his instincts, physicality, effort and intelligence. Doubts center around athleticism and skills in pass coverage.

"To be a team captain, the play-caller of the defense, and to have done it as consistently as he has at Northwestern, that has a lot of value, regardless of straight-line speed," said Gardner, also a former linebacker at Northwestern. "He can play three downs and cover in the middle. He's a space-eater; he's got long arms. He's intelligent. If I'm a team and I'm looking at a guy like Paddy Fisher, I'm looking at a quality backup, who can start if needed, and a special teams player and a leader on my team and in the linebacker room."

"He was voted the Big 10 Linebacker of the Year for a reason," Gardner added. "He won the Lott IMPACT trophy award for a reason. As you look at his career and his development, he's only gotten better each year and has been consistent. In the right system, with the



COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN ATHLETICS

Former Katy High star and Northwestern standout Paddy Fisher is expected to be selected in this week's NFL Draft. Fisher was a leader on the Tigers' 2015 undefeated state championship team and was Big 10 Linebacker of the Year last season at Northwestern.

right coaches and when given the opportunity, he'll shine."

Teams that Gardner said have a need at linebacker are Chicago (which is older at the position), Minnesota (need), New Orleans (need), the New York Giants (need for depth) and Oakland (need for depth).

Fisher has been in Chicago training since January, working on his lower body, hip flexibility and being more comfortable in open space. He called the draft preparation process "fluid." It's random. Any day, he receives calls, texts or emails from teams wanting information, whether it's his contact number or how he's doing health-wise.

Fisher's focus has been not getting hopes or expectations too high.

While he admits there have been challenges with the anticipation and uncertainty of it all, Fisher said

it's been neat to see how he has adapted and adjusted mentally to the ups and downs, from the Senior Bowl to Northwestern's Pro Day and the six weeks since. Fisher is hoping for the best fit wherever he is drafted to, not necessarily the highest draft pick or most money.

"Regardless of where it is and the money, I'd rather go to a place where I can contribute and play and be welcomed into a culture of football, opposed to being picked by a team who will pay me, but I won't play," Fisher said. "I want to contribute, whether it be special teams or the defensive side. I really want to contribute right away."

Fisher will depart Chicago for Katy on Thursday, April 29. He will golf with friends on Friday. On Saturday, he will be with family, watch the draft at a neighbor's house, and celebrate with crawfish catering and

### PLAYER PROFILE

**PADDY FISHER**

- >> 6-3, 240
- >> KATY HIGH SCHOOL
- >> 2020 BIG 10 LINEBACKER OF THE YEAR
- >> 2021 LOTT IMPACT TROPHY WINNER
- >> 2-TIME 1ST TEAM ALL-BIG 10 (2017, 2019)



#### NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE STATS

YEAR	GAMES PLAYED	TACKLES-FOR LOSS	FORCED FUMBLES	FUMBLE RECOVERIES	SACKS	INTS
2017	13	113-9	4	1	0	1
2018	14	116-5	4	0	1	1
2019	12	89-6	2	0	1	1
2020	9	86-4.5	1	1	0	1

his brother's barbecue of brisket, ribs, pork chops and smoked chicken.

"Real laid back, real low-key," Fisher said. "Just

a good day to hang out and have fun and celebrate."

Eager to enjoy it all. The work, time and effort have been put in.

"I'm excited. I really am," Fisher said. "I can't wait to see what happens and spend it with family. I'm really looking forward to it."

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## TRACK & FIELD

from page B1

regional title. In fact, he felt the pandemic robbed the Spartans of an opportunity to do so in 2020 when the high school season was canceled.

"I knew who we had," Pollack said. "I knew we'd run some very fast times last year prior to COVID occurring, and I thought we could've made a good run last year. I have all those kids coming back, with one or two new additions this year to help us put together a real magical season."

All the relay girls returned from last season. The 4x100 consists of senior Ibis David-West, sophomore Alyssa Tate, senior Sydney Kim and Haley Tate. The 4x400 includes junior Avary Catchings, Alyssa Tate, David-West and Haley Tate.

David-West, a UTSA signee, and Kim, an Arizona State signee, are the leaders. They are four-year lettermen.

"They're really the ones making my job easy," Pollack said. "They get everyone organized and make sure we're focused on the job at hand."

The Tate twins are dynamic talents. Haley, in particular, has awed with her performances at the area and regional meets. She is the anchor of both relays.

"When you hit that junior year, there's something that clicks with an athlete about them realizing they have the potential to go to college and they have to put the work in," Pollack said. "She's doing that."

And though the Spartans are clearly talented, it's the intangibles that are carrying them.

The first is the bond, something enhanced by the trials and tribulations dealt by COVID-19.

"Anytime people go through hardship together, it brings them closer," Pollack said. "The team chemistry we have had this year is probably the best I've seen in 30 years of coaching. They had a phenomenal work ethic to begin with. That entire time we were in COVID and we couldn't work with them, they were still working, and working together. Going through that and all the hardships of the past year brought the entire group together."

The second is the coaching, and willingness to be coached.

The Spartans have always been fast and athletic, from the Tates to David-West and Kim to Boucher. But it's their technical skill that has elevated their promise.

The several weeks leading up to the area and regional meets, Pollack had his girls focus on improving



SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Longtime teammates Sophie Atkinson, left, and Heidi Nielson—shown here competing for Cinco Ranch at the 19-20-6A track and field area meet two weeks ago—are returning to state after starring at the UIL Region III-6A meet last weekend. Atkinson won the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs and placed second in the 800-meter run. Nielson placed second in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs.

hand-offs from all over the track. At the regional and state meets, individuals and relays are randomly seeded, so they could be running out of lane one or lane eight. They don't know. So, Pollack had his girls work hand-offs every corner of the track, with and against the wind.

That training proved critical at regionals last week, when the first day was windy and cold and the second day was warm with mild winds.

"We felt we had covered our bases and were in good position," Pollack said. "We've gone the extra mile to make sure our kids were ready for any situation."

Pollack was hoping his 4x200 relay would have qualified for state; the Spartans finished third, 13 tenths of a second behind second-place Fort Bend Bush. If that would have happened, Pollack feels Seven Lakes could make a true run at the state title.

For now, however, his goal is to go to Austin, get on the podium and medal in the events possible, and show to others that Seven Lakes is becoming a force to be reckoned with.

"We still have quite a number of kids coming back, and hopefully it sinks into them that they want to be there again, and in greater numbers, and a better run," Pollack said.

### NEWS & NOTES

>> Cinco Ranch senior Sophie Atkinson was Katy ISD's only individual who won multiple events at the Class 6A regional track and field meet. Atkinson won the 1600-meter (4:46.43) and 3200-meter (10:50.22) runs and finished second in the 800-meter run (2:10.92) to qualify for state in three events. Senior teammate Heidi Nielson finished second to Atkinson in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs. They return to state as Cougars for the final time in two weeks after racing together since they were 12 years old. "Now everything is your last," Atkinson said. "It's weird to think about that."

>> Paetow is sending three athletes to the Class 5A state track and field meet on May 7. Junior Charles Chukwu won the discus with a throw of 165-04. Junior Sultan Bakare placed second in the shot put with a throw of 55-05.00. Senior Tumi Onaleye won gold in the triple jump with a mark of 39-08.25 and second in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.17 seconds.

>> Jordan has its first state track and field qualifier in sophomore Tiyana Ogbiede. She placed second in the 800-meter run with a personal record of 2-minutes, 14.72-seconds.

## REGION III TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

APRIL 23-24, TURNER STADIUM, HUMBLE

\*TOP 2 ADVANCE TO STATE\*

\*KATY ISD REGIONAL CHAMPS IN BOLD\*

### CLASS 6A

#### BOYS RESULTS

**TEAM:** 1. ATASCOCITA, 79; 2. SUMMER CREEK, 71.50; 3. GEORGE RANCH, 50; 4. SHADOW CREEK, 46; 5. TOMPKINS, 42.50; 6. STRAKE JESUIT, 40; 7. ALIEF TAYLOR, 37; 8. STRATFORD, 32; 9. CYPRESS RIDGE, 31; 10. SEVEN LAKES, 24.

**3200M RUN:** 1. EMANUEL GALDINO, STRATFORD, 9:14.61; 2. RUBEN ROJAS BETANZOS, SEVEN LAKES, 9:15.30.

**4X100M RELAY:** 1. ALIEF TAYLOR (MWAMBA, CALLIS, COOPER-OWENS, KING), 40.70; 2. TOMPKINS (BLAKE HARRIS, MARK NGEI, MARQUIS SHOULDERS, JOSHUA MCMILLAN II), 40.71.

**LONG JUMP:** 1. JADEN PATTERSON, ATASCOCITA, 24-08.00; 2. JAYDEN KEYS, TOMPKINS, 24-01.50.

**SHOT PUT:** 1. BRYCE FOSTER, TAYLOR, 66-10.50; 2. KRISTOPHER RYAN-ROSS, NORTH SHORE, 60-07.00.

**DISCUS:** 1. KEVIN GRUBBS, SUMMER CREEK, 199-11; 2. BRYCE FOSTER, TAYLOR, 197-09.

**POLE VAULT:** 1. WILLIAM SAXMAN, CINCO RANCH, 15-00.00; 2. PARKER SAMUELSON, STRATFORD, 14-06.00.

#### GIRLS RESULTS

**TEAM:** 1. SEVEN LAKES, 82; CINCO RANCH, 68; 3. SUMMER CREEK, 55; 4. FORT BEND BUSH, 40; 5. SHADOW CREEK, 38; 6. CLEAR FALLS, 37; 7. PEARLAND DAWSON, 34; 8. GEORGE RANCH, 30; 9. ATASCOCITA, 29; 10. DICKINSON, 24.

**100M DASH:** 1. CAMRYN DICKSON, CLEAR BROOK, 11.41; 2. JADA CAMPOS, KATY, 11.52.

**200M DASH:** 1. CAMRYN DICKSON, CLEAR BROOK, 23.29; 2. JADA CAMPOS, KATY, 23.99.

**400M DASH:** 1. KENNEDY WADE, CLEAR FALLS, 52.77; 2. HALEY TATE, SEVEN LAKES, 53.82.

**800M RUN:** 1. KENNEDY WADE, CLEAR FALLS, 2:10.27; 2. SOPHIE ATKINSON, CINCO RANCH, 2:10.92.

**1600M RUN:** 1. SOPHIE ATKINSON, CINCO RANCH, 4:46.43; 2. HEIDI NIELSON, CINCO RANCH, 4:47.07.

**3200M RUN:** 1. SOPHIE ATKINSON, CINCO RANCH, 10:50.22; 2. HEIDI NIELSON, CINCO RANCH, 10:51.50.

**4X100M RELAY:** 1. SEVEN LAKES (IBISO DAVID-WEST, ALYSSA TATE, SYDNEY KIM, HALEY TATE), 45.81; 2. SHADOW CREEK (PETERS, STYLES, BRYANT, PARKS), 46.94.

**4X400M RELAY:** 1. SEVEN LAKES (AVARY CATCHINGS, ALYSSA TATE, IBISO DAVID-WEST, HALEY TATE), 3:44.43; 2. CLEAR FALLS (TUCKER, CHAMLISS, SISSON, WADE), 3:44.89.

**SHOT PUT:** 1. AMELIA FLYNT, CINCO RANCH, 49-02.00; 2. CHRYSYAL HERPIN, PEARLAND DAWSON, 46-10.00.

**DISCUS:** 1. CHRYSYAL HERPIN, PEARLAND DAWSON, 168-05; 2. AMELIA FLYNT, CINCO RANCH, 161-10.

### CLASS 5A

#### BOYS RESULTS

**TEAM:** 1. MANVEL, 74; 2. FORT BEND MARSHALL, 63; 3. BRENNHAM, 60; 4. TERRY, 38; 5. PORT ARTHUR MEMORIAL, 36; 6. CROSBY, 32.50; 7. LAKE CREEK, 28; 8. PAETOW, 22; 9. PFLUGERVILLE WEISS, 20; 9. AUSTIN LASA, 20.

**SHOT PUT:** 1. TRE'VANTAE CAINE, PORT ARTHUR MEMORIAL, 58-00.00; 2. SULTAN BAKARE, PAETOW, 55-05.00.

**DISCUS:** 1. CHARLES CHUKWU, PAETOW, 165-04; 2. CHANCE NIESNER, LAKE CREEK, 164-05.

#### GIRLS RESULTS

**TEAM:** 1. MANVEL, 96; 2. FORT BEND MARSHALL, 89; 3. COLLEGE STATION, 62; 4. HIGHTOWER, 59; 5. BARBERS HILL, 39; 6. PFLUGERVILLE HENDRICKSON, 31; 7. PAETOW, 30; 8. BEAUMONT UNITED, 26; 9. NEW CANEY PORTER, 22; 10. PFLUGERVILLE WEISS, 20.

**800M RUN:** 1. JAIDEN ITSON, HIGHTOWER, 2:13.20; 2. TIYAN OGBEIDE, JORDAN, 2:14.72.

**300M HURDLES:** 1. DESIRAE ROBERTS, FORT BEND MARSHALL, 44.84; 2. TUMI ONALEYE, PAETOW, 45.17.

**TRIPLE JUMP:** 1. TUMI ONALEYE, PAETOW, 39-08.25; 2. SUZAN OGUNLEYE, PFLUGERVILLE HENDRICKSON, 39-06.75.

## WRESTLING

from page B1

make it this far and show everyone that we worked so hard to get where we are," Bryant said. "I love watching this team wrestle. It's the coaching, it's the work, it's the mindset. Everybody wants it, and they want to improve. That's what made us who we are."

Bryant was a naturally aggressive athlete when she was a freshman. As a soccer player, she'd run through or into players. But once she discovered wrestling in November of her freshman year, she quit soccer to focus on the sport that better suited her physicality.

That freshman year, Bryant qualified for the regional tournament.

"My impressions of Kaitlyn then are very similar to what they are now," Ankney said. "She's extremely athletic and strong. Given the right amount of time, we knew that she could do some very good things."

Ankney said Bryant is a more



COURTESY: KATY ISD ATHLETICS

For the second straight year, Tompkins' girls wrestling team finished second at the UIL Class 6A state tournament at the Berry Center in Cypress.

polished wrestler this year compared to last. He was impressed by her composure in the state

final. "I still get nervous before I go into a match, but I think I'm able

to control it a bit more," Bryant said. "It still gets to me, but I'm able to get a better groove going in the match."

Ankney said he appreciates Bryant's hard-nosed style and tenacity. But, most of all, he is grateful for what Bryant, Broadrick and Blinn did for the program. They worked tirelessly to put Tompkins girls wrestling on a prominent stage.

And now? The Falcons are back-to-back Region III-6A champions and finished second at state each of the last two seasons.

"It's a credit to the girls that came in through the door and took a chance with us," Ankney said. "It's not always an easy sales job to get girls in on a wrestling mat. I was blessed with this group of seniors that came in their freshman year and were able to pull more girls in. The way they've approached and handled

things and worked their tails off have put us in this position of being recognized at this level."

Bryant was the only Katy ISD wrestler to win gold at state.

Morton Ranch's girls finished fifth as a team with 40 points, buoyed by the Cotter sisters. Sophomore Rachel and senior Brittany each finished second in their 95-pound and 110-pound, respectively, classes.

On the boys side, Katy High finished ninth as a team as Allen won that team title as well.

The Tigers had a silver medalist in senior Jackson Crandall (126-pound) and a bronze medalist in senior John Raymundo (106). Seven Lakes junior Jose Salinas won bronze in the 113 class.

In Class 5A, Paetow senior Jeramiah Marquez finished fourth in his 195-pound class.



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EXECUTIVE SUITES KATY - SUGAR LAND - CONROE