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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Stabbing victim from after-school fight dies

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A stabbing victim from the Feb. 14 after-school fight at Beckendorff Park has died from his wounds.

The Harris County Sheriff's office said Marlon Robinson, 17, died Sunday at a local hospital. A charge filed on a juvenile has been

upgraded to murder.

Robinson was one of two high school students stabbed in the fight at Beckendorff Park, 1815 Katyland Drive. Authorities said the fight began shortly after class dismissal.

Robinson and another victim were taken by Life Flight to Memorial Hermann Hospital, deputies said after the incident. Another

student, a suspect in the stabbing, sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was taken by ambulance to a local hospital. Six people, including the two stabbing victims, were injured, deputies said.

In a statement, the Katy Independent School District said three individuals have been charged and one has been arrested for their

involvement in the fight.

The Harris County Sheriff's office is leading the investigation. Citizens with any details regarding this incident and the charges should contact that office.

The district said previously that it is working with law enforcement to investigate the incident. Katy ISD police will also be assigned to

patrol the area until the investigation has been completed.

The district's previous statement also said that students who were involved in the incident will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Management Plan, as well as be subject to potential criminal consequences.

Petting goats, pigs and other livestock is a big part of the Katy Special Rodeo.

KATY ISD PHOTO



SPECIAL RODEO

*is a special place for
Katy ISD life skills students*

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Ask Joe Bochat, Katy ISD FFA special rodeo organizer, how long the rodeo has been going on, and he cannot give a precise answer. He figures it's been over 10 years now.

"I cannot remember for the life of me when we began," Bochat said.

The rodeo, designed for Katy special needs, or life skills, students, is a big part of the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show. Bochat said in all its years, only twice did the show fail to go on. One

year there were scheduling issues. Last year, the pandemic compelled the cancellation of the show.

The special rodeo was on again Wednesday. Life skills students petted livestock and rode a camel and horses. Some even rode a mechanical bull. After the rodeo, they enjoyed a luncheon featuring hamburgers and hotdogs.

While Bochat is the creator and organizer of the special rodeo in Katy, he said it was not an original idea. He began his career in Pensacola, Fla.,

See **RODEO**, page A3

Thiele runs unopposed in mayoral election

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Friday was the deadline for candidates to file to run for municipal and school board seats in the Katy area.

The election is May 7.

Here is a rundown of who has filed for municipal or school district offices.



DUSTY THIELE

Katy mayor

Dusty Thiele, an insurance executive, drew no opponents as he seeks to succeed incumbent Mayor Bill Hastings.

Thiele has twice served on the council. In November 2020, Hastings appointed Thiele to serve out

See **ELECTION**, page A3

Patrick criticizes county vote limiting police funds

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick criticized a recent Harris County Commissioners Court vote to approve a limited funding increase for law enforcement.

The court, in a 3-2 vote earlier this month, rejected a plan put forth by Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle and Pct. 3 Tom Ramsey, instead giving law enforcement agencies the more modest increase.

Patrick said in a statement that Cagle and Ramsey "offered budget amendments that would have provided funding for more officers. These recommendations came from the Harris County sheriff, constables, and district attorney. Additionally, this plan would have



R. JACK CAGLE
Harris County Pct. 4
Commissioner

See **POLICE**, page A3

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College administrators discuss state of higher education in Katy

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Students returning to Katy-area colleges face issues that require colleges—and the state—to be nimble, local edu-

cation administrators said.

Bob Glenn is president of the University of Houston-Victoria. Zachary Hodges is president of Houston Community College. Seelpa Keshvala is president of Lone Star

College's CyFair campus. Jay Neal is associate vice provost and chief operating officer at the University of Houston-Sugar Land and the University of

See **EDUCATION**, page A3

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West Houston-Katy



Community Calendar

March



MARCH 1

"JOSHUA, JUDGES & JESUS" EXHIBIT

"Joshua, Judges & Jesus" is an exhibit of archeological artifacts from ancient times. It features over 100 artifacts from the Land of the Bible, many of which were excavated by Dr. Scott Stripling and students enrolled at The Bible Seminary. Free tours are available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday or by appointment outside those hours and on weekends. The exhibit opens March 1 at The Bible Seminary, 2655 S. Mason Road. For more information, visit the website TheBibleSeminary.edu/3j.

FAT TUESDAY BINGO

Katy Funeral Home is hosting Fat Tuesday Bingo to celebrate Mardi Gras. All are invited. The event features prizes, Cajun refreshments, and King Cake in a variety of flavors. The event, which is free, is from 6-8 p.m. March 1 at Katy Funeral Home, 23350 Kingsland Blvd. For more information, visit the website <https://www.facebook.com/KatyFuneralHome/>.

MARCH 2

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a Texas Independence Day Celebration. The event is set for 6 p.m. March 2 at Whiskey River West, 6535 S. Peek, Richmond. For more information, contact Don McCoy at the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, at 832-600-3221.

MARCH 5

VETERAN'S BREAKFAST

The American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a veteran's breakfast. The event is set for 7-10 a.m. March 5 at the Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road. For more information, email Linda Malsbary at linda.malsbary@yahoo.com.

REPUTATION: A TAYLOR SWIFT EXPERIENCE

The Wildcatter Saloon
Tickets are \$15 pre-sale, \$20

general admission. Tables do not include admission tickets. Reserved tables are \$30 for pre-sale, \$40 for general admission. The Wildcatter Saloon is located at 26913 Katy Freeway, Katy.

MARCH 10

STATE OF THE COUNTIES

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the "State of the Counties," a presentation by Fort Bend County Judge KP George, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Waller County Judge Trey Duhon. The event is set for 11:30 a.m. March 10 at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. Reservations are \$40 for members, \$50 for prospective members. For more information, visit the website katychamber.com.

MARCH 14

KATY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Katy City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. March 14 in the council chamber at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C. For more information, visit the website cityofkaty.com.

MARCH 16

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The American Legion Auxiliary holds its monthly meeting at Post 164, 22125 Kingsland Blvd. For more information, email Linda Malsbary at linda.malsbary@yahoo.com.

MARCH 17

SHAMROCK SHINDIG

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a Shamrock Shindig. The event is set for 6 p.m. March 17 in downtown Fulshear. For more information, contact Don McCoy at the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, at 832-600-3221.

MARCH 18

KITE FLYING ON THE PRAIRIE

Bring your kite to enjoy the unmatched prairie breezes, or get creative at Katy Prairie Conservancy's docent-led kite making station. Bring a picnic to enjoy the wide-open spaces. Additional activities will include insect and pond netting, Birding

101, and prairie bingo. The event is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 18 at the Indiangrass Preserve, 31975 Hebert Road, in Waller. The event is free and no registration is required.

MARCH 19

KATY MARKET DAY

The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, a beer garden, entertainment, and inflatables for children's amusement. The event is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19 historic Downtown Katy. For more information, contact Betsy Proctor at The Limited Antiques.

MARCH 26

KATY TASTE FEST

The annual Katy Taste Fest is a family-friendly outdoor food festival that showcases the diversity of Katy's dining community. The event features a variety of cuisines, including, American, Indian, Italian, Mexican, and more. The event is set for 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 26 at 555 Katy Fort Bend Road. For more information, go to the Facebook page for the event at <https://www.facebook.com/KatyTasteFest/>.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: A TASTE OF NATIONS

Kingsland Baptist Church is holding its first annual international festival. The family-friendly outdoor festival celebrates the variety of cultures in the Katy-Houston area through local international cuisine, heritage performances, a global artisan market and fun activities for kids of all ages. The event is set for 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. March 26 at Kingsland Baptist Church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd. Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit the website kingslandinternationalfestival.com.

MARCH 28

KATY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Katy City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. March 28 in the council chamber at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C. For more information, visit the website cityofkaty.com.



Lauren the Cheese Chica (left) and Stacey Lynn, the Barndominium Lady (above) are two of the featured presenters at the Katy Home and Garden Show.

KATY HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Katy Home and Garden Show moving to Katy ISD ag center

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

At a time when just getting back to normal is a welcome change, the Katy Home and Garden Show has an even bigger change in store for its March show.

For its first 15 years, the show took place at the Merrell Center. This year, it moves to the Katy ISD Agriculture Sciences Center, 5825 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

Organizers expect the move to bring the show back to its previous size, with more room for big gardens and outdoor living exhibits.

As with so many other attractions, returning to a full schedule is a gladly welcomed situation for the show's organizers and enthusiasts. The fall 2020 show was cancelled. The spring 2021 show, typically set for January, was pushed out to March.

This year, over 250 booths will be open at the show, with plenty of shopping opportunities, food sampling and food trucks.

In addition, attendees will have the chance to learn how to make the perfect charcuterie board with Cheese Chica. Attendees can also meet Stacey Lynn, the Barndominium Lady, to learn about her floor design plans and get tips.

The show is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 26 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 27. Tickets are \$7 for adults, and are free for kids 12 and under. Military personnel, veterans, first responders receive free admission for two to the Sunday show by showing valid ID at the box office.

Parking is free.

To register for a \$250 shopping spree and more information, visit the website katyhomeandgardenshow.com.

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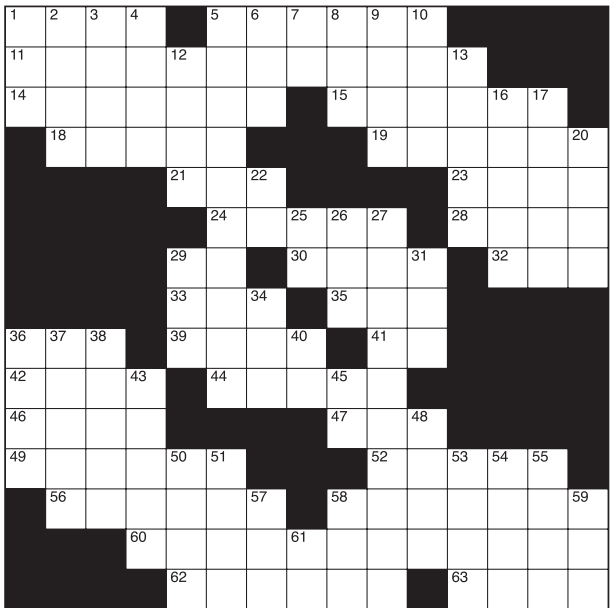
CLUES ACROSS

- Constrictors
- Abounding in rocks
- Speed
- German city
- Lacking sympathy
- Visionaries
- Wastes away
- One precursor to the EU
- Nursemaid
- Unconsciousnesses
- Baby's word for father
- Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)
- Senses of self-importance
- Midway between south and southwest
- When you hope to get there
- Electronic data processing
- Passports and drivers' licences are two
- Fishes
- Air Force
- Personal computers
- Ecological community
- Wings
- Halfway
- Cool, calm and collected
- Jewelled headdress
- Musical composition
- ___ Falls
- Repeating remarks

- Periods in one's life
- Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- ___ Humbug!
- Devices that alert pilots (abbr.)
- Grocer
- One point east of southeast
- Subjects to hostility
- Work unit
- Atomic #56
- British thermal unit
- "Elusive Butterfly" singer
- Fastened over animal's neck
- Device
- Rechargeable power source
- Ancient sage
- Consist of two elements
- "Pygmalion" writer
- "The Centennial State" (abbr.)
- Of I
- Get older
- Brotherhoods
- Buzzing insect
- Sunscreen rating
- Brew
- Leader

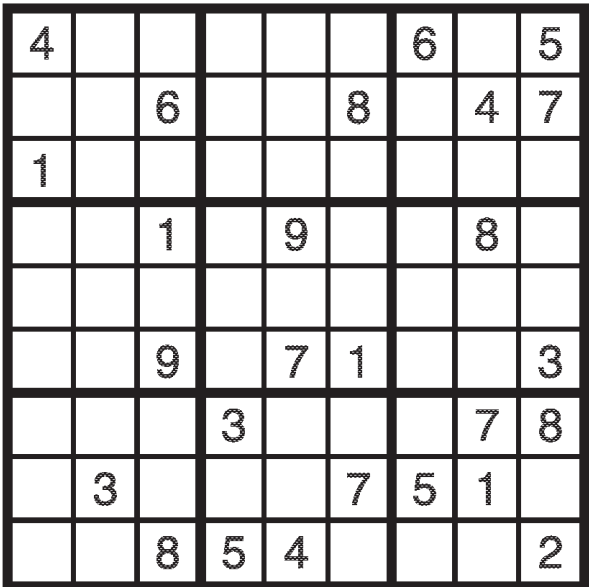


- Indigo bush
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Junior's dad
- Horse mackerels genus
- Morning
- Unit of linear measurement (abbr.)
- Double curve
- Small, twisted bunch

- Developed
- Mars crater
- Humanistic discipline
- Word element meaning ear
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Wood residue
- It cools your home

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

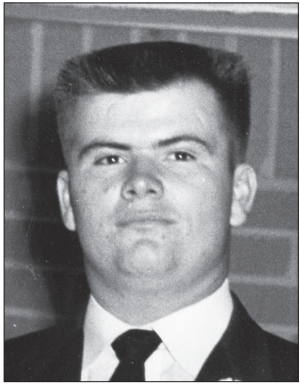
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TRIBUTE



JIM EDWARD WILLIAMS, SR.
1935-2022

Jim Edward Williams, Sr. was born on May 14, 1935 in Graham, Texas to Charlie and Dora Frances Rinks Williams. On June 14, 1955, he married Paula Tucker in Graham, Texas. Jim lived in Graham until he was 30 years old, when he moved to South Bend, Indiana. He served as a Deacon and worked with the youth for many years at Donmoyer Church of Christ in South Bend, Indiana. For two years, he served in the DPS and for 12 years, he was a constable in Young County. Jim moved to Katy in 1979 and was a member of the Katy Church of Christ. He was a volunteer firefighter for 35 years and was integral in forming the West I-10 Fire Department. He was also a security guard at Cinco Ranch Junior High.

Jim Edward Williams, Sr. passed away on Thursday, February 17, 2022, in Katy, at the age of 86.

He is survived by his children, Elizabeth Frances "Beth" Koonce of Sealy, and Charlie Williams and his wife Sandy of Katy; four grandchildren, Katherine, Kristina, Rebecca, and Joshua; and five great grandchildren, Corbin, Trey, Kinley, Grant, and Grace. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Jim Edward Williams, Jr.; and his wife, Paula Williams.

At this time, no services are scheduled.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601, www.alz.org.

Funeral services held under the direction of: Schmidt Funeral Home 1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~ Katy, Texas 77494 ~ (281) 391-2424

RODEO

from page A1

where he saw a special rodeo. He said it served as a moneymaker for that local FFA. He said he later saw a special rodeo in Magnolia.

When Bochat joined Seven Lakes High School when it opened in 2005, he decided Katy should have a special rodeo of its own.

"I ripped it off," he said.

At first, students at Mayde Creek and Seven Lakes high schools took part in the special rodeo. Today, he said, students from all Katy ISD high schools take part.

Every year, Bochat said, a teacher will come to him to talk about a particular life skills student. They are at the special rodeo but do not want to take part or be touched, he said. But then they see their classmates pet the livestock, or ride the camel, and things change.

"It triggers them, and they want to be a part of it," Bochat said.

To see the smiles, he said, is the reason they do it.

"It's a feel-good thing, you know," Bochat said.

And while it is rewarding to watch life skills students ride horses, pet livestock and take part, Bochat said there was something even bigger going on.

"The biggest thing is for the kids to be together," Bochat said. "They want to be a part of it. Our FFA kids look forward to this because it's a big deal for them. It makes a bigger impact on the FFA kids than the special needs kids."

This year's show had about 150 life skills students, a scaling back from more than 500 such students two years ago. Bochat said the decision to scale back makes things



KATY ISD PHOTO

A life skills student poses with two student volunteers at the Katy Special Rodeo.

"Our FFA kids look forward to this because it's a big deal for them. It makes a bigger impact on the FFA kids than the special needs kids."

—Joe Bochat, Katy ISD FFA special rodeo organizer

more manageable.

The number of student volunteers has grown over the years. Today, two students from each of the Katy ISD high schools serve on a planning committee. Other students from the respective school FFA programs also take part. They hold the

livestock for the life skills students to pet and help out altogether.

The special rodeo also has sponsors. Bochat thanked the Rotary Club of Katy and Westside Chevrolet for their support.

The Katy Rodeo is a separate entity from the livestock show. But the rodeo performances coincide with the livestock show. Rodeo proceeds benefit the Katy ISD FFA programs.

The event takes approximately three months of hard work to organize. Bochat said the success of the event inspires him to come back and organize it again the next year.

"Putting this thing on every year is stressful," Bochat said. "But the community supports our kids so much. I felt like our kids needed an opportunity to give back to the community."

EDUCATION

from page A1

Houston-Katy. The four participated in a Feb. 17 panel discussion hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Issues like financial insecurity, food scarcity and a lack of child care for students are issues that colleges are working to address. In the case of food scarcity, Keshvala said each of the seven Lone Star College campuses have food pantries for students.

Having what Neal called "proper alignment" is important for student success. He said students often enter college unsure of what they want to do and are afraid of making a bad decision.

"People think they have only one chance," Neal said. "They don't know what they want to do and they are terrified of making a decision. They fear if they make a wrong decision, their life is shot"

To deal with this issue, Neal said, students should think of their

decisions in five-year increments. In other words, he said, what is the best decision for the next five years.

The pandemic has compelled a changing of the model for how schools provide the content the students need. Hodges said schools went from an environment of resistance to change to one of forced change. Now, he said, schools are being innovative in how they provide that coursework.

Glenn said the mark of a great university is its ability take a student from where he or she is and moves that student to where he or she needs to be. Community colleges must offer personalized learning pathways to their students, he said, because the way to master the educational issues facing students is to tackle them one student at a time.

Evolving times also required colleges to consider what programs to offer. Business, engineering, and

nursing are among the most popular fields of study.

Keshvala said Lone Star College now offers bachelor's degree programs in nursing, cybersecurity, and engineering/manufacturing. She said the college will soon offer another bachelor's program in emergency management.

That her college is offering these programs is not to compete with the bachelor's degree-granting institutions, she said. Instead, the college focuses on what programs are needed in the community. Hurricane Harvey and the pandemic helped persuade college officials to move forward with the emergency management program, she said.

Neal said the community colleges do not focus on the top 10 percent high school, but about the 100% of students enrolled at the time.

"The whole economy of the state of Texas depends on us getting this right," Neal said.

ELECTION

from page A1

the term of Ward A Council Member Frank Carroll, who had resigned that post. Thiele did not seek election in his own right to that seat. Dan Smith holds that seat today.

Thiele previously lived in Ward B and had a similar council experience there. In 2013, then-Mayor Don Elder Jr. appointed Thiele to serve in the Ward B seat held by then-Council Member Fabol Hughes, who resigned to seek and win the mayoralty. Thiele served the remainder of Hughes's term but did not seek election that year. Gina Hicks holds that seat today.

Hastings decided in December to retire after one term in office, which expires in May. Term of office is three years.

Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees

The position 1 and position 2 seats are on this year's ballot. Both incumbents have filed to seek re-election. Both have drawn multiple challengers.

Position 1 incumbent Duke Keller, a lawyer, has drawn four challengers. Victor Perez is retired.

Cicely Taylor is an educator. Saki Krishnamurthy is an engineer and executive. Eliz Markowitz is an educator.

Position 2 incumbent Lance Redmon, who works in industrial sales, has drawn two challengers. Bonnie Anderson is an IT manager. Patricia Haggard is a stay-at-home parent.

Both Keller and Redmon were first elected in 2019. Term of office is three years.

Brookshire City Council

Alderman positions 3, 4 and 5 are on this year's ballot.

Incumbent Alderman position 3 Kim Branch has filed for re-election. Branch will face Shirley Williams, who is retired.

Incumbent Alderman position 4 Lee Nelson Jones, a school employee, has filed for re-election. Jones will face Amanda Neuendorf, a teacher.

Incumbent Alderman position 5 Eric Green, a field operations manager, has filed for re-election. He will face two challengers.

Jeremiah Hill is a consultant. Ruth Abigail Rodriguez is an administrative professional.

POLICE

from page A1

added 500 law enforcement positions."

Patrick said the court's vote was a slap in the face to its citizens.

"Crime rates only continue to skyrocket in Harris County," Patrick said. "People are begging for safer streets, and our police officers have outlined the resources they need to combat this dangerous spike in crime, yet the county commissioners are turning a deaf ear."

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo disagreed.

"Don't believe the hype of those who say we're defunding the

police," Hidalgo said in a tweet. "They're just grasping at straws. And we're not just tough on crime, we're getting smart with program that get to the root of gun violence."

Cagle's precinct includes much of Katy. He spoke about the budget before a Katy Area Economic Development Council meeting on Feb. 15th at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Freeway.

Cagle said he and Ramsey agreed that when "you hear someone say they want to be smarter, they're about to say no to what your local law enforcement is asking for."

Cagle said the county, by fol-

lowing best police practices from elsewhere, has seen the crime rate has gone up locally.

"By following Chicago's policies, we've now surpassed Chicago with the number of our murders," Cagle said. "Go figure."

Cagle said the two of the most sought-after changes were pay parity and more officers, a problem familiar to many local governments.

"It's harder to hire and retain employees because we pay less," Cagle said.

Cagle said the approach he favored was to look at the 2018

county budget as a baseline. This was the same year Hidalgo was elected, and Democrats took a 3-2 majority on the court.

Cagle said some departments have increased their funding, but those programs were not what the county should be doing.

"Tom Ramsey and I approached the same problem in two slightly different ways," Cagle said. "Okay, Tom went through the budget and cut things that he saw that were clearly not necessarily core functions like county government should be doing."

Cagle said based upon those

cuts that Ramsey found, the county could afford the funding requests received. But Cagle admitted the plan wouldn't have passed given the court's makeup.

"We knew they would never vote for our proposition," Cagle said, adding that he and Ramsey were prepared to show their colleagues what areas should be cut. He said the differences were a matter of perspective, and that he was looking at things from a taxpayer perspective.

"They've had to tighten their budgets," Cagle said. "We should, too."



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Where do I turn for help?

Tim Davis is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to safe money strategies for retirement.

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Social insecurity

A quarter of a million dollars. That's the amount that I've paid in FICA payroll taxes during my working career, according to my recent Social Security statement.

FICA, which stands for "Federal Insurance Contributions Act," "is a payroll tax that helps fund both Social Security and Medicare programs, which provide benefits for retirees, the disabled and children," says the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The FICA tax also will partially fund — at least I hope it will — my retirement years.

My statement says I am eligible to begin receiving Social Security payments of \$1,851 a month when I hit age 62.

If I wait until I am 70, I'll receive \$3,370 a month — which is a nice little chunk of dough.

However, if I had invested the \$250,000 FICA deducted from my earnings on my own, I'd have, according to my money manager, more than \$1.5 million socked away.

If I drew a conservative 4 percent of that \$1.5 million every year, I'd be collecting a \$5,000 retirement check every month right away.

Of course, that is assuming I would have saved and invested all the money that FICA took from my weekly paychecks.

More likely, me knowing me, I would have blown most of it on nicer cars and more vacations.

Saving money for your future is hard, even for more-disciplined people.

My parents raised six kids on one income and had a lot of big bills along the way, so saving money for the future was not always possible.

They now rely on the Social Security payments they receive every month to help them cover their basic expenses.

Millions of elderly Americans are in the same precarious financial boat.

The Social Security Administration reports that about 40 percent of Americans 65 and older receive half of their retirement income from Social Security — and about 13 percent rely on it for 90 percent or more of their income.

It takes some of the sting out of the 15.3 percent FICA tax that is imposed on my self-employed earnings to know that my contributions are helping others get by in their old age.

But will Social Security be around to help me in my old age?



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The Social Security Administration reports that about 40 percent of Americans 65 and older receive half of their retirement income from Social Security — and about 13 percent rely on it for 90 percent or more of their income.

Social Security is now paying out more than it is taking in and the funds working taxpayers contribute now go directly to Social Security recipients.

But what about the Social Security "trust fund," which saved trillions of the surplus tax contributions that had rolled in for years?

The partially good news is that it will not run out of money until 2034 — at which time Social Security payments will have to be reduced, taxes will have to be raised or more money will have to be borrowed.

The bad news is that its funds were "invested" in government bonds, which the federal government happily spent on day-to-day budget expenses, such as foreign wars, food stamps and the national debt.

As the great columnist Charles Krauthammer explained in 2011, the Social Security trust fund is filled not with money but with special-issue government IOUs that can only be repaid by raising taxes or borrowing even more money.

In any event, it's anybody's guess how much my monthly Social Security checks will be, so let me make the guys at the Social Security Administration an offer.

How about you give me back my 250 large in return for removing me from your rolls?

What do you say, SSA?
Hello?

Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



Do you want your receipt?

Yes, receipts do seem to breed like rabbits in my poor overstuffed-with-credit-cards-and-gift-cards-and-loyalty-cards-and-hastily-scribbled-notes wallet.

But that's my personal problem to sort through at home in my quieter moments.

That's why I'm deeply disturbed by the recent phenomenon of retail clerks putting me on the spot with some variation of "Do you want your receipt?" or "Would you like your receipt?" Snap judgment time!

I can understand "Would you prefer the receipt in the bag?" or "Would you rather have the receipt emailed?"; but the stark all-or-nothing question is extremely triggering.

Call me old school, but I like taking transactions for granted. Stop with the existential interrogations! What's next in the realm of impertinent retail inquiries? "Do you want the milk left in the jug?" "Would you prefer a fitting room with or without a latch?"

In my more mischievous moments, I'm tempted to eye the "Do you want your receipt?" clerk warily, whip out my phone and fake a conversation along the lines of "Snipers in place? We've got a hostage situation here."

What's driving this sudden change? Does it have something to do with our carbon footprints?



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

If my accepting four square inches of waxy paper and storing it in a desk drawer is going to strangle a sea turtle somewhere, I apologize (and wonder how the wimpy little reptiles would handle an asteroid crash).

Besides, isn't it "too little, too late" (ecologically speaking) to talk a customer out of a receipt right before he gulps down his Slim Jim, hops in the cab of his monster truck and roars off to work clearcutting virgin forests?

Or maybe the reluctance to print a receipt is a cost-cutting measure. Hey, if you're teetering on the brink of insolvency like that, you'd better be extra-good to me, or I'll push you over the precipice. ("Yes, I want my receipt. Duplicates of my receipt! And a wad of napkins for my glove compartment. And some ketchup packets. I don't care if this is a furniture store — I want my ketchup packets!")

Or maybe the Stepford Clerks are dutifully following corporate directives to be extra helpful. Hey, if sparing me from the horrors of an overstuffed shirt pocket gives

them the jollies, I can think of even more ways for them to find bliss. My shed needs decluttering this weekend, and how's about watering my plants while I'm on vacation?

Are customers expected to reciprocate when clerks make these grand gestures? ("Okay, I'll dance at your wedding, and I'll co-sign your loan, but I'll have to think about this kidney donation thing, Cindi with An I.")

Most receipts never see the light of day again, but it's short-sighted to relinquish your receipt when you could very well be haggling with Customer Service over returns of an ill-fitting garment or a non-functioning electronic gadget. ("I swear I bought this here. Please give me credit. Pretty please, with a cherry on top. No, I can't prove I paid for the cherry, either...")

Retailers aren't doing shoppers any favors when they cajole them into facing an income tax audit without a shoebox of receipts. ("I know I could've deducted my new printer if I had the receipts, but Zachary with a W made such a persuasive case.")

Back off, clerks! I grew up when "proof-of-purchase seals" meant something. You'll pry my receipts from my cold, Sugar Smacks-infused fingers.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."



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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD academic decathlon teams advance to state competitions

Eight Katy ISD Academic Decathlon teams are headed to the Texas Academic Decathlon Event on Feb. 24-27.

The competition will take place in two cities. Cinco Ranch, Katy, Morton Ranch, Paetow, Seven Lakes and Taylor high schools will each send a team of nine students to San Antonio. Jordan and Tompkins will compete in Frisco. A total of 80 high schools will be competing.

"The curriculum, provided by the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) changes every year and includes roughly 1,000 pages of high-level curriculum covering math, music, economics, science, literature, art and social studies," Dr. Joan Otten, director of Katy ISD Gifted & Talented and Advanced Academics, said. "To be part of a decathlon team speaks volumes of a student's dedication in overcoming challenges of high-level academic tasks."

As part of the competition, students will also prepare and deliver a memorized speech, give an impromptu presentation, participate in a sit-down interview with three judges and write a 50-minute paper.

The Texas Academic Decathlon Event is the second-largest academic program in the nation, where students have the opportunity to be one of the beneficiaries of \$200,000 in scholarships. The highest-scoring team will advance to the United States Academic Decathlon competition, which will be held virtually.

Katy ISD students spell their way to competition

Beckendorff Junior High seventh-grader Eric Dong

advanced to the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee to compete against spellers from school districts around the Houston metro area.

On Feb. 14, Dong, along with Abdelrahman Sayed, who will serve as the backup contestant, were identified as the district's top two spellers out of a field of 57 from across Katy ISD.

"Spelling bee competitions are more than just spelling words," Karen Muller, the district's elementary curriculum and instruction director, said. "Participants spend countless hours learning definitions, pronunciations and roots of thousands of words. We are proud to have two Katy ISD learners earn such a respected recognition."

The spelling bee will be held via Zoom, with Round One consisting of an online test containing 25 spelling and 25 vocabulary questions. The top finishers will advance to the Houston Public Media Zoom Bee.

Only two spellers from this tournament will advance to the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee, scheduled to take place from May 29-June 3 in National Harbor, Md.

Royal High School students lead blood drive

Royal High School health science teacher Jillian Pike joined Royal Health Science students in chairing a blood drive on Feb. 10. The blood drive was a success and helped to save 195 lives. On Feb. 11, Falcon Health Science students went to Lone Star College for instruction in medical math and medical terminology.

"We have been busy, with more to come," Pike said. "There really are some amazing things going on at Royal."

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

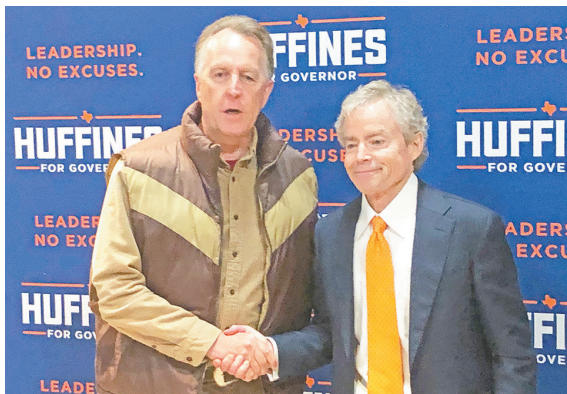
PARADE CELEBRATES KATY RODEO, LIVESTOCK SHOW



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Riders in the annual Katy Rodeo Parade show the flag as they ride down Katyland Drive near the 5th Street intersection. Saturday's parade celebrated the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show and Katy Rodeo and has long been a Katy tradition.

MEET & GREET



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Republican gubernatorial candidate Don Huffines (right) spoke Friday morning at the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce Breakfast. He spoke with Dawid Pieterse (left), Katy Cares president, after the event.

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Grant enables student to raise a pig for FFA



Mayde Creek High School senior Alcatrez Salazar pets her pig, Chavalita, at the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show.

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Chavalita is a 200 lb. pig being raised for this year's Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show. She loves marshmallows and belly rubs.

Thanks to a grant from the local Knights of Columbus, Chavalita—Spanish slang for “little girl”—can get those marshmallows, along with the shampoo and conditioner that she needs. She can also have the required wood shavings on the floor of her pen.

Alcatrez Salazar, a Mayde Creek High School senior who is raising Chavalita, gives the belly rubs.

Salazar said she has always liked animals and a teacher encouraged her to raise one for the FFA competition. But raising a pig is an expensive proposition, and Salazar worked with her father to budget the money. The Knights of Columbus grant made it possible to pursue this goal.

“I was happy because I knew I

couldn't afford a pig,” Salazar said. “For me to get one, it was really nice.”

Salazar adopted Chavalita last October. But Chavalita wasn't ready to go whole hog on the relationship at first.

“When I got her, she didn't want me to pet her,” Salazar said. “But little bit by little bit, she wanted me to pet her. She loves belly rubs. You can pet her. and she will just lay down.”

Still, Salazar said if she leaves the pig pen gate open, Chavalita will run out.

Raising a pig is a seven-day-a-week job. Salazar said she wakes up early and rides the bus to come take care of Chavalita. In the afternoons, after class, she catches a ride with a classmate who is also raising an animal at the Gerald D. Young Agriculture Sciences Center, 5825 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

Should Chavalita win the grand champion award, Salazar would receive a ribbon, belt buckle, and money she would put towards her

schooling.

“I hope I make it,” Salazar said. “We'll see.”

Alas, Chavalita failed to win the ribbon Thursday.

This is the only year Salazar will be raising livestock. After she graduates from Mayde Creek, Salazar plans to attend Lone Star College and work towards becoming a stenographer.

Salazar said she has really enjoyed the experience of raising Chavalita, though they will part company. Salazar will continue her schooling. Chavalita, like the other livestock, will eventually be on someone's plate.

Yet she encouraged other students to get involved in FFA and raise animals.

“It's a lot of effort, but you can do it,” Salazar said. “I would tell them to join FFA. If they don't want to raise an animal there are a lot of things you can do. The teachers are really sweet. The Ag teachers will always be there.”

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD dedicates Agricultural Sciences Project Center to FFA teacher

The Katy Independent School District Saturday dedicated its agriculture sciences project center after Gary A. Vos, a former FFA teacher who continues to inspire students and staff.

Vos said he was humbled and blessed to have been a part of the agriscience program in Katy.

“It is indeed an honor to have a facility dedicated in my name,” Vos said. “I really appreciate everyone who has been involved in this process.”

Vos began his teaching career with Katy ISD in 1981, where he taught at both Taylor and Mayde Creek high schools. He spent his remaining 20 years as an agricultural sciences teacher at Katy High School. Vos was instrumental in the continued success of the FFA chapters in Katy ISD.

Vos, along with several other teachers, laid a foundation of hard work and dedication for students, parents and the community, that continues today. This foundation has contributed to making Katy ISD one of the premier FFA programs in



Gary and Angela Vos



Texas. Under his leadership, the district saw state wins among their leadership and career development events teams, as well as numerous champions in the show ring.

Vos retired from teaching in 2006 after 25 years of service. Vos and his wife, Angela, continue to support the students who participate in the district's agricultural sciences program by sponsoring calves in the Katy ISD Rodeo Calf Scramble.

The Gary A. Vos Project

Center opened in February 2019 as part of the Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center. The project center serves as an extension to the campus classroom, as well as a research hub for students as they experience hands-on projects in the field of agricultural sciences.

The Vos Project Center's primary purpose is to support the district's role in agricultural education. It also serves many other purposes, including a recent critical role as Katy ISD's COVID-19 testing site.

Annual Royal FFA Livestock Show, Junior Auction and Parade set

The Royal FFA Parade Committee has begun preparations for the upcoming 66th Annual Royal FFA Livestock Show, Junior Auction and Parade. This year's theme is “Get Your Kicks on Route 66 with the Royal FFA.”

The livestock show will be from March 30-April 2. The parade begins at 10 a.m. April 2 at the Brookshire Police Department.

A Royal ISD division trophy will be awarded to the best group that represents the them from one of the district campuses.

Royal High School student Alexis Ibarra for designed the 66th Annual Royal FFA Livestock Show and Sale Logo.

Falcons giving back: See a need, fill a need

Royal High School teachers Jillian Pike, Frank Cobio and Cesar Gonzalez spent a cold and drizzly Saturday morning with some students picking up trash in the area. One student played soccer Friday night and was tired, but still showed up to help. The student went above and beyond by offering to also pick up trash he saw on the junior high campus.

Pike said Royal has some great students.

“There are really good kids at Royal,” Pike said. “I am proud to be a part of this team. I hope when you see these kids out in the community you can say thank you to them.”

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



Royal ISD art students won awards at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. “Rodeo Cowboy,” a piece by Royal High School student Joshua Camacho, pictured, is advancing to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo student art contest auction. Meanwhile, Royal Junior High 6th grader Ashley Perez on won Junior High Best of Show in the art competition with her painting, “Henry the Longhorn Calf.”

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WEEK OF FEB. 24

SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Scores

- Seven Lakes 69, Fort Bend Austin 46
- Fort Bend Dulles 64, Tompkins 59

Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Pearland, 5:30 p.m., Merrell Center

BOYS BASKETBALL

Scores

- Seven Lakes 55, Fort Bend Travis 41
- Paetow 60, Lake Creek 47
- Mayde Creek 63, Ridge Point 53
- Clements 40, Tompkins 37
- Fort Bend Elkins 60, Cinco Ranch 44

- New Caney 58, Jordan 51

Schedule

- Seven Lakes vs. Bellaire, TBD
- Mayde Creek vs. Stratford, TBD
- Paetow vs. Manor, TBD

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Jordan at Waller, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia, 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

- Jordan vs. Waller, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Magnolia, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 7:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

BASEBALL

Thursday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Woods, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Ridge Point, 5 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Waltrip, 11 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Austin, 2 p.m.
- Katy vs. Richmond Foster, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Beaumont Westbrook, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Springs, 11 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Dulles, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Austin, 11 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Waltrip, 2 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Channelview, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Fort Bend Travis, 5 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Cy-Ridge, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Lamar, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. San Antonio Reagan, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Flower Mound, 5 p.m.

- Reagan, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Westside, 11 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Klein Cain, 4:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Ridge, 11 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, 5 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Fort Bend Austin, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Langham Creek, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Langham Creek, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Austin, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Cy-Woods, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Richmond Foster, 5 p.m.

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. San Antonio Reagan, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Springs, 5 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Westside, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Flower Mound, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Ridge Point, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Channelview, 11 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Richmond Foster, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Woods, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Westbrook, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Dulles, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Lamar, 11 a.m.

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Flower Mound, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Lamar, 5 p.m.
- Jordan Channelview, 11 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Springs, 2 p.m.
- Katy vs. Dulles, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. San Antonio

SOFTBALL

Thursday

- Cinco Ranch at The Woodlands Tournament
- Katy vs. Jersey Village, 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Dobie, 3 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Park, 1:45 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Austin, 3:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Red Oak, 10 a.m.
- Paetow vs. North Forney, noon
- Seven Lakes vs. Barbers Hill, 5 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Deer Park, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins at Haynie Spirit Tournament

- Paetow vs. Centennial, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Midlothian, noon
- Seven Lakes at Langham Creek, 6 p.m.
- Tompkins at Haynie Spirit Tournament

Saturday

- Katy vs. Barbers Hill, 3 p.m.
- Katy vs. Bridgeland, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Northbrook, 9 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Alief Taylor, 10:45 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Lubbock Coronado, 9:30 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Jersey Village, 3 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Texas City, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins at Haynie Spirit Tourney

Friday

- Katy vs. vs. Tomball, 6:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Klein Cain 6 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Saturday

- Katy ISD Invitational at Paetow

ON TO REGIONALS

CARLTON'S TRIPLE-DOUBLE LEADS SEVEN LAKES PAST FORT BEND AUSTIN, INTO REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Justice Carlton has continued to raise the bar in her sophomore season.

That has continued into the playoffs, as Carlton has kept increasing her level of play game after game.

"It looks like the whole thing revolves around Justice, but really, Justice is the center of all things revolving," said Seven Lakes head coach Angela Spurlock. "We don't play better unless she plays better, and then when she starts to play better and put together nights like that, other players have more confidence."

The sophomore forward may not yet know her own peak, but Carlton keeps resetting the bar and had one of her best games yet on Tuesday at the Merrell Center, as she put together a 44 point, 21 rebound, 10 block game to help Seven Lakes beat Fort Bend Austin 69-46 and advance to the regional tournament.

"At this point, it's not about the points, it's not about the rebounds and it's not about the blocks," Carlton said. It's about just doing it for my team. I'm just trying to do what it takes to win for my teammates at this point."

See **REGIONALS**, page B5



Seven Lakes' Justice Carlton drives to the basket guarded by Fort Bend Austin's Brittney Adeck during the Regional Quarterfinal playoff game at the Merrell Center.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Brooklynn Nash shoots a floater during Tuesday's Class 6A regional quarterfinal against Fort Bend Dulles at the Merrell Center.

Tompkins run ends with regional quarterfinal loss to Dulles in OT

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins' confidence never faltered. Whether it was a slow start, a deficit in the fourth quarter or struggles on offense or defense, the Falcons found a way to overcome adversity all year and all playoffs.

Tompkins showed that same confidence and fight they've shown all season on Tuesday, but it wasn't enough in the regional quarterfinals, as Tompkins fell

64-59 to Fort Bend Dulles in an overtime matchup that was tight until the very end.

"They continued to fight," said Tompkins head coach Tammy Ray. "They have grits and guts, but it just didn't go our way tonight. Hats off to Dulles because they kept fighting, and we just couldn't get that string of stops and we couldn't get a string of scores. It shows up, that's playoff basketball."

See **FALCONS**, page B5

Regional Quarterfinals Ahead

TOMPKINS SURVIVES SECOND STRAIGHT OVERTIME GAME TO ADVANCE

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has gotten comfortable in tight games. Even overtime games.

For the second straight playoff game, the Falcons found themselves in a matchup that went to overtime and came down to the wire.

But the group was undeterred, and for the second straight game, came away with a victory, 57-51 over Stratford on Friday at the Merrell Center in the Class 6A area round.

"We're kind of used to in now," said senior guard Brooklynn Nash. "We know how to handle it and we know what needs to be done. We just have to go out and execute."

Tompkins struggled on offense and with their defense at times, but fought through everything to scrape their way to a win.

"That's great to see because that fight is something that can't be coached into them," said Tompkins head coach Tammy Ray. We have

See **TOMPKINS**, page B6



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Noah Simiskey and Luke Simank celebrate after Seven Lakes clinched an outright district title with a win over Taylor on Wednesday at the Seven Lakes gym.

Seven Lakes clinches first district title since 2014 with win over Taylor

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Grant Van Hoozer watched from the bench last year as Taylor beat Seven Lakes and clinch a district championship. An ACL injury had kept Van Hoozer sidelined all season and it didn't sit right to him or his teammates as they watched the Mustangs celebrate against them.

So that made it so much sweeter for Van Hoozer that the Spartans had a chance to clinch an outright district title against Taylor on Seven Lakes' home court during senior night on Wednesday. "It meant a lot to me to have this chance," Van Hoozer said. "Especially since I played on varsity my sophomore year. We didn't get to compete for district that year. And then last year having to watch as we competed for a district title but lost, that hurt. So, coming back, having a chance to play at home and clinch this district title, it's special. Especially in front of this home crowd."

Seven Lakes took care of business in front of its home crowd, coming away with a 59-40 win over the Mustangs on the Spartans' senior night to clinch a District 19-6A title outright and lock up the one seed in the district as well.

"It means a lot for us," said sophomore guard AJ Bates. "Last year it was really tough, we lost by 30 against a great Taylor team and they won district. This year, we had a team loaded with seniors and we wanted this. We wanted to send them out on their senior night on a good note and rebound from last year. It was just awesome to get this win."

Seven Lakes jumped ahead from the opening tip and didn't leave any doubt as to the result to the game, leading Taylor 17-5. The Spartans continued to push the lead in the second quarter despite putting backups in at times and senior guard Noah Simiskey went on a personal 13-0 run at one point after being subbed into the game.

"It was awesome to get



AJ Bates throws a lob pass during Wednesday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Seven Lakes gym.

all those guys time on the court tonight," Bates said. "No one sees it but those guys, they do so much for everyone. They help us out so much in practice, they give us the best looks and their energy is always amazing. No matter what matter what situation we're in they're always there for us, and I'm just glad that they got to enjoy their night."

The Spartans' lead continued to grow in the second half as the team celebrated its upcoming achievement as time continued to run out on the game.

The Spartans have ten seniors on the team, and the achievement was a long time in the making for head coach Shannon Heston, as the Spartans had not come away with a district title since the 2014 season.

"It's a culmination of

guys who take time to put in the work seeing the reward firsthand," Heston said. "I think that a lot of times if you're willing to put in the work, it takes time to see the results, and that's what we have preached to these guys for two years. It's great to see it pay off for them."

With the first seed in district secured, the Spartans are confident heading into the playoffs.

"We're not satisfied yet," Van Hoozer said. "We've won a district championship, but we are still hungry going into the playoffs. We're going to stay that way and try to make a run."

District 19-6A
Seven Lakes 59,
Taylor 40
Points: (SL) Tahaad Davis 13, Noah Simiskey 13,

AJ Bates 11, Steve Bluiett Elijah Movanus 4, Josh Akpovwa 3, Luke Simank 3, Ethan Van Horn 3, Dylan Garcia 2, Gabriel Farias 2; (T) Troy Harris 20, Brett Wakefield 5, Caden Chavez 3, Darian Scott 2, Luke Robbie 2, Jonathan Xi 2, Chase Gawlikowski 1
Halftime: Seven Lakes 31-11; 3-pointers: (SL) Simiskey 3, Davis 2, Bluiett, Simank, Van Horn; (T) Harris 2, Gawlikowski, Chavez; Records: Seven Lakes 32-4, 11-1; 8-23, 1-10



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Jordan's Kaeli White won a gold medal in the 200-yard freestyle at the Class 5A swimming and diving meet on Saturday. Taylor's Nick Schmid finished third in the 100-yard fly at the Class 6A swimming and diving state meet.

White becomes Jordan's first state champ with win in 200-yard freestyle

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

• Daniel Barrientos, Tompkins, 433.80, 10th

Kaeli White became the first state champion in Jordan's school history on Saturday by winning the girls 200-yard freestyle. The Jordan girls finished seventh as a team at the meet, scoring 104 points overall. The Warriors made the finals in 11 different events and had seven top 10 finishers at the meet.

Taylor also earned a medal in the Class 6A meet, as Nick Schmid came in third in the 100-yard fly. Schmid also made the final in the 200-yard IM and came in 14th.

Following are the full list of Katy ISD finals finishers at the State swimming and diving meet:

Class 6A
BOYS
200 Yard Medley Relay
• Taylor, 1:33.66, 5th
• Tompkins, 1:36.52, 14th

200 Yard Freestyle Relay
• Cinco Ranch, 1:25.86, 11th
• Tompkins, 1:26.74, 16th

200 Yard Freestyle
• Connor Jones, Tompkins, 1:39.89, 9th
• Andrew Lee, Taylor, 1:40.95, 13th

300 Yard IM
• Nich Schmid, Taylor, 1:51.56, 14th

50 Yard Freestyle
• Logan Pack, Taylor, 21.12, 11th

100 Yard Fly
• Nick Schmid, Taylor, 48.97, 3rd

1-Meter Dive
• Matthew Aigner, Tompkins, 441.55, 9th

GIRLS

1-Meter Dive
• Kailey Koval, Seven Lakes, 437.15, 6th
• Avery Coates, Katy, 414.25, 10th

100-Yard Breaststroke
• Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch, 1:02.86, 4th
• Mariana Diaz Ponce, Taylor, 1:03.08, 6th

Class 5A
BOYS
1-meter diving
• Kaiden Duvall, Jordan, 326.15, 13th

200 Yard Freestyle Relay
• Jordan, 1:28.06, 8th

400 Yard Freestyle Relay
• Jordan, 3:12.77, 11th

100 Yard Freestyle
• Sebastian Leal, 48.16, 15th

GIRLS
200 Yard Freestyle Relay
• Jordan, 1:38.43, 4th

200 Yard Medley Relay
• Jordan, 1:51.58, 10th

400 Yard Freestyle Relay
• Jordan, 3:38.69, 12th

100-Yard Fly
• Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 56.80, 10th

200 Yard Freestyle
• Kaeli White, Jordan, 1:51.13, 1st

200 Yard IM
• Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 2:06.21, 9th

500 Yard Freestyle
• Kaeli White, Jordan, 4:59.40, 4th

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PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD
Tamyra Mensah-Stock was inducted into the Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Honor.



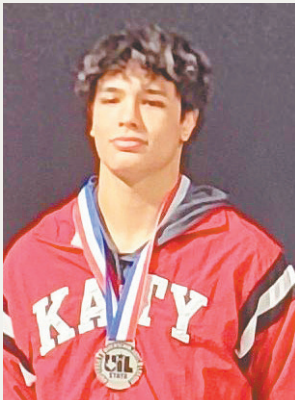
Katy head coach Vinnie Lowe was inducted into the Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Honor.



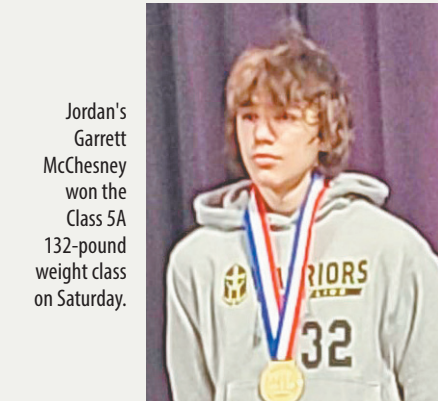
Taylor's Matthew Bone won the Class 6A 160-pound weight class.



Jeremy Manibog won a silver medal in the Class 6A 145-pound weight class.



Juan Pablo Garcia won a silver medal in the Class 6A 152-pound weight class.



Jordan's Garrett McChesney won the Class 5A 132-pound weight class on Saturday.



Mayde Creek's Rewa Chanda placed third in the Class 6A 215-pound weight class.

Jordan, Taylor, Katy wrestlers take home gold at state meet

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan's Garrett McChesney claimed the school's first gold medal in wrestling on Saturday, as he beat Thomas Pacheco of Amarillo Tascosa to win the Class 5A 132-pound gold medal match. Joining McChesney was Taylor's Michael Bone with a gold as he won the Class 6A 160-pound weight class by beating Arlington Martin's Grayson Carpenter in the gold medal match, as did Katy's Rodney Trotter, who won the Class 6A 285-pound weight class by beating Caleb Jinks of South Grand Prairie. The Katy boys finished fourth overall at the meet, scoring 70 points, while the Seven Lakes girls finished eighth overall with 37 points. During the meet, Katy wrestling coach Vinnie Lowe and Morton Ranch alum Tamyra Mensah-Stock were both inducted into the Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Honor for their achievements. Mensah-Stock won a gold medal at the last summer Olympics. Following are the full Katy ISD results from the State Wrestling Finals on Saturday.

BOYS

Class 6A

- 113-pounds**
 - Jose Salinas, Seven Lakes, 5th
- 145-pounds**
 - Jeremy Manibog, Katy, 2nd
- 152-pounds**
 - Juan Pablo Garcia, Katy, 2nd
- 160-pound**
 - Michael Bone, Taylor, 1st
- 170-pounds**
 - Tomas Fuentes, Cinco Ranch, 4th



Katy's Rodney Trotter won the Class 6A 285-pound weight class.

- Mike Amico, Seven Lakes, 5th
- 285-pounds**
 - Rodney Trotter, Katy, 1st

Class 5A

- 132-pound**
 - Garrett McChesney, Jordan, 1st
- 160-pound**
 - Yader Muller, Paetow, 4th

GIRLS

Class 6A

- 148-pounds**
 - Judea Higgins-Morris, Katy, 6th
- 165-pounds**
 - Nina Amico, Seven Lakes, 5th
- 185-pounds**
 - Annmarie Janssen, Seven Lakes, 4th
- 215-pounds**
 - Rewa Chanda, Mayde Creek, 3rd

PLAYOFF PREVIEWS

Katy ISD boys playoff field set

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Katy ISD playoff field is set after Wednesday's games with six teams getting ready for the postseason. There are a slew of interesting matchups and a number of teams in the school district could potentially make a run deep into the playoffs.

District Champs ready to make a run

As Seven Lakes locked up the district 19-6A championship with a win over Taylor, they already had their eyes on their next goal. "We aren't finished, that's the cool thing," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston to his team after the win. "We proved a point to the district, now it's time to prove a point to Houston." The Spartans are in prime position to make a run behind a strong core that includes Tahaad Davis, AJ Bates, Josh Akpovwa along with a total of ten seniors that bring a wealth of experience to the table. The Spartans feel like they have unfinished business in the playoffs after suffering a 30 point loss to Fort Bend Travis in the bi-district round and they'll have a chance to avenge it.

Paetow looks to one-up last year's team

Paetow has had their eyes on making a run towards state since the beginning of the season and hasn't wavered. The Panthers come off of a 16-0 record in District 19-5A and clinched the top seed out of the district. Led by a group of seniors that made a run to the regional finals last year, including Trevor Frank and Charles Chuckwu, they bring playoff experience and talent to the playing field. When you inject that with even more talent from players such as Abou Camara and Kam Ingram, the Panthers are a very dangerous team heading into the playoffs.

Tompkins looks to get back on track

The Falcons put themselves in a fight for the District 19-6A championship with a win over Seven Lakes earlier this month but ultimately came up just short after suffering a loss to a talented Mayde Creek team. But Tompkins bounced back with wins over Cinco Ranch and Katy to close out its district schedule, bouncing back strongly. The Falcons have a ferocious defense and also have versatile scorers on offense, led by a group including Jason Clark, Carmelo Yakubu, Luke Coughran and Nick Lancit.

Mayde Creek not satisfied

Mayde Creek is making its fourth straight playoff appearance and has a young team, but the Rams aren't satisfied with what they've accomplished this year. "We've done that, now we don't want to just make it to the playoffs," said Mayde Creek head coach Anthony Fobb after the Rams clinched a playoff berth. "Now the goal is not to just make it, we're trying to go advance. We've got the team to do that." The Rams do have a lot of young talent, and they are peaking at the right time. The Rams stayed close against district champs Seven Lakes and then earned victories against Tompkins and Cinco Ranch to close out district play and earn the third seed. The Rams have three players averaging over 10 points per game in Angel Sonnier, Christian Jones and Jamal Chretien II, while Jones also averages five assists per game and Sonnier averages five rebounds.



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE
Tahaad Davis drives through the lane during Wednesday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Seven Lakes gym.



Paetow's Kamren Ingram shoots a floater during Tuesday's District 19-5A basketball game against Jordan at the Jordan gym.

Jordan hopes to build on successful first season

Teams aren't supposed to make the playoffs in their first year of varsity play. But that's exactly what Jordan has done, going 12-4 in District 19-5A play to finish third in district and earn a chance at their first playoff win in their first season. "I tell them all the time, 'what you guys are doing is not normal, it's hard,'" said Jordan head coach Charlie Jones after Jordan clinched a playoff berth. "Schools that just open up, they don't make the playoffs, they haven't won 19 or 20 games." Jordan has a group that can shoot the lights out and play high quality offense, led by Shawn Mitchell, who is averaging nearly 15 points as well as five rebounds and three assists and Trevor Martz who is averaging 13 points and eight rebounds per game.

Cinco Ranch has tough task in first round

Cinco Ranch put itself in a good position heading into the final stretch of District 19-6A play but floundered down the stretch, losing its final three against tough playoff teams in Seven Lakes, Tompkins and Mayde Creek and having to settle for the fourth and final playoff spot in the district. The Cougars finished with a 6-6 record in district play and will need a bounce back performance in the first round if they are to advance. With a team including, Josh Lennon, Prince Jones-Bynum, Omer Saeid and Hunter Betke, the team has the ability to play strong both offensively and defensively and give themselves a chance in the bi-district round.



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MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes' Justice Carlton gets the block on a shot by Fort Bend Austin's India Jackson during the Regional Quarterfinal playoff game at the Merrell Center.

REGIONALS

from page B1

Seven Lakes got off to a tremendous start in the game but Austin stayed close through one quarter as the Spartans led 17-11. But Seven Lakes opened things up in the second behind an onslaught on offense to take a 38-22 lead into the half, as Carlton scored 26 points in just the first two quarters.

"We knew it would be important to have a fast start," Carlton said. I feel like my teammates understood the assignment and we saw getting it inside was working, so they kept feeding it there and it gave us that momentum and energy early in the game. That definitely helped us."

The Spartans put things beyond a doubt, as they allowed just seven points in the third quarter and then cruised to the win in the fourth.

It's the first regional

semifinal appearance for Seven Lakes since the 2012-13 season, and the group is excited for the opportunity.

"I'm super excited, I know these girls are super excited too," Carlton said. "None of us have ever gotten the chance to play in a regional tournament before, so it's a new one for us and we just want to go out and make history with this chance."

Seven Lakes will play Pearland at 5:30 p.m. on Friday at the Merrell Center with a shot at the regional final on the line.

"It means a lot," Spurlock said. "This will be my third time as a coach to make the regional tournament and the second time for Seven Lakes. It means everything, because when kids set goals, it's our job as coaches to make sure they reach their goals. It's not for me, it's for

the representation of every player who has put on the uniform here at Seven Lakes, and there's been some good ones. I'm excited to get back to the regional tournament, and if not us, who?"

Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal

Seven Lakes 69, Fort Bend Austin 46

Points: (SL) Justice

Carlton 42, KK Tucker 14, Summer Halphen 7, Aliyah Atiqi 4, Caitlyn Quintero 2; (A) Andrea Sturdivant 19, Gabrielle Johnson 10, Aminah Dixon 5, Kelechi Dike 5, India Jackson 4

Halftime: Halftime: Seven Lakes 38-22; 3-pointers: (SL) Carlton 2, Tucker, Halphen; (A) Sturdivant, Dixon; Records: Seven Lakes 33-6; Fort Bend Austin 29-6

FALCONS

from page B1

Dulles and Tompkins battled from the opening tip and Dulles took a lead after the first quarter 14-13. The Falcons tried to battle back in the second but Dulles answered every basket with a score of their own, and Tompkins trailed by two at the half.

Tompkins continued to fight and even after trailing by as many as seven points in the fourth quarter, found a way to battle back, going on a 9-0 run to take the lead with three minutes remaining in the game.

"There was just such a chemistry with everyone on the team," said junior guard Macy Spencer. "There was just such a great chemistry between everyone here and we all wanted to fight and wanted to win. We were always pushing each other."

Tompkins and Dulles continued to go back and forth and with 15 seconds left in regulation, Brooklynn Nash put the Falcons up by two with a layup. But Dulles answered right back with a bucket at the buzzer to send Tompkins to its third straight playoff overtime game.

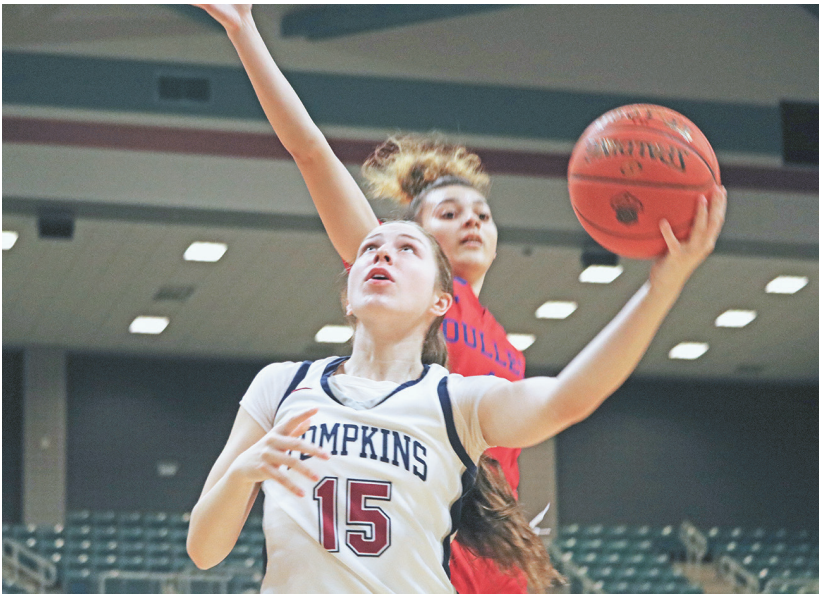
Tompkins couldn't keep up in the overtime period and Dulles was able to pull away for the victory.

Tompkins will graduate two players in Brooklynn Nash and Kennedy Bourque from a team that broke the Falcons single season win record and finished 35-4.

"We had a lot of doubters, but we overcame and pushed past what everyone thought we were going to be," Spencer said. All in all we had an amazing season and I just thank everybody for that. The seniors were a big part of that."

It was a surprise season for some, as Tompkins had eight newcomers on the team yet managed to come one step away from making it to the regional tournament.

"When we tipped off in November, I had no idea what this team would become," Ray said. "I had no idea. We had four people back, one starter back and eight new ones. I had no idea this was going to be the story, you couldn't



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Emma Potts shoots a layup during Tuesday's Class 6A regional quarterfinal against Fort Bend Dulles at the Merrell Center.



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Macy Spencer celebrates after scoring an and-1 during Tuesday's Class 6A regional quarterfinal against Fort Bend Dulles at the Merrell Center.

have told me, couldn't have predicted it, I would have never believed it. I'm just so proud of them."

Tompkins will return 10 varsity players next season and while the loss

is still fresh in the minds of everyone, Ray knows that the postseason experience will be a help for the returners and make them all stronger.

"Losing stinks, if you don't like how this feels, then it needs to be rattling around in your brain when we go through postseason. You come back hungry and that's part of the life lessons you get through athletics and it's a lesson that you can't win them all. You're going to experience loss and it's about how you regroup, face that adversity and go back and fight again. I can only imagine what next year will look like with all of them coming back and adding some JV kids too."

Class 6A Regional Quarterfinals

Fort Bend Dulles 64, Tompkins 59

Points: (T) Macy Spencer 31, Brooklynn Nash 7, Gabby Panter 6, Rihanna De'Leon 5, Bella Riggan 4, Emma Potts 4, Kennedy Bourque 2; (D) Peyton Overton 29, Nya Threatt 17, Alia Diop 10, Kakiya Thompson 3, Dai Dai Powell 3, Taylor Gerard 2

Halftime: Dulles 25-23; 3-pointers: (T) Spencer 2, De'Leon; (D) Overton 4, Thompson; Records: Tompkins 35-4; Dulles 26-6

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Jones & Carter, Inc., attention Cameron M. Miller, PE, will be **electronically** received until 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 10th, 2022**, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Water, Sanitary, Drainage, in Sunterra Section 37 for Katy 1039, Ltd. on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 569, Harris County, Texas."

The bids will only be received electronically bid through CivcastUSA. The electronic bids will be publicly opened and read via conference call. Physical bids will not be accepted.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large public gatherings are not permitted by law. Bids will be publicly read aloud at the time bids are due via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 427259974# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Water, Sanitary, and Drainage Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on March 3rd, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. **The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 364192516# when prompted.**

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

Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the following locations:

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

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

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

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Katy Times



Katy, Cinco's seasons end in bi-district round

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Both Katy and Cinco Ranch fell in the bi-district rounds to end their seasons.

Katy finished third in district, while Cinco Ranch finished fourth to set up tough playoff matchups in the first round.

Katy comes close but can't top Dulles

Katy put everything into it but came up just short against Dulles.

Dulles came out 51-47 victors, but it wasn't without very stressful moments that the Tigers gave them.

Katy led after each of the first three quarters, including an 8-6 lead after the first quarter and 17-16 lead at halftime. Lyric Barr had seven points in the first half and Bri Nelson had five points in the first half.

Katy extended its lead to four points at the end of the third quarter, but Dulles came roaring back in the fourth as Nya Threatt scored six points in the quarter to lead the Vikings to the win.

Nyla Wold finished with nine points for Katy, while Barr, Nelson Ashlyn Alexander all came away with seven points in the loss for Katy.



PHOTOS COURTESY DAVE SANDERS | FORT BEND HERALD

Katy's Brianna Nelson boxes out a Fort Bend Dulles defender during Monday's game..

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT

Fort Bend Dulles 51, Katy 47

Points: (K) Nyla Wold 9, Lyric Barr 7, Ashlyn Alexander 7, Bri Nelson 7, Ella Robinson 6, Ashlei Angel 5, Darcy Swanson 3, Emi Pickard 3; (D) Nya Threatt 17, Dai Dai Powell 13, Jakiya Thompson 8, Peyton Overton 7, Alia Diop 6

Halftime: Katy 17-16; 3-pointers: (K) Robinson 2, Pickard, Wold, Alexander, Angel, Swanson; (D) Powell 2, Thompson 2, Threatt, Overton; Records: Katy 23-9; Dulles 25-6



Daniele Williams shoots over defenders during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Fort Bend Austin.

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT

Fort Bend Austin 64, Cinco Ranch 50

Points: (CR) Aniya Foy 26, Danielle Williams 12, Madison Mascorro 11, Isabella Hartle 2; (A) Gabrielle Johnson 23, Idia Jackson 14, Kelechi Dike 10, Andrea Sturdivant 9, Aminah Dixon 8

Halftime: Fort Bend Austin 33-28; 3-pointers: (CR) Foy 3, Williams; (A) Sturdivant; Records: Fort Bend Austin 28-5, Cinco Ranch 17-11

Cougars fall to Fort Bend Austin in bi-district

Cinco Ranch knew it would have its hands full with District 20-6A champions Fort Bend Austin.

The Cougars put up a fight, but ultimately came up short against the Bulldogs, losing 64-50 in the bi-district round.

Aniya Foy kept the Cougars in it in the first half, scoring 18 points

in the first two quarters as Cinco overcame a 18-9 first quarter deficit to only trail 33-28 at halftime. But Austin was able to pull away in the second half as Anna Kirkpatrick scored 10 points in the half

and Gabrielle Johnson scored nine in the half to lead the Bulldogs to the win.

Foy finished the night with 26 points, while Danielle Williams had 12.



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above, Brooklynn Nash drives to the basket during Friday's game between Tompkins and Stratford at the Merrell Center. Left, Macy Spencer fights through contact during Friday's game.

TOMPKINS

from page B1

a lot of things to work on, but the effort and fight isn't one of them."

Stratford came out with a hot start and jumped on Tompkins early, but the Falcons composed themselves and climbed back into it late in the first quarter. But Stratford still led 15-10 after one.

"We didn't play well early," Nash said. "But I've seen that we have the will and we all just want to work together, work hard and move the ball around as a team. We had to get back to moving around, getting open and finding the best shot on every possession."

Tompkins continued to claw their way back into the game and finally gained the lead in the second quarter, and the Falcons led

23-20 at halftime.

Stratford tried to take junior guard Macy Spencer out of the game by face guarding her at all times and for the second straight game, it opened things up for Nash. Nash scored 10 points in the first half and finished with 21 in the game to lead the Falcons.

"She's taken over in these two games," Ray said. "Teams have tried to take Macy out of it and she's a young player and still learning how to pull through and we have a lot of grit. We just have what it takes in these moments."

Spencer took it upon herself to lead the team in overtime, going 6-6 at the free throw line to finish with 15 points and taking over

headed into the fourth.

Stratford though, wasn't done.

The Spartans climbed back into the game behind six points from Jasmine Green in the quarter. They tied things late and Tompkins had a chance to win it at the buzzer, but Nash's layup was swatted away by Green as time expired with things tied at 47.

"I've always said that this team loves to fight," Spencer said. "Even in tough situations we always find a way to pull through and we have a lot of grit. We just have what it takes in these moments."

Spencer took it upon herself to lead the team in overtime, going 6-6 at the free throw line to finish with 15 points and taking over

when needed to seal things.

"Last game we went into overtime to and I just knew what I needed to do," Spencer said. "I was just like 'you know, I'm going to do whatever it takes.' We all want to win so bad. Brooklyn was doing so good again and I just wanted to do my part. I'm a good free throw shooter so I just made sure to get the ball and hit my shots at the line."

Tompkins advances to the regional quarterfinals, where they will play Dulles at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Merrell Center.

"We just need to figure out what our opponent is doing sooner and figure out what works on defense," Nash said. "This game it took us

a long time to figure out how to guard them and realize we needed to play man."

CLASS 6A AREA ROUND

Tompkins 57, Stratford 51

Points: (T) Brooklynn Nash 21, Macy Spencer 15, Kennedy Bouroque 6, Rihanna DeLeon 5, Fiyin Adeleye 4, Gabby Panter 4; (S) Jakyla Cheeves14, Audrey Hernandez 11, Jasmine Green 9, Maggie Parker 7, Rachel Ashby 5, Nilou Mahmoodpour 3, Holly Horton 2

Halftime: Tompkins 23-20; 3-Pointers: (T) Nash, Spencer, DeLeon; (S) Hernandez 3, Cheeves, Mahmoodpour, Ashby; Records: Tompkins 35-3; Stratford 14-16





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