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VOLUME 110, ISSUE 9

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

2 KISD trustees censured for ethics violation



DAWN
CHAMPAGNE



LEAH
WILSON

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Two Katy Independent School District trustees received censures Thursday for failing to disclose communications with plaintiffs suing the district and misrepresenting their contact with those plaintiffs.

Censured were Dawn Champagne, the position 7 trustee, and Leah Wilson, the position 4 trustee. Champagne also served as secretary and as the district's representative to the Texas Association of School Boards, or TASB. Both those roles were taken from her as part of a board leadership reorganization.

Position 1 Trustee Duke Keller was elected secretary. Position 5 Trustee Greg Schulte, the board president, was appointed as the district's TASB representative. Trustees approved the censures and leadership changes at a special Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees meeting.

Champagne, who works in retail sales, is in her second term on the board. She was first elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2021. Wilson, who is retired from the U.S. Air Force, is in her first term on the board. She was elected in 2020.

See **CENSURE**, page A3

City seeking public input as it updates its strategic plan

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The consultant who is working with city officials to update the city's strategic plan said she expects an updated plan to be ready for city council approval early next year.

Meredith Dang is a community planning practice leader with Kendig Keast Collaborative. She spoke of the plan's development at a Feb. 24 special joint meeting of the Katy City Council and the city's planning and zoning commission.

Dang said developing the plan will be in five stages. The stages are:

- Identifying where the city is presently.
- Devising top priorities.
- Developing the concrete recommendations with an eye towards 2040.
- Identifying how to implement those priorities and identify partners.
- Finalization and adoption.

Dang said the city's planning and zoning commission will review and approve the plan before it is submitted for council approval.

Dang said five factors stood out when discussing the city's priorities with

city leaders and the public. Those are the city's growth capacity, land use and development, transportation, economic development, and recreations and amenities.

Dang said she and her Kendig Keast colleagues are working with the city Parks and Recreation Department on a parks plan that is expected to be released in the summer. She said the parks plan is expected to be funneled into the city's overall plan. She said the city's current strategic plan is about 20 years old.

Dang said the U.S. Census reports the city's population at 21,894 people, a 55.2% increase since 2010. Housing developments such as Cane Island helped fuel that growth. But looking at the Greater Katy area as its own city, she said the population would be about 375,000 people. That figure would be ninth of the state of Texas in ahead of Corpus Christi (317,863), she said. Nationally, she said, the Greater Katy area is bigger than Cincinnati (309,317) and Pittsburgh (302,971).

Dang said 35% of the housing and city of Katy has been built since 2000, and that 50.9% of renters

See **PLAN**, page A3



BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

When William "Dusty" Thiele becomes Katy's mayor in May, he will be joining a fraternity of men who have held Katy's top municipal job. Many of his predecessors gathered for a relaxed, informal "Coffee with the Mayors" event on Feb. 24 at the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum, 6002 George Bush Dr.

There, they enjoyed visiting with people and shared their views, both about their time in office and Katy's challenges

going forward.

Mayor Bill Hastings, who retires in May, remembered his 2019 swearing-in as exciting.

"The night I was sworn in, it was kind of the culmination of my career, to have reached a milestone I never thought I would reach," Hastings said. "I was hoping to make 50 years of public service. But it will end up at 47. I'm three years short, but I'm happy."

Hastings said being mayor is "not a hard job if you don't make it one." He said city staff makes things easier to manage.

"If he keeps in touch with his employees, he'll see that it runs well with or without him," Hastings said. "He served as an interim council member on two occasions. He was on city boards for probably 10 years. He's familiar with City Hall and how things operate. We've got a great staff, a wonderful staff. We're fortunate in that aspect."

Hastings was police chief before he became mayor. He said city employees are the ones to focus on. He said the city cannot

See **COFFEE**, page A3

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Katy ISD dedicates Bill and Cindy Haskett Junior High School

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

In September 2020, Bill and Cindy Haskett were returning home from a funeral. They were thinking about their friend, the late long-time Stratford football coach Oscar Cripps, and had noticed how many of his former players came to the service.

"We were thinking about legacies," Cindy said.

But it was also during that ride home when they received a call from Katy Superintendent Ken Gregorski. He had good news.

Katy's newest junior high school, at 25737 Clay Road, would be named in their honor.

The school opened for

See **HASKETT**, page A2



Bill and Cindy Haskett pose with their official portrait to be displayed at the junior high school named in their honor.

Early returns for selected local party primary races

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

March 1 was the Democratic and Republican party primary election, in which voters in those parties chose their nominees for the November general election. Here are early returns for selected local party primary races.

Texas House of Representatives, District 132

Republican incumbent Mike Schofield cruised to an easy win in Tuesday's primary against Erik Le. He will face the winner of the Democratic primary

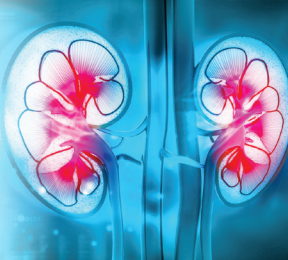
See **ELECTION**, page A2

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ELECTION

from page A1

between Chase West and Cameron Campbell. That race was too close to call at press time, according to the Texas Tribune.

District 132 is in Harris County and includes much of Katy.

Fort Bend County Judge

Democratic incumbent KP George won his party primary race against Ferral Bonner. George will face

Republican Trevor J. Nehls, who won his race against Max-Alalibo Ibifrisolam, according to KHOU.

Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner

Republican incumbent R. Jack Cagle had no opposition in his party primary. He will face the winner of a likely Democratic primary runoff between Leslie Briones and Benjamin Chou, according to the Houston

Chronicle.

The precinct includes much of Katy.

Harris County Judge

Democratic incumbent Lina Hidalgo had a commanding lead in her party primary. She will face the winner of a likely Republican primary runoff between Alexandra Del Moral Mealer and Vidal Martinez, according to KHOU.

HASKETT

from page A1

students last fall, and district officials dedicated it Feb. 22. The festive ceremony brought family, friends, and colleagues to celebrate the Hasketts' legacy of service to the district.

Cindy is a long-time math teacher. She taught at Katy Junior High School from 1980-2005, when she retired. Previously, she taught in the Richardson and Spring Branch school districts.

Cindy said at the ceremony that some friends traveled all the way from California for the ceremony. She encouraged the students to be the best they could be every day.

"You don't have to be excellent to start, but you have to start to be excellent," Cindy said.

Bill is a Katy High School graduate who later served as its principal. After Bill began his education career in 1967 in the Spring Branch Independent School District, he returned to Katy in 1978 as assistant principal at Katy High School. He became principal in 1981 and continued in that role 1996. He later served as director of community involvement and special projects, where he took on a number of duties. He

retired from the district in 2005.

Bill said they were overwhelmed by the honor. He thanked the many people who supported the idea of naming the school in their honor.

At the ceremony, Bill quoted Hall of Fame football coach Jimmy Johnson, who said that the difference between "extraordinary" and "ordinary" was the "extra."

The school is the district's 17th junior high school and is unique in that it has a solar farm that powers the campus. The district said the campus has 44 traditional classrooms and is designed for an enrollment of about 1,400 students.

Haskett Junior High is the home of the Huskies. The story of how the school nickname came about is one of happy coincidence to the family.

Cindy said when the district plans to open a school, it surveys the local community to seek feedback on a mascot. It turns out that the Hasketts' daughter, Kristen, owns a husky. Bill and Cindy have been keeping the dog while Kristen has been living in Asia with her own family. Cindy said nobody knew

what the mascot would be until it was actually decided.

Bill said they were happy to have a mascot named after a pet they have at home.

Both Hasketts remain active in the district. Fans attending Katy Tigers football games hear Bill's voice on the public address system. He also announced the Katy ISD Rodeo Parade from 2008-19. Cindy continues to serve as a substitute teacher.

"I've substituted at various campuses," Cindy said, adding that lately she has been substituting at Seven Lakes High School.

Cindy has also substituted at Haskett Junior High.

"I have substituted there several times last fall," Cindy said. "I enjoyed it very much. I hope to get to know the teachers better and some of the students."

Did she tell the students that was her and her husband's name on the school? Cindy laughed.

"I let them figure it out," Cindy said. "We have to wear photo IDs, and some of the students would look at my badge, and then me, and say, 'You're Cindy Haskett.' I would say yes, and that was neat."



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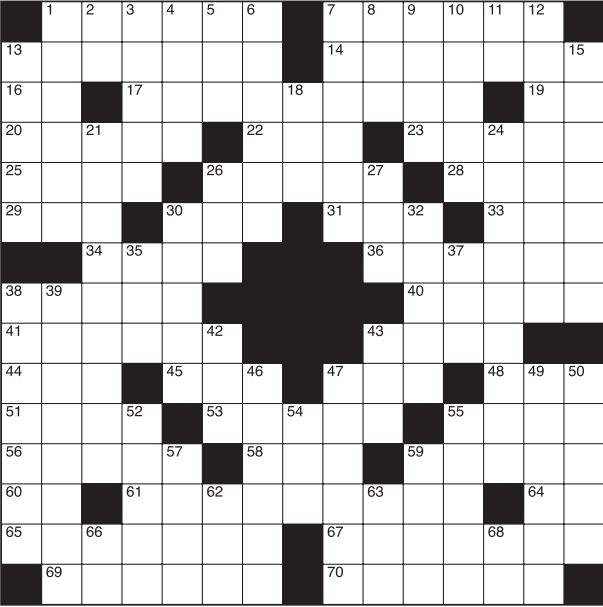
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Neckwear
- Fish parts
- Cooking
- Quality
- Rural delivery
- Popular superhero
- Partner to Pa
- Shivering fits
- Wrath
- Linguistics pioneer
- Large integers
- A way to prepare food
- Group of badgers
- Peyton's little brother
- Rock out
- Danish krone
- Take from with force
- Baroque musical instrument
- Zodiac sign
- Hebrew alphabet letter
- Independent member of a clone
- Type of garment
- Satisfy
- One point south of due east
- A way to wipe out
- Moved quickly on foot
- Bar bill
- An idiot
- Performed with the voice silent
- Body fluids
- Rhythmic patterns

CLUES DOWN

- Short, thick stick
- Rhode Island
- Animals of the horse family
- Very important persons
- Folk singer Di Franco
- Boredom
- Long speech
- Footballer Newton
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Linear accelerator
- One quintillion bytes
- Smallest interval in Western music
- Box
- Cheese dish
- Make a mistake
- Done by all people or things
- Circumference
- Chum
- Electrocardiogram
- Showed chain Jimmy —
- Shed old movie
- Important event on Wall St.
- Where wrestlers work



38. Free from contamination

39. Eastern Canada coastal region

42. Slang for gun

43. High schoolers' test

46. Fathers

47. Call it a career

49. Productive

50. Musical groups

52. Yellowish-brown

54. Lowest point of a ridge

55. Beloved late sportscaster Craig

57. Fill up

59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1

62. Frost

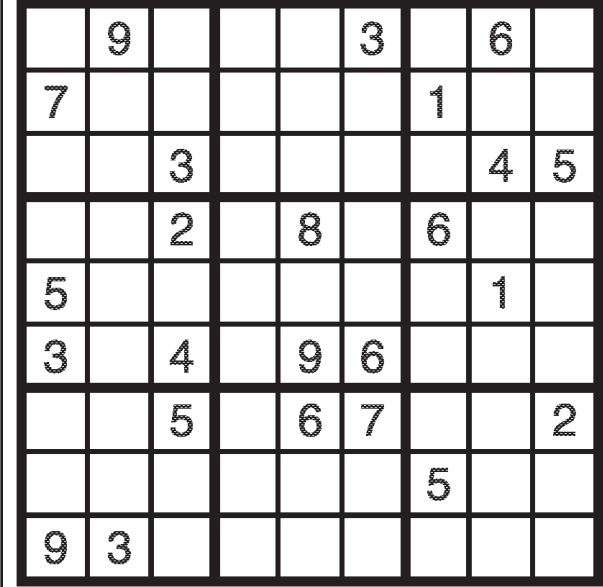
63. Jewel

66. Atomic #45

68. Top lawyer

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

CENSURE

from page A1

Champagne said the evidence against her was circumstantial and that she did not speak with the plaintiffs. She said while her titles could be taken away, she would continue fighting for students.

Position 3 Trustee Ashley Vann said Champagne’s heart “was in the right place, but she made choices she felt would benefit her.”

Wilson said she voted for the investigation to continue, knowing that she was one of the people responsible for the matter.

Vann commended Wilson’s response, thanking her for owning up and apologizing for her part in the matter.

The lawsuits involve Bronson McClelland, a former Katy High School student and football team quarterback. He played at Katy from 2018-20. He was considered a top prospect and had scholarship offers from some Division I university football programs.

Due to a number of incidents, by September 2020 Bronson was no longer a Katy ISD student. In November 2020, his family filed a lawsuit against the district, superintendent Ken Gregorski, and Katy High School principal Rick Hull.

McClelland today is a student at Trinity Valley Community College, where he plays on the football team.

A report summarizing the investigation’s findings said the McClellands had contact with a trustee that had not been reported to district officials.

“The production of documents included numerous text messages between Colburn McClelland, father of the plaintiff, and a Katy ISD trustee that were not previously provided in response to the district’s request for communications between trustees and representatives of the plaintiff,” the report said.

In November 2021, the board authorized to retain the Underwood Law Firm to investigate the matter. Champagne and Position 6 Trustee Rebecca Fox voted against the measure. Fox said then the money should

be spent on schoolchildren.

“I am not here to pass judgment, that is the duty of the people we work for,” Fox said. “In November, we were asked to hire a law firm to investigate this matter. Four months later, we’re here in this process has been a diversion from what we are supposed to do.”

Fox said missing the strategic planning session does not help the district reputation, but hurts it.

Redmon said the strategic planning session was pushed back so trustees could address the ethics issue and, after dealing with that, give the strategic planning session the focus it needed.

With additional reporting from R. Hans Miller and Dennis Silva II.

Links to law firm report and censures

Underwood Law Firm report to trustees <https://bit.ly/3pmofej>

Dawn Champagne censure <https://bit.ly/3picUvK>
Leah Wilson censure <https://bit.ly/3lu5hKm>

COFFEE

from page A1

have disgruntled employees and expect them to represent the city, or the mayor, well.

“It’s not what you do, it’s what the employees do, even with the police department,” Hastings said. “That was an easy job for me because we had so many great employees. You treat them with respect, you love every one of them, and they will work their butts off for you and make you look good.”

Hastings’s predecessor, Chuck Brawner, served from 2017-19. Today he works in his family business. Brawner remembered his mayoralty as starting off really well, but Hurricane Harvey, which came along in 2017, altered the plans. The city had to use some of its emergency funds for drainage repair and equipment. Brawner said it was money well spent.

“I really commend our staff,” Brawner said. “With all the debris, we had companies that came in and started cleaning up immediately.”

Brawner said dealing with the city’s growth will be a big challenge going forward.

“As you can see along the freeway, there’s more development,” Brawner said. “That is going to be a challenge to make sure the right kinds of buildings and products are being built in the city.”

The growth brings with it public safety challenges as well. Brawner said Katy competes with other Houston-area communities to hire and retain the best first responders. That competition will become more intense as the city continues to grow.

Fabool Hughes served from 2013-17. He remains active in the insurance business today. Like his mayoral colleagues, he remembered his swearing in as a very exciting time.

“I barely won by less than 1%,” Hughes said. “Just a handful of votes, and it would’ve gone the other way.”

On Hughes’s watch, the city focused on commercial development and annexing. It also built the current City Hall at 901 Avenue C. Hughes said the growth in the tax base meant the city shouldn’t have to raise taxes again.

“They were coming, whether we did anything or not,” Hughes said. “We did our best to accommodate them. If you look out west of here where you have Academy, Costco and Amazon—all those things raise money for the city. There’s so much money coming in. I’m just glad to be just a small part of what was going on.”

Hughes said Katy’s future is going to look really bright. He has already met with

Thiele about what might be expected.

“He just needs to be very assertive,” Hughes said. “Very assertive. Tell them how he wants it done. Don’t let the city run him, but he needs to run the city. I’ve had that conversation with him. Have his plan and work his plan. I think he’ll do well.”

Don Elder Jr. served from 2007-13. “It was great, because I had been in a lot of different positions,” Elder said. “School board, city council, all those areas. People said, why do you want to be mayor? I said, to give back to my community. It’s not a place where you build an ambition to run for higher office.”

Elder, who today serves as a director of METRO, said traffic is going to be a problem in the city.

“It already is,” Elder said. “Drainage is another big problem. There’s so much homebuilding in concrete going down. I’ve been in the concrete business for 30 years. The developers have to be honest with the people that are buying their houses, because if they are not, you’re going to have flooding and that’s going to be a big mess.”

Doyle Callender, mayor from 2001-07, does consulting work today. He remembered his first swearing in as very exciting. It was even more so, he said, because his parents could attend. Callender’s father has since died but his mother is 99 today.

“It was a very enjoyable day,” Callender said.

Callender said the city’s biggest challenge is to maintain the history of Katy while pursuing good growth and development.

“It is a balancing act,” Callender said. “You have to really think things out, and do what’s best for our community. It’s about establishing partnerships. You want to have great relationships with the three counties. It’s just a powerful partnership.”

Hank Schmidt, who served as mayor from 1995-2001, was not at the coffee but attended the previous one last October. He remains active in the community and with the funeral business.

Schmidt’s predecessor, Skip Conner, is active with the Katy Development Authority and in his own insurance business. Conner served as mayor from 1991-95. He said his swearing in was a very exciting time for him.

“It’s something I dreamed of for quite a while,” Conner said.

Conner said the city’s growth will bring more revenues, which in turn enables the city to provide more services to its citizens.

“Keeping it going with the staff the city has, it’s easier today. There’s more to manage today.”

PLAN

from page A1

pay more than 30% of their income and housing costs.

But while more people are living in Katy, they are not necessarily working there. Dang said approximately 26,800 people commute to jobs in Katy but do not live in the city. Meanwhile, 1,419 people live and work in the city, and 7,354 people live in Katy but commute to work elsewhere. She said 95% of local workers do not live in the city.

Before she shared these statistics with city leaders, Dang asked them to think of some of the city’s significant

accomplishments in recent years. She said these deeds might be used as a starting point in identifying what would need to be done next.

Ward A Council Member Janet Corte said the city has momentum with capital improvements for drainage and street improvements. Other accomplishments include the renovation of the downtown plaza across the street from City Hall, and cutting property taxes several times in past years while growing the city’s tax base through commercial development west of the city

and suburban development.

Despite these accomplishments, officials suggested there would be challenges. Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said one challenge was to promote the City of Katy. Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson said the city must show that it is proactive, not reactive, in dealing with issues such as drainage.

Dang said Kendig Keast and city officials would continue to solicit public input as it develops the new plan.



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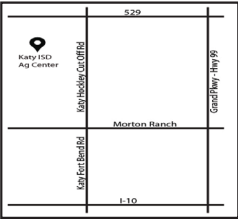
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Sandy Hook parents beat the gun merchants

Who who abhor gun violence and loathe gun merchants have been dreaming of the day when a few aggrieved parties pull off a miracle and gain a small measure of justice.

So, it was sweet this week to learn that nine families devastated by the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre of 2012 had extracted a \$73 million settlement from Remington Arms, the company that had manufactured and hyped the Bushmaster AR-15 that enabled some loser to decimate 20 little kids and six grownups with 154 bullets in a span of 264 seconds.

The settlement, after more than five years of litigation in the Connecticut courts, is downright historic. There are no guarantees that such justice can be replicated in other mass shootings, for reasons I will explain, but a moment of celebration is certainly warranted.

To this day, I can't bear to look at pictures of those Sandy Hook kids, but that's just me. The Senate Republicans who stonewalled gun reform after the massacre were apparently less moved. So was Remington Arms, which fought the Sandy Hook lawsuit tooth and nail for years. Their predictable instinct was to defend their Bushmaster ad campaign—the one it featured in civilian catalogues with slogans like these:

The uncompromising choice when you demand a rifle as mission-adaptable as you are... Military-proven performance... The ultimate combat weapons system...

Forces of opposition, bow down. You are single-handedly outnumbered...

Consider your man card reissued...

Remington believed the Sandy Hook parents had no power to sue and that they had total immunity from lawsuits thanks to a 2005 federal law, pushed by the NRA, that blessed Big Gun with blanket protection. What a great deal it was and continues to be, courtesy of President Bush (who signed it) and the Republicans in Congress (along with help from some Democrats, like Bernie Sanders). The law is creatively named "The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act."

Well, those little kids in Connecticut—those so-called "forces of opposition"—were indeed "single-handedly outnumbered." But the good news is that the parents found a loophole. The federal act said it was still OK to sue gunmakers for "knowingly" violating state laws that address the "sale or marketing" of a firearm.

And it just so happens that Connecticut has an Unfair Trade Practices Act, which bars deceptive and unfair conduct of trade or commerce. Under that state law, a commercial practice is deemed unfair if it is "immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous." Turns out, according to the Connecticut courts that handled



the Sandy Hook lawsuit, that selling "mission adaptable" military hardware to civilians for offensive (pun intended) combat purposes indeed met the definition of immoral and unethical.

So, Remington decided to throw in the towel and settle (without formally admitting any guilt, naturally). Or, to be more precise, Remington's insurers are paying the \$73-million tab because Remington as an entity went bankrupt a few years ago. Legal niceties aside, it's the first time that an American merchant of death has ever been held accountable.

The big question is whether this is the dawn of a new day for the families of mass shooting victims—or a rarity. Adam Winkler, a UCLA law professor and gun policy specialist, said this week in an Axios broadcast: "This settlement is going to encourage more lawsuits... The kinds of advertising that were used by Remington in this case were not unique to that company. Many of the gunmakers have marketed these AR-15 style military assault rifles in ways that emphasize combat violence, and appeal to the kind of hyper-masculinity that the families accused Remington of doing."

But the 2005 federal immunity law will still be a huge hurdle for aggrieved families elsewhere, especially in states that have weak unfair trade laws—or no such laws at all. State courts may be less amenable than the Connecticut courts. And ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court has the final word on gun rights, and we're all familiar with its ideological composition. The 6-3 right-wing majority can't touch the Remington settlement, but it takes little imagination to guess how it would rule if a similar lawsuit crossed its radar. Besides, the gunmakers can always devise new ways to advertise their deadly goods so as not to run afoul of other states' laws.

Nevertheless, if the settlement in Connecticut makes it even a wee bit harder for some loser somewhere to attain his "man card," then perhaps some innocent lives will be saved. As Joseph Marshall III, a Native-American historian, has wisely remarked, "Success is rarely the result of one swell swoop, but more often the culmination of many, many small victories."

On the gun violence front, may we celebrate many more.

Dick Polman, a veteran national political columnist based in Philadelphia and a Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, writes at dickpolman.net. Email him at dickpolman7@gmail.com.

Research: Christianity declining in US ...



Put on your church genes

From the time that I was still being knit together in my mother's womb with some defective parts God had left over after making my big brother (he made me write that part), I've been attending Southern Baptist churches.

In fact, one of the first known photos of me was taken on a Sunday morning in 1970 when I had recently been de-wombed and my mother was posing with me in the front yard, both of us wearing heavily-polyestered church clothes.

So, I guess you could say that I grew up with red Vacation Bible School Kool-Aid coursing through my veins, and my Southern Baptist heritage has had a profound impact on my worldview—including the high value I place on a 9 X 13 casserole dish.

Here are a few signs that you, too, were raised in the nap-proof wooden pews of Southern Baptist (or similar) churches in the 1970s and 80s.

First, you were always excited about the prospects of a trip to the fellowship hall—because it usually involved red Kool-Aid and/or several 9x13 casserole dishes.

And speaking of food, you knew that "dinner on the grounds" was a sacred form of congregational picnic that featured, you guessed it, red Kool-Aid and several 9x13 casserole dishes.

And speaking of more food, you knew that when the Lord's Supper was being administered in "big church," the sermon might be a little shorter, and the Dallas Cowboys were probably playing at noon.

And speaking of even more food, you considered stale Certs mints and Clorets gum from your mother's purse appetizers to get you through that fourth verse of "Just as I Am" before you headed to the fellowship hall, dinner on the grounds or home for a lunch

JASE GRAVES
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seriously, though, I feel truly blessed that my parents exposed me to the gospel shared in church when I was growing up. I've often heard that going to church doesn't make you a believer any more than standing in a garage makes you a car. But for the sake of protection, repair and general maintenance, a garage seems like pretty good place for a car.



art supplies. (The hymnal also served as an excellent lap desk for tithing envelope sketch art and tic-tac-toe.)

You also knew that "God," "Jesus," "Pray," "Read your Bible" and "Go to church" were the correct answers to approximately 90% of all Sunday School teacher questions.

When the choir director told the congregation to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord," some of us only paid attention to the "noise" part.

Seriously, though, I feel truly blessed that my parents exposed me to the gospel shared in church when I was growing up. I've often heard that going to church doesn't make you a believer any more than standing in a garage makes you a car. But for the sake of protection, repair and general maintenance, a garage seems like pretty good place for a car.

And for an imperfect human like me, the church has been instrumental in helping me to stay aligned, balanced, and all those other car metaphors I might know if I wasn't so automotively challenged.

A recent Gallup study showed that since 1999, church membership in the U.S. has dropped by a full 20%, which seems to explain quite a bit about the times in which we live. And although churches aren't perfect places full of perfect people, America might be a different country if more folks still attended church, loved one another and recognized the value of a 9x13 casserole dish.

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in *Texas Escapes* magazine, *The Shreveport Times*, *The Longview News Journal*, and *The Kilgore News Herald*. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

Katy Times

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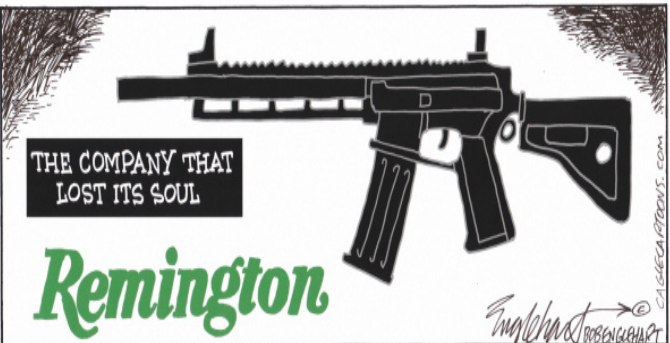
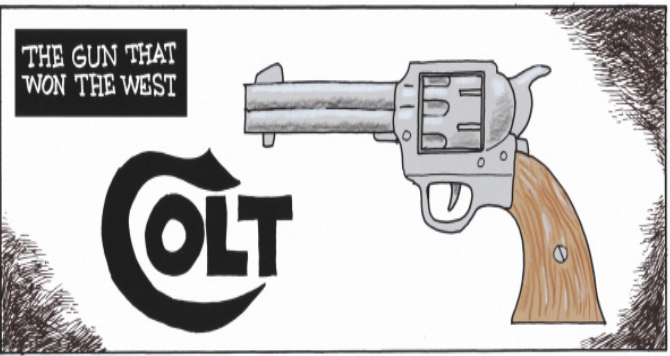
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Sheriff's office hosting hiring event

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's office will host a hiring event from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, in Richmond.

Interested applicants can register onsite for the event.

Applications are being accepted to fill several positions, including patrol deputies, detention officers, and 9-1-1 dispatchers. Event attendees will have a chance to speak with an HR recruiter about available positions, learn about the hiring process, and get answers to frequently asked questions.

For more information about upcoming hiring events and career opportunities at the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office, visit the website fbcsheriff.org and click Careers, or visit the website fortbendcountytx.gov for a list of open positions. Interested persons may also email fbcsohr@fortbendcountytx.gov, call 281-238-1586, or visit [Facebook.com/FortBend-CountySheriffsOffice](https://www.facebook.com/FortBend-CountySheriffsOffice).

NEWEST OFFICER



Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz welcomes the department's newest officer, Cecilia Darrehshoori.

KATY POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRIBUTE

Patricia Louise (Pat) Hope, age 77, beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, of Katy, Texas passed on to Heaven on Monday, the 21st of February, 2022. Mrs. Hope was preceded in death by parents, John Charles Jamison and Pauline Erie Jamison, sister Carol Megge, and by husband, William John (Jack) Hope, III. Mrs. Hope is survived by daughter Annette Pessagno and son-in-law James P. Pessagno of Houston, Texas, daughter Rebecca Hinson and son-in-law Kenneth Hinson of Katy, Texas, grandchildren Amanda Simmons and husband Christopher Simmons of Pearland, Texas, James A. Pessagno and wife Amber Pessagno, also of Pearland, Texas, Haleigh Chumchal and husband Trey Chumchal of Houston, Texas, and grandsons Kevin Hinson of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Jeffery Ross of Katy, Texas, and by great grandchildren Marz Chumchal and Jax Chumchal, Elliette Simmons, and James Austin Pessagno. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations to Meals on Wheels - donations can be made at mealsonwheelsamerica.org. Pat was witty and funny, and loved to dance and sing. She will be terribly missed by her friends and family, though we know, in Heaven, she's dancing again.



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KISD Destination Imagination teams advance to state

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Ninety-eight Katy ISD teams showcased their imagination and creativity during this year's Destination Imagination (DI) Gulf Coast Regional Tournament. Students earned several trophies, medals and some bragging rights.

Thirteen teams will now advance to the Lone Star Finals State Tournament set for March 25-26. Elementary, junior high and high school learners from Katy ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, Lamar Consolidated ISD and several private schools participated in the Feb. 12 tournament at Cinco Ranch High School. The following 1st-3rd place teams took home trophies.

- Alexander Elementary, team name Rumbling Rockets, 1st place
- Campbell Elementary, team name Golden Thinkers, 1st place
- Exley Elementary, team name The Jokers, 1st place
- Exley Elementary, team name DinoMite, 1st place
- Shafer Elementary, team name The Improv Einsteins, 1st place
- Shafer Elementary, team name Creative Crew, 1st place
- Shafer Elementary, team name The Daredevils, 1st place
- Morton Ranch Junior High, team name The Nerd Herd, 1st place
- Tays Junior High, Tricky Twix, 1st place
- Seven Lakes High, team name The Goodfellas, 1st place
- Seven Lakes High, team name Houston We Have a Problem, 1st place
- Seven Lakes High, Frenzied Revelers, 1st place
- Bryant Elementary, The Improvables, 2nd place
- Creech Elementary, Celestial Comets, 2nd place
- Griffin Elementary, team name The Microscopic Masterminds, 2nd place
- Beckendorff Junior High, team name Off topic!, 2nd place
- McMeans Junior High, team name Radioactive Ducks, 2nd place
- Seven Lakes High, team name Frenzied Revelers, 2nd place
- Alexander Elementary, team name Da Rainstormers, 2nd place
- Campbell Elementary, team name Campbell Frenzy, 3rd place
- Davidson Elementary, team name The Micro Dragons, 3rd place
- Jenks Elementary, team name Jester Jaguars, 3rd place
- McRoberts Elementary, team name Box O' Brains, 3rd place
- Wolman Elementary,

team name Mission Possible Clown Protocol, 3rd place

- Beckendorff Junior High, team name The Dregs, 3rd place
- Cinco Ranch Junior High, team name Innovative Thinkers, 3rd place
- Memorial Parkway Junior High, team name DI Dynasty, 3rd place

Among several recognitions, the following teams also earned "High Instant Challenge," or High IC, medals:

- Exley Elementary, team name DinoMite, High IC
- Hayes Elementary, team name Pickle to Cucumber, High IC
- Katy Elementary, team name Mystic Tigers, High IC
- McRoberts Elementary, team name Box O' Brains, High IC
- Shafer Elementary, team name The Improv Einsteins, High IC
- Tays Junior High, team name Tricky Twix, High IC
- Seven Lakes High, team name Frenzied Revelers, High IC
- Seven Lakes High, team name Frenzied Revelers, High IC
- Seven Lakes High, team name The Goodfellas, High IC

"DI is a unique opportunity that challenges students to use 21st-century skills of collaboration, communication, creative thinking and critical thinking to solve complex problems," said Dr. Joan Otten, director of gifted & talented/advanced academics, said.

Additionally, Katy ISD had one senior level team compete in an advanced Instant Challenge called "Extreme." The Seven Lakes High School team "Frenzied Revelers" won 2nd place and will advance to state as well. This year, the competition will take place in Arlington. Hundreds of teams will compete during the event in hopes of earning awards and advancing to the final Global Level Tournament in May to be held in Kansas City, Mo.

DI is an extraordinary non-profit organization that provides educational programs for students to learn and experience creativity and teamwork. In preparation for a tournament, students choose a "Challenge," prepare a solution to the challenge, and present their solution in a highly creative skit. Additionally, all teams participate in an "Instant Challenge," which is a test of their improvisational skills. Their final score is a combination of the two events. Over 100,000 students in more than 30 countries participate in DI annually.

District's process for selecting library books still under debate

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The ongoing community debate about what books should be selected for, or removed from, Katy Independent School District libraries continued at Monday's school trustee meeting.

The regularly scheduled trustee meeting followed last week's Katy ISD "Freedom Week," a student-led initiative in which students distributed 170+ books to about 150 students at several district high schools.

Cameron Samuels, a Seven Lakes High School student who was among the leaders, said on social media that the books were BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of color) and LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) affirming. Samuels said more books are expected to be distributed at future events.

Samuels told trustees he relied on LGBTQ-affirming literature when he was younger and learning who he was.

"The impact is nothing but positive," Samuels told trustees. "We need to be represented in the literature we read in class. Censorship is not the legacy to create."

Another speaker, Shannon Flores, said she strongly opposed removing books for any reasons, adding that queer students are more likely to experience bullying and isolation.

"We are a diverse community, though you wouldn't think it by looking at the makeup of the board,"



KATY ISD
Mary Ellen Cuzela speaks at Monday's Katy school board trustee meeting.

"No books have been removed for content for which someone may or may not agree with."

—Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD superintendent

Flores said.

Not everyone agreed. Mary Ellen Cuzela, a district substitute teacher, said she did not understand how district officials were unaware of the "Freedom Week" book distribution initiative. She said books were distributed at Seven Lakes, Taylor and Jordan high schools.

"Ahead of the event, I asked for a list of the books, but the school didn't have it," Cuzela said. "I know of a few parents who tried to attend

KISD FFA auction brings in over \$815,000

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Student livestock projects for the 2022 Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show have raised a record \$815,480.

This year's livestock show consisted of more than 450 student exhibitors.

Rabbits

- Grand Champion: Mary Haseltine, Tompkins High School, \$6,500
- Reserve Champion: Aubrey Elston, Katy High School, \$5,500
- Grand Champion Showman: Jan Betancourt, Cinco Ranch High School, \$3,000
- Reserve Champion Showman: Ella Mirabelli, Cinco Ranch High School, \$1,700

Broilers

- Grand Champion: Kasen Colvin, Katy High School, \$16,000
- Reserve Champion: Madelyn Roxburgh, Taylor High School, \$6,000
- Grand Champion Showman: Claire Butler, Taylor High School, \$2,500
- Reserve Champion Showman: Jamie Hahn, Katy High School, \$2,700

Goats

- Grand Champion: Samantha Crumrin, Tompkins High School, \$7,000
- Reserve Champion: Tabitha Jarrell, Taylor High School, \$6,999
- Grand Champion Showman: Ja'Loni Haden, Mayde Creek High



KATY ISD
Taylor High School sophomore Abigale Dilday with her grand champion steer.

School, \$4,000

- Reserve Champion Showman: McKenna Guyton, Cinco Ranch High School, \$3,000

Lambs

- Grand Champion: Grayson Schneider, Taylor High School, \$7,500
- Reserve Champion: Melanie Carcamo, Morton Ranch High School, \$6,500
- Grand Champion Showman: Grayson Schneider, Taylor High School, \$7,500
- Reserve Champion Showman: Julissa Umanzor, Paetow High School, \$5,000

Swine

- Grand Champion: Trinity Reagan, Katy High School, \$12,000

the meetings, but the doors were locked. An assistant principal told one mother that parents were not allowed. Why?"

One book that Cuzela expressed concerns about is "Flamer," by Mike Curato.

"This is a book currently under review by the district for vulgarity," Cuzela said. "Allowing this book to be handed out at a 'freedom' event on school campuses behind locked doors is beyond unacceptable, and complicit with sharing harmful information with minors."

Cuzela said her opposition to this particular book, or books like these, was not about book banning. She said these titles were available in public libraries and bookstores. Nor, she said, were they solutions providing guidance to LGBTQ students.

"It is about protecting children from this kind of sexual detail," Cuzela said. "It's porn in print."

Superintendent Ken Gregorski said the district has followed board policy on book evaluation and possible removal from libraries.

"No books have been removed for content for which someone may or may not agree with," Gregorski said.

The district created an app last December to enable parent feedback on books purchased for school libraries. Feedback gathered through the app would help district officials decide to keep or remove a particular book.

For more information on the app and to download it, visit the website <https://bit.ly/3K5czoa>.

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City cancels mayoral election

Council also sets criteria for ward redistricting process

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday canceled the May mayoral election because it was uncontested. It also began the process by which the city’s two wards will be reconfigured to meet federal voting rights laws.

William “Dusty” Thiele, an insurance executive, is the only candidate to file for the mayoralty. In May, he will take the oath of office and succeed retiring incumbent Mayor Bill Hastings. Thiele has served on two different occasions on the city council. He has served on several city boards and commissions. Term of office is three years.

The council is comprised of one at-large member, two members from Ward A, and two members from Ward B.

Attorney Gunnar Seaquist, of the Bickerstaff Heath Delgado law firm, is helping the city with the redistricting process. He said the council was being asked to approve criteria to proceed with the districting, and guidelines for public participation.



DUSTY THIELE



GUNNAR SEAQUIST

“We will prepare a draft plan to start with,” Seaquist said. “We will bring that before you at our next meeting. Our draft plan is just a starting off point.”

He said the maps will come from council members based on what they know is best for their districts.

Among the criteria the city will follow during the redistricting process are:

- Easily identifiable geographic boundaries.
- Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
- Council wards should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, district should be drawn considering county election precincts.
- The districting plan should be based on existing districts.
- Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total

population according to the 2020 Census. Seaquist said the discrepancy should be no more than a 10% difference in population between the two wards. Presently, there is a larger discrepancy and redistricting becomes necessary.

Guidelines for public participation, as adopted by the council, include:

- Plans must be submitted in writing and legible.
- Plans must show the total population and voting age populations for African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Anglo/other for each proposed single-member city council district based on the 2020 Census data.
- Plans should redistrict the entire city.
- Plans should confirm to redistricting criteria the council will use in drawing the wards.
- Comments must be submitted in writing and legible, even if the individual presents his or her views orally at a public hearing.
- People providing comments and plans must identify themselves, with name, address, telephone number, and if available an email address.
- All comments and proposed plans must be submitted at the close of the public hearing.

The city expects to hold hearings and the council must approve a final redistricting plan.

SENIOR CENTER
CHILI COOK-OFF



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

The Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. 5th St., hosted a chili cook-off Feb. 25. Sandee Sutter, staff assistant; Kathy Collier, administrative assistant; Amanda Di Dio, social services director; Pat Baker, activity coordinator; Gloria Zuniga, volunteer; Wayne Templeton, scorekeeper; and Richard Baker, volunteer, all helped make the festivities fun for everyone. Baker’s chili recipe was voted the winner among 13 entries by a panel of five judges.



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris gives Fire Chief Kenneth Parker an award for the fire department’s chili recipe, which was one of the top entries.

Katy senior and friends stage pet adoption and foster education event

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Hunter Sullivan, a Katy High School senior, is a Boy Scout working towards Eagle Scout rank. For his Eagle Scout project, he recruited family, friends, and some animals who are looking for their forever homes.

“My son, Hunter, decided to do a project that was not like a park bench, which are great, but he wanted to make an impact in the community,” Lyn Sullivan, Hunter’s mother, said. “Over the last year, our family has been involved in the animal control changes going on in the city, and what needed to happen. Hunter decided to base his project around that.”

Hunter, along with a few of his fellow Boy Scouts, worked with the Katy Animal Shelter to stage a animal adoption and foster education event Feb. 25 at MKT Distillery, 5373 1st St. Despite the cool, damp weather, the event drew citizens interested in learning about the importance of foster homes for pets, and, if so inclined, adopting a cat.

The plan was to include dogs. But organizers wanted the dogs to be outside, where they could run and play in a fenced-off area. The wet ground and relatively poor weather prevented that.

Hunter said he comes from a home with plenty of dogs and cats. He said he was tempted to adopt some of the cats who were at Saturday’s event.



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Hunter Sullivan and Yvonne Cruz of Cuddle Buddies Rescue worked to stage a pet adoption and foster animal education event Feb. 26 at MKT Distillery.

“We have some information tables,” Hunter said. “Really, we’re just trying to get it out there what fostering is. It’s just keeping the animal, if you’re able to support it, obviously. It helps the rescue groups a lot because they have limited space. The more space, more animals they can rescue.”

Fostering helps the organization learn the dog’s personality and helps socialize the dog in a loving home, according to information provided at the event. It increases a dog’s chances of getting adopted, and a family can enjoy the dog’s company without a long-term commitment. Also,

through fostering, a family can help a dog overcome the stress of being abandoned.

Information was also shared about TNR (for Trap-Neuter-Return) for cats.

Hunter expressed gratitude for Yvonne Cruz of Cuddle Buddies Rescue and her help in staging the event. He also expressed his gratitude to his fellow scouts who helped set up the tent. That effort took longer than expected, he said.

“They were here before the event,” Hunter said. “Today is the main event but hopefully it will spark more interest. I would organize it again because it’s fun.”

Hunter said he was considering attending Blinn College. After he finishes there, he said he wanted to attend Texas A&M and earn his degree in psychology. After that, he said, he would like to be a caseworker.

For more information, contact Cruz and Cuddle Buddies Rescue through its Facebook page.

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Brianna Diezi, San Antonio Simmental Superbowl



Kinleigh Guidry, Fort Worth 2022



Presley Jacob, Champion Red Brangus



Kaelyn Hein, Fort Worth Stock Show 2022-a



Kinleigh Guidry, Fort Worth Steer 2022-a



Presley Jacob

Royal FFA heifer exhibitor wins \$10,000 scholarship at show

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Royal FFA Exhibitors and Showteam have finished the Fort Worth and San Antonio Livestock Show ranging from breeding heifers to market swine. The Royal FFA students had eight exhibitors participating and competing against all other members across Texas. Students now await competing in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and Rodeo Austin with the shows beginning in March.

Fort Worth Livestock Show Results

- Kinleigh Guidry—5th Place, Middleweight ABC Market Steer,

Hereford Heifer Calf Champion, 1st Place Hereford Heifer Calf

- Brianna Diezi—2nd Place, Other Registered Breed, Heifer Calf
- Kaelyn Hein—6th Place, Brangus Heifer Calf
- Raelee Hacke—11th Place, Santa Gertrudis Heifer
- Averi Rongey—4th Place, Brangus Heifer

San Antonio Livestock Show Results

- Presley Jacob—Grand Champion Red Brangus Female, Senior Heifer Division Champion and 1st Place in Class, Recipient of a \$10,000 San Antonio Livestock Show Scholarship

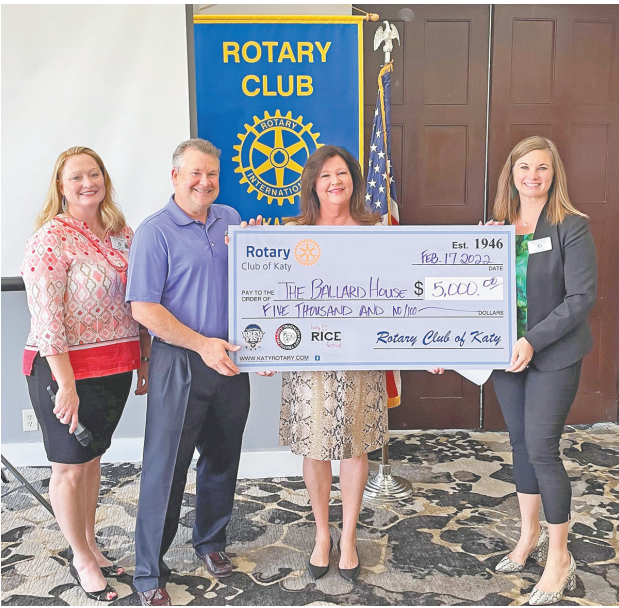
- Porter Jacob—2nd Place, American Registered Breed, Senior Heifer
 - Kinleigh Guidry—Heifer Calf Champion, Hereford Heifer
 - Brianna Diezi—1st Place Other Registered Breed Heifer Calf, Simmental Superbowl Showmanship, 1st place & 1st Place Percentage Simmental Class
 - Averi Rongey—4th Place, Brangus Heifer Calf
 - Kaelyn Hein—4th Place, Brangus Heifer Calf
 - Raelee Hacke—9th Place, Santa Gertrudis Heifer
- Also exhibiting at the San Antonio Market Barrow Show are exhibitors Rory Melton, Kinleigh Guidry and Valentin Ferro.

ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS CHECKS



ROTARY CLUB OF KATY

The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to Katy Christian Ministries on Feb. 24. Pictured are Kellie Sissom, Nick Schrader, Desyi Crespo, Becce Wallace, Jeannette Trejo, Jennifer Royo and Paul Kurt.



The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to the Ballard House on Feb. 17. Pictured are Kellie Sissom, David Loesch, Naomi Williams and Kristin Searcy. ROTARY CLUB OF KATY



ROTARY CLUB OF KATY

The Rotary Club of Katy presented a check to the Guerrero Crystal Foundation on Feb. 24. Pictured are Kellie Sissom, George Yeiter, Beverly Yeiter, Ralph Brock, Ahmed Monib, Walter Branson and Elsa Branson.

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Paetow's Gotte leaving for Pearland

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

BJ Gotte helped build Paetow from the ground up. He started the Panthers program five years ago and led the young school to steady improvement, culminating in the 2021 Class 5A, Division I state champi-

onship. But Gotte, 42, is leaving Paetow to become the new coach at Class 6A Pearland. Gotte was approved as the Oilers next football coach on Thursday at a special Pearland Independent School District board of trustees meeting. "The good thing about it is

that the kids have pride in where they're at," Gotte said. "It's just been a really hard week, telling the kids and the coaches where I'm at and what the situation is. The kids are upset and rightfully so, they take pride in their school. When we first started here, that school didn't exist and there wasn't this pride for it. It's been really tough

conversations, but I'm proud of the type of pride that they have." Gotte has been the head coach at Paetow since the school opened in 2017, starting the schools program and accumulating a record of 35-13 over four varsity seasons. The Panthers won 15-1 last season, winning a state championship and earning a share of the District

10-5A, Division I championship. Pearland reached out to Gotte about the job opening despite the fact that Gotte hadn't applied for it. Gotte met with the people involved and became increasingly interested in the program. "I was taught at a young age,

See **GOTTE**, page B8

WEEK OF MARCH 4 SCHEDULES

BOYS BASKETBALL

Scores

- Paetow 63, Kingwood Park 43
- Mayde Creek 42, Fort Bend Clements 49

Friday

- Paetow vs. Crosby, 6 p.m., Campbell Center

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Brenham, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 4:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. A&M Consolidated, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 7:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Taylor vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Jordan at Brenham, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow at A&M Consolidated, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Thursday

- Cinco Ranch vs. A&M Consolidated, 10 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Jordan at Langham Creek, 7 p.m.
- Katy vs. Fort Bend Austin, 10 a.m.
- Katy vs. Huntsville, 4 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Alief Taylor, 10 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Dobie, 12:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, 10 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 4 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Richmond Foster, 5 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Cy-Fair, 9 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Kempner, 11:30 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Magnolia, 9:30 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Santa Fe, noon

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Austin, 10 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, 1 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Park, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday

- Jordan vs. Cy-Lakes, 4:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Fort Bend Travis, 4 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Westbury, 10 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Huntsville, TBA
- Morton Ranch vs. A&M Consolidated, 4 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Ridge, 2:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Cy-Park, 9 a.m.
- Seven Lakes at Cy-Lakes, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins at Kingwood Park, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins at Montgomery, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Huntsville, 10 a.m.
- Katy vs. A&M Consolidated, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Fort Bend Austin, 10 a.m.
- Paetow at Fulshear, 12:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Ridge Point, 3 p.m.
- Paetow at Langham Creek, 12:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Montgomery, noon

SOFTBALL

Thursday

- Katy vs. Clear Springs, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Friendswood, 3 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Lexington, 11 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Montgomery, 1 p.m.
- Paetow at Cy-Park, 11 a.m.
- Paetow at Cy-Creek, 1 p.m.

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 4:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Waller, 6:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Heights, 9 a.m.
- Katy vs. El Campo, 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Tompkins, 6:15 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Milano, 1 p.m.

Thursday

- Morton Ranch vs. Midland Legacy, 3 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Kempner, 11 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Magnolia, 6 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy at Sherman, 9 a.m.
- Katy at Alvin, 3 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Oak Ridge, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Brenham, 5 p.m.
- Paetow at Langham Creek, 11 a.m.
- Paetow at Cy-Ranch, 3 p.m.



TYLER TYRE

A defender tries to strip the ball from Angel Sonnier during Tuesday's Class 6A regional quarterfinal between Mayde Creek and Fort Bend Clements at the Merrell Center.

Mayde Creek's best-ever season ends in regional quarterfinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek made history this year. The Rams made it to the playoff for the fourth straight year. They beat a favored opponent in the first round, becoming just the fourth team in school history to win a playoff

game. Then they did what no other Mayde Creek team did before, winning in the area round. The Rams weren't done, they wanted more, they wanted to be the first team in school history to make it to the regional tournament, they wanted to win a game at the Merrell Center in front of their

home crowd. But sometimes, the ball doesn't bounce your way, sometimes, shots that are made 75% of the time rim out, sometimes, it's just not your day as a team. Tuesday was one of those days for Mayde Creek, as the Rams fell 49-42 to

See **RAMS**, page B6



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes Justice Carlton goes up for the shot during the Regional SemiFinal playoff game, Seven Lakes vs. Pearland at the Merrell Center.

Seven Lakes falls in regional semifinal

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes put up every ounce of fight they had. The Spartans had already had a successful season, making it to the regional tournament for the first time since 2013 and had overcome injuries and other obstacles. But Seven Lakes wanted more, a trip to the regional finals, a trip to the state tournament, they were hungry for it all. Unfortunately for the Spartans, it wasn't meant to be. Seven Lakes ran into one of the hottest teams in region III in Pearland, owners of a 15-

game win streak, and the Oilers outlasted the Spartans 39-37 as Seven Lakes season came to an end in the regional semifinal round. "This group loved each other," said Seven Lakes head coach Angela Spurlock. "When kids truly like each other and love each other, then the adversity that comes with athletics is easier to handle. This team got tested and their ability to overcome adversity and handle the few losses and setbacks they had was tremendous. Their chemistry and belief in one another is the reason we got this far."

See **SPARTANS**, page B7



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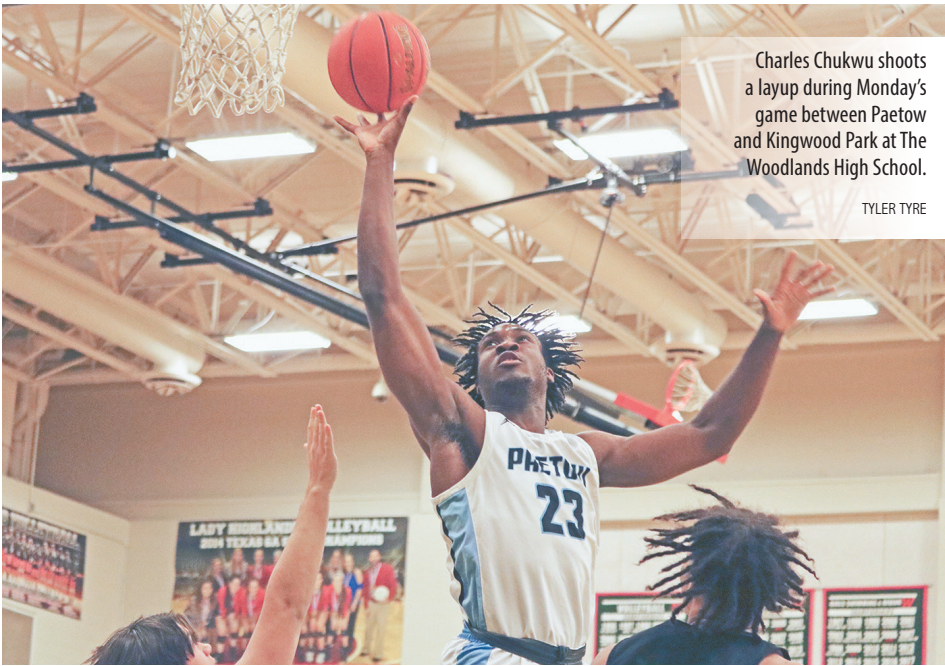
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Charles Chukwu shoots a layup during Monday's game between Paetow and Kingwood Park at The Woodlands High School.

TYLER TYRE

Paetow rolls past Kingwood Park into regional tourney

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow has multiple players that can lead their offense on any given night.

There's the constants on the team like Trevor Frank and Charles Chukwu — they are future Division I players who can carry the team whenever needed.

But even when you shut one one or both of them down there are other options, that's what makes this Paetow team so special.

"It's an amazing thing to have," said Paetow head coach Mike Niemi. "We've got seven or eight guys that any given night can score double figures. You might take Trevor away or EJ Roberts or Charles, but there's three or four other guys that can drop 20. That depth of scoring just helps us tremendously."

That depth was on full display Monday as Paetow easily rolled past Kingwood Park, 63-43 at The Woodlands gym in the Class 5A regional quarterfinals.

The leading scorer wasn't a starter for Paetow, but Kam Ingram, who came off the bench to score 16 while also wreaking havoc in the passing lanes and forcing a number of turnovers.

In total, the Panthers forced 21 turnovers as a team, terrorizing a Kingwood Park offense that had been strong all season.

"Kam's activity was phenomenal tonight," Niemi said. "That was the biggest thing for him. Kam getting

steals and deflections, being active on that end of the floor. There was a bounce to his step on defense and it really created offense for him and energy for our team. It helped our whole team step up because then the next guy would bring that energy. We were a bit down, not playing our best, but he really sparked us."

Kingwood Park battled early and it was tied 8-8 in the first quarter before Paetow started to impose its will, going up by five after the first.

Kingwood Park again trimmed the lead at the start of the second, pulling within two, but Paetow answered back to go up 26-16 at half, as the Panthers' defense was strong despite a subpar offensive first half.

"This win was huge for us," Ingram said. "They brought their crowd and brought some energy and we just wanted to bring that right back. We played them last year in the playoffs and it was a close game, we just wanted to come out and make a big statement."

Paetow continued to build its lead in the second half and put things away in the fourth quarter, as Ingram scored five straight points, on two baskets coming off turnovers he forced, to help seal the game.

"We work on defense every day, and Coach Niemi preaches defense every single day," Ingram said. "He says all the time, if we're not playing defense then we can't be in the game. It's something in

our program and so we go 100% all the time."

The win puts Paetow into the regional tournament for the second straight season.

"Making it back to back is amazing," Niemi said. "The program is excelling right now. The guys are doing the right things in the right ways. The most important thing is the defense. Like tonight, it was pretty phenomenal against a team like that and it speaks volumes about our consistency."

The Panthers will face either Crosby or Nederland in the Class 5A Regional Semifinals at 6 p.m. Friday at the Campbell Center.

"We just have to keep believing," Ingram said. "Keep believing that we can do it. We're good enough to win every game and go all the way. We just have to make it happen."

Class 5A Regional Semifinal Paetow 63, Kingwood Park 43

Points: (P) Kam Ingram 16, Abou Camara 11, Charles Chukwu 10, Idy Igbaroola 10, EJ Roberts 7, Trevor Frank 5, Tyler Woodward 4; (KP) Joshua Bartley 11, Kyle Connelly 8, Patrick Overmyer 8, Jesse Virmontez 6, Nolan Sexton 5, Brayden Jones 3, Hollis Stephens 2

Halftime: Paetow 26-16; 3-Pointers: (P) Frank, Ingram, Igbaroola; (KP) Bartley 3, Virmontez, Sexton, Connelly; Records: Paetow 31-5; Kingwood Park 29-5

Mayde Creek advances to regional quarterfinals for first time in school history

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek has had a goal to make history all season.

The Rams could have been satisfied with a bi-district win, advancing to the third round for just the third time since 1982.

But the Rams wanted more, a win on Friday would make this the first team to make the regional quarterfinals in Mayde Creek history.

The Rams accomplished just that with a 63-48 win over Stratford in the area round — using a suffocating defense and free flowing offense to beat the Spartans 63-48.

"It means everything to get this win," said junior guard Angel Sonnier. "The whole team has come together from day one and put everything we got into it. It shows on the floor when we play like we did today."

Mayde Creek and Stratford battled through the first half as Stratford led 15-14 after the first quarter, but Mayde Creek battled back to take a 25-23 lead at half.

"We knew the most important thing for us would be to lock in on defense and communicate," Sonnier said. "That lets us get up and down and get good possessions. That's when we play our best game."

Stratford heated up early in the third quarter and took the lead, but the Rams had an immediate response, as Sonnier scored seven in the quarter and Jamal Chretien II hit two three pointers in the quarter to give Mayde Creek a 46-38 lead heading into the final quarter.

Chretien is only a freshman but kept his composure after missing a couple of looks in the first half, it paid off as he scored 13 in the second half and finished the night with 19 points in total.

"I want these young guys to have confidence at all times," said Mayde Creek head coach Anthony Fobb. "He's a good shooter, those were good shots he was taking, they just weren't going in. He knows he can keep shooting, because that's what he does."

Sonnier led the team with 20 points on the night, while also taking on the assignment of shutting down Stratford's biggest and strongest player in the post, despite a size disadvantage.

"Angel is the strongest guy in the program, and he has a six-foot-six-inch wingspan, which is huge on the defensive end," Fobb said. "He is our leader and he's a guy that really wants to play in college as well. He's taken it to heart when I tell him the way you get there is showing that you can defend, because when coaches see he can defend the scoring is just extra. He took on that challenge and he said, 'I want



TYLER TYRE

Landon Bean attempts to dunk during Friday's game between Mayde Creek and Stratford at the Coleman Coliseum.

to guard their best guy tonight."

Mayde Creek is excited to advance to the regional quarterfinals for the first time in history, but at the same time, they know the job isn't done.

"This was huge," Chretien said. "But we have to stay locked in, we can't get ahead of ourselves and start celebrating too much."

The Rams have waited all year for a chance to play in the Merrell Center. They lost to Westfield on a last-second shot in the Katy ISD tournament, keeping them out of the championship game that was played there and it stung for the every player.

Fobb told his players that he would push to get a chance to play there, but only if the team got to the third round of the playoffs and made history. They did just that.

"I told them if they wanted to get back there, they had to take care of business," Fobb said. "That's exactly what they did."

Class 6A Area

Mayde Creek 63, Stratford 48

Points: (MC) Angel Sonnier 20, Jamal Chretien II 19, Landon Bean 9, Christian Jones 8, Larison Lamette 7; (S) Luke Hatcher 19, Everett Bates 9, Deanu Davies 8, Keshawn Bell 4, Triston Williams 3, Caden Francis 3, Cameron Cronin 2

Halftime: Mayde Creek 25-23; 3-Pointers: Chretien II 4, Sonnier 3, Jones 2, Bean, Lamette; (S) Bates 3; Records: Mayde Creek 25-10, Stratford 27-6

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Tompkins picks up season-opening win

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jace LaViolette knows it can be a special season for Tompkins this year.

The Falcons were ranked No. 3 in the Class 6A Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association pre-season poll and have high expectations for themselves heading into the year. Every player on the team is locked in on the season.

"All of us know we can do something special this year," LaViolette said. "We have the talent and the team to really do something this year. So we just have to play to our ability and everything will be fine. That's the goal for this year."

The Falcons proved to themselves that they can take on any opponent, as Tompkins opened the season with a 9-3 win over San Antonio Reagan on Thursday in the Katy ISD tournament. Reagan was ranked the No. 4 ranked team in the state heading into the season.

"It's a good feeling, getting the win over them and getting the first win of the season out of the way," said Jack Little, a senior first baseman. "We had a lot of good momentum coming into the season and this just helps us keep carrying that."

Trevor Esparza earned the win in the matchup, allowing three runs on four hits over five innings while striking out one and walking three.

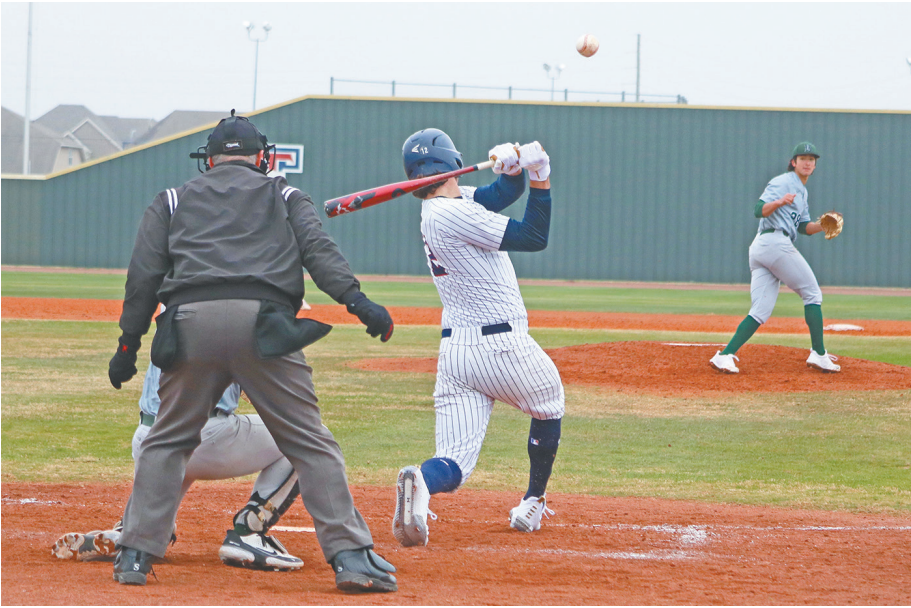
Landon West and Drew Markle both came away with 2 RBIs in the matchup while Little, LaViolette and Adam Benavidez drove in a run apiece.

Tompkins and Reagan traded scoreless half innings until the third, when Reagan plated two players on a wild pitch.

The Falcons responded right back in the bottom of the inning, as Little hit an RBI single, West hit an RBI double and Tompkins got another run on an error to take a 3-2 lead.

"I want to play teams like them," said Tompkins head coach Kyle Humphreys. "San Antonio Reagan is always a good team, and I think our guys were kind of fired up for it. With the teams you play in this tournament, you can easily be 1-4 or 0-5. I just want us to come out, have some of the newer players get experience against these good teams and have the guys get their feet wet. This tournament teaches you to play good baseball, everyone we play here does that and you have to play good to beat teams like that."

Reagan tied things up in the



top of the fifth, but Tompkins again had an answer, as West and Benavidez drove in runs in the bottom of the inning to stretch Tompkins lead to 6-3.

Esparza went to the bench for the final inning as Ty Dagley

pitched a scoreless top of the sixth. The Falcons sealed things in the bottom of the sixth as LaViolette drove in a run and Drew Markle pinch hit, driving in two on a game ending single.

"I told the guys today, with the

Landon West, above, hits during Thursday's game between Tompkins and San Antonio Reagan at the Tompkins baseball field. Left, Jace LaViolette hits during Thursday's game between Tompkins and San Antonio Reagan at the Tompkins baseball field.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

then coming back tying it up and going ahead."

The Falcons will play in the Katy ISD tournament Friday and Saturday before traveling to Montgomery next week for another tournament next Thursday-Saturday.

"We had really good at bats today, that's a big thing we can build on," LaViolette said. "Staying up the middle, going the opposite way. We knew the wind was blowing in so we didn't try to pull the ball or go yard. I feel like as long as we do that and realize how good we can be, nothing can stop us."

Katy ISD Tournament

Reagan 0 0 2 0 10 X — 3 4 4
Tompkins 0 0 3 0 33 X — 9 11 2
W: Trevor Esparza (1-0). L: Brennan Greer (0-1). Highlights: (R) Andrew Ermis 1-2, RBI, 2B; Teagan Peebles 1-2, 3B; Britton Moore 1-3, R; Jacob King, 1-3; R (T) Trevor Esparza 5 IP, 4 H, 3 R, 1 SO; Landon West 2-3, 2 RBIs, 2 R, 2 2B; Drew Markle 1-1, 2 RBIs; Jack Little 2-3, RBI, 3 R; Jace LaViolette 1-4, RBI; Ty Dagley 2-3, 2 R; Adam Benavidez 2-3, RBI, 2B

Falcons out to one-up record-setting season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins proved themselves last season.

The Falcons went 32-9-1 last year, making the regional semifinals for the first time as a program.

But now the Falcons feel they can take the next step. The team feels they are in perfect position to do that with the group they bring back this year.

"I just feel like the bond that we have with each other is so special," said senior center fielder Jace LaViolette. "We're all brothers her and love each other. We love the game and respect it, that's all you can ask for from a group."

Tompkins returns 10 starters from last years team and every player on the team has put in the work over the offseason to improve. They've proven they

can compete with anyone and have the confidence to back things up.

"When we come out to the ballpark, put good at bats together and pitch like I know we can and will do, theres nothing that can stop us," LaViolette said. "We can put up a battle against any team in the nation."

the Falcons have a deep lineup that can attack any pitcher. Along with LaViolette, a Texas A&M commit, they have Jack Little, who hit .424 with 45 RBIs, seven doubles and three home runs last season and Drew Markle, who was a first team all-state selection last season as a sophomore and hit .403 with 13 doubles, four triples and 38 RBIs.

That, paired with an improving pitching staff, has Tompkins ready to compete with anyone at the high school level.

"Our pitching staff all

year has been focused on throwing strikes and not giving up any freebies," said Tompkins head coach Kyle Humphreys. "They continue to do a great job in terms of filling up the strike zone and making guys hit. We want people to have to get three hits in an inning to beat us. We've always had a solid lineup and we have to stay healthy there, but the next step for us pitching wise, is we just can't give up the freebies."

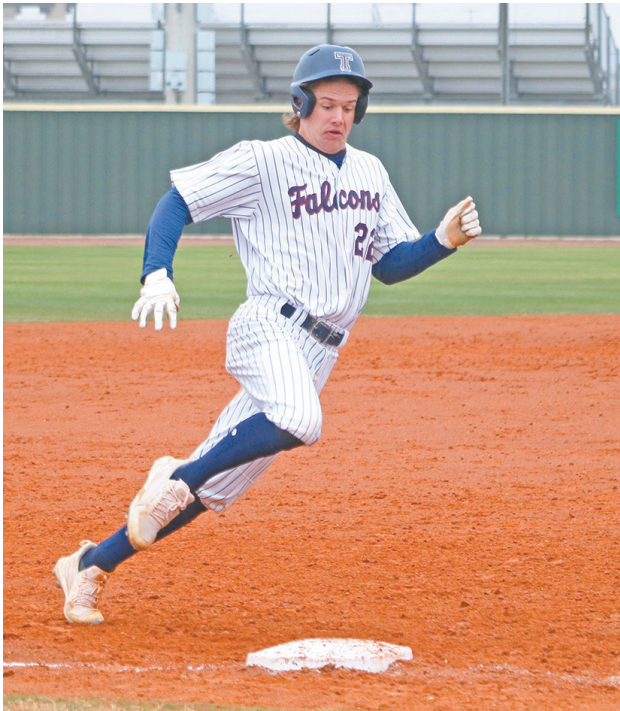
Tompkins started the season with the Katy ISD tournament, going X-X over the three days and preparing the team for the grind of the season and of a tough District 19-6A that they will have to play.

"We got to see some good arms and that was important, that's what we need to see," Humphreys said. "In our district we're going to see really good arms constantly.

All the teams, even if they don't have a top end guy, they are going to have really good high school pitchers. Those guys get out and mess with your timing and locate it well and it's important for. We've been doing a lot better this year with guys in scoring position and hitting with two outs and that kind of stuff comes up big."

Tompkins will continue with non-district play until March 15 when they open district play against Taylor.

"We have to keep on playing and being competitive, that's the most important thing," said senior first baseman Jack Little. "With this kind of year and the talent we have, we have to treat every game like it's our last and don't let the mistakes get to us."



TYLER TYRE

Jack Little rounds third base during Thursday's game between Tompkins and San Antonio Reagan at the Tompkins baseball field.

CIVIL JUDGE

Mike Engelhart

FOR FIRST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Judge Mike Engelhart Campaign which subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices Act, George J. Engelhart, treasurer, P. O. Box 56386, Houston, TX 77256. www.JudgeEngelhart.com

KATY TIMES

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2022

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and close March 20th

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<div>LAKE MANAGEMENT COMPANY IN KATY SEEKING LAKE FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN. OUTSIDE WORK, HANDS-ON TRAINING, NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. GOOD STARTING PAY. MON-FRI 40 HOURS PER WEEK. NO WEEKENDS. BENEFITS AVAILABLE. APPLY IN PERSON MON-FRI. 9AM TO 3PM @ 4110 KATY HOCKLEY CUT OFF RD., KATY, TX 77493, TEL (281) 391-3688.</div>		<div>KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141</div>	<div>Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a MB, and a MB/FB by Twenty Five Katy LLC, to be located at 21784 Katy Fwy, Suite 100, Katy TX 77449. Owner of said corporation is Wenbing Huang.</div>	<div>NOTICE TO BIDDERS</div> <div>Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Katy, Attention: City Secretary, will be received at Katy City Hall located at 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for City of Katy Police Department Building Foundation Repair And Associated Improvements. Proposals received after closing will be returned unopened.</div> <div>Scope of Work of the Contract includes Foundation Stabilization and Repair of the City of Katy Police Department Building, located at 5456 Franz Rd, Katy, TX 77493. In addition to the Foundation Repair, the project includes repairs of interior and exterior façade finishes and landscaping grading and drainage improvements.</div>					

950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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Notice of Applications for Permits to Drill and Produce Groundwater from the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District in Waller County

On November 15, 2021, Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District 213, whose address is 3200 Southwest Fwy, Suite 2600, Houston, TX 77027 (the "Applicant"), filed an application with the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") seeking permits to drill one well in Waller County and to produce from the well a maximum amount of approximately one million two hundred fifty three thousand gallons per day (approximately 1400 acre-foot per annum) for beneficial, non-wasteful, municipal purposes within the District. The well casing will be 14 inches in diameter and completed in the Jasper Aquifer. Production from the well would be managed in a manner designed to minimize any interference with any neighboring wells completed in the same aquifer. The proposed well is located at 2108 Wood Rd, Brookshire, TX 77423. The coordinates for the proposed location of the well are 29.7588 (latitude) and -95.9414 (longitude).

The Board of Directors of the District may grant a contested case hearing on the applications if a written hearing request is filed within 20 days after the publication date of this notice. To request a contested case hearing, you must submit the following in writing: (1) your name (or for a group or association, a representative), mailing address, daytime telephone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be affected by the application in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the proposed activity; and, (6) for a party desiring for the hearing to be conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings the request must include the statement: "[I/we] request that the State Office of Administrative Hearings conduct the hearing." Note that a party requesting that the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) conduct the hearing shall pay all costs associated with the contract for a SOAH hearing and will be required to deposit with the District an amount determined by the District to pay the SOAH contract amount.

You may also file written comments within 20 days after the publication date of this notice without requesting a contested case hearing.

Comments or requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing and mailed to Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District, P.O. Box 269 Navasota Texas 77868-0269, or faxed to 936-825-7331, or emailed to BGCD@bluebonnetgroundwater.org.

The applications are available for review at the District Offices, 303 East Washington Ave, Suite D, Navasota, Texas 77868 or on the District's website at www.bluebonnetgroundwater.org.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EXAMPLE A

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI)

AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 167533

APPLICATION PowerSecure, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 167533

This application would authorize installation of an Electric Power Generator located at 22165 Farm to Market Road 529, Katy, Harris County, Texas 77493. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.874167&lng=-95.758333&zoom=13&type=r>. The facility will emit the following contaminants: carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, sulfuric acid, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on December 22, 2021. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road, Katy, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments.

PUBLIC MEETING. You may request a public meeting to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if requested by an interested person and the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. If a draft Air Quality Permit is prepared, a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision is required and it will then be published and mailed to those who made comments, submitted hearing requests or are on the mailing list for this application and will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, and daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing"; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or an association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments.

If a hearing request is timely filed, following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from PowerSecure, Inc., 4068 Stirrup Creek Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27703-9000 or by calling Ms. Rachel Henn, ALL4 LLC, at (281) 201-1244.

Notice Issuance Date: January 7, 2022

KATYTIMES.COM

Bridget Foley,
Maria Rojas
D'Cesare, Coach
Becky Munoz-
Guma and
Sophia Blakeney
all took home
gold medals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



3 win gold for Stars Gymnastics at Simone Biles Invitational

STAFF REPORT

Three gymnasts from Katy's Xcel Silver team from Stars Gymnastics won golds at the 2022 Simone Biles Invitational, which was held on Jan.

28. Bridget Foley placed first on the balance beam, first on the floor exercise and won the all-around in the Xcel Silver senior division, while Sophia Blakeney earned a gold

on the uneven bars and was second in the all-around among seniors. In the junior division, Maria Rojas D'Cesare placed first in the vault and took home the silver in the all-around.

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February 24 Puzzle Answers

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

B	O	A	S		P	E	B	B	L	Y				
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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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

April 13, 2022 @ 9:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM, WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the Authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment and the installation of "No Thru Trucks" signs at the following roads:

Hoover Lane (From 362 to Penick Road) - "No Thru Trucks"
Penick Road (Hebert Road to Waller City Limits) - "No Thru Trucks"
Mathis Road (Berry Road to Harris County Line) - "No Thru Trucks"
Berry Lane (Penick Road to Mathis Road) - "No Thru Trucks"
Betka Road (FM 362 to Penick Road) - "No Thru Trucks"
Bathe Road (FM 362 to Penick Road) - "No Thru Trucks"

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

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EVENTS

Southeast Texas Boat, Sport & RV Show - March 4-5-6, Ford Park, Beaumont, Texas. THE Place to buy your new Boat or RV! See 50 Boat and RV Brands in 1 Location! SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com.

Golden Triangle Home & Garden Show - March 4-5-6, Ford Park, Beaumont, Texas. EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME! See a multitude of Home Improvement Professionals in 1 location! GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com.

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Katy Times

Mayde Creek advances, Cinco falls in bi-district

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek advanced past the bi-district round while Cinco Ranch lost as both played in a doubleheader.

Neither came in as favorites, but the Rams came away with a win, while the Cougars fought the whole way.

Rams earn bi-district win over Ridge Point

Although Mayde Creek came into the bi-district round as the lower seed, they never had any doubt in their minds that they would come away winners.

The Rams had a goal to advance past the bi-district round, and did just that, topping Ridge Point 63-53 to advance to the area round.

"It means a lot for our program," said Mayde Creek head coach Anthony Fobb. "We start two freshman, but the expectations are high. A lot of people would use the excuse of 'we're young,' but this is our fourth time coming to the playoffs and this is the first time getting past the first round. Since 1982 Mayde Creek has only been out of the first round twice, so it means a lot for our boys and for our program."

Mayde Creek was led by Angel Sonnier, who had 19 points, Christian Jones, who had 15 and Larison LaMette, who came away with 13 points.

The Rams got off to a hot start in the first quarter behind eight points from Jones as they took an 18-8 lead.

Ridge Point trimmed the Mayde Creek lead to 30-26 at halftime, but Mayde Creek withstood runs by Ridge Point in both the second and third to lead 44-38 at the end of three.

RAMS
from page B1

Fort Bend Clements, bringing the teams record setting season to a close in the regional quarterfinal round.

"This hurts because these guys wanted it so bad," said Mayde Creek head coach Anthony Fobb. "They were locked in, they were prepared, they did the right things. I just felt at time in the game, we lost our way a little bit. We were stagnant at times, shots that we normally make didn't go in and Clements made us pay for it."

The Rams jumped ahead early on, behind three 3-pointers from the team in the first quarter Mayde Creek took a 15-12 lead heading into the second.

It was back and forth all night, but the Rams held steady and answered every Clements run with a run of their own as Mayde Creek still held a 25-22 lead heading into halftime.

Angel Sonnier led the Rams with 11 points in the first half while senior guard Larison LaMette scored four points in the half.

"This team, this year meant a lot to me," LaMette said. "Coach Fobb really gave me a chance and I can't say how much I appreciate him for that. This team, it was everything I could have hoped for."

Clements started to wear down the Rams in the third and eventually the Rangers took a one-point lead heading into the final quarter of play. The game continued to go back and forth and Clements led



COURTESY DAVE SANDERS | FORT BEND HERALD
Prince Jones-Bynum drives to the basket during last week's game against Fort Bend Elkins.

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT

Mayde Creek 63, Ridge Point 53

Points: (MC) Angel Sonnier 19, Christian Jones 15, Larison LaMette 13, Jamal Chretien II 8, Logan Grassau 8; (RP) TJ Ford 15, Jamir Norman-Turner 15, Conile Christmas 10, Marvin Johnson 4, Tate Janik 3, Wilson Batiste 2, Blake Kurbauder 2, Gabriel Breaux 2

Halftime: Mayde Creek 30-26; 3-pointers: (MC) Jones 3, Chretien II 2, Sonnier, LaMette; (RP) Janik, Ford; Records: Mayde Creek 24-10; Ridge Point 21-13

"We've seen on film that with Fort Bend, their scores are usually in the 40's and 50's. They'll come out and try to get you in the mind to think that the game is slow, and then they'll come out and punch you in the mouth in the third quarter," Fobb said. "We knew coming into the game that they would give us that fight, we just had to match it."

Jamal Chretien II helped close things out in the fourth with two

3-pointers, while Sonnier scored five points and Logan Grassau had four in the final quarter.

Mayde Creek advances to the area round, where they will take on Stratford at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Coleman Coliseum. Stratford comes off a 94-52 win over Westbury in the bi-district round.

Cinco Ranch falls to Elkins

Cinco Ranch had a tough task facing one seed Fort Bend Elkins



COURTESY DAVE SANDERS | FORT BEND HERALD
Jamal Chretien II shoots a layup during last week's game against Ridge Point.

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT

Fort Bend Elkins 60, Cinco Ranch 44

Points: (E) Chris Johnson 19, De'Rail Wilson 10, Todd Woods 8, Jackson Fields 6, Ashton Mckenzie 6, Christopher Barnett 4, Justin Mitchell 3, Jarren Hardoman 2, Jeffery Iroh 2; (CR) Hunter Betke 10, Prince Bynum-Jones 10; Drew Joyce 9, Josh Lennon 7, Omer Saied 5

Halftime: Elkins 28-15; 3-pointers (E) Woods 2, Mckenzie 2, Johnson, Hardman; (CR) Joyce 3, Saied, Lennon, Betke; Records: Cinco Ranch 16-19; Elkins 30-5

and despite a large amount of fight, came up short, with the Cougars' season ending with a 60-44 loss in the bi-district round.

Cinco got 10 points from Hunter Betke and Prince Bynum-Jones, while Drew Joyce scored nine to help keep Cinco in it for the majority of the game but it wasn't enough.

Elkins led 15-11 after the first quarter and stretched its lead to 28-15 at halftime behind a huge

second quarter. Cinco fought back in the third quarter, scoring 14 points, but Elkins had built a large enough that they were able to withstand the Cinco Ranch runs, and cruised to the win in the fourth quarter.

Cinco's season ends with a record of 16-19 and the team will graduate seven seniors.



TYLER TYRE
Mayde Creek head coach Anthony Fobb talks to his team during a timeout during Tuesday's Class 6A regional quarterfinal between Mayde Creek and Fort Bend Clements at the Merrell Center.

by just one point with 55 seconds to go, but the Rangers were able to hit their free throws and hold Mayde Creek from scoring to secure the win.

"Words can't explain how proud I am of these guys," Fobb

said. "They did everything we asked them to do as a coaching staff. From the hard grind, to practicing six days a week, lifting three or four days a week. They did everything we asked them to do all season."

Mayde Creek will graduate five seniors from the team this year, but what they helped build will remain with the program.

"This senior group was amazing," Fobb said. "All of them are A-B honor roll students, all of

them gave us their all. The three seniors that play the most, Larison, Landon (Bean) and Logan (Grassau) they're the catalysts of this team. They came in everyday, worked hard and they wanted this. It's hurting that they couldn't get on to the next round."

Even with the loss, the Rams will return a very strong core, and LaMette is confident that the program will continue to build and get better just like it has done his entire high school career.

"I don't think we could have done any more than we did," LaMette said. "It's a good stepping-stone for everyone. We tried to elevate the school and made it a better place for all of the students. Now the younger guys, they just have to keep working, keep preparing in the offseason, stay focused, have fun and stay positive."

Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal
Fort Bend Clements 49, Mayde Creek 42

Points: (MC) Angel Sonnier 15, Jamal Chretien II 7, Christian Jones 6, Larison LaMette 6, Logan Grassau 3, Caleb Davis 3, Landon Bean 2; (C) Divine Ugochukwu 24, Abdullah Olajuwon 16, Bryce Matthews 5, Jaden Campbell 4

Halftime: Mayde Creek 25-22; 3-Pointers: (MC) Sonnier 2, Jones, LaMette, Chretien II, Ugochukwu 2; Records: Mayde Creek 25-11; Clements 28-9

Subscription advertisement for The Katy Times, including a starburst 'SUBSCRIBE TODAY!' graphic, a photo of a child, and details about delivery and pricing.

Advertisement for The Katy Times featuring a smartphone displaying the Facebook app, with the text 'YOUR NEWS. YOUR WAY.' and 'Find out what all your friends are talking about - follow us on Facebook for easy access to The Katy Times!'

Easter Worship & Celebrating advertisement featuring a large graphic of tulips, text about the event, and contact information for Susan Rovegno.

Carlton named MVP after terrific sophomore season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Justice Carlton was named the District 19-6A MVP after a season in which she led Seven Lakes to the regional tournament for the first time since 2013.

The sophomore had an impressive sophomore campaign as she was a focal point of a Seven Lakes team that was named co-district champs along with Tompkins. She also recorded a 42-point triple double in the playoffs with 21 rebounds and 10 blocks.

Seven Lakes head coach Angela Spurlock was named the district coach of the year for her efforts in guiding the Spartans to the regional semifinals.

Macy Spencer was named the offensive MVP of the district after helping Tompkins reach the regional quarterfinals and become co-district champions.

Spencer grew in her junior year to become one of the best guards in the area, taking on ballhandling and facilitative duties for Tompkins while also being their top scoring option on offense, becoming a weapon in all phases of the game.

Cinco Ranch's Madison Mascorro was named the district's defensive player of the year after helping the Cougars reach the bi-district round. Mascorro averaged 10 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game in her senior season.

Cinco Ranch's Aniya Foy garnered newcomer of the year honors in the district. The freshman led the team in scoring with 16.4 points per game while also averaging 5.8 rebounds per game and 3 steals per game.

Following is the full District 19-6A all-district team:

- Coach of the Year:** Angela Spurlock, SLHS
MVP: Justice Carlton, SLHS
Offensive MVP: Macy Spencer, OTHS
Defensive MVP: Madison Mascorro, CRHS
Newcomer of the Year: Aniya Foy, CRHS

- 1st Team**
Brooklyn Nash OTHS
Fiyin Adeleye OTHS
KK Tucker SLHS
Summer Halphen SLHS
Bri Nelson KHS



Cinco Ranch's Aniya Foy was named District 19-6A newcomer of the year.



Tompkins' Macy Spencer was named District 19-6A offensive MVP.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Ashlei Angel | KHS | Kayla Boven | OTHS |
| Lyric Bar | KHS | Caitlyn Quintero | SLHS |
| Aniya Foy | CRHS | Nyla Wold | KHS |
| Dani Williams | CRHS | Isabella Hartl | CRHS |
| Micah Elegores | KTHS | Fia Filoalii | KTHS |
| Angelica Davis | MRHS | Olivia Upshaw | KTHS |
| Sania Thomas | MCHS | Heaven Davis | MRHS |
| | | Jessica Mendoza | MRHS |
| | | Aree Fykes | MCHS |
| | | Logan Johnson | MCHS |



Seven Lakes' Justice Carlton was named District 19-6A MVP.



Seven Lakes coach Angela Spurlock was named District 19-6A coach of the year.



SPARTANS

from page B1

Pearland got off to a tremendous start and went on an 8-0 run to start the game. Seven Lakes sophomore Justice Carlton attempted to get the Spartans going, scoring all six of the team's points in the first quarter, but Pearland still led 14-6 heading into the second quarter.

The Spartans had an answer in the second, going on an 8-0 run of their own and trimming the Pearland lead to two and remained close trailing 22-20 at half.

"There were 16 teams out of 245 took the court to play and represent 6A basketball across the state of Texas. To say that we are in that elite company is a testament to the kind of players I coach," Spurlock said. "They had such a desire to reach and accomplish the

Seven Lakes' Cailyn Tucker looks for an open player during the Regional SemiFinal playoff game, Seven Lakes vs Pearland at the Merrell Center.

highest levels of basketball. They aren't just great players, they're great people. I'm just so proud, not just of the play and the winning, but of the opportunity to get to coach them. They're tremendous."

Pearland started to pull away in the second half. The Oilers rebounded and kept increasing their lead to 32-23 at the end of the third quarter and it was too much for the Spartans to overcome.

Seven Lakes whittled away in the fourth quarter, trimming the Pearland lead to eight, then five, then with under a second left in the game, two. But it wasn't enough in the end.

"We did everything we could today, and it meant a lot to even be here," said senior Summer Halphen. "I've been dreaming of this my whole life. I'm sad we didn't get further, but it just means to much to me to be able to experience this."

Seven Lakes will return a talented core next year with a number of

sophomores gaining an extra year of experience.

"It's time now to take a few days off, maybe a week or two and let these kids process what they've accomplished," Spurlock said. "From there, the sophomore class will be handed the baton. It's a really beautiful, accomplished baton and they'll learn how to lead. Coming to the regional tournament this year sets the bar high."

Class 6A Regional Semifinal Pearland 39, Seven Lakes 37

Points: (SL) Justice Carlton 15, KK Tucker 8, Summer Halphen 6, Lenore Hudspeth 6, Shea McFarland 2; (P) Rylee Grays 12, Aryelle Stevens 11, Paige Bonner 6, Nyah Hardy 4, Ashlynn Patrick 4, Kayla Phillips 2

Halftime: Pearland 22-20; 3-pointers: (SL) Tucker 2, Halphen 2, Carlton; Records: Seven Lakes 33-7; Pearland 28-9





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GOTTE
from page B1

if anyone ever expresses interest, you need to at least listen, even if you aren't interested," Gotte said. "I listened and as the situation developed, I grew more interested to the point where I knew that this was a great opportunity for my family long term. It just felt right."

Gotte played for Katy and helped the Tigers reach the state title game in 1995.

He began his coaching career under Mike Johnston at Katy as assistant offensive line coach and was the Tigers' offensive coordinator from 2009-2016 under Gary Joseph. He also was an assistant at Deer Park, La Marque and Flower Mound Marcus.

"This place has meant everything to me," Gotte said.

"When I moved back from Dallas, my intention was to raise my kids here and have them graduate from a Katy school. That was our goal. That hasn't changed; Pearland reminded me a lot of how Katy was back when I was growing up. The opportunity to give my son a chance to grow up in a similar environment is cool. But the only reason I was even in consideration for this job is because of what Katy ISD provided me as a student and a professional."

Gotte succeeds Ricky Tullos at Pearland, who left for Bryan High School last month. Tullos accumulated a 33-11 record at Pearland over four seasons. Pearland went 7-4 last season, finish-

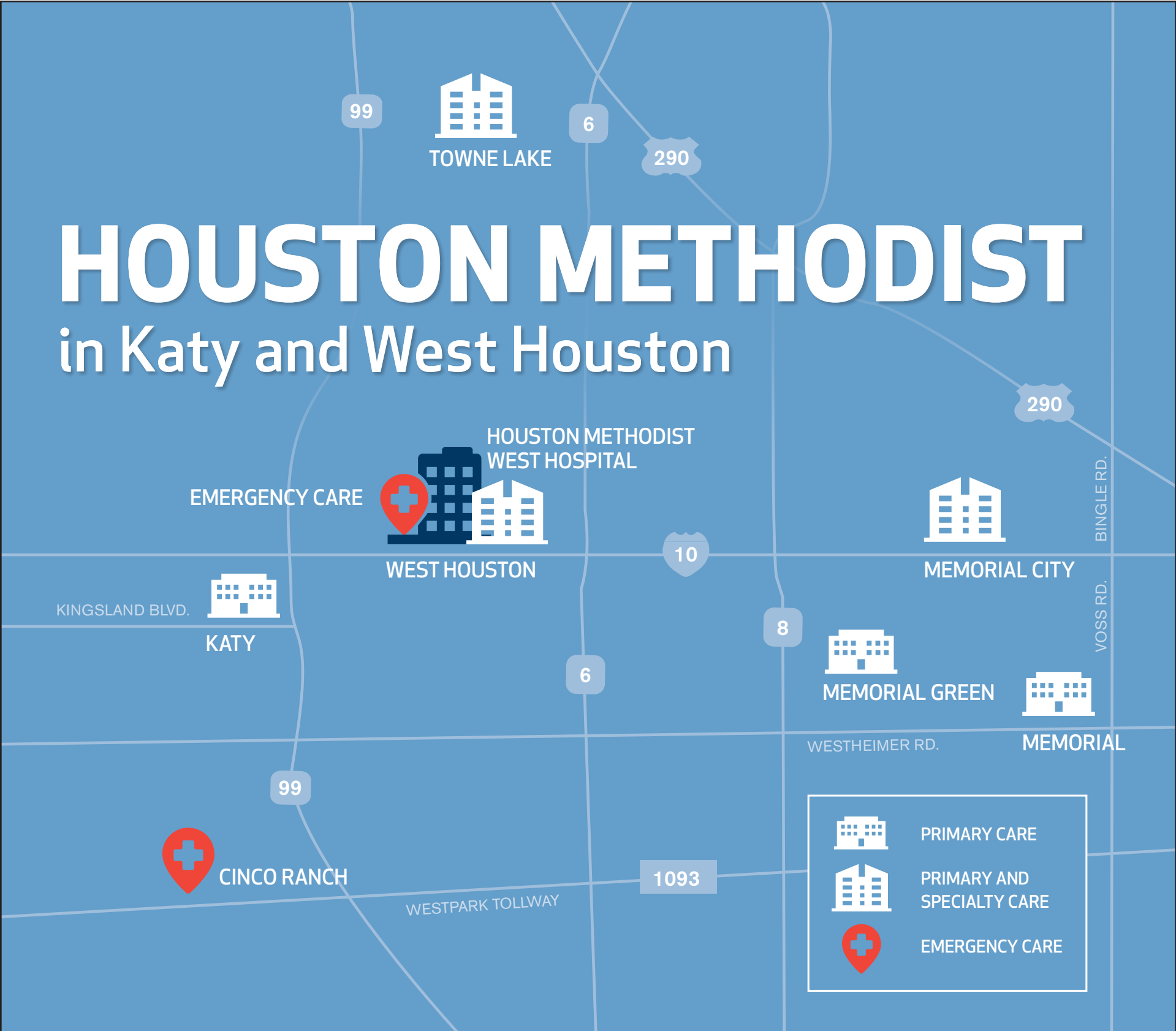
ing second in District 23-6A before losing 42-35 to Clear Springs in the bi-district round.

"The relationships you have with players and coaches and everyone is what makes this special," Gotte said. "To have to have those tough conversations this week was the hardest thing I've ever done as a coach, but I told the players, 'You are the defending 5A-Division I state champions. This is about you guys.' The program is bigger than any one person and any one coach. I told the seniors to rally around each other; whoever gets this opportunity is going to come into a good spot where they will compete at a very high level."



Paetow Panthers head coach B.J. Gotte gestures to officials after College Station was called offsidess on a fourth-down play in overtime of the Class 5A Division I state football championship game on December 17, 2021 in Arlington, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN



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