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Katy ISD students, from left, Alison Franks, Sofa Dixon, Gabrielle Izu, Cameron Samuels, Peniel Otto and Jaagat Prashar have spoken against banning books and distributed such books to their fellow students. Izu is holding Flamer, a book that has been pulled from Katy ISD library shelves. Samuels is holding Maus, which the district is considering removing from the shelves. A district spokesperson said a decision on whether to pull Maus will come later in the week.

# Katy ISD students speak out against removing books

**BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER** NEWS EDITOR

For six Katy Independent School District students speaking out against removing certain books from school libraries, it's a matter of learning by doing. The debate over removing books and blocking access to selected LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) websites through school computers is happening across the country. For one local student, things began happening when they spoke against censorship last November at a Katy school trustees meeting. Cameron Samuels is a Seven Lakes High School senior who wants to do "something political" after graduation. But for now, they-as Samuels describes themself-have been a regular

It's really made a big impact in the student body. People are talking about censorship. fearing what will happen

over 500 banned books to students at district high schools. In February, they staged a Katy ISD "FReadom Week," with books such as Beloved, a 1987 by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, being distributed to students. The novel is based on a true story about a Black slave woman who escaped with

# Katy unveils website that reports progress on city projects

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

### **BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER** NEWS EDITOR

The City of Katy Monday unveiled a new website that enables the public to see the latest on the various projects around the city.

Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said council members expressed a desire for such a site last year in a strategic planning session. The public had questions and such a site would help answer those questions.

Harris said City Administrator Byron Hebert asked Assistant City Administrator Anas Garfaoui to coordinate the effort with appropriate city staff. Now, the site has been launched.

The abbreviated URL for it is https://bit.ly/3I-WA9Ti

Icons mark project sites around the city. Projects are organized by drainage, roads, sewer, water, and walkways.

A drainage project on Y Street, for example, lists

See CITY, page A3

# North Texas official orders books removed from schools

BY JEREMY SCHWARTZ AND MIKE HIXENBAUGH SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

In early January, a day before students returned from winter break, Jeremy Glenn, the superinten-

### when resources are not accessible, and right now they are not accessible."

-Cameron Samuels, Seven Lakes High School senior

speaker at school board meetings.

Samuels does more than talk. Samuels and some fellow students from other

Katy ISD high schools have distributed

her family from a Kentucky plantation.

The debates continue. The district is considering whether to pull Maus, a 1991 book by Art Spiegelman. Maus is a nonfiction book about the Holocaust and is designed as a graphic novel. A district official said Monday that a decision on whether to pull Maus was expected later this week.

As of this week, the district has removed 10 books from its schools. To see the district's list of what books have

See BOOKS, page A3

dent of the Granbury Independent School District in North Texas, told a group of librarians he'd summoned to a district meeting room that he needed to speak from his heart.

<sup>'</sup>I want to talk about our community," Glenn said, according to a recording of the Jan. 10 meeting obtained and verified by NBC News, ProPublica and The Texas Tribune. Glenn explained that Granbury, the largest city in a county where 81% of residents voted for then-President Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election, is "very, very conservative."

He noted that members of Granbury's school

See **REMOVAL**, page A3

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## Local archaeologist helps find, identify ancient 'curse tablet'

### **BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER** NEWS EDITOR

A Katy archaeologist is part of a team that helped to discover and identify a "curse tablet" that is centuries older than any known Hebrew inscription from ancient Israel.

Scott Stripling, Archaeological Studies Institute director at The Bible Seminary in Katy, worked with four scientists from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic to discover the text at Mt. Ebal, which about 100 miles north of Jerusalem.

Pieter Gert van der Veen of Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and Gershon Galil of the University of Haifa are epigraphers who specialize in deciphering ancient texts. They were also part of the team.

In the Bible, following the Battle of Ai around 1400 B.C., Joshua built a temple to the Lord on Mt. Ebal. More recently, the archaeologists found the temple site and the altar, and it was there that they found and confirmed the curse tablet.

The translated curse text reads: Cursed, cursed, cursed - cursed by the God YHW. You will die cursed. Cursed you will surely die. Cursed by YHW - cursed, cursed, cursed.





Scott Stribling, Archaeological Studies Institute director at The Bible Seminary, speaks at a March 24 news conference announcing the discovery of a curse tablet at Mt. Ebal in Israel. Left: The curse tablet found at Mt. Ebal in Israel.

THE BIBLE SEMINARY

See TABLET, page A3

### All loans are subject



The right home loan can turn your plans for the future into realities today.



# **COMMUNITY**



Stacee Lynn gives a presentation on barndominiums at the Katy Home & Garden Show, held March 26-27 at the Katy ISD Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### Katy Branch Library reopens

THE KATY TIMES THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

KATYTIMES.COM

No special ceremony marked the celebration, but the Katy Branch Library reopened to the public Monday after about six weeks of repairs.

The library, at 5414 Franz, is part of the Harris County Public Library system but is used as the city library.

### Harris County officials host Back the Blue event

Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, the Harris County Sheriff's office, and the Harris County Pct. 5 Constable are hosting a Back The Blue educational fair.

The event, which is free, enables citizens to learn how the police use drones and other technology. They can also see the inside of a SWAT vehicle, among other law enforcement vehicles.

Activities will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road.

### Katy Area Chamber of Commerce sets next general meeting

Chelsie Kramer, state organizer for New American Economy, will speak about the positive impact of immigrants to the Katy community at the next Katy Area Chamber of Commerce general meeting.

The event is set for 7:30-9 a.m. April 7 at the YMCA of Katy, 1350 Main St. For more information, call 281-391-7423

### Fort Bend Junior Service League announces 2022 Sugar Plum Market co-chairs

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJSL) is pleased to announce the new 2022 Sugar Plum Market cochairs. Those individuals are Cherie Lyne Bouterie, Monica Hasty, Leah



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Katy Branch Library director Desmond London poses in front of a historical photo of Katy at the Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road, which reopened Monday

Henley, Michelle Monterroso, Chelsi Oestreich and Ashley Stephens.

The league was chartered in 2001 by a small group of women determined to make a difference in Fort Bend County. Later that year, the organization introduced the Sugar Plum Market to the community, opening its doors to a few hundred local patrons. Twenty-one years later, the Sugar Plum Market continues to be hosted by an all-woman volunteer force and welcomes over 6,000 patrons annually. Since inception, the market has raised over \$3.7 million that has benefited numerous charitable organizations in Fort Bend.

Due to the success of the additional shopping day in 2021, the Sugar Plum Market will offer three full days from Nov. 3-5. A special preview night celebration will be held in the evening of Nov. 2. The market features over 100 vendors at the Stafford Center Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Center.

The Sugar Plum Market welcomes your support of their charitable efforts. There are a variety of sponsorship and underwriting packages available to

### both businesses and individuals. The market is also seeking donations for their Premium Raffle. For more information, email sponsors@fbjsl.com.

### **Fort Bend Junior Service League** provides grants to nonprofits

The Fort Bend Junior Service League continues to make a difference within the Fort Bend community through its Community Assistance Fund. The fund can provide grants of up to \$5,000 per league year, per agency, to local Fort Bend non-profits needing financial support to fund a critical need, pilot a program or expand a significant service to the community.

The league recently supported through the Community Assistance Fund two worthy Fort Bend non-profit agencies. The first award was to Undies for Everyone (UFE) for \$3,000 to provide undergarments to over 400 children. Undies for Everyone coordinates with various Fort Bend agencies who assist underserved children to outfit each child with seven days of undergarments building self-esteem and confidence. To learn more about Undies for Everyone, please visit the website undiesforeveryone.org.

The second award was to the Art League of Fort Bend for \$2,000 for use towards updating the gallery lighting. The art league is a multi-arts facility managed by volunteer members of the Art League of Fort Bend. It functions as a shared space for artists and art enthusiasts to create, display and experience art through shows, exhibits and learning opportunities. For more information about the Art League of Fort Bend, visit the website artleaguefortbend.org.

For more information about the junior service league, visit the website fbjsl.org.

-CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



Kingsland Baptist Church hosted an international festival Saturday at Kingsland Baptist Church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd. The festivities included cultural performances, entertainment, food from various Katy-area restaurants, and a global market.



GEORGE SLAUGHTER



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# **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

35. Oh, no!

40. Not or

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

18 years

42. Poke fun at

43. Consisting of roots

47. "\_\_\_ Humbug!"

49. A way to remove

other sounds

50. A confusion of voices and

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Hillsides
- 6. A way to ingest
- 9. Large number
- 13. Southeastern Minnesota city
- 14. Cronies
- 15. Having sufficient skill, knowledge
- 16. Supplements with difficulty
- 17. Former VP nominee Palin
- 18. Cambodian monetary unit
- 19. Where coaches work
- 21. Secret political clique
- 22. A type of lute
- 23. Tan
- 24. Empire State
- 25. Where golfers begin
- 28. For each 29. Muslim inhabitants of the
- Philippines
- 31. Bird genus
- 33. Popular Dave Matthews Band song
- 36. Domesticates
- 38. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 39. Asian antelope
- 41. One who takes apart 44. Kin
- 45. Dresses
- 46. Says something about you (abbr.)
- 48. Doctor of Education
- 49. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 51. Overcharge
- 52. Sailboats
- 54. Indian musical patterns 56. Predisposition to a condition

- 60. Share a common boundary with
- 61. Wide
- 62. Skin disease
- 63. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 64. Source of the Blue Nile
- 65. Instrument
- 66. Red deer
- 67. Unidentified flying object
- 68. Bar or preclude

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Flying insects
- 2. Strong alcoholic spirit
- 3. Old
- 4. Moves in slowly
- 5. Symbol for tin
- 6. Having certain appendages
- 7. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 8. Type of hormone (abbr.)
- 9. One with an unjustified mistrust
- 10. Hebrew calendar month
- 11. Pure
- 12. LSU football coach
- 14. Unbroken views
- 17. Fathers
- 20. Part of a race
- 21. Hairstyle
- 23. Fifth note of a major scale
- 25. Body art
- 26. Amounts of time
- 27. Designed chairs
- 29. Sensational dramatic piece
- 30. Arrangement of steps
- 32. Classifies
- 34. Young child



- 52. Keyed instrument
- 55. Unpleasantly sticky substance
- 57. A short erect tail
- 58. Indicates interest

- 65. Iron

Level: Intermediate

2

### Fun By The Numbers

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

9

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

- 37. Astronomical period of about 53. Varnishes
  - - 56. Unable to hear

    - 59. Flow or leak through
    - 61. British thermal unit

## BOOKS

from page A1

been removed, and why, visit the website https://bit.ly/3uBQZ4r.

Samuels said their efforts have made an impact in the Seven Lakes student body.

"People are talking about censorship, fearing what will happen when resources are not accessible, and right now they are not accessible," Samuels said.

Gabrielle Izu is a Taylor High School senior who wants to major in political science and work in legislation after she graduates. She said the reaction to the matter has been predominantly positive.

"Those who are opposed to the banning of books are more vocal,

which is really nice," Izu said. "I actually had a teacher hug me because this is my way of coming out. It was really nice when it came out to have a school authority express support and give me tips on what could be done to work around and address this ban."

Alison Franks is a Jordan High School junior. She said the reaction at her school to their efforts have been predominantly positive.

"I believe I surround myself with people who are very supportive of what I am doing," Franks said. "Even with people who have different views, they are curious. Students are very much trying to educate themselves. I believe education is the only cure for what is going on in our district. You can't fight against what you don't know about. You have to be educated. Lots of students are LGBTQ, black or different ethnicities."

Peniel Otto, a Cinco Ranch High School senior who hopes to become either a criminal justice or corporate attorney, reported a different reaction at her high school. She said there was not much reaction at Cinco Ranch. However, she also spends time at the Miller Career and Technology Center, where there are more conversations.

"I never wanted to be a poli-

tician, but having had talks with people changed my ideas about how we can change the stigma in a positive light," Otto said.

Jaagat Prashar, a Jordan High School sophomore, said one doesn't get complete respect on an issue "until you get up there and start speaking and doing something."

Prashar is undecided about what he wants to do after graduation, though he's looking at studying computer science or political science.

The students know not everyone agrees with their viewpoint about pulling the books and blocking some websites. The district's standard for removing a book from a school library shelf is that it be "pervasively vulgar." In previous meetings, critics have urged the board to remove books they thought met that standard. The district in December launched an app that enables feedback on books the district purchases.

Prashar said opponents couldn't be avoided.

"It's more a byproduct of progress and it kind of motivates you to keep pushing," Prashar said. "I like to look at the positive side of things, and I'm grateful for the support we have."

## TABLET

from page A1

"YHW" is for "Yahweh," a form of the Hebrew name for God that is used in the Bible.

Stripling said the curse, along with the blessing, were parts of covenants made in those days.

"That's how you made a covenant in the Bronze Age," Stripling said. (The Bronze Age ran from about 3300-1200 B.C.) "You bind yourself with an oath. If I keep the terms of the covenant, I receive the blessings, and if not, I receive the curses. You cannot have a covenant without blessings and curses."

Stripling said the date of the tablet is consistent with other archaeological findings and synchronizes with biblical dates. The date of the table is consistent with the approximate dates of the writing of the Pentateuch, which Jews call the Torah. The Pentateuch and Torah different terms, but both refer to the first five books of the Old Testament. Those books are the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Stripling said some scholars have questioned whether there was some sort of alphabet that people could read and understand in those days. The tablet's existence implies that there were both.

"That's one of the big implications," Stripling said. "Jesus said that Moses wrote the Torah."

Stripling said the tablet was discovered in 2019 and archaeologists had hoped to both complete testing and announce the findings sooner. However, the pandemic slowed things down and the needed research took longer to finish.

He said a peer-reviewed article detailing the finding was in preparation and is expected to be out within the next few months.

"We're trying to finish that up, hopefully, by the end of summer," Stripling said in an interview. "It's just a tedious process of researching. We're going back to our objects from the excavation to make sure we didn't miss anything that was relevant. We're consulting with other specialists."

The excitement of the archaeological discovery aside, Stripling said the discovery means a person can trust the Bible.

"All the stuff that throws at you, I can trust the promises in the Bible because it's a trusted historical document," Stripling said.



### **REMOVAL** from page A1

board were also very conservative. And to any school employees who might have different political beliefs, Glenn said, "You better hide it," adding, "Here in this community, we're going to be conservative."

For months, conservative parents and politicians across Texas had been pressuring districts to remove from school libraries any books that contain explicit descriptions of sex, labeling several young adult novels as "pornography." Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, called for criminal investigations into school employees who make such content available to students.

Many of the titles targeted have featured queer characters and storylines, but those calling for the books' removal have repeatedly said they are concerned only with sex and vulgarity, not with suppressing the views of LGBTQ students and authors.

Glenn made a similar argument during his closed-door meeting with librarians in Granbury, which is about an hour's drive southwest of Dallas.

"I don't want a kid picking up a book, whether it's about homosexuality or heterosexuality, and reading about how to hook up sexually in our libraries," Glenn said. He also made it clear that his concerns specifically included books with LGBTQ themes, even if they do not describe sex. Those comments, according to legal experts, raise concerns about possible violations of the First Amendment and federal civil rights laws that protect students from discrimination based on their gender and sexuality.

"And I'm going to take it a

the country, pulling about 130 titles from library shelves for review. Nearly three-quarters of the removed books featured LGBTQ characters or themes, according to a ProPublica and Texas Tribune analysis. Others dealt with racism, sex ed, abortion and women's rights.

Two months later, a review committee voted to permanently ban three of the books and return the others to shelves. But that may not be the end of the process.

In his recorded comments to librarians, Glenn described the review of 130 titles as the first step in a broader appraisal of library content, and a new policy approved by the school board in January grants him and other administrators authority to unilaterally remove additional titles they deem inappropriate, with no formal review and no way for the public to easily find out what has been pulled from shelves.

Legal, education and First Amendment experts contacted by ProPublica, NBC News and the Tribune said the audio, combined with the decision to abruptly remove books from circulation, even temporarily, raises constitutional concerns.

Glenn's comments also call into question the district's commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive school environment for LGBTQ students and could be grounds for a complaint to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, which enforces federal anti-discrimination laws, the experts said.

"This audio is very much evidence of anti-LGBTQ and particularly anti-trans discrimination," said Kate Huddleston, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, who reviewed the recording. "It is very much saying the quiet part out loud in a way that provides very significant evidence that book removals in the district are occurring because of anti-LGBTQ bias." In a written statement, Glenn said the district was committed to supporting students of all backgrounds. And although he said the district's primary focus is educating students, "the values of our community will always be reflected in our schools." Jeremy Schwartz writes for The Texas Tribune and Propublica. Mike Hixenbaugh writes for NBC News. This story, which has been edited for length, originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at www. texastribune.org/2022/03/23/ north-texas-superintendent-targets-books-about-transgender-people/.



This Argis map, created by Katy city staff, enables the public to check the status of projects around the city.

### CITY from page A1

the project type, description, funding source, current phase, phase completion, and the latest update.

"Bam, there you go," Harris said.

The map site unveiling highlighted a meeting in which the council approved a number of bids for various projects. These bids included:

• A \$304,314 bid for street maintenance to Teamwork Construction Services of Houston.

• A \$221,450 bid for a lift station

went well rehabilitation project to T Gray Utility Aims, of Cypress.

• A \$228,365 bid for the 11th Street water line replacement project to Cohil Construction Services, of Cypress.

• A \$430,557 bid for ditch regrading and culvert replacement to AR TurnKee construction company of Houston.

• A \$729,287 bid for a storm water pump station at the wastewater treatment plant to ZeusCon of Houston. • A \$35,106 proposal with Gordian Group for VFW Hall building improvements and upgrades.

• A \$13,457 proposal with Gordian Group for construction of an additional storage closet at the VFW Hall.

• A \$119,355 bid for sanitary sewer rehabilitation to King Solution Services of Houston.

The council also approved a variance to the city ordinance to serve alcoholic beverages at Willy Burger, 6191 Highway Blvd. step further with you," he said, according to the recording. "There are two genders. There's male, and there's female. And I acknowledge that there are men that think they're women. And there are women that think they're men. And again, I don't have any issues with what people want to believe, but there's no place for it in our libraries."

Minutes later, after someone asked if titles on racism were acceptable, Glenn said books on different cultures "are great."

"Specifically, what we're getting at, let's call it what it is, and I'm cutting to the chase on a lot of this," Glenn said. "It's the transgender, LGBTQ and the sex — sexuality — in books. That's what the governor has said that he will prosecute people for, and that's what we're pulling out."

Over the next two weeks, the school district embarked on one of the largest book removals in

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# OPINION

# Are you terrible at remembering names?

f you have a habit of forgetting names as soon as you're introduced, join the club.

**THE KATY TIMES** THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

KATYTIMES.COM

In all fairness, I have a mind like a steel trap when it comes to appointments, debts and trivia; it's just that names tend to chew their leg off in order to escape.

Bless his heart, my son Gideon is even worse. We'll be out shopping, and some peer will shout a hearty, "Hi, Gideon!" It may be someone who bullied him through six years of school or the person who saved his life three times with the Heimlich maneuver, but 95 percent of the time he gets a "deer in the headlights" look when asked their name.

It's just that his mind is always running in a thousand different directions. It's not that he considers his classmates to be lesser beings. (Gideon, stop shining that magnifying glass on what's-his-name!)

Humans are not hardwired to remember names, but etiquette mavens insist that my mental freezes are borderline rude. Apparently, I have sole responsibility for the recognition, validation and self-esteem of every sentient being I meet in passing.

That is fundamentally unfair. Different people have different talents. Why pick on someone because of their lack of memory skills? How come the self-worth of minor acquaintances isn't based on your ability to bench-press 800 pounds for them? How come you never hear anyone whine, "You couldn't duplicate Jimi Hendrix's rendition of the 'Star Spangled Banner' for me, so I'm going on suicide watch?"

Experts will offer you all sorts of mnemonic tricks for committing names to long-term memory, but they don't always work in a bustling networking situation or a crowded party. Strangers won't pause long enough to let me process infor-



Humans are not hardwired to remember names, but etiquette mavens insist that my mental freezes are borderline rude. Apparently, I have sole responsibility for the recognition, validation and self-esteem of every sentient being I meet in passing.

the latter, I typically conjure an image of whatever their parents were smoking when they concocted that name.

Well-timed flatulence is an excellent defense mechanism. If you are introduced to someone whose name you will probably forget, cut loose with appropriate volume. Hold your hand to your ear and give that plaintive "didn't quite hear you" grimace. Repeat until they give up. Believe you me, this will save you from an embarrassing situation in the future.

I also recommend bluffing your way through an awkward situation. If you recognize a face that you can't match with a name, go on the offensive. Rush up and start singing a song snippet such as "I got chills, they're multiplyin'..."

When they give you a blank stare, provide them a chance to save face by muttering, "Oh...I really shouldn't have expected



# Time to mourn the mornings

When the onset of daylight saving time throughout the U.S. - except for a couple of states that still trust the science - we've now reached the time of year that is especially challenging for folks like me who don't identify as "morning people." And there are lots of us. According to the posts I've been seeing on Facebook, the popularity of daylight saving time ranks right up there with Vladimir Putin.

And now I hear the U.S. Congress is considering taking that precious one hour of extra sleep hostage on a permanent basis by leaving daylight saving time in place – forever!

Does daylight really need saving? Who are we to tamper with a normal force of nature like this? Think of the harm we may be inflicting on the environment - and ourselves! In fact, a recent Business Insider article links daylight saving time to an increase in car accidents, heart attacks and strokes. Maybe that's why waking up to my alarm when it's still dark outside makes me feel like I'm recovering from a head transplant. Honestly, my primary complaint is with mornings in general. Although I appreciate attempts at positivity, I feel triggered anytime someone greets me with an enthusiastic "Good morning!" Other people leave it at a mercifully abridged "Morning." These folks get it. They recognize the time of day but don't impose their adjectives on me, or maybe they can just tell I'm about to burst into tears.



Some morning people seem to take pride in their inability to sleep-in. "I'm just a morning person, I guess," they say with false humility. I actually admire these people. They've accepted the fact that morning is coming each day, so they figure they might as well be happy about it. I, on the other hand, feel like rising up in protest about the unreasonable expectation that I should put on pants before 11 a.m.

Have you ever noticed that "morning" and "mourning" are homonyms? This makes perfect sense. For me, both words are associated with sadness and a big meal to try to make things better.

And speaking of meals, even

me for sleeping late whenever I get the chance. They use words like "slothful." Have you ever seen a sloth? They're adorable, huggable creatures, and even acrobatic – like me.

Others might even be tempted to quote Proverbs 6:9, which sounds a lot like my dad when I was a teenager: "How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?"

Fair enough. I'll admit that morning is my favorite time of day to miss, and I do take sleeping late to extreme-sport levels. But instead of focusing on the negative, I like to reflect on Psalm 127:2, which says, "In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for He grants sleep to those He loves."

See, Dad, God must love me - a lot!

And while I'm on the subject of God's love, I'm forever thankful that He blessed me with a wife and three daughters who are all skilled in the fine art of sleeping until noon on Saturdays. They truly make me proud. So even if you're a morning person, I encourage you to join the battle against daylight saving time by sleeping-in from time to time. Do it for your health. Do it for your car. Your pants can wait. 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.

mation. They invariably distract me with some inane chitchat such as "Eyes up here," "You have a grip like my four-yearold" or "John has told me so much about you, but I thought I would go ahead and take my medicine."

Too few names fall into that "sweet spot" of being neither too mundane nor too obscure. Visualization doesn't help make lasting connections with these extreme cases. With the former, I invariably picture myself watching paint dry. With you to remember OUR song all this time. And I hate to bring it up, but it looks like you forgot to bring that pony you promised my paraplegic son, Wee Angus."

Either they will apologize profusely to YOU, or they will call 9-1-1. ("There's this potentially dangerous visitor in the office. No, I can't remember his name, but...")

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

the word "breakfast" has the word "break" in it. Whoever coined the word must have recognized that getting up early enough to eat at that time of day makes people like me want to break something - fast. Because, deep down, nobody really wants to eat at 6:00 a.m. That's probably why most traditional breakfast foods are full of sugar, cholesterol, and other delicious ingredients. It's like we're trying to trick our stomachs into thinking we're on a food tour at the fair instead of getting ready for work. Some people might criticize

# **Katy...Times**

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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

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

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

### ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:

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



# **COMMUNITY & FAITH**

### TRIBUTES

Life is a Journey, William T. Hirschfelder, Jr. was born in San Antonio June 15, 1960 to William T. Hirschfelder Sr. and Ann Chamberlain. After 17 months of fighting cancer and its side effects, he peacefully made his final journey home on Sunday morning March 20, 2022. He was not alone, and God was there to lead him peacefully home.

"The Dash" in his life included growing up in Huntsville area. When young he was King of the Parade in Trinity. He went to Huntsville High School and made many friends and a character was based on him in the movie Dazed & Confused. He and Lisa met as she was at SHSU and became friends first and their relationship progressed from there.

They married and built their life and family in Katy, Texas. There was nothing he cherished more than his wife Lisa, daughter Kayce, son Kyle, and the light of his life, grandson Cooper.



WILLIAM THOMAS HIRSCHFELDER, JR. 1960-2022

William worked for the family business Hard Times BBQ until changing careers. He worked as a journeyman electrician and became part of the West Houston Electric family for 27 years.

William loved the tradition of Katy football and all the values it instilled in his kids and the friendships made along the way. William enjoyed hunting when younger but didn't get to go as much as he got older.

He was at peace when on the water fishing with his friends. He kept asking his doctors when he could go fishing and they finally said yes. The only stipulation was he could not touch the bait or fish. Of course, Captain Leb was a true friend and did all the work. God worked wonders that day and led them to the best fishing spot and William had the biggest smile as he showed off their catch of the day.

William's other relaxation was playing cards with his friends. He knew once he had the stem cell transplant that he would not be able to go. He went to Coushatta on the weekends before the transplant and if vou know William, he tried to convince them to keep his gold card status.

William chose the road less traveled and made his own path. He loved his family and friends and would lend a helping hand when

you least expected it. You make choices in life and he lived life's journey with no regrets.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Sturm Hirschfelder; daughter, Kayce Hirschfelder; son, Kyle Hirschfelder; grandson, Cooper William Bullard (Kayce); mother, Ann Chamberlain Wesolick; brother, Robert & wife Michelle Profili; brother, Kirk & wife Sharon Hirschfelder; sister, Sherry & husband Jason Piexoto; in-laws, Nelda Sturm. Ronnie & Cathy Sturm, Randy & Lauri Sturm, and nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Col. C.J. & Ethel Hirschfelder and Joseph & Mary Chamberlain, and brother, Stephen Hirschfelder.

To sign the virtual guestbook, visit the website https://william-hirschfelder. virtual-memorials.com/.

Will "Bill" Roesler III, age 79, passed peacefully at his home in Katy, Texas on Sunday February 27, 2022. He was cared for in his final weeks by home hospice services and by his devoted son, Will Roesler IV.

Bill was born in Houston, on December 17, 1942. He was raised in Houston and graduated from Reagan High School in 1960. Bill and his wife Paula Goodman Roesler were married for 52 years. They married on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1969 and raised their family in Houston and Katy, Texas. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Will Roesler, Jr. and Barbara Cosgrove Roesler, his beloved wife Paula Goodman Roesler, his brother Robert Roesler, and sister Barbara Jean Roesler. He is survived by his daughter Jennifer Lopez, son Will Roesler IV, granddaughters Lauren Roesler Graves and her husband Richard, and Meagan Lee Roesler; sister Joan Abbott, brother



WILL ROESLER III 1942-2022

Ronald and his wife Debbie Roesler; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Bill was an avid bowler and a proud truck driver with a long career working for Conway Southern Express, where he received an award for driving one million miles without an accident

Bill and Paula's ashes will be interred at 3 p.m. on April 8, 2022 at Memorial Oaks Cemetery, 13001 Katy Freeway, in Houston.

## **NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE**

The Katy Police Department has taken delivery of a truck that will be used by its commercial motor vehicle (CMV) officer. This officer focuses on law enforcement as it pertains to CMVs such as concrete trucks, construction trucks, dump trucks, and 18-wheelers that drive through the city.

CHRIS HARRIS





## The Katy Times Dírectory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship



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# Pattison to apply for grant to help with flood mitigation



### BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

The Pattison City Council Thursday authorized work to begin on a grant application that, if approved, would help the city clean culverts and remove other possible barriers in case of a flood.

Mark Dessines, vice president of SPI in Houston, is working with the city to prepare the paperwork, which must be submitted before the end of April. The council met in special session to authorize the paperwork because of the quick turnaround required.

The grant is part of a forthcoming city-wide master storm water drainage plan.

In discussing the need for such a plan, Mayor Joe Garcia said the city was built on a higher elevation, with water runoff going southwest towards Bessie's Bayou.

Dessines said the city had a head start on the paperwork because of already-existing topographical surveys and other information, including topographical surveys.

In other action, the council authorized Garcia to sign the H-GAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council) Household Hazardous Waste collection event contract. It also authorized Garcia to sign the Waller County Election Contract for the May 7 municipal election.

Pattison city leaders are using this map as an aid in developing a flood control plan. Yancy Scott, Waller County engineer and floodplain administrator, created the map.

CITY OF PATTISON

## Royal FFA members compete in Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Members of the Royal FFA Chapter have been preparing their animals for months to compete at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the largest livestock show in the world. The 90th Annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo just finished up and FFA exhibitors came home with some very impressive results. Students across Texas participated in the Junior Show, open to all FFA & 4-H members.

Winners include:

### Market Goat

• Jaylyn Danz, Heavyweight Market Goat

### **Breeding Swine**

• Rory Melton, Class Champion, Duroc

Market Swine

Kinleigh Guidry, Re-

• Kinleigh Guidry, Reserve Division Champion, 1st Place Market Swine.



Kinleigh Guidry with her heifer calf.

• Kinleigh Guidry, Champion Polled Hereford Heifer Calf, Class Champion Yearling

Kaelyn Hein, 3rd Place
Brangus Heifer Calf
Raelee Hacke, 7th Place
Santa Gertrudis Heifer
Porter Jacob, 5th Place
ARB Heifer Calf

• Presley Jacob, Grand Champion Red Brangus Female, Champion Senior Heifer, Class Champion





Presley Jacob with her Red Brangus heifer.



A6 THE KATY TIMES THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

KATYTIMES.COM

Yorkshire

 Rory Melton, 5th Place Market Swine, Light Cross
 Porter Jacob, Market

Swine, Light Cross • Presle Jacob, Market

Swine, Spotted Poland China

• Shelby Woods, Market Swine, Hampshire • Ekon Ferro, Market Swine, Dark Cross

### **Breeding Heifers**

• Brianna Diezi, 1st Place ORB Heifer Calf Senior Heifer

### Market Steers

 Hanna Ulbricht, Class Champion, Reserve Champion American Scramble Steer, 4th Place Brangus Steer, Lightweight Brangus Averi Rongey, Market Steer, 5th Place Class 2 ABC Shelby Woods, Red Cross Market Steer

Kaylee Meader and Brianna Diezi competed in the calf scramble. Kaelyn Hein with her heifer calf.

Hanna Ulbricht with her American scramble steer.



Rory Melton with a breeding swine.



Averi Rongey with her market steer.

The Sealy Area Historical Society's



Brianna Diezi with her ORB heifer calf.



For more information, contact Susan Rovegno at publisher@katytimes.com or 281-391-3141

Spring Fest Sealy Historical Park 211 East Main St., Sealy, TX

**April 9, 2022** 9 AM – 5 PM

Mike Blakely Singer/Songwriter/Author Polish Dance Group Wawel Old-fashioned Games Demonstrations Handcrafted Items Storytellers Great Food Bake Sale Plant Sale Bluebonnet Master Gardeners SealyHistoricalsociety.org Free Admission

# EDUCATION

KATYTIMES.COM

# Trustees approve Bell as new assistant superintendent

### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Katy school trustees Monday approved Sanée Bell as the new assistant superintendent for teaching and learning.

Bell previously served as executive director for secondary teaching and learning. She has more than 22 years of educational experience, most of which was spent in Katy. Bell began her career in 2000 as an eighth-grade language arts teacher in Louisville, Ky. Two years later, she moved to Texas and joined Katy High School as an English teacher and basketball coach.

In 2005, Bell was promoted to assistant principal at West Memorial Junior High and then, in 2008, transferred to WoodCreek Junior High to serve in the same capacity. One of Bell's aspirations was to lead a campus, and her professional goal became a reality in 2011 when she was named the principal of Cimarron Elementary. During her five-year tenure at Cimarron, Bell was recognized as the 2015 Katy ISD Elementary Principal of the Year.

In 2016, she became the principal of Morton Ranch Junior High until she was named the executive director of secondary teaching and learning in 2021.

"Katy ISD has always held a special place in my heart," Bell said. "To serve such a thriving and diverse school district is an honor that I cherish dearly. In this new role, I, along with the other team members that compose the Teaching and Learning Division, will focus on ensuring that the more than 90,000 students we support are engaging in learning experiences that prepare them for their future."

instruction from the University

of Houston - Clear Lake.

Bell holds a bachelor's degree in English and Allied Language Arts from Western Kentucky University, as well as a master's degree in Educational Management and a doctorate in educational leadership with an emphasis in curriculum and



SANÉE BELL Assistant superintendent for teaching and learning

### KATY ISD HONORS STUDENT WRESTLERS AT BOARD MEETING



Principal Melinda Stone, wrestling coach Todd Hart, Michael Bone and athletic coordinator Chad Simmons celebrate Bone's state wrestling championship honors.



Athletic coordinator Gary Josenh wrestling coach Vinnie Jowe Rodney Trotter (student) and princinal Rick Hull celebrate Trotter's state wrestling championship bonors

# Katy ISD to host 36th annual Folk Life Festival

### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

The Katy Independent School District hosts the 36th annual Folk Life Festival this weekend.

The festival is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center, which is just west of the district's Education Support Complex at 6301 S. Stadium Lane. Admission is free.

The family-friendly event gives people a glimpse of what life was like in Texas during the 1800s. Visitors will experience pioneer life by seeing how people dressed and survived, the types of foods they prepared and even how their children engaged in learning.

Other activities include blacksmith demonstrations, weaving and spinning, Native American dancing, honey beekeeping and more.

Visitors will be able to tour the newly renovated facility as they walk the grounds, visit the ponds and see the exhibits in the science and history classrooms. Before the festivities begin, the community can also witness the unveiling of the Kenneth D. Welch portrait inside the Outdoor Learning Center.

Aristoi Classical

Annetic coordinator dary soseph, wresting coach vinne Lowe, notice forcer (stadent) and principal nick num celebrate notice is state wresting championship notions.



Wrestling coach Mike White, Garrett McChesney (student), athletic coordinator Mike Rabe and principal Ethan Crowell. Celebrate McChesney's state wrestling championship honors.

## Academy's annual fundraiser set for April 1-8

### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Aristoi Classical Academy is holding its Annual Fundraiser: 25 Year Celebration Dinner, honoring Brenda Davidson with a goal to raise \$100,000.

To support this goal, Aristoi is hosting a virtual silent auction that opens next April 1 and lasts until 8 p.m. April 8. The auction is online and available to both attendees and non-attendees. Winners will be notified after the auction closes.

For more information, contact Aristoi Classical Academy at 281-391-5003.

## Save the dates! Katy ISD high school graduation ceremonies scheduled

The Katy Independent School District announced the times and dates for its high school commencement ceremonies. All ceremonies will happen at Legacy Stadium.

• Katy High School ceremonies are set for 8 p.m. May 19.

• Taylor High School, 8 p.m. May 20.

• Mayde Creek High School, 8 p.m. May 21.

• Cinco Ranch High School, 8 p.m. May 22.

• Morton Ranch High School, 8 p.m. May 23.

• Seven Lakes High School, 8 p.m. May 24.

• Tompkins High School, 8 p.m. May 25.

• Paetow High School, 8 p.m. Thursday, May 26.

Students needing to place a cap and gown order are asked to contact these vendors online:

• Cinco Ranch, Katy, Seven Lakes, Taylor and Tompkins— Herff Jones.

• Mayde Creek, Morton Ranch, and Paetow—Balfour.

Class of 2022					
	KHS	<b>THS</b>	<b>MCHS</b>	<b>CRHS</b>	
	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	
	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	
	<b>MRHS</b>	<b>SLHS</b>	OTHS	PHS	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	
	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	

### **CINCO RANCH BRANCH LIBRARY BRIEFS**



### Cinco Ranch Branch Library book clubs announce April reading selections

Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., announced its April reading selections. New members are always welcome.

The Literary Lunch League Book Club will meet at noon April 6 in the conference classroom. The book to be discussed is The Essay, by Robin Yocum. This title is available digitally as an ebook on hoopla; print copies are available at the check-out desk. This book club meets on the first Wednesday of every month. Those attending are invited to bring a lunch, if desired.

Members of the "The Butler Did It" Mystery Book Club meet at 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the conference classroom. The book club discussion on April 14 will be on The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, by Alan Bradley.

This title is available in audio and digitally as an e-audiobook on OverDrive; print copies are available at the check-out desk.

The book clubs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the library website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

### Conversation circles help English learners get practice

Fort Bend County Libraries presents a program for people who want to practice their English language and conversation skills.

The "ESL Conversation Circles" enables non-English-speaking people to gather in a relaxed setting, and discuss topics of their own choosing while practicing their English skills.

The circles happen at multiple locations in April in the Fort Bend County Library system. The circles happen from 2-3 p.m. on April 8 and 22 in the multi-purpose room at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, including other libraries where the circles will happen, visit the library website fortbend.lib. tx.us.

### Cinco Ranch Branch Library announces April computer class schedule

Cinco Ranch Branch Library presents a variety of free, introductory computer classes in April.

The classes consist of a hands-on in-

troduction to basic skills for people who want to learn more about using these computer programs. All computer classes will happen in the computer lab of the library.

• "Computers 101" is set for 2 p.m. April 13. This class presents a basic, hands-on introduction to using computers.

• "MS Word: Resumés & Cover Letters" is set for 2 p.m. April 20. Learn how to use the templates in MS Word to create resumés and cover letters. Get tips on inserting and organizing information into the template, saving and printing.

The classes are free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register online, visit the library website at fortbend. lib.tx.us, click "Classes & Events," select "Cinco Ranch Branch Library," and then find the program.

Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-395-1311, or by visiting the library.

### Cinco Ranch Library announces April children's programs

Cinco Ranch Branch Library presents a variety of free children's programs— Family Story Time, Pajama Night Story Time and After-School Breaks—throughout April.

Family Story Time happens on 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Meeting Room. Families with children of all ages will enjoy stories, songs and action rhymes. Craft packets will be given out at the end of each program so children may take them home to enjoy.

Here is the schedule of Family Story Time activities:

- April 6-7: Weather
- April 13-14: On the Farm
- April 20-21: Bunnies

• April 27-28: No programs because of elections

Pajama Night Story Time—an evening alternative for families unable to attend during the day—will happen a6 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The themes will be "Weather" and "Bunnies."

After-School Break: Earth Day Crafts Make & Take will take place at 4:30 p.m. April 20 in Meeting Room 2. This activity is for students in grades 1-3.

These programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Fort Bend County Libraries website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

-CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

# Mayde Creek High School to host Special Olympics



### BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

With so many competitive school sports teams and athletes in the Katy area, the Special Olympics stands out.

The Special Olympics, created to provide sports participation to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, celebrates not so much who wins, because all the participants are winners. Instead, a big number, but usually we have 500-600 athletes. It's still going to be a great day." COVID-19 remains

a factor, and he said the Special Olympics are trying to maximize social distancing as best they can. Still, it hosted 40 basketball teams at a recent event and sigh-fair. Masks are not required, but anybody who wants to wear a mask is welcome to do so.

"We totally respect that," Keith said. down those stereotypes."

Keith said field events include the shotput, running long jump and standing long jump. Other events include a softball throw and a mini-javelin throw. The mini-javelins are specially made so nobody gets injured, Keith said.

Hess said he would be announcing at the games, and performing other tasks as needed. He said he was willing to do whatever was needed. "This just has a special place in my life," Hess said. "I've continued this work all my life. It's just a great joy and pleasure to see these athletes that have that smile on their face. They are loving something they do, and they enjoy it." Hess also said it was a big thing that a Katy school is hosting the games. "It's big for the city, and I'd like to see more city events and support Special Olympics," Hess said. "The Rotary Club of Katy has put a grant in place to support this. Howdy Homemade Ice Cream is another one of the supporters."

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mayde Creek High School will host the Special Olympics Greater Houston Spring Games, one of which will be soccer.



it celebrates the joy of participation and competition, which people can see for themselves at the upcoming Special Olympics Greater Houston Spring Games.

Opening ceremonies are set for 9 a.m. April 9 at Mayde Creek High School, 19202 Groeschke Road. The event is free, and Greg Hess, a business coach who is a longtime volunteer, said organizers hope for a large crowd.

"We want everybody to come out," Hess said. "It's absolutely so much fun to watch these athletes compete. Everybody's a winner."

Aaron Keith, Special Olympics east region executive director, said about 300 athletes are expected at this year's event.

"It's a little less because people are still coming out of COVID-19," Keith said. "It's

Keith said track events range from the 1500-meter run to the 10-meter assisted wheelchair race. Track events also feature both unified and traditional relays. Unified relays, Keith said, are those that bring individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities together. For example, a race might have two individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and two without, but they all compete together.

"It's one of our big initiatives," Keith said. "The relay breaks down those social barriers and stigmas of someone who with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We really found that bringing people without disabilities and having them volunteer and compete with those who do is the best way to bring

Keith also expressed gratitude for the district, the volunteers, and the sponsors.

"We cannot thank Katy ISD enough for supporting us," Keith said.





THE KATY TIMES THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 **KATYTIMES.COM** 

## WEEK OF APRIL 1 **SCORES & SCHEDULES**

**SCORES** 

### **BOYS SOCCER**

### **Class 6A Area**

 Seven Lakes 3, Cy-Ridge 2 Taylor 2, Jersey Village 1 Cy-Creek 1, Cinco Ranch 0

**Class 5A Area** 

• Northeast Early College 1, Paetow 0 Jordan 2, Crockett 1

### **GIRLS SOCCER**

**Class 6A Area** 

 Seven Lakes 2, Memorial 0 • Tompkins 3, Bellaire 1 • Stratford 5, Katy 0

Class 5A Area Hendrickson 1, Jordan 0

### **SCHEDULE**

### **BOYS SOCCER**

Class 6A Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, TBD

Class 5A • Jordan vs. Pflugerville Weiss, TBD

### **GIRLS SOCCER**

Class 6A Seven Lakes vs. Ridge Point, TBD • Tompkins vs. Stratford, TBD

### SOFTBALL

### Friday

 Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 6:15 p.m. • Jordan at Magnolia, 6:30 p.m. • Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 6:15 p.m. • Taylor vs. Morton Ranch, 6:15 p.m.

### BASEBALL

• Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m. Jordan at Waller, 7 p.m. Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m. • Taylor vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.

### GOLF

Wednesday & Thursday

# Seven Lakes comes back from behind twice to beat Cy-Ridge



Kortay Koc dribbles past a defender during Tuesday's Class 6A area round game between Seven Lakes and Cy-Ridge at Legacy Stadium.

#### **BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes learned how to take a team's best punch on Tuesday.

The Spartans are young but have already been tested, winning a heavily difficult District 19-6A and learning how to win in the playoffs in bi-district.

But Tuesday was an even bigger test - the Spartans had to learn how to take a big punch and get right back up in the playoffs, and that's exactly what they did, coming from behind twice to beat Cy-Ridge 3-2 and advance to the regional quarterfinals.

"We have a lot of confidence in ourselves and I don't think that wavered tonight," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "We've scored multiple goals in almost every single match we have had, so I knew the guys wouldn't let being behind faze them. We know that we can put the ball in the back of the net so it's just making sure that we minimize mistakes on the back line and not give teams chances to beat us."

Seven Lakes dominated the early stages of the game, but it was Cy-Ridge that struck first in the 20th minute on a counter attack.

The Spartans had to battle their way back into the game but eventually did so, tying things at one in the 38th minute, with Hunter Merritt finding the back of the net off a centered pass from Kortay Koc to make things all square at half.

"Coach told us at halftime that we have to keep working and pushing" Koc said. "We were getting close but we

See SOCCER, page B4



Seven Lakes holds on for win over Elkins in bi-district round

• Paetow and Jordan at District 19-5A Tournament

### TENNIS

### **Thursday & Friday**

District 19-6A Tournament at Katy

### **TRACK & FIELD**

### Friday

 Cinco Ranch, Katy at Bridgeland meet • Tompkins, Jordan at Tompkins Classic Morton Ranch at Cy-Falls meet



TYLER TYRE

Haven Nail makes a tackle during Tuesday's Class 6A area round game between Tompkins and Bellaire at Legacy

## **Tompkins dominates Bellaire**

### **BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins wanted to start fast. After waiting for 84 minutes to score their first goal against George Ranch in the bi-district round, the Falcons wanted to make sure they did everything possible to keep from that again.

Valentina Gianinetto made sure Tompkins didn't have to deal with any type of scoring drought on Tuesday, as the sophomore scored two goals, the first of which came in the 24th minute, en route to a 3-1 Falcons win over Bellaire in the Class 6A Area round at Legacy Stadium.

'The game plan was to go out and be aggressive from the first kick," said Tompkins head coach Jarrett Shipman. "We had the wind at our back and we

wanted to go at them and get up early since we knew we had that. It took us a bit to find the back of the net, but once we did, we were able to take advantage of it and get further ahead."

The wind was a factor, blowing around 20 miles per hour during the game, and with it at their back, Tompkins was on the front foot from the start, creating chances and pressing Bellaire as they attempted to gain the lead. The team took shots at every opportunity and it paid ff in the 24th minute, when one of those shots bounced off the goalkeeper and went right to Gianinetto, who scored on the rebound to give the Falcons the lead.

"We came in with the mindset that we had to jump on this early and take care

See TOMPKINS, page B8

### **BY TYLER TYRE**

SPORTS EDITOR

Haydan Erck knew her team needed a jump start.

Seven Lakes hadn't started the game like they normally do, and Elkins had been on the front foot for the first ten minutes.

Seven Lakes slowly started to build themselves back into things but it was Erck that jumpstarted the Spartans, scoring a 20th minute goal as the Spartans went on to win 1-0 over Fort

See SPARTANS, page B3



TYLER TYRE

Kennedy Reed dribbles and tries to get past a defender during Thursday's Class 6A bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Elkins at Legacy Stadium.





# Tompkins survives in penalties to beat George Ranch



Kayla Boven crosses the ball during Friday's Class 6A bi-district round game between Tompkins and George Ranch at Rhodes Stadium.

### **BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Gaby Vazquez had already been through this moment.

With the game on the line and time dying down, Vazquez found herself needing to save a penalty to keep Tompkins' season alive.

Vazquez did just that, easily handling a penalty shot with just 20 seconds left on the clock to send the game into extra time.

But then she found herself in the same situation when extra time finished without any extra goals and the Falcons bi-district game against George Ranch went to penalties.

But Vazquez stepped up to the plate once again, as George Ranch was unable to convert any penalties and Tompkins downed the Longhorns 3-0 on penalties after a 1-1 tie at full time.

"It was such a crazy feeling," Vazquez said. "We practice penalties at the end of every practice and I think just doing that really prepares us for them. Especially for the shooters, it gets them ready for these moments. For me, it's more of a mind thing. Everyone knows you have to kind of guess where the shooter is going, so I just tried to not get in my own head and just went with my gut and it worked."

It was a whirlwind final few minutes and overtime for the Falcons. With just five minutes remaining in the match, Tompkins earned a penalty and Mackinlee Poole coolly converted it to put the Falcons ahead.

But that lead would last for only one minute. The Falcons let themselves get comfortable after the goal and immediately paid as George Ranch tied in on an Annie Schoditsch goal. And just minutes after that, George Ranch got a penalty that could have sent the Longhorns to the area round. But Vazquez made sure it didn't, and breathed new life into the Falcons.

"We had to understand that we are fighting for this team and we're fighting for every single senior from here on out," Poole said. "We know that we needed to be in this second round and that we could do it. I think that's what did it for us and why we were able to bounce back the way we did."

Tompkins and George Ranch continued to go back and forth in the extra period, with both getting chances but being unable to put the game away. Leading to the game going to penalties, where Vazqeuz secured the victory while three out of the four Tompkins penalty takers converted their opportunities.

"I told them after the game that they've been through the whole playoff experience now in just one game," said Tompkins head coach Jarrett Shipman. "There's no surprises for them anymore. They know what it's going to take in every game and I'm just proud of their mental effort to hang in there and overcome everything they faced today."

The Falcons have that experience now and are still savoring the win.

"I'm just so proud of what we did," Vazquez said. "This has been my favorite season and it's because of who I'm playing with. Every person on this team, they're just all my friends and I love them. I'm super proud of them tonight, everyone really pulled through."

## Falcons' season ends in bi-district round

**BY TYLER TYRE** 

The Falcons created the better chances in the first half and seemed to be chipping away and getting closer to scoring a goal as the half went on. But Ridge Point responded every time Tompkins made a mistake, countering and pushing forward with numbers to give themselves an opportunity. all the time," Jones said. "It comes from my daughter, who passed away from cancer in 2015 and we talked about all the time, when life takes you down, you have to get back up and be a man and be better for it. You learn from it. This hurts for these guys, but they're going to grow up and go on and do great things because of this." The Falcons never fully recovered from giving up the goal and despite throwing numbers forward, couldn't get a great chance to tie things down the stretch. But the Falcons gave their all and luck just wasn't on their side on the night.



SPORTS EDITOR

### Back and forth.

For 65 minutes in Tompkins' bi-district matchup with Ridge Point, that's how things went, with the Falcons getting chances and pushing forward for a time, before the Panthers would come back with momentum of their own and create chances.

The chances weren't falling for Tompkins and after Ridge Point put one of their chances away midway through the second half, the Falcons couldn't get back in it, falling 1-0 to bring the group's season to an end.

"Things didn't go our way tonight," said Tompkins head coach Tom Jones. "We kept fighting, never gave up and even though we couldn't get it to fall in the net they never stopped. That's one of the things that happens in this game sometimes and we just couldn't get one tonight." But Tompkins answered punch for punch as well.

"This group had the best chemistry I've ever seen," said Braylon Le, a senior forward. "Just all the seniors, everyone combined really well and we were great friends off the field and that carried over onto it as well. Everyone was best friends and that's the best thing you can say about a team."

Ridge Point started to get back into the game in the second half and created better chances for themselves, eventually that paid off with their 65th minute goal.

"Our slogan is 'positive mojo' and we talk about this sort of stuff Tompkins will graduate 22 seniors from the team, and while they are disappointed at the moment, what they did for the program over their four years won't be forgotten.

"They were just huge for us," Jones said. "They came in as freshman and won a district championship and they've just been

TYLER TYRE

Rafa Gonzalez tries to shoot a ball as a defender challenges during Friday's Class 6A bi-district round game between Tompkins and Ridge Point at Rhodes Stadium.

amazing the whole time we've had them. I hate this for them, I really do. Last year we came in the underdog and took care of business and this year we came out a higher seed but we didn't. It's just one of those things even though I wish it wasn't."





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# Spartans overcome test against Clements to advance

### **BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes knew that their second game against Clements would be different than the first.

The Spartans faced Clements in the first game of the season, coming out 10-0 winners. Seven Lakes was dominant throughout and easily earned the win.

But this was the playoffs. It had been nearly three months since the teams' first meeting and both teams were in a different spot. And Clements was fighting for its season's life.

Seven Lakes though, withstood everything the Rangers could throw at them, and the Spartans came out 1-0 winners to advance to the area round.

"We knew coming into this game that it was going to be a completely different team than the first time we faced them," said Ty Koc, a senior left back. "With it being playoffs, everything's on the line and so you're gong to get the best from any team on any given day. Just a huge amount of respect to Clements for battling. But I'm proud of the boys for how we persevered throughout the game and hopefully it's the first round of many."

Seven Lakes and Clements battled back and forth through the first half, as the Spartans dominated possession and the chances, but couldn't find a goal.

"Sometimes players want to have a big moment. When things don't go your way and you are used to scoring goals as a team, it can lead to people trying to force things," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "When you go into heavy traffic, into heavy numbers, it creates pressure and we try not to have that. Our big talk at halftime was to relax, keep moving the ball around and make them chase the game. When a chance comes from that then we

### had to take it."

The Spartans calmed down in the second half, working the ball out wide and creating chances and the breakthrough finally came in the 54th minute. Seven Lakes worked the ball around to the right side and Koc sprinted forward from his left back position into open space. A teammate hit Koc with a cross, and the senior slotted the ball into the back of the net to give Seven Lakes the lead.

"They knew that I like to get forward and were sticking with me out wide, but I realized there was a big gap in between their center back and their full back on my side," Koc said. "I saw the open spot and ran to it and tried to exploit that space inside. I got the pass and it worked so, it was just an amazing feeling. Especially being a senior. I've played for this team for four years so I know what it means to wear this badge everyday. To get the goal to score the goal that kept the season alive and kept my senior season alive, it meant everything to me. I'm really proud of that.'

The Spartans had chances to add a second, but couldn't find the back of the net the rest of the way as Clements kept as many players behind the ball as they could and then countered when given the opportunity.

But the test will also help the Spartans through the rest of the playoffs.

"It helps a lot," Koc said. "It gives us a battle early, usually first rounds aren't the toughest, but its good coming out and getting a teams best and knowing early on that no one is going to roll over and let us beat them. I'm glad we went up a team that battled to the end like that and I think it will help us out in the end."

Seven Lakes expects to make a run in the playoffs and hopes the defensive effort will continue. "Our back line really stepped



Kortay Koc, above, jumps to try and volley a ball towards goal during Thursday's Class 6A bi-district game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Clements at Legacy Stadium. Right, Javier Rivas tries to round the keeper during Thursday's Class 6A bi-district game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Clements at Legacy Stadium.

### PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

up and took care of business today, and that's huge for us going forward," Krueger said. "When your offense is struggling to find a goal, that's when it really pays off. We've been blessed to be really successful offensively most of this year and it's a big moment for them when the goals aren't coming but the defense steps up at the right time. Now we just have to keep that going."



### SPARTANS from page B1

Elkins in the bi-district round on Thursday. It was a picture perfect goal for Erck,

as she took a defender one-on-one before blasting a shot from 20-yards out that sailed past the keeper and into the back of the net.

"I knew there were three defenders back when I got the ball, but I also saw that there was space and I was one-onone with just one defender," Erck said. "My coach always says go one versus one if you can so I saw that and attacked. I got space so I shot and was able to get the





Rebecca Romero tries to hold up a ball while battling a defender during Thursday's Class 6A bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Elkins at Legacy Stadium.

goal."

That goal was all Seven Lakes would need, as the Spartans would hang on for a win, but it wasn't without Elkins giving the Spartans everything it had.

Elkins tried their best to attack in the first half, but the Seven Lakes back line did a strong job keeping the team at bay. After the slow start, Seven Lakes rallied back to dominate the rest of the first half.

"We just had to do what we've been doing all season," said Seven Lakes head coach Kaitlyn Eidson. "There was a little bit of excitement for the playoffs and they had just come back from spring break, so they had to get their rhythm back. They were able to do that and they took that excitement and put it into how we were playing on the field."

Seven Lakes came into the matchup the expected winner, but Elkins never backed down and they continued to fight throughout the second half. But the Spartans defense held strong.

"The defense was just massive tonight," Erck said. "We couldn't buy a goal in that second half, but they never let them get Haydan Erck dribbles past a defender during Thursday's Class 6A bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Elkins at Legacy Stadium.

close. The defense had to be really big and they were."

Having such a tough matchup in the first round was a blessing for the Spartans, as it prepared the team for what they will face the rest of the way and gave them a good opponent coming off the long break after spring break.

"We really picked ourselves up and encouraged each other today," said Katie Fitzpatrick. "There was a lot of positive communication and today was kind of a light switch for us."

The Spartans are hoping to take the win and use it to build as they head further into the playoffs.

"We have a couple things we need to work on, but we just have to keep playing our game," Erck said. "If we keep doing that and stay positive, we'll be good."



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### SOCCER

from page B1

had to keep pushing. We didn't want this to be our seniors' last game and we had to play for the seniors. We don't want them to go out, they all deserve better than that."

Cy-Ridge made things difficult for Seven Lakes to do that though, and the Rams regained the lead in the 48th minute. But Seven Lakes answered back almost immediately, as Koc blasted a goal in from 25-yards out to tie the game just a minute later to swing the momentum back in the Spartans' favor.

"He's a special player," Krueger said. "He may be a freshman, but he doesn't play like a freshman. There's nothing about that kid that would make you think he's a freshman. He gets stuck in, he's nasty when he needs to be and he'll do anything that he's asked. We moved him into the middle because we needed a little bit of grit and he brought it. He can play anywhere on that field, he has a really bright future ahead of him as long as he stays hungry and

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

### driven."

Seven Lakes' defense has had moving parts in the past few games as the Spartans have dealt with injuries, and it was no exception on Tuesday. While the entire team struggled to contain Cy-Ridge's counter attack at times, the back line stepped up in the second half to shut things down when needed. Aidan Morrison, an attacking midfielder for the Spartans, had to step in to help the back line and earned man of the match for his efforts.

"He was just so calm and composed and really helped anchor the back line tonight and the whole group," Krueger said. "They're able to play big when it's needed the most and they showed it again today."

Seven Lakes finally came all the way back when in the 65th minute Noa Stasic found space and converted the Spartans' third goal to give them the lead for good.

Seven Lakes held off Cy-Ridge for the rest of the match on the way to secure the win

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

### and move on to the regional quarterfinals.

"We knew we had the momentum after the second goal and we knew we had this game and that we could win it when we played our best," Koc said. "It was amazing and meant a lot to all of us. Especially with all the fans in the crowd and how much it meant to them too."

It will be a battle of familiar foes in the regional quarterfinals, as two Katy ISD schools face off in Seven Lakes and Taylor. It will be the teams' third game against each other this season.

"We just have to play our game," Kreuger said. "They are a big physical team. They dominate on set pieces, they have that monster throw. We just have to mentally be ready to go in the trenches and battle in those moments. Taylor is a very dangerous team, in any other district they are not a fourth seed. They have the ability to be dangerous but the most important thing for us is to play our game and no one else's."



Hunter Merritt dribbles the ball past a defender during Tuesday's Class 6A area round game between Seven Lakes and Cy-Ridge at Legacy Stadium.



**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

### **INVITATION TO BID**

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, attention Travis W. Miller, PE, will be electronically received until 2:30 p.m. local time, April 12, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Water, Sanitary, and Drainage Facilities in Sunterra Sec 43 for 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 609-173-233# 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 31, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 785-926-625# when prompted.

### **INVITATION TO BID**

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Jones & Carter, Inc., attention Blair M. Bozarth, PE, will be electronically received until 10:30 a.m. local time, April 14th, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Water, Sanitary, and Drainage, in Sunterra Section 36 for Astro Sunterra LP. 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 727072372# 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 April 7th, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 732876718# when prompted.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

The City of Katy, Texas will hold a Public Hearing to review the performance under its Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Contract #19-076-012-B361 with the Texas General Land Office in which funds were used for drainage improvements for the City of Katy.

The Public Hearing will be held as follows:

- Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022
- 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Time:
- Location: City of Katy Council Chambers 901 Avenue C Katy, TX 77493

Agenda:

1. Review of the CDBGDR Contract #19-076-012-B361 2. Citizens' views, proposals, questions and comments.

Handicapped individuals who wish to attend this meeting should contact the Katy City Hall at 281-391-4838 to arrange for assistance.

If you are unable to attend, please mail your views and comments to:

Becky McGrew City Secretary

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.

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:

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Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Jones & Carter, Inc., attention Blair M. Bozarth, PE, will be electronically received until 10:00 a.m. local time, April 7th, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Water, Sanitary, and Drainage, in Sunterra Section 35 for Astro Sunterra LP. 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 368168429# 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 31st, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 335379336# 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.

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### **INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, attention Travis W. Miller, PE, will be electronically received until 9:30 a.m. local time, April 12, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Water, Sanitary, and Drainage Facilities in Sunterra Sec 42 for 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 884-711-017# 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 31, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 187-266-602# when prompted.

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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.

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No. 2 and is in the City of Katy. It is approximately 900 feet south of the Clay Rd and Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd intersection. The project is located in Harris County, Key Map No. 444-G, 444-H, 444-L, and 444-M.

Bids received after the closing time will not be accepted. An OPTIONAL pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, April 8th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time, via teleconference. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 226 194 20# when prompted. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **OPTIONAL**.

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

Plans, specifications, and bidding documents are available at www.civcastusa.com. Said documents may be examined without charge in the office of Jones and Carter, Inc., 2322 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 150, Katy, Texas 77449.

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

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### **BASEBALL ROUNDUP**

KATYTIMES.COM

# Mayde Creek claims first district win, Taylor tops Cinco

**BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek wasn't satisfied with how they played the first week of District 19-6A play.

The Rams stayed in last week's game against Katy in the first half of the game and fought back against Taylor but lost both. They finally claimed their first district victory Tuesday with an 8-1 win over Morton Ranch.

The Rams were led by Jason Hinojosa, who pitched 5.2 innings of one hit ball, allowing just one run while striking out eight and walking five while Isaac Soto and Brandon Lumpkins had two RBIs.

Mayde Creek jumped ahead early, as Soto hit an RBI single to open the scoring and Lumpkins followed that up with a single to bring in the Rams second run of the game. Things remained that way until the bottom of the fourth, when Marcus Rodriguez singled to score Nick Paul and make things 3-0.

The Rams then broke things open in the bottom of the fifth. After Hinoiosa singled to start the inning, Joseph Romero followed that up with a single of his own and Brandon Lumpkins drove in a run on a single to jump start the inning. Alan Elliott followed that up with a double, scoring another run and Paul singled to score Lumpkins before David Smith capped off the inning with a sacrifice bunt, scoring Elliott.

Morton Ranch got one run back in the bottom of the sixth before Soto answered back with an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth, making things 8-1 Mayde Creek.

Paul pitched the final 1.1 innings for the Rams. striking out two and allowing one hit and no runs to close things out.

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 22**

### **Taylor outlasts Cinco** Ranch in pitchers' duel

Jared Schaeffer was not going to be denied on Tuesday.

Taylor they are contenders in district, and they continued to do that, as Schaeffer pitched a complete game, allowing one run on six hits while striking out two and walking two in a 2-1 Mustangs win. Taylor jumped out ahead early, scoring both their runs in the top of the first, and hung on the rest of the game. Joe Jefferson Jr. led off the game with a single to center and advanced to third courtesy of a wild pitch and a passed ball during the next at bat while Brett Delojsi drew a walk. Hunter Ham drove Jefferson, as he grounded into a fielder's choice and Schaeffer followed that up with a walk before Chase Marshall singled to bring in the Mustangs' second run of the game and gave Schaeffer all he comfort he needed to get the win. Cinco was unable to find any success on offense until the bottom of the fifth, when Connor Ficarra singled to start the inning and advanced to second on a sacrifice. Schaeffer was able to get a second out in the inning, but Zach Royse brought Ficarra home on an RBI single, trimming the Taylor lead to one. Brock DeYoung followed that up with a single, but Schaeffer was able to get out of the inning, getting Blake Hansen to pop up to short. Cinco got runners on in both the sixth and seventh innings, but was unable to get the tying run across as Taylor secured the victory. Zach Royse took the loss for Cinco Ranch, going six innings and allowing one earned run on four hits while striking out 10 and walking four.

A&M Consolidated **Tompkins blanks** scored one run in the first and 10 in the third to com-Jack Little drove in four pletely keep Paetow out of runs and Trevor Esparza had it before closing things out another dominant outing with a three run fifth. as Tompkins came out 10-0 Paetow had five hits in winners over Seven Lakes.

Jason Hinojosa pitches during a game between Katy and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek baseball field.

total, including two from Gabriel Velasquez.

### Katy tops Texas City

Katy came out 4-1 winners over Texas City. As JR Ceyanes went four innings, allowing one run on three hits and stiking out three while walking four to earn the win.

Texas City took the lead in the top of the third before Katy took the lead for good as they answered back in the bottom of the inning.

Sutton Hull started the scoring, as he was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and Cole Kaase then came around to score on an error before Reese Ruderman singled to score Hull, making things 3-1 Katy. The Tigers then scored a fourth in the bottom of the fifth, as Dominic Melchor scored Nayden Ramirez as he reached on an error. The Katy pitching staff then kept Texas City off the board the rest of the way to secure the win.

loss for Morton Ranch, going 4.2 innings while surrendering five earned runs on five hits and striking out three while walking seven. Brandon Hasselbring drove in the Mavericks' only run.

### Katy blows out Taylor

Lucas Moore continues to impress in his junior season and the junior put on a show to lead Katy to a win over Taylor and keep the Tigers tied for first place in district play.

Moore pitched six innings of shutout ball. allowing just three hits while striking out six and walking four in a 16-2 Katy win. Katy did all the damage

it needed to in the first three innings. After getting two runners on in the first, Sutton Hull

earned runs over 2.1 innings on five hits while striking out four and walking three.

### Seven Lakes shuts out **Mayde Creek**

Nathan Johnson and Paden Reynolds combined for five innings of one hit, shutout ball as Seven Lakes trounced Mayde Creek 12-0. Johnson pitched the first four innings and had a dominant day, allowing just one

hit while striking out four and walking two to never give the Rams a chance in the game.

The Seven Lakes offense got going early. Ryan Franden led off the bottom of the first with a solo home run. After two more runners reached base, Nathan Johnson singled to drive in

a run and Carlos Michinaux

### Paetow earns win over Waller

Paetow came out 9-2 winners over Waller behind a huge day on the mound from Alvin Velasquez.

Velasquez struck out nine hitters while walking just one in a complete game performance where he only gave up one earned run on six hits.

Waller took the lead in the bottom of the first, but Paetow was able to get things tied, as Ashton Sweet hit a sacrifice fly to tie things in the third, and Paul Gerke gave the Panthers the lead with an RBI single.

Things remained 2-1 all the way until the top of the sixth inning, when Paetow had an offensive onslaught to blow the game open.

After a bases loaded hit by pitch gave Paetow its third run, Ashton Sweet hit an RBI single and Paetow got three more runs on bases loaded walks. Kayin Tillman then stepped to the plate and hit a two RBI single to make things 9-1 Paetow as the Panthers all but secured the victory.

Tillman led the Panthers with 2 RBIs and was joined by Ashton Sweet who also drove in two runs in Paetow's eight hit performance.

### Jordan unable to stay with Magnolia in loss

The Jordan Warriors were 10-1 losers to Magnolia, falling behind early and unable to come back.

Magnolia put up seven runs over five innings, all but securing the win early, before Jordan kept things from being a shutout in the sixth with JD Ortigoza scoring on a wild pitch.

Samuel Coraspe took the loss for Jordan, allowing one earned run over two innings while walking five and striking out one.

### **Tompkins rolls past** Langham Creek

Tompkins rolled past Langham Creek in a non-district matchup, as the Falcons beat the Lobos.

The Falcons put together six shutout innings before surrendering a run in the



in the inning to score Jack Little and make things 3-0. Tompkins did more in

Seven Lakes

Esparza pitched four

innings, allowing three hits

and walking one to earn the

damage early in the game

before cruising to the win.

started early, singling to

the single of its own.

start the bottom of the fist

and Jace LaViolette followed

Jack Little followed that

up with his first two RBIs of

right field to score two and

Ty Dagley hit a single later

the game, hitting a double to

Tompkins did all of their

Drew Markle got things

while striking out seven

shutout.

the bottom of the second. Tyler Brownlee and

Cooper Markle both reached base to start the inning before Drew Markle drove in a run on a single and LaViolette drove in another with a single of his own. Little reached on an error to score another run before LaViolette stole home as Tompkins led 9-0 after the inning.

The Falcons scored once more in the third as Little drove in LaViolette with a single to secure the run rule win for Tompkins.

Lawson Moreno took the loss for Seven Lakes in the matchup.

### Jordan falls to College Station

Jordan didn't have enough to hang around with College Station, falling 13-3 in a District 19-5A matchup.

College Station all but decided things in the first inning, staring the game off with nine runs. Jordan came back with one run in the bottom of the inning, as James Lacy hit a sacrifice fly to score JD Ortigoza before College Station added on three more runs in the top of the third.

Jordan scored twice more in the fourth, as Chad Gasper came around to score on a bases loaded walk and Ortigoza hit a sacrifice grounder. College Station wrapped things up with a final run in the top of the fifth to clinch the run rule win.

### A&M Consolidated run rules Paetow

Paetow fell behind early and couldn't catch up in a 14-0 loss to A&M Consolidated.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 25

### **Cinco bounces back**

Cinco Ranch bounced back after back-to-back district losses with a huge 15-1 win over Morton Ranch.

The Cougars were led by Zach Royse who had three RBIs on the night while Ethan Muniz and Carson Andrews both drove in two runs a piece.

Austin Bonjonia had a big day on the mound, allowing just one run on three hits over six innings while striking out six and walking one.

The Cougars got the scoring started in the top of the second when Muniz hit a single to score two runs. Morton Ranch answered with one run in the bottom of the inning before Cinco scored twice more in the third.

The Cougars then broke things open in the top of the fifth, Gavin Rutherford scored on a pass ball to start things before Royse tripled to drive in three more runs and give Cinco a very comfortable advantage.

Cinco closed things out with a seven run seventh inning. The team finished with 11 hits and 11 walks on the night while striking out iust four times and driving in 12 of their 15 runs.

Zane Heiliger took the

came to the plate and singled on a line drive to plate one and Parker Kidwell stole home to make things 2-0.

The Tigers scored three more in the second. Jhonnatan Ferrebus drove in two with a single to right field before Nayden Ramirez reached on an error and Ferrebus came around to score. Things were all but decided in the third after a Dominic Melchor RBI double, a Ryan George triple that scored two runs and a Kidwell sacrifice fly.

The Tigers scored seven more runs in the top of the seventh before Taylor got two runs in the bottom of the inning on a Hunter Ham RBI double and an error to keep the game from being a shutout.

Blake Wolf took the loss for Taylor, allowing five



Seven Lakes followed that up with a four run inning in the fourth, as Acosta singled in a run and then came around to score on a wild pitch. Mayde Creek walked in a run and Cade Climie hit a sacrifice fly to center. The Spartans topped things off with a three run fourth inning where they scored on an error and Ryan Franden hit a two RBI triple.

Marcus Rodriguez took the loss for Mayde Creek, going two innings and allowing eight earned runs on eight hits while striking out one and walking two.

seventh and Michael De-Battista came away with the win, going three innings and allowing no runs on two hits while walking five and striking out four in the matchup.

Tompkins scored in each of the first four innings to make sure it ended in a run rule victory. Jace LaViolette hit a home run to right field in the first before Landon West hit an RBI double to make things 2-0. Drew Markle then started another scoring run in the second inning with an RBI double. Tompkins got another run on a hit by pitch with bases loaded before West hit a bases clearing double to score three more and make things 7-0. The Falcons would score 10 more runs over the final two innings to secure the win and stay unbeaten on the year.



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### SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

# **Tompkins hands Seven Lakes first district loss**

### **BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins knew how important Tuesday's game against Seven Lakes was.

A win would have kept the Falcons within a game of first place in the district standings, while a loss would make things very hard for the Falcons to compete for a district title down the stretch.

Behind a strong performance on the mound from Ashley Martinec and two RBIs from Blakely Haynie, the Falcons got their much needed win, 5-3 over the Spartans, keeping pace in the tough District 19-6A field and creating a three way tie atop the district standings between Tompkins, Seven Lakes and Katy.

Martinec pitched a complete game, allowing just one earned run on three hits while striking out 12 and walking three to earn the victory.

Seven Lakes got the early lead in the game, as Amy Abke came around to score on an error by Tompkins in the top of the first inning.

Tompkins fought back and had the answer.

Meagan Brown got the inning started for Tompkins with a single before Tauryn Alexander walked to put two runners on. Then Brown came around to tie things on an error from Seven Lakes. Madison Besselman then scored on a wild pitch before Morgan Brown hit a sacrifice fly to score Martinec and make things 3-1 Tompkins.

Ashley Abel trimmed the lead to 3-2 in the top of the top of the fourth before Tompkins got two more runs in the bottom of the fifth with Haynie hitting a two RBI double to give the Falcons a bit of cushion heading into the final innings.

Seven Lakes got a final run on an error but were unable to do any more damage, as Martinec closed things out to secure the win.

Abke took the loss for Seven Lakes, allowing two earned runs on five hits over six innings while striking out eight and walking two.

### Taylor earns win over Cinco

Kaelyn Lerma pitched a complete game and Katherine Brunner and Sophie Jenkins both had two RBIs as Taylor earned a big 5-3 win over Cinco Ranch that could have playoff implications down the stretch in district.

Kaelyn Lerma pitched a complete game, allowing one earned run over seven innings on five hits while striking out five and walking two as she kept the Cinco Ranch bats at bay all day.

Cinco got two runs in the top of the first to take the lead, as Krista Burg hit a sacrifice bunt to score a run and Amanda Croteau followed that up with a home run.

Taylor got one run back in the top of the second off an error, before taking the lead in the top of the third on a two run home run from Brunner.

Cinco had an answer once again in the bottom of the fourth, tying the game on a Savannah Henningson grounder, but Taylor bottom of the fifth, Cady Bowyer singled to put three runners on and Madeline Williams hit a bases clearing double, making things 6-3. Jordan didn't allow another run the rest of the way to claim the win.

### Late-inning surge leads to Paetow loss

Paetow hung around but didn't have enough to beat Atascocita, falling 10-4. The Panthers scored four to open the

game, as Paetow started the game with a single and two walks before a run came in on a fielders choice. Alexis Rodriguez then walked to score a second run before Madison Mitchell singled to score two more.

Atascocita answered back with three runs in the bottom of the inning before tying things in the second, and went on to score four runs in the sixth and two in the second to claim the win.

Shy'Lynn Brown took the loss for Paetow, going 4.2 innings and surrendering eight earned runs while walking two.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 25

### Harrison throws another no-hitter

Cameryn Harrison can't be stopped. The Katy sophomore threw her second no-hitter of district play, while also having a perfect night at the plate to lead Katy to an 11-0 win over Taylor.

Harrison struck out nine while walking two over five innings, with no runs or hits allowed as the Tigers run ruled the Mustangs.

She also went 3-3 at the plate, hitting a home run and driving in three runs.

Katy opened things up in the first inning, as Montgomery Henderson hit a two RBI single to get Katy on the board and Harrison followed that up with a two run home run, making things 4-0.

The Tigers got another run in the second, when Kailey Wyckoff hit an RBI triple. Henderson homered to add on to the lead in the third before Peyton Watson made it 7-0 with an RBI single.

Katy tacked on four more runs in the fourth to secure the win.

Kaelyn Lerma took the loss for Taylor, surrendering 11 earned runs on 14 hits while striking out two and walking none.

### Spartans bounce back with win over Mayde Creek

Ashley Abel wanted to make sure Seven Lakes didn't lose two games in a row and came out on a mission against Mayde Creek, going 3-4 at the plate with 4 RBIs and a home run to lead the Spartans past the Rams in a 9-1 win.

Amy Abke bounced back on the mound, throwing a complete game one hitter and allowing no earned runs while striking out 14 and walking none.

Mayde Creek was the one that took the lead early, as two runners reached on errors and Madyson Rodriguez scored on an Alyssa Gonzalez sacrifice ground out. In the top of the first inning.

Seven Lakes started slow but finally got into their groove in the third inning. Haley Welch reached to start the inning and after a sacrifice bunt, Makinzie Stutts hit an RBI double. Dulce Franco followed that up with a single, setting up a three run home run from Abel that gave Seven Lakes a lead they would never relinquish. The Spartans started to pull away in the fifth inning. Stutts reached on an error and scored on an Abel RBI single before Meghan Kelly doubled to put two runners in scoring position. The Spartans took advantage with Emma Wingate driving in one on a single and Saur driving in another the same way, making it 7-1. Seven Lakes capped things off in the bottom of the sixth, one runner reached base and Franco hit a two run homer to seal things. Alyssa Gonzalez took the loss for Mayde Creek, going six innings and allowing six earned runs on 13 hits while striking out four and walking none.



FILE PHOTO

Katy High junior Kailey Wyckoff awaits the pitch during Game 2 of the team's area playoff series against Houston Heights last year at Katy High.



was not going to be denied. In the top of the fifth, Jenkins hit a two run triple to give the Mustangs the edge and Lerma did the rest, not allowing another run the rest of the way.

Krista Burg took the loss for Cinco Ranch, allowing two earned runs on five hits in 6.1 innings while striking out five and walking three.

### Hot offense leads Morton Ranch past Mayde Creek

The bats were going for Morton Ranch as the Mavericks beat Morton Ranch 9-5, with Allison Slaten and Michelle Meeks leading the way, driving in three and two runs respectively.

The Mavericks took the lead in the first inning, as Lea Avila hit a double to score a run and put Morton Ranch on top. They then tripled that advantage in the third inning, as Avila hit another double to bring in a second run and Aileen Cebrero reached on an error as a run scored to make things 3-0.

Mayde Creek got a run back in the bottom of the third, with a run coming across on an error. But Morton Ranch increased its advantage in the top of the fifth, as Meeks hit a home run to score two and Cebrero singled to drive in a run and make it 6-1.

The Rams tried to battle back again in the bottom of the fifth. Kaitlyn Flores reached on an error as a run scored and Alexia Ruiz hit a single to trim things to 6-3, but Morton Ranch all but decided things in the top of the seventh, as Slaten hit a three run triple.

Mayde Creek got two runs back in the bottom of the seventh on a fielders choice and an error, but that was all the team could muster.

Lopez took the win on the mound, pitching a complete game and allowing one earned run on six hits while striking out six and walking one.

### Jordan gets first district win over Rudder

Jordan got its first district win of the season with a 6-3 victory over Rudder.

Brooke Hidalgo did a terrific job on the mound for the team, pitching a complete game and allowing three earned runs on seven hits while striking out three and walking five.

Jordan jumped ahead in the first inning, as Aislyn Duhon tripled to score two runs. Rudder got one run back in the third and tied things in the fourth, but Jordan regained the lead in the bottom of the fourth on a fielders choice.

Rudder though, came back to tie things again in the top of the fifth, but Jordan once again had the answer.

After a walk and hit by pitch to start the

### **Cougars down Morton Ranch**

Cinco Ranch rolled to an easy 10-1 win over Morton Ranch with a dominant outing from Krista Burg on the mound.

Burg allowed four hits and one run over seven innings while striking out eight to get the win.

The Cougars first struck in the second inning, as two runs came around to score on an error to give Cinco the lead.

Cinco then started to pull away in the fifth, as Faith Piper singled to start the inning and Amanda Croteau hit a home run drive in two and make things 4-0. Gissel Morales then followed that up with a solo home run to increase Cinco's lead.

Morton Ranch got one run back in the bottom of the sixth, with a solo home run, before Cinco scored three more runs in the top of the seventh to seal things.

### Paetow blanks Jordan for huge win

Jade Catherwood was in her bag against Jordan, as the Paetow pitcher pitched seven shutout innings of two hit ball while striking out eight and walking one to lead the Panthers to a 9-0 win.

Paetow jumped ahead in the top of the first, as Sade Guerra hit a sacrifice fly before Catherwood came up and hit a two run double to help herself and make it 3-0.

Peyton Luna then hit an RBI single in the top of the third and Makaylnn Peterson hit a sacrifice bunt to increase the Paetow lead again. Guerra then made it 6-0 in the in the fourth with a sacrifice fly of her own.

The Panthers capped things off in the top of the seventh, as Alexis Rodriguez hit an RBI single before Samantha Guillory came to the plate and hit a two run double, sealing the Paetow win.



Tompkins' players celebrate after a Valentina Gianinetto goal during Tuesday's Class 6A area round game between Tompkins and Bellaire at Legacy Stadium.

### TOMPKINS from page B1

of business," Gianinetto said. "We didn't make it past this point last year so we wanted to come back stronger than we were last week and we definitely did it. We've been working on some things all season and it just seemed to all come together today."

Tompkins gained some cushion in the 38th minute. Gabrielle Panter found herself with space from 25 yards out and chipped the keeper, putting the Falcons in a great position heading into halftime.

'Having that 2-0 lead at halftime, we really talked about how we could sit in and let the game come to us. It let us slow things down with a lead, especially with Bellaire being such a good counter attacking team. We knew that if we sat in and waited, we would get another opportunity."

That opportunity came

early in the second half, as Tompkins was able to break on a counter attack and create a good chance, with Bellaire's keeper making the initial save but Gianinetto again waiting for the rebound opportunity to get her second goal of the game.

"I was ready and I knew I needed to take advantage of those when I got them,' Gianinetto said. "Last game, we had so many rebounds and we weren't able to take advantage of it. I just came out expecting anything from the keeper and I stayed on my toes so I could take advantage of them."

Bellaire was able to pull one back, but that was the only damage done, as the Falcons advanced to the regional quarterfinals after failing to do so last season.

"Last year, all those seniors we felt awful and were all in tears for them," said junior goalkeeper Gaby Vazquez. "This year, we're just such a tight knit team that we are able to fight through these moments and bring each other up to get through it. We brought the right mindset today, we played amazing and it was one of the best games I've seen us pay. We knew we needed to make it through to the next round."

The Falcons advance to the regional quarterfinals, where they will face Stratford with a chance to advance to the regional tournament.

"What I tell these girls all the time is they have to be them, when they go out and do their thing they are great," Shipman said. "Our attack has gotten better all year, we're able to play strong defense and when you get three goals in a playoff game, I'll take that every day."

# Cougars' run ends in the Elite Eight

### **BY TYLER TYRE** SPORTS EDITOR

Houston overcame everything that was thrown at it this season.

Injuries to its top scorer, to other key players threatened to derail the season, but the Cougars came back stronger with a retooled team and made an unexpected run in the NCAA Tournament.

But there can only be one team that goes all the way, and the Cougars' run ended on Saturday, with a 50-44 loss to Villanova in the elite 8.

"This team tought me a lot this year," said Houston head coach Kelvin Sampson. "I learned a lot from them. I'm sure I learned a lot more from them than they did me. How to overcome adversity, how to get up when you get knocked down. This team won a conference championship, a tournament championship and went to the Elite 8. It sounds good, but because we're hurting right now, it's hard. But time will pass and these kids will look back and understand how special it was. This teams been through a lot this year."

Houston lost despite a very strong defensive effort. The Cougars held Villanova to 28% from the field and 23 percent from three, but Villanova was perfect from the free throw line and made four more three pointers than the Cougars and that made the difference.

"Our kids guarded, man did we guard, our defense was spot on," Sampson said. "It's not easy to hold a team with that kind of talent the way we did, and we held them to 50 points. We had a lot of opportunities and they just didn't go in. We're disappointed, we felt like this is a game we could win. We got down early and we fought back, but that's the way it goes sometimes."

The Cougars could not get anything going offensively in the game, shooting under 30% from the field and hitting only one of 20 three point attempts in the game while also shooting 64% from the line.

"We just missed wide open shots. We missed layups, missed free throws, it was just a struggle," said Houston senior Fabian White. "We hadn't had those



COTT W COLEMAN

Houston Cougars forward Fabian White Jr. (35) shoots the ball during an NCAA men's basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

struggles all year, we couldn't finish at the end."

Taze Moore led Houston with 15 points and 10 rebounds, while Jamal Shead had nine points and two assists and Kyler Edwards had four assists to lead the Cougars.

"With all the adversity we faced this year, the team grew so close and we just wanted to win that so bad," Shead said. "We just wanted to keep playing together. It wasn't really the win that was motivating us as much as we we didn't want to stop playing together. These guys just mean so much to me, and they changed my life.'

Houston will graduate five players this year, including White, Moore, Edwards and Josh Carlton.

"I'm just really proud of this team and everything they accomplished. Nothing can take away from that," Sampson said. "Ten years from now, 20 years from now, those guys will come back and show their kids the banners that they put up and remember it with fondness. Our kids poured their hearts out for this, and we're not going anywhere. We'll be back."

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