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THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

Brookshire candidates to face voters Saturday

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Brookshire voters on Saturday will go to the polls to decide who will hold three positions on their city council.

In all three cases, the incumbents are seeking reelection. Term of office is two years.

For alderman position 3, incumbent Kim Branch faces challenger Shirley Williams, who is retired. For alderman position 4, incumbent Lee Nelson Jones, a school employee, faces Amanda Neuendorf, a teacher. For alderman position 5, incumbent Eric Green, a field operations manager, faces challengers Jeremiah Hill, a consultant, and Ruth Rodriguez, a semi-retired administrative professional.

Williams and Jones were unavailable



KIM
BRANCH



ERIC
GREEN



JEREMIAH
HILL



LEE
NELSON JONES



AMANDA
NEUENDORF



RUTH
RODRIGUEZ

despite repeated requests for comment by press time.

Alderman position 3

Branch, who is married to Mayor Darrell Branch, was first elected to the council in 2008. She said she hopes to see more user-friendly procedures at City Hall to make

things easier as Brookshire continues its growth.

"Everyone continues to think we can stay a small town," Branch said. "We're going to grow whether we want to or not."

With that growth, Branch said, the city is going to "spruce up" and hire more police. More drainage is another issue. Branch said

the city must work with the Brookshire Katy Drainage District and do its part to make it happen.

"We have to come together as a council and pay closer attention to this," Branch said.

See **CANDIDATES**, page A3

Igloo, Walmart celebrate long partnership

Companies tout new line of Walmart-exclusive coolers

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Officials at Katy-based Igloo Products Corp. and Walmart said their companies have been business partners for 40 years. To celebrate this partnership, the companies Thursday unveiled a new line of Igloo coolers exclusively for sale at Walmart.

Senior product manager Meghan Harris said the Overland series of coolers come in four sizes: 25-quart, 50-quart, 52-quart, and 72-quart. Harris said the 52-quart model has a staged walking handle and wheels for easy transportation.

All coolers have a bottle opener in the lid, a new feature. Harris said the coolers also have holes on the front and back sides, enabling a user to bungee-tie other objects, such as towels, for easier transportation. She said extra-thick foam walls increase ice retention and provide better cooling performance. Harris said while a lot of things go into measuring the performance of a cooler, there is no industry standard for that.

Factors affecting cooler performance can include how users actually use the cooler. People might leave their coolers in the garage, or in storage, until it's time for use. Harris said one tip is to bring the cooler inside the house

See **IGLOO**, page A3



Igloo Products Corp. President and CEO Dave Allen speaks during the announcement of the company's new Overland product line. The Igloo Overland series of coolers (inset) was created exclusively for sale at Walmart.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Man charged after shooting involving a 4-year-old in Katy area

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A 32-year-old man has been arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon following an incident in which a four-year-old boy was critically wounded Monday night.

Harris County Sheriff's deputies said Francisco Lupian was visiting a residence in the 22300 block of Guston Hall in the Williamsburg Colony subdivision. Major Susan Cotter of the Harris County Sheriff's Department said he had a gun with him. She said another child, a nine-year-old boy, found the gun and accidentally discharged it. The four-year-old was struck in the head.

Cotter said the boy was first taken to Memorial Hermann Katy hospital. She said the boy was later taken to the Texas Medical Center via Life Flight.

Cotter described the situation as fluid and it remains under investigation.



FRANCISCO
LUPIAN

17-year-old arrested following fatal car crash on N. Fry Road

A 17-year-old man has been charged with DWI following a fatal car crash Monday night at 1811 N. Fry Road.

Harris County Sheriff's deputies said Mohammed Yasin was driving a car on Fry Road when it struck a vehicle exiting a private driveway. Yasin's car entered the northbound lanes and was struck by another vehicle.

Deputies said Yasin and two teenage passengers, both 16, were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the car pulling out of the driveway was pronounced dead at the scene. Deputies said that driver failed to yield right-of-way.

The driver of the third vehicle was not injured.

Deputies said Yasin was probably traveling at high speed before the crash and was determined to be under the influence.

Deputies said reconstruction will be performed to determine if speed was a factor in the wreck.

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May 5, 2022
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Blood Drive Day set for Saturday

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As blood supplies across the country are running critically low, local State Farm Insurance agent Martin Melkonian is hosting his first annual "Blood Drive Day."

The local blood drive event is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Melkonian's State Farm Insurance office at 5507 Morton Rd.

The need for blood is great and the Saturday's atmosphere is festive. The event will feature live music from Texas TNT, food trucks, action heroes, a "dunk" tank and a host of giveaways.

Those who donate blood will also receive a towel.

Cameron Palmer, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center public relations specialist, said the center is a community provider.

"The need is always constant, and there is no

substitute for blood," Palmer said. "We rely heavily on donors to fulfill our lifesaving mission, which helps a variety of people, including accident victims, cancer patients, premature babies, and more. We need to collect 1,000 units of blood every day to meet the demand of our 170 hospitals and health care facilities in a 26-county area. One blood donation can save many lives and truly help those in need."

Melkonian said the blood drive allows people to positively impact the community and potentially save a life.

"We are encouraging everyone to schedule their blood donation and encourage family and friends to do the same," Melkonian said.

"This act of kindness is one of the most generous gifts someone can give – the lifesaving gift of blood."

To register to donate blood, visit the website <https://bit.ly/3w3sAFR>.

"The need is always constant, and there is no substitute for blood."

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BRIEFS

Free community shred day event set for Saturday

Members Choice Credit Union is hosting a free community shred day in partnership with West Houston Document Destruction. The public is invited to shred documents in a safe, secure way to prevent identify theft and protect the environment by recycling paper. The event is set for 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday at members Choice Credit Union, 18211 Katy Fwy. Prohibited shred items are:

- Paper: cardboard, telephone books and hardcover books
- Trash: food waste, bottles, glass, cans, inks, dyes and paints
- Metals: three-ring binders, lever-arch binders, hanging folders, large bulldog clips and license plates
- Plastics: plastic bags, computer disks, CDs, DVDs, transparencies, ID badges, driver's licenses, microfiche, microfilm and x-rays
- Hazmat: biochemical waste, sharps, toxic substances, flammables and explosives
- Hardware: computer, printer and photocopier parts

Limit five boxes per car. Recycling services not available.

Jacob Bradley elected delegate to Libertarian National Convention

Waller County Libertarian Party chairman Jacob Bradley was elected as both a Texas delegate to the Libertarian National Convention and as a state senate district representative for the Libertarian Party of Texas. Senate District 17 includes Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Jackson, Matagorda, Waller and Wharton counties. "I can't wait to be the voice of the people in this district," Bradley said. "I care for the people of Texas and I want to bring them freedom and liberty. I want my kids to live in a world where they have the ability to live free of government overreach, not under the thumb of it, that's why I ran to represent Senate District 17."

Christ Lutheran Church in Pattison sets date for 37th annual German Sausage Dinner

Christ Lutheran Church will be hosting its 37th annual German Sausage Dinner this weekend. The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church, 35912 Royal Road, in Pattison. Menu features sausage,



GREG HESS

The Rotary Club of Katy and other local sponsors organizations commemorated Earth Day on April 23 with a drive-by shredding. At this event, staffed by volunteers with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people brought their paperwork to be shredded.

fresh baked bread, potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, dessert and tea. Additional desserts are available by the slice. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for children. The dinner is a celebration of the area's German Heritage. The dinner is a community event with family entertainment featuring live Polka music and a children's fun area. Al Sulak and the Country Sounds will provide the entertainment and guests are encouraged to dance. Pastor Kory Boster and congregation president Scott Hartman are excited about having the community gather for fellowship after a two-year, pandemic-compelled absence. Hartman said this event brings in much-needed additional revenue with the sale of dinner tickets and the live and silent auction. For more information, call Christ Lutheran Church at 281-934-8218 or Susie Hopkins at 832-347-0051.

H-GAC partners with CyclingSavvy to improve safety in biking in the region

The Houston-Galveston Area Council, known as H-GAC, is offering area residents a free, online course by CyclingSavvy, to instill confidence and comfort with biking in the region. The course is divided into 14 self-paced video modules covering two key areas: 1) essential knowledge of traffic rules and behaviors that make bicyclists more predictable on the roads and reduce the risk of crashes, and 2) how to ride defensively and handle unexpected situations. It is designed to cover situations that are especially

relevant to the Houston Galveston metropolitan region and is open for bicyclists at all levels. Residents can register by going to Houston.cyclingsavvy.org and entering their home zip code. H-GAC will also hold free on-the-bike training classes that allow residents to take what they've learned in the online course and practice it in a real-world setting. The classes will occur on Saturdays and Sundays starting on April 30 for adult residents in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties. Plans to offer the classes to Harris County residents are still in the works. For more information, visit the website www.h-gac.com.

Cross Creek Ranch receives Celebration of Life Award

Cross Creek Ranch has received a Celebration of Life Medium Group of the Year award from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. The award recognizes the number of donors per blood drive. Cross Creek Ranch hosted 12 drives last year, averaging 35 donors at each. "Cross Creek has been an incredible community partner through the pandemic and beyond," Cameron Palmer, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center public relations specialist, said. "They increased their drives from quarterly to monthly during the pandemic when the community heavily relied on blood drives. Even with increased frequency, their participation remains high." The donations saved 1,482 lives in the greater community, Palmer said. The Fulshear community is set to beat that number in 2022. "This award belongs as much to the people who stepped up to donate as it does us," Rob Bamford, Cross Creek Ranch vice president and general manager, said. "We are happy to help the efforts of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to save lives and look forward to continuing our partnership." Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is the only blood provider to Houston and its surrounding communities. The non-profit serves more than 170 hospitals and health care institutions. Cross Creek Ranch supports various non-profits throughout the year. Most recently, the community donated nearly \$20,000 to six Fort Bend charities — Abigail's Place, Brookwood Community, Family Hope, Fort Bend PAWS, Rainbow Room and Texana Center. The do-



CROSS CREEK RANCH

From left, Lauren Smith, Kristen Craig and Carrie Roehling with Cross Creek Ranch celebrate receiving a Celebration of Life Medium Group of the Year award from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.



SANDI DANCEL

Students commemorate the inaugural Disability Book Week at The Arc of Katy, 914 Jordan Ranch Blvd., in Brookshire. Disability Book Week is a time in which individuals around the world are invited to become more inclusive with what they read. Community members are encouraged to read a book that either features a main character with a disability or is written by an author with a disability.

Group of the Year award from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

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nation was through last year's Give Back, Build Hope campaign.

Waller native serves as a member of U.S. Navy's submarine force

A Waller native is stationed at Naval Base Kitsap (NBK), in Bangor, Wash., homeport to west coast ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines. Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Van Sant joined the Navy for the opportunities provided. Today, Van Sant serves as a torpedoman's mate. "I was in college to be a teacher, but one day I woke up and realized I did not want to do that," Van Sant said. "I went to talk to the Navy recruiter, and when he told me about submarines I was hooked." Van Sant attended Waller High School and graduated in 2015. Today, Van Sant uses skills and values similar to those found in Waller to succeed in the Navy. "I learned to have pride from my hometown, and pride of being a Texan," Van Sant said. "I learned work ethic from playing football. It taught me how to be on a team and how to work with others."

These lessons have helped Van Sant while serving aboard Trident Training Facility. Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technically-advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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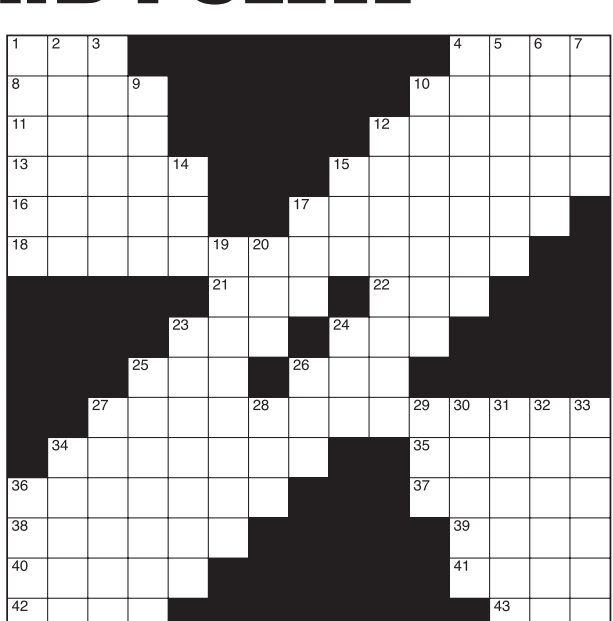
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. A power of perception
4. Slotted hinged metal plate
8. Popular crop
10. Siamese fighting fish
11. Larval crabs
12. South American mammal
13. Occur as a result of
15. Slavic language
16. An electric underground railway
17. Transporting
18. A direction
21. Opposite of start
22. Mock
23. People love and hate it (abbr.)
24. A people of Myanmar
25. A Queens ballplayer
26. Southern Thailand indigenous person
27. Famed actress
34. Thin strips
35. Bluish greens
36. Ridiculed
37. Having the shape of a cube

CLUES DOWN

1. Skin condition
2. Earlier
3. Right away
4. Vomiting
5. Go to
6. "The Police" frontman
7. Bullfighting maneuver
9. Pacific island
10. A system of algebraic notation
12. A room used for the activities of a group
14. The longest division of geological time
15. Car mechanics group (abbr.)
17. A barrel of liquid (abbr.)
19. Bound to do
20. Explosive



23. Ridicules
24. Adult male
25. Military personnel
26. French and Belgian river
27. Found in the sea
28. A share lost in default (abbr.)
29. Type of medication (abbr.)
30. City on the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. They're in martinis
33. Get away
34. Wampum
36. Lacking brightness

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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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.

IGLOO

from page A1

the night before it is to be loaded. She said the company has a Cooler 101 series of YouTube videos offering tips and best practices.

While larger Igloo coolers typically have a drainage hole, Harris said all the Overland series coolers have such holes. She said research showed that consumers wanted such a hole on the smaller coolers as well.

“This has been the most exciting and most challenging thing I’ve ever been a part of,” Harris said, adding that a fifth unit is planned for 2023.

While officials held their unveiling ceremony Thursday, just before the end of April, Harris said the products have been available for purchase in March.

“I’ve been in multiple Walmarts recently, and they can’t keep them on the shelves,” Harris said.

The idea for the Overland se-

ries came when Igloo and Walmart officials realized that Walmart sells three levels of coolers, but needed a product line to fill that middle range.

Igloo officials went to work designing a new cooler line. Igloo made an initial outlay of approximately \$14 million and hired 90 new employees over the time it needed to design and develop the products. Walmart and Igloo officials Thursday touted how the products were American-made.

Igloo president and CEO Dave Allen said the company does a lot of individual lines for customers, but the Overland series is the largest initiative for a customer, given the investment.

While typical project development takes about a year from Walmart commitment to the product actually making it to the shelves, Harris said the pandemic stretched things out to

about 18 months.

“We challenged everyone on this project,” Harris said. “We pushed everybody way their past comfort zone.”

Igloo was formed in 1947 in Houston and evolved into the cooler products business. Igloo in 1979 first moved to its current Katy location from its former location in West Houston. In 2004, Igloo constructed its second building in Katy.

Allen has been with Igloo for about three-and-a-half years. He said the company is doing well in the market yet has a lot of room to continue to grow.

“We make plastic boxes,” Allen said. “A lot of people can replicate that. You can’t replicate our culture. We have a lot of authenticity for selling coolers for 75 years and that’s a big part of what we’ve tapped into.”

CANDIDATES

from page A1

Branch said her husband, a former police officer, worked under Joe Garcia, now Pattison’s mayor, when Garcia was Brookshire police chief. When Garcia left Brookshire, she said, her husband became police chief. She said the cities can work more closely together.

“We’re going to feed off of each other,” Branch said. “There’s not a lot of communication with the City of Pattison. I am not faulting anyone, but I would like us to be able to grow together and have more communication.”

Branch said she has been on the council for 14 years and loves what she does.

“I love what I do,” Branch said. “I think I go above and beyond my duties as a council person. I would like to continue to serve as a council person. The reason I ran was because I am a citizen. I’d like to see our city on the news for something we did that was great.”

Alderman position 4

Neuendorf said focusing on commercial infrastructure would be a priority if elected.

“There’s a lot of growth in the city,” Neuendorf said, adding that the growth seems to be plenty of commercial warehouses, but not restaurants or entertainment. With this type of growth, she said, more semi-trailer and 18-wheelers are moving about on city streets not paved for that kind of traffic.

“The roadways themselves are not prepared for traffic at this point in time,” Neuendorf said, adding that she would like to see the city improve its relations with the Texas Department of Transportation.

Neuendorf said the city has an animal control problem.

“There are lots of posts to social media calling attention to lost dogs,” Neuendorf said. “I know we have an agreement with Waller County, but we used to have a Brookshire animal control shelter. It was a hold barn behind the police station. It has no floor, electricity or

other plans to finish. I firmly believe it was built as a political ploy by our current city council. They built the building to solicit emotion without planning to finish it and make it function.”

Parks and drainage are another concern.

“The City of Brookshire pays a consulting firm to look at the situation,” Neuendorf said, adding that the consultant created a report that said the city needed 20 more acres of green space.

“There are lots of old rice fields that are being sold, and large commercial facilities are being built on them,” Neuendorf said, adding that this leads to major drainage issues. She said people need to know how to use appropriate programs if and when the next flood comes.

“During the previous administration, people didn’t know how to use, or they were afraid to use programs,” Neuendorf said. “You still see houses in disrepair and people say they didn’t think they should apply for FEMA for whatever reason. The drainage problem is not going away.”

Neuendorf said she would like to see Brookshire do something similar to what Katy did with Mary Jo Peckham Park. She said the city should find land that could be bought by the city and turned to green space. However, she said, due to the cost of such a project and the lack of financial foresight on the part of the Brookshire City Council, such a project must be done in multiple phases over a number of years.

Alderman position 5

Green, who also serves as mayor pro tem, said emergency services is a top priority. He said he remembered when the city couldn’t afford to put much money into the police department.

“When the police department doesn’t have much of a budget, the crime rate goes up,” Greene said. “We made tough choices, but when we provided the police department with it needed, a lot of the criminals chose to go to a

different community. When the crime rate drops in the community, businesses come to you.”

Green also wants to see a fire department substation brought into the heart of the city. Presently, the Waller-Harris Emergency Services District 200 serves the city.

“With all this growth, I don’t see how that could hurt,” Greene said.

Green said he supported zoning, but cautioned that it would not happen overnight. He said he figured zoning in Brookshire would happen within the next couple of years.

“We have investors coming to the city, and they think something commercial can fit between two homes,” Green said. “I’ve seen elderly people hurt by that.”

Hill said he started to see more mismanagement at City Hall, and that little issues add up to bigger issues over time. He felt he needed to be involved in some way to bring about change, and that now was the time.

“A lot of members have been there a considerable amount of time,” Hill said. “It’s no longer a question of when development is coming. It’s already there.”

Hill said one of his goals if elected was to help bridge the understanding of what Brookshire could look like versus the city leadership accepting whatever comes in now.

“One of biggest issues is guided growth and development,” Hill said, adding that he would like to see a map with a targeted plan on what the community needs.

“There is no master plan that’s been developed to give to the Brookshire economic development Council,” Hill said.

Hill called for improved roads, which he said are in desperate need of being paved.

“There is not a dedicated maintenance plan,” Hill said. “We’re running from behind, so to speak, and we’re not even trying to catch up. We need a master plan to work with the public works department and we need to hire an outside firm to handle grass cutting so

the public works department can handle drainage.

As we keep flooding, it devalues our community.”

Like Neuendorf, Hill hopes to see relationships between Brookshire and Pattison improve.

“It’s frustrating for residents because they want to point their fingers at the city,” Hill said. “Too much of what I’ve seen is a take it as it comes, and not a proactive, approach. We have to have a government articulate what its’s doing behind the scenes, even if you can’t see results yet. There’s a lot of misperception about what the city is doing and what others are doing.”

For Rodriguez, this year’s campaign is her second bid for public office. She sought the mayoralty in 2018, but lost to Darrell Branch. He was first elected mayor that year and remains in that position.

Rodriguez said being a senior citizen gives her some perspective, and that she understands council issues better today.

“What the city might be up against is old habits, what the council is comfortable with,” Rodriguez said. “The elected officials just lost that connection with the citizens. Because of that lack of connection, were not really staying up with the times.”

Rodriguez said her passion is animal welfare, which she said hasn’t received a lot of care or priority.

“When the city council listens to our citizens and digest that information into data, they will know that animal control is important to a lot of us,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said her candidacy was not about ego or a desire for attention, but just about being an American.

“We the people run the city,” Rodriguez said.

Garfaoui leaves
Katy for City of
Live Oak position

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Anas Garfaoui has left his post as assistant city administrator for the City of Katy to become assistant city manager for the City of Live Oak.

Live Oak has a population of approximately 15,781, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. It is in Bexar County, just north of San Antonio.

Garfaoui grew up in Katy and is a graduate of Mayde

Creek High School. He became interested in municipal government while earning his public administration degree at Stephen F. Austin State University, from which he graduated in 2012.

Later he completed the certified public manager program at the Hobby School for Public Affairs at the University of Houston.

Garfaoui joined the City of Katy and became a city planner before being appointed assistant city administrator in July 2021.



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

In this July 2021 photo, City Administrator Byron Hebert, left, and Mayor Bill Hastings, right, pose with newly-appointed Assistant City Administrator Anas Garfaoui.

TRIBUTE

Our beloved sister, Carla LaKay Mayeaux, entered into God’s Kingdom on April 24, 2022, and has been delivered into the loving arms of Jesus and reunited with her mother and father. She was surrounded by her family at the time of her passing, in Katy, Texas.

Carla was born November 26, 1976, in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a person with special needs, she was a blessing to many people throughout her life. As an adult, she lived in New Augusta, Mississippi, and was a member of ARC of Hattiesburg. After her mother’s passing, she lived in Katy, Texas, and was active in the lives of her family, friends, and neighbors. She relocated to Fort Worth, Texas, where she lived these last six years, embracing her independent spirit and developing bonds with new friends.

Carla was preceded in death by her mother, Beverly Kay Hinton Brown; and her father, Carl Peter Mayeaux.

She is survived by her stepfather, Carl Dennis Brown; sisters and brothers-



CARLA LAKAY MAYEAUX
1976-2022

in-law, Donna and Edward Bayhi, and Robyn and James Yoder; her niece, Sarah Kai Bayhi; nephews, Jackson Morgan Bayhi and Mason James Yoder; and other loving family members.

Services were held at Jones and Son Funeral Home, in Richton, Mississippi on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Pastor Ken Ribelin officiated the service and interment followed in Singleton-Hinton Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Edward Bayhi, James Yoder, Jackson Bayhi, Mason Yoder, Vernon “Butch” Travis, and David Swan, Jr.



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Tim is a Houston-based expert on how to de-risk your retirement portfolio and avoid stock market losses.

Older adults who have paid off their mortgage, without plans to apply for car loans or credit cards may assume they can relax about their credit score, but credit scores can affect

retirees in the following ways:

- Existing lines of credit can be reduced or closed, and interest rates can be increased if credit scores decrease dramatically.
- Insurance expenses such as premiums can be set based in part on your credit score.
- Security deposits from rental equipment to vacation homes can be higher for those with lower credit scores.

Maintaining a good credit score can ensure quality of life.

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

daviscapitalcorp.com tdavis@daviscapitalcorp.com (281) 665-3133

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Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be brainless

Millions of young women dream of being honored on Mother's Day. Millions of others know in their hearts that they don't want to have children, or at least not on someone else's timetable.

Many in both groups run the risk of someday facing an unplanned, unwanted pregnancy. Society assures us these women always had only three choices: get an abortion, endure 18 years of servitude or go through an emotionally wrenching adoption. There is another option for these women (and their "lovers"): be proactive and consider displaying a little common sense upfront. Rape, incest and those doggone substandard condoms are the usual scapegoats when an unintentional pregnancy develops, but those statistics are vastly overrated.

Let's be honest: we see hundreds of thousands of "surprise" pregnancies year after year after year because (a) people are "dating" under the influence of alcohol, drugs or intense peer pressure, (b) women shack up with lowlife bums who molest their daughters and (c) couples take stupid, stupid shortcuts.

There. I said it. Singers, movies, television, Madison Avenue, social media, teen magazines, college "sex weeks" and politicians are constantly telling impressionable, procreation-capable individuals that impetuous choices have no real consequences. ("Hey, let's cross 'Boys will be boys' with 'Girls just wanna have fun.' What could possibly go wrong?")

We recognize "buzzed driving" as drunk driving; but bed-hopping while bombed? "Go ahead, You Only Live Once. But be responsible. (Wink wink)" Some feminist leaders treat self-control and delayed gratification like The Solution That Must Not Be Named. They want women to be empowered, but how much power do you wield when José Cuervo is calling the shots?

There is great power in providing the egg or sperm that could become a human being.



But with great power comes great responsibility. If Hollywood, hormones and fair-weather friends are all urging you to do the same thing, there's a 99 percent probability that it's a bad idea. I can't think of a single civilization that wound up on "the right side of history" by promoting unbridled hedonism. Can you? The Sexual Revolution has produced immeasurably more bitter regrets, bad karma and carnage than the French Revolution.

No one has ever died of spontaneous combustion simply because they decided not to be alone with a member of the opposite sex while stoned, depressed or on the rebound. This column is not an attempt to shame anyone for misjudgments they have already made. It is not a critique of the pros and cons of recent abortion laws. It is not a declaration that we can/should become a nation of celibate monks and teetotallers.

It IS a fervent prayer that at least one person will have the guts to block impaired judgment and sex from being allowed in the same ZIP Code.

Whether you are an influencer only under your own roof or your reach extends to the media, public office or service organizations, please think about what I've written.

Every child deserves to be loved and wanted, but we'll never achieve that if parents and civic leaders continue living vicariously through intoxicated daredevils in heat.

We can't keep treating the symptoms of risky behavior without addressing the causes.

We all want our children to grow up and get good jobs, but we need to put less emphasis on the vocation and more on the growing up part.

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



More focused than ever at 60

Inside every old person is a young person wondering what happened. Those are the clever words of British humorist Terry Pratchett, who couldn't have explained the aging process more succinctly. I know his words are true because I turned 60 this week. It's a heck of a thing to have burned through six decades already. If I'd known 60 years would go by so fast, I would have taken worse care of myself. Time is a humbling thing. I know now my greatest accomplishment—aside from an uncanny ability to catch grapes in my mouth no matter how far or high my friends throw them—was becoming a bouncer at the legendary Rathskeller pub at Penn State.

When I was half this age, I was certain I knew everything. I was cocky and brash and incredibly wrong. Now, I realize I know very little, but the things I do know, I know well. I know that fame is a waste of time—and excess wealth, too—as they bring with them more problems than either are worth. You don't know who your friends really are until your money is gone. And if you ever do anything stupid as a famous person, social media will broadcast it all over the world.

Several studies have been done on the subject of happiness. Having just enough money to save a little for a rainy day and go out with the love of your life a few times a month is all the money you really need. It's friends and loved ones that bring us real wealth. It's the laughter we can only enjoy with our closest friends—people we know we can count on no matter how difficult our lot becomes. It's the love we enjoy from our closest family members, friends, and lifelong spouses and partners—the people we attend weddings, holiday events and special occasions with—all of our most memorable experiences. And it's not just people. Why I waited until the age of 59 to get another dog—last having one as a child so many years ago—is possibly the most bone-headed decision I ever made. Somebody said God removed the wings from pets like my best buddy Thurber, so that nobody would know they are angels. This guy makes me laugh out

loud every single day—something I didn't realize I was failing to do until he entered my life. When we are young, we dream of big houses, and we hope to impress total strangers. As we grow older and wiser, we realize none of that matters. We realize that time is going by way too fast and that every single moment is precious. I was sick as a dog with a nasty flu weeks ago and, brought to my knees, I went through a paradigm shift. I decided I never want to waste another healthy moment. I started eating healthier than ever. I exercise daily. I go for walks with Thurber. I turn in at a decent hour, so I wake refreshed at 5:40 every morning ready to dive into the new day. All I want to do now is write well, read great literature and learn how to love better, give back more, laugh harder and spend every moment with people I love as though it were the last moment I had to live. Maybe it's time to alter Pratchett's clever quote: "Inside every old person is a wiser person trying to make great things happen with whatever God-given time he has left!" Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



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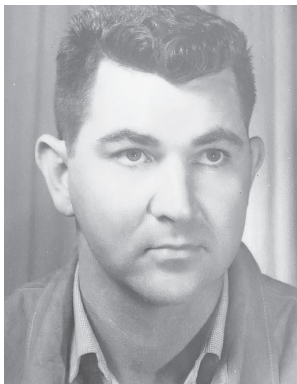


TRIBUTES

Richard Edward Wilder passed away on April 26, 2022 after a brief bout with pneumonia. Richard was born in Brownwood, Texas on July 8, 1932. Richard graduated from Brownwood High School in 1950 and then East Texas State University in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon graduation, Richard served as a Captain in the US Air Force. After his honorable discharge, he went to work for Lone Star Producing Company as a Petroleum Land Agent where he met and fell in love with Cynthia Ann Holder. They married on June 4, 1959 and were married for 60 years until Cynthia's untimely death on December 23, 2019.

Richard was born during the depression era. He learned the value of a strong work ethic, as he worked at the Palace Drug Store from the time he was 9 years old until he graduated from high school. He worked for pennies per hour but managed to save enough money to pay his way through college. That grit was permanently engrained in his character and was a trait he would use throughout his life to get through life's challenges.

Richard had a tough exterior but a great love for animals. Growing up, he was always around animals, whether he was bringing home stray dogs or raising chickens in his high school FFA. After he retired, he and Cynthia had several miniature horses. He especially had a soft spot for dogs. Most recently, he shared his home with Teddy and Freddie, his



RICHARD EDWARD WILDER
1932-2022

devoted companions. They provided a lot of company for him after Cynthia's death and were a source of great joy for him in his last days.

Richard was fiercely devoted to his family. He would do anything for them. In 1988, his daughter, Lisa, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It was a very acute form of the disease and attacked her central nervous system quickly. Lisa was soon disabled and required full time care. Richard and Cynthia cared for Lisa in their home until they were physically unable to. At that time, Lisa was placed in a nursing home. Richard rarely missed a day to go visit her, feed her and spend time with her until she passed away on October 19, 2019.

The greatest source of joy for Richard was his grandchildren. He was so proud of their achievements, but he was most proud of the quality young adults they grew up to be. He bonded with Camryn over his time in FFA and their experiences raising chickens. He loved to watch Collin play

the game of football, and always looked forward to the times Collin was able to come home and share stories. And he was so proud of Carson and Danielle starting their new life together in Dallas and bringing forth his first great grandchild, Madden, who he loved dearly.

Richard is a believer in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was a member of Katy's First United Methodist Church and attended the Eagle's Wings Sunday School class. That class served as a great community for Richard and was a tremendous source of love and encouragement for his family during his last days as he struggled with pneumonia. His family is comforted by the belief that Richard is walking with our Savior now and has been greeted by so many family members who have gone on before him.

Richard is survived by his son, Craig Wilder and his wife Catherine; grandson, Carson Wilder and his wife Danielle; grandson, Collin Wilder; granddaughter, Camryn Wilder; and great grandson, Madden Wilder. He was preceded in death by his wife, Cynthia Wilder; and his daughter, Lisa Wilder.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at Katy First United Methodist Church with Dr. Richard L. White officiating.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424

John Grady Hinch, 76, went to be with the Lord on April 25, 2022. John was born on December 31, 1945 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to John and Betty Jean Hinch. He attended six years at Oklahoma Military Academy. After graduation, John attended Oklahoma University and graduated from Northeastern State College at Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

John started his career at Gulf Oil as a Sales Representative for their retail stations. He was transferred to Houston, Texas and met the love of his life, Carolyn Shry. They would have been married 50 years in September and he was looking forward to a big celebration.

John worked for Coastal Transportation in Sales and then started in banking at Farm and Home and retired from Litton Loan as a Foreclosure Specialist.

John was a Patriot and loved the military. Although he couldn't serve his country due to a health condition, he joined the Civil Air Patrol after Retirement and found his passion. This gave him the opportunity to lead youth squadrons at several encampments, fly in planes over disaster areas, and participate in many rewarding activities. John was promoted to the rank of Captain which was the highlight of his career with CAP. John was a history buff and could answer almost any question about World War II. He loved historic planes, attending air shows, and visiting air museums. John was blessed with



JOHN HINCH
1945-2022

two daughters, Jeana Porter and Rebecca Raymond. He was known as "Pepaw" to his six grandchildren, Ethan Grady, Lili, Piper, Finley, Jackson, and Remington. He thought highly of his two sons in laws, Matt Porter and Colby Raymond. His daughters grew up knowing their Dad loved God, family and Country. He was so proud of his girls and

enjoyed attending swim meets, softball and soccer games, band concerts, and many FFA activities.

He also enjoyed taking his grandchildren on rides in his 1972 Jeep.

John had an outgoing personality and loved to tease and entertain. He had a unique humor that left lasting impressions on family and friends. He was a good dancer and always wanted to be the first on the dance floor. He always requested "My Girl" and "Moon River" After his first cruise, John found his favorite mode of travel and enjoyed many cruises to interesting places with Carolyn.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, May 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm at Katy First Baptist Church, 600 Pin Oak Rd Katy, TX 77494. Donations in his memory can be made to Katy First Baptist or MD Anderson Cancer Center.



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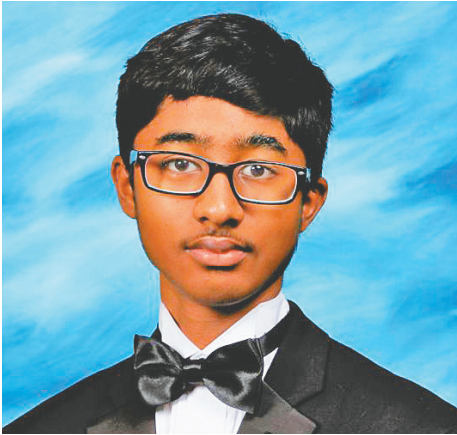
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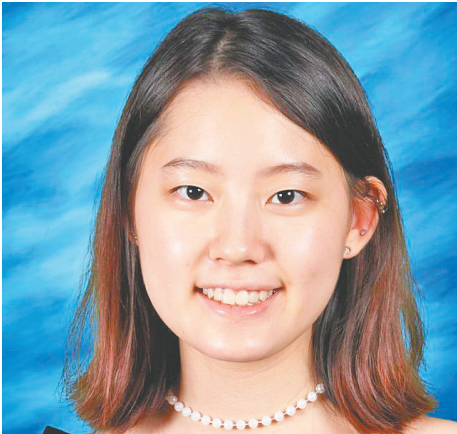
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Katy ISD announces high school valedictorians, salutatorians

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Independent School District announced the top two students from each high school who have ranked highest academically in their respective graduating classes. These students have worked hard from the first day of their ninth-grade year until their senior year. Many of them are now moving on to renowned colleges and universities throughout the nation.

Cinco Ranch High School

Christine Alexa Wu, the valedictorian, plans to attend Rice University and major in biochemistry. She has a 4.8696 GPA.

Jiyeon "Irene" Jeon, the salutatorian, plans to attend Pepperdine

University and major in biology. She has a 4.8636 GPA.

Katy High School

Arman Joshua Saxena, the valedictorian, plans to attend Rice University and major in statistics and business. He has a 4.8525 GPA.

Ronak Aaron Saxena, the salutatorian, plans to attend Rice University and major in bioengineering. He has a 4.8525 GPA.

Mayde Creek High School

Jonathan Huang, the valedictorian, plans to attend Harvard University and major in molecular and cellular biology. He has a 4.8082 GPA.

Grace Lee, the salutatorian, plans to attend the University of

Texas at Austin and major in biology. She has a 4.7963 GPA.

Morton Ranch High School

Logan Eric Greenland, the valedictorian, plans to attend Texas State University and major in music education. He has a 4.7547 GPA.

Tyler Scott Specksgoor, the salutatorian, plans to attend the University of Houston and major in psychology. He has a 4.6885 GPA.

Paetow High School

Michael Jiang Liu, the valedictorian, plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in chemical engineering. Has a 4.7667 GPA.

Fabian Zuluaga, the salutato-

rian, plans to attend Columbia University and major in electrical engineering. He has a 4.7241 GPA.

Seven Lakes High School

Samitha Vijay Nemirajaiah, the valedictorian, plans to attend Rice University and major in health sciences. She has a 4.8971 GPA.

Joshua J. Zhou, the salutatorian, plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in computer science/business. He has a 4.8939 GPA.

Taylor High School

Matthew Enping Xu, the valedictorian, plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in electrical engineering. He has a 4.9057 GPA.

Lucy Heather Zeng, the salutatorian, plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania and study in the Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research dual degree program, majoring in both science and engineering. She has a 4.8533 GPA.

Tompkins High School

Pranav Srinivasa Akkaraju, the valedictorian, plans to attend the University of Texas Austin and pursue a double major in computer science and business in the CSB Honors Program. He has a 4.8592 GPA.

Shieun Lee, the salutatorian, plans to attend Rice University and major in sociology. She has a 4.8448 GPA.

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Two Katy ISD robotics teams compete at FIRST World Championship

Robotics teams from Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes high schools placed among the top contenders at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) World Championship event last month at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center.

The Cinco Ranch Team 624 "CRyptonite" placed fourth in the Hopper Division of 75 teams with a record of 7-2-1. It also advanced to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs and received the "Excellence in Engineering Award."

The Seven Lakes Team 4639 "RoboSpartans" placed 11th out of 75 teams in the Carver Division with a 6-3-1 record and advanced to compete in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs.

"I'm extremely proud of these teams," Steve Adams, facility coordinator at the Robert R. Shaw Center for STEAM, said. "They were part of the top 23 teams in Texas to qualify to go to the world competition based on their robotics team performance. The world championship event was competitive, but also a very memorable moment for both Katy ISD teams because they were competing against groups from all over the world."

The FIRST Championship is an international competition where top teams from around the world compete to take the title of being named a "FIRST Robotics Competition World Champion." Over 450 teams participated this year.

Both Katy ISD robotics teams also placed at the state tournament. CRHS Team 624 won the Mercury Division of 40 teams and placed third in the overall group of 80 Texas teams, earning them a State UIL Runners-up title. It also received the "Autonomous Award." SLHS Team 4639 earned fifth place out of 40 teams in the Apollo Division and was recognized with the "Entrepreneurship Award."

Other Katy ISD teams who participated in the state competition included Team 624 "Glow with the Flow" from Paetow High School, Team 5427 "Steel Talons" from Tompkins High School and Team 8576 "Golden Warriors Robotics" from Jordan High School.

Twelve Katy ISD Destination Imagination teams advance to Global Finals Tournament

Twelve Katy ISD Destination Imagination teams will advance to the Global Finals Tournament May 21-24 in Kansas City, MO. The 12 teams are the most in Katy ISD history. This year's event will be an in-person celebration after two long years of virtual competitions.

The district recently sent 17 teams to compete at the Lone Star Finals Destination Imagination tournament in Arlington.

Here is a list of teams by campus, team name, challenge, and state ranking:

- Seven Lakes High, Frenzied Revelers, Improv - Festival Frenzy, 2nd
- Alexander Elementary, Rumbling Rockets, Engineering - Roll with It, 3rd
- Exley Elementary, DInoMite, Scientific - Up Close, 3rd
- Shafer Elementary, The Daredevils, Technical - Daring Escape, 3rd
- Griffin Elementary, The Microscopic Masterminds, Scientific - Up Close, 4th
- Beckendorff Junior High, Off Topic!, Service - For the Future, 4th
- Morton Ranch Junior High, The Nerd Herd, Improv - Festival Frenzy, 4th
- Campbell Elementary, Golden Thinkers, Technical - Daring Escape, 5th
- Bryant Elementary, The Improvables, Improv - Festival Frenzy, 7th
- Seven Lakes High, Houston We Have a Problem, Fine Arts - Tricky Tales, 7th
- Shafer Elementary, Creative Crew, Scientific - Up Close, 8th
- Shafer Elementary, The Improv Einsteins, Improv -



KATY ISD

The Seven Lakes High School "Houston We Have a Problem" Destination Imagination team is among 12 teams that will compete at the Global Finals Tournament May 21-24 in Kansas City, MO.



The Seven Lakes High School "Robo Spartans" robotics team.



The Cinco Ranch High School "CRyptonite" robotics team and the Seven Lakes High School "Robo Spartans" robotics team placed at the FIRST World Championship last month.

Festival Frenzy, 8th

Additionally, the Seven Lakes High School Frenzied Revelers participated in a special category of Instant Challenge called "Extreme," which takes problem-solving to the ultimate level. The team crushed the competition and brought home top honors.

"To see this many Katy ISD teams headed to the global level is a true inspiration," Joan Otten, gifted & talented/advanced academics department director, said. "These types of tournaments motivate and equip our students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders."

Destination Imagination is a school-based program devoted to helping students gain practical life skills through interesting, entertaining and mind-boggling challenges. The program is created and guided by parents, educators and community volunteers who support the art and skill of creative problem-solving. Destination Imagination seeks to develop the creativity, innovation and imagination of students while they work as team members to collaborate, stay within a budget and meet deadlines.

Cinco Ranch student receives Catholic Life Insurance All American Scholar Award

Krista Burg of Katy received the Catholic Life Insurance All American



CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

Cinco Ranch student Krista Burg has received the Catholic Life Insurance All American Scholar Award.

Scholar Award. Burg, who is the daughter of Patricia and Heath K. Burg, is a senior at Cinco Ranch High School. She will attend Concordia University Texas in Austin this fall. A total of 35 seniors received the \$1,000 All American scholarship from Catholic Life.

Catholic Life Insurance sells life insurance, IRAs, annuities, and Medicare supplement insurance. It gives back to our faith-based community through charitable, religious, and patriotic community service projects.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Harmony School of Innovation-Katy the Top High School in Katy

U.S. News & World Report named Harmony School of Innovation-Katy among its top high schools in America, the number one high school in Katy and the number one charter school in the Houston Metro Area in its annual rankings of U.S. public schools.

In determining its top schools, U.S. News & World Report looks at a variety of factors. These factors include college readiness (30%), math and reading proficiency (20%), math and reading performance (20%), underserved student performance (10%) and college curriculum breadth (10%).

Harmony School of Innovation-Katy is part of Harmony Public Schools, a Texas-born, Texas-wide public charter school system. It has campuses serving PreK-Grade 12 students in 23 cities across the state. Harmony's curriculum places a heavy focus on STEM skills, character education, project-based learning and college readiness. The system has a 98 percent graduation rate for its high school seniors and a 100 percent college acceptance rate among its graduating seniors.

In total, Harmony Public Schools had an astounding 23 schools make the U.S. News & World Reports "Best

High Schools" rankings for 2032, including schools in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, El Paso, Laredo, Waco, Katy, Sugar Land, Brownsville, Carrollton, Garland, Euless and Beaumont.

Harmony Public Schools' active employees awarded \$500 stipend

Harmony Public Schools is surprising its 4,800 teachers and team members across Texas with some good news to start National Teacher Appreciation week Monday, May 2. The Texas-based public charter school system is awarding a \$500 stipend to all employees for their extraordinary efforts throughout the 2021-22 school year.

"Throughout the many challenges of the past few years, our Harmony Public Schools team members have stepped up time and time again to keep our students focused on learning," Harmony Public Schools CEO Fatih Ay said. "Whether they are a teacher, an extracurricular club coach, a college counselor, mentor or one of the many other roles needed

to give our students the full spectrum of support they deserve, our team members are making a difference every day at Harmony."

Funds will be distributed May 2-6 to all current employees, so long as they were active in April 2022.

With approximately 4,800 workers statewide, the total commitment from the stipend will amount to roughly \$2.4 million. Though funds will be distributed during

Teacher Appreciation Week, the stipend is not being given specifically in recognition of the week, rather for an entire school year's worth of exemplary work.

The stipend was approved by the Harmony Public Schools Executive Board on April 30.

Harmony also awarded a similar stipend for employees in both May 2021 and both May and December 2020.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Enstor Katy Storage and Transportation, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 20907, which would authorize continued operation of a Katy Hub and Storage Plant located at 25959 Westheimer Pkwy, Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas 77494. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.



VOTING IS NOW CLOSED.

Winners will be notified in mid-May

Results publish June 23rd (available in print and online at KatyTimes.com)

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Katy Times

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

George invites Disney to consider Fort Bend County

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County Judge KP George has invited Walt Disney Company officials to consider that county as a place to do business in light of an ongoing dispute between Disney and Florida officials over recently enacted laws in the Sunshine State.

“While you, your company, employees, and diverse fans face authoritarian, anti-business, and culture war attacks from extremists in Florida, we in Fort Bend are more than ready to welcome the Disney family with thousands of good paying jobs and billions of dollars of investments,” George wrote in an April 21 letter to Bob

Chapek, Disney chairman. “In fact, major employees like Amazon, Texas Instruments, Comcast, Gallery Furniture, and others have recently made massive investments in our community including thousands of good paying jobs with many more major employers on the way.”

Florida recently adopted a law, which critics have described as “Don’t Say Gay,” that prohibits classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity. The law affects students in kindergarten through third grade in Florida public schools. Florida Gov. Ron



KP GEORGE
Fort Bend County Judge

DeSantis signed the bill into law in March.

But the new law has faced opposition from some companies, most notably Disney.

Chapek in March said that the company would stand by its LGBTQ+ employees. After the legislation became law, the company said its goal would be to repeal or strike down the new law.

Florida state officials, in turn, retaliated against the company. They eliminated a special purpose taxing district that enabled Disney to provide municipal services without additional red tape to its facilities within the district.

Whether those issues get resolved, and what steps, if any, Disney might take about possibly establishing some of its operations elsewhere, such as in Fort Bend County, remain to be seen.

Meanwhile, George hopes Disney might consider a new, Southeast Texas house for Mickey Mouse and friends.

“I invite you to visit Fort Bend County and see for yourself why our community is the best place for a new Walt Disney World Resort,” George wrote.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he would make it a priority for Texas to adopt measures similar to those in Florida when the legislature reconvenes in January.

“While you, your company, employees, and diverse fans face authoritarian, anti-business, and culture war attacks from extremists in Florida, we in Fort Bend are more than ready to welcome the Disney family with thousands of good paying jobs and billions of dollars of investments.”

—KP George, Fort Bend County Judge



No Label Brewing won both a Gold Crushie and a Platinum Crushie for its Cali Boy Beer can design.
CRAFT BEER MARKETING AWARDS

Katy’s No Label Brewing wins craft beer marketing awards

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

No Label Brewing has won six Crushie awards in the Craft Beer Marketing Awards (CBMAS) competition held this spring.

The CBMAS is the only global awards competition to recognize and celebrate the importance of craft beer artwork, culture, retail marketing and design efforts as a key to success in this competitive marketplace.

This year a panel of over 500 industry professionals from over 24 countries around the world have evaluated entries in over 30 categories from around the world.

The six awards are the most for a brewer from Texas.

No Label Brewing received these awards:

- Gold Crushie, Best Brand Identity/Unique Logo Design, for the No Label Brewing 2021 anniversary logo.
- Gold Crushie for Best



No Label Brewing won a Craft Beer Marking Award, called a Crushie, for its 2021 Anniversary Logo.

Can Design/8-15 ozs., Cali Boy Beer.

- Platinum Crushie for Best Can Design/8-15 ozs., Cali Boy Beer.
- Gold Crushie for Best Can Design/32 ounces, Crowler Beer.
- Platinum Crushie for

Best Can Design/32 ounces, Crowler Beer.

- Gold Crushie for Beer Marketing Wildcards/Creative Brewery Mural or Installation, No Label Brewing rail line label wall at its headquarters, 5351 1st St.

Beckendorff Junior High quiz bowl team to compete at nationals

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

With its strong finish at TQBA Winter Roundup, the Beckendorff Junior High School quiz team has earned the right to play on a national stage. On Friday, the team will compete in the 137-team National Academic Quiz Tournaments’ Middle School National Championship Tournament.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of four students. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

Beckendorff has attended the Middle School National Championship Tournament five times before. Most recently, in 2021, they entered three teams, one of

which made the playoffs, finishing in tenth place.

Beckendorff may face familiar foes in Rosemont, as Adams (from Fulshear), Kinkaid (from Houston), and Village (from Houston) will also be attending.

The team comes in with some nationals experience: Raghav Ahuja, Aarush Akella, Samin Asif, Aditya Khambekar, Ian Kim, Pragnyan Mallapragada and Sreejit Mukherjee played the 2021 Middle School National Championship Tournament.

Beckendorff will send four teams to the 2022 tournament.

Aditya Khambekar captains the A team and will be joined by Raghav Ahuja, Aarush Akella and An Truong.

Ian Kim captains the B team and will be joined by Ainesh Akella, Armon Hunt and Pragnyan Mallapragada.

Samin Asif captains the C team and will be joined by Arjun Desikan, Sreejit Mukherjee and Stavva Pallassery.

Advait Nair captains the D team and will be joined by Tharoon Eswar, Henry Yu and Hailong Zhang.

Sheri Wright coaches the teams.

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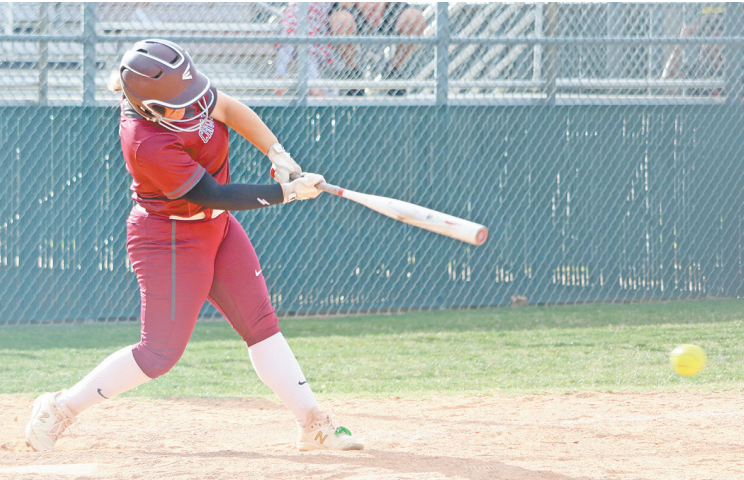
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Cinco sweeps Travis to advance to area round



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch is hot. After winning two in a row to close out district and clinch the final playoff berth out of the district, Cinco headed into the playoffs with confidence.

They didn't care about being the underdogs in a series, that they were facing a one seed or anything

Amanda Croteau hits during Friday's bi-district game between Cinco Ranch and Fort Bend Travis.

TYLER TYRE

else against them.

All the Cougars knew was they wanted to keep their season going and keep playing together for longer.

Cinco brought that confidence into their Class 6A bi-district series against Fort Bend Travis, and it never faltered, as the Cougars followed up a game one 3-1 victory with an 11-4 win in game two, sweeping the Tigers to advance to the area round.

"We just have had this collective goal to win as much as we can so we can stay together," said catcher Shelby Hodge. "We all love being on this team and playing together and it just clicked for us that if we didn't make playoffs, we weren't going to be able to play together anymore, and I think that motivated everyone to go out and keep this going."

The Cougars' bats were on fire in the game, as they collected 11 hits and scored in each of the final four innings to close things out.

The most important adjustment for Cinco came in the form of their aggressiveness, as they started going after pitches early in counts to get their offense going.

"It was really important for us

See **CINCO**, page B3

Tompkins falls to George Ranch in game 2, bringing season to end

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has had setbacks this season. But every time they have, the Falcons have had the answer.

Tompkins will be in need of those answers at the most important time this season, as the Falcons faced a 10-6 loss in game one of their bi-district series against George Ranch on Thursday.

"We just have to make some adjustments," said Tompkins head coach Katy Agiannidis. "The biggest

gest thing for us today was we didn't stay through the ball and we're going to have to do that instead of getting up underneath it. Every ball we hit seemed to float out to people and it made it easy to catch. It didn't challenge them enough and we have to do a better job of that tomorrow."

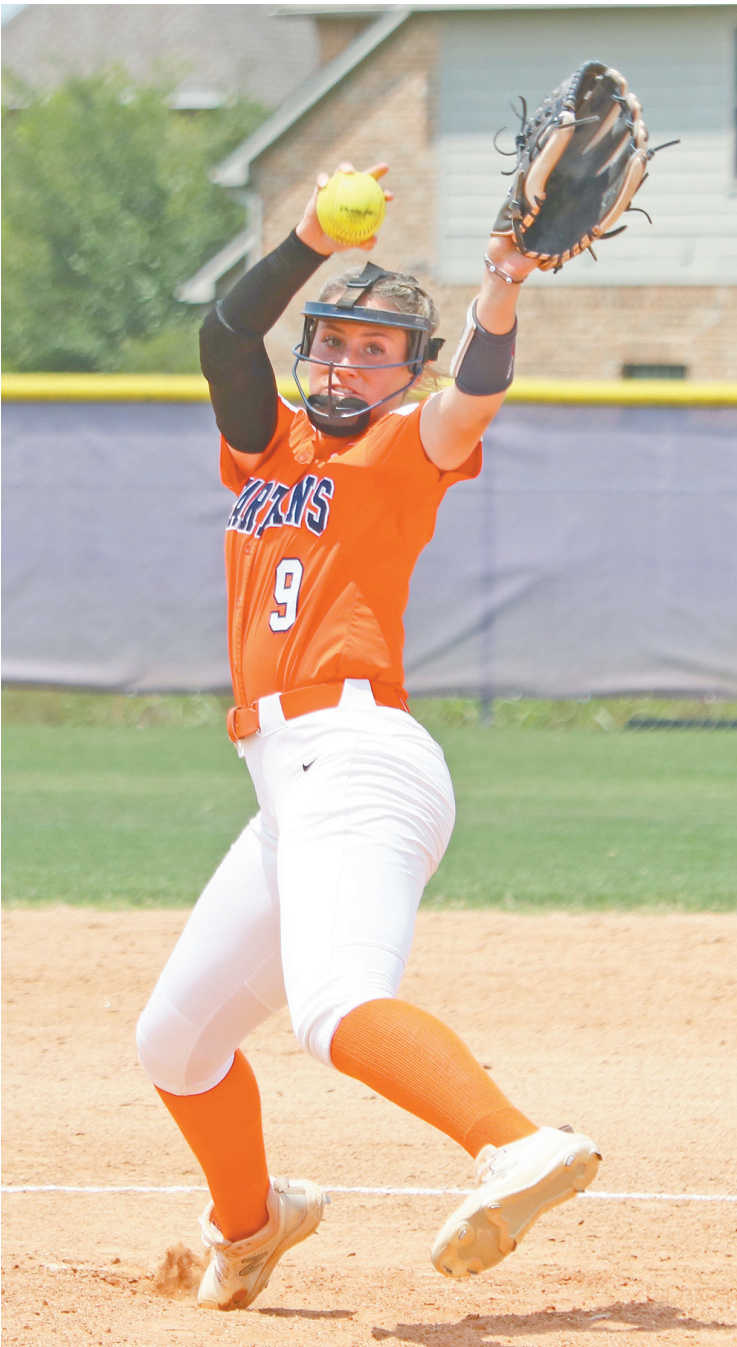
Things were close on the stat sheet despite the score. George Ranch outlit the Falcons 11-10, but the big difference was the errors, as Tompkins had five to George Ranch's two. That is something

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3



Madison Besselman hits during Thursday's bi-district game between Tompkins and George Ranch at the Tompkins softball field.

TYLER TYRE



TYLER TYRE

Amy Abke pitches during Saturday's bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Ridge Point at the Ridge Point softball field.

Seven Lakes beats Ridge Point in game 3 of bi-district round

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes needed a reset. After losing their final two games of district play and dropping to the No. 3 seed, the Spartans came together and decided to start fresh, knowing that playoffs is a new season.

"We just changed the mindset," said Seven Lakes head coach Holly Koopmann. "We all knew that we were a good team and that we could win against anybody — we just had to execute to do it. We went into practice this week and preached that, and while we didn't execute every time, I think we had a much better approach."

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

SCHEDULES

WEEK OF MAY 6

SOFTBALL

AREA

Friday

- Game 1: Seven Lakes at Jersey Village, 7 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Houston Heights, 7 p.m. at Memorial

Saturday

- Game 2: Seven Lakes vs. Jersey Village, noon
- Game 3: Seven Lakes vs. Jersey Village, 2 p.m.
- Game 1: Katy vs. Cy-Fair, 2 p.m., at Cy-Lakes
- Game 2: Katy vs. Cy-Fair, 4 p.m. at Cy-Lakes

Monday

- Game 3: Katy vs. Cy-Fair, 6 p.m. at Cy-Lakes (if needed)

BASEBALL

BI-DISTRICT

Friday

- Game 1: Seven Lakes vs. Ridge Point, 6 p.m.
- Game 1: Katy vs. Fort Bend Travis, 6 p.m.
- Game 1: Katy vs. George Ranch, 6:30 p.m. at Cinco Ranch
- Game 1: Tompkins vs. Elkins, 7 p.m. at Cy-Ridge

Saturday

- Game 2: Katy vs. Fort Bend Travis, noon, at Mayde Creek
- Game 2: Seven Lakes at Ridge Point, noon
- Game 3: Seven Lakes at Ridge Point, 2 p.m. (if needed)
- Game 3: Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 2:30 p.m. (if needed)
- Game 2: Tompkins vs. Elkins, 4 p.m.
- Game 2: Taylor vs. George Ranch, 4 p.m.
- Game 3: Taylor vs. George Ranch, 6 p.m. (if needed)
- Game 3: Tompkins vs. Elkins, 4 p.m. at Cy-Ridge (if needed)

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Katy sweeps past Elkins to advance to area

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy swept their way past Elkins in the bi-district round, putting on a dominant performance to advance to area.

The Tigers won 5-2 in the first game of the series before closing things out with a 17-2 blowout win in the second game to advance to area.

Katy took the lead early and stroled to the win in game one.

They took the lead in the bot-

tom of the first inning, when Ash-tyn Reichardt hit a two-run double to start the scoring. Cameryn Harrison then hit a sacrifice grounder. The Tigers then made it 5-0 in the second inning, as Reichardt doubled to drive in two.

Things remained that way until the seventh inning, when Elkins got two runs across but couldn't muster anything else as Katy took a one game advantage.

Harrison was big on the mound in game one, starting and going three innings, not allowing a hit

while striking out eight of the nine batters she faced. Paige Bunting then threw three innings, allowing two runs on three hits while striking out two. Lauryn Soeken closed things out by striking out two in the final inning.

Game two was even more in Katy's favor, as Elkins took an early lead but Katy's offense pummeled the Knights the rest of the way for a 17-2 win.

Elkins took the lead in the bot-tom of the first inning on a two run homerun, but the Tigers answered

right back in the top of the second. Hailey Gore got Katy on the board with a single and Peyton Watson tied it on a double to center field. Avery Porter then gave Katy the lead on a single and Kailey Wyckoff hit a sacrifice fly before Erynne Castillo drove in another with a single, Harrison drove in another with a single and Gore hit a two run double, making it 9-2 in favor of the Tigers after the second inning.

Katy's offense wasn't done either. In the third inning

Montgomery Henderson started the scoring with a grand slam, before Soeken drove in a run on a single and Hailey Gore hit a two-run homerun. Harrison capped the scoring off in the fifth inning with a solo homerun as Katy got a run rule win.

Soeken started on the mound and earned the win, going three innings and allowing two runs on four hits while striking out three and Harrison stepped in to close out the last two innings, allowing one hit and striking out four.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Tompkins nabs district title

Katy, Taylor and Seven Lakes round out playoff field

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins was out for revenge.

The Falcons' lone loss this season had come to Katy earlier in the district schedule, and they were determined to remedy it.

Tompkins did just that, coming away with an 11-1 victory over the Tigers and clinching the District 19-6A title and a No. 1 seed in the playoffs in the process.

Trevor Esparza led the way for the Falcons with a huge outing on the mound, pitching a complete game and allowing just one run on three hits while striking out seven and walking two as he held a strong Katy lineup in check all day, while Jace LaViolette drove in six runs to lead the way offensively.

It didn't take long for the Falcons to take the lead, as Cash Russell led off with a single and LaViolette followed that up with a two-run homerun to give Tompkins an early advantage.

The Tigers got a run back in the bottom of the third when Jhonnatan Ferrebus singled to trim the lead to one run. But it would be Tompkins' turn to respond a few innings later.

Tompkins broke things open in the top of the fifth. After two runners reached to start the inning, LaViolette hit a three-run homerun and Ty Dagley followed that up with a one-run single to make it 6-1.

The Falcons capped things off with a five run seventh. Jack Little hit a two-run homerun, before Ivan Gomez drove in a run on a single, Cooper Markle drove in a run on a sacrifice fly and another run came around to score on a walk with the bases loaded.

Big sixth inning leads Seven Lakes past Taylor

Seven Lakes earned a win over Taylor to close out the two teams' district schedule, beating the Mustangs 9-3.

Nathan Johnson was big on the mound for the Spartans on the night, going 5.2 innings and allowing two runs on three hits while striking out two and walking two to earn the win, while Ryan Franden had five RBIs on the night offensively.

Things stayed tied at zero until the third inning, when Franden

drove in a run on a sacrifice fly to put the Spartans ahead by one run. Franden then made things 3-0 in the fifth inning when he drove in two runs on a single to center field. Taylor got one run back in the bottom of the fifth when Adam Fitzgerald hit a solo homerun, but Seven Lakes would answer back quickly.

In the top of the sixth, Nathan Johnson drove in a run on a single before Jack Coultas and Taylor Tiedt did the same, Franden then came to the plate and drove in two more to make things 8-1 in favor of the Spartans.

Jared Schaeffer got another run across for Taylor in the bottom of the sixth inning, but Jake Steffes got things back to a seven run lead with a single in the top of the seventh. Joe Jefferson drove in a final run for Taylor in the bottom of the seventh, but the Mustangs couldn't muster anything else as the game came to an end.

Cinco Ranch ends season with win over Mayde Creek

Cinco Ranch went into the last game of the district season eliminated from playoff contention but put up a huge effort to top Mayde Creek 7-0.

Austin Bonjonia gave a great effort on the bump for the Cougars, pitching a complete game and allowing just two hits while striking out 12 batters in seven innings to get the win.

Cinco took the lead on their first batter of the game, as Charlie Atkinson hit a solo home run. Blake Hansen then hit an RBI triple and Gavin Rutherford hit an RBI double to increase the Cougars' lead. Bryce DeYoung came to the plate and drove in a run on a single before Connor Ficarra hit an RBI triple and Ficarra then came around to score on a steal of home, giving the Cougars a seven-run first inning and sealing the win early.

Things went scoreless the rest of the way as the Cougars strolled to the win.

Paetow ends season with loss to Magnolia

Paetow suffered a 7-1 loss to Magnolia to end the Panthers' season.

The Panthers got on the board in the first inning on a Gabriel Flores Marquee solo homerun, but that would be the Panthers' only run of the game in the loss. Magnolia responded with three in the bottom of the first inning, another run in the second and three more runs in the third before neither team scored in the final three and a half innings as the Panthers' season came to a close.



PHOTO COURTESY KATY ISD

Tompkins baseball: Tompkins clinched the District 19-6A title on Friday with a win over Katy.

Jordan closes season with win over Rudder

Jordan closed out its first varsity season with a 5-1 win over Rudder in a good offensive game for the Warriors.

Connor Carmichael helped the team to a win with a very good outing, pitching a complete game where he allowed one run on five hits while striking out five and walking one to lead the way.

Things were tied at zero until the third inning, when Jordan got two runs off a passed ball and an error. Jordan then got two more runs in the fourth, as Davis Duhon hit a triple to drive in two and Jordan got a fifth run in the fifth inning off a Chad Gasper single. Rudder got one run in the sixth but that would be it as Jordan hung on to win.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Seven Lakes clinches final playoff spot

Seven Lakes came into the game as underdogs but came away with a 4-0 win over Katy to clinch the final playoff spot out of District 19-6A.

It was a huge night for Seven Lakes pitching, as Lawson Moreno and Michael Schwartz combined to throw a shutout, giving up a combined four hits and striking out five in the win with Moreno earning the win after starting and going five innings and Schwartz earning the save for pitching the final two innings.

A huge inning is what propelled the Spartans to the win. After a walk to lead off the inning, Cade Climie hit a single and Carlos Michinaux hit a single to load the bases. Miguel Acosta then drove

in a run on a single before Katy walked in a run, Seven Lakes got another on an error and Jack Coultas drove in a run on a sacrifice fly.

That offense was all the Spartans would need. Seven Lakes repeatedly worked themselves out of jams to secure the shutout win and clinch the final playoff spot.

Tompkins tops Cinco, ending Cougars' playoff hopes

Tompkins came away with a 7-3 win over Cinco Ranch to keep the Falcons' goals of a district title alive and end Cinco Ranch's playoff hopes with one game remaining on the year.

Solomon Rotberg started the game for Tompkins and went five innings, allowing four hits and one run while striking out five and walking one. Ty Dagley came in and pitched an innings before Michael DeBattista closed things out.

Tompkins got on the board in the first inning, when Cinco walked home a run with the bases loaded. Tompkins then got another run on an error to make things 2-0.

Cinco got one run back in the fourth inning, when the Cougars got a run on a Tompkins error. But Tompkins continued to increase its lead once the game got to the fifth inning, as Drew Markle hit a double to drive in two. Tyler Brownlee drove in a run on a single and the Falcons got a sixth run on an error.

Tompkins got a seventh run in the bottom of the sixth, when Landon West hit an RBI single, and Cinco Ranch got two runs in the top of the seventh on a sacrifice grounder from Rainer Castillo and a Blake Hansen single, but couldn't do any more damage.

Taylor run rules Morton Ranch

Taylor earned a 10-0 run rule win over Morton Ranch behind strong pitching and offense.

Ryan Mullan led the way for the Mustangs, pitching all five innings and allowing just one hit on the night while striking out six.

Things were tied at zero until the second inning, when Peter Dworaczky hit a single to drive in a run. Taylor then broke things open in the fourth inning, getting a second run on an error before Camden Champness drove in two with a single, Hunter Ham hit into a fielders choice, driving in another and Jared Schaeffer hit an RBI single to drive in two more. Chase Marshall then came to the plate and drove in a run on a double and Champness made it 9-0 when he reached on an error.

Taylor scored a tenth in the fifth on an error, and Morton Ranch was unable to answer in the bottom of the inning to clinch things for the Mustangs.

Paetow falls to Magnolia

Paetow lost 2-1 to Magnolia behind a strong pitching performance, as the Panthers could never get anything going at the plate.

Anthony Diaz had a very strong game on the mound for Paetow despite taking the loss, going six innings on the mound and allowing two runs on five hits while striking out nine batters in the process.

Magnolia didn't score its first run until the sixth inning off a solo homerun, and then Magnolia got a second in the top of the seventh. Paetow tried to come back, scoring one run in the bottom of the seventh on a hit by pitch with the bases loaded. But a two out strikeout ended things and handed the Panthers a loss.



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CINCO

from page B1

to go after the first good pitch we saw,” said Cinco Ranch head coach Suzanne Reeve. “Their pitcher is really good and did a great job this series. If you let those good ones go, she’s going to start working that changeup and making it hard on you. She did great with that changeup, but towards the end we realized that we had to attack those good ones because there weren’t going to be many good ones after that.”

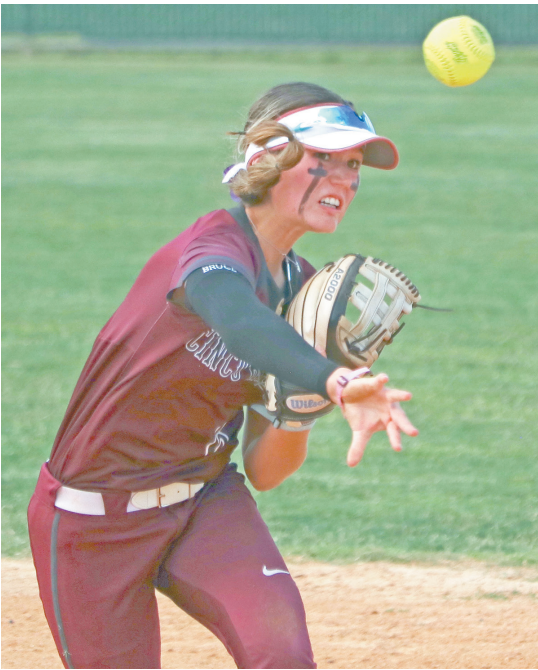
Cinco took the lead in the top of the first as Faith Piper led off the game with a single and Shelby Hodge drove her in with a single to right field. Travis, though, came out fired up and their offense put up four runs in the bottom of the inning to take a commanding lead early in the game.

Cinco Ranch though, made the decision to go to the bullpen and Chela Kovar was excellent once she came on, going six innings and allowing one run the rest of the way while striking out seven. “I wasn’t sure who I wanted to pitch

at first and that’s a really good problem to have as a coach,” Reeve said. “It’s great that if one isn’t hitting their spots, the other one can come in and do such a good job. And that can work with which-ever starts on the mound.” Neither team scored in the second or third innings, but Cinco broke things open in the fourth.

The Cougars got three runners on base before Piper came to the plate and tied the game at three with a two-run double. An error then gave Cinco a two run lead before Hodge hit a single, driving in two more to make it 7-3 Cinco. Hodge had a big day, going 3-5 at the plate while driving in four runs. “Honestly I was just looking to go after anything I could get,” Hodges said. “I didn’t want to get behind and have to face her off-speed stuff so I attacked and it worked out today.” Cinco got another run in the fifth on an error, and Travis answered with a run

of its own to trim the lead back to four, but the Cougars were not going to be denied. Kovar drove in a run in the sixth and Piper and Hodges both drove in runs in the seventh to seal things for the Cougars as they advanced to the area round. “We really have just been together all year and this game wasn’t any different,” Kovar said. “We’ve bonded and it’s been a really fun team to be a part of.” Cinco Ranch will play Houston Heights next Friday and Saturday in a three game series, game times to be determined. “The most important thing for them will be to continue to trust each other and keep having good practices with the long layoff,” Reeve said. “We have to have those good practices and take everything we do thee and carry it over to the game. If you work hard and know that you are putting everything into practice, then you feel more confident when you get into the game.”



TYLER TYRE

Faith Piper throws to first base during Friday’s bi-district game between Cinco Ranch and Fort Bend Travis.



TYLER TYRE

Mackenzie Stutts and Amy Abke celebrate after Saturday’s bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Ridge Point at the Ridge Point softball field.

SPARTANS

from page B1

That approach led to success this week, as the Spartans beat Ridge Point in three games in their bi-district series, taking game three 6-1 after winning game one 1-0 and falling 2-1 in game two. “With the amount of work we put up in practice this week, I think we were ready to show up and prove what we can do,” said junior pitcher Amy Abke. “Our bats got hot today and it’s a great feeling. I’m really glad that we stepped up and are moving on.” Abke led the way for the Spartans, as she pitched every inning of the series and had a tremendous performance in the third game, pitching a complete game and striking out eight while allowing one run on three hits. “There’s no one like her, she’s just tremendous,” Koopmann said. “She’s the real deal and we are lucky to have her.” The Spartans started the game off by taking control in the top of the first, equaling their scoring

output from their first two games with two runs on a Abke RBI triple and a Meghan Kelly RBI single. Things stayed that way until the bottom of the fourth, when Ridge Point got one run back when Reagan Green hit a sacrifice fly. Seven Lakes had the answer though and immediately answered back in the bottom of the inning with a Dulce Franco RBI double. “It was a gamechanger to get those two runs in the first,” Kelly said. “We only scored one run in both of these past two games, so to have those two so quick was huge. Once we got those two runs, we knew that it was going to be a different kind of game today.” The Spartans added an insurance run in the sixth, when Kelly scored on a passed ball and they scored twice more in the top of the seventh, getting a run off an error and then another on a Franco sacrifice fly. Abke then pitched a clean top of the seventh, getting a

fly out, strikeout and ground out from the three batters she faced, as Seven Lakes clinched the win. For this current group of Seven Lakes players, it’s the first time they have been out of the bi-district round. “It’s so exciting, they’re so excited, I’m so excited and the school is so excited,” Koopmann said. “They are great kids and they deserve it, — they deserve everything and I’m just so excited for all of them to have this opportunity.” Seven Lakes will play Jersey Village in the area round, date and times to be determined. The Falcons come off a sweep of Chavez in the bi-district round. “We just need to keep the energy up and make sure we take every day in practice seriously,” Abke said. “We just have to keep hitting and as a team trust each other and stay aggressive. If we do that, I’m confident no matter who we play.”

TOMPKINS

from page B1

the Falcons know they must clean up going forward. “Our defense played pretty well tonight and turned some double plays too,” said Kaitlyn Scribner. “But we can’t have errors the way we did tonight and we have to be better hitting the ball.” George Ranch took the lead in the top of the first inning off a Karrlaunh Deas two run homerun and they got two more in the third inning when Seleste Compian hit a sacrifice grounder and Mariah Garner hit a sacrifice fly, making things 4-0 in favor of the Longhorns. Morgan Brown tried to will the Falcons back into it, and in the fourth, she hit a solo homerun to trim the deficit to three. And the Falcons found their offense in the fifth, getting two runners on before Tauryn Alexander hit a three run homer to tie things, Brown then followed that up with a solo blast to give Tompkins the lead. “I think that inning showed them what they need to see for tomorrow,” Agiannidis said. “The kids know what they need to do and know that they can do it. They’re capable, we just have to string all of that together in more than one inning. If we do that, we’ll be where we need to be.” But George Ranch answered right back. The Long-

horns got a run on an error and then an RBI single from Jesyca Johnston before a double from Ella Kolenko drove in another run. Kennedy Marlow then hit an RBI single and Deas hit a double to drive another. Johnson then capped off the scoring for George Ranch in the top of the seventh with a solo homerun. The Falcons got one back in the bottom of the seventh, with Blakely Haynie hitting an RBI single, but it wouldn’t be enough in the loss. But despite the struggles, the Falcons are confident heading into Friday’s game two. Tompkins hasn’t lost two in a row all season, and don’t plan on starting that now. And they know there are things to build on from Thursday’s game. “I think we have everything it takes to come back and win two in a row,” Scribner said. “We definitely have it and we have that confidence. We’re ready and we just want to come back and prove ourselves tomorrow.” But the comeback wasn’t meant to be for the Falcons, as a 6-5 loss in game two of their series ended the teams season. The Falcons took a 5-1 lead heading into the sixth inning, but a late comeback from George Ranch sealed Tompkins fate this season.



TYLER TYRE

Leah Gershman catches a ball in right field during Thursday’s bi-district game between Tompkins and George Ranch at the Tompkins softball field.





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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, May 24, 2022**, and then publicly opened and read for “**Katy-Fort Bend County Road Extension Phase III**” for Katy Development Authority, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes a new roadway extension of Katy-Fort Bend Road between the Katy Boardwalk District to Kingsland Boulevard. The distance of the new four-lane concrete roadway is approximately 755 linear feet. In addition to the roadway improvements, the project includes a crossing of an existing drainage ditch with dual 10' x 9' RCB culverts, the installation of a new traffic signal at the Kingsland intersection, and construction of drainage items, sidewalks, street lighting, landscaping and irrigation, a water line extension, and a wastewater line extension to serve future development in the area.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** virtual pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4018456882>
Meeting ID: 401 845 6882
Dial In: +13462487799,4018456882# US (Houston)

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. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search Katy Development Authority Katy-Fort Bend County Road Extension Phase III. 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 Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District 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 the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

KATY ISD invites

Private Non-Profit Schools

Private non-profit schools serving students who reside in Katy ISD attendance zones have the option to participate in federal grant programs. If the Non-profit school wishes to participate, a consultation meeting can be scheduled to provide an overview of current federal programs (Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV) and other services. Non-profit schools interested in participating in these federal grant programs for the 2022-2023 school year should contact Erin Hyko at 281-396-2243 to schedule a consultation meeting to discuss programs and eligibility requirements.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for **Renovation and ADA Upgrade of restrooms at the Brookshire Convention Center** the following construction contract for the City of Brookshire will be received at the Brookshire City Office, 4029 5th Street, Brookshire, TX 77423 until **2:00 p.m. May 16, 2022**.

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

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required if the total contract exceeds \$50,000.00.

Not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed by applicable law must be paid.

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

Pre-Bid meeting. A pre-bid meeting will be held at **2:00 p.m. on May 10, 2022** beginning at the Brookshire City Office, 4029 5th St, Brookshire, TX 77423. (281-375-5050). **Attendance is not mandatory.**

Contractors may obtain bid documents for the project by requesting "Bid Documents for Convention Center Restroom Renovation" by telephone (281-375-5050), by email to CHarrison@brookshirecity.org, or by visiting the Brookshire City Office (address above).

There will be no change or deposit for the bid documents.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, attention Travis W. Miller, PE, will be **electronically** received until **11:00 a.m. local time, May 19, 2022**, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of Paving Facilities in Aurora Bend Drive Street Dedication No. 1 for Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 569 & Harris-Waller Counties Municipal District No. 4, Harris and Waller 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 220-807-631# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Paving Facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **May 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.** Local Time, via teleconference call. **The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 990-867-918# when prompted.**

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

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

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

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

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, May 24, 2022**, and then publicly opened and read for "Phase 2 Boardwalk Trail Project" for Katy Development Authority, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construction of a 9-foot wide concrete trail completing the loop of the boardwalk lake, construction of wooden boardwalk paths, steel pedestrian bridge, tree plantings, landscaping, irrigation systems, finish grading, solar lighting for the boardwalks, all labor, tools, equipment, and appurtenances to complete the project.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** virtual pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4018456882>
Meeting ID: 401 845 6882
Dial In: +13462487799,4018456882# US (Houston)

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. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search Katy Development Authority Phase 2 Boardwalk Trail Project. 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 Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District 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 the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Pulte, Homes of Texas, on behalf of Fort Bend Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 2, Attention Chett Wignall, Project Manager, will be received **electronically** until 10:00am, Friday May 20th, 2022 and then publicly opened and read for the construction of: "**Paving Facilities in Katy Court Section 1B**" for Fort Bend Waller Counties MUD No. 2, 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 gatherings are not recommended. 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 504335698# when prompted.

Scope of work of the contract includes construction of paving facilities. The project is located within the future Katy Court Development in Harris County, TX. It is within the boundaries of Fort Bend - Waller Counties M.U.D. 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, May 13th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time, via teleconference. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 853743910# when prompted. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **OPTIONAL**.

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:

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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38 Katy ISD student-athletes sign to next level



Seven Lakes student athletes pose for a photo during National Signing Day.



Cinco Ranch student athletes pose for a photo during National Signing Day.



Morton Ranch student athletes pose for a photo during National Signing Day.



Tompkins student athletes pose for a photo during National Signing Day.



Taylor student athletes pose for a photo during National Signing Day.



Paetow student athletes pose for a photo during National Signing Day.

STAFF REPORT

Over 35 Katy ISD student-athletes signed to continue their careers at the collegiate level in the school district's final signing day of the year.

Among the signees were one to the University of Houston, one to Rice University, one to Oklahoma State University and two to the University of Dallas.

Seven Lakes led the way with 16 student-athlete signings, while Tompkins had eight signings, Cinco Ranch and Taylor had six signings and Morton Ranch and Paetow each had one player sign.

Following is the full list of Katy ISD student-athlete signings.

Cinco Ranch High School April 2022 Signees:

- Sebastian Rodriguez – Boys Soccer – Belmont Abbey College
- Abby Stegeman – Golf – Blinn College
- Mariah Hinojosa – Softball – University of Dallas
- Khalil Khenayzir – Boys Soccer – Wingate University
- Bowen Cheng – Football – St. Anselm College
- Nedu Anih – Football – Stephen F. Austin

Morton Ranch High School April 2022 Signees:

- Manuel Rivas – Football – Mount Marty University

Paetow High School April 2022 Signees:

- Breanna Rodriguez – Girls Soccer – Angelina College

Seven Lakes High School April 2022 Signees:

- Carter Sanchez – Baseball – Southwestern University
- Cooper Whitten – Football – Hardin-Simmons University
- Daniel Garza – Cross Country/Track and Field – Savannah College of Art and Design
- Gracelyn Cox – Swimming – University of North Carolina at Asheville
- Jose Salinas – Wrestling – Schreiner University

- Anthony Gonzalez – Boys Soccer – University of Dallas
- Nicholas Taggart – Golf – Tusculum University
- Meghan Kelly – Softball – Garden City Community College
- Jenna Sanders – Track and Field – Oklahoma State University
- Aubrey Tupper – Track and Field – University of Houston
- Avery Catchings – Track and Field – Colorado School of Mines
- Cailyn Tucker – Girls Basketball – Southwestern Assemblies of God University
- Lauren Schmitt – Track and Field – Rice University
- Makinzie Stutts – Softball – Bossier Parish Community College*
- Andrea Urzua – Volleyball – Panola College*
- Soleil Namunola – Tennis – Washington College in Maryland*

Taylor High School April 2022 Signees:

- Hayden Silkenon – Swimming – Southwestern University
- Emma Watts – Swimming – Southwestern University
- Wyatt Fahey – Football – Arizona Christian University
- Michael Bone – Wrestling – Texas Wesleyan University
- Landan Mowry – Football – McPherson College
- Shakeel Zahid – Track & Field – Our Lady of the Lake University

Tompkins High School April 2022 Signees:

- Judson Collier – Baseball – St. Thomas University
- Ethan Vazquez – Football – Sam Houston State University
- Daniel Barrientos – Diving – Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Victoria Pena – Wrestling – University of the Ozarks
- Bryce Shockley – Soccer – Missouri Baptist University
- Jeff Borchert – Golf – Centenary College of Louisiana
- Nolan Fryer – Football – Lyon College
- Bryce Shaink – Football – Navarro College

Dynamo fall to seventh in Western Conference after loss to Austin FC

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Everything started perfectly for the Dynamo on Saturday.

Just five minutes into the game, the Houston press caused a bad clearance from Austin FC and Sebastian Ferreira took advantage. Scoring on a booming shot from 61 yards out with the keeper racing

back to try and get to the goal. For Ferreira it was his fourth goal in four games and the goal was also the quickest scored by the Dynamo this season.

It was also the longest goal in the MLS since 2019, when Wayne Rooney scored from 68-yards out. But that fast start ultimately would not lead to a victory for the Dynamo, as they fell 2-1 to the

Verde, bringing the team's record to 3-3-3 and dropping Houston to seventh in the Western conference standings with 12 points in nine games.

The Dynamo had a chance to make it 2-0 in the 21st minute, when Darwin Quintero got the ball just outside of the box and took a hard shot that was saved on a diving effort by Austin FC's Andrew

Tarbell. Daniel Pereira tied the game in the 39th minute, when Ethan Findlay found him on a cross from the right wing that he tapped in to level things at one goal apiece.

The Verde then took the lead in the 66th minute, when Sebastian Driussi collected a pass from Diego Fagundez and calmly curled it to the far right post, making things 2-1.

Dynamo goalkeeper Steve Clark collected three saves in the game while Thiago made his first appearance for the club, coming on in the 77th minute.

The Dynamo will travel to Washington D.C. this Saturday to take on DC United at 6:30 p.m. before returning to PNC Stadium for their next two games on May 11 and May 14.

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Katy Times

Jordan's Armijo named MVP, Meekins named Coach of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan's Ryan Armijo was named the District 19-5A MVP after a year in which Jordan set records in their first year of varsity play.

Armijo helped the Warriors in their terrific season by tallying 15 goals and nine assists, helping the Warriors to a second place finish in district.

Jason Meekins was named coach of the year for his efforts in leading the Warriors through the season while Marcelo Ojeda was named newcomer of the year.

Jordan went on a huge run in the playoffs, winning the Class 5A Region III title and making the state semifinals in the process.

Paetow's Ismael Espinosa was named goalkeeper of the year for the district while Toheeb Oladipupo was named co-defensive player of the year after the Panthers won the district title and advanced to the area round.

Magnolia West's Jafet Ramirez was named offensive player of the year, Magnolia's Gustavo Seglio was named midfielder of the year and College Stations' Zach Dang was named co-defensive player of the year.

Jordan's Elijah Betancourt, Ben Bucic and Pierce Sanchez were named to the first team while Paetow's Jose Dominguez, Lukas Herrera, Daniel Marquez and Roberto Sepulveda were named to the first team as well.

On the girls side, Jordan's Peri Olmo and Brooklyn Chavis was named newcomer of the year after helping the Warriors to a second round appearance in the playoffs.

Chavis and Olmo along with Christine Marinho were named to the first team, as was Paetow's Rayal Henderson and Breanna Rodriguez.

Following is the full District 19-5A boys soccer team.

Distinct Awards

- District MVP: Ryan Armijo (Jordan)
- Offensive Player of the Year: Jafet Ramirez (Magnolia West)
- Midfielder of the Year: Gustavo Seglio (Magnolia)
- Co-Defensive Player of the year: Toheeb Oladipupo (Paetow), Zach Dang (College Station)
- Goalkeeper of the year: Ismael Espinosa (Paetow)
- Newcomer of the Year: Marcelo Ojeda (Jordan)
- Coach of the Year: Jason Meekins (Jordan)

1st Team

Elijah Betancourt	Jordan
Charlie Boggan	Brenham
Ben Bucic	Jordan
Adrian Calderon	Waller
Jack Contenbader	CS
Will Askew	Consol
Jose Dominguez	Paetow
Wyatt Eggleston	West
Edgar Garcia	West
Osman Gutierrez	Rudder
Weston Hawks	West
Lukas Herrera	Paetow
Bryce Marianno	Consol
Daniel Marquez	Paetow
Abel Piedra	Magnolia
Ethan Riechman	CS
Pierce Sanchez	Jordan
Roberto Sepulveda	Paetow

2nd Team

Benjamin Alimasi	Paetow
Hani Camara Taan	Jordan
Owen Collins	Jordan
Jonathan Corado	CS
Juan Delapaz	West
Angel Garcia	Paetow
Owen Green	CS
Seth Goble	Consol
Luke Grismer	CS
Alexander Gutierrez	Brenham
Joel Herrera	West
Francisco Lorta	Rudder
Jose Maldonado	West
Michael Martinez	Magnolia
Ernie Mendoza	Magnolia
Pablo Ortuno	Waller
Max Pellois	Consol
Alexis Portillo	Waller
Owen Rodgers	Jordan
Ivan Salazar	Brenham
Martin Sosa	Rudder
Juancarlos Santos	Jordan
Joshua Soriano	Paetow
Erick Tierrafria	Paetow

Honorable Mention

David Aguliar	Rudder
Noah Betancourt	Jordan
Christiano Cantu	Waller
Oscar Carlos	Rudder
Mason Crites	Consol
Cesar Garcia	Paetow
Allan Maradiaga	Magnolia
Rodrigo Melgar	Brenham
Rafael Paiva-Morat	CS
Eduardo Portillo	Waller
Joseph Perez	Consol
Santiago Quiroga	Paetow
Andrew Riechman	CS
JD Ruiz	West
Miguel Trejo	West
Cole Vernon	Jordan
Jesus Villanueva	Magnolia
Caludio Zavala	Brenham

Following is the full District 19-5A girls soccer team.

Distinct Awards

- District MVP-- Laney Gonzales, Sr, Magnolia
- MVP Offense-- Peri Olmo, Soph, Jordan
- Midfielder of the Year - Kylie McRaven, Jr, College Station AND Kate Homeyer, Soph, A&M Consolidated
- MVP Defense-- Skyler Replogle, Sr, Magnolia
- MVP Goalkeeper-- Taylor Sanderson, Sr, Magnolia
- Newcomer of the Year: Brooklyn Chavis, Soph, Jordan
- Coach of the Year-- April Cleveland, Magnolia

1st Team

Ella Goodwin	A&M Consol.
Lily Hickson	A&M Consol.
Kate Homeyer	A&M Consol.
Kira Merrell	A&M Consol.
Lauryn Wells	Brenham
Kylie McRaven	College Station
Keira Herron	College Station
Elie Dang	College Station
Brooklyn Chavis	Jordan
Gaby Garcia	Jordan
Christine Marinho	Jordan
Peri Olmo	Jordan
Michelle Polo	Magnolia
Kaitlyn Myers	Magnolia
Ellie Ketzner	Magnolia
Gabriella Palomino	Magnolia
Karina Sosa	Magnolia West
Rayal Henderson	Paetow
Breanna Rodriguez	Paetow
Ashley Munoz	Rudder
Avery Conklin	Waller

2nd Team

Morgan Marino	A&M Consol.
Meghan Moore	A&M Consol.
Grace Tomlinson	A&M Consol.
Sydney Lane	Brenham
Reagan Lange	Brenham
Shaley Lewis	College Station
Taylor Jennings	College Station
Kelsey Slater	College Station
Julia Olmo	Jordan
Ava Slay	Jordan
Madelyn Mech	Jordan
Camila Luna	Jordan
Madeline Ellis	Magnolia
Sammie Guidie	Magnolia
Kora Duhon	Magnolia
Avery Tindall	Magnolia
Grayson Bertrand	Magnolia West
Katelyn Frazier	Magnolia West
Leila Ortiz	Paetow
Evelyn Martinez	Paetow
Denise Tristan	Rudder
Estefani Esquivel	Rudder
Coral Cureton	Waller
Moncerrat Arellano	Waller

Honorable Mention

Evi Brieden	A&M Consol.
Camille Corbitt	A&M Consol.
Robin Aguilar	Brenham
Ale Vindel	Brenham
Ella Hawryluk	College Station
Camila Del Rio	College Station
Isabella Luna	Jordan
Madelyn Way	Jordan
Rylee Pierce	Magnolia
America Gonzalez	Magnolia West
Maira Castro	Magnolia West
Sadie Villalobos	Paetow
Juliana Crespo	Paetow
Marissa Espitia	Rudder
Marisella Tirado	Rudder
Edelin Jimenez	Waller
Stephanie Esquivel	Waller



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

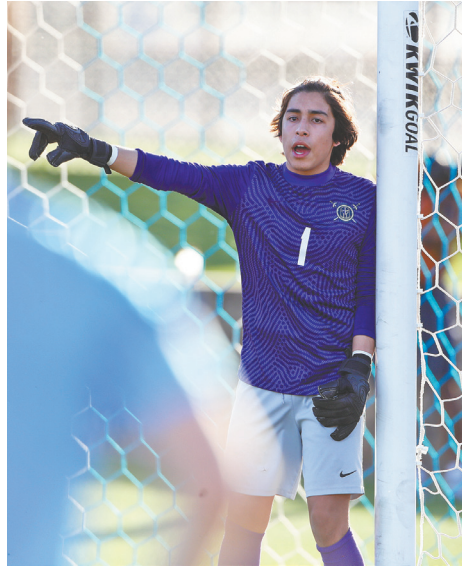
Jordan midfielder Marcelo Ojeda (8) during the Class 5A boys state semifinal between Dripping Springs and Katy Jordan on April 14, 2022 in Georgetown, Texas.



Jordan midfielder Ryan Armijo (17) passes the ball during the Class 5A boys state semifinal between Dripping Springs and Katy Jordan on April 14, 2022 in Georgetown, Texas.



Jordan head coach Jason Meekins during the Class 5A boys state semifinal between Dripping Springs and Katy Jordan on April 14, 2022 in Georgetown, Texas.



Jordan goalkeeper Elijah Betancourt (1) during the Class 5A boys state semifinal between Dripping Springs and Katy Jordan on April 14, 2022 in Georgetown, Texas.

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TENNIS

3 Katy ISD student athletes earn medals at state



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD
Jordan's Namrata Makhija finished third at the state tennis tournament in girls singles.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Three Katy ISD student athletes medaled at last week's state tennis tournament in a strong tournament for the Katy schools.

Taylor's Jonathan and Ally Lin finished third in mixed doubles at state, beating The Woodlands Rachel Same and Felipe Ramirez 6-0, 4-6, 7-5 to advance to the semifinals before falling to Plano West 6-4, 6-2. But the siblings rebounded to win the third place game and medal.

Jordan's Namrata Makhija also earned a bronze medal

for her efforts in the Class 5A state tournament. She defeated Leander Rouse's Nikita Girish 6-4, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the tournament before falling to Wichita Falls Rider's Axelle Jacquemin in the semifinals 6-1, 6-1. She rebounded to win her semifinal though and claim the bronze medal.

Jordan's Keerthana Hari, Iksu Shandilya, Vincent Rivas and Rachana Hari, Tompkins' Mihir Amte and Charlie Kuchler and Seven Lakes' Anna Boleau and Liska Knight had their seasons come to an end in the state tournament before medal rounds after successful years.



Taylor's Jonathan and Ally Lin finished third at the state tennis tournament in mixed doubles.



Tompkins' Mihir Amte and Charlie Kuchler qualified for the state tennis tournament.

99

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