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Katy Times

VOLUME 111, ISSUE 16

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

Home Depot to build new store at Kingsland, Cane Island intersection

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council, at a special April 17 meeting, approved an economic development agreement with Home Depot in which a new store will be constructed at the northwest section of the Cane Island Parkway-Kingsland Boulevard intersection. Officials said

the store is expected to be open by late spring-early summer of next year.

To make this happen, the council first authorized a utility agreement between the city and Home Depot. The agreement provides for city utility service at the store. The council approved an agreement involving METRO and Katy Development Authority funds to defray property purchase costs and as

part of a sales tax incentive.

The council, at its April 10 meeting, removed another obstacle to the deal by getting the City of Houston to release the 24 acres of land on which the store will be built. That land was under Houston extraterritorial jurisdiction. Now, it is within this its Katy city limits.

See **HOME DEPOT**, page A3



HOME DEPOT

Home Depot will be building a new store at the northwest section of the Cane Island Parkway-Kingsland Boulevard intersection in Katy.

NACH-YO ORDINARY TEQUILA EVENT



DEBBIE PREJEAN

The Nach-Yo Ordinary Tequila event, held April 13 at The ARK by Norris, 21402 Merchants Way, offered guests a selection of craft agave spirits as well as classes on various tequilas. Like the Katy Sip N Stroll, proceeds benefited The Ballard House, which provides housing for families of patients undergoing medical treatment.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Babst to head homeland security and EMS office

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Judge KP George April 17 announced Greg Babst to serve as the new manager of the county's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HS&EM), effective

immediately.

Babst, who has been with the office for over two years, served as deputy manager before being named as the office's interim manager in January. In his new role, Babst will oversee all aspects of the county's planning for, response

to, and recovery from emergencies, and disasters.

"Greg has a wealth of experience and an enthusiastic outlook for the safety of residents and businesses in our county

See **BABST**, page A3

Candidates for board of trustees discuss qualifications at forum

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Seven of the eight candidates seeking positions on the Katy ISD Board of Trustees discussed their qualifications, and priorities if elected, in a candidate forum hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

The forum was held April 13 at the Performing Arts Center at Cinco Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd. Robert Long III and Justin Burdine moderated the forum. Long is director for school board development services at the Texas Association of School Boards. Burdine is a former Fort Bend ISD trustee.

The three races are unusual this year in that they feature no incumbents. Position 3 Trustee Ashley Vann, Position 4 Trustee Leah Wilson and Position 5 Trustee Greg Schulte all chose not to seek re-election.

Three candidates are seeking the position 3 seat. They are Bruce Bradford, a mortgage loan originator; Shawn Miller, a college professor, and Amy Thieme, a realtor. Miller was the lone candidate absent. He said his school was having a teacher appreciation event he was helping to host.

Three candidates are seeking the position 4 seat. They are Erica Brettell, a stay-at-home mom; Morgan Calhoun, a stay-at-home mom, and Cicely Taylor, an education administrator.

Two candidates are seeking the position 5 seat. They are Mary Ellen Cuzela, a Katy ISD substitute teacher, and Shana Peterson, who is retired.

Peterson said her top priority if elected would

See **FORUM**, page A3

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GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Mike Morath, Texas Education Agency commissioner, speaks at the April 14 meeting sponsored by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at the Embassy Suites.

TEA chief talks education, learning to read in Katy visit

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath shared strategies to improve reading skills at an April 14 gathering at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy.

While his Katy talk focused on building a foundation of reading, Morath spoke briefly, after the meeting, about his agency's takeover of the Houston ISD. TEA officials gave an overview of their plans at an April 13 Houston ISD trustee meeting. Morath said he spends "a healthy amount" of time focusing on the agency's takeover and is in Houston about a day a week.

As part of the takeover, the agency seeks to hire people to serve on a board of managers that will supervise the district's affairs and, hopefully, bring improvements. Morath said there were what he called "a huge number of people" who want

to serve in some capacity, including on this board, and Houston ISD.

"I think we have 375 applicants, thereabouts," Morath said. "It's great to see so many people with character and the willingness to step up."

In his Katy talk, Morath described the agency's four priorities. He said teachers were the first priority and districts should be relentless in recruiting, supporting and retaining both teachers and principals.

"The most important in school factor that is now having a teacher in the classroom," Morath said.

The second key priority, he said, focuses on the early grades, making sure that schools were building a foundation of reading in math. In this way, he said, the youngest learners would match to the fundamentals and have no gaps as they

See **TEA**, page A3

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Waller County Sesquicentennial kickoff set for April 28

Waller County is celebrating its sesquicentennial, with official kickoff festivities set for 10 a.m. April 28 at the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead. At 12 p.m. that day, the Hempstead Garden Club will host a sesquicentennial tea and fashion show at The Grand Texana, 53447 Highway 290 E. in Hempstead. At 6:30 p.m., the Sesquicentennial Queen's Pageant will be held at the Hempstead High School auditorium, 801 Donoho St. in Hempstead. The April 28 events are the first of a series of activities to celebrate the sesquicentennial, the official date for which is May 5. Community activities are also planned for various Waller County communities, including Katy, a part of which is in Waller County. For more information, visit the Waller County website co.waller.tx.us. From the website click the Waller County Sesquicentennial (150th) Celebration link. Information is also on the Facebook page Waller County Sesquicentennial 05/05/23.

Dog adoption event set for April 29

Mancuso Harley-Davidson Crossroads is hosting a dog adoption event from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. April 29 at its facility, 12710 Crossroads Park Dr. The event features animals for a cause, a 50/50 raffle and live music. A package of four tacos and a drink will be available for \$12. Proceeds will benefit Give Us Paws, a Houston-based nonprofit that provides subsidized and free training of eligible candidates' dogs as assistance animals. According to its website, the organization focuses veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and limited mobility. Subsidized services are also provided to civilians determined to be disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information about the event, call 713-510-3713.

Fort Bend County Clerk Laura Richard receives Exemplary 5 Star Award

The vital records division of the Fort Bend County Clerk's office, under the leadership of County Clerk Laura Richard, has earned the highest marks for the year 2022 receiving the "Exemplary 5 Star Award" from the State of Texas Vital Statistics Unit.



Laura Richard

With a total of 335 eligible local registrar facilities, only 18 or 5% received the exemplary status. The criteria include registering 100% of birth and death records within one business day, attending regular trainings, having an excellent record of customer service, data quality and implementing strong security of records.

On April 11, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court presented Richard with a proclamation in recognition of receiving the prestigious award of the Exemplary 5 Star registration status. "The Honorable Laura Richard strives for excellence in areas such as understanding the importance of vital statistics and its impact on the citizens of Texas, staying current with the latest legislation and best practices, advanced training for staff, security and confidentiality of data pertaining to the records in her custody and excellent customer service," the proclamation reads in part.

The clerk's office offers many of its services online. One can search property records, request certified copies and find needed forms for birth, death, business, and marriage licenses. For more information, visit the website fbctx.gov, and click on County Clerk within the Government tab.



PHOTOS BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Belle Adams, left, waits on Maddison McKinnon, center, and Charlize Kendrick during a soft opening at the Southern Dough Baking Co., 908 Ave. B. The restaurant held a "soft opening" on Katy Market Day, thus ensuring a larger crowd to try its menu.

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch celebrates Earth Day

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch will host an Earth Day Celebration in partnership with Central Green Park. The event will be from 1-4 p.m. April 22 at Central Green and Heritage Square.

The celebration will kick off with a complimentary yoga class from 12-1 p.m. at Heritage Square. Guests are encouraged to bring a yoga mat, towel and water bottle to class. Those interested in participating can register for the class here: bit.ly/3zMVkVG.

Guests will also have an opportunity to participate in various activities throughout the event including:

- Water conservation education and giveaways from Inframark at Central Green.
- Tree and plant giveaways at Heritage Square
- Interactive booths, kids' activities and live music at Central Green and Heritage Square



Southern Dough Baking Co. business partners Edgar Carlson and Larry Martin said the restaurant planned to hold some "soft openings" before holding a formal grand opening, which has not yet been scheduled.

• Face painting at Central Green. "We're thrilled to be partnering with Central Green to spread awareness of different ways community members can do their part to protect the earth," Ulisa Quiroz, marketing coordinator at LaCenterra at Cinco

Ranch marketing director, said. "It's sure to be a great time with activities for people of all ages." For more information, visit the website lacenterra.com.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Dylan and Marley are two
- Makes healthy
- The Who's "O'Riley"
- Side sheltered from wind
- Flat-bottomed sailboats
- Egyptian supreme god
- Advice
- Mass of small, loose stones
- Online learning services provider
- "Lords" in Northwest Semitic languages
- Of she
- A place to relax
- Critical and mocking
- Consumed
- You get one in summer
- Bath
- Luxury automaker
- Spiders spin one
- Guy (slang)
- Greek personification of Earth
- Large instruments
- Domestic cattle genus
- Appetizer
- Oil group
- Where to put groceries
- Speak incessantly
- Popular color
- A place to sleep
- Make fun of
- Former CIA
- Salts
- Bleated
- Never sleeps
- Sword

CLUES DOWN

- One-liner
- Evergreen genus
- College in Rome
- Prevents from seeing
- Cycles/second
- Mischievous child
- Less common
- Honorably retired
- Midway between south and southeast
- A confusion of voices and other sounds
- Bony fish genus
- Type of pear
- Egyptian cross
- Satisfier
- Founder of Babism
- Bar bill
- Chicago ballplayer
- Performer
- Hairpiece
- Partner to flowered
- Aircraft formation
- You have 3 per day
- Goes into

36. College athletic organization
37. Wet, muddy ground
38. Talky
40. Witty conversation
41. Gurus
43. "French Price of ___ Air"
44. Sports equipment
46. Try to get
47. Flower cluster
49. Sea dwellers

50. Palmlike subtropical plant
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. Baseball's Ruth
53. Gelatinous substance
54. Hungarian violinist Leopold
57. Offered
58. Ancient Greek City
59. A way to derive
61. Touch lightly
62. Witnessed

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

HOME DEPOT

from page A1

Clay Trozzo, a broker with Property Commerce in Houston, was involved in the property acquisition process. He said other development was expected around the future store location, though he had no immediate details on what those stores might sell.

Officials had no precise figures for how many new jobs the store, and the development around it, will bring to Katy. The sales taxes

coming from the store and surrounding development will play an important role as Katy continues to grow.

"You've got to have sales taxes to fund the growth we're going to have in all public services," Mayor Dusty Thiele said after the meeting.

Before the first vote, Thiele said when he became mayor last May, he and City Administrator Byron Hebert met, and Hebert asked if

Thiele had any specific goals that he wanted to see the city pursue. Thiele said he had several, but one of the main goals was smart economic development.

"One of the main ones is smart economic development," Thiele said before the first vote. "I think that is what this is," Thiele said. "I think this is what we're looking for in the city of Katy, smart economic development."

In an interview, Hebert said he approached Home Depot last year, asking if the chain would consider building a store in Katy. Presently, Home Depot has two locations in the Katy area, though not within the city limits. One store is at 1111 N. Fry Road. The other is at 6850 S. Fry Road.

The interest was there, and officials worked to make the deal happen. When Thiele learned of

the mutual interest, he said he "bugged and bugged and bugged" Hebert about the situation, though he did not need to because Hebert and city staff working on it. He complimented Hebert and city staff for making it happen.

Hebert described the deal as the perfect economic development package.

"It's a big one," Hebert said. "I'm very excited."



Katy ISD position 4 trustee candidate Erica Brettell, center, speaks while fellow candidates Morgan Calhoun, left, and Cicyly Taylor listen.

FORUM

from page A1

be retaining and recruiting teachers and support staff. To make that happen, she said, she would encourage the district to start its recruiting and hiring process earlier and develop relationships with colleges and universities that train teachers. She said she would work to ensure that teacher compensation packages are comparable to those in other districts.

Cuzela said the teachers she has spoken with have cited student discipline as a top priority, and it would be her priority if elected. Working to ensure classroom size limits, which would help attract and retain teachers, would help with this, she said.

Taylor said her priority would be working to improve student outcomes. She said she wanted to help eliminate distractions from learning, thereby helping Katy ISD students to be ready for college if that was

their goal. She said she wanted Katy ISD schools to be safe, joyful and learning environments.

Brettell said her priority would be students. She said she wanted to see the district continue to be excellent academically while providing a safe learning environment. She said she wanted to see the district support teachers and make sure they had what they needed to succeed, including non-traditional learning methods as needed.

Calhoun said her priorities would be safety and security. She said such safety and security did not come just from a facilities and management perspective, but from a place of physical, emotional and mental well-being. Those things, she said, are as important as physical well-being.

Bradford said his priority would be community involvement in education.

He called for teachers to "return to teaching" and for attracting a strong volunteer base as part of that involvement. Having such a volunteer base, he said, would enable the teacher to return to their teaching because some of their workload will be reduced. In addition, he said, having a strong volunteer base would bring about more student victories and give those students an additional person they could trust.

Thieme said her priority would be what she called returning to the basics. Learning reading, writing, math and science and history, she said, along with learning critical thinking skills, are essential for student success after leaving the district.

The winner needs only a plurality of votes to win the seat. Early voting begins April 24 and runs through May 2. Election Day is May 6.

TEA

from page A1

continue through their educational career. The third priority, he said, was making high school relevant to students, by which he said it must be rigorous. The senior year of high school, he said, should not be just about "prom and cruising for chicks."

"It needs to be very, very rigorous because you're fixing to be sent off into life and life is awfully darn complex," Morath said. "So, what we are doing to make sure that the high school experience is designed to be the most rigorous and most relevant from a standpoint of what a child is going to do to take care of themselves and their family when they're done. This is key."

Improving local schools, Morath said, was the fourth priority.

"Public schools are this phenomenal institution where we secure the American dream," Morath said. "This general diffusion of knowledge. But our vision sometimes does not match reality. When adult expectations for children have gotten too low, where the work is not meeting the needs of our children. What do we do to remedy that? To wrap her arms around that school or to move with speed and precision to change the trajectory of both the students and the adults on that campus."

As for learning to read, Morath said decoding, which involves phonics and reading skills, multiplied with language comprehension, which involves knowledge and vocabulary, equals reading comprehension.

"Decoding times language comprehension equals reading," Morath said. "You'll notice that the times, and for the math majors in here, zero times anything equals zero. So, you've got to have both sides of this equation."

Expanding on the two sides of the equation, Morath said phonics is a sort of decoding.

"You have to be able to decode the written word, and then language comprehen-

sion turns out to be quite a bit more complex but it's every word that you know," Morath said. "The fact that you can listen to what I'm saying and you can understand the syntax, the grammar, the vocabulary, the background knowledge to know what it means. That's what it is. If we understand that this is what drives the train in reading, we can adjust our curricular approach. We can adjust our practices in schools and begin to give the gift of reading to all of our children."

In discussing language comprehension, Morath asked the audience to think about the word "fine." The word has many different meanings, he said.

"When I ask my kids when they come home from school, how was school today, they always tell me it was fine," Morath said. "It is like pulling teeth to get a legit answer from my children. Anyway, this is fine. We're all familiar with this answer."

The very different meanings people associate with "fine" however, can be confusing if students don't understand the context in which the word is being used.

"If our kids don't understand what the words mean, they can sound it out all day long, but this is how their brain processes it from a meaning perspective," Morath said. "We take the words away from it."

Morath illustrated his point by putting "decoding" in a yellow box and "language comprehension" in a blue box.

"Our goal in public education is yellow and blue make green," Morath said. "We want to make sure the kids have strong decoding skills and a strong amount of background knowledge. And what this requires, what we know from the cognitive science is our approach to curriculum design, our approach to what happens while they are in school has to be well designed around these key points."

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event.

BABST

from page A1

along with the ability to engage with our internal departments, the public, private sector partners, local, state, and federal agencies," George said.

Babst began working with the office in 2021, first as an emergency management specialist and training position. He was later promoted to assistant deputy manager. He has worked with multiple local, state, and federal partners to help the county plan for and respond to disaster declarations and various emergencies within the county.

Prior to joining the office, Babst served 24 years in the United States Coast Guard (USCG), where he served as chief warrant officer, as well as being a surf and rescue

boat coxswain, federal law enforcement officer, tactical deployment team lead, a member of the Maritime Security Response Team West, and part of the National Incident Management Deployment Team.

Additionally, Babst is a U.S. Coast Guard training officer and has experience in law enforcement, HAZMAT, first aid, high-risk training, weapons, tactical elements, and small boat operations in all types of weather. He has acquired an estimated 15,600 hours of training hours as a lead instructor, earned 80 hours as a U.S. Coast Guard-certified instructor, and served as a USCG first responder in over 1,000 cases in the maritime realm

as the on-scene coordinator for various types of cases (searches, capsizes, sinking, EMS, fire, law enforcement, active shooter, terrorism, bombings, hostage, protests and cartel drug seizures).

"I'm excited about this new role, and I look forward to continuing to build this response team," Babst said. "I want to thank all the department heads in the county for their support and our first responders, EMS, the sheriff's office and fire marshal's office, ESDs, the leadership, and all the stakeholders within the county who have supported us as we have built-out this response team. My goal is to be a value and responsive proactive multiplier for all coordination during all hazards in this county."



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PARTY STARTS AT 4!

Will's wit soothes a taxing time

Tax returns were due April 18 and many Americans are surely stressed out as they scramble to get their financial records in order.

I can't think of a better time to revisit the wit and wisdom of Will Rogers.

Rogers was a famous American humorist, actor and social commentator who lived from 1879 to 1935, when he died in a plane crash.

He was known for his folksy wit and common-sense observations, which he published in his syndicated newspaper column—observations such as these:

"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."

"If you make any money, the government shoves you in the creek once a year with it in your pockets, and all that don't get wet you can keep."

"The crime of taxation is not in the taking it, it's in the way that it's spent."

Will, your words still hold true some 90 years after you spoke them.

Taxes are going up. Millions are taking a bath in the creek as our government empties our pockets.

And not only do I not like the way our tax money is being spent, I especially dislike the way politicians are spending the trillions we keep borrowing and adding to the national debt.

When you consider how bad the national debt has gotten—it's approaching \$32 trillion—this Rogers' quote was right on the money:

"Alexander Hamilton started the U.S. Treasury with nothing, and that was the closest our country has ever been to being even."

Here's another Rogers observation worth revisiting:

"People want just taxes more than they want lower taxes. They want to know that every man is paying his proportionate share according to his wealth."

Americans are not paying taxes in a manner that is proportionate to their wealth, however.

The very wealthy pay very low income taxes because they pay taxes on gains in their investments, not on the money



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

they earn from being a working stiff, what the government calls "earned income."

It's the modestly well-to-do—workers who make high earned incomes—who pay most of the income taxes.

"In 2018, the top 1% of income earners made nearly 21% of all income but paid 40% of all federal income taxes," according to David Harsanyi in Real Clear Politics. "The top 10% earned 48% of the income and paid 71% of all federal income taxes."

Meanwhile, Americans on the lower end of the income scale, pay few, if any, federal income taxes.

"Americans making less than \$75,000 are projected to have, on average, no tax liability after deductions and credits," writes Harsanyi.

"More than 61% of Americans—around 107 million households—owed zero federal income taxes for the year 2020."

Americans may not know who is paying the lion's share of taxes, but most agree on one point: complying with our federal tax code is not for the faint of heart.

When the income tax became law in 1913—in Will Rogers' 34th year—the tax code could be printed on one page. It's currently about 10,000 impenetrable pages long.

If Rogers were still alive, he'd surely have a joke about our tax code's regrettable size—maybe something like this:

"Our tax code is so big it's good for only one thing: If any of our enemies give us trouble, we can threaten to drop it on them."

Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



Do you have one of those paranormal pillows?

Folks, "last one in is a rotten egg" applies to more than swimming pools.

If you share sleeping quarters with a spouse or Significant Other, I urge you to expedite the toothbrushing process, throw on your PJs or nightie with breakneck speed and be the first person under the sheet.

Because the first one in bed apparently has dibs on The Paranormal Pillow.

I call it The Paranormal Pillow because it sounds classier than Memory Foam or Steroids. If one partner stays up late doing chores or checking social media, when they finally drag their weary carcass to bed, the pillow magically stimulates the early-to-bed partner to remember all sorts of Questions That They Should Have Thought of Earlier.

"Did you remember to put out the cat? Did you remember to lower the thermostat? Did you remember to plug my phone into the charger? Did you remember to pay the Visa bill before midnight? Did you remember to leave the flag up on the mailbox at our weekend cottage?"

If you don't relish abruptly shifting your sleeping accommodations to the doghouse, you'd darned well better also remember the Alamo, the Maine and Pearl Harbor.

And at least try to remember the kind of September when life was slow and oh, so mellow.

If you are unsure of any of your answers, don't expect to witness a sudden burst of volunteerism. It's up to the late arrival to double-check and triple-check everything. This is the philosophy preached by today's military thinktanks. ("I'm



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

If you share sleeping quarters with a spouse or Significant Other, I urge you to expedite the toothbrushing process, throw on your PJs or nightie with breakneck speed and be the first person under the sheet. Because the first one in bed apparently has dibs on The Paranormal Pillow.

so nice and cozy in this foxhole. Since you're already up, would you be a dear and go scouting for enemy combatants?")

The deluxe model of The Paranormal Pillow is the gift that keeps on giving. The proud owner is suddenly "wired" with all sorts of additional urgent remembrances, none of which are as stimulating as traditional "pillow talk."

("Oh, I forgot to tell you that I ran into one of my old classmates whom you never met. I will describe in detail the photos of all their grandchildren/muscle cars/gastrointestinal abnormalities.")
Alas, The Paranormal Pillow

does not work equally well on all portions of the brain. ("Are you sure I snored last night? I don't remember any such thing. Now go get the coffee maker ready for tomorrow and maybe when you get back, we can...ZZZZZZZZ...")

I wish we knew if The Paranormal Pillow could help dementia patients, but research has been thwarted for years. Policymakers with vested interests are terrified of patients having their memories restored. ("Hey, I suddenly remember each and every one of the lying politicians who promised they were going to fix Social Security and Medicare!")

Oh, here's the perfect outside-the-home use of The Paranormal Pillow! We could mandate them for witnesses testifying before congressional committees.

You know, the hacks who always stammer, "I don't recall. Not to my recollection. Doesn't ring a bell" about everything from clandestine meetings to "How did you get here today?"

The Paranormal Pillow would soon have these jokers babbling, "Oh, the bribe? Yeah, Ben Franklin's left eyebrow was slightly frayed on the 17th bill the 5-foot-9 guy with the slight North Dakota accent handed me at 9:14 that evening..."

Not that my musings would put you to sleep, but sweet dreams, everyone.

"Sweet dreams? Since you're still up anyway, could you alphabetize my Patsy Cline collection?"

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

Katy Times

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



TRIBUTE

Gary Lynn Jordan was born on June 28, 1939 in Houston, Texas to Leonard Clark "L.C." and Beulah Waggoner Jordan. He grew up on the Katy prairie and spent time off and on farming rice. He was a 1957 graduate of Katy High School, where he was heavily involved in the Katy FFA. Gary enjoyed being outside, whether traveling or fishing. His greatest joys were his grandchildren and he treasured the time spent with them. He could never pass up a great cheeseburger, and he was always seen wearing a plaid shirt. Gary spent his mornings with a coffee club and dabbled in woodworking. He never knew a stranger, always had a joke ready, and talked about Katy to anyone who would listen.

Gary passed away on Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Katy, at the age of 83.

He is survived by his children, Wayne Jordan and his wife Sibyl, Ken Jordan and his wife Stacy, and Susan Jordan; grandchildren, Chance Jordan, Cheyenne Jordan, John Curbo, and Ella Curbo; brother, Bill Jordan and his wife Marsha; as well as numerous nieces, nephews,



GARY JORDAN
1939-2023

and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard "L.C." Jordan and Beulah Waggoner Jordan.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy, where funeral

services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 with Mr. Jim Foster officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Katy High School FFA, Attn: Josh Vodehnal, 6331 Highway Blvd., Katy, TX 77494; or to the Jordan High School FFA, Attn: David Fleming, 27500 Fulshear Bend, Fulshear, TX 77441.

Pallbearers will be John Patrick Lester, Scott Riske, Randy Jordan, Chance Jordan, Micah McMeans, and Mason McMeans. Honorary pallbearers will be Stanley C. Hoffpauir, Oscar "Sonny" Fraley, Pat Keeling, Don Euton, and Phil Sandlin.

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

SIP N STROLL BENEFITS THE BALLARD HOUSE



DEBBIE PREJEAN

Phat Eatery was among the many restaurants and vendors providing tasty food samples at the Katy Sip N Stroll, held April 15 at The ARK by Norris, 21402 Merchants Way. Sip N Stroll is a wine and culinary festival. There, guests discovered new wines, craft beer and culinary creations while raising funds for The Ballard House, which provides housing for families of patients undergoing medical treatment.

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD Community Bond Advisory Committee focuses on specific topics, projects

Katy ISD Community Bond Advisory Committee members continued to vet campus and facility projects, this time using much of their time reviewing issues they identified as needing more information about to make an informed decision about a future school bond, at their April 12 meeting.

The committee selected topics included ballot language, the district's financial capacity and future tax rate, campus renovations and instructional technology—including a 1:1 districtwide student to device standard the group is considering.

Technology in the classroom was one focal point at the meeting, as campus principals, teachers and students delivered presentations on the benefits of a 1:1 student-device ratio. The 1:1 approach ensures learners have access to district content, resources, software and online testing resources while in class and at home.

"When our school received Title I funds, campus leaders incorporated a 1:1 classroom device access for all students and we immediately noticed a positive impact," Myriam Morales, McRoberts Elementary special education team leader, said. "The transition was seamless from planned paper to online classroom activities, lessons and assessments. The loss of instructional time also decreased substantially," added Morales.

McRoberts Elementary and West Memorial Junior High are two of several Katy ISD campuses to incorporate a campus-based 1:1 student to device initiative through grant or Title I state funds.

"My Chromebook is essential for learning," Maria Paludo, an eighth-grade student at West Memorial Junior High (WMJH), said. "Having that Chromebook makes things easier for me because it has the required calculator and all the programs I need for my homework assignments."

Paludo's friend Hannah Aguilar, also an eighth-grader at WMJH, said, "My Chromebook is like a folder that I need every day for school. I remember to always put it in my backpack. The best part of my Chromebook is that it allows me to access my assignments wherever I go."

Committee members also discussed safety and security improvements. Security fencing, systems management, replacement of vestibule slider doors, security camera upgrades among other items continue to be high priorities. The Texas Education Agen-



Tompkins High student Arturo Pedraza won a scholarship from the American Association of Teachers of German to study in Germany. Arturo placed in the 99th percentile on the National German Exam given during school in February.

cy's (TEA) proposed minimum standards for school safety are expected to become law soon. Bond funds would allow Katy ISD to continue to meet and exceed TEA standards.

Christopher J. Smith, the district's chief financial officer, discussed value growth and financial capacity. The group continued to emphasize their goal to avoid a bottom line that would trigger any type of increase in the school district tax rate.

At the end of their meeting, committee members participated in a mock line-item vote to focus on proposals having the least and greatest support among the group. The committee was expected to take a final vote on proposed projects at its last meeting on April 18.

National Drug Take Back Day set for April 22

The Katy ISD Police Department is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration to collect unused or expired medication. Collection efforts will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 22 in the lobby of

the Katy ISD Law Enforcement Center, 20370 Franz Road.

For more information, contact Captain Ivan B. Nelson of the Katy ISD Police Department. His email is ivanbnelsono@katyisd.org. His phone number is 281-237-4039.

Katy ISD Junior High choir camp set for June 12-15

Katy ISD will hold its junior high choir camp from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. June 12-15, with a concert at 1 p.m. June 15, at Jordan High, 27500 Fulshear Bend Dr.

Cost is \$100, made through Katy Pay 'n Go, and includes a camp shirt, instruction, instructional materials and a lunch on June 15. Registration deadline is May 1. For more information, email annemguess@katyisd.org.

Katy ISD Junior High Orchestra Camp set for June 12-15 and June 19-22

Katy ISD will hold orchestra camps for students entering grades 7-9 who have completed at least one year of orchestra.



Royal Early College High juniors on March 30 paid a visit to the state Capitol in Austin, where they learned about state government and visited with local officials including Rep. Stan Kitzman of Waller County.

Students can attend one of two camps. The first is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. June 12-15 at Paetow High, 23111 Stockdick School Road. The second is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. June 19-22 at Jordan High, 27500 Fulshear Bend Dr.

Both camps feature daily instruction specific technique classes, daily sectional rehearsals, two daily orchestral rehearsals, and a grand finale performance.

Cost is \$100, made through Katy Pay 'n Go. Registration deadline is May 1.

Royal High announces newest National Honor Society inductees

Royal High announced 31 new members were inducted on April 13 into the National Honor Society. Inductees met the required GPA to receive an invitation to apply and then sat through a rigorous interview process before being selected. This is the second largest induction group in school history.

The new inductees are: Donis Addison, Mailyn Aragon, Max Arteaga, Rebeca Arviso, Jermaine Burton, Trevor Davis, Helena Ferro, Elisha Glover, Paola Gonzalez, Victoria Gonzalez, Jennifer Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez, Rafael Jimenez, Kelsey Jung, Heaven Malveaux, Isaac Martinez, Sara Melendez, Melina Mendonca, Kandace Miller, Shamari Moss, Kimberly Pedraza, Tania Ramirez, Eleanor Recinos, Andrea Rico, Deysi Rivera, Alejandro Rodriguez, Cristian Sosa, Kyla Thomas, Layla Thompson, Areli Valdez and Gabriel Velasquez.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS




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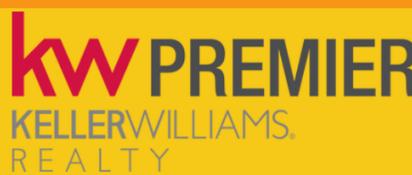
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WEEK OF APRIL 21

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STATE SEMIFINAL

Seven Lakes 3, Garland Sachse 1

STATE FINAL

Seven Lakes 2, Dripping Springs 1

SOFTBALL

Friday

Katy vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
Tompkins vs. Paetow, 6 p.m.
Morton Ranch vs. Jordan, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 10 a.m.
Tompkins vs. Taylor, 11 a.m.
Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, noon
Jordan vs. Katy, noon

BASEBALL

Friday

Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
Jordan vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.
Paetow vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Seven Lakes vs. Jordan, noon
Tompkins vs. Morton Ranch, noon
Cinco Ranch vs. Paetow, noon
Taylor vs. Mayde Creek, noon

Tuesday

Katy vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
Paetow vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.
Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m.
Jordan vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Thursday

Area Track & Field meet at Paetow



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes forward Hunter Merritt (9) celebrates a goal during the Class 6A boys state semifinal soccer game between Seven Lakes and Sachse on April 14, 2023 in Georgetown.

Four Seven Lakes players named to All-State team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Four Seven Lakes players were named to the Class 6A boys All-State Tournament soccer team on Sunday, as the Spartans led the way on the team after claiming the state title.

Hunter Merritt, Aidan Morrison, Gabriel Gonzalez and Ben Aviles Vera were all named to the team after helping the Spartans to the state title.

Hunter Merritt was named to the team the day after being named state championship game MVP. The senior striker scored two goals in both the state semifinal and the state final to lead Seven Lakes to their first ever state tournament win, scoring the winner in extra time in the semifinal, while scoring both of the Spartans goals in the final.

Junior midfielder Morrison was named to the team after proving assists in both the semifinal on Friday and the Final Saturday, while also playing

See **ALL-STATE**, page B5



Seven Lakes players celebrate after a Hunter Merritt goal during Saturday's Class 6A State Final between Seven Lakes and Dripping Springs at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown.



Left: Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger gets a Gatorade bath after Seven Lakes' win over Dripping Springs in the Class 6A State Final at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown. Below: Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger hugs Noa Stasic after the Class 6A State Final.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Seven Lakes claims first state title with win over Dripping Springs

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

GEORGETOWN – From the moment Seven Lakes soccer team stepped foot on campus this school year the Spartans have believed they could win a state championship.

It was their number one goal, something they set out to do from the start and what they had dedicated the past two years to accomplish.

So when the game clock struck zero's on Saturday night at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown and the scoreboard showed that Seven Lakes had beaten Dripping

Springs 2-1 in the Class 6A State Final, no player or coach on the Spartans could hold in their emotions. Everything had led up to that moment and it was an overwhelming moment.

"It means everything," said senior striker Hunter Merritt. "All year I've had the home screen of my phone as a picture of us crying right here on this same field last year. We did it for the seniors. We love each other so much. That's all I can say is that this is everything."

Merritt was the centerpiece of the win, being named the games MVP after scoring both of Seven Lakes goals after scoring two

goals in the state semifinal the day before.

The first goal came in the second half. The Spartans had dominated the game through the first half but never found the go ahead goal, but it finally came in the 55th minute when Aidan Morrison whipped in a cross that Kortay Koc volleyed on target, but the Dripping Springs keeper saved it, spilling it out in front of Merritt, who put it in the back of the net.

Merritt's second came seven minutes later, a ball got booted upfield and Merritt beat the keeper to it, dribbling the ball between

See **CHAMPS**, page B3



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes forward Abdullah Soliman (8) works against Sachse defender Gael De Lira (21) during the Class 6A boys state semifinal soccer game between Seven Lakes and Sachse on April 14, 2023 in Georgetown.

Seven Lakes downs Sachse in extra time, advances to first title game

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

GEORGETOWN – Seven Lakes was not about to let this happen again.

For 70 minutes, this year's Class 6A State Semifinal mirrored last years with the Spartans dominating in the first half but not being able to add to a lead before letting the opposing team back into it.

Last year, the Spartans weren't able to answer back and ended up losing, but this isn't the same Seven Lakes team. This Spartans team remembered what last year felt like, and what it felt like to almost feel their season cut short this year.

Seven Lakes answered the call, and it ended with a 3-1 Spartans win in extra time over Garland Sachse in the state semifinal, sending Seven Lakes to its first state championship game in program history.

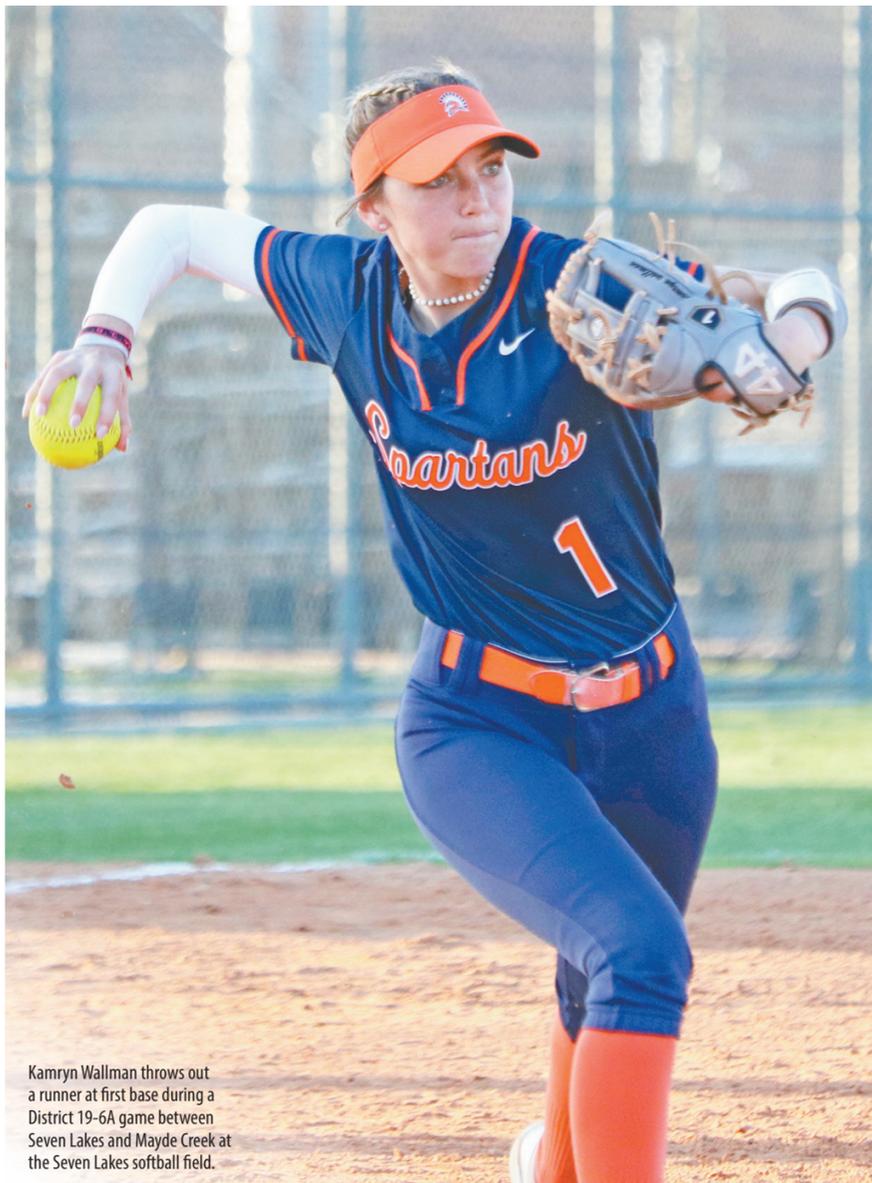
"We couldn't let it happen, not for a second time," said Seven Lakes senior striker Hunter Merritt. "One zero up and then we lose, it was devastating last year. Whenever they tied the game, when they scored that

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

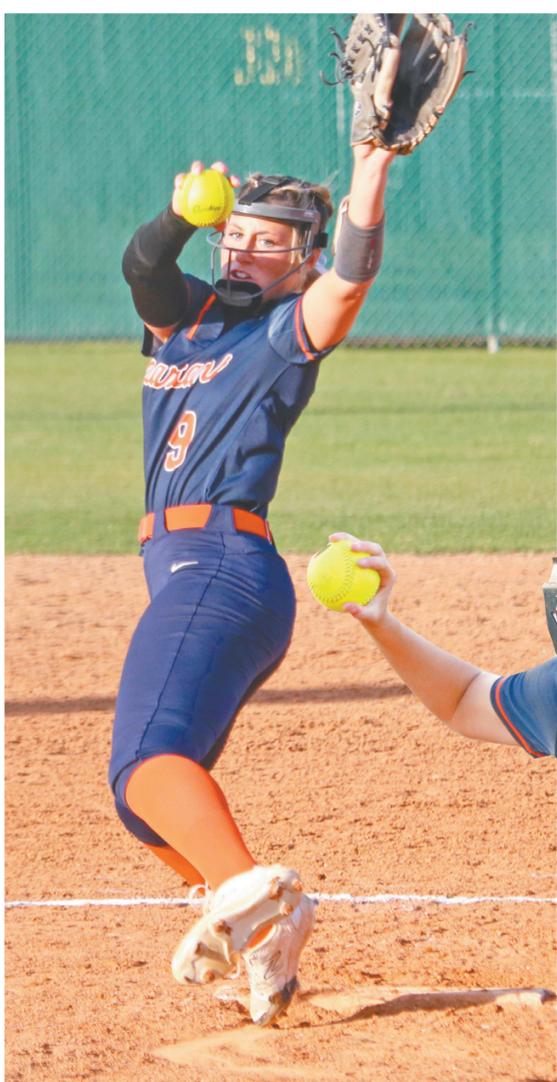


PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Dulce Franco hits during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes softball field. Below: Amy Abke watches a home run clear the fence during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes softball field.



Kamryn Wallman throws out a runner at first base during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes softball field.



Above: Amy Abke pitches during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes softball field. Right: Emma Wingate throws out a runner at first base during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes softball field.

Seven Lakes moves into third with win over Mayde Creek

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Spartans are surging. Seven Lakes has gone on a run as we head towards the end of the regular season. The Spartans have won seven of their last eight and they have skyrocketed up the district standings, going all the way from eighth at one point earlier this season to having a chance to sit in third with a result on Tuesday. Tuesday was the biggest game of the

Spartans' season thus far. They came in sitting in fourth in district but only half a game back of Mayde Creek for the third spot, going up against the Rams both teams came in looking at the matchup as a hugely important game. But in the end, Seven Lakes ended up being too much for Mayde Creek, as the Spartans came out 5-0 winners behind a huge fifth inning and a stellar pitching display from Amy Abke.

"It's a huge win for us," said junior third baseman Kamryn Wallman. "We had a rough start to the season, but we came back from it and it's just been an amazing season. Getting this win today was just so important for us."

For five innings, it was a huge pitching battle between the two teams, as both Abke and Mayde Creek's Alyssa Gonzalez both shut down the two teams' offenses.

Abke kept her performance going all night, pitching a one hitter, striking out nine over her six innings of work. But the Spartans would eventually get to Gonzalez in the fifth inning after four terrific innings from the senior.

"We were under everything to start the game, and we were chasing pitches out of the zone."

Abke said. "We got to that inning and we finally just started shortening up and being patient. Once we did that, she started throwing us pitches we could hit and the results came."

Wallman got the Spartans on the board in the fifth with an RBI single after Emma Wingate doubled to start the inning. Abke then hit a two-run home run and Kaley Garland added another with a solo shot. Dulce Franco hit a double as the Spartans put up five runs in the inning.

That was all they would need, as Abke closed the game out with two more strong innings and had a defense that made a number of big plays behind her to not let the Rams on the board.

"It just makes us unstoppable when we are playing the way we did tonight," Seven Lakes head coach Holly Koopmann said. "When Amy is pitching at the level she can and when our defense is behind her making plays, I really would put us up against anybody."

With the win, the Spartans move to 11-12 on the year and 7-4 in district play. Mayde Creek drops to 12-8-1 overall and 7-5 in district play, as the Spartans now sit in third by half a game.

"I think this group of girls works harder than any team out there," Koopmann said. "There isn't a practice where these girls don't leave exhausted and they give us everything. From players to coaches, the group is working so hard and the results are showing that."



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2023



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Name: Vicky Bailey
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Seven Lakes defender Daniel Ejerewa (11) moves the ball during the Class 6A boys state semifinal soccer game between Seven Lakes and Sachse on April 14, 2023 in Georgetown.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN



Seven Lakes goalkeeper Ben Aviles Vera (1) during the Class 6A boys state semifinal soccer game between Seven Lakes and Sachse on April 14, 2023 in Georgetown.



Action during the Class 6A boys state semifinal soccer game between Seven Lakes and Sachse on April 14, 2023 in Georgetown.

SPARTANS

from page B1

goal, we got together in the middle and said we're not letting this happen again. We worked together and we found a way to win. We fought and fought until we came through."

Seven Lakes came out on the front foot from the opening whistle. The Spartans controlled the game the entire first half, pushing numbers forward against a Sachse team that was happy to play deep and soak up pressure.

They made chances early and often and the pressure paid off in the 13th minute when Hunter Merritt headed home a ball that had bounced around in the box on a Aidan Morrison corner kick, making things 1-0. Seven Lakes continued to pile on the pressure, with Kortay Koc hitting the post and the Spartans ended up with five shots on goal in the first half but weren't able to add an insurance goal.

"We went through this last year and we knew what we had to do," said senior winger Abdullah Soliman. "We couldn't choke like that. It was just so much different this year — we have passion and aggression and we just won't let it happen again. This team just finds a way to win."

The Spartans continued to push for a second in the second half and came close in the 52nd minute when Merritt had a shot bounce off the post and off the goal line. And missing those chances came back to bite the Spartans when Sachse tied things in the 61st minute, with Lucas Story heading in a cross from Cooper Tea. It stayed that way for the rest of regular time with neither team being able to find a winning goal.

But Seven Lakes found its second wind in extra time. Hunter Merritt put the Spartans ahead in the 86th minute when he latched on to a long free kick from Aidan Morrison and put the ball calmly past the keeper and just two minutes later Seven Lakes found themselves on a great counter where Alexis Matute volleyed home a cross from Soliman, sealing the win for the Spartans, as they hung on in the second half of extra time to make their first ever state championship.

Both Soliman and Matute were substitutes in the game, having that kind of depth was something that separated the two teams.

"I think this game ends with penalty kicks if we don't have the depth and trust in our guys that we do," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "Our guys looked a bit dead in overtime and I knew that we had some guys on the bench that could provide those legs and it really was the difference. As much as any coach will say guys on the sideline can make a difference in the match, it's true and you saw it today."

The Spartans advance to the state title game where they will play the winner of Allen and Dripping Springs, which will be played Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown.

"We just have to come out, fight, and find a way," Merritt said. "It's that easy, we have to do the same thing we did today and find a way to win it."

CHAMPS

from page B1



Diego Flamenco celebrates after Seven Lakes' win over Dripping Springs in the Class 6A State Final at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown.

his legs and then passing it into an empty net to make things 2-0.

"I could not be more happy for that kid," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "Last year he had to sit on the sidelines a bit because we had so many talented explosive offensive players. But he accepted his role within the team and he grinded. Those types of players always come up big when you need them. He came up big time and time again for us and I can't believe he's able to end his senior year as a state champion and MVP performance."

Dripping Springs pulled a goal back in the 66th minute on a 35-yard free kick from Joey Svoboda and the Tigers created chances as time dwindled down, but the Spartans were able to hang on for the win.

The state title is the first for a boys Katy ISD soccer team ever and the second soccer championship overall after Taylor's win back in 2006. The championship was also the first for any school in the Houston area since 2018.

"We've been in situations like this where we had to close out games and we knew we just had to let the clock keep ticking and eventually we'd be able to celebrate. We defended for our lives, we hung on and now we're state



Noa Stasic takes a shot during Saturday's Class 6A State Final between Seven Lakes and Dripping Springs at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

champs. It's an incredible feeling."

Seven Lakes will graduate 10 players from this year's team, including three that started the state championship match in Merritt, Gabriel Gonzalez and Alexis Matute. The senior class raised the bar for the program, just as last years did. And now it's on the future classes to keep the tradition going.

"Last year's group broke through a

lot — they won a regional quarterfinal at Rhodes which we had never done, they won a regional semifinal which we had never done and they made the state tournament," Krueger said. "This class came in and they took it one step further. They challenged themselves to win the whole thing and we did it. I'm just so proud of each and every one of these guys."



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit (MB) by Burger Don't Lie LLC dba Kowbell Burger, to be located at 23119 Colonial Pkwy Ste B19, Katy, Harris County, Texas. Owner of said corporation is James Son.

April 13 Puzzle Answers

A	M	U	P	A	N	S	S	B					
R	E	P	A	G	E	A	L	E					
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF KATY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GASOLINE & DIESEL FUEL

The City of Katy, Texas Is Accepting Proposals For Contract Delivery Of Unleaded Gasoline And Diesel Fuel. Proposals Will Be Received By The City Secretary At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, Until 2:00 O'Clock P.M. May 16, 2023. The Envelopes Containing The Proposals Must Be Sealed, Addressed To The City Secretary Of The City Of Katy, And Plainly Marked "Contract Delivery of Unleaded Gasoline And Diesel Fuel". A Bid Opening Will Take Place At 2:00 O'Clock P.M. May 16, 2023, At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. Request For Proposal Packets May Be Obtained By Contacting [Bids@cityofkaty.com](mailto:bids@cityofkaty.com). City Council Reserves The Right To Reject Any and All Proposals.

City Of Katy

NOTICE TO BIDDERS GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING "CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS"

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF "CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS" IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL 2:30 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING AND TOUR OF WORK LOCATIONS AT 9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 STARTING IN THE LOBBY OF KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto:bids@cityofkaty.com). THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew
City Secretary
City of Katy, Texas

NOTICE TO BIDDERS GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING "CITY FACILITIES"

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF CITY FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL 2:15 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING AND TOUR OF WORK LOCATIONS AT 9:00 A.M., TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 STARTING IN THE LOBBY OF KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto:bids@cityofkaty.com). THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is in regard to the records destruction schedule set by state regulations consistent with the notification requirements set forth in federal (34 CRF 300.624) and state regulations regarding the destruction of confidential records. Katy ISD Special Education records for students with withdrawn or graduated on or before June 30, 2012 will be destroyed January 15, 2023. If you have any questions about this processor about student specific records, you may contact personnel at Katy ISD's Special Education Department at 281-396-2630.

Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Special Education Department provides screenings for students with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. The screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of three and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISO Special Education office at 281-396-2066. The Special Education office will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees and its agents, officers and staff members shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Board of Directors Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, will be received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for Construction of "Avalon at Cypress West Avalon Landing Lane - Phase 1 Softscape" for Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, Harris County, Texas"

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete Trails, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID 920 6857 3718 and use Passcode: 400153 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/92068573718?pwd=NXdzc0xXRmx5eGtnL24rL3F2TXFzQT09>

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 SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

A Bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and bid securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and bid securities must be submitted through www.civcastusa.com. Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and bid security.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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/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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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.

Carlton named All-State, four Katy ISD girls, four boys named TABC All-Region

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD placed eight student-athletes on the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-Region Teams in a strong showing for the school district in which both four boys and four girls were named to the all region team.

Justice Carlton, a junior forward for Seven Lakes, highlighted the TABC selections for the district after she was the lone selection from Katy ISD to make the Class 6A All-State Team. Carlton helped the Spartans to an area round appearance after they finished third in district and filled up the stat sheet all year.

Katy's Lyric Barr, Cinco Ranch's Aniyah Foy and Tompkins' Macy Spencer joined Carlton on the All-Region team. Barr was named Co-District MVP along with Spencer after the two both had terrific senior seasons. Barr helped lead the Tigers to the school's first ever regional tournament berth. Spencer led the Falcons to their second straight



Justice Carlton drives between two defenders during a game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

regional quarterfinal round and being their top threat all season. Foy helped Cinco Ranch claim a playoff berth before the Cougars lost in the Bi-District round.

On the boys side, Seven Lakes led the way for Katy ISD schools by placing two players on the All-Region team in junior point guard A.J. Bates and

senior center Josh Akpovwa. The two were instrumental in the Spartans' run to their first regional tournament in 11 years, while the team broke the Seven Lakes' single season wins record and won their second straight district championship.

Trevor Martz was named to the team for Jordan after they had a terrific opening season in Class 6A. The Warriors finished second in district before going on a terrific run in the playoffs to reach their first ever regional tournament. Luke Coughran made the team for Tompkins — he was one of the top scorers and 3-point shooters in the entire state and helped the Falcons reach the playoffs before they went on to win in the bi-district round even with Coughran missing the game with an ankle injury.

Along with the players, Katy head coach Shanna Marhofer had her efforts recognized by the TABC, as she was named a finalist for the Dean Weese Outstanding Coach of the Year Award, which Southlake Carroll's Robyn McCoart ended up winning.

ALL-STATE

from page B1

sound defense in the center defensive midfield position and helping lead the Spartans.

Gabriel Gonzlaez was also named to the team after a huge two games. Gonzalez had to provide versatility for the Spartans, moving from his position in midfield to center back because of injuries and excelling in the semifinal and final. Aviles Vera rounded

out the Seven Lakes selections. The junior goalkeeper was terrific through the semis and finals, allowing just two goals through the state tournament while making 10 saves and keeping both Sachse and Dripping Springs in check to help the Spartans to a state title.

Following is the full Class 6A boys All-State Tournament Team.

CONFERENCE 6A BOYS

Name	Class	Position	School
Gabriel Gonzalez	Senior	Midfielder	Katy Seven Lakes
Hunter Merritt	Senior	Forward	Katy Seven Lakes*
Aidan Morrison	Junior	Midfielder	Katy Seven Lakes
Ben Aviles Vera	Junior	Goalkeeper	Katy Seven Lakes
York Merrill	Senior	Forward	Dripping Springs
Mason Russell	Senior	Forward	Dripping Springs
Joey Svoboda	Soph.	Midfielder	Dripping Springs
Evan Pustejovsky	Senior	Midfielder	Allen
Sebastian Sastoque	Junior	Midfielder	Allen
Haris Dunic	Senior	Defender	Garland Sachse
Cooper Tea	Senior	Midfielder	Garland Sachse

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Owner: Mason Creek Utility District
Owner's Office: 847 Dominion Dr., Katy, TX 77450
Project (the Work): Sewer Cleaning & TV Inspections, Section 1
Project location: Nottingham Country Sec. 1 subdivision, Harris County, Texas
Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owner's Office by **May 9, 2023 at 3:00 PM** when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference (non-mandatory) is set for May 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Owner's Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

NOTICE

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2023

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m., Monday, May 22, 2023

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 4.21 Acres Of Land In The James Conner Survey, Abstract 157, In Fort Bend County From "R-1" Single-Family District To "C-1" Commercial District. Amending The City Of Katy's Comprehensive Plan To Conform To The Zoning Classifications Set Forth In This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF KATY

The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct a Public Hearing To Be Held At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2023

The Hearing Is Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On The Annexation Of A Property Described As Approximately 23.341 Acres Of Land In The Thomas Cresap Survey, Abstract 369, Fort Bend County, TX In Accordance With Section 43.10671 Of The Texas Local Government Code.

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BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Katy narrows district gap with win over Cinco Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday

Katy earned a huge win on Saturday by beating Cinco Ranch 5-2, splitting the season series between the two teams and improving to 19-5-3 on the year and 9-3 in district play.

Caleb Koger was a strong part of the win, starting and going six innings for the Tigers while allowing two runs, striking out two and walking two. Graham Laxton led the Tigers with three RBIs on the day.

Nayden Ramirez got the Tigers on the board in the top of the first when he drove in a run on a single, but Cinco answered right back in the bottom of the inning, taking the lead after a steal of home by Brock DeYoung and an RBI single from Logan Sosolik.

But those would be the only runs Cinco scored all day, and Katy retook the lead in the third inning when Graham Laxton drove in three runs with a triple. Ramirez capped things off in the fourth with another one-run single before Koger kept things the same through the sixth inning and Cole Kaase came in for the save, pitching a clean seventh and striking out all three batters he faced.

Charlie Atkinson started on the mound and went 2.1 innings for Cinco, allowing four runs on three hits while walking two. Cinco fell to 23-4 overall and 11-2 in district, but with the split of the series still holds on to the top spot in district.

Taylor tops Jordan

Taylor earned a 5-2 win over Jordan on Saturday, in what was an important game for Taylor as it helped the Mustangs gain ground in the district playoff race and moved them to 18-9-1 on the year and 6-5 in district play.

Bryce Krenek started on the mound for Taylor and went 2.2 innings, allowing one run on three hits while striking out six and walking one. Nate Larson led the Mustangs with two RBIs.

Jordan was the one that struck first, with Jose De Jongh hitting a sacrifice fly in the first inning, but Taylor took the lead in the second, as Peter Dworaczyk started the inning off with a sacrifice grounder to tie the game. Larsen gave Taylor the lead on an RBI single and Davidenko Rodriguez drove in another run with a single of his own.

Larsen made it 4-1 in the fifth with another RBI single and Hunter Ham drove in a run in the fifth on a single for Taylor's fifth run. Cole Keppler got a run across on a double play in the fifth inning for Jordan, but the Warriors couldn't muster anything else as Taylor went on to clinch the win.

Smoller started on the mound for Jordan and went three innings, allowing four runs on six hits while striking out two and walking four. Jordan fell to 8-14 overall and 3-8 in district with the loss.

Tompkins routs Mayde Creek

Tompkins stayed even with Cinco Ranch in the loss column with a 14-1 win on Saturday against Mayde Creek, blowing out the Rams to improve to 17-6-1 on the year and 9-2 in district play.

Daniel Deaton started the game and went three innings on the mound for Tompkins, allowing one run on two hits while striking out six and walking one. Drew Markle led the way offensively with three



Katy's Nayden Ramirez (13) fields a ball hit to short stop during the third inning during a Region III-6A quarterfinals baseball game at Langham Creek High School, Saturday, May 21, 2022.



Graham Laxton hits during Saturday's game between Katy and Jordan at the Katy baseball field.

RBIs.

Tompkins got rolling in the first inning, getting runs off errors for their first two runs, but Mayde Creek pulled back within one when they got a run off a Tompkins error in the top of the second.

The Falcons opened things up in the second. Adam Benavidez scored on a wild pitch and the Falcons got two more runs on bases loaded walks. The Falcons

continued to pile it on with two more runs coming in on a wild pitch later in the inning before Aryan Chopra drove in a run on an RBI single. They got another run on a balk and Benavidez capped things off with a one-run single.

The Falcons followed that up with a four run third inning. Drew Markle drove in two on a home run before Benavidez brought home a run on a bases loaded hit by pitch

and Ryan Ratajczak did the same when he was hit by a pitch. Tompkins didn't allow anything the rest of the way as they clinched the run rule win.

Mayde Creek started Alan Elliott on the mound — he went 1.1 innings and allowed six earned runs on one hit and six walks, while striking out two. The Rams fell to 6-18-1 overall and 1-12 overall with the loss.

Monday, April 10

Seven lakes continued to create themselves and the bottom half of district on Monday, beating Jordan 4-2 and improving to 16-7 on the year and 7-2 in district play.

Lawson Moreno was big on the mound for the Spartans in the win, starting and pitching four innings of shutout ball while striking out five and walking four, only allowing five hits in the win.

Miguel Acosta gave the Spartans the lead in the fourth inning, driving in two runs on a double, and Jake Steffes followed that up with a double of his own to bring in another run.

Zandre Vanderwalt trimmed the Seven Lakes lead to two in the fifth, driving in a run on a sacrifice fly, but Nate Johnson answered back with an RBI single to make it 4-1. Jordan got one more run in the seventh on an error, but that was all as the Spartans secured the win.

Marty Bogner started for Jordan on the mound and went 3.1 innings, allowing two runs on one hit while striking out seven and walking seven. The Warriors fell to 8-12 overall and 3-6 in district with the loss.

Cinco Ranch outlasts Paetow

Cinco stayed atop the district standings with a closely contested win on Monday, beating the Panthers 2-1 as the Cougars improved to 22-3 on the year and 10-1 in district play.

The Cougars got a good outing from Parker Booth on the mound, as he started and went four in-

nings, allowing three hits and one run while striking out four and walking one.

The Cougars look an early lead in the first inning when Logan Sosolik brought a run home on a fielders choice. The game stayed that way until the fourth inning, when Paul Gerke tied the game for Cinco on an RBI single. The game went all the way into extra innings, but Cinco took the lead off an error in the top of the eighth, hanging on to win as Sosolik came in and struck out all three batters in the bottom of the eighth.

Alvin Velasquez had a very strong day on the mound for Paetow, pitching six innings and allowing just one run on eight this while striking out five and walking four. Paetow fell to 7-15 overall and 3-6 in district play with the loss.

Tompkins shuts out Morton Ranch

Tompkins stayed among the district leaders with a 6-0 win over Morton Ranch on Monday, using a big day from Ty Dagley to shut out the Mavericks and improve to 15-6-1 on the season and 7-2 in district.

Dagley pitched a complete game two-hitter for Tompkins, striking out seven and not issuing a walk in the win.

Landon West got the Falcons on the board in the first with a sacrifice grounder, but it was the fifth inning where the Falcons got going.

Aryan Chopra doubled the lead with an RBI single, before Dagley hit a triple to being in another and Drew Markle hit a sacrifice fly, as the Falcons went up 4-0. Bradon Foor drove in a run on a double in the sixth and David Carrillo hit an RBI single in the seventh for Tompkins' final run.

Zane Heiliger started on the mound for Morton Ranch and went six innings, allowing two earned runs on seven hits while striking out five and walking one. The Mavericks fell to 4-20 on the year and 1-10 in district play with the loss.

Taylor blows out Mayde Creek

Taylor stayed within three games of a playoff spot on Monday by beating Mayde Creek 10-2, as the Mustangs improved to 16-9-1 overall and 4-5 in district play.

Dylan Weaver started and went 3.1 innings for Taylor on the mound, allowing two runs on one hit while striking out two and walking two.

The Mustangs jumped on Mayde Creek early. Hunter Ham started things with a sacrifice grounder and Brett Dolesji followed that up with an RBI single. Layne Bishop hit an RBI single after that and Bryce Krenek hit a sacrifice fly as the Mustangs got four runs in the first inning.

Brandon Lumpkins got a run back for Mayde Creek in the bottom of the inning with a fielders choice, and the Rams got a second from an error later in the inning.

Taylor got another run in the second on a passed ball and two more in the fifth off an error and a Davidenko Rodriguez hit an RBI single. Bishop hit an RBI single in the sixth and Joe Jefferson drove in a run on a single in the seventh as Taylor clinched the win.

Lumpkins started on the mound for Mayde Creek and gave up four runs on three hits while walking two. Mayde Creek fell to 6-16-1 on the year and 1-10 in district play after the loss.

Seven Lakes assistant Garrey named Dulles head football coach

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Fort Bend Dulles announced Tuesday that it had hired Seven Lakes quarter-back coach Bill Garrey as the school's new head football coach and campus athletic co-coordinator.

Garrey spent three years at Seven Lakes, helping the Spartans make the playoffs in 2020 and 2021, before the Spartans finished 1-9 this past season.

Garrey spent time at Ridge Point, Clements and Allen along with a stop before at Dulles. He was the offensive coordinator at Ridge Point before joining Seven Lakes in 2020. He

attended Stephen F. Austin before starting his coaching career.

"Thank you all for a rewarding three years at Seven Lakes," Garrey said. "I've been blessed to have learned from and worked alongside so many talented coaches, teachers, administrators and support staff. I'm forever grateful to Mrs. (Kerri) Finesand and Coach (Jimmy) Hamon for giving me the opportunity to be part of such a special place."

Garrey takes over after Shane Byrd, who had coached the Vikings for four seasons but stepped down as head coach in early March. They come off a 3-7 season year in 2022.

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