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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

MAY 6 ELECTION PREVIEW

Absentee balloting underway in city, school board races

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy ISD Board of Trustees race has drawn local attention as three seats are open with no incumbents running in any of those races. Meanwhile, races for local city and school board seats are also entering the final stage, as absentee voting is now underway in advance of the May 6 election.

Last day for early voting is May 2.

Katy City Council, Ward A

Ward A Council Member Janet Corte, a retired IT manager, is seeking her third term on the council. She faces Cara Bonin, a contractor.

Council Member-at-Large Chris Harris, a public safety consultant, and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson, a financial advisor, were also to be on the May 6 ballot. However, neither drew an opponent, and under city law, they were both declared as having been re-elected at the council's Feb. 27 meeting.

The winner of the Corte-Bonin race, along with Harris and Robertson, will take their oaths of office after the council canvasses the election returns in May. Harris and Robertson will be serving their final three-year terms under term limits, as will court if she is reelected.

For polling times and locations, visit the website cityofkaty.com/government/city-departments/city-secretary/elections.

Katy ISD Board of Trustees, positions 3, 4 and 5

Positions 3, 4 and 5 are on the ballot, with none of the incumbents seeking re-election.

Three candidates have filed for the position 3 seat. They are Bruce Bradford, a mortgage loan originator; Shawn Miller, a professor, and Amy Thieme, a realtor.

See **ELECTION**, page A3

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City adopts food truck ordinance

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council at its April 24 meeting passed an ordinance establishing a new policy for operating food trucks in the city.

Under the new policy, a prospective food truck operator must comply with regulations and have permits as set by either the Harris County Health Department or the Fort Bend County Health and Human Services department.

Waller County has a health department, but no regulations for food trucks, Katy city planner Rachel Lazo said.

Prospective food truck operators must register with the city. Lazo said the initial application fee is \$200, and an annual renewal application fee is \$150. The annual permit fee is \$25, she said. Applications for food truck operators will go through the city's permits department.

The ordinance specifies that no food truck

may be on any property without written permission of the property owner. Such an authorization must be in writing and kept in the food truck.

Food trucks cannot conduct sales where its operation interferes with traffic, be it automobile or pedestrian, or within the public right-of-way, without an approved traffic plan from the Katy Police Department and

See **FOOD TRUCKS**, page A3



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Construction workers unveil a sign for the J.V. Cardiff Rice Drier, 5351 1st St. The rice drier is undergoing renovation and will be part of what city officials hope will be a downtown entertainment district.

Progress on renovating iconic J.V. Cardiff Rice Drier continues

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A small gathering of Cardiff family members, friends and city officials gathered April 20 to commemorate the unveiling of a sign marking the J.V. Cardiff Rice Drier, 5351 1st St.

The ceremony, which took place across the street in the Texas Traditions restaurant parking lot at 5321 Highway Blvd., gave people the chance to remember an era long passed but remembered fondly by longtime area residents.

According to the Katy Heri-

tage Society, J.V. Cardiff and his sons opened the rice drier in 1943, before Katy incorporated as a city two years later. Business went well and the family built a second drier in 1945. This new drier had twice the

See **RICE DRIER**, page A3

JAMES AND KEIKO DAVIDSON ELEMENTARY



The Katy ISD Board of Trustees at its April 24 meeting approved the renaming of Keiko Davidson Elementary to James and Keiko Davidson Elementary. James and Keiko Davidson were married for 41 years. Most of his over 35-year career was spent as a Katy ISD teacher, coach and school administrator. Pictured are, front row left to right, trustee Rebecca Fox, Keiko Davidson, Andy Bauerschlag, principal Jessie Miller (holding Benjamin Bauerschlag), Carolyn Bauerschlag, and trustees Leah Wilson and Victor Perez. Back row: trustees Ashley Vann and Greg Schulte, Superintendent Ken Gregorski and trustee Lance Redmon.

KATY ISD



FISH FRY

Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz helped to prepare meals at the annual Katy Police Officers Association Fish Fry, held April 20 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane. In addition to the fried fish, green beans, hush puppies and mashed potatoes were on the menu. Proceeds from the fish fry go towards purchasing police equipment.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE PREJEAN

Katy ISD trustees to consider bond for Nov. ballot

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A Katy ISD community bond advisory committee April 18 approved an \$840.6 million bond proposal for four new schools, upgrades to existing district facilities, safety security improvements meant to exceed state standards, and a technology plan that would incorporate a 1:1 student-to-device ratio.

The proposal now goes to the Katy ISD Board of Trustees. The board will review it after swearing in three new trustees who will be elected in the May 6 election, and after officials review any state legislation that might affect the proposal.

Such state legislation might include property tax relief, an issue some state legislators have identified as a priority for this session. Bond committee chairman Alejandro Avendano said the bond does not include a tax rate increase. However, he said, property appraisals have gone up. A homeowner would not pay more because of the tax rate, but could pay more if the property appraisal goes up.

Trustees can reject the proposal outright, which is unlikely, or they can amend or simply accept the proposal. If they amend or accept the proposal, they would place it on the November ballot for voter consideration and approval. The deadline for placing the measure on the ballot is in August. Avendano said trustees have typically supported what past bond committees have put before them.

While creating the proposal is an accomplishment for the committee, it had to be special for Avendano. He said he was interested in being part of the discussion about the bonds, so he applied online. He said he was one of about 500 people to apply for a spot on the committee, which had 142 members.

Avendano earned his MBA at Rice University. He works in the oil and gas industry, where he is involved in mergers and acquisitions. He said he and his family have been Katy ISD residents since January 2015. He has two children who attend Tompkins High School. His oldest child is preparing to graduate. His youngest child is a sophomore.

"I came in just trying to understand how the bond would impact the community," Avendano said. "I was impressed with discussions we've had. I feel comfortable now explaining why or why we don't need a bond and what the impact will be to them."

Yet Avendano said he did not expect to be named committee chairman. He said he received a call to meet with Superintendent Ken Gregorski and trustees.

"We spoke for about 30 minutes," Avendano said. "It was kind of like an interview."

See **BOND**, page A3

Community Calendar

May



MAY 1
TEE UP FORE INCLUSION GOLF FUNDRAISER
Proceeds from this afternoon of golf benefit the Three Graces K-12 inclusive scholarship program, which provides scholarships to students with intellectual and development disabilities to pursue college programs, technical training and/or any continued education that will further their options for integrated employment. The event is open to sponsors, players and spectators. Registration fee includes three hours of TopGolf, lunch and drinks. The event is at 12:30 p.m. at TopGolf Houston, 1030 Memorial Brook Blvd., Houston. For tickets, visit the website three-graces-texas.springly.org.

MAY 1
KATY CARES PARENTING WORKSHOPS (FIRST OF 12 SESSIONS)
Starting May 1, Katy Cares offers a free, 12-session online parenting workshop. The sessions run from 7-9 p.m. For more information, email Kristin Dean at kristin.dean@katycares.org. To register, visit the website katycares.org/our-program/.

MAY 4
WALLER COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Waller County is celebrating its sesquicentennial—its 150th birthday—and Katy, a part of which is in Waller County, is helping to celebrate. The celebration, which is free to the public, is from 6-8:30 p.m. at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Dr.

MAY 5
CINCO DE MAYO PARTY WITH ACE MCCASLAND
Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with light bites and sips with a Mexican flair. Also enjoy the company of visiting artist Ace McCasland of Colorado Springs, Colo., who will have some of her amazing jewelry for sale. The event is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Multiplicity Art Studio, 1210 Ave. A. To RSVP, call 832-437-2442.



MAY 5
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK OPERETTA
This is a musical drama performance using all Music Fun Studio students together. Students of all levels enjoy preparing for this classic story of Jack, the Giant, and the Golden Goose in a 21st century setting. Mayron Cole's original melodies are singable and memorable. Special solo and ensemble piano performances accompany this operetta performance. The show, which runs from 7-8:30 p.m., will be performed at 22101 Morton Ranch Road. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call Alecia Stringer at 832-753-1103.



MAY 18
PAINT AND SIP
This night of fun marks the first fun paint and sip event from 100 Shades of Vibe. Proceeds benefit Hope Impacts, a nonprofit that began in 2014 with the acknowledgment that we are all one crisis away from becoming situationally or chronically homeless. The event is at 6 p.m. at Big Z's Pizza House and Brew, 2004 S. Mason Road.

MAY 18-26
KATY ISD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS
The nine Katy ISD high schools celebrate their commencement ceremonies in May. All graduation ceremonies are at 8 p.m. at Legacy Stadium, 1830 Katyland Dr. Here is a list of the dates and the schools.
• May 18: Paetow High
• May 19: Katy High
• May 20: Taylor High
• May 21: Mayde Creek High
• May 22: Cinco Ranch High
• May 23: Morton Ranch High
• May 24: Seven Lakes High
• May 25: Tompkins High
• May 26: Jordan High

ELECTION DAY

MAY 6
CITY AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION
Voters will be making their choices in City of Katy, Katy ISD, City of Brookshire, Royal ISD and City of Pattison elections. To check your voter registration and register to vote, visit the website votetexas.gov.

MAY 13
PATTISON AREA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BRISKET SALE
Purchase a brisket and support the Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department. One can pre-order the briskets by May 5 by calling the at 281-934-3488 and then pressing option 2. Briskets that are not preordered can be picked up on a first-come, first-serve basis, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. May 13 at the department, 2950 FM 359, in Pattison.

MAY 13
JOHNNY NELSON KATY HERITAGE MUSEUM REDEDICATION
City officials invite the public to celebrate this historic museum full of all things Katy. Festivities and refreshments are from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the museum, 6002 George Bush Dr.

MAY 13
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS EDUCATIONAL SERIES
Fort Bend County Libraries will have an educational series focusing on "Ancient Civilizations" this spring. The next program in the series, "Ancient Civilizations: Rome," is from 2-4 p.m. May 13 in the meeting room of the library at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.
In this segment of the Ancient Civilizations series, architecture professor Sheba Akhtar will talk about the Roman Republic and the assassination of Julius Caesar, the Roman Empire and Augustus Caesar, and Emperor Constantine and the rise of Christianity. Learn about different Roman achievements, such as city-planning and government, art and literature, engineering and architecture, and military and cultural conquests.
The program is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

MAY 16
TEXAS TRADITION SPIRIT DAY
Proceeds from all May 16 sales at Texas Tradition, 5321 Highway Blvd., benefit the Katy Heritage Society and its efforts to preserve Katy area history.



MAY 19
A NIGHT ON THE TOWN IN DOWNTOWN KATY
Enjoy this night of fun, which runs from 5:30-8 p.m., with neighbors and some of Katy's downtown businesses around the town square.



MAY 20
KATY MARKET DAY
The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, beer garden, entertainment, and inflatable attractions for children's entertainment. The event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy.
For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- It's all over the beach
- A cirque
- Corpuscule count (abbr.)
- Influential report author
- Satisfaction
- Recurring only at long intervals
- Islamic calendar month
- Neither
- Gelatinous substance
- American electronic music producer
- Old computer system
- Professional organization
- Malaria mosquitoes
- Not composed of matter
- It's in the ocean
- Peyton's little brother
- French commune
- Eyelashes
- Equal (prefix)
- Quality of little or no rain
- One who beheads
- Sung to
- Influential punk artist
- Amount of time
- Polio vaccine developer
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Job
- Flat-bottomed sailboat
- Japanese wooden clog
- Folk singer DiFranco

CLUES DOWN

- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Venomous snake genus
- Uninteresting
- Straightforwardness
- Expression of wild excitement
- Arrange in order
- East Indian cereal grass
- Hillside
- Bird beak covering
- Baseball stat
- Edge of a surfboard
- Wrapping accessory
- Express approval
- Deduce
- Similar
- Born of
- Automobile
- Obligated to repay
- Live in
- Influential journalist
- Tarbell
- Set aflame
- OJ trial judge
- Scottish town

39. African nation
40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
41. Mimic
42. Freeer
44. In slow tempo
45. Sword
46. Related on the mother's side

47. Mars crater
48. Plant of the lily family
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. Hillside
53. Metrical foot
54. Amazon river tributary
58. Adult male human

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

RICE DRIER

from page A1

capacity of the first.

By 1966, the Cardiff family hired a Kansas firm to build a third drier. It stood 177 feet and was the tallest drier in the nation. For those driving along Interstate 10 between Houston and Brookshire, the drier served as a landmark to break up the monotony of driving on the highway. The drier today remains the tallest structure in Katy, Richmond and Rosenberg.

By 1987, the drier ended its production and has sat, unused and neglected, since then.

More recently, a developer saw potential in turning the drier, a staple of Katy's past, into an entertainment center that could become a staple of Katy's future.

Hadi "Andrew" Nurcahya bought the property and began working last year with the Katy Heritage Society on a renovation. Utility lines are being installed and other building renovations are taking place. Earlier this month, the city approved the first part of the civil permit, which will include 980 feet of pipes.

The Katy Beer Garden is being built on the property and is to be the first of several developments there. One thing about this beer garden, Nurcahya said, is that it will in fact be a garden, and not a row of tables.

"This is going to be all nice seating under the trees," Nurcahya said.

Originally, Nurcahya said, the plan was to develop the property all at once. But rising interest rates compelled him to split up the projects. Nevertheless, he said, the infrastruc-

ture needed is in the works right now. He said he did not want to rip up the ground again after the infrastructure gets installed.

Nurcahya said a three-story building will be built next to the beer garden. The first floor will feature a food court with several restaurants. He said the restaurants are intended to be fun and upscale, as the beer garden will not be selling food. Office space and an event space will be on the top two floors.

Nurcahya said the original plan was to build everything at once but the decision was made to focus on one phase at a time.

The portion of the drier most easily seen from Highway Boulevard is expected to house a restaurant and feature green space, with a Katy-themed museum and gift shop between the structure and where the beer garden and office/restaurant building will be. And, in a nod to Katy's railroad heritage, plans include building a miniature train track around the garden space.

Bringing people downtown has been an ongoing goal of city leaders. In recent months, the downtown area has seen the opening of the Katy Crossing Icehouse, 5733 2nd St., and the expected opening of the Southern Dough Baking Co, 908 Ave. B.

The rice dryer isn't part of downtown, but it is expected to bring business into the city. Mayor Dusty Thiele said with this and future downtown-area attractions, people won't have to look for entertainment spots outside of Katy.



Developer Andrew Nurcahya, left, visits with Chris Cardiff and Bill Cardiff following the unveiling of the J.V. Cardiff Rice Drier sign. Chris and Bill Cardiff are cousins. Both are grandsons of J.V. Cardiff.

One Cardiff member said the family hoped to hold its family reunion this fall at the beer garden.

Among the family members at the ceremony were Chris and Bill Cardiff. They are cousins and both retired. They are also grandsons of J.V. Cardiff. Chris Cardiff admitted to being emotional about the renovation.

"It brings tears to my eyes when I see this happening," Cardiff said.

Bill Cardiff was also happy, but for a different reason.

"Thank goodness I'm not up there having to do all this stuff," he said.

FOOD TRUCKS

from page A1

approved by the council.

Food trucks must be located on an improved all-weather surface, which the city defines as concrete, asphalt or brick pavers.

Some food trucks expect to operate in what is called the Old Katy District, which Lazo said in general terms is the area between 1st and 5th streets and Avenue A to Avenue D. In such cases, the ordinance requires that the food truck be behind a building and may not be closer than 300 feet to another property with another food truck.

Lazo said in an interview that interest in operating food trucks in Katy has been strong during the 1½ years she has worked with the city. The newly-adopted policy has been in development for some time, she said.

The policy was presented for council consideration at its April 10 meeting, but following questions from council members, the decision was made to tag—or hold—the item until the next meeting so it could be reviewed more thoroughly by everyone.

ELECTION

from page A1

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

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

For polling times and locations, visit the website katyisd.org/domain/4308.

Fort Bend County ESD #2

The Fort Bend County Emergency Services District #2 is holding an election that asks voters to approve a proposition that would authorize up to 2% to be captured by the district in all areas not yet at the state maximum sales and use tax rate of 8.25%.

In a news release, the district said four major issues faced the district which require more funding as the population in the 18.63 square mile district continues to grow. These issues include achieving full-time, four-person apparatus staffing per state and federal requirements; getting another squad/response team by 2025; migrating to more full-time firefighters and emergency personnel, and enhancing cancer prevention measures.

For polling times and locations, contact the Fort Bend Elections Administrator's office at 281-341-8670.

Brookshire Mayor

Incumbent Mayor Darrell Branch, who was elected in 2019, is in a rematch against Eric Scott, who served as mayor from 2013-19. Branch is a facility manager. Scott listed himself as unemployed on his candidate application form.

For polling times and locations, call the Waller County Elections Office at 979-826-7643.

Brookshire City Council, position 2

The mayor's race is getting the most attention, but there is another contested

municipal race. Position 2 Alderman Lyndon Stamps is not seeking re-election. Tony McAnally, a retired nonprofit executive, and Jimmy Sanders, a teacher, are running for that seat. Sanders is running as a write-in candidate.

Position 1 Alderman Monique Taylor drew no opponents and will continue serving on the council.

For polling times and locations, call the Waller County Elections Office at 979-826-7643.

Pattison City Council, positions 3, 4, and 5

Three city council seats are up for election. However, the three incumbents are not seeking re-election. Only one of the three races is contested. In that race, for position 5, have chosen holding positions 3, 4 and 5—Robert McCallum, Seth Stokes and Randall Flowers, respectively—are not seeking re-election. Only one of the three races is contested.

For position 3, Ken Coulter, who is retired, is running unopposed.

For position 4, Wesley "Sandy" Buller, who is self-employed, is running unopposed.

For position 5, Daphney Kirby, who is a business owner, faces Princella Beckley Lazard, who is a bus monitor.

For polling times and locations, call the Waller County Elections Office at 979-826-7643.

Royal ISD bond

Royal ISD in January placed a \$144 million bond issue for voter consideration. The bond comprises 36 projects split into five categories: safety and security, new construction, athletics, existing facilities and technology.

The Royal ISD Board of Trustee election will be held in November.

For polling times and locations, call the Waller County Elections Office at 979-826-7643.

BOND

from page A1

The bond package is being developed and will now be considered as the district continues to experience substantial growth.

"There has been a significant amount of growth in Katy ISD, between 1,500-2,000 students per year," Avendano said. "New communities are being developed, and were going to need new schools for those kids to go to."

If the bond should fail, he said, students would be placed at existing campuses that he said were already packed. This would be an issue not just for the teachers at those campuses, he said, but for parents and students as well.

Leading the committee has been a learning experience for Avendano. Funding new schools and renovating older schools requires money from a different funding bucket, which in this case is the bond, he said.

Going forward, Avendano said, people

with questions about the bond should visit with a committee member to get them answered.

"You have 142 people that are better informed than a month ago," Avendano said, urging the public to ask why some projects received committee support over other projects.

Katy ISD voters last approved a \$676.2 million bond in 2021. The bond included the funding for three elementary schools, one junior high school, and one high school. One of those elementary schools, Steve and Elaine Robertson Elementary, opened last August. The other two elementary schools, David and Terri Youngblood Elementary and Russell and Cindie Faldyn Elementary, are expected to open this fall.

The junior high school, which will be the district's 18th, and the high school, which will be the district's 10th, are under construction. Both are expected to open in August 2024.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the April 13 story, "Meet the candidates: Position 4, Katy ISD Board of Trustees," on question 2, candidate Morgan Calhoun wrote that her children attended a charter school that received Katy ISD funding. Since this questionnaire was published, Calhoun wrote to say that this charter school received state, and not Katy ISD, funding. "I apologize for this mistake," Calhoun wrote.



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Quality education depends on us — the taxpayer and community supporters

On my first trip to India, I visited a remote village outside of Allahabad. There I met a school principal who showed me his “school.” I use the term “school,” because in reality it was nothing more than an abandoned rectangular horse barn with four stalls. Most of the roof was gone and portions of the walls were crumbling down. Despite sitting on dirt floors and sharing books, the students were excited to learn. While that imagery is sad enough, the reality of most of those Dalit children attending this school is that on average most have to drop out of school by eighth grade to help their families in various labor capacities.

Upon returning to the U.S., I led a fundraising campaign that within three months funded a new school building, and 1 year later I returned to attend the grand opening. The excitement of both students, parents and family members was a feeling hard to replicate. Their children, their future generation finally had the opportunity to learn in a clean, secured building with proper furniture.

For many of us, our education experience was the polar opposite. We are blessed to live in a country where we have proper facilities and where education is made possible for all. Our students are molded from a young age by educators who hope like we as parents do that our children will have greater success in life, and that all starts with a proper education. We owe a lot of that foundation to our education, but we as community members must understand our role in education as well.

In the words of the great cartoonist Stan Lee, “with great power comes great responsibility.” As community members our “power” is deciding who represents us and how our tax dollars are used. The “responsibility” portion is the area we sometimes lose our focus



JEREMIAH HILL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

on. When it comes to education, funding our schools and raising our future generation of leaders, we must ask ourselves a few questions. How do we best prepare our future generation to be better educated, better citizens and better leaders than we are?

If we are honest with our answer, is it to first ensure that at a developing age they have all opportunities to learn that we can make possible. That too is part of the power we hold, the power to ensure that every student has all the opportunities they could wish for, and we wish we could have had.

We love our Royal ISD community. We are diverse, we are passionate, we are loyal. We have the opportunity to show our students that we believe in them as the future generation that will one day be leading all of us. Our students deserve to have the best facilities, the best educators and the best community support behind them.

Royal ISD has placed two bond propositions on the May 2023 ballot that give you the opportunity to “Invest in our Tomorrow.” Proposition A includes projects related to safety, security, new construction, renovations, remodels, updates to existing facilities and technology infrastructure. Proposition B includes Falcon Stadium improvements.

In my positions as alderman for the City of Brookshire and president of Brookshire Economic Development Corporation, I have meetings near daily with various developers and businesses

seeking to locate within Royal ISD boundaries. The growth is coming at a very rapid pace and we need to prepare now for it. We have 16 new neighborhoods planned with a proposed 22,214 home lots. And those are just the developments that have been publicly disclosed.

There are several more discussions going on right now that will be announced publicly later. Royal ISD’s enrollment was 2,321 students in August 2022, we recently passed 2700 students. This puts us a few years ahead of demographers’ projections with all of our current buildings being at functional capacity.

Growth is here, and we must use our power and responsibility to manage that growth as well as ensure opportunities for our community.

As parents we certainly understand the desire to ensure our students are educated in the best environment with the best resources. I am appealing to all as community members: let’s show some Falcon Pride. Let’s ensure that every student at Royal ISD has the opportunity to become whatever their dream may be.

This bond allows for the growth of our district, maintaining and updating existing facilities as well as adding new ones. I am proud of our superintendent and school board who have shown for the last several years that they have been good stewards of our funds, and made improvements to facilities as possible. The improvements we need now can only happen through the passage of a bond.

Please join me and the rest of our great Falcon Community in voting FOR Royal ISD bond propositions A & B.

Jeremiah Hill is position 5 alderman for the City of Brookshire and president of the Brookshire Economic Development Corporation.



PEXELS

In the upcoming May 6 Katy ISD Board of Trustees election, guest columnist Anne Russey writes that voters should consider selecting candidates who, as she puts it, “support all students’ rights to read and to receive high quality education.”

On May 6, keep Katy ISD moderate

Over the past two years, extremists have been working to ban books in Katy ISD. Many of them don’t even have children who attend Katy ISD schools. Now some of them are running for seats on our school board.

Books that have come under attack in Katy ISD include titles like *New Kid* by Jerry Craft, *This is Your Time* by Ruby Bridges, and most recently, *Brains! Not Just a Zombie Snack* by Stacy McAnulty.

The majority of parents trust professional Katy ISD educators and librarians to offer age-appropriate instructional resources to our public school students. Parents can request alternative assignments or books if an instructional resource clashes with their family’s personal beliefs. However, the right of one parent to restrict access of a resource, lesson or book for their own child, should never extend to anyone else’s kid.

Based on conversations with neighbors and friends, it seems clear that a majority of Katy ISD voters do not support extremism, but the majority of the less than 10% of voters who vote in school board elections, likely do.



ANNE RUSSEY
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

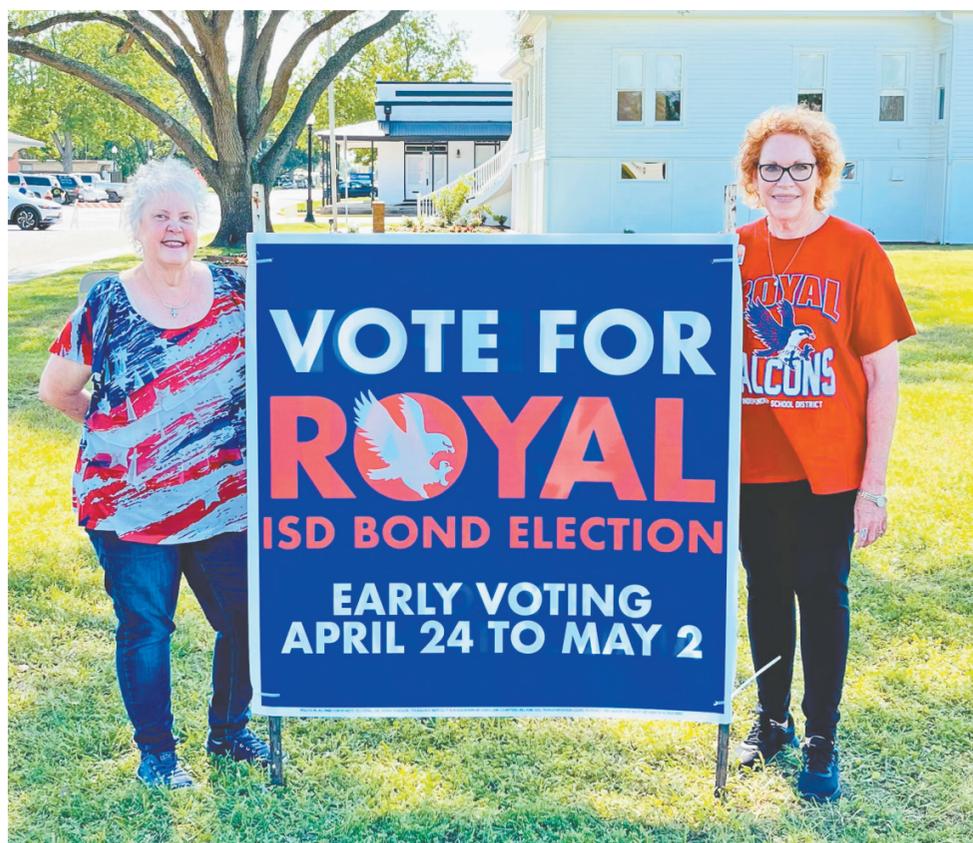
Hyper-partisan PACs like Moms for America, the Republican Party of Texas PAC and the American Principles Project are working hard to get their endorsed candidates

elected to the (supposedly) non-partisan Katy ISD school board. Texas Truth Project, a group dubbed an “anti-government extremist organization” by the Southern Poverty Law Center, lists several individuals running for Katy ISD’s school board as their preferred candidates.

It’s time to pick a side. If you oppose censorship and extremism in Katy ISD, and support all students’ rights to read and to receive high quality education, then please vote for candidates who best reflect those values, on or before May 6.

Anne Russey is a local small business owner and Katy ISD mom.

Based on conversations with neighbors and friends, it seems clear that a majority of Katy ISD voters do not support extremism, but the majority of the less than 10% of voters who vote in school board elections, likely do.



SHERREL ROGERS

Royal ISD residents Penny Strange, left, and Susan Hopkins pose with a sign in support of the May 6 Royal ISD bond election. Guest columnist Jeremiah Hill writes that voters should support propositions A and B as the district’s enrollment is expected to grow significantly in the next few years.

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FORT BEND COUNTY

Broadband investment remains a top priority for Meyers



Andrew Van Chau, Pct. 3 Chief of Staff; Broadband Summit panelist Robert Pechukas, Waller County Director of Policy and Administration; Fort Bend County Pct. 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers; Broadband Summit panelist Robyn Doughtie, Fort Bend County Chief Information Officer at the H-GAC Broadband Summit.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In his continuing efforts to improve broadband access for residents and businesses across Fort Bend County, Pct. 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers participated in the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Broadband Summit on April 20. "Faster and more reliable access to the Internet is critical for our ability to compete economically, for students to learn and access information, for seniors to take advantage of telehealth options and so much more," Meyers said. "Broadband access is no longer a luxury, it's an important part of our modern infrastructure just as mobility, power and water are."

Fort Bend County was well represented with Chief Information Officer Robyn Doughtie as a featured panelist who spoke about the need to provide broadband in rural areas and upgraded infrastructure in older, more densely populated subdivisions. Federal, state, and local experts were on hand to review sources

of funding and efforts for expanding broadband access as well as adoption across the Region. Doughtie highlighted the importance of cooperation between all counties in finding regional solutions that makes broadband available to as many people as possible.

For 25 years as a committee chair and member of H-GAC's board, Meyers led collaborative efforts with area elected officials and other partners to solve regional problems. By participating in the Summit and continuing to engage with H-GAC counterparts on broadband and other priorities Meyers is focused on delivering solutions to address constituents' needs.

"An important theme at this summit was addressing the digital divide in our communities and the work ahead to address digital equity and literacy," Meyers said. "It was a great session to effectively exchange ideas on ways to plan and better prepare for the investments ahead in broadband infrastructure in our communities," Meyers said.

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Katy native continues 123-year tradition of undersea service

BY BRITTANY CROCKER
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

NORFOLK, Va.—Submariners make up only 10 percent of the U.S. Navy's personnel, but they play a critical role in carrying out one of the Defense Department's most important missions: strategic deterrence. Seaman Dylan Yen, a Katy native, is one of the sailors continuing a 123-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure America's safety.

Yen joined the Navy nearly two years ago and today serves as a navigation electronics technician aboard USS Washington.

"I joined for the educational benefits and to make my grandfather proud," said Yen. "He served in the Navy as well."

Growing up in Katy, Yen attended Seven Lakes High School and graduated in 2020.

Skills and values similar to those found in Katy led to success in the military.

"I learned to keep going no matter how hard it gets, that things will always get better," Yen said.

These lessons have helped Yen while serving in the Navy.

Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technically-advanced vessels. These



U.S. Navy Seaman Dylan Yen

submarines can conduct rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

There are three basic types of submarines: fast-attack submarines (SSN), ballistic-missile submarines (SSBN) and guided-missile submarines (SSGN).

Fast-attack submarines are designed to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; strike targets ashore with cruise missiles; carry and deliver Navy SEALs; conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

missions; and engage in mine warfare. The Virginia-class SSN is the most advanced submarine in the world today. It combines stealth and payload capability to meet Combatant Commanders' demands in this era of strategic competition.

The Navy's ballistic-missile submarines, often referred to as "boomers," serve as a strategic deterrent by providing an undetectable platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. SSBNs are designed specifically for stealth, extended patrols and the precise delivery of missiles. The Columbia-class SSBN will be the largest, most capable and most advanced submarine produced by the U.S.—replacing the current Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines to ensure continuous sea-based strategic deterrence into the 2080s.

Guided-missile submarines provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealthy, clandestine platform. Each SSGN is capable of carrying 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, plus a complement of heavyweight torpedoes to be fired through four torpedo tubes.

"Our mission remains timeless—to provide our fellow citizens

with nothing less than the very best Navy: fully combat ready at all times, focused on warfighting excellence, and committed to superior leadership at every single level," Adm. Mike Gilday, chief of naval operations, said. "This is our calling. And I cannot imagine a calling more worthy."

Strategic deterrence is the nation's ultimate insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Yen is part of a rich history of the U.S. Navy's most versatile weapons platform, capable of taking the fight to the enemy in the defense of America and its allies.

Serving in the Navy means Yen is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on strengthening alliances, modernizing capabilities, increasing capacities and maintaining military readiness.

"The Navy protects our coasts and patrols the seas to deter threats to the United States and our allies," Yen said.

With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy.

Yen and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I'm proud of graduating my job training course because it was challenging," Yen said. "Finishing proved that I'm here for a purpose, and not just wasting my time in the Navy."

As a member of the Navy, Yen is part of a world-class organization focused on maintaining maritime dominance, strengthening partnerships, increasing competitive warfighting capabilities and sustaining combat-ready forces.

"Serving in the Navy means being part of a bigger family," Yen said. "I was in the marching band in high school. It was a big team, but compared to the Navy, it was small. Many people have my back here, and it makes you feel safe."

Yen is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I'm so grateful to my family who encouraged me along the way and all the friends I've made while serving in the Navy," Yen said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brittany Crocker is an ensign in the Navy. Terah Bryant is a chief mass communication specialist in the Navy.



The Relay for Life-Katy, which took place April 22 at Katy City Park, 5720 Franz Road, began with a survivor's and caregiver's walk, where cancer patients and caregivers walked the first lap around the park. The event raised over \$36,000 for the American Cancer Society, event organizer Brenda Hunter Martin said.



Above: The Katy and Royal 4-H Club held its first annual pancake breakfast April 22 at the newly remodeled Brookshire Convention Center, 4029 5th St. in Brookshire. Bellville Meat Market donated the sausage.

SHERREL ROGERS



Laurie Rios of Cabo Bob's, 740 S. Mason, serves hungry guests at the April 22 Katy Taste Fest, held at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road. Local restaurants provided samples of their fare at the event, which raised money for local non-profit organizations.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wreaths Across America Exhibit coming to Katy May 3-4

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is a rolling exhibition that brings the local community, veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice for nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official "welcome home" station for our nation's Vietnam veterans.

All veterans, active-duty military personnel, their families and the local community members are invited to visit, take a tour and speak with Wreaths Across America representatives and volunteers.

The public can see the exhibit for free at these times, dates and places:

- 10 a.m.-7 p.m. May 3 at VFW Post 9182, 6206 George Bush Dr.
- 9 a.m.-6 p.m. May 4 at American Legion Post 164, 22125 Kingsland Blvd.

For more information, visit the website wreathsaacrossamerica.org.

"Learning LinkedIn" program set for May 10

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library will present a special program, "Learning LinkedIn," from 2-3 p.m. May 10 in the computer lab of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

LinkedIn is the world's largest social-media network for professionals and is a great vehicle for connecting with other business people. Find out how to make the best use of LinkedIn to network and engage with contacts and businesses. Learn how to create an online profile that will enhance one's marketability beyond a resumé, and become familiar with online etiquette in the LinkedIn virtual community.

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

Fort Bend County Judge KP George celebrates 100 days in office with community event

Fort Bend County Judge KP George held a community event to mark 100 days of his second term in office. The event took place April 19, at the Fort Bend Museum, 410 5th St. in Richmond, and was attended by community members, local business owners and various elected officials.

During the event, George spoke about the steps he's taken towards creating a safe county, supporting and building an inclusive economic base, encouraging job growth for young people, investing in infrastructure and expanding industry and employment opportunities.

George spoke of his accomplishments within the first 100 days in areas such as; working to ensure the efficiency of the court by establishing bi-weekly Commissioner's Court meetings, opening the door to improving public infrastructure with a focus on drainage and mobility by hosting a county-wide discussion with the Texas General Land Commissioner Dr. Dawn Buckingham, hosting the quarterly meeting for HoustonCIO, a peer group comprised of CIOs for various companies, governments, and organizations throughout the Greater Houston Area, established the county's first Economic Development Department, leading the effort for broadband expansion in Fort Bend County, advocating for homeless youth, and celebrating the various cultures and ethnicities in Fort Bend County.

Before his presentation, George also expressed his gratitude to the community for its support and involvement in his efforts to improve the county.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve this community, and I am grateful for the support and engagement of its residents," George said. "Together, we have accomplished much in our first 100 days, and I look forward to continuing our work to make Fort Bend County an even better place to live, work, and raise a family."

The event featured presentations from several county department leaders, including the Fort Bend Office of Economic Development, Fort Bend Transit, Fort Bend Engineering, the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Fort Bend Fire Marshal, and Fort Bend Information Technology.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Royal ISD Education Foundation Denim and Diamonds fundraiser set for April 28

The Royal ISD Education Foundation's annual Denim and Diamonds gala fundraiser will be held at 6 p.m. April 28 at Hemi Hideout, 1172 Wilpitz Road in Brookshire.

The gala includes dinner, cash bar, live music by the Earl Sanders Jr. Band, casino games, silent and live auction, and more, all in the incomparable Hemi Hideout venue. All proceeds go toward classroom grants and scholarships for graduating seniors. The foundation provided Royal ISD students with over \$75,000 in grant funds during the 2022-23 school year.

To purchase tickets, visit the website bit.ly/3A6qY0r.

Jordan High robotics team wins state title

Following a competitive state robotics championship event earlier this month in Houston, the Jordan High Golden Warriors took home the championship title, defeating 80 teams from across Texas. The Golden Warriors, along with the Cinco Ranch High CRYptonite and Tompkins High Steel Tallons, have all qualified for, and are headed to, the FIRST World Championship Robotics Tournament, which was set for April 19-22 in Houston.

Jason Chen, Jordan High Golden Warriors team mentor, said the team exceeded its game plan, which it had been perfecting since the start of the season.

"They have demonstrated great ingenuity during complex challenges and have demonstrated that hard work does pay off," Chen said.

Six Katy ISD teams competed at



The Jordan High Golden Warriors robotics team won the state title.

the FIRST Texas District Championship meet:

- Cinco Ranch High CRYptonite
- Jordan High Golden Warriors
- Morton Ranch High Nuts N' Boltz

Boltz

- Paetow High Glow with the Flow
- Seven Lakes High RoboSpartans
- Tompkins High Steel Talons

Additionally, Cinco Ranch High School CRYptonite won the

Autonomous Award while Morton Ranch High School Nuts N' Boltz won the Spirit Award and Paetow High School Glow with the Flow achieved division finalist at state.

The FIRST World Championship is an international competition where top teams from around the world compete to take the prestigious title of being named a "FIRST Robotics Competition World Cham-

pion." Over 600 teams participate each year. The FIRST World Championship Tournament is one of two student world championship events that take place every year. Earlier this month, Katy ISD announced two robotics teams were also gearing up for the 2023 VEX Robotics World Championship which will take place in Dallas.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Stanley Elementary School
District-Wide Elementary
Campus Teacher of the Year



Matt Lobin
Mayde Creek High School
District-Wide Secondary
Campus Teacher of the Year

 Lauren Wright Adams Junior High	 Nicole Needham Alexander Elementary	 Stephanie Ogle Bear Creek Elementary	 Elizabeth Rogers Beck Junior High	 Sheri Wright Beckendorff Junior High	 Devon Cameron Bethke Elementary	 Sarah Nelson Bryant Elementary	 Gabriela Bogani Campbell Elementary	 Brandon Kash Cardiff Junior High
 Tequila Smith Cimarron Elementary	 Carlos Villafone Cinco Ranch High School	 Brittany Vega Thomas Cinco Ranch Junior High	 Brenna Kansteiner Crech Elementary	 Ashleigh Pepper Davidson Elementary	 Ellen Farrar Exley Elementary	 Priscilla (McCall) Palmer Fielder Elementary	 Phaedra Addison Franz Elementary	 Caitlin Godlewski Golbow Elementary
 Leigh Ann DeFreitas Griffin Elementary	 Monica Maldonado Haskett Junior High	 Helenanne Tritico Hayes Elementary	 Angela Stutts Holland Elementary	 Christian Chavez Hutsell Elementary	 Melissa Davis Jenks Elementary	 Raegan Grantham Jordan High School	 Julie Dautrich Katy Elementary	 Caitlin Peters Katy High School
 Kathryn Gerthe Katy Junior High	 Kari Brooks Kilpatrick Elementary	 Danielle Delgado King Elementary	 Aucher Lewis Leonard Elementary	 Townsend Bessonon Mayde Creek Elementary	 Matt Lobin Mayde Creek High School	 Joshua Andrews Mayde Creek Junior High	 Madison Jay McDonald Junior High	 Lauren Roder McElwain Elementary
 Julie Allevato McMeans Junior High	 Jahrel Sparks McRoberts Elementary	 Miguel Barquero Memorial Parkway Elementary	 Delaney Bridger Memorial Parkway Junior High	 Brittney Greene Miller Career & Technology Center	 Zella Novak Morton Ranch Elementary	 Felicia Spivey Morton Ranch High School	 Gerardo Vazquez Morton Ranch Junior High	 Gina Vidal Nottingham Country Elementary
 Amy Curwood Opportunity Awareness Center - BTP	 Karen Sanders Opportunity Awareness Center - OAC	 Kristen Smyers Paetow High School	 Katie Rudnick-LoSasso Pattison Elementary	 Patti Zimmerman Raines Academy	 Lakshmy Mohan Randolph Elementary	 Heather Cornell Rhoads Elementary	 Kendall Barrientos Robertson Elementary	 Jonathan Broadhead Rylander Elementary
 Erica Boseman-Owens Schmalz Elementary	 Clark Saunders Seven Lakes High School	 Jillian Romriell Seven Lakes Junior High	 Stacey L. Stokes Shafer Elementary	 Shelby Biswas Stanley Elementary	 Alisha Gerard Stephens Elementary	 Alyssa Childs Stockdick Junior High	 Abbie Gardner Sundown Elementary	 Tonya McKelvey-White Taylor High School
 Regan Murrell Tays Junior High	 Matthew Porter Tompkins High School	 Brittany Brehm West Memorial Elementary	 Refina Totten West Memorial Junior High	 Shanda Barzilla Williams Elementary	 Carly Farrell Wilson Elementary	 Lindy Davis Winborn Elementary	 Carrie McDaniel Wolfe Elementary	 Vu Vu Wolman Elementary

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Robert Hall
WoodCreek Junior High

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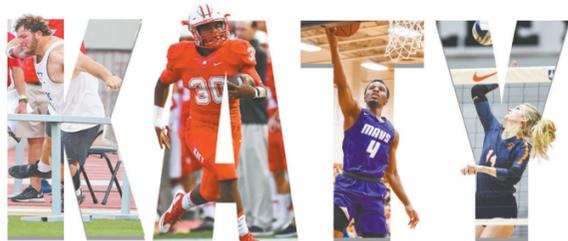
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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Taylor players celebrate during Monday's play in game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Jordan softball field.

Taylor playoff bound for first time in 12 years

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor never stopped believing in themselves.

When the Mustangs fell to 4-7 in district, they didn't stop believing. When they faced a do or die game against a team they hadn't beaten in over a decade, they didn't stop believing and it all led to the Mustangs pushing all the way to a play-in game for the last playoff spot in District 19-6A.

Once Taylor got that chance, they took full advantage, as the Mustangs earned a 15-4 win over Seven Lakes on Monday to secure the fourth and final playoff spot out of the district.

"I'm just extremely proud of this group," said Taylor head coach Thomas Powell. "We thought before the season started that we had a pretty good shot to get to playoffs, but the injury bug hit us and we lost a few close games and they could have given up hope. They've just been so unselfish since then. They're moving runners over, they're sacrificing and they're playing the game the right way. It's led to six wins in a row and I just couldn't be prouder of the way they responded."

Just two weeks ago, the Mustangs' season looked like it might be over after a fourth consecutive loss, but since then they



McKenna Holloway hits during Monday's play in game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Jordan softball field.

have gone on a roll, winning six straight to clinch the program's first playoff berth in 12 seasons.

It was a hot start that carried through the whole game Monday for Taylor. Izzy Allen started things in the top of the first with a two-run single and Katelyn Wentzler followed that up with an RBI single as the Mustangs went up by three runs in the first

inning. Kaelyn Lerma kept things going with a leadoff home run in the second before Wentzler drove in two runs with a single for another three-run inning. They kept piling on in the third — the Mustangs scored one from a passed ball and Izzy Allen brought three home with a triple.

See **TAYLOR**, page B3

Katy ISD soccer hits all-time high

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was an incredible year of soccer in Katy ISD.

There were successes all around on from boys side, there were six teams that won over ten games and playoff success came for every team that made it.

The leaders of the pack were Seven Lakes, who became champions for the first time in program history, but the talent level was evident all year and every coach and player in the district benefited from it.

"We had our fair share of obstacles," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "Our district is a gauntlet and it gets us prepared — it showed all year and in the playoffs. We truly got tested against Cinco Ranch, it put us up to the wire and it's absolutely amazing because we were 95 seconds away from being out of it and now we're state champions for the first time as a boys soccer program."

Seven Lakes, Jordan, Paetow and Cinco Ranch all made huge runs in the playoffs. Each of them made it to at least the third

round, Cinco Ranch had to go through a gauntlet, facing District 20-6A winner Ridge Point in the first round and beating them in penalties before going up by two goals on Seven Lakes in the third round and only falling once the game went to penalties.

Paetow, which finished second in district, made it to the third round and were only taken out once they faced Jordan. The Warriors had the biggest run, finishing third in district and battling past two of the favorites in Region III, beating Cy-Ridge 3-2 in extra time and beating Paetow 1-0 before falling to Dobbie 3-2 on a last minute goal that kept the Warriors from reaching the regional final.

"It's every single night in this district," said Jordan head coach Jason Meekins. "When you go through district, there is not a night where you can walk out there and take a breath. You cannot flinch even for a single game because that's the moment you're going to go down and lose a game. Every game you have

See **SOCCER**, page B3



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Kortay Koc fights off a defender while dribbling during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

WEEK OF APRIL 28

SCORES & SCHEDULES

SOFTBALL

BI-DISTRICT

Friday

- Game 1: Taylor at George Ranch, 4 p.m.
- Game 2: Taylor at George Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Game 1: Katy at Fort Bend Dulles, 6 p.m.
- 1-game playoff: Tompkins vs. Ridge Point, 6:30 p.m. at Jordan
- Game 1: Cinco Ranch at Fort Bend Travis, 3 p.m.

Saturday

- Game 3: Taylor vs. George Ranch, 10 a.m. (if needed)
- Game 2: Katy vs. Fort Bend Dulles 11 a.m.
- Game 3: Katy vs. Fort Bend Dulles, 1 p.m.
- Game 2: Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, 10 a.m.
- Game 3: Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, noon (if needed)

BASEBALL

Friday

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

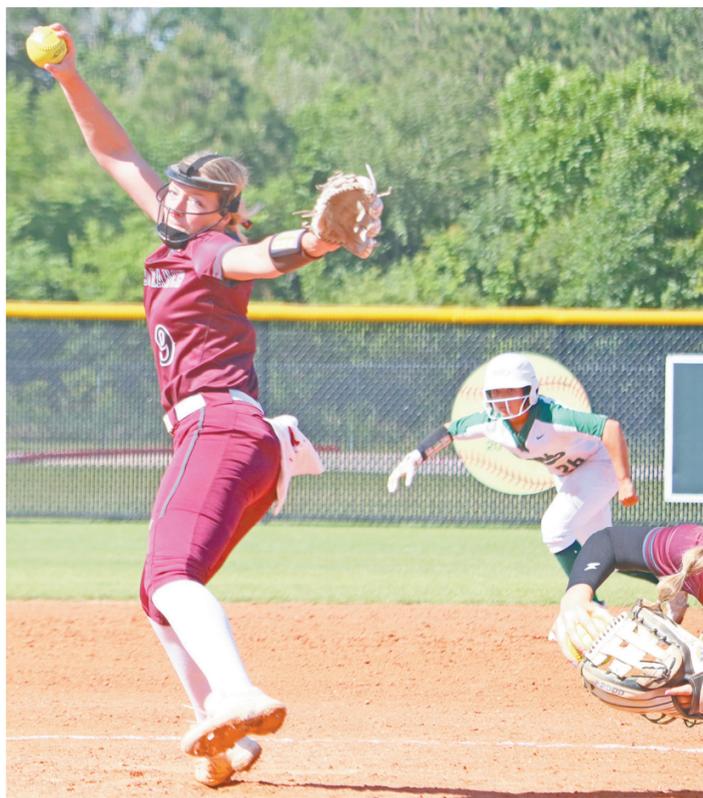
Saturday

- Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 10 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Friday & Saturday

- Region III-6A meet at Turner Stadium



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Chela Kovar pitches during Saturday's District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field. Right: Faith Piper throws to first after making a diving stop during Saturday's District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field.

Cinco Ranch clinches second seed with win over Mayde Creek

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch was out to take care of business on Saturday.

The Cougars had already locked up a playoff spot, but their game against Mayde Creek was still an important one, and the Cougars were not about to go lightly on a team they knew was fighting for their lives.

The Cougars put together a complete performance and came out 4-2 winners on the day, clinching the second seed out of District 19-6A and the Cougars' highest district finish since 2014.

"We hadn't placed as high as second in almost a decade, so this was super important," said Cinco Ranch head coach Suzanne Reeve.

"This was a big deal. I told the girls before the game, 'let's go out there and

See **CINCO**, page B3

Softball playoff field set

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a crazy regular season that needed an extra day of games to decide things, but the Katy ISD softball playoff field is finally set after Monday's play in game.

Katy won the District 19-6A district championship, the Tigers claimed their eighth straight district championship, only losing one district game all season which was to Taylor last week.

Katy enters the postseason with a 28-4 overall record, including a 15-1 record in district play. Katy takes on Dulles in the bi-district round as the Tigers look to make another playoff run. They made the regional semifinals last season before falling to Pearland in three games.

Cinco Ranch comes into the postseason with an 18-9 record and a 12-4 record in district play, finishing second in district after finishing fourth last year. The second place finish was the Cougars highest since 2014, when they won a district championship. Cinco will face Fort Bend Travis in the bi-district round.

The Cougars ended district on a two-game winning streak and will look to take the next step in the

FINAL STANDINGS DISTRICT 19-6A

SCHOOL	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	PCT	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	PCT
Katy	15	1	0	.938	28	4	0	.875
Katy Cinco Ranch	12	4	0	.750	18	9	0	.667
Katy Tompkins	10	6	0	.625	15	10	0	.600
Katy Taylor	9	7	0	.563	19	11	1	.617
Katy Seven Lakes	9	7	0	.563	13	18	0	.433
Katy Mayde Creek	8	8	0	.500	11	11	0	.500
Katy Jordan	4	12	0	.250	12	15	1	.446
Katy Paetow	4	12	0	.250	14	20	0	.412
Katy Morton Ranch	1	15	0	.063	7	18	0	.280

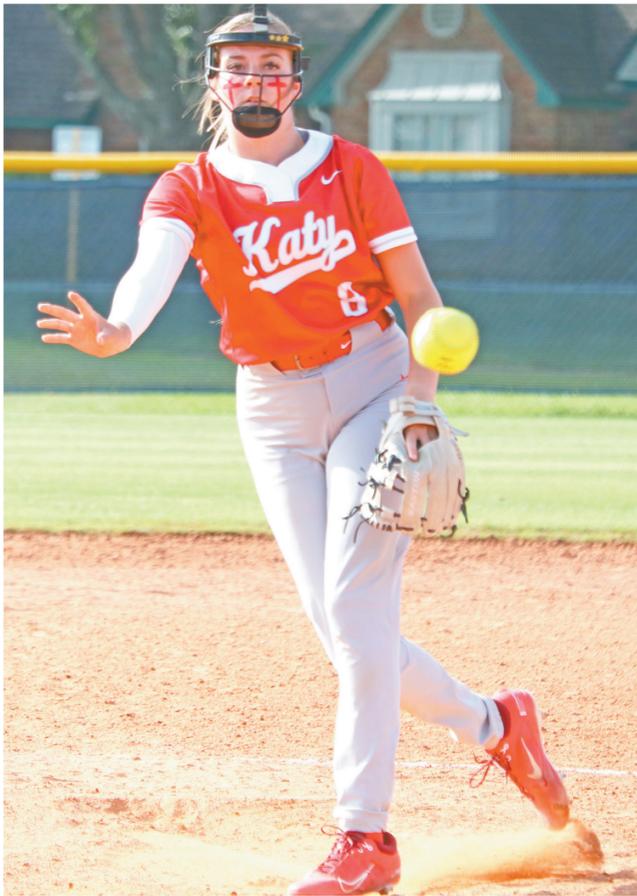
playoffs this year after reaching the third round last year, where they fell to Katy. This year, the Cougars and Tigers would not face off until the regional final, as the two are on opposite sides of the regional bracket, and the Cougars are looking to make a run.

Tompkins finished third in district, for the Falcons sixth straight playoff appearance. The Falcons had a 15-10 record on the year and a 10-6 record in district, finishing with three straight wins to climb from fifth to third in district over the last two weeks of the season.

Tompkins finished second in district last year but will be trying to take the next step after falling in the bi-district round of the playoffs. The Falcons will play Ridge Point in the first round.

Taylor rounded out the playoff teams, coming in fourth in district with a 19-11-1 record and 9-7 record in district play. The Mustangs won a play in game over Seven Lakes and enter the playoffs with lots of confidence as they take on George Ranch in the bi-district round. It's the first playoff appearance for the Mustangs since 2011.

Mayde Creek fell just short of the play in game, falling to Cinco Ranch on the final day of the regular season to end up one game behind Seven Lakes and Taylor. Jordan and Paetow both ended the season with four wins in district while Paetow had 13 wins overall and Jordan had 12. Morton Ranch finished last in district with one win in district play and seven overall.



TYLER TYRE

Cameryn Harrison pitches during Friday's game between Taylor and Katy.

Taylor hands Katy first district loss, stays alive in playoff race

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor came into Friday with everything on the line.

A win, and the Mustangs stay in the race for the final playoff spot in District 19-6A, a loss and their playoff hopes would be dashed with a game to go in the regular season.

To add to the things, the Mustangs had to face the perennial powerhouse in the district Katy. The Tigers had only lost one district game since 2014 and came into the matchup trying to inch closer to an undefeated district title.

But the Mustangs were unphased. It didn't matter who they were facing, what they were up against or the odds, all that mattered to them was finding a way to win.

That's exactly what they did, as Taylor downed the Tigers 1-0, handing Katy its first district loss of the season and staying alive in the playoff race with one day remaining in the regular season.

"It felt great, and the biggest thing was we came out and we didn't feel like we were beat already," said senior pitcher Ari Hughes. "That's been our biggest achilles heel, we'll come out like we're already defeated, but we've been a lot better with that and we believed today. It just felt great to come out and show what we have and show we can beat anyone, even a team has been on top of our district for so long."

It had been 12 years since Taylor's last win over Katy, going back to 2011. It was Hughes that led the way for the Mustangs to the win, as she pitched a complete game shutout, striking out three and walking one while allowing six hits to earn the win.

"She's been like that all year for us," said Taylor head coach Thomas Powell. "With Ari, she just doesn't lack any confidence her and it doesn't bother her when she makes a mistake. She walked a batter to start the seventh, but she came right back and got us the win. Between the ears, she's just one of the best I have had in a long time."

It was a game of inches between the teams and the only thing that separated the two at the end day was two errors from Katy that allowed Taylor to take advantage.

Tessa Woods reached in the third inning on an error and another error allowed Woods to get all the way to third base, Bethany Fan then hit a sacrifice fly to give the Mustangs the lead.

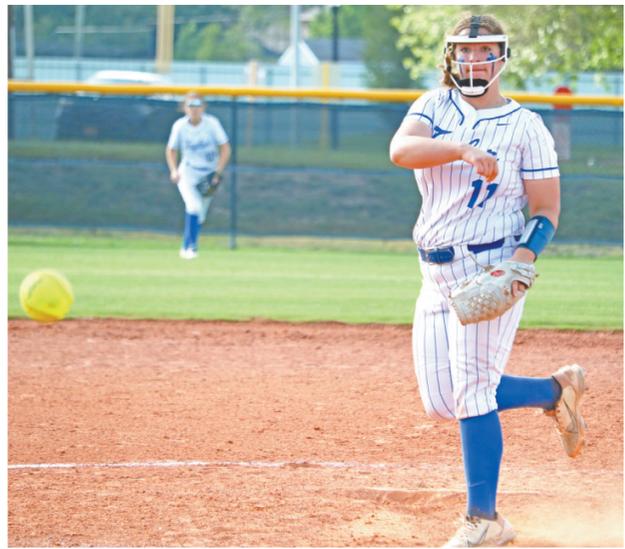


And that was all they would need. Katy threatened in both the sixth and seventh innings, getting runners in scoring position in both innings. But Taylor held strong to get the win.

"Honestly, it takes the whole team and you could see today from the first player to the last player we're all in it together. That's what it takes and we just have to keep going with that same mentality."

Taylor followed that win up with a win over Tompkins before beating Seven Lakes in a play in game to clinch a playoff spot.

"They should enjoy this tonight for a little bit, this was big," Powell said. "But when they're getting ready for bed and everything they have to flip that switch and start thinking about Tompkins, because that's a really good team. We haven't done anything to make them feel scared of us yet. But we can still do that tomorrow. As long as we continue to pitch well, play good defense and keep it close, we can give ourselves a chance. We just have to stay in it and come ready."



Above: Taylor players celebrate after the teams first win over Katy in 12 years. Left: Ari Hughes pitches during Friday's game between Taylor and Katy.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Kathrine Bruner hits during Friday's game between Taylor and Katy.



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TAYLOR

from page B1

Seven Lakes tried to bring things back and hit two solo home runs in the bottom in the third from Emily Johnson and Dulce Franco to trim the Mustangs' lead to 10-2. But Taylor answered back in the fifth, as Katherine Brunner hit a two-run home run, as well as runs on a passed ball, a Kenna Irvin single and a Lerma single. Ashley Abel hit a two-run home run for the Spartans in the fifth inning, but it wasn't enough as the Spartans weren't able to bring the deficit any closer and the game ended in five innings.

Ari Hughes once again had a strong day on the mound, allowing four runs on eight hits and walking two while earning the win.

"We just all believed in ourselves and we knew if we played at a team we could do it," Allen said. "We put in the effort and the drive and we played every game with everything we had. We've had great pitching and everyone has been doing what they needed to do. It's just been so great."

The Mustangs advance to play George Ranch in the bi-district round. Games one and two will be played at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Friday at George Ranch and game three will be played at 10 a.m. Saturday at Taylor if needed.

A matchup against a one-seeded district champion is always tough, but Taylor knows tough, and this is nothing new.

"We have great pitching and that gives the defense confidence, and then that just gives Ari more confidence on the mound too," Allen said. "That bleeds over to the offense and all of a sudden we're putting up runs, we're making plays and diving everywhere and everyone's doing what they need to do. We have great confidence in ourselves. We know we can do it, we just have to be together as a team and play for each other."



TYLER TYRE

Taylor players celebrate after a home run during Monday's play in game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Jordan softball field.



TYLER TYRE

Ben Bucic headers a ball during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal between Jordan and Paetow at Legacy Stadium.

SOCCER

from page B1

to be at your best. It's a grind and it's hard — it's hard mentally, emotionally and physically but that's what makes this district special, and that's why four teams made it so far."

Even non playoff teams in the district battled week in and week out. Tompkins battled to ties against Jordan, Paetow and Cinco Ranch this year, narrowly missing out on the playoffs while Taylor beat Jordan and tied Cinco Ranch in two of their games.

"We had to beat some really good teams in the playoffs and the reason we were able to do that was 100% because of the competition we play every night

in Katy ISD," said Paetow head coach Vinny Vaccaro. "There are teams that didn't make the playoffs in our district that would have won in the first round and could make a run. It's just so deep from top to bottom."

That talent isn't just limited to the boys side. Seven Lakes and Tompkins girls once again made a run to the regional quarterfinals and both put up huge fights before having their seasons end at Ridge Point, who went all the way to the state title game, and Stratford, which made the regional final.

And the talent isn't going anywhere on either side, with every team in the

race bringing back lots of returners as the district looks to build on such a strong year.

"It's a collective things," Krueger said. "More and more talent has come to the area and the coaches are getting stronger and stronger too. It's a competitive environment — the kids want to win, the coaches want to win and everyone just works harder and harder every year. It just means a lot. It was only a matter of time with all of the success Katy ISD has had that one of us would break through and I can guarantee it won't be the last time you see a Katy ISD school holding up that state championship trophy."

CINCO

from page B1

clinch second for us and make sure we don't have to play an extra game for it.' They've been working really hard so to get this win and see that pay off for them felt really good."

It was a do or die game for Mayde Creek and the Rams gave it everything they had trying to create a tie for fourth place in district. It was Cinco that struck first — Savannah Henningson drove in a run on an RBI double in the first inning, but Mayde Creek answered back in the second when Alyssa Gonzalez hit an RBI single to tie the game.

Chela Kovar made it 3-1 in the third inning when she drove in two on a single, but Mayde Creek answered back when Julissa Aquino hit an RBI single. But another run in the fourth from a Faith Piper sacrifice fly was too much for the Rams to overcome.

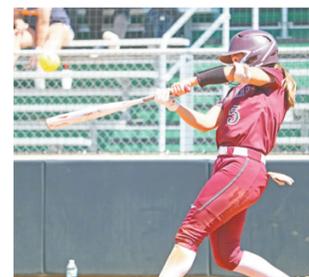
"Mayde Creek is a really good team," Kovar said. "Going up against that level of competition to close out district just helps up because it exactly what we'll be going against next week. It was a good game and I think it really got us ready for playoffs, especially because we played two games in two days just like we'll have to do the rest of the way."

Kovar had a very strong day on the mound, striking out seven and walking two while allowing just one earned run on seven hits. Gonzalez was also strong for Mayde Creek, going the complete game and allowing four runs on six hits while striking out three and walking four.

"This gave us a really good starting point heading into next week," Reeve said. "We played well and strung hits together like we needed and it was a really good effort from everyone."

The Cougars now will get ready for their playoff push, where they will face off with Fort Bend Travis in the bi-district round.

"We have a lot of practice to do and we just have to make sure we're ready," Kovar said. "Our hitting and pitching has to keep getting better, we have to work on getting ahead in counts and we just have to make sure we're locked in for next week."



TYLER TYRE

Amanda Croteau hits during Saturday's District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field.



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine & Retailer's Permit (BG) by Yi Liao dba Toyama LLC, to be located at 1433 FM 1463 RD Suite 600, Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Yi Liao, and managing members are Mu He and Xin Zhao.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

99 Cents Only Stores Texas, Inc. invites the community to attend a public meeting:

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Courtyard by Marriott Houston Katy Mills 25402 Katy Mills Parkway Katy, TX 77494 (281) 665-3189

Purpose: To discuss information specified in 40 CFR Section 68.42(b) with respect to the February 11-12, 2023 ammonia release incident which occurred at the distribution center facility located at 23623 Colonial Parkway in Katy, Texas

If accommodations are needed, please email inquiry@99only.com or call (800) 971-6823 with specifics.

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.

April 20 Puzzle Answers

1	5	4	8	2	6	7	9	3
9	8	3	5	4	7	1	6	2
2	7	6	1	9	3	5	4	8
4	1	5	2	7	8	9	3	6
7	9	8	6	3	1	4	2	5
3	6	2	9	5	4	8	7	1
8	3	1	7	6	9	2	5	4
6	2	9	4	8	5	3	1	7
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

AVISO DE JUNTA PÚBLICA

99 Cents Only Stores Texas, Inc. invita a la comunidad a una reunion pública:

Fecha: martes, 9 de mayo, 2023
Tiempo: 7:00 p.m.
Lugar: Courtyard de Marriott Houston Katy Mills 25402 Katy Mills Parkway Katy, TX 77494 (281) 665-3189

Propósito: Para analizar la información especificada en el 40 CFR Sección 68.42(b) con respecto al incidente de liberación de amoníaco del 11 y 12 de febrero de 2023 que ocurrió en las instalaciones del centro de distribución ubicadas en 23623 Colonial Parkway en Katy, Texas

Si se necesitan adaptaciones, envíe un correo electrónico a question@99only.com o llame al número (800) 971-6823 con detalles.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

SUMMONS
CASE NO. S1300CV202380004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF YAVAPAI Jay Musty Plaintiff(s), v. Brooke Julia Chapas, et al. Defendant(s). To: Brooke Julia Chapas and John Doe Chapas WARNING: THIS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FROM THE COURT THAT AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. READ THIS SUMMONS CAREFULLY. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE. 1. A lawsuit has been filed against you. A copy of the lawsuit and other court papers were served on you with this Summons. 2. If you do not want a judgment taken against you without your input, you must file an Answer in writing with the Court, and you must send the papers to Clerk of the Superior Court, 2840 N. Commonwealth Drive, Camp Verde, Arizona 86322 or electronically file your Answer through one of Arizona's approved electronic filing systems at <http://www.azcourts.gov/efilinginformation>. Mail a copy of the Answer to the other party, the Plaintiff, at the address listed on the top of this Summons. Note: If you do not file electronically you will not have electronic access to the documents in this case. 3. If this Summons and the other court papers were served on you within the State of Arizona, your Answer must be filed within TWENTY (20) CALENDAR DAYS from the date of service, not counting the day of service. If this Summons and the other court papers were served on you outside the State of Arizona, your Answer must be filed within THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS from the date of service, not counting the day of service. Requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities must be made to the court by parties at least 3 working days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding. GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of Arizona in and for the County of YAVAPAI SIGNED AND SEALED this Date: January 2, 2023 DONNA McQUALITY Clerk of Superior Court By: MMONTEI Deputy Clerk Requests for an interpreter for persons with limited English proficiency must be made to the division assigned to the case by the party needing the interpreter and/or translator or his/her counsel at least ten (10) judicial days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding. A copy of the Summons and Complaint may be obtained by contacting Plaintiff's attorney, Adam Kwasman, at Wagner & Kwasman P.L.L.C., 4643 N. 24th St, Phoenix, AZ 85016, (602)698-8900X101

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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 Mason Road Phase 2 Landscape" 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=NXdzc0xXRmx5eGtnL24rL3F2TFZFZQT09>

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.

HC MUD 165

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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, Thursday, May 11th, 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=NXdzc0xXRmx5eGtnL24rL3F2TFZFZQT09>

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HC MUD 165

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Seven Lakes soccer ranked top team in the nation



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

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

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The accolades kept coming for Seven Lakes this week, as the state winning Spartans were ranked as the No. 1 team in the entire nation in the final United Soccer Coaches winter high school national rankings.

The USC provides both national and regional high school rankings throughout the season — they are the world's largest soccer coaches organization and have members from youth all the way through professional soccer.

The Spartans began the year unranked but rose throughout the year to clinch the top spot in the final rankings this week.

Seven Lakes ended their state championship season with a 28-1-1 record, going on a 29 game unbeaten streak and a 10 game win streak through the end of the regular season and playoffs.

They rose from No. 4 in the previous rankings to No. 1 in the final rankings, surpassing JSerra Catholic in California, Clinton in Mississippi and Viera in Florida.

Following are the full United Soccer Coaches Winter Boys High School Poll:

**UNITED SOCCER COACHES
WINTER BOYS HIGH SCHOOL POLL**

1	Seven Lakes (Katy, Texas)	4	28-1-1
2	JSerra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano, Calif.)	1	20-1-1
3	Clinton (Clinton, Miss.)	2	21-0-1
4	Viera (Viera, Fla.)	3	21-0-1
5	Davis (Davis, Calif.)	6	22-0-2
6	American Heritage (Plantation, Fla.)	8	18-1-3
7	St. Paul's School (Covington, La.)	10	23-2-4
7	Trinity Prep (Winter Park, Fla.)	10	14-2-2
9	Lone Star (Frisco, Texas)	NR	24-1-2
10	Clovis North (Fresno, Calif.)	7	26-1-1



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL SUOHALTER

Morton Ranch grad L.J. Cryer has announced his transfer from Baylor to the University of Houston.

Morton Ranch alum Cryer announces transfer to Houston

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

L.J. Cryer announced his transfer to the University of Houston last week, as the Morton Ranch graduate decided to return to his home city to continue his college career.

Cryer, who graduated from Morton Ranch in 2020, was part of the Baylor national championship team as a freshman in 2021 and became a focal point of the team's offense this year. He scored 30 points, a career high and a Baylor single NCAA Tournament game record, in Baylor's 85-76 loss to Creighton in the second round of this year's NCAA Tournament.

Cryer joins the Cougars with two years of eligibility remaining. He averaged 15 points 2.1 rebounds and two assists during his junior year, while shooting 89.4 percent from the free throw line. He was named All-Big 12 third team.

As a sophomore in 2021-22, Cryer was

limited with a foot injury but totaled 13.5 points and 1.5 rebounds per game. Cryer led the Bears in scoring eight times with five 20-point games.

During his career at Morton Ranch, Cryer scored 3,488 points, the fifth highest total in Texas public school history. As a senior he scored 1,164 points, setting the school single season record and he scored 50 points while dishing out 10 assists in his regular season finale. He was named All-State in 2020.

"LJ's greatest strength is he is a bucket-getter. He can make shots. He gets to the free throw line, and he makes 3s. We had an established relationship with LJ and his family because we recruited him out of Morton Ranch High School. He is coming from a great program, and he has had success," Sampson said. "I want LJ to come in here as part of a culture that breeds togetherness and toughness. With the talent that he has, LJ can be an outstanding addition for our program."

GRANT SIGNS WITH TEXAS STATE



Royal's Erica Grant signed with Texas State University on April 5. The senior will run track and field for the Bobcats; she specializes in the 100 and 200-meter dash.

PHOTOS COURTESY ROYAL ISD



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Katy Times



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Aidan Morrison takes a penalty kick during a Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.



TYLER TYRE

JuanCarlos Santos kicks a corner during a match between Jordan and Cy-Ridge at the Spring Woods football field.

Morrison, Vargas named Co-District MVPs

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

A terrific year of boys soccer in Katy ISD was capped off with the 19-6A All-District Team on Wednesday, with the district naming co-MVPs for the year, with Seven Lakes' Aidan Morrison sharing the honors with Cinco Ranch's Danny Vargas.

Morrison, who was named the district's midfielder of the year last season, helped the Spartans to a district, regional and state championship to become the co-MVP. He was a captain and leader of the team even as a junior. Vargas helped Cinco Ranch go on a great playoff run, as the fourth seeded Cougars won twice in the playoffs before falling to an incredible Seven Lakes comeback in the regional quarterfinal round. Vargas was named last year's forward of the year in the district and moved up to co-MVP after a very strong senior year.

Paetow's Jose Dominguez was named the district's forward of the year after helping the Panthers finish second in district and reach the regional quarterfinals. Jordan's JuanCarlos Santos was named the co-midfielder of the year after helping the Warriors reach the regional semifinals and Gabe Gonzalez from Seven Lakes joined him as co-midfielder of the



Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger during the Class 6A boys state semifinal between Katy Seven Lakes and Plano on April 15, 2022 in Georgetown, Texas.

year. Cinco Ranch's Ossian Elgstrom was named the defender of the year while Seven Lakes' Ben Aviles Vera was named the goalkeeper of the year. Tompkins' freshman Eloy Ferrer rounded out the superlative awards by being named the newcomer of the year.

Seven Lakes and Paetow led the way with first team members, as both placed four players, while Jordan and Cinco Ranch had three players each named to the first team, Taylor and Tompkins both placed two players on the first team while Morton Ranch, Mayde Creek and Katy had one player each on the first team.



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.

2023 19-6A BOYS SOCCER ALL-DISTRICT

CO-MVP	GR	School	Defender of the Year	GR	School	Newcomer of the Year	GR	School
Danny Vargas	12	Cinco Ranch	Ossian Elgstrom	11	Cinco Ranch	Eloy Ferrer	9	Tompkins
Aidan Morrison	11	Seven Lakes						
Forward of the Year	GR	School	GK of the Year	GR	School	Midfielder of the Year	GR	School
Jose Dominguez	12	Paetow	Ben Aviles Vera	11	Seven Lakes	Gabe Gonzalez	12	Seven Lakes
						JuanCarlos Santos	12	Jordan
CO-Coaches of the Year			School					
Jimmy Krueger			Seven Lakes					
Vinny Vaccaro			Paetow					

1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT

GR	School
12	Seven Lakes
12	Seven Lakes
11	Seven Lakes
11	Seven Lakes
10	Seven Lakes
12	Paetow
12	Paetow
11	Paetow
10	Paetow
12	Jordan
11	Jordan
10	Jordan
12	Cinco Ranch
11	Cinco Ranch
10	Cinco Ranch
12	Taylor
11	Taylor
12	Tompkins
12	Tompkins
12	Morton Ranch
12	Mayde Creek
12	Katy

2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT

GR	School
12	Seven Lakes
11	Seven Lakes
11	Seven Lakes
10	Seven Lakes
12	Paetow
12	Paetow
12	Paetow
12	Jordan
11	Jordan
10	Jordan
12	Cinco Ranch
12	Cinco Ranch
12	Taylor
9	Taylor
12	Tompkins
12	Morton Ranch
12	Morton Ranch
12	Mayde Creek
10	Mayde Creek
12	Katy
10	Katy

HONORABLE MENTION

GR	School
11	Cinco Ranch
10	Cinco Ranch
12	Jordan
11	Jordan
12	Katy
11	Katy
12	Mayde Creek
10	Mayde Creek
12	Morton Ranch

HONORABLE MENTION

GR	School
11	Morton Ranch
12	Paetow
11	Paetow
11	Seven Lakes
11	Seven Lakes
12	Taylor
11	Taylor
11	Tompkins
10	Tompkins



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Jose Dominguez celebrates after scoring a goal during Tuesday's match between Paetow and Lamar at the Spring Woods football field.



Above: Maddie Rich passes the ball during a game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch soccer field. Far left: Kayla Boven crosses the ball during a Class 6A bi-district round game between Tompkins and George Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in 2022. Left: Seven Lakes head coach Kaitlyn Eidson talks to her team before Friday's bi-district game between Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes' Erck named district MVP

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes Haydan Erck was named the District 19-6A MVP for the second straight season, following a strong year where the Spartans won district and advanced to the regional quarterfinal round.

Erck had a great senior season leading the Spartans' front line, and in the process broke the schools all-time goals record.

She was a huge part of Seven Lakes success this season and was joined by Maddie Rich on the superlatives list, as Rich was named the district's goalie of the year to cap of her senior season. Rich was part of a Spartans defense that allowed just six goals throughout the entire season, she also broke the Seven Lakes all-time record for shutouts.

Seven Lakes head coach Kaitlyn Eidson was named the district's coach of the year and Rebecca Romero was named the midfielder of the year to add to the Spartans' honors.

Tompkins took home the districts other three awards, with Kayla Boven being named forward of the year, Grace Nyamapfumba being named the defender of the year and Rhegan Coombs being named the newcomer of the year. The Falcons also made a run to the regional quarterfinals after finishing second in district.

Seven Lakes and Tompkins led the way in the district selections as well, putting four athletes each on the first team.

Following is the full District 19-6A girls soccer team.



Haydan Erck takes a corner during a bi-district game between Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Legacy Stadium.



Rebecca Romero tries to hold up a ball while battling a defender during a Class 6A bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Elkins at Legacy Stadium in 2022.

2022-2023 GIRLS SOCCER ALL DISTRICT

DISTRICT MVP Haydan Erck, SLHS	MIDFIELDER Rebecca Romero, SLHS	GOALKEEPER Maddie Rich, SLHS
FORWARD Kayla Boven, OTHS	DEFENDER Grace Nyamapfumba, OTHS	NEWCOMER Rhegan Coombs, OTHS
19-6A COACH OF THE YEAR Kaitlyn Eidson, SLHS		

1ST TEAM		2ND TEAM	
(#15) Abby Mercadante - 12	CRHS	(#10) Elizabeth Campos - 12	CRHS
(#5) Erin McConnell - 11	CRHS	(#18) Emmy Finnegan - 10	CRHS
(#16) Ari Khenayzir - 12	CRHS	#7 Kayleigh Pino - 11	JHS
#10 Madison Lambert - 11	JHS	#4 Alex Ledbetter - 9	JHS
#15 Natalie Vernier - 9	JHS	#22 Madelyn Way - 10	JHS
#33 Madelyn Mech - 10	JHS	#1 Brooklyn Chavis - 11	JHS
#16 Alejandra Yague - 12	KHS	#8 Anna Kneisley - 12	KHS
#4 Aliah Stevens - 10	KHS	#14 Addyson Cosolo - 9	KHS
#3 Alicia Loera (12)	MCHS	#23 Alexia Richard (12)	MCHS
#3 - Lillyanna Ash - 12	MRHS	#4 Kylie Orr (12)	MCHS
# 27 Rayal Henderson - 12	PHS	#10 Mia Garibay - 12	MRHS
#26 Katie Lennon - 12	SLHS	#1 Dalila Chicas - 12	MRHS
#13 Ally Townsend - 12	SLHS	#8 Arantxa Varela - 9	PHS
#16 Wagoner Townsen - 11	SLHS	#9 Danika Wessel - 10	PHS
#15 Kennedy Reed - 10	SLHS	# 12 Valarie Trinh - 11	SLHS
(#13) Kendall Hemperley - 10	THS	#2 Vicky Ott - 10	SLHS
(#1) Mara Ramazanoglu - 12	THS	#5 Prisha Menon - 12	SLHS
(#1) Gabriela Vazquez - 12	OTHS	(#21) Regan Arney - 11	THS
(#23) Ilyse Lehmann - 12	OTHS	(#23) Jordan Rodgers - 11	THS
(#8) Makena Zukeran - 9	OTHS	(#16) Tessa Woods - 12	THS
(#7) Riley Lindhorst - 11	OTHS	(#14) Paula Fuentes Malta - 10	OTHS
		(#20) Jenna Grace Wentland - 11	OTHS

HONORABLE MENTION		HONORABLE MENTION	
(#0) Sierra McCluer - 11	CRHS	#23 - Jhoselyn Rios - 11	MRHS
(#13) Ambrye Fortune - 11	CRHS	#10 Evelyn Martinez - 12	PHS
(#3) Antonia Cortes - 11	CRHS	#12 Juliana Crespo - 10	PHS
#3 Lilah Katz - 9	JHS	#6 Makenzi Casmore - 12	PHS
#2 Grace Robertson - 10	JHS	#6 Emma Veliz - 12	PHS
#3 Atiana Lara - 10	KHS	#18 Chloe Callahan - 10	SLHS
#7 Kendall Gussert - 10	KHS	(#6) Zoe Jolley - 11	THS
#22 Brooklyn Wiess (10)	MCHS	(#0) Samantha Rank - 11	THS
#11 Samantha Rodriguez (11)	MCHS	(#2) Nicole Calderon - 11	OTHS
#7 Valery Sanchez - 12	MRHS	(#3) Ellie Castillo - 11	OTHS
#21 Jaina Leigh - 12	MRHS	(#25) Avery Lange - 12	OTH



2023 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

RETIREES



Judy Branch
Secretary
Royal STEM Academy
25 years with Royal ISD



Laddie Lawrence
Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP)
Administration
7 years with Royal ISD
Total years in Education: 28 years



Ronnie Melton
CTE Director
Royal High School
34 years with Royal ISD

YEARS OF SERVICE



Judy Branch
Royal STEM Academy
25 years



Brenda Connor
Royal Early Childhood Center
20 years



Gladys Hein
Administration
25 years



Jeff Shaw
Royal Elementary School
20 years

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Lilia Brents
Royal Early Childhood Center



Chris Morris
Royal Elementary School



Dorian Pineiro
Royal STEM Academy (2-5)



Jennifer Mechler
Royal STEM Academy (6-8)



Shanta Potts
Royal Junior High School



Alicia Russo
Royal High School

PARAPROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR



Jenny McBride
Royal Early Childhood Center



Leslie Lambert
Royal Elementary School



Brenda Saldana
Royal STEM Academy



Ruth Willis
Royal Junior High School



Laverne Patterson
Royal High School



Maria Escobar
Royal DAEP

ROOKIES OF THE YEAR



Enjolie Jarjoura Espinoza
Royal Early Childhood Center



Jorge Espinoza
Royal Junior High School



Sandralee Hunnicut
Royal STEM Academy



Nicholas Mojaver
Royal High School



Ashley Cook
Royal Elementary School



Marcus McLemore
Royal Junior High School

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