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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

School board hears proposed changes to cell phone policy

Superintendent's evaluation and contract also unanimously approved

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A draft of an updated policy on students' use of cell phones on campus was presented to the Katy ISD school board at Monday night's meeting at the Education Support Complex, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy. The draft of the new policy – which is still in development – would ban students' use of their personal devices such as cell phones during the classroom instructional periods. The proposed change does not change policy at elementary campuses, which already have a "no cell phone use" policy in place, but does affect secondary campuses, which have been operating under a "bring your own device" policy for the last several years, according to district officials. However, with the roll-out of the district's new "1:1 Chromebook" initiative in the 2024-2025 school year, students will no longer need access to their own devices during classroom time, officials said. According to the policy draft,

students must turn off and put away their cell phones during each classroom period. Cell phone usage may be permitted outside the classroom in accordance with current campus guidelines, which may vary from school to school. The draft continues the current policy which forbids cell phone use of any kind in restrooms or locker rooms at all times. There is no change to the policy regarding cell phone use in an emergency situation – students and staff may continue to follow required safety guidelines and protocols, officials said.

There is no change to the "personal responsibility" aspect of cell phone use on campus; students are still responsible for their phones and the district does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen phones.

The "in class" policy change will be reinforced on campus through the use of "cell phone guidelines" posters which explain the new rules and the consequences.

Infractions will be subject to the campuses' Discipline Management Plan, which assigns consequences based on criteria developed for each campus. Several trustees, including Mary Ellen Cuzela and Morgan Calhoun, expressed concern that the standards for infractions were not uniform across the

See **KISD**, page A3



SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a candidate forum featuring the four contenders for the school board positions in Katy ISD. The April 16th event, attended by almost 100 people, was held at Houston Community College, 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy. From left to right: Dr. Robert Long, Division Director for Board Development Services at Texas Association of School Boards, who moderated the forum; Rebecca Fox, incumbent Position 6; Donovan Campbell, challenger for Position 6; incumbent Position 7 Dawn Champagne; challenger for Position 7 David Olson; and Jason Burdine, a former board member for Fort Bend ISD, who presented background and context for the questions asked by Dr. Long. The forum may be viewed in its entirety on the Chamber's Facebook page at facebook.com/katychamber.

Voting locations, resources listed for upcoming school board election

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The school board election – with two incumbents facing challengers – will be held on May 4, 2024.

Incumbent Rebecca Fox faces Donovan Campbell in a battle to retain her position as the Position 6 trustee.

Incumbent Dawn Champagne, who serves as the board's secretary, is running against David Olson for Position 7.

Candidates' websites may be viewed at:

- Rebecca Fox: rebeccafox-4katy.org
- Donovan Campbell: campbell4katyisd.org
- Dawn Champagne: facebook.com/groups/160538218075918/about

• David Olson: olson4katy-isd.org

For more information, view the 2024 Katy ISD Voters Guide at katyisd.org/Page/10064 or visit the Board Election webpage at katyisd.org/domain/4308.

Early voting takes place now through April 30. Early voting will be conducted each weekday from 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. beginning on Monday, April 22 and ending on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. A special Saturday early voting will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

During early voting, registered voters may vote at ANY Katy ISD early polling location:

- Leonard Merrell Center Room 143-144, 6301 S. Stadium Lane Katy, TX 77494 (Main

Early Voting Location)

- Cinco Ranch High School PAC Lobby, 23440 Cinco Ranch Boulevard Katy, TX 77494
- Morton Ranch High School Gym Lobby, 21000 Franz Road Katy, TX 77449
- Paetow High School Gym Lobby, 23111 Stockdick School Road Katy, TX 77493
- Seven Lakes High School Gym Lobby, 9251 S. Fry Road Katy, TX 77494
- Taylor High School PAC Lobby, 20700 Kingsland Boulevard, Katy, TX 77450

On Monday, April 22, Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski urged voters to turn out in a YouTube video shot at Seven Lakes High School; the video may be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=cwKpwcFO03I.

Katy ISD school board election voting information

Early Voting Set for April 22 – 30

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

It's election time! This year, voters have the opportunity to elect two Katy ISD Board of Trustees for Positions 6 and 7. Early voting will be conducted each weekday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. beginning Monday, April 22 and ending on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. A special Saturday early voting will be held on Saturday, April 27. Election Day is May 4.

Early voting for the Katy ISD Board Election will be held at six locations (see box at right). During

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Location	Address
Leonard Merrell Center Rooms 143 & 144	6301 S. Stadium Lane Katy, Texas 77494
Cinco Ranch High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) Lobby	23440 Cinco Ranch Boulevard Katy, Texas 77494
Morton Ranch High School Gym Lobby	21000 Franz Road Katy, Texas 77449
Paetow High School Gym Lobby	23111 Stockdick School Road Katy, Texas 77493
Seven Lakes High School Gym Lobby	9251 S. Fry Road Katy, Texas 77494
Taylor High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) Lobby	20700 Kingsland Boulevard Katy, Texas 77450

See **VOTING**, page A3



COURTESY OF KATY ISD

The members of the Stockdick Junior High wind ensemble, who performed the national anthem at Monday night's school board meeting, were awarded certificates of recognition by board secretary Dawn Champagne (far right).

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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April 25, 2024
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SUSAN ROVEGNO

Shown with the city council's special proclamation recognizing May 6-10 as Teacher Appreciation Week are (left to right) Jacalyn Warner, Jamie Wolman, Winborn Elementary principal Lisa Frison, Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Councilmember Rory Robertson, Tays Junior High School principal Tara Haworth, Ina Gill, Bria Morris, Kelsey Berkenhoff, Emily Quinn and Gail Smith.

Council approves remodeling of Katy Visitors Center, hears zoning issues

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Plans for the remodeling of the Katy Visitors Center, along with the installation of permanent exhibits, were unveiled

at the April 22 meeting of the Katy City Council. The visitors center, located in an old city building at 5718 Second Street, will "showcase all that Katy has to offer,"

See **COUNCIL**, page A3

Hwy 36A Coalition to feature TxDOT director of planning as luncheon speaker

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Caroline Mays, director of TxDOT Planning and Modal Programs, will be the featured speaker at the Hwy 36A Coalition's luncheon on May 2.



Mays will provide an update on her work with TxDOT, including discussions of 36A and how the proposed mobility corridor aligns with key state priorities.

As Director of Planning and Modal Programs, Mays is responsible for the management and control of the Aviation, Maritime, Public

See **COALITION**, page A3

DICK'S HOUSE OF SPORT

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COMMUNITY EVENTS



City of Katy dog park reopens

Gather up your furry friends and head on over for some tail-wagging fun! Via its Facebook page, the City of Katy Parks & Recreation Department announced on April 19th that renovations to the city's popular "Off the Leash" dog park are officially complete, and the facility is back open. The free dog park is located at 5414 Franz, Katy; this off-leash park for canines of all sizes and is open every day from dawn to dusk.

Brookwood Annual Spring Extravaganza returns May 2-4

Come shop a huge array of exceptional vendor booths, and let your retail dollars do double duty, just in time for Mother's Day, graduation, and teacher appreciation. The Brookwood Community will host their Spring Extravaganza at the Gift & Garden Center and Café at 1502 FM 1489 in Brookshire Thursday through Saturday, May 2-4, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Support Brookwood's adults with disabilities as well as small businesses who need your support now more than ever. Visitors can also shop at Brookwood's retail store filled with the Citizen's handcrafted products and gorgeous spring flowers. Enjoy a wine bar in the garden, followed by an amazingly delicious lunch buffet at Brookwood Café with open seating from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Get your Lunch Reservations at: <https://bit.ly/SpringExtraLunch2024>

Have breakfast with a vet on Saturday, May 4th at the Elks Lodge

On the first Saturday of every month from 7 to 10 a.m., join the Katy Elks Lodge #2628, American Legion Post 164 Katy and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit

164 Katy for an all-you-can-eat breakfast benefitting area veterans. The breakfast is held at the Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy. Admission is \$9.00 per person.

Lone Star Symphonic Band performs 'Fiesta!' on May 5th

With this concert occurring on May 5th, known to many as Cinco de Mayo, what could be a better title than "Fiesta!" So come prepared to hear the Lone Star Symphonic Band present a program that is uplifting, joyous, beautiful and 'just plain fun!' The concert will be at the Holy Covenant UMC Church, 22111 Morton Road in Katy, at 4 p.m. For tickets, go to app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=4&p=1.



'Friday Night Heights' returns to Old Katy on May 10th

Get ready for an EPIC Friday Night Heights and get ready to dive into a world of adventure with obstacle courses, bounce houses, a rock wall, and the thrilling eurojumper. The event, taking place on May 10th from 6 to 9 p.m. in the historic downtown square in Old Katy at Avenue C and Second Street, also features yard games, food trucks serving up delicious treats, music to get you grooving, and lights to keep the night shining bright. The Houston Astros World Series Trophies are making a special appearance --both trophies will be right here for opportunities for selfies. The Shooting Stars -- highly regarded throughout the city of Houston as one of the premier independent AAU organizations --will be there too.

Enjoy food and music during KTX Market at No Label on May 11th

Join this family-friendly event on Saturday, May 11th from 5 to 9 p.m. with local vendors, local music, and local food trucks located at No Label Brewing Company, 5351 First Street in Katy. More than 25 vendors will be displaying their wares.

Master Gardeners invite you to tour Demonstration Gardens

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Gardeners often learn best by getting ideas from other gardeners.

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners invite you to take a look at what they're growing in their Demonstration Gardens, either by self-guided tours on Wednesday morning garden workdays (all year), or by guided group tours in the spring and fall.

For self-guided tours, you can grab a map at the entrance to the Herb Garden behind the Bud O'Shieles Community Center (see below) and walk around at your own pace. Or, to arrange a guided group tour for your garden club, church group, or any other group, contact Request Garden Tour (fbmg.org)

Patrick Lavelle, Garden Leadership Team Director, said, "In addition to our involvement in many community-based programs, we proudly manage an area of approximately four acres that contain seven demonstration gardens, plus an area dedicated to composting, and a greenhouse where we predominately grow

produce from seed."

The gardens are located in Rosenberg in the 1400 block of Band Road behind the Fort Bend County Extension Services and the Bud O'Shieles Community Center.

"Open to free tours are our Native, Butterfly, Herb, Vegetable, Texas Superstar, Shade, and Front Yard HOA Gardens," said Lavelle. "In 2024 we also plan the development of a new Backyard Orchard. Our regular garden workday is held every Wednesday morning when you will find dedicated Garden Chairs responsible for the management of each garden available for explaining subjects such as what plants are being grown in each garden, why they have been selected, and answer any other questions you may have."

Visit <https://fbmg.org/demonstration-gardens/> to learn more about the gardens.

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers assisting Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in educating the community using research-based horticultural information.

Fort Bend County showcases preparedness at READY FORT BEND expo on April 27th

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Come out to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on April 27 to gain knowledge on weather hazards and learn what to do in order to be prepared.

The office of the Fort Bend County Homeland Security & Emergency Management will host the READY FORT BEND 2024 Expo starting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fairgrounds at 4310 Highway 36 in Rosenberg.

The free event will include free activities for the family, including a Kids' Korner, door prizes and goodie bags. Exhibitor booths will feature all hazards

emergency preparedness and there will also be a display of emergency vehicles.

Presentations include:

- Dan Reilly, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service Houston/Galveston
- Justin Jurek, Fire Marshal, Fort Bend County Fire Marshals office
- David Ferguson, Damage Prevention Manager, Texas 811
- Texas Department of Public Safety Special Response Team
- Texas Division of Emergency Management

For more information, go to fbcoem.org.

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DATE May 1, 2024
TIME 6:00-8:00pm
LOCATION 908 Avenue B Old Katy

- permanent jewelry
- katy icehouse mocktails and cocktails
- southern dough bites
- headshots/ photo station
- flower truck
- petite dessert bar
- boutique shopping
- chiropractic checks
- raffle prizes + items for purchase from local businesses that support mental health
- free + family friendly

JOIN LOCAL BUSINESSES AS WE BAND TOGETHER TO OFFSET THE COST OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

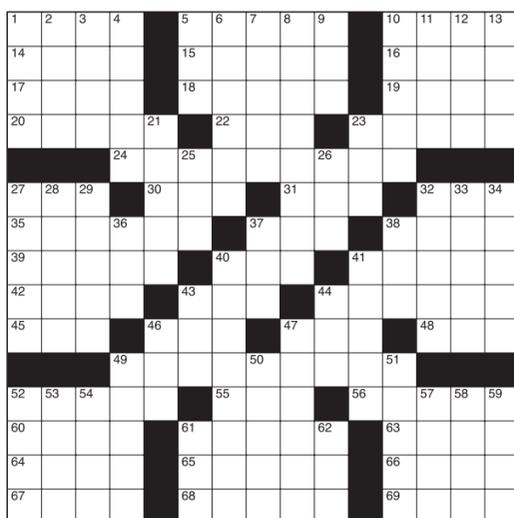
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Excessively theatrical actors
- Footwear
- A way to disfigure
- Exchange rate
- Hawaiian wreaths
- North-central Indian city
- Bungle
- Extremely angry
- A short note of what's owed
- Criminal organization
- Mimic
- Try to grab
- U.S.-born individuals
- Some are covert
- Order of the British Empire
- Don't know when yet
- Payment (abbr.)
- Winged angelic being
- Variety of Chinese
- A way to be anxious
- Famed wrestler Hulk
- Partner to cheese
- Slang for sergeant
- Canadian flyers
- Actress Ryan
- Highly unpleasant vapor
- Body part
- Halfway
- Cool!
- Consume
- Salts
- Upper bract of a floret of grass
- Housepet
- Cavalry-sword
- Symbol of a nation

CLUES DOWN

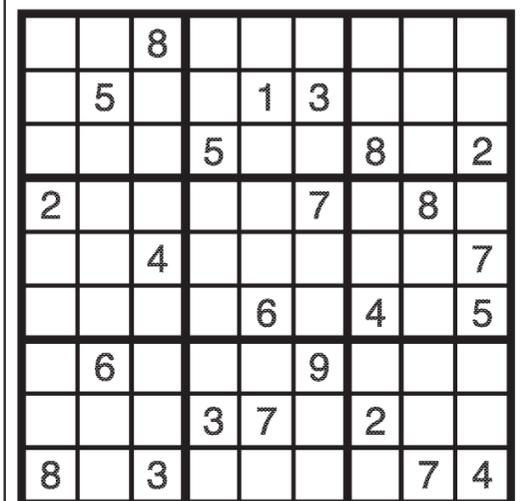
- "Mad Men" leading man
- Water (Spanish)
- Annoy
- Bulgarian capital
- Japanese title
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Giraffe
- A mixture of substances
- Midway between south and southeast
- Staffs
- Turkish title
- Type of acid
- Thin, flat strip of wood
- Russian river
- Ribonucleic acid
- Partner to flow
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Earthy pigment
- Genus of earless seals
- "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- By or in itself
- Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- Partner to trick
- British Air Aces



- Ammunition
- Supervises flying
- Health care for the aged
- Flanks
- Millimeters
- Where wrestlers perform
- Not around
- Flightless bird
- Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- Expressed concern for
- Satisfies
- Flew off!
- Wings
- Load a ship
- Vigor
- British title
- Whiskeys
- ___ Adams: founding father
- Body of water

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



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.

KISD

from page A1

district, while trustee Rebecca Fox supported campus autonomy. Board president Victor Perez asked that the board's policy committee meet with district officials in order to give additional feedback about the proposed plan.

The policy draft was developed after benchmarking with neighboring districts who already have a 1:1 device policy, through feedback from KISD principals and from the Spring Discipline Management meetings. The policy has been in place at Morton Ranch Junior High for several months and district officials said that the school has seen a rise in test scores following its implementation.

The policy is needed in order to eliminate distractions in the classroom, officials said.

District officials plan to present a final draft of the policy to the board in June for approval, so that it can be reviewed prior to inclusion in the updated student handbook for the coming year. The new policy, once approved, will be posted in July ahead of students' return to campus in August, so that parents can fill out all the necessary "return to school" forms which will include an acknowledgement of this policy change.

The board also went into closed session for two separate consultations with the district's attorney. In the first session, the evaluation and present contract status for current superintendent Ken Gregorski was approved by all seven board members, but no details were shared following trustees' return to the open meeting.

Trustees went into closed session a second time to consider several terminations and non-renewals of other employee contracts and followed in open session by approving several recommended terminations.

Thirteen public speakers spoke during the "public comments" portion of the meeting, with most in support of the current board. Several speakers, including Dr. Rob Lyerly, senior pastor at Katy's First Baptist Church, spoke



COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Anjolaoluwa Olajide, a fifth-grade student from Youngblood Elementary, (left) received a certificate of recognition from Katy ISD School Board President Victor Perez after leading the pledges of allegiance at the April 22 school board meeting.

about books which they felt should be banned and the process for removing them from KISD campuses.

The next board meetings will be:

- Work study meeting on May 6
- Regular board meeting on May 13

COUNCIL

from page A1

said presenter Christopher Laack of VLK Architects. "It will look at our future while reflecting on our past."

Associate Vice President and Creative Director Chris Frison of DG Studios, which won the bid to redesign the center, further described the forthcoming changes. The updated center will have a kids' zone depicting the area's industries of rice farming, oil and gas and the railroad. A 136" interactive touch screen will enable residents and visitors to drill down and zoom in on information on how to live, work and play in Katy. The screen will also feature a map, along with information about upcoming events and area schools. Two virtual characters who have lived in Katy all their lives – one a student and one a retired person – will also interact with visitors. Themed racks for informational brochures will be installed along the walls; these can easily be changed out and updated, Frison said. A large history wall will feature a QR code which can be scanned for additional information on area landmarks.

The project was originally bid at \$1.2 million but Laack said that it was now projected to come in at \$952,370.53. Once contracts are in place, the renovations will take between four and five months, he said, depending on the availability of materials and barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Following the presentation, council went into closed session to consult with an attorney regarding the purchase, exchange or lease of properties near Pitts and Morton Road, according to the agenda. No announcements or discussion took place following council's return to the open meeting.

Public hearings on zoning issues dominated the middle portion of the meeting.

- A special use permit was granted to the Apostolic Church LAWANA of Katy, allowing them to operate at 5038 East Fifth Street in an area which is zoned C-1 commercial. Two area residents spoke against the measure, citing insufficient parking and safety concerns that included a lack of crosswalk, no signal light and heavy traffic along Fifth Street. The church has 90 days to comply with the permitting process, which includes obtaining an occupancy permit.

- A special use permit was denied to On Time Halo Angel Kidz Residen-

tial Treatment Facility, which was seeking approval to operate a residential treatment facility for emotionally disturbed children. The property at 6002 Franz Court is located in a historic residential area; nine public speakers weighed in on the issue. Six of those speakers including former city councilmember Ray Booth, who lives in the area, opposed the zoning change with most expressing fears about the home's potential threats to safety in the neighborhood. Increased traffic and parking were also mentioned as objections to the facility.

In other action, council:

- Moved forward with the 10th Street Bridge replacement project, awarding a \$2,885,803.00 bid to John Reed and Company LLC of Houston and approving a \$99,250.00 proposal for ARKK Engineers LLC to manage the project. The current bridge will be demolished and during the reconstruction process, traffic will be re-routed along clearly marked detours. The project is slated to begin in July 2024 and to be completed in February 2025, said David Kaspar of ARKK.

- Approved the use of \$52,801 in METRO funds for the acquisition of additional right-of-way for the Katy Hockley Road widening project.

- Approved the use of \$96,369 in METRO funds for the acquisition of additional right-of-way for the Katy Hockley Cut-Off Road reconstruction project.

The mayor and council members also presented a variety of special proclamations:

- Recognizing April 24, 2024, as Administrative Professionals Day, read by Mayor Thiele
- Recognizing May 2024 as National Mental Health Awareness Month, read by Councilmember Janet Corte
- Recognizing May 4, 2024, as International Firefighters Day, read by Councilmember Dan Smith
- Recognizing May 5-11, 2024, as Municipal Clerks Week, read by Councilmember Gina Hicks
- Recognizing May 5-11, 2024, as Public Service Recognition Week, read by Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris
- Recognizing May 6-10, 2024, as Teacher Appreciation Week, read by Councilmember Rory Robertson

The next meeting of city council is May 13th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

VOTING

from page XX

the early voting period, voters can visit any of the locations.

Residents can learn more about the candidates through the Katy ISD 2024 Board Election Voters Guide at www.katyisd.org/Page/10064. Voters can find more information about the election on the Katy ISD General Election website www.katyisd.org/Page/4979.

COALITION

from page A1

Transportation, Rail and Transportation Planning and Programming divisions. According to her LinkedIn profile, Mays has over 20 years of experience in freight transportation planning; International trade, cross-border transportation, corridor planning, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) planning; systems manage-

ment and operations; and transit planning.

The luncheon will be held at the Houston Marriott Westchase at 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, 77042, starting at 11:45 a.m. Tickets start at \$75.00. To register or for more information, please contact the organization at debbie@36acoalition.org.

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Local American Legion launches 'Headstones for Heroes'

VETERANS IN MAGNOLIA CEMETERY WITHOUT A HEADSTONE

Cormier provided the following list of veterans in Magnolia Cemetery that are without a headstone.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Luther Creath | C. D. Sible |
| Nichols | E. D. Wiener |
| F. O. Smith | Sible |
| C. F. Pasierwtcz | Barney E. Nichols |
| James H. Richardson, Jr. | Philip Ray Woods |
| Sara Brand | Kim Mansell |
| A. Lee Richardson | Dupree |
| Falkner | Walter R. Ruley |
| D. D. Southward | Red |
| P.L. Vaughn | James Patrick |
| Verrett | Francis |
| McDonald | Red |
| Forman | Harvey |
| Richard John | William Reilly |
| Gazdig | R. S. Smith |
| | Josh Osborn |

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

A local veterans' organization wants to ensure that veterans buried in a Katy cemetery have headstones.

Each year since 2018, the American Legion Post 164 of Katy has held the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery.

"Since that first year we have discovered over two dozen veterans without a headstone to place their wreath upon," said Ernie Cormier, past commander of the post. "This year Legion Post 164, with support from the Katy Elks Lodge 2628 and the U S Sea Cadet of the Houston Chapter, has started a new program called 'Headstones For Heroes.'"

"At this time, we are trying to reach out and find the families and/or friends so to help us gather information about them so that we may get their headstone through the Veterans Administration. If we cannot acquire one from the VA, we are raising funds

"Our goal is to make sure every veteran buried at Magnolia Cemetery has their headstone so that every December, our holiest season, they will have a headstone for someone to place a holiday wreath and honor them."

—**ERNIE CORMIER**, Past commander of Legion Post 264

to provide one," Cormier said.

He added that if a DD-214 number or a Social Security number can be provided to the VA, the VA will furnish a headstone for veterans honorably discharged. Military discharge papers are officially known as DD Form 214 and all veterans receive this Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

once they are out of the military. The DD214 is proof of military service.

"We are checking with Schmidt Funeral home for first names and other information they might have," said Cormier.

Cormier also spoke on the matter during the public comments portion of the March 25 meeting of the Katy city council as part of his efforts to spread the word about the project.

"Our goal is to make sure every veteran buried at Magnolia Cemetery has their headstone so that every December, our holiest season, they will have a headstone for someone to place a holiday wreath and honor them," he added.

If you know or have any information, please contact Ernie Cormier, Past Commander at 713-202-5933 or email ernie2@consolidated.net.

"Please help us to do show the respect and dignity our veterans so justly deserve," Cormier said.

AMAZING PLACE DEDICATION



COURTESY OF AMAZING PLACE

On April 17, Amazing Place dedicated its second campus, Amazing Place West, in Katy at 621 Circle deMatel. The facility will greatly expand its services in the greater Houston area to provide an evidence-based Day Program for those diagnosed with mild to moderate dementia, as well as sharing dementia expertise, education, and resources for family members and for those interested in brain health. Amazing Place leadership, volunteers and faith care partners present for the dedication included Tracey Brown, Suzanne Weatherall, Ramsey Howell, Steve Cumley, Vicki Keiser, Hal Sharp, Mike Pelton, Tres Cochran, Greg Funderburk and Alex Large. Three sacred symbols- a handmade gold-leaf dove, cross and heart- were laid into the foundation and blessed by Alex Large of Church of the Holy Apostles. The new campus, slated to open in Spring 2025, will include an 18,933 square foot facility with an art studio, library, courtyard, family conference and activity rooms, a non-denominational chapel and covered community lawn with a pavilion. For more information, go to amazingplacehouston.org.

Fort Bend Fair hosts May 18th fishing tournament

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Get fishing at the Fort Bend County Fair Association's Boots & Buckles on the Bay fishing tournament.

On Saturday, May 18th, fishing teams will compete for over \$8,000 in cash and prizes, including trophy belt buckles, in Matagorda. The fishing tournament is one of several events held throughout the year to help

bring awareness to the Fort Bend County Fair and raise scholarship funds.

This year's tournament will again consist of team and junior angler entries. Team Stringers, Individual Fish, and Side Pots will be optional entries. The entry fee for a maximum 4-member team is \$300.

The weigh-in station will open at 2 p.m. and close at 4 p.m. on tournament day. At 5 p.m., an

awards ceremony will take place at Matagorda Harbor Pavilion.

Men, women, and children will fish early on Saturday at 6 a.m. A captain's meeting will be held on Friday, May 17th, at the Matagorda Bait and Tackle Shop from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Entry forms and tournament rules for the fishing tournament are available at FortBendCountyFair.com or call the Fair Office at 281-342-6171.

Local gelato chef places second in international competition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On April 12th, the Gelato Festival World Masters announced the "Texas Top 3" gelato and ice cream artisans who will represent the USA at the 2024 North American semifinals of the gelato competition.

Gelato Festival World Masters, the main category tournament with partners Carpigiani and Sigep - Italian Exhibition Group, is on its new journey around the globe searching for the world's best gelato. The second American stop of 2024 was held in Houston on April 11 where 12 gelato and ice cream chefs took part in the sweetest competition of the year hosted at Coolers Inc.'s, Carpigiani distributor.

The winning chefs and the best gelato and ice cream artisans in Texas for 2024 are:

First place

Francia Magsaysay of Francy's Artisanal Ice Cream in Bergenfield (NJ) with the flavor "Passion fruit, Yuzu and White Chocolate"

Description: Passion fruit and yuzu gelato swirled with white chocolate gelato variegated with passion fruit reduction

Second place

Maria Florencia Mansile of La Argentina in Katy (TX) with the flavor "The Queen of Pies" Description: Lemon curd gelato with orange zest, variegated with tropical fruit Italian merengue and crumbs with olive oil

Third place

Dora Posada of Casa Morgana Gelatos in San Antonio (TX) with the flavor "Morgana's Goat Spell"

Description: Goat cheese gelato infused with orange zest topped with figs, toasted pecan & honey

The selected gelato artisans will go on to the North America Semifinals of Gelato Festival World Masters scheduled for 2024. Flavor, structure, creativity and presentation are the four parameters used for the evaluation, highlighting the



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Maria Florencia Mansile of La Argentina Gelato & Coffee, 3750 S Mason Rd #200 in Katy, won second place with the flavor "The Queen of Pies" at the Gelato Festival World Masters competition held in Houston in early April.

choice of ingredients, the craftsmanship in elaborating the recipe and the visual impact of the gelato (see below the full list of participants).

The jury was composed of:

- Lucienne Duforets, Gelato Chef and owner of Bellefontaine Ice Creamery

- Diego Comparin, Gelato Festival World Masters 2021 World Finalist and 18th best gelato chef in the world according to the Gelato Festival World Ranking

- Alessandra Salvatori, Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas

- Mike Riccetti, author and food writer

Gelato Festival debuted in Florence in 2010, inspired by the creation of the first gelato recipe by the versatile architect Bernardo Buontalenti in 1559. Since then, the event has expanded its borders, first to the rest of Italy, then to Europe and - starting in 2017 - the United States, with a total of 80 Festivals held, before embracing the entire planet with the world championship of Gelato Festival World Masters 2021, which concluded in December 2021 - with the victory of Adam Fazekas from Budapest - and saw a record of 3,500 gelato artisans judged by international juries.

Fort Bend County accepting applications for 2024 Youth Leadership Program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County is accepting applications for its highly anticipated 2024

Youth Leadership Program, aimed at fostering the next generation of leaders within our community. This initiative highlights Fort Bend

County Judge KP George's commitment to nurturing the talents and potential of our youth while providing them with the tools and

skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world, said a press release from the judge's office.

The Youth Leadership Program is designed to engage high school students in a comprehensive curriculum focused on leadership development, community service, and civic engagement. Through a series of workshops and hands-on activities, participants will have the opportunity to enhance their leadership abilities, cultivate critical thinking skills, and explore various facets of public

service.

"This program is an investment in the future of Fort Bend County," said Fort Bend County Judge KP George. "By empowering our youth to become effective leaders and active contributors to their communities, we are laying the foundation for a brighter and more inclusive future."

The 2024 Youth Leadership Program will feature guest speakers, interactive sessions, and collaborative projects that encourage participants to address real-world

challenges facing the county.

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to connect with local leaders, mentors, and organizations dedicated to youth empowerment and community development.

Applications for the 2024 Youth Leadership Program are now open to high school students residing in Fort Bend County. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their application by May 30, 2024, to <https://forms.gle/A1cdFz8JnYwt-5V06>

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

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TRIBUTES

Mary Louise Tapella passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 30, 2024 in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 101.

Mary Louise was born on July 14, 1922, in San Francisco, California, to George Albert Hood and Anna Catherine Metzler Hood and spent her childhood in Denver, Colorado. A lifelong caregiver, she chose a career in nursing and graduated from St. Anthony Hospital Nursing School in 1943. Mary Louise started her career as a registered nurse, before the widespread use of antibiotics, at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco; she often quipped that they treated Pneumonia with a mustard paste. She later returned to Denver and St. Anthony's where a friend introduced her to her future husband, Henry (Hank) Tapella. Hank took the train from St. Louis, Missouri, to Denver to meet her and accompany her to an alumni dance. After countless letters and a brief engagement, they were married on March 31, 1951, in Denver. Hank and Mary Louise moved



MARY LOUISE TAPELLA
1922-2024

to St. Louis, and they built a life together, giving birth to their daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Beth), in 1953. Mary Louise welcomed countless family and friends into her home, taking care of sick relatives and often feeding Bishops and Priests. For Mary Louise, caring for others didn't stop when her shift ended.

Following the sudden death of Hank in 1982, Mary Louise moved to Midland, Michigan, to

be closer to her daughter and her family. After eight years in Midland, she followed her daughter and her four grandchildren to Katy, Texas, in 1993. She became an active member of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church where she spent over 20 years serving the parish and her community. Epiphany was home for Mary Louise. She was involved in nearly every ministry at Epiphany and was well known for her daily hugs to the office staff. When she wasn't volunteering, she was a regular at her grandchildren's school and extracurricular events, and as her grandchildren started families of their own, she found great joy in playing with her nine great grandchildren, to whom she was affectionately known as "Meese."

She leaves behind her devoted daughter, Beth Williams (Bruce) of Georgetown, Texas; grandchildren, Cristina Sevdjian (Greg) and Michael Petrini (Kristen) of Dallas, Texas, and Christopher Petrini (Allison) and Jonathan Petrini (Mikhaila) of Austin, Tex-

as; siblings, Robin Hood (Virginia) and Nancy McGovern (Bob); great grandchildren, Thomas, Dean, Sam, Crew, Mia, Margot, William, Luca, and Nina; and numerous other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Henry (Hank) Tapella; parents, George Albert Hood and Anna Catherine Metzler Hood; and siblings, George Hood and Marjorie Gibson.

A Funeral Mass and reception to follow will be held on Saturday, May 4th at 11 a.m. at the St. Austin Catholic Church in Austin, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in her memory to: National Multiple Sclerosis Society, P.O. Box 91891, Washington, D.C. 20090, www.nationalmssociety.org or to Covenant House Texas, 1111 Lovett Blvd, Houston, TX 77006, www.covenanthousetx.org.

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NANCY AQUILA "MCGUIRE" MITCHELL 1943 - 2024

Nancy passed away on February 27, 2024, at home in Katy, TX. Born in Houston, TX, on November 14, 1943, she lived her last 40 years in Katy, TX. She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Edna McGuire of West Columbia, TX, and her four brothers William "Bill", John Patrick "Pat", Clifford, and Dave Robert McGuire. She is survived by her children,

Rhonda Ernestes, Teresa Gonzales, Kelly Ernestes, and John Cole; son-in-laws, Anthony "Tony" Gonzales, and Anthony "Tony" Ernestes; her grandchildren, Shawna, Nicole "Nikki", and Jeffery "Jeff" Richmond, Andrea Clark Ross, Breanna Gonzales, and Tristan Ernestes; also, several great and great, great grandchildren, as well as many other loving family members and friends. She is also survived by her most loved and loyal companion, Precious, (her chihuahua).

Nancy was full of life. She loved music and dancing and she made sure to teach all her girls how to jitterbug when they were young. Her favorite times were when we'd have a large family gathering and she could enjoy watching everyone have a great time.

Our mom will be missed by so many but will remain in our hearts forever.

A small graveside service will be officiated by Pastor Dan at 2 p.m. on Saturday April 27th in West Columbia, TX at the Old West Columbia Cemetery.

National Day of Prayer to be observed on May 2

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Join the Fulshear and Simonton communities as they observe National Day of Prayer at noon on Thursday, May 2. The ceremonies will take place at the flag pole at the Fulshear-Simonton Central Station, 33301 FM 1093 in Fulshear.

According to the website nationaldayofprayer.org, this is the 73rd annual National Day of Prayer. An initiative to create a national day of prayer was begun in 1952 by Conrad Hilton of Hilton Hotels and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas. It was eventually signed into public law by President Bill Clinton on May 5, 1988.

The theme for this year's observance is "Lift Up the Word - Light Up the World."



The Katy Times

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Katy ISD robotics teams display ingenuity, spirit at state

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The atmosphere was buzzing at the UIL State Robotics Competition held over the weekend of April 6-7, where 86 teams from across the state converged to showcase their ingenuity, technical ability, and teamwork. The competition, consisting of two FIRST Robotics Tournaments – the Apollo Tournament and the Mercury Tournament -- witnessed extraordinary displays of innovation from all who participated.

Cinco Ranch High School emerged triumphant in the Apollo Tournament, demonstrating exceptional engineering and teamwork throughout the competition, said Katy ISD in a press release. Their performance led them to the final State Championship round, where they faced off against the winner of the Mercury Tournament. The competition was fierce, and their runner-up finish cemented their place as one of the top robotics teams in the state.

Katy ISD had seven of its high schools vying for top honors at the competition. Among them, Cinco Ranch High School, Jordan High School, Tompkins High School, and Seven Lakes High School



Cinco Ranch High School – Apollo Division Champions

earned their place in the upcoming World Championship. These talented teams will now represent their schools and the Katy community on a global stage at the George R. Brown Convention Center from April 17 to April 20.

Additionally, Morton Ranch High School secured the Team Spirit Award for the second consecutive year, demonstrating

their commitment to camaraderie, sportsmanship, and positivity within the robotics community.

"This year's UIL State Robotics Competition was a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of our robotics teams," said Steve Adams, facility coordinator at Katy ISD's Robert R. Shaw Center for STEAM. "We witnessed exceptional teamwork, innovation,



Morton Ranch High School – Spirit Award

and perseverance from all participating teams, making it a truly unforgettable event."

The success of the UIL State Robotics Competition highlights the importance of STEM education and robotics programs in shaping the future leaders of technology and innovation, said a district spokesperson. It serves as a platform for students to apply their knowledge, skills, and creativity in

real-world challenges, preparing them for success in the rapidly evolving fields of science and technology.

As anticipation builds for the upcoming World Championship, the teams from Katy ISD are gearing up to showcase their talents on a global stage, aiming to make their mark while representing their school and community, said the district in the press release.

IMG Academy, Nord Anglia Education launch sports education collaboration with BIS-Houston

Global sports and well-being collaboration to give student-athletes access to IMG Academy's holistic sports and wellbeing curriculum

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

IMG Academy, the global leader in sports education, and Nord Anglia Education, the world's leading international schools organization, announced April 16th that they are launching the first phase of a global sports and well-being collaboration. Beginning this summer, student-athletes from the Houston area will have the opportunity to participate in IMG Academy summer sports camps previously only held on IMG Academy's campus in Bradenton, Fla.

The weeklong camp is for ages 12-18 and will take place at British International School Houston, located at 2203 N. Westgreen Drive in Katy, from July 29 to August 2. The sport options are basketball and soccer and will be delivered using IMG Academy's leading sports and mental performance curriculum.

The sport elements of the camps include technical training, advanced techniques, game situations and competitions, while the well-being element of the camps include training areas such as confidence, resilience, commitment, working under pressure, and focus. The summer camps are also open to non-Nord Anglia student-athletes throughout the region. To learn more about the camps, visit: <https://www.imgacademy.com/camp-houston>.

The summer camps are just one part of the collaboration between IMG Academy and Nord Anglia Education, which provides opportunities for student-athletes globally to access IMG Academy's world-renowned sports and wellbeing programs. The two

organizations are also collaborating on an enhanced sports program for Nord Anglia's more than 80,000 students with a focus on wellbeing, resilience, confidence, teamwork, and leadership.

Representing the first sports and well-being collaboration of its kind for international schools, IMG Academy became Nord Anglia's newest collaboration for students and teachers in April 2023, joining alongside world-leading institutions MIT, The Juilliard School, and UNICEF, which all provide life-changing experiences for students.

As part of the collaboration, IMG Academy has also been actively piloting its IMG Academy+ mental performance and nutrition coaching product at Nord Anglia schools around the world. Nord Anglia is in turn working with IMG Academy to enhance and diversify IMG Academy's academic curriculum, develop new staff pathways, and integrate best practice into teaching and learning for student-athletes.

IMG Academy's holistic approach to education supports the complete student-athlete development journey through its sports-focused boarding school, sports camps, online coaching, and online college recruiting services, catering to over 100,000 student-athletes. Last year alone, IMG Academy's on-campus and online products, NCSA College Recruiting and IMG Academy+, facilitated the placement of more than 30,000 student-athletes onto college sports rosters in the United States.

For more information on IMG Academy/Nord Anglia sports camps please visit: <https://www.imgacademy.com/camp-houston>.

About Nord Anglia Education

As the world's leading international schools organization, with more than 80 schools in 3 countries around the world, Nord Anglia's strong academic foundations combine world-class teaching and curricula with cutting-edge technology and facilities.

Morton Ranch FBLA seeks funds to send students to national competition

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Teachers at Morton Ranch High School are reaching out to the community to help raise funds to send four students to the national competition of the Future Business Leaders of America in Orlando, Florida, June 28th - July 2nd.

"On April 12, these four amazing FBLA students placed in the top 4 at FBLA State and qualified to go to FBLA Nationals," said the group's advisor, Karla Foit, in an April post on Facebook. "There are over 7000 students at FBLA State from all over the state of Texas competing there and competition is fierce!! Only the top four of each of the 77 competition categories will advance to Nationals."

The competitions the students placed in are as follows:

- Journalism, placing second (test-based competition)
- Intro to Event Planning, collaborative team, placing third (test and presentation competition)
- Future Business Leader, placing fourth (test, project and presentation - the student had to first create a resume and cover letter, then place high on a test to get to the finals, where they then have an interview with a judge)

"Unfortunately, Katy ISD does not help pay for Nationals for the students or teacher advisors, so we have to fundraise for the entire trip," said Foit in the Facebook post.

Individuals interested in helping fund the trip may contribute to a gofundme account at [MRHSFLBA24.GROUPFUND.US](https://www.gofundme.com/c/MRHSFLBA24).

In 2022-2023 school year, Morton Ranch hired three new business teachers, including Foit, Jessica McAndrews and Christopher Fausto, and Foit was asked to take over Future Business

Leaders of America, FBLA, in addition to teaching business. There were just five FBLA student members. Foit and McAndrews made it their mission to not only grow FBLA but to grow the business department overall. They grew from five FBLA members, to 56 FBLA members in the 2022-2023 school year. They had 29 students competing at FBLA state, up from just two FBLA students the year before. Three students placed in the top four, qualifying for the 2023 FBLA National competition in Atlanta, Georgia. This marked the first time in over 10 years that any student from Morton Ranch had qualified to go to FBLA Nationals. Only two were able to attend. To save on costs, Foit paired up with the FBLA advisor from Paetow and the duo drove their three students to the competition in Atlanta.

In 2023-2024, Foit, McAndrews and Fausto had so many kids excited about business that Morton Ranch had to hire a fourth teacher to join the business department. They also were able to increase the number of FBLA student members from 56 to 101. This year, there were 46 students competing at FBLA state and four students placed in the top four to qualify for the 2024 national competition in Orlando, Florida, along with two alternates that placed fifth. At this time, to save costs to get these kids to Nationals, Foit and McAndrews will be driving them there.

"We are so proud of these kids and excited to see the business program at Morton Ranch continuing to grow," said Foit in an email to the KatyTimes. "In 2024-2025, Morton Ranch will have a fifth business teacher due to so many students signing up and getting excited about taking business classes. We hope to continue to grow the FBLA program and have more kids going to Nationals in 2025 to Anaheim, California."

"We are so proud of these kids and excited to see the business program at Morton Ranch continuing to grow. In 2024-2025, Morton Ranch will have a fifth business teacher due to so many students signing up and getting excited about taking business classes."

—KARLA FOLT, Morton Ranch High School FBLA advisor



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Katy ISD scheduled to hold transportation job fair May 18th

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Ready to drive change? Katy ISD is seeking dedicated individuals to join its transportation teams, according to an April 8th Facebook post from the district.

A transportation job fair will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on May 18th at the Cyndy Self South Transportation Center at 3151

Falcon Landing Blvd. in Katy.

The school district is hiring bus driver trainees, part-time bus drivers and attendants. Bus driver starting pay is \$19.35 per hour and attendants start at \$13.33 per hour.

View job listings and apply online at bit.ly/3Uwre1K. For more information or to apply, go to katyisd.org/jobs.

Falcon FBLA students qualify for nationals

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students from Royal High School competed and placed in the top five at the district competition in Galveston in early April, allowing them to compete at the State

level, Royal ISD announced in an April 16th press release.

For the first time in Royal High School history a team from the school accomplished a ranking of top ten in the state in each of their respective events. Timiyah Johnson placed fifth as the only freshman in

her event.

Team members included:
 • Javier Ramos- Spreadsheet Applications
 • Tamiyah Johnson- Insurance and Risk Management
 • Edwar Espinoza- Helpdesk
 • Layla Anderson- Word Processing

• Aiden Magana- Computer Applications
 • Joseph Turner- Business Communications Team

"[The team members'] hard work and patience have qualified them to compete at Nationals in Orlando, Florida," said the release from the district.



Janet Theis of Katy ISD's Education Foundation (left) accepts a symbolic check from representatives of American Furniture Warehouse.

COURTESY OF KATY ISD

American Furniture Warehouse funds Katy ISD teacher grants

Annual School Rewards Program supports Katy ISD Education Foundation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

American Furniture Warehouse recently signaled its support of Katy ISD teachers by contributing significantly to the Katy ISD Education Foundation's Inspiring Imagination teacher grant program. This year's donation of \$28,120 brings AFW's three-year total contribution to more than \$100,000, making the furniture company a leading Katy ISD Education Foundation supporter.

"Our vision for The Katy ISD Education Foundation has always been to unite our community in making targeted investments in Katy ISD schools, the primary focus of which

is our teacher grant program. AFW's donation will positively impact the number of grants we award to Katy ISD teachers this spring and will benefit Katy ISD students for generations. We applaud AFW's commitment to the Katy community and are grateful for their partnership with us," said Matt Schomburg, Katy ISD Education Foundation board president.

The Katy ISD Education Foundation has awarded over \$3.5 million in grants to Katy ISD teachers over the past 12 years, impacting students in classrooms all around the district. AFW's School Rewards Program donates a percentage of each purchase to the Education Foundation whenever the Foundation is mentioned by the customer. Rewards accumulate throughout the year with the total donation made each fall.

"Supporting schools and education is one of the best ways to help aid in positive changes in our communities," said Jake Jabs, Founder and CEO of

American Furniture Warehouse. "We are appreciative to be partnered with Katy ISD."

About American Furniture Warehouse: American Furniture Warehouse has expanded into a sixteen-store operation that includes 10 stores in Colorado, three stores in Arizona, and three stores in Texas Today, American Furniture Warehouse is one of the top retail furniture companies in the U.S. and one of the largest privately held businesses in Colorado.

About the Katy ISD Education Foundation: The Katy ISD Education Foundation unites people and companies with big hearts and a big belief in Katy ISD teachers and students to provide unprecedented opportunities for both. To join in helping extraordinary teachers create extraordinary classroom experiences visit katyisdeducationfoundation.org. The Katy ISD Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit for which contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Help feed hungry KISD students over the summer through 'Food for Families'

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD is launching the annual "School's Out" Food for Families campaign, and the district's Partners in Education Department is seeking assistance for Katy ISD students and families who are in need. Food for Families is a community-based initiative raising monetary donations to purchase grocery gift cards for Katy ISD students and their families in need over the summer over the summer break.

Monetary donations of any amount are welcomed and may be made online at www.pledgecents.com/cause/pvcdhz/kisd-food-for-families-spring-2024. Grocery gift cards will be distributed to students before summer break.

To learn more about this program, visit the Partners in Education website katyisd.org/Domain/3828.

Katy ISD opens registration for Fine Arts summer music camps

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Registrations are filling up fast for Katy ISD's summer music camps. Camps will take place as follows:

- Elementary Music: May 28-31, for rising fourth and fifth grade students, located at WoodCreek Junior High School, 1801 Woodcreek Bend Lane in Katy
- Jazz: May 28-31, for rising 7th through 12 graders, located at Taylor High School, 20700 Kingsland in Katy
- Junior High Choir: June 3-6 for rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders, located at Jordan High School, 27500 Fulshear Bend Drive, Fulshear
- Junior High Orchestra with two sessions (both for rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders): June 3-6 at Paetow High School, 23111 Stockdick School Rd. in Katy and June 10-13 at Jordan High School, 27500 Fulshear Bend Drive, Fulshear
- Junior High Band with two sessions (both for rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders): June 3-7 at Tompkins High School and June 10-14 at Tompkins High School, 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd., Katy

Register for the camps at katyisd.revtrak.net/summer-camps/fine-arts-camp/

Lewis takes helm of KISD community partnership programs as Theis retires

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Karen Lewis, a 16-year veteran of Katy ISD, will be stepping into the role of Executive Director of Community Partnerships, announced Superintendent Ken Gregorski in an April 15th letter to the district's Partner in Education volunteers.

"Karen brings with her a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Katy ISD schools and students, cultivated over her 16-year tenure with Katy ISD," said Gregorski in the statement. "Starting her early career as a public school teacher, Karen's passion is rooted in enhancing student outcomes through family and community engagement. Through her diverse experiences, including her leadership within our district's Professional Learning Department where she developed professional learning sessions and conferences and delivered essential trainings to teachers, principals, staff and families, Karen has consistently demonstrated a dedication to our district's success."

Most recently, Lewis served as the Director of Internal & Community Relations within the district's School & Community Engagement Division,



Janet Theis, shown with Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski at a 2021 Partners in Education event held at the Community Room of Legacy Stadium, is retiring as head of the district's partnership program after serving the district for more than 20 years.

SUSAN ROVEGNO

coordinating district level events, supporting campus principals through branding, dedications, and mission building, facilitating the district's student leadership group, and overseeing the Community Education program.

Lewis replaces Janet Theis, who has led the Partners in Education's robust community engagement programs, while simultaneously serving as the

district administrative liaison to the Education Foundation. "[Theis] has served in this role with distinction and dedication for over two decades," said Gregorski. "Her work with Katy ISD has made the district home to over 36,000 registered volunteers — representing the largest school district volunteer program in the state. Janet's unwavering commitment to fostering strong bonds between our schools, parents, and local businesses has significantly advanced our mission of providing unparalleled educational opportunities for all Katy ISD students."

While Theis is retiring from her role within the Partners in Education program, she has chosen to continue to support the district's partnership program. Effective June 1st she will assume the role of Development Director for the Katy ISD Education Foundation.

"In partnership with a talented Board of Directors, Janet has played a pivotal role in shaping the Foundation over its past eleven years of existence," said Gregorski. "We are truly grateful for Janet's tireless efforts on behalf of our school community and wish her all the best as she continues to shine a light on Katy ISD students and teachers."

LOCAL AUTHOR BOB DOLL COACHES ON CREATIVITY

First published in 2021, *Shut Up and Draw: A Journey to Creativity* is a book about how anyone can be creative in whatever they're doing. You don't have to be an artist. The book tells a story about how drawing is just one way to explore one's own creative endeavors with information about:

- How upbringing can influence your creativity
- How challenging long held traditions can be beneficial to your creativity
- How looking at things differently can reveal hidden treasures
- The creativeness of journaling
- How you're not locked into a mindset
- and more

The book is loaded with the author's own humorous illustrations to enhance your reading experience. Bob represents himself as an artist/writer who emphasizes creativity is for everyone regardless of your stage in life.

Available on Amazon: *Shut Up and Draw: A Journey to Creativity*

For more information, contact Bob at bob@bobdoll.com



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Congratulations to our Katy ISD Teacher of the Year Winners!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR OUR STUDENTS.

2023-2024 Campus Teacher of the Year Elementary & Secondary Winners



Jaymee Herrington
Prekindergarten
Cimarron Elementary School
District-Wide Teacher of the Year



Sara Burke
CTE (Floral)
Taylor High School
District-Wide Teacher of the Year



Makenzie Andarsio
3rd Grade
Holland Elementary School
District-Wide Rookie Teacher of the Year



Jessica Mayhew
CTE (Welding)
Morton Ranch High School
District-Wide Rookie Teacher of the Year



Mindy Smith
Adams Junior High



Cynthia Wilson
Alexander Elementary



Carla Gomez
Bear Creek Elementary



Karena Washington
Beck Junior High



Christopher Gaddis
Beckendorff Junior High



Bethaney Aguilier
Bethke Elementary



Brett Baca
Bryant Elementary



Sheryl Maklary
Campbell Elementary



Dan Brodt
Cardiff Junior High



Jaymee Herrington
Cimarron Elementary



Amy Vaclavik
Cinco Ranch High School



Daniel Giner
Cinco Ranch Junior High



Christiana Rooney
Crech Elementary



Amanda Alston
Davidson Elementary



Teri Gardner
Exley Elementary



Mary Manceaux
Faldyn Elementary



Jessica Guzman
Fielder Elementary



Crystal Litt
Franz Elementary



Racheal DeBlanc
Golbow Elementary



Cynthia Brodt
Griffin Elementary



Dorian Nero
Haskett Junior High



Megan Carey
Hayes Elementary



Rachelle Meredith
Holland Elementary



Susan Kiely
Hutsell Elementary



Leslie Sadowski
Jenks Elementary



Thomas Wernau
Jordan High School



Carla Grimet
Katy Elementary



Jordan Moore
Katy High School



Jennifer LeBlanc
Katy Junior High



Allison Stamos
Kilpatrick Elementary



Michelle Donaldson
King Elementary



Sarah Dockery
Leonard Elementary



Lynn Hodges
Mayde Creek Elementary



Francesca Antonelli
Mayde Creek High School



Nicole Johnson
Mayde Creek Junior High



Stephanie Abarca
McDonald Junior High



Jasmine Sharifi
McElwain Elementary



Ashley Sholars
McMeans Junior High



Christina Swingle
McRoberts Elementary



Evelyn Becerra
Memorial Parkway Elementary



Emily Smith
Memorial Parkway Junior High



Scott Arnold
Miller Career & Technology Center



Sidney Sobbecki
Morton Ranch Elementary



Oscar Marquez
Morton Ranch High School



Randall Revere
Morton Ranch Junior High



Haley Valenti
Nottingham Country Elementary



Mariene Garwick
Opportunity Awareness Center



Maverick Beissner
Opportunity Awareness Center - BTP



Eric Scholle
Paetow High School



Rose Molter
Pattison Elementary



Ruth Sigala Diaz
Raines Academy



Shalayne Stinson
Randolph Elementary



Janet Manderfeld
Rhoads Elementary



Anna Suarez
Robertson Elementary



Jennifer Huddleston
Rylander Elementary



Carrigan Chambers
Schmalz Elementary



Sara Flora
Seven Lakes High School



Hannah Thompson
Seven Lakes Junior High



Lisa Madrigal
Shafer Elementary



Erica Selecman
Stanley Elementary



Stacy Slater
Stephens Elementary



Kiara Thompson
Stockdick Junior High



Consuelo Gallagher
Sundown Elementary



Sara Burke
Taylor High School



Kristal Parrish
Tays Junior High



Jason Gigliotti
Tompkins High School



Megan Spaulding
West Memorial Elementary



Cassandra Perdon
West Memorial Junior High



Dawn Kress
Williams Elementary



Amie Shorter
Wilson Elementary



Litisha Brown
Winborn Elementary



Ashlynn Gradney
Wolfe Elementary



Chesley Combs
Wolman Elementary



Fady Hanna
WoodCreek Elementary



Klayton Hoefler
WoodCreek Junior High



Sasha Oruaga
Youngblood Elementary

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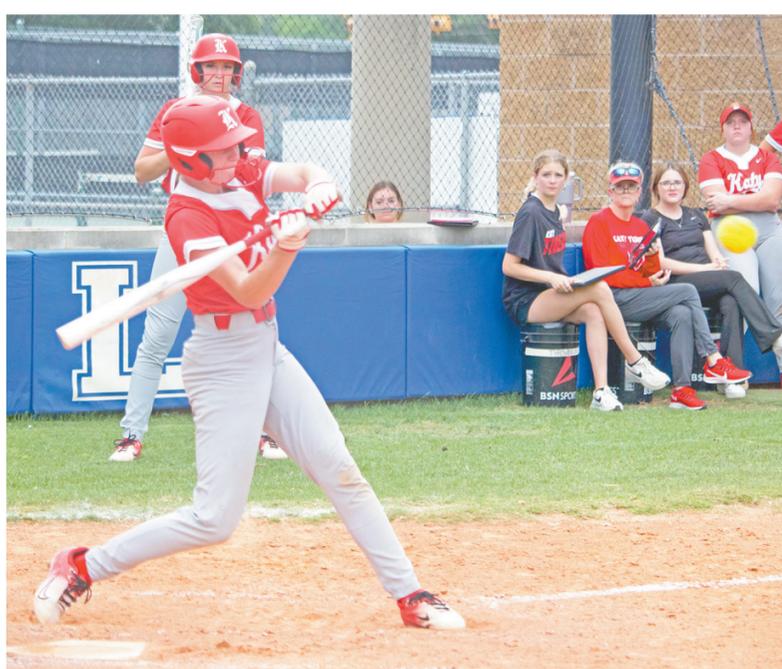
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Cameryn Harrison pitches during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field. Brooke Fechner hits during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Katy clinches undefeated district championship with win over Taylor

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Friday's game meant a little something extra to Katy. The Tigers had already secured a district championship and the first seed out of District 19-6A heading into the playoffs, but there was more to it. Katy still remembered how last year's regular season ended, with a loss to Taylor where the Tigers could never get the bats

going and lost 1-0 to Taylor. Katy was determined to not let that happen again. The Tigers only needed five innings to get their revenge, beating second place Taylor 15-1 in a run rule game where the Tigers got hits early and never slowed down. "We came out here and we wanted it bad," said Katy first baseman Montgomery Henderson. "We talked about it a few times

See **SOFTBALL**, page B3

Katy ISD continues to set the bar for soccer around the state

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD has been the leader in Region III for a few years now. The district has consistently put out some of the most talent in the state and produced teams that have advanced to the region and state tournament, including two state championships for Seven Lakes in the past two years. But it hasn't just been Seven Lakes — the talent has come from the entire district and this year was the biggest proof yet from the school district. Katy ISD sent both the Seven Lakes boys and girls teams to state, but also sent four teams to the regional tournament — the most a school district can send — with all four advancing to the regional final, with four Katy ISD teams facing off for two spots in the state tournament. "Katy ISD soccer is something truly special," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger after the Spartans' regional final win. "We have talented players across the district, some of the best coaches you can find anywhere and a pretty cool environment where the players come in and experience what the game should be about."

See **SOCCER**, page B6



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes defender Eduardo Davalillo (4) celebrates after scoring a goal during the Class 6A boys state soccer semifinal between Seven Lakes and Duncanville on April 12, 2024 in Georgetown. Seven Lakes won 2-0.

Tompkins senior Valeria Rodriguez reaches new heights as part of

Gold Cup Squad



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Valeria Rodriguez has been training for a moment like this since she was three years old. The Tompkins senior has worked since she was a child to get to an international event in figure skating. It took lots of effort, lots of time honing her craft, learning to believe in herself and finding her niche in the sport,

but that hard work paid off for Rodriguez, as she was named to this year's Gold Cup figure skating team that will compete in Bordeaux France on the international stage. "It's something that I've always worked for but I didn't know if I would ever be able to be a part of," Rodriguez said. "You dream of being on an international stage and this is that chance. I'm working every single

day to be ready and it's a whole process. We had a performance where we were critiqued by judges and we're learning what we need to do better and we just want to be the best we can be by the time we get to France." It's the culmination of years that it took for Rodriguez to get to this level. Rodriguez worked up her skill level from the time

From left: Valeria Rodriguez in her Team USA outfit preparing for this year's Gold Cup. Valeria Rodriguez skates during competitions.

PHOTOS COURTESY DANNELYS RODRIGUEZ

See **SKATE**, page B3

SCORES & SCHEDULES

WEEK OF APRIL 26

BASEBALL

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

GOLF

- Monday & Tuesday**
- Class 6A State Tournament

SOFTBALL

- BI-DISTRICT**
- Wednesday**
- Game 1: Taylor vs. Ridge Point, 6 p.m. at Jordan
- Thursday**
- One Game Playoff: Tompkins vs. Travis, 6 p.m. at Jordan
 - Game 1: Cinco Ranch vs. George Ranch, 6:30 p.m.
 - Game 1: Katy at Dulles, 7 p.m.

- Friday**
- Game 2: Taylor vs. Ridge Point, 6:30 p.m., at Jordan
 - Game 2: Katy vs. Dulles, 6 p.m.
 - Game 2: Cinco Ranch at George Ranch, 6:30 p.m.
 - Game 3: Katy vs. Dulles, 8 p.m. (if needed)
- Saturday**
- Game 3: Cinco Ranch vs. George Ranch, 10 a.m. (if needed)
 - Game 3: Taylor vs. Ridge Point, 11 a.m., at Jordan (if needed)

Katy ISD swimmers and divers named all state

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy had a large number of athletes named to the Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association All-State Team, with 37 swimmers overall named to the all-state team.

Following are the Katy ISD swimmers and divers who were named all-state:

Girls

200-free relay

Tompkins, 2nd team
Taylor, honorable mention

200-medley relay

Cinco Ranch, 2nd team
Taylor, honorable mention

400-free relay

Jordan, 2nd team
Tompkins, 2nd team

50-free

Catherine Gray, Tompkins, honorable mention

200-free

Haeli White, Jordan, second team

500-free

Haeli White, Jordan, 2nd team
Hirsten Engwall, Tompkins, honorable mention

100-backstroke

Zoe Park, Cinco Ranch, 2nd team

100-breaststroke

Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch, 2nd team

100-fly

Olivia Bobrowski, Cinco Ranch, honorable mention

200-IM

Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 2nd team
Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch, honorable mention

Diving

Avery Coates, 1st team
Alexandra Angueira-Colombani, Seven Lakes, 2nd team
Maria-Jose Leviaguirre Enriquez, Jordan, 2nd team

Boys

200-free relay

Tompkins, honorable mention
Jordan, honorable mention

200-medley relay

Seven Lakes, 1st team
Tompkins, 2nd team

400-free relay

Seven Lakes, 2nd team
Tompkins, honorable mention

100-free

Joel Nace, Seven lakes, 2nd team

200-free

Joel Nace, Seven lakes, 2nd team
Jason Wang, Tompkins, honorable mention

500-free

Connor Jones, Seven Lakes, 2nd team

100-backstroke

Connor Jones, Seven Lakes, 1st team
Logan Solomon, Tompkins, honorable mention

100-breaststroke

Dillon Diersche, Seven Lakes, 1st team
Derek Wintergrass, Katy, 1st team

100-fly

Joel Nace, Seven lakes, 1st team
Jonas Dark, Cinco Ranch, honorable mention

200-IM

Jonas Dark, Cinco Ranch, 1st team
Carter Gray, Tompkins, 2nd team

Diving

Tristan Rodriguez, Tompkins, 1st team



TYLER TYRE

Taylor celebrates after Zach Larsen scored during a game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Katy, Taylor win, forcing three-way tie for first in district

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy and Taylor both won on Friday to move into a tie for first place in district with Cinco Ranch, while Tompkins outlasted Jordan to stay in fourth place and Morton Ranch earned its second district win of the season.

Udland leads Katy past Seven Lakes

Connor Udland led Katy to an important win on Friday, as the Tigers beat Seven Lakes 3-1 behind a strong performance on the mound from the junior, improving to 18-10 on the season and 11-3 in district play to go into a tie for first in district. Udland pitched six of seven innings and allowed just one hit and one run while striking out eight and walking three.

Katy got on the board first in the game, scoring in the top of the second when Ashten Ballew hit a single that drove in a run, the Tigers added a second when Aiden Barrientes grounded into a fielders choice that brought home a run in the fifth inning and a third run came across for the Tigers in the sixth off an error. Seven Lakes got one run back in the bottom of the sixth on a balk by Udland, but Katy held on the rest of the way as Arvey Huerta pitched a clean seventh, striking out two and not allowing a run.

Jace Garcia got Seven Lakes' lone hit and run. James Levin pitched 3.2 innings and had three hits while striking out three and walking three, allowing just one run. Seven Lakes dropped to 16-11-2 overall and 8-6 in district, staying in fifth place and two games behind Tompkins for the last playoff spot.

Taylor outlasts Paetow to move into tie for first

A Taylor win moved the Mustangs into that same three-way tie for first with Katy and Cinco, as the Mustangs came out on top in a 13-10 win over Paetow to improve to 21-10-1 overall and 11-3 in district.

Carlos Cardozo led the way for Taylor with three RBIs, while Chase Marshall added two RBIs on three hits and Zach Larsen had two RBIs as well. Christian Jaquay

earned the win on the mound, pitching the final three innings for Taylor and allowing one earned run on three hits while striking out five and walking two.

Paetow got on the board in the second inning when Hector Millan hit a solo home run. Adniel Quiles-Torres added another on a single and Victor Salazar made it 4-0 by driving in two more on a single. Maddox Prentice added to the Panthers' lead in the third with a solo home run and Manny Montalvo drove in two more to make it 7-0 Paetow.

Taylor started to come back in the bottom of the third. Peter Dworaczyk got a run across on a bases loaded walk and Cardozo got another across on a single. A hit by pitch got a third run across for Taylor before David Harris hit a single for a fourth Taylor run. Davidenko Rodriguez drove in another on a single before a passed ball that allowed a run trimmed Paetow's lead to 7-6. Millan increased Paetow's lead to 8-6 in the top of the fourth with an RBI single, but Taylor answered back with a Cardozo RBI single to trim the deficit back to one, but Paetow went back up by two with a run off an error in the top of the fifth. Taylor kept fighting though and got a run off a bases loaded walk before tying it in the bottom of the fifth on a bases loaded hit by pitch, taking the lead on a catcher's interference later in the inning.

Taylor added on in the sixth, as Chase Marshall drove in two on a single before Taylor made it a four-run lead off an error. Paetow got one run back in the top of the seventh on a Prentice single, but weren't able to muster any more and fell by three runs.

Prentice, Montalvo and Millan all had two RBIs for Paetow. Elijah Chisam took the loss for Paetow, allowing five earned runs in 2.2 innings on three hits while striking out one and walking six. Paetow dropped to 17-11 overall and 6-8 in district, staying in sixth place in district and two games back from Seven Lakes for fifth.

Tompkins walks off over Jordan

A big game from Chase Simon got Tompkins past Jordan on Friday, as the Falcons improved to 18-11 overall and 10-4 in district, staying in fourth place and just



TYLER TYRE

Ashten Ballew hits during a game between Katy and Ridge Point at the Katy baseball field.

one game back from the three way tie for first place in district between Katy, Cinco Ranch and Taylor with a 3-2 win over Jordan. Simon was huge for the Falcons on the day, pitching a complete game and allowing just one earned run on nine hits while striking out 10 and walking one, while Nic Piazza provided a walk off RBI.

Jordan struck first in the game, as JD Ortigoza hit an RBI single in the top of the second to get a run across and it stayed that way until the fifth when Hudson Melaerts hit a sacrifice fly to tie it. Jordan went back in front in the top of the seventh, scoring on a passed ball but Tompkins answered back. Ian Palacios tied it in the bottom of the seventh on a single before Piazza ended the game with an RBI single as Tompkins earned the walk off win.

Thomas Eugate had a strong day on the mound for the Warriors, allowing two earned runs on five hits while striking out one and walking one over six innings. Ortigoza had the Warriors' lone RBI. Jordan fell to 11-16 overall and 4-10 in district, staying in seventh in district and two games behind Paetow.

Morton Ranch tops Mayde Creek

Morton Ranch earned its second win of the season on Friday with a 6-2 win over Mayde Creek, improving to 8-20-1 overall and 2-12 in district play with the win. Zane Heiliger had a strong day on the mound, allowing one earned run on three hits over six innings while striking out seven and walking five. Jerry Gutierrez and Kelvin Malone led the way offensively with two RBIs each while Heiliger added one RBI and Kaili Bledsaw added another. Adrian Barrios had two runs scored in the win.



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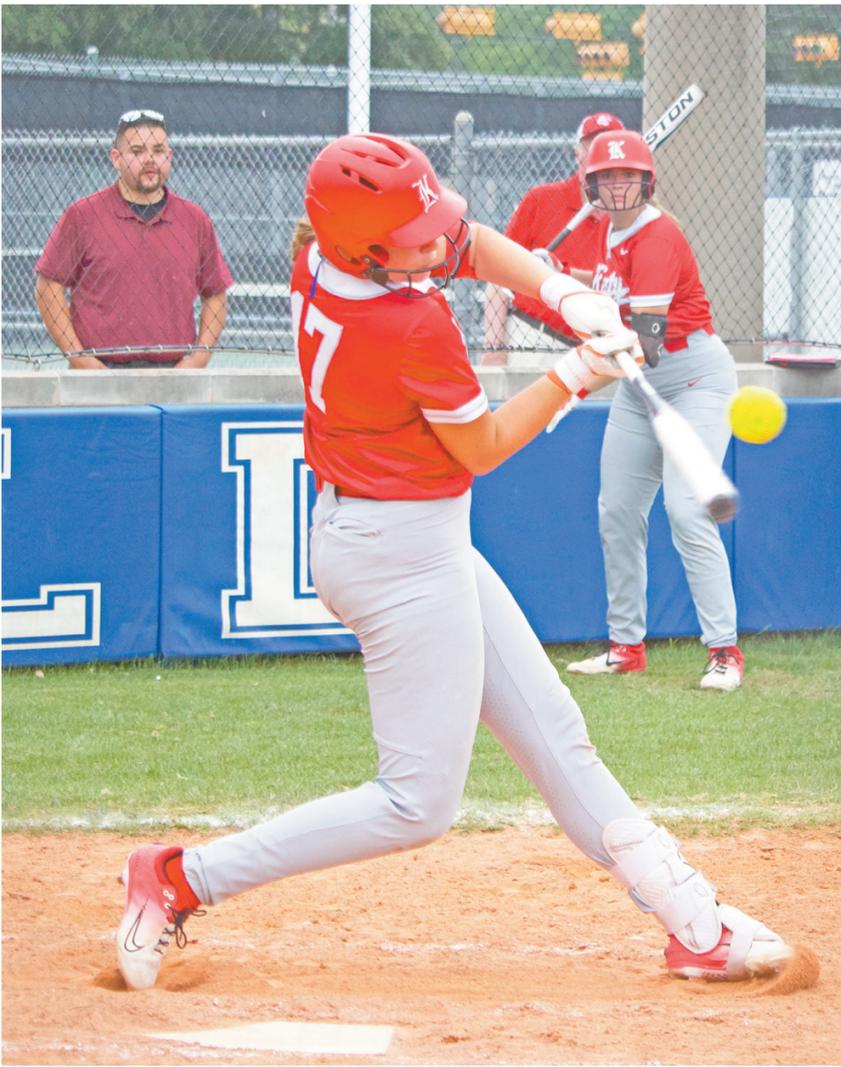
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TYLER TYRE

Montgomery Henderson hits during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field.

SOFTBALL

from page B1

this week and we knew we had to come out ready to play. We've thought about last year's game a lot and we just came out with a mindset of beat Taylor."

Henderson gave the Tigers an early spark with a 2-run home run to center field early in the first inning and Katy's bats heated up even more in the second. Lexie Waugh started the inning with a 3-run home run before Henderson drove in another on a single. A walk brought home another run before Maddie Smith hit a grand slam to make it 11-0 after two innings. Ashtyn Reichardt added a solo home run, Henderson drove in two more and after Taylor got a run back off an error in. The third inning, Paige Schulze hit a solo home run, with Katy not giving up any runs the rest of the game to clinch the win.

"We've talked a lot about making good adjustments from one at bat to the next and I think they executed that pretty well today," said Katy head coach Kalum Haack. "They didn't make the same mistakes at the plate and that's a big key. They've been doing a really good job of that lately and that's a great feeling as a coach."

Henderson led the Tigers at the plate with

five RBIs while Maddie Smith drove in four runs and Lexie Waugh drove in three. Cameryn Harrison had another terrific game on the mound, pitching a complete game and allowing just two hits while striking out eight and walking none in the win. Harrison has been the backbone of the team all season and has only gotten stronger as the year has gone on.

"She's unbelievable and it's not just her pitching," Haack said. "Her work ethic and her leadership set the bar so high for everyone else. When anyone isn't focused the way they should be or she feels we aren't at the level we should be at, she is the first to step up and correct that. When you have a player that steps up like that, it makes a huge difference."

The Tigers will face Liberty in a warmup game before facing off against Dulles in the opening round of the playoffs. It's another step in the direction the Tigers want to go and they're excited and ready.

"We are ready to go out and prove any doubters wrong," Henderson said. "We've learned from last year and grown into a better team. This is our year and we are going to go out and take it and prove it."



Above: Cameryn Harrison throws a ball to first base during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field. Left: Cameryn Harrison pitches during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field.

TYLER TYRE



TYLER TYRE

Ari Hughes hits during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field.

SKATE

from page B1

she was three and was competing by the time she was eight years old. Over time, she fell in love with all of the aspects of skating, from the competition to the flair to the ways to express yourself on the ice — it was something that Rodriguez couldn't get enough of.

As time went on, Rodriguez was drawn to the show side of figure skating and eventually found that is what she loved most, finding her home with the Houston Ice Theatre Skaters, a group that combines figure skating, dance and theatre to create entertainment for the audience.

The Houston Ice Theatre Skaters proved themselves as one of the best in the entire nation and for their efforts qualified for the Gold Cup, which starts on April 24 and goes through the 28th. The group will represent Team USA after being selected after winning two national championships. Rodriguez will be one of 21 skaters on the team and is part of the first team from Houston to reach this level since 2013.

"A lot of people think that the only route in skating is the Olympic route," Rodriguez said. "They think that if you don't go that route, there's nowhere else to go, but there's so many different ways to succeed in skating. I'm so excited to be doing this on such a big stage — it's everything I've wanted and worked for and it makes me happy for picking this route and working so hard."

Rodriguez has never competed at this high of



COURTESY DANIELIS RODRIGUEZ

Valeria Rodriguez skates during competitions.

a level, but she has been working towards it for a long time. She has become an excel senior level skater and capped all elements which earned her a gold medal from team USA. She finished seventh nationally in last year's Excel National Event, where she also took home the Founders Trophy, a trophy given out to the athletes who gave the best presentation of their music, for her performance to "Empire" by Shakira. She has played the lead in the Nutcracker for the Houston Ice Theatre Skaters and she plans to continue skating while she attends the University of Houston starting in the fall.

But for Rodriguez, getting to this stage and competing

on the international level while wearing the Team USA jersey is the highest point she has reached in her career, and she can't wait to get out on the ice.

"I was so shocked when we were chosen and I learned I'd be a part of it," Rodriguez said. "It's something I've always wanted to do. It's amazing to be able to compete internationally and have it be with these girls I have known for years and coaches that have helped me grow so much. I don't have any words — I was just floored. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I just can't wait to get out there. To be competing with them and be a part of Team USA is amazing."

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| 950 PUBLIC NOTICES |
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PUBLIC NOTICE:
Effective May, 31st 2024 Sure Title Agency will cease business operations. It has been a privilege to serve the Katy community. As we navigate this transition, our team is committed to ensuring a smooth closure process. We will work diligently to finalize all pending transactions and address any outstanding matters. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 832-613-9150.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2024 Asphalt Street Improvements Project, until 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves pavement repairs at various locations within the City of Katy. The repairs will involve removal and replacement of existing pavement, joint sealant, striping, minor storm sewer repairs, and all labor, materials and equipment required to perform the work.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2024 Striping Improvements Project, until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves striping improvements to be performed for various roadways throughout the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, 2024

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, June 10, 2024

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 3.04 Acres Of Land In The Charles W. Schrimpf Survey, Abstract 412, In Fort Bend County, From "R-1" Single-Family District To "C-2" General Business District.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:
a. Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the City of Katy.
b. Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
c. Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88667172049>
Meeting ID: 886 6717 2049
Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:
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Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88919943749>
Meeting ID: 889 1994 3749
Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

First Publication: **Thursday, April 18, 2024**
Second Publication: **Thursday, April 25, 2024**

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

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First Publication: **Thursday, April 18, 2024**
Second Publication: **Thursday, April 25, 2024**

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **11:00 a.m. local time, Friday, May 10, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read for "Traffic Signal Improvements Project - Pitts Road at Cane Island Pkwy" for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the construction of a new traffic signal system at the intersection of Pitts Road and Cane Island Pkwy, including all labor, equipment, material, and incidentals required for the project.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL** pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
Join Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 844 8509 0008
Passcode: 036608
Dial In: +13462487799,,84485090008#,,,*036608# US (Houston)

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. 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 one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

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

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478, will be **electronically** received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, 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 **Jubilee Phase 1 Detention & Internal Reserves Landscape** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 477, Harris County, Texas.

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

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 986 7218 7516 and use Passcode: 304173 or
<https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/98672187516?pwd=c2dYV3ljZ01hWCtTlQzSGQ1Wk1NUT09>

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 **Monday, April 22, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time**. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 865 974 1255 and use Passcode: 082085 or
<https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/99035874303?pwd=WHIBT1pOZFhXU9iNYW1xbERsZERiUT09>

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 two percent (2%) 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 one (1) business day 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.

Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast 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 to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using 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 the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2024 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project, until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the rehabilitation of approximately 1,380 L.F. of existing sanitary sewer mains by pipe bursting, manhole rehabilitation, services reconnections as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- a. Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- b. Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- c. Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86904030712>
Meeting ID: 869 0403 0712
Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

First Publication: **Thursday, April 18, 2024**
Second Publication: **Thursday, April 25, 2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Royal ISD is soliciting proposals for Food Service Kitchen Equipment. The complete RFP packet is available on the Royal ISD website at www.royal-isd.net. Contact Hector Herrera at 281-934-2248 or email at hherrera@royal-isd.net.

Sealed proposals will be received until 2 p.m., May 2, 2024 at the Royal ISD Administration Building located at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas. Opening of proposals will follow at 2:10 p.m., May 2, 2024 in the Board Room. The board has the right to accept or reject any or all parts of the proposal, and to waive any technicalities.

Royal ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

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HARRIS-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 5

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDER ADOPTING DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 5 (the "District"), at a meeting held on March 21, 2024, adopted an Order Adopting Drought Contingency Plan (the "Order"). Violation of any of the rules contained in the Order will subject the violator to penalties, including disconnection of water and sewer service, a fine of up to \$5,000.00 per breach and/or day and may include payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation.

A copy of the Order is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

/s/ Richard Jenks
President, Board of Directors

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL PERMIT NO. WQ0014613001

APPLICATION. Maudine Brubaker, 37111 Farm-to-Market Road 1458 Road, Pattison, Texas 77423, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014613001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0127884) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 20,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 2,400 feet west of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 359 and Farm-to-Market Road 1458, in Waller County, Texas 77423. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary of Bessies Creek; thence to Bessies Creek; thence to Brazos River Below Navasota River. TCEQ received this application on February 1, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Waller County Library Brookshire-Pattison, 3815 Sixth Street, Brookshire, in Waller County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-96.003333,29.825833&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

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

Further information may also be obtained from Maudine Brubaker at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Jan Shelton, Janshel Services, at 281-934-3931.

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April 18 Puzzle Answers

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



COURTESY KATY ISD

The Katy High School girls track team clinched a district title at the District 19-6A meet – for the second year in a row.

Tompkins boys win fourth straight district championship, Katy clinches girls district title

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a big day last week at the District 19-6A track meet, as the Tompkins boys clinched their fourth straight district title and the Katy girls clinched the team's second straight district title.

On the boys side, Tompkins had a big day in a number of events, Jhase McMillan won the district title in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.30 seconds, while Griffen Saacke won the 3200-meter run with a time of nine minutes, 12.01 seconds. Jayden Keys won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 13.44 seconds while coming in second in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 37.26 seconds, also winning the long jump with a jump, while Etoro Bassey won the high jump. Tompkins also won the 400-meter relay with a time of 40.35 seconds and the 800-meter relay with a time of one minute, 24.22 seconds.

Cinco Ranch's Kevin Bello won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.30 seconds and the 400-meter dash with a time of 46.49 seconds. Cinco's Ryan Du Plessis took first in the 800-meter run with a time of one minute, 56.07 seconds and Matthew Montgomery of Seven Lakes won the 1600-meter run with a time of four minutes, 22.01 seconds. Jordan's James Ledbetter won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 37.26 seconds and Katy



COURTESY KATY ISD

The Tompkins boys track and field team won its fourth straight district title.

won the 1600 meter relay with a time of three minutes, 22.54 seconds. Paetow's Jackson Farrar won the triple jump and Seven Lakes' Robert Austin won the pole vault. Paetow's Joseph Otu Ugwu

won the discus and Katy's Adam Carter won the shot put. On the girls side it was a huge day for Katy as the Tigers clinched the district title. London Jackson Bray won the 100-meter dash

with a time of 11.19 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.75 seconds. Elizabeth Brooks won the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.78 seconds and she also won

the 800-meter dash with a time of two minutes, 15.85 seconds. Kahaira Crawford won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.78 seconds and Katy took first in the 1600-meter relay with a time of three minutes, 55.21 seconds. Lyric Cheeks joined her teammates on the gold medal stand by winning the triple jump, capping off the first place finishers for Katy.

Tompkins' Rowan Saacke came in first in the 1600-meter run with a time of five minutes, 1.43 seconds and she also won the 3200-meter run with a time of 10 minutes, 43.09 seconds and Tompkins' Tylah Lake took first in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.90 seconds. Paetow won the 400-meter relay with a time of 46.32 seconds and Taylor won the 800-meter relay with a time of one minute, 39.47 seconds. Seven Lakes' Madison Carlton won the high jump while Seven Lakes' Carla Angueira-Colombani won the long jump. Cinco Ranch's Breeana Borresen won the pole vault with a jump of 12 feet and was joined by Angueira-Colombani and Cinco Ranch's Kayla Byrd who also jumped 12 feet. Seven Lakes' Heather Thayer won the discus and Seven Lakes' Janey Campbell won the shot put.

The regional track meet was held April 19 at Turner Stadium in Humble.



SOCCER

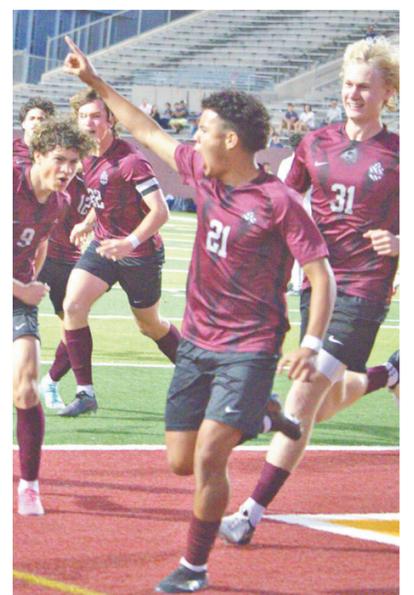
from page B1

While that was the highlight of this year, it's been one that is building from the talent and coaching all around the district. Over the last three years, Katy ISD has sent five teams to the state tournament — the Jordan boys in 2022, the Seven Lakes boys in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and the Seven Lakes girls in 2024. Last year all four boys teams advanced to the third round of the playoffs, where there was an All Katy ISD regional quarterfinal and this year the boys advanced three teams to the third round while the girls advanced two teams, with two teams on both sides advancing to the regional final.

"I think this is going to be a common thing because the sport is still growing in our district and as the competition increases, it's only going to make every team and player in our district better and prepare them for every playoff season," Krueger said. "It's a testament to what we have in Katy ISD and it's not surprising to me that we had the four teams left standing in the district. It's a special place to be."

It wasn't an easy road for those teams either. The Jordan girls knocked off one of the top ranked team in the region, Stratford, in the third round before defeating Brazoswood in the regional semifinals and taking Seven Lakes to extra time in the regional final. The Seven Lakes girls beat a Memorial team that took down Ridge Point and beat both Pearland and Jordan, only giving up one goal through their playoff run before falling to Prosper in the state semifinals. On the boys side, Seven Lakes powered through the playoffs to win their second straight state tournament, the first ever for a Class 6A boys program. Cinco Ranch made it all the way to the regional final, only giving up two goals while scoring 13 goals in their first four playoff games and Jordan made it to the third round by upsetting District 20-6A Champion Ridge Point in the first round before beating Cy-Ridge in the second round. Jordan also gave Seven Lakes its hardest game of the entire playoffs, forcing the Spartans to a penalty shootout.

"This district has such a high level," said Cinco Ranch head coach Ryan Searle. "We have players who are trialing in Europe all over the place and we have others that raise their level to compete even with those top guys. The talent across the board is ridiculous. You can see it through all levels — it's great and I don't think it's going anywhere."



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Cinco Ranch celebrates after Adrian Correa scored a goal during Friday's Region III-6A Semifinal between Cinco Ranch and Kingwood in Deer Park. Left: Jordan celebrates after winning Tuesday's Region III-6A Quarterfinal between Jordan and Stratford at Rhodes Stadium.

There's no signs of Katy ISD slowing down. While the Seven Lakes boys will have turnover in the team next year and big shoes to fill, they have lots of up and coming talent. Cinco Ranch, Jordan, Tompkins and more will all be right there challenging for the throne as well. On the girls side, Seven Lakes took an extremely young team to the state tournament and will have even more room to build next season. Jordan also has a youthful team and other challengers including Tompkins and Katy will not be able to wait to try and prove they can compete for a district championship.

"It's playoffs every single night in 19-6A," said Jordan boys head coach Jason Meekins. "There's no getting ready for playoffs because you are already at that level. We take on a district champion in the first round but our kids handle it — they're prepared for that type of thing because they face it every game. No matter who it is in our district, one through nine you can't take the night off so it's programmed into the kids in all our programs around the district. It just keeps making everyone better every single year."

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Katy Times

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Cinco, Paetow, Jordan close regular season with wins

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Friday

Cinco Ranch, Paetow and Jordan ended their regular seasons with wins on Friday, with the Cougars staying hot heading into playoffs and Paetow and Jordan closing their seasons on a positive note.

Cinco heads into playoffs with momentum

Cinco Ranch earned a win in the team's district finale on Friday, beating Seven Lakes 12-1 to improve to 13-13 overall and 10-6 in district, staying in fourth place. Lindsey DeLeon led the way for the Cougars with three RBIs while Faith Piper drove in two and scored three runs and Savannah Henningson drove in two runs as well. Gaby Perez had a strong day on the mound, pitching four innings and allowing just one run on four hits while striking out eight and walking two.

Henningson got the scoring started for Cinco in the first inning with an RBI single, but Seven Lakes tied it in the bottom of the inning on a Dulce Franco RBI double. Cinco answered back in the top of the second. Piper hit a single to give the Cougars back the lead and they got another run on an error. Ossie Cooper then drove in another on a single to make it 4-1 Cinco. Piper added on in the fourth, driving in a run on a triple before DeLeon drove in two more on a single and Henningson kept it going with a sacrifice grounder. The Cougars added four more in the fifth inning to seal the run rule win.

Dulce led the Spartans with one RBI on two hits. Seven Lakes fell to 5-17 on the season and 2-14 in district with the loss.

Paetow ends season with win over Tompkins

Paetow closed out its season on a high note Friday, beating Tompkins 3-2 to improve to 17-18 overall and 7-9 in district. Jiselle Lopez was very strong on the mound, pitching a complete game and allowing one run on three hits while striking out

two and walking two. Paetow jumped ahead in the third inning. Alexis Rodriguez hit a single for the team's first run and Paetow added another on a steal of home. Tompkins got one run back in the fourth off an error, but Paetow answered back in the fifth, getting a run on a sacrifice fly. Samantha Crumrin trimmed the lead to one in the top of the sixth with an RBI single, but Paetow held on for the win, not allowing a run after.

Crumrin had a good day on the mound for Tompkins, allowing three runs on six hits while striking out four and walking one. Tompkins, which had already clinched the third seed in district, fell to 15-12 overall and 11-5 in district.

Jordan shuts out Morton Ranch

Jordan had a perfect day to end its season, with both the offense and pitching putting in a fantastic performance in a 16-0 win over Morton Ranch, with the Warriors improving to 12-15 overall and 6-10 in district after the win. Ryan McIntosh had a great performance on the mound, pitching a no hitter over five innings, striking out five and walking four, while Madeline Jovanovic had three RBIs and three runs scored. Aislyn Duhon drove in three and three different players drove in two runs each.

Jordan jumped ahead early. Lyra Berry drove in one on a double in the first inning and Duhon drove in another on a double of her own. Jovanovic kept it going in the second inning on a double and Duhon hit another double that brought in three more. Jovanovic hit another double in the third that brought in two and a sacrifice fly made it 9-0 Jordan. The Warriors scored six more over the fourth and fifth innings to clinch the win and close out their season on a strong note.

Gisselle Sanchez took the mound for Morton Ranch and went two innings, allowing five earned runs on five hits while striking out one and walking four. Morton Ranch closed the season with a 4-21-1 record and a 0-16 record in district.



Montgomery Henderson hits during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field.

TYLER TYRE

Playoff field set for Katy ISD

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The playoff field got locked in for Katy ISD on Friday, with Katy, Taylor, Tompkins and Cinco Ranch advancing to the playoffs after strong regular seasons.

Katy clinched the first seed out of district by winning an undefeated district championship, going 16-0 in district play, scoring 216 runs through district while only giving up two. The Tigers have an overall record of 31-1-1 and are riding an 11 game win streak into the playoffs, where they will face off against Fort Bend Dulles in the first round, times and dates to be determined. Dulles went 11-5 in District 20-6A to finish fourth and are currently on a two game win streak.

Taylor finished second in district with a 13-3 record in district play and a 20-11 record overall. The Mustangs outscored district opponents 132 to 64 on the year and had won four straight before falling to Katy in the team's regular season finale. Taylor will face Ridge Point in the bi-district round, times and dates to be determined. Ridge Point finished third in District 20-6A, with an 11-4 record in district while outscoring opponents 180 to 58. Ridge Point has lost its last two games heading into the playoffs.

The third seed from Katy ISD went to Tompkins, a team that went on a big run later in the season. The Falcons finished district with an 11-5 record and outscored opponents 134 to 80 in district play. Tompkins had won six straight games prior to losing its regular season finale to Paetow.

The Falcons will play Fort Bend Travis to open the playoffs, times and dates to be determined. Travis went 13-3 in district play and outscored opponents 186 to 86. The Tigers have won five straight heading into the playoffs.

The fourth and final playoff



Bethany Fan hits during Friday's game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field.

TYLER TYRE

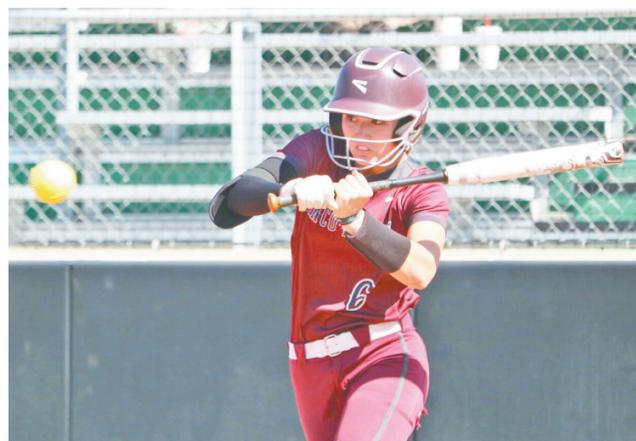


Leah Gershman catches a ball in right field during Thursday's bi-district game between Tompkins and George Ranch at the Tompkins softball field.

TYLER TYRE

opponents 150 to 87 in district play. Cinco ended district play with a win over Seven Lakes to head into the playoffs on a good note. The Cougars will take on George Ranch in the first round. The Longhorns were dominant in district play, clinching a district championship behind a 15-0 record and outscoring opponents 205 to 20 in district play, while having a 21-5 record on the season. George Ranch has won 12 straight heading into the playoffs and Cinco will have to be at its best to knock off the Tigers.

Paetow finished fifth in district with a 17-18 record overall and 7-9 record in district, while Jordan finished sixth, going 6-10 in district and 12-15 overall. Mayde Creek had a seventh place finish, going 4-12 in district, while Seven Lakes had a 1-13 district record to finish eighth and Morton Ranch finished ninth with an 0-14 record in district.



Faith Piper hits during a District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field.

TYLER TYRE

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Katy Times



Katy ISD Athletic Hall of Honor to host sixth annual golf tournament fundraiser

STAFF REPORT

The Katy ISD Athletic Hall of Honor Committee will host their annual golf tournament on May 6 at The Club at Falcon Point, at 24503 Falcon Point Dr. in Katy. The Tournament will support inductee banquets and commemorative gifts and is for a good cause. If you are able to

find some time on a Monday, your support would be greatly appreciated as you play golf and support a worthy cause.

There will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m. and check in begins at 7 a.m., breakfast tacos are included at check in and there will be a hamburger buffet, social and awards at the conclusion of the tournament.

The entry fee is \$600 per team

for four players or \$150 for single players. Checks are payable to "Katy ISD Athletic Hall of Honor". Credit cards are accepted at registration on May 6. PayPal is available by calling Julie Vetterick at the Katy ISD Athletics Office at the number 281-396-7781.

Please mail checks to: Katy ISD Athletic Hall of Honor, 1830 Katyland Dr., Katy, TX 77493.



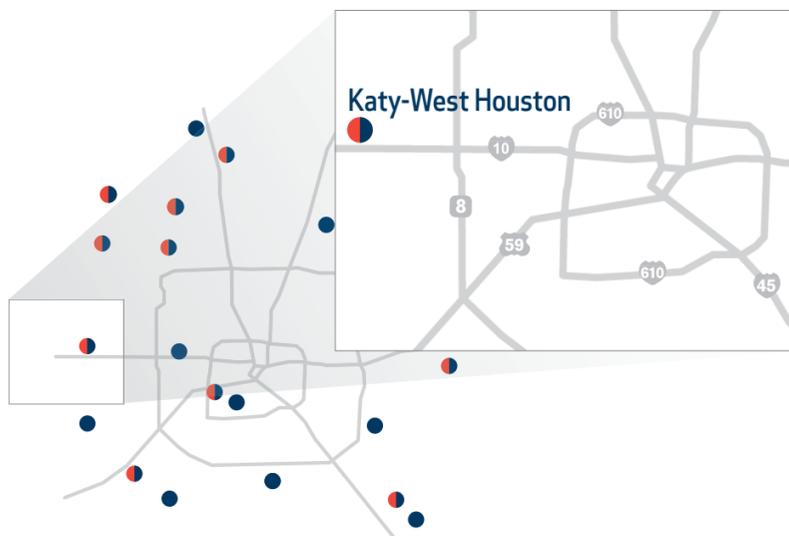
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