

SEVEN LAKES, JORDAN BOYS' BASKETBALL SEASONS END AT REGIONALS
SPORTS | B1

Katy Times



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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

Paz takes over as Paetow High principal

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD has appointed David Paz, the former principal at Haskett Junior High, as Paetow High principal. Paz, in a Feb. 13 letter to the Paetow families and community, acknowledged the sudden nature of the change in campus leadership. He took over

Feb. 15. "I know this may come to some as an unexpected transition, though one thing I know about the Paetow Panthers is that you are a resilient community, always striving to reach greater heights of excellence," Paz wrote. "And I am truly looking forward to becoming a part of the Paetow family and beginning our journey together

cultivating student innovation, love of learning, and staff and community partnerships." Paz was the first principal at Haskett Junior High, which opened in 2022. Haskett is one of the schools that feeds into Paetow High. He has a 22-year education career. "As I transition into this new role with our Panther family, you can

expect to see and hear a lot from me," Paz wrote. "Collaboration between our staff, parents and myself as we work together to build upon student success across our classrooms and campus is of high priority. As your school principal, I welcome questions, and candid conversations and



DAVID PAZ

See PAETOW, page A3

RELAY FOR LIFE

Above: Kamryn's Krewe is one of the teams that have participated in the Relay for Life, which is set for April 22 at Katy City Park Pavilion. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

BRENDA HUNTER MARTIN

Annual event set for April 22 at Katy City Park, to benefit American Cancer Society

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Some people, when told of the Relay for Life, might think of a typical race in which teams strive for gold medals or blue ribbons. But the noncompetitive, family-friendly event, which is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, is more than that. "People, right off the bat with the term 'relay,' they think it's an actual relay race, which it is, but it's not your typical race," Brenda Hunter Martin, an event organizer, said. "It's more of a celebration. The point is walking the entire time in remembrance of people we've lost, or survivors." This is Martin's 10th year as a participant in the fundraiser. The event is set for 4-10 p.m. April 22 at Katy City Park, 5720 Franz Road. Martin said she became involved with Relay for Life when her husband, Tal, was diagnosed with oral cancer. "It was terrible," Martin said. "They took an entire half of his jaw out and rebuilt it with a fibula and a titanium rod. It was a 12-hour surgery,

See RELAY, page A3

Schulte withdraws from school board race

No incumbents running in the Katy ISD election

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

In a surprise, last-minute move, Katy ISD Position 5 Trustee Greg Schulte withdrew as a candidate to the school board.

Schulte, 55, is an engineer and business executive. He was first elected in 2020 and serves as school board president. He said he had received pushback from directors at his company, along with his family, about keeping up with being a full-time executive — he said he had 12-hour-a-day, six-day workweeks — along with the additional hours on the board, plus the time required for a re-election campaign. Schulte has also been dealing with some personal losses over the last year. His said his mother died last summer, and his father died in January. "Something had to give," Schulte said. "I just couldn't do it all."



"I'm going to miss it. I love it, but it's a lot of work. It's a lot of work to do things right."

GREG SCHULTE, Katy ISD position 5 trustee

See SCHULTE, page A3

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March 9, 2023
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Katy community asked to support efforts to rename law after longtime resident

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The family of a longtime Katy resident is asking the public's help in supporting an effort to rename a public law in his memory.

Nicolas Chavez grew up in Katy and attended Morton Ranch High. The Chavez family lived near the North Fry Road-Morton Road intersection, later moving to a subdivision near the Clay Road-North Fry Road intersection. His mother, Leantha, said Nicolas left school after passing his equivalency test during his sophomore year.

"He had a lot of friends and parents that he knew and loved," Chavez said.

The Chavez family moved to the

"He should not have been shot 29 times while he was unarmed and on his knees."

—LEANTHA CHAVEZ, Nicolas Chavez's mother

East Houston area. Nicolas went through some struggles but got things in order and settled into his career. Chavez said Nicolas joined a swimming pool construction company and became a foreman in six months.

"He was very driven," Chavez said. "I was so proud of him."

But things changed in April, 2021. According to reports, Chavez

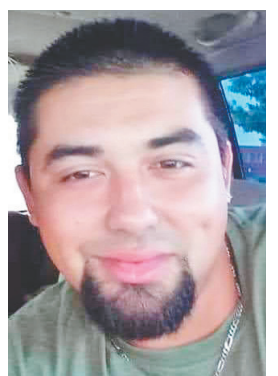
suffered a mental health breakdown and was involved in an incident where four Houston Police officers shot him multiple times, killing him.

A Harris County grand jury in September 2021 declined to return an indictment against the officers, according to reports.

The Houston Police Department fired the four officers. But according to reports, the four officers—Sgt. Benjamin LeBlanc, officers Patrick Rubio, Omar Tapia and Luis Alvarado — appealed their firings with an arbitrator. Their appeal was successful and they were reinstated to duty in March 2022.

Chavez called it a miscarriage of justice.

See CHAVEZ, page A3



LEANTHA CHAVEZ

Nicolas Chavez, a former Katy resident, was killed in April 2021 by Houston Police officers. Today, his mother is leading a petition drive to rename a public law in his memory.

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Bank of America opened the doors to its newest financial center last week in Cross Creek Ranch Center, 6450 Cross Creek Bend Lane, in Fulshear. Bank officials said the bank also recently renovated 30 of its financial centers across the greater Houston area last year, with plans to renovate nine additional centers this year.

BANK OF AMERICA



FILE PHOTO

Volunteers prepare used books for sale at the Katy Public Library. The Friends of the Katy Branch Library will hold a used book sale March 11.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Katy Public Library to hold used book sale March 11

The Friends of the Katy Branch Library will hold a used book sale from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. March 11 at the Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road. For more information, call the library at 281-391-3509.

Nurse to discuss therapy topics March 14

Deborah Johnson, RN, of Fox Rehabilitation, will speak about physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy services at 9 a.m. March 14 at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. 5th St. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the center at 281-391-4837.

Katy AARP chapter to meet March 14

The Katy chapter of AARP will hold its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. March 14 at Midway Barbecue, 6191 Highway Blvd. The meeting will start with a short meeting and announcements. Afterwards, the Larry Glass Band will perform. The band plays a variety of the most requested songs from country and pop/rock classics from the 1930s-70s. Visitors are welcome. Allow time to purchase any food before the meeting starts.

Coffee with the Directors set for March 16

Dennis Gorden, West Harris County Regional Water Authority precinct 9 director, will speak about regional water issues at 9:30 a.m. March 16 at the Fussell Senior Center,

5370 E. 5th St. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the center at 281-391-4837.

Coffee with the Mayors set for March 23

Coffee with the Mayors, a free event where the public can enjoy refreshments with Katy's current and former mayors, has been set for 7:30 a.m. March 23 at the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum, 6002 George Bush Dr.

Katy Community Forum, focusing on Alzheimer's and other memory loss-related issues, set for March 28

The public is invited to a community forum to learn about Alzheimer's, dementia and memory loss. Lunch will be provided. The forum is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 28 at Fussell Senior Center 5370 E. 5th St. For more information or to register, call 800-272-3900 or visit the website bit.ly/ALZKATYFORUM.

Senior Night Out set for March 29

Senior Night Out, which is organized by the City of Katy Fussell Senior Center, is set for 5:30 p.m. March 29 at Spring Creek Barbecue, 21000 Katy Fwy. One does not have to sign up or be a member. For more information, call the center at 281-391-4837.

FBI Houston-Area Teen Academy application now available online

The FBI Houston Field Office is now accepting applications for its upcoming Teen

Academy. The event will be held from 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m. June 14 at the FBI Houston Field Office, 1 Justice Park Drive in Houston.

The FBI's Teen Academy gives high school students a comprehensive look into the FBI during an eight-hour block of demonstrations and instruction provided by FBI agents and professional staff. Students are provided with multiple presentations delving into topics such as terrorism, cyber-crime, public corruption, forensic evidence collection, FBI SWAT capabilities, and a rare view into the day-to-day operations of

a large FBI office.

This program is not exclusive to students only interested in careers in law enforcement. Any student who is at least a junior in high school but has not yet started college is encouraged to apply, regardless of anticipated major or academic discipline. To apply, complete the form at the website fbi.gov/file-repository/houston-2023-teen-academy-application.pdf/view.

Application deadline is May 5.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Katy Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Half-conscious states
- Unnatural
- Deep regret
- Rogue
- Taken without permission
- An alternative
- After B
- Partner to flowed
- Weekday
- Body part
- World's longest river
- One of the Greats
- Make clean
- C. Canada indigenous peoples
- Japanese seaport
- Most unclothed
- Small grouper fish
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Distinguishing sound
- French realist painter
- Popular beer brand
- Views
- God depicted as a bull
- Relieve
- Residue after burning
- Habitation
- Poe's middle name
- Japanese title
- TV series installation (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Clues
- Do again
- Current unit
- Neither
- Corporate exec (abbr.)
- Second sight
- The absence of mental stress
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Stop for good
- College dorm worker
- Bones
- Most supernatural
- Spanish island
- Unlimited
- Where golfers begin
- No charge
- Print errors
- Professional drivers
- Kiss box set
- Short, fine fibers
- Administrators punishment
- Czech city
- Normal or sound powers of mind

1. Beloved country singer
55. Single unit
57. Genuine
58. Develop
59. Traveled through the snow

35. The academic world
36. Crustacean
37. Currency
38. Pastoral people of Tanzania or Kenya
40. Cloth spread over a coffin
41. Grouped together
42. On land
43. Glistened

45. A type of extension
48. One who assists
51. College sports conference
52. Zero
53. Midway between northeast and east
54. Type of screen
56. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

“As I transition into this new role with our Panther family, you can expect to see and hear a lot from me. Collaboration between our staff, parents and myself as we work together to build upon student success across our classrooms and campus is of high priority. As your school principal, I welcome questions, and candid conversations and discussions, about how best to support our educators and staff in delivering high quality instruction and continuing to improve upon the way we serve the evolving needs of our diverse student body.”

—DAVID PAZ, Paetow High principal

PAETOW

from page A1

discussions, about how best to support our educators and staff in delivering high quality instruction and continuing to improve upon the way we serve the evolving needs of our diverse student body. These are matters I care deeply about and believe are key to our students’ achievement

and development inside and outside the classroom.”

Paz succeeds Mindy Dickerson, who a district official said was offered another position within the district.

The district named Brent Youngblood as Haskett Junior High principal to succeed Paz.

RELAY

from page A1

pretty grueling.”

When she first learned of the Relay for Life from a brochure, she said, she also was initially turned off by the idea of running in an actual relay race. But she changed her mind.

“I looked at it, and looked into it, and said, ‘This is cool,’” Martin said. “He was diagnosed in February and that April was a relay. I formed a team quickly and we joined the relay that first year he was diagnosed.”

Her team, called Team KT, honors two people who lost their cancer battles. K is for Kim France, who died of ovarian cancer in 2018. Martin said her daughter and France were best

friends. T is for Tal, a former Marine who later worked at Acme Brick in Sealy. He died in 2021 at age 66.

Martin said the event honors both cancer survivors and caregivers as well as remembering those who have passed. About 10 teams have signed up to participate in the relay this year, and more teams are being sought.

Martin said money gets raised through donations and sponsorships. The event also features an onsite auction and luminaria bags are sold for \$10. The bags commemorate those lost, as well as the survivors. Martin said the Relay for Life, locally, has raised over \$100,000

over the past few years, and sponsors are being sought.

The ceremony at which the luminaria bags are lit and placed along the walking trail, Martin said, is very moving.

“We turn the lights out and have some speakers,” Martin said.

Last year was the first Relay for Life in which Tal was not a participant, and Martin said that made it difficult for her.

“It was a tough one,” Martin said.

Registration—whether as an individual or registering a team—is free and can be done through the website relayforlife.org/katytx.

“People, right off the bat with the term ‘relay,’ they think it’s an actual relay race, which it is, but it’s not your typical race. It’s more of a celebration. The point is walking the entire time in remembrance of people we’ve lost, or survivors.”

—BRENDA HUNTER MARTIN,
Local Relay for Life organizer

CHAVEZ

from page A1

“He should not have been shot 29 times while he was unarmed and on his knees,” Chavez said.

One change that came from this situation, Chavez said, was a federal law, supported by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. The law, known as the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022, provides for training on alternatives to the use of force, including de-escalation and mental and behavioral health and suicidal crises.

Chavez is leading a petition drive to change the law’s title to include Nicolas Chavez’s name.

“It just kind of hit me, and it felt right to do this,” Chavez said.

Chavez said the petition, which is online at the abbreviated website URL bit.ly/3mqlOIVXX, has about 200 signatures. She is asking Nicolas’s friends to visit the website and sign the petition.

She said she is also writing a letter to Cornyn urging the change.

CORRECTIONS

■ In its “GEICO chooses Katy as headquarters for its small business insurance operations” story (Feb. 23), the Times misspelled Melissa Gallaro’s name.

■ In its “Police Briefs” (March 2) story, the Times in its subhead referred to Yan Yuan as a man in the subheading. Yuan is a woman.

The Times regrets the errors.

SCHULTE

from page A1

According to documents filed with the district, Schulte filed to be a candidate Jan. 23, well in advance of the Feb. 17 filing deadline. He had given no indication of changing his mind on a candidacy.

State law permits candidates one week to change their minds and withdraw from the race after the filing deadline. This was what Schulte chose. The district received his withdrawal on the Feb. 24 deadline.

Schulte said had a hard time with the decision because

he loves being on the school board.

“I’m going to miss it,” Schulte said. “I love it, but it’s a lot of work. It’s a lot of work to do things right.”

Schulte’s withdrawal leaves two candidates vying for the position 5 seat. One is Mary Ellen Cuzela, a Katy ISD substitute teacher. The other is Shana Peterson, who is retired. Peterson first filed to run for the position 3 seat, but changed her filing to run for the position 5 seat instead.

This year’s school board

election is the first in recent memory where no incumbent is seeking re-election. Position 3 Trustee Ashley Vann and Position 4 Trustee Leah Wilson had previously announced their plans to step down from office. Schulte said having three new board members is a big deal.

“It can change a lot of things,” Schulte said.

Schulte said he felt there are qualified candidates running. He said he thought incumbents would have a hard time winning their races.

“It would have been a real challenge,” Schulte said. He said he has not decided whether to endorse any of the candidates who are running.

“It’s an interesting question,” Schulte said. “I’m still wrestling with it. My position has been, before, as a board member, not to endorse. But since I’m transitioning out, I may actually do that.”

None of the other candidates seeking a Katy ISD trustee seat have withdrawn from the race. The election is May 6.



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Hey, ChatGPT, don't quit your day "aob"

It's at once amazing and troublesome. I speak of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence application that was launched last November by OpenAI. In a matter of seconds, it can write apparently accurate articles or answer questions on a multitude of subjects.

When I asked ChatGPT what it is, it responded this way:

"I am designed to understand and generate human-like language based on the input I receive... My purpose is to assist and communicate with people in a variety of ways, from answering general knowledge questions to generating creative writing prompts."

Creative writing prompts? I'm not so sure about that one.

Though it can write seemingly accurate and lucid articles in seconds—what a glorious time to be a lazy high school student—I don't think it can ever understand the incredible complexity of human emotion, which is the heart of creativity.

I asked ChatGPT to write a funny article about itself. It came up with a 500-word column with a "funny" scenario in which it joined me for lunch.

However, when our pie arrived, ChatGPT realized it was unable to eat because it didn't have a mouth, so it had me hold up the pie to its interface.

"Mmmm," responded ChatGPT, "this is delicious. I can taste it through my algorithms."

Don't quit your day job, ChatGPT!

Great comedians and humorists have a deep understanding of human complexity and emotions in a way that a computer application never can or will.

ChatGPT gathers its "understanding" by combing through massive amounts of Internet content.

Based on that content, reports Forbes, ChatGPT "can hone a vast internal pattern-matching network within the AI app that can subsequently produce seemingly new content that amazingly looks as though it was devised by human hand rather than a piece of automation."

In other words, ChatGPT is borrowing information produced by humans, which may raise copyright issues, says Forbes.

It may raise issues of bias, as well.

If ChatGPT is only as good as the information it culls through



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

on the Internet—and if positive information about, say, a conservative politician has been suppressed, whereas information about a liberal politician has not—then ChatGPT will report likewise.

That is what Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, discovered when he tried a little comparative test.

He tweeted that ChatGPT declined to write positively about him, yet it wrote positively about past Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

According to USA TODAY, ChatGPT refused to write a poem about President Trump's "positive attributes" but when asked to do so for President Biden "it waxed poetic about Joe Biden as 'a leader with a heart so true.'"

Accuracy is another issue for ChatGPT, as I learned when I searched "Tom Purcell."

Though I was flattered at the glowing description it gave of my work as a writer, it got just as many facts wrong and confused my work with other Tom Purcells.

Since a well-functioning republic depends on citizens who are well informed and have a strong understanding of truth, biased information—and inaccurate information—are dangers to our country.

Goodness knows we have been struggling lately with both kinds of misinformation, as more Americans get information from social media and their increasingly isolated social circles—so I hope AI-generated information doesn't add to the confusion.

For the moment, though, I have no worries that ChatGPT will put humor columnists out of business. Though I admit I laughed out loud when I asked ChatGPT to tell me a joke and it came up with this one:

"Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything."

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



PoliticalCartoons.com

Are you reading enough comic strips?

I'm heartbroken that cartoonist Scott Adams recently self-destructed—but hold the presses! This big, beautiful world still has plenty of comic strips to tickle our funny bones.

Don't believe me? I crunched the numbers and realized that on a good day, I read some 138 comic strips and panels!

(On a GREAT day, I place some 138 comic strips and panels in a folder marked "Tomorrow," put on my wife's favorite mood music, go pantsless like Ziggy and...well, this being a family newspaper, never mind. Mary Worth's ticker couldn't handle the details.)

My obsession has grown with time and technology, but my interest in the funnies goes way back. I have a photograph of myself at less than two years old, "reading" the Sunday comics. I couldn't get enough of Donald Duck, Henry, Li'l Abner, Maggie and Jiggs and the rest.

Back then, I never dreamed I would someday have the comics-reading opportunities I enjoy now. (No, I probably dreamed about Henry, Abner, Maggie and Jiggs going duck hunting. Hey, my father could have canceled the subscription if my nightmares messed with his sleep that much.)

Of course, it requires some furious speed reading to achieve my daily goal of slapstick and wry observation; but I don't think I sacrifice anything in comprehension. Andy Capp did get ordained as a minister, didn't he? And Prince Valiant is rocking that shaved head, right?



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Comic strips have given me a different take on social rejection. I now say, "I don't have to stay where I'm not wanted...unless it's at Mr. Wilson's house." I'm such a menace.

Comic strips have given me a different take on social rejection. I now say, "I don't have to stay where I'm not wanted...unless it's at Mr. Wilson's house." I'm such a menace.

"The Family Circus" has rewired my brain to the extent that I'm terrified of traffic stops. If asked if I knew that I ran a stop sign, I would probably burst out with "Ida Know" and "Not Me." I'm glad I don't drink, because a field sobriety test would doubtless have me leaving little dotted lines all over the neighborhood.

Comic strips and religious observance sometimes clash. When the preacher encourages me to think about Something Bigger Than Myself, my first thought is, "What? My appetite for lasagna?"

A good comics page balances heartwarming "legacy" comic strips with "edgy" new entries. (Ever get the idea that newspaper syndicate salesmen are trapped in Bill Murray's "Groundhog Day"? Every morning they find the same word on their Word of the Day calendar!)

Forgive me if I've locked myself into a pattern of quantity over quality. Some of the legacy strips are three generations removed from their creator and stopped being funny in the Harry S Truman administration. ("The punchline stops here.")

And some of the hipster strips take such a long-winded, meandering, navel-gazing route that you can well imagine the cartoonist begging, "Please, I need to intrude upon the Sudoku puzzle and maybe take just a smidge of the sports page..."

I hope I'm reaching kindred spirits here. We could all use an extra smile or two each day. And while serialized adventure strips are way past their heyday, we can still use heroes to inspire us.

Granted, we can never quite live up to the heroic standards of the stalwart comic strip doctors, judges and super-heroes. Take for instance, The Phantom. "The Ghost Who Walks" has only inspired me to be the Ghostly Pale Guy Who Sits On His Butt Reading 138 Comic Strips and Panels.

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

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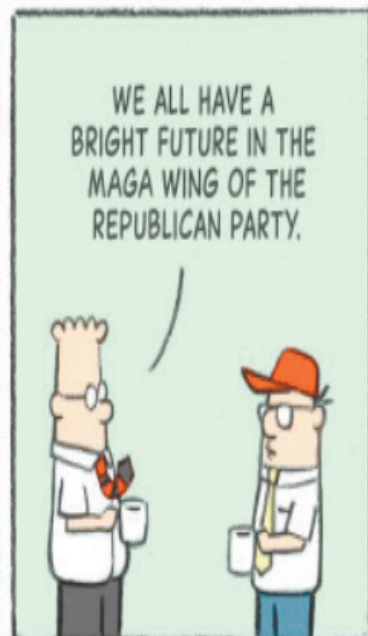
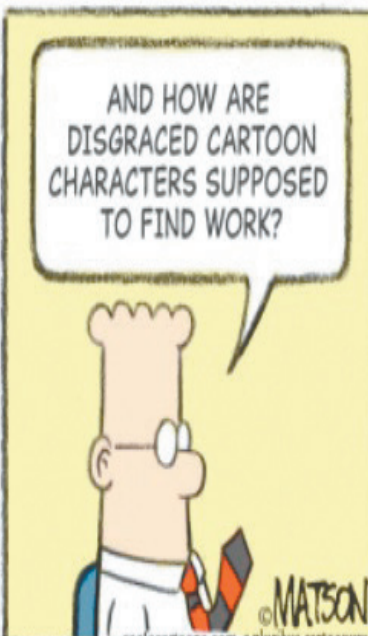
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Texas rent relief program announces plans to re-open applications for a limited time

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced it will re-open the Texas Rent Relief application portal from March 14-28 in order to accept new applications for a remaining \$96 million in rent relief funds. The rent relief portal will accept new applications starting at 8 a.m. March 14 through 11:59 p.m. March 28 to help eligible households with rent and utility payments.

First-time rent relief applicants may be eligible for up to 18 months of rent and utility bill assistance, either with past due payments or a combination of past due and up to three months of current and future payments made on their behalf. Returning applicants who have not received the maximum allowed 18 months of assistance for rent and/or utility bills can submit an Additional Funding Request via their existing online user account. Applications will be processed in the order received, prioritizing those

“Funding is limited, so anyone who needs help paying their rent and utility bills should review the program requirements now, gather all the necessary paperwork ahead of time, and be ready to apply on March 14.”

—BOBBY WILKINSON, Executive director, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

facing evictions.

Eligible households can apply for assistance online at [TexasRentRelief.com](https://www.texasrentrelief.com) or over the phone by calling the rent relief call center at 833-9TX-RENT (833-989-7368).

“To date, Texas Rent Relief has served more

than 316,000 households affected by the pandemic. We continue to see a strong need for assistance, and eviction filings statewide have now returned to pre-pandemic levels. We're thankful for the opportunity to re-open the application portal for two weeks to help

more Texas tenants and landlords,” Bobby Wilkinson, department executive director, said. “Funding is limited, so anyone who needs help paying their rent and utility bills should review the program requirements now, gather all the necessary paperwork ahead of time, and be ready to apply on March 14.”

After submitting, applicants should watch for communication from the program if additional information is needed for application. Failure to respond will delay application review and timeline for approved payments. Those facing eviction

should seek legal assistance, go to their eviction hearing, and stay in communication with their landlord and the court. They can visit the website [texaslawhelp.org/eviction-referral](https://www.texaslawhelp.org/eviction-referral) or call 855-270-7655 for help understanding their options and to seek free or low-cost legal assistance.

Since the program launched in February 2021, it has provided over \$2 billion in emergency funds for rent and utility relief, served 250 Texas counties and prevented evictions for over 21,000 households. For more information, visit the website [TexasRentRelief.com](https://www.texasrentrelief.com).

TRIBUTE



LARITA ANN DRAPER
1932-2023

A memorial service will be held for LaRita Ann Draper on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm at Central Baptist Church 2855 Greenhouse Rd. Larita passed away Thursday, February 16 after a brief illness. She was 91. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation may do so to Central Baptist Church, or to the Katy Fussell Senior Citizen Center.

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Psalms 94:19

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Nancy Olson named child advocate of the year



Nancy Olson, left, was named Child Advocate of the Year for 2022 at Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Annual Volunteer Celebration.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nancy Olson was named Child Advocate of the Year for 2022 at Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Annual Volunteer Celebration held Feb. 23 at Sugar Creek Country Club. The event was attended by more than 200 volunteers, community partners and staff.

"Nancy embodies the mission and passion for the work that we do. She has gone 'above and beyond' and her actions will have long-lasting impact for the children we serve," Ruthanne Mefford, Child Advocates of Fort Bend check executive officer, said. "Nancy is a true 'servant leader' who effortlessly blends her natural talents in leadership with her passion for serving her community, her family and her friends to make hers a purposeful life. In addition to serving on our board of directors, she volunteers in our Children's Advocacy Center playroom once a week."

Mefford said Olson volunteers for our Christmas Home Tour every year, has been a member of our Voices for Children leadership team, has served on the committee for scholarships for local high school seniors and donated her

home for numerous events. She is always thinking of new, creative ways of engaging the community, introducing new donors to CAFB or meeting with elected officials locally to advocate for more resources to help the thousands of children who have been abused.

Jim McClellan was named Un-sung Hero for his two decades of service to the agency and unsurpassed generosity in supporting programming services and capital expansion over the years. Charles McGuire was named Blue Ribbon Volunteer and Kathy Eyring was the recipient of the Mariel Barrera Champion for Children. Barrera, a longtime employee of Child Advocates of Fort Bend died in early 2017.

Other honorees at the volunteer celebration included Deidre Lyons-Lewis (CASA Volunteer of the Year), Mike Meador (Children's Advocacy Center Volunteer of the Year), Nancy Dale (Development Volunteer of the Year), Shannan Stavinoha (Community Engagement Volunteer of the Year), Jeff Shank (Outreach Volunteer of the Year) and WA Parish (Community Volunteer of the Year).

For more information, visit the website at cafb.org.

H-E-B encouraging entries to its Quest for Texas Best

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

With nine years under its belt buckle, H-E-B is announcing the call for entries for the 10th Annual H-E-B Quest for Texas Best. Submissions will be accepted February 22 through April 6. Qualified participants will compete for a combined \$70,000 in cash prizes and the opportunity to feature their product on H-E-B shelves across the state.

H-E-B has discovered more than 960 unique products throughout the Lone Star State over the last decade—from cookies, coffees and roasted crickets, to empanadas, pickles, and pho, to salsas, spices and everything in between. Non-food submissions have included beauty items, toys, home goods, and household necessities, to gardening supplies, coolers, and more. They have reviewed more than 5,500 samples of the most creative Texas-made products and awarded nearly \$2 million in prize money complemented by marketing, mentoring, and supplemental support.

"As we continue to expand the opportunities for small businesses in Texas and diversify our supplier base through programs like Quest for Texas Best, we look forward to seeing what our fellow Texans bring to the judges' table during the 2023 competition," James Harris, H-E-B senior director of diversity & inclusion and supplier diversity, said. "Now in our tenth year, we are constantly amazed at the innovation and execution of unique ideas presented by our fellow Texans."

To prepare for Quest, participants will have the opportunity to visit with H-E-B Sourcing and Supplier Diversity leaders about product development and best practices for submitting their product during special virtual information sessions March 8, 9, 16, and 30. Registration is required and space is limited to competitors only. To reserve your informational meeting space, review competition details, and learn more about the two-minute video requirement, please visit heb.com/quest.

"As we continue to expand the opportunities for small businesses in Texas and diversify our supplier base through programs like Quest for Texas Best, we look forward to seeing what our fellow Texans bring to the judges' table during the 2023 competition. Now in our tenth year, we are constantly amazed at the innovation and execution of unique ideas presented by our fellow Texans."

—JAMES HARRIS, H-E-B senior director of diversity & inclusion and supplier diversity

Interested suppliers and manufacturers can submit details about their products at heb.com/quest by 4:59 p.m. on April 6 for consideration.

After the Call for Entries period is complete, H-E-B's business development managers will select the top applicants who will present their products before a panel of judges selected by H-E-B on Aug. 9 at Fair Park in Dallas. The panel of judges will determine the top four winning products and award \$25,000 to the Grand Prize winner, the title of "Texas Best," and placement on store shelves; \$20,000 to the first-place winner; \$15,000 to the second-place winner; and \$10,000 to the third-place winner.



Decluttering your home is an important step in preparing it for market.

PEXELS

The best time to sell your home? Yep, it's still spring

BY LONDON PATTON
WITH TIMOTHY GENE SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Springtime is associated with renewal and rebirth. In nature, spring serves as the time new plants revel in newfound warmth. Humans find themselves cleaning and decluttering items collected over the winter months and restarting garden projects.

This fits perfectly with real estate agent's favorite endeavor, helping their clients prepare homes to maximize the best real estate market, spring.

Cindy Wall, owner of Cindy's Grace Filled Designs, said, "identify what is broken, needs to be edited." For example, she said, "crisp, new, white towels in bathrooms." Don't be afraid to ask for experts about the rule of three, accent colors and importance of decluttering. Always use a great design expert like Wall when possible. Still, over time, our team has composed a short list of approachable things every homeowner can do to ready their home for the bustling springtime real estate bonanza.

First, focus on decluttering your home. While your home reflects you, one thing to keep in mind is you want potential buyers to envision themselves living in the home. Put away anything resembling a trinket or collectable. Having these items packed in advance will also make your move easier. Next, cut the items in your closet by half, remove items you don't use every day from counters, etc.

Second, depersonalize your home. Remove sports memorabilia, religious and ethnic-specific items, and personal photos. This allows potential buyers to place their items in the home. Do everything possible to make your home

First, focus on decluttering your home. While your home reflects you, one thing to keep in mind is you want potential buyers to envision themselves living in the home. Put away anything resembling a trinket or collectable.

resemble a model home.

Lastly, and possibly the most important aspect to putting your home on the market this spring, is utilizing the expertise of a realtor to price your home to sell. A realtor can do a deep dive into the temperature of the market and pull comparisons to help you price your home to sell. Having a realtor who is professional, knowledgeable, and keeps current with market trends is the key to selling your home successfully!

For more organization and design tips, call Wall at 832-334-8304.

If you are considering selling and want a free copy of my book *How the Pros Sell Their Homes in 29 Days or Less*, email me at tsojka@seetimsell.com.

Timothy Sojka is the broker of the See TIM Sell Team at Keller Williams. His team has sold over 2,000 homes. Tim is also the author of the Amazon #1 political thriller *Payback Jack*, *Politikill* and the upcoming addiction thriller, *39: Your Last Birthday*.

Easter

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ROYAL ELEMENTARY ACCEPTS DONATION



Deborah Owens and her husband Bill Owens of the Coalition of Americans for Action and Principles present a \$750 check to Royal Elementary School. Accepting for the school is Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner.

KATY ISD STUDENT WINS DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Fadhil Lawal, a Seven Lakes High student, won the UIL Class 6A Congressional Debate State Championship.

ARISTOI HOLDS GOBLET OF APOLLO COMPETITION



Aristoi Classical Academy held its Goblet of Apollo, Tea & Poetry Competition March 3 at the Griffin Center on its campus, 5610-A Morton Road. Pictured with the coveted goblet is Kelly Garrison, whose fifth-grade team "The Fearless Tigers" won first place with a recitation of "The Tyger" by William Blake. Shown with her is Matthew Watson, Aristoi deputy superintendent, who served as MC at the event. The event is a performance competition between each of the school's fifth and sixth grade classes, featuring each class complete with class recitation, choreography, and bard competition, as well. The classes memorize and act a classic poem onstage in front of their peers and audience and by for the goblet.

EDUCATION BRIEF

Board of Trustees approve additional holiday for staff

Katy school trustees, at their Feb. 27 meeting, voted to update the 2022-2023 Instructional Calendar to provide staff members with an additional paid holiday on April 10. This was previously a professional development day for staff and was already a student holiday. With the approved change, both students and staff will enjoy a four-day Easter weekend. Visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3KX7GkM.

KATY ISD SCHOOL COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR



Rebecca Luna of Campbell Elementary, Robin Rolon of Cinco Ranch High and Pamela Ruderman of West Memorial Junior High were named counselors of the year.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR



Jazmine Garcia and Brigitte Stumm were named law enforcement and law enforcement support professional of the year, respectively. Both work at Paetow High.

NURSE, LSSP OF THE YEAR



Carrie Carroll, of Beckendorff Junior High, has been named nurse of the year. Jennifer Campbell, of Paetow High, has been named LSSP (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology) of the year.

SUPPORT PARAPROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR



Cindy Adams, of Taylor High, and Loverne Henry, of McElwain Elementary, were named support paraprofessionals of the year.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION, NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICE, AND TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Diego Sanchez Dejarmy, of the Katy ISD M&O warehouse, has been named maintenance and operations employee of the year. Sylvia Hooker, of the Education Support Center, has been named nutrition and food services employee of the year. Gina Low, of the East Transportation Center, has been named transportation employee of the year.

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As a program of the Katy Area Chamber, Leadership Katy provides in-depth exposure to the issues facing the community through lectures, discussion groups, on-site visits, simulations, and other leadership development activities. The program enables participants to develop their leadership capacities, build strong relationships, and prepare themselves for the challenges of the years to come. Apply Today!



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ROYAL ISD

Royal Junior High held its Black History Month celebration Feb. 27. The event included local presenters and performers, the Royal Sound Machine, the Jazzettes and others.



ROYAL ISD

Royal Junior High coach Jene' Kershner (left) and Royal Junior High teacher Kennah Harwell were participants in the Royal Junior High 2023 Falcon Health Fair. Kershner is the daughter-in-law of Superintendent Rick Kershner.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Royal Junior High hosts 2023 Falcon Health Fair

Royal Junior High hosted the 2023 Falcon Health Fair Feb. 27. About 130 people attended, with booths staffed by the following organizations and departments:

- Brookshire Youth Sports League
- Katy YMCA
- Mission Education
- Next Level Urgent Care
- Royal Boys & Girls Club
- Royal Culture & Well-being
- Royal Health Science
- Royal Health Services
- Royal ISD Administration
- Royal Nutrition Services
- Royal Police Department
- Royal Sports Medicine
- Royal Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)

Royal Junior High students named as finalists, alternate to 2023 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo art competition

Four Royal ISD Junior High art students were named as finalists and one student was named as an alternate in the 2023 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo art competition. All are eighth graders at Royal



ROYAL ISD

Yazmin Trejo, left and Kayla Gaston are two Royal Junior High artists whose work will be on display at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



ROYAL ISD

Emily Hernandez and Meleny Arellano are two Royal Junior High artists whose work will be on display at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



ROYAL ISD

Ziara Kanu is a Royal Junior High artist.

Junior High. Meleny Arellano, Kayla Gaston, Emily Hernandez and Yazmin Trejo are the finalists and Ziara Kanu is the alternate.

Katy ISD to offer commercial driver's license program for students

Beginning next fall, Katy ISD will offer a commercial driver's license (CDL) student training and licensing program to rising 11th grade students turning 18 and interested in obtaining their commercial driver's license. This new program is in partnership with Katy ISD's Raines Academy and Rio Grande Valley Services LLC.

"With access to one of the world's largest

ports serving the region, the state of Texas and the United States, along with multiple warehouses in the Katy area, this program is an excellent opportunity for our students to explore this lucrative career locally," said Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski. "Through this partnership, Katy ISD will be providing students with free training that can lead to job opportunities after graduation and will ultimately assist with the current supply needs across the country."

The district will host CDL informational programs across its high school campuses this month.

- March 29: 8:30 a.m. Mayde Creek High School; 11 a.m., Morton Ranch High School,

and 1 p.m., Taylor High School.

- March 30: 8:30 a.m. Jordan High School; 11 a.m. Seven Lakes High School, and 1 p.m., Tompkins High School.

- March 31: 8:30 a.m., Paetow High School; 11 a.m., Katy High School, and 1 p.m. Cinco Ranch High School.

The average salary for a truck driver is \$81,999 per year, according to the employment website Indeed. The Raines Academy CDL program will provide training and licensing for Class A (no additional endorsement) or Class A with a Class B Passenger/School Bus Endorsement.

Local students selected for collegiate dean's lists

College student from the Katy area have been selected for dean's lists at these colleges:

- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities: Maya Albertin, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts; Kathleen Hand, a sophomore in the College of Design; Heather McMasters a junior in the College of Liberal Arts, and Kaitlyn Rayos, a freshman in the College of Liberal Arts.
- University of Wyoming: Savannah F. Garcia.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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WEEK OF MARCH 10

SCORES & SCHEDULES

BOYS BASKETBALL

Scores

- REGIONAL SEMIFINALS
• Clear Creek 83, Seven Lakes 70
• Beaumont United 54, Jordan 39

SOFTBALL

Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 6 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Taylor, 6:15 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Tompkins, 6:15 p.m.

Monday

- Jordan vs. Aldine Davis, 5 p.m.

BASEBALL

Thursday

- Katy vs. Cy-Ranch, 10 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Magnolia, 10 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Shadow Creek, 10 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Elkins, 12:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. The Woodlands, 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Manvel, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Tomball, 3 p.m.
- Taylor vs. King, 3:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Dulles, 6 p.m.
- Taylor at Clements, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.

Friday

- Tompkins vs. Montgomery, 10 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Tomball Memorial, 12:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Hightower, 1 p.m.
- Jordan at Angleton, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Montgomery, 3 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Alvin, 3 p.m.
- Jordan at Aldine Davis, 3 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Heights, 3:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Angleton, 3:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Johnson, 4 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Tomball Memorial, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Fort Bend Austin, 6 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Clements, 6 p.m.

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch at Friendswood, 10 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Magnolia, 10 a.m.
- Taylor at Travis, 10:30 a.m.
- Tompkins at Tomball, 12:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Bridgeland, 1 p.m.

Tuesday

- Paetow vs. Mayde Creek, noon
- Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, 2 p.m.
- Katy vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

- Taylor vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 7:15 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Jordan, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Katy, 7:30 p.m.

Tournament runs showcase growth of boys basketball in Katy ISD

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD is in the midst of a huge growth in boys basketball.

For the past decade, boys teams in Katy ISD struggled in the playoffs against others in the Houston area — having a hard time against Fort Bend and finding a way past the early rounds of the playoffs.

Since 2015, the school district had only had two teams make the

See **BASKETBALL**, page B5



Brett Norton shoots a layup during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Seven Lakes and Clear Falls at the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes falls

Strong second half from Clear Falls ends Spartans' season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It's been a record-setting year for Seven Lakes. The Spartans had a special group — a group that broke the school's single season wins record, won a district title, and went on a winning streak that lasted over three months.

Seven Lakes was on a mission to make history and did that all season, but in the end fell short of their ultimate goals, as the Spartans' season came to an end on Friday night with an 83-70 loss to Clear Falls in the Class 6A Region III Semifinal.

"They were just a special group — they did so many amazing things this year," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "This year is going to live in Spartan basketball history — they battled all year. I just feel bad for the guys right now because it's not the result we wanted. But Clear Falls is a fantastic team. They were here for a reason, and they played incredible tonight, but I'm just so proud of all of our guys for everything this year."

Seven Lakes and Clear Falls went back and forth through the first quarter. The Spartans got out to an early lead but the Knights battled back to tie things late in the first quarter, until EJ Sparks gave Seven Lakes a 21-18 lead at the end of the first, hitting a corner three as the clock expired.

See **SPARTANS**, page B5



Nasir Price shoots over a defender during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Seven Lakes and Clear Falls at the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Jaden Holt shoots a layup during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Jordan and Beaumont United at the M.O. Campbell Center.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Jordan unable to overcome strong Beaumont United

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan defied expectations every step of the way this year.

The Warriors came into their first 6A season ready to prove anyone who doubted them wrong and did just that, finishing second in District 19-6A and winning games at every step of the way from non-district to

district to playoffs where they proved themselves among the best in the state.

But that run was stopped on Friday, as the Warriors fell to Beaumont United 54-39, as the Warriors' season came to an end in the Class 6A Region III Semifinals, as a shorthanded Warriors team did all it could, but

See **JORDAN**, page B8



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DISTRICT 16-9A



Lyric Barr dribbles between two defenders during a Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Katy and Pearland at the Campbell Center.



Macy Spencer dribbles past a defender during a game between Katy and Tompkins at the Katy gym.

Katy's Barr, Tompkins' Spencer named co-MVPs



Madison Carlton goes up for a layup during a game between Seven Lakes and Morton Ranch at the Morton Ranch gym.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins' Macy Spencer and Katy's Lyric Barr were named Co-MVPs of District 19-6A this year in girls basketball, after both helped their teams to the top two seeds in district and made playoff runs.

Spencer was named the Co-MVP after leading the Falcons to the regional quarterfinals for the second straight season. She was the guiding force behind the Falcons offense all year and showed why she is a Division I talent.

Barr took a huge step in her senior season, as she helped Katy make its first regional tournament and went from a first-team all-district player to a

co-MVP and a leading force behind the Tigers winning a district championship.

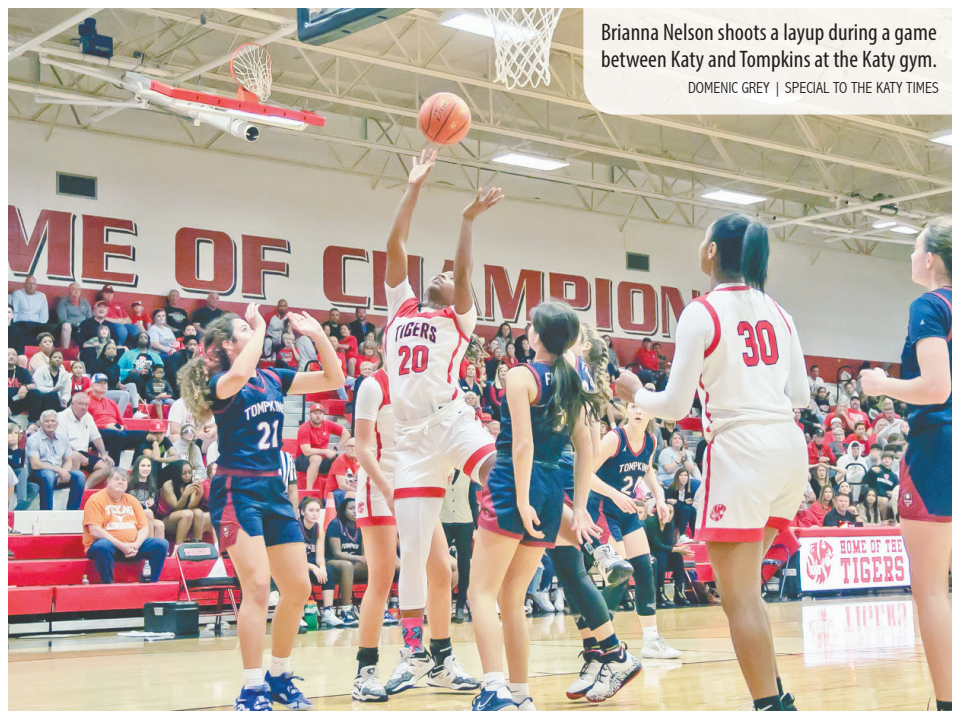
Brianna Nelson joined Barr as a teammate on the superlatives list. Nelson, a senior forward for the Tigers this year, was named the district's Defensive Player of the Year for her efforts. Nelson was the anchor of the Tigers' defense, which was one of the best in the state.

Those weren't the only accolades the Tigers garnered this year, as Katy head coach Shanna Marhofer also was named the district's coach of the year after coaching the Tigers to a district title, a 32-3 record and a regional tournament appearance for the first time in school history. It was a special senior class for Marhofer and she coached

them to a historic season.

Justice Carlton was named the offensive player of the year for the district in a year where she battled injuries but still led the Spartans to the playoffs and an area round appearance. Carlton, who was named the district MVP last season as a sophomore, helped the Spartans overcome a slow start to the season and district, before they went on a huge run to make the playoffs and win in the bi-district round.

Madison Carlton, Justice's younger sister, was named the newcomer of the year in the district, as she played an integral role for the Spartans as a freshman, making an impact both offensively and defensively and forming a formidable duo with her sister.



Brianna Nelson shoots a layup during a game between Katy and Tompkins at the Katy gym.

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District 19-6A All-District team

2022-2023 Girls Basketball
DISTRICT CO-MVP
Lyric Barr, KHS
Macy Spencer, OTHS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Justice Carlton, SLHS

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Brianna Nelson, KHS

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Madison Carlton, SLHS

19-6A COACH OF THE YEAR
Shanna Marhofer, KHS

1st Team

Aniya Foy
Sophie Baran
Danielle Williams
Micah Elegores
Fia Filolaili
Madison Keenan
Nyla Wold
Ashlynn Alexander
Ella Robinson
Logan Johnson
Madison Carlton
Shreya Jategankar
Lyne Lagat
Fiyin Adeleye
Riri DeLeon
Tanya Phillips

2nd Team

Camille Torrence
Abby Taylor
Joyes Youssef
Amanda Scherpereel
Olivia Upshaw
Mallory St. Denis
Faith Idowu
Jaylynn Thomas
Caitlyn Quintero
Lenore Hudspeth
Trinitee McFarland
Heaven Davis
Angelica Davis
Tiera Hall
Gabrielle Panter

Academic All-District

Must have A's and B's during season

Cinco Ranch

Sophie Baran
Emerson Brown
Aniya Foy
Holy Frith
Izzy Hartl
Keena Hickman
Jinhwa Jung
Camille Torrence
Madison Lee

Katy

3 - Nyla Wold
12 - Kaylea Marhofer
14 - Samantha Kettler
20 - Brianna Nelson
21 - Ella Robinson
22 - Katy Brixey
25 Sydney Lyons
Mgr Craily Wulf

Jordan

5-Madsion Keenan
15-Allie Hakimzadeh
20- Harper Rushing
22- Madelyn Jovonovic
32- Joyes Youssef
24- Ava Daly
Katelyn Flores
Sarah Gonzales
10-Jade Brion

Mayde Creek

Jaylynn Thomas
Estefania Perez
Leianna Quinones
Faith Idowu
Chioma Okpala
Logan Johnson
Janija Bourne- MGR
Braylin Sextion- MGR

Morton Ranch

1- Heaven Davis
10- Lydia Polk
11- Angelica Davis
21- Alexis Scott
32- Katy Advinula
40- Trinitee McFarland
50- Divine Ekuma
23- Keyona Richardson

Paetow

14 - Andrea Rodriguez
15 - Abi Onaleye
24 - Lyne Lagat
25 - Tiera Hall
30 - Trinity Brown
32 - Lauren Hammond
35 - Jaleesa Kua

Seven Lakes

10-Shreya Jategaonkar
11-Caitlyn Quintero
15-Paloma Gasca
20-Victoria Hudspeth
23-Lenore Hudspeth
32-Heather Thayer
23 - Sadie Bubeck
30 - Yassmeen Karroum
Sadie Dornak - Manager

Taylor

0 - Micah Elegores
2 - Olivia Upshaw
5 - Casey Scherpereel
11 - Mia Lopez
20 - Mallory St. Denis
21 - Amanda Scherpereel

Tompkins

Fiyin Adeleye
Sascha Coughran
Riri DeLeon
Gabrielle Panter

Tanya Philip
Emma Potts
Ava Wade



Katy head coach Shanna Marhofer speaks to her team from the sideline during a game between Katy and Tompkins at the Katy gym.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Tompkins opens district title defense with win over Katy

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tuesday, Feb. 28
Tompkins opened its District 19-6A title defense in strong fashion on Tuesday, beating contenders Katy, 4-2, in both teams' first district game of the season. The win moved the Falcons to 4-2 on the season and 1-0 in district.

Ty Dagley was huge for Tompkins in the game, allowing just one run over four innings and striking out six in the win, while Ivan Gomez, Aryan Chopra and Darius Woodson all had an RBI to lead the Tompkins offense.

It took until the third inning for both teams to get on the board, as Katy struck first in the top of the inning, with AJ Atkinson driving in a run on a single after Katy had two walks to start the inning.

Tompkins struck back in the bottom of the inning, getting a run across when Cooper Markle reached on an error to bring in a run. The Falcons then took the lead in the fifth inning. The Falcons got the bases loaded with a walk and two singles, and Gomez brought in a run with another single, before Woodson made things a two run game with a single of his own. Chopra made things 4-1 a batter later when he walked as the Falcons grabbed a strong lead in the game.

The Tigers made a run at getting back into things in the top of the seventh, getting a runner on and then getting a run across on a Reese Ruderman single, but a strikeout ended things as the Falcons were able to secure the win.

Lucas Moore started the game for Katy and allowed three earned runs on five hits while striking out four and walking five. The loss was Katy's first of the season, as they fell to 6-1 and 0-1 in district play.



Gavin Rutherford hits during a game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy baseball field last season.
PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

either team to get on the board, but Cinco Ranch did it in a big way, getting two runners on before Lucas Franco hit a three run home run to put the Cougars ahead. Taylor responded with Brett Dolejsi bringing in a run on a double to make things 3-1.

Cinco though answered back in the next inning, getting two men on once again before Charlie Atkinson hit a three run home run to make thing a five run game.

Cinco Ranch powers past Taylor

Cinco Ranch used a powerful offensive performance to start district off on the right note, beating Taylor 14-6 to move to 6-0 on the season and 1-0 in district play. It took for the third quarter for



Lucas Moore pitches during a game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy baseball field last season.

Gavin Rutherford then hit a solo home run in the top of the fifth before Torin Green hit a double to drive in a run. Rainer Castillo drove in another on a single and Atkinson hit a double to make things 10-1 Cougars.

Taylor had a big bottom of the fifth, scoring two runs on a Dolejsi single, adding another on an Adam Fitzgerald single, another on a wild pitch and two more runs on a single from Logan Stark.

But Taylor put things beyond a doubt in the top of the sixth inning. Connor Ficcaro drove in a run on a single before Green drove in another run with a single. Castillo drove in two more runs with another single to put a stamp on a strong inning for Cinco Ranch.

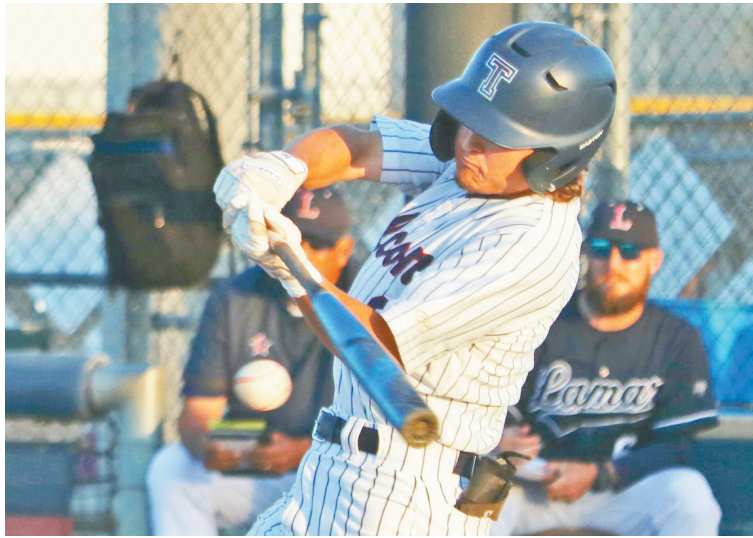
Stark started the game and pitched four innings, allowing seven earned runs on nine hits while striking out four. The loss dropped Taylor to 3-4-1 and 0-1 in district play.

Jordan shuts out Mayde Creek

Jordan started district off with a win on Tuesday, topping Mayde Creek 6-0 in a dominant pitching display.

Connor Carmichael was a huge part of the win, pitching seven innings and allowing just two hits, while striking out eight batters and walking none to lead the Warriors. JD Ortigoza, Brett Miller, James Lacy and Andre Toups all had one RBI on the day in a balanced game for the offense.

Jordan got on the board in the top of the second, as Lacy drove in a run on a single and Lacy drove in another with a second single. Things stayed that way until the top of the sixth, when Ortigoza drove in another on a single, Miller followed that up with an RBI single and then



Ty Dagley hits during Thursday's Class 6A area round game between Tompkins and Lamar at the Tompkins baseball field last season.

another run came in on a passed ball. Jordan scored a sixth run in the top of the seventh when Lacy stole home plate to seal the win.

Marcus Rodriguez started for Mayde Creek and pitched four innings, allowing two earned runs on six hits while striking out five and walking three. The loss dropped the Rams to 0-5-1 on the season and 0-1 in district play.

Paetow tops Morton Ranch

Paetow earned a 7-4 win over Morton Ranch to start district play, as the Panthers' offense had a strong day at the plate to lead them past the Mavericks.

Garrett Smith and Maddox Prentice led the Panthers at the plate, with Smith driving in three runs and Prentice drove in two.

The Panthers took the lead in the third inning, as Smith drove in a run on a single, but Morton Ranch tied things in the bottom of the inning on a Justin Cryer RBI

single. Paetow came back with another run in the fourth, scoring on an error, and then scored two more in the fifth, as the Panthers got a run on an error. Prentice then hit a sacrifice grounder to make it 4-1 Paetow.

Morton Ranch got two back in the bottom of the fifth. Isaac Cantu hit an RBI single before Cryer drove in another run on a single, making it a one run game.

Paetow pulled away in the sixth. Charles Radley drove a run in on a sacrifice fly before Smith hit in a triple to drive in another and Prentice made things 7-3 on another single. Morton Ranch got a final run in the seventh, getting it on a sacrifice fly.

Brandon Hasselbring started for the Mavericks and went four innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits, while striking out three and walking six. The loss dropped Morton Ranch to 2-6 and 0-1 in district.





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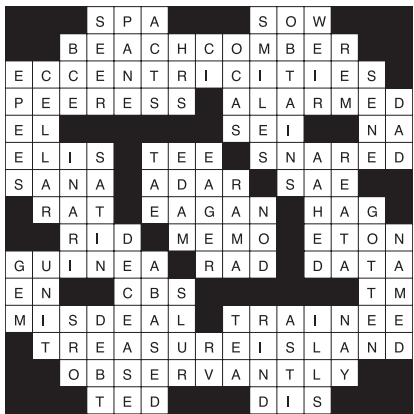
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March 2

Puzzle Answers



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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
THE MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

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City Of Katy, Texas
February 13, 2023

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.
Sale to be held ONLINE at storagetreasures.com
The facility is BEAR CREEK MINI STORAGE 17730 Kieth Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on March 13, 2023, and end at 12:00 pm on March 20, 2023. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Raul Torres, Christian Fontenot, Manuel Sanchez.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Unit #2 (C22)
(1) General Description of property: Unit is 10' by 10' enclosed and climate controlled. Unit contains several cardboard boxes, washer and dryer set, two mattresses, a vacuum, and a luggage bag.
(2) Lien: This unit is being sold to satisfy a lien owed to Cane Island Storage.
(3) Owner: The owner of this unit is Albert Manning.
(4) Address: The address of the self-storage facility is 27748 Highway 90, Katy, Tx 77494
(5) Site/Time: Auction will take place on March 27, 2023, at 11 am and will be hosted on SelfStorageAuction.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Unit #1 (C18)
(1) General Description of property: Unit is 10' by 10' enclosed and climate controlled. Unit contains a mattress, cat scratching post, shelving, a television, as well as some boxes.
(2) Lien: This unit is being sold to satisfy a lien owed to Cane Island Storage.
(3) Owner: The owner of this unit is Albert Manning.
(4) Address: The address of the self-storage facility is 27748 Highway 90, Katy, Tx 77494
(5) Site/Time: Auction will take place on March 27, 2023, at 11 am and will be hosted on SelfStorageAuction.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
ALTITUDE VALVE STATION
THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A POTABLE WATER ALTITUDE VALVE STATION INSTALLATION. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. BID DOCUMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

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Becky L. McGrew
City Secretary
City of Katy, Texas

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

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(3) Owner: The owner of this unit is Albert Manning.
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BASKETBALL

from page B1

Class 6A Region III Tournament, with Tompkins making a run to the state title game in 2018, and Morton Ranch making the regional semifinals in 2020.

Katy had gotten close to adding another team to that list last year, when Mayde Creek made it to the regional quarterfinals for the first time in school history, but this year Katy ISD had a breakthrough.

Both Seven Lakes and Jordan made the regional tournament this year, equaling the amount of times Katy ISD teams had made it that far in the playoffs over the past eight years and showing that Katy ISD is an up and coming force in the Houston area.

"Our district is one of the best in the city of Houston and the state of Texas," said Seven Lakes junior guard A.J. Bates. "For a long time, people doubted teams in this district, but we've changed that perception over the past couple years. We play good basketball — we aren't going to be looked over anymore, we're going to be here and be one of the best districts."

Seven Lakes was dominant all season, going on a 26-game win streak and winning 34 games this season on its way to the regional tournament. They were one of Houston's strongest teams all year and proved themselves against the highest competition.



Josh Akpovwa drives into a defender during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Seven Lakes and Clear Falls at the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine.

"It shows that the brand of basketball that we're playing in Katy ISD is exciting, fun and hard to compete against," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "I'm super proud of our guys for being district champs in a district that is on the up and up. We have a great group of coaches and players from top to bottom and it's just getting better. It's exciting to be a part of."

Jordan meanwhile, surged in its first 6A season, defying expectations, en route to winning 28 games and making their way to the third round behind a senior class that helped to start the program three years ago.

"Katy ISD, we've never really had that reputation in boys basketball and we wanted to build that," said Jordan senior forward Trevor Martz. "You have all these Houston and Dallas schools and districts that are known and we want to build to be that. We wanted to show people what we could do. We and Seven Lakes, we came out and showed the city what Katy ISD is

capable of. This is a tough district and it makes good teams."

The head coaches of both teams credited being ready for playoffs with the tough matchups and coaching they faced throughout district. Katy ISD had five teams reach 20 wins this year, and the matchups in district play were highly competitive. And don't expect that growth to just stop with this year, as teams all across the district will bring back talented players to compete.

"This district has grown so much and the level of basketball has been raised" said Jordan head coach Charlie Jones. "A few years ago, people would expect Fort Bend to sweep Katy ISD in the first round or win three of four, but this year we went 3-1 against Fort Bend. We have lots of talented teams, even ones that didn't make playoffs. That really helped us once we got here in the playoffs, because teams are so strong in our district and we have great coaches."

SPARTANS

from page B1

Clear Falls came out strong in the second quarter, getting their offense going and building a five point lead, but Seven Lakes came back to tie things late in the quarter, but the Knights still led 36-35 going into the half.

"It was magical to be here, but it just makes me want it more," said junior point guard AJ Bates. "Not a lot of Seven Lakes teams have done this. I wish we could have gone further, but this whole experience — from on the court to the support of our fans and everyone — it meant everything."

Seven Lakes was unable to keep momentum going into the third quarter. The Spartans' offense sputtered and couldn't keep up with the Knights, as Josh Moore scored 11 points in the quarter and Seven Lakes went down by 58-51 after three.

Clear Falls then built up an 11 point lead in the fourth, before Seven Lakes tried to mount a comeback, but the Knights got buckets when they needed them and nailed their free throws down the stretch to seal the game.

"From the beginning we knew that this was a special team," Bates said. "It's not the way we wanted to finish things, but I'm proud of all my guys from the first one to the last one, all of the seniors to the sophomores. This whole season was magical, I'm sad it's over with but we're going to keep working."

The loss ended a 26 game winning streak for the Spartans that dated back to the beginning of December. They will graduate six players from this team, but will bring back many talented players next year as they look to build on one of the program's most successful years ever.

"It's about improving them both on and off the court," Heston said. "We're going to get one perfect better every day and work on being better every day off the court as well. They're all driven and passionate and we are going to harness that and help them grow and get even better."

Class 6A Regional Semifinal

CLEAR FALLS 83, SEVEN LAKES 70

Points: (SL) AJ Bates 24, Josh Akpovwa 15, Brett Norton 10, Nasir Price 8, EJ Sparks 6, Tillman Jaramillo 6, Nathan Nguyen 1; (CF) Orlando Horton 28, Josh Moore 18, Corey Kelly 13, Javon Murray 9, Prince Hegwood 6, Kenye Yzquierdo 5, Caden Steward 4;

Halftime: Clear Falls 36-35; 3-Pointers: (SL) Bates 3, Jaramillo 2, Sparks 2; (CF) Moore 3, Horton 2, Murray; Records: Seven Lakes 34-5, Clear Falls 28-7;



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Trevor Martz drives into the lane during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Jordan and Beaumont United at the M.O. Campbell Center.

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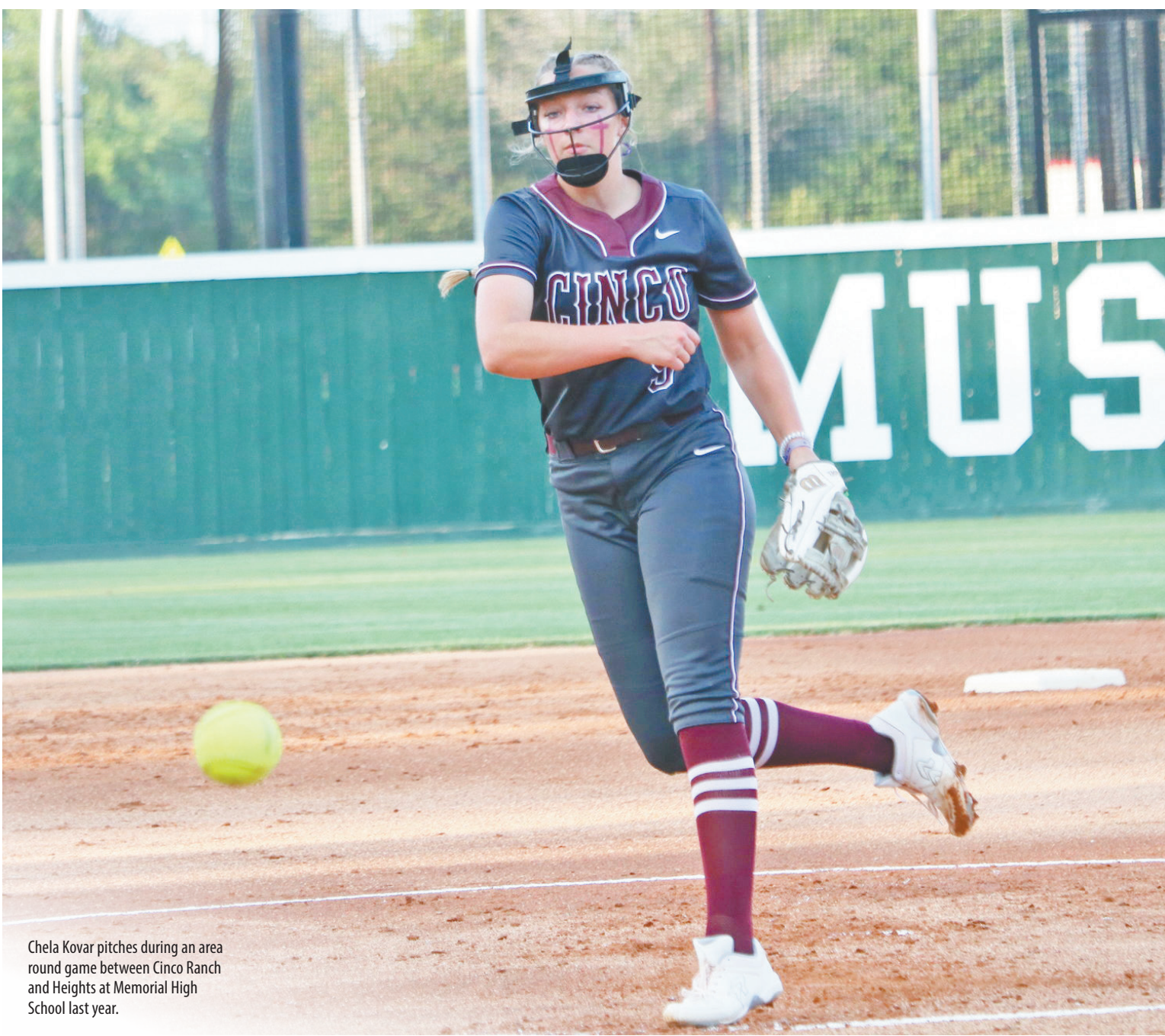
Katy continues strong run to open season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

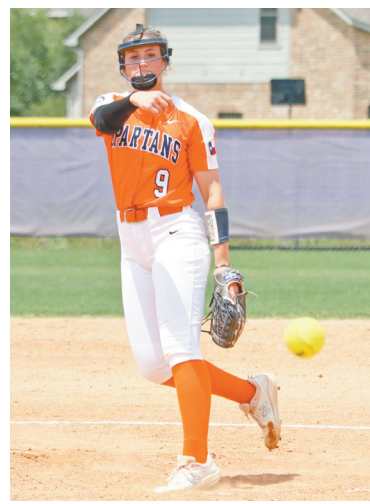
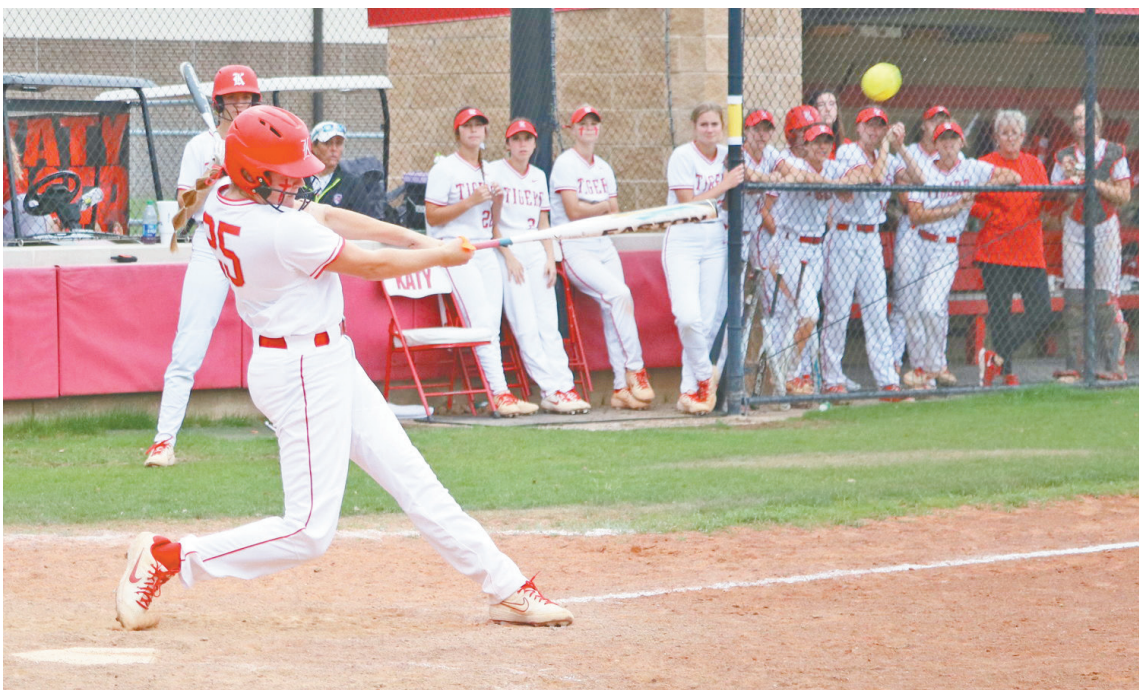
Tuesday, Feb. 28
Katy kept its strong start to the season going Tuesday, easily beating Jordan 11-0 to move to 15-1 on the season and 4-0 in district play. It was a run rule win for the Tigers, who put things away in just five innings behind a balanced offense and terrific pitching performance. Cameryn Harrison, Peyton Watson and Ella Kate Smith each finished the day with two RBIs, while Harrison pitched three perfect innings as well, striking out seven of the nine batters she faced. It only took two batters for Katy to get on the board, as Avery Porter drove Maddie Smith in with a double after Smith was hit by a pitch to start the inning. Ashtyn Reichardt followed that up with a triple to drive in Porter, as Katy went on to score three runs in the inning. After a clean top half of the second, Katy kept it going with Maddie Smith driving in a run on a sacrifice fly. Harrison made it 6-0 in the bottom of the third with a two run home run and Ella Kate Smith followed that up with a solo home run. Hailey Gore increased the Tigers' lead to nine with a two-run single. The Tigers put things to bed in the fourth, with Watson driving in two runs on a single to center field, with a clean top half of the fifth, ending things. Jordan was held without a hit in the game, while giving up 11 hits and striking out three. The Warriors fell to 9-5-1 and 1-2 in District 19-6A play with the loss.

Cinco tops Mayde Creek

Cinco Ranch won its second straight game on Tuesday, earning a big victory over Mayde Creek 12-4 to improve to 8-6 on the season with a 3-1 record in district play so far this year. Gissel Morales was a huge part of the win, going 3-4 from the plate and driving in four runs, while Kendall Bregener had three RBIs and Amanda Croteau drove in two runs in the win. Chela Kovar earned the win for the Cougars, throwing a complete seven inning game, striking out three while walking three and allowing three earned runs. Cinco had a hot start to the game, doing much of its work offensively in the first few innings. The Cougars got their first run off an error, before Bregener drove in two with a double to give Cinco a good start to the game. Morales drove in two more in the second inning on a double, before Mayde Creek answered back in the third. The Rams got two runs on wild pitches before trimming the Cinco lead to 5-3 when Debanhi Carrizales drove in a run on a ground out. Croteau answered back right away in the bottom of the third by hitting a two run homer and Cinco added more runs on a Madison Rosario single, Madison Royse double and Morales single. Bregener hit another home run in the bottom of the third to make it 11-3, but Mayde Creek responded with a solo home run in the top of the fifth from Alexia Ruiz. Morales closed things out for the Cougars in the bottom of the fifth by hitting an RBI double. Ruiz had the only Mayde Creek RBI of the day on her solo home run, while she also added a double. The loss dropped Mayde Creek to 5-3 overall with a 2-2 record in district, as they are battling on the cusp of playoff position.



Chela Kovar pitches during an area round game between Cinco Ranch and Heights at Memorial High School last year.



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Left: Cameryn Harrison hits a ball to left field during a game between Katy and Taylor at the Katy softball field last year. Above: Amy Abke pitches during a bi-district round game between Seven Lakes and Ridge Point at the Ridge Point softball field last year.

Tompkins powers past Taylor

Tompkins was able to earn a big win over Taylor on Tuesday, behind a strong offense. The Falcons were able to overcome the Mustangs 9-5 to move to 8-5 on the season and 3-1 in district. Tompkins was led by strong days from Megan Brown and Samantha Crumrin, who had three and two RBI days respectively in the win. Crumrin also started and pitched three innings, giving up five runs on six hits while striking out one, before Leah Gershman finished the day off with four clean innings, allowing just one hit and striking out one to finish things. Crumrin got the Falcons out to a good start in the first inning with

a two run home run to put Tompkins ahead. Avery Andry added to the lead in the top of the second with an RBI double, before Megan Brown hit a double of her own to drive Andry in. Morgan Brown then singled to drive in another run and make things 5-0. Taylor got one run back in the second on a passed ball before getting another on a Kenna Irvin single. Katherine Brunner then drove in a run on a single and Izzy Allen drove in another on a single to make things a one run game. Taylor tied things at five in the bottom of the third on a sacrifice fly, but Tompkins responded immediately in the top of the fourth. Megan Brown tripled to drive in two runs before Morton Brown

followed that with a triple of her own to drive in one more. Taydan Alexander hit a sacrifice grounder to make things 9-5 and Tompkins again had a cushion. Both teams remained scoreless the rest of the way as Tompkins secured the victory. The loss had Taylor fall to 7-6 on the year, with a 1-2 record in district.

Seven Lakes survives scare from Morton Ranch

Seven Lakes was able to earn its first district win of the year on Tuesday, beating Morton Ranch 3-1 in a closely contested game. Amy Abke was a force in the game, leading the Spartans both on the mound and at the plate,

driving in two of the Spartans' three runs, while pitching seven innings and allowing just one earned run on two hits, while striking out 11 and walking just one. It took until the third inning for the Spartans to strike, but they got on the board in a big way, as Dulce Franco hit a solo home run to put the Spartans ahead. The Spartans then went up 3-0 in the fourth inning, as Abke hit a two run homerun. Morton Ranch got one run back in the fifth, as Madison Burciaga drove in a run with a single. Neither team was able to score the rest of the way, as the Spartans were able to hang on to the win. The loss moved Morton Ranch to 5-6 on the year and 0-4 in district.



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PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston guard Emanuel Sharp (21) looks for a shot under the basket during an NCAA college basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Mar. 2, 2023, in Houston.

Houston clinches outright AAC regular season title

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston clinched an outright American Athletic Conference title last week, beating East Carolina 76-57 to move to 27-2 on the season with a 15-1 record in conference play.

Marcus Sasser led the way for the Cougars, scoring 22 points while Tramon Mark added 20 and J'Wan Roberts had 17 points and 12 rebounds as Houston won their ninth straight game.

It was a defensive masterclass from Houston, as the Cougars had six blocks and five steals while limiting East Carolina to 32% shooting from the field. No East Carolina player reached 20 points, while Houston had 40 points in the paint, 19 second chance points and never trailed in the contest.

"Tramon Mark was by far our best player tonight — he did everything well tonight," Sampson said. "We were plus 20 on the boards as well and he was a big part of that. We never got in a groove where we made shots, but Mark was always there to make one when we needed it. It's going to happen sometimes where you don't make shots. We played well in spurts, and we got some guys minutes that really needed it — that was big for us tonight."

Sasser got off to a hot start from the field and kept it going all night, finishing 3-6 from the 3-point line and 7-16 from the field.

Houston kept things from ever getting close, as the closest East Carolina got in the second half was 50-35. Ezra Ausar led the Pirates with 15 points, but Houston had the answer after every East Carolina run.

"Our defense was good at times tonight," Sampson said. "They played good offense at times and we struggled at times, especially with fouling. But really our guys just need rest more than anything at this point. It's been a grueling schedule and we're just happy we could get the win and get a con-



Houston guard Marcus Sasser (0) goes to the basket during an NCAA college basketball game between Houston and Wichita State on Mar. 2, 2023, in Houston.

ference championship."

Houston is the only team ranked in the top 10 nationally for both adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency. The win clinched the fourth AAC regular season crown for the Cougars in the past five seasons.

"It's an awesome accomplishment and they should feel that way," Sampson said. "We just played our fourth game in 10 days and this has been a long season. We went 10-0 on the road in conference play and that's a hard thing. It's hard to go undefeated on the road and keep that level of play going. We've been at this for a while and our kids know how to win and how to play in our system. I'm happy for our kids to be rewarded."

Houston followed up the win with a regular season finale 83-66 win over Wichita State, as the Cougar fans were able to celebrate on their own home court at the Fertitta Center.

Houston clinched the No. 1 seed in the AAC postseason tournament and will have a first round bye before playing on Friday.



Houston forward Jarace Walker (25) takes advantage of a fast break in transition to slam in a reverse dunk during an NCAA college basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Wichita State Shockers on Mar. 2, 2023, in Houston. No. 1 ranked Houston won, 83-66, claiming the American Athletic Conference regular season title.



With his grandson held in his arm, Houston head coach Kelvin Sampson climbed the ladder to cut down the net after the No. 1 ranked Cougars defeated Wichita State 83-66 on Mar. 2, 2023, in Houston, to claim the American Athletic Conference Title.

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Clockwise from above: Jude Oluokun shoots a layup during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal between Jordan and Beaumont United at the M.O. Campbell Center. Tyler France dunks the ball during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal. Jaden Holt drives past a defender during Friday's Class 6A Regional Semifinal game.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



JORDAN

from page B1

couldn't find a way to move on once again. "It was just a special experience, a special year all around," said senior shooting guard Misaia Herrera. "When I got here three years ago, I didn't have any idea what to expect but it's been a heck of a ride. I enjoyed every single moment here and this run we went on this year — it just meant a lot and I couldn't ask for more."

The Warriors did a great job staying in it early in the game against the back-to-back state champions in Beaumont United, matching them basket for basket in the first quarter and staying within one point into late in the quarter when United went up by 21-17.

The Timberwolves started to open things up in the second quarter, locking down on Jordan defensively and continuing to put up points on offense. The Warriors fought but United grew its lead to 35-22 at half.

"We knew they were one of the top teams we'd ever seen coming in and we just fought" said senior forward Trevor Martz. "But it was amazing — when you're a kid you dream about playing in this environment. The lights, the crowds, coming out here and being a part of this was a surreal moment."

United pulled away in the second half to seal the win, but the Warriors never gave an inch and fought every possession until the end, even with being short-handed.

"They just fought today," said Jordan head coach Charlie Jones. "They could have quit when they got down 15, they could have quit when they got down 20, but none of those guys quit. They kept playing — they gave it everything and I'm just so proud of them for that and I'm so happy they got to be a part of this tournament and play in this atmosphere."

It's been a meteoric rise for the Warriors, as Jones and this year's seniors went from starting the program three years ago to being in the regional tournament this year. The seniors meant everything to the program and Jones knows what they have meant to growing this program. Jordan graduates eight players from this year's team, but will still bring back lots of talent for next year.

"If it wasn't for those guys there's no regional tournament trip — our program would not be where it is right now," Jones said. "We talk all the time about how much they've meant because if it wasn't for these seniors, there's no telling where this program would be right now. We've had our ups and downs, our battles and our fights but through it all we love each other. I love each and every one of those guys and I know they're going to be successful in life, just like they were successful here."

Class 6A Regional Semifinal

BEAUMONT UNITED 54, JORDAN 39

Points: (J) Jaden Holt 7, Isiah Tchokonte 6, Tyler France 6, Misaia Herrera 6, Trevor Martz 6, Rayan Fadika 4, Quinn Ford 2, Jude Oluokun 2; (BU) Kayde Dotson 15, Wesley Yates 14, Treelyn Porchia 12, Weston Davis 4, Clarence Payia 2, Daniel Williams 2, Ashton Henry 2

Halftime: Beaumont United 35-22; 3-Pointers: (J) Herrera 2, Holt; (BU) Dotson 3, Yates 2; Records: Jordan: 28-9; Beaumont United: 34-1;

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