

JORDAN, PAETOW ADVANCE TO REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS  
SPORTS | B1

# Katy Times



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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

## City passes ordinance for short-term rental properties

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday passed an ordinance to set standards for city residences being used as short-term rental properties.

Under the ordinance, which passed on a 4-1 vote, property owners wishing to use their property for short-term rentals must first apply with the city. A new application fee is \$300. A renewal application is \$200. An inspection fee is \$50.

Property owners must also supply proof of qualifying general

liability insurance and hotel occupancy tax registration. City planner Rachel Lazo said the appropriate paperwork would be placed on the city website and be processed through the city's permits department.

On the hotel occupancy tax collection and remittance, Lazo said up to 7% is paid to the state. Lazo said some listing sites, such as Airbnb, VRBO, and HomeAway, collected such taxes and paid them to the state. Under the new ordinance, an additional 7% rate would be paid directly to the city by the property owner.

Property owners would be

required to provide a site plan with parking identified, a floor plan, ingress/egress, and fire extinguishers. In case of emergency, she said, the information would help with safely navigating a property. Lazo said after the city approves an application, the property would be inspected to ensure compliance with applicable codes.

Lazo said under the ordinance, properties could not be used as a wedding or event venue. She said the ordinance prohibited tents, hammocks, RV/campers or vehicles to be used as a short-term rental.

Lazo said repeated code viola-

tions could lead to permits being revoked.

Don Rao, former Ward B council member, said the ordinance was much needed in the city.

"We've been dealing with this issue since November in our neighborhood," Rao said. "It hasn't gotten any better. Hopefully, this will help everybody."

Rao said he hoped the new ordinance would benefit city residents both in terms of safety and protecting property values.

"Our quality of life is being reduced every day," Rao said. "We have no idea of who is coming and going. They use our street (Mag-

nolia Street) for drag races. Cars and trash have been allowed to sit outside the house for three weeks at a time."

Rao said he and his neighbors "might as well be living next to Motel 6, but at least Motel 6 knows who their guests are."

One Katy couple that owns a local Airbnb told the council their experience with their guests was different from what Rao described.

Charles and Debbie Dowdell own property at 2218 Ave. A. Charles Dowdell said they have used that property as an Airbnb for

See **ORDINANCE**, page A3

## Katy ISD to pay teachers, staff retention lump sum

CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Katy school trustees Monday approved a one-time, one percent retention lump sum payment that will be distributed to district employees later this spring. Trustees gave their approval at their March 27 meeting.

"Our employees are Katy ISD's most valued asset," Greg Schulte, school board president, said. "They work tirelessly every day to ensure that Katy ISD delivers unparalleled learning to our students. Katy ISD staff will always be a priority for our board and administration. On behalf of the board, I would like to sincerely thank our thousands of teachers and staff for their dedicated service to our children and families."

The payments are intended to incentivize staff to commit to returning to Katy ISD employment this coming fall—a move that is reflective of the district's ongoing efforts to maintain its comparatively low attrition rate as measured against other school districts across the Houston region. The district also sustains teacher salaries above the region's median and has delivered annual staff raises for the past four years.

The one percent retention lump sum payment will reflect the mid-point of an employee's pay grade.

### Katy ISD to roll out new bus rider tracking system this fall

Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) systems will be installed this fall on Katy ISD school buses

across the district. The system monitors ridership, including where and when a student is picked up or dropped off by a school bus.

Katy school trustees approved the implementation of this technology at their March 27 meeting.

The ID system will require each student bus rider to have a Katy ISD SMART Tag ID card, which they will use every time they enter and exit their school bus. Buses will be equipped with a tablet that will read students' IDs, providing real-time information for bus drivers, school administrators and parents.

"The student ID cards utilize encryption and security protocols to ensure student ridership is accurately tracked and individual information is secure," Ted Vierling, Katy ISD chief operations officer, said. "The system will provide real-time bus arrival notifications for school parents and our transportation personnel."

Parents will be able to monitor their child's ridership and bus route through the SMART Tag Parent Web Portal, a cloud-based platform. The system also automates several reporting functions for transportation department personnel such as state rider count and mileage reports.

Over the last five years, Katy ISD has implemented several new safety platforms on bus routes, including Global Positioning Systems and eight camera security systems. The Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) system is an added layer of security.

See **KATY ISD**, page A3

## KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



Kingsland Baptist Church held its annual international festival Saturday March 25 at the church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd. Right: The festival had plenty of kid-friendly attractions such as this slide. Above: The festival featured a full schedule of schedule of cultural performances throughout the day, such as this one.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

### HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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March 30, 2023  
16 pages | \$1



### WILD WEST BREW FEST

Above: Vodka Soda was among the beverages featured at the brew fest. The Rotary Club of Katy distributes the proceeds from the brew fest to local communities in need. Left: Warm weather and cold beverages made for a good time for those attending the Wild West Brew Fest at Typhoon Texas.

PHOTOS BY DAVID FRISHMAN

## Commissioners talk growth, flood mitigation concerns

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Commissioners from three counties said they wanted to work together, both across their respective counties, but with state and federal agencies, to improve flood mitigation and roads.

Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner Leslie Briones, Waller County Pct. 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorf, and Fort Bend County Pct. 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales shared their perspectives at the West Houston Association meeting, which was held March 23 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria, 7611 Katy Fwy. Alia Vinson, partner at the ABHR law firm, served as moderator.

Organizers said this meeting was a first in that the county commissioners from the Katy/West Houston area, and not the county judges, were invited to speak.

Dealing with flooding and roads remain important issues as the area population continues to grow. Morales said at the last census, the Fort Bend County population

See **COMMISSIONERS**, page A3

# EASTER

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## Community Calendar

# APRIL



**APRIL 1**  
**JAGUAR DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA AT KATY**  
Learn about the educational opportunities at the University of Houston-Victoria at Katy. The event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UH System Katy Academic Building, 22400 Grand Circle Blvd. To register, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3Zg5TF8.

**APRIL 6**  
**LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**  
Voters will be making their choices in City of Katy, Katy ISD, City of Brookshire, Royal ISD and City of Pattison elections. To check your voter registration and register to vote, visit the website votetexas.gov.

**APRIL 8**  
**BEDROCK CITY MINI CON AT NO LABEL BREWERY**  
Bedrock City Mini Con, a free mini comic vendor fair, is from 12-5 p.m. No Label Brewery, 5351-A 1st St. The event features 60+ vendors, signings, local artists, cosplay contests, games, food trucks, live music and more. For more information, call the brewery at 281-692-7545.

**APRIL 8**  
**BASKETS & BUNNIES**  
A family-friendly event featuring Easter egg hunting, holiday crafts, inflatables, activities and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The event is from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Katy City Park, 5720 Franz Road. For more information, call the city's parks department at 281-391-4840.



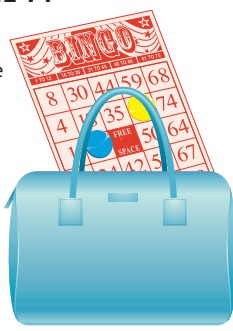
**APRIL 8**  
**EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE FOUNDRY CHURCH-FRY ROAD CAMPUS**  
Come enjoy a free Easter Egg hunt for the family. The event also features a petting zoo, face painting, bounce houses, family photo booth and silent auction. The event is at the church, 10203 Fry Road. For more information, call the church at 713-937-9388.

**APRIL 12**  
**INFORMATION SESSION ON CAREGIVERS FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
The Arc of Katy and Kingsland Baptist Church

Special Needs Ministry have come together to provide an informational session for parents, guardians, and caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The session is from 6-7 p.m. at Kingsland Baptist Church, 20555 Kingsland Blvd. For more information, call the church at 281-492-0785.

**APRIL 13**  
**KATY ISD TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FORUM**  
Eight candidates are vying to serve on the Katy ISD Board of Trustees. The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce is presenting a candidate forum for the public to hear the candidates and their plans if elected. The forum is set for 7-8:30 p.m. at Cinco Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd. The event is free but RSVPs are needed. To RSVP, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3Twa4RF.

**APRIL 14**  
**DESIGNER PURSE BINGO**  
This bingo event raises money to benefit Stuff the Sleigh, which works to positively impact the lives of children battling cancer and rare blood disease. The doors at Palacio Maria, 21728 Highland Knolls Dr., open at 6 p.m., with the bingo starting at 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3liupwV.



**APRIL 15**  
**KATY SIP N STROLL**  
A biannual fundraiser featuring tasty treats and beverages from several Katy-area restaurants. Proceeds from the event, presented by Keller Williams Premier, benefit the Ballard House, which serves families of those undergoing medical treatments. The event is set for 6-9 p.m. at the Ark by Norris, 21402 Merchants Way. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website sipandstroll.com.



**APRIL 15**  
**DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS TRASH-OFF**  
Keep Katy Beautiful hosts the local Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state. The focuses on litter prevention, electronic recycling and paper shredding. In addition, the Katy Lions will accept gently used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses for recycling and donating. The event is from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Katy's First Baptist Church, 600 Pin Oak Road. For more information, including the list of accepted materials, visit the website cityofkaty.com/trashoff.

**APRIL 15**  
**KATY MARKET DAY**  
The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, beer garden, entertainment, and inflatable attractions for children's entertainment. The event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy. For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.

**APRIL 19**  
**PROCLAIMING THE WALLER COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL**  
The Waller County Commissioners Court will issue a proclamation in recognition of the county's sesquicentennial, or 150th birthday, at their 9 a.m. meeting at the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead, which is open to the public. The ceremony kicks off a variety of activities and celebrations. For more information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3FLJcr5.

**APRIL 20**  
**CASINO NIGHT AT HEMI HIDEOUT**  
The Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a Casino Night from 6-10 p.m. at Hemi Hideout, 1172 Wilpitz Road in Brookshire. The event features a live casino, prizes, gourmet delights, a "shaken, not stirred" bar (remembering the fictitious British spy James Bond) and music. Tickets are \$75. For more information, call the chamber at 832-600-3221.

**APRIL 22**  
**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
An annual event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. The event begins at 4 p.m. at Katy City Park, 5720 Franz Road. For more information, visit the website relayforlife.org/katytx.



**APRIL 22**  
**EARTH DAY AT CROSS CREEK RANCH**  
Food, giveaways, nature inspired activities and a Movie on the Hill at Cross Creek Ranch, 6450 Cross Creek Bend Lane in Fulshear. The activities are from 7-9 p.m. and the movie starts at 8 p.m. Bring your favorite lawn chair or blanket to get a good spot for the movie. For more information, call 281-344-9882.



**APRIL 22**  
**EARTH DAY IN KATY**  
Shredding on the Go, a nationally recognized disability-owned shredding company, is accepting papers for shredding from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 814 East Ave., Suite G. For more information, call Greg Hess at 281-744-3341.

**APRIL 24**  
**EARLY VOTING BEGINS**  
Early voting begins for the City of Katy, Katy ISD, City of Brookshire, and Royal ISD elections. Election Day is May 6.

**APRIL 29**  
**LINE DANCING WITH A PURPOSE**  
Proceeds from this dance will benefit Katy Area Youth through the Katy Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. scholarships & community programming. The dance is from 7-10 p.m. at the Fry Road Municipal Utility District, 70111 Saums Road. Tickets are \$30. For more information, visit the website katydeltas.org. To purchase tickets, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3TJGVCF.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Millisecond
- As a result of this utterance
- Narcotic drug
- Accident
- Formal submissions
- Popular 70s rock band
- Discourage from doing
- More socially elite
- Arid
- A way to look
- Heroes
- A surfer rides it
- Potato state
- Insect repellent
- Cool!
- Have already done
- Collegiate women's fraternity
- To the \_\_\_ degree
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Blood type
- Looked over
- Language of Cameroon and Chad
- Species of armadillo
- Touch softly
- Part of your upper body
- Large, stocky lizards
- Lack of social or ethical standards
- Congressman
- Unofficial force
- As a result of this utterance
- A main branch of Islam

**CLUES DOWN**

- Woman (French)
- Province of Pakistan
- This (Spanish)
- Transportation device
- Greater in importance or priority
- The human foot
- Within
- Consumed
- Respectful Malaysian term
- Therefore
- Ceased to exist
- Type of macaroni
- English composer
- Wooded tract
- Tall, slender-leaved plant
- 36 inches
- Take too much (abbr.)
- Allow
- Individually
- Journalist Tarbell
- Bar bill
- Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
- Not messy
- Species that includes eedmage
- Former MLB catcher Ed
- Northern U.S. state
- Wilt
- Commercial
- Bolivian river
- Nursemaid
- A car needs four
- Guns (slang)
- American state
- Clusters of fern fronds
- Body part
- A person's brother or sister
- Breed of sheep native to Sweden
- Of I

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



## COMMISSIONERS

from page A1

was about 855,000 people.

"Fort Bend County will be 1.2 million in roughly 2025, and they are saying that by 2034 Fort Bend County will be over two million people," Morales said. "Think about that a minute. Over two million people in 2034. So, you can see the growth is happening in Fort Bend County and that means these other neighboring counties are going to experience that same explosion of growth as well."

Briones is the newest commissioner of the three, having been elected to her first term last November. She said her precinct has a larger population than nine states and she wanted to develop good working relationships with the various governmental entities in and serving her precinct.

"We've had wonderful meetings with the City of Katy, which is one of the cities in precinct 4," Briones said. "Because at the end of the day, we need the different governmental entities that are serving the same constituents to work together to more effectively leverage your tax dollars, to have the outcomes that we all want and deserve."

Beckendorff said his precinct is growing at the fastest rate overall.

"In my precinct I have the City of Katy," he said. "I also have Fulshear, Simonton and Brookshire and the City of Houston, along with two school districts in there. We've got design plans on the books. Some of them are building lots now and some of them are in the very infant phase of over 30,000 lots coming to Waller County. Our population in the census, there's about 60,000 people."

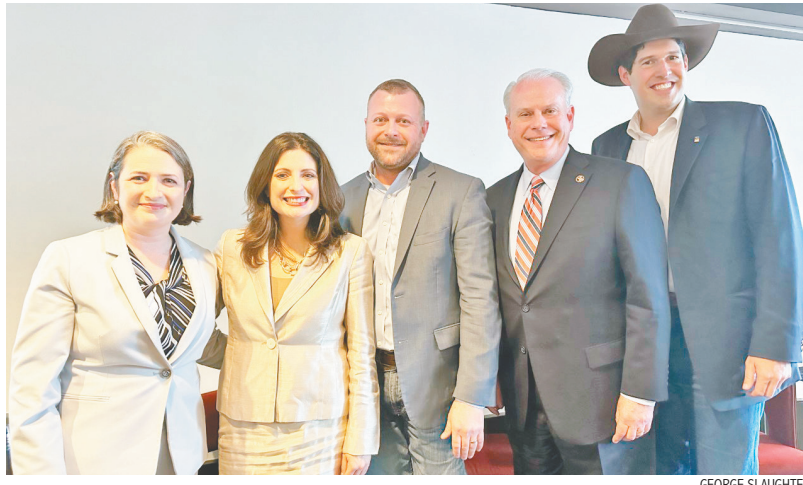
Morales said Fort Bend County in 2018 commission to study for flood mitigation throughout the county. He said another study will be done in the next couple of months and would be shared with adjacent counties, both upstream and downstream from Fort Bend County.

## ORDINANCE

from page A1

the last four years and it served as a long-term rental before that.

"We're very sorry to hear that terrible story, because that's not our experience," Debbie Dowdell said, adding that they inspect their property regularly. She said they wanted to work with the city.



Alia Vinson, partner at the ABHR law firm; Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner Leslie Briones; Waller County Pct. 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorff; Fort Bend County Pct. 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales, and West Houston Association President/CEO Alan Steinberg.

"There's already a collaboration of working, especially with the Harris County Flood Control," Morales said. "There's a collaboration therebetween Fort Bend County and the other counties to make sure that we could address that we address future flooding in the region."

Beckendorff said new rules for builders was one measure taken to improve flood mitigation.

"All of our new developments, we require them to do some detention," Beckendorff said, adding that flood mitigation planning requires looking at more than just the three counties represented at the meeting.

"If you go back and look when they built the two reservoirs (Addicks and Barker) there, there was actually a third reservoir (Cypress Creek) on that map that never got built," Beckendorff said. "I wish we could go back there and asked that guy why, but something like that is going to need to happen to where we can make a big impact."

Vinson said the association supported regional standardization of drainage criteria. Briones agreed.

"I'll just say it's an excellent idea and I'm sure the West Houston Association standardizing the criteria will

benefit all of our residents and make sure there's clarity and consistency," Briones said.

Another factor to be considered is using green space for water detention areas. Morales said George Bush Park, which is in Harris County, and Freedom Park, which is in Fort Bend County, are cited as examples of this.

"That whole area there, we had connectivity as far as with trails," Morales said. "That is really a shared county line park between Harris County and Fort Bend County. I will tell you that we have been very fortunate in Fort Bend County to have good quality development. A lot of our developers have set aside green space to have natural areas that could serve as detention or natural detention basins."

Briones said green infrastructure was critical.

"It helps with her flood mitigation efforts," Briones said. "It helps with making sure we're preserving the environment for our children and grandchildren. And at the end of the day, if we want to recruit and retain the best talent and draw additional businesses to invest in this region, people want to be able to be outside with their kids and grandkids."

"It matters to us very much that it's a plus for the community, and not a negative, because we care about Katy," Dowdell said. "We put our kids through school here."

Ward A Council Members Dan Smith and Janet Corte, Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem

Chris Harris, and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson voted for the ordinance. Ward B Council Member Gina Hicks voted against the measure. She said she felt the ordinance was an overreach on the part of the city. Homeowners' associations should make such rules, she said.

## KATY ISD

from page A1

The installation will take place over the summer and the system will be deployed on the first day of school in August 2023. The new Smart Tag ID system will replace Katy ISD's current Edulog Lite App, with Smart Tag taking over the work of bus tracking, while adding the functionality of student ridership.

### Katy ISD academic decathlon teams among top contenders in state meet

Katy ISD academic decathlon students take home several wins after two rigorous state competitions in San Antonio and Frisco, Texas.

Seventy-three (73) Katy ISD students, from eight district high schools, qualified for the state tournament. Teams across the state were separated by their regional tournament rankings. The highest-ranking regional teams competed in the San Antonio meet and three other teams headed to the Frisco meet.

Here are the Katy ISD school finishes in the San Antonio meet:

- Taylor High School, 6th place
- Paetow High School, 8th place
- Katy High School, 14th place
- Tompkins High School, 21st place
- Cinco Ranch High School, 22nd place
- Morton Ranch High School, 23rd place
- Seven Lakes High School, 29th place
- Jordan High School, 43rd place

Here are the Katy ISD school finishes in the Frisco meet:

- Morton Ranch High School, 1st place
- Seven Lakes High School, 5th place
- Jordan High School, 12th place

"Since the start of the school year, Katy ISD students have worked hard to practice high-level academics challenges in preparation for these state meets," said Dr. Joan Otten, Director of Katy ISD Gifted & Talented/Advanced Academics Department. "As part of the competition, students also prepare and deliver a memorized speech, give an impromptu presentation, participate in a sit-down interview and write a 50-minute paper," added Otten.

The Texas Academic Decathlon Event is the second-largest academic program in the nation, where students have the opportunity to be one of the beneficiaries of \$200,000 in scholarships.



Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, seated fourth from left, and Katy school trustees pose for a photo with the Taylor High academic decathlon team.

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# Spring Broke

When my three semi-grown daughters were young (and since I work in the lucrative world of public education), we'd spend our spring break holidays riding bikes to the park, making dad-sized pillow forts in the living room, and raiding the gift shop at the zoo.

Now that two of the girls are in college and one is in high school, those days (and our gift-shop cash) are long gone.

This year, I spent most of my spring break competing with my youngest daughter to see who could sleep in the latest without developing bed sores. She usually won (barely), mostly because of the shame I would feel if I still had bed head when my wife came home from work.

My middle daughter also spent a good amount of her spring break in bed, only instead of just sleeping, she allowed the Chinese government to spy on her college laundry pile while she binged on TikTok videos to procrastinate from reading "an entire book" for her cruel and unusual college history class.

I only saw my eldest and most expensive daughter in passing as she spent her spring break going out to have her eyebrows waxed or to purchase "healthy" groceries that are missing the ingredients that make food edible—since, apparently, everything in our pantry is poisonous.

If I wasn't in REM sleep dreaming of the good old days when my kids still spoke to me without mentioning a credit card, I was nursing my lower back, which currently feels like it's identifying as a tackling dummy for the Dallas Cowboys defensive line. My doctor has encouraged me to relieve my pre-geriatric lumbar aches by performing several stretches that require me to get on the floor and contort my body into positions that frighten our pets.

These so-called therapeutic stretches have embarrassing names like the "child's pose," the "cat-cow" and the "pelvic tilt." I'm starting to think that having me do these stretches is just a ruse by the doctor to provide entertainment for my family—and to keep me from being able to get up off of the carpet and go bother him again.

But don't get me wrong. I did have some fun and adventure on my break.

Along with making several trips to Walmart for more toxic foodstuffs, I spent some quality "me" time inhaling microscopic fibers while vacuuming the masses of delinquent lint

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



**Seriously, though, I know there is no sense in whining about the travails of the present or longing for the spring breaks of old. Instead, I'm determined to savor the time I can still spend with my daughters—even if it mostly involves picking up their dirty laundry, asking them how much it would cost to have my eyebrows waxed or telling them I love them as they walk out the door.**

partying behind our dryer.

I also had the rare opportunity to re-install a toilet-paper holder that an overly-exuberant (and unnamed) potty patron managed to rip out of the sheetrock in my daughters' bathroom. (While I was on the floor, I did a few pelvic tilts.)

Seriously, though, I know there is no sense in whining about the travails of the present or longing for the spring breaks of old. Instead, I'm determined to savor the time I can still spend with my daughters—even if it mostly involves picking up their dirty laundry, asking them how much it would cost to have my eyebrows waxed or telling them I love them as they walk out the door.

*Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.*



## Recent population growth leads to more car accidents

Katy has experienced significant population growth over the last several years. According to the Katy Economic Development Council, Katy grew from 242,500 to 337,800 households from 2010-22 — nearly a 40% increase. All signs point to continued exponential inflation as more large companies move into the area and others seek the improved quality of life, excellent schools, and job opportunities in Katy. According to the US Census Bureau and the Texas Demographic Center, the Greater Katy area is one of Texas' 10 largest cities.

Katy's astounding population enlargement is expected to continue to expand annually with no signs of decrease. This means the Greater Katy area's infrastructure must improve to keep up with the rise in population. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has committed to investing hundreds of millions of dollars in construction projects on I-10, the Grand Parkway, and US 90 over the next five to ten years.

Though an increased population has its economic and social benefits, it also creates some disadvantages for residents. For example, when cities experience a population surge, the number of vehicles on the roads escalate, causing a rise in car-related injuries and fatalities.

### How population growth creates more car wrecks

Population increase has a direct correlation with the increase of car wrecks. As the population increases, there are more drivers on the roads and highways, which can lead to an increase in car wrecks. This is especially true in densely populated areas where traffic congestion is high and drivers must compete for space on the roadways. Additionally, when populations become larger and more spread out geographically, it often leads to increased distances between destinations, resulting in longer commutes.

Katy had a total of 1,028 crashes in 2021. Data collected by TxDOT shows that there were 1,192 auto wrecks in 2022; an alarming 16% increase compared to the prior year. So, what causes the increase in car crashes?

SHANE MCCLELLAND  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



**There is no slowdown in Katy's development. Over the next decade, the influx of new citizens will continue to grow exponentially. That means a mounting number of cars on the roads, and additional construction to keep up with the rising demand. It is critical that residents do their part to maintain safe driving habits to help keep our community safe.**

### Increased traffic

Though TxDOT has committed to expand roads to accommodate more drivers, as cities experience rapid expansion over short periods of time it is inevitable that infrastructure struggles to keep up with demand. This causes roads that were designed for lower levels of traffic to become congested during peak hours. One such road to experience constant congestion is the Katy Freeway. Despite the \$2.8 billion expansion of I-10 back in 2011, drivers frequently experience immense traffic congestion. Whenever there is an influx of commuters on the road, the following risks are more likely to occur:

- **Distracted driving:** When traffic is moving slow, many drivers are tempted to check their emails, surf social media and text.

- **Aggressive driving:** Some drivers get impatient in traffic and allow their frustration to evolve into aggressive driving behaviors such as tailgating, speeding, cutting others off and road rage.

- **Fatigued driving:** Most increased traffic occurs during rush hour; a time when many people are driving home tired after a long day's work. Drowsy driving can cause drivers to become less aware of their surroundings and the traffic laws and can even cause drivers to fall asleep at the wheel.

According to TxDOT, Katy experienced 693 accidents in 2021 and 786 accidents in 2022. In order to reduce the number of car-related incidents, it is essential for drivers to remain alert, patient, and focused during heavy traffic.

### Lack of familiarity with the area

When people move to a new city, it can take time to learn the new routes, side-roads, and freeway access and exit points. As new residents work on becoming familiar with their new surroundings, they are more likely to rely on GPS navigation tools. These tools require the driver to periodically take their eyes off the road to decipher where they are going, or make last minute maneuvers if they miss a turn, which can lead to a collision.

There is no slowdown in Katy's development. Over the next decade, the influx of new citizens will continue to grow exponentially. That means a mounting number of cars on the roads, and additional construction to keep up with the rising demand. It is critical that residents do their part to maintain safe driving habits to help keep our community safe. We can serve our fellow residents by staying alert while driving, put your cell phone down (the internet will still be there when you reach your destination) and pay attention to other cars, motorcycles, bicyclists and pedestrians on the road. We can all do our part to help keep Katy a safe place and inviting place to live.

*Shane McClelland is the founding partner of The Law Office of Shane McClelland, a personal injury law firm based in Katy. His website is hmtrial.com.*



Katy's recent population growth leads to more traffic, and more car accidents, columnist Shane McClelland writes.

FILE PHOTO

# Katy Times

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## Registration now open for HCESD 48 Camp Blaze

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Register now for the first ever Camp Blaze June 13-15. Camp Blaze is open to 25 male students that are between 14-18 years of age and is free of charge to participants thanks to the sponsors. Camp Blaze will provide insight into life as a firefighter and/or EMS professional to encourage young men to consider fire and EMS service as a career.

Camp Blaze participants will take part in a fun-filled three-day camp of physical training, classes and fire/EMS simulations. They will also have the chance to ask questions, train, and interact with firefighters and medics from HCESD 48 and other Greater Houston Area departments.

HCESD 48 is working to secure a sponsor for Camp Blaze. Those interested in sponsoring are asked to email Chief Jason Tharp at [jason.tharp@hcesd48.org](mailto:jason.tharp@hcesd48.org).

For more information and an application, visit the website [hcesd48.org/.../2023/03/2023-Camp-Blaze-App.pdf](http://hcesd48.org/.../2023/03/2023-Camp-Blaze-App.pdf).



## KATY ISD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Clockwise from above: Angelia Werning of Taylor High has been named secondary rookie teacher of the year. Matthew Lobin of Mayde Creek High has been named secondary teacher of the year. Simbry Wedemeyer of Hayes Elementary has been named elementary rookie teacher of the year. Shelby Biswas of Stanley Elementary has been named elementary teacher of the year. Lori Barnett of Memorial Parkway Junior High has been named substitute of the year.

PHOTOS BY KATY ISD



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## The Katy Times

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Give now by scanning the QR Code. <a href="http://ktcm.org">ktcm.org</a></p> <hr/> <p><b>Your Ad Here!</b> Call Debbie for more information 281-391-3141</p> <hr/> <p><b>RESURRECTION CHURCH</b> IT'S GOOD TO BELONG! Meeting at Katy High School, 6331 Hwy Blvd Sundays 10 AM (English) 11:30 AM (Spanish) Pastors Jason Smith and Daniel Hernandez <a href="http://resurrectionkaty.org">resurrectionkaty.org</a>   281-407-8716</p>	<p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD EL SHADDAI ASAMBLEA DE DIOS</b> 5610 LILAC STREET • 281-391-8339 PASTORS, PETER &amp; ESTELA PINON <b>FAMILY LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 24911 ROESNER ROAD • 281-392-0637 ALBERT CORTEZ, PASTOR • <a href="http://WWW.FLAG.CHURCH">WWW.FLAG.CHURCH</a> <b>RIVERS OF OIL CHURCH</b> 541 PIN OAK ROAD, KATY • 832-782-7370 LEAD PASTOR: MR. 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Fort Bend County Judge KP George visits with Carolyn Fields of the Fort Bend Black Heritage Society.

FORT BEND COUNTY

# Official portrait of local civil rights trailblazer unveiled

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The official portrait of the late civil rights activist and businesswoman Arizona Fleming, co-founder of the Fort Bend Civic Club, was unveiled March 23 at the Historic Fort Bend County Courthouse.

Fort Bend County Judge KP George hosted the event and was joined by Carolyn Fields with the Fort Bend Black Heritage Society, Linda Coleman with the Missouri City and Vicinity Branch NAACP, Reverend William P. Fortune, pastor emeritus of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Curtis Lucas, Pastor of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, and the great-great-granddaughters of Arizona Fleming.

During the Reconstruction era in 1867, the black population and their white political allies had consistently won county elections, and blacks

often held political office. As blacks' political power grew, the Caucasian-led Jaybird Democratic Association in Fort Bend County passed Jim Crow laws, preventing blacks from the right to vote in the county. By 1890, the Jaybirds controlled the elections through the white-only Democratic primaries and excluded Hispanics, Jews and Blacks from voting.

Arizona Fleming and others joined wealthy Kendleton farmer Willie Melton to register voters and file a lawsuit against the Jaybird Democratic Association. Fleming was able to register 400 out of 550 eligible voters. The Jaybird Democratic Association initially won the case, but the Civic Club, with the NAACP's support, appealed the case and went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On May 4, 1953, the Court ruled in favor of Melton and the other plaintiffs and in the process, guaranteed for the first

time since 1890, the right to vote for the disenfranchised people of Fort Bend County by putting an end to all-white primaries.

"It's remarkable how much Arizona Fleming and Willie Melton were able to achieve," George said. "The case is called Terry vs. Adams, they did not put their name on the lawsuit because they were afraid for their life, but they did what they needed to do for justice. It is because of their vision and intention that I am standing here in front of you today."

Fleming continued her work with the civil rights movement until her death on Jan. 18, 1976, at age 91, in Richmond. She is buried in the Mount Carmel Cemetery. Fort Bend ISD named an elementary school in Fleming's honor in 1994. A historical marker was erected in 2009 in a local town to commemorate the historic lawsuit that changed the voting rights for blacks in Fort Bend County.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Commissioner Andy Meyers congratulates regional business leader's appointment to Texas Transportation Commission

Fort Bend County Pct. 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers is excited by Gov. Greg Abbott's appointment of business leader Steven Alvis to the Texas Transportation Commission.

"I could not be more pleased with Gov. Abbott's appointment of Steven Alvis," Meyers said. "Steven is an excellent choice for the Texas Transportation Commission. He is a seasoned manager, very knowledgeable about transportation issues, and knows the transportation needs of our region."

The Commission governs the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and is responsible for policymaking regarding the state's highway system, developing a statewide transportation plan, assisting the development of public transportation, and adopting rules for TxDOT's operation.

Alvis is familiar with TxDOT issues. He works with the TxDOT, serving on Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's Transportation Advisory Board. Patrick also appointed Alvis in 2018 to the Texas Facilities Commission.

Alvis is the co-founder and managing partner of commercial real estate company NewQuest Properties, which develops and operates numerous shopping centers in Texas, including Fort Bend Town Center and The Shoppes at Fort Bend.

Alvis earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. His term on the commission will expire on Feb. 1, 2029.

### Photography lighting class at Cinco Ranch Branch Library

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library will present "Photography 102: Painting with Light" from 1-3 p.m.

April 15 in the Multipurpose Room of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

Build on basic photography skills and take lighting a step further with this simple technique. Learn how to use long exposures and a flashlight to place lighting where it is wanted, creating dramatic still-life photos and surreal portraits.

This class will feature a live demonstration by a professional photographer. Participants are invited to bring their own DSLR camera if they would like to practice the technique during the program.

The class is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the website [fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://fortbend.lib.tx.us).

### Katy Area Community Band to perform May 7

The Lone Star Symphonic Band continues the celebration of its 30th anniversary season with its fourth performance, "Celebrate," May 7, at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, 22111 Morton Road. The concert begins at 4 p.m.

The band is honored to have Colonel (Ret.) Lowell Graham, former commander and conductor of the U.S. Air Force's premiere musical organization based in Washington, D.C. as its featured guest conductor for this concert. Graham has selected, and will be conducting, several stirring and eloquent musical selections on this concert providing an exceptional evening of musical enjoyment.

Tickets are \$7 can only be purchased online at [app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=138457](http://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=138457). Season tickets are \$14 are available for purchase at [app.arts-people.com/index.php?subscription=lssb](http://app.arts-people.com/index.php?subscription=lssb). Season tickets include this concert plus the remaining Patriotic concert of this 2022-23 concert season. For more information, visit the website [lssb.org](http://lssb.org).

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



The Lone Star Symphony Band will perform May 7.

FILE PHOTO



# Common Easter symbols and their meaning

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe,

which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christians groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given that significance, it is

no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

### Eggs

Eggs might now be

more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere.

Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of

Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used to represent the resurrection.

### Crucifix

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a

cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

### The Lamb

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" (Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians. In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

### Easter Bunny

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth, and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring, also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb.

Easter is celebrated across the globe. Those celebrations feature many significant religious symbols that have withstood the test of time.

Join us for Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday  
April 6th @ 7:00pm

He is Risen!  
Easter Services  
7:00am - Outdoor Service  
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## ROYAL ISD FFA PARADE

Above: Royal ISD held its annual FFA parade March 25 in Brookshire. Royal FFA students were among many who rode in the parade. Right: The Royal Early Childhood Center had a star-studded float in the parade. Dawn Richardson, not pictured, was the parade's grand marshal. She has served in many roles at Royal, including biology teacher, basketball and track coach and UIL academics advisor. Left: The Royal STEM Academy prepares to march in the parade. The parade's theme was "Rollin' out the Red Carpet for the Royal FFA."

PHOTOS BY SHERREL ROGERS



## BOOK DONATIONS



KATY ISD

Nottingham Country Elementary School students and families recently donated over 1,700 books to Books Between Kids, which serves Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries.

## TOMPKINS BAND VISITS PEARL HARBOR



KATY ISD

The Tompkins High School Falcon Band, along with staff, parents and chaperones, spent their spring break in Hawaii, where they performed a patriotic concert at Pearl Harbor. Here the band poses in front of the USS Missouri. The ship hosted the surrender ceremony that ended World War II in 1945.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



FORT BEND COUNTY

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan, right, and Captain Kevin Hunt display a check to "cover" scholarships for 26 graduating high school seniors from Fort Bend County each received a \$1,500 scholarship from Sheriff Eric Fagan, Jokes and Justice, in partnership with Patrick's Project, and Unlimited Visions Aftercare, Inc. In 2014, Fagan and Hunt started "Jokes and Justice," a comedy showcase for a cause. Since its inception, Jokes and Justice brings the community and law enforcement together to share an evening of laughter. About \$136,000 in scholarships has been awarded to graduating high school seniors.

## CONSTRUCTION DAY



KATY ISD

Superintendent Ken Gregorski made a special visit to Cimarron Elementary on March 22. Here, he visits with Katy ISD business partner, Ida Franklin of Venus Construction. Franklin and her staff worked with students, demonstrating how to drill holes and use a drill as a screwdriver. Construction Day is a day of learning for students that not only provides real life interactions and tool demonstrations by Venus Construction, but also featured read-alouds focused on construction and math and literacy stations with a construction-centered theme.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### Registration open for Katy ISD fine arts summer music camps

Registration is now open for Katy ISD fine arts summer camps. Here are the dates and classes:

- Elementary choir camp: May 30-June 2, for rising fourth and fifth graders.
- Jazz camp: June 5-8, for rising seventh-12th graders.
- Junior high choir camp: June 12-15, for rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders.
- Junior high orchestra camp: June 12-15 and June 19-23, for rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders.
- Junior high band camp: June 19-23 and June 26-34, for rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders.

For more information and to register, visit the website [bit.ly/3FMUV8R](http://bit.ly/3FMUV8R).

### Education Foundation annual fundraiser set for April 1

The Katy ISD Education Foundation is hosting its annual GROOVE fundraiser April 1 at Whiskey Cake. Proceeds go towards Katy ISD teacher grants. To purchase tickets, visit the website [bit.ly/Groove23Tickets](http://bit.ly/Groove23Tickets).

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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## Katy ISD names new principal for Stockdick Junior High School

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski announced Tanya Carrejo as the new principal at Stockdick Junior High. Carrejo joins the Stockdick Sabercats following her most recent role as assistant principal at Katy ISD's Taylor High School.

"I am so honored to join the Stockdick Junior High family and looking forward to getting to know and partnering with staff and parents as we continue to build a foundation of excellence across our student programs and learn-

ing experiences," Carrejo said. "I am truly excited about what we will achieve together as a school community."

Carrejo began her career in teaching and learning in 1997 as a physical education teacher in Lamar CISD. In 2001 she accepted a promotional position in Fort Bend ISD as the head of the physical education and ROTC department. She served in that role until 2005.

Over the course of the next 14 years, Carrejo served in assistant principal roles across Fort Bend ISD, Brazosport ISD, and

Katy ISD, providing leadership, stability, and a passion for student learning to every campus she touched. Ms. Carrejo assumed her first principalship in Waller ISD, before returning to Katy ISD to continue her growth and service to students and families as an assistant principal at Taylor High School.

Carrejo holds a bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State University and a master's degree from the University of Houston-Victoria. Her tenure as the principal at Stockdick Junior High began March 24.



Tanja Carrejo

KATY ISD

### EDUCATION BRIEFS

#### Katy ISD celebrates top "Of the Year" employees

Each year, Katy ISD recognizes its "Of the Year" employees for their contributions to student instruction and support services. These staff members have been identified by their peers, supervisors and community as individuals who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate leadership and dedication to Katy ISD students, staff and the community. Top honors include the elementary and secondary Principals of the Year, Teachers of the Year and Rookie Teachers of the Year.

#### DISTRICTWIDE PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

- Anna Hinojosa, Wolfe Elementary School
- Elisabeth Brodt, Adams Junior High School

#### DISTRICTWIDE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- Shelby Biswas, Stanley Elementary School
- Matthew Lobin, Mayde Creek High School

#### DISTRICTWIDE ROOKIE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- Simbry Wedemeyer, Hayes Elementary School
- Anjelica Werning, Taylor High School

"Our educators are the backbone of Katy ISD because of their talent, work ethic, resilience and passion for students," Superintendent Ken Gregorski said. "I am honored to work alongside these individuals who continuously set the bar for current and future educators at Katy ISD."

All Katy ISD "Of the Year" employees will be recognized at a district-wide ceremony April 20. Additionally, the principals of the year, along with campus administrators from school districts in the surrounding area, will be recognized at the Region 4 Principal Recognition Ceremony April 5.

#### Texas Exes Katy Chapter to host inaugural scholarship fundraiser dinner

The Texas Exes Katy Chapter will be hosting its inaugural Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner at 6 p.m. April 13 at the Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Dr.

Former Longhorns quarterback Vince Young will be guest of honor.

The Texas Exes Katy Chapter has been active for about five years. It works to keep Katy-area University of Texas alumni connected to their alma mater by hosting events such as watch parties for Longhorn games, a Texas Independence Day celebration and community service at the Ballard House. Despite the pandemic, the club has given scholarships to Katy-area high school seniors going to the University of Texas each of the last three years.

The scholarship fundraiser dinner will showcase the chapter while raising money for Katy-area scholarships. The dinner will feature a silent auction and Young will be recognized guest of honor.

To purchase tickets, which start at \$100, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [bit.ly/3JSKYii](https://bit.ly/3JSKYii).

For more information about the Texas Exes Katy Chapter, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [bit.ly/3FUJKv0](https://bit.ly/3FUJKv0).

—CONTRIBUTED REPORT



KATY ISD

## Annual Folk Life Festival returns with vibrant celebration of pioneer life

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD will take you down memory lane during the 37th Annual Folk Life Festival, set for 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 1 at the Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center, just west of the Education Support Complex at 6301 S. Stadium Lane.

At the festival, visitors will get a chance to experience pioneer life by learning how they dressed, how they survived, the types of foods they prepared and even how their children engaged in learning. Other activities include blacksmith demonstrations, weaving and spinning, Native American dancing, honey beekeeping and more. Admission is free.

"We're thrilled to invite the Katy ISD community to this annual event in which we transform the Outdoor Learning Center into a variety of scenes from the 1800s," Paul Dunk, specialist at the Outdoor Learning Center, said. "This year's event promises to be an enriching celebration of pioneer life. This family-friendly gathering has something for the entire family, from the little ones to adults."

Visitors will be able to walk the nature trails, visit the ponds and see the exhibits in the science and history classrooms. Visit the Katy ISD Outdoor Learning Center webpage for additional information, or go to the website [katyisd.org/Page/4278](https://katyisd.org/Page/4278).

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6. Our deposit base is very diversified with over 330,000 accounts and growing. We have 79 locations across Texas which also helps our diversification.
7. This week has been business as usual with deposits holding at a consistent level.
8. In February 2023, Forbes magazine named First Financial Bankshares, Inc. the number two bank in the country out of the 100 largest publicly traded U.S. banks and thrifts, (<https://www.forbes.com/lists/americas-best-banks/>). Forbes's ranking is based on nine metrics measuring the banks' growth, credit quality and profitability.
9. We have just released our 2022 Annual Report along with the 10-K and Proxy which are on our website for you to review in detail, (<https://investorrelations.ffin.com/documents-and-filings/sec-filings/>). This will allow you an opportunity to dive into our numbers to see why we are safe, sound and secure.

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We thank each one of you for your business, dedication and loyalty to First Financial Bank. I can assure you that we never forget that we work to put You First!

Sincerely,

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WEEK OF MARCH 31

## SCORES & SCHEDULES

### GIRLS SOCCER

- Scores**  
BI-DISTRICT
- Seven Lakes 3, George Ranch 1
  - Tompkins 5, Clements 2
  - Elkins 2, Jordan 0
  - Ridge Point 1, Cinco Ranch 0

- AREA**
- Seven Lakes 2, Memorial 1
  - Tompkins 4, Lamar 2

- Friday**  
REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
- Seven Lakes vs Ridge Point, TBD
  - Tompkins vs. Stratford, TBD

### BOYS SOCCER

- Scores**  
BI-DISTRICT
- Seven Lakes 2, Fort Bend Austin 0
  - Cinco Ranch 2, Ridge Point 2 (CR 3-1 on penalties)
  - Paetow 5, George Ranch 0
  - Jordan 4, Fort Bend Bush 1

- AREA**
- Seven Lakes 2, Bellaire 0
  - Paetow 4, Lamar 3
  - Jordan 3, Cy-Ridge 2
  - Cinco Ranch 5, Westside 2

- Friday**  
REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
- Seven Lakes vs. Cinco Ranch, TBD
  - Paetow vs. Jordan, TBD

### SOFTBALL

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

- Tuesday**
- Katy vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
  - Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
  - Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.
  - Paetow vs. Jordan, 6 p.m.

### BASEBALL

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

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

### GOLF

- Monday & Tuesday**
- All Katy ISD schools at District 19-6A Tournament

### TENNIS

- Thursday & Friday**
- All Katy ISD schools at District 19-6A Tournament

BI-DISTRICT SOCCER

## Seven Lakes uses early goals to down George Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes has had the motivation to push themselves all season.

The Spartans all year have wanted to prove they are one of the best in the state, that they can compete with anyone and that they can make a run deep into the playoffs.

Seven Lakes started things out the right way, winning the District 19-6A

See **SOCCER**, page B5

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

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



## Paetow survives Lamar comeback

Panthers will make first ever regional quarterfinals appearance

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow came into Tuesday on the verge of making history.

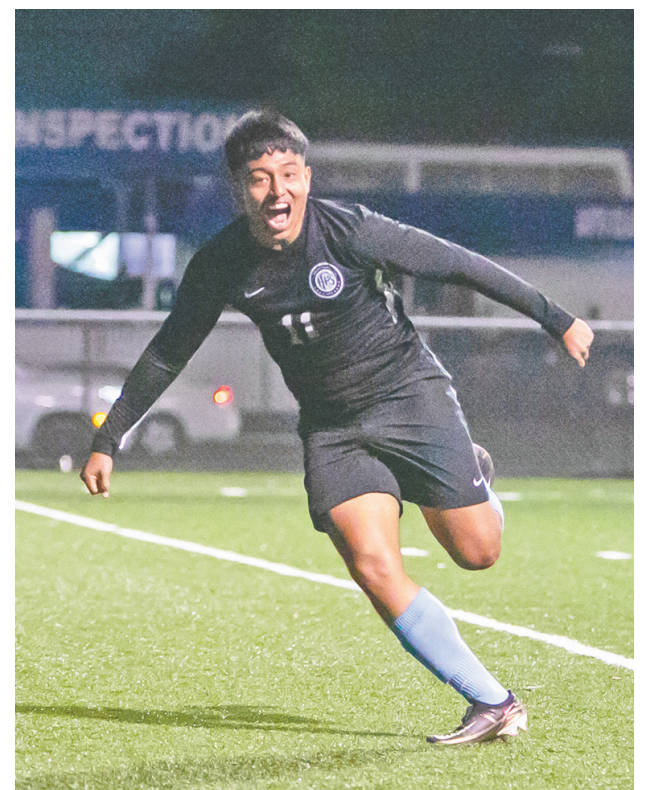
Each of the past two years, the Panthers had advanced to the area round of the playoffs, and each of the past two years, the Panthers' season came to an end in the second round of the playoffs.

Paetow had never made it to the regional quarterfinals before and they were determined to change that this time around, and the Panthers succeeded on Tuesday, overcoming a talented hard fighting Lamar team 4-3 and

getting to that third round. "We had never been past this point, never gotten past the second round so it gave us so much determination tonight," said sophomore forward Cesar Garcia. "We just had a drive to do this and get this win. We had to do this for our seniors, we had to win. There's a lot of those seniors on this team and we're trying to make the best out of it and keep going."

Paetow came out firing from the start and jumped out to a two goal lead early after Jose Dominguez got behind the Lamar

See **PAETOW**, page B3



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

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

## Jordan overcomes Cy-Ridge in extra time

Marcelo Ojeda headers a ball during Tuesday's match between Jordan and Cy-Ridge at the Spring Woods football field.  
TYLER TYRE



BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan seems to thrive in clutch situations. The Warriors did it all last year, finding a way into the state tournament in their first year as a varsity program, and they have continued to do the same thing this year, finding ways to win in tough situations and advancing.

Jordan continued to find a way on Tuesday, overcoming two deficits to beat Cy-Ridge 3-2 in extra time and advance to the regional quarterfinals for the second straight season.

"It's all the kids, they get us through in these tough games time and time again," said Jordan head coach Jason Meekins. They go out there completely prepared, they do what we ask them to do and they just compete. They know this game isn't always just about being pretty or being brilliant, it's just about getting the job done, they train that way and prepare that way and this coaching staff is great as well. It's all them."

Jordan was tested all game but still found a way, as the Warriors went back and forth in the first half with Cy-Ridge until the Rams took the lead in the 37th minute on a break-away goal.

But the Warriors didn't put their heads down for a single second and fought back to tie things with just three seconds to go in the first half on a goal from Kevin Sanoja from inside the box.

"We just know in these situations that we have to keep our heads and don't panic," said Jordan senior center back Ben Bucic. "We've been in these games before and gotten through, we've practiced for it every day and at the end of the day we just have to go out and do what we do."

Cy-Ridge put Jordan on the back foot again early in the

See **JORDAN**, page B3



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Brady Englett runs to celebrate after scoring the game-winning run during Saturday's game between Katy and Jordan at the Katy baseball field.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

# Katy walks off over Jordan for big win

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy is starting to find its stride in district play.

The Tigers got off to a hot start this season under first-year head coach Wes Hearne, rolling through non-district play, but an untimely bout of bad luck with hitting slowed their roll. But the Tigers turned things around quickly, going on a win streak to get right back into the playoff picture.

Katy kept their roll going on Saturday, but it wasn't without drama, as the Tigers had to fight to beat Jordan 3-2 on a walk-off in the seventh inning as they earned a big win.

"We just competed well today," Hearne said. "We battled and did what we could. The main problem today was that the wind was blowing in and we were hitting it in the air. We finally made an adjustment late in the game and manufactured a run, but it was a good win for us. It was a battle and Jordan is a really good team."

It was a game where neither team could ever pull away and it started in the first inning. Jordan got a man on from an error in the top of the first and Ryan Miller brought the runner home by hitting a single.

But Brady Englett tied things up in the bottom of the inning when he drove in A.J. Atkinson with a sacrifice grounder, and the Tigers took the lead the following inning on a Nayden Ramirez RBI single.

Jordan though came back to tie the score in the third inning off a one-run double from Monty Bognar. Both teams battled from there with pitching and defense leading the way, and it took until the seventh inning until another run was scored. Katy had kept Jordan off the board and in the bottom of the seventh put runners on

second and third with one out. Reese Ruderman then came to the plate and singled to left field to clinch a walk-off win for the Tigers.

Ruderman also had made a huge play in left field earlier in the day, making a diving catch that prevented what would have been an extra base hit in an all-around great performance for the senior.

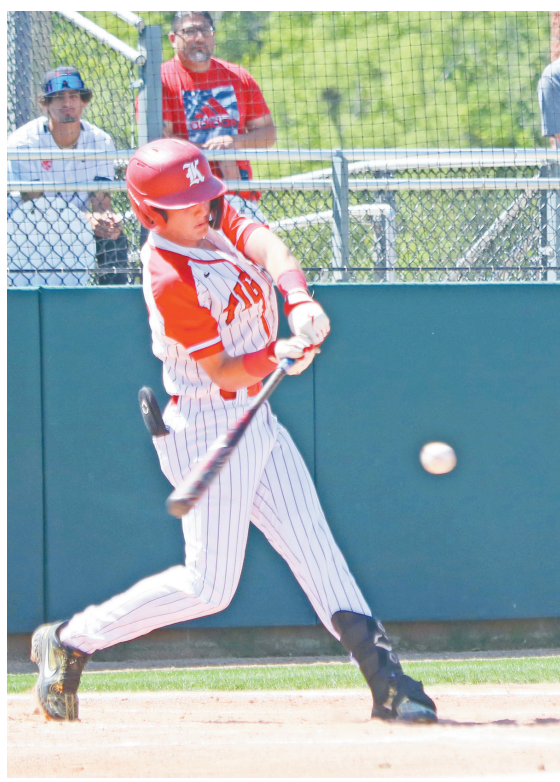
"I had never really played outfield at all until this year and honestly I've never even had the opportunity to make a catch like that, so to come up with it was just awesome," Ruderman said. "The same thing with the walk-off — that's really my first opportunity at that and it was just something I'm so grateful for. My teammates put me in a great position to succeed and really all I can say is I'm so grateful to have been put in those positions to succeed."

It was the fifth straight district win for the Tigers and was highlighted by Lucas Moore, who did an outstanding job on the mound, pitching a complete game and striking out ten without allowing an earned run and walking two.

Davis Duhon also had a great day on the mound for the Warriors, going 5.2 innings and keeping them in it by allowing two earned runs on five hits while striking out one, keeping the Tigers lineup at bay for the majority of the day.

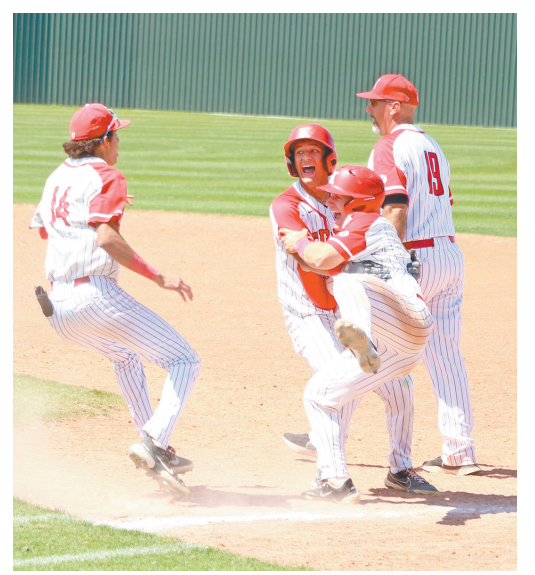
The Tigers start an important series against Cinco Ranch on Friday.

"We're used to playing in tight games and we're used to playing down," Moore said. "We've had our backs to the wall in some big games before and used timely hitting to get wins. We're playing better — we just have to clean up a few things on defense and hit the ball a bit better and I think we're going to be a dangerous team."



Above: Reese Ruderman hits a walk-off single during Saturday's game between Katy and Jordan at the Katy baseball field. Left: Sutton Hull hits during Saturday's game between Katy and Jordan. Below: Reese Ruderman celebrates after hitting a walk-off single during Saturday's game between Katy and Jordan.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



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# Seven Lakes, Cinco boys set up all Katy ISD regional quarterfinal

## Spartans, Falcons girls advance

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch both won their games in the boys soccer area round on Tuesday to set up a District 19-6A rematch in the regional quarterfinals.

The Spartans beat Bellaire 2-0 while the Cougars beat Westside 5-2 to set up the rematch. Seven Lakes won both matchups between the two teams this season, 2-0 and 4-0 as the Spartans went on to win the district championship.

Seven Lakes and Cinco were joined by Jordan and Paetow in the regional quarterfinals, as both the Warriors and Panthers won Tuesday to secure a rematch from district as well, with all four Katy ISD boys soccer teams advancing to the third round of the playoffs.

Paetow won both of the matchups against Jordan in the regular season with the same score line, 3-1, and it looks to be a tough matchup for both teams as both look to advance to the regional semifinals.

With all four playoff teams

from Katy ISD advancing it locks in that two of the programs will make it the regional tournament next weekend.

On the girls side of the bracket, both the Seven Lakes and Tompkins girls won on Tuesday to also advance to the regional quarterfinals, as both set up rematches from the third round last year in the process.

Seven Lakes came out 2-1 winners over Memorial, as the Spartans were able to garner a big win, and they advance to play Ridge Point, which was the team's opponent last year.

The Spartans took the Panthers to penalties last year despite having to play with 10 players on the field for all but 10 minutes of the game, but eventually lost 5-4 in the shootout as Seven Lakes was unable to advance past Ridge Point.

Tompkins topped Lamar 4-2 on Tuesday to also advance to the regional quarterfinals as they did last year, where the Falcons will also face the same team they did last season in the regional quarterfinals in Stratford. Tompkins nearly overcame a two goal deficit in that game last year but lost 3-2 to Stratford as the Falcons season came to an end.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Tompkins beat Lamar 4-2 to advance to the regional quarterfinals.



The Seven Lakes boys beat Bellaire 2-0 to advance to the regional quarterfinals.



Cinco Ranch beat Westside 5-2 to advance to the regional quarterfinals.



The Seven Lakes girls beat Memorial 2-1 to advance to the regional quarterfinals.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Jose Dominguez controls a ball on the run during Tuesday's match between Paetow and Lamar at the Spring Woods football field.

## PAETOW

from page B1

defense and slotted it past a rushing goalkeeper in the 15th minute and Garcia doubled that lead four minutes later when he got a hold of a ball in the box and scored to double the Panthers lead.

"It's been a journey to get here," Dominguez said. "My freshman year COVID ended the season and the past two seasons we haven't been able to get past this point. It's just a very special day, we made history. Now we have to stay strong and stay focused to win in the third round as well."

Lamar came back to trim the deficit to one shortly before halftime and then tied things five minutes into the second half. Paetow had the immediate response, as a minute later Garcia took a left footed shot that went across the keeper and

in, and Dominguez made it a 4-2 game in the 51st minute when he got a hold of the ball in the box and put it in the back of the net.

"We've talked all year about overcoming tough situations all season and that's what they did tonight," said Paetow head coach Vinny Vaccaro. "Coming up from 5A to 6A, you're going to get into some bad situations in games and you're going to have to fight through it and stop worrying about how bad things are. You have to keep going and keep fighting through it — that's what they were able to do tonight."

Lamar got another goal in the 60th minute, but Paetow saw out the game well to hold on and advance.

"This is a really good team we just beat," Vaccaro said. "The

reason we were able to do that is 100% because of the competition we have to play every night in Katy ISD. There are teams in our district that didn't make the playoffs that would have won in the first round, from top to bottom it's so strong. Facing that every day gets you prepared because every night is like a playoff matchup."

The Panthers advance to play Jordan on Friday, time and location to be determined, as the two Katy ISD members will battle for a spot in the regional tournament.

"We just have to keep listening to the coaching, that's the most important thing," Dominguez said. "We have to prepare right, practice right and execute like we know we can. It's going to be a tough game but I'm confident."

## JORDAN

from page B1

second half, scoring just a minute into the half, but Jordan again found a way back into things, bringing themselves back into the game and finding the tying goal in the 68th minute when Ben Bucic took a corner kick and headed it into the back of the net.

Things stayed that way the rest of regular time, with the two teams going back and forth but being unable to put chances into the back of the net, but it all changed once full time hit.

Jordan started extra time on the front foot and just a minute into it Macelo Ojeda struck a bullet of a shot from 30-yards out that got past the keeper and into the back of the net to give Jordan its first lead of the game. And that's all the Warriors would need as they held on for the next 19 minutes to clinch the win and advance.

"I was shooting the whole game and I just felt like, one of these has to go in," Ojeda said. "I hit that one and I just knew immediately that the connection was perfect, and I was so excited when I saw it go in. It was just a great moment for me and for the team."

The Warriors advance to play Paetow in the regional quarterfinals on Friday, time and location to be determined. The Warriors will be ready, and they know that they have the ability to compete with whoever stands in their way.

"We play in the hardest district in the state of Texas when it comes to soccer," Ojeda said. "It's basically been playoffs for us for weeks, this is nothing different. Everything is a battle; we're used to these close games where we can grind it out to the last minute. We just have to keep finding a way."



TYLER TYRE

Marcelo Ojeda celebrates after scoring the game winning goal during Tuesday's match between Jordan and Cy-Ridge at the Spring Woods football field.



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Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Nottingham Country M.U.D. in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on April 13, 2023, for Nottingham Country M.U.D. Fitness Station Enhancements.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including walk connections, fitness stations, drainage tie into existing, patch & repair.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Nottingham Country M.U.D. in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for April 03, 2023, at 2:30 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Katy ISD General Election held on May 6, 2023 will be tested on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Katy ISD Educational Support Complex (Room 1600), 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy Tx 77494, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and all measures.

/s/ Larry L. Jones  
Signature of Officer

**AVISO PÚBLICO DE PRUEBA DEL EQUIPO DE TABULACIÓN AUTOMÁTICA**

Se notifica por el presente que el equipo de tabulación automática que se usará en la Elección General de Katy ISD el 6 de mayo de 2023 será sometido a prueba el día martes 4 de abril de 2023 a las 8:00 a.m. en el Katy ISD Educational Support Complex (Salón 1600), ubicado en 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy Tx 77494, para asegurar que contará con exactitud los votos emitidos para todos los cargos y todas las medidas.

/firma/ Larry L. Jones  
Firma del Funcionario

**自動投票統計設備 測試公告**

特此通知，將於 2023 年 5 月 6 日 舉行的 Katy ISD 普通選舉 中使用的自動列表顯示設備，將於 2023 年 4 月 4 日，週二，上午 8:00 進行測試，測試地點為 Katy ISD 教育支援大樓 (1600 室)，6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy Tx 77494，以確定該設備能否準確地計算針對所有職位和措施的投票結果。

/簽名/ Larry L. Jones  
官員簽名

**THÔNG BÁO CÔNG KHAI VỀ VIỆC KIỂM TRA MÁY KIỂM PHIẾU TỰ ĐỘNG**

Theo đây xin thông báo máy kiểm phiếu tự động sử dụng trong Cuộc Bầu Cử Tổng Quát Học Khu Katy diễn ra vào ngày 6 tháng Năm, 2023, sẽ được kiểm tra vào lúc 8 giờ sáng thứ Ba, ngày 4 tháng Tư, 2023, tại Katy ISD Educational Support Complex (Phòng 1600), tại 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy Tx 77494, để bảo đảm chắc chắn chiếc máy đó sẽ đếm chính xác số lá phiếu bầu cho tất cả các chức vụ và tất cả các đánh giá.

/s/ Larry L. Jones  
Chữ Ký của Viên Chức

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE at [Storagetreasures.com](http://Storagetreasures.com)

The facility is 8900 Emnora Lane Houston, Texas 77080. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on April 3, 2023, and end at 12:00 pm on April 10, 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: Richard Wilson, Portillo Bledsoe, Beatrice Mendez, Javiel Calles, Harold Ortiz, Anthony West, Antonio Aguilar, Luis Cerventes, Thomas Rowland.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING "CITY PARKS AND ENTRANCE FEATURES"**

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF "CITY PARKS AND ENTRANCE FEATURES" IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL **2:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

**MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING AND TOUR OF WORK LOCATIONS AT 9:00 A.M., MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023** STARTING IN THE LOBBY OF KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING [BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM](mailto:BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM). THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew  
City Secretary  
City of Katy, Texas

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Harris Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 5 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on April 28, 2023, for Sunterra Beach Corner Park Improvements.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including sidewalks, site furniture, site grading, underground drainage, pavilion, restroom building, playground, fencing, irrigation, lighting & electrical, planting, and solid sod.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Harris Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 5 in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for April 07, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO AMEND THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN/MAP FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE**

**APPLICATION:** Eugene D. Mattern, owner(s), are requesting to be allowed to amend the Major Thoroughfare Plan/Map as noted in the application Property ID#s R11661, R11663 and R9470. The amendment will remove / abandon the Thoroughfare plan/map from these properties.

This amendment request, if approved, will only effect the applicant property.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on April 12, 2023 at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, TX 77445.

**Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities**

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

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

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

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**March 23 Puzzle Answers**

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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Vicky Ott passes a ball during Friday's bi-district game between Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Legacy Stadium.



Above: Haydan Erck takes a corner during Friday's bi-district game between Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Legacy Stadium. Left: Allison Zuniga takes the ball away from a George Ranch player during Friday's bi-district game between Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

**SOCCER**

from page B1

title, but they wanted to make a statement heading into the playoffs.

The Spartans did just that on Friday night, beating George Ranch 3-1 in the bi-district round of the playoffs, scoring three goals in the first ten minutes of the game to put the Spartans into the area round.

"This group just has put so much work in," said Seven Lakes head coach Kaitlyn Eidson. "They stay after practice, they know what to do. They've taken the lessons from practice and the games and they've really applied that. These girls are driven — they have a goal but they've never overlooked the game in front of them. You could see that today out there."

The Spartans came out firing and it only took them 90 seconds to get their first goal, as Haydan Erck got in behind the defense and slotted it past the George Ranch keeper. Vicky Ott doubled their lead less than two minutes later when she also got in behind the George Ranch defense and shot it past the keeper. Katie Lennon added a third in the ninth minute when she headed home a corner kick from Erck as the Spartans put things beyond reach early on.

"We were just really anxious to get out there and play," Erck said. "We have high



expectations and we wanted to come out and show what we could do. Getting the first one just 90 seconds into it and then doubling and tripling it so quickly after was a great feeling and was exactly what we needed in this game."

George Ranch pulled a goal back late in the first half, but the Spartans played compact defense and limited chances in the second half as they were able to secure

the win in a strong performance.

"We have a lot of great players on this team and its not just what they do on the field, but off the field as well. There's so many leaders that step up in so many different ways on this team — the seniors encourage the younger players and they made them feel ready for this game and it gave those younger players confidence."

The Spartans advanced to play Memorial

in the area round at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Legacy Stadium. The Spartans faced Memorial in the second round last year as well, winning 2-0.

"Every single game were out to prove that we can do this," Lennon said. "We have that drive and hunger right now to go and get past the second round and get past the third round. We have the talent here and we know we can push and make it far."

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**Katy Times**



BASEBALL ROUNDUP

# Cinco takes solo district lead with win over Mayde Creek

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

**SATURDAY**

Cinco Ranch held on to its lead in District 19-6A with a strong win on Saturday, beating Mayde Creek 9-0 to improve to 18-3 on the season and 6-1 in district play.

The Cougars had four pitchers combine for a two-hitter, as Parker Booth started and went four innings to earn the win before Eli Coughran, Dalen Jensen and Gavin Rutherford all pitched an inning each to seal the game. Booth had three strikeouts and allowed just two hits in the win.

Cinco broke things open early. Lucas Franco hit a two-run double to start the scoring in the bottom of the first inning. Rutherford made it 3-0 in the second inning with an RBI single and Logan Sosolik drove in two more a batter later. Torin Green hit a one-run single and Connor Ficarra hit a sacrifice grounder as Cinco took a 7-0 lead after two innings.

The Cougars got two more in the third inning from an error and were able to lock down the rest of the way, not allowing Mayde Creek to get anything across.

Nick Paul started on the mound for the Rams and went 3.2 innings, allowing two earned runs on seven hits to go with seven strikeouts while also walking four. Mayde Creek's record dropped to 6-12-1 and 1-6 overall with the loss.

## Tompkins downs Taylor

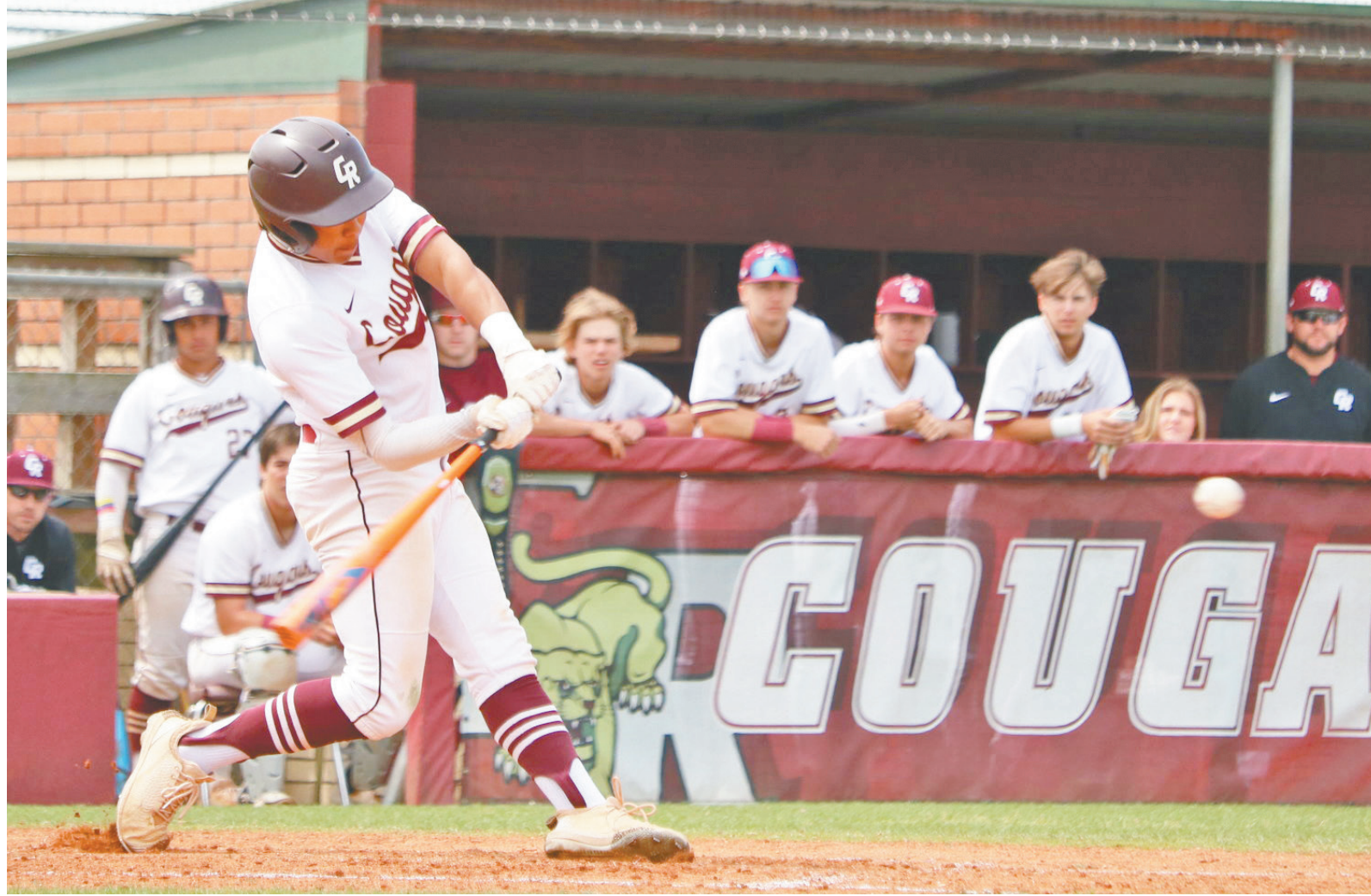
Tompkins had a combo of strong pitching and offense on Saturday as they rolled to a 9-0 win over Taylor, moving to 13-6-1 overall and 6-1 in district play.

Kaden Bertrand had a good day on the mound for the Falcons, taking advantage of his start by allowing just two hits over four innings while striking out six and walking one to lead the pitching staff to a shutout. Aryan Chopra led the Falcons with three RBIs while Gavin Brewer had two runs driven in.

Tompkins' offense settled in during the second inning as Brewer put the Falcons ahead on an RBI single and Adam Benavidez drove in another on a double. They added another in the third inning off an error before Chopra hit a one-run single and Ty Dagley drove in a run with a double in the fourth inning, making the score 5-0.

Brewer was at it again in the fifth inning, driving in a run on a single, and Chopra followed that up by driving in two with a single of his own. Benavidez banished all doubts in the sixth inning when he drew a bases loaded walk to increase Tompkins' advantage to 9-0, as the Falcons didn't allow anything the rest of the way.

Layne Bishop started on the mound for Taylor and went 3.1 innings, allowing three earned runs on seven hits while striking out three



Torin Green hits during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.



Ty Berra pitches during a game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

and walking one. Taylor's record fell to 13-8-1 overall and 1-4 in district play.

## Seven Lakes run rules Morton Ranch

Seven Lakes earned a run rule win over Morton Ranch on Saturday, as they had a huge day offensively combined with strong pitching. The Spartans beat the Mavericks 12-1 in five innings, moving to 12-7 overall and 3-2 in district play.

Travis Berra started on the mound and went all five innings for Seven Lakes, allowing just one run on four hits while striking out five

to earn the win while also driving in five runs to lead the Spartans.

The Spartans got their first two runs in the first inning off of an error before Berra drove in two more with a single. Morton Ranch got one back in the top of the second when Brandon Hasselbring drove in a run on a sacrifice fly.

Jake Steffes made it a four-run game for Seven Lakes in the second with an RBI double and Berra followed that up with a double of his own, driving in three to make things 8-1 in favor of the Spartans. Steffes hit another double in the



Lucas Franco throws the ball to first base during a game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch baseball field.

third to drive in a run before James Benjamin hit an RBI single, and the Spartans got a run off a wild pitch and another on a passed ball to secure the game.

Isaac Cantu started on the mound and went 1.2 innings for Morton Ranch, allowing seven earned runs on six hits while striking out two and walking six. The Mavericks fell to 4-16 overall and 1-6 in district play with the loss.

**TUESDAY**

## Seven Lakes tops Tompkins in pitchers battle

Seven Lakes earned a huge win on Tuesday, topping Tompkins 2-1 in a battle of great pitching between two teams that have been strong so far this season, as the Spartans moved to 11-6 on the year and 2-1 in district play.

Lawson Moreno had a great day on the mound for the Spartans, going 4.2 innings and allowing one run on three hits while striking out two and walking three before Collin Mills pitched the final two innings, allowing just one hit and striking out three.

Tompkins got the first run of the game. Drew Markle singled and was driven home on a Landon West double to make things 1-0 in favor of the Falcons. Neither team was able to get anything going offensively after the fourth inning, when Seven Lakes tied the game on an error. The Spartans then took the lead in the fifth inning when they took advantage of an error to bring another run around. Tompkins got runners in scoring position each of the last three innings but was unable to bring a run across.

Gavin Brewer kept the Falcons in the game as much as he could, starting on the mound and going 4.1 innings, allowing no earned runs on six hits while striking out five and walking three. The loss had Tompkins fall to 11-6-1 overall and 3-2 in district play.

## Jordan stays unbeaten in district with win over Paetow

Jordan kept its strong start to district going, beating Paetow 4-3 in a closely contested game as the Warriors moved to 8-5 on the season and remained the only undefeated team in District 19-6A with a 3-0 district record.

Monty Bogner had a good day on the bump for Jordan, going five innings and not allowing an earned run while striking out nine and walking four during his appearance. Bogner also had two hits on the day along with James Lacy to lead the Warriors.

Paetow came out swinging, taking the lead in the first inning on a passed ball, but Jordan came back to tie the game in the third inning. The Warriors took the lead in the following inning when Zandre Vanderwalt drove in a run with a single before Connor Carmichael hit an RBI single and Andrew Toups grounded into a fielders choice, making things 4-1 Jordan. Paetow nearly came back in the seventh, scoring on a bases loaded walk and a single from Paul Gerke, but a groundout ended things with the Panthers unable to get the tying run across.

Alvin Velasquez pitched a complete game for Paetow, allowing three earned runs

on eight hits while striking out five and walking one, the Panthers dropped to 6-12 on the season and 2-3 in district play with the loss.

## Cinco shuts out Morton Ranch

Brayden Hodge put Cinco Ranch on his back Tuesday, pitching a complete game shutout to lead Cinco Ranch to a 1-0 win over Morton Ranch in a pitcher's duel, as Cinco advanced to 16-3 on the year and 4-1 in district play.

Hodge went all seven innings without allowing a run, only allowing six hits while he struck out eight and walked one.

The only run of the game came in the sixth inning, when Connor Ficarra drove in Logan Sosolik on a single, after Sosolik had hit a double to get in scoring position. Gavin Rutherford had Cinco Ranch's only other extra base hit of the day, also hitting a double.

Brandon Hasselbring kept Morton Ranch in it all day, starting on the mound and pitching a complete game, only allowing the one run on five hits while striking out one and walking five. With the loss Morton Ranch fell to 1-4 in district play and 4-14 overall.

## Katy run rules Mayde Creek

Katy got a run rule win over Mayde Creek, as they shut out the Rams in a 10-0 win that only took five innings.

Cole Kaase and Lucas Moore combined for a very strong day pitching wise and Katy had three pitchers combine for a no-hitter. Kaase started and pitched 2.2 innings, striking out five and walking one before Moore came in and pitched 2.1 innings, striking out two and walking one.

Katy got a run in the first inning from a passed ball before doubling that in the second on a bases loaded walk.

The Tigers broke things open in the third. Sutton Hull started things with an RBI single before a bases loaded walk brought home Katy's fourth run. Josh Dunayczan followed that up by driving in another run on a single, followed by Graham Laxton hitting a sacrifice. Katy got another on a on a passed ball before A.J. Atkinson hit a sacrifice fly to make things 8-0 in Katy's favor. Reese Ruderman hit an RBI double in the fourth and Nayden Ramirez drove in a run on a sacrifice fly in the fifth to seal things.

Alan Elliott started on the mound for Mayde Creek and went two innings, allowing four earned runs on one hit while striking out one and walking six. The Rams fell to 6-10-1 overall and 1-4 in district after the loss.

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SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

# Seven Lakes downs Cinco Ranch behind Abke no-hitter

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

FRIDAY

Amy Abke continued her stellar senior season on Friday, no-hitting Cinco Ranch and leading Seven Lakes past the Cougars for a 3-0 win as the Spartans improved to 4-4 in district play and 8-12 on the year.

Abke was in a groove in the win, striking out 14 and only walking three in the no-hitter while also providing the difference at the plate, getting three hits and hitting two solo home runs to lift the Spartans to the win.

Abke made her presence felt from the first pitch of the game, as she led off the game with a solo home run to give Seven Lakes the lead. Emily Johnson doubled that lead in the sixth inning when she hit an RBI double, and Abke sealed it in the seventh when she led off the inning with another solo home run. Abke then pitched a clean bottom of the seventh, striking out two to end the game.

Chela Kovar had a solid day on the mound for Cinco Ranch, pitching a complete game and allowing three earned runs while striking out six and walking four. Cinco Ranch fell to 11-8 overall and 5-3 in district with the loss.

**Katy run rules Taylor**

Katy freshman Ella-Kate Smith helped lead the Tigers to a win on Friday with a big performance on the mound, pitching a shutout in a 11-0 run rule win for Katy to keep the team unbeaten in district play at 8-0 while they moved to 21-3 on the season.

Smith pitched four of the five innings, allowing just two hits while striking out eight and walking just one. She helped her own cause at the plate as well, driving in two runs while Ashtyn Reichardt drove in three to lead the Tigers.

It was Maddie Smith that started the scoring for Katy, as she led off the bottom of the first inning with a solo home run to get the Tigers on the board, before the Tigers got a second on an error and Peyton Watson made the game 3-0 with an RBI single.

After loading the bases in the second, Reichardt cleared them with a double that drove in three runs, and Katy kept the momentum going in the third when Lexie Waugh drove in a run on a double before stealing home, with the Tigers adding another from an error to go up 9-0 after three innings. Ella-Kate Smith put things to bed in the fourth when she hit a 2-run home run before Cameryn Harrison came on in relief to seal things with a solid fifth inning on the mound.

Ari Hughes started the game on the mound for Taylor and went four innings, allowing six earned runs on 10 hits while walking two. The Mustangs fell to 4-4 in district play and 12-9-1 on the year with the loss.

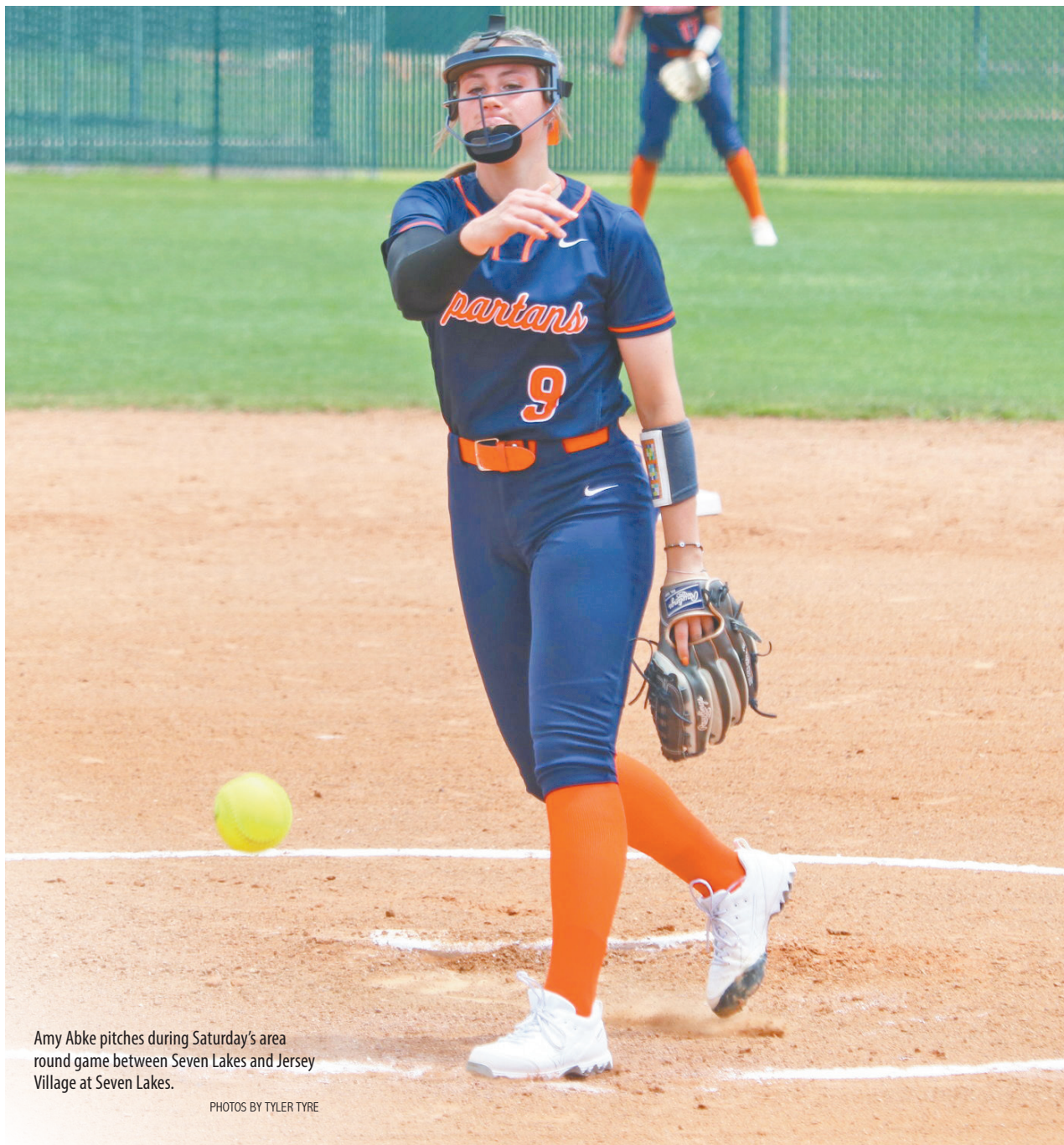
**Offense jolts Tompkins past Paetow**

Tompkins had a very strong day on Friday, as the Falcons' offense could not be stopped in an 11-2 win over Paetow as they moved to 11-6 on the season and 6-2 in district play.

Samantha Crumrin was a very strong presence on the mound, pitching a complete game and not allowing an earned run off six hits while striking out four and walking two. The Falcons also had 11 hits and seven total RBIs on the day, led by Morton Brown, who had three RBIs.

The Falcons took the lead in the first inning on a score off of a passed ball and Brown drove in another on a sacrifice grounder. Paetow got a run back in the bottom of the inning when Samantha Guillory scored on an error and tied it in the third when Amanda Vasquez drove in a run on a single.

The Falcons retook the lead in the fifth inning off an error and Meagan Brown made it 4-2 by driving in another run on a single.



Amy Abke pitches during Saturday's area round game between Seven Lakes and Jersey Village at Seven Lakes.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Ashtyn Reichardt hits during a District 19-6A game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy softball field.

Morgan Brown added to the lead by driving in two more on a single and Tompkins got an eighth in the inning with another run off of an error. Peyton Ebel and Tayden Alexander both drove in runs in the sixth before Leah Gershman hit an RBI double in the seventh to seal the win.

Shy'Lynn Brown started on the mound for Paetow and went 4.1 innings, allowing four earned runs on three hits while striking out three and walking two. Paetow dropped to 11-15 overall and 1-7 in district with the loss.

**Jordan earns second district win over Morton Ranch**

Jordan came away with its second district win of the year on Friday with a 4-1 win over Morton Ranch where the Warriors got a great performance on the mound.

Ryan McIntosh helped lead the Warriors to the win, pitching a complete game and not allowing an earned run off of two hits while striking out nine and walking none, Aislyn Duhon led the Warriors with two RBIs offensively.

Morton Ranch took the lead in the first inning when Jiselle Lopez hit an RBI single, but Jordan answered back in the bottom of the inning, when Duhon drove in two runs with a single. Jordan added a third run in the third inning as Cady Bowyer stole home and the Warriors got their fourth in the fourth inning as Halle Brazin hit a sacrifice grounder. McIntosh never allowed a runner past second after that as Jordan was able to clinch the victory. Jiselle Lopez started

and went six innings on the mound for Morton Ranch, allowing two earned runs on three hits while striking out eight and walking one. The Mavericks fell to 5-11 on the year and 0-7 in district with the loss.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20**

**Tompkins shuts out Jordan**

Tompkins stayed among the district leaders by earning a big win Tuesday, beating Jordan 4-0 behind a complete game shutout from Samantha Crumrin on the mound. The win moved Tompkins to 10-6 on the year and 5-2 in district.

Crumrin was huge for the Falcons in the win, going the full seven innings and allowing just three hits to go with seven strikeouts and three walks, earning the shutout win.

The Falcons struck first, taking a lead in the second inning off a solo home run from Morgan Brown. Jordan was able to keep Tompkins from any further damage until the sixth inning when the Falcons' offense came alive.

Tompkins started the inning by loading the bases with no outs and Leah Gershman hit a sacrifice grounder to double the Falcons lead. Cami Hearn followed that with a sacrifice fly before Meagan Brown stole home to make it a 4-0 game. Crumrin retired the top of the seventh in four batters to seal the game after that.

Ryan McIntosh had a solid day on the mound for Jordan, going six innings and allowing one earned run on three hits while striking out one and walking three. The loss had Jordan fall to 1-5 in district play and 9-8-1 overall.

**Katy survives tough test from Seven Lakes**

Katy had one of its toughest tests in district so far on Tuesday, as the Tigers' offense struggled but managed to get runs across the plate to secure a 3-1 win and stay undefeated in district play.

The win kept Katy well ahead in the district standings, going up to 7-0 in a district and 20-3 overall.

Cameryn Harrison had another fantastic day on the mound for Katy, going seven innings and allowing just one hit and one run while striking out 17 batters and walking just one, outdueling Amy Abke, who was nearly as strong — pitching a complete game and allowing three earned runs on three hits while striking out eight while walking four.

Neither team was able to get on the board until the sixth inning, when Katy's offense got going.

Montgomery Henderson doubled to get in scoring position before Ella Smith drove her in with a double of her own. Haley Gore then came to the plate and hit a two-run home run to give the Tigers a three-run lead. Seven Lakes was able to claw a run back in the seventh on a Kaley Garland solo home run, but Hender-

son calmly struck out the next batter to end things and clinch the win.

Abke registered the only other hit for the Spartans in the game while also drawing a walk. The loss dropped the Spartans to 7-12 on the year and 3-4 in district play.

**Taylor's offense shines in win over Paetow**

Taylor's offense shined on Tuesday, as the Mustangs were able to put up nine runs in a 9-5 win over Paetow, moving the Mustangs to 12-8-1 on the year and 4-3 in district play.

The Mustangs had nine hits on the night to get their nine runs and were led by Katherine Brenner offensively, who had three RBIs. Ari Hughes started on the mound and pitched a complete game for Taylor. She allowed four runs on seven hits while walking three and striking out seven to earn the win on the day.

Taylor jumped out to a lead in the third inning when Brenner hit a three-run home run to open the scoring. Makenna Holloway added more the next inning with a two-run home run, increasing the lead to 5-0. Taylor got another run in the fifth on an error before

Katelyn Wentzler hit an RBI single and Holloway hit a two-run single to increase the lead to 9-0.

Paetow clawed its way back into the fight down the stretch. Mia Galarza hit a two-run double before Alanna Winters drove in a run on a single, and Madison Mitchell hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning. The Panthers added another run in the seventh when Galarza hit a sacrifice fly to trim the lead to 9-5, but Taylor was able to keep any more runs from coming across and lock down the win.

Jade Catherwood started the game on the mound and went 3.2 innings for Paetow, allowing three earned runs on two hits while striking out two and walking one. Galarza led the Panthers with three RBIs. The Panthers fell to 11-14 on the year and 1-6 in district play.

**Mayde Creek offense explodes in run rule win over Morton Ranch**

Mayde Creek had an offensive explosion on Tuesday in its win over Morton Ranch, only needing five innings to put up 14 runs and win 14-3 over Morton Ranch. The win propelled the Rams to 11-5-1 overall and 6-2 in district play.

Alyssa Gonzalez was strong for the Rams on the day, starting on the mound and going all five innings, allowing three earned runs on six hits while striking out five and walking one.

Gonzalez started the scoring in the first inning after coming home on a passed ball, and the Rams got two more runs scoring on an error and a hit by pitch with the bases loaded.

Morton Ranch got a run back in the bottom of the inning when Lea Avila hit a sacrifice fly, but Mayde Creek kept things going in the second. Debanhi Carrizales drove in a run on a bases loaded walk and the Rams got two more from an error. Kima Sepic hit an RBI single, and the Rams got two more bases loaded walks.

An RBI single from Gonzalez and Lisette Perez drove in a run on a single, pushing the Rams' lead to 13-1 after two innings. The Rams added another in the third when Alexia Ruiz walked with the bases loaded, but the Mavericks scored twice in the bottom of the inning on a Michelle Meeks bunt single and another on a wild pitch. Neither team scored the rest of the way as the Rams sealed the win with strong pitching and defense.

Allie Slaten started on the mound and lasted 1.1 innings for Morton Ranch, allowing six earned runs on five hits while walking seven. The loss had the Mavericks fall to 5-10 on the season and 0-6 in district play.

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# Katy's Manibog named Boys Wrestler of the Year



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy's Jeremy Manibog won a gold medal at the state wrestling meet.

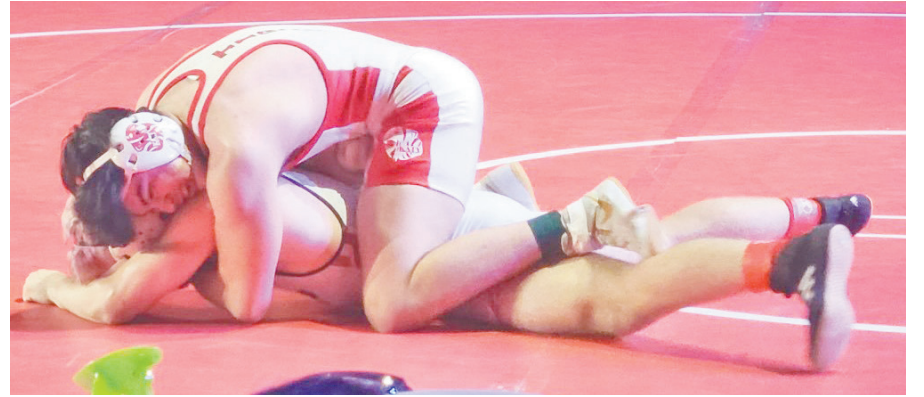
BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy's Jeremy Manibog was named the Class 6A Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association Class 6A boys wrestler of the year on Monday after a terrific senior season.

The Katy wrestler had an undefeated season en route to winning a state championship, going 45-0 on the year to win state in dominating fashion.

Manibog claimed the state title in the 165-pound weight class this season, cementing an improvement of every year he was in the Tigers program.

He has made the state tournament three times, from a sophomore onward, placing in his first tournament before finishing second in the 145-pound weight class as a junior, improving to state champion while moving up weight classes as a senior.



Katy's Jeremy Manibog won a gold medal at the state wrestling meet.

Manibog was chosen as the 6A wrestler of the year over other state champions after demonstrating that growth. The vote comes from members of the THSWCA including coaches, who chose Manibog over other 6A boys wrestlers.

Austin Bowie's Olivia Moreno was named the 6A girls wrestler of the year while Alexis Hanks of Killeen Ellison was named the 5A girls wrestler of the year and Midlothian's Karson Tompkins was named the 5A boys wrestler of the year.

**HOUSTON METHODIST**  
in Katy and West Houston

The map shows the following locations and services:

- HOUSTON METHODIST WEST HOSPITAL** (Emergency Care)
- WEST HOUSTON** (Primary and Specialty Care)
- KATY** (Primary and Specialty Care)
- CINCO RANCH** (Emergency Care)
- MEMORIAL CITY** (Primary and Specialty Care)
- MEMORIAL GREEN** (Primary and Specialty Care)
- MEMORIAL** (Primary and Specialty Care)

Legend:

- Primary Care (Building icon)
- Primary and Specialty Care (Building icon)
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