

**Congrats
FFA winners:
See photo
gallery inside**
KATY FFA, A6

Katy Times

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

County judges deliver state of the counties presentation

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

County judges Lina Hidalgo, Trey Duhon and KP George of Harris, Waller and Fort Bend counties, respectively, presented at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's State of the Counties event on March 11. The three judges spoke regarding the challenges – economic and otherwise – presented by COVID-19 since the first case in the region was identified in Fort Bend County on Feb. 4, 2020.

"But there's also hope," said Hidalgo. "With the vaccinations that are being dispersed in all our counties with top efficiency."

Harris County

Hidalgo, who presented via prerecorded video, said Harris County has administered nearly 200,000 COVID-19 vaccine shots by Harris County Public Health alone and said the Federal Department of Emergency Management vaccination site was delivering about 6,000 vaccines per day. Still, she said Harris residents need to be aware of the



R. HANS MILLER

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon speaks at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's State of the Counties event on March 11. Duhon said he was proud of the county's advancements toward better budget management, improving economic opportunities for residents and for the community effort of residents to support one another through the pandemic and recent winter storm.

fact that only 7% of the county's population has received the full course of the vaccines.

Hidalgo acknowledged that many are suffering from economic challenges caused by the pandemic. The county has established a joint program with the

city of Houston to provide \$159 million in rental assistance to county residents facing financial difficulties.

"We've learned lessons from the previous (rental assistance programs) we've done," Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo also said the county has committed tens-of-millions of dollars for programs to assist residents facing domestic violence, increasing access to high-speed internet, providing hotspot access for students and supporting childcare.

Harris County residents in need of assistance should visit www.readyharris.org.

Hidalgo said the county's achievements included moving forward with 144 flood control and resiliency projects in the county, establishing a \$10 million child incubator fund to support the education of Harris County's children and setting up early voting locations and overnight voting to ensure that, despite the pandemic, voters could safely vote.

Hidalgo also said the county successfully tracked all money associated with its COVID-19 relief programs.

Waller County

Duhon said Waller County is working to get its economy back on track as the pandemic begins to wind down, though he emphasized the pandemic is ongoing and he strongly urges residents to continue precautions.

"We've got our recovery committee up and running, and still, as a community, we're doing a great job," Duhon said.

See **PRESENTATION**, page A3

KATY



R. HANS MILLER

Dehazard Allen (center with scissors), clinical director of Life Skills Autism Academy in Katy is joined by Life Skills Autism Academy program director Nathan Rabens (behind scissors) and members of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and other academy staff for the autism clinic's March 9 ribbon cutting.

New autism support center opens in Katy

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Life Skills Autism Academy held a March 9 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the autism services center's new location at 610 Katy Fort Bend Road, Ste. 270 in Katy. The new facility provides applied behavioral analysis therapy to youngsters, ages 2-7, on the autism spectrum in the Katy area.

"We knew that there was a need for ABA therapy services in

See **AUTISM CENTER**, page A3

KATY ISD

Grandfather, granddaughter win FFA honors 50 years apart

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

This year, the Sword family had reason to celebrate a family tradition as Erin Sword took home reserve grand champion honors in the market goat category in the 78th Annual Katy ISD Livestock Show – 50 years after her grandfather, Perry Sword, took home the same honor in the lamb competition.

FFA has changed quite a bit since Perry was in the program, he said.

"When I was in school, we didn't have (all the different animals)," Perry said. "All we had was chickens, pigs and what they call a market steer, which wasn't halter-broken."

Perry said he was very proud of Erin's accomplishment which carries on a family tradition passed down to his children and then to his grandchildren. He had even worked for about 13 years on his father-in-law's ranch before taking a job at KISD in 1983.

The FFA has evolved since his 1971 win, Perry said. When he was in FFA, women weren't allowed to participate. Katy was



COURTESY THE SWORD FAMILY

Perry Sword (left) has passed the family tradition of participating in Katy ISD's Future Farmers of America program down to his children and grandchildren. He won reserve champion in the 1971 lamb competition and 50 years later, his granddaughter Erin Sword (right) earned the reserve champion honor in the market goat competition in this year's Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show.

See **SWORDS**, page A3

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Jensen returns to lead Mayde Creek football

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

J Jensen is home again.

The former Mayde Creek standout, Class of 1998, and former assistant football coach at Mayde Creek, 2005-2010, was announced as the Rams' newest head football coach/campus athletic coordinator on Wednesday, March 10.

"It's a dream come true," Jensen said. "I've been dreaming about it since I was a little kid. Getting to go do it is awesome."

Because it's for the Rams, it means more for Jensen than the typical first head coaching job.

"It definitely does," Jensen said. "To me, it's huge. I have a lot of pride in the community and the people that still live in the community. To be able to go back and try and enhance and raise Mayde Creek and battle, it's huge for me. I'm anxious to get over there and get working with the kids."

Jensen, the defensive coordinator and defensive line coach at Taylor the last seven years, succeeds Brian Randle, who left last month to take over Lamar Consolidated ISD's newest high



DENNIS SILVA II

J Jensen

school, Randle High, named after Brian's father.

"Coach Jensen is passionate, committed and has a vision to lead the Mayde Creek Rams to the next level," Katy ISD athletics director Debbie Decker said. "We look forward to the expertise and mentorship he will bring to the team experience."

Colleagues, players and peers of Jensen's raved about the move on social media.

See **JENSEN**, page B6

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KATY

Fire Station 1 repairs underway as voters consider bond

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Repairs are underway at Katy Fire Department's Fire Station One at 1417 Avenue D in Katy after water leaked into the building, causing mold and other concerns, city officials say. The overhaul of the building – which Mayor Bill Hastings says has a long history of maintenance concerns – is being paid for out of the city's recently-established Capital Improvement Fund for possible reimbursement through bond sales if city voters approve an upcoming bond referendum in May.

"I can tell you that within the first month – month-and-a-half – of being in that building, there were some leaks," said Hastings who was a volunteer with the department in 1983 when the building first opened. "And the leaks were all centered to one area; (the builder) came back and



R. HANS MILLER

Repairs are underway at Katy's Fire Station One on Avenue D in downtown Katy. Most of the repairs are centered around the south portion of the building which has water damage and mold issues as a result of poor initial construction in the early 1980s.

they would fix them."

Hastings said water leaks have been an ongoing issue since the 38-year-old building was built. He wasn't sure what caused the issue initially but said the inspection and project management process for the city at the time was not what

the city has in place now. Additionally, he said, the volunteers at the department had no say in how the building was designed. As a result, change the remainder of the graft to: As a result the building has been repaired or modified many times and continues to have issues with water

leaks and serving the needs of the department. This issue has led to the current repair project which was approved by Katy City Council Dec. 14 of last year.

City Administrator Byron Hebert said when the need for the current repair was identified by former Fire Chief Rusty Wilson, the city decided to involve the right engineers and contractors. Hebert took the issue to Hastings and the city moved forward with deciding whether to repair the station or replace it.

According to city documents, the city had the building analyzed and brought engineers and contractors to assess the building. Eventually, the city decided to repair the building rather than replace it. Contractors assured city officials that the work could be done properly and that repairs would last and meet the city's standards, documents said.

See **FIRE STATION**, page A3

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ELECTIONS CANDIDATE LINEUP

Elections are upon us again and Katy ISD as well as the cities of Katy and Brookshire have multiple seats on their respective governing boards on the ballot. Below, voters will find a simple listing of the candidates for each position as well as the basic contact information, if provided by the candidate in time for publication, for the candidates' respective campaigns.

Early voting for these local races begins April 19 and ends April 27. Election Day is May 1.

KATY ISD TRUSTEE – POS. 6

Bonnie Anderson
713-443-3065
Bonnie_R_Anderson@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/Anderson4Katy-
ISD

www.anderson4katy.com
Occupation: AQM Analyst
William X. Branch II
williamxbranchii@gmail.com
Occupation: Truck Driver
Garima DasGupta
303-803-2823
g.gupta77494@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/votegdgupta
Occupation: Educator

Rebecca Fox
RebeccaFox4Katy@gmail.com
www.rebeccafox4katy.com
Occupation: Motivational Speaker
Susan Gesoff (Incumbent)
smgesoff@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/susanmgesoff4KISD
Occupation: Engineer

Joseph Wojcik
832-493-7337
joewoj@msn.com
www.facebook.com/joeforposition6
Occupation: Security Investigator/Adjunct Professor

TRUSTEE – POS. 7

Walter Butler
225-270-2462
djmbutler1@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100063618927301
Occupation: Sales

Dawn Champagne (incumbent)
832-549-2059
friendsofdawnchampagne@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/
groups/160538218075918
Occupation: Retail sales/Public servant

CITY OF KATY COUNCILMEMBER WARD A

Diane Walker
281-969-3009
dcwkaty@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/DianeWalker-
forCityCouncil
Occupation: Virtual Assistant

Dan Smith
contact@dansmithforkaty.com
www.dansmithforkaty.com
Occupation: Territory Senior Manager

COUNCILMEMBER WARD B

Gina Hicks
ghickskaty@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/GinaHicksForKaty
Occupation: Strategic Account Manager
Jenifer Jordan Stockdick (Incumbent)
832-244-5444
jstockdick@gmail.com
https://bit.ly/38zQCxh
Occupation: Co-owner and CFO

CITY OF BROOKSHIRE MAYOR

Kimberly Davis
281-905-9672
Occupation: Entrepreneur
Lee Nelson Jones
jonesbrk@gmail.com
Occupation: Business Owner
Darrell E. Branch (Incumbent)
Occupation: Facility Manager/Mayor

ALDERPERSON – POS. 1

Monique Taylor
832-798-1369
Monique1@Yahoo.com
Occupation: Kroger Lead
Marilyn Vaughn (Incumbent)
bedcplace1@gmail.com
Occupation: Police Officer

ALDERPERSON – POS. 2

Susette Inez Baines
713-242-9756
SusetteBaines62@gmail.com
Occupation: Billing Coordinator
Gary Cruseturner
713-213-3070
gary.cruseturner@cruseturner.com
Occupation: Insurance Agent
Lyndon L. Stamps (incumbent)
stamplyndon@gmail.com
Occupation: Police Officer

Editor's Note: Royal ISD and the city of Pattison have cancelled their May 2021 elections because no challengers stepped forward to run against the incumbents.

TRIBUTE

Tammy Lee Riesmeyer was born on February 28, 1968 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Leonard Eugene Hickman and Shirley Anne Hartline.

Tammy grew up and went to school in Pittsburgh. After graduation from Brentwood High School in 1986, she went to Point Park College. She met the love of her life and married Richard J. Riesmeyer in Pittsburgh on August 30, 2003. Tammy went on to be an IT Analyst in disability services and healthcare. Tammy was a fan of all Pittsburgh sports teams but her favorite teams were the Pittsburgh Penguins and Steelers. She enjoyed being a Girl Scout Leader and all that came with it: going camping, earning badges, cookie sales, arts and crafts. She often visited nursing homes and brought gifts for the residents, reading books and caroling for them. Tammy took on many tasks as a homeroom mom at school bringing gifts to teachers and substitute teachers and going on field trips with the school. Tammy enjoyed baking cakes and cookies for special family events. She was deeply passionate and involved with her daughter's softball team



TAMMY LEE RIESMEYER
1968-2021

"The Texas Blaze" and often volunteered to be team mom for her son's baseball teams. Tammy loved her gardening and spending time with her loving family and walking her rescue dogs, Honey and Daisy, but never forgetting her first family dog Sandy who has passed away.

Tammy was a very adventurous person; she loved to travel as a family to Italy, Florida (Sanibel Island and Disney World), San Antonio to see the Alamo, Sea World, Six Flags, and trips to visit family back in Pittsburgh.

Tammy Lee Riesmeyer passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in Katy,

Texas.

Tammy is survived by her loving husband, Richard "Rich" J. Riesmeyer of Katy; daughter, Samantha "Sam" Riesmeyer of Katy; son, Nicholas "Nick" Riesmeyer of Katy; mother, Shirley Hickman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; siblings, Lenny Hickman, Linda Louise Knott, Fred Hickman, Debbie Orr, Linda Quigley and Jim Hickman; in-laws, Ron and Peg Riesmeyer of Katy; and Barbara Wright of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leonard Hickman.

The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel Grand Parkway, in Katy, where vigil service was held at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Tom Lam officiating. Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Katy, with Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Celebrant. Interment in Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery in Houston.

To express condolences, please visit www.Schmidt-FuneralHome.net

2 KISD principals honored as finalists

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR



DOREEN MARTINEZ



WILLIAM RHODES

Katy ISD announced via press release that two of its principals – Doreen Martinez of Memorial Parkway Elementary and William Rhodes of Bryant Elementary – are finalists for the Texas National Distinguished Principal award. The two are among five finalists statewide that are eligible to win top honors in May at the 2021 NDP gala in Washington D.C.

"Both Katy ISD principals are known to incorporate innovative ways of educating their students, even more so during the adversities associated with this past year's COVID-19 pandemic," said Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership and Support Dawn Carlson-Scruggs.

The Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association received 137 nominations for principals throughout the state for the Texas award. After a review process in which applicants shared information regarding their educational philosophies and professional accomplishments and a peer-review committee selected the finalists.

Statewide, Martinez and Rhodes were joined by principals Brian Gibson of Velasquez Elementary in Lamar Con-

solidated ISD, Ben Perez of Taylor Ray Elementary of Lamar CISD and Raymond Stubblefield of Spring Shadows Elementary in Spring Branch ISD, according to the TEPSA website.

Martinez and Rhodes, along with the other finalists, will have the opportunity to present their achievements and their campuses during virtual school visits by a team of educators in the near future. The winner of the award will also receive a \$10,000 award for their work.

Carlson-Scruggs said the district is glad to be well-represented in the competition.

"Katy ISD is known to have some of the best educators and school leaders in the nation, and we are proud to see the District represented at this event," Carlson-Scruggs said.

KISD bus involved in accident Fri. afternoon

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD spokesperson Maria DiPetta said no students were injured when a collision occurred at about 2:45 p.m. in the 23100 block of Stockdick School Road. The accident was considered minor, DiPetta said, and

occurred when the other vehicle struck the bus.

"There were students on the bus," DiPetta said. "The driver of the bus called an ambulance out of precaution. The scene was minor and was cleared quickly."

Cy-Fair Fire Department and Waller County EMS responded to the ac-

cident as a precaution. A statement on social media from Cy-Fair Fire Department said the driver of the second vehicle was transported for care but was in stable condition.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office and Katy ISD Police Department are investigating the accident.

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

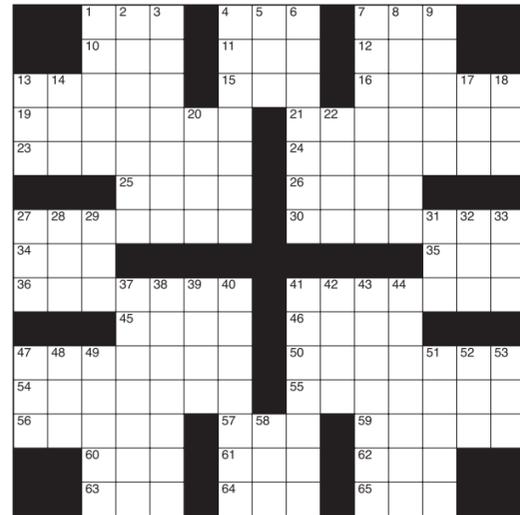
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ fi: popular genre
4. Curved shape
7. Defunct airline
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Corporate bigwig
12. Belong to he
13. They cover cuts
15. Cost per mille
16. Walk into
19. Power-producing machine
21. Part of one's character perceived by others
23. Emotionally appealed to
24. Protected
25. Wrestling icon Okerlund
26. Thailand's former name
27. Muscle weaknesses
30. Chooses
34. American film studio
35. Expression of satisfaction
36. Mythical winged horse
41. Ballplayers
45. Edible seaweed
46. Chinese politician
47. Tested for fertility
50. Glove worn with medieval armor
54. Basaltic lavas
55. Small shoaling fish
56. Surrendered
57. Taxi

CLUES DOWN

1. Frighten
2. Partner to corned beef
3. Parts
4. Agrees to a demand
5. Elected official
6. Navigator's tool
7. Relating to heat
8. Attractive
9. Wealthy US merchant
13. Engine additive
14. A passage with access only at one end
17. Midway between northeast and east
18. Cool!
20. Brazilian NBAer
22. New Pennsylvania city
27. Young dog
28. Mimic
29. Large truck
31. The NFL's Newton
32. One and only



CLUES ACROSS

33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
37. Julie __, actress
38. More nourishing
39. Compound
40. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
41. Object of fear or alarm
42. ___ Ladd, actor
43. Sacred place

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

NEWS

AUTISM CENTER

from page A1

in the area," said Life Skills Autism Academy program director Nathan Rabens. "... And we knew from some of the other providers in the area that there has been some waitlist, and so we wanted to help serve the community more."

Dehazard Allen, clinical director for the Katy location, said Katy-area pediatricians had also established a need for more autism therapy in the area, which was another draw for the academy's parent company, Centria Autism.

However, they said the main focus was bringing support to Katy for families struggling with autism. The 60-student clinic provides one-on-one and group therapies designed to help young autistic learners prepare for the future.

Each child at the center is assigned

a therapist that focuses on that patient's well-being, Allen said. The therapist accompanies the student throughout the day, stepping in even during group activities if the child needs assistance.

"(The children) get a lot of exposure to group therapy and stuff like that, but they are remaining one-to-one with a technician, whether the technician is shadowing or working directly with them," Allen said.

Rabens said the clinic also works with parents to ensure each child's success. Most students work with a center technician for 35-40 hours per week and parents are kept in the loop with techniques and therapies their child with autism is responding well to. This allows parents to apply successful techniques at home.

"The parent commitment and involvement is a big part of therapy, and so we want to make sure that the parents are going to commit to that type of therapy," Allen said.

Each child's therapy plan is customized, said Rabens. As suc-

cessful techniques for each child are identified and passed to parents and practiced both at the clinic - which is intentionally set up to resemble a public school setting - and at home, the students become better prepared for their future as they face pre-K and kindergarten classrooms.

Rabens added that, because the help the children receive is considered therapy, it may be covered under health insurance plans carried by the parents for their young learner. Establishing costs and coverage are a part of Life Skills Autism Academy's enrollment process, he said.

However, Rabens emphasized that the main goal for the academy isn't profit, but rather ensuring success for the young people that parents entrust the clinic with.

"I used to work specifically in our Michigan markets, and when we heard feedback from families where they said, 'My child is eight years old and he's never spoken before, and he just called me mom,' - ... that's the best," Rabens said.

PRESENTATION

from page A1

Duhon said the United Way in Brookshire was distributing food and water to those in need.

"If (Waller residents) need help, they will get help. If anyone does need help or if you know of anyone that needs help, tell them to contact The United Way in Brookshire - they head up our recovery committee," Duhon said.

Waller county's achievements over the last year weren't isolated to emergency responses, Duhon said. The county also completed multiple building projects, including a new criminal justice center and an annex for the county's fourth precinct between Katy and Brookshire.

From a fiscal perspective, the county was able to drop its property tax rate by about 7%, Duhon said. The rate, which is the lowest in 32 years, went from \$0.662225 per \$100 valuation in 2019 to \$0.616662 per \$100 valuation for the 2020 tax year, a reduction of \$0.45563 per \$100 of property value. The county was still able to increase its overall budget due to new facilities coming into the county such as Amazon and Ross in the last few years which have increased both sales and property tax revenues by millions of dollars, Duhon said.

The county is also working toward a better-balanced budget that will prepare it for growth, Duhon said.

"And we're going to continue to do things ... to raise the level in Waller County and keep that quality of life up there," Duhon said.

Fort Bend County

George said more than 52,000 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed over the last year in Fort Bend County and 527 fatalities from the virus had occurred at the time of his speech. However, George said he was heartened by efforts to distribute vaccines in the county which is being done in cooperation with partners such

as Memorial Hermann and other area providers.

The economic response from the county includes providing assistance to small businesses as well as distributing CARES Act funding of about \$45 million in utility, rental and mortgage assistance to residents, George said. Fort Bend has allocated \$53 million toward small business assistance, he added.

George said the county is also in the process of constructing an emergency management building which is expected to open sometime in December of this year.

Fort Bend continues to work on mobility and drainage, George said. A mobility bond package passed in November 2020 that will provide more than \$218 million in mobility improvements to the county, with many of those in the county's third precinct which covers most of the Cinco Ranch area.

George did not provide details on drainage projects; however, county records show the county continues to work toward adopting updated studies to predict flooding, improvements to drainage - including improvements to the Buffalo Bayou - and working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make improvements to Barker Reservoir to improve flood mitigation in the Katy area.

"I always say that as long as the Brazos River is in the middle of the county, we will have this problem," George said.

Fiscally, George said the county had been able to decrease the county's property tax rate for 2020 by about half a cent per \$100 valuation with a reduction to \$0.424967 per \$100 from the prior year's rate of \$0.4447 in 2019.

Hidalgo also expressed appreciation for Duhon and George as well as the judges of other neighboring counties for their cooperation as the region has faced several crises over the last few years.

"I'm so grateful for my fellow county judges," Hidalgo said. "Whether it be flood, fire, pandemic or winter storm recently, I'm grateful to you all."

SWORDS

from page A1

the only high school in the district and the barns were located where the Merrell Center is now. There were about 10-12 students in an FFA class compared to the 30-40 in the classes Erin attends, he said. The curriculum is similar but spread out differently in semester-long classes rather than year-long courses and students have more individual projects rather than shared projects.

For her part, Erin said she loves FFA. The program has taught her much, helped her meet friends, gotten her in a more engaging environment than a simple classroom, and even helped her realize she wants to be an equine chiropractor - for which she's going to Blinn Junior College in the fall.

"Last year I took Equine Science and everybody there wants to be a vet, right," Erin said, expressing her eagerness to begin working with horses as soon as possible. "That's just too much schooling ... and I like horses more than I like dogs and other animals."

The money she got from this year's auction will help her pay for school, she said, something many FFA students benefit from as they work their way through the program.

Erin said she and her FFA classmates put in a lot of hard work and learn a lot from one another. Students go to the FFA barns at very early hours and again in the evening to feed and groom their animals seven days a week. But the hard work is worth it, she said.

"Well, the first thing I tell people is we get to skip a lot of school," she said. "So, they go, 'sign me up.'"

FIRE STATION

from page A1

"We believe that now we've finally gotten enough engineers involved and enough contractors that have experience in these types of (repair issues) that we will not have any further problems with it when they finish," Hastings said.

Current concerns include mold remediation and repairs in the administrative area of the building on the south side as well as associated repairs and sealing of the roof and walls to ensure water infiltration

doesn't occur again, said Katy Public Works Director Elaine Lutringer. The \$600,000 repair project is being completed by The Gordian Group for the initial round of repairs which began Jan. 12.

Work in the first phase of the repair is expected to be completed the last week of May, Lutringer said.

Interim Fire Chief Kenneth Parker said firefighters are currently working out of the Fussell Senior Center and working remotely has not had an impact on KFD response times because all of the needed equipment, including vehicles, are immediately available to them at the center.

Proposition A, which is on the May 1 ballot for Katy voters, would reimburse the Capital Improvement Fund for the initial cost of this repair and would include another \$200,000 to address any other issues identified by contractors as they complete the first phase of repairs to the station, according to city documents.

Hastings applauded the dedication of Katy's firefighters and EMS staff as they deal with the repairs in addition to the issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They have weathered through this transition with the station and upset of having to move in a remarkable way," Hastings said.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I have truly enjoyed serving the residents of Katy as Councilmember Ward B over the past four months. I have learned much about our city and its elected leaders. As I continue to serve, I will continue to promise to listen to the residents of Katy first and foremost. The most fundamental role of all public servants is to always represent the families of your community and I have always made a commitment to listen to those who agree and disagree with my positions.

Too frequently on the national and state levels, we see politicians discount the citizens and focus on special interests which is a true indignity. As I hope to have shown over my short tenure as a councilmember, I intend to be open and transparent to the residents of our city. When I am asked, I will always state my position and the convictions guiding me to that decision.

In a January city council meeting, I learned of a rule that limits the number of speakers to 3 regarding any topic before city council regarding items both on and off the agenda. I do not agree or support this rule and I am offering my intention to always suspend the rule when the need arises. I firmly believe that when a resident of our city needs to address city council or the mayor, they have that right. Any limitations on the right to speak before the council are unmerited and I will not support them.

As the current City of Katy Ward B Councilmember, I will make this pledge to you. As an elected councilmember, I will vote to suspend the "three-speaker" rule when the situation arises and I hope my fellow councilmembers will join me in support when more wish to speak on any



ROBERTSON

topic. The topic of debate is of no concern to my vote or my position.

Again, if a citizen wishes to speak to council, the mayor, and city officials then they are afforded that right. We work for you. Never let us forget. If we need to stay late into the night at any council meeting to listen to your concerns, we must as it is our commitment as your elected officials.

I am thankful to each of our councilmembers for supporting this suspension each time it has been brought forward so far this year and I ask each of them to continue suspending this harmful rule. Further study needs to be considered to revoke the rule permanently.

I make this pledge to you. The day I do not listen to the people that voted me into this honorable office is the day that I need to step aside. It is time for all elected representatives to listen to those who chose us to represent them.

As Stephen Covey stated, "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply."

I only want to represent the people of Katy well and always vote in their interest and that starts by listening to their concerns and desires. We can do that and by being open and transparent, everyone in our town wins long-term.



Texans will get bill for electrical grid

Are we going to pay for last month's blackouts as rate-payers or as taxpayers? Assuming the state's elected officials make some changes in the wake of the freeze and the blackouts after the Valentine's Day weekend, and assuming those changes are expensive, the money has to come from someplace.

Some of the changes would be pricey, though it's next to impossible to estimate costs until you've got a working-to-do list. But if "weatherizing" or "winterizing" the electricity grid was cheap, the companies in that food chain would have done it years ago.

Just one piece of that puzzle — weatherizing natural gas wells — merited a chart in a long report after a freeze and blackouts in 2011 in Texas written by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corp. To get 50,000 gas wells into winter-fighting shape would cost between \$125 million and \$1.75 billion — a huge range dependent on the extent of the weatherizing.

That's before you even get to electric generation, transmission and distribution.

And if it were cheap, the Texas Legislature would have required weatherization after that February 2011 storm. That same report from FERC/NERC recommended such a requirement, along with enhanced weather planning: "... The task force recommends that planning take into account not only forecasts but also historical weather patterns, so that the required procedures accommodate unusually severe events. Statutes should ideally direct utility commissions to develop best winterization practices for its state, and make winterization plans mandatory."

Instead, the Texas Legislature required the Public Utility Commission to collect reports from electric companies detailing their weatherization prep, or the lack of it. Weatherization wasn't required, but reports about it were.

Reports, as it turns out, didn't keep Texans warm during almost a week of freezing weather last month.

And so, the idea of requiring winter prep is back.

House Speaker Dade Phelan put seven power outage-inspired bills on his priority list for the current legislative session. They include weatherizing the electricity infrastructure in the state, creating a statewide alert system



ROSS RAMSEY
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

for storms and power outages and overhauling the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the nonprofit that operates the state's electric grid.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called for the heads of ERCOT's CEO and all three appointed Public Utility Commissioners. Within just a few days, he was 75% of the way through the list, after ERCOT's board fired Bill Magness and the PUC's DeAnn Walker and Shelly Botkin, both appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott, resigned. Only Arthur D'Andrea, another Abbott appointee, remains at the PUC.

political class.

How those politicians handle this could figure into the 2022 elections, which are, for them, not far away. The party primaries are less than a year away, and fundraising and politicking will begin in earnest when the legislative session ends in three months. The blaming and shaming is well underway, and lawmakers still have to come up with a reasonable list of preventions that will keep blackouts like February's from happening again.

That two-step is an old one, designed to keep the blame, and voters' ire, focused on appointees and hired executives and off of the people in the executive and legislative branches who are supposed to oversee them. That list starts with the governor and includes the legislators who cooked up the current regulatory operation and rules that failed so miserably just a few weeks ago.

The other step? To win credit,

"ERCOT's board will name a new CEO, in the current scheme of things — a scheme that could be changed if lawmakers rework the grid operator's governance. One legislative proposal would make it a state agency — to increase its accountability to the elected officials in the Capitol ... How those politicians handle this could figure into the 2022 elections, which are, for them, not far away."

ERCOT's board will name a new CEO, in the current scheme of things — a scheme that could be changed if lawmakers rework the grid operator's governance. One legislative proposal would make it a state agency — to increase its accountability to the elected officials in the Capitol. That didn't work particularly well with the PUC, as an example, but lawmakers will have some say over the replacement commissioners there; gubernatorial appointees have to win confirmation from Patrick's Senate. ERCOT, at present, has more independence from the state's

at the same time, from voters for the politicians who come in and clean up the mess left by their predecessors — and in some cases, those politicians themselves.

And they'll have to figure out how to pay for it — whether that is, as Abbott has proposed, an expense the state's taxpayers should shoulder, or as others have suggested, a requirement for private companies to assume, and to pass along to their rate-paying customers.

We're supposed to get more reliable electrical power out of all this, and we should, too. Either as taxpayers or as ratepayers, we're going to get the bill.



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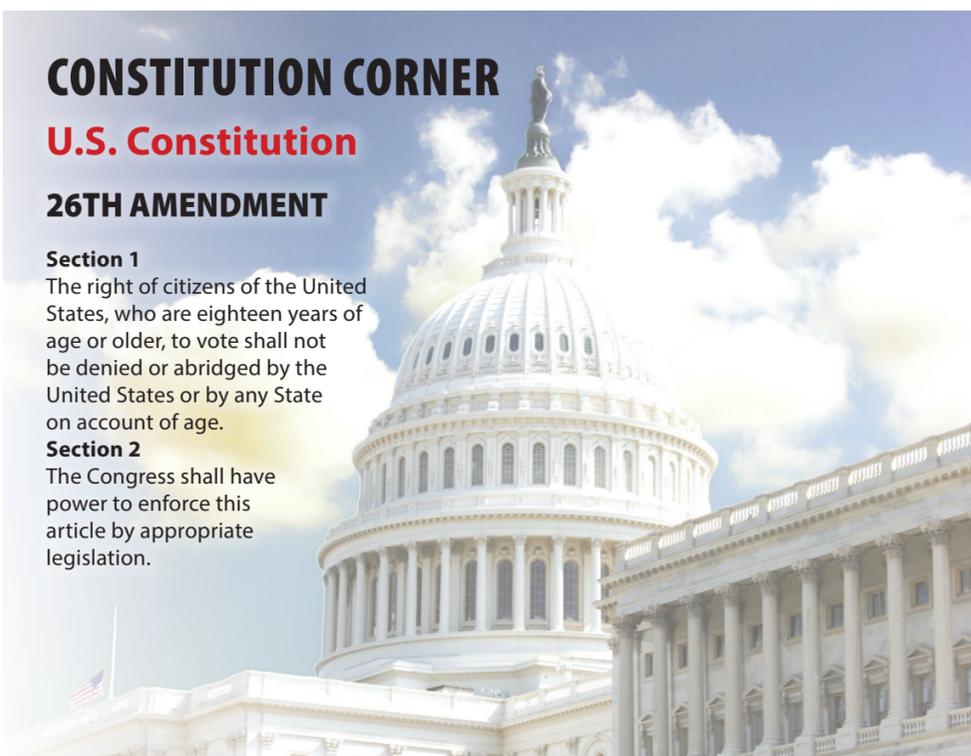
26TH AMENDMENT

Section 1

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



TRIBUTES

Roy Lee Mikeska succumbed to complications of COVID-19 on March 4, 2021. He was born on December 4, 1936 to parents Joe and Ollie Mikeska on the Mikeska family farm in Nelsonville, Texas.

After living around south Texas near the Humble Oil fields, the family moved to Katy in the mid-1950s to be closer to their family. Roy was well-rounded and well-liked. He played football, ran track, edited the yearbook, and raised livestock. He often invited large groups of people out to set up small camps, hunt, and share stories by firelight. Although he was extremely social, he also found great pleasure in the long quiet fishing trips in the Gulf Coast. He took great pride in cleaning and preparing his catches.

The only thing he seemed to love more than fishing was dancing. His favorite activity was organizing and hosting dances in the rec hall at the gas plant. Kids from all over Katy would attend. Upon graduation from Katy High School in 1956, he attended University at Sam Houston State.

In 1959, he married Dorothy Latham and was drafted into the US Army. They welcomed their first son, Terrell Ray, in 1960 at Ft. Sills OK. In active duty, he obtained the levels of sharpshooter and marksman with carbine. (His background as a seasoned and skilled hunter must have had something to do with this.) He denied a request to serve four more years because his family meant too much to him. Instead, he moved his family home to Katy where he rough-necked on a shallow water drilling project. They welcomed their second son, Michael in 1962. After Mike was born, Roy obtained his barbering license and barbered at Memorial City Barber Shop for 50 years before retiring. The family built a home in



ROY LEE MIKESKA
1936-2021

West Katy in 1968 and had their third child, Susan, in 1969. He was a loving and dutiful father and grandfather. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his son, Michael Mikeska; daughter, Susan Loehr; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mikeska, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mikeska; nieces and nephews, Darlene Mikeska of Austin, Devon Mikeska of Katy, and Bradley Mikeska of Austin; grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mikeska of Katy, Amanda Mikeska of Katy, and Evan Loehr of Katy; and great grandson, Luke Mikeska. He was preceded in death by his father Joe, mother Ollie, and son Terrell.

The family received friends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy, where funeral services were held at 12:00 p.m. on March 10, 2021 with Mr. Mike Ross officiating. A graveside service was held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at Memorial Oaks Cemetery, in Houston.

Dalton Patrick Rosser went to be with the Lord on March 4, 2021 at his home in Katy, TX at the age of 28.

Dalton was born on February 19, 1993 in Pasadena, TX to Rebecca (Becky) Fisk. Becky married Richard Davis Rosser (Ric), who adopted Dalton. Shortly after, the family welcomed Dalton's brother Robert (Drake) Rosser. Dalton experienced great adventures following his Dad's culinary. Dalton had the opportunity to live in Bryan, TX, Arvada, CO, San Antonio, TX, Houston, TX and Katy, TX.

Dalton settled down in Katy, TX where he kept his roots and later raised his kids.

He graduated from Katy High School in 2011 where he participated in FFA and loved the small-town life.

Dalton grew up enjoying the outdoors. Dalton loved to ski all the slopes in Colorado, shoot skeet in San Antonio, hunt whitetail deer in South Texas and ducks anywhere he could find them. From a very young age, he showed if he set his mind to anything he would be exceptional at it. He was always 100% all-in and eager to take on the world.

After graduating High School he worked to get certified as a Fitness Instructor at Lifetime Fitness in Cinco Ranch. Dalton's interest in fitness led him to having a daily commitment to his health and wellness. Dalton was a natural as a fitness coach being soft-spoken, kind, funny and staying positive always motivated everyone around him to be the best version of themselves, and that is who he always strived to be.

He had two children with his wife, Christa Rosser. His first child Livia Rosser was born in 2014 and his second child Liam Rosser was born in 2017. The kids were his sun and moon, and light of his heart and life.

In 2015 Dalton took an opportunity to work at Darling Homes where he worked his way up to Construction



DALTON PATRICK ROSSER
1993-2021

Manager building a total of 127 exquisite homes in Avalon at Riverstone and Avalon at Sienna Plantation in five years. Dalton was the youngest person to ever receive the Darling Homes Houston Rockstar Award in 2016, which is a distinguished honor awarded to one Construction Superintendent which was awarded in each city based on the highest customer satisfaction scores. He was recognized in Feb 2017 for customer satisfaction at a national award ceremony and several times after received the monthly Taylor/Morrison/Darling Homes Houston Rockstar Award. From sunrise to sunset, his children were his motivation.

In 2020 he wanted to work closer to home so he moved careers and was welcomed at Texas Custom Granite & Buffalo Barn

Door as an Account Manager in Houston, TX. Back to his roots making custom projects, it was easy to see he was going to excel. Naturally charismatic with an incredible work ethic made Dalton an unstoppable force and he was living a great life with nothing but great things to come.

Dalton is survived by his beautiful children Livia Rosser and Liam Rosser, wife Christa Rosser, loving parents Richard (Ric) Rosser and Rebecca (Becky) Rosser; devoted Brother Robert (Drake) Rosser; Nana Jan Rosser; Uncle & Aunt Michael and Stacy Smith; Cousin Ty Smith, Most Loyal Dog, Bandit and numerous other family and friends.

Dalton had a contagious smile, always polite and ALWAYS with a great attitude willing to help out anywhere he could. Dalton being a gentle soul never wanted. He'd rather let things go and take a hit but never let that affect how he treated others. His love and determination to give to others will always be kept safe in our hearts.

There will be a Celebration of Life on March 18th, 10 a.m. at Second Baptist Church 19449 Katy Freeway with Christa Rosser, family and friends.

Dalton's Parents Ric and Becky Rosser will hold a Celebration of Life and Park Bench Dedication in June, more details to come for family and friends.

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Katy ISD FFA students shine in competition

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy ISD Future Farmers of America Livestock show was a bit different this year due to COVID-19 precautions, but students still managed to take home more than \$615,000 in auction proceeds. Students kept up the long-standing Katy area tradition with hard work maintaining their animals throughout the school year and learning agricultural skills along the way while making friends. The competition saw 382 students show their animals to judges, with the students displayed on this page taking home top honors at auction for their livestock projects.



In this year's steer competition, Emma Jordan of Cinco Ranch (left photo) took home top prize as grand champion with her steer which sold for \$12,000 at auction. Napoleon Ortega (right photo) of Paetow High School won reserve champion with his \$8,000 steer. In the showmanship portion of the steer competition, Lance Nicholas took home the blue ribbon with his \$5,500 steer while Reghan Jones took the reserve champion showman position with her \$11,999 steer. Nicholas and Jones are both students at Katy High School.



Rachel Grant of Cinco Ranch High School (left photo) took home top prize in the hog competition with her pig which sold for \$10,000. Kennedy Butler of Paetow High School (right photo) took the reserve champion spot with his \$6,000 hog. In the showman competition, Haleigh Triolo of Katy High School took the grand champion position for her \$3,200 pig, while reserve champion showman went to Heather Dawson of Cinco Ranch High for her \$2,500 animal.



Grand champion in the lamb category was taken by Mia Moderski of Cinco Ranch High School (left photo) thanks to the work she put into her \$5,500 lamb shown here. In the showman portion of the lamb event, Whitney Warner from Tompkins High School took home grand champion showman honors for her \$2,500 lamb while Taylor High School's Chloe LaBard won reserve grand champion showman for her \$2,600 project.



Cole Bearden of Paetow High School (left photo) took the grand champion award for the goat competition this year with his \$6,500 animal. He was followed by Erin Sword of Katy High (right photo – see our feature on A1 about the Sword family tradition of participation in FFA) took reserve champion with her \$5,000 project goat. In the showman competition, Tabitha Byrd of Paetow High School took the grand champion showman title with her \$3,000 goat, followed by reserve champion showman Kaylee Binford of Katy High School's \$2,300 animal.



Noah Lindsey of Jordan High School (top photo) took home the top prize in the rabbit competition with his \$5,500 grand champion project. Kendall Cooley took the reserve champion spot with her \$5,000 rabbit (lower photo). In the showman rabbit category, Senna Keppler of Tompkins High School took home the grand showman title with her \$3,000 project while Emily White of Cinco Ranch High School took reserve showman with her \$2,000 rabbit.



The broiler competition saw Jackson Cooper Lucas of Katy High School (left photo) take home the grand champion title with his \$8,500 project. His fellow Katy High School student, Cole Kaase (right photo), took home reserve champion with his \$5,500 chicken. In the broiler showing, Kailey Wyckoff of Katy High School was recognized as grand champion showman for her chicken. Reserve champion showman went to Jesse Hoover of Tompkins High School. Both showman category broilers sold for \$2,000.

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AREA SPORTS NOTEBOOK

TAYLOR SENIOR QUARTERBACK
J JENSEN IIITAYLOR'S JENSEN
COMMITTS
TO SIMPSON
COLLEGEBy DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor senior quarterback J Jensen III verbally committed March 14 to play at Simpson College in Des Moines, Iowa. During his impressive two-year varsity career at Taylor, Jensen completed 60 percent of his passes for 3,720 yards and a program-best 30 touchdowns and helped lead the Mustangs to a state semifinal appearance in 2019 and regional semifinal appearance in 2020. Jensen accounted for 37 total touchdowns. He set the single-game program passing record versus Morton Ranch in the 2019 season when he threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns on 25-of-36 passing. Jensen, son of recently named Mayde Creek head football coach J Jensen, was a team captain, the district newcomer of the year in 2019, and a second-team all-district selection in 2020. ... The Class 6A soccer playoffs start March 25-27 with the bi-district round. On the boys side, Seven Lakes (17-1-1) will be the No. 1 seed out of District 19-6A, followed by Cinco Ranch (13-2-2), Taylor (8-5-2) and Tompkins (9-5-2). On the girls side, Seven Lakes (16-2-1) and Tompkins (14-3-2) finished as co-district champions. Katy (7-7-5) and Cinco Ranch (5-5-6) will join them in the postseason. The Cinco Ranch girls have never missed the playoffs, a streak of 21 consecutive seasons. In Class 5A, the Paetow boys (12-3-6) have already secured their playoff spot and are in contention for the 19-5A title. The Panthers have one more district game remaining against A&M Consolidated at home on Friday, March 19. ... Four Katy ISD basketball players were named to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches all-region teams last week. For the Class 6A Region III team, Taylor senior guard Jake Arnold and Mayde Creek senior guard Jermon Washington were recognized. On the Class 5A Region III team, Paetow juniors Charles Chukwu and Trevor Frank were honored. ... Senior Jackson Crandall notched his 101st career pin last week, setting a record for Katy High's vaunted wrestling program. Crandall reached the mark in a meet against Seven Lakes and George Ranch at Katy High on Thursday, March 11. Crandall finished fourth at the Class 6A state wrestling tournament last year in the 120-pound class. ... Morton Ranch's football program announced its 2021 Leadership Council on March 9. The 15 student-athletes that will serve on the council are juniors RB Karsten Christopher, DL Benen Lee, LB Alexis Lima, OL Victor Laguna, FB Jacob Pittman, and DB Ki'Juan Tavaréz, sophomores DL Daniel Alequin, DL David Hicks Jr., LB Colbie Pullin, RB Santana Scott, QB Joshua Johnson, OL Zachary Session and WR Antonio Page, and freshmen QB Michael Gerald and DB An-kai Gonzalez. ... Tompkins is ranked No. 13 in Class 6A in the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association state poll this week. Seven Lakes is ranked No. 12 in Class 6A in the Texas Girls Coaches Association state soccer poll. Tompkins is ranked No. 25 in the same poll.

(The weekly sports notebook highlights notes and news that occurred in the Katy area within the last week. To submit a news item, email dennis.silva@kattytimes.com or message on Twitter @densilva02).



Seven Lakes players celebrate after their 2-1 win over Cinco Ranch on Friday, March 12, that secured the program's second straight district title and third in five years.

DENNIS SILVA II

STILL ON TOP

Seven Lakes boys earn second straight 19-6A title, 3rd in 5 years

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes masterfully exerted its physicality and will in securing the District 19-6A boys soccer championship for the second straight year, and third time in five years, and held off a late furious flourish from rival Cinco Ranch to earn a 2-1 win on Friday, March 12, at Seven Lakes High.

Needing a win or draw to take the district, the Spartans left little doubt who the cream of the crop is in a hotly contested 19-6A. Seven Lakes used its size and length to

control possession on Cinco Ranch's side of the field in the first half, taking advantage of the Cougars' youth along the backline, and capitalized with nifty scoring from freshman midfielder Aidan Morrison and sophomore midfielder/forward Hunter Merritt.

"It's a really big deal for us," senior midfielder Diego Lazo said. "Not many schools can win district, and for us to do it not just once, but twice ... it's very special for us. This means a lot for us, but we want more. We're trying to get to state."

Seven Lakes is 17-1-1 overall and finished district play 10-1-1. Cinco Ranch, which beat Seven Lakes 3-2 in their first-

round meeting, finished district 8-2-2. The Cougars are 13-2-2 overall.

Morrison scored at the 26:38 mark of the first half on a straightaway no-doubter near the goal. It was his third tally in district play.

"Honestly, it happened so quick that I don't even remember it," Morrison said. "I think one of their center backs missed the ball and it came rolling to me. I just hit it. It went in. I was confident I was going to score, but there was so much going through my head in the moment that I didn't even think about it."

See SPARTANS, page B5

Fresno St. commit Wyckoff
blossoming for Katy HighBy DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

As a freshman on the 2019 Katy High softball state championship team, Katy High junior catcher Kailey Wyckoff watched and learned.

That Tigers team was elite, stacked with high-level college talent like Chloe Cobb, Cait Calland, Tori Whillock, Alyssa LeBlanc and Olivia McFadden, among others, in winning its second state title in five years. Wyckoff took it all in, good enough to be on a loaded varsity roster right out of junior high, but not quite experienced enough to see consistent playing time.

See WYCKOFF, page B3



COURTESY PHOTO KAILEY WYCKOFF

Katy High junior catcher Kailey Wyckoff verbally committed March 9 to continue her athletic and academic careers at Fresno State University.

Tompkins girls, Taylor boys
highlight all-district picksBy DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

On the strength of an undefeated district championship, Tompkins, which made it two titles in a row this season, dominated the 19-6A all-district girls basketball selections released earlier this month, while Taylor, winning its first district title since 1995, impacted the 19-6A all-district boys selections.

On the girls side, Tompkins senior guard Crystal Smith was named Most Valuable Player, sophomore teammate Lohan Johnson was named Defensive MVP, and head coach Tamatha Ray was named Coach of the Year.

See ALL-DISTRICT, page B5



FILE PHOTO BY PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins senior guard Crystal Smith was the District 19-6A girls basketball Most Valuable Player for the 2020-21 season.

Tigers on mission to
redeem lost seasonBy DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High's baseball team is hungry—desperate, even—to make up for lost time.

When the pandemic abruptly canceled the 2020 high school baseball season around this time last year, the Tigers were 13-3-2, complete with strong pitching, timely hitting and boasting a sky-high ceiling. But all of that came to a crashing halt, and this year's Tigers are adamant to pick up

where they left off.

So far, Katy has done just that, off to a 14-3-0 start, including 2-0 in District 19-6A play, following a 6-2 win over Cinco Ranch on Tuesday,

March 16. The Tigers' three losses have each come by one run, and six of their wins have been run-rule decisions.

"All of them are hungry to play again," said coach Tom McPherson, who returns seven starters from last year's team. "That's the main

See TIGERS, page B3



NCAA BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

ACU, SFA earn Southland
bids to NCAA TournamentBy DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Abilene Christian entered the Southland Conference men's basketball tournament championship game on Saturday, March 13, ranked eighth in the NCAA in scoring defense.

Then the Wildcats showed why.

Abilene Christian, the No. 2 seed in the tournament, downed No. 1-seed Nicholls in a start-to-finish rout, 79-45, at the Merrell Center to earn the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

See SOUTHLAND, page B2



DENNIS SILVA II

Abilene Christian senior guard and Southland Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player Damien Daniels cuts a piece of the net in celebration after the Wildcats beat Nicholls, 79-45, to win the men's basketball tournament for the second straight season on Saturday, March 13, at the Merrell Center.



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SOUTHLAND

from page B1

It is the 14th consecutive year Katy has hosted the tournament at the Merrell Center.

Using the strength of a rangy, quick and relentless defense, the Wildcats (23-4) held the Colonels (18-7), ranked 27th in the NCAA in scoring, to 34 points below their season average of 79.8 points.

The 45 points were a season-low for Nicholls, which shot 29.7 percent. Ranked 45th in the NCAA in rebounding (38.4 per game), the Colonels were outdone, 53-34, on the glass and had 15 turnovers to eight assists.

Nicholls, which made the tournament final for the first time since 1998, missed 23 of 27 3-pointers and eight of 11 free throws.

"We really defended," said Abilene Christian coach Joe Golding, whose team entered the final surrendering 61.1 points per game. "We really guarded. That's our identity, that's who we are."

It was the second straight Southland Conference tournament win for Abilene Christian, which won its first ever tournament title in 2018-19. The tournament was canceled March 12 last year and a champion was not crowned because of the pandemic.

Senior guard Damien Daniels was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. The Kansas City native scored 13 points with three rebounds, three assists and two steals, making six of seven shots.

Abilene Christian held an 18-point lead late in the first half before Nicholls guard Ty Gordon sparked a late 17-4 rally with a pair of 3s to cut the Colonels' deficit to five, 36-31, at halftime.

But the Wildcats came out on a 10-2 run to start the second half and never let up. Nicholls only scored 10 points in the first 10 minutes of the half.

"We took care of the ball, we took the right shots," Abilene Christian junior forward Joe Pleasant said. "The key thing was to lock in defensively, get stops. The offense will come off of that."

The Colonels missed 27 of 33 field goal attempts after halftime and scored one point over the final six minutes of the game.



DENNIS SILVA II

Stephen F. Austin players and coaches pose for a photo after they beat Sam Houston State, 56-45, in the Southland Conference Tournament women's basketball championship game Sunday, March 14, at the Merrell Center.

"I've been in this league five years, and they're as good defensively as I've seen," Nicholls coach Austin Claunch said. "They scramble and move and make it hard for anyone. They're different defensively in how they deny and scramble and run you off the (3-point) line. When you haven't played against a team that guards like that, it's a difficult adjustment. It's a testament to their discipline and how he's (Golding) built that program."

Offensively, Abilene Christian pulled away thanks to lights-out 3-point shooting. After connecting on just three of nine 3s in the first half, the Wildcats drilled eight of 13 in the second.

Four Wildcats scored in double figures, led by Daniels and Pleasant with 13 points apiece. Senior guards Reggie Miller and Coryon Mason scored 11 each. Miller added a game-high 10 rebounds. Mason added a game-high six assists.

"This year has been tough for any number of reasons, and this group has made it as fun as any year I've been a part of," said Golding, who saw 10 of his players score and every player on his roster get playing time.

The Wildcats enter the NCAA Tournament having won 13 of their last 14 games.

"They have no insecurities about who they are, and they play their game," Claunch said.

Abilene Christian is the No. 14 seed in the East region of the NCAA Tournament and will play Big 12 champion Texas, the No. 3 seed, in the first round on Saturday, March 20. Texas is 19-7.

SFA SNAPS 14-YEAR SKID

No. 1-seed Stephen F. Austin got a scare from No. 3 Sam Houston State in their Southland Conference Tournament women's basketball championship game on Sunday, March 14, but the Ladyjacks dominated late to pull away for a 56-45 win in a classic "Battle of the Piney Woods" at the Merrell Center and earn the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Stephen F. Austin, which clinched the regular season conference title for the first time since 2014-15, is the first team since 2017 to win a regular season and conference championship. The Ladyjacks last received an NCAA Tournament bid in 2006.

"It's very surreal," said Stephen F. Austin junior forward/center Aiyana Johnson, the tournament's Most Valuable Player with a game-high 16 points, team-high eight rebounds and three blocks. "It's a blessing we've all worked for. It's a reward that all of our work has earned. This is our time."

Sam Houston (15-8) led 30-28 with 7:46 left in the third quarter before Stephen F. Austin (24-2)

went on a 17-4 run to lead 45-34 with 6:09 left in the fourth.

The Bearcats countered with a 9-2 run to pull within 47-43 with 1:45 left, but the Ladyjacks held on behind a huge 3-pointer from the left corner by sophomore guard Zya Nugent and a lay-in off the glass from the left side by Johnson.

Stephen F. Austin, which entered the game the better team in 11 of 13 major statistical categories, had standout performances from Johnson, Nugent (13 points, six rebounds, two assists) and freshman forward Avery Brittingham (eight points, four steals, three rebounds).

"We wanted to hang our hat on the defensive end," Stephen F. Austin coach Mark Kellogg said. "We just didn't know what we'd have going offensively. We thought they'd try to take away some perimeter shots, but we really wanted to win the paint."

The Ladyjacks held the Bearcats to 30.2 percent shooting and won the interior edge with 38 points in the paint to the Bearcats' 16.

"We played hard, but we didn't execute like we usually do," Sam Houston coach Ravon Justice said. "We turned over the ball in crucial moments. That stretch ... we were right there and got five stops and had the opportunity to go up when it was 30-30. We turned the basketball over. That's something that will haunt me."

"At the end of the day, I

thought our kids fought hard. They never hung their heads. I'm very proud of this group. I do think we have a championship program and we'll be back."

Junior forward Amber Leggett led Sam Houston with 14 points. Senior guard Faith Cook finished with 11. Junior forward Madelyn Batista added a game-high 10 rebounds.

Stephen F. Austin scored 21 points off 19 Sam Houston turnovers. The Bearcats won the rebounding battle, 38-30, and stayed within striking distance with 11 second-chance points off 20 offensive rebounds. Still, Sam Houston never strung together enough buckets consistently because of Stephen F. Austin's aggressiveness and size.

"I feel everybody counted us out and now is our time to shine in the NCAA Tournament," Nugent said. "You always watch everybody else in the NCAA Tournament and you always wish you can be there. Now it's just ... we're here. We've just got to go and compete."

"I don't care who we play. We just need to go out and win. We don't want to just be participants. We want to win."

Stephen F. Austin is the No. 12 seed out of the Hemisfair region of the NCAA Tournament and will play 15-8 Georgia Tech, the No. 5 seed, in the first round on Sunday, March 21.

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This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry.

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of God's Amazing Answer To Prayer, in 2012.



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SPORTS

TIGERS

from page B1

thing. High school baseball is different than select ball or anything else. The camaraderie and being together means a lot. We've got a good number of seniors excited to show what they can do."

The Tigers have a pair of NCAA Division I signees in pitcher Caleb Matthews (Rice) and catcher Jack Johnson (Youngstown State), but they have many other capable players eager to earn their own opportunity at the next level. That includes seniors Ryan Brome, who leads the team in home runs with five, and Aiden Huerta, and juniors Ryan George and Johnnatan Ferrebus.

"Last year made us start working harder," Brome said. "There are a lot of guys that are not committed (to playing college baseball) and really talented players that aren't where they need to be yet, so we're really hungry. We're fighting out there."

Those players were on display against Cinco Ranch.

Brome went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two walks. Huerta produced his own highlight show with his defensive play at third base. George was exceptional defensively in right field and added a hit and RBI.

All played a role in helping Matthews, who is working his way back from a car accident a month ago. Matthews, whom McPherson said still has back issues from the accident, was not up to his usual standards, but was coolly efficient with one run earned on two hits to go with four strikeouts and three walks in six innings of work.

"We know a couple of their hitters. We've played with some of them," said Matthews, who improved to 4-0. "We



DENNIS SILVA II

Katy High seniors Ryan Brome, left, and Caleb Matthews, right, played key roles in helping the Tigers improve to 14-3-0 overall after a 6-2 win over Cinco Ranch on Tuesday, March 16, at Cinco Ranch High.

work out at some of the same places. We know their tactics. I just tried to pound the strike zone, get ahead of the count. My defense played a great game and made a lot of plays. We went right at them."

The right-hander took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, relying on a methodical delivery that disrupted hitters' timing to go along with his typically sharp off-speed repertoire, as the Tigers led 3-0. But Cinco Ranch's Blake Hansen led off the sixth with a triple. Gavin Rutherford hit into a fielder's choice when he hit directly to an alert Huerta, who immediately threw to Johnson to prevent a run. Andrew Barker drilled an RBI triple to get the Cougars on the board before Ivan Marquez hit to Huerta, who, again, deftly

threw a laser strike to Johnson to prevent another run.

Tyler Duron flew out to end the inning.

"It's just playing with some consistency," McPherson said of his team. "Right now, we play good for 2-3 innings and the next 2-3 we just sit. They have to learn to play at a high tempo the entire game, because when they do, they're pretty good."

The Tigers added three more insurance runs in the seventh, highlighted by Ferrebus' RBI double.

"We're getting runners on and driving them in," said Brome, whose triple to lead off the seventh set things in motion. "We're hitting well, situationally. We're swinging the bat better, top to bottom, and getting a lot of hard-hit balls.

That's definitely been big."

Katy is a good fastball-hitting team that gets stronger late in games once it figures out a pitcher's patterns. The Tigers have also been buoyed offensively by newcomers George, Ferrebus and junior shortstop Parker Kidwell.

"Kids like that step up and make us a lot better," McPherson said.

Matthews said the devastation of last season's abrupt closure lit a fire under the team. It's showing.

"Last year, we had a great team, a lot of chemistry," Matthews said. "This year, we have even more. We're all brothers and we're all counting on each other. We had something to prove last year, and this year we're coming out even stronger."

WYCKOFF

from page B1

She appeared in 30 of 37 games with 59 at-bats, a .356 batting average, 18 RBIs and four home runs.

"I learned a lot about hard work, grit and leadership from some of the best players to ever come from the Katy High School softball program," Wyckoff said.

Now Wyckoff finds herself a leader and one of the best players in the program. In helping lead Katy to a 6-2-2 start this season, including 4-0 in district play, Wyckoff is hitting .432 with 11 RBIs and three home runs, with a .475 on-base percentage and .919 slugging percentage.

"As an upperclassman, my goal is to lead by example for my teammates and future Tigers," Wyckoff said. "I want them to know that Katy High School softball is all about grinding it out, on and off the field."

She is proof that that mindset can pave way for a bright future.

Capable of playing any position on the field, Wyckoff verbally committed March 9 to play for Fresno State.

Wyckoff chose the Bulldogs over Clemson, Ole Miss, UTSA and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. A big reason was assistant coach Justin Lewis, who moved from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to Fresno State and has followed Wyckoff's career from the beginning.

"Fresno State was the best choice for me, because the coaching staff emphasized player and character development, both on and off the field," Wyckoff said.

"The coaching staff and I share the same mindset when it comes to goals we have in mind for the program. They made me feel comfortable talking with them from the start and believe in my abilities and that I can make an impact immediately."

The Bulldogs are getting a player that continues to improve her physical skills as well as her leadership ability.

"I feel this year, I am a more consistent hitter and a more vocal leader on and off the field," Wyckoff said. "In preparation for Fresno, I am on a weightlifting program and I want to become a stronger, all-around athlete."

The Tigers' star talked more with the Katy Times about her recruiting process and the season.

Q: What was the recruiting process like for you, especially over the past year dealing with the restrictions because of the coronavirus?

A: "COVID definitely made everything about the process harder, from Zoom calls with coaches to not being able to visit campus or attend camps. All my tours and conversations have been done over video. I hope to get to Fresno in June when the dead period (for recruiting) is over."

Q: What did the Fresno State coaches say they had in mind for you, as far as position and their vision for you for their program?

A: "The coaches at Fresno made me feel like my position on the roster would be a vital role in the leadership on the team upon entering my freshman year. Catching, being one of those positions, gives me a great opportunity to lead the team and help reach our goals. I'm a

utility player, so I can pretty much play anywhere they need me."

Q: Last season, you all at Katy were defending state champs, and then the season gets cut and canceled. What was it like to go through that, and how did it affect you all as a team?

A: "The season being canceled last year was devastating. We had a goal last year, to go deep into playoffs. Not being able to even have a chance hit us hard. This year is definitely a learning experience for everyone. We have leaders this year that are really stepping up and making sure we make every day and every rep count, because you can't take anything for granted."

Q: You all are still the last UIL 6A state champions. What are your thoughts about being 6-2-2 so far and this year's team? Knowing what it takes to be a state champion, how does this year's team stack up, even so early in the season?

A: "I'd say this year's team can stack up against some of the best. We've got a few stud freshmen this year and are returning a lot of key players in our lineup and adding a few keys to our defense as well."

Q: What have you been most pleased/impressed by from your team this season so far?

A: "This year's team has come together in a really short period of time. I'm impressed with how, even through this COVID year, we have all found ways to quickly gel and found ways to win games."

H.S. SOCCER STANDINGS THROUGH MARCH 18

DISTRICT 19-6A

BOYS	DISTRICT			OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
yx-Seven Lakes	10	1	1	31	17	1	1
x-Cinco Ranch	8	2	2	26	13	2	2
x-Taylor	7	3	2	23	8	5	2
x-Tompkins	6	4	2	20	9	5	2
Morton Ranch	2	8	1	7	4	9	2
Katy	2	9	0	6	3	13	2
Mayde Creek	2	10	0	6	5	13	1

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

GIRLS

BOYS	DISTRICT			OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
yx-Seven Lakes	10	1	1	31	16	2	1
yx-Tompkins	10	1	1	31	14	3	2
x-Katy	4	5	3	15	7	7	5
x-Cinco Ranch	3	4	5	14	5	5	6
Taylor	3	5	4	13	10	6	4
Mayde Creek	2	8	2	8	8	9	2
Morton Ranch	1	9	2	5	4	10	2

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A

BOYS	DISTRICT			OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
y-Paetow	9	1	3	30	12	3	6

x-clinched district title
y-clinched playoff berth

GIRLS

BOYS	DISTRICT			OVERALL			
	W	L	TIE	PTS	W	L	TIE
Paetow	3	9	2	11	5	12	3

x-clinched district title
y-clinched playoff berth

SOFTBALL STANDINGS THROUGH MARCH 19

DISTRICT 19-6A

BOYS	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Katy	4	0	6	2
Tompkins	4	1	6	1
Taylor	3	2	4	7
Cinco Ranch	2	2	5	5
Mayde Creek	1	3	3	4
Morton Ranch	1	3	6	3
Seven Lakes	0	4	2	7

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A

BOYS	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Paetow	2	1	4	3

x-clinched district title
y-clinched playoff berth

BASEBALL STANDINGS THROUGH MARCH 17

DISTRICT 19-6A

BOYS	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Tompkins	2	0	16	1
Katy	2	0	14	3
Seven Lakes	1	0	9	6
Taylor	1	1	10	6
Cinco Ranch	0	1	8	7
Mayde Creek	0	2	4	9
Morton Ranch	0	2	0	16

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A

BOYS	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Paetow	0	1	8	9

x-clinched district title
y-clinched playoff berth

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

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2970 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JANUARY 25, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12 "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES" OF THE CITY OF KATY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND AMENDING ARTICLE 12.05 "PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIFIC STREETS" BY AMENDING SECTION 12.05.041 "NO PARKING ZONES" TO PROHIBIT PARKING BETWEEN THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE AND THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PEDERSON ROAD FROM THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF HIGHWAY 90 TO THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF INTERSTATE 10; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$200 FOR A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

Notice to Bidders

The City of Katy requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for selective demolition and interior office renovation to the third (3rd) floor of the Katy City Hall building located on a block bounded by Avenue C, 2nd Street, Avenue D, and 3rd Street in downtown in the incorporated limits of the City of Katy, Texas.

Bid Due Date:
Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00am (Bids submitted after 10:00am will not be accepted)

Bid will be received at the following Location:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Pre-Bid Conference:
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:30pm at the:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Please Note: Face masks are strongly encouraged to be worn during this time (and at the Bid Opening), as well as remaining socially distanced 6 feet apart from the other attendees.

Scope of Work:

The Project consists of construction of the following:
Interior office build-out of four (4) offices and a reception area (total of 1,074 S.F.) on the third (3rd) floor of the City Hall building. The scope of work includes selective demolition and renovation to accommodate new offices. The work is interior only.

Evaluation Criteria:

The contract will be awarded to the most qualified General Contractor based on the bidder who provides the best value for the City. In determining the best value for the City, the municipality may consider the following weighted criteria:
(1) the purchase price (30%);
(2) the reputation of the bidder (10%);
(3) the quality of the bidder's goods or services (5%);
(4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the City's needs (10%);
(5) the bidder's past relationship with the City (15%);
(6) the impact on the ability of the City to comply with laws and rules relating to contracting with historically under-utilized businesses and non-profit organizations employing persons with disabilities (5%);
(7) the total long-term cost to the municipality to acquire the bidder's goods or services (5%); and
(8) the completeness of the bid (20%).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid.

Bid and Bond Requirements:

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

Bid Documents:

Plans and specifications will be available on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

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SPORTS



FILE PHOTO BY MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Taylor senior guard Jake Arnold was the District 19-6A boys basketball Most Valuable Player for the 2020-21 season.



DENNIS SILVA II

Taylor's Matthew Brayton was the District 19-6A boys basketball Coach of the Year for the 2020-21 season.



FILE PHOTO BY PRENTICE C. JAMES | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins' Tamatha Ray was the District 19-6A girls basketball Coach of the Year for the 2020-21 season.

ALL-DISTRICT
from page B1

Cinco Ranch senior guard Abby Bala earned Offensive MVP and Seven Lakes freshman post Justice Carlton won Newcomer of the Year to round out superlatives on the girls team.

Tompkins ran away with the district title, followed by Seven Lakes in second place, Cinco Ranch in third and Katy in fourth.

For the boys, Taylor senior guard Jake Arnold was named Most Valuable Player, senior teammate Luke St. Julien was named Defensive MVP, and head coach Matthew Brayton was named Coach of the Year.

Mayde Creek senior guard Jermon Washington earned Offensive MVP honors and Seven Lakes freshman guard A.J. Bates

earned Newcomer of the Year.

Taylor topped Seven Lakes to win the district title on the final day of the district season. Tompkins finished second, followed by Seven Lakes in third and Mayde Creek in fourth.

The 19-6A all-district girls team:

>> First Team: Crystal Smith, Tompkins, sr.; Logan Johnson, Tompkins, so.; MacKenzie Durnford, Tompkins, sr.; Macy Spencer, Tompkins, so; Addison Poth, Seven Lakes, sr.; Cailyn Tucker, Seven Lakes, jr.; Justice Carlton, Seven Lakes, fr.; Asya May, Katy, sr.; Sasha Fernandez, Katy, sr.; Sheridan Shaw, Taylor, jr.; Abby Bala, Cinco Ranch, sr.

>> Second Team: Ashley Ngene, Tompkins, sr.; Fiyin Adeleye, Tompkins, so.; Heaven Davis, Morton Ranch, so.; Anjelica Davis, Morton Ranch, so.; Dominique Lombard, Taylor, sr.;

Henley Beisert, Taylor, sr.; Lily Baumgardner, Seven Lakes, sr.; Sania Thomas, Mayde Creek, jr.; Aubrey Ridenhour, Katy, sr.

The 19-6A all-district boys team:

>> First Team: Jake Arnold, Taylor, sr.; A.J. Bates, Seven Lakes, fr.; Braedon Edison, Cinco Ranch, sr.; Dayvaughn Froe, Katy, jr.; BB Knight, Tompkins, jr.; Joel Oluokun, Tompkins, jr.; Anthony Pelzer, Taylor, sr.; Luke St. Julien, Taylor, sr.; Josh Vanegas, Mayde Creek, sr.; Jermon Washington, Mayde Creek, sr.

>> Second Team: Luke Coughran, Tompkins, fr.; Noah Dickey, Morton Ranch, sr.; Rhyett Evans, Cinco Ranch, sr.; Ryon Johnson, Katy, sr.; Nick Lancit, Tompkins, jr.; Elijah Melchiorre, Taylor, so.; Aswin Nair, Seven Lakes, sr.; Aydan Perdue, Katy, so.; Angel Sonnier, Mayde Creek, so.; Ethan Van Horn, Seven Lakes, jr.

SPARTANS
from page B1

Home-schooled before this year, Morrison said soccer has consumed his life. He has put so much time and effort into the sport, he said, he expects to score whenever he has possession.

Nine minutes later, Merritt scored his fifth goal in district play on a rebound for a 2-0 Spartans lead with 17:49 left in the first half.

"We have a few young players who have stepped up all year," said coach Jimmy Krueger, who relies on three sophomores and two freshmen in his lineup. "Aidan is exceptional, playing well beyond his years. He's well-rounded, smart, doesn't get rattled. Him and Hunter have a bright future, and (freshman midfielder/forward) Noa (Stasic) as well. It just shows with that, and with how well our JVs have done, we're going to continue that success here at Seven Lakes."



DENNIS SILVA II

Seven Lakes boys soccer coach Jimmy Krueger, middle, talks to his players after their 2-1 win over Cinco Ranch on Friday, March 12, that secured the program's second straight district title and third in five years.

In the second half, Cinco Ranch, expectedly, played up more and incorporated more players in the attack. The forward ambush paid off when sophomore striker Dany Vargas connected to give the Cougars momentum less than five minutes into the half.

Cinco Ranch had many more chances the rest of the way to tie, including an oh-so-close miss by sophomore midfielder Julio Colmenares with 12 minutes remaining, but Seven Lakes' defense,

led by senior defender Julian Arai, made big play after big play to hold off the Cougars.

"We fought. We wanted this game so bad," Lazo said. "We started the game well, and after scoring two goals we knew we'd be in for a fight. They threw more players in the attack, and had us for a bit, but our midfield and our defense stayed composed and we did our job in the end."

Krueger said he has a team that lives in the moment. That comes from the

heartbreak of last season, which was canceled with one game left in district play because of the pandemic.

That team, Krueger said, was just as gifted as this one. He has a group playing for last year's seniors who were robbed of an opportunity to reach their ceiling.

"The state of what we live in right now, nothing is given," Krueger said. "You can't take anything for granted. Your ability to play this game has a finite time on it; you can't do it forever. You have your entire life to focus on other things, and these moments are where the focus should be."

"We have a team that has an appreciation, and why this means so much to the players is they (Cinco Ranch) care just as much and they work just as hard as we do. It makes the moments that much better. We battled, we got the win, and it just makes it all worth it, playing against a team that cares than one that doesn't care and you put up five or six (goals) on them."



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Katy Times

JENSEN

from page A1

>> **Nolan Hay, Taylor junior offensive lineman:** "It's been an honor to play for you coach. The Rams are getting a hell of a coach and an even better person. I love you. I'm gonna miss you."

>> **Blair Ary, Taylor head girls basketball coach:** "Absolutely LOVE this guy!!! Mayde Creek you are blessed!! Congrats Coach Jensen!!"

>> **Bryce Foster, Taylor senior offensive lineman:** "Thank you for helping me change my life by getting me to the next level. You are the best man. Good luck!!"

>> **Adeyemi Timilehin, Taylor senior defensive lineman:** "One of the best coaches I've ever had."

>> **Jim Jolley, Taylor linebackers coach/special teams coordinator:** "Congrats Coach, well deserved. I have so much respect for you and the way you

treat people. You will do well."

>> **Matthew Brayton, Taylor head boys basketball coach:** "Mayde Creek athletics is in good hands. He is an outstanding coach and a better person. He makes everyone around him better."

>> **Rashad Lee, Taylor receivers coach:** "Being able to come work with Coach Jensen every day was truly a privilege and I have become a better man and coach because of it."

>> **Nick Goedde, Taylor junior linebacker:** "Coach, thank you for everything and pushing me every day to be the me I could be."

>> **Trevor Woods, Taylor senior safety:** "One of the best coaches I've ever had and I can't think of anyone more deserving for a head coaching job!"

>> **Chad Simmons, Taylor head football coach:** "I can't say enough good about this guy as a man and as a coach. Congratulations! Well deserved!"

Jensen played on the offensive lineman as a Ram. He was a

team captain during one of the program's best seasons in 1997, when Mayde Creek won its first area playoff game, and starred at Eastern New Mexico University, where he was an all-conference and all-region guard in 1999. Jensen helped Eastern New Mexico to two Lone Star South conference championships.

He has distinct plans for the football program and other athletic programs at Mayde Creek. Schematically, Jensen will run a 4-3 defense and a multiple offense that aligns to the skills of his athletes.

"I'm going to battle to get more kids involved in all the athletic teams," Jensen said. "I'm going to be in the hallway, talking to kids. I'm going to be at the junior highs, keeping those kids excited. Being at the elementary schools, talking to kids. Just trying to increase numbers that gets more kids and families involved with the school and give them a bigger reason to stay eligible and take care of all the little stuff"

Jensen has already been a persistent presence on social media promoting Mayde Creek's athletes and attending events. He was at the school's track and field meet the day after his hiring was announced. Two days later, he was introducing himself and getting to know the kids at Cardiff Junior High.

"I don't want to go anywhere," Jensen said. "I want to be at Mayde Creek High School and giving those kids the best of everything."

Jensen started his coaching career at Morton Ranch Junior High. He was there two years before returning to Mayde Creek as offensive line coach and strength and conditioning coordinator from 2005-2010, helping the Rams to consecutive playoff appearances in 2008 and 2009.

From there, Jensen went to Alief Taylor for four years as offensive line coach and eventually became co-offensive coordinator and special teams coordinator. The Lions made the playoffs all

four years Jensen was there.

He went to Taylor in 2014, where he switched to coaching the defensive side of the ball, specializing in the defensive line and mentoring players like Max Wright (Texas A&M), Otito Ogbonnia (UCLA), Braedon Mowry (Texas A&M) and Treviance Bronson (Lamar).

The Mustangs made the playoffs in five of six seasons Jensen was there, including a state semifinal appearance in 2019 and regional semifinal appearance last season.

"It's about building relationships and letting kids know that what I say is what I'm going to do," Jensen said. "It's about the buy-in and letting that community know I'm here for them. Getting to know people and building that tight bond so that everyone will have that mutual accountability and trust. It's not just about one player, it's not about me. There is no superstar. It's about 'we' and us doing this together."

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