

VOLUME 109, ISSUE 14

# KATY ISD

# 5 KISD parents file suit against the district over mask requirements

### By R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

Five Katy ISD parents have filed suit against Katy ISD regarding the district's ongoing mask requirement, according to court documents. The lawsuit, which cites the historic case Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka which led to racial integration of schools, claims the utilization of face coverings in schools is detrimental to students and creates a situation similar to the separate but equal argument made in the Brown case in 1954.

"Almost (70) years later, it appears that defendant Katy ISD Superintendent Kenneth Gregorski has forgotten the lessons of Brown v. Board of Education, by implementing a policy that fails to make education available to all on equal terms," the legal filing reads. "Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit not only to empower parents but to recapture their rights to make decisions they believe are in their children's best interest."

Katy ISD continues to offer its Katy Virtual Academy which allows parents who do not want their children on school campuses – either because they don't want them possibly exposed to the novel coronavirus or because they don't want them wearing masks – to participate in classes virtually. The lawsuit contends this setup makes the situation into a "separate but equal" situation.

The lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of the parents by attorney Jared R. Woodfill with co-counsel Michael Villasana last week, seeks an injunction against the mask mandate currently in place for KISD students. The plaintiffs are also seeking relief of \$100,000 or less, which plaintiffs have said is to be used to cover court and attorney costs. Plaintiffs in the case are Jenny Alexander, Doug Alexander, Heather Calhoun, Stephen Calhoun and Bonnie Anderson. All of the plaintiffs have children in KISD.

Anderson is currently a candidate for KISD's Board of Trustees sixth seat. "Our children, just as all children

do, have a fundamental right to equal access to public education. This lawsuit is intended to reinstate our parental rights and ensure the rights of all parents to make health choices for their children," Anderson said on her campaign's Facebook page.

See **KISD**, page **3** 



N. HANS PILLEN

Five parents of Katy ISD students have filed a lawsuit against the district, claiming the district's mask mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic is harmful to students and opens them up to anxiety, infections and other health concerns.

## KATY



COURTESY PEXELS/LUIS QUINTERO

Winter Storm Uri damaged waterlines in hundreds of homes in the city of Katy the week after Valentine's Day. The city has adopted a policy that will allow those whose water bills were impacted by water leaks during that time to get some relief from increased water bills caused by leaky pipes.

# City Council approves water bill adjustment process to alleviate cost of pipe leaks

By R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

In a brief special meeting held Monday afternoon, Katy City Council unanimously approved a process for residents who saw increased water bills due to broken pipes during February's Winter Storm Uri to get a break on their water bills. The process, which requires the resident to request a leak adjustment to their bill, was designed by city staff. "Staff got together last week with Art (Pertile III, the city's attorney), and we've been talking about (the) West Harris County (Regional) Water Authority and possibly not being able to recoup any credits," said City Administrator Byron Hebert. "Well, West Harris County Water Authority did adopt a resolution on their side that we want to put

April 8, 2021

10 pages | \$1

# Freshmen Harrison, Reichardt delivering for Tigers softball



By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High is dominating District 19-6A softball and looking like a force to be reckoned with in Class 6A Region III. None of that is anything new.

What is different for these Tigers is that coach Kalum Haack is relying on a pair of gifted freshmen to help lead the way. Cameryn Harrison and Ashtyn Reichardt have been revelations for the 11-2-2 Tigers, who are 9-0 in district play and on the verge of securing a sixth straight outright district title after a 5-2 win over Cinco Ranch on Tuesday, April 6.

Harrison earned her 11th win, striking out 13, walking four and allowing two runs on four hits in seven innings. At the plate, she was even more dynamic, going 3-for-3 with three RBIs and two doubles.

Reichardt, meanwhile, showed off her strong left-handed bat, also going 3-for-3, all doubles, with an RBI. "It helps knowing I have someone by my side that's going through the same process as me," Harrison said. "It's very overwhelming coming into a very talented school in softball and being the young one on the team. So, having someone like Ashtyn to be by my side and to talk to is very helpful." Haack can't remember the

Katy High freshman Cameryn Harrison (25) delivers a pitch during a game against Cinco Ranch on Tuesday, April 6, at Katy High.

See TIGERS, page 8

# HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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By R. HANS MILLER

**BROOKSHIRE CITY COUNCIL Q&A** 

NEWS EDITOR

See KATY, page 3

Each candidate on the May 1 ballot for the alderperson and mayoral seats for Brookshire were sent a questionnaire and offered an equal amount of time and space to respond. Only one candidate for Brookshire City Council, Susette Baines who is running for the position three alderperson's chair, chose to respond.

We are disappointed the other candidates refused to participate, primarily because the lack of participation in the discussion on important issues leaves voters within the city without any clear means of deciding on whom to vote for.

As ongoing growth transforms Brookshire from a rural community into a small industrial city, discourse and discussion from local officials and candidates will be important. Without a discussion among the candidates, voters rely on word-of-mouth or



name recognition to choose their representatives on council.

Brookshire is growing quickly and may soon pass the point where name recognition and reputation are all that are needed to choose its leaders. In 1990, Brookshire had a population of about 2,900 people according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Today, that population is estimated at 5,400. Growth appears to be increasing exponentially.

Given the rapid rate of growth, spurred in part by the county's increased desire to bring industrial hubs to the area, it won't take long for Brookshire to become like Fulshear. About 10 years ago, Fulshear had a population of only about 1,100 people. Today – initial findings from the 2020 census show its population at around 16,000.

Deciding who is going to lead Brookshire into the oncoming rapid growth is important, and not something that should be tackled by an uninformed electorate.

Baines' answers follow on page 3 and Brookshire readers are encouraged to reach out to the other candidates to discuss the issues facing the city prior to going to the polls April 19-27 for early voting and on Election Day this May 1.

See Q&A, page 3



# COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 **KATYTIMES.COM** 

THE KATY TIMES

# Katy dedicates little library to lost teen's memory

By R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD residents gathered the morning of April 2 to honor Celia Rico, a local 14-year-old girl who died from suicide this past January after suffering from bullying and mental health issues. Celia - known by her family and friends as CiCi - was an avid reader and her mother, Deana Davidson-Maikranz, said she hoped the library would honor her daughter by sharing books with suicide prevention information while sharing CiCi's love of reading.

"She (loved) any kind of genre," Deana said. "I mean - it didn't matter - if it had words on it, she was reading it. She loved to read poetry. She loved poetry, you know? She would read a lot of movie books that were books and then that were eventually turned into a movie."

The Celia "CiCi" Rico Memorial Little Library is situated in Katy Heritage Park between the historic U.S. Post Office and the gazebo at 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy. Each book in the library is free to borrow and is stamped inside with a dedication to CiCi's memory.

"They brought a whole bunch of brand new books



Celia "Cici" Rico's family poses in front of the newly-placed little library in Cici's honor at Katy Heritage Park. The library is embossed with a small placard that says simply, "It's okay to not be okay." Children from left to right: Eleana, Kaden, Kamdyn, Brenlee. Cici's stepfather, Chad Maikranz wears a ball cap behind Cici's Mother, Deana Davidson-Maikranz.

and when you open it up, they have labels and it says, 'in memory of Celia R. Rico. Your presence we miss. Your memory we treasure. Forgetting you never - Katy Junior High,''' said Katy City Councilmember Rory Robertson who helped coordinate the installation of the library.

Deana said CiCi suffered from bullying at school, but was a hero for others, often standing up to bullies when she saw other stu-

dents having a hard time. A "Harry Potter" fan, CiCi saw herself as a Gryffindor and was always looking out for others.

Still, Deana said, Cici suffered from mental health issues, including depression, and fighting battles for herself wasn't always as easy. CiCi was bullied about her mental health and the bullying never seemed to stop. It happened at school and even though she wasn't supposed to have a phone, CiCi had somehow managed to get one and was bullied through Snapchat, a social media app wherein the messages disappear shortly after being sent, making it a preferred platform for cyberbullying.

Despite her depression, CiCi had a bright spirit, her mom said. She wrote poetry and had dreams of going to Julliard to become an actress. She was bright and loud and everyone knew when she

was home because there was laughter in the house. In a short video shown to the Katy Times by Deana, CiCi is giggling so hard she was unable to speak. In another, CiCi excitedly showed off Deana's wedding dress and other wedding supplies.

'She was so happy that we were getting married because she wanted to take (my husband, Chad Maikranz's) last name," Deana said.

CiCi now leaves behind an older sister, Eleana, brother Kaden, younger brother Kamdyn and little sister Brenlee as well as her mother and stepfather, Chad Maikranz, who Deana said she called Dad.

Adrienne Davitz, president of the Katy Heritage Society which oversees the historic Katy Heritage Park, said that, while she didn't know CiCi personally, the young girl's story had touched her heart.



ESY DEANA DAVIDSON-M

CiCi Rico, a 14-year-old student at Katy Junior High School, committed suicide in January after a history of mental health concerns and bullying took their toll. CiCi's mother, Deana Davidson-Maikranz said her daughter was a joyful spirit when she was able to put aside the bullying she faced and just be herself.

"I just want to say thank you to the Katy Heritage Parks board and the Katy Heritage Society for agreeing to this project so quickly and getting it put together," Davitz said

If you or someone you know is facing depression or having suicidal thoughts, help is available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255.







## 6 5 9 2 3 5 4 3 6 5 9 6 7 9 6 2 5 6 4 occodo 7 8 2 6

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# CROSSWORD PIIZZLE

## **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. One who manufactures
- 6. Science degree
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Desert
- 14. Inventor Musk
- 15. Welsh valley
- 16. Round Dutch cheese
- 17. Saying
- 18. Comedian and TV host 19. Uppermost portions of the
- brain
- 21. City in Transylvania
- 22. Where astronauts go 23. Men's hairstyle
- 24. Indicates position
- 25. One point east of due south 28. Businessmen may have one
- 29. Grass part
- 31. Running back Gurley
- 33. Unwavering
- 36. Options
- 38. Annoy
- 39. Greek mountain
- 41. Pastas
- 44. Fishes
- 45. Wrap
- 46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
- 48. Seize
- 49. The Constitution State
- 51. Upset
- 52. 1991 men's Wimbledon
- champ
- 54. Central Chinese province
- 56. Predisposition

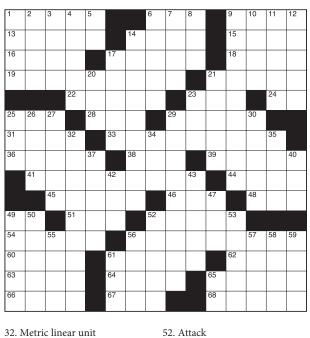
61. One-time Kentucky Rep.

60. A notice of someone's death

- 62. Swiss river
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Finger millet 65. \_\_ Allan Poe
- 66. German river
- 67. Brew
- 68. Kenyan river

## **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Acts as military assistant
- 3. Knot in a tree 4. Husband-and-wife industrial
- designers
- 5. The Ocean State
- 6. Point the finger at
- 7. Parts in a machine
- 8. Midway between northeast
- 10. Blister
- 11. Mental illness
- 12. Nose of an animal
- 14. What students receive
- 17. Semitic peoples
- 20. Beats per minute
- 21. Family of drugs
- 23. Atrocious
- 25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
- 26. \_\_ or bust
  - 27. Icelandic poems 29. A citizen of Pakistan
  - 30. Very pale



- 52. Attack
- 53. Directs
- 55. Belgian WWII resistance
- fighter
- 56. Finished negotiation
- 57. Heroic tale
- 58. Middle Eastern country
- 59. Protein-rich liquids
- 61. Malaysian Isthmus
- 65. Spielberg's alien

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

34. Sea eagle

42. Cool!

49. Picked

35. Biblical judge of Israel

40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)

43. Large hotel room

50. Type of hookah

47. Type of boat (abbr.)

- and east 9. Portray precisely

# NEWS

### KATYTIMES.COM

# **Q&A**

from page 1



Susette Inez Baines 713-242-9756 SusetteBaines62@gmail.com

### Why are you running for Brookshire City Council and what should voters know about you as a person?

**Baines:** First and foremost, the City of Brookshire has to be open to change. Change is going to happen so why not use your vote to have a voice in how it changes. I want to see our economy grow and to become the beautiful city that it once was. I've lived in and around the Brookshire area for 25 years. My three children attached Royal ISD. I've worked on the financial side of healthcare for over 30 years. I am an active volunteer within the community.

What should the city do to partner with the county to ensure economic opportunities are maximized for Brookshire residents?

**Baines:** Ensure that our own Economic Board is reaching out and utilizing all county agencies, while ensuring that the decisions being made are in the best overall interest of our city.

What do you feel is the biggest challenge facing the city of Brookshire and how do you think the city should address that challenge?

**Baines:** We want people to move to Brookshire but there appears to be a lack of housing. We have warehouses that have a Brookshire address, but a vast majority of workers don't live in

# **BROOKSHIRE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES**

# MAYOR

# **Kimberly Davis**

281-905-9672

Lee Nelson Jones jonesbrk@gmail.com Darrell E. Branch (Incumbent)

# ALDERPERSON – POS. 1

**Monique Taylor** 832-798-1369

Unique\_Monique1@yahoo.com

partment?

Baines: Why not look into

until the City of Brookshire can

best interest as community?

of improvement with mainte-

outsourcing to surrounding cities

come up with a plan that is in the

Many city streets are in need

Brookshire. This means that the city is not getting much revenue. We have to work to make this city a place people want to raise families.

What do you feel Brookshire should do regarding its current lack of an Animal Control DeMarilyn Vaughn (Incumbent) bedcplace1@gmail.com

# **ALDERPERSON – POS. 2**

Susette Baines \*See contact info in article. Gary Cruseturner 713-213-3070 gary.cruseturner@cruseturner.com Lyndon L. Stamps (Incumbent) stampslyndon@gmail.com

> nance concerns due to aging. What do you feel the city should do to improve its roadways?

**Baines:** This has been an ongoing issue for many years. Set an agenda on how much can be spent and work on the ones that are in the most disrepair.

# KISD from page 1

The lawsuit also cites possible harm to children forced to wear masks.

Meanwhile, in a brief statement regarding the lawsuit, Katy ISD Manager of Media Relations Maria DiPetta said the district continues to follow Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott's Executive order GA-34 and to comply with the Texas Education Agency's Public Health Planning Guidance which states, in part, "...every student, teacher or staff member shall wear a mask over the nose and mouth when inside a school building, school facility...or when in an outdoor space on school property used for school activities, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household ...

Abbott's order says public schools may operate under guidelines established by the TEA, as may private schools and institutions of higher education. The TEA's current guidelines shields to protect the eyes, nose and mouth for students, teachers and staff members. The requirement from the TEA does not require those under 10 to wear a mask except where the school system determines it is developmentally appropriate, people with medical conditions or disabilities that may prevent wearing a mask, when eating or drinking, when a person is social distancing or exercising outdoors, or anyone giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.

require the use of masks or full-face

The lawsuit claims that there are no confirmed instances of teachers being infected with COVID-19 by students; however, four KISD staff who spoke with the Katy Times on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press said they had seen multiple cases in the district that were likely linked to exposure to infected students. All four said they would be very concerned and may leave or participate in a protest of some sort if the district were to lift the mask mandate. Some teachers, they said, had already refused to return to campuses at all and had left the district

earlier in the year.

"If the mask mandate is lifted, there are some (KISD staff) who are wanting to stage a sick-out," one of the teachers said. "But, will that actually happen – who knows? But it's very rare to find a teacher at Katy ISD that says, 'Oh yeah, we don't need to wear masks at all. I'm totally fine with kids coming maskless.""

According to the Association of Texas Professional Educators, under Texas law teachers are not allowed to conduct an actual strike. Doing so may cost them their teaching certificates and their Teacher Retirement System benefits.

Regardless, the issue is now in the hands of the court system and a judge's ruling.

In a statement to The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit statewide news outlet, Woodfill said the district's policy is unlawful and is geared around a minority of people in the district – a fraction of those on campuses who are at higher risk because of health conditions.

"You don't shut down and force 99.9% of the people to wear a mask all day long," Woodfill said.

# e SD er tr

# Katy Optiks

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# KATY from page 1

together (as a) policy and in their resolution, it says we can get credits, but we have to have it in the governing body's minutes, showing that we adopted a policy to give



Prepare for power outages with a Generac GENERAC

credits back to customers."

Hebert said that, once the policy adoption is recorded, the city can take the credits it gets from the WHRWA and pass those on to residents whose water bills were increased as a result of pipes breaking because of the storm.

According to the newly adopted policy, residents with water bills that exceeded 10% or more water usage increases as a result of the storm and associated damage must submit an application to the city for relief. The application form, which is already available on the city's website (see sidebar) will require the resident's account number, contact information and proof that the leak has been found and repaired. Applications for relief are due no later than May 31, 2021, the policy states.

To allow residents time to request adjustments to their bills, the city will be waiting until April 22 to perform auto-drafts for the billing cycle that is eligible for relief, Hebert said.

Hebert said that residents who had conducted the repairs on the leak them-

# **TO APPLY FOR AID**

To apply for aid, Katy residents should visit: https://www.cityofkaty.com/Home/Components/ News/News/390/158

selves with items they already owned needed to contact the city when the form was completed and describe the process for the leak repair so the city could verify that the timeline for the associated water bill spike matched the resident's claim.

Once reviewed by city staff and all criteria for relief are met, the resident's bill will be adjusted to the usage indicated by their meter for the Jan. 15 to Feb. 14 billing cycle, Hebert said.

Hebert said he estimates about 375 households within the city would be able to file for relief.

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Jenifer Jordan Stockdick RSVP TODAY (281) 410-8507 Space is limit Event will be on Face 914 EAST AVENUE, STE.	ebook Live	- POSITION 7 Dawn Champag RSVP TODAY (281) 410-8507 Event	gne Wa Space is limited will be on Facebook Live	alter Butler	

# **OPINION**

Will TX winterize its electric grid this time?

exas lawmakers have been talking tough since February's statewide freeze and electrical outages, promising voters they'll do anything possible to see that it doesn't happen again.

Now we've come to the part where words become actions, or laws — the part where we all get a look at what Texas legislators mean when they say "anything possible." Both houses of the Legislature are voting this week on proposed remedies, promising to do better than they did in a similar situation a decade ago.

In 2011, they left the watered-down "solutions" to the regulators and to industry. What might have been a weatherization requirement for everyone in the chain of industry that puts the spark in the electrical outlet in your wall became a suggestion.

Instead of requiring the electric utilities and the companies that supply them with fuel to protect that infrastructure against cold weather that can knock plants offline, they just recommended it. They left it to the Public Utility Commission and the Texas Railroad Commission, industry-friendly regulators who didn't require the kinds of preparation that might have kept the lights on in February.

The state blew it. Some weatherized, most didn't.

The storm that came 10 years later — the one last month — was bigger, covering the whole state, and colder and longer. Later reports confirmed the fears: 111 Texans dead, 70% of the customers in ERCOT's service area lost power and the financial damage topped that of a major hurricane.

Gov. Greg Abbott added the state response to the outages during the freeze to his list of top priorities. "I assure you this. This legislative session will not end until we fix these problems," he said the week after the state thawed out.

And he said this, which is worth keeping in mind now that legislators are actually filling out that response: "Many of you are angry — and you have a right to be. I'm angry too. At a time when essential services were needed the most, the system broke. You deserve answers. You will get those answers." Those answers and responses will include an overhaul of the regulatory agencies, like the PUC, the RRC and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT. There's probably going to be a statewide warning system. Lots of Texans get notices for Amber Alerts or when a state trooper is shot and a suspect is



on the loose, but most didn't get a warning or information during the freeze.

Lawmakers will try to make agencies work together better during blackouts and bad weather. They're talking about the spot markets where energy is traded and where some of the costs of electricity went skyward during that third week of February.

Most of that is about how to respond when Texas freezes and the power goes out. But watch the Legislature on preemptive measures, like getting the system ready for cold weather before everything freezes and having enough electricity on hand when cold weather increases demand.

Some of the working proposals leave the preventive measures in the hands of regulators who are often too close to the industries they regulate. Weatherizing and building extra capacity are expensive and, to cost-focused executives, burdensome.

That's why we don't have those things in Texas, and why there was less power available at a time when Texans were so desperate for the power that would keep them safe.

You still need the agencies to coordinate their work during an emergency. You still need a system for letting Texans know what's going on, what might be threatening, when the coast is clear. Straightening up the regulatory agencies is a good idea — and a routine one, if the government is doing what it's supposed to be doing.

The chain of accountability is important, too. The agencies that fell short during the power outages report, sometimes loosely, to the governor. And the Legislature designed the regulatory system and the rules. They're the ones who decided, 10 years ago, not to require weather protection or extra generating capacity for times like these. Those are the kinds of legislative requirements to expect this time — the ones that can prevent another disaster and ease pressure on responding to terrible results with beefed-up warning systems and coordination.



# May I sing the housing subdivision blues?

y wife and I would never have met, except that her family fled a densely populated state when she was 11.

Given her satisfaction with the simple life (deer in the yard, the neighbors' ponds and livestock across the road), I dreaded sharing game-changing news with her the other evening.

"One of the neighbors said a 100-house subdivision is planned for one mile away on our country road."

Don't get me wrong. I'm not holier-than-thou when it comes to turning forests and pastureland into domiciles. For much of my childhood, my father helped keep a roof over our heads by working as an agent for my mother's cousin, a real estate developer.

(Dad also kept a FLOOR under our feet, but I've noticed parents never get much credit for any non-roof amenities. Maybe parents should diversify their speeches. "Well, young lady, as long as you're benefitting from my threshold and my wainscotting, you're living by MY rules!")

My wife and I became homeowners nearly 28 years ago, so I balk at begrudging anyone else their own shot at affordable housing and the American Dream. Granted, the American



Dream ain't what it used to be, if townsfolks' new aspiration is to be wedged between Casa de Tyree and the industrial park! I'm just saying.

Yes, everyone is entitled to their own little piece of Paradise – which brings an interesting twist to a classic philosophical conundrum: "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" ("I don't know – but way more than can fit on Mike's subdivision deck, dude.")

I refuse to be one of those petition-waving NIMBY ("Not in My Back Yard") soreheads. Because, frankly, most of the theoretical future neighbors would stare and ask, "What's a back yard?"

I'm not even going to lose any sleep over the eventual cute, ironic name of the subdivision. You know, the developments are usually celebrating something that is no longer around BECAUSE of the development. Maybe it will be Turkey Cove or Groundhog Meadows – or The Ability to Turn Your Cat Outdoors Without It Getting Splattered by Umpteen Garbage Trucks, Ambulances and Police Cars Acres!!!

Ours is not the only part of the county experiencing a flood of home construction. People from every corner are gobsmacked by the situation and ask some variation of "If we suddenly need all these houses, where the (bleep) are the people living NOW?"

Good question. Maybe there are citizens far to the north hearing the Siren call and rationalizing, "Yes, they'll be cookie-cutter homes, but they'll be cookie-cutter homes that will provide AIR CONDITIONING BILLS out the wazoo."

Or, most likely, we will see pasty-skinned adult children emerging from their parents' basements in search of a home of their own. ("The man at the hardware store called this a 'leaf blower' – but it would be so cool to use against Orcs and trolls!")

I'll not stand in the way of Progress. Even if rising home values supersize my tax bill.

"Well, old man, as long as you're living in MY COUNTY, you're not going out with money left in your pockets!" \*Sigh\*

**THE KATY TIMES** THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

KATYTIMES.COM

A decade ago, the Legislature settled for window dressing. They have a chance now to do more.



# CORRECTION

April 1, 2021, Volume 109, Issue 13. Katy City Council Q&A. Gina Hicks email address is ghickskaty@ gmail.com.

# **CONSTITUTION CORNER**

# **U.S.** Constitution

**EIGHTH AMENDMENT** 

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

# **KatyTimes**

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# FAITH

KATYTIMES.COM

# KCM to host 22nd annual charity golf tourney

By R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

Katy Christian Ministries staff and volunteers are busy putting the final touches on the local nonprofit's annual golf tournament. The Swing from the Heart Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Weston Lakes Country Club on April 19.

"The annual golf tournament is nearly at our door, and I couldn't be more excited. This opportunity to be around our friends and neighbors, while enjoying a day on the course, always creates such an uplifting atmosphere," KCM Executive Director Deysi Crespo said.

The tournament begins at 9 a.m. with staggered tee-times about every 10 minutes to ensure social distancing is maintained between teams at the Weston Lakes Country Club. The annual event is one of the ministry's primary funding sources, allowing it



KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A golfer drives his shot during the 21st Annual KCM Charity Golf Tournament. Last year's tournament was held in September, as it was pushed back multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

to provide a wide variety of social services to those in need throughout the Katy area. The goal of the tournament, which is sponsored this year by Parkway Fellowship Church is to raise \$100,000 or more for the nonprofit which will help fund operations at the ministry's crisis center, food pantry and social services department. A KCM press release said the

nonprofit is seriously in need of

assistance after a year of crisis in the community brought about by COVID-19 and other serious issues. Staff said the KCM social services department had addressed more than 34,000 cases in the last year. Additionally, food insecurity has often had cars lined up for several blocks at the ministry's food pantry for most of the last year with volunteers delivering groceries to clients' vehicles curbside to prevent the spread of the virus.

"This last year was a historic one for not only KCM but our entire community. The ongoing crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic still has a wide-reaching impact on our community. Food insecurity, unemployment rates, and the need for overall assistance is still high in our region, and we need support from our community to help confront it. Fundraisers, like the golf tournament, are critical in the path to putting an end to these issues."

# WANT TO PLAY?

Those interested in participating in the 22nd Annual Katy Christian Ministries Golf Tournament may visit ktcm.org/golf and click on the registration button to the top-right. Registration costs \$175 per individual or \$700 for a four-person team. Sponsorships at various levels are also available and raffle tickets may be purchased through the site.

The event will be held at the Weston Lakes Country Club located at:

32611 F.M. 1093 Fulshear, TX 77441

# TRIBUTE

Ronald Kenneth Ruden was born October 22, 1945 in Joliet, Illinois to Fred Ruden and Esther Hanson Ruden.

He graduated from Joliet Township High School in 1963 and married his High School sweetheart on August 21, 1966 in Joliet, Illinois. They moved to Detroit, Michigan where he began working for Ruberroid Company as a sales representative. Later, they transitioned back to Joliet where he worked for E.K Motor Service, which he later acquired and served as President/Owner. A subsequent move carried Ronald and his family to Irving, Texas where he was Director of Transportation



RONALD KENNETH RUDEN 1945-2021

at Arrow Industries for ten years. He worked there until his retirement, upon which he moved to Houston to be near his grandchildren.

A devoted family man, he taught the values of family, hard work and honesty to his children. Most notable was the fact that he attended thirty-five consecutive season opening games with his son and grandchildren. He was a Rangers fan while in Irving and later an Astros fan upon his retirement. This was an annual tradition of attending the season openers. Ronald loved spending time with his family and fishing with his son and grandchildren on Galveston Bay. He and his wife spent many hours on cruise ships and traveling to distant ports.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Tonita Ruden;

son, Todd Ruden and wife Mary Grace and their children (his grandchildren), Weston, Nolan, and Ella Grace; sister, Barbara Nurczyk of Plainfield, Illinois, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Ronald passed away on March 31, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Esther Ruden; brothers, Donald and Robert Ruden; sisters, Norma Larson and Lois Demos.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at Morton Cemetery, 401 N. 2nd St, Richmond, Texas with Rev. John F. Davis, Jr. officiating. In lieu of flowers. donations made be given to Memorial Lutheran Church, 5810 3rd St. Katy, Texas 77493 or the American Lung Association, 2550 Loop W #265, Houston, Texas 77092. Funeral services held under the direction of: Schmidt Funeral Home 1344 W. Grand Parkway South Katy, Texas 77494 (281) 391-2424



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# AREA SPORTS NOTEBOOK



Tamyra Mensah Stock

# FORMER MAV MENSAH STOCK QUALIFIES FOR OLYMPICS

### By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Former Morton Ranch standout wrestler Tamyra Mensah Stock won the Olympic Trials for the second time on Saturday, April 3, qualifying for the Olympic Games in Tokyo this summer. Mensah Stock first won the Olympic Trials four years ago but still needed to finish in the top two of a final qualifying tournament to earn a bid to Rio. She finished third. Because of her world championship win in the 68 kg in 2019, a win last Saturday automatically quali-fied Mensah Stock, who holds a Team USA ranking of No. 1 in the 68 kg/149.5-pound class. She swept 17-year-old Kennedy Blades, a high school junior from Wyoming. "I'm feeling excite-ment. I'm feeling overwhelmed. I feel I could've worked harder," Mensah Stock, 28, emotionally told NBC after her win. "It's a lot, a lot of hard work. No matter how naturally talented you are, there is so much work, sacrifice and dedication in this. But I have such an amazing support system that it almost was natural." Because the Trials were in Fort Worth, Mensah Stock had family, friends, college coaches and Morton Ranch coach Mark Balser in the stands watching her. She was a 2010 and 2011 state champion at Morton Ranch under Balser. ... Another former Morton Ranch star, LJ Cryer, is a national champion. The Mavs' all-time leading scorer was a true freshman on No. 2 Baylor this season. The Bears beat No. 1 and previously undefeated Gonzaga, 86-70, to win the NCAA men's basketball championship in Indianapolis on Monday to finish 28-2 this season. Cryer played the last minute of the game and missed his only shot, a long 3-pointer. The Bears are just the second team from Texas to win the men's basketball national title, joining 1966 University of Texas-El Paso. This season, Cryer-who scored 3,488 points as a Mav, the fifth-most all-time in Texas high school basketball history and the most by a player from the Greater Houston area—played in 20 games, averaging 3.4 points in 10 minutes per game. Cryer made 16 of 44 3-pointers for a 36.4 percent clip. ... The UIL determined last week that its state track and field meets will remain at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the University of Texas campus this season. The state meet is scheduled for May 6-8. ... Former Seven Lakes assistant coach Kris O'Neal was hired April 1 as the head football coach at Tuloso-Midway High School in Corpus Christi. O'Neal had been at Seven Lakes since the mid-2000s and coached varsity running backs. O'Neal succeeds Wade Miller, who resigned in February to become the head football coach at Uvalde.... In this week's Texas High School **Baseball Coaches Association** state rankings, Katy is ranked No. 5 in Class 6A. Tompkins is ranked No. 10.

# Falcons find rhythm late in clutch win



Tompkins senior Taylor Gage, left, and junior Ashley Martinec came up big in the Falcons' 5-3 win over Taylor on Thursday, April 1, to keep hold of second place in District 19-6A.

### By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

The situation was intense, and Tompkins senior outfielder Taylor Gage understood that. It was a pressure moment she welcomed.

With Tompkins and Taylor tied in the sixth inning of their District 19-6A softball game on Thursday, April 1, Gage delivered a looping hit misplayed by the left fielder and scored junior Ashley Martinec for the go-ahead run. Meagan Brown's RBI single moments later scored Gage, who had advanced to third off the error, and the Falcons ultimately survived the Mustangs, 5-3.

Helped by the win, Tompkins is in second place in 19-6A at 7-3, 9-3 overall, following its win over Morton Ranch on Tuesday. Cinco Ranch is 4-4 in 19-6A.The Cougars are a half-game ahead of Taylor, which is 4-5 in district after a loss to Mayde Creek on Tuesday.

See SOFTBALL, page 9

# 'NO. 1 IN KATY'

# Tompkins' defense rises to occasion in local regional quarterfinal showdown over Seven Lakes

### By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Without senior captain Bryce Robisch, and young players assuming more responsibility as a result, Tompkins' defensive back line has been inconsistent this season, and at times great cause for concern.

The back four, for instance, had an inauspicious showing in the Falcons' area playoff game against Cy-Fair on March 30, a comeback 4-2 win that required a flourish of three goals in a three-minute span late in the second half. But the defense made up for it, and then some, in Tompkins' dramatic, hotly contested 1-0 Class 6A boys soccer regional quarterfinal win over Seven Lakes on Friday at Rhodes Stadium. Not only did the Falcons

earn a trip to the region-

took bragging rights as well. The fourth seed out of District 19-6A entering the playoffs, the 13-5-2 Falcons shocked the Greater Houston area soccer world by taking down the region's top club in 19-2-1 Seven Lakes.

"It's insane, man," sophomore Luis Lugo said. "We talk to the people who came before us like Jovan Prado, Danny Espinoza. Every day, we talk to them, they stay in touch, and they're always talking to us about legacy of this team. We're continuing it. "This game we showed

"This game, we showed who was best. No. 1 in Katy."

After surrendering five total goals to the Spartans in two district games, the Falcons produced an impressive clean sheet, led by the inspired play of seniors Luke Andrepont and Alec Shockley, junior Ian Aumagher and sophomore



CHEA DONALDCON I CDECIAL TO THE KATY T

(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@ katytimes.com or message on Twitter @densilva02). al semifinals for the third straight postseason, and fourth time in five years, they Diego Castellano.

See SOCCER, page 9

Tompkins senior goalkeeper Paulo Valente goes up for a save during the Falcons' Class 6A regional quarterfinal win over Seven Lakes on Friday, April 2, at Rhodes Stadium.

# Paetow, Jordan girls stand out at 19-5A meet



PAETOW ATHLETICS

Paetow senior Tumi Onaleye won the 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles and was a member of the Panthers' first place 4x400 relay team at the District 19-5A track and field meet in Brenham. Onaleye also finished second in the triple jump.

### By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow's boys and girls, and Jordan's girls starred at the District 19-5A track and field meet May 31-April 1 in Brenham.

The Panther girls took second overall with 113 points as a team. The Panther boys finished fourth with 68 points.

College Station swept the team titles.

For Paetow's girls, Tumi Onaleye led the way. The senior won the 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles and was a member of the Panthers' first place 4x400 relay team. Onaleye's time of 14.877 in the 100 hurdles is a school record.

Onaleye, a University of Pennsylvania signee, also finished second in the triple jump.

Paetow senior Missy Adeboyejo also had impressive performances, finishing second in the 300 hurdles and third in the 100 hurdles. Paetow's 4x400 relay team of Jordan Ward, Onaleye, Kameron Butler and Adeboyejo took gold with a time of 4:13.605.

Jordan's girls also had a strong showing at the district meet, finishing third as a team. The Warriors were led by freshman Tiyan Ogbeide, who won gold in the 400 meter dash and 800 meter dash. Ogbeide is the program's first district champion in track and field.

All seven Jordan girls track and field athletes qualified for the area meet in two weeks.

On the boys side, Paetow finished fourth as a team and Jordan finished eighth.

Juniors Sultan Bakare and Charles Chukwu earned gold medals in the shot put and discus, respectively. Chukwu also had a silver in the shot put. Other local notes:

>> Jordan freshman Addison Sutton ran a personal record of 5:16 to finish third in the 1600-meter run. Sutton also ran a personal record of 11:39 in the 3200-meter run, finishing third in that event as well.

>> Paetow's Jordan Ward broke her own school record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 58.441 seconds to place second.

>> Paetow's 4x200 relay team of Sadae Sneed, Arianna Haygood, Ariel Haygood and Jasmyn Martin ran a time of 1:46.689 to break the school record in a thirdplace finish.

>> Paetow's 4x100 relay team of Chidera Okeoma, Arianna Haygood, Ariel Haygood and Jasmyn Martin) ran a school-record time of 49.826 to finish second.

See TRACK/FIELD, page 10



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# **KATY ISD SOCCER PLAYOFF** RESULTS **THROUGH APRIL 8**

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 25 CLASS 5A BOYS SOCCER BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFFS** Paetow 3, New Caney 2

**CLASS 6A GIRLS SOCCER BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFFS** Ridge Point 3, Cinco Ranch 0

# FRIDAY, MARCH 26 CLASS 6A BOYS SOCCER BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFFS Seven Lakes 5, George Ranch 2 Tompkins 2, Ridge Point 1 (OT) Cinco Ranch 1, Fort Bend Austin 0 Dulles 1, Taylor 0 **CLASS 6A GIRLS SOCCER BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFFS**

Seven Lakes 7, Elkins 0 Tompkins 1, George Ranch 0 Katy 3 (14), Clements 3 (13)

**MONDAY, MARCH 29 CLASS 6A GIRLS SOCCER AREA PLAYOFFS** Memorial 8, Katy 0

**TUESDAY, MARCH 30 CLASS 6A GIRLS SOCCER AREA PLAYOFFS** Seven Lakes 4, Cy-Creek 0 Stratford 2, Tompkins 0 **CLASS 6A BOYS SOCCER AREA PLAYOFFS** Tompkins 4, Cy-Fair 2 Seven Lakes 2, Cy Ridge 0 Cinco Ranch 3, Lamar 1 **CLASS 5A BOYS SOCCER AREA PLAYOFFS** Pflugerville Weiss 1, Paetow 0

**THURSDAY, APRIL 1 CLASS 6A BOYS SOCCER REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS** Jersey Village 5, Cinco Ranch 1

**FRIDAY, APRIL 2 CLASS 6A GIRLS SOCCER REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL** PLAYOFFS Cy-Fair 1, Seven Lakes 0 CLASS 6A BOYS SOCCER REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL **PLAYOFFS** Tompkins 1, Seven Lakes 0

**TUESDAY, APRIL 6 CLASS 6A BOYS SOCCER REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFFS** Tompkins 3, Humble 1 (OT)

# SOFTBALL STANDINGS **THROUGH APRIL 8**

### **DISTRICT 19-6A**

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	Т
x-Katy	9	0	11	2	2
x-Tompkins	7	3	9	3	0
Cinco Ranch	4	4	7	7	0
Taylor	4	5	5	10	0
Seven Lakes	3	5	7	9	0
Mayde Creek	2	6	4	7	0
Morton Ranch	1	7	6	7	0
y-clinched district title					
x-clinched playoff berth					

### **DISTRICT 19-5A**

**OVERALL** 

L T 7 0

	DIS	TRICT	
	W	L	
Paetow	4	5	
y-clinched district	title	è	
x-clinched playoff	ber	th	

# BASEBALL STANDINGS **THROUGH APRIL 8**

# Spartans sweep 19-6A team golf titles

**By DENNIS SILVA II** SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes swept the District 19-6A boys and girls team golf titles at Blackhorse golf courses in Cypress, ensuring the Spartans will be a force at the Region III tournament in Spring later this month.

The Seven Lakes boys won with a twoday score of 612, outlasting Tompkins, which finished 19 strokes behind. Seven Lakes' girls won with a score of 626, overcoming Cinco Ranch, which posted a 675. The top two teams and first two med-

alists not on an advancing team qualify to regionals. The girls tournament is April 19-20, followed by the boys tournament April 21-22.

Seven Lakes freshman Shaun Nair won the individual boys district title with a total of 142, besting Taylor senior Kevin Kim by six strokes. Nair shot a 72 in round one and 70 in round two. Kim was the leader by one stroke after day one but shot a 77 to Nair's 70 on day two as the freshman showed impressive poise.

The two boys medalists qualifying to regionals were Kim and Cinco Ranch junior Holden Kittelberger. Kittelberger finished in a tie for fifth with a score of 157

The Seven Lakes boys team includes Nair, senior Van Miller (tied-3rd, 153), junior Nikko Taggart (tied-5th, 157), junior Adam Bodine and senior Kade Kalisek. The Tompkins boys team, which



SEVEN LAKES ATHLETICS

Seven Lakes freshman Shaun Nair won the District 19-6A boys individual golf title with a two-day score of 142.

qualified for regionals for the first time in program history, includes senior Gregory Dupont (tied-3rd, 153), junior Diego Montes (tied-8th, 158), junior Colt Tenpenny (tied-8th, 158), junior Jeff Borchert and senior Preston Remlinger.

Seven Lakes senior Lauren Nguyen won the individual girls district title with a two-day score of 147, posting a 74 after the first round and a 73 in the second round and eluding Cinco Ranch junior Mallorie Luitwieler by two strokes.

Tompkins sophomore Annika Choi finished fifth with a score of 165 (83-82) to take one of the medalist qualifying spots.



SEVEN LAKES ATHLETICS

Seven Lakes senior Lauren Nguyen won the District 19-6A girls individual golf title with a two-day score of 147.

Taylor's Alice Yoon finished eighth with a 172 (84-88) to earn the other medalist regional qualifying bid.

Seven Lakes' girls team consists of Nguyen, sophomore Maelynn Kim (third, 151), senior Grayson Heilman (fourth, 159), freshman Floortje Rademaker (sixth, 169) and freshman Krisna Mahendran. Spartans claimed four of the top six spots individually.

Cinco Ranch's girls team consists of Luitwieler, sophomore Abbey Stegeman (seventh, 170), sophomore Chole Dang, senior Olivia Predmore and senior Erika Alvarez.

# TIGERS from page 1

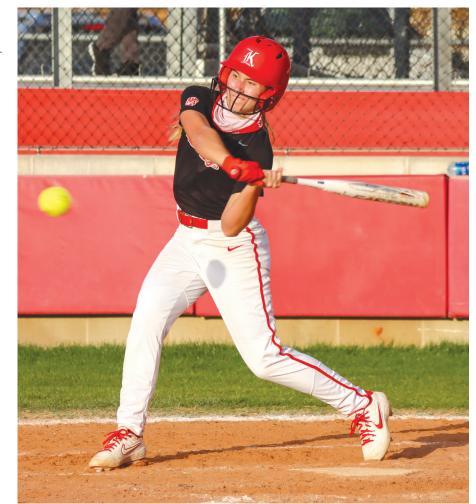
the last time he had two freshmen this talented, and that's saying something for a program rich in tradition. Katy has won two state championships since 2015, and expectations are not lowered simply because some of the talent is younger.

"We don't treat them as freshmen," Haack said. "They're treated like everybody else. My philosophy is, I don't care what grade you're in. If you're one of the best nine we have, you're going to play. Those two are really, really good."

Harrison, a right-hander, has won her last eight starts and already has a perfect game and a no-hitter this season. She has six straight games of 10 or more strikeouts. A hard thrower whose velocity hovers around 64-65 miles per hour, she has devastated opposing hitters with her riseball and curveball.

"I definitely wasn't used to not being the top dog," Harrison said. "Coming from travel ball and being the older of the group, coming here ... you have to adjust and know your spot, especially with seniors. Being able to grow my maturity to another level, but still knowing that I have room to grow, has been an adjustment."

Haack said he doesn't think he's had a freshman pitcher like Harrison. She is advanced for her age in her mindset and pitch repertoire. She has to be more consistent hitting her spots, Haack said, but she is already above and beyond. "She's tough mentally," Haack said. "A lot of young pitchers, you coach them hard and they don't react well. But with her, it just makes her tougher." Reichardt, who hits No. 3 in the lineup, is small in stature, but hits rockets to all parts of the field. Haack said his center fielder is naturally strong and also praised her technique. Her footwork, hands and hips work in sync so well through the hitting zone that the ball explodes off her bat.



## **DISTRICT 19-6A**

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## **DISTRICT 19-5A**

	DISTRICT	OVERALL			
	WL	WLT			
Paetow	2 6	10 14 0			
y-clinched district title					
x-clinched pla	yoff berth				

Reichardt has put in work learning to hit slow pitching and not getting out in front of the ball early. She is also improving hitting outside pitches.

SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High freshman Ashtyn Reichardt (25) prepares to take a swing during a game against Cinco Ranch on Tuesday, April 6, at Katy High.

"The start of the season, I had some trouble," Reichardt said. "I've adjusted and stepped up as far as being more mature and paying attention to older girls pitching. I've worked hard, stayed focused and really trusted the people around me. I've learned to not worry about how I'm performing so much because I know my teammates and my coaches have my back."

Harrison and Reichardt have soaked in the vast experience around them. The Tigers have a pair of NCAA Division I signees in catcher Kailey Wyckoff and infielder Olivia McFadden, two players

from the 2019 state title team. It makes for a nice core of youth and experience.

But the youngsters are growing into their own. After the Cinco Ranch win, Harrison was seen talking demonstratively to her teammates about poor play. It brought a smile to Haack's face.

"Their abilities were good coming in here. They're really good ballplayers," Haack said. "They're also very competitive. They really want to do well and help the team. They're still learning about hitting and situations and all our offenses and defenses. By the time they get it all down, they'll be really, really good."



# SOCCER from page 6

"They were amazing," coach Tom Jones said. "That was the best game they've played all year. This is the third time we've played (Seven Lakes), so we each knew what the other was going to do. Coming in, we know what to work on and how to approach the game. To be doing this without Bryce is really crazy. They're staying compact, they're not giving up holes. We've given up a lot of goals on throw-ins and set pieces, and we were just sound on that."

It was Lugo's shot in the 22nd minute that proved the difference-maker.

Lugo took a nice delivery from senior Jose Ojeda on the left side, went to his right toward the middle of the field, got the ball to his right foot, gathered his steps and struck from about 20 yards out.

"Me and Ojeda have a really good connection and we look for each other," said Lugo, who has goals in all three playoff games. 'He gave me a perfect pass, he has a knack for it, and I got my first touch in, I looked far post and I knew I could put it in. I have that confidence."

From there, the much-maligned back line, which drew slight frustration from Jones after the Cy-Fair win, did the rest.

Tompkins runs a different defensive formation against Seven Lakes than it does for most teams, utilizing a block system where players defend deep into their own territory to restrict space for the opposition. The alignment cut down on the number of long balls from Seven Lakes.

The Spartans, who averaged 3.7 goals entering the game, had their share of quality chances. Andrepont and the back line, which often included Ojeda as another





Tompkins defenders Ian Aumagher (24), Diego Castellano (5), Ojas Shandilya (13) and Luke Andrepont (4) swarm Seven Lakes sophomore midfielder Hunter Merritt (12) during their Class 6A regional quarterfinal game Friday, April 2, at Rhodes Stadium.

defender because of his speed and aggressiveness, pursued balls relentlessly and worked to disrupt the attack close to the net, often sacrificing their bodies to keep the ball away





Tompkins junior Rafa Gonzales (8) prepares to kick the ball downfield during the Falcons' Class 6A regional quarterfinal win over Seven Lakes on Friday, April 2, at Rhodes Stadium.

SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

**NOW THERE ARE TWO STATIONS TO HEAR HOUSTON'S BEST** 

Senior goalkeeper Paulo Valente was phenomenal with five strong saves in the second half, using his athleticism and length to his advantage and playing with high energy.

"We had a high work rate and we were focused," Andrepont said. "Every single person was fighting for the ball. We really wanted this win, and you could tell with the passion everyone was playing with. Seven Lakes is a clever team. They move players in and out, and defensively it's about passing players on and being disciplined and communicating.

The district season series between the two rivals featured a tie and a 4-3 Seven Lakes win in which the Spartans rallied dramatically late. But the results did not leave Tompkins dismayed as much as optimistic.

"We felt we had the advantage in parts of those games, and if we could put a whole game together, we felt pretty good about our chances," Jones said.

That proved true. Tompkins added the vaunted Spartans to its list of playoff conquests, alongside previously undefeated Ridge Point and one-loss Cy-Fair.

"It's great," Ojeda said. "Obviously, in district we didn't start or finish how we wanted to. Tompkins is always a hard-working team and we always felt we were a playoff team. When it comes down to play and win, we get the job done. It's working out, as you can see."

The Falcons built off the emotional Seven Lakes game with a 3-1 overtime win over Humble in the regional semifinals on Tuesday at Pridgeon Stadium, pitting them against Jersey Village in the Class 6A Region III final later this week.

# SPORTS TALK RADIO

# SOFTBALL from page 6

The Falcons are the frontrunners for second place, with a 2-0 season sweep of Taylor and a 1-1 split with Cinco Ranch. They can thank Gage for that.

"My other two at-bats, I wasn't producing the way I wanted to," Gage said. "I popped out and struck out. She (Taylor senior pitcher Mallory Reynolds) was giving me all outside (pitches), and usually I struggle with outsides. So, my approach was expecting that outside pitch and stay through it and get a low line drive. It was a tight game and I knew I had to produce for my team."

With the game knotted 3-3, Tompkins' Blakely Haynie popped out to third to start the bottom of the sixth. Martinec followed with a walk.

"It would've been amazing to hit a home run there, but I didn't go up there with that mentality," said a laughing Martinec, whose first hit of the game was a booming double that barely missed crossing the left side of the outfield fence. "You just can't. I just had to find a way on, and that's what I did. I adjusted to her speed. I was hovering the plate, because she was going outside and then coming inside."

Kaylee McGary's sacrifice bunt advanced Martinec, and Gage brought her home.

"She's been clutch lately and has had some really great hits in the right spots," coach Katy Agiannidis said. "When I saw her coming up, I was confident we were about to get what we needed done."

As the final hitter before the top of the lineup emerges, Gage understands her job is to put the ball in play. She has earned the trust of coaches and teammates because of that mentality, and Agiannidis said it's like having another leadoff hitter in the No. 9 spot.

"It's an important game," Gage said. "Not having the chance to go to playoffs last year and coming off all of this COVID stuff, we really want to bring it this year and go deep in the playoffs. Getting second place is huge. I think it's a matter of who wants it more at this point."

The game did not come without troubles for the Falcons, however, After falling to Tompkins, 12-0, in the first meeting, Taylor looked like an entirely different team.

A big reason was Reynolds, who threw a solid game by pitching outside and keeping Falcons hitters off balance. Reynolds had five strikeouts to one walk and four earned runs on nine hits. Four of those hits came in the second inning when Tompkins plated three runs for a 3-1 lead.

But Reynolds held the Falcons scoreless over the next three innings, allowing one hit.

"We've always had trouble adjusting to slower pitchers, especially when they're throwing outside," Gage said. "A lot of us were popping out because we were way, way ahead of the ball. It was a matter of us adjusting."

The Falcons scored early and often against the Mustangs in their first meeting. When the runs weren't coming as easily this time

around, Tompkins lost its way a bit at the plate.

"I have really high expectations for them, and I think they're really good hitters," Agiannidis said of her girls. "They should be able to make adjustments earlier in the game, and when they don't make the adjustments they're capable of, it's pretty frustrating. I was frustrated with how long it took them, but Taylor did a great job of keeping us off-balance. The pitcher did a fantastic job."

As the Tompkins bats struggled early, so did Martinec, allowing Taylor to rally from that two-run deficit and tie it 3-3 in the third inning behind backto-back RBI doubles from Reynolds and Emily Kristynik. Martinec, though, changed her approach, and once she did, she was practically unhittable.

"My pitches weren't really working at the beginning, and I had to find a way to make them work," Martinec said. "Towards the fifth inning, I started to find it. People have seen me and know my patterns and I had to work off that. I moved pitches more outside, especially on the curveball and especially with everyone hovering over the plate."

Tompkins' ace retired 12 of the final 13 batters she faced and finished with six strikeouts to one walk and three runs on five hits. Her dominance after the third inning awarded Falcons hitters ample time to find their rhythm.

We have our rough patches and rough games, but we always seem to pull through," Martinec said. "It may take us a while to adjust to pitching sometimes, but once we do, we rally the hits and we do it when

it counts."

Tompkins is a young, inexperienced team. The Falcons only start two seniors in Gage and infielder Brooke Lozano. Agiannidis has players competing at new positions and still trying to find their way, having only played 15 games last year before the pandemic canceled the season and 12 games so far during this abrupt campaign.

"Some of that (adjustment) stuff comes out in games like this where we've got to get reps in, more cuts in," Agiannidis said. "We've got to win out and the kids knew that, so tonight was big."

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# **TRACK/FIELD**

from page 6

The top four finishers in each event advanced to the area meet on April 15. Complete results follow. Local finishers are in bold text.

### BOYS Team

- College Station, 156 1.
- Brenham, 152 2
- 3. Magnolia West, 70
- Paetow, 68 4.
- A&M Consolidated, 60 5.
- Magnolia, 52 6.
- Waller, 35 7.
- 8. Jordan, 16
- Bryan Rudder, 8 9.

100M Dash: 1. Keanu Jones, Brenham, 10.494; 2. Bobby Drake, College Station, 10.714; 3. Denim Day, College Station, 10.854; 4. Damon Bankston, Paetow, 11.031.

200M Dash: 1. Keanu Jones, College Station, 21.775; 2. Bobby Drake, College Station, 22.082; 3. Savion Ragston, Brenham, 22.184; 4. Nathan Salz, Jordan, 22.337. 400M Dash: 1. Eric Hemphill, Brenham, 48.988; 2. Cameron Johnson, College Station, 50.412; 3. LaTre Bonner, Brenham, 50.920; 4. William Williams, Magnolia West, 51.296.

800M Run: Andrew Riechman, College Station, 2:01.756; 2. Mitchell Traweek, Magnolia West, 2:02.796; 3. Diego Cardenas, A&M Consolidated, 2:03.410; 4. Dylan Wyrick, Magnolia, 2:03.790. 1600M Run: 1. Yovany Portillo, Magnolia West, 4:31.256; 2. Owen Maxwell, Magnolia West, 4:32.269; 3. Nick Hilty, A&M Consolidated, 4:34.600; 4. Mitchell Traweek, Magnolia West, 4:37.279. 3200M Run: 1. Owen Maxwell, Magnolia West, 9:59.603; 2. Yovany Portillo, Magnolia West, 10:07.122; 3. Ricardo Lopez, College Station, 10:14.978; 4. Chance Miller, College Station, 10:18.334.

110M Hurdles: 1. Xavier Harris, Brenham, 15.288; 2. Anthony Mangram, Waller, 15.530; 3. Darius Curry, Brenham, 15.862; 4. Christian Paz, Paetow, 16.298.

300M Hurdles: 1. Xavier Harris, Brenham, 40.559; 2. Chase Birch, College Station, 42.383; 3. Darius Curry, Brenham, 42.713; 4. Beau Kortan, College Station, 43.039. 4x100M Relay: 1. Brenham (Javon Dixon, Keanu Jones, Amir Johnson, Eric Hemphill), 41.561; 2. College Station (Denim Day, Lucas Sampson, Terry Green, Bobby Drake), 42.363; 3. Paetow (Jacob Brown, Toheeb Oladipupo, Christopher Simpson, Damon Bankston), 43.107; 4. A&M Consolidated (Dakota Johnson, Jonathan Paul, Jaylon Walter, Brock Slaydon), 43.351.

4x200M Relay: 1. Brenham (Amir Johnson, Cam Richardson, Savion Ragston, Javon Dixon), 1:28.697; 2. A&M Consolidated (Justin Gooden, Jonathan Paul, Jaylon Walter, Dakota Johnson), 1:30.493; 3. Magnolia (Logan Kirtley, Ross Choate, Ethan King, Chace Allen), 1:30.839; 4. Jordan (Nathan Salz, Deacon Stanfield, Logan Janik, Ethan Beach), 1:37.671. 4x400M Relay: 1. Brenham (Amir Johnson, Eric Hemphill, LaTre Bonner, Savion Ragston), 3:20.729; 2. College Station (Lucas Simpson, Chase Birch, Cameron Johnson, Caden Brown), 3:30.794; 3. Magnolia (Chace Allen, Dylan Wyrick, Gavin Mowery, Michael Salas), 3:32.548; 4. A&M Consolidated (Adam Jackson, Justin Gooden, Jonathan Paul, Diego Cardenas), 3:33.244. Long Jump: 1. Malik Edwards, Waller, 22'-4 1/2"; 2. Zeke Bryan, College Station, 22'-2 1/2"; 3. William Williams, Magnolia West, 21'-5 1/2"; 4. Dalton Carnes, College Station, 21'-2 1/2".



Jordan freshman Tiyan Ogbeide won the 400-meter dash and 800-meter dash at the District 19-5A track and field meet to become the Warriors' first district champion in track and field.

Shot Put: 1. Sultan Bakare, Paetow, 52'-7 1/2"; 2. Charles Chukwu, Paetow, 48'-10 ¼"; 3 Christian Watters, A&M Consolidated, 46'-7 1/2"; 4. Luke Miles, College Station, 44'-2 1/2".

Discus: 1. Charles Chukwu, Paetow, 139'-9"; 2. Justin Garza, Brenham, 129'-7"; 3. Curtis Kiran, Magnolia, 128'-8"; 4. Keaton Altman, Brenham, 120'-4".

Triple Jump: 1. Trace Meadows, A&M Consolidated, 42'-11 ¼"; 2. Zeke Bryan, College Station, 42'-10 1/4"; 3. Justin Stevenson, Paetow, 41'-9"; 4. Sharif Munzir, College Station, 41'-6 1/2".

High Jump: 1. Zeke Bryan, College Station, 6'-0"; 2. Eddy Toussom, Waller, 6'0"; 3. Desnick Williams, Bryan Rudder, 6'0"; 4. Kelly Heston, Magnolia, 6'-0".

Pole Vault: 1. Jacob Page, Magnolia West, 13'-0"; 2. Adam Welguisz, College Station, 12'-6"; 3. Nicholas Morris, Waller, 12'-0"; 4. Michael Salas, Magnolia, 10'-6".

#### GIRLS Team

- College Station, 210.666 1.
- 2. Paetow, 113
- 3. Jordan, 73 Magnolia, 54
- 4. 5. Magnolia West, 45
  - Waller, 41
- 6. A&M Consolidated, 39 7.
- 8. Brenham, 24.333 9. Bryan Rudder, 17

100M Dash: 1. Elnita Green, College Station, 11.920; 2. Alivah



Paetow junior Charles Chukwu won gold in the discus and silver in the shot put at the District 19-5A track and field meet.



Jordan's seven girls on the track and field team all qualified for the area meet in two weeks after performing well at the District 19-5A track and field meet.

3200M Run: 1. Emma Ellis, Magnolia, 11:04.113; 2. Valerie

4x200M Relay: 1. College Station (Tamia Gooden, La'Ryaha Lewis, Aliyah Collins, Ashonti, Idlebird), 1:44.443; 2. Jordan (Alejandra Garcia, Aloni Ransom, Peri Olmo, Desirae Zuokumor), 1:46.535; 3. Paetow (Sadae Sneed, Arianna Haygood, Ariel Haygood, Jasmyn Martin), 1:46.589. 4. Waller (Essence Williams, Tayia Cook, Yashaunti Wilson, Jerilyn Ibarra Lopez), 1:47.539. 4x400M Relay: 1. Paetow (Jordan Ward, Tumi Onaleye, Kameron Butler, Missy Adeboyejo), 4:13.605; 2. College Station (Claire Spiller, Ashonti Idlebird, Elie Dang, Tamia Gooden), 4:13.862; 3. Jordan (Taryn Hozdic, Tiyan Ogbeide, Desirae Zuokumor, Alejandra Garcia), 4:13.985; 4. Magnolia West (Avie Gillen, Taylor Scott, Manning Gordon, Margaret Gillen), 4:15.626. Long Jump: 1. Tayia Cook, Waller, 17'-10"; 2. Yashaunti Wilson, Waller, 17'-7 ¼"; 3. Tumi Onaleye, Paetow, 17'-7"; 4. Ashonti Idlebird,

College Station, 17'-4".

Shot Put: 1. Ana De La Garza, College Station, 36'-11 1/2"; 2. Anna Esquivel, Magnolia, 32' Roberson, A&M Consolidated, 32'-4"; 4. Tatum Hartsell, College Station, 31'-10". Discus: 1. Ana De La Garza, College Station, 115'-2"; 2. Shawna Cowell, Magnolia West, 104'-9"; 3. Kendra Humphries, A&M Consolidated, 103'-10"; 4. Kallie Williams, A&M Consolidated, 81'-3" Triple Jump: 1. Claire Spiller, College Station, 37'-11 1/2"; 2. Tumi Onaleye, Paetow, 37'-8"; 3. Ashonti Idlebird, College Station, 37'-2 ¼"; 4. Nony Out Ugwa, Paetow, 36'-10". High Jump: 1. Kelsey Slater, College Station, 5'-4"; 2. Laney Lemen, Magnolia, 5'-3"; 3. Destanee Cooper, Brenham, 5'-2"; 4. Abby Clayton, Brenham, 4'-10". Pole Vault: 1. Kira Zercher, A&M Consolidated, 9'-0"; 2. Lauren Henderson, Waller, 8'-6"; 3. Madison Traweek, College Station, 8'-0"; 4. Meagan Jackson, A&M Consolidated, 7'-0".

Collins, College Station, 12.467; 3. Tanasha Thompson, College Station, 12.653; 4. Chasity Rayford, Bryan Rudder, 12.720.

200M Dash: 1. Elnita Green, College Station, 24.637; 2. Aloni Ransom, Jordan, 25.608; 3. Tanasha Thompson, College Station, 26.020; 4. Chasity Rayford, Bryan Rudder, 26.066.

400M Dash: 1. Tiyan Ogbeide, Jordan, 56.973; 2. Jordan Ward, Paetow, 58.441; 3. Emma Rowan, Magnolia, 1:00.629; 4. Claire Spiller, College Station, 1:01.978. 800M Run: 1. Tiyan Ogbeide, Jordan, 2:19.197; 2. Maddie Jones, College Station, 2:21.685; 3. Emma Rowan, Magnolia, 2:22.669; 4. Avie Gillen, Magnolia West, 2:22.958. 1600M Run: 1. Maddie Jones, College Station, 5:10.730; 2. Emma Ellis, Magnolia, 5:12.22; 3. Addison Sutton, Jordan, 5:16.919; 4. Valerie Haros, Magnolia West, 5:17.710.

Haros, Magnolia West, 11:37.435; 3. Maddie Jones, College Station, 11:38.820; 4. Addison Sutton, Jordan, 11:39.387 100M Hurdles: 1. Tumi Onaleye, Paetow, 14.877; 2. Jayden Davenport, College Station, 15.237; 3. Missy Adeboyejo, Paetow, 15.673; 4. Camryn Kimes, College Station, 16.303. 300M Hurdles: 1. Tumi Onaleye, Paetow, 46.536; 2. Missy Adeboyejo, Paetow, 46.966; 3. Manning Gordon, Magnolia West, 47.297; 4. Ella Goodwin, A&M Consolidated, 48.011. 4x100M Relay: 1. College Station (Tanasha Thompson, Tamia Gooden, Elnita Green, Aliyah Collins), 48.157; 2. Paetow (Chidera Okeoma, Arianna Haygood, Ariel Haygood, Jasmyn Martin), 49.826; 3. Brenham (Chelsey Ward, Katelyn McClain, Camryn McClain, Glenda Hill), 50.069; 4. Bryan Rudder (Shakira Johnson, Olivia Bazy, Chasity

Rayford, Charity Rayford), 50.134.

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