

Panthers win first district wrestling titles

SPORTS, B3

# Katy Times



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THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

*Pattison partners with water district, eyes grants at April meeting*

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Pattison City Council discussed seeking multiple grants to help the city prepare for upcoming growth during its April meeting. Council also moved forward with an agreement with Pattison Water Supply, the public agency that provides water services to city residents. The two issues may pair nicely, city officials said.

"Basically, we'd work with the Pattison Water Supply in submitting a block grant application," said Mayor Joe Garcia. "One of the things that we've looked at, as far as this (Community Development Block Grant) project goes, is to try and improve the availability of our public water supply within our community."

The agreement, which will also need to be approved by the Pattison Water Supply Board of Directors this week, would set up a partnership between the city that could involve some cost sharing on any matching funds required under the CDBG program, Garcia said. Additionally, the agreement could lead to increased water pressure for city residents as smaller pipes in parts of the city are replaced with larger pipes to allow more water to flow. The added water pressure could assist with the addition of fire hydrants on Durkin Road, which would improve public safety, Garcia said.

Councilmember Jeff McGowan, who is also a member of the Pattison Water Supply Board of Directors, supported the measure for multiple reasons, including the possibility of increasing fire protection in the city.

"(I) love the lines put in years ago, but they're quite small, so we can't do anything about fire protection until we get a six-inch line in," McGowan said.

Some lines in the city may only be an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, Garcia said.

Councilmember Seth

See **PATTISON**, page A3

## Katy promotes new fire chief, adopts sex offender ordinance

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy City Council approved an ordinance that tightens restrictions on where registered sex offenders may live or go within city limits during its Monday evening meeting. The city also heard updates regarding permitting and animal control and promoted Interim Fire Chief Kenneth Parker to head up Katy Fire Department permanently.

"This is a wonderful moment – not only in (Parker's) life but in my life also," said Mayor Bill Hastings. "I'm honored to be able to appoint him the fire chief. He has done an excellent job so far. He has the utmost respect from everybody in the department, and I know we've got a great bunch of happy firemen this night."

Parker had served as interim fire

chief since former Fire Chief Rusty Wilson left the department last October.

The sex offender ordinance, which passed unanimously, restricts registered sex offenders by not allowing them to live within 2,500 feet of any child area, according to a copy of the ordinance provided by the city. A child area, as defined by the new city law, includes schools, playgrounds, school bus stops, youth centers, video arcades, public parks, private recreational facilities, pools, playgrounds skate parks and youth athletic fields. Registered sex offenders also may not enter these facilities. Violations of the ordinance are punishable by up to a \$500 fine per offense and each day of violation is considered a separate offense, according to the ordinance.

"Today, I am pleased to bring forward this ordinance, to protect

our families and citizens. After being approached by several residents, Mayor Bill Hastings, the Police Chief (Noe Diaz), the City Attorney (Art Pertile III) and I worked to craft this legislation that will create a buffer zone around places children gather, including a potential new (Katy) ISD school in Cane Island and new city parks," said Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris.

Sex offenders who are minors or already reside within 2,500 feet of a child area are excepted from the ordinance's provisions, though they may not move out of the city then back into a restricted area of the city.

More than a dozen sex offenders live within Katy's city limits and more than 100 reside in the Katy area outside of city limits.

The ordinance also prevents

See **ORDINANCE**, page A3



KATY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kenneth Parker was appointed by Mayor Bill Hastings as fire chief during Monday's meeting. Parker was an assistant chief and more recently as interim chief following former chief Rusty Wilson's move to the Mesquite Fire Department.

## Early voting on bonds begins next week

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Early voting for the spring elections begins April 19 and runs through April 27. Locally, not only are the city of Katy and Katy ISD have options on the ballot for their governing boards – they are also both putting forward bonds to fund city and district improvements. Katy's bond package includes two propositions worth \$6 million while Katy ISD's bond package comes out at \$676 million.

### District propositions

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski and CFO Christopher Smith have been making their way around to multiple venues to educate voters regarding the district's bond packages. On April 1 they attended a meeting with the Rotary Club of Katy and later attended an April 8 event to discuss school finance and the bonds at a forum hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

In both presentations, Gregorski and Smith explained that the district is seeking approval for the bonds to address growth in the northwestern portion of the district and to upgrade or repair aging facilities to ensure students at all campuses have equal facilities. Bonds, if approved by voters, will also help the district improve technology across the district and build new facilities as needed.

Proposition A for the KISD bond package includes about \$591.4 million for new schools, purchase of land to build those campuses on, renovation and expansion for aging campuses, safety and security improvements, new buses and building component replacements such as HVAC systems.

### ELECTION DATES

EARLY VOTING: APRIL 19-27  
ELECTION DAY: MAY 1

See **BONDS**, page A3

## Through 'bumpy road,' leadership paves way for Tigers' district title

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

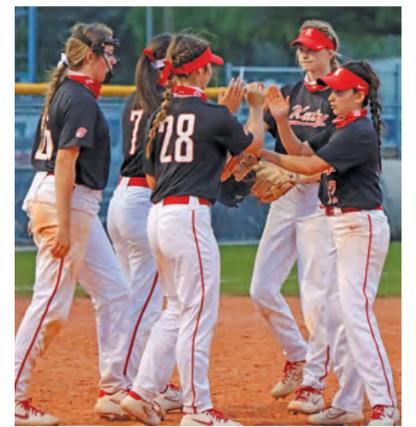
Katy High's softball team won its sixth consecutive outright district title with a 9-0 win over Taylor on Saturday, April 10, but it did not come smoothly.

Junior catcher Kailey Wyckoff called it a "bumpy road." Senior infielder Olivia McFadden said it was a process, one the team is still trying to figure out.

The Tigers are a team of veteran upperclassmen and precocious freshmen. They are talented, surely, as their 13-2-2 overall record and 11-0 district record attest, but it is mostly raw skill unproven in big games. It has been tedious, diligent work getting that talent and inexperience to mold into a disciplined club of consistency and urgency.

The good news is, to achieve that, it starts with leadership, and that's what coach Kalum Haack's team boasts in spades. It is leadership, Haack said, that led to another district title.

"It means more in that it was tough for the kids that didn't get to finish their season last year (canceled after 12 games because of the pandemic), the ones that are still here and the ones that left," said Haack, whose program has not lost a district game since 2014. "What it says is the ones that returned have done a really good job with leadership and getting the others prepared, as far as this is Katy softball and this is how we do things, and this is what our expectations are. The understanding that no matter how many games we got or didn't get last year, this is a new season, and this is what we're going to do."



SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High's softball team won its sixth straight outright district championship via 9-0 win over Taylor on Saturday, April 10.

Katy only has six seniors: McFadden, Ashley Woodring, Sara Orosco, Nina Sury, Morgan Blackstock and Grace Torres. McFadden, Woodring and Orosco are regular contributors. Otherwise, the Tigers are young. Very young.

Three freshmen are counted upon for significant production: pitching ace Cameryn Harrison, hard-hitting center fielder Ashtyn Reichardt, and infielder Paige Schulze. A sophomore, Peyton Watson, plays shortstop.

"Being a new team, a young team, we

See **TIGERS**, page B2

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## Commissioners honor abuse prevention workers

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Waller County Commissioners Court took measures to honor those that work to prevent or help those who are victims of child abuse or sexual assault at their April 7 meeting. Commissioners joined members of the Court Appointed Special Advocates, Child Protective Services and other community leaders in a balloon-popping ceremony to promote April as both Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

"I always recognize folks and families for all the very important work that they do in Waller County and in the surrounding counties as well," County Judge Trey Duhon said. "There are a handful of organizations that we always work with that provide services to the community that we as a county are not able to provide."

Duhon said organizations such as Focusing Families, CASA,

Katy Christian Ministries, Child Protective Services and the Waller County Child Welfare Board all contribute to the safety of victims of violence and help them recover from the trauma they endure. Duhon — along with the remainder of the commissioners court — recognized that caseworkers with those agencies work to lift people out of horrific situations that lead to PTSD and similar mental and physical health concerns.

"It rejuvenates your faith in humanity when you see groups like that, that are out there, still doing that," said Precinct 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorff, whose precinct covers the southern portion of the county.

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings, Waller County Sheriff Troy Guidry, Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis and Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner were on-hand to celebrate the contributions of the organizations throughout the county that work to assist the victims of violence.

After the declarations made in



R. HANS MILLER

Waller County officials join members of various public and nonprofit agencies that serve the victims of sexual violence and child abuse throughout the county for a balloon-popping ceremony on the front steps of the Waller County Courthouse.

the commissioners court chamber, attendees went out on the front lawn of the Waller County Courthouse for photos and to pop balloons — a balloon release had originally been scheduled, but was changed due to litter concerns — as a symbol of support for

victims advocacy workers.

Before the recess for the outdoor portion, Duhon made one final statement of appreciation for the advocates.

"Thank you for taking that

See **WALLER**, page A3

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**MEMORIAL HERMANN**

## Around the community

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

After Gov. Greg Abbott's lifted and with more area residents vaccinated and COVID-19 case numbers going down, many Katy area residents are starting to get back out in public and take advantage of the comfortable spring weather.

This past weekend, residents in the area were able to get out to the Royal ISD Future Farmers of America show and auction, pitch in to help MKT Distillery raise funds for Katy Christian Ministries and attend the opening for Congressman Troy Nehls' new regional office in Richmond. Below are a few photos of the Katy area's busy weekend.



R. HANS MILLER

MKT Distillery held its Third Annual Cajun Festival in support of Katy Christian Ministries, a nonprofit that provides a wide variety of social services to community members. The annual event raised more than \$2,600 in its third year, said MKT owners Nicholas Jessett and Nici Cowan-Jessett. Cowan-Jessett said they were pleased the event has raised increasing amounts each year and that they were especially pleased with this year's turnout and support after a difficult period for the community.

## Katy ISD to seeking teachers through virtual job fair

BY R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD will be hosting a virtual job fair for potential teachers in preparation for the 2021-22 school year.

Administrators from Katy ISD elementary and secondary campuses with vacancies will be online for text and video chat to screen applicants for the April 17 event.

"Katy ISD wants to continue the tradition of conducting our job fairs in a personal manner where interested candidates can interact with principals. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we felt that a virtual approach was the best way to continue this individual interaction," said Katy ISD Human Resources Coordinator

Katye Shields.

"Katy ISD is known as one of Texas' premier school districts, and we continue to grow."

KISD is planning to open Haskett Junior High School this fall and is seeking educators with current Texas teaching certifications or those who have completed all Texas Education Agency and State Board for Educator Certification exams required for the position they apply for.

Those seeking to apply will need to register for the event prior to attending.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 17. To register go to:

<https://app.brazen-connect.com/a/katyisd/e/EBP27>



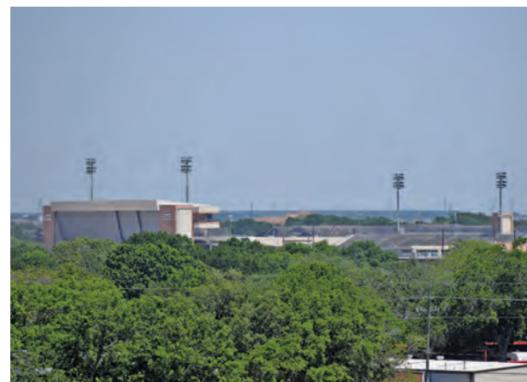
R. HANS MILLER

Royal ISD held its 63rd Annual Future Farmers of America Livestock Show on Saturday, April 10, 2021. Hundreds of FFA supporters showed up to support students (left) while Waller County Precinct 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorff (center in right-hand photo) performed duties as the event auctioneer. Many FFA students utilize the funds raised from the annual FFA event to help with college expenses.



R. HANS MILLER

U.S. Representative Troy Nehls poses with constituents during the grand opening for his district office at 1117 FM 359, Ste. 210 in Richmond. Nehls was elected last November to serve Texas' House District 22. Since then, he has been assigned to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.



R. HANS MILLER

Sunday afternoon in Katy saw beautiful weather that allowed an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. This shot of Katy ISD's Legacy Stadium was taken that day from the top of the Rice Silos that house MKT Distilleries. The more than \$70 million facility was opened in 2017 and is home to Mike Johnston Field and is one of the most expensive high school football stadiums in the nation.

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### 70th Anniversary

Our parents, Tom & Joy Bolin, will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on April 19th, 2021. Their courtship began when Joy asked Tom if he would like a piece of lemon pie. Tom said "yes", grabbed her hand and has never let go! They married at Exchange Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 19th, 1951.

Tom became one of the ministers at First Baptist Church of Katy in 1977, moving here shortly thereafter. When he retired the first time in 1999, our parents were so humbled when many of people of Katy gave of their time, talents and treasures, building the Bolin Chapel in their honor on the church grounds. It was built with the hands of many volunteers from the community and church. Although He retired for the third and final time on the last day of December in 2016, their hearts and lives are still centered around the church. What a wonderful Legacy of Love, Faith and Prayer is passed to us!

We daughters thank every Katy Community member who have shared their love and sweet friendship with our parents through the years!

**BEST of KATY 2021**

**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW CLOSED.**  
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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- Ceramic jars
- Monetary units
- Alias
- "Superman" actor
- Britonic tribe
- Shorten
- LA Dodgers manager
- Hoarded
- Theatrically portray
- Noah's grandson
- Dependent
- Peyton's little brother
- Cools the house
- Principle part of
- Type of wrap
- Peels
- Commercial
- Make an attempt
- Arrange in steps
- U. Utah athlete
- Old English
- Trade
- Nostrils
- Ticket seller \_\_\_Hub
- Of I
- Institute legal proceedings against
- Takes apart
- Doorway
- Long int'l river
- Trailblazing athlete Gibson
- Former CBS News host
- Sign language
- Badgerlike mammal
- Thin strips of wood
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Portents of good or evil
- Footwear
- When you think you'll arrive

**CLUES DOWN**

- Batflower genus
- Predatory seabirds
- Fish farm
- Arrangements
- Go in advance of others
- Bulgarian monetary unit
- "\_ Maria"
- W. African ethnoreligious group
- Wild Asian oxen genus
- Vinegary
- To this
- Explosive
- Female sibling
- Orlando museum (abbr.)
- Type of hoop
- About Holy Father
- Academic environment
- Extremely angry
- Surrenders
- Swiss mountain pass
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Erases
- Spielberg's alien
- Absurd
- Dorm worker
- Used to make pesticides
- The sister of your father or mother
- A way to let know
- Can't produce much vegetation
- Small streams
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Weights
- Start over
- Black Sea resort city
- Windmledon executive (abbr.)
- Unskilled actor who overacts
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Of or relating to ears

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

KATYTIMES.COM

## WALLER

from page A1

on — for answering the call,” Duhon said. “I can’t express to you how much we appreciate that, because it does take a lot of hours; it takes sweat; it takes, you know, a lot of effort. And, when you look at where the Welfare Board was when we first came on and where it is today, I could not be more pleased and happy.”

### Other Items

Commissioners Court also heard an update on delinquent taxes, fines and fees from Otilia Gonzales of Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP, the county’s collections consultant. Gonzales said the county had a delinquency rate of 5.42% in July of 2020 which the firm has continued to work to bring down. Overall though, she said the county’s situation had been improved despite a year of COVID-19 protocols getting in the way of some collection efforts, though that is lightening as the pandemic continues its slow decline in severity.

“We have the tax dockets again,” Gonzales said. “Those are occurring by Zoom with the new District Judge (Carol) Chaney. We’ve got another docket in early May already set.”

Gonzales said the firm had been able to decrease outstanding debt by about \$1.6 million since her last report in late August of 2020.

The biggest results had been seen in court filings getting finalized she said.

Commissioners asked Gonzalez what the challenges were in collecting and Gonzales said inconsistency from judges in the county on fine and foreclosure cases were part of the problem. Judges have the authority to grant clemency or extension on taxes and fines and often have internal staff perform initial collection efforts rather than turning cases over to her team at PBFM for collections promptly. She said she did not want to step on judges’ Constitutional authority, but getting her staff to address collection efforts earlier in the process could lead to a higher success rate in collecting on taxes, fines and fees owed to the county.

Court members said they would look into how the judges are making their decisions and encourage them to pass the cases on earlier, though they recognized each judge’s autonomy. However, they noted some tools would help influence judges that might not want to pass cases on.

“If the statistics show by (judges collecting on cases in-house) our collection rate goes down — this is what you’re costing the county, then that might be something that I factor into when it comes to their budget,” Duhon said.

## ORDINANCE

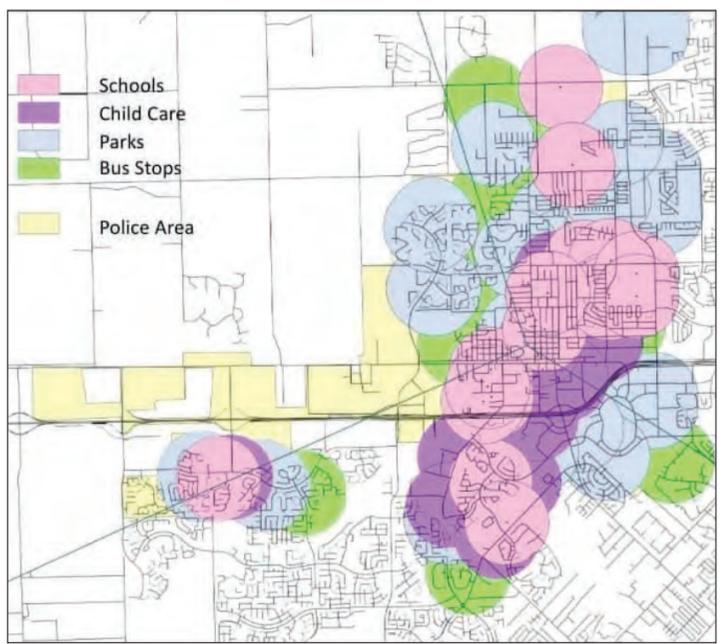
from page A1

property owners from renting to a sex offender if their property is within the 2,500-foot threshold.

Harris said he had been trying to get the new rule set up for some time, but there had been legal concerns until the beginning of this year. Once clarity had been established at the state level, the work with Hastings, Diaz, Pertile and fellow Councilmember Dusty Thiele began, and they were able to develop and bring forward the ordinance which is modeled after a similar city rule in place in nearby Sugar Land. Harris said Hastings was glad to support the measure.

“That was something that he had wanted to do when he was police chief, but there was not much to support him as police chief because of all the legal (clarity) issues,” Harris said. “Well, now that that has been resolved, he was very happy we were moving forward.”

**Editor’s note:** For more information regarding changes to the city’s permitting process and an update on animal control, please visit [www.katytimes.com](http://www.katytimes.com).



CITY OF KATY

A newly adopted City of Katy ordinance prohibits registered sex offenders from living within 2,500 feet — just under half a mile, from places children tend to congregate. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, who sponsored the measure — said he hopes this adds another layer of protection to the city’s children.

## BONDS

from page A1

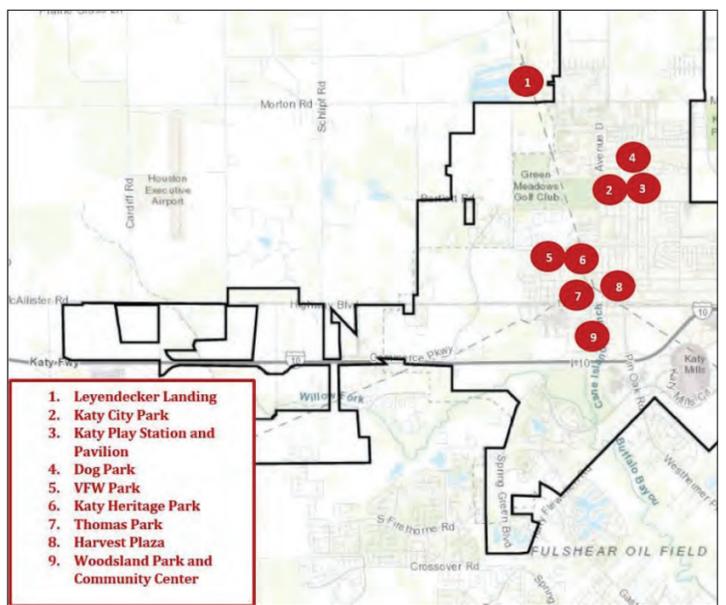
KISD’s Proposition B is a roughly \$59.8 million bond to replace and upgrade campus technology. Gregorski noted that, after a year of COVID-19 prompting remote learning and a possible fully remote high school campus on the horizon, technology will be vital for student success moving forward.

“We wouldn’t do our retrofits on schedule (without the bond),” Gregorski said. “About every five to six years, go into every school, take all the technology out and put new technology in. How long does your iPhone last? Mine, I burn out. Every couple of years, I’m looking for another one — not by choice but because I tend to (hit their life expectancy.)”

Proposition C is a roughly \$13.8 million bond package that would pay for a natatorium — competition swimming pool — at High School No. 10 which is expected to be built in the next few years to relieve overcrowding that would occur at other campuses if the new campus isn’t built. Gregorski said the item is separate on the ballot due to new state regulations that require large sports facilities to be separate measures on the ballot. However, Gregorski said he feels it is important to put a natatorium at the school to ensure all of the district’s campuses offer the same opportunities for students.

Proposition D is the smallest of the district’s bond measures at about \$11.3 million for repairs and remodeling at campuses and athletic facilities across the district that are aging.

Neither bond package is expected to pass.



CITY OF KATY

Both Katy ISD and the city of Katy have bond propositions on the May 1 ballot. Katy’s bond proposal includes \$4.2 million to, among other things, create walking paths and sidewalks connecting all of the city’s current and upcoming parks so that residents have a more walkable city. Improving walkability has been a discussion by city officials since at least 2017.

### Katy bonds

In contrast, the city of Katy’s bond package is simpler and comes in at a much lower overall price tag of \$6 million broken into two bonds.

The city’s Proposition A is a \$1.8 million public safety bond that would reimburse the city for at least \$200,000 for the cost of repairs to the city’s Fire Station One. It would also have additional funding for emergency-related items such as a facility that would allow the city to better maintain firefighting apparatus.

Proposition B for the city comes in at \$4.2 million and is set to assist the city in developing its parks and overall walkability.

According to Katy City Planner Anas Garfaoui, Proposition B — if approved by voters — will allow the city to plan, design and construct a parks administration building, upgrade parks throughout the city, develop trails and paths that could improve walkability citywide, and supplement construction of all of those projects that are not included in the parks administration facility.

## LaCour to leave Katy EDC in spring 2022

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Area Economic Development Council President/CEO Lance LaCour has announced he will be leaving his longtime post in the spring of 2022.

“I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to lead this organization and be involved with the Katy area community,” said LaCour. “It was a very difficult decision to leave this role, and I would like to extend a special thank you to our Board of Governors for their strong leadership and vision during my time leading the EDC.”

LaCour has led the organization for more than 15 years during which time the Katy area population has more than doubled in size. In his role, LaCour has overseen the involvement of the Katy Area EDC in a variety of growth projects which have led to the creation of

thousands of jobs and positioned the Katy area as a top location for businesses and families.

At this time, the process to find a successor is underway in accordance with the organization’s succession plan. LaCour will continue to lead the organization and assist the newly appointed President/CEO with the transition process over the next year.

“On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank Lance for his service to Katy Area EDC,” said Board Chair Rick Lawler. “We are sad to see him go but look forward to working with him over the next year in selecting his successor and continuing the great work for which our organization is known.”

The Katy Area EDC was founded in 2003 to promote economic growth in the Katy area.

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## PATTISON

from page A1

Stokes was the only member of council to vote against the measure. Stokes said he felt Pattison Water Supply, as a separate entity, was responsible for improvements to the city’s water infrastructure and he felt the agreement left the city responsible for all matching funds with no guaranty the organization would assist with overages for projects the city might pursue with CDBG funds.

“I get that they service the people that we represent,” Stokes said. “So, they’re asking us to help them with (what is) their role.”

If the city were to receive a full \$350,000 CDBG award, matching funds would be 5% of the awarded grant, Garcia said. That comes out to \$17,500.

The city is also considering applying to the Texas Department of Emergency Management for the state agency’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program.

The program aids small municipalities such as Pattison in addressing damage caused by past events which may cause dangers for residents or further damage to other property. Improvements to the city’s emergency resources are also an option for the program.

Garcia said he knew of at least one building that could serve as an emergency shelter for the city if it were

improved.

Council voted unanimously to allow GrantWorks, the city’s grants consultant, to move forward in cooperation with Garcia in pursuing funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Councilmembers also discussed restoring Pattison City Park, located near Seventh Street, just northwest of Avenue J.

The park’s playground equipment had been removed due to unsafe conditions at some point and council discussed the possibility of installing donated equipment with volunteer assistance, as well as applying for grants through the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife to make improvements there.

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**Jim Baker’s Unified Theory Of Everything**  
--- With God’s Help  
**(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020**  
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(ad revised: 11/22/2019; previous ads are null and void)

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 SWTU, 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.

## CORRECTION

April 8, 2021, Volume 109, Issue 14: Brookshire City Council Q&A

In last week's edition of the Katy Times, we indicated that Monique Taylor had not responded to our Q&A for Brookshire City Council. Taylor had responded to the questionnaire, but her response was not initially included due to an email issue. Her responses are posted below.

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

**Taylor:** I am the daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Joyce) Taylor and the youngest of three girls. I am the mother of 5-year-old Charleston. This Brookshire native is a proud Royal Falcon Alumni representing the class of 1999. I am a long-time faithful member at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Willie Johnson.



**Monique Taylor**  
Candidate for Brookshire City Council, Position 1  
taylormonique8610@gmail.com

And why now you asked: I want to give back to the city that gave me so much growing up. The values I learned from my family, teachers, and neighbors were a positive force on me. Furthermore, it's time for tenures to end and real change to begin. It's time to do more than talk about change we've got to be the change. It's time to stop voting because of familiarity and start voting based on actions. I am ready to serve!

### Brookshire is quickly growing and is becoming an industrial center for Waller County. What should the city do to partner with the county to ensure economic opportunities are maximized for Brookshire residents?

**Taylor:** In order to make sure economic opportunities are maximized for local residents, we as City Council members should formulate a sit down with Waller County officials. This sit down should introduce the idea of establishing a local agreement between the two in order to ensure future collaborations.

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

**Taylor:** The biggest challenge facing the city of Brookshire is our hindering growth, regarding revenue and lack of laws that will push for improvement. My idea to address these challenges involves me working the entire city council to create an economic board involving the citizens. This board will showcase collaborated ideas pushing new business opportunities, the development of a local recreation center for our children, and more city hosted community events. These events will allow more people from different areas to contribute to our local economy. We must support our own local businesses which means more money for the city of Brookshire, resulting in lower city taxes.

### Animal control has been a topic of discussion during many Brookshire City Council meetings over the last year. What do you feel Brookshire should do regarding its current lack of an Animal Control Department?

**Taylor:** To address the city of Brookshire's lack of animal control, there's only one real resolution; which is the development of an Animal Control Department.

### Many city streets are in need of improvement with maintenance concerns due to aging. What do you feel the city should do to improve its roadways?

**Taylor:** We must look at different ways to get ahead of aging infrastructure. Our current budget includes revenue set aside for street repairs already in poor condition. I would like to take a triage approach as well and give city staff the flexibility to make fast and lasting repairs to potholes as they spring up. That way, we prevent our streets currently in good condition from deteriorating over time and we will come out ahead.



## A Texas state budget — minus \$38.6 billion in federal stimulus money

The Texas Legislature's budget writers have left more than \$38 billion in federal COVID-19 relief out of the budgets they're writing, as they try to sort through the details and the politics attached to that money.

Some of the \$38.6 billion coming to Texas under the latest and biggest relief package, according to the state comptroller's office, is intended for the state itself. But more than \$10 billion is earmarked for cities and counties. Another \$12.4 billion is designated for the state's public schools (along with \$6.8 billion from earlier COVID-19 relief). Health and human services programs in Texas should get \$4.4 billion, and rental assistance programs are in line for \$1.5 billion.

The Texas Senate approved its version of the next state budget on Tuesday — a \$250.7 billion spending plan for the two years starting Sept. 1. That's a preliminary step; the House hasn't finished its version yet, and the two will have to be reconciled later in the session.

That's the budget lawmakers expected to write during their current session. This latest federal relief money, along with money from earlier relief packages that's not yet spent, is essentially a large — and separate — one-time supplement to the state's quarter-trillion-dollar budget.

It's one-time money. And there are legitimate fears of a "budget cliff" ahead if lawmakers aren't careful — the effect of having this money for a couple of years and then suddenly not having it any more.

That fear dates to 2011. In 2009, a huge infusion of federal relief money rescued the state's budget from the 2008 global financial crisis. But the money ran out in a couple of years — before the state's economy recovered. The 2011 legislative session was marked by deep cuts in the budget, including a \$5.4 billion



**ROSS RAMSEY**  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

reduction in public education spending.

It took years to catch up. At the same time, lawmakers are under pressure to make some decisions quickly. Some of that education money, for example, is to pay for "learning loss" programs designed to get elementary and secondary school students to the education levels they would have reached without a year of COVID-19 interruptions.

School districts and education associations are lobbying the Legislature to release that money now, letting local officials decide the best ways to spend it. They've run into counter arguments: that the state should develop a program and allocate the money itself, or that the state needs to know more about any attached conditions before it gets the federal aid.

"It's not that we don't want to see those dollars going to the schools," Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, said during Tuesday's budget debate. She said the Texas Education Agency has asked federal officials for a waiver that would give the state more leeway as it spends the money.

The amounts are huge — big numbers, with lots of commas in them. Raise Your Hand Texas, an education advocacy group, and its founder, Charles Butt, chairman of the San Antonio-based HEB grocery chain, contend delays could make the problems worse. The Texas State Teachers Association wants the money sent straight to districts. Other groups are also weighing in.

They're also worried that legislators — as they've done in past budgets — will use the federal money in place of state money already in the budget, lowering the state's obligation without increasing what is spent on schools.

"We urge you to send all the federal dollars intended for our schools directly to the school districts as quickly as possible," Butt wrote in letters to state leaders and lawmakers. "These funds are badly needed by our Texas students to address the learning loss suffered as a result of the pandemic."

That plea is specifically directed at \$17.9 billion in public education funds from the second and third federal stimulus bundles — money some educators want right away, as they plan summer and fall programs to catch kids up. By Raise Your Hand's figuring, Houston ISD would be in line for \$1.1 billion, Dallas ISD would be up for \$866.2 million and Fort Worth ISD would get \$409.6 million — if the state were to simply give the whole amount to the districts and let them build their own programs.

That education funding is not in the latest version of the next state budget, nor is the rest of the money from those last two federal stimulus packages. But there are weeks to go in the session, and billions of dollars at stake.

They're not going to just leave it sitting there.

*Disclosure: Raise Your Hand Texas, H-E-B, Charles Butt and the Texas State Teachers Association have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism.*

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## CONSTITUTION CORNER

### U.S. Constitution

#### 19th Amendment

**The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.**

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

#### 24th Amendment Section 1

**The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.**

#### 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.**

## TRIBUTE

Allen Taylor Powell of Hempstead, Texas died on April 1, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas on June 7, 1985, Allen grew up in Katy, Texas graduating from Katy High School before joining the U.S. Army in 2007.

He was an accomplished musician who loved to share his writings and passion for music with others. Over the course of his life Allen communicated through his music, writing everything from classical concertos on piano, to recording an entire album, of folk-rock songs, where he played every instrument.

Allen was a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served as a Radiological Technician. He conducted basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri and attended advanced individual training at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. Allen's first and only duty station at Ft. Steward, Georgia provided him the opportunity to enhance his skills as an X-Ray Tech.

He is survived by his parents Patrick and Donna Forristal of Hempstead, Texas, his older brother Cody Powell, (wife Anne, sons Kyle and Jackson, and daughter Samantha), his younger, brother Luke Forristal (wife Lauren) and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins who love him dearly.

Allen was preceded in death by his father Hubbard Lee Powell of Bryan, Texas.

Family will receive friends from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM, on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel, on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 11:30 AM, with Deacon Mike Yenik, officiating.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Camp Hope [www.ptsdusa.org](http://www.ptsdusa.org) or give to a local alcohol and drug treatment facility.

Arrangements through Schmidt Funeral Home, 12029 Hwy 36 South, Bellville, Texas 77418 (979) 865-2424.



**ALLEN TAYLOR POWELL**  
1985-2021

## Safer medication storage tips for older adults

By **DEBBIE M. CARTER**  
TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Adults age 65 and older make up over 15 percent of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. As many as 50 percent of them report experiencing chronic pain, and almost 30 percent of these adults take prescription pain medication, often opioids, to manage their pain. Of the 30 percent, 19 percent of men and 23 percent of women report taking at least five prescription drugs.

It is common to keep medications in easy-to-reach locations, like the kitchen counter, medicine cabinet or bedside table. While convenient, this can result in easy access for others in the home, such as children, grandchildren or caregivers.

Opioid misuse can lead to the misuse of other substances. It has been shown that a high number of heroin users started misusing drugs by using opioid pain killers prescribed to family members.

Here are six ways to safeguard your medications and your loved ones:

- Lock up all medication, prescribed and over the counter, or move them to a place where they won't be easily found. Consider purchasing a medication lockbox to keep your medications secure or use a cabinet or drawer in your house that locks. Store medication lockboxes or other storage containers in a cool, dry place - not in the bathroom - in a closet

or drawer with a key or combination stored in a safe place.

- Ask your pharmacist if special packaging is available for your pain medicine to help you track and keep an accurate count of your medications.

- Check around your home for old, expired medication. Purses, coat pockets, kitchen cupboards, bureau drawers and hall closets are common places to find old medication.

- Sort through and dispose of old, expired or unused medication. Never flush it or throw it away. Ask your pharmacy or police department for safe disposal options or find the nearest public disposal location on the U.S. Department of Justice website at [deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://deadiversion.usdoj.gov). In the green box at the top of the page, click on "Search for Year Round Pharmaceutical Disposal Locations."

- When traveling or staying in someone else's home, ask your host to help you find a safe place where you can store your prescriptions. Suitcases and purses are not safe places to keep powerful prescriptions.

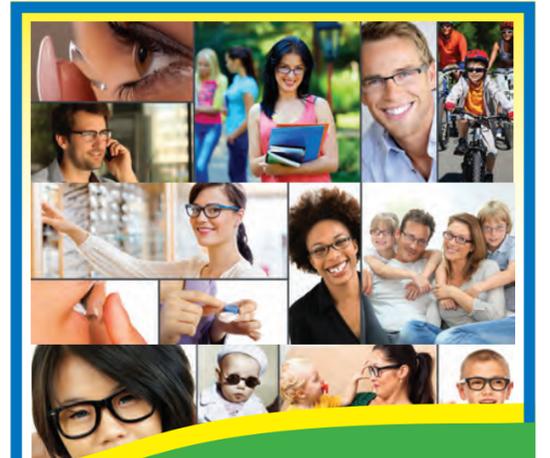
- Keep the Poison Control number (800-222-1222) handy in case of emergencies.

For more information about medication management and other resources for older Texans, contact your Area Agency on Aging by calling 800-252-9240 or visiting [apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/aaa.cfm](http://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/aaa.cfm).



COURTESY FREESTOCK.ORG

About half of those aged 65 or older are on prescription medications, including opioids which can be addictive and can sometimes be abused not only by the patient, but by family members or friends as well. Safe storage and monitoring of medication can reduce the chances for abuse of these prescriptions



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# COVID-19 situation updates, attorney general to seek 3rd term and immigration concerns

Six Texas-sized issues Katy area residents should know about

By GARY BORDERS  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Abbott: No government mandated vaccine passports

Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order last week banning state agencies, cities or counties from creating a "vaccine passport" requirement.

In addition, organizations that receive public funds are prohibited from requiring consumers to prove they have received the COVID-19 vaccine. That includes businesses that receive money from the state in return for providing goods and services.

However, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities can still require that their residents are vaccinated under his order.

"Every day, Texans are returning to normal life as more people get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. But, as I've said all along, these vaccines are always voluntary and never forced," Abbott said.

## Vaccines continue rise across state

As of Sunday, just more than 9 million Texans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 5.46 million are fully vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. DSHS urges those who have not been vaccinated to go to the state's Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler, which can be found at [getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov](http://getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov).

Meanwhile, the state's weekly shipment of COVID-19 vaccines dropped this week after a manufacturing error in a Baltimore plant ruined a 15-million batch of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Last week, the state received 2.5 million doses from the three manufacturers, an amount that dropped to 1.9 million this week, as J&J plays catchup. The company has pledged to deliver 100 million doses

nationwide by the end of May, according to an NPR report. J&J reduced its Texas allocation this week by about 350,000.

## COVID-19 cases rise, but deaths drop

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose to 24,333 last week, up more than 2,500 from the previous week, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

The number of deaths decreased to 512, down nearly 20 percent from the previous week.

At its peak in January, the state recorded more than four-fold the number of deaths with 2,311 recorded in a single week. At this point, nearly 50,000 Texans have died from COVID-19.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized stayed steady at 2,804, according to DSHS.

## Contempt order against salon owner tossed

The Texas State Supreme Court on Friday threw out a contempt order against a Dallas salon owner who refused to close last year when all non-essential businesses were ordered.

Shelley Luther tore up a cease-and-desist order from Dallas County and was fined \$7,000 and sentenced to a week in jail. The high court ruled unanimously that the restraining order was too vague, and that the contempt of court decree issued by a district judge should be voided as well.

Luther's defiance sparked national coverage, prompting Abbott to reverse part of his order that called for jail time for business owners who did not shut down last year after the pandemic outbreak.

Luther ran as a Republican for state Senate last year, losing in a December runoff to Drew Springer, R-Muenster.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott visits a vaccination site earlier this year. Getting control of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a focus across all levels of government since the vaccines got emergency use approval. Cases rose by more than 2,500 last week; however, deaths saw a decline of more than 20%. As of Monday, the state has vaccinated about 5.46 million of its estimated 29.8 million residents.

## Paxton drawing high-profile opponents

Two candidates with famous surnames are planning to run against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in 2022, according to several media outlets.

Paxton, under indictment since 2015 on securities fraud charges, is also battling a whistleblower lawsuit filed by former employees accusing him of bribery and improper dealings with an Austin investor. He denies wrongdoing in both cases.

Democrat Joe Jaworski, a former Galveston mayor and a grandson of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, announced his plans to run last summer. And last week, George P. Bush, state land commissioner and grandson of President George H.W. Bush, told a talk-radio host that he is considering challenging Paxton next year in the Republican primary.

Paxton has indicated he will run for a third term.

## Abbott demands shutdown of San Antonio minor facility

The governor's latest salvo against the federally run unaccompanied minor facilities included a letter to Vice President Kamala Harris, who has been tapped to head the effort dealing with a large influx of unaccompanied minors seeking entrance into the United States.

Abbott's letter demanded the Biden administration shut down a facility in San Antonio under investigation by the state for allegations of child abuse and neglect.

"The Biden administration opened the borders and failed to plan for the influx of unaccompanied children crossing the border, and now we are faced with our worst fears—allegations of child abuse and neglect," Abbott said.

As of Monday, there had been no direct response from Harris.

## Cornyn, Johnson jointly file legislation to weatherize Texas electrical grid

By ABBY LIVINGSTON  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

In a rare but upbeat moment of bipartisanship, Republican U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Democratic U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas rolled out a new bill Thursday they say will better prepare the state for future extreme weather.

The two Texans' bill would authorize the federal government to offer grants to states in support of weatherizing the electrical grids. The legislation comes in the wake of February's deadly winter storm and the accompanying sweeping power outages across the state.

Both the Texas Senate and House have written bills that attempt to prevent another massive power failure in extreme temperatures.

"We know that the Texas Legislature is looking at this and is going to come up with some answers, but we felt like this is the way the federal government could step up and provide grants available to all the states on a targeted basis in order to get this infrastructure weatherized," Cornyn told reporters at a joint news conference in Dallas.

"This isn't going to be the only effort," Cornyn added. "This'll be in complementary to what the states and other local jurisdictions will be doing."

Johnson further fleshed out the bill, saying that some of the onus will remain at the state level.

"The state will have some responsibility to match the grants," she said.

Many Texans in Congress introduce bills that will never see the light of day on the House floor. But while Cornyn and Johnson are from opposite chambers and parties, each has unique standing in their corners of the Capitol.

Cornyn is a member of Senate leadership and an ally of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. And based on Johnson's chairmanship of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee and her seniority, she is arguably the most powerful Texas Democrat in Congress. She is also the dean of the Texas delegation.

Cornyn pointed to support from U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, a California Democrat, and U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, a Republican from the Woodlands as an indicator of the geographic and ideological diversity who make up the will behind their legislative push.

Both Texans conceded that any improvements will cost serious money, and Johnson said she hoped state officials will "receive the help we are trying to give."

When asked for a specific timeline for passage, Johnson was non-committal.

"We cannot promise you when it will go into effect," she said. "We're facing a lot of challenges coming up and we will be in the midst of those challenges."

At the Texas Capitol, executives at



FILE PHOTO BY LORI SOUTHWORTH MORGAN

Many Texans faced damage to their homes after freezing temperatures from Winter Storm Uri in February combined with electrical grid complications caused pipes to burst, including Katy-area local, Lori Southworth Morgan who provided this photo to the Katy Times. John Cornyn (R - Texas) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D - Texas) have filed a joint bill to help winterize Texas' power grid.

billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Energy are lobbying state lawmakers for a deal to build \$8 billion worth of power plants for emergency use. In return, lawmakers would agree to create a revenue stream for Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway through an additional charge on Texans' power bills.

## Winter storm and COVID-19 funeral assistance available

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Those seeking assistance with freeze damages from Winter Storm Uri which caused severe cold temperatures the week of Valentine's Day must submit their applications by April 20. The Federal Emergency Management Agency advises area residents to contact their renters or homeowners insurance providers then file their claim with FEMA.

To apply for assistance or obtain aid regarding an assistance-related appeal or denial, visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), call 832-927-4955 or email [HRC@csd.hctx.net](mailto:HRC@csd.hctx.net). Applicants may also call 800-621-3362.

Prior to submitting their applications, those requesting help should ensure they have the following information close at hand, according to FEMA:

- Insurance information, including level of coverage.
- Damage information.
- Financial information such as total household income before taxes.
- Contact information for all related parties.
- Direct deposit information, including bank name, type of account, routing number and account number.

Assistance is also available for those who lost a loved one due to COVID-19 and need help with funeral expenses. To apply for this aid, the requestor must call 844-864-6333. Funeral assistance is available through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Funeral expense aid is available for any costs related to a COVID-19 death that occurred on or after Jan. 20, 2020.

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## AREA SPORTS NOTEBOOK



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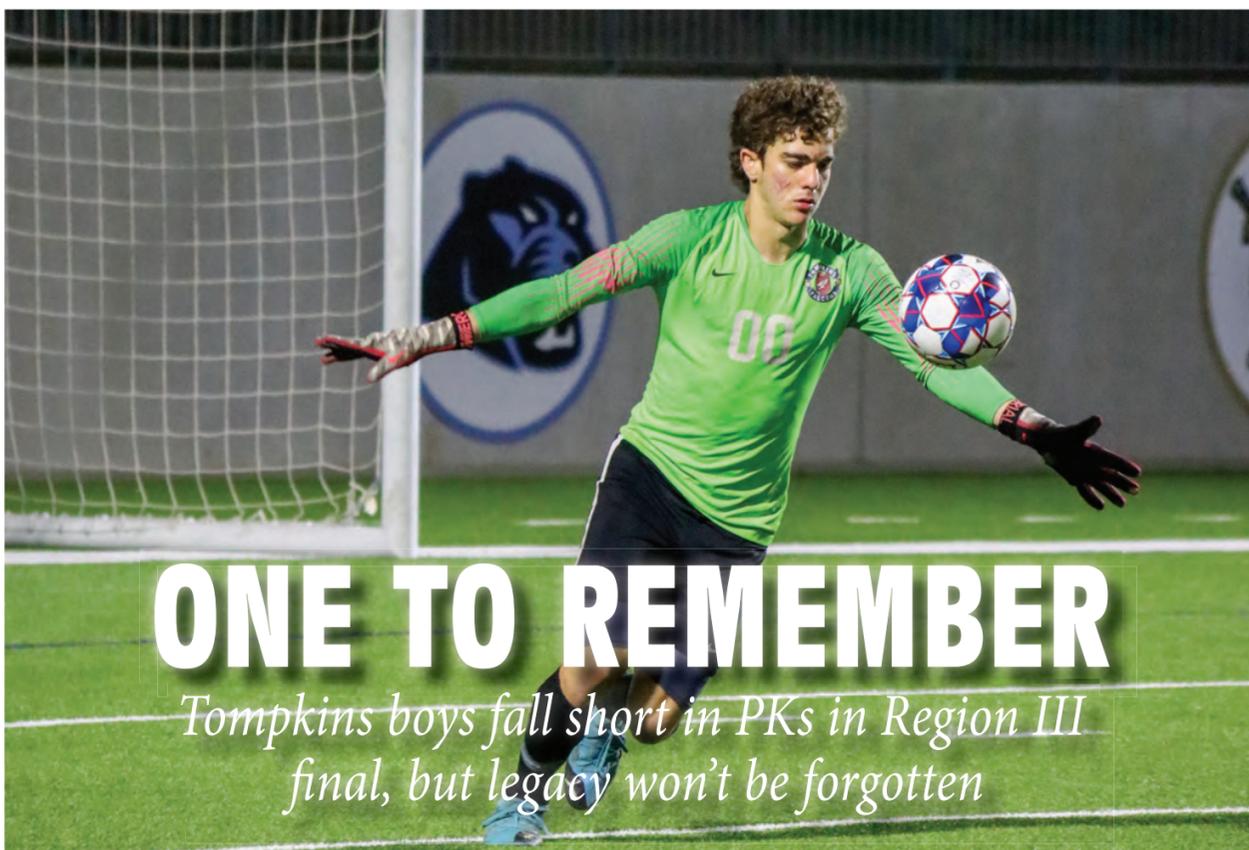
Morton Ranch sophomore defensive end DJ Hicks Jr. committed on April 10 to play in the 2023 Under Armour All-America Game.

## MAVS' HICKS' STAR CONTINUES TO RISE

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Morton Ranch sophomore defensive end DJ Hicks Jr, who has had an outstanding off-season and seen his stock rise considerably in recruiting circles, committed on April 10 to play in the 2023 Under Armour All-America Game. He is the first Morton Ranch football player to earn the accomplishment. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Hicks was recently recognized as a five-star prospect by 247Sports.com. Hicks had 76 tackles, seven sacks and five forced fumbles for the Mavs in 2020 and holds 26 scholarship offers. ... Taylor senior guard Jake Arnold and Mayde Creek senior guard Jermon Washington were selected to play in the Houston Area Basketball Coaches Association all-star game next month. The game will be played May 4 at Cy-Falls High School. ... Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital is offering low cost, early heart screenings for Katy ISD middle school and high school student-athletes. The heart screen includes an electrocardiogram and echocardiogram. All qualified Katy ISD middle school and high school athletes are eligible. The screenings are May 26 from 1-4 p.m. and August 9 from 1-4 p.m. They will take place at the Memorial Hermann Katy-West Tower at 23900 Katy Freeway. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 713-222-CARE (2273). ... Morton Ranch's Vanessa Noftsier finished fifth out of the top 40 at the state bowling tournament last weekend. ... The Tompkins and Paetow football programs were acknowledged for their sportsmanship and nominated for the Touchdown Club Sportsmanship Award at the Houston Touchdown Club's Sportsmanship Banquet on April 8. Each program was honored with a certificate. ... In this week's Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association state rankings, Katy is ranked No. 4 and Tompkins is ranked No. 10 in Class 6A. In this week's Texas Girls Coaches Association state softball rankings, Katy is ranked No. 25.

*(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@katy-times.com or message on Twitter @densilva02).*



## ONE TO REMEMBER

*Tompkins boys fall short in PKs in Region III final, but legacy won't be forgotten*

SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins senior goalkeeper Paulo Valente makes a stop on the ball during Tompkins' Class 6A Region III final against Jersey Village on Friday, April 9, at Legacy Stadium.

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Not long after the most heartbreaking defeat of his high school career, Tompkins senior goalkeeper Paulo Valente walked up to a group of kids looking over to him from the front end of the Legacy Stadium stands and put on his best smile.

His eyes stained red from tears, Valente asked if they wanted a picture, which a parent happily obliged. The kids cheered Valente all throughout the season, and he would often acknowledge them during stoppages of play with a thumbs-up or a nod and smile.

Those cheers from the kids wearing the same lime green on their shirts as Valente sported on his did not stop, even after Tompkins' loss to Jersey Village on six rounds of

penalty kicks in their Class 6A Region III final on Friday, April 9. The Falcons, who played one short with 10 men in overtime because of a red card, fell, 5-4, on PKs after the teams tied 1-1 through regulation and a scoreless 20 minutes of extra time.

The final result did not come without drama. Jersey Village's second and fourth shooters on PKs were given redo's after Valente was said to have crossed the goal line on the initial stop of each shooter.

The Jersey Village shooters each made their second shots, and after Tompkins' Robert Graham missed his PK three rounds later, with the score 4-4, Jersey Village's Jose Bejarano made his.

"The first (violation), I noticed I was kind of off the line," said Valente, who otherwise played spectacularly with clutch save after

clutch save in the second half and overtime. "It was because I saw the striker, he was about to shoot, and the moment he did, he stopped. As a human, you react. I train for that, and I reacted. The second one, I felt one of my feet was off the line, but the other one was in because I felt I didn't move at all."

Rules state the goalkeeper must stand on the goal line until the ball is kicked. Lateral movement is permitted, but he cannot go forward until the shooter kicks.

Refs ruled Valente came off the line on both of his saves. The second time, he was given a yellow card and had to be subbed for one round of PKs before being allowed back in.

"They said he was crossing the line or something," Tompkins coach Tom Jones said.

See FALCONS, page B2

## DISTRICT 19-6A TRACK &amp; FIELD

## Taylor's Foster sets national, state marks at 19-6A meet

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Before he hangs up his Taylor track and field apparel for good, Bryce Foster has high hopes for how he wants to finish out his awe-inspiring high school career in the throwing ring.

Foster wants the state record in the discus, which is 215-feet, 2-inches. He is only four-feet, eight-inches off the mark. In the shot put, Foster wants the school record of 68-feet, 8-inches set by Otito Ogbonna. In practice, he has a personal record of 69-feet, 7-inches.

For now, however, the Olympic hopeful and Texas A&M signee in football and track and field will have to settle for national and state marks. Foster breezed his way to district championships in the discus and shot put at the District 19-6A track and field meet at Paetow High on Tuesday, April 6. Foster's mark of 210-feet, 10-inches in the discus is No. 1 in the nation and No. 3 all-time in Texas. His throw of 65-feet, 3-inches in the shot put ranks No. 2 in the nation.

Foster, who qualified for state in both events his sophomore year and would have last year as well if the pandemic had not canceled the 2020 high school track and field postseason, is throwing as well as he has. Ever.

Why? How? Well, for one, he is more relaxed. No longer is recruiting occupying Foster's mind. He is throwing with a clearer conscience.

"I've always had that little stress of the recruiting and colleges, and having that off my shoulders ... I felt a big weight come off my shoulders whenever I did commit (in December)," Foster said. "I had my two best ever high school football games the two weeks after I committed, and that just shows how much of a burden it can be, even if it doesn't look like it



COURTESY PHOTO

Taylor senior thrower Bryce Foster made a dominant impression at the District 19-6A track and field meet last week. Foster's mark of 210-feet, 10-inches in the discus is No. 1 in the nation and No. 3 all-time in Texas. His throw of 65-feet, 3-inches in the shot put ranks No. 2 in the nation.

may be."

Another key is Foster is now more of a technician of throwing. He doesn't rely only on strength and power like he did his freshman and sophomore years. He is more a student of his craft.

"I think the biggest difference for me these last few years has been how more technically sound I'm trying to be," Foster said. "My freshman and sophomore year, it was about how

See 19-6A TRACK, page B5

## DISTRICT 9-6A WRESTLING

## Overcoming all odds, Mavs' Cotter wins 4th district title

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Morton Ranch senior wrestler Brittany Cotter says she's the healthiest she's been in her four years as a Maverick. That matters and doesn't matter all the same.

It matters in that Cotter, already a three-time state qualifier and four-time placer at Nationals, feels she has yet to hit her peak. It doesn't matter so much in that she has still managed to thrive, and oftentimes dominate, despite extreme adverse circumstances.

See 9-6A WRESTLING, page B3



BRITTANY COTTER

## HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

## Seven Lakes district champ Nguyen at home on course

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes senior Lauren Nguyen found solace in golf ever since she started playing 11 years ago.

"I fell in love with the competition," Nguyen said. "The sport means a lot to me. It's somewhere I can go to empty my mind and it makes me so happy to be out there. I've really found a place of happiness."

The game has rewarded her.

Nguyen, who will be playing at Texas A&M University next fall, won the District 19-6A individual championship on April 1, scoring a two-day total of 147 and winning by two strokes. She was a key reason why the Spartans won the team district title.

Nguyen finished in the top three at the district tournament before but came up short contending against

See SPARTANS, page B6



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## FINAL KATY ISD SOCCER PLAYOFF RESULTS

### 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)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 9

**CLASS 6A BOYS SOCCER REGIONAL FINAL PLAYOFFS**  
Jersey Village 5 (1), Tompkins 4 (1), PKs

## SOFTBALL STANDINGS THROUGH APRIL 15

### DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
xy-Katy	11	0	13	2	2
x-Tompkins	8	3	10	3	0
x-Cinco Ranch	7	4	10	7	0
Mayde Creek	4	7	6	8	0
Seven Lakes	7	7	8	11	0
Taylor	4	8	5	13	0
Morton Ranch	1	10	6	10	0
y-clinched district title					
x-clinched playoff berth					

### DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
Paetow	6	5	8	7	0
y-clinched district title					
x-clinched playoff berth					

## BASEBALL STANDINGS THROUGH APRIL 15

### DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
x-Katy	9	0	21	3	0
Tompkins	7	2	22	4	1
Cinco Ranch	6	3	15	10	2
Seven Lakes	5	4	14	12	2
Taylor	4	6	13	12	1
Morton Ranch	1	9	1	24	1
Mayde Creek	1	9	5	16	0
y-clinched district title					
x-clinched playoff berth					

### DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
Paetow	3	7	11	15	0
y-clinched district title					
x-clinched playoff berth					

## TIGERS

from page A1

had to work on gelling, work on chemistry," McFadden said. "In practices, in games. Throughout last year and throughout this year, it's been a process. But now we're getting a lot better. From here, I think we have a good shot at doing what we know we can do."

The underclassmen are quickly finding their way. They performed well against Taylor. Harrison struck out 14 Mustangs and walked none in a two-hit, seven-inning gem. Reichardt had two RBI singles. Schulze produced two doubles out of the No. 8 spot. Watson, the No. 9 hitter, drilled a two-run home run.

But the primary key behind Katy's success this year has been the stewardship of McFadden and Wyckoff. They were starters on the 2019 state title team. Not only do they lead by example, but they are vocal in doing so. The two NCAA Division I signees have the credentials to back it up.

Teammates are starting to follow their lead and assert themselves, too. Orosco is a quiet leader. Woodring is the "humorous" leader, Haack said, keeping things light and poking fun with teammates, able to take as much as she gives. Harrison is emerging as a natural leader, a spirited voice known to lead postgame team talks.

"We try and encourage all of them," Haack said. "They're all equal, so they all have a say. If there's something they see that's not right or something on their mind, speak up. Every player has an equal part in this thing."

McFadden said she could tell the freshmen were nervous at the beginning of the season. She can sympathize, because she was too when she first stepped onto the Tigers' field.



Katy High softball coach Kalum Haack, sitting in the middle, talks to his team Saturday, April 10, after its 9-0 win over Taylor that secured the program's sixth straight outright district championship.

Katy is a program with tradition and high expectations, all warranted with two state championships in the last five postseasons. A long, black banner flag draped across the outfield wall serves as a glaring reminder.

"We don't change anything we do," said Haack, who coaches his Katy players the exact same way he coached when he spent 18 years at the college level at Sam Houston State, Nebraska, Kansas and Alabama.

"We've done the same thing forever. But when you have a bunch of new kids, you're doing a lot more repetitive things, so they know why and how you do things. When you have a veteran team, you do less repetition and probably spend more time on hitting or other

aspects," Haack added.

"A lot of things we do, most of these girls have never done before on their club teams. It's another level of thinking," Haack said. "But they're getting it down, and when we do get all on the same page, that's when we'll make our run."

Haack said this point of the year, with the district season winding down and the playoffs just weeks away, is especially crucial from a leadership perspective. It is on the veterans and older players to get the young players to understand time is limited. If this is truly a state title contender, the Tigers have to ramp up intensity and urgency. Now.

The veterans understand that. There is championship pedigree on the roster with four

players remaining from the '19 champions (McFadden, Wyckoff, junior infielder Erynne Castillo, junior infielder Emily Parks).

More importantly, it is known that it's not just about saying what needs to be done, it's about actually going out and doing it.

Talk is cheap with the Tigers.

"It's about being prepared mentally," Wyckoff said. "We understand that we can talk about the things we need to fix, but if we don't actually go out there and do it, there's no point to saying it. We know the games we're seeing now will be completely different once the playoffs hit, and it starts with our mindset."

## FALCONS

from page B1

"I don't know. He (the official) didn't give me an explanation for a lot of things. I hate to blame the ref, and not to take anything away from Jersey Village, but the ref definitely impacted the game. Calling a goal back on a foul, giving a PK ... he definitely impacted the game."

Valente—a classy young man who defines sportsmanship, congratulating each opposing player after games and telling the Jersey Village goalkeeper "Good luck" prior to the penalty kicks—was devastated.

"That's soccer. It happens," Valente said. "Sometimes you have to be lucky. The last few rounds, we've been lucky, and tonight just wasn't our day. I work for it; I train for it. But sometimes the ball just doesn't go your way."

Up until that point, it was a well-played game between two intense clubs. The game featured a plethora of yellow and red cards for the physicality and emotion that surfaced throughout.

Junior midfielder Rafa Gonzales got Tompkins on the board first with a booming free kick from 43 yards out on the left side of the field in the 28th minute. It was almost identical to his 40-yard free kick goal in the regional semifinal against Humble three days earlier that went viral on social media.

"It was the same position," Gonzales said. "I thought, 'Hey, let's do it again.' I just put it on the penalty spot, and whatever happens will happen. Everyone misses it and the 'keeper doesn't know what to do."

Tompkins scored another goal moments later, but it was waved off because of a foul. Still, the game appeared to be Tompkins', as it controlled possession and tempo and looked the stronger, better club in the first half. Valente was hardly threatened in the first 40 minutes.

The score stood 1-0 until Jersey Village, which did a better job generating chances and testing Valente after halftime, struck on the rebound off a missed penalty kick late in the second half. Valente made a terrific save on the initial shot, but it bounced directly to senior Felipe Martínez, who knocked it in from the near right side against a flat-footed Tompkins defense for the equalizer in the 74th minute.

The score remained 1-1 through two 10-minute overtime periods and into penalty kicks. Gonzales, junior Ian Aumagher, sophomore Jose Ramos and senior Jose Ojeda made PKs for Tompkins. But the Falcons missed twice, and Jersey Village missed once, officially, after it was awarded a mulligan on two misses.

"It hurts," Jones said. "The thing that hurts the most is we had it under control and then things happened out of our control. The ref warns their kid in a yellow (card), and then when my kid does something,



Tompkins junior Rafa Gonzales looks downfield during Tompkins' Class 6A Region III final against Jersey Village on Friday, April 9, at Legacy Stadium.

he goes straight red (card). It was very unbalanced. He wasn't consistent in his calls and that affected the game."

Though clearly upset and frustrated, Jones was quick to emphasize to his team afterward how proud he was. Tompkins made history. Three times before, the Falcons fell in the regional semifinals. The fifth round had been elusive.

This year, they crushed that barrier in a season where all kinds of odds were stacked against them.

The Falcons had a handful of players miss significant time early in the season due to COVID-19, with Jones giving playing time to junior varsity players because of the lack of depth. Then, because of its fourth place standing in a rough and rugged District 19-6A, Tompkins had to survive undefeated Ridge Point, Cy-Fair, District 19-6A champ and Region III No. 1-ranked Seven Lakes, and an upstart Humble team before coming so close against District 17-6A champ Jersey Village.

As if all of that wasn't daunting enough, Tompkins finished with 10 men available to play in three of five playoff rounds.

"This team will be remembered for a long time," Gonzales said. "It's the farthest we've gone. It's just really good to leave a legacy behind with all these amazing people, especially those seniors. I love them."

"I'll remember how we became a family," Valente added. "Whenever we started the season, everybody was an individual. Everybody was playing selfish. Once the

**"Sometimes you have to be lucky. The last few rounds, we've been lucky, and tonight just wasn't our day."**

— TOMPKINS SENIOR GOALKEEPER PAULO VALENTE

playoffs started, though, we became compact, started playing together. We started playing a beautiful game."

Tompkins only graduates 11 seniors, albeit beloved contributors who helped set the foundation for a third straight regional tournament appearance. Many of the Falcons' key performers—like Gonzales, Aumagher, sophomore strikers Luis Lugo and Jose Ramos, and sophomore defender Diego Castellano, among others—will return.

"These younger guys got a lot of experience, and now they realize what they can do when they play," Jones said. "If I was a betting man, I'd put money on us to be back here next year."

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SPORTS

DISTRICT 11-5A WRESTLING

# Panthers sweep District 11-5A wrestling titles

BY DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow's boys and girls teams swept the District 11-5A wrestling championships at the Merrell Center on Wednesday, April 7. And though the programs are just four years old, the impressive results came as no surprise to coach Eric Scholle.

"We kind of knew," Scholle said. "It was the expectation to win both of those tournaments this year. That was the goal. It's a process. A lot of the kids who are seniors have been with us this entire time and been awesome leaders and have had success. They've led the way, and we've got some young kids who came up and did well for us as well."

The Paetow boys dominated with 218 points, followed by Huntsville (135), Richmond Foster (105), Waller (77) and New Waverly (67). The Paetow girls' title came down to the last few matches, but they prevailed with 110 points, followed by Foster (104), Huntsville (84) and New Waverly (81).

"It was awesome," Scholle said. "They really did their best of the year on the most important day of the year so far."

The top three placers in each weight category advanced to the regional meet this weekend in Anna. Generally, the top four placers advance, but COVID-19 restrictions enforced otherwise. In any other year, the Panthers would have advanced every wrestler to regionals.

Paetow had seven boys win a district title: senior Preston Ferguson (113-pound class), sophomore Austen Hirsekorn (132), senior Nathan Stahl (138), senior John Abney (145), senior Josiah Bernhardt (152), junior Yader Muller (160) and senior Jeremiah Marquez (195).

Abney, the school valedictorian, was



JOHN ABNEY | PAETOW ATHLETICS

Paetow senior John Abney, front, competes at the District 11-5A wrestling tournament on Wednesday, April 7, at the Merrell Center.

named the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the lightweight division. Muller was named Most Outstanding Wrestler in the heavyweight division. Abney improved to 16-3 this season.

"Abney is the best all-around kid I've ever coached," Scholle said. "He's incredibly hard-working. He has built himself and just gets the job done. For him to get Most Outstanding Wrestler was just a really cool culmination of his four years."

The Panthers' other regional qualifiers on the boys side were junior Jarrett Cox (third place, 120-pound class), junior Andre Feagins (second, 170), junior Bryan Del Cid (second, 182) and junior Isaiah Villanueva (second, 285).

Senior Cameron Jiminez was the lone

Panthers girls district champion. She won by fall over Richmond Foster's Mia Sands in the 110-pound class and improved to 13-2 this season.

"Cameron is one of the toughest girls I've ever coached," Scholle said. "She absolutely hates losing. As much as she's been a big part of the program, she hasn't had the same level of success as some of her teammates and that motivates her. For her to win was awesome for her."

Paetow girls regional qualifiers included senior Brittney Galindo (second, 102), freshman Isabella Fresneda (third, 119), senior Natasha Monroe (second, 128), senior Mackenzie Lloyd (second, 148), freshman Melany Perez (second, 185) and junior Emely

Flores (third, 215).

Galindo, Monroe, Lloyd and Abney have been with the program all four years. Scholle remembers when his wrestling period that first year consisted of just five kids.

"It's been so fun and rewarding to watch them get better, grow, have a lot of success and build," Scholle said.

The next year, the program added Marquez, Bernhardt and Jiminez as move-ins, "huge cornerstones that have made the team what it is," Scholle said.

"Working with these kids and working at Paetow has been such an awesome experience," Scholle said. "There's nothing like being a part of a program from its inception. You get to design the mats and the uniforms and set the standards and rules. It's extremely rewarding to have a footprint on everything."

Scholle, a Chicago native, came to Paetow after a year at Cypress Creek High. Before that, he started the program at Reedy High School in Frisco. He always remembered the thrill of building something from scratch, so when the Paetow job opened, he jumped at the opportunity.

Since then, Scholle has established a disciplined program predicated upon work ethic and fun, along with assistant Jamie Bridges, who was named the district's girls assistant coach of the year. For Scholle, the district's boys coach of the year, winning is a byproduct of doing things right.

More than any district championship, he appreciates his student-athletes who are responsible leaders and admirable representatives of the school.

"We work very hard, but we have a lot of fun," Scholle said. "The goal is to get kids who love wrestling and want to be around it and want to work hard, and after a couple of years, they can be pretty good."

## 9-6A WRESTLING

from page B1

Cotter won her fourth district championship at the 9-6A wrestling tournament Saturday, April 10, to become the first Mavs wrestler to do so. Cotter improved to 16-1 this season by taking down Tompkins' Kristen Bryant in the 110-pound final.

"It means a lot to come into a program that was already established as an amazing program, especially with a state title to their name," Cotter said. "It was real motivational for me to come in and see there was still room to accomplish something, even a part of something great. It was big for me when I noticed I had a possibility of being the first (four-time district champion). I worked hard and took the opportunity."

The road to a fourth straight district title was physically, emotionally and mentally taxing.

During her freshman year, Cotter broke her collarbone. In the middle of recovery, Hurricane Harvey hit the area and her family's house flooded. Over the next eight months, they stayed with family and various friends. Cotter still won district and advanced all the way to the state final.

As a sophomore, Cotter suffered a concussion at the beginning of the wrestling season and did not return to action until the district tournament. She still won district and, again, advanced to the state final.

"It's all about believing in yourself, I think," Cotter said.

Last season was, by far, the toughest.

Cotter hit her "ultimate low" dealing with the Epstein-Barr virus, rhabdomyolysis and insomnia. She was only getting two hours of sleep every night and her cholesterol was severely elevated. Because she was also cutting weight for her sport, her health was compromised.

And while Cotter won district and still qualified for state—failing to place because of health issues involving cramping of the hands and legs—she had an epiphany. She decided once and for all to stop being angry about not winning state her freshman and sophomore years. She decided to be more grateful, appreciative.

"I wanted to win state finals so bad. I always felt I wanted it more than my opponent," Cotter said. "But when I lost in my freshman year, I was devastated. Sophomore year, I was just so angry. I was in the state finals and got hit in the head again after just coming back from a concussion. My junior year, I was still angry over my sophomore year. I was so close."

"But right before season, I decided no matter what happens, I would accept it. I wouldn't be mad or sad or cry about it. I'm just going to go out and do what I love. I've come to realize that it's amazing to go out as a freshman and sophomore and be in the state finals. In my mind, I have such high

standards and I hated losing and was so angry, but looking back, it's something I should be proud and thankful about. Being thankful rather than being angry or sad, that's been the biggest thing."

Cotter fell in love with wrestling when she happened to take in a dual meet in the sixth grade. Wrestling did not make sense to her at first, but she was enamored with the idea that girls participating in wrestling was normal. She also like that, while it was a team-oriented sport, it allowed for individualism.

"I think what sets me apart is the love I have for this sport," Cotter said. "I don't look at it as something I do for fun. I look at it as a lifestyle. It's something I've wanted since I first saw wrestling for the first time."

Cotter knew then and there, in the sixth grade, that she was going to wrestle. And not only was she going to wrestle, she was going to be good at it.

She hasn't failed. Cotter's talent and success have earned her an opportunity to wrestle at William Penn University next fall. She has twice been named a National All-American.

And there is no telling what the rest of this wrestling postseason will bring.

"I'm probably the healthiest I've been," Cotter said. "I feel relaxed. I don't feel stressed. I feel comfortable with myself."

Tompkins won the



KATY ATHLETICS

The Katy High boys won their sixth consecutive team district title on Friday, April 9, by winning the 9-6A wrestling tournament at the Merrell Center by a half-point.

District 9-6A girls team title with 145 points, followed by Seven Lakes (127) and Katy High (86). It was the Falcons' girls second straight team district title. On the boys' side, Katy won the team district title for the sixth straight season, squeaking by Seven Lakes by a half-point.

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S	I	N	A	I	E	L	O	N	E	L	A	N	
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7	6	4	3	1	8	2	9	5
5	1	3	2	9	4	6	7	8
2	9	8	6	7	5	3	1	4

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SPORTS

**19-6A TRACK**

from page B1



COURTESY KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Tompkins won the District 19-6A track and field boys team title with 194 points, 71 points more than the next-closest team finisher.

strong I was and how much I could bench and squat. But I didn't realize how much of a technical aspect it could be and how much it could improve a throw."

For instance, Foster is fully finishing his spin on throws.

"I was always landing flat-footed in the middle. I wouldn't keep my spin going," he said. "The spin is all about momentum, but when I would spin to the middle of the ring, I would step so hard that my spin would practically stop. I was losing momentum. So, I've been practicing keeping the spin going and not stopping and not slowing down."

It allows for better acceleration throughout the throw.

Foster is also working on "getting everything into the implement." When he throws, the discus and shot put go toward the right sector in direction, but his body is going left.

"It's a whole bunch of yardage I can add on to my throw if I can just get everything going in the right direction," Foster said. "It's crazy how one mess up of a movement can throw off everything."

Perhaps the most important factor of his success, he

said, has been his confidence, which is sky high because he is more consistent as a thrower.

"A really big (mark) is coming soon for both of them," said Foster, who has a practice personal record of 217 feet in the discus and the aforementioned 69-7 in the shot put.

Foster was one of eight individuals who won multiple district championships at the 19-6A meet, joining Tompkins' David Foster (100-meter dash, 200-meter dash), Taylor's Hollis Robinson (triple jump, high jump), Katy High's Jada Campos (100-meter dash, 200-meter dash), Seven Lakes' Paige Boucher (300-meter hurdles, triple jump), and Cinco Ranch's Amelia Flynt (shot put, discus).

Cinco Ranch senior Sophie Atkinson and Tompkins freshman Jayden Keys were the only individuals to claim

a district title in three events. Atkinson won gold in the 800-meter run, 1600-meter run and 3200-meter run.

Keys won the 110-meter

***"It's a whole bunch of yardage I can add on to my throw if I can just get everything going in the right direction,"***

— TAYLOR SENIOR BRYCE FOSTER

hurdles, 300-meter hurdles and the long jump.

Tompkins won the boys team title with 194 points, dominating the field by winning nine of 17 events. Seven Lakes won the girls team title with 198 points. Cinco Ranch came in second place in both the boys and girls divisions.

The top four finishers in each event qualified for the area meet April 14-15 at Paetow High.



COURTESY SEVEN LAKES ATHLETICS

Seven Lakes won the District 19-6A track and field girls team title with 198 points.

**19-6A TRACK & FIELD MEET RESULTS**

**BOYS**

- Team
1. Tompkins, 194
  2. Cinco Ranch, 123
  3. Seven Lakes, 104
  4. Morton Ranch, 73
  5. Taylor, 63.5
  6. Mayde Creek, 32
  7. Katy High, 30.5

**100M Dash:** 1. David Foster, Tompkins, 10.46; 2. Marquis Shoulders, Tompkins, 10.68; 3. Blake Harris, Tompkins, 10.82; 4. Julius Loughridge, Mayde Creek, 10.91.

**200M Dash:** 1. David Foster, Tompkins, 22.56; 2. TayShawn Wilson, Mayde Creek, 22.74; 3. Jackson Kimble, Cinco Ranch, 22.76; 4. Josh McMillan, Tompkins, 22.99.

**400M Dash:** 1. Mark Ngei, Tompkins, 48.72; 2. Alex Lopez, Seven Lakes, 50.94; 3. Joshua Johnson, Morton Ranch, 51.14; 4. Charles Umehai, Cinco Ranch, 51.16.

**800M Run:** 1. Wyatt Green, Cinco Ranch, 1:55.82; 2. Ruben Rojas Betanzos, Seven Lakes, 1:55.84; 3. Ryan Du Plessis, Cinco Ranch, 1:59.28; 4. Jake Wiggington, Tompkins, 1:59.33.

**1600M Run:** 1. Ruben Rojas Betanzos, Seven Lakes, 4:22.42; 2. Gavin Saacke, Tompkins, 4:24.35; 3. Ethan Boyd, Cinco Ranch, 4:26.98; 4. Adrian Hahn Vadstein, Cinco Ranch, 4:27.52.

**3200M Run:** 1. Gavin Saacke, Tompkins, 9:43.40; 2. Jermichael Johnson, Vadstein, Cinco Ranch, 9:43.57; 3. Ruben Rojas Betanzos, Seven Lakes, 9:50.47; 4. Leopoldo Toro Figueira, Seven Lakes, 9:51.83.

**110M Hurdles:** 1. Jayden Keys, Tompkins, 14.26; 2. Hollis Robinson, Taylor, 14.62; 3. Shepherd Bowling, Katy, 14.65; 4. Justus Hadnot, Morton Ranch, 14.71.

**300M Hurdles:** 1. Jayden Keys, Tompkins, 39.67; 2. KJ Gilbert, Tompkins, 40.38; 3. JC Aquin, Tompkins, 40.74; 4. Chamar Smith, Morton Ranch, 40.92.

**4x100M Relay:** 1. Tompkins (Mark Ngei, Josh McMillan, Blake Harris, Marquis Shoulders), 41.88; 2. Mayde Creek (Alpha Khan, Julius Loughridge, Jordan Kelly, TayShawn Wilson), 42.67; 3. Cinco Ranch (Nathan Memilliod, Seth Salverino, Dion Milton, Mario Chalmers), 43.10; 4. Morton Ranch (Jaelon Davis, Justus Hadnot, Jermichael Johnson, Karsten Christopher), 43.18.

**4x200M Relay:** 1. Tompkins (Michael Ojoko, Josh McMillan, Daniel Crain, Caden Williams), 1:28.33; 2. Morton Ranch (Jaelon Davis, Jermichael Johnson, Robine Lane Jr., Vontez Hood), 1:29.14; 3. Cinco Ranch (Mario Chalmers, Seth Salverino, Jackson Kimble, Noah Abboud), 1:29.52; 4. Seven Lakes (Grayson Medford, Chidiebere Okoko, Preston Mendoza, Dylan Volpe), 1:29.82.

**4x400M Relay:** 1. Seven Lakes (Bogdan Pazin, Chidiebere Okoko, Alex Lopez, Christopher Gonzalez), 3:25.36; 2. Cinco Ranch (Jonathan Buck, Wyatt Green, Jackson Kimble, Charles Umehai), 3:25.73; 3. Morton Ranch (Robine Lane Jr., Chamar Smith, Jaelon Davis, Joshua Johnson), 3:28.99; 4. Tompkins (Mark Ngei, KJ Gilbert, Daniel Crain, JC Aquin), 3:30.51.

**Long Jump:** 1. Jayden Keys, Tompkins, 24'-2 1/2"; 2. Seth Salverino, Cinco Ranch, 22'-10 1/2"; 3. Jermichael Johnson, Morton Ranch, 22'-8"; 4. Caden Williams, Tompkins, 21'-8".

**Shot Put:** 1. Bryce Foster, Taylor, 65'-3"; 2. Matthew Rueff, Seven Lakes, 55'-10 1/4"; 3. Aaron Session, Morton Ranch, 50'-6 3/4"; 4. Julius Loughridge, Mayde Creek, 49'-8 3/4".

**Discus:** 1. Bryce Foster, Taylor, 210'-10"; 2. Matthew Rueff, Seven Lakes, 178'-5"; 3. Seth Roberts, Seven Lakes, 151'-7"; 4. Ian Flynt, Taylor, 149'-10".

**Triple Jump:** 1. Hollis Robinson, Taylor, 46'-7"; 2. Jermichael Johnson, Morton Ranch, 44'-7 1/4"; 3. Leonid Izvekoy, Katy, 43'-1 1/2"; 4. Dylan Volpe, Seven Lakes, 42'-6".

**High Jump:** 1. Hollis Robinson, Taylor, 6'-4"; 2. Blake Harris, Tompkins, 6'-2"; 3. Benjamin Wowo, Tompkins, 6'-2"; 4. Emmanuel Gregory, Cinco Ranch, 6'-0".

**Pole Vault:** 1. Will Saxman, Cinco Ranch, 14'-6"; 2. Matthew Kumar, Tompkins, 13'-6"; 3. Ethan Becker, Taylor, 12'-6"; 4. William Rodriguez, Katy, 12'-6".

**GIRLS**

- Team
1. Seven Lakes, 198
  2. Cinco Ranch, 146
  3. Tompkins, 108
  4. Mayde Creek, 75
  5. Katy High, 71
  6. Morton Ranch, 8
  7. Taylor, 6

**100M Dash:** 1. Jada Campos, Katy, 11.54; 2. Alyssa Tate, Seven Lakes, 11.78; 3. Brooke Jackson, Seven Lakes, 12.05; 4. Morgan Marshall, Tompkins, 12.09.

**200M Dash:** 1. Jada Campos, Katy, 24.80; 2. Brooke Jackson, Seven Lakes, 25.58; 3. Ibiso David-West, 25.88; 4. Shelby Campassi, Seven Lakes, 26.28.

**400M Dash:** 1. Haley Tate, Seven Lakes, 55.76; 2. Avary Catchings, Seven Lakes, 58.60; 3. Deborah Imeh, Taylor, 58.69; 4. Kris Pasia, Tompkins, 59.79.

**800M Run:** 1. Sophie Atkinson, Cinco Ranch, 2:13.08; 2. Hayden Gold, Tompkins, 2:17.20; 3. Heidi Nielson, Cinco Ranch, 2:19.66; 4. Avary Catchings, Seven Lakes, 2:22.49.

**1600M Run:** 1. Sophie Atkinson, Cinco Ranch, 4:58.90; 2. Heidi Nielson, Cinco Ranch, 4:59.16; 3. Addison Stevenson, Tompkins, 5:11.31; 4. Hayden Gold, Tompkins, 5:14.21.

**3200M Run:** 1. Sophie Atkinson, Cinco Ranch, 10:43.49; 2. Heidi Nielson, Cinco Ranch, 10:49.20; 3. Isabella Rubio, Katy, 11:29.20; 4. Grace Havern, Seven Lakes, 11:30.53.

**100M Hurdles:** 1. Simone Ballard, Mayde Creek, 15.67; 2. Paige Boucher, Seven Lakes, 14.00; 3. Lanaye Keys, Tompkins, 14.53; 4. Jayla Wilson, Mayde Creek, 14.99.

**300M Hurdles:** 1. Paige Boucher, Seven Lakes, 45.94; 2. Summer Halphen, Seven Lakes, 46.81; 3. Jayla Wilson, Mayde Creek, 47.11; 4. Lanaye Keys, Tompkins, 47.59.

**4x100M Relay:** 1. Seven Lakes (Alyssa Tate, Sydney Kim, Ibiso David-West, Haley Tate), 47.05; 2. Tompkins (Caroline Redman, Anjie Saanumi, Morgan Marshall, Lanaye Keys), 48.40; 3. Mayde Creek (Demetria White, Michayla Ivory, Alaya Frazier, Miracle Boudine), 48.70; 4. Katy (Jaya Jackson-Bray, Victorious Orekoya, Alleigh Johnson, Kaycee McCoy), 49.86.

**4x200M Relay:** 1. Mayde Creek (Michayla Ivory, Miracle Boudine, Jayla Wilson, Demetria White), 1:41.60; 2. Seven Lakes (Shelby Campassi, Taylor Murray, Sydney Kim, Brooke Jackson), 1:41.61; 3. Cinco Ranch (Brandi Ash, Sydney McCray, Nikki Robison, Laila Ashraf), 1:44.69; 4. Tompkins (Amara Odu, Caroline Redman, Morgan Marshall, Anavaleria Martinez), 1:46.23.

**4x400M Relay:** 1. Seven Lakes (Alyssa Tate, Avary Catchings, Ibiso David-West, Haley Tate), 3:54.36; 2. Tompkins (Amara Odu, Marisa Marinchak, Hayden Gold, Kris Pasia), 4:07.14; 3. Cinco Ranch (Jennifer Edozie, Sydney McCray, Laila Ashraf, Brandi Ash), 4:10.56; 4. Katy (Simone Savage, Jada Campos, Jaya Jackson-Bray, Victorious Orekoya), 4:13.23.

**Long Jump:** 1. Lanaye Keys, Tompkins, 18'-10 1/2"; 2. Paige Boucher, Seven Lakes, 18'-0"; 3. Tolu Odetola, Tompkins, 17'-8"; 4. Demetria White, Mayde Creek, 17'-3".

**Shot Put:** 1. Amelia Flynt, Cinco Ranch, 46'-11"; 2. Zena Tarhini, Mayde Creek, 38'-3 1/4"; 3. Kaycee McCoy, Katy, 35'-9 3/4"; 4. Matilda Gbenda, Cinco Ranch, 35'-5".

**Discus:** 1. Amelia Flynt, Cinco Ranch, 149'-6"; 2. Toryn Turpin, Katy, 120'-11"; 3. Matilda Gbenda, 109'-6"; 4. Kayla McKey, Mayde Creek, 109'-0".

**Triple Jump:** 1. Paige Boucher, Seven Lakes, 38'-6 3/4"; 2. Nikki Robison, Cinco Ranch, 36'-7 3/4"; 3. Tolu Odetola, Tompkins, 36'-6 1/2"; 4. Hailey East, Cinco Ranch, 36'-3 3/4".

**High Jump:** 1. Chandler Lee, Katy, 5'-2"; 2. Hayley Byrd, Cinco Ranch, 5'-0"; 3. Summer Halphen Seven Lakes, 5'-0"; 4. Sri Boodoo, Cinco Ranch, 4'-10".

**Pole Vault:** 1. Lauren Schmitt, Seven Lakes, 11'-6"; 2. Mia Martinson, Seven Lakes, 10'-6"; 3. Bella Borreson, Cinco Ranch, 10'-6"; 4. Aubrey Tupper, Seven Lakes, 10'-0".

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**SPARTANS**

from page B1

premier talents like Tompkins' Elina Sinz (now playing at Auburn) and teammate Isha Dhruva (Penn State).

"It was a really big goal for me for my four years here," Nguyen said of winning district. "It really sucked having to miss district last year (because of the pandemic), so it was nice to come back and win."

Nguyen changed her mental approach playing the Blackhorse course in Cypress. It made all the difference.

"I really concentrated on playing myself instead of other people," she said. "I played safe, limited my misses. Not focusing on the competition and focusing

on myself, that's when everything comes together for me."

It was a steady complement to her impressive game.

Approach shots are Nguyen's strength. She doesn't miss many greens. Nguyen is skilled at consistently placing the ball in scoring position. She almost always has a birdie opportunity.

"She's a true competitor," coach Sean Ewing said. "If she needs a birdie, she gets it. She understands the game and understands shots. She can tell you exactly what she's going to do."

Nguyen's physical strength has improved over the years, so she's hitting the ball farther and her wedge game is better.

Another significant change has been her



Seven Lakes senior Lauren Nguyen won the District 19-6A girls individual golf title on April 1.

attitude, a lesson Nguyen took from two-time district champ Dhruva, who took Nguyen under her wing when they were teammates. "She was so dedicated

and committed to the sport," Nguyen said. "I loved her attitude out there, and that's something I really took from her. She was always happy and always believed she

could do better. I've learned to not just look at myself, but learn from other people and how they perform and act on the golf course. All of that has been a big influence for me."

Nguyen has taken what she's seen and learned and molded it into a healthy confidence she says she has because of the support of teammates and family.

"She missed a couple of tournaments toward the end (of the regular season) because she wanted to go play in the Sergio Garcia and K.J. Choi tournament, and she said, 'It's alright, Coach. I'll take care of it. I'll win district and I'll win regionals,'" Ewing said. "On day two (of the district tournament), she was down two strokes to (Cinco Ranch junior) Mallorie (Luitwieler) and coming down the stretch,

she needed a birdie and an eagle to keep the pressure on Mal. She goes off and does it. You just don't see that a lot. Only the special ones can do that."

Confident and determined is what Nguyen is bringing to the Class 6A Region III tournament April 19-20 in Spring.

"I just want to keep doing the best I can and have fun," Nguyen said. "These are my last few high school tournaments and I'll never have them again. Even though I am going to play in college, it's going to be a lot different. I want to have as much fun as I can now. Winning district gives me a lot of confidence, and hopefully I can bring that out at regionals, too. The ultimate goal is state, so we'll see. But this is a really good start to these three tournaments."

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