

SEVEN LAKES' HISTORIC SEASON ENDS WITH REGIONAL SEMIFINAL LOSS  
SPORTS | B1

# Katy Times



VOLUME 112, ISSUE 10

THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

## Faldyn Elementary officially dedicated Feb. 27

Newest elementary school is named for former Katy ISD educators

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On February 27, Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) commemorated the invaluable

contributions and lasting impact of local educators Russell and Cindie Faldyn during the dedication ceremony of Faldyn Elementary, 25615 Clay Road, Katy. The school, which officially opened in August 2023, serves the rapidly-growing northwest quadrant of the district.

The dedication ceremony, attended by Faldyn students and staff, families, elected officials, district leadership, district namesakes, and members of the Board of Trustees, showcased the

profound influence Russell and Cindie Faldyn have had on the district. Guests were treated to performances by the school choir and by heartfelt speeches delivered by district and city leaders, and the Faldyn family.

"Faldyn Elementary is fortunate to have two devoted namesakes who are committed to the success of Katy ISD students, teachers and staff," said Ken Gregorski, KISD

See **FALDYN**, page A3



At Tuesday's campus dedication for the new Faldyn Elementary school, namesakes Russell and Cindie Faldyn were presented with a planter that includes fingerprints from each student at the school, signifying that Faldyn Elementary is a special place where students can "Bloom where they are planted," which is the Faldyn family motto. Several other versions of the planter will also be installed at the campus at 25615 Clay Road.

COURTESY KATY ISD



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

K-T Bolt, a local company whose ownership spans four generations, is located at 1150 Katy Fort Bend Road, where 61 employees manufacture and distribute standard, non-standard and custom structural bolts and fasteners for a variety of industries.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

K-T Bolt President Randy Peck was honored as a "legend" at his March 1st retirement party at Midway BBQ, 6025 Highway Blvd, in Katy. Peck's retirement ends the family ownership of the company.

## After four generations, Peck family control ends at K-T Bolt

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

It is the end of an era in Katy – an era of family ownership of a local company that dates back generations to the time the city began.

With the retirement of company president Randy Peck, which became effective on February 29, 2024, K-T Bolt will no longer be owned by the Peck family – one of the founding families in Katy.

Surrounded by the Peck family matriarch Iris as well as siblings and the cousins who own sister company K-T Galvanizing, Peck was celebrated for his 35 years of service to the company by employees, customers and vendors at a retirement luncheon March 1st at Midway BBQ, 6025 Highway Blvd in Katy.

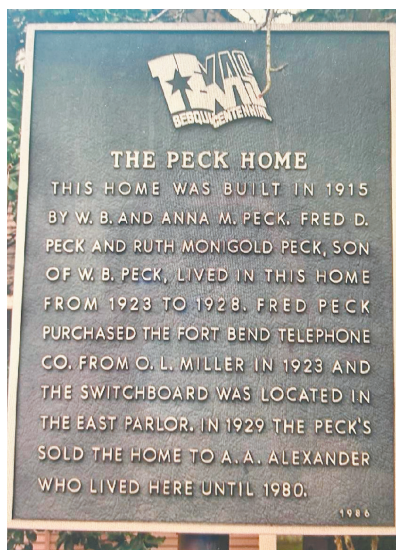


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KATY HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Peck family was one of the founding families of Katy; their original home at 1113 Avenue B, Katy was built in 1915.

See **RETIRE**, page A3

## Affirmative Defense for Duress: Empowering sex trafficking survivors in court

Local advocate calls for legislative change

BY RHONDA KUYKENDALL  
SURVIVOR LEADER, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVOCATE  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Imagine being a victim of sex trafficking coerced into commercial sex only to find out that you are being charged with a crime and cannot explain to the jury why you committed the crime. Many trafficking victims find themselves in this dilemma today due to our current Texas Penal Code. Over recent years, Texas has seen an increase in laws combating sex trafficking, but there is a population that is being harmed, and no one is talking about it.

Traffickers use their victims as a shield, forcing them to commit crimes so they are not held accountable. Now, as a defendant, victims find themselves unable to explain to juries why their victimization led to committing criminal acts, leaving them at the mercy of the very legal system meant to protect them. As victims face charges, they are prevented from explaining how being drugged, beaten, raped, and trafficked over some time made them do as their traffickers told them. These crimes often include vagrancy, trespass, disorderly conduct, robbery, drug offenses, and prostitution. There is a cruel irony that victims of sex trafficking endure unimaginable trauma and then find themselves facing criminal charges, which only exacerbates their trauma. We must do better in Texas. It is time to change the definition of an affirmative defense for duress to include the coercion and fraud many victims of sex trafficking experience.

As a legal defense, duress is a safeguard against criminal liability to be used in a court of law when the defendant has been compelled to commit an illegal act under the threat of harm or death. Unfortunately, in Chapter 8.05 of the Texas Penal Code, duress cannot be used for victims of sex trafficking

See **VICTIMS**, page A3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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March 7, 2024  
12 pages | \$1

## HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4 'LISTENING TOUR' RETURNS TO KATY AREA MARCH 23RD



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Leslie Briones (shown at the January listening tour stop at Houston Community College Katy) will bring her next "listening tour" to the greater Katy area on Saturday, March 23rd. The event will be held at the Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and the "listening session" will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The event is free to the public and no registration is required.

## Grundfos KPL stormwater pumps play key role in Florida Everglades restoration project

Grundfos pumps help move water From Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Area for cleaning, storage

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Brookshire-based Grundfos, a global leader in water technology and services, announced February 26th that the Grundfos KPL submersible axial flow propeller pumps are installed in multiple pump stations in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Stormwater Treatment Area. With the ability to pump 146,000 gallons of water per minute, Grundfos KPL pumps will move water from Lake Okeechobee into the 6,500-acre EAA stormwater treatment area and

reservoir for storage and cleaning. The clean water will then move south to nourish the Everglades and replenish Florida's aquifers and the Florida Bay.

"The EAA Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area is a triumph in sustainable design that will positively impact Florida's residents, the local economy and the native wildlife for generations," said Jack Canfield, Market Development Manager of Water Utilities at Grundfos. "Grundfos' role in this project exemplifies the compa-

See **GRUNDFOS**, page A3

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## Katy Taste Fest proceeds benefit eight area charities



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy Taste Fest organizer Cyril Thomas (center) awards a check for \$2500.00 to Upbring/Krause, one of the eight local charities to benefit from the proceeds of the 2023 festival. The monetary awards were made on February 28th at Typhoon Texas, where the 2024 festival was held on March 2.

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

Prior to the Katy Taste Fest event which attracted huge crowds to Typhoon Texas on March 2, event organizers held a "Partner Appreciation Night" at the Red River Grill at the waterpark in order to recognize event sponsors and - more importantly - to award the 2023 Beneficiary Awards. Each year Katy Taste Fest selects worthy organizations from the surrounding area to share in

the profits from the annual food festival.

The following organizations received funding during the February 28th ceremony:

- Katy Christian Ministries - \$ 5000
  - Krause/Upbring - \$2500
  - Mesa - Outreach - \$4000
  - Keturah's Haven - \$1000
  - Young Life Capernaum - \$1000
  - Clothed by Faith - \$1000
  - Lunches of Love - \$1000
  - Sunshine Thru the Rain - \$2000
- Since its inception in 2018, Katy

Taste Fest has donated over \$100,000 to local nonprofits.

"What makes Katy Taste Fest truly special is its commitment to community philanthropy," said organizer and local businessman Cyril Thomas. "The festival's primary mission is to increase awareness of the needs in the community and showcase local non-profits that help fill those needs. Being entirely volunteer operated, our event is dedicated towards supporting local and international non-profits."



SUSAN ROVEGNO

A near-capacity crowd came out to Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road, on Saturday, March 2nd, to enjoy food tastings from over 30 area restaurants at Katy Taste Fest. The event also featured booths from local businesses and nonprofits.

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## Katy's 'edible gardeners' have hopes of early spring dashed

BY CHARLEY FISHER  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Katy's gardeners recently faced a setback with an unexpected cold front, challenging their early spring hopes. The mild weather preceding the cold snap led many to transplant tender spring seedlings, such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants, only to rush for cover as temperatures plummeted to the low 40s, creating a risk for these sensitive plants. The promise of spring beckoned gardeners with the allure of blooming flowers, early ripening vegetables, and tomato sandwiches as far as the eye could see. This unpredictable weather leaves us questioning if more cold is on the way.



CHARLEY FISHER

As mother nature decides what season she will bestow upon us next week, here's what Katy area gardeners should be doing this week to ensure their gardens are ready for the inevitable spring.

### Start with a Cleanup

If you have not uncovered your garden beds from winter, now is the time! Remove damaged foliage and any weeds that have accumulated over the winter months. Prune dead or damaged branches from trees and shrubs to encourage new growth.

### Soil Preparation is Key

After the cleanup, focus on preparing your soil. Top dressing your garden beds with a fresh layer of compost not only improves soil structure but also boosts water retention and nutrient content. For specific soil needs, consider sending a sample to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office for testing. More information on this may be found on their website at <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/assets/environment-natural-resources/soil/soil-testing>.

### Choose the Right Plants

Selecting the right varieties is crucial for a successful spring garden. While I love growing something unique each year, I stick to what I know my family will enjoy eating week after week. Seek heat-tolerant and

drought-resistant varieties that can thrive in our region's climate.

Don't forget to add pollinator friendly flowers to your edible garden to attract bees, ladybugs, and butterflies. When planning flower beds, consider plant height and spacing needs of the plants at full maturity to achieve a visually appealing arrangement.

With patience, we will all be ready to enjoy our bountiful harvests in due time. Learn more about edible gardening and how to curate the perfect garden space at the Katy Home & Garden Show and Barndo Expo March 23 - 24 at the Katy ISD Ag Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd. For information, visit their website at <https://www.katychomeandgardenshow.com/>

### About Charley Fisher:

Charley is an avid seed collector and garden educator. Her passion for finding rare, collectable heirloom seeds led her to create Urban Garden Project, an heirloom seed company. Get hands-on advice for the garden at the Urban Garden Project booth and plan to attend a gardening seminar on the IKEA Fresh Ideas Stage at the upcoming Katy Home & Garden Show and Barndo Expo.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Make golfers begin
43. Where a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches
6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellish with expressions
24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid

**CLUES ACROSS**

48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one
57. Ointments
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

**CLUES DOWN**

30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**Here's How It Works:**

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



## RETIRE

from page A1

Peck was presented with a specially-made bolt commemorating his years with the family company; other family members received these special bolts as well. Many of the employees present had been with the company fifteen years or more, and several spoke to thank Randy for the role that he and the company had played in their lives.

Peck and his family have been active supporters of FFA projects as well as quietly supporting other community causes such as the Knights of Columbus, said company administrative assistant Carla Clark. Peck is also a partner with Mickie Blackmon in a local Red Wing Shoe store on Mason Road near I-10.

The K-T Bolt company at 1150 Katy Fort Bend Road now employs 61 workers and is a leading manufacturer and distributor of fasteners for structural steel fabrication, general and highway construction, mining, railroads, agriculture, and other industries, according to the company website.

But its origins are much more humble. According to a Katy Times article written by Ruby Robinson in October 1987, the company began as a small blacksmith shop located at Avenue A and First Street in Katy, operated by Roy Peck. Roy Peck bought the original red building and equipment from his father, W. B. Peck, in 1921 and remained there until 1925, where his son Charlie assisted him until around 1945. After working in the Houston Shipyards during World War II, Charlie returned to Katy and ran the blacksmith shop for his father and in

1953 became the sole owner, following his father's death. That year, Charlie erected a building at Katy Fort Bend and Highway 90.

In 1963 Charlie's son Charles joined the company and the business relocated to 5103 Third Street. In 1979, Charles' son Randy began working in the family-owned business. In 1973, the state of Texas incorporated K-T Bolt, with Charlie Peck and Charles Peck each owning 50%. Also that year, Charles and his brother Alfred formed a partnership to create the sister company, K-T Galvanizing. In 1989, the company bought an 8.78 tract of land on Katy Fort Bend Road where the first building was built in 1990. A second building for shipping and receiving was added in 1997, followed by a third building in 1999 and fourth and fifth buildings in 2009. In June 2009 the third building burned to the ground; the cause of the fire remains unknown. Buildings six and seven were built around 2011.

K-T Bolt merged with Birmingham Fasteners in 2022, with Randy Peck retaining 25% of the stock; that stock was just sold in February 2024 with 10% acquired by Birmingham Fasteners and 15% by FMW Corporation. As Birmingham Fastener assumes greater control of K-T Bolt, the president's role vacated by Peck will be filled by Baron Yarborough.

Peck said that he plans to spend time during retirement in Sealy near one of his children and at a property he recently acquired in Oklahoma. He is an avid hunter and outdoorsman.

## SWEARING IN



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BROOKSHIRE

The Brookshire Police Department added two new officers, who were sworn in at the February 22nd meeting of Brookshire City Council. Left to right Axel Cailing and Christopher Diaz Casteneda, being sworn in by Chief James Hines.

## FALDYN

from page A1

superintendent of schools. "The Faldyns have demonstrated a lifetime of exemplary service to the Katy community, and their spirit of service is embedded in the culture of this school," he added.

Russell Faldyn's illustrious 34-year career in public education has been marked by a deep commitment to Katy ISD. Beginning as an assistant principal at Katy High School in 1999, he later held roles at Taylor High School before transitioning to the district office, where he served in various capacities. In 2017, he became principal at Miller Career & Technology Center, where he championed initiatives like the farm-to-market program, connecting students with career opportunities. Faldyn's impactful career concluded with his retirement in 2020, leaving behind a legacy of dedication to student success and community engagement.

"To witness the dedication of this extraordinary school bearing our name is a humbling experience, one that transcends words," said Russell Faldyn. "We extend our deepest appreciation to each one of you who has played a role in making Faldyn Elementary a reality."

Cindie's distinguished 32-year career in public education was marked by her dedication to fostering learning and excellence. Beginning at Nottingham Country

Elementary in 1999, she later helped open Jo Ella Exley Elementary (JEE) in 2004. Named Teacher of the Year at JEE in 2006-2007 and appointed Katy ISD's first Math Lead Teacher, Cindie's impact extended beyond the classroom. As JEE's math and science instructional coach from 2011, she continued to inspire until her retirement in 2021, leaving a lasting legacy of passion and excellence.

"We take immense pride in this exceptional school - the facilities, the dedicated educators, and the commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence, but also the development of every student," said Cindie Faldyn. "As we embark on this exciting journey, we challenge each one of you to embrace the opportunities this school presents."

As a poignant tribute during the ceremony, a school portrait that will be displayed at the entrance of Faldyn Elementary was unveiled. The Faldyns were also presented with a planter that includes fingerprints from each student, signifying that Faldyn Elementary is a special place where students can "Bloom where they are planted," which is the Faldyn motto.

A similar dedication ceremony was scheduled for March 5th for nearby Youngblood Elementary, after press time for the Katy Times.

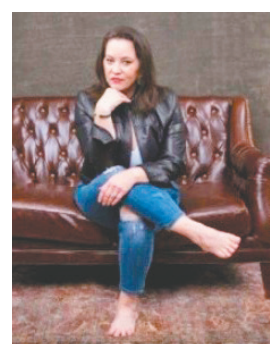
## VICTIMS

from page A1

who are not in immediate danger of harm or death. Traffickers exert intense and pervasive control over their victims. Expanding the definition of duress will allow victims who once were barred from sharing their story of victimization to now be able to explain how their trafficker coerced them.

The horrors endured by victims of sex trafficking are not exaggerated. For most victims, trafficking occurs for several years. Victims suffer physical, mental, and emotional abuse daily. Even after they leave the trafficking situation, the effects can continue for a lifetime. There is persistent fear, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. For these very reasons, victims of sex trafficking should be able to use an affirmative defense for duress to give juries a complete picture of their victimization and what led to them committing crimes.

Bills to Expand the definition of duress to include trafficking victims' experiences have passed the Texas House of Representatives for the past two legislative sessions but have not moved out of the Texas Senate. Representative Senfronia Thompson,



Rhonda Kuykendall

author of the Duress bill in 2021, said, "This bill would allow juries to consider whether the force or threat of force would render a reasonable person in the situation of the defendant incapable of resisting the pressure. The proposed change would protect our most vulnerable, traumatized Texans from prosecution for crimes induced by coercion by their abusers."

The legal system should be utilized to defend the vulnerable, provide justice for victims of crime, and prosecute traffickers who prey on vulnerable populations. An affirmative defense for duress is the ethical change needed in Texas to reaffirm the dignity and worth of every person regardless of their history. It is time to stand in solidarity with survivors, listen to their voices, and ensure that they are not only seen but heard as well.

We need your help to change this! To find out how you can help, follow the Fort Bend County Facebook Group Our Voice in Texas (@ourvoiceintexas) and help make Texas a more equitable place to live for survivors of sex trafficking.

## GRUNDFOS

from page A1

ny's belief that everyone deserves access to clean, safe water, including the local ecosystem of birds, fish and plants. We are proud to work with the South Florida Water Management District, the engineers at Brown and Caldwell, and the construction team at Phillips & Jordan to ensure the success of a hydrological restoration project of this scale and complexity."

For decades, toxic runoff from agricultural land use entered Florida's canal system and made its way into natural waterways, lakes and coastal communities. In 2019, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis enacted an ambitious Everglades restoration project that includes the EAA Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area, which will use the natural filtration systems of the Everglades to reduce harmful discharges like green algae and other bacteria and restore the natural flow of clean water to South Florida.

Grundfos KPL submersible axial flow propeller pumps are installed at two pump stations within the stormwater treatment area. One pump station is now operational, and the other is completing the testing and analysis phase while power is connected to the station.

"The entire Grundfos team feels immense pride as we see this critical phase of the Everglades restoration project come to fruition," said HP Nanda, EVP & Divisional CEO of Water Utility at Grundfos. "As stewards of our environment and a global leader in water solutions, we recognize the critical role water plays in sustaining life and ecosystems. The installation of these Grundfos solutions marks a significant step forward in our commitment respect, protect and advance

the flow of water. Through innovative technology and collaborative efforts, we aim to ensure a brighter, healthier future for generations to come."

With a steadfast focus on sustainability, Grundfos is not only achieving remarkable financial success but also pioneering environmental stewardship. In 2023, the company achieved a remarkable 9% reduction in CO2 emissions and a commendable 7% reduction in water usage across its operations. This significant achievement underscores Grundfos's dedication to environmental responsibility and sets a high standard for others to follow.

With its US headquarters in Brookshire, Texas, Grundfos has firmly established its presence in the US, with 1,700 employees spread across the nation.

### About Grundfos

Since 1945, Grundfos has been committed to pioneering solutions to solve the world's water and climate challenges and improve people's quality of life. Owned by the Grundfos Foundation (Poul Due Jensen Foundation), the company's products for Commercial Building Services, Domestic Building Services, Industry and Water Utilities are sold in a large number of countries by local distributors. Grundfos believes that achieving diversity in the company's workforce and talents, for instance, in terms of gender, ethnicity and work capacity, is essential to the company's progress. Grundfos is a multi-national company with global headquarters in Denmark and the U.S. Main Office and Global Headquarters for Water Utility in Brookshire, Texas. For more information, visit <https://www.grundfos.com/us>.






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# Corcoran Genesis ready to serve clients throughout Houston's suburban market

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

NEW YORK, NY – Corcoran Group\*, LLC announced its continued expansion by welcoming its newest franchise with the launch of Corcoran Genesis. Owned and led by Nicole Freer and Doug Freer, the brokerage will serve clients throughout Houston's highly coveted suburbs. The announcement, made by Pamela Liebman, President and CEO of The Corcoran Group, further demonstrates the brand's influence and strength within the Houston market, she said.

The team held a launch party and "sign reveal" on February 22 at their offices at 2721 FM 1463 #900, Katy Texas, 77494.

"It is exciting to see our Houston market presence continue to grow with the addition of Corcoran Genesis," stated Liebman. "With an impressive track record, not only in comparison to their local suburban market, but also throughout the greater Houston and national marketplace, I am confident they will achieve even greater success with the resources and power of the Corcoran brand behind them."

Beginning her career in real estate in 2013, Nicole's innate sales ability allowed her to sell over 70 homes in just her first two years as an independent agent. This success spurred the formation of the Nicole Freer Group, founded in 2015 alongside Nicole's husband Doug, whose professional background spans the finance, real estate investment, and business management industries. Recently, Nicole surpassed the milestone of \$1 billion in closed sales, becoming one of Houston's



Nicole Freer (left) and husband Doug Freer celebrated their new partnership with Corcoran Group LLC with a "sign reveal" party at their offices at 2721 FM 1463 #900 on February 22nd.

top-selling female real estate team leaders.

"Through becoming affiliated with Corcoran and gaining access to the premium branding, innovative technology platform, creative marketing opportunities, and key recruiting navigation, we will be poised to grow both swiftly and thoughtfully," said Nicole. "Alongside this exciting partnership and growth potential, I look forward to continuing our dedication to providing exceptional client service, and to providing valuable development opportunities for our agents."

In 2023 alone, the Nicole Freer Group transacted over 890 properties, totaling over \$358 million dollars of real estate, setting numerous price-per-square-foot records in the process. The team's track record also includes being ranked as the No. 1 medium sized agent team in the nation based on transaction sides, and the No. 22 medium sized team in the nation based on sales volume for 2022, according to RealTrends + Tom Ferry's "The Thousand" rankings. These same sales statistics also earned the team the top spot in transaction sides and sales volume in

Texas for 2022.

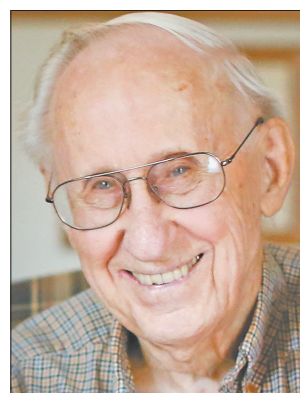
The Nicole Freer Group is comprised of 14 experienced agents, and numerous professional support staff across marketing, administration, and client relations verticals. Now under the larger brokerage banner of Corcoran Genesis, Nicole will continue to operate the Nicole Freer Group as a leading Houston area agent team, alongside Doug, who will continue to focus on the growth and development of the new brokerage. The entire Corcoran Genesis team will continue to be based out of their existing office in Katy.

"Corcoran's commitment to building a distinctive brand, coupled with our curated local marketing and exceptional existing affiliates, has solidified our strong presence in the Houston market," said Stephanie Anton, President of Corcoran Affiliates. "Corcoran Genesis' key pillars of excellence in client service, dedication to their agents, and performance history makes them an ideal partner for us, and I am eager to see this new endeavor benefit our entire affiliate network."

Alongside their active involvement in the real estate industry, Nicole and Doug are also devoted to philanthropic endeavors in the communities they serve. Together, the duo founded the Nicole Freer Foundation, which helps provide financial assistance to those impacted by serious medical conditions, particularly pediatric cancer. Additionally, the foundation provides scholarship opportunities for children of low-income families, allowing for greater opportunities to pursue higher education.

## TRIBUTE

Raymond Norton Key, of Katy, Texas, passed away peacefully at home, in his sleep, on February 20, 2024, at the age of 103. He is preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Luree Berryman Key, his parents Charlie and Sudie Wright Key, and siblings Alton, Roy, Harold, and Wayne. He is survived by his daughter Susan Jerkins (Gerald) of Memphis, TN, and son Greg Key (Carolina) of Katy, Texas; his grandchildren Chris Jerkins, Stephen Jerkins (Amanda), Jonathan Jerkins (Leslie), Michael Jerkins (Jamie), Michelle Key Cousten (Trinity), and 13 great-grandchildren.



RAYMOND NORTON KEY  
1920-2024

Raymond was born in a farmhouse in Town Creek, Alabama, on December 6, 1920. When he was 6 years old, he had polio and malaria at the same time. During this illness he overheard the doctor tell his parents he probably wouldn't survive. He not only survived but he went on to graduate from Hazelwood High School as valedictorian and then followed in his brother Roy's footsteps onto David Lipscomb College in Nashville, TN, and in 1940, onto George Pepperdine College in California. There, he majored in English with plans to become a preacher. Upon graduation, he returned home to Town Creek where he met his wife Luree, who worked as a cashier at his uncle's grocery store. They married in Town Creek; not too long after, at the prompting of friend B.C. Goodpasture, they moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, to help plant

a church in that community. It was during the 21 years in Battle Creek that Raymond raised his family, left paid ministry, and began work for a construction company, where he became a construction project manager. The experience in managing large projects eventually provided opportunities to manage international projects, taking him and Luree abroad to Lahore, Pakistan, for four years and in Semarang, Indonesia, for twelve years. During the years abroad, he and Luree were active in local churches and made close friendships with people of many faiths and nationalities. After retiring and returning to the US, he was hired as a project management consultant in New York State.

He was also a member of the American Arbitration Association and was involved in settling financial disputes between construction companies and government agencies. In November 1988 he retired for the final time and he and Luree settled in Katy,

Texas, at the insistence of Luree, who fell in love with the area and its long gardening season.

Everyone who knew Raymond knew that he was a deeply spiritual man of God first and foremost, and one who cared greatly about people. In Katy, he continued to be involved with the work of the church. He was consistently a resource for people in need of prayer, mentoring and being humbled in a game of chess. He and Luree loved children and enjoyed being the "neighborhood grandparents." After relocating to Katy, Raymond became a faithful volunteer at local schools where he tutored struggling students, raised butterflies, and taught the joys of chess.

Raymond was not only a devoted student of the Bible but loved to write about scriptures and Bible themes. For more than 20 years he shared devotional thoughts, Bible lessons, inspirational messages, humorous stories, and jokes to his friends by email. These were shared and over time, his list included nearly a hundred email addresses that included people all over the US and around the world.

Raymond was a remarkable man and blessed those who knew him.

There will be a memorial service at the Cinco Ranch Church of Christ in Katy, Texas, Sunday March 10 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Cinco Ranch Church of Christ or charity of your choice.

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## TRIBUTES



**MALCOLM LEROY REPKA**  
1939-2024

Malcolm LeRoy Repka was born on October 15, 1939, in Hempstead, Texas, to Roland and Grace Dreahn Repka. He grew up in Hempstead, Texas, and graduated from Waller High School, where he was voted Honorable All State in Football and even had a football scholarship to the University of Oklahoma, before failing a physical due to his injuries sustained during his senior year of high school. This also prevented him from entrance into the military. He owned

M.L. Repka Contractor and worked hard for many years in Katy. He also volunteered and drove a pumper truck with the Katy Fire Department. He was determined, honest, and stubborn. For over 20 years, he had coffee at Snappy's three times a day, until his health prevented him from going. He loved to dance and listen to good music, and he spent many enjoyable days on the water on Lake Somerville, driving the boat for friends and family while they skied, as well as fishing. He was

also an avid deer hunter and anxiously awaited opening day for deer season every year. He loved and was loved by so many family members and friends. He will be missed.

Malcolm LeRoy Repka passed away on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at his home in Katy, at the age of 84.

He is survived by his daughters, Malynn Rodriguez and her husband Frank, and Marla Repka; daughter-in-law, Sandra Strickland; grandchildren, Daniel Rodriguez

and his wife Regan, Michell Radenz and her husband Zach, and Connor Strickland; great grandchildren, Vada Archer Barnes, Junia Rodriguez, Malcolm Rodriguez, Robin Rodriguez, Makinley Overmyer, and Madison Williamson. He is preceded in death by his parents, Roland and Grace Repka; his wife, Debbie Repka; and a son, Marvin Strickland.

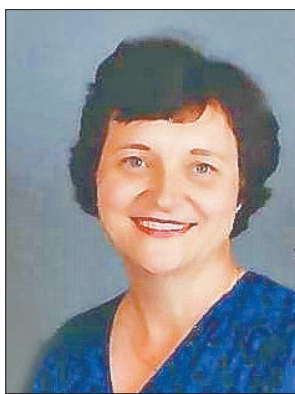
The family received friends from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel,

in Katy, where funeral services were held at 3 p.m. on Monday with his grandson, Daniel Rodriguez officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to Kids Unlimited Foundation, an organization dear to Malcolm's heart, <https://kidsunlimited.org>.

Funeral services held under the direction of **Schmidt Funeral Home** 1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~ Katy, Texas 77494 ~ (281) 391-2424

Violet Miertschin Tarpey was born on March 9, 1941, in Giddings, Texas, to Carl and Minnie Symank Miertschin. On February 8, 1963, Violet married Thomas Anthony Tarpey in Houston, Texas. She and Tom lived in Houston, Austin, and Pearland before moving to Katy in 1975; they were members of Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy. Throughout life, Violet found joy, solace, and inspiration in an unwavering faith evident in every act of love and service to her family, her church, and her community. Her greatest joy was spending time with the people she loved. She was quiet, but confident; gentle, but strong; calm, but



**VIOLET MIERTSCHIN TARPEY**  
1941-2024

quick to laugh; her friends and family valued and will miss her helpful nature, wise counsel, generous heart, and soothing presence.

Violet passed away on Sunday, February 25, 2024, in Houston, at the age of 82.

She is survived by her children, Mary Elizabeth Tarpey and her husband, Willard Volding, of Houston; Jonathan Michael Tarpey and his wife, Anna Tarpey, of Cypress; and Anne Marie Tarpey and her husband, Hamadouche Beticha, of Austin; grandsons, Dylan Michael Tarpey and his wife, Alexandra and Joshua Bryan Kimich; granddaughters, Miriam Beticha and Nora Beticha; brother, Monroe Miertschin of Austin; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband,

Thomas Anthony Tarpey, on March 7, 2008; her parents; and three siblings, William (Bill) Miertschin, Marie Miertschin Winkler, and John Miertschin.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at Memorial Lutheran Church, in Katy, with Rev. Ben Spaulding officiating. Interment at Memorial Oaks Cemetery and a reception will follow the funeral service.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum, 1011

County Road 212, Giddings, Texas 78942.

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## Tompkins team wins first at Paetow chess tournament

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

A newly-created team at Tompkins High School won the second annual chess tournament held February 24th at Paetow High School. The team -- Faizan Zameer, Atreya Jariwala, Sidharth Rajagopalan, Karthik Veeramallu -- is sponsored by Tompkins teacher Vern Eikrem, and they took the top honors, winning it all the way this year.

Chess is growing in popularity, said Paetow student Dawoud Rivas, who is in the chess club at Paetow. This year's tournament attracted teams from every Katy ISD high school except Morton Ranch, which does not have a chess club. Cinco Ranch has a chess club but could not gain the required number of students

to participate, Rivas said.

For Team Chess, there are always four members to the team, Rivas said, with the possibility of having three if the team wants to forfeit points for that member.

"I would love to give the game of Chess the recognition it deserves," Rivas said. "It is a game that has been played since the sixth century. My one dream is to get this game recognized by Texas UIL for High school students."

"I am hoping that Team chess and Solo Chess competitions can become a thing in Texas since all we have now is competitions for 2nd -8th grade that are recognized by UIL for Chess puzzles," he added. "I know many other states hold chess competitions such as the one we have in Katy ISD and it is recognized by those respective states. This could open

the opportunity for scholarships towards college for these wonderful kids."

Next year Paetow High will again host the chess tournament for Katy ISD. Rivas says that he is in the process of sending an application to Texas UIL to get the game recognized not only for Team Chess but as well for solo players. "Our club sponsors are also in talks of creating more tournaments throughout the year for not only teams but also solo players," he said.

Rivas has advice for students who want to form their own chess club on campus. "All they would have to do is get a member of the school's staff to sign off on holding the club in their rooms and apply for creation of the club through the respective high school's paperwork," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWOUD RIVAS

The chess team from Tompkins High won the February 24th chess tournament held at Paetow High, after forming the club just last year. From left to right: Faizan Zameer, Atreya Jariwala, Sidharth Rajagopalan, and Karthik Veeramallu.

## Robotics teams qualify for VEX World Robotics competition

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Two Katy High School robotics teams have qualified for the VEX World Robotics competition -- the Varsity K team and the JV A team, according to a recent Facebook post.

"We are so proud of these amazing students and how far they have come," says Adam Bukowski, Katy High School engineering instructor. "This program has been carefully crafted by Thea Drake, the head robotics coach. She has continued to shape and mentor this team despite her cancer diagnosis and ongoing treatment. We're grateful for her leadership and dedication to these students. We know they would not be heading to Worlds if not for her commitment to creating an open environment for bright young minds to flourish."

These students have fought a long battle to get to where they are. In their freshmen year (2020-21) there were not a lot of options to compete in person because of COVID. In their sophomore and junior years, they worked hard to hone their skills and to learn from



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

The Katy High School Robotic team has qualified for the VEX World Robotics Tournament in Dallas in April -- but needs funding to get to the tournament.

failures. This year they have really taken the local competitions by storm, often going undefeated at tournaments, said Katy ISD in a statement to the Katy Times.

"Their dedication is obvious," the statement said. "They live, sleep, and breathe VEX Robotics. The team has built and rebuilt their robot many times trying to perfect

every aspect."

Every summer, VEX Robotics releases a brand-new game that integrates plastic or foam game pieces to be played by 18-inch robots that are designed, programmed, built and driven by teams of high school students around the world.

Using VEX-approved parts that combine electronics, motors and aluminum or steel parts, the students must study the game thoroughly and decide how to precisely build their robots. Even seemingly small decisions like what type of wheels to use can have huge impacts on how the robot performs.

The game is played on a 12-foot field with 4 robots competing in each match. For the first 15 seconds of every match, the robots must be autonomous and drive themselves. The students preprogrammed the robot using either Robot C or Python to get the best performance out of their sensors and programs. To compete at the highest levels, the teams can qualify in one of five ways: interview, notebook, skills score, programming scores and tournament champion.

"Ever since my Freshman year, my passion has been robotics. As a senior, I hope to leave a legacy that can continue to motivate the teams to keep creating winning robots," says Harraz Hizam, Katy High School Robotics Club president and 63310K "Nemesis" team captain.

Harraz's team, alongside fellow Katy HS Team 63310A "Event Horizon" will head to VEX Worlds, held in Dallas, Texas in April 2024.

"This is an incredible honor, but it is also incredibly expensive," said Regina Roberts Smith in the February Facebook post. "The robotics program does not have even a fraction of the monetary support that many of the high school sports teams do." She added, "Two teams qualified for this honor a few years ago, but had to forfeit because they didn't get the necessary funding to cover the registration and travel. We don't want that to happen this year!"

If you would like to donate to the team's GoFundMe and help them pay their way to worlds, you can check it out here: <https://go-fund.me/e371e0b1>.

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## Seven Lakes' historic run ends

### WITH REGIONAL SEMIFINAL LOSS TO BEAUMONT UNITED

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Shannon Heston took a final moment to appreciate his seniors on Friday.

It's a group that has led Seven Lakes to huge heights, their best ever record, back to back regional tournaments and three straight district titles.

So with 3.4 seconds left in Friday's Region III-6A Semifinal, with the Spartans season dwindling down in a 71-63 loss to Beaumont United, Heston took his seniors and starters out and shared a moment with each of them. Hugging them on the sidelines and telling each how much they meant to him before the final buzzer.

"I love those guys," Heston said. "I don't have kids of my own and these boys each year are a family to me and I love them to death — they're why I do this. The wins are fun, so are the regional tournaments, but what means the most to me is being around those young men. In those last moments I just wanted the crowd to be able to celebrate them and to tell them how much they meant to me and how much I love them."

It was a special year for Seven Lakes — the Spartans won their third straight district title, beat an undefeated Clements in the regional quarters and set school records on their way to getting back to the regional tournament for a second straight year.

For three quarters of Friday's regional semifinal it looked like the Spartans might go further than they ever had before, but in the end a tough, talented United team was able to hold off the Spartans, slowing down Seven Lakes just enough in the fourth quarter to end their season.

"It's a credit to Beaumont," Heston said. "They get into your business and they make things hard on you. We played at a pace we wanted but sometimes you get worn out. But the bigger part of that is their defense — they did a great job of making us earn every basket and they got physical in the paint. When



TYLER TYRE

AJ Bates dribbles towards the basket during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Clements at Wheeler Fieldhouse.

See **BASKETBALL**, page B3

**WEEK OF MARCH 8**

## SCORES & SCHEDULES

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

REGION III-6A SEMIFINAL  
• Beaumont United 71, Seven Lakes 63

**SOFTBALL**

**Friday**

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

**Saturday**

- Paetow vs. Seven Lakes, 11:30 a.m.
- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 1:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Taylor, 1:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Tompkins, 1:30 p.m.

**Monday**

- Paetow vs. Bridge City, 6:30 p.m.

**BASEBALL**

**Thursday**

- Morton Ranch vs. Lamar, 9:30 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Magnolia, 10 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Willis, noon
- Cinco Ranch vs. Alvin, 12:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Jersey Village, 1 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Beaumont United, 1:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Caney Creek, 2:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Colleyville Heritage, 3 p.m.
- Jordan at Cy-Springs, 3:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Westside, 4:45 p.m.

**Friday**

- Morton Ranch at Cedar Ridge, 9:30 a.m.
- Katy at Cy-Woods, 10 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Brenham, noon
- Seven Lakes vs. Saginaw, 12:15 p.m.
- Katy vs. Klein Collins, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Montgomery, 3 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Santa Fe, 3 p.m.
- Paetow at Fort Bend Bush, 3:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial, 4 p.m.
- Tompkins at Tomball Memorial, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Memorial, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

- Seven Lakes vs. Burseson, 10 a.m.
- Katy vs. A&M Consolidated, 10 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Shadow Creek, 10 a.m.
- Mayde Creek at Manvel, 10:30 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Centennial, 12:15 p.m.
- Tompkins at Tomball, 12:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Friendswood, 12:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**

- Tompkins vs. Cinco Ranch, noon
- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, noon
- Morton Ranch vs. Katy, noon
- Mayde Creek vs. Paetow, noon



TYLER TYRE

Justice Carlton poses for a photo with her Seven Lakes teammates and classmates during Wednesday's McDonalds All-American jersey dedication ceremony at the Seven Lakes gym.

## Carlton overcomes adversity to be celebrated as McDonalds All-American

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

There was no way Justice Carlton was going to miss her senior season of basketball.

When Carlton tore her ACL last summer, it could have marked the end of her high school career. Many players, especially ones in Carlton's position, would have focused on their next steps and looked forward to college, but Carlton was not going to let things happen that way.

Carlton made her way back to playing in just four and a half months, helping the Spartans to a historic season and capping off her senior year with one of the biggest honors of her career — being named to the roster of this year's McDonalds All-American game, which Seven Lakes held a ceremony for on Wednesday at the Seven Lakes gym.

"This meant everything to me," Carlton said. "Even before growing up, you

wanted to be a McDonalds All-American, you grow up watching the game when you're young. Then you get older and you realize everything that comes with it and it becomes an even bigger goal. This is a dream that I've had forever and to be presented with the jersey and to have this accomplishment is everything."

It took everything from Carlton to get back to this point after the ACL injury. But the University of Texas signee was determined to get back in her senior year and help her team, which also helped her earn her way onto the McDonalds All-American roster. She started physical therapy from her bed where she had surgery in the summer and didn't stop, going every single morning of the school year at 5 a.m. and doubling up after school to help get back. She got back to strength and conditioning training in just three months and was cleared to do non-contact weeks later. It was a lot, it

See **CARLTON**, page B3

## Katy ISD has strong state swim and dive meet

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD had a tournament day at the state swim and dive state tournament last week, sending a number of swimmers to the finals of events and having good finishes despite not sending anyone to the medal stand.

The top finisher from Katy ISD was Seven Lakes Joel Nace, who finished fourth overall in the 100-meter fly. Nace also made the final of the 200-free, where he finished 11th overall.

There were two sixth place finishers on the girls side for Katy ISD. Cinco Ranch's Olivia

See **SWIM**, page B2



COURTESY KATY ISD

Joel Nace had a fourth place finish in the 100-meter fly and an 11th place finish in the 200-meter free.



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# Morton Ranch grad Cryer named to Jerry West award top 10 list

## STAFF REPORT

University of Houston senior guard LJ Cryer was honored as one of the Top 10 Candidates for the Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year Award, presented by the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Houston fans can support Cryer in the remaining rounds by participating in Fan Voting, presented by Dell Technologies at [hoophallawards.com](http://hoophallawards.com). The Fan Vote will count as one committee vote during the finalist selection process.

In March, five finalists will be presented to Cousy and the Hall of Fame's Selection Committee. The Selection Committee for the Jerry West Award is composed of top men's college basketball personnel, including media members, head coaches, sports information directors and Hall of Famers.

The winner of the 2024 Jerry West Award will be presented on a to-be-determined date, along with the other four members of the Men's Starting Five. Additional awards being presented include the Bob Cousy Award (Point Guard), Julius Erving Award (Small Forward), Karl Malone (Power Forward), and the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award (Center), in addition to the Women's Starting Five.

Earlier this week, Houston teammate and senior point guard Jamal Shead was named to the Bob Cousy Award Top-10 Candidate List.

In 2022-23, Consensus First-Team All-American guard Marcus Sasser received the Jerry West Award, becoming the first Cougar in program history to earn that honor.

Cryer is in his first season at Houston in 2023-24 after transferring from Baylor during the summer.

The Katy, Texas, native has started all 21 games to date this season and leads the Cougars and ranks among the Big 12 Top 10 with 15.1 points per game. He also ranks among the league leaders in field goal percentage (40.0), 3-point field goal percentage (37.8) and 3-point field goals made per game (3.0).

A product of Morton Ranch High School, Cryer tops the Cougars with



Houston Cougars guard LJ Cryer (4) moves the ball against Montana Grizzlies forward Dischon Thomas (24) during an NCAA college basketball game on November 24, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 79-44.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

six 20-point games, including a season-high 24 points against Montana inside Fertitta Center on Nov. 24, 2023.

Averaging 16.7 points, 3.7 3-pointers and 2.7 rebounds per game in wins over Towson, Utah and Dayton, Cryer was named the Most Valuable Player at the Shriners Children's Charleston Classic in November and was named to midseason watch lists for the John R. Wooden Award and the Lute Olson Award.

Cryer earned 2022-23 All-Big 12 and USBWA All-District VII Team recognition at Baylor after averaging 15.0 points per game while hitting 45.3 percent (163-of-360) from the field, including 41.5 percent (80-of-193) from

behind the arc.

The Katy, Texas, native set Baylor's NCAA Tournament scoring record with 30 points against rv/#22 Creighton and posted the program's single-season free throw percentage record at 89.4 percent (59-of-66).

As a freshman, Cryer competed in 20 games while helping lead the Bears to the Big 12 title and the NCAA national championship.

Cryer was an award-winning star at Morton Ranch High School, where he finished his career with 3,488 points, the fifth-highest total in Texas public school history. He was named to the TABC Class 6A All-State Team.

# St. John XXIII ready for deep playoff run

## STAFF REPORT

On February 20, the Lions Girls Soccer Team of St. John XXIII College Prep in Katy completed their second consecutive undefeated regular season with a 4-0 victory over Lutheran South Academy. The Lions' current record is 27-0-1 with another district championship under the guidance of Head Coach Zayne Ramirez. The eight seniors on the



roster have each played key roles as leaders both on and off the field.

Last season's playoff run saw the Lions finish as the runner-up in the TAPPS 5A championship match. This year, the team is aiming at the championship once again starting with a first-round playoff win on February 26. It was a 3-0 victory against San Antonio St. Anthony. Sophomore Aly Peters clinched the win with all three goals.

Next up for the Lions will be either Emory-Weiner or the Texas Military Institute.

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COURTESY KATY ISD

Avery Coates had a sixth place finish in the 1-meter dive.

## SWIM

from page B1

Bobrowski finished sixth in the 50-free and Katy's Avery Coates had a sixth place finish in the 1-meter dive.

Following are the finalists from Katy ISD at this year's Class 6A State Swim & Dive Tournament.

### Girls

- 200-Medley Relay**  
6. Seven Lakes, 1:32.20
- 200-Free**  
11. Kaeli White, Jordan, 1:51.64  
13. Ava LaBrose, Tompkins, 1:51.66
- 200-Individual Medley**  
8. Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 2:06.55
- 50-Free**  
6. Olivia Bobrowski, Cinco Ranch, 23.59
- 1-Meter Dive**  
6. Avery Coates, Katy, 408.25  
12. Alexandr Angueira-Colombani, Seven Lakes, 376.45  
14. Maria-Jose Leviaguirre, Jordan, 370.05
- 100-Fly**  
16. Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 57.52
- 500-Free**  
8. Kaeli White, Jordan, 5:00.67

### Boys

- 200-Free**  
11. Joel Nace, Seven Lakes, 1:38.72
- 200-Individual Medley**  
8. Jonas Dark, Cinco Ranch, 1:51.60
- 1-Meter Dive**  
7. Tristan Rodriguez, Tompkins, 462.85
- 100-Fly**  
4. Joel Nace, Seven Lakes, 48.35
- 500-Free**  
14. Connor Jones, Seven Lakes, 4:34.85
- 100-Back**  
7. Connor Jones, 50:16
- 100-Breast**  
7. Dillon Dierschke, Seven Lakes, 56.06  
8. Derek Wintergrass, 56.90
- 400-Free Relay**  
7. Seven Lakes, 3:06.59



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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE  
Left: Tillman Jaramillo shoots a layup during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Clements at Wheeler Fieldhouse. Above: Tillman Jaramillo and Brett Norton celebrate after Jaramillo hit the game winning shot during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Clements at Wheeler Fieldhouse.

## BASKETBALL

from page B1

we got into that size and strength competition down there, they just had a little more in that area."

Both teams started the first quarter fast, — the offenses were back and forth and while United built a four point lead late in the quarter. Seven Lakes came back and AJ Bates hit a 3-pointer at the first quarter buzzer to trim United's lead to 24-23, and things kept on being tight with the game going into the half tied at 41.

Seven Lakes built a five point lead in the third quarter, but things continued to be back and forth. United came back to take the lead late in the third before Seven Lakes came back and re-took the lead in the final seconds of the quarter on a reverse layup from Nasir Price.

But United turned things on in the fourth quarter. The Timberwolves scored 10 straight

points to start the quarter, with the Spartans unable to put a point on the board until there was just 2:05 remaining in the game on a Nasir Price floater. Seven Lakes battled but was unable to mount the comeback.

"The mantra here is 'we are the ones that hunt,'" Heston said. "We are the ones who take it to everyone else and this team epitomized that all season long. Tonight they made United earn everything they got. When they play like that, I'll always be satisfied with the result because you can take someone's best shot and fight back. That's what these guys did all year."

Seven Lakes' season ends with a record of 36-3, the best record in the history of the program and the senior class that is exiting was instrumental in turning the program into one of the best in the area and state.



Justice Carlton and her family pose for a photo during Wednesday's McDonalds All-American jersey dedication ceremony at the Seven Lakes gym.

## CARLTON

from page B1

required sacrifice, but it was worth it for Carlton.

"The day I found out I tore my ACL, I called (University of Texas head coach) Vic Schaefer and I told him and then said I was going to come back from it this year. He told me the earliest he'd seen someone come back from it was four months so I was like 'okay, it's possible, so I told them I'm coming back this year.' Not everyone was happy with me, but it's what I needed to do and I'm glad that I did."

Carlton's return sparked a surge for the Spartans in the second half of district and the team went on a 22-game winning streak, clinching a district title and making it to the regional semifinals for the second time in three years. Carlton surpassed 2,000 career points and became the Spartans' career leader in blocks, proving herself to be one of the all-time greats that have come through the school.

"Justice's character is second to none," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "She fought, rehabbed and worked so hard so she could play her senior year with her teammates and the accomplishments on the court speak for themselves, but off the court she is just as impactful. Justice is humble and gracious — she's always doing the little things for others and she makes everyone

around her better. She's everything you want in a player."

The accomplishment of McDonalds All-American was a culmination of all that hard work for Carlton, and it meant even more with the games being held in Houston in April. Carlton knew that she wanted to have these moments in her senior year, and she wasn't going to be told no.

"She's stubborn but in a great way," said Kacy Carlton, Justice's mother and Seven Lakes assistant coach. "If someone tells her she can't or that might be too lofty a goal, then that just fuels her. It's kind of like that Kobe mindset where if anyone doubts her or talks trash, it just drives her. She's very internally driven and when she wants something, nothing is going to stop her from reaching that goal."

That goal will be achieved at 5:30 p.m. April 2 at the Toyota Center when Carlton will compete alongside the 23 other best high school seniors in the nation in the game and it's something she cannot wait for.

"I'm looking forward to it every day and I'm so excited," Carlton said. "I'm excited to play with my friends and I'm excited to play against some of the best girls in the country. That's the only word I can use to describe it — I'm just so excited for this."

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

Sale to be held ONLINE AUCTION [storagetreasures.com](http://storagetreasures.com)

The facility is at FRY ROAD MINI STORAGE, 20150 Park Row, Katy, TX 77449 Bidding will open at 10:00 am on March 11, 2024, and end at 12:00 pm on March 14, 2024. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean-up and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Temeka Jefferson, Beatriz Ordenez, Ashley Harden, Janaiyah Whittaker, Juan Ramirez, William Casey, Mirna Rodriguez, Talia Degree, Beatriz Ordenez, Dominique Bailey, Ricardo Martinez, Clement Adomokai.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE**

THE MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

By Order Of Mayor  
And City Council  
City Of Katy, Texas  
February 12, 2024

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

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

The facility is BEAR CREEK MINI STORAGE 17730 Kieth Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on March 14, 2024, and end at 12:00 pm on March 21, 2024. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: VICKIE MORRIS, GUSTAVO FORTNELA, MARIA STANLEY, ROLAND SARWON, SHARMAIN SHELTON, GREG NORWOOD, PATRICE JACKSON, LAQUISHA TUCKER, VERONICA FUENTES.

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

The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

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

Katy Independent School District  
6301 South Stadium Lane  
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees, and its agents, officers, and staff members shall not discriminate based on gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Katy Management District No. 1 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:30 P.M. on March 21, 2024, for Primary Gateway Signage Phase 1.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including Pylon Monument Signs, Lighting and Electrical and Street Signage Improvements.

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

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon request.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Katy Management District No. 1 in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2024, at 2:30 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

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

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

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:  
"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

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

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 3130 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON FEBRUARY 26, 2024:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ADDING STOP SIGNS AT THE NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND INTERSECTIONS OF CANE ISLAND PARKWAY AND PITTS RD, CREATING A 3-WAY STOP SIGN CONTROLLED INTERSECTION; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$200.00; AUTHORIZING THE CITY SECRETARY TO PUBLISH ONLY THE CAPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Two Sales to be held online at [storagetreasures.com](http://storagetreasures.com). Facility is located at 14655 Old Humble Rd, Humble TX, 77396. Bidding will open on 3/21/2024 at 9:00 AM and concludes on 3/29/2024 at 7:00 PM. Clean up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the properties at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to the highest bidder. Two properties include the contents of the following tenants, Joseph Mullikin and Eric Moore include power and hand tools, outdoor items, electronics and household items and more.

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids addressed to Willow Fork Drainage District, Attention: Mr. John Savage, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, March 21, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Phase I VA3B Rehabilitation for Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 931 784 519#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Remove and replace existing concrete slope paving, regrade channel bottom, and place concrete rip rap.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held in-person on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time at Willow Fork Park, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at <https://www.civcastusa.com/>.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **Town Park Subdivision Street Improvements Project, until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves asphalt pavement repairs in the Town Park Subdivision, including milling the existing asphalt pavement surface, performing full depth repairs at various locations, and installing a new asphalt driving surface on all the streets within the Town Park Subdivision. The project also includes replacing existing pavement markings, and all labor, materials and equipment required to perform the work.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the City of Katy.
- Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:  
**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83298178732>**  
**Meeting ID: 832 9817 8732**  
**Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

Equal Opportunity in Employment - all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

**February 29 Puzzle Answers**

A	M	E	S		S	C	I		U	G	L	I			
L	U	C	I	D		I	A	N	N	O	N	O			
U	N	C	L	E	S	T	N	T	D	O	L	T			
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			A	B	O	R	I	G	I	N	E	S			
C	O	U	P	L	E	R		N	E	N	E	S			
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6	7	9	5	4	1	3	2	8
1	5	8	9	3	2	7	6	4
3	4	2	8	7	6	1	5	9
5	3	4	1	6	7	8	9	2
9	1	7	2	8	5	6	4	3
8	2	6	3	9	4	5	7	1
2	8	5	6	1	9	4	3	7
7	9	1	4	5	3	2	8	6
4	6	3	7	2	8	9	1	5



# Softball Roundup: Katy, Taylor stay perfect in district

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

## FRIDAY

Katy and Taylor kept up perfect starts to district on Friday, with both clinching run rule wins, while Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes both found their way into the win column as well.

### Taylor stays perfect in district with win over Tompkins

Taylor earned a big win over Tompkins on Friday night, with Bethany Fan leading the way, driving in six runs and hitting three doubles and a home run in a 13-3 win. Ari Hughes pitched a complete game for Taylor and allowed one earned run on four hits while striking out six. Taylor improved to 10-8 on the year and 3-0 on district with the win.

Katelyn Wentzler got the Mustangs going in the first inning with a double that drove in a run, putting Taylor ahead. Izzy Allen kept things going in the second inning with a one-run single before Fan came to the plate and hit a 3-run home run. Fan brought in more runs in the fourth inning when she stepped to the plate and hit a 2-run double to make it 7-0 Taylor. Tompkins pulled a run back in the top of the fifth on an error and got a second in the sixth when Cami Hearn hit a solo home run. Taylor answered back in the bottom of the sixth with five runs to end it. Allen started the run with an RBI triple before Fan drove in another on a double. Wentzler followed that up with an RBI single, Taylor got another on an error and Taylor Gray hit a single to drive in the final run and end the game.

Hearn led the way for Tompkins with one RBI. Samantha Crumrin started on the mound and allowed five runs on seven hits while striking out two and walking one. Tompkins fell to 5-9 and 1-2 in district play with the loss.

### Katy shuts out Jordan

Katy run ruled Jordan on Friday behind a strong showing on the mound and at the plate, winning 12-0. Cameryn Harrison continued to shut down opposing teams by pitching five innings and allowing just one hit while striking out 11. On the offensive side, Ashtyn Reichardt led the way with four RBIs while Maddie Smith added three RBIs and a home run. Katy improved to 19-1 and 4-0 in district with the win.

Reichardt got Katy on the board in the second inning with a double that drove in three runs and Haley Gore followed that up with a double of her own to drive in another. Katy added to the lead in the third with Lauren Soeken tripling and driving in another run before coming around to score on an error, making it 6-0 Katy. Two runs scored on errors in the fourth inning and then Maddie Smith came to the plate and hit a 3-run homer that made it a double-digit lead. Reichardt added the final run of the day with an RBI single. Katy then closed out the top of the fifth without allowing a run to end the game.

Ryan McIntosh pitched a complete game for Jordan and allowed seven earned runs on seven hits, striking out two and walking six. The Warriors fell to 5-7 overall and 1-2 in district after the loss.

### Seven Lakes downs Morton Ranch

Seven Lakes took only three innings to earn a big win over Morton Ranch on Friday, stroll-

ing past the Mavericks 18-3 and improving to 4-5 with a 1-2 district record.

It was a balanced day at the plate as they were led by Haley Welch, who had two RBIs, while seven players added one RBI in the win.

It was Morton Ranch that struck first in the game. Heidi Quiroz started the game off with a bases loaded walk in the top of the first and Morton Ranch got another when Chloe Mendez also earned a bases loaded walk. But Seven Lakes answered back quickly in the bottom of the inning. Welch got the Spartans scoring started with an RBI double before Dulce Franco did it with a double of her own. An error brought around three more runs in the inning before Ella Greathouse brought in a sixth run on a single. Welch added a seventh before the end of the inning on a sacrifice fly.

Morton Ranch got a run back in the top of the second on a Bailey Hays double but Seven Lakes came right back and answered in the bottom of the inning. The Spartans got two runs on errors before Michelle Taboada hit a single to make it 10 runs for the Spartans. Dulce Franco added another in the third with a double before errors allowed three more runs to score. Sarah Petree made it 15 for the Spartans on an RBI single before a bases loaded hit by pitch added another. Kamryn Wallman and Hannah Parra both drew bases loaded walks to close out the game.

Hays, Quiroz and Mende led the way with one RBI each. Hays also pitched a complete game for Morton Ranch and allowed four earned runs on 13 hits, walking six in the process. Morton Ranch fell to 2-5 overall and 0-3 in district with the loss.

### Cinco outlasts Mayde Creek for important win

Cinco Ranch earned an important win as they try to climb the district standings, beating Mayde Creek 10-4 and improving to 6-7 overall and 3-1 in district in the process.

It was a big day for the Cinco bats in the win — both Ossie Cooper and Aubrey Ramirez had three RBIs in the game and Savannah Henningson had two RBIs while also starting on the mound and pitching a complete game, allowing three earned runs while striking out six and walking none.

Cooper got the scoring started in the bottom of the first, driving in two runs on a triple and Sydni Vandeventer followed that up with a sacrifice grounder. Mayde Creek answered back in the top of the second, getting a run on a double from Kaitlyn Flores and trimming Cinco's lead to one when Aneesa Ocanas hit a sacrifice grounder. The Rams tied things in the third inning when Alexia Ruiz hit an RBI single, but Cinco Ranch came back and retook the lead in the bottom of the third when Ramirez hit an RBI single. An error then let two more runs score as Cinco increased its lead to 6-3.

The Cougars put things out of reach in the fourth inning. Madison Rosario hit a single to drive in a run and an error brought around another; Ramirez then stepped up and hit a single to drive in two more. Mayde Creek tried to get back in it and got one back in the top of the sixth when Hannah Barras hit an RBI single, but Cinco held them the rest of the way.

Ruiz, Flores, Ocanas and Barras all had RBIs for Mayde Creek in the loss while Shy'Lynn Brown started on the mound and went six innings, allowing six earned runs on 10 hits while striking out six and walking three.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 27

### Soeken's 3 RBIs send Katy past Mayde Creek

Katy continued its dominant start to the season, run ruling Mayde Creek 10-0 behind a big day at the plate from Lauren Soeken and Ashtyn Reichardt and a complete game shut-out on the mound from Cameryn Harrison. The Tigers improved to 15-1, and a 3-0 record in district with the win as they continue to put on strong showings.

Katy was kept off the scoresheet in the first inning but weren't going to let it happen two innings in a row. Reichardt drove two in on a single to center field and the Tigers got a third on an error in the next at bat. The Tigers went scoreless in the third, but put some distance between them and the Rams. Haley Gore got the Tigers' fourth run on the board with a double that brought in a run before Soeken brought in another on a single. Two more runs came across on an error later in the inning as the Tigers led 8-0 after four innings. Soeken capped things off in the top of the fifth with a double that drove in two before Harrison set Mayde Creek down in order in the bottom half of the inning to seal the win.

Mayde Creek's lone hit in the game came from Shy'Lynn Brown, Brown also started the game on the mound and went three innings, allowing six runs on six hits, walking five and striking out one. It was the first dropped district game of the season for Mayde Creek, who now sits at 3-6 on the year and 2-1 in District 19-6A play.

### Cinco Ranch offense explodes in win over Morton Ranch

Cinco Ranch had a huge day with their bats on Tuesday, earning a 21-1 win over Morton Ranch in three innings. It was a huge day from Aubrey Ramirez, who had six RBIs and three hits to lead the way for the Cougars, while Madison Rosario had three RBIs and Faith Piper, Ossie Cooper and Sydni Vandeventer all had two RBIs each. Savannah Henningson was on the mound for the Cougars and allowed just two hits and one run while striking out six and walking one. Cinco Ranch improved to 5-7 on the season and 2-1 in district with the win.

The Cougars jumped ahead early and never looked back. Ramirez got the scoring started in the top of the first with a 2-run single and Henningson hit a sacrifice grounder in the next at bat for another run. Vandeventer hit a sacrifice fly next to make it 4-0 after one inning. Cinco kept it going in the second. Piper drew a bases loaded walk, and a steal of home gave the Cougars another run. Ramirez came back up again and extended the lead with a 3-run home run. Gaby Perez then hit a sacrifice fly and Piper drew another bases loaded walk, Rosario hit an RBI single, Cooper drove in two more with a triple and Ramirez singled home another run to increase the Cougars' lead to 16-0 after two innings.

Gianna Campise led the next inning off with an inside the park home run and Piper bunt singled home a run before Rosario hit a sacrifice fly, Ramirez hit a sacrifice grounder and Vandeventer hit an RBI single to get Cinco to 21 runs in the third inning. Morton Ranch got one run back on an error, but Cinco closed out the inning with a ground out to end the game.

Morton Ranch got hits from Makenzie

Rimmer and Michelle Meeks and Bailey Hays started on the mound and went two innings, allowing 10 runs on 10 hits, walking two in the process. Morton Ranch fell to 2-5 on the year and 0-3 in district with the loss.

### Tompkins run rules Seven Lakes

Tompkins bats heated up in a 17-1 win over Seven Lakes. Kaylee Segura had the hottest bat for the Falcons, driving in three runs in the win while Lainey Wilkerson had two RBIs. Samantha Crumrin went three innings on the mound in the win and allowed one run on three hits while striking out four and walking two.

Leah Gershman got the scoring started in the bottom of the first inning with an RBI single and Lex Cebrero followed that up by singling home a run, with Crumrin hitting a double after that to drive in another before Segura hit a sacrifice fly to make it 5-0 Tompkins after one inning.

Seven Lakes pulled one back in the top of the second, scoring on an error, but Tompkins responded. Peyton Ebel hit a single to bring in a run before coming around to score on a passed ball and Segura hit an RBI single before another run scored on an error, Avery Andry then hit an RBI single and two runs came around to score on an error. Tompkins kept things going in the third inning. Cami Hearn hit a double to bring in a run and Segura got Tompkins to 14 runs on a hit by pitch with the bases loaded. Tompkins got another on a wild pitch and Wilkerson drove in the final two runs of the game on a double to end things.

Dulce Franco had two hits for Seven Lakes while Haley Welch had one hit. Ryma Chakraborty pitched two innings for Seven Lakes and allowed 12 runs on 10 hits, walking four in the loss. Seven Lakes dropped to 3-5 and 0-2 in district with the loss.

### Jordan outlasts Paetow for first district win

Jordan had a strong game against Paetow to earn the team's first district win of the season, with a number of players having big games. Lyra Berry led the way with three RBIs while Aislyn Duhon and Madeline Jovanovic had two RBIs each. Ryan McIntosh pitched a complete game for Jordan, allowing five runs on six hits while striking out nine and walking five in the process, helping Jordan improve to 5-6 on the year and 1-1 in district play.

Jordan got two runs in the first inning from a Jovanovic RBI double and a third when Jovanovic stole home. Paetow got two back in the top of the second, Amanda Vasquez drove in one on an RBI single before the Panthers got a steal of home to trim Jordan's lead to one. Jordan got one run in the third on an error and kept it going in the fourth. Madison Green hit an RBI single, Lyra Berry then hit a 3-run home run and McIntosh hit a solo home run to make it 9-2 Jordan. Paetow pulled three back in the top of the fifth on an error and things stayed that way until the bottom of the sixth when Duhon got Jordan to 11 runs with a 2-run home run. Then Jordan worked its way out of the top of the seventh to secure the win.

Paetow was led by Vasquez and her one RBI, while Alexis Rodriguez and Alicia Briones had two RBIs each to lead the Panthers. Jiselle Lopez started on the mound and went 3.2 innings, allowing eight runs on seven hits and striking out six. The Panthers moved to 8-8 and 1-2 in district with the loss.

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**Katy Times**



BASEBALL ROUNDUP

# Katy, Taylor, Paetow, Jordan start district with wins

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Four teams started district baseball with wins on Tuesday, as Katy, Taylor, Paetow and Jordan all had strong days on the diamond and started district on the right foot.

## Nelson leads Katy past Tompkins

Katy started district off with a huge win, beating Tompkins 7-0 behind some strong early offense and a big day on the mound from Cade Nelson. Nelson and Avery Huerta combined to pitch a no-hitter over seven innings, with Nelson striking out seven and walking two over 5.2 innings and Huerta coming in for the final 1.1 innings and striking out two without a walk. The Tigers were led by Blake Davilla and AJ Atkinson, who both had two RBIs. The win moved Katy to 7-4 overall and 1-0 in district.

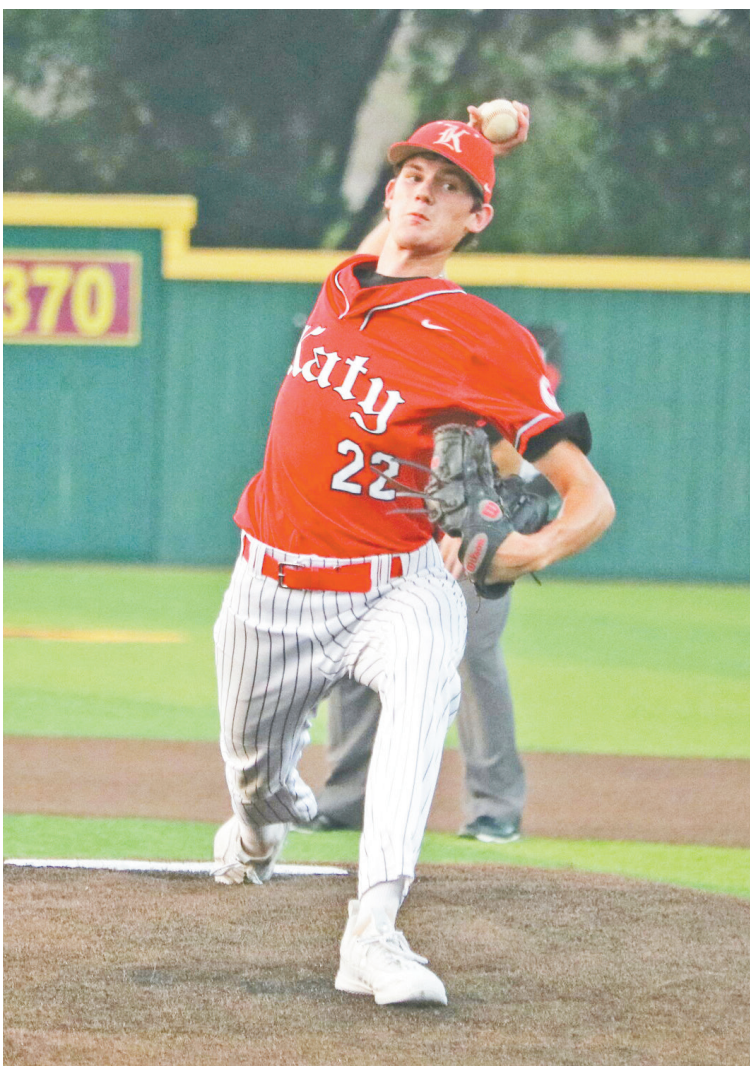
Katy came out strong early, and Davilla gave the Tigers the lead in the bottom of the first on a 2-run triple, with Atkinson following that up with a one run single. It stayed that way until the bottom of the third, when Atkinson hit a sacrifice grounder to bring in a fourth run before getting another on an error and having Connor single in another run before coming around to score on a wild pitch to make it 7-0. Tompkins tried to fight back but was unable to, falling in seven innings.

With the loss, Tompkins fell to 4-5 on the year and 0-1 in district play.

## Krenek dominant in Taylor win over Cinco Ranch

Bryce Krenek had a huge day on the mound in Taylor's 3-1 district opening win over reigning district champs Cinco Ranch. The junior pitched 6.1 innings and allowed just three hits, striking out 12 and walking two while only allowing one unearned run to come across in the win.

All the runs came late in the game as it was scoreless through



Cade Nelson pitches during a Regional Semifinal between Katy and Clear Springs at Deer Park.

six innings. Taylor finally got on to the board in the top of the seventh, when Marcus Rodriguez hit a triple to make it 1-0. The Cougars answered back in their last chance though — the Cougars got a man on base and Guillermo Pekle drove it in on a single. Cinco got two outs without a run in the eighth, but Alex Satterfield broke the deadlock on a bunt single that brought home a run, and Taylor got a third off of a Cinco error. Taylor got out of the bottom of the eighth after that to seal the win.

Josh Morelli had a good day on the mound for Cinco, allowing just

the one run on seven hits while striking out five and walking one. Brock DeYoung, Lucas Franco and Pekle got the teams three hits.

## Jordan run rules Mayde Creek

Jordan's offense was flowing in a big 13-0 win over Mayde Creek, with the Warriors only needing five innings to close out the run rule win. The Warriors were led by Sam Coraspe, who started and pitched a four innings, only allowing one hit while striking out eight and walking two. Offensively, Bobby Richardson led the way with three RBIs and Henry



Bryce Krenek pitches during a game between Taylor and Seven Lakes at the Taylor baseball field.

Surcouf had two RBIs.

The Warriors got on the board in the second inning. The Warriors got one on a passed ball and then Richardson drove in three on a double before Cole Keppler hit a triple to make it 6-0. Jordan kept it going in the third, getting a run on a passed ball and a balk. The Warriors got a ninth in the fourth inning on a bases loaded walk before Surcouf brought three home on a single and Jordan got its final run on another single, before closing things out with a clean top of the fifth.

Mayde Creek fall to 1-6-1 and 0-1 in district with the loss.

## Paetow holds off Morton Ranch

Paetow earned its first district win of the year by topping Morton Ranch 12-5, using a balanced offensive attack to take home the victory, improving to 7-3 on the year and 1-0 in district play.

Morton Ranch started off the game by getting in front, scoring on an error in the top of the first

inning. Paetow came back and took the lead in the bottom of the inning, tying it on a RBI triple from Matthew Scott before Maddox Pretince singled in another run. Morton Ranch pulled one back in the top of the third when Leo Banelos drove in a run on a single, but Paetow came back in the bottom of the inning with some very strong play, scoring three runs, one off a Hector Millan single, another off an error and two more on an Allan Soto single.

Pretince got Paetow another run on a sacrifice fly in the fourth but Morton Ranch came back in the fifth with three runs, on a bases loaded walk, a single by Adrian Barrios and a Jerry Gutierrez hit by pitch with the bases loaded. Paetow closed things out in the bottom of the sixth. Scott started the inning by getting two runs in on a double and they kept it going on an error that scored a run before Soto singled to make it 12 runs and cap off the day.

With the loss, Morton Ranch fell to 5-4-1 overall and 0-1 in district play.

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