

KISD highlights Winborn Elementary's needs in push for bond approval

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD has four bonds totaling about \$676.2 million on the May 1 ballot intended to address growth in the district and aging infrastructure. Among those is Proposition A, a roughly \$591.4 million bond that would be used for new schools as well as improving existing campuses such as Diane Winborn Elementary.

District representatives provided a tour of Winborn to press representatives in an effort to educate the public on what renovation needs the school - which is about 40 years old - has. The campus, they said, is not on par with newer campuses such as Bryant or McEl-

wain elementaries, which opened in the past three years.

"I think, because the building is so old, it wasn't built with the functionality or the thought in mind of, you know, 22 kids in a classroom with a teacher or anywhere from four to seven teachers in a planning room planning at the same time," said Winborn Principal Kasey Lowry.

Throughout the tour, Lowry's point was illustrated in multiple ways. While the school has had minor updates since it opened in 1981, the student body has grown and is expected to exceed 700 students in the 2021-22 school year. With that growth, planning spaces and coworking spaces have become cramped, Lowry said.

With the need for more collaborative lesson planning among teachers and teachers' aides, space for educators to work together is important. However, the planning rooms generally are filled with office supplies in boxes and pushed to the side on tables intended for teachers to collaborate.

KISD Chief Operations Officer Ted Vierling said the district has also taken what used to be common areas for collaborative learning and used that space to create classrooms. With that, there are security concerns with walls that don't reach the ceilings and an entryway that doesn't serve standardized security practices.



R. HANS MILLER

Winborn Elementary opened its doors in 1981 and has since grown from a small elementary to one with a student body approaching 700 students. Katy ISD hopes to take funding from a proposed bond to renovate older campuses such as Winborn and upgrade them to modern standards.

See **KISD**, page A3

Katy City Council candidates discuss the issues



R. HANS MILLER

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President Rick Ellis (far right) moderated a discussion forum with three of Katy's four city council candidates. Gina Hicks (far left) is facing incumbent Ward B Councilmember Jenifer Stockdick while Diane Walker (center stool) is facing Dan Smith (right stool) for the Ward A seat which Councilmember Dusty Thiele will leave in May.

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a candidate forum for the Katy City Council Election for which early voting began April 19. Dan Smith and Diane Walker discussed their positions on issues facing the city as they compete for the Ward A seat, while Gina Hicks provided her stances as a candidate for Ward B.

Ward B incumbent Jenifer Stockdick was

unable to attend because she wasn't feeling well.

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President Rick Ellis, who moderated the forum, asked candidates if they would vote in favor of a measure put before council if they did not support it personally. All three candidates present at the forum said they would generally vote in the best interest of the city and with their morals. They also alluded that

See **CANDIDATES**, page B3

Royal FFA show raises more than \$270K for students

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Royal ISD held its annual Future Farmers of America show on Saturday, April 10 with 72 student projects bringing in more than \$270,000 for students. This year's show was the 65th held by the district and more than 500 people showed up to support RISD FFA students.

"Other activities associated with this traditional FFA event included the BBQ luncheon which fed over 580 people. The FFA Parade was another huge success for the participants and was a treat for those who viewed the entries along the parade route," said Royal ISD Career and Technical Education Director Ronnie Melton.

Prior to the show, the district's traditional parade was held with the Best of Theme trophy being awarded to the Brookshire Youth Sports League. In the announcement, Melton also expressed appreciation to those who coordinated the activities that made the parade and show a success for the students.

Winners at this year's show include:



COURTESY RISD

Stephanie De La Rosa stands beside her grand champion horticulture project at the Royal ISD FFA show. De La Rosa's project sold for \$3,000 in the auction that accompanied the show with Waller County Precinct 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorff serving as auctioneer.

- Litzie Gonzales' champion market steer which sold for \$10,000 to Goya Foods.
- Iliana Valencia's reserve market steer which sold for \$12,000 to Texas State Land Developers.
- Kaelyn Hein's champion heifer which sold for

- \$8,500 to Scott and Michelle Hartman.
- Averi Rogney's reserve champion heifer which sold for \$5,000 to MLS Machining & Fabrication.
- Mariwinae Wolfe's champion market swine

See **FFA**, page A3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

news@katytimes.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

281-391-3141



April 22, 2021
12 pages | \$1

RISD highlights STEM and trade programs at April 14 assembly

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Royal ISD hosted a community gathering at Royal High School in Brookshire April 14 to highlight programs that provide opportunities for the district's students. RISD Superintendent Rick Kershner was joined by students, faculty and community members who helped showcase the opportunities the district provides to learners.

"Every business needs good employees, ready to go," said keynote speaker and president of the West I-10 Chamber of Commerce, Arnold England. "And as fast as we're putting up walls out here between (Brookshire) and Katy and then around, (those companies) need a lot of employees."

England lauded RISD's efforts to promote trade skills in schools alongside science, technology, engineering and math - often referred to as STEM - coursework. England spoke about going to Royal High School and working to improve the Future Farmers of

America pens using the welding skills he'd learned there, in the process pointing out that employers moving to the area would need those skills in the workforce.

Joy Wilson, director of RISD's Teaching & Learning Department, said she was proud that the district is one of only 13 school districts in the Texas Education Agency's Region 4 - which has more than 50 districts - to offer the Early College High School program. ECHS allows students to graduate from high school with an associate degree already in hand.

Wilson also said RISD students are excelling at raising scores in accountability testing through the STAAR test.

"(W)ithin our last accountability (testing cycle) here, 18 of those tests - we improved," Wilson said.

Wilson credits the hard work of teachers and students and programs such as the RISD STEM Academy and Project Lead the Way, a nonprofit partner with the district that helps



R. HANS MILLER

Seventh-grader Lauren Hillsman speaks to community members at last week's ABCs of Royal ISD event hosted by the school's administration. Hillsman spoke about the benefits of being enrolled in the district's STEM Academy and how she enjoys classes there while still being able to participate in extracurricular activities such as Future Farmers of America or sports teams if she chooses to.

See **ROYAL ISD**, page A3

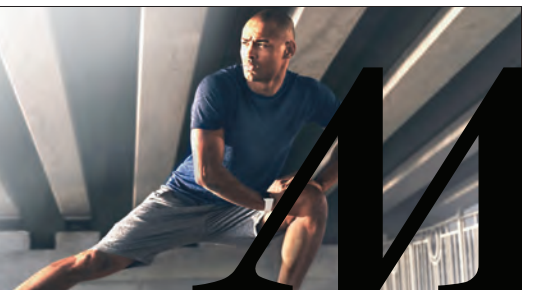
Leading Orthopedic Care to
KEEP YOU MOVING

HOUSTON
Methodist
ORTHOPEDICS &
SPORTS MEDICINE



OFFICIAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Schedule an appointment:
houstonmethodist.org/orthopedics
832.522.8280





R. HANS MILLER

Katy Sip 'n Stroll came back this last Saturday, April 17 for its 21st annual event benefitting The Ballard House – a Katy area nonprofit which provides housing to those visiting area hospitals seeking treatment for serious medical conditions. The wine-tasting and culinary event, held at The Ark by Norris (21402 Merchants Way, Katy) this year and presented by Keller Williams Premier and other local sponsors including the Katy Times, allowed attendees to try more than 100 wines, craft beers and craft spirits as well as an opportunity to enjoy food samplings from local restaurants. To-date, the annual event has raised more than \$345,000 for The Ballard House which was recently able to add 16 new rooms to its facility. Funds raised by Sip 'n Stroll are estimated to provide slightly less than 13,000 nights of lodging to families facing a medical crisis, according to the Sip 'n Stroll website. For more information on The Ballard House and their work in the community, visit www.theballardhouse.org.

Westlake VFD purchases two new ambulances

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Westlake Volunteer Fire Department took delivery of two new approximately \$240,000 ambulances on Friday, April 9. The new emergency vehicles come with increased space for EMTs to maneuver and are mounted on a Ford F-450 chassis, said Westlake VFD Public Information Officer Lieutenant Joe Driver.

“Right now (our communications staff) are installing the radios (and computers),” Driver said. “That’s the only thing that Frazer can’t do. They actually started that (April 11) and my understanding is that will be finished (by April 23).”

Frazer, Ltd. is the company that created the new, custom ambulances for Westlake VFD. The new first responder vehicles were purchased by Harris County Emergency Services District 47 which oversees the VFD’s activities as a managing and funding entity. The new machines boast a 14-foot patient treatment cabin which is a step up from the 12-foot treatment areas on the two ambulances the VFD will be retiring now that they’ve reached their life expectancy. Ambulances generally last about a decade per Texas Department of Health guidelines. Driver said the increased space should allow EMTs more room to care for patients which can add to patient and staff safety.

“This will allow our personnel more room to maneuver comfortably while providing patient care. Also, it is equipped with liquid spring suspension to provide a smoother ride for both patient and personnel,” Driver said.

The computers and radio equipment will be joined by a 360-degree camera system which allows more safety when maneuvering the large vehicles through traffic and in tight spaces, Driver said.

The peripheral equipment installation will also help facilitate communication with dispatch and protect the department



COURTESY WESTLAKE VFD

Westlake Volunteer Fire Department, which serves the area in the northeast of the intersection of I-10 and Fry Road, has purchased two new ambulances, including the one above, which staff said they expect to improve care to patients being transported to area hospitals.



COURTESY WESTLAKE VFD

The new ambulances provide a larger working area in the treatment cabin where patients are transported. The new cabins are 14 feet long whereas the old ambulances could sometimes be a tight fit at only 12 feet in length.

from liability.

Driver said the staff at Westlake VFD appreciate the HCESD 47 commissioners and the equipment selection committee for their effort to ensure the department has dependable and safe equipment to work with.

Getting

YOU

Started Safely

Call 811 before you dig.

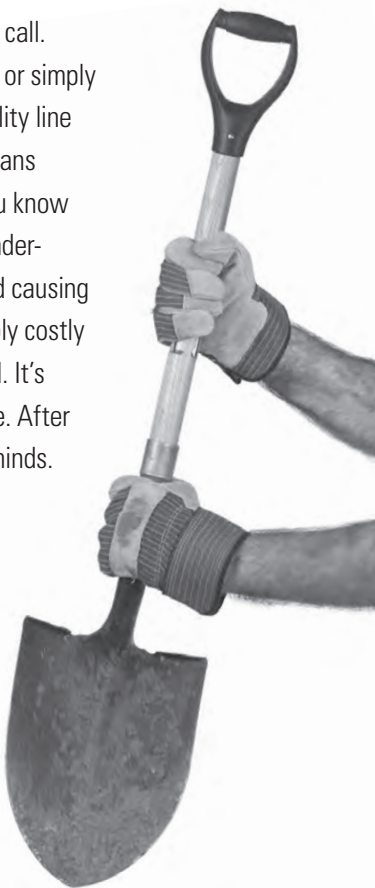
When it comes to digging safely, you make the call. Whether you’re working on a large excavation, or simply planting a tree in your yard, natural gas and utility line safety should always be job one – and that means calling 811 before you dig. Calling 811 helps you know where natural gas, electric, water and other underground lines are located. It also helps you avoid causing serious injuries, service interruptions, or possibly costly fines for damaged infrastructure. Make the call. It’s easy. It’s FREE. Respect the lines. Dig with care. After all, safety is in your hands, but always on our minds.

We’re investing in infrastructure, technology and services that help keep you safe.

More information on natural gas safety is available at:
CenterPointEnergy.com/Safety.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



ALWAYS THERE.®

©2018 CenterPoint Energy 187119

CORRECTION

Volume 109, Issue 15, April 15, 2021:

Early voting on bonds begins next week. On page A3 at the bottom of the first column, the article should read, "Neither the school nor the city bond propositions are expected to raise the tax rate."

NEW Lunch Menu
Baked Oysters Rockefeller,
Chargrilled Oysters,
Blackened Chicken and/or Catfish Alfredo

GRAND OPENING

THA ROUX SEAFOOD

YOUR NEW ORLEANS FINE DINING EXPERIENCE!

FREE DESSERT

With purchase of entrée

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2021

15% DISCOUNT

• KIDS Teachers • Veterans • First Responders • Military • Senior Citizen

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2021

811 Avenue D, Katy
(Across from City Hall)

504-484-1562
www.tharouxseafoodkitchen.com

SUDOKU

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

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

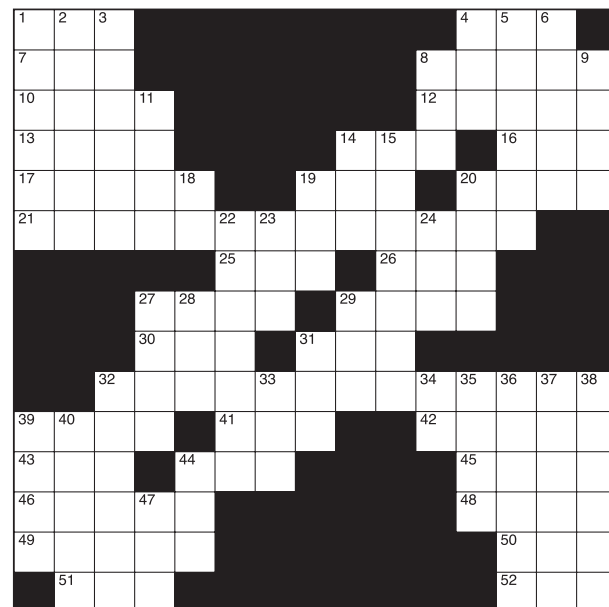
CLUES ACROSS

1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
4. American time
7. Satisfaction
8. Diving duck
10. Very small amount
12. Metrical units
13. An ignorant or foolish person
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
16. It may sting you
17. Turn outward
19. Perform on stage
20. "CSI" actor George
21. Localities
25. Make a choice
26. Indicates position
27. One of Thor's names
29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
30. "The Raven" author
31. Take in solid food
32. Legendary QB
39. Sorrels
41. Organization of nations
42. Texas pharmaceutical company
43. Mathematical term
44. Expression of disappointment

45. Abba __, Israeli politician
46. Hide away
48. Salad restaurant
49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
50. Men's fashion accessory
51. Political action committee
52. Unhappy

CLUES DOWN

1. Make unhappy
2. Heard the confession of
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Fiddler crab
5. Brazilian dances
6. Fit with device to assist breathing
8. Brother or sister
9. Pastries
11. "Lone Survivor" director Peter
14. Boat type (abbr.)
15. Apertures (biology)
18. Suffix
19. Creative endeavor
20. Icelandic poem
22. Spanish dances
23. Town in Central Italy
24. Cars need it
27. Mimics



28. Rocky peak
29. Cigarette (slang)
31. One point south of due east
32. Soap actress Braun
33. Large domesticated wild ox
34. Island nation
35. Appear

36. Addictive practices
37. Loss of control of one's body
38. Type of poster
39. Greek mountain
40. Funny person
44. One and only
47. Pouch

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

KATYTIMES.COM

KISD

from page A1

Additionally, one of Winborn's administrative staff is in an office that was formerly a file room and supply closet.

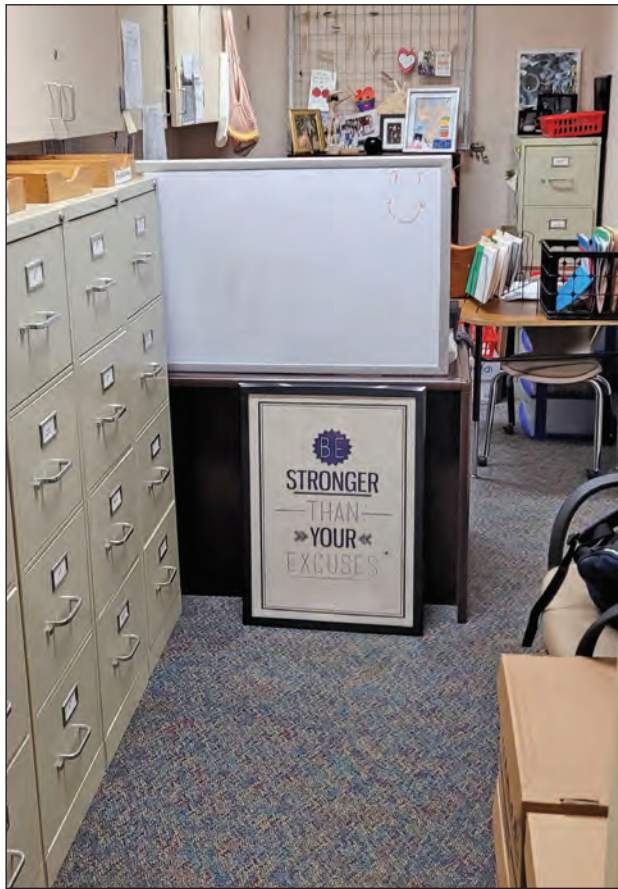
Lowry said the current cramped layout of the school is a hit to teacher and student morale because they see the high-end campuses in other parts of the district.

While staff enjoy working with the faculty and staff at Winborn, which she said feels like a work home to them, staff still see those other campuses and consider moving to nicer facilities, making retention and recruiting teaching talent at Winborn a challenge.

Lowry said restrooms are an important upgrade that is needed for Winborn because the current facilities don't serve the larger student body's needs and repairs to bathrooms are needed more and more regularly.

Vierling said Winborn requires an upgrade to its library. Forty years ago, open concept libraries were the trend. Recently though, librarians have wanted classroom space integrated into libraries for reading to groups and teaching classes about library science. The district would also like to add more technology such as computer stations into older libraries to ensure students have access to them.

Proposition A, which covers new campuses and campus improvements, complements Proposition B which is set to help the district refresh its technology base, Vierling said. Older campuses such as Winborn were created before the internet became as integral in education as it is today. Winborn currently doesn't have enough electrical outlets and was not built with WiFi data cabling throughout the



R. HANS MILLER

Storage and cramped spaces are a problem for Winborn staff. One of Winborn's administrative staff works out of this converted file and supply storage room – essentially a closet – which was converted partially into office space.

campus. Improving technology can help students learn and provide flexibility for teachers, he said.

"We're looking at adding laptops for teachers now as opposed to a static desktop, Vierling said. "It gives them more flexibility in terms of moving around the classroom if they need to go and work with a (student or small group), or even taking it home on the weekend if they have to do that."

Vierling and Lowry both said they wanted to take the opportunities Proposition A would provide to the district to improve opportunities for students and create an

environment that is more likely to engage students in the school experience.

"We treat this as our kids' second home and take care of the building and (make) sure we're maintaining it and cleaning it and that kind of thing," Lowry said. "So, I definitely want to be able to work with (an architect and) work within our budget to make sure that we're creating and updating the building for our kids so that they want to come to school ... that they feel like, 'Oh! This is fun, it's lively, it's fresh, it's open.'"

FFA

from page A1



COURTESY ROYAL ISD

More than 70 Royal ISD students participated in this year's RISD FFA Livestock Show. The event broke multiple records in fundraising and totaled out at more than \$270,000 raised for FFA students.

which sold for \$3,200 to Vahalik & Vahalik.

- Mackenzie Freeman's reserve market swine which sold for \$4,000 to Brookshire Car Care.
- Jaylyn Danz's champion market goat which sold for \$4,500 to The Roof Depot.
- Elizabeth Ibarra's reserve market goat which sold for \$3,200 to Tonkawa Farms.
- Joshua McDonald's three champion broilers which sold for \$2,500 to Brookshire Car Care.
- Jarvis Campbell's reserve three brilers which sold for \$2,700 to Gostecnik Law Firm.

• Stephanie De La Rosa's champion horticulture project which sold for \$3,000 to R&R COOP.

• Jessica Aguilar's reserve horticulture project which sold for \$1,200 to Andy and Karen Murray.

Melton said this year's show set sales records in three categories and additional add-ons to support the students were still coming in as of last week.

For a full gallery of the winners of this year's RISD FFA show, visit: <https://bit.ly/3v8qUsG>

ROYAL ISD

from page A1

kindergarten through high school seniors develop knowledge and skills through engineering as well as computer and biomedical sciences coursework.

Felicia Glover, principal of the RISD STEM Academy said her campus currently has 306 students.

One of those students is Lauren Hillsman, a seventh-grade student who said she enjoys the programs at the STEM Academy and appreciates the anti-bullying policies there which have eliminated bullying for her. "Our campus houses grades second through eighth and not only encourages but requires students to perform at peak levels," Hillsman said. "STEM has amazing opportunities for all grade levels."

Hillsman said opportunities include an award-winning robotics team and coding and mechanical assembly courses.

At the middle school level in language

arts, Wilson said students had improved their writing skills by 11% year to year in standardized testing.

RISD Director of Advanced Academics Melissa Baker said programs such as those at the STEM Academy lead to opportunities for students. In 2019, 13 students of the roughly 20 that began with advanced placement courses during the 2014-15 school year earned associate degrees through Lone Star College while in high school. This year, she said, about one-third of the district's high school population is enrolled in the program. Of those, 15 are expected to graduate with associate degrees this year, though from 2022 forward, she expects that number to be 40 or more students each year.

"We have been designated by TEA as a model campus for college and career readiness," Royal High School Principal Tony Runnels, Jr. said.

CANDIDATES

from page A1

they might vote to move a motion forward if they did not favor it if their constituents whom they represent favored the measure.

"Certainly, these are elected roles," Smith said. "We have constituents as we sit there and make those decisions, and those constituents and residents are who we're making decisions for, so if I support something, it's because I believe that it is the best for the city (and) the best for residents."

All three agreed that the role of a council member is not to interfere with daily work at City Hall, but rather to act as a liaison between residents and city staff by developing relationships in the community and with staff at City Hall.

"No, it is not the councilmembers' role to be involved in day-to-day operations," said Walker. "This is why the city's staff was hired – we have a great staff with our city."

Walker and Smith said they would focus on safety within the city through the fire and police departments from a budget perspective. They differed in that Smith said he would focus on measures that improve retention of quality firefighters while Walker said she would like police call boxes, sometimes referred to as "blue lights," installed in the city that allow residents to call for aid if they do not have access to a phone.

Hicks' focus was on building permits where she said additional training and technology and establishing an advisory board could ease frustrations with that department. Stockdick has previously told the Katy Times that permitting concerns could be curbed through more consistent communication and educating the public about permitting.

Regarding animal control, all three candidates applauded the city's progress so far on

improving the department after accusations of misconduct became public earlier this year. Walker said she would like to implement adoptions through Katy Animal Control while Smith stated the department does not see enough volume in strays to warrant in-house adoptions. Both said focusing on improving partnerships with nonprofits could help with ongoing improvement for the department.

Stockdick has expressed her support for establishing Katy's city-run animal shelter as a no-kill shelter, which would include adoptions and a catch, vaccinate, neuter and release program for cats. Hicks said that, like all of the candidates, she would like to see stronger partnerships with nonprofits, but said part of her reasoning was nonprofits' fundraising could save tax dollars.

"I think the partnerships with the 501(C)3 organizations are critical because those are the ones that have the funds (and) that can do the fundraising in order to provide the best placement for animals," Hicks said.

Hicks said that, from a long-term goal standpoint, she would like to see the city's comprehensive plan reviewed along with the strategic plan, both of which have not been reviewed in some time. Stockdick has previously told the Katy Times she supports efforts to manage growth responsibly and continued flood mitigation efforts.

Meanwhile, Smith said he would like to see the city hire an economic development coordinator and establish an economic development board. Walker agreed with Hicks regarding reviewing the strategic plan and said she wanted the city to continue to manage growth to bring tourism dollars to the city which would support sales tax revenue and help keep property taxes low.

TERIYAKI MADNESS

FRESH ASIAN GRILL

BUY A BOWL GET A

FREE JR. OR REG. BOWL!

WITH THE PURCHASE OF TWO FOUNTAIN DRINKS

Valid for free Jr. or Regular bowl of equal or lesser value when one Regular or Large bowl AND two 24oz fountain drinks are purchased. Some substitutions or modifications are available for an extra charge. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Limit one use per coupon. No photocopies accepted. No cash value. Not valid for delivery or online orders. Exp: 5/16/21 | Coupon Code: 1624



HUGE BOWLS OF AWESOMENESS!

GRAND OPENING SPECIAL
LIMITED TIME ONLY!

Katy - 25705 I-10 Katy Fwy STE 110, Katy, Texas 77494

bike
MS TEXAS MS 150

ROLLS THROUGH TOWN MAY 1

We are grateful for your Texas hospitality
and the support of your community.



BIKEMS.ORG

Don't just ride, Bike MS

Help us raise funds to help create
a world free of multiple sclerosis.

TX can act now to reduce kids sleeping in offices

The number of children in the state's foster care who had to sleep in state offices has been on the increase, up to 186 in February. This statistic is not only alarming but also represents a call to action: It underscores the need for state investments in community-based services for children and youth who have suffered from the trauma of abuse and neglect.

With less than seven weeks left in this year's session of the Texas Legislature, there are steps legislators can take — and time to take them. In fact, legislators have an opportunity to make targeted investments and strategic decisions that could do much more than the critical work of reducing the number of kids sleeping in offices. Our legislators can make a profound difference for some of the state's most vulnerable children and families — many of whom have experienced severe and compounding trauma — by reinforcing services for them before and after a crisis hits in their home.

Children sleeping in office buildings results from a shortage of available placements in the state's foster care system. Due to rising costs and the increased complexity of providing care and services, foster care providers have struggled to find homes for kids, particularly those with more complex needs, often due to the trauma of the abuse or neglect they have experienced. The system is further strained as organizations face a growing burden of duplicative and compounding administrative requirements that take time and energy away from their true mission. Meanwhile, kids who are in care are lingering in the system for longer periods of time.

The pandemic has made the squeeze on foster care capacity worse. Child- and youth-serving organizations have struggled to maintain the staff needed to provide around-the-clock, in-person care. Some foster families have chosen not to open their homes at a time when we need them more than ever.

The shortage of foster-care beds is an urgent symptom of a broader challenge facing legislators: The need to provide a continuum of services for vulnerable children, youth and families. If legislators rise to this challenge, they can grow capacity and alleviate the need for kids sleeping in office buildings. They can also strengthen the state's safety net for traumatized youth to provide better outcomes and gets kids in homes faster.



KATY OLSE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Organizations on the front lines of working with these vulnerable Texans ask that legislators:

- Invest in prevention and family preservation services to stop crises related to mental health, substance use or domestic violence. These investments can help keep families together so foster care — or sleeping in a state office building — never becomes necessary.

- Fund the full cost of foster care and fund incentives for organizations to build foster home capacity and improve the quality of care and services.

- Update the rates that determine payments to foster care organizations and families so that those rates reflect the true cost of providing services to kids who have often experienced trauma and have severe needs.

- Support services for children and families after children have been adopted. Too often, kids who move from foster care to adoption end up back in foster care.

- Appropriately fund continued implementation of community-based care, a new and proven approach to care that pulls resources into a community, rather than a central headquarters in Austin, to meet children's complex needs.

The state can meet some of these needs by effectively leveraging federal resources, including considerable dollars available to Texas through COVID-19 relief legislation that was signed into law in December and through the most recent stimulus package, which includes support for children, families, and community services.

We all know kids should not be sleeping in offices or staying in foster care for years at a time. A state like Texas values our children far too much for this to happen under our watch. Fortunately, the Legislature can take real steps now to provide these vulnerable kids, and others, the care they need.

Katie Olse is the CEO of the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, a network of mission-driven organizations serving children and families in Texas' foster care and child welfare systems.



©DAVE CRANLUND.COM
POLITICAL CARTOONS.COM

Why Should Texas Educators and Parents Watch World Oil Prices

By MARGARET SPELLINGS and BRETT PERLMAN

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Many educators and parents may not realize the connection between world oil prices and local education funding, but new research connects world oil prices with Texas public school funding, and it shows clearly that billions of dollars K-12 schools rely upon to educate students could be at risk if world oil prices decline in the future.

In 2019, oil and gas exploration and production activity generated \$13.4 billion in public finances in Texas — about \$6 billion of that for public K-12 school funding, or 20% of the \$32 billion annual expenditure. The money comes from local property taxes, state severance taxes paid by energy companies, royalties generated from oil and gas production on state-owned land, and multiple other taxes and fees.

While world oil prices in the daily spot market have begun to recover, this research focused on realistic, long-term scenarios of energy prices for the next 15 years. It was intended to provoke a thoughtful evaluation of what Texas should do to better insulate its economy, state government and school funding mechanisms, such as the Permanent School Fund if world oil prices decline over the long term.

The analysis examined the financial impact of four oil price scenarios on schools and other local and state budget needs.

Scenarios included oil prices consistently remain at \$60 per barrel; Texas experiences either one or two boom-bust cycles in which prices fluctuate between \$30 and \$40 per barrel; or oil drops from \$40 to \$30 per barrel between now and 2036.

With an increasingly volatile, global energy market that could impact world oil prices, it's critical that our state plan for these potential future scenarios.

If oil prices remain at \$60 per barrel for the next 15 years, energy production is expected to generate about 1.9% more per year for public school finances through 2036. That's slightly above the anticipated student enrollment growth each year.

But under less favorable scenarios, revenue for public education would fall steeply. For example, if oil prices decline from \$40 to \$30, contributions to K-12 education would fall by 31%, or \$1.8 billion a year, from 2019 levels. The impact will be greater in areas such as the Permian and Eagle Ford Basins, where the economy relies heavily on energy production.

In the aggregate, state and local governments and school districts could lose \$29 billion over the 15-year period.

The impact will be seen in the Texas Permanent School Fund, a \$47 billion endowment designated for the benefit of public schools. Run by the State Board of Education and the General Land Office, which largely invest independently of each other, the fund makes distributions directly to school districts. It pays for things

like textbooks and technology and guarantees bonds issued by local school districts.

The Permanent School Fund received \$1.1 billion in royalties from oil and gas activity on state-owned lands in 2019. Under three of the four world oil price scenarios studied, that would fall as much as 69% through 2036, leaving nearly \$10 billion less available for investment and future distribution for public education.

This year, lawmakers have the opportunity to better prepare for these scenarios by streamlining how the Permanent School Fund is managed, generating more returns from the state's rainy day fund, and diversifying the sources of K-12 funding.

With so much riding on the oil and natural gas sector, Texas can help future-proof our state and local budgets by using this report to strengthen our long-term financial forecasting and planning.

For more information, visit <https://texas2036.org/future-proofing-texas-school-funding/>.

Margaret Spellings, former U.S. secretary of education, is chief executive of Texas 2036, a nonpartisan thinktank that works to address the challenges of growth in Texas.

Brett Perlman is the former commissioner of the Texas Public Utility Commission and current chief executive of the Center for Houston's Future.

Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher
R. HANS MILLER | News Editor
DENNIS SILVA II | Sports Editor
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Bookkeeper

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678
PHONE: 281-391-3141

TO REPORT NEWS:
Call 281-391-3141 or email news@katytimes.com

TO REPORT SPORTS SCORES:
email sports@katytimes.com

ADVERTISING:
For information on advertising in the Katy Times, in print or online, contact us at 281-391-3141 or email katyclass@katytimes.com. Advertising deadline is noon on Friday for both classified and retail advertising.

BILLING:
Address billing inquiries to: Debbie Prejean, Bookkeeper bookkeeping@katytimes.com

PRESS RELEASES:
Press releases are accepted but are not guaranteed for publication. Press releases should be e-mailed only to news@katytimes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
We encourage your Letters to the Editor submissions, but we reserve the right to edit for content and for space restrictions. All letters must contain the full name of the person who wrote the letter, as well as their address and telephone

number for verification purposes. Letters can be submitted via e-mail to news@katytimes.com.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend Counties and \$45 elsewhere by The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

CORRECTIONS:
We strive for accuracy and transparency in our reporting. If you believe that we have made a factual error in reporting, please call 281-391-3141 or email editor@katytimes.com with a link to the story in question, along with information on what you believe is factually incorrect in the reporting. Individual columns in the Katy Times do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's editorial opinion.

CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.

CONSTITUTION CORNER

Texas Constitution

ARTICLE VII: EDUCATION

THE PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

Sec. 2. PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND. All funds, lands and other property heretofore set apart and appropriated for the support of public schools; all the alternate sections of land reserved by the State out of grants heretofore made or that may hereafter be made to railroads or other corporations of any nature whatsoever; one half of the public domain of the State; and all sums of money that may come to the State from the sale of any portion of the same, shall constitute a permanent school fund.

Brian “Head” Welch and local family bring ZIVEL spa to Katy area

By **R. HANS MILLER**
NEWS EDITOR

ZIVEL Performance & Recovery, a new health and stress management spa, held the grand opening for its Katy area location Sunday afternoon from 1-6 p.m. The event included tours of the spa and a chance to meet ZIVEL cofounder, Brian “Head” Welch of the nu-metal band Korn and franchisee Daniel Salce and his family, who run the relaxation therapy center.

“I’m a huge believer in taking care of the client – making them feel at home,” Salce said. “And you know, being family-run, we have that luxury. Every one of us, all four of us, care deeply for this facility and the people that come in here, we want to see succeed, so we’re going to treat everyone like family.”

ZIVEL is located at 9727 Spring Green Blvd. and offers a variety of spa services researched by Welch’s business partner, Dr. Matt O’Neill who specializes in physical therapy. ZIVEL services include floatation therapy, infrared saunas, cryotherapy and an oxygen bar, all of which were researched by O’Neill with a focus on stress reduction, speeding up recovery from injuries and helping in overall wellness, Salce said. O’Neill’s research shows therapies offered by ZIVEL can help patients not only manage stress but recover more quickly from physical ailments, but also improve general health, Salce said.

The therapies located at ZIVEL make it a one-stop location for those seeking relaxation services, Salce said. Some clients find they can touch their toes for the first time in years while others use the spa’s services to help them focus after therapy or to recover from practice at various sports while mentally digesting what they learned in practice.

It also offers a chance to schedule self-care, Welch said.

“It’s like being accountable to yourself, you know,” Welch said. “Giving yourself what you need that usually, we don’t allow ourselves. So, (when) you book the appointment, you’re actually scheduling something for yourself.” Welch said he knows

about self-maintenance. In 2005, Welch left Korn because he wanted to focus on being a good father and husband. He had become a father to daughter, Jennea Welch, in 1998. From the time of his daughter’s birth through what he thought was his permanent departure from the band, Welch was constantly on tour and had continued to drink – a habit he said he’d had since high school – and had gotten into other drugs. Add to that the other activities backstage at rock shows and the depression he was dealing with at the time.

“Yeah, so I got to the rock bottom,” Welch said. “And, you know, I was suicidal. I thought my daughter and my family would be better off without me and all these lies I was (telling myself and) believing.”

During his time away from the band though, Welch focused on his family and recovery from his addictions, with the biggest help coming from his eventual discovery of his Christian faith, he said. He’d been raised Christian but hadn’t found faith until he applied it while he was away from Korn.

“That’s a real thing when Christ comes in and lives inside of you,” Welch said. “And if you don’t feed it, it won’t become real and active in your life. (Jesus) won’t show himself – but if you start to feed that faith, your life will change dramatically.”

Welch went to a Korn concert in 2013 with his daughter, Jennea. He played one song with them that night and after the band saw how his overall health and mindset had improved, they forgave him for walking away and asked him to rejoin the band, he said. A few months later, he accepted after gaining assurance he could continue to work with his project band, Love and Death.

While touring with Korn, Welch met O’Neill who had come along as the band’s physical therapist. Welch heard O’Neill talking to a member of the crew about the concept for ZIVEL and wanted in on setting up the business. He said he hopes that, through ZIVEL, he can help others recover from the stresses of life and maintain themselves in a way that makes



R. HANS MILLER

ZIVEL Performance & Recovery held its grand opening April 18 in Katy. The relaxation and recovery spa is focused on external therapies that provide stress relief and opportunities for self-care for its clients. From left to right: Franchisee Daniel Salce, ZIVEL cofounder and Korn guitarist Brian “Head” Welch, Rain Salce, Raven Salce and co-franchisee Lynette Salce.



R. HANS MILLER

ZIVEL’s cryotherapy chamber surrounds the body with temperatures between negative 200–300°F. When used regularly in sessions of 2-4 minutes, cryotherapy can help with migraines, nerve irritation, mood disorders, arthritis pain, some skin conditions and sports injuries, according to “Healthline,” an online publication that has medical professionals review medical claims.

them better people.

Salce agreed and said that, as the local owners of ZIVEL, he and his family are excited to bring a unique business to the area with a focus on improving lives in their hometown. Daniel is a graduate of Katy High School and both of his daughters, Rain and Raven, are graduates of Taylor High School.

Salce said he and his family got involved after a screening of “Loud Crazy Love,” a documentary about Welch’s addiction recovery and road to faith. He had reached out re-

garding a partnership with Welch on other projects and eventually a ZIVEL franchise agreement was set up. The Salces’ goal, like Welch’s, was to form a business that would make people’s lives better.

“We just want to help people,” Salce said. “This is our ministry. This where we love spending our time. That’s why we wake up in the morning to get here – so we can see people when they walk out of these (floatation therapy) pods ... in relief.”



R. HANS MILLER

Floatation therapy involves stepping into a sensory deprivation pod and floating in water that is infused with Epsom salt to ensure the client floats in a manner that makes them feel weightless. Sound and light are cut off for about an hour, giving the spa visitor a chance to clear their head. According to a report from “Healthline,” benefits of floatation therapy can include decreased stress, lower anxiety, better sleep, muscle relaxation and decreases in pain from chronic conditions or injuries.



R. HANS MILLER

Infrared saunas are available for individuals and pairs to enjoy and have many of the same benefits a client might see from a heating pad or lying in the sun, ZIVEL franchisee Daniel Salce said – minus the risk of sunburn or other negative effects from the sun. After letting the heat push away muscle aches and pains, ZIVEL clients can partake of oxygen therapy which can help with anxiety, general stress and improve clarity of thought, Salce said.



COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE IN DOWNTOWN KATY

Available May 2021

2 Blocks from Katy City Hall
100 to 1,700 Square Feet
Virtual Office Space Available
Flexible Lease Terms!

CALL ALLISON JONES (713) 861-7777

33rd ANNUAL FISH FRY
Drive-Thru Only
\$15 Per Plate
at
Katy Lodge
11 AM - 3 PM
Saturday, May 1, 2021
KATY MASONIC LODGE 
#1439 A.F. & A.M.



Katy Optiks

Enhancing vision with style

701 S. Fry Rd. Ste. 125

Katy, TX 77450

281.492.1209

www.katyoptiks.com

AREA SPORTS NOTEBOOK



DENNIS SILVA II

Longtime Katy ISD coach Bubba Fife, middle, is pictured with Katy ISD athletic director Debbie Decker (right) and a representative from BSN Sports. Fife was recognized with the Be Great award on April 15 prior to the second day of the 19-20-6A area track and field meet at Paetow High. The award honors those who serve with kindness and selflessness.

LEGENDARY COACH FIFE HONORED WITH AWARD

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Legendary Katy ISD coach Bubba Fife was honored with the Be Great award on behalf of the district's partnership with Varsity Brands and BSN Sports. The award honors those who serve with kindness and selflessness. Fife spent 35 years as a coach, including 12 at Taylor, and 10 years as an administrator in Katy ISD before retiring in the summer of 2009. Of his 77 career wins, 48 came at the helm of the Mustangs from 1987-1998. Fife is still involved in the Texas High School Coaches Association and remains a prominent figure around Katy ISD athletics, particularly within his work at district, area, regional and state track and field meets. ... Tompkins girls cross country and track and field coach Amy Pitzel announced April 13 this will be her last season coaching and teaching. Pitzel is in her 16th year and coached at Taylor for eight years, being named the Brooks' Most Inspiring Coach in 2011, prior to opening the girls cross country and track and field programs at Tompkins in 2013. Pitzel leaves to spend more time and focus on her kids, Mathias and Josie, after turning the Falcons' programs into regional powers. ... Mayde Creek sophomore defensive back Tay/Shawn Wilson was invited to participate in the ESPN300 Elite Underclassman Combine on April 24 in Houston. The 5-foot-10, 170-pound Wilson had 20 total tackles, two passes defensed and a fumble recovery in nine games for the Rams last season. ... Paetow senior forward Everett Marlatt announced April 17 that he is committing to Florida A&M University. A 6-foot-6 versatile wing, Marlatt was a starter for a Panthers team that made a program-best run to the regional final this season. ... Tompkins senior Taylor Gage signed April 15 to play softball at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. ... In this week's Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association state rankings, Katy High is ranked No. 3 and Tompkins is ranked No. 10. The two teams play Friday, April 23, at Tompkins High at 6 p.m. Katy won the first district meeting, 4-3. In the Texas Girls Coaches Association state softball rankings, Katy is No. 20.

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

REGIONAL WRESTLING ROUNDUP



COURTESY OF THE COTTER FAMILY

Morton Ranch sisters Brittany and Rachel Cotter pose for a photo Saturday, April 17, after they won their respective weight class divisions at the Class 6A Region III wrestling meet at the Merrell Center.

Morton Ranch's Cotter sisters win regional wrestling titles

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

People say Morton Ranch's Brittany and Rachel Cotter look alike. They don't see it that way.

"We don't believe it," said Brittany, a senior and two grades above Rachel. "She looks short, curly head. I look taller, straight hair. I don't know about the looks part, but our personalities definitely prove we're not the same."

Well, there's no debating this: The Cotter sisters are regional champions. They headlined the Class 6A Region III wrestling meet Saturday, April 17, at the Merrell Center. Brittany won the 110-pound class for her second regional title. Rachel won the 95-pound division for her first regional title.

They advanced to the UIL state meet April 23-24 at the Berry Center in Cypress. Katy High

won the boys regional team title for the sixth consecutive season. Tompkins won the girls regional team title for the second straight season.

Brittany, the Mavs program's first four-time district champion, is making her fourth trip to state. Rachel is making her second.

"It means everything to me," Brittany said. "When she first started wrestling, it was so hard for me to be calm with her. I'd be

like, 'You don't understand how good you can be! If you could just see yourself in my eyes, you'd dominate everyone!' I could see how much stronger she was than everyone. She just didn't believe in herself like I or my dad believed in her. She's starting to finally believe me.

"Now I see a confident

See **WRESTLING**, page B5

AREA TRACK & FIELD MEET ROUNDUP

Katy's Campos 'special,' dashes to gold twice at area meet



See **TRACK & FIELD**, page B6

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

No. 3 Tigers secure 19-6A title with ease

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

All offseason and through the early part of this season, Katy High baseball players talked often about redeeming 2020.

The Tigers felt last season's team was special before the 2020 high school baseball campaign was abruptly canceled because of the pandemic. That only served as fuel heading into this year, with players desperately intent on making the 2021 club one to remember.

They talked the talk, and they've gone out and justified it. Katy has started the season with

24 wins in its first 27 games and a No. 3 state ranking in Class 6A. The latest achievement is the District 19-6A championship, which the Tigers secured with Tuesday's 11-2 win over Seven Lakes at home.

"From the beginning, we had a lot to prove," said senior ace Caleb Matthews, who earned his eighth win and allowed two runs on five hits while striking out three and walking two in six innings of work. "Last year, we felt we had a lot to say and didn't get a chance to show it. This year, we're stronger and better."

"Accomplishing a district title is

See **BASEBALL**, page B3

Katy ISD H.S. No. 10 natatorium up for vote

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD voters will decide May 1 whether to pay for a nearly \$14 million natatorium at the district's 10th high school.

The natatorium is listed as Proposition C and one of four bond items the Katy Independent School District has up for voter approval.

Proposition A, at nearly \$591 million, seeks approval to build the 10th high school, several lower-level schools, buy land, renovate current facilities and more. The natatorium would have previously been included in the total cost of the new school, but state law passed in 2019 requires school districts to list

"special projects" as separate items in a bond election. Things like natatoriums fall into the "special projects" category.

Proposition C seeks \$13,842,610 to build an on-site natatorium for the district's newest high school, which will be located at the intersection of Longenbaugh at Katy Hockley Road. If approved by voters, the entire 2021 bond package will produce no change to the tax rate for Katy ISD taxpayers, although the length of time taxpayers pay on existing and new school district debt will be extended because the outstanding total has increased.

If voted down, the 10th high school would be the only one to not have a campus natatorium.

"That would create a bunch of problems," said Taylor swimming coach Matt Apple, who has coached 17 years in Katy ISD. "One, what do you do for varsity in the mornings? When would they practice? Four (a.m.) in the morning before the host school practices? And if they come after school, well, if you want to have a competitive swim team, the whole reason varsity practices in the morning is because club practice is in the afternoon. And then it becomes a choice where kids choose club or high school. That's a precedent we've tried to fight in Katy."

See **NATATORIUM**, page B3



Call Today!
281-394-0031
GoBVS.com
TACLA11315E

"Giving Away" 43 High Efficiency Furnaces for ONLY \$1579 with purchase of Off-Season Central Air Conditioner! \$3961 Value. While supplies last.

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

Spartans freshman Nair 'different' on course

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

On the third hole of the first day of the District 19-6A boys golf tournament late last month, Seven Lakes freshman Shaun Nair had to step away and gather himself. His legs were shaking.

"Coach, I'm so nervous," Spartans coach Sean Ewing recalled being told.

Nair had a bad case of the jitters. Despite playing in big junior level tournaments most of his golf life, showing clear signs since he first picked up a club four years ago that he was a natural talent, Nair was initially overwhelmed in the first true big tournament of his high school career.

It didn't last. "These tournaments are different," Ewing said. "He settled down, hit five birdies on the back nine to get him back to even, and it worked out. And the second day comes, and he was just focused from the beginning."

Nair trailed Taylor senior and reigning district champion Kevin Kim by one stroke after the first day. He ended up winning by six strokes, posting a two-day total of 142 (72-70). Nair was spectacular on holes 16-18, putting the ball exactly where he wanted and making the putts he needed to.

He managed the game in veteran-like fashion down the stretch to not only secure his individual championship, but also help the Spartans to the team title as well.

"He put the ball where he needed to, hit a green, two-putt, par the way in and moved on," Ewing said.

Nair said he wasn't trying to think too much. Just stay calm. One shot at a time.

"I just wanted to win," he said. "Just be aggressive. I was putting well. The big thing is I just wasn't nervous. The first day, I was very nervous the first four holes. I just got used to the pressure after that first day. I wanted to win, and it's very exciting to do it my freshman year."

Nair fell in love with the game of golf ever since his dad took him to Meadowbrook Farms. He credits his dad for why he plays.

Nair enjoys the mental aspect of the



Seven Lakes freshman Shaun Nair won the District 19-6A boys individual title on March 31, defeating reigning district champ Kevin Kim of Taylor by six strokes.

game. He is a bright young man who embraces challenges, which explains why he thrives amid the torturous mind games golf has to offer.

"One shot can screw you over," Nair said, smiling. "One mistake can end your whole round."

Nair is gifted at putting and keeping the ball in play. He has made strides in being able to think and work his way through the game. He averages 290-300 yards on drives, but it's his putting where he really stands out.

"Just put it in the hole," Nair said. "When I'm standing over the ball, the only thing I'm thinking is, 'This is going into the hole.'"

He is confident because he puts in the work. Ewing calls Nair a "silent leader." Nair stays on the golf course

working on his game long after practices. Teammates see that and follow suit.

"He's special," Ewing said. "His golf IQ is off the charts. He understands how to make the shot he needs to make. You can't coach that. He practices the shots he needs to hit. He doesn't go out there and just pound balls. He practices with a purpose. That's what makes him different."

Heading into the Region III-6A tournament April 21-22 in Spring, Nair is looking forward to yet another test of his wits. Ewing has faith that Nair can help the Spartans to a top-three team finish, or even take No. 1 again individually.

"We have a lot of confidence going in," Nair said. "We're just trying to get to state. That's always the goal."

DISTRICT 19-6A TENNIS



COURTESY OF COACH COLIN HARVEY

Cinco Ranch senior Camila Matos and junior Kayla Wan won the girls doubles at the District 19-6A tennis tournament last week at Katy High School.

Falcons, Mustangs, Cougars stand out at district tourney

CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

The District 19-6A tennis tournament was held at Katy High on April 14-15, with Taylor winning the boys doubles and girls singles, Tompkins winning the boys singles and mixed doubles and Cinco Ranch winning the girls doubles.

In boys singles, Tompkins' Charles Kuchler defeated teammate Mihir Amte in the final. Amte defeated Seven Lakes' David Zhu in the playback to also qualify for regionals.

In girls singles, Taylor freshman Ally Lin defeated fellow Mustang freshman Jennifer Wang, 6-0, 6-0. Lin did not drop a game the entire district tournament. Wang defeated Seven Lakes' Alisha Madhavarshi in the playback.

In boys doubles, Taylor senior and 2019 boys singles state qualifier Christopher Cequea-Rivero and junior Jonathan Lin defeated Seven Lakes' Brian Ho and Sid Kumar, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5. Earlier in the day, Cequea-Rivero and Lin survived a scare in the quarterfinal to edge Tompkins' Abhijay Setlur and Gavin Gibson, saving two match points in a comeback in the third set.

In girls doubles, Cinco Ranch senior Camila Matos and junior Kayla Wan defeated Tompkins' Nathalia Ciliberto and Natalie Kha, 6-3, 6-0. The Falcons' Ciliberto/Kha tandem qualified for regionals by beating Seven Lakes' Nicole Tapia and Nicole Quijano in the playback.

The mixed doubles final pitted two Tompkins

teams against each other, with Austin Xu and Ava Melaerts defeating Patrick Chen and Chloe Mason, 7-5, 6-0. Seven Lakes' Marcos Bechtluft-Cardoso and Lisa Knight beat Chen/Mason in the playback, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The tournament was played in adverse conditions due to inclement weather. On the first day, Wednesday, there was a three-hour delay due to rain, which prematurely ended the tournament around 7 p.m. that night. The boys doubles finally wrapped up the tournament around 10 p.m. the next day, Thursday.

The Region III-6A tournament will be April 27-28 at Deer Park High School.

Boys Singles

- Finals:** Kuchler, Tompkins, def. Amte, Tompkins 6-1, 7-5
Semifinals: Mihir Amte, Tompkins, def. Tyler Zou, Seven Lakes, 6-0, 6-2
 Charles Kuchler, Tompkins, def. David Zhu, Seven Lakes, 6-2, 6-4
3rd Place: Zhu, Seven Lakes, def. Zou, Seven Lakes, 6-4, 6-4
Playback: Amte, Tompkins, def. Zhu, Seven Lakes 6-1, 6-2

Girls Singles

- Finals:** Lin, Taylor, def. Wang, Taylor 6-0, 6-0
Semifinals: Ally Lin, Taylor, def. Alisha Madhavarshi, Seven Lakes 6-0, 6-0

See TENNIS, page B3

NOW THERE ARE TWO STATIONS TO HEAR HOUSTON'S BEST SPORTS TALK RADIO

TUNE IN NEAREST YOU

ESPN HOUSTON ((97.5 FM))
ESPN HOUSTON ((92.5 FM))

PEARLAND PASADENA THE WOODLANDS BAYTOWN
 SUGAR LAND KATY CYPRESS WEST HOUSTON

JOHN GRANATO • LANCE ZIERLEIN
 CHARLIE PALLILO • JOEL BLANK • JOSH INNES
 FRED FAOUR • A. J. HOFFMAN

BEST of KATY 2021

VOTING STARTS MONDAY 4/26

Voting will be conducted at Katytimes.com 4/26 - 5/17

Results publish 6/24

Katy Times
281-391-3141

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
855-621-0448

FREE
 7-Year Extended Warranty*
 A \$695 Value!

Offer valid February 15 - May 2, 2021

Special Financing Available
 Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Sunny's SECURE ~ SAFE ~ CLEAN
 GRAND PARKWAY SELF STORAGE
 LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED.
 WHERE WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

1555 W. Grand Pkwy N., Katy, TX 77493 ~ 281.395.3449

www.selfstorageinkaty.com • sunnysselfstorage@gmail.com

1 MONTH FREE
 Must be paid in Advance - with Coupon. New move-ins only. One coupon per customer/party. Not valid with any other offer. Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Call for details.

2 MONTHS FREE
 Must be paid in Advance - with Coupon. New move-ins only. One coupon per customer/party. Not valid with any other offer. Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Call for details.

SPORTS

NATATORIUM

from page B1



DENNIS SILVA II

Pictured is Jordan High School's natatorium. It is the biggest in Katy ISD in regard to seating capacity.

A 'GAME-CHANGER'

Jordan High, which opened as the district's ninth high school in August 2020, was successful in swimming in its inaugural year of competition. Coach Scott Slay's girls finished third at the district meet and sent a swimmer to state in freshman Kaeli White, who competed in the 500 freestyle.

Before coming to Jordan, Slay coached at Richmond Foster, Tomball, Mayde Creek and his alma mater Baytown Sterling. The year before Slay arrived at Foster, there was an incident when a swimmer got into a fatal car accident on their way to swimming practice.

Now all high schools in Lamar Consolidated ISD, which used to have just a district pool, have their own natatoriums.

"The campus pool is a game-changer," Slay said. "I liked the district pool, but the campus pool is very simple, and it cuts down on drive time. We had issues with transportation when we were at the district pool. It was a problem daily with the athletes. Kids driving to the pool was a bit scary."

For the 2020-2021 school year at Katy ISD, 305 boys and 314 girls participated in swimming. In 2019, Katy ISD produced seven individual All-American swimmers, and two All-American relay teams. In 2020, the district had five individual All-American swimmers, and five All-American relay teams.

At the majority of the schools, most of the seniors qualify for academic

All-American status. At Taylor, for instance, four of the top 20 kids academically this school year are swimmers. The No. 1 student academically in the Class of 2022 is a swimmer.

Jordan High, the district's biggest pool in regard to seating capacity, hosted the District 19-6A and 19-5A meets this season.

"To me, the only reason I think people would vote this down is they think it costs money," Apple said. "But the bond says there will be no tax increase. Some people might think sports take too much money in the district. But it's separate things. The money used for sports is not money used for the classroom. If you have money set to be used for a natatorium or any sports facility, it's not like that money can be funneled elsewhere."

Apple is correct. Katy ISD spokesperson Maria DiPetta said if Proposition C doesn't pass, that \$13.8 million is not reallocated. The district would have to include it in the next bond or try to find money elsewhere to make it happen.

WATER POLO IS COMING

Another nuance to Proposition C is that water polo is coming to Texas as a high school sport in the fall of 2022.

Katy ISD is in the early planning stages of offering water polo after it was approved as a UIL sport in 2019. In October 2020, the UIL voted to delay the start of water polo at least a year from its initial 2021 start date because of COVID-19.

The Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Water Polo board stated on its website it has been assured that the sport will start in the fall of 2022.

Slay swam and played water polo at Baytown Sterling. He said water polo was a significant financial resource for kids when he was at Foster.

During his five years in Richmond, more than \$1 million in academic scholarships were brought in from just the Foster water polo program, Slay said, and the typical water polo player has a swimming background.

"For both sports, kids seem to thrive academically," Slay said. "They go hand in hand."

Slay said having the extra campus pool as a new sport is introduced is necessary. There will be a need for all the pools and the space that goes along with it.

The district's pools are not only used for high school athletics purposes. People can use the pools for events, and Slay said rentals for the Jordan High pool are filled up all the time. The pools are used for club teams and lifeguard training. Slay foresees club water polo being added in the area soon.

"It's something that's needed," Slay said of a natatorium at the 10th high school. "Every athletic facility they can get for these parents and these kids is big. No one wants to have to pick up their kid somewhere other than where they dropped them off that morning."

Early voting began April 19 and runs through April 27.

SOFTBALL STANDINGS

THROUGH APRIL 22

DISTRICT 19-6A FINAL

| | DISTRICT | | OVERALL | |
|----------------|----------|----|---------|------|
| | W | L | W | L T |
| xy-Katy | 12 | 0 | 14 | 2 2 |
| x-Tompkins | 9 | 3 | 11 | 3 0 |
| x-Cinco Ranch | 8 | 4 | 11 | 7 0 |
| Seven Lakes | 4 | 8 | 8 | 12 0 |
| **Taylor | 4 | 8 | 5 | 13 0 |
| **Mayde Creek | 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 0 |
| **Morton Ranch | 1 | 11 | 6 | 11 0 |

y-clinched district title
x-clinched playoff berth

DISTRICT 19-5A

| | DISTRICT | | OVERALL | |
|--------|----------|---|---------|-----|
| | W | L | W | L T |
| Paetow | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 0 |

y-clinched district title
x-clinched playoff berth

BASEBALL STANDINGS

THROUGH APRIL 22

DISTRICT 19-6A

| | DISTRICT | | OVERALL | |
|---------------|----------|----|---------|------|
| | W | L | W | L T |
| x-Katy | 11 | 0 | 24 | 3 0 |
| x-Tompkins | 9 | 2 | 24 | 4 1 |
| x-Cinco Ranch | 7 | 4 | 16 | 11 2 |
| Seven Lakes | 5 | 6 | 14 | 14 2 |
| Taylor | 5 | 6 | 14 | 12 1 |
| Morton Ranch | 1 | 11 | 1 | 26 1 |
| Mayde Creek | 1 | 10 | 5 | 17 0 |

y-clinched district title
x-clinched playoff berth

DISTRICT 19-5A

| | DISTRICT | | OVERALL | |
|--------|----------|---|---------|------|
| | W | L | W | L T |
| Paetow | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 0 |

y-clinched district title
x-clinched playoff berth

BASEBALL

from page B1

something we all expected, but it's for sure a great moment. And this is just the beginning. We're ready to keep going and our confidence keeps going."

The Tigers improved to 11-0 in district, 24-3 overall, in winning their first district championship since 2017 and their first outright district title since 2014.

"Our guys have worked extremely hard and they're a great bunch of kids to be around," coach Tom McPherson said. "They're special. They deserve this. Great kids, great academics, great people. And they're pretty good baseball players, too."

That would be a drastic understatement.

Trailing 2-1, the Tigers blew the game open in the third inning, scoring 10 runs on eight hits off junior right-hander Ethan Van Horn.

Six Tigers recorded RBIs in the frame. Matthews, senior Jack Johnson, senior Ryan Brome and senior Aiden Huerta had RBI singles. Sophomore Graham Laxton executed a text-book hit for an RBI on a squeeze play. Junior Ryan George crushed two RBI triples in the inning.

"When we get a flow going, it's unstoppable," George said. "It really is. We noticed the curveball and changeup. He was slow, so we had to lay back and try to drive it to the opposite side."

From there, Matthews, who had an atypical inauspicious start, held the Spartans scoreless. The Rice signee stayed true to his fastball and allowed one hit over the next three innings.

As talented as the Tigers are—and McPherson thinks this is one of his better teams—it's the intangibles that separate them from the pack, specifically their chemistry.

"It's so much fun," Brome said. "The energy in the dugout is unlike any team I've ever been on."

McPherson has two starting pitchers who are undefeated, five quality arms in his bullpen and a lineup that hits .350 with power. But it's the determination and moxie of the nine seniors—especially four-year letterman Johnson and three-year lettermen Matthews, Brome and Huerta—that serve as the foundation of a team that plays together and for each other.

"It is an honor to be a part of this team," George said. "We're all brothers. We have chemistry, a special chemistry, and that leads to championships and leads to wins. You can't beat that."

More so, the Tigers are not content. More impressively, they are playing like it, game in and game out.

"We know everyone's coming for the Katy Tigers," Matthews said. "Everyone wants to beat us. Everyone wants to play us. But we're going out confident every game and giving it our best."

"Our coaches always say that there's a difference between good teams and great teams, and the great teams are the ones that play hard, play up to their ability all the time and don't stoop to their competition. We respect all, fear none."



SHEA DONALDSON | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy High baseball players celebrate after an 11-2 win over Seven Lakes on Tuesday, April 20, at Katy High that secured the District 19-6A title outright for the Tigers.

TENNIS

from page B2

Jennifer Wang, Taylor def. Andrea Narro, Seven Lakes, 6-0, 6-1

3rd Place:

Madhuvarshi, Seven Lakes, def. Narro, Seven Lakes, 6-4, 6-2

Playback:

Wang, Taylor, def. Madhuvarshi, Seven Lakes, 7-5, 6-2

Boys Doubles:

Finals: Cequea-Rivero/Lin, Taylor, def. Ho/Kumar, Seven Lakes, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5

Semifinals:

Brian Ho/Sid Kumar, Seven Lakes, def. Arjun Kumar/Bryce Skarya, Tompkins, 6-1, 6-2

Cristopher Cequea-Rivero/Jonathan Lin, Taylor def. Emilio Nagel/Justin Warwick, Seven Lakes, 6-1, 6-2

3rd Place:

Kumar/Skarya, Tompkins, def. Nagel/Warwick, Seven Lakes, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3

Girls Doubles:

Finals: Matos/Wan, Cinco Ranch, def. Ciliberto/Kha, Tompkins, 6-3, 6-0

Semifinals:

Camila Matos/Kayla Wan, Cinco Ranch, def. Nicole Tapia/Nicole Quijano, Seven Lakes, 6-2, 6-2

Nathalia Ciliberto/Natalie Kha, Tompkins, def. Soleil Namunyola/Estee Nwana, Seven Lakes, 6-2, 7-6

3rd Place:

Tapia/Quijano, Seven Lakes, def. Namunyola/Nwana, Seven Lakes, 4-6, 7-6, 7-6

Playback:

Ciliberto/Kha, Tompkins, def. Tapia/Quijano, Seven Lakes, 6-1, 7-5

Mixed Doubles:

Finals:

Xu/Melaerts, Tompkins, def. Chen/Mason, Tompkins, 7-5, 6-0

Semifinals:

Austin Xu/Ava Melaerts, Tompkins, def. Marcos Bechtluft-Cardoso/Liska Knight, Seven Lakes, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1

Patrick Chen/Chloe Mason, Tompkins, def. Tanav Kalra/Sofia Portillo, Seven Lakes, 6-1, 6-3

3rd Place:

Bechtluft-Cardoso/Knight, Seven Lakes, def. Kalra/Portillo, Seven Lakes, 6-1, 6-1

Playback:

Bechtluft-Cardoso/Knight, Seven Lakes, def. Chen/Mason, Tompkins, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4

STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

With news and sports coverage from the **Katy Times**

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR JUST \$35.00 per YEAR!

- Go to KatyTimes.com and click the SUBSCRIBE button in the top-right corner
- OR
- Call 281-391-3141
- OR
- Mail your name, address and payment to Katy Times, PO Box 678, Katy, Tx 77492-0678

Katy Times CLASSIFIEDS

Your Classified Ad Source In Print & Online!

Call 281-391-3141
or visit www.katytimes.com
to place your ad today!



| WORD AD RATE | | | | DEADLINES | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| \$14.00 per week for 15 words. Each additional word 54¢. | | | | Display Ads Friday noon | | | |
| | | | | Word Ads Monday noon | | | |

| 620 HOUSES FOR SALE | 850 HELP WANTED |
|--|--|
| <p>2,000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.</p> | <p>TOUR ACTIVITY Coordinator (Katy, TX). Provide variety of children's outdoor programs, trips & activities; Co-ord. tour program partners & consultants who can offer related spt. & guidance to children; Supervise children participating in outdoor programs, trips & activities; Eval. outcome of outdoor programs, trips & activities; Maint. & monitor budget, mat'ls., eqpmt. & other resources belongs to ea. activity. Req: H.S. Diploma & 24 mos. of Tour Program Coordinator exp. Send resume & transcript to: Cheolgyu KIM of Veritas Montessori Academy at 25114 Lakeview Rd. Katy, TX 77494.</p> |
| <p>PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.</p> | <p>850 HELP WANTED</p> <p>HIRING IMMEDIATELY! Make good money installing swing sets, building treehouses. Go to www.playsetservices.com/careers.</p> |

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2980 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON APRIL 12, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, AMENDING ARTICLE 8.02 "MINORS"; DIVISION 1 "SEX OFFENDERS" OF THE CITY OF KATY CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500.

PUBLIC NOTICE

KATY ISD invites Private Non-Profit Schools to a public meeting on Monday, April 29th at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Private non-profit schools serving students who reside in Katy ISD attendance zones are asked to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of current Federal programs (Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV) and other services. Non-profit schools interested in participating in programs for the 2021-2022 school year will have the opportunity to receive information about eligibility. Please contact Erin Hyko at 281-396-2243 to register for the public meeting.

KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141

COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid:

ROBINHOOD LN. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BRUSHY CREEK

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., May 11, 2021 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. May 12, 2021, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on May 26, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility.

Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

ALAN YOUNTS
County Auditor
836 Austin Street, Suite 221
Hempstead, Texas 77445

OR Surgical Manager

Needing you to take the OR department and move it into the future in a First Class Community with a First Class Hospital and Medical Staff

Practice Details:

- Competitive Salary
- Comprehensive Benefits
- Matching 401k
- Comfortable Call Coverage
- 5-10 years experience preferred
- Leadership Skills is a MUST

This opportunity certainly won't last long!

If you are seeking an opportunity that provides a nice lifestyle, collegiality and great financial rewards please contact:

J.W. Lively at 866-704-5177 or 940-231-0156 to email your curriculum vitae jwlvly@tacoremedical.com

TACORE MEDICAL
GAME PLANNING SUCCESS SINCE 1999.

Coastal STAFF RELIEF

HIRING NURSES FOR HOME HEALTH

RN/LVN licensure required.

Send resume to humanresources@coastalstaff.com or contact Erica Butler at 979-299-3006.

April 15 Puzzle Answers

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | S | H | O | L | L | A | S | B | A | H | T | S | | | |
| A | K | A | R | E | E | V | E | I | C | E | N | I | | | |
| C | U | T | D | A | V | E | R | O | B | E | R | T | S | | |
| G | A | C | H | E | D | E | M | O | T | E | | | | | |
| A | S | H | U | R | P | A | R | A | S | I | T | I | C | | |
| | | | E | L | I | A | C | | | C | O | R | E | | |
| S | A | R | A | N | P | A | R | E | S | | A | D | | | |
| T | R | Y | G | R | A | D | A | T | E | | U | T | E | | |
| O | E | | S | A | L | E | S | N | A | R | E | S | | | |
| S | T | U | B | | M | E | | S | U | E | | | | | |
| S | E | P | A | R | A | T | E | S | | E | N | T | R | Y | |
| | | | D | R | I | N | A | | | A | L | T | H | E | A |
| C | H | A | R | L | I | E | R | O | S | E | | A | S | L | |
| R | A | T | E | L | | L | A | T | H | S | | N | E | T | |
| O | M | E | N | S | | S | H | O | E | S | | E | T | A | |

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

DID YOU SUFFER DAMAGE BECAUSE OF TEXAS POWER OUTAGE?

Those who have suffered an injury, lost a loved one, sustained home or business damage or property loss may be entitled to significant compensation.

Call us toll-free at: 800-444-9112

Pulaski Kherkher, PLLC, Principal Office:
2925 Richmond Ave #1725, Houston, TX 77098

GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SHELBY COUNTY ITEMS SELLING NO RESERVE! TUES., APRIL 27

DM2872
1/4 Asphalt Zipper
AZ600/B260
cold planer

purple wave AUCTION

675+ ITEMS SELLING BID NOW! purplewave.com
Aaron McKee TX Lic. #16401

Chicken Fried Steak Festival
April 22-25, Lamesa, TX

- More than 100 booths
- Fireworks display
- 5K Run • Live Music
- Children's Story Time
- Flippinout Trampolines
- Petting Zoo • Car Show
- Kickball Tourney • Homerun Derby
- Chicken Fried Steak Cookoff and Dinner
- Carnival Games • Worship Service • Parade
- Mister and Miss Chicken Fry Pageant
- Volleyball Tourney • Pet Costume Contest

For more info go to <http://www.ci.lamesa.tx.us/> Call 806-872-4322 ext. 332

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN Week of April 18, 2021

ACREAGE

Hunting/investment/recreational property. We have some of the best in Texas! From the Hill Country (Edwards, Menard, Coke, Val Verde County, free ranging exotics) to South Texas (Kinney, Duval, Live Oak County, whitetail, hogs). Large or small acreage. 30-year fixed rate owner financing, only 5% down. Call toll-free or email for individual prices and terms, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 800-876-9720.

AUCTION

Government Equipment Auction, Tues., April 27, Shelby County, Items selling no reserve! 675+ items selling. DM2872 1/4 Asphalt Zipper AZ600/B260 cold planer. Aaron McKee TX Lic. #1640. Bid Now! Purple Wave Auction, purplewave.com.

EVENTS

Lamesa - Chicken Fried Steak Festival April 22-25. Fireworks, FlippinOut Trampolines show, 5k run, parade, team roping, Chicken Fried Steak cookoff, live bands block party style street dancing, car show, Chicken Fried steak dinner (Tickets: 806-872-2181), home run derby, kickball tournament, volleyball tournament, pageant, dance performers, young music performers, story time, craft vendors, food vendors, quarter board/carnival games, pictures with Perkins our Mascot. For more info: www.ci.lamesa.tx.us, 806-872-4322 or 806-309-9448.

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show, April 30-May 2, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common St., New Braunfels. www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com. Face Masks Required!

GENERATORS

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-855-704-8579. Special financing for qualified customers.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

SUFFER DAMAGE because of Texas power outage? You may be entitled to significant compensation. 800-444-9112. Pulaski Kherkher, PLLC, Principal Office: 2925 Richmond Ave. #1725, Houston, TX 77098.

INTERNET

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40/month w/12-mo agmt. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-855-439-5457.

MAINTENANCE

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-815-5722.

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

Life Alert. One press of a button sends help FAST, 24/7! At home and on the go. Mobile Pendant with GPS. FREE First Aid Kit (with subscription.) CALL 844-831-1525. FREE Brochure.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. Call 1-855-901-0467 for details. www.dental50plus.com/txpress. 618-0219

WANTED

Antique Porcelain Signs Wanted - Gas and Automobile-related. Also, authentic Indian arrowheads. Top dollar paid. Call 979-218-3351.

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
273 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

The Classifieds:
Your Ticket to Local Finds

Call or go online to browse, buy or sell!

Katy Times
www.katytimes.com • 281-391-3141

WRESTLING
from page B1

wrestler, a domineering wrestler. It's really incredible."

Brittany is 19-1 overall after defeating Clear Springs junior Zhivanna Magdaleno by fall in the regional final. She has never finished worse than runner-up at regionals.

"The biggest difference is my health, first and foremost," said Brittany, who battled the Epstein-Barr virus, rhabdomyolysis, and insomnia last season. "The second is my mindset. Typically, when I went in my first two years, I felt I was competing against better wrestlers. This year, I was just more confident and comfortable with myself."

Rachel is 7-1 after beating Cinco Ranch senior Isabella Walsh by fall. Rachel said she is mentally stronger and more goal-oriented this season.

"This year, I had a much better mindset," Rachel said. "I was more confident in myself. I'm able to get myself mentally ready before matches. That's been huge. Last year, I didn't have any confidence at all."

Rachel is inspired by her older sister.

"I'm so grateful to have her," Rachel said. "She's always been by my side. She's someone who never gives up and always has the right attitude. Having that around me, it's been a big help. When we wrestle, we're different, so it's good to practice against someone who doesn't wrestle like I do."

Brittany is more technical and deliberate on the mat. Rachel is more aggressive and fast-paced.

"We're both good wrestlers, just different," Rachel said.

Brittany is emboldened by Rachel. Rachel gives Brittany a loving hug after every match, but they tend to feel better after wins.

"Not only am I going into state with everything I've been through, I'm going in with my best friend," Brittany said. "She picks me up when I fall down and she's always there for me."

Brittany said no one is as big of a fan of hers as her dad, Sheb, and Rachel. Her mom, Raylene, cheers the loudest and longest.

Rachel said Brittany and Sheb taught her everything she knows. Perhaps no one is enjoying the sisters' post-season success as much as Sheb, who began wrestling as a child and competed all the way through college.

"I remember when I told my mom that I wanted to wrestle and she said, 'OK, go tell your dad,'" Brittany said. "I was like, why would I tell my dad? But, OK, so I did, and I wish we took a picture of how big his smile was. It was the biggest smile I've seen my entire life. That's when he told me he wrestled."



KATY HIGH ATHLETICS

The Katy High boys won their sixth consecutive team regional wrestling title by scoring 145 points at the Class 6A Region III wrestling meet Saturday, April 17, at the Merrell Center. All seven Tiger boys wrestlers qualified for state.



TOMPKINS ATHLETICS

The Tompkins girls won their second straight team regional wrestling title by scoring 145 points at the Class 6A Region III wrestling meet Saturday, April 17, at the Merrell Center. The Falcons had three regional champions. All are undefeated this season.

Brittany was confused as to how her and Rachel had never known this.

"It was his whole life," Brittany said. "He never told us. He just said, 'It never came up.'"

But she also thinks it helped.

"We never felt forced," Brittany said. "Maybe with other kids, a parent or sibling wrestled, and they feel forced to kind of do it, too. Not us. Rachel and I like wrestling because that's what we want."

On the boys side at regionals, Katy High had two champions in seniors John Raymundo (106 class) and Jackson Crandall (126).

Raymundo is 23-2 after winning by decision over Cinco Ranch's Esai Deras. Crandall is 16-1 after winning by decision over Morton Ranch's Ruben Moreno.

Taylor had a regional champ in junior Michael Bone (145), who is 24-1 after beating Westside's Freddie Pagan by fall. Seven Lakes

had a champ in junior Jose Salinas (113), who is 23-2 after winning by decision over Clear Lake's Ty Annoura.

On the girls side, Tompkins had three regional champions in Lily Broadrick (119), Kaitlyn Bryant (165) and Nicole Blinn (185). All three are undefeated this season. Broadrick is 22-0, winning by fall over Langham Creek's Annika Gotlieb. Bryant is 21-0 after winning by fall over Clear Falls' Camryn Tresler. Blinn is 21-0, winning by decision

over Seven Lakes" Annmarie Jenssen.

At the Class 5A Region III meet in Anna, Paetow had its first regional wrestling champion in senior Jeremiah Marquez in the 195 class. Marquez is 18-1 after winning by decision over Lucas Lovejoy's Jakob Underwood.

Paetow seniors Josiah Bernhardt (second, 152), Cameron Jimenez (second, 110) and Brittney Galindo (third, 102) also qualified for state.

REGION III-6A WRESTLING RESULTS

>> Saturday, April 17, Merrell Center
>> Top 4 advance to state tournament
>> Katy ISD regional champs in bold

BOYS

Teams: 1. Katy High, 147; 2. Seven Lakes, 111.5; 3. Cypress Ranch, 105.5; 4. Cinco Ranch, 91; 5. Kingwood, 88; 6. Clear Lake, 85; 7. Westside, 73; 8. Tompkins, 72; 9. George Ranch, 71; 10. Langham Creek, 60.

106: 1. **John Raymundo (23-2), Katy**;
2. Esai Deras, Cinco Ranch.

113: 1. **Jose Salinas, Seven Lakes (23-2)**; 3. Ty Ferguson, Mayde Creek.

120: 3. Phoenix Medrano-Martinez, Katy.

126: 1. **Jackson Crandall, Katy (16-1)**; 2. Ruben Moreno, Morton Ranch.

132: 2. Luke Holland, Katy.

138: 2. Cole Minnick, Tompkins; 3. Connor Timmons, Katy.

145: 1. **Michael Bone (24-1), Taylor**.

152: 2. Michael Amico, Seven Lakes; 3. Juan Pablo Garcia, Katy.

160: 3. Truman Timmons, Katy.

182: 2. Lane Staton, Cinco Ranch.

195: 2. Joe Racicot, Seven Lakes.

220: 2. Landon Parrish, Cinco Ranch.

GIRLS

Teams: 1. Tompkins, 146; 2. Seven Lakes, 113; 3. Katy High, 89; 4. Langham Creek, 70; 5. Cypress Park, 66; 6. Morton Ranch, 60; 7. Cinco Ranch, 55; 8. Clear Lake, 53; 9. Cy-Fair, 51; 10. Cypress Ranch, 50.

95: 1. **Rachel Cotter (7-1), Morton Ranch**;

2. Isabella Walsh, Cinco Ranch; 3. Kimmie Castaneda, Katy.

102: 3. Julia Nowak, Seven Lakes.

110: 1. **Brittany Cotter (19-1), Morton Ranch**.

119: 1. **Lily Broadrick (22-0), Tompkins**; 3. Ruby Stamatis, Seven Lakes.

138: 2. Graycen Hall, Katy; 3. Demitra Petritis, Tompkins.

148: 3. Katherine Knight, Cinco Ranch.

165: 1. **Kaitlyn Bryant (21-0), Tompkins**.

185: 1. **Nicole Blinn (21-0), Tompkins**; 2. Annmarie Jenssen, Seven Lakes.

215: 3. Rewa Chababo, Mayde Creek.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTOMOBILES

TEGELER
CHEVROLET



Andre Ward, Sr
Cell: 832 896 1264
andre@tegelerchevrolet.com
(979) 987-7900
4062 NE I-10 Frontage Rd., Sealy, TX 77474
shop online at tegelerchevrolet.com

REALTOR

Spot the **HUGBUG** Contest!
Details at:
www.facebook.com/groups/hugbug/



713-730-8763
1603 S. Fry Rd. Katy, TX 77450
Referrals are the ♥ of our business!

\$500 PRIZE!



YOUR AD HERE

YOUR MESSAGE HERE FOR JUST \$40.00 per week

For more information, contact Debbie Prejean
281-391-3141 • debbie.prejean@katytimes.com

Katy Times

WINDOW CLEANING

KTX Window Cleaning, LLC



SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE
www.ktxwindowcleaning.com

