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SPORTS | B1

# Katy Times

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VOLUME 112, ISSUE 4

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

## KISD board adds sixth early voting location



COURTESY OF KATY ISD

The Sinfonia Orchestra from Morton Ranch High School performed the National Anthem at the January 22 school board meeting. Members received certificates and backpacks from board president Victor Perez (far right).

The trustees also approved 2025-2026 instructional calendar

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a 5-2 vote, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees added a sixth early voting location for the upcoming school board election in May. Last year the district moved one of the early voting locations from Morton Ranch High School to Paetow High School in order to serve the growing population in the northwest quadrant, said Justin Graham, general counsel for the district. However, that

move left the northeast quadrant (north of I-10 and east of 99) without any early voting locations. Board member Dawn Champagne expressed concern that voters in the Bear Creek area had to drive more than 30 minutes to the nearest early voting location.

Graham said that the addition of a voting location back at Morton Ranch High School would require about \$10,000.00 in staffing costs and under \$1000.00 in supplies and other costs. The major concern with adding the location, said Graham, is finding the staff to work the location during the long voting period, which is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each

day for the eight-day period of early voting. Graham said that workers could be moved to Morton Ranch from other locations but that doing so might cause longer wait times at all locations, if there are fewer staff at each. The measure was opposed by Board President Victor Perez and Vice President Amy Thieme.

The board then approved 7-0 the adoption of the order of election of the School Board Trustees to be held on May 4, 2024, and authorized the administration to provide official notice of the election as required by the Texas Election

See **KISD**, page A3

## Council approves right of way acquisition for Katy Hockley Road, adds more license plate cameras

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

In Monday night's city council meeting, council members approved a significant project which will improve both mobility and drainage along Katy Hockley Road between Morton and Clay. The council, in a 5-0 vote, authorized the mayor to accept easements or to purchase land for right of way along the route. The total of \$158174.97 for the eight pieces of land will be paid for with Metro funds.

"This is a very significant project, which affects a major portion of the city," said Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris. In addition to roadway improvements, the work includes drainage improvements as well, he said. The project will benefit both residents and schools, said Councilmember Rory Robertson.

Council also voted 5-0 to approve the purchase of five additional cameras for the Katy Police Department, authorizing the mayor to sign a five-year agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the buy. The cameras, which are license plate readers,

have proven successful in apprehending criminals, said KPD Chief Noe Diaz, who cited two recent examples. "These cameras have absolutely made us a safer place," said Councilmember Robertson.

KPD and the Katy Fire Department will benefit from the purchase of intelligence software for public safety, which will provide agency analytics in real time, following the 5-0 approvals which authorized the mayor to sign two agreements with Tyler Technologies for software applications. Chief Diaz said that the upgraded software shows analytics, including charts and graphs, in real-time and the department would not have to wait for information to be compiled a month after the fact. One of the software packages will assist Katy Fire Department with fire inspections and will help capture building data for the area, KFD Chief Kenneth Parker said. As part of this project, Parker said that crews from his department would be out contacting business owners to obtain emer-

See **KATY**, page A3



Residents of Harris County Precinct 4 examine a map outlining the area under consideration in the county's Katy East Community Plan and Mobility Study, during the January 20th "listening tour" conducted by Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones at Houston Community College's Katy Campus.

SUSAN ROVEGNO

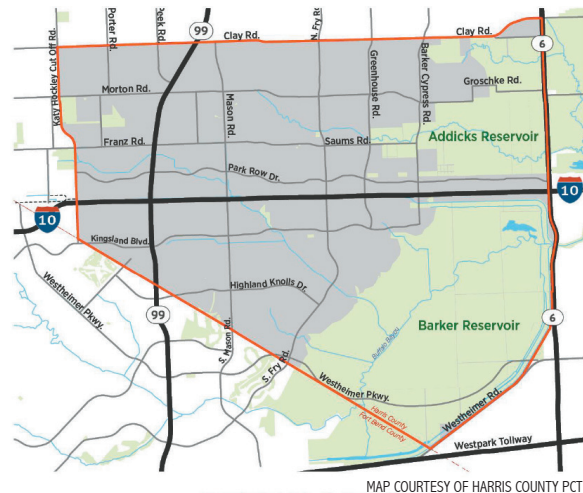
## Briones returns to Katy for listening tour

Feedback sought on Katy East Community Plan and mobility study

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

Joined by Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Katy ISD Executive Director for Facilities/Planning/Construction Lisa Kassman and Katy Area Economic Development Council President Angie Thomason, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Leslie Briones and her staff returned to the Katy community on Saturday, January 20th, to gather additional community feedback on a

See **BRIONES**, page A3



MAP COURTESY OF HARRIS COUNTY PCT 4

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January 25, 2024  
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## Sorority group hosts human trafficking conference

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated recognized January as "Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month" by sponsoring a community education event at Powerhouse Church, 1818 Katyland Drive in Katy on January 20th. The panel of experts from law enforcement, healthcare and advocacy groups who work tirelessly in this area shared the increasing risks of trafficking and its impact in the Houston and Katy areas.

The program moderator, Kimberly Rensel, who chaired the Katy 20 anti-trafficking group from 2020 to 2022, has years of experience in the subject matter, as did the panelists who shared statistics, cases and available resources. The program opened with a personal impact story from Jade Luengas, who lost her daughter who was recruited into working at a strip club by her



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Jean D'Aguilar (left), who chaired the January 20th conference on human trafficking sponsored by Delta Theta Sigma Sorority, Inc., greets attendees at Power House Church, along with co-chair Regina Alexander (right).

boyfriend and who subsequently died after being overserved alcohol at that club.

- Program panelists included:
- Sergeant Antonio Gracia, Houston Police Dept
  - Kimberly Williams, Program Director Anti-Human Trafficking Healthcare Consortium
  - Rhonda Kuykendall, Social Worker and Consultant
  - Tracey Dudley, Advocate - Eyes on Me Ministry



Panelists and speakers at Delta Theta Sigma Sorority's conference on human trafficking included (left to right) Tracy Dudley, survivor and advocate; emcee Kimberly Rensel, advocate and local leader; Cara Parker, president and CEO of The Landing; Sergeant Antonio Gracia, Houston Police Dept; Rhonda Kuykendall, Social Worker and Consultant; Jessica Wesley, Survivor and Advocate; Jade Luengas, mother of a victim; Lynette Naeger, a wellness advocate at doTERRA; and Kimberly Williams, Program Director Anti-Human Trafficking Healthcare Consortium. Not pictured: Dr. Nissi Hamilton, survivor and founder/CEO of Nissi's Network Inc.

- Jessica Wesley, Survivor and Advocate
- Cara Parker, CEO and Founder of The Landing
- Dr. Nissi Hamilton, Survivor and Founder/CEO Nissi's

Network Inc. Panelists were unanimous in stating that prevention begins in the home and that parents

See **CONFERENCE**, page A3

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## Register now for vegetable conference

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Save money by registering by Jan. 26 for the 39th annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference on Thursday, February 8th, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Early registration is \$30. Those who register after Jan. 26, will pay an additional \$10. Registration covers all sessions, refreshments, a BBQ lunch and time with various exhibitors. Five continuing education credits will be offered for Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator license holders. The eight-hour conference will be in Buildings C & D at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds at 4310 Texas 36 South.

To register and pay online visit: <https://39thAnnualVegConf.eventbrite.com> To register and pay in person by check or cash, visit Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 1402 Band Road (Annex Building) in Rosenberg. Registration at the door will be limited. At the event, check-in will be from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. with the conference beginning at 8:15 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m.

Topics are: Bees & Honey Production, Marketing Produce and Climate/Drought & Irrigation; Breakout sessions are: Backyard Gardening & Alternative Techniques with Intro to Permaculture Design, Mushroom Gardening, Laws & Regulations and Integrated Pest Management.

For more information, go to <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/event/39th-annual-fort-bend-regional-vegetable-conference/> For general questions, contact Lorraine Niemeyer at 281-342-3034.

The counties of Waller, Wharton, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Colorado and Austin join with Fort Bend to offer the conference to teach sustainable practices to help producers maximize efficiency and profitability.



### COMMUNITY EVENTS

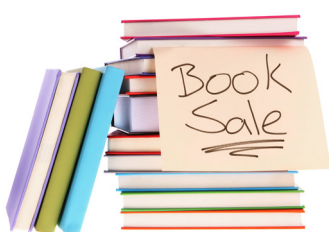
#### Fuzzy's Pizza to host "meet and greet" with Harris County DA Kim Ogg on January 26th

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg will appear at a community "meet and greet" hosted by Fuzzy's Pizza on Friday, January 26th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event, which offers free pizza and free wine, will be held at the pizzeria at 613 S. Mason Road at Kingsland, Katy.

#### Katy Mills Mall to celebrate Lunar New Year with Lion Dances on January 27th

Katy Mills and Soaring Phoenix Dragon and Lion Dance Association invites area-residents of all ages to ring in the Chinese Lunar New Year. Saturday, January 27th

at 2 p.m., as the Year of the Dragon is celebrated. Guests and shoppers can enjoy a performance in Neighborhood 2 courtyard by Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store inside the mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Katy.



#### Maud Marks Library book sale set for January 27th

The Friends of Maud Marks Library (FOMML) will be holding the first used book sale of the year 2024 at the library, 1815 Westgreen Boulevard in Katy on Saturday, January 27th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Presale viewing and sales (cash or check only) will be available to members of FOMML on Friday, January 26, from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Annual memberships can be purchased at the door for \$10. This month there is a large collection of graphic novels and Louis Lamour westerns. All funds earned from the sale are used to support library programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, that are offered to the community. Books (adult or children's, fiction, nonfiction, reference, foreign language, etc.) to be donated to the sale are now being accepted. Please deposit them, during library hours, in the bins inside the entrance.



The Katy Area Chamber's annual Chili Cookoff returns February 10th with proceeds to benefit Katy ISD's FFA programs.

#### "Four Chaplains" to be commemorated on February 3rd

A service to commemorate the Four Chaplains who modeled great faith, courage and selflessness during the sinking of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester February 3, 1943, during World War II will be held Saturday, February 3rd from 2 to 4 p.m. at Living Word Lutheran Church, 3700 S. Mason Rd., Katy. Of the 902 men aboard the Dorchester, only 230 survived. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. The ceremony is being hosted by American Legion Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164 in association with the Four Memorial Chaplains Foundation, 22nd District Department of Texas American Legion, the Marine Corps League Detachment 324, Corporate Chaplains of America and Network In Action Veterans Business Force.

#### Katy Elks Club fundraiser scheduled for February 8th

The Katy Elks annual charity fund drive for Camp in Ottine for special needs children and foster children is scheduled for February 8th. The organization is requesting gift cards to be used in a fundraising game at the event. For more information, please call (281) 391-2763. The lodge is located at 1050 Katy Fort Bend, Katy.

#### Ballard House Clay Shoot to be held February 9th

Join the Ballard House for the annual Sporting Clay Tournament for a day of shooting clay, camaraderie, and a chance at exclusive hunting trips in the live auction. Lunch is included and registration is open—secure your spot for a day of excitement in support of The Ballard House, which provides temporary lodging to families traveling to the Houston area for medical treatment. The fundraiser will take place Friday, February 9th at Westside Sporting Grounds, 10120 Pattison Rd, Katy, starting at 8:30 a.m. Register at [interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?id=21&name=E347559](http://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?id=21&name=E347559).

#### Katy Area Chamber hosts Chili Cookoff benefiting all Katy ISD FFA programs on February 10th

The Katy Area Chamber brings back the popular Chili Cookoff on February 10th, to be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of American Furniture Warehouse, 500 Pin Oak Road in Katy. General admission is \$5.00 and all proceeds go to Katy ISD FFA programs. A variety of local businesses will vie for top honors in the competition. \$250 entry fee for a Chili Team with reserved 15x15 space, company name on ALL event materials and invitation to participate in the check ceremony to Katy ISD FFA. Teams are to prepare chili in their assigned team space using propane cookers as a means of cooking. No electricity available. For a full list of rules, please email [Bill.Lacy@ifinancial.com](mailto:Bill.Lacy@ifinancial.com) or [Ashley@katychamber.com](mailto:Ashley@katychamber.com). Sponsorships are available. Local vendors may also reserve a 15x15 booth for \$300.00, with their company name to be listed on all event materials.

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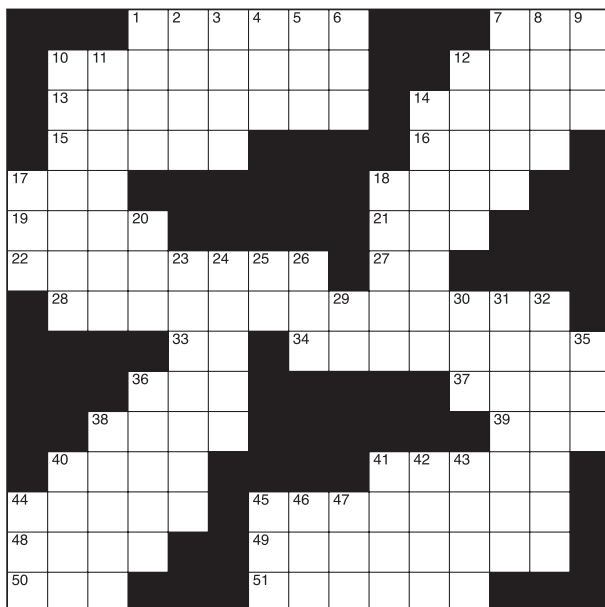
### CLUES ACROSS

- Winged nut
- \_\_\_ Humbug!
- One who sets apart
- Circle above a saint's head
- Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- Expressed pleasure
- Feminine given name
- Company of badgers
- Popular Dodge pickup truck
- Witty sayings
- Leader
- Autonomic nervous system
- Premolar
- Atomic #28
- Holiday decorative item
- Exclamation of surprise
- Rusk or cracker
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- Eat
- Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- Ceases to exist
- Male Arabic name
- Series of ridges on an organ wall

- Places where bees are kept
- One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
- Church office
- Single lens reflex
- Pieces of fibrous tissue

### CLUES DOWN

- Classify
- Dismounted
- Produced
- Consumed
- Director Howard
- The products of human creativity
- Thai monetary units
- Away from wind
- Builder's trough
- Relating to Islam
- It can sometimes ache
- Small quantities (Scot.)
- Poisonous plant
- Laugh at
- Vogul
- C. European river
- Type of cat
- Exclamation of disgust
- Stephen King novel
- Without armies
- Expression of sympathy



- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Previously
- Illegal drug
- Kiloelectronvolt
- Large, flightless birds
- For smoking
- Binary
- Competition
- Mark resembling an arrow
- Containers
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Commercial
- I.M., architect
- 007's creator

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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### 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.

## BRIONES

from page A1

proposed Katy East Community Plan and mobility study. The event, which attracted about 90 people, was held at noon Saturday at the Katy Campus of Houston Community College, 22910 Colonial Parkway.

The Katy East Community Plan and mobility study was the major focus of the meeting. Luis Guajardo, an urban planner for the precinct and a Katy resident, said in opening remarks that the project is designed not only to improve mobility but to prepare for possible future natural disasters, and includes flood control initiatives as well as transportation. Roads, sidewalks and trails are part of the plan, he added. Guajardo said that the precinct is working with

the General Land Office, FEMA and HUD on the plan. Staff members said that the study would be seeking public comment through July 2024 and that communications would be disseminated in both English and Spanish.

"One fifth of the population in Precinct 4 is in the Katy area - about 200,000 people," Guajardo said.

Katy ISD Executive Director for Facilities/Planning/Construction Lisa Kassman said that, as a result of the recent bond election, the district would be renovating some of the schools on the east side of Katy and would be working with Precinct 4 on projects such as sidewalk improvement.

Residents who participated in the session were able to communicate their top priorities to Precinct 4 staff members through several activities, including "voting" via placement of dots on maps and charts and through "block-stacking" games as well as conversation.

Following the community feedback session, Briones said in her statement that the event was the first of three open houses to be held on this effort. She said that in the second open house, for which she did not announce a date, that the Precinct 4 staff would come back with a working draft of the plan and would solicit further input from the community at that time.

## KATY

from page A1

agency contact information for every building.

In other action, council:

- Authorized the mayor to sign a proposal with ARKK Engineers, LLC for an engineering design phase and a construction phase services for 2024 Heights, Airline and Drexel drainage improvements. According to ARKK engineer David Kasper, the \$3 million project will complete the design phase in 2024 and is expected to complete the construction phase in early 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said that drainage had gotten worse in this area over the years and that this project would provide "much needed relief" to area residents.

- Authorized the mayor to sign an interlocal agreement for drainage with Harris-Waller MUD District 3 (Cane Island) on behalf of proposed Waller County MUD 58 and the city of Katy to allow for connection of a storm sewer line.

- Approved street closures of Avenue C between First and Second Streets, requested by Katy Crossing Ice House, for upcoming events including a monthly Sip and Stroll market, a one-year anniversary part on February 17 and a Saint Paddy's Festival on March 16th.

The next meeting of the Katy city council will be February 12 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy.

## CONFERENCE

from page A1

should monitor their children's phone and internet use, stating that recruitment of girls - as well as boys and young men - often begins with new phone apps. Asked to describe the typical trafficker, all panelist agreed that traffickers are often a family member, family friend, teacher, pastor or other trusted figure - and not the kidnappers portrayed in the movie "Taken." Panelist Cara Parker stated, "Anyone can be trafficked and anyone can be a target." Parker and survivors Tracey Dudley and Jessica Wesley drew on their own experiences to describe how feelings of insecurity and alienation can make a person vulnerable to the overtures of a trafficker. Those recruits end up in the drug trade as well as in sexually oriented businesses, including strip clubs and prostitution.

Sgt. Gracia described how law enforcement works closely with nonprofits and other organizations who seek to help victims of human trafficking escape life on the streets. He also stated that HPD works with other law enforcement organizations, including Katy Police Department, if requested.

Dr. Kimberly Williams, who coaches health care workers on how to identify and help human trafficking victims, listed warning signs such as neglect or extreme neglect, undiagnosed or untreated illnesses,

STDs, eye infections, cuts, bruises and burns. She encouraged school nurses and teachers to be on the lookout for these indicators, as well as behaviors demonstrating isolation from family and friends. Parker noted that it is rare for victims to self-identify as being trafficked.

Rhonda Kuykendall gave an update on state legislation designed to focus on human trafficking.

The event was attended by approximately 100 people. "We are pleased to serve and support the Katy community," said program chair Jean D'Aguiar.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 as an organization rooted in sisterhood, scholarship, service and social action. Today, the sorority has over 350,000 members and 1,000 chapters located worldwide. The Katy Area Alumnae Chapter was chartered in 2020 and is continuing the charge to bring quality service programs to the community such as the Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention program. Programs like this align with the Sorority's Five-Point Programmatic Thrusts which include: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

## TRIBUTE

Clinton Randall Wood passed away on December 29, 2023, in El Paso, Texas. Born in Houston on July 14, 1989, he lived in Katy, Texas in his younger years.

He was one of the finest cowboys the world had to offer. He loved his job, family and friends with his huge heart. He was always there for anyone that needed a helping hand and loved the sport of rodeo where he excelled at team roping. He spent many hours outside just "throwin' some loops."

Clint is survived by his wife Kristi and children Eric, David, Leah, Cooper and Brooklynn; father Lynn (Duke) Wood, bonus mom, Janet Wood; sisters Lacy Wood, Davi Wood, Ashley Metts, Harley Ray and grandmother and grandfather, Becky and Stephen Keller.



**CLINTON RANDALL WOOD**  
1989 - 2024

He is preceded in death by his mother, Crystal Ledford, maternal grandfather Kermit Ledford and paternal grandfather, Lynn A. Wood.

A memorial service will be April 27, 2024, at 1p.m. located at 56 Pebblebrook Lane in Wimberley, TX.

## KISD

from page A1

code. Two positions will be on the ballot: position 6, currently held by Rebecca Fox, and position 7, currently held by Dawn Champagne.

Graham said that it was possible that KISD would again host the elections for the City of Katy's May ballot, but that he had not yet been contacted by the city to do so. Last year, he said that the City of Katy paid the district \$25,000.00 to administer the city elections but that the figure represented a cost savings to taxpayers.

The Board of Trustees also approved the 2025-2026 instructional calendar, which provides for an early start in August and an early release in May. The district sought public input on the proposed calendar by conducting a survey from December 8, 2023 to January 8, 2024, implemented by vendor K12 Insights. Over 80 percent of the participants voted for the option which provided for the August start and May finish, said Andrea Grooms, chief communication officer for KISD.

The 2025-2026 calendar



COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Austin Elizondo (left), a Bethke Elementary student, delivered the pledges of allegiance at Monday night's school board meeting. He received a certificate and a backpack from board member Dawn Champagne (right).

includes the following key dates:

- Wednesday, August 13, 2025: First Day of School
  - Friday, May 15, 2026: Last Day of School for Seniors
  - Thursday, May 21, 2026: Last Day of School
- As a District of Inno-

vation, authorized under House Bill 1842, Katy ISD has the flexibility to obtain exemptions from certain provisions in the Texas Education Code that allow changes to the instructional calendar, said the district in a press release. Included in the approved 2025-2026 calendar are district holidays, featuring Independence Day, Labor Day, Martin Luther King Day, and Memorial Day, along with additional district holidays in October and April. Katy ISD will continue providing a full week off for Thanksgiving, two weeks for Winter Holiday and New Year's, as well as one week off for Spring Break. To view the calendar, go to [https://www.katyisd.org/cms/lib/TX50010808/Centricity/domain/4/documents/Instructional\\_Calendar\\_2025-26.pdf](https://www.katyisd.org/cms/lib/TX50010808/Centricity/domain/4/documents/Instructional_Calendar_2025-26.pdf).

Future meetings of the Board of Trustees are:

- Special board meeting on Strategic Design on February 8
- Board work study meeting on February 19
- Regular board meeting on February 26



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February 4th 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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# Katy Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes new board members

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce on January 17th announced the addition of five distinguished new members to its Board of Directors. "These individuals were selected for their exceptional leadership qualities, dedication to the community, and commitment to fostering business growth in the Katy area," said Matthew Ferraro, chamber president and CEO.

New Board Members:

- Amanda Friedman, Sales Manager, Main Event Katy.
- Dr. Karen Jagers, The Jagers Group, known in the Houston area as a family and disability advocate and a behavior and educational consultant through her work as a Counselor through her company, The Jagers Group. Dr. Jagers has also previously served on the Katy Area Chamber's board from 2016-2021.

- Charles Stein, Corporate External Affairs Manager, AT&T: Charles is also a graduate of Leadership Katy program for the Class of 2023.

- Nick Velasquez, Vice President, Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits: Nick has served on multiple boards, in many capacities, across several states throughout his career. He is also currently serving on the Katy ISD Education Foundation Board and was also a graduate of the Leadership Katy program for the Class of 2023.

- Zach Weyand, Houston Methodist West Hospital: Zach brings over seven years of leadership experience and more than 13 years of healthcare experience to the Chamber Board. Zach is currently participating in the Leadership Katy program for the Class of 2024.

"The new board members bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives that are vital for the continued growth and success of our business community," said Jason Hodge, Chairman, of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited to work together to launch new



AMANDA FRIEDMAN



DR. KAREN JAGGERS



CHARLES STEIN



NICK VELASQUEZ



ZACH WEYLAND

PHOTO CREDITS: KELLY RICHMAN, LIFETIME OF CLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY

initiatives, strengthen our programs, and deepen our engagement with the Katy area."

The board members will officially take their roles on January 17, 2024,

and will participate in various chamber activities, including the Leadership Katy program, Signature Events, Advocacy efforts and align the Chamber for accreditation through the US Chamber of Commerce.

"We are confident that their contributions will be invaluable in helping us achieve our goals for this year and beyond," added Nicole LeBoeuf, Vice-Chair.

For more information about the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and its activities, please visit [www.katy-chamber.com](http://www.katy-chamber.com).

# Katy-Based Pyek Group expands portfolio of family entertainment venues

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy-based Pyek Group, LLC, which manages Typhoon Texas waterparks in Katy and Austin, and two Cowabunga-branded waterparks in the Las Vegas area, has added Shipwreck Island Waterpark in Panama City Beach, Florida to its portfolio of managed family entertainment destinations, the company said in a January 5th press release.

The new management contract for Shipwreck Island Waterpark calls for Pyek Group to oversee all aspects of the venue including staffing, operations and marketing. Ownership in the venue will not change.

"This collaboration allows us to tap into our expertise and nationwide resources to enhance what is already an exceptional entertainment destination," says Evan Barnett, president of Pyek Group.

A tropical-themed waterpark nestled in picturesque Panama City Beach,

Shipwreck Island is renowned for its thrilling attractions and family-friendly atmosphere for guests of all ages. Last year, the waterpark added a Splash Cove area featuring ten children's waterslides.

Pyek Group was formed by the management team of Typhoon Texas in 2021 to serve as an owner operator, third-party management and professional services team for hospitality and entertainment destinations. That same year, the company added Cowabunga Bay in Henderson, Nevada and Wet 'n' Wild Las Vegas, re-branded as Cowabunga Canyon, in nearby Summerlin, to its portfolio.

In addition to their popularity with families, Pyek Group waterparks have earned awards for safety, leadership and their innovative approach to employee training and recognition.

For more information about Pyek Group and its family of entertainment destinations, please visit [www.pyek-group.com](http://www.pyek-group.com).

# Katy Times

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# Fort Bend Co. accepting applications for youth work program

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County is currently accepting applications for the 2024 Summer Youth Employment Program (YEP). The application window is open until Friday, March 15, 2024.

Fort Bend County's YEP is set to offer youth and young adults, ages 16 to 21, the opportunity to participate in a broad range of openings across 38 diverse County departments. In the current year, county officials announced the availability of 250 openings for both full-time and part-time positions. Running from June 5 to July 31, YEP offers participants a chance to build their resumes, cultivate their skills, and pave the way for a more promising future.

"I strongly urge our young individuals not to let this golden opportunity slip through their grasp," said Judge KP George in a press release. "It is a pivotal moment for our youth and young adults to invest in their future, laying the foundation for success and growth."

Since its inception in 2019, YEP has provided meaningful employment opportunities for nearly 1,000 young individuals.

Prospective applicants are invited to submit their applications through the Fort Bend County website at [www.fbctx.gov](http://www.fbctx.gov). Upon completing the form, a dedicated member of the county's Human Resources team will promptly reach out to applicants, to guide them to the next steps in the application process.



## KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

Data Control Codes		General	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>						
5700	Local, Intermediate, and Out-of-State	\$ 511,465,656	\$ 210,303,114	\$ 9,662,655	\$ 35,666,555	\$ 767,097,980
5800	State Program Revenues	436,291,350	4,111,507		9,318,923	449,721,780
5900	Federal Program Revenues	23,937,423		4,220,042	102,461,917	130,619,382
5020	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>971,694,429</u>	<u>214,414,621</u>	<u>13,882,697</u>	<u>147,447,395</u>	<u>1,347,439,142</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>Current:</b>						
0011	Instruction	612,614,541			55,774,202	668,388,743
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	9,871,447			818,380	10,689,827
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	13,135,330			8,870,675	22,006,005
0021	Instructional Leadership	8,584,659			1,166,531	9,751,190
0023	School Leadership	53,810,843			1,897,833	55,708,676
0031	Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	45,760,712			8,144,726	53,905,438
0032	Social Work	823,286			559,818	1,383,104
0033	Health Services	9,846,120			795,637	10,641,757
0034	Student Transportation	26,187,008			107,132	26,294,140
0035	Food Services				43,441,762	43,441,762
0036	Extracurricular Activities	21,402,732			9,798,532	31,201,264
0041	General Administration	17,129,454		200	862,887	17,992,541
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	84,165,260			3,519,474	87,684,734
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	13,308,887			588,177	13,897,064
0053	Data Processing Services	17,403,237			782,783	18,186,020
0061	Community Services	262,449			1,110,441	1,372,890
<b>Debt Service:</b>						
0071	Principal on Long-Term Debt	1,630,284	115,869,907	265,190	1,336,232	119,101,613
0072	Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,199	93,725,744		30,705	93,757,648
0073	Bond Issuance Costs and Fees		22,230	1,785,853		1,808,083
0081	<b>Capital Outlay: Facilities Acquisition and Construction</b>	1,764,742		324,536,797	1,897,534	328,199,073
<b>Intergovernmental Charges:</b>						
0093	Payments to Fiscal Agents SSA	882,086				882,086
0095	Payments to JJAEP	16,900				16,900
0097	Payments to Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone	5,106,081				5,106,081
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	5,415,547				5,415,547
6030	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>949,122,804</u>	<u>209,617,881</u>	<u>326,588,040</u>	<u>141,503,461</u>	<u>1,626,832,186</u>
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>22,571,625</u>	<u>4,796,740</u>	<u>(312,705,343)</u>	<u>5,943,934</u>	<u>(279,393,044)</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/(USES)</b>						
7911	Capital-Related Debt Issued			242,960,000		242,960,000
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	222,318		5,211,752		5,434,070
7915	Transfers In	644,837		7,585,967		8,230,804
7916	Premium on Issuance of Bonds			15,072,273		15,072,273
7949	SBITAs Issued	2,556,216		636,292	204,550	3,397,058
8911	Transfers Out			(7,585,967)	(644,837)	(8,230,804)
7080	<b>Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)</b>	<u>3,423,371</u>	<u></u>	<u>263,880,317</u>	<u>(440,287)</u>	<u>266,863,401</u>
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	25,994,996	4,796,740	(48,825,026)	5,503,647	(12,529,643)
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	326,788,441	59,863,664	272,332,605	40,905,805	699,890,515
3000	<b>Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)</b>	<u>\$ 352,783,437</u>	<u>\$ 64,660,404</u>	<u>\$ 223,507,579</u>	<u>\$ 46,409,452</u>	<u>\$ 687,360,872</u>

## TRIBUTE

Kenneth Basil "Ken" Perkins, 81, passed away peacefully at his horse farm in Simonton, Texas, surrounded by his loving family, on January 13, 2024. He fought long & valiantly against many health issues, always "bouncing back" and surprising everyone with his strong will and determination. He will be greatly missed by many who knew and loved him, but especially by his family who adored and greatly admired him.

Ken was born in Olney, TX on Dec. 31, 1942, to Everett Basil Perkins and Irma Mozelle Perkins. When he turned one year old, the family moved to West Columbia, Texas where they lived for several years in a duplex across from the dressing rooms of the High School Football Stadium. This was his first exposure to the game of football, which he loved and which became a big part of his life, and, eventually the lives of his three sons.

Ken's parents divorced when he was in Jr. High School, and he lived with his mom, but stayed a lot with his Granny while his mom worked. When his mother remarried, she moved to Angleton with her new husband, R.F. Rader, and Ken



**KENNETH PERKINS**  
1942-2024

gained a step-sister, who coincidentally was named Ruth Ann. Ken remained in West Columbia to play football. He was a guard & tackle on Varsity all four years in High School earning All-District & All-State honors. Ken graduated in 1961 and went to University of Houston on a football scholarship. He left U of H when he broke his pelvis in a car accident, and then received a scholarship to play football and was All-Conference at A & I in Kingsville. In 1965, Ken skipped graduating from A & I to sign with the Dallas Cowboys. He tore his Achilles tendon & eventually ended up signing with the Canadian Football League's

Edmonton Eskimos.

Ken married Jan Oglesby in the off-season, and they welcomed son, Tracy, in 1967. He re-injured his ankle and moved back to West Columbia and worked at Dow Chemical until taking a job in Houston with Signal Oil & Gas. Ken & Jan divorced in 1969, and he moved to Dallas, then to Waco, then back to Dallas.

Ken married Ruth Ann Moore in December, 1971, just 3 months after meeting her. They lived in Dallas & West Columbia until finally landing back in Houston & buying a small gas distributorship. Sons #2, Todd and #3, Blake were born in 1973 and 1975. Ken & Ruth Ann started a life-long tradition of attending Sunday School and church with their boys and involving them in Vacation Bible School, church youth groups and trips wherever they were living. Since moving to Fulshear in 2011, their church home has been Second Baptist Church.

In 1979, Ken moved his family to Kingsville where he bought an oilfield services company. While living in Kingsville, he was involved in local politics (Mayor Pro Tem), coached soccer & Little League, owned a ranch

and bred quarter horses, had a hunting lease where he entertained associates, helped the coaches at A & I with their football recruiting, and played in local celebrity basketball games, etc.

In 1987, Ken & Ruth Ann divorced, but remarried 8 years later when they were re-uniting to go to Todd & Blake's college football games. Ken then moved his family and businesses to Ingram, Texas. By this time, he had started Ken Perkins Oil & Gas, Inc. (which is still in operation to this day and run by the boys, and Javelina Energy, Inc. which is run by Ruth Ann). Ken & Ruth Ann & Tracy spent many years traveling to Todd & Blake's college games & a couple of years of pro-games with Todd.

Ken relished being a dad, but after the boys married and had their own children and he became a "Poppy", he was ecstatic. He adored his grandbabies and had special relationships with each of them.

After Ken starting having some pretty serious health problems, including a massive hemorrhagic stroke in 2009, he & Ruth Ann moved to Fulshear, TX to be nearer to the boys & their families. He really enjoyed being

close to everyone, moved his business to Sugar Land, and bought a small horse farm in Simonton, Texas where the family spends holidays and celebrates birthdays. For many years, the entire clan had season tickets to the Astros and Texans games, and have gone on family cruises every 3 or 4 years. He went on his last one this past July – wheelchair and all.

Ken was preceded in death by both his parents, his step-sister, Ruth Ann Henry, his father-in-law, John Etheredge and his grandmother-in-law, Ruth Moore. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ruth Ann Moore Perkins; his three boys: Kenneth Tracy Perkins and wife, Cathy; Todd Everett Perkins and wife, Parrish; and Stephen Blake Perkins and wife, Delanna. He is also survived by his precious grand-children (all Perkins): Kacy Nicole, Trey Taylor, Kaden Blake, Kendel Aaron, Noah David, and Kenley Noelle. And, he is also survived by mother-in-law, Laverne Wallingford Etheredge, sister & brother-in-law, Marilyn & Dan Thomas, nieces & nephews and many more who he considered "family".

The family would like to thank the staff & care-

givers at Sunrise Senior Living, Sara & Joe Acosta, José & Maria Bernal, the 6th floor nurses at Memorial Hermann Katy, the hospice nurses at the farm, Larry & Lynne Waldo, Ken's neighbors at home, and the countless others who have helped them get through the last few years. All have gone above & beyond with their compassionate care, and the family is eternally grateful.

Per Ken's wishes, there will be no service. As we write this, he has donated his brain to be a part of Boston University's research of CTE. Ken was excited to be involved in this study alongside many athletes, veterans and others affected by head trauma.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in memoriam to the BU CTE Center. You may go to [https://bit.ly/bu\\_cte](https://bit.ly/bu_cte) and click on "Give". Or, you may call (617)358-9535. Ken would be honored.

Other donation options: JAVELINA FOOTBALL LETTERMAN'S ASSOCIATION <https://javelinafootball.com/Donate> SECOND LOVES KIDS ministry of Second Baptist Church online at [www.second.org](http://www.second.org) and click on "Give".

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## Morton Ranch High School earns AP diversity award

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD's Morton Ranch High School (MRHS) announced January 18th that it has been honored with the prestigious College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for the 2022-23 school year. This marks the second time the school has received this award which is "a testament to the school's commitment to expand young women's access to computer science coursework," the district said in a press release.

According to the College Board, this award recognizes schools that have either

reached 50% or higher female examinee representation in one or both AP computer science courses, or whose percentage of female examinees met or exceeded the school's overall female population.

MRHS is one of 1,127 schools across the nation to be honored for their dedicated efforts to improve gender representation in computer science education. Furthermore, MRHS is one of only 834 schools to be recognized for achieving this important result in AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). "This award exemplifies the ongoing commitment to create an inclusive learning environ-

ment that encourages young women to explore and excel in the field of computer science," said the KISD press release.

"We are thrilled to receive the College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. This achievement reflects our school's dedication to provide opportunities in computer science education while empowering young women to thrive in this dynamic field," said Julie Hinson, principal at Morton Ranch High School. "We remain committed to fostering an environment where every student can pursue their passions and reach their full potential."



## FBJSL accepting educational scholarship applications

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJS) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for its annual Scholarship Awards until February 1, 2024. Every year FBJS awards \$6,000 in college scholarships.

Volunteer Scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded to up to six female high school seniors from Fort Bend County who have demonstrated exceptional

volunteerism and community service and also plan to attend an accredited college or university.

A \$2,000 New Beginnings Scholarship is available to help a Fort Bend County woman with financial needs who has been accepted to an accredited college, university, or vocational school after taking a break from education.

For more information and copies of the applications, please visit the FBJS website at [www.fbjsl.org](http://www.fbjsl.org).

## Rotary scholarship deadline is Feb. 1

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rotary Club of Katy's 2024 Scholarship Program will award over \$125,000 this year to deserving Katy ISD seniors, said club officials in an interview with the Katy Times. But the February 1 application deadline is fast approaching and club officials urged eligible students to begin the application process right away.

The club's ongoing scholarship program - which is funded by proceeds from major events held by the club, including the Katy Rice Harvest Festival and the Katy Triathlon - will give out the \$125,000 to multiple recipients in amounts ranging from \$2500.00 to \$10,000.00.

Eligibility criteria consists of:

- KISD senior graduating in spring 2024
- Plans to attend a two-year or four-

year college or a vocational, technical or trade school

- Demonstration of financial need
- Submission of a timely and accurate application by February 1, 2024

To begin the application process, go to [katyrotary.com](http://katyrotary.com). The online application form must be filled out completely and accurately and MUST include a transcript (applications will not be considered without one). Two short essays are also required.

Applicants will be notified if they are selected for an interview. The scholarship interview will determine the amount of the individual scholarship to be awarded. Recipients will be provided additional instructions on the award collection process.

For more information, please email [katyrotaryscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:katyrotaryscholarship@gmail.com) or write to Katy Rotary, P. O. Box 70, Katy, TX 77492.

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## Interested in earning associates degree for free?

Apply for Royal ISD's early college high school program before the Jan. 31st deadline

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal Early College High School is now accepting applications from all 8th grade students for the 2024-2025 school year. Royal ECHS is an open-enrollment program that allows students least likely to attend college or who wish to accelerate completion of high school to combine high school courses and college-level courses while participating in rigorous and accelerated instruction. Royal Early College High School allows students to receive up to an Associates' Degree or 60 college credit hours when they graduate from Royal ISD, at no cost to their families. As a designated Early College High School, the campus targets students from underrepresented backgrounds; however, students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by January 31st.

The application is online this year; please visit the following link to complete the Google Form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoOD2b-Wndw2Db\\_M8zb3UzkpIaVdi0iKx-jAs\\_BQaLesfZsbg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoOD2b-Wndw2Db_M8zb3UzkpIaVdi0iKx-jAs_BQaLesfZsbg/viewform)

Please visit [royal-isd.net](http://royal-isd.net) for details on upcoming information sessions and contact Royal High School at (281) 934-2215 with any questions.

## Applications open for 2024 Dairy MAX scholarship

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dairy MAX, a Grand Prairie-based nonprofit Dairy Council representing more than 900 dairy farm families across eight states, is committed to strengthening agriculture and sustaining a viable future for dairy farming, said the organization in a January 18th press release in which it announced the continuation of its scholarship program.

"One way that Dairy MAX shows this commitment is the Dairy MAX scholarship program, which supports local dairy farm families while investing in future generations," said the press release. Dairy MAX will offer three \$2,500 academic scholarships for students meeting the following requirements:

1. Reside in the geographic territory served by Dairy MAX which includes Colorado, southwest Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, western Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.
2. Graduating high school senior or undergraduate student currently enrolled in a junior college or four-year college program.
3. Must be one of the following:
  - Child of dairy farmer
  - Child of dairy farm employee
  - FFA or 4-H dairy show participant your junior or senior year in high school

The 2024 Dairy MAX Scholarship will close on March 31, 2024. For a complete list of eligibility requirements and information about applying, visit <https://www.dairymax.org/dairy/scholarships>.

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## Paetow holds on for win over Jordan

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow has been on a roll. The Panthers have hit their stride since entering District 19-6A play, and have proven themselves as one of the top teams in Katy ISD. Paetow put together a strong first half of district and put themselves in prime position for a playoff spot.

But Paetow's most important win of the year may have come on Wednesday, as the Panthers faced a strong Jordan team that was vying with them towards the top of the district standings and came out on top with a gritty 58-55 victory.

"It was a really good game and a good challenge for us," said senior wing Ade Onal-

eye. "We came together and pulled it out. It was going to be a fight and it was a good game for us to learn things from."

Both teams came out fired up from the opening whistle and it was Jordan that jumped ahead, leading 16-15 after the first quarter and 30-27 at halftime.

But Paetow emerged and dominated the third quarter. They got on a run to take the lead early in the half and continued to build it by doing well both offensively and

See **PAETOW**, page B3

TYLER TYRE

Princeton Layton goes up for a layup during Wednesday's game between Paetow and Jordan at the Paetow gym.



### WEEK OF JANUARY 26

## SCORES & SCHEDULES

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Jordan, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Paetow, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday

- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Taylor 7 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Saturday

- Mayde Creek vs. Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Tompkins, 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cinco Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Seven Lakes, 1 p.m.

#### Wednesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Katy, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Jordan, 7 p.m.

### GIRLS SOCCER

#### Saturday

- Tompkins vs. Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 1 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Katy, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 1 p.m.

#### Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m.
- Katy vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m.

### BOYS SOCCER

#### Saturday

- Katy vs. Jordan, 1 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 1 p.m.

#### Tuesday

- Mayde Creek vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:15 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m.



Above: Madison Carlton goes to the basket during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Taylor gym. Left: Justice Carlton dribbles under the basket during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Taylor gym.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

## Seven Lakes climbs up standings with win over Tompkins

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Things keep getting better for Seven Lakes.

The Spartans have been riding a high and surging up the district standings beating every team above them in the district standings along the way.

But there was one team that had always given Seven Lakes trouble on the road against, and that is Tompkins, which was the only team left ahead of Seven Lakes in the District 19-6A standings.

That changed on Wednesday, as the Spartans went into the Tompkins gym and came away with an 81-60 win, moving into a tie for first place in district in the process.

"This has been a place where we've struggled to win and I hate losing to Tompkins," said Seven Lakes senior wing Justice Carlton. "I just wanted to come here and get this one since it's the last time I'm playing here. There was some personal motivation with that, but everyone on the team played so well and it was a great game."

The Spartans jumped ahead and never looked

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

## Seven Lakes pulls away from Taylor for 12th win in a row

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The streak keeps getting bigger for Seven Lakes.

The Spartans have gotten better and better since returning from the Christmas break and it's resulted in a climb up the district standings, reeling off 12 wins in a row, the latest of which might have been the most impressive, as Seven Lakes went into the Taylor gym on Friday and beat the Mustangs 75-51.

"We knew how important this one would be coming in and we have a lot of respect

for Taylor, but it was time for us to prove to ourselves that we can beat these good teams," said senior point guard Shreya Jategaonkar. "We've been playing really well but this was one where we can say 'hey we're here too and we aren't going to let anyone beat us.' This win puts us in really good position the rest of the way and just builds some great momentum."

The win was a hugely important one for Seven Lakes. The Spartans came into the game just one game back of the co-leaders in district, Taylor and Tompkins and the win

See **SEVEN LAKES**, page B3

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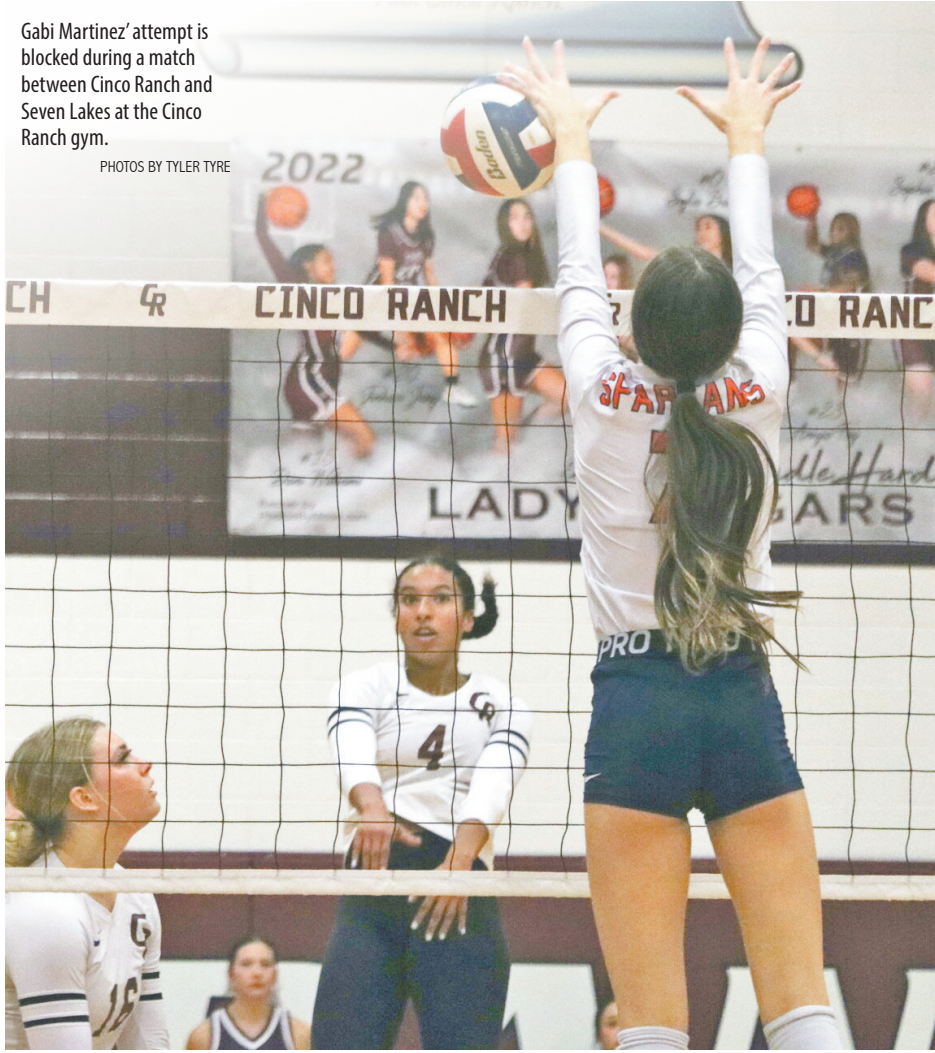


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Gabi Martinez' attempt is blocked during a match between Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes at the Cinco Ranch gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Callie Funk tips the ball over the net during Tuesday's match between Tompkins and George Ranch at the Tompkins gym.



# Cinco duo named District 19-6A Co-MVPs

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch had a historic year in volleyball this season and were represented for it in this year's District 19-6A All District team.

Kassie O'Brien and Gabi Martinez took home Co-MVP honors out of the district after helping Cinco to their best ever season. The duo helped lead the Cougars to an undefeated district title, a Region III-6A title and an appearance in the state title game.

O'Brien finished the year with 1385 assists, 388 digs, 137 kills, 22 blocks and 25 aces. Martinez had 523 kills, 436 digs, 39 assists, 23 blocks and 15 aces as both made a huge impact for the Cougars.

Jordan also placed two on the superlatives list after a strong season where the Warriors made their first ever playoff appearance and taking one seed Ridge Point to five sets in the bi-district round. Leah Hoss was named the outstanding setter in the district after a senior year where she had 461 assists, 110 digs, 41 kills, and 29 aces while Jordan head coach Jennifer Vaden was named the district's coach of the year.

Seven Lakes was the third team to place two on the superlatives list, with Sameena Burns being named the outstanding hitter of the year and Megan Chapman being named the newcomer of the year.

It was a big year for the Spartans, reaching the Region III-6A Final despite a third place finish in district. Burns had 361 kills, 201 digs, 30 aces and 10 blocks, while Chapman had 603 digs, 109 assists and 41 aces on the season.

The final player on the all-district superlatives list was Tompkins' Brooklynn Merrell, who was named the defensive player of the year after helping the Falcons to a second place finish in district and a regional quarterfinal appearance. Merrell had 496 digs, 134 assists, 102 aces and six kills on the season.

Tompkins led the way on the district's



Kassie O'Brien sets the ball during a match between Cinco Ranch and Cy-Fair at the Merrell Center.

first team — placing Erica Dellesky, Caelyn Dumas and Callie Funk there, while Katy, Jordan, Seven Lakes and Taylor each had two on the first team, Katy with Kennedy Pike and Cameron Steger, Taylor with Vanessa Erie and Julia Porath, Seven Lakes with Temi Sam-Olibale and Simone Romriell, and Jordan with Ava Ribakovs and Ella Koch. Cinco Ranch's Makenna Loo rounded out the first team.

Cinco Ranch, Taylor and Seven Lakes all put three on the second team. Cinco Ranch had Aranna Willis, Shae Rainosek and Emily Killam, Seven Lakes had Heidi Wingate, Gracie Hobin and Kate Huen, and Taylor had Madison Barrera, Hannah Fan and Ally Campbell. Jordan added Emmy Nicholas and Abbie O'Shay, Katy added Jade Adams and Montgomery Henderson, Tompkins had Christian Cowart, Paetow had Arayla Scranton, Mayde Creek had Raquel Cortez.



Above: Sameena Burns spikes the ball during a match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center. Below: Tompkins' Brooklynn Merrell digs a ball during a match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center. Right (top): Erica Dellesky sets the ball during a match between Tompkins and George Ranch at the Tompkins gym. Right (bottom): Seven Lakes' Temi Sam-Olibale spikes the ball during Tuesday's match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center.



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**Katy Times**





Jamil Adelagun shoots a 3-pointer during Wednesday's game between Paetow and Jordan at the Paetow gym.

## PAETOW

from page B1

defensively, taking a 49-37 lead into the final quarter. "Everyone on this team, we just have good chemistry together and work together well on the offensive end," Onaley said. "We all feed each other the ball and find the open man. It's a good system and we're really starting to play well in it." Jordan made a big comeback in the fourth quarter and nearly turned things around in its favor, having a chance to tie the game in the final seconds before Paetow's defense came up with a big stop to secure the win. "We have moments where our defense can lapse and that happened at times in the fourth quarter, but when we lock it we can lock teams down," Onaley said. "We found a way to stop them that

last possession and it was just good to come out of this one with a win." It was a much tougher game for the Panthers than the first time around against Jordan, which they won 74-49. But it was a huge win, as it put Paetow in the drivers seat to finish district in the top two, as they are now two games up on Jordan and Katy, and it also keeps them in the district title hunt, just a game behind first place Seven Lakes. And the Panthers are confident they can keep competing with anyone. "We just have to keep playing out game," Onaley said. "There's only six or seven games left in the regular season, so we have to make them all count, play our game and keep getting better."



Ade Onaley shoots a turnaround during Wednesday's game between Paetow and Jordan at the Paetow gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Seven Lakes players celebrate during a timeout during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Taylor gym.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

## SEVEN LAKES

from page B1

made Seven Lakes tied for second in district, while staying just a game back of the district lead. It was a game that was never in doubt for the Spartans. They jumped out to an early lead and built that to 23-11 at the end of the first quarter, pushing that lead all the way to 45-22 at halftime behind a very strong defensive effort. "The girls did a really good job of not letting (Timya Grice) get into the game," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "We denied the passes in to the post and contested every shot and that's what we talked about doing. Everything with our defense worked pretty well tonight. We sped them up, made it hard for them to get up the floor and created turnovers." Seven Lakes was never pressured the rest of the way, leading 55-34 at the end of the third quarter and pulling away down the stretch, with backups getting some playing time in the process.

Justice Carlton led the way with 25 points, While Madison Carlton had 17 points and Jategaonkar had 16 in the win. "We have a lot of options who can score and it's one of the strengths of our team is it's not just one player who can beat you," Watson said. "We play inside out and so it gives differ-



Shreya Jategaonkar shoots a layup during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Taylor gym.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

## SPARTANS

from page B1

back in the game. Seven Lakes led 27-17 after one quarter and increased that to 44-28 at halftime. Tompkins had a burst in the third quarter and brought the deficit to less than 10, but Seven Lakes continued to pull away after, bringing it back up to a 14-point game before a comfortable fourth quarter sealed it. "This is a very unselfish group," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "They don't mind who is getting the glory on the offensive end and they're buying into what we are doing on the defensive end. They played really well on the defensive end tonight and made it hard on Tompkins to score, when they're playing together like that it's a really hard team

to beat." Madison Carlton led the way with 26, while Justice Carlton had 15, Shreya Jategaonkar had 15 and Kimora Lopez had 10. Seven Lake got contributions up and down the lineup in a complete team win. "We are playing so freely this year and it's really fun to be a part of," Justice Carlton said. "It lets everyone get involved and we just feed off of each other. It's up tempo and hard to defend us." Seven Lakes is now just a half game back of Tompkins at the top of the district standings. "This whole season has been amazing," Madison Carlton said. "Justice is hard on me but knows how to do it to where I don't break as well and then our

coaching staff is amazing. The teammates, the coaches, everyone on this team is clicking at the right time." **District 19-6A**  
**SEVEN LAKES 81, TOMPKINS 60**  
Points: (SL) Madison Carlton 26, Justice Carlton 15, Shreya Jategaonkar 15, Kimora Lopez 10, Caitlyn Quintero 5, Lenore Hudspeth 4, Dulce Franco 3, Gracie Hobin 2; (T) Rihanna DeLeon 22, Gabby Panter 15, Caitlyn D'Addieco 11, Sascha Coughran 6, Haylie Panter 3, Peyton Musselman 3; Halftime: Seven Lakes 44-28; 3-Pointers: (SL) Jategaonkar 3, Quintero, Franco, Justice Carlton; (T) DeLeon 5, D'Addieco, Musselman; Records: (SL) 21-8, 8-2; (T) 24-6, 9-2;



Madison Carlton shoots a jumper during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Taylor gym.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

ent players opportunities, Shreya was big tonight and hit some threes. It's big when we get that kind of shooting because we don't have to lean on our inside payers and it opens everything up." The important matchups aren't over for Seven Lakes and will continue into their next matchup with Tompkins. And the Spartans are confident they can continue their streak and continue to climb the standings. "That's one we've been waiting for," Jategaonkar said. "But we just have to keep doing what we've been doing. Keep pressing, keep applying pressure and doing what we do best." **District 19-6A**

**SEVEN LAKES 75, TAYLOR 51**  
Points: (SL) Justice Carlton 25, Madison Carlton 17, Shreya Jategaonkar 16, Kimora Lopez 7, Lenore Hudspeth 5, Caitlyn Quintero 3, Dulce Franco 2; (T) Fiapaipaitufanuaitemalii Filoiali 22, Timya Grice 16, Casey Scherpereel 8, Tyarie Jack 4, Kara Hart 2; Halftime: Seven Lakes 45-22; 3-Pointers: (SL) Jategaonkar 4, Quintero, Hudspeth, Justice Carlton; (T) Filoiali 2, Lopez 2; Records: (SL) 20-8, 7-2; (T) 24-4, 8-2;

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# SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024**  
TOURNAMENT: 8:30 AM LUNCH TO FOLLOW

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**EVENT DETAILS**

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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.

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### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 3121 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JANUARY 8, 2024:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CITY OF KATY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 621; ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT THAT ALLOWS, A SPECIAL USE, TO-WIT: AN INSTITUTION OF A RELIGIOUS NATURE (IGLESIA RIOS DE ACEITE - RIVERS OF OIL CHURCH) IN A "C-2" GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AT 541 PIN OAK ROAD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 FOR EACH DAY A VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE EXISTS.**

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### 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 **Rexora Lane Improvements, until 3:00 PM on Wednesday, February 7th, 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 **removal of existing pavement and driveways, installation of concrete roadway with curbs and driveways, Traffic Control, and Storm Water Pollution Protection** as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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 on **3:00 PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 local time via zoom.us.** Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is NOT MANDATORY. Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87171187580?pwd=SYH8TPyAbftieutAMI36jyCtAw8UPn.1>  
Meeting ID: 871 7118 7580; Passcode: 406353  
One tap mobile: +13462487799

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.

First Publication: Thursday, January 18, 2024  
Second Publication: Thursday, January 25, 2024

Filing# 188674767 E-Filed 12/27/2023 08:59:06 AM

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:

ORIANNA LIYAH GREEN DOB: 11/08/2010 Case No.: 2023-DR-2892-AD

A MINOR CHILD.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION OF JOINT PETITION FOR STEP-PARENT ADOPTION AND TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

To: Otterway Ola Green  
Biological Father  
23702 Aspen Cliff Ct.  
Katy, Texas 77493-3393

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Russell J. Frank, Esq., whose address is Cordell Law, LLP, 5337 Millenia Lakes Blvd, Suite 200, Orlando, Florida 32839, rfrank@cordel11law.com, on or before February 20, 2024, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**

**Failure to file a written response to the petition constitutes grounds upon which the court may terminate parental rights. Failure to appear at the hearing constitutes grounds upon which the court may terminate parental rights. You have a right to ask that a future hearing be reset for a later date so that you may consult with an attorney; and an opportunity to admit or deny the allegations in the petition.**

You are the legal father of a minor female child born on 11/08/2010 in Orlando, Orange County, Florida, to wit, O.L.G., and the birth mother describes you as being fifty (50) years old;

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

**WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.**

Dated: December 28, 2023      CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: Deputy Clerk  
Digitally signed by Carolina Garallues  
Date: 2023.12.28 11:08:44 -05'00'

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### January 18 Puzzle Answers

M	C	G				T	E	E	
A	L	L				M	I	A	M
D	A	U	B			M	E	G	A
M	I	T	O			U	H	F	L
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N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	H	O
				O	A	R	S	A	G
				M	O	N	K	F	I
				A	R	A	A	R	E
				S	P	R	I	N	G
A	N	A	S		R	N	A		S
B	E	L		M	E	W		E	B
B	R	A	G	A				D	O
E	D	D	I	C				B	E
S	S	B						S	S

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

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# Katy grad Wyckoff takes home preseason Big 12 honors

Kailey Wyckoff hits during Saturday's area round game between Katy and Cy-Lakes. TYLER TYRE



BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Texas Tech sophomore and Katy high school graduate Kailey Wyckoff brought home a number of honors last week, as the Big 12 announced its preseason team and D1Softball.com published its top 100-collegiate softball player list. Wyckoff, who comes off a season where she was named the Big 12 freshman of the year, and was one of the top catchers throughout the nation. She was named to the All-Big 12

Preseason Team and was one of just four sophomores on the team and one of only two catchers on the team. Along with that honor, she was also named to the D1Softball.com top 100 player, coming in at No. 88 in the nation, the ninth highest ranked catcher in college softball. "I've worked really hard over the summer and the offseason to continue to build on the skills that led to my success last year," Wyckoff said. "I'm constantly growing and learning and pushing myself to improve. I've worked on expanding my arsenal of tools at the

plate and have been in the gym a lot working on getting stronger." Wyckoff led Texas Tech in batting average (.393), total bases (111) and slugging percentage (.740) last year and also tied the team high in doubles (15), which all ranked in the top 10 in a single season history for a Red Raider. "It means a lot to me. It shows my efforts are valued and that I'm making a positive impact on the team," Wyckoff said. "It's motivation to keep working hard so I can continue to contribute to the success of the team."

## Royal girls soccer takes first place at Rice Consolidated tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Royal girls Soccer Team claimed a first-place victory in the Rice Consolidated Tournament on Jan. 13. The team scored 13 goals in six games and only allowed 3 goals. Keepers Keylin Aragon and Lauren Hillsman each recorded multiple shut outs. Deysi Rivera led the score count with 7 goals, Lucia Sosa scored 3 goals, and Maria Paredes, Kimberly Arriaga, and Angie Cisneros each scored 1 goal. Maria Paredes led in our assists with 7



Royal's girls soccer team took home first place from the Rice Consolidated Tournament. COURTESY ROYAL ISD

assists, Deysi Rivera had 3 assists, and Kimberly Arriaga and Arely Reyes each had 1 assist. The

Lady Falcons' next game will be our district home opener against Navasota.

## ROYAL POWERLIFTERS COMPETE



Royal powerlifters competed in their first meet of the season on Jan. 6 and had some big accomplishments. The Falcons competed at the Victoria East Tournament and Jaylyn Danz placed first in her weight class by lifting 605 pounds. Lauren Hillsman placed second in her weight class with a lift of 525 and Ashley Villatoro placed third in her weight class with a total of 450 pounds, while Nathaly Gutierrez finished third in her weight class with a lift of 400 pounds. For the boys, Arthur Vasquez placed first in his weight class by lifting 1055 pounds and Jonathan Diaz placed third in his weight class with a total of 845 pounds. Top row. Left to right. Riyana Simpson, Sergio Gonzalez, Arthur Vasquez, Jonathan Diaz, Brandon Aviles, and Jaylyn Danz. Bottom row. Left to right. Nathaly Gutierrez, Ashley Villatoro, Lauren Hillsman, and Victoria Miller. COURTESY ROYAL ISD

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ROYAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023							
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	OMF American Rescue Plan ESSER III	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects Fund	ONMF Nonmajor Governmental Funds	98 Total Governmental Funds	
<b>REVENUES:</b>							
5700	Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 28,256,363	\$ --	\$ 10,496,810	\$ 165,412	\$ 309,546	\$ 39,228,131
5800	State Program Revenues	3,013,059	--	91,704	--	507,428	3,612,191
5900	Federal Program Revenues	800,204	2,630,371	--	--	4,287,334	7,717,909
5020	Total Revenues	<u>32,069,626</u>	<u>2,630,371</u>	<u>10,588,514</u>	<u>165,412</u>	<u>5,104,308</u>	<u>50,558,231</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>							
Current:							
0011	Instruction	16,526,687	11,070	--	--	1,960,710	18,498,467
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	156,512	--	--	--	--	156,512
0013	Curriculum and Staff Development	987,086	197,200	--	--	155,574	1,339,860
0021	Instructional Leadership	648,542	186,739	--	--	54,213	889,494
0023	School Leadership	1,743,640	--	--	--	82,266	1,825,906
0031	Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	797,160	72,774	--	--	214,669	1,084,603
0032	Social Work Services	156,868	--	--	--	20,941	177,809
0033	Health Services	291,015	--	--	--	59,088	350,103
0034	Student Transportation	1,476,932	--	--	--	5,868	1,482,800
0035	Food Service	--	--	--	--	1,993,186	1,993,186
0036	Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,582,471	--	--	--	54,750	1,637,221
0041	General Administration	1,721,819	--	--	--	9,510	1,731,329
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	8,776,224	2,230,452	--	--	--	11,006,676
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	411,607	--	--	--	21,640	433,247
0053	Data Processing Services	634,945	--	--	--	--	634,945
0061	Community Services	13,253	--	--	--	16,425	29,678
0071	Principal on Long-term Debt	812,014	--	2,740,000	--	--	3,552,014
0072	Interest on Long-term Debt	221,262	--	1,668,340	--	--	1,889,602
0073	Bond Issuance Costs and Fees	750	--	2,985,030	450,662	--	3,436,442
0081	Capital Outlay	--	50,000	--	--	--	50,000
0093	Payments to Shared Service Arrangements	--	--	--	--	7,014	7,014
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	486,650	--	--	--	--	486,650
6030	Total Expenditures	<u>37,445,437</u>	<u>2,748,235</u>	<u>7,393,370</u>	<u>450,662</u>	<u>4,655,854</u>	<u>52,693,558</u>
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(5,375,811)</u>	<u>(117,864)</u>	<u>3,195,144</u>	<u>(285,250)</u>	<u>448,454</u>	<u>(2,135,327)</u>
Other Financing Sources and (Uses):							
7911	Capital-Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	--	--	--	49,340,000	--	49,340,000
7914	Issuance of Non-Current Debt	239,245	--	--	--	--	239,245
7915	Transfers In	--	117,864	--	--	--	117,864
7916	Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	--	--	--	1,117,307	--	1,117,307
8911	Transfers Out	(117,864)	--	--	--	--	(117,864)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	<u>121,381</u>	<u>117,864</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>50,457,307</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>50,696,552</u>
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	<u>(5,254,430)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>3,195,144</u>	<u>50,172,057</u>	<u>448,454</u>	<u>48,561,225</u>
0100	Fund Balances - Beginning	20,557,720	--	3,224,307	--	739,639	24,521,666
3000	Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 15,303,290</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 6,419,451</u>	<u>\$ 50,172,057</u>	<u>\$ 1,188,093</u>	<u>\$ 73,082,891</u>

This statement is published in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 140.006 Local Government Code, Texas Revised Civil Statutes, Act 2007, 80th Legislature. For additional information, please contact the office of the Superintendent of Royal Independent School District.

# Texans' huge turnaround season ends in Divisional Round

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Houston Texans had a hugely successful year. Houston had a monumental turnaround this season, going from 3-13-1, to winning a playoff game and winning the AFC South Title.

But that turnaround had its limits and the Texans reached that on Sunday with a season-ending 34-10 loss to the No. 1 seeded Baltimore Ravens in the Divisional Round.

"That's a really good football team and you have to give credit to the Ravens there," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "They came out in the second half, they executed better than we did and we did not execute well enough to be in position to win the game in the second half, and that's what it came down to. Credit to Lamar, he made a ton of great plays and that's why he's probably the MVP. But I'm proud of our guys for their effort and being relentless through this whole season, and for getting to this moment. This team accomplished a lot and I'm looking forward to the future."

It was a game where the Ravens wore down the Texans until eventually pulling away in a strong second half, as Houston was just unable to keep up for four quarters.

Baltimore took the lead in the second quarter, but Houston got back into the game on a huge 67-yard punt return by Steven Sims, as the teams went into the locker room tied at halftime.

But the second half was all Baltimore. Lamar Jackson ran for a touchdown in the third quarter and then added two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter as the Texans' offense couldn't figure out an answer for the Ravens' defense.

Houston ended the game with 213 yards, with just 38 of those coming on the ground, but earned valuable experience in an environment that the Texans franchise has never gotten past.

"We have to find a way to get back to this moment and win this game," said rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud. "A lot of experience was made this year and we had a great season. I'm excited to keep working with these guys and keep getting better."

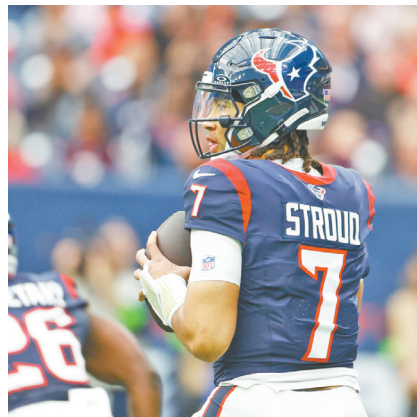
The Texans exceeded all expectations for the year and the future looks bright as they bring back tons of young talent and will have a big amount of cap space to spend on free agents over the offseason. And with Stroud with a year of experience under his belt and other players coming back from injury next year, the sky is the limit.

"This was a special group and it was so emotional after that loss," said rookie defensive end Will Anderson Jr. "The success that we had this year is a testament to everyone we have in the locker room, from the players to the training staff, nutritionists, the coaching staff and front office. But we can't be satisfied and there's room for improvement. We're proud of this year and we're headed in the right direction, but we have to keep working and that's what I plan on doing this offseason. I don't think people understand how much better we're going to be next year."



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans running back Devin Singletary (26) catches a pitch from quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) as Stroud looks back during an NFL Wild Card playoff game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on January 13, 2024 in Houston.



Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) looks to pass during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and Tennessee Titans on December 31, 2023, in Houston. The Texans won, 26-3.



Texans tight end Brevin Jordan (9) scores on a 75-yard touchdown pass from C.J. Stroud in the first half of an NFL Wild Card playoff game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on January 13, 2024 in Houston.



Texans cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. (24) and cornerback Desmond King II (25) between plays in an NFL game between the Texans and the Broncos on December 3, 2023 in Houston. The Texans won, 22-17.

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