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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023

## Martinez resigns as head of Katy Area EDC

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy Area Economic Development Council President and CEO Chuck Martinez has resigned his position in order, he said in an interview, to pursue a new opportunity.

The resignation was effective Dec. 31. "I provided advance notice that I would not be seeking to renew my contract so I could pursue a new career opportunity," Martinez said. "The Katy area offers a solid marketplace for global industries. It's been an honor to serve and represent the community working alongside boards, their members and many outstanding professionals



CHUCK MARTINEZ

**"God's plans have a wonderful way of presenting themselves when you least expect it."**

— CHUCK MARTINEZ

across the region."

Martinez said he was not at liberty to disclose details of his new position because they were being finalized. He said he

thought he would continue pursuing his passion for community economic development in his forthcoming role and hoped to share the details soon.

"God's plans have a wonderful way of presenting themselves when you least expect it," Martinez said.

In a statement, Katy Area EDC Chairman Paul Kurt said the EDC accepted Martinez's resignation with regret, and wished him well as he pursued other opportunities.

"Going forward, Angie Thomason and the staff of the EDC will continue the important work of the organization for the immediate future," Kurt said. Thomason is office manager and previously served as interim

president and CEO before Martinez joined the EDC in February.

Martinez said the Katy Area EDC has a wonderful role and purpose in advancing the Katy economy. He said he hoped his tenure has reinforced the EDC's role.

As for the future, Martinez said he thought of a scene from the 1975 movie Jaws. In that scene, the police chief looking to hunt down a shark sees the shark for the first time. He tells a boat captain that he will need a bigger boat. Martinez said it's the same thing for Katy, in a manner of speaking.

See **MARTINEZ**, page A3

## American Wire Group to open Katy distribution facility

CONTRIBUTED AND STAFF REPORTS

American Wire Group (AWG), a Miami-based manufacturer of wires, cables, equipment and accessories for the electric utility and renewable markets, plans to open a national distribution center in Katy.

It will be the company's third such location in addition to others in Pennsylvania and California. The Katy operation is expected to open in early 2023.

The Katy facility, which will be 205,000 sq. ft., is at 29921 Medline Lane. It will serve as the company's primary service center for customers in the Central and Southern United States. The facility will bring 30 to 50 new jobs to Katy over the next three years, the company said in a statement.

Vince Yokom, Waller County Economic Development Partnership executive director, said the building was constructed as part of a spec building program in which developers are given incentives to build facilities even though they do not yet have tenants.

See **FACILITY**, page A3

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WILLOWFORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

The new year began with two fires for local firefighters to put out. This house fire occurred shortly after midnight on Jan. 1 at a home in the 2500 block of Verbena Bend in Jordan Ranch. Willowfork Fire Department Engine 83 and Battalion 80 assisted the Fulshear-Simonton Fire Department in extinguishing the blaze. The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's office is investigating the cause of the fire. Nobody was hurt.

## National Fire Protection Association urges prompt Christmas tree removal

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nearly one-third (30 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association en-

courages people to remove Christmas trees from their homes as soon as possible if they haven't done so already.

For many people who enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in their homes, this can be a tough

message to follow. However, it's important to impress upon the public that Christmas trees are large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires. The longer they remain

See **FIRE**, page A3



HARRIS COUNTY ESD 48

An air conditioning unit at the Second Baptist Church West Campus, 19449 Katy Fwy., caught fire in the morning of Jan. 1, with smoke filling nearby hallways. The Harris County ESD 48 Fire Department and Westlake Fire Department put out the fire. Nobody was hurt.

HARRIS COUNTY

## Cagle welcomes first grandchild as he departs commissioners court position

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Republican R. Jack Cagle lost his Harris County Pct. 4 commissioner re-election bid last year to Democratic challenger Lesley Briones. But with endings come beginnings, and in Cagle's case, it came in October with the arrival of his first grandson, Ryder Cagle.

"We're a little bit behind schedule for some folks, but my son is 32 and I actually did their wedding ceremony Jan. 9," Cagle said. "They had to skip a week, and then they went on a honeymoon a week later."



JACK CAGLE

Their honeymoon, Cagle said, was driving along and exploring the historic Route 66. They returned with the new bride feeling ill. They first suspected food poisoning, but instead, it was a pregnancy.

"So little Ryder was born Oct. 15," Cagle said. "Straight from getting married to having a baby. That's cool."

Cagle's departure after 11 years on commissioners court gives the Democrats a 4-1 majority on court. Incumbent Democratic County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia won their respective re-election bids. Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey is the court's only Republican.

Cagle's precinct was redrawn to include Katy and much of western Harris County following the 2020 census. Critics of the redistricting plan, including Cagle, said the redistricting was done in such a way that Cagle would have a harder time winning re-election.

Looking back, Cagle found it hard to summarize all that happened on his watch.

"The problem with that simple question is that there are so many areas that I've had the privilege of serving in that it makes it more complex," Cagle said. On infrastructure, he said the completion of state highways 99 and 249, along with the expansion of the Hardy Toll Road and the contact points, were highlights.

"To me it's very exciting to get on 99 and to be able to drive all the way around to Kingwood, and to realize when I first started that that wasn't happening," Cagle said.

Cagle said the county's biggest challenging moving forward was managing its growth.

"And there's going to be also attached to that the green space component, because at some point you're going to run out of land and we won't have a place to go," Cagle said.

One program he was involved with,

See **CAGLE**, page A3

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Fort Bend County Sheriff's office awarded traffic safety grants

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's office has launched a comprehensive traffic safety initiative, funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, to address increasing numbers of vehicle crashes and fatalities in the county.

The Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) provides funding for qualified traffic safety programs designed to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities. The \$124,990 grant will help the sheriff's office deploy more personnel and resources to actively seek drivers who violate traffic laws, such as speeding, distracted driving, DWI and seat belt violations.

Sheriff Eric Fagan says the STEP grant funds will be used to create safety initiatives to help enforce traffic laws to improve public safety within Fort Bend County in areas where several crashes and fatalities have been reported.

"It's simple, driving the speed limit and wearing a seat belt can prevent injuries and save lives," Fagan said. "These much-needed grants will increase our efforts of enforcing traffic laws and keep our community safe, especially now during the holidays."

### Cinco Ranch Branch Library adds new programs for infants and families to weekly youth activities

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., is adding several new programs to its regular schedule of youth activities.

Mother Goose Time is for pre-walking infants from age 1-12 months. It is set for 10:15-10:45 a.m. Tuesdays. This activity provides caregiver/infant multisensory circle-time activities—including simple sign language, folksongs and lullabies, and finger plays—that are especially designed to stimulate babies' social, emotional, and physical development through rhythm and music. Attendance is limited and registration is required.

Stretches & Stories is for families with children of all ages. It is from 4:30-5 p.m. Jan. 5 and Jan. 19. Families will enjoy stories, participate in gentle yoga and dance, and learn calming breathing techniques. Families may bring yoga mats.

Family Game Night is from 6-6:45 p.m. Jan. 9 in the meeting room. Families with children of all ages are invited to play a variety of strategy and classic board games. Hear tips and tricks to help advance skill levels.



The Willowfork Fire Department will soon take delivery of this fire truck. The 10-foot-1 tall, 37-foot 9.5 pumper is going through its final tests before being put into service. Left: A view of the interior in the new fire truck. Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, Wisc., manufactured the truck.

WILLOWFORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Family Build Night is from 6-6:45 p.m. Jan. 23 in the meeting room. Families with children of all ages will enjoy a fun-filled building challenge using LEGOs and other mixed materials during this free-play time.

Creative Connections are activities for school-aged children in grades 4-8. It will take place from 4:30-5 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday. The schedule of activities is as follows:

- Jan. 12—Hour of Code. Students will learn about coding and improve their skills by playing coding games. This activity will take place in the computer lab.
- Jan. 26—Game Day. Students will explore

different strategy board games. This activity will take place in the multipurpose room.

In addition to these new activities, the library will continue to present its regular schedule of free children's programs—Family Story Time, Pajama Night Story Time, Kinder Korner, and After-School Breaks—throughout January.

Family Story Time begins at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the meeting room. Families with children of all ages will enjoy stories, songs and action rhymes. Craft packets will be given out at the end of each program, so that children may take them home to enjoy. The schedule

of Family Story Time activities is as follows:

- January 4-5—Colors
- January 11-12—Monkeys
- January 18-19—Baby Animals
- January 25-26—Dance Party

Pajama Night Story Time is an evening alternative for families unable to attend during the day. It is from 6-6:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays. The themes will be "Colors" and "Baby Animals."

"Kinder Korner: Back-to-School Activities" is from 4:30-5 p.m. Jan. 11. Kinder Korner is a time for kindergartners to enjoy stories, movies, crafts, and other activities. This month, students will learn about freezing weather and snow, and they will make their own fake snow.

"After-School Break: Homemade Lava Lamps" is from 4:30-5 p.m. Jan. 11 in meeting room 2. This activity is for students in grades 1-5.

These programs are free and open to the public. For more information, or to register for Mother Goose Time, see the online calendar of "Classes & Events" at the website [fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://fortbend.lib.tx.us).

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Basics
- Swiss river
- Constrictor snake
- Building occupied by monks
- Discount
- Deal a blow to
- Relating to the ear
- Thyrotropin
- Loud, unpleasant noise
- Large intestines
- Move with a curving trajectory
- Witnesses
- You need both to live
- Dash
- Network
- Dig
- C. European river
- Supplement with difficulty
- Corporate executive
- Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
- No variation
- Airborne (abbr.)
- "Heidi" author
- Affirmative
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- W. Asian country
- Grotesque or bizarre
- Delicacy (archaic)
- Textile
- Denial
- Electronic data processing
- Attempt

**CLUES DOWN**

- Engulf
- Waterside hotel
- Printed cotton fabric
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- One who follows the rules
- Lace up once more
- Fire byproduct
- Hankering
- Outer
- One-time aerospace firm
- Seafood
- Commercial
- Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
- Samoan monetary unit
- Type of gland
- Arrest
- Check
- Past participle of be
- Alias
- A major division of geological time
- Kids programming channel (abbr.)
- Joked
- Helps little firms
- Roman numeral 50
- Impressive in size or scope
- Domineering leader
- A person who delivers a speech
- One after 89
- Young hawk
- The scene of any event or action
- A team's best pitcher
- Integrated data processing

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**Ellis to join Association of Water Board Directors**

Rick Ellis, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce vice president, is leaving that organization to join the Association of Water Board Directors. His last day at the chamber is Jan. 13.

Ellis came to the chamber in 2019 after serving as Katy Area Economic Development Council vice president.

According to its website, the association was formed in the early 1970s to promote unity and education among the various water districts in Texas. The association is an advocacy group for utility districts and has more than 900 members. The membership is made up of different types of districts, including municipal utility districts (MUDs), public utility districts (PUDs), special utility districts (SUDs),

utility districts (UDs), and water control & improvement districts (WCIDs). Each of these districts is governed by at least a five-member board of directors who live or own property in the district that they govern.

Levee Improvement Districts (LIDs) are also part of the association membership. Its directors are grass root public officials. Consultants to the industry also may join. Many of these firms or departments of firms that handle the day-to-day operations of districts are already members of AWBD. This group is made up of attorneys, developers, bookkeepers, engineers, operators, financial advisors, auditors, and so forth.

The association headquarters is in Houston.

**Cuddle Buddies Rescue seeking cat food, litter donations**

Cuddle Buddies Rescue said it is seeking cat food and litter donations to care for all the cats and kittens they have saved from Katy Animal Control.

The organization has compiled a wishlist through Amazon detailing the supplies needed. To see the wishlist, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [amzn.to/3jHFTjr](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=astore_navbar).

Items can also be purchased at local retailers and dropped in the Cuddle Buddies Rescue donation box at MKT Distillery LLC, 5373 1st St.

For more information, call Cuddle Buddies Rescue at 832-594-7705.



Cuddle Buddies Rescue is seeking cat food and litter donations. PEXELS

**MARTINEZ**

from page A1

"I think there's enormous opportunities for the Katy area," Martinez said. "The question is, can accommodate all the opportunities that are coming?"

Martinez came to Katy

from the Brazos Valley EDC. There, he worked to attract and support area businesses. Those businesses included both established and startup firms considering Brazos

County. He previously worked in economic development in San Antonio, Laredo, Beaumont and Galveston. He also worked in local economic development in Alexandria, Va.

**CAGLE**

from page A1

Cagle said, was buying drainage space before developers come in and develop their tracts. In this way, he said, the drainage system would be better than waiting until the developers put in a patchwork system. Cagle said he believed that drainage plans must handle at least 20-25% more than what is being anticipated.

On flood mitigation, Cagle said he and others were working on what he described as the "Dutch model," in which old dikes would be reinstated on the Katy Prairie, most of which is in Waller County.

"We pay landowners to keep the land fallow and natural and we don't develop it and we've flooded whenever there's a flood, because you can store as much water going a foot deep and a mile wide as you can by going a mile deep and a foot wide," Cagle said. "So, digging the big hole is really not going to be, I think, the solution, but working with the nature conservancies and working with Waller County on the farmers and whatnot, that's what the Dutch do. They pay farmers to allow them to flood, and the benefit is that it's free fertilizer, too. All that sediment that comes in and replenishes the soil."

Cagle earned degrees from Rice University and the Baylor University School of Law in the 1980s. He was a lawyer before becoming a Harris County Civil Court-of-Law No. 1 judge. He served 11 years in that role. He was appointed to commissioners court in 2011 and won re-election in 2014 and 2018.

"It's not something that I learned, as much as I experienced, which is the love of serving people," Cagle said. "The good Lord had put my heart and desire to serve. There are different ways you can do it. I did it as a lawyer."

As for his future—besides enjoying time with Ryder—Cagle said he will return to practicing law.

"Well, you'll see me in Katy quite a bit now that I'm going to be hanging out a shingle practicing a little bit of law," Cagle said. "Before I became—actually, most of the time while I was a judge—I was a member of the Katy Bar Association. You'll see me out there and here's what I tell folks: I'm going to be available for the practice of law, but I've got a lot of experience, so I'll be a good lawyer, but I won't be a cheap one. If you need a good lawyer and you're not looking for a cheap one, just knock on my door."

**FACILITY**

from page A1

"It makes us compete better," Yokom said. Michael Dorfman, American Wire Group CEO, said opening a Texas facility has been a priority for his company.

"From this facility, we will be able to deliver products and services with shorter lead times," Dorfman said. "Our customers in this region will benefit from having their orders ready to ship within hours and continue to complete projects on-time and within budget. We pride ourselves on continually improving our service and will now be able to support our customers even faster."

American Wire Group was established in 2021. It provides products to the power T&D, substation, solar, wind, battery energy storage, and EV infrastructure markets.

Yokom described American Wire Group as a smaller company, but the company's opening a Katy facility shows the partnership supports companies of all sizes.

**"From this facility, we will be able to deliver products and services with shorter lead times. Our customers in this region will benefit from having their orders ready to ship within hours and continue to complete projects on-time and within budget. We pride ourselves on continually improving our service and will now be able to support our customers even faster."**

—MICHAEL DORFMAN, American Wire Group CEO

**FIRE**

from page A1

in homes, the longer they present a risk.

According to the latest association winter holiday fire data, 160 home structure fires began with Christmas trees, resulting in two civilian deaths, 12 civilian injuries, and \$10 million in direct property damage, on average each year between 2015 and 2019.

Fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, the association recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. The association also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations so that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.
- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any

sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.
- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

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# Best 2023 resolution? Get a pet

It was late December of 2020. COVID cabin fever was hitting me hard.

As a writer and communications consultant, I've long worked from an office in my home.

I was used to working alone at home, but COVID isolation was pushing me beyond my limits.

Family issues were also weighing me down. My father, then 87, was facing a series of health challenges.

I was on guard day and night, waiting for a phone call to ask me to help get him off the floor because his legs were no longer able to hold him.

Isolation and stress—and constant worry about getting COVID and passing it on to my parents—were weighing me down.

My oldest sister, Kathy, offered what she thought was the perfect solution to my woes:

"You need to get a dog," she said matter-of-factly one day.

I've always loved dogs and routinely stop to pet any pup who crosses my path. And I still miss my childhood puppy, Jingles, a sweet collie mix.

But I'd never considered bringing a canine companion into my home permanently.

I'm away from the house too often, I told myself. I don't want to leave a dog isolated in a crate. And I travel for work too often.

But the truth is, I didn't want the responsibility. I wanted to come and go and do as I pleased.

Luckily, I woke one morning sick and tired of the COVID isolation.

"I'm getting a dog," I said to myself.

I contacted local rescue shelters, assuming I'd have my pick of dogs that day. But many other people had decided to get rescue dogs during the pandemic, and, after six weeks of trying, no shelter had replied to my applications.

One Saturday, after I'd spent hours calling and emailing various places, I spotted an ad for Labrador puppies that were available in Punxsutawney. I thought it might be a scam, but it was legitimate.

I woke early the next day and made the 90-minute journey to pick out my puppy. Only nine



**TOM PURCELL**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

days old, five of the pups had already been claimed. I had my pick of four boys.

The first three wanted nothing to do with me and thrashed about uneasily in my arms. But then I picked up the fourth and he settled contentedly as though he'd found his perfect human.

He did. And I'd found my perfect pup.

Thurber turned 2 on Christmas Day, and throughout my 60 years, he's one of the very best decisions I ever made in my life.

I didn't realize how often I'd not been laughing until he came into my home. I still laugh out loud at least five times every day. (See some reasons why at [ThurbersTail.com](http://ThurbersTail.com).)

I share this story for the simple reason that one of the best things any human being can ever do to benefit their mental and physical well-being is to get a pet.

The companionship, the exercise, the pure joy of having such a creature share life with you is incredibly beneficial. Several studies show this.

According to PsyPost, a recent study finds that dogs especially improve the health and physical activity of elderly dog parents.

Pets make us more empathetic and more civil toward each other.

And they certainly help us escape from the never-ending noise and stress of modern life and bring us a peace and calm that we badly need.

So as we wrap 2022 and head into 2023, here's one resolution that you should strongly consider: Get a pet!

*Purcell, creator of the infotainment site [ThurbersTail.com](http://ThurbersTail.com), which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at [Tom@TomPurcell.com](mailto:Tom@TomPurcell.com).*

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# 'Let's take a trip for the holidays,' they said

For years, I've watched friends and acquaintances take family trips during the holiday season to exciting locations like Disney World, Hawaii, Colorado and Cracker Barrel.

Until now, my family has been content to snuggle up together at home, enjoying traditional celebrations that involve exchanging gifts, candlelight church services and severe indigestion.

But not this year. For some reason, my three teenage daughters recently announced that instead of receiving gifts, they want to offer my wife and me the great pleasure of taking them on a trip to New York City.

At first, this didn't sound like such an unreasonable option. After all, I've never experienced the excitement of New York's giant rats or the thrilling risk of being pushed in front of a subway train. This plan would also relieve me of the unending task of shopping for my daughters' numerous and exorbitantly-priced Christmas gifts, almost exclusively manufactured by the Apple corporation.

Little did I know, however, that a trip to New York City for a family of five during the holidays costs roughly the same as a decade of traditional family Christmases at home—maybe subtracting the price of ingredients for Velveeta dip.

**JASE GRAVES**

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



I also didn't realize that one doesn't simply "go" to New York City and wander around dodging taxicabs and cowboys singing in their underwear. Apparently, you are required to book expensive tickets to Broadway shows so you can brag to your friends that you've seen a musical that will probably be featured on Disney+ in the near future—if it's not already there.

And then there are the dinner reservations that must be made days in advance in order to secure a table at one of the really cool restaurants ("cool" meaning "the price of this meal will require the sale of at least one kidney"). Otherwise, my daughters tell me, you'll have to resort to battling rodents the size of schnauzers for New York street food like pizza slices and those hot dogs the competitive eaters wolf down on July 4 at a rate of around 7 per minute. (Personally, I'd be ok fighting the rats.)

Seriously, though, the expenses involved with just planning for the trip never seem to end.

For example, we spent several hours at our local shopping mall purchasing enough fleece gear to prepare for an extended rotation at an Arctic research station.

Of course, my daughters insisted that we buy "fashionable" designer clothing—in case we run into a New York modeling agency interested in a wide-eyed family of Texans who have that "We usually shop at Target, but now we're all fancy cause we're in a big ol' city"-look. Besides, I hear that dad bods are "in" right now.

After all of the itinerary planning, shopping, ticket buying and looking at photoshopped images of New York online, I told the girls that it feels like we've already taken the trip. Unfortunately for my bank account, they still want to go.

The holidays will definitely be different this year. I've second, third and tenth-guessed the decision to take this trip, but at least we'll all be together making memories. And if things get too weird in the Big Apple, maybe I can make a run to the closest Cracker Barrel.

*Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in [Texas Escapes](http://Texas Escapes) magazine, [The Shreveport Times](http://The Shreveport Times), [The Longview News Journal](http://The Longview News Journal), and [The Kilgore News Herald](http://The Kilgore News Herald). Contact Graves at [susanjase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanjase@sbcglobal.net).*

## Katy Times

**SUSAN ROVEGNO** | Publisher  
**GEORGE SLAUGHTER** | News Editor  
**TYLERTYRE** | Sports Editor  
**DEBBIE PREJEAN** | Office Manager/  
Bookkeeper  
**MARISSA FERREIRA** | Page Designer

**OFFICE HOURS:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678  
**PHONE:** 281-391-3141

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Call 281-391-3141 or email [news@katytimes.com](mailto:news@katytimes.com)

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KATYTIMES.COM

## Cirque Italia returning to Katy in January



CIRQUE ITALIA

A gravity-defying performer puts on a show at Cirque Italia. The Cirque Italia show will be in this tent (right), which will be in the Katy Mills Mall parking lot.

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Cirque Italia has pulled out all the stops this year to take guests on a magical dream adventure.

The shows are under the white and blue big top tent at the Katy Mills Mall Parking lot, 5000 Katy Mills Cir. Dates and times for the shows are as follows:

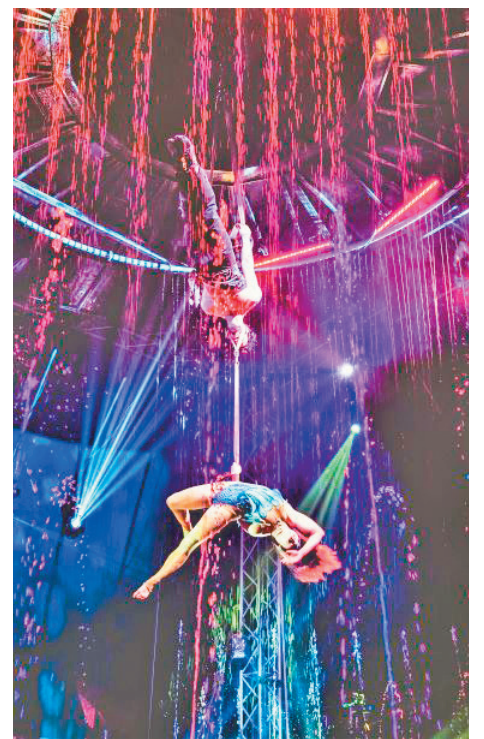
- Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22, 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 23, 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24-28, 7:30 p.m. each night.
- Jan. 29, 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30, 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Cirque Italia's Gold Unit performers can't wait to take guests back to a time when hula hoops and soda fountains were abundant, Elvis Presley dominated the airwaves, greased hair was all the rage, and street racing was a parent's greatest concern. This high-octane show is guaranteed to captivate and engage every kiddo and Daddy-O in the audience.

Cirque Italia is enforcing all recommendations set forth by the CDC and local municipalities. Every member of the Cirque Italia family is committed to the health and wellness of fans. As such, Cirque Italia has made certain adjustments and accommodations to comply with the safety guidelines set forth by local and state officials. These adjustments and accommodations include some of the following:

- Restricted seating capacity.
- Socially distanced seating with visual cues throughout tent.
- Mask mandate for anyone over 3 years of age (available for purchase if needed).
- Increased number of hand sanitization stations in and around tent.
- All common areas wiped down and disinfected every 10-15 minutes.

To purchase tickets, visit the website [cirqueitalia.com](http://cirqueitalia.com), by phone at 941-704-8572, or at the onsite ticket office the week of show. Office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on non-show days and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on show days. Tickets are \$10-\$50.



CIRQUE ITALIA

Cirque Italia is returning to Katy this month.

Cirque Italia believes multi-culturalism is one of its strongest assets. The show features performers from Argentina, Brazil, Romania, and many other countries. Of course, these incredible artists are preparing to wow guests with their astounding acts. Master jugglers, low wire fanatics, dazzling contortion, wild trampoline antics, and even a wheel of death.

Cirque Italia's mission is to provide high-class entertainment suitable for all age groups, where all are welcome at these strictly animal-free shows!

Cirque Italia offers one free child admission with every full priced paying adult ticket in levels 2 or 3. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers, discounts, or deals. Please call 941-704-8572 to get the promo code for the Katy show.

### The Katy Times

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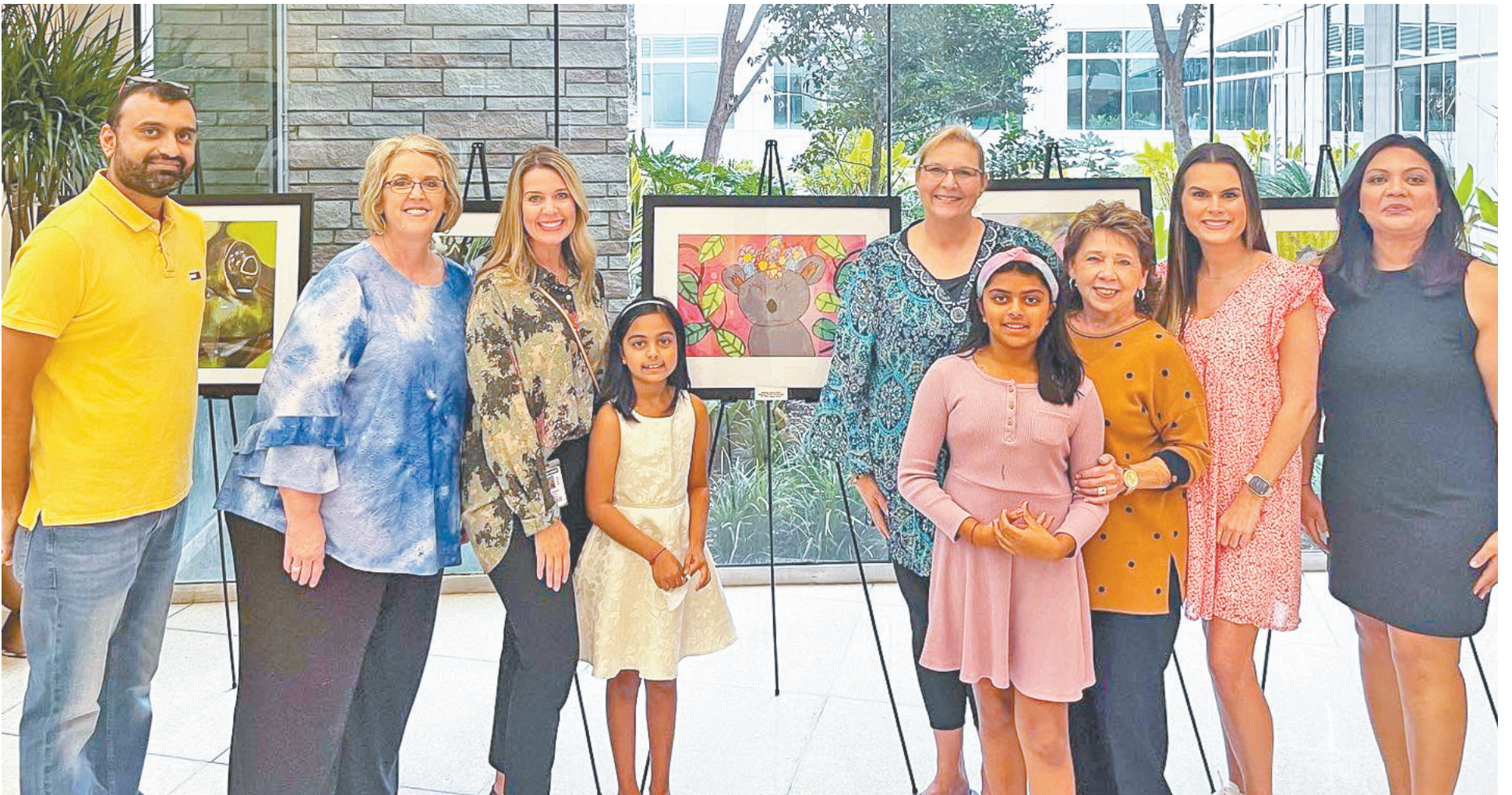
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KATY ISD PHOTOS

Katy ISD student patients, visitors, and staff at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital, 23900 Katy Fwy., can now enjoy artwork by some Katy ISD student artists.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### Katy ISD hosting operations job fair Jan. 25

Katy ISD is hosting an operations job fair from 5-7 p.m. Jan. 25 at Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road. The district is looking to fill positions in food service, maintenance and transportation.

For more information, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3Uwre1K.

### Katy ISD approves 2023-24 instructional calendar

Katy school trustees approved the instructional calendar for the 2023-2024 academic year at their December meeting. The calendar includes the following

highlights:

- Aug. 16, 2023: First Day of School
  - May 17, 2024: Last Day of School for Seniors
  - May 23, 2024: Last Day of School
- "Every fall Katy ISD seeks community feedback for the development of future instructional calendars," Sherri Ashorn, discipline and SHARS administrator, said. "Through a community survey sent out in November, participants provided input indicating this calendar as the favorable option."

### Two Katy-area graduates make Centenary College Fall 2022 dean's list

Savanna Arevalo and Jeffrey Borchert, two Katy-area graduates, have earned

spots on the dean's list at Centenary College in Shreveport, La.

Centenary College of Louisiana is a selective, residential, national liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1825, it is the oldest chartered liberal arts college west of the Mississippi River and is a member of the Associated Colleges of the South.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Students and staff at Jenks Elementary won first place in the Texas-wide fundraising initiative for B.I.G. Love Cancer Care. They did this by raising nearly \$5,000 that will go towards purchasing necessities, groceries, comfort items, toys and meals for families of children with cancer.



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## Katy wins thriller over Seven Lakes

### Tigers hang onto lead in District 19-6A

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy continues to find a way. No matter the situation they find themselves in, no matter the circumstance, the Tigers have found a way to win.

The Tigers have ridden that fighting spirit through district and even through a weeklong break at Christmas. That fight was needed once again on Tuesday as Katy attempted to maintain its lead at the top of District 19-6A.

The Tigers found a way once again. Despite trailing after each of the first three quarters against Seven Lakes, Katy put together a strong fourth to finish the game 54-49 winners over the Spartans in a thrilling game that Katy knew would be a back and forth affair.

"From the beginning of the season we have known that the games against Tompkins and Seven Lakes would be battles,"



Katy head coach Shanna Marhofer talks to her team in a huddle during Tuesday's game between Katy and Seven Lakes at the Seven Lakes gym.

said senior forward Lyric Barr. "We were ready coming into this game. We knew it would be tough to shut down the Carlton sisters but we knew if we played together we could beat them all as a team. We just played so together tonight and it made us better than any single player."

It took every player from Katy both defensively and offensively. On offense, the Tigers pushed the ball in transition and tried to get on the

fast break as much as possible. Defensively, it was all about helping each other, as Katy strayed away from their usual zone and went man to man to limit the length and size of both Justice and Madison Carlton for Seven Lakes.

"We knew that we would have to go man tonight with the post play that Seven Lakes has," said Katy head coach Shanna

See **BASKETBALL**, page B3



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Nyla Wold shoots a three-pointer during Tuesday's game between Katy and Seven Lakes at the Seven Lakes gym.

### WEEK OF JANUARY 6

## SCORES & SCHEDULES

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Friday

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

#### Tuesday

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

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Saturday

- Seven Lakes vs. Cinco Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Jordan, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Katy, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Paetow, 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday

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

### GIRLS SOCCER

#### Friday

- Jordan at Woodlands Tournament
- Katy vs. Tomball, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Bear Branch Tournament
- Paetow at Fort Bend Austin, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at A&M Consolidated Tournament

#### Saturday

- Jordan at Woodlands Tournament
- Morton Ranch at Bear Branch Tournament
- Seven Lakes at A&M Consolidated Tournament

#### Tuesday

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

### BOYS SOCCER

#### Thursday-Saturday

- All Katy ISD schools at Mojo Showcase

#### Tuesday

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



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Jose Ramos cuts inside during a District 19-6A game against Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium.

## Mojo Showcase tournament returns with strong boys field

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Soccer season is back and with it comes one of the biggest boys tournaments in the state in the Mojo Showcase.

The tournament, hosted by Katy ISD, brings together great teams from throughout the state, all of which will come together this Thursday-Saturday to compete at Katy ISD high schools and both Rhodes and Legacy Stadiums.

The annual tournament was renamed in 2016 to honor Tompkins head coach Tom Jones daughter, Morgan, who died in August 2015 follow-



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes forward Daniel Ejerenwa (11) heads the ball toward goal while working against Plano midfielder Cristian Cifuentes (24) during the Class 6A boys state semifinal between Katy Seven Lakes and Plano on April 15, 2022 in Georgetown, Texas.

See **MOJO**, page B3

## Jaguars crush Texans in Houston's final home game of season

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Sunday was an ugly final home game for the Texans in this 2023 season, capping off what has been an ugly season at home for Houston.

The Texans fell to the Jaguars 28-3 at NRG Stadium, falling to 2-13-1 on the season in a game where Houston was never in it from start to finish.

"They just played a lot better than we did today," said Texans head coach Lovie Smith. "We had been playing better football but that wasn't the case today in all three phases. We didn't tackle defensively and we didn't move the ball or get in the endzone offensively. We just weren't ready to play on the same level we needed to be."

Things went wrong from the opening drive, as Jeff Driskel was stuffed on a fourth-and-one in Houston territory, giving the Jaguars a short field to work with. Jacksonville made no mistakes and marched 45-yards in eight plays before scoring on a 5-yard run by Jamycal Hasty to take the lead.

The Texans and Jaguars traded punts twice after that before the Texans punted once again in the second quarter. Jacksonville finally made them pay, as Travis Etienne ripped off a 62-yard run for a touchdown before Tyson Campbell recovered a strip sack of Davis Mills and returned it for another Jaguars touchdown just a minute later on the Texans next drive.

"It's tough," Mills said. "You get here and you expect to have a chance to win every week, but it's been a struggle this year. The record doesn't show how tal-

See **TEXANS**, page B3



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# Texas Tech tops Ole Miss in dominant Texas Bowl play

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

There was a lot of talk this week heading into the Texas Bowl about the run game and defense of Ole Miss.

The Rebels were third in the nation in rushing heading into the game, and it seemed to be something they would be able to exploit against a Texas Tech team that had defended well against the pass but struggled at times against the run. And Ole Miss' defense that went up against tough SEC teams seemed to be set up to be able to have an answer for the Texas Tech offense.

But the Red Raiders flipped the script on that narrative on Wednesday night, as it was Texas Tech that were the aggressors both in the run game and on defense as they ground and pound to a 42-25 win over Ole Miss in the Texas Bowl at NRG Stadium to end Joey McGuire's first season with the team on a very high note.

"There's been some special moments in my career, and this is one of them," said Texas Tech head coach Joey McGuire. "To be able to finish this off with the guys, it was so special because when you're a new coach coming in somewhere and doing things different it takes buy in and acceptance and they gave that to us from day one. They play every game so hard and it shows that they believe in what were doing and they love each other. Tonight showed that."

Tech's defense made its presence felt from the start, forcing a turnover on downs on Ole Miss' first possession. The Red Raiders then moved the ball down the field but gave the ball away on an interception by Tyler Shough in the endzone.

But after another turnover on downs by the Rebels, Shough made up for his mistake, running in a 2-yard score to give Texas Tech the lead. Ole Miss came back to tie things up, going 75-yards on five plays and scoring on a Zach Evans 8-yard run, but Tech regained the lead on its next possession when Trey Wolff nailed a 42-yard field goal late in the first quarter.

Tech's defense continued to excel, forcing an interception on the next drive and after the Tech offense turned the ball over on downs, the Red Raiders did it again, with Marquis Waters returning it back inside the 10-yard line to set up the Red Raider offense. Shough took advantage, running in a 2-yard score, before Trey Wolff added another field goal later in the half after yet another turnover on downs by Ole Miss gave Tech the ball back.

And the Red Raider defense wasn't done either, as they forced a fumble inside Ole Miss territory and recovered, setting the Tech offense up with a short field. Shough led the team on a 5-play 37-yard drive that ended with a 12-yard touchdown pass from Shough to Jerand Bradley as Tech took a 26-7 lead into half time after dominating the first half.

In total, Texas Tech forced three turn-



Texas Tech quarterback Tyler Shough (12) carries the ball for a first down during the TaxAct Texas Bowl on Dec. 28, 2022 in Houston.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

overs in the half, two coming from interceptions and one coming from a fumble while they also forced three turnovers on downs.

"We knew coming into this game that they had a good offense and some great backs," said Marquis Waters, a senior safety. "We knew how explosive they were and we had to be at our best today. We tried to force them to throw the ball and it worked. We stopped the run and it just forced them out of their comfort zone."

Ole Miss came out with momentum to start the second half. Tech was forced to punt and then the Rebels put together a 10-play 80-yard drive that culminated in a Jaxson Dart 11-yard pass to Jordan Watkins. Things seemed to be heading even more in the Rebels' way after they forced a missed field goal, but a punt gave the ball back to Tech. Tech promptly fumbled and gave the ball back to Ole Miss but the Red Raider defense came up huge once again, forcing a turnover on downs as the Red Raiders went

into the fourth quarter leading by 13.

The Tech offense finally broke through early in the fourth, as SaRodrick Thompson made things a three possession game by running in a 4-yard touchdown to cap off an 11-play 71-yard drive and the Tech defense forced their eighth turnover of the game on the next possession, as Ole Miss fumbled inside the Texas Tech 10-yard line to give the Red Raiders the ball back. But Ole Miss continued to try to get into things, scoring on a 9-yard Dart run, forcing a fumble through the endzone for a touchback as a Tech player was coming close to the endzone. The Ole Miss offense came right back down the field, scoring on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Dart to Malik Heath making things a 10-point game.

But Tech again had the answer, as Loic Fouonji scored on the ensuing onside kick attempt, returning it 44 yards to seal the game.

"We just took advantage of our opportunities and the defense put us in a lot of really

great spots with how they played," Shough said. "We just were able to capitalize on that when the defense helped us and our run game really stepped up. The o-line played so well and had a great game and we just played through them."

Shough, who was named the game's MVP after passing for 242 yards and a touchdown while running for 117 yards and two touchdowns, announced he was returning for his final year of eligibility after the game. The Red Raiders end the year with an 8-5 record, their best record since 2013. With the talent Texas Tech is returning the future only looks brighter as well.

"Having this momentum going into the offseason is so big," McGuire said. "You play a long season to get to here and this was the guys' reward. Our guys had such a great time this week and to cap this off with a win was so great. It builds that positive momentum heading into spring. You build your young players and reward your seniors this way."



Above: Texas Tech head coach Joey McGuire holds the TaxAct Texas Bowl champions trophy after beating Ole Miss 42-25, on Dec. 28, 2022 in Houston. Right: Mississippi linebacker Troy Brown (8) is flagged for targeting on a helmet-to-helmet hit on a sliding Texas Tech quarterback Tyler Shough (12) during the TaxAct Texas Bowl on Dec. 28, 2022 in Houston.



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## BASKETBALL

from page B1

Marhofer. "Justice is so good at finding those gaps in the zone and reading the game that we knew we couldn't do that. We helped wherever we could on her but Brianna Nelson made Justice work for every single basket she got. Everyone knew their role and executed it. We pressured the guards, fronted the post, boxed out — it was a complete team effort."

Seven Lakes led by six after the first quarter and by three at halftime. The Spartans' lead was trimmed to two heading into the final quarter and that's when the Tigers really started to take over, clamping down on defense and finding ways to score out on the break.

Katy seems to have different contributors every game and on Tuesday it was Ella Robinson who stepped up down the stretch, making two clutch baskets and scoring six of her 10 points in the final frame.

"She was so composed in such a big situation," Marhofer said. "Ella is such a competitive kid and we recognized that she could get to the rim every possession that she wanted to. I was just telling her to read the situation and be aggressive going to the rim. She had an attack mentality and went at the rim. She finished so well around the rim tonight and played phenomenally."

Katy had four players finish with double digit points, as Nyla Wold had 14 points,



TYLER TYRE

Justice Carlton drives baseline during Tuesday's game between Katy and Seven Lakes at the Seven Lakes gym.

Barr had 12 points, Robinson had 10 and Nelson also finished with 10.

It was the Tigers 15th straight win on the year as they improve to 7-0 in district play. The Tigers face Taylor Friday before taking on Tompkins next Tuesday in a matchup that could potentially decide the district champion.

"Some teams think they can lock down one or two girls and that's it, but were so unique because we have so many people that can all attack and score," Robinson said. "This team doesn't have a weakness because if one of

us is off, there's always another to pick them up. We're so well rounded and that's why we're going to keep going."

### District 19-6A

#### KATY 54, SEVEN LAKES 49

Points: (K) Nyla Wold 14; Lyric Barr 12, Ella Robinson 10, Brianna Nelson 10, Ashlynn Alexander 7; (SL) Justice Carlton 22, Madison Carlton 17, Caitlyn Quintero 4, Shreya Jategaonkar 4, Lenore Hudspeth 2;

Halftime: SL 23-20; 3-pointers: (K) Wold 2, Nelson, Alexander; Records: (K) 21-1, 7-0; (SL) 9-12, 3-4;



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans linebacker Ogbonnia Okoronkwo (45) stops Jaguars running back JaMycal Hasty (22) in the backfield for a loss during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Jacksonville Jaguars on Jan. 1, 2023 in Houston. The Jaguars won, 31-3.

## TEXANS

from page B1

ented this team is. We have found ways to fight and play teams really close all season long — we just haven't finished games."

The Texans got the ball back and punted once again, but the Houston defense finally came up with a big play on the next drive, when Desmond King intercepted Trevor Lawrence and returned it in Jacksonville territory to set the Houston offense up with good field position.

But in the end it didn't matter, as the Texans wasted the opportunity, turning it over on downs in the redzone, as the Jaguars defense came up with another stop.

Jacksonville took a 21-0 lead into the second half after holding Houston to just 94 yards of total offense, as the Texans averaged under three yards per play in the first half, while the Texans run defense continued to struggle as Etienne ran for over 100 yards in the first half, averaging 12 yards per carry.

"Etienne is a good running back and he's been playing really good ball," Smith said. "But our job is to get him down — guys like him are going to get to the second level and when that happens you have to tackle. We just had too many missed tackles and you can't have that. That's what run defense is about is making those tackles."

The Jaguars picked up where they left off quickly in the third, as they went on an 11-play, 75-yard drive to open the half before Snoop Connor made things 28-0 on a 3-yard run. The Texans finally responded after that, going 37 yards on seven plays before Ka'imi Fairbairn hit a long, 56-yard field goal to get Houston on the board.

The Jaguars went to their backups as

the third quarter was coming to a close, and Jacksonville was still able to drive down the field with ease but were eventually kept out of the endzone when Jalen Pitre recorded his fifth interception of the year. But once again, the Texans offense responded with a turnover on downs, the team's third of the day. The two teams went back and forth in the fourth quarter until the Jaguars added to their lead on a 53-yard field goal to cap off the Jaguars win as the Texans offense could do nothing the rest of the way.

"They played us well — in the run game and in the pass game they made things difficult for us," Mills said. "We just have to find ways to continue to make plays. Maybe if I could have hit a couple more passes down the sideline when they were open it helps us, but we missed opportunities. We have to find a way to play well for four quarters and have a chance to win at the end."

Davis Mills finished with 202 yards through the air on 18 of 34 passing and was also the team's leading rusher, running for 33 of the Texans' 79 yards on the ground.

Houston ends the season without a home win, losing seven and tying one. They will travel to play the Colts next week in search of just their third win overall, hoping to put a bright spot on what has been an otherwise disappointing season.

"Our play just was not good enough in any part of the game," Smith said. "That starts with me as the head football coach and I have to be better. We have one more chance to get this bad taste out of our mouth and we need to do that next week."



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy Taylor's Isaac Morales #9 heads the ball during Regional Quarterfinal soccer playoff, Seven Lakes vs Katy Taylor at Rhode Stadium.

## MOJO

from page B1

ing a year-long battle with cancer. Mojo was Morgan's nickname, consisting of the first two letters of her first and last name and the tournament is used each year to remember her strength and fight.

Every Katy ISD school will compete in the tournament. They will be joined by very strong ranked teams in Region III including Ridge Point, Klein Forest, Memo-

rial, Strake Jesuit, Clements, Bridgeland and North Shore.

Seven Lakes comes into the year ranked as the top team in the greater Houston area by Lethal Enforcer Texas High School Soccer, as the Spartans carry high expectations, bringing back a wealth of talent after finishing last season in the state semifinals.

Tompkins is ranked No. 5 in the Houston area, while

Cinco Ranch is ranked No. 13 and Jordan is ranked No. 19.

The full schedule and results from the tournament can be found online at sites. google.com/katysd.org/tompkins-mens-soccer/mojo-showcase/2023-mojo-showcase. For more information on Morgan Jones life, legacy and a way to give to fight childhood cancer, go to mojosmiracle.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**December 29 Puzzle Answers**

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Package Store Permit by Jason Snyder of J&B Manifest Companies, LLC, dba The Liquor Cabinet to be located at 23927 FM 529, Suite 300, Katy, Harris County, Texas. Co-owners of said company are Jason Snyder and Brandy Snyder.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is Willowfork Fire Station, 24655 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77494.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 is 21055 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77450.

**Annual Report Public Hearing Scheduled January 23, 2023**

The Katy Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2021-2022 Annual Report on January 23, 2023. The hearing will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees at 5:00 p.m. in the Katy ISD Administration Building at 6301 South Stadium Lane.

Texas Education Code 39.306 requires each school district's board of trustees to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report, campus performance objectives, a report of violent or criminal incidents along with prevention and intervention policies, information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the district's accreditation status, and the progress towards goals set for early childhood literacy and math proficiency as well as college, career, military readiness.

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, will be electronically received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 9th, 2023 and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "Elyson Blvd Section 3 Landscape", Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, January 26th, 2023, at 2 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is MANDATORY, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search NWCt111. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com). Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

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

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

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is District Administration Building located at 21201 Morton Road, Katy, Texas 77449.

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, will be electronically received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 2nd, 2023 and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "Elyson Ph 5 & 6 Mitigation West 2 Landscape", Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, January 19th, 2023, at 2 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is MANDATORY, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search NWCt114.b. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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# Houston picked second in AAC; 3 Cougars earn preseason honors

## STAFF REPORT

The University of Houston baseball team was selected to finish second in the American Athletic Conference Preseason Coaches Poll, the conference announced Wednesday.

The Cougars earned 39 votes from the conference's head coaches behind only East Carolina who had 49. Houston beat out UCF for second place as the Knights tallied 38 votes in third. The full poll can be seen below.

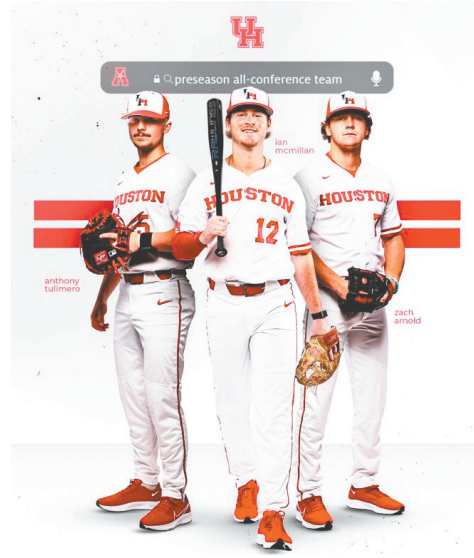
Along with the Cougars' second-place nod, junior catcher Anthony Tulimero, redshirt senior shortstop Ian McMillan and junior third baseman Zach Arnold were selected to the Preseason All-Conference Team.

McMillan, a Scottsdale, Ariz. native, was a unanimous selection after a standout season in 2022. He finished the season batting .302 and was second on the team in home runs (10). The 2022 Brooks Wallace Award

Semifinalist closed out his 2022 campaign with 40 runs, 64 hits and 40 RBI and was a unanimous selection to the Preseason All-Conference team.

Houston's backstop, Tulimero, returns for another season leading the Cougars. A 2022 Buster Posey Collegiate Catcher of the Year semifinalist, Tulimero led the conference in runners caught stealing with 23 while also leading the team in batting average (.326) and hits (76). During the 2022 season, the California native had 21 multiple-hit games and posted 44 runs, 39 RBI, 11 stolen bases and a .994 fielding percentage.

Arnold, the Cougars starting third baseman, was also selected to the Preseason All-Conference team. The California native was a 2022 Gold Glove Finalist and the American's lone third baseman with one or no errors in 160-plus chances. Arnold posted a .283 batting average in 2022 with 44 runs, 65 hits, 10 home runs, 45 RBI and nine stolen bases.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS  
Anthony Tulimero, Ian McMillan and Zach Arnold were chosen to the preseason All American Athletic Conference team.

## PRESEASON COACHES POLL

East Carolina (7)	49
Houston	39
UCF	38
Tulane	26
Wichita State	24
South Florida (1)	21
Cincinnati	19
Memphis	8

*First-place votes in parenthesis*

**Preseason Player of the Year**  
Brock Rodden, Jr., 2B, Wichita State

**Preseason Pitcher of the Year**  
Carter Spivey, Sr., East Carolina\*

**Preseason All-Conference Team**  
P - Ben Vespi, Jr., UCF  
P - Carter Spivey, Sr., East Carolina\*  
P - Dylan Carmouche, Jr., Tulane  
P - Cameron Bye, Jr., Wichita State  
RP - Kyle Kramer, R-Sr., UCF  
C - Anthony Tulimero, R-Jr., Houston  
1B - Ryan Nicholson, R-Jr., Cincinnati  
2B - Brock Rodden, Jr., Wichita State\*  
SS - Ian McMillan, R-Sr., Houston\*  
3B - Zach Arnold, R-Jr., Houston  
OF - Jacob Jenkins-Cowart, So., East Carolina\*  
OF - Drew Bratcher, Jr., South Florida  
OF - Chuck Ingram, Jr., Wichita State  
DH - Payton Tolle, So., Wichita State  
\* denotes unanimous selection

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### INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be electronically received, until **2:30 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 9th, 2023** and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **"Elyson Section 41 Landscape and Park"**, Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, hardscape construction and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **Thursday, January 26th, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM**. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search **NWCT109**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com). Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

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

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

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

### INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be electronically received, until **2:30 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 2nd, 2023** and then publicly opened and read at the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **"Elyson MHV and FM 529 Landscape"**, Harris County, Texas. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>.

Scope of Work for the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, hardscape construction and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **Thursday, January 19th, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. Local Time, via ZOOM**. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com): search **NWCT13**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through [www.CivcastUSA.com](http://www.CivcastUSA.com). Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

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# Katy grad Robertson signs to play at Henderson State

**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Former Katy graduate Axel Robertson signed to play football at Henderson State University, transferring after a year at Navarro Junior College.

Robertson was Katy's kicker

Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele (left) congratulates Katy graduate Axel Robertson on signing to continue his football career with Henderson State University.

RORY ROBERTSON

during the 2021 season in which they reached the state semifinals and won the District 19-6A championship.

Robertson helped Navarro to a 6-4 record and 5-2 conference record as a freshman. Navarro reached the Southwest Junior College Football Conference Semifinals this year, losing a heartbreaker to New Mexico Military Institute, 24-23 to end the Bulldogs season.

Robertson was primarily used as a kicker in his freshman year although he did have a few punts

as well. He made four of his nine field goals on the season, good for 44% overall, with a long of 36 yards, while making 33 of his 37 extra points, nailing 89% of his extra point tries and totaling 45 points on the year.

Robertson only had two punts on the season, totaling 89 yards for an average of 44.5 yards per punt. Robertson joins a Henderson State team that competes in Division II in the Great American Conference. The Reddies went 8-3 overall last season, including 5-1 at home.

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