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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

KATY ISD

Trustees Vann, Wilson will not seek re-election

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Two of the three Katy ISD trustees whose positions are on the May 6 ballot said they would not seek re-election.

Position 4 Trustee Leah Wilson said she would not seek a second term, citing a growing trend in school board politics where a more partisan, and less of a trustee-style

approach, is being pursued.

"It isn't about whether we're good stewards and good trustees for the district, but it's becoming about political ideology," Wilson said.

She said the trend is not happening just in Katy ISD, but in other area school districts as well.

"It's not just Katy, or uniquely Texas," Wilson said. In the last Cy-Fair ISD school

board election, she said, the three trustee races went to candidates who she said fit that description. Fort Bend ISD has had the same issue, she said.

"This isn't uniquely Katy, it's not just Texas; we're watching this nationally," Wilson said. "I think it's going to make it very difficult for people in the future to run if you have groups coming in and spending \$10,000-plus dollars on that. It's not some-

thing I agree with."

Wilson said trustees should be nonpartisan.

"I don't believe that a right- or left-wing political structure deserves to exist there," Wilson said, adding that in her view what was most important is making sure the district had the funds to build schools, hire the

See **TRUSTEES**, page A3

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



SHERREL ROGERS

Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 4302 1st St. in Brookshire, on Feb. 5 honored the African-American principals of Royal ISD as part of Black History Month. Pictured from left to right are Katacha Miller, Royal Early Childhood Center; Sandy Housley, Royal Disciplinary Alternative Education Program; Tyson Riggins, Royal Elementary; Ashley Cook, Royal Elementary; Natasha Moses, Royal Early Childhood Center; Marcus McLemore, Royal Junior High; Tony Rannels, Royal High School, and former Royal ISD Trustee Nathaniel Richardson. The Brookshire community will continue its Black History Month celebration with a program from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Hangar Unity Center, 4010 4th St. in Brookshire.

Quilt to be auctioned to raise scholarship money

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

For many Katy-area students and their families, few objects match the iconic value of an FFA jacket.

The basic design of the blue and gold jacket dates back to 1933 and is so popular that

millions of jackets have been sold, according to the FFA website. They're considered a part of official FFA attire.

That iconic value has been incorporated into a quilt that will be auctioned this month, with proceeds benefiting the Katy ISD FFA students.

"We wanted to do something to celebrate

the 80th anniversary of the livestock show," Diana Robinson Elder, daughter of livestock show founder L.D. Robinson, said. "We wanted also to honor the chapters, students and advisors."

Elder said thoughts turned to the iconic

See **QUILT**, page A3

CITY HALL ROUNDUP

Council sets May 6 election

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday set its city election for May 6.

The council member-at-large position, along with one Ward A and one Ward B council position, will be on the ballot for voters to decide. The incumbents — Chris Harris, Janet Corte and Rory Robertson, respectively — have all filed for re-election. Nobody else had filed as of press time. Deadline for filing for a place on the ballot is Feb. 17. Candidates wishing to run on a write-in basis have until Feb. 24 to file the paperwork at the city secretary's office.



CHRIS HARRIS



JANET CORTE



RORY ROBERTSON

Harris and Corte were first elected in 2018 to two-year terms. They were re-elected to three-year terms in 2020, after Katy voters amended the city charter to provide for three-year terms. If re-elected, this would be their last term under term limits.

Robertson was first elected in 2020. If re-elected, this would be his last term under term limits.

Fitness Court at Katy City Park set to open Feb. 23

The city will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new fitness court at Katy City Park. The ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Feb. 23 at 5850 Franz Road.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, the city and National Fitness Campaign developed the fitness court to expand free access to high-quality workouts and create equitable access to exercise for communities around the state. The fitness court is the world's best outdoor gym that lets people use their own body weight to get a complete workout using seven exercise stations.

Created with people aged 14 and over and with all abilities in mind, the workouts are adaptable for all fitness levels, allowing participants to move at their own pace. Users are encouraged to download the free fitness court app which acts as

See **ROUNDUP**, page A3

POLICE BRIEFS

Student shoots two classmates with BB gun at Royal Elementary

CONTRIBUTED AND STAFF REPORTS

A Royal Elementary student brought a BB gun to school Feb. 10 and shot two students, who were not injured, district officials said.

Officials said the BB gun was confiscated and the campus was secured. The parents of both students were notified.

While the district sent a notice to all Royal Elementary parents, apparently not all received the message immediately. One parent complained to a Houston television station about the incident. A district spokesperson said the district did make contact with that parent.

Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputy arrest man for injuring a child, making false police report

Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gendri Aguillon, 25, for injuring a child and making a false police report.

On Feb. 9, deputies responded to the Texas Children's Hospital for a report of a road rage



ROYAL ISD

Royal Elementary School

incident involving a child reportedly injured by a gunshot.

Deputies spoke with Houston Police officers at the hospital. After further investigation, Fort Bend County Sheriff's detectives determined that the four-year-old child was injured at a residence located at the 25000 block of Tancy Ranch Court in Katy. Possible mishandling of a firearm contributed to the child's injury.

See **POLICE**, page A3

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Four new tenants open at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch is welcoming four new tenants to its lineup of retailers and restaurants.

New tenants opening at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch:

- **The Crack Shack**, opening in February: The Crack Shack infuses Southern California spirit into the great tradition of deliciously fried chicken—reimagining classic comfort food with fine dining flair in a coop-like atmosphere inspired by a love for chicken and sunshine. Crack Shack will be located next to Madison Reed Color bar and across from Central Green and Torchy's in a 4,065 sq. ft. space.

- **Nando's**, opening in the summer: Nando's is the home of the South African flame-grilled PERI-PERI chicken and sauces. Nando's will open in a 2,754 sq. ft. space next to Jamba Juice.

- **One Medical**, opening in April: A national membership-based primary care practice, One Medical will open soon next to Pure Barre and across from Alamo Draft-house in a 3,843 sq. ft. space. One Medical's technology powered solutions offer 24/7 on-demand virtual medical care and next-day appointments to care for the body and mind.

- **Warby Parker**, now open: Eyewear brand company Warby Parker opened in a 2,364 sq. ft. space across from Torchy's Tacos. As a one-stop-shop, Warby Parker's store is making it easier for local customers to access all of their vision care needs. The location offers eye exams and carries their full sun and optical eyewear offerings and features artwork by Anna Broadhurst.

In addition to welcoming four new tenants, LaCenterra is also celebrating the opening of Studio 12.20's new 4,680 sq. ft space next to White House Black Market. The lifestyle boutique, which offers women's clothing, home decor and gifts, incorporates its sister store Studio 12.20 Next Gen, which focuses on children's clothing.

"We are very excited to welcome four new tenants that will help us better serve the Cinco Ranch community," Norma Garza, LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch general manager, said. "With retail, restaurant and service tenants joining the center, there's something new for everyone to enjoy. We're looking forward to the highly anticipated openings that are ahead in the coming months."

For more information, visit the website lacenterra.com.



The Crack Shack, a chicken restaurant, is set to open this month at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch.



Warby Parker, an eyewear company, recently opened at LaCenterra.

Walmart to close Westheimer Parkway location

Citing several factors, including historical and current financial performance, Walmart said it will close its location Walmart Neighborhood Market at 24919 Westheimer Pkwy.

The company said it plans to close the store to the public by March 10.

Walmart said all its associates would be eligible for transfer to other stories. It said there are 14 Walmarts within 20 miles of the Westheimer Parkway location.

"We are grateful to the customers who have given us the privilege of serving them at our Katy location," Lauren Willis, global communications director for the Western U.S., said. "We look forward to serving them at our other stores in the surrounding communities and on walmart.com."

Registration for Camp Spark open

Registration is open for the second annual Camp Spark, which provides unique insights into life as a firefighter and/or EMS professional, according to an announcement by Harris County ESD 48. The camp is intended to encourage young women to consider fire and EMS service as a career. Participants

will take part in a three-day camp of physical training, classes and Fire/EMS simulations. The camp is open to 25 female students that are between ages 14-18 and is free to participants thanks to sponsorships.

The camp is set for June 6-8. Deadline for applications is March 3.

The district said it is working to introduce Camp Blaze for young men between 14-18 in the future. For more information, contact Jason Tharp at jason.tharp@hcesd48.org. To download the application, visit the website hcesd48.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-camp-spark-app.pdf.

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital using new robotic navigation, 3D imaging platform for cranial, spine surgery

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital recently added a new intraoperative robotic navigation and 3D imaging platform designed to improve patient safety and surgical efficiency during cranial and spine procedures.

The first of its kind in Texas and one of the first in the U.S., the new platform can precisely track the movement of surgical

instruments and enable improved visualization of patient anatomy in real-time, increasing the efficiency of cranial and spine surgery. It also provides better avenues for collecting more reliable and accurate surgical data, potentially opening a window of opportunities for further technological advancements, including the development of predictive models based on anatomical and patient-specific risk factors.

"The hospital's new combined robotic navigation and 3D imaging platform improves and expands on traditional cranial and spine procedures as it enables intraoperative imaging capabilities that aim to increase reliability, consistency and surgical precision during minimally invasive procedures," said Wesley H. Jones, MD, a neurosurgeon with Memorial Hermann Mischer Neuroscience Associates-Katy Neurosurgery who is using the platform. "There are many benefits to patients, but most notable are improved outcomes and the ability to have advanced neurosurgical treatment right here in the area where they work and live."

According to the manufacturer, the robotic navigation and 3D imaging platform is the world's first technology to combine a rigid robotic arm and full navigation capabilities into one adaptable platform for accurate trajectory alignment in cranial and spine surgery.

"At Memorial Hermann Katy, we are committed to providing the highest quality of care for our patients and look forward to the exciting opportunities and undoubtable impact this system will bring to the field of neurosurgery, robotics and navigation," said Jerry Ashworth, CEO of Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital and Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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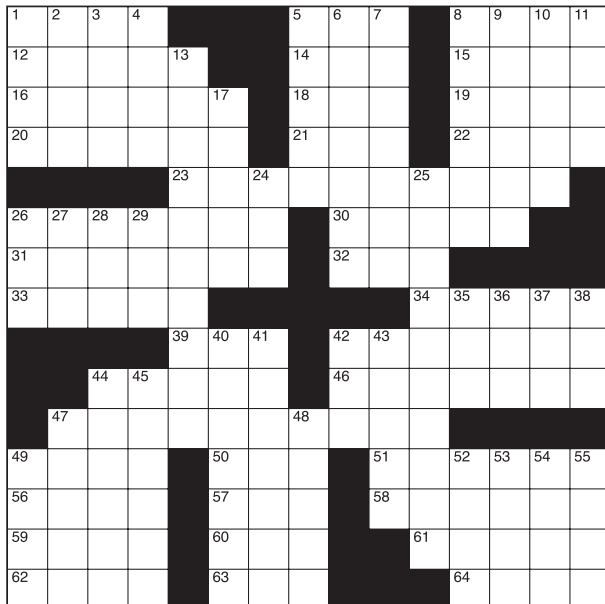
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- River in Tuscany
- A way to represent
- Rocker's guitar
- Civil Rights group
- Brew
- Scratch
- W. Asian country
- The Eye Network
- Clarified butter
- Part of the Cascade Range
- Downwind
- A way to steer
- Loop
- Not ingested
- Swampy coniferous forest
- Musician
- Signing
- Containing iron
- Part of a theorem or proof
- Veterans battleground (slang)
- Of enormous proportions
- Italian city
- Come before
- Balm
- Undergarments
- Male parent
- Ropes
- Ear part
- Investment vehicle

CLUES DOWN

- Dictator
- Cain and ___
- A type of code
- Border river along India and Nepal
- It's what's for dinner
- Consume
- Christian ___, designer
- Cuckoos
- Skin issue
- City in central Japan
- Sorrels
- Twinned diamond
- Canadian province
- Monetary units
- Head honcho
- Goddess of wisdom
- Part of a play
- Get rid of
- Applicant
- Bowling alleys have many
- Explosive
- "The Say Hey Kid"
- Ultrahigh frequency
- No (Scottish)
- Make a mistake
- Credit card term
- Keyboard key
- Woman (French)
- In the middle of
- Score perfectly

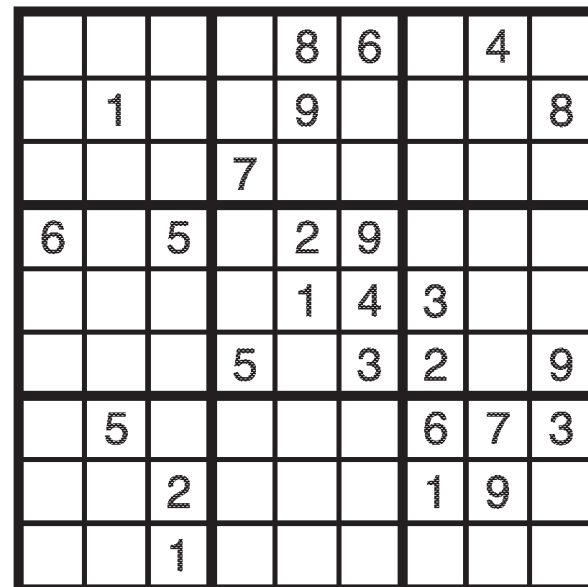


- Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- Deadly disease
- A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- Belch
- Member of U.S. Navy
- "In ___": separate from others

- Examine extensively
- Adjust
- Tattle
- Actor Pitt
- Gulls
- Within
- Exceptionally talented performer

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

ROUNDUP

from page A1

a coach-in-your-pocket and enhances the outdoor gym into a digitally supported wellness experience.

"On average, one in two adults don't have enough aerobic physical activity in their day-to-day lives, which can lead to chronic, yet preventable, conditions," Sheena Payne, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas community affairs director, said. "Helping fund these fitness courts is just one more way we can work toward all Texans having access to optimal health outcomes right in their own community."

The City of Katy is one of 20 outdoor fitness courts in a series of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas fitness courts that will be constructed in easily accessible public spaces this year.

"The City of Katy would like to express its sincere appreciation for the generous donation by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, in collaboration with the National Fitness Campaign, in bringing this fitness court to the City of Katy," Mayor Dusty Thiele said. "The outdoor fitness court is a welcome addition to our Parks and Recreation Department and represents free access to high-quality workouts as a part of the National Fitness Campaign's initiative to fight obesity and improve the quality of life for communities. We are happy to say that the City of Katy is now one of the National Fitness Campaign's Healthy Communities thanks to the generosity of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas."

"National Fitness Campaign is proud to welcome the City of Katy to the campaign



Mayor Dusty Thiele poses with Katy Police Detective Lt. Jerod Stewart at the Feb. 9 employee appreciation banquet. Stewart is the city's Employee of the Year.

as a leader in Texas, championing health and wellness for their residents," Mitch Menaged, founder of National Fitness Campaign founder, said. "We are proud to continue our mission of getting people moving outdoors and helping communities combat the fiscal and humanitarian costs of sedentary lifestyles."

Residents are invited to attend the launch event. For more information, visit the website cityofkaty.com/residents/parks-recreation/nfc-fitness-court, or contact the city's Parks and Recreation Department at 281-391-4840.

For more information on Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas' support of NFC, please visit the website nationalfitnesscampaign.com/texas.

With contributed reports.

QUILT

from page A1

jackets. She asked Jean Warnke, an award-winning quiltmaker who lives in Spring, if she knew someone who could create a quilt that incorporated elements for each of the nine Katy ISD high school FFA chapters. Elder said whoever made the quilt would be paid for their work.

"She said, no, I'll do it for free," Elder said. "She said, I wanted this to honor the chapters that your father started."

All nine Katy ISD high schools have FFA chapters, and their jackets have been incorporated into the quilt.

"She's always creating masterpieces," Elder said.

Elder said the quilt also features silhouettes of various types of livestock and images. On the other side of the quilt, she said, images show the history of farming in the United States.

Elder said the quilt would be on display at the livestock show, but did not know where precisely it would be displayed. She said they wanted to protect the quilt while making it visible to all. She said she and the scholarship committee were grateful to David Laird, the district's FFA events coordinator, for his and the district's support.

The quilt also honors Robinson, who came to Katy to create the livestock show. The L.D. Robinson Pavilion, which today is part of the district's Gerald D. Young Agriculture Sciences Center, 5825 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road, is named in Robinson's memory.

The L.D. Robinson Scholarships were created in 1970 and have been awarded since 1971. Jim Bacon received the first scholarship that year. In 2022, four students —



DIANA ROBINSON ELDER

Jean Warnke, an award-winning quiltmaker from Spring, created this quilt to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show. The quilt will be auctioned, with proceeds benefiting the L.D. Robinson Scholarship Fund.

Kristen Justilian, Kailey Kulhanek, Kacki Kyrish and Lauren Sapp —received scholarships. In all, 138 scholarships have been awarded, Elder said.

Elder said she and other scholarship committee leaders have reached out to past scholarship recipients and board members to celebrate the livestock show anniversary. They will be honored at a buffet at 12 p.m. Friday at Midway BBQ, 8025 Highway Blvd.

L.D. Robinson is still remembered by longtime residents who remember when Katy was better known for rice fields than for today's explosive growth.

"He was a very kind, compassionate man," Elder said. "His greatest love was working with young people

and helping them to achieve their potential in anything they were in. He took many young people who didn't have a real strong supportive background, and he changed lives. He instilled in them the desire to succeed, and to believe in themselves and that all things were possible. His greatest joy was seeing his students achieve success."

For more information about the scholarship, visit the website ldrskaty.org.

"I am very proud of the seeds that my father planted, and we are reaping the harvest," Elder said. "When we see these young people and all their many accomplishments, and what they have accomplished in the Katy ISD FFA program, it's phenomenal."

POLICE

from page A1



GENDRI AGUILON

Aguillon was taken into custody, booked into the Fort Bend County Jail and charged with both injury to a child and making a false report. His bond for the making a false report charge is set at \$750. No bond has been set for injury to a child

charge. Magistration is pending.

The child is in stable condition. This incident remains under investigation.

"No child should ever be harmed in any way," Sheriff Eric Fagan said. "Our detectives are thoroughly investigating the incident and we remind everyone that making a false police report is illegal. Those responsible will be held accountable."

Katy man dies in Harris County Jail

A 23-year-old Katy man died Jan. 31 after suffering an apparent medical emergency in the Harris County Jail.

Kevin L. Smith, 23, of the 19200 block of Golden Wave Drive, was taken to the

jail clinic. There, Harris Health medical staff saw him. At approximately 10:40 a.m., Smith was taken to the hospital by ambulance. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at approximately 11:25 a.m.

Smith had no obvious physical injuries, deputies said in a statement.

The Houston Police Department is investigating the death in accordance with state law that requires all jail deaths to be investigated by an outside law enforcement agency.

The Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Division is also investigating to determine whether all applicable policies and procedures were followed, which is standard following the death of an inmate. The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences was to perform an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

In addition, the death has been reported to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

Smith faced a continuous violence against the family charge and was free on \$10,000 bond. According to the charging document, Smith allegedly assaulted a woman he was dating on at least two occasions last year.

TRUSTEES

from page A1

best teachers, and provide public education in a safe environment.

"I love this district and there are so many great people who work in our district," Wilson said.

Position 3 Trustee Ashley Vann also said she would not seek a fourth term. She said she felt she had done good work in her three terms on the board, and that it was time for someone else to serve.

Vann was first elected in 2014. She was re-elected in 2017 and 2020. Her 2020 bid was unopposed. She previously held other volunteer roles related to education, including roles with the



ASHLEY VANN



GREG SCHULTE



LEAH WILSON

Katy ISD Education Foundation and PTA roles with her children's elementary, junior and high schools.

Each trustee race will be contested. Four candidates have filed for Vann's position 3 seat. They are Bruce Bradford, a mortgage loan originator; Shawn Miller, a college professor; Shana Peterson, who is retired, and Amy Thieme, a realtor.

Three candidates have filed for Wilson's position 4

seat. They are Erica Brettell, a stay-at-home mother; Morgan Calhoun, a stay-at-home mother, and Cicely Taylor, an education administrator.

Position 5 Trustee Greg Schulte, an engineer and business owner, has filed for re-election. He is seeking his second term. He has drawn one opponent, Mary Ellen Cuzela, a Katy ISD substitute teacher.

Filing deadline is Feb. 17.

CORRECTION

In its printed version of the "Trustees set May trustee election, will consider November bond election" (Jan. 26) story, the Times misspelled Amy Thieme's name. *The Times regrets the error.*



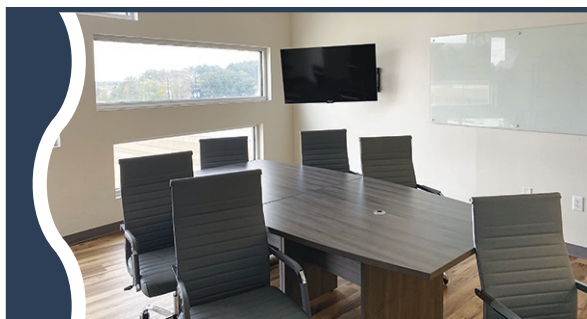
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I've been blinged

On a recent family vacation to New York City over the holidays, I brought home exactly one souvenir (I ate the others). While we were freezing our philtrums at the Bryant Park Winter Village Holiday Market in Midtown Manhattan, I was teen-pressured by my three daughters into purchasing a “manly beaded bracelet.” (I’m pretty sure that’s an oxymoron.)

I bought the bracelet from a shop called Raw Spirit NYC, and my misgivings didn’t end with the name of the establishment. The beads in the piece were made from black tourmaline, and the seller assured me that it would dispel toxic emotions and cleanse my energy field.

Although I’ve been wearing the bracelet daily, my daughters would probably disagree that my toxic emotions have been dispelled, especially when I have to pay their hair stylists. And my wife would definitely disagree with the claims about my cleansed energy field, especially after I’ve eaten anything spicy.

I don’t typically wear a lot of jewelry, probably as a result of my upbringing. Men in my dad’s generation weren’t known for accessorizing, so when I was in my lavishly-mulleted teen years and announced my intentions to have my ear pierced, I don’t remember exactly what he said, but I think it had something to do with removing my ears entirely. After all, it was the 1980s, and just about the only males with pierced ears at the time were on MTV—and most of them wore eyeliner.

I solved the earring dilemma by compromising with an imitation gold and silver ear cuff set that I purchased at Claire’s (yes, Claire’s). I sported the ear cuffs only when I was away from home and was trying to convince any teenage girl in my general vicinity that I looked vaguely like a member of Duran Duran—at a distance, if she squinted and used her imagination.

Other than a succession of gold-ish herringbone chains that turned my adolescent neck green, and a tarnished, gold-plated nugget ring that I abandoned with an ex-girlfriend who probably still gets it out at parties for a huge laugh,

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Looking back, I now realize that encouraging me to buy the bracelet in New York was just my daughters’ way of implicating me in the smackdown they were administering to my credit cards. Nevertheless, it reminds me of them, so I wear it proudly. Besides, it does look kind of cool, especially when I pair it with an ear cuff.

my next memorable experience with jewelry came when my daughters were little girls.

Our daughters grew up during the Rainbow Loom craze and created hundreds of brightly-colored bracelets made of overpriced, miniature rubber bands that I’m still finding lodged in the carpet. Because this was back when the girls were still willing to admit that we’re related, they often presented me with the bracelets as gifts. (My favorites were fuchsia and chartreuse.) I still put them on from time to time when I need a good cry.

Looking back, I now realize that encouraging me to buy the bracelet in New York was just my daughters’ way of implicating me in the smackdown they were administering to my credit cards. Nevertheless, it reminds me of them, so I wear it proudly. Besides, it does look kind of cool, especially when I pair it with an ear cuff.

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



How to write a romance story

All my father ever wanted as a young man was to marry my mother and start a family—plans that were interrupted when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean conflict.

As he served in Texas, Germany and other parts of the world, there was only one affordable way to stay in contact: writing letters.

Every single day, seven days a week, my mother told me, he wrote a letter to her and she wrote one to him.

Some letters ran four pages long. Some days, they wrote two!

They shared their hopes and dreams, and how they missed each other so.

My father joked that they’d have four boys—a football player, a baseball player, a basketball player and a priest.

Their cursive handwriting was as impeccable and as artful as their words. Their letters offer a case study in the art of romance.

Romance, according to Dictionary.com, is “to court or woo romantically; treat with ardor or chivalrousness.”

“Ardor” defines my parents’ romance especially well: “great warmth of feeling; fervor; passion; intense devotion, eagerness, or enthusiasm; zeal; burning heat.”

Halfway through my father’s two-year tour, my mother stopped writing to him for three weeks.

He was mortified, thinking she’d found someone else—unaware that she’d become so sick from rheumatic fever that she nearly died.

He was relieved to learn there was a reason her letters had



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Romance is about kindness and honesty and graciousness and affection — it’s about patience and sacrificing now to enjoy greater fulfillment later on.

ceased, but now he agonized over her well-being.

Finally, after two long years, he was able to return home to her. Finally, they were able to get on with their lives.

The romance my parents enjoyed is a dying art among younger people.

Romance is about kindness and honesty and graciousness and affection—it’s about patience and sacrificing now to enjoy greater fulfillment later on.

It’s about trust. It is the sense that someone places you above all others and cares more for your needs than his own.

My parents really did believe that when they married they became one under God.

They fully accepted that their commitment to each other was to “have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death

do them part.”

Some consider these dated concepts in a modern era of instant gratification, cynicism, self-centeredness and hook-up dating, but without the principles on which my parents built their love, romance cannot flourish.

My father told me on many occasions that the first time he set his eyes on my mother he knew he would marry her—and his proudest achievement was that he made it happen.

Well, I am hopeful to learn that younger generations are the biggest believers in love at first sight, according to a 2017 Gallup survey.

They are romantics at heart—as we all are!

We are all authors of our own stories, too, so why not begin writing romance into our lives?

This Valentine’s Day, turn off your computer and smartphone. Gather some stationery and a ballpoint pen and write to someone you love—or someone you know who makes your knees wobble.

Maybe you’ll fail, maybe you’ll succeed, but know this: The act of writing our stories is where true romance begins.

My mother and father wrote a love story for the ages. Young or old, all of us can do likewise.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Purcell, creator of the infotainment site *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.

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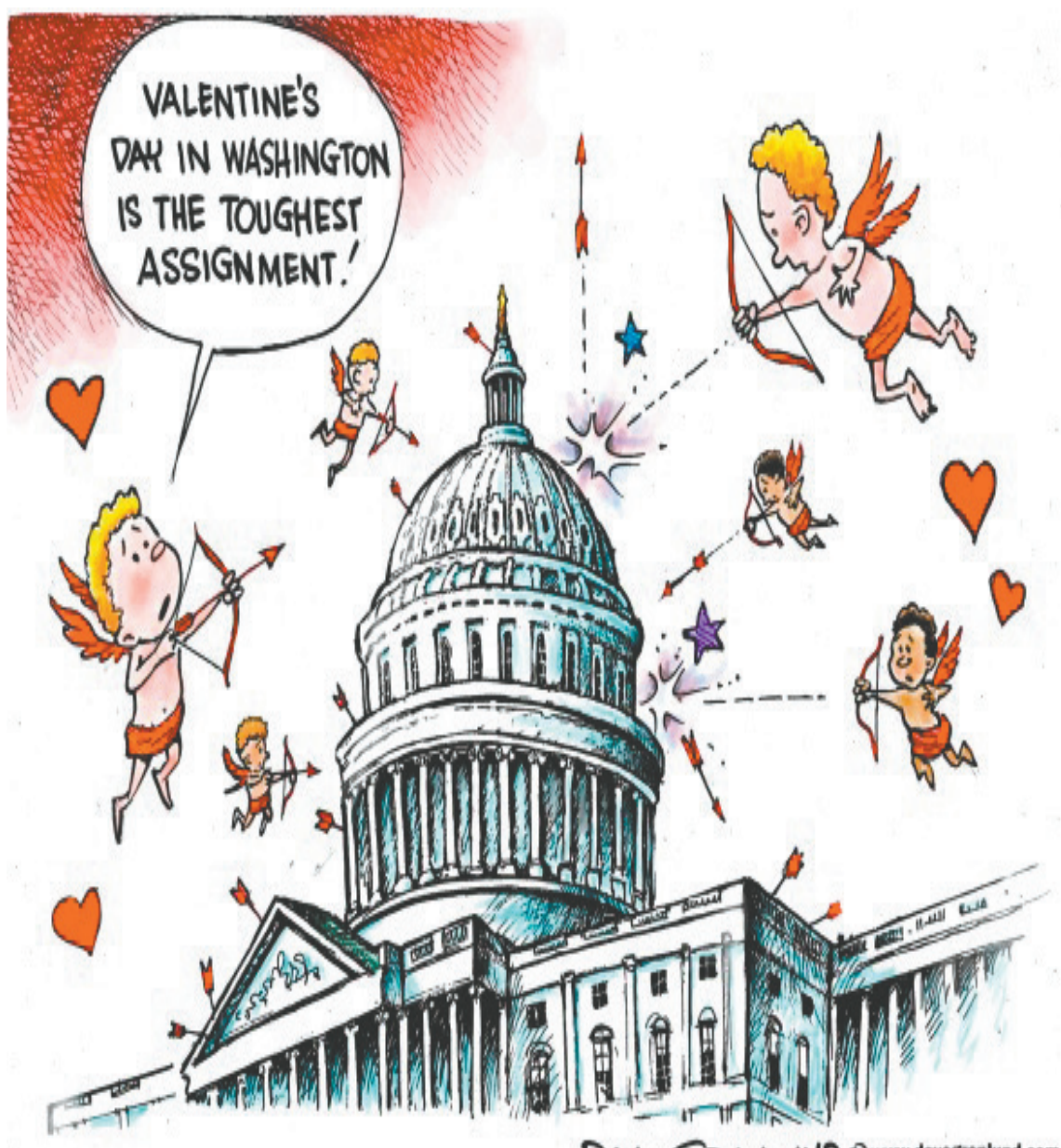
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TRIBUTE

Norma Kathleen Gerritzen, better known as Kathie, age 76, passed away shortly after noon on February 6, 2023, in Katy, Texas. She was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on November 25, 1946, to Ephraim B. and Ona E. (Cadwallader) Jantz. She was the oldest of three girls. Although born in Council Bluffs, when she was a toddler, her family moved to Superior, Nebraska. In her teen years, her family moved to the home they affectionately called The Gopher Hole, also in Superior.

She began her college studies in Fairbury, Ne., and then transferred to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln where she studied journalism. While in college, not only did she have a pet badger in her dorm room, but she became the first female in the state of Nebraska to receive an FCC license and was also the first female DJ in the state. She worked at the college radio station. She later met and married Eugene W Gerritzen and raised her family. They lived in Elmwood, Nebraska., for a short time and then moved to Kearney, Nebraska. where they lived for several years before moving to Katy, Texas in 1986.

While in Nebraska, she was heavily involved in the production of the Miss Nebraska pageant for several years and loved theatre work. But perhaps



NORMA KATHLEEN GERRITZEN
1946-2023

her greatest passion for the last twenty-three years has been her grandkids. Kathie wanted them to have experiences and memories more than just having "stuff" and was at every possible event, sometimes even travelling with them on school trips, and took them everywhere she could.

She spent her years in various aspects of the service industry. She started in high school by working at the Dairy Queen. While living in Kearney, she became one of the top Avon sales ladies and then worked as an administrative assistant for Brown's Quality Foods.

Upon arriving in Katy, she first worked as a teaching assistant for Little People's School at Katy FUMC, then worked as office manager for a sign company, and then became director of Katy Christian Ministries. While she was with KCM she grew the program from one

office to an organization that included three retail stores, career assistance for adults, and the main assistance offices. After leaving KCM, she worked as the membership director for the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. While she was with the chamber, she helped organize numerous galas, golf tournaments, parades, business ribbon cuttings, the Katy Rice Harvest Festival and parade. She was also involved with other organizations such as Citizens for Animal Protection, the local AARP chapter, and remained very active in her beloved church. When she finally "retired" she began her own non-profit: Katy Area Ride Service (KARS) to help transport the elderly and disabled to doctor appointments and local activities. Kathie was also a big supporter of our military and all first responders.

She had many interests and passions along the way. She loved to tinker in her garden but tended towards a black thumb (the only one the family knows to have successfully killed an artificial plant). She had a love of trains, cows, Hallmark movies, theatrical productions (her absolute favorite being The Sound of Music), swimming, playing piano, and watching HGTV. She had an addiction to chocolate and milkshakes and loved going with her dear friend and her friend's dog to get ice cream (yes,

this included getting her friends dog ice cream, too). She had a fervent belief in angels and collected angel figurines. She also had a smaller collection of cow items.

She knew everyone, and everyone knew her. She was well-loved and respected by more people than the family could begin to count. She was somewhat private despite her involvement in so many things and had just finished undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments for esophageal cancer that had only been diagnosed in September of 2022. There were plans for a family cruise, seeing her grandchildren graduate college, and kicking cancer to the curb. Such a tremendous light and inspiration to her family and friends, we can only hope to continue as part of her legacy.

Kathie is preceded in death by parents, Ephraim B Jantz and Ona Eileen (Cadwallader) Jantz, her husband Eugene William Gerritzen, and her sister Lucinda (Syd) Gayle Gilling.

She is survived by: Her daughter Amron (Amy) and her husband John G. (Greg) Railsback, and their children, Christopher, and Kristin — all from Houston, Texas.; and her son David E. Gerritzen from Katy, Texas. She is also survived by her sister Mariedith (Reed) Jantz from Chicago, Illinois and numerous nieces and nephews.



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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Seven Lakes High graduate chosen to work in Washington, D.C.

Pearl Anadu, a 2019 graduate of Seven Lakes High and a political science major at Texas A&M University, recently began a spring 2023 internship in Washington, D.C. Anadu will spend the spring as an integral part of the National Farmers Union.

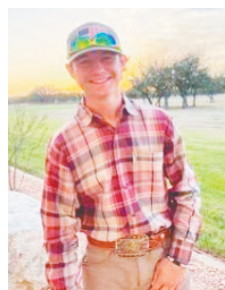
Anadu is one of 17 students selected for a policy internship for the university's Public Policy Internship Program. Her duties include monitoring legislation, attending hearings and briefings, preparing reports and researching policy issues for senior staff members. Anadu is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emeka and Antonia Anadu.

"The public policy internship program is one of few in the nation specifically geared towards transforming today's students into tomorrow's leaders," Stephanie Webb, program director, said. "Through this opportunity, students use what they have learned in the classroom in a professional work setting. Not only will this D.C. experience be attractive to future employers, but our students are also providing valuable assistance to the offices in which they in turn."

The program is in its 24th year of sending students to Washington, D.C. to work and policy-related organizations such as governmental offices, think tanks and nonprofits. Since its inception, more than 1,200 Aggies have worked and the public policy internship program. Each student receives course credit for their internship as well as a scholarship in the form of housing. For more information, visit the website ppip.tamu.edu.

Paetow High graduate receives Texas Coastal CattleWomen scholarship

Drake Ladig, a 2021 Paetow High graduate, is the recipient of a \$4,000 scholarship from the Texas Coastal CattleWomen.



DRAKE LADIG

Ladig is studying ranch agribusiness at Angelo State University and, in addition to his academic success, he is working part-time at the Rolling R Ranch, which he described as a blessing.

"College has been a dream come true for me my freshman year,"

Ladig said. "Once I graduate from college, my plans are to achieve my lifelong goal of owning my own cattle ranch. I intend to purchase land, raise beef cattle, and longhorns."

If the opportunity presents itself, he said, he wants to go into partnership with the Newman family, which owns the ranch, and have grazing pastures for Angus cattle in Katy. He said he hopes to share the agriculture knowledge and experiences with FFA programs in Texas.

For more information about Texas Coastal CattleWomen, a 501c3 local organization, visit the website texascoastalcattlewomen.com.



Pearl Anadu

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Harmony Public Schools becomes first charter school to win Award of Excellence for Financial Management

Harmony Public Schools is the first public charter school to win the prestigious Award of Excellence in Financial Management by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO), the organization announced.

The award is given to Texas school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education services centers that demonstrate professional standards, best practices, and innovations in the area of financial management and reporting.

The criteria to qualify for the Award of Excellence in Financial Management is stringent, based on financial accounting and reporting guidelines identified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG). Applicants must submit documents across 11 key areas, which are reviewed by a TASBO accounting subcommittee.

"Making sure that each of our financial decisions is efficient, effective, and, most importantly, ethical is among our greatest operational priorities," Fatih Ay, Harmony CEO, said. "In doing so, we are able to maximize our resources and provide our students with the most robust educational experience that can be offered. We are extraordinarily pleased to be honored with this award, and are grateful to our finance team for putting our schools in a prime position to succeed."

Harmony also was awarded its second Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations by TASBO. The Award of Merit was established in 2009 to recognize Texas school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education services centers that are committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. Harmony remains the only charter school system to earn the award.



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Several Katy ISD FFA chapters participated in the Feb. 11 Texas Chili Cookoff, held at the American Furniture Warehouse parking lot, 500 Pin Oak Road. The event, put on by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Business Association, raised about \$10,000. Proceeds benefitted the Katy ISD FFA. Pictured here is the Cinco Ranch FFA, with Connor Mattheussen, Logan Bates, sponsor Mike Ellis, Aidan Plut and Whitney McDonald.

Katy ISD to hold certified teacher job fair March 25

Katy ISD is looking for certified teachers for the 2023-24, and will host its annual Certified Teacher Job Fair on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Administrators from elementary and secondary campuses will be available to personally interact with candidates, review applications and conduct "on-the-spot" interviews with individuals seeking to join the Katy ISD family.

The job fair for secondary school teachers is from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and elementary school teachers is from 1-4 p.m. March 25 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane.

"Katy ISD is a premier school district, and we hire dedicated and passionate educators who provide unparalleled learning experiences to thousands of students," Brian Schuss, chief human resources officer, said. "Next year, we'll be opening two new elementary schools as a result of our fast growth, creating an even greater hiring need across our district."

No pre-registration or fee is required. However, participants must show proof of certification, TEA/SBEC content exam scores and/or Statement of Eligibility (SOE). Candidates are asked to complete an application on the Katy ISD website in advance and bring enough resumes to share at the fair. For more information, visit the Katy ISD Human Resources Job Fair webpage.

Area students earn college diplomas, academic honors

Students from the Katy area have made the dean's lists at their respective schools. Here is a list:

- Midwestern State University: Kimberly Mason Allen earned a bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences. Nadia Elali earned a bachelor's degree in radiologic sciences. Gloria Toluwanimi Olagoke earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in nursing.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato: Jaycey Horton made the honors list.
- Missouri University of Science and Technology: Shannon Flowers made the honors list.
- St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minn.): Helen White made the dean's list.
- University of Minnesota-Crookston: Emily Hull made the chancellor's list.
- University of Texas-Tyler: Ikenna Adindu, Emily Crook, Hannah Embrey and Bradley Smith made the president's honor roll. Adnan Khuzema, Hailey Matthews, Audrey Miles, Maiya Pena and Caitlin Tomberlin made the dean's list.
- University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh: Uzma Khan earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus in human resources management.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Tompkins' stout defense fuels Elkins blowout

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has put an emphasis on defense all season.

The Falcons have strived to shut teams down on that side of the ball, to make life as hard as possible on their opponents and to disrupt and suffocate anything the opposing teams want to do offensively.

It's been a complete team effort for the Falcons, as they have been a very strong defensive team all season from top on down and at the top of it all is Tanya Philip.

Philip, a senior wing, is one of the keys to the Falcons' defense — her length, pressing and flexibility in being able to guard both guards and posts have made her indispensable for the Falcons.

That presence was felt on Monday, as Philip and the rest of the Falcons' defense stepped up in a huge way to earn the Falcons a 62-34 win over Fort Bend Elkins in the Bi-District round, as Tompkins moved on to the area round for the fourth year in a row.

"Tanya just causes so much problems with her length and that was big for us tonight," said Tompkins head coach Tamatha Ray. "She had been struggling just a little bit coming into this game with her aggressiveness but she was so good tonight. Really the whole defense was very good for us. The kids are comfortable with

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3



Macy Spencer shoots while being fouled during Monday's game between Tompkins and Elkins at the Jordan gym.

TYLER TYRE

Cinco Ranch fight but unable to keep season alive in Hightower loss

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch gave it everything.

The odds are always stacked against a four seed in the playoffs, but the Cougars were confident and had the fight and the belief to give whatever they could, but in the end came up just short, falling 48-39 to Hightower in the Class 6A Bi-District round of the playoffs.

"They played so hard tonight and I'm just proud of everything they put into today and everything they

gave," said Cinco Ranch head coach Tamara Collier. "We weren't able to pull it out in the end and there were some things we could have done better. The girls pushed through it, and they gave us all they could, they kept fighting — we just couldn't do some things that you have to do to win."

Cinco Ranch came out strong in the game, taking a 12-11 lead after the first quarter and growing that to a six point lead as the teams went into halftime.

The Cougars were spearheaded by the efforts of Aniya Foy and Camille Tor-

rence, who had seven and six points respectively at the half as Cinco Ranch used strong defense and efficient offense to take the lead.

"We just stayed together and played for each other," Foy said. "We had to stay focused at all times and make things work. Sometimes things didn't go our way but we tried to just stay mentally tough and play to the best of our abilities."

But the Cougars' fortunes turned in the second half, as Hightower started to get into the game. The

See **CINCO**, page B3



Aniya Foy battles through contact during Monday's Class 6A Bi-District playoff game between Cinco Ranch and Hightower at the Jordan gym.

TYLER TYRE



Akpovwa, Bates lead Spartans past Cinco Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Josh Akpovwa has been making his presence felt for Seven Lakes.

On offense, on defense, on

Brett Norton goes up for a layup during a game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

TYLER TYRE

the boards — every part of his game has steadily improved during his senior year, and he has been a focal point of a Spartans team that has run away with first place in District 19-6A.

But his presence was never more felt than it was against Cinco R, as the Spartans center broke a school record by recording 11 blocks while also

adding eight points as Seven Lakes beat Cinco Ranch 64-54 to keep the teams perfect district season alive.

"I can't take all the credit because we had a really good gameplan that was going to lead to me getting blocks," Akpovwa said. "We forced everything baseline as a team and it just funneled things into me. I was just able to take advantage

of it, get some blocks, force some turnovers and get out in transition. It was a really good team defensive performance."

Akpovwa's presence in the paint is a difference maker for the Spartans, as his defense makes everything else go. It was felt from early on in the game as it helped Seven Lakes

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Scores

- Katy 63, Ridge Point 40
- Tompkins 62, Fort Bend Elkins 34
- Seven Lakes 66, Fort Bend Austin 50
- Hightower 48, Cinco Ranch 39

Schedule

AREA ROUND

Friday-Saturday

- Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, TBA
- Katy vs. TBA
- Tompkins vs. TBA

Regional Quarterfinals

- Monday-Tuesday

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bi-District

- Monday-Tuesday

SOFTBALL

Thursday

- Cinco Ranch vs. vs. Fort Bend Travis, 9:30 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Conroe, 1 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Texas City, 2:45 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Dulles, 9:30 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Spring, 1 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Memorial, 2:45 p.m.
- Katy vs. Jersey Village, 9 a.m.
- Katy vs. Cy-Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Tomball, 2:45 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Sealy, 11:15 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Lakes, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Randle, 4:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Conroe, 11:15 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Boling, 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Lakes, 2:45 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Boling, 1 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Travis, 2:45 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Memorial, 9:30 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Huntsville, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Stratford, 2:45 p.m.

Friday

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

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Huntsville, 9:30 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak, 1 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Sealy, 2:45 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Lakes, 9:30 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Randle, 1 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Conroe, 2:45 p.m.
- Katy vs. Travis, 11:15 a.m.
- Katy vs. Spring, 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Huntsville, 2:45 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Hastings, 9:30 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Dulles, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Memorial, 2:45 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Randle, 9:30 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Hastings, 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Sealy, 2:45 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Memorial, 11:15 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Jersey Village, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Jersey Village, 2:45 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Klein Oak, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

SWIMMING/DIVING

Thursday & Friday

- State meet

WRESTLING

Friday & Saturday

- State Meet



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Spartans continue hot streak with win over Cinco Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes had high expectations heading into this season.

Coming off a District 19-6A championship and a regional quarterfinal appearance, and with a wealth of talent returning, the Spartans knew they had the potential to have a very strong team on their hands if they put things together.

So far they've done just that, starting the year 13-0-1 with a 7-0-1 record in district play and excelling on both sides of the ball, as the Spartans have met their own expectations with a very strong start to the year.

"This team just has a special connection overall," said senior centerback Katie Lennon. "As people we really just get along and we're close. It makes things more fun, the practices, the games, they never get old because we all get along with each other and want to play and win for each other. That's what made this group so special and successful this year."

Seven Lakes continued their dominant run on Saturday, with the Spartans coming away 3-0 winners over Cinco Ranch to remain four points ahead of second place in district, using two early goals to jump out to a fast start and take care of business against the Cougars.

"I was proud of the way they played today," said Seven Lakes head coach Kaitlyn Edison. "They came out and did what they needed to do today. The girls knew what we had to do to be successful and win this game and they played the way they needed to play. They stuck to the gameplan, believed in each other and executed. When we do that and execute, then it's a different type of game."



Wagoner Towsen passes the ball during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch soccer field.

It took only four minutes for the Spartans to get their first goal as they threatened the Cinco Ranch goal early and often.

Kennedy Reed whipped in a cross to the back post and while no Seven Lakes player was able to get a head or foot to it, it held the keeper who was waiting for a touch and the ball ended up in the back of the net for a Reed goal.

Just two minutes later, the Spartans doubled their lead as Haydan Erck scored directly from a corner, whipping in a ball that

went right across the face of goal and inside the far post for an Olimpico as the Spartans went two up early in the first half.

"It was huge for us to get those two goals and get them early like that," said Seven Lakes senior goalkeeper Maddie Rich. "Especially on a windy day like today because we had it to our backs first so we needed to take advantage of that. They wanted to play things through the air and they have some good players who can win those balls, so to get two goals, be able to focus on that and

get momentum shifted our way is exactly what we needed to do in that situation."

The Spartans made it 3-0 in the 28th minute when Erck whipped in another cross that Vicky Ott headed for a goal, allowing Seven Lakes to comfortably see out the match.

"Haydan is just such an unselfish player and it's really special that someone with her talent is as selfless as she is," Edison said. "She understands her movement opens up a lot of space for other players and with the other dynamic players we have, it allows them to capitalize on that. We have a lot of players that can draw those defenders and then release the ball quickly and find the open player and that's just awesome to have in a group."

The Spartans are chasing their second straight district championship, and while there is still a ways to go, the team is confident in themselves and believes they can battle with anyone. A big part of that belief comes from the Spartans' defense, which has been stellar in every way this season and has been a main catalyst to their success, only allowing one goal through 14 games. With a defense like that, the Spartans know that they can do a lot of things this year.

"It's the leadership we have back there, on the backline and at goalkeeper — we have so many individuals that stand out, but as a unit they're even better than individually," Edison said. "They deserve every bit of praise they get because you can't count the goals that they keep from going in. It's easy to see the attacking stats, but it's the hard work at the back that allows that to happen. All of our players know how to defend, and it's about all 11 and that's what is so key with these players, is they all know how to play the different parts of the game."

BOYS BASKETBALL

With district title in hand, Spartans are ready to make a run

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

When Seven Lakes coaches and players met before the season to go over their goals, they didn't want to sell themselves short.

Even with a group that had players stepping into new roles and learning, the Spartans knew they had something special on their hands, and they knew that the sky was the limit for this year.

So, they set the loftiest of expectations for themselves, and made their top goal making it to the state tournament.

"We set a lofty goal and we're not there yet," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "We're striving to get there but our focus is hitting milestones along the way, focusing on those. We know that we

have to be focused on the here and now, taking care of what's within our reach and knocking things down until we reach our biggest goal. But we feel like that is the right ultimate goal for us — with our talent, why not us?"

Those smaller goals along the way have been key for the Spartans, as they have been building towards the playoffs all season. The first check on their box was winning district, and they have done that — now they've turned the page towards going undefeated in the District 19-6A season and taking the playoffs round by round.

"That's the next accomplishment we're looking at," said senior center Josh Akpovwa. "Just to bring another district championship here is huge, but to have a chance to go undefeated in district while

doing it is a really cool thing to think about. But we're not done here — we know how important it is to keep the right mindset and we're going to stay focused on our goals."

Last year's Seven Lakes team also won a district championship, but the team's ultimate goal was cut short, when they suffered a heartbreaking 53-50 loss to Bellaire in the area round.

That feeling of a playoff run cut short is something last year's varsity players still feel, and it's a feeling they aren't interested in having again with a group that includes some of the best talent the school has ever had.

"This is the time where you have to lock it in," Akpovwa said. "You have to work harder than everyone else and embrace

that grind and intensity. We have a great young team — this team has the talent to go to state, I'm sure of it. We just have to be better every single day, play defense and with a great motor. We have the pieces — we just have to continue to improve."

That is the mindset for every Seven Lakes player. They know how much things will need to be elevated in the playoffs, and if they want to reach their biggest goals, they know that they can't let up for a single game.

"Everyone has to be on the same page and we have to be ready," said junior guard A.J. Bates. "We have to be at our best every night — we have the talent, the depth, coaching and everything you could want. Now we have to go out and show everyone we have what it takes."

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Katy Times

SPARTANS

from page B1

get out in transition, kept the Cougars from getting in a rhythm and made his teammates comfortable knowing they could be aggressive on the defensive end.

"It's just a credit to him and all the work he's put in," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "It just lets our guys play free and with confidence on that end, because he will erase mistakes. It's just something special when he's in a zone like that, it makes us a tough team to beat when he plays like that."

Seven Lakes only led by two after the first quarter after Cinco Ranch trimmed into things but turned that into a five-point lead at halftime and a 10-point lead at the end of the third quarter as they continued to pull away.

A big part of that along with Akpovwa was A.J. Bates, who finished the game with 23 points as well as a number of assists. Bates, last year's district MVP, continued to show why he is able to compete with anyone he goes up against in the state.

"We just had to run the offense the right way tonight," Bates said. "Our pace is what makes us and we want to be fast, but tonight when we slowed things down and really got into our offense it ran well and we were able to control things. We just came out the right way and we just showed our dominance — that's what we have to do every game."

The Spartans have accomplished their first goal of the year, with winning a district title, but are still in search of many more, including going undefeated over the course of the district season. And they aren't planning to let up with just one game to go before they head into the playoffs.

"It's been a while since that's happened for a Seven Lakes team and we want to do that," Bates said. "We can't get complacent now. That's our next goal is to go undefeated in district before we head into playoffs — now we have to go accomplish it."

SEVEN LAKES 64, CINCO RANCH 54

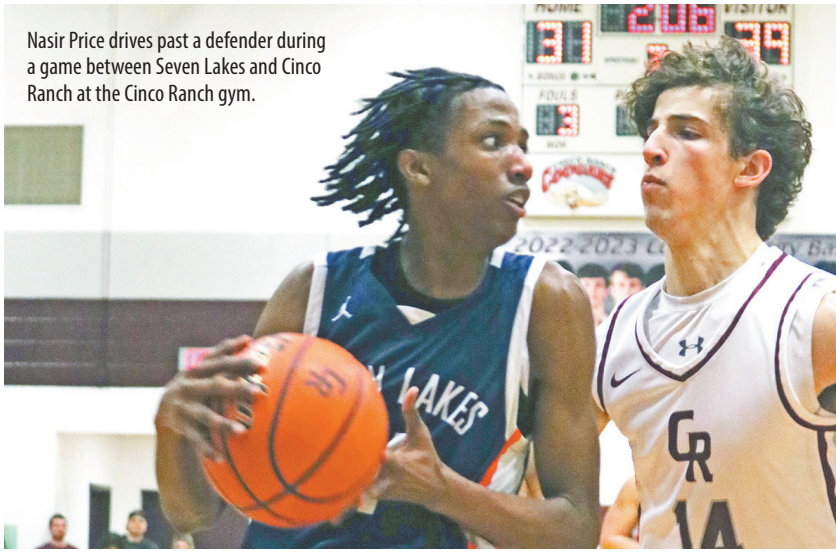
Points: (SL) A.J. Bates 23, Brett Norton 13, Nasir Price 11, Josh Akpovwa 8, Hagen Knight 3, Elijah Sparks 3, Tillman Jaramillo 3; (CR) Josh Lennon 20, Prince Jones Bynum 10, Harrison Moore 8, Derek Kollmansberger 5, Drew Joyce 4, Nashir Waters 3, Jake Van Slyke 2, Emmanuel Gregory 2;

Halftime: Seven Lakes 30-25; 3-Pointers: (SL) Jaramillo, Bates, Norton, Knight, Sparks; (CR) Bynum, Kollmansberger; Records: Seven Lakes 30-4, 15-0; Cinco Ranch 20-11, 9-5



A.J. Bates throws down a dunk during a game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

TYLER TYRE



Nasir Price drives past a defender during a game between Seven Lakes and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.



Tanya Philip brings down a rebound during Monday's game between Tompkins and Elkins at the Jordan gym.

TYLER TYRE

TOMPKINS

from page B1

the way we play it even if we switch it up. Whether we're in a zone, pressing full court or half court, they know their job and know exactly what they need to do on defense."

The Falcons didn't show off just their defense in the game though, as they came out aggressively on both ends and never let Elkins get any footing in the game.

Tompkins scored 17 first quarter points while giving up just five, sprinting out to a huge early lead and never looking back as they grew it to 35-14 at halftime.

"We wanted to come out with our foot on the gas and not let them have a chance," said senior post Fiyin Adeleye. "We just came out fast, we didn't let them have any hope and we kept going at them. This is the playoffs and you can't take anyone lightly, that was the key for tonight."

Tompkins was led by Macy Spencer, who finished with 18 points, while Rihanna DeLeon had 12 points and both Bella Riggan and Adeleye both had nine in an all-around effort.

"It makes us so hard to guard when we space the floor and have so many players contributing and shooting well," Ray said. "Fiyin hit a three early and that's something she's very capable of and we were aggressive on that end of the floor."

The Falcons had a bit of a let up early in the second half, giving up three turnovers and starting slow, but they quickly got back into the flow of things and continued to pull away to secure the win.

The Falcons are an experienced team, which made it to the regional quarterfinal round last season. They know what to expect and they are ready for the challenge of continuing their playoff run. Tompkins will play either Westside or Cy-Ridge in the area round, date, time and location to be determined.

"We have to keep playing our game and not be satisfied," Philip said. "We have to keep our focus in practice, keep getting better and focusing on ourselves. We'll have a gameplan, take it game by game and see what we can do."

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT

Points: (T) Macy Spencer 18, Rihanna DeLeon 12, Bella Riggan 9, Fiyin Adeleye 9, Gabby Panter 6, Tanya Philip 4, Caitlyn D'Addieco 2, Sascha Coughran 2; (E) Paris Anderson 12, Aryionna Cox 8, Cheyenne Trusclair 6, Cecily Callegari 4, Maddie Rhea 3, Ella Taylor 3, Amani Forch 2;

Halftime: Tompkins 35-14; 3-Pointers: (T) DeLeon 3, Adeleye 2, Riggan, Spencer; (E) Cox 2, Taylor, Anderson; Records: Tompkins: 27-7; Fort Bend Elkins: 20-14



Aniya Foy shoots a jump shot during Monday's Class 6A Bi-District playoff game between Cinco Ranch and Hightower at the Jordan gym.

TYLER TYRE

CINCO

from page B1



Isabella Hartl drives past a defender during Monday's Class 6A Bi-District playoff game between Cinco Ranch and Hightower at the Jordan gym.

TYLER TYRE

Hurricanes started to impose their will on the boards, especially with offensive rebounds and quickly turned things around. Cinco tried to stay in it, but fell behind by six points heading into the final quarter. And the Cougars were unable to bring things back in the fourth.

"They just started to attack us and drawing fouls, and they really started to be better with rebounding and we weren't able to respond to that. We were attacking, but we needed to finish stronger, because in the playoffs you aren't always going to get calls. It just got away from us in that third quarter and weren't able to come back from it down the stretch."

Cinco Ranch will graduate seven seniors this year, and while the loss will impact the program, Collier knows the impact they've made and passed on to the younger players, and knows the team can continue to get better.

"They were the last group that was coached by the former Cinco Ranch coach from before I got here and I just appreciate them so much because when I came in, they made the adjustment and they tried to buy in completely," Collier said. "They did what I asked them to do and they really made this year fun. It was a great group to coach and I loved every second of it."

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT

Points: (CR) Aniya Foy 15, Camille Torrence 8, Dani Williams 5, Sophie Baran 4, Isabella Hartl 3, Holly Frith 2, Jinhwa Jung 2; (H) Madison Bob 24, Nia Reed 6, Chandler Preston-Caver 6, Kailee Beaudion-Foliaki 5, Breonna Shelby 4, Tiyantha Coulter-Hill 2, Alannah Nerocker 1;

Halftime: Cinco Ranch 24-18; 3-Pointers: (CR) Foy 2, Torrence 2, Hartl; (H) Bob 5, Caver; Records: Cinco Ranch 24-11; Hightower: 31-3;



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Waller County

The 88th Texas Legislature intends on considering the creation of a new County Court at Law for Waller County. This new proposed court will have jurisdiction only in Waller County and over cases as prescribed in the proposed language of the bill.

This notice has been approved, and paid for, by the Waller County Commissioners Court.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Katy ISD Provides Screenings for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Special Education Department provides screenings for students with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. The screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of three and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement 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 ISO Special Education office at 281-396-2066. The Special Education office will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.

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Katy, TX 77494

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **11:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 9, 2023**, and then publicly opened and read for "Cane Island Parkway Boulevard Expansion - Franz Road to Swift Way" for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the construction of the additional lanes to complete the boulevard section of Cane Island Parkway from Franz Road to Swift Way. The total roadway length is approximately 4,400 linear feet. The project involves completing the boulevard section by constructing the other two travel lanes, associated turn lanes, median cuts and installation of drainage inlets. The project also includes the installation of a new traffic signal at the Cane Island Parkway and Franz Road intersection, additional curbs ramps and crosswalks, as well as constructing the westbound travel lanes on Franz Road.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** virtual pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. 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:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86079014467>
Meeting ID: 860 7901 4467
Dial In: +13462487799,,86079014467# US (Houston)

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 five percent (5%) 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.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. 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.

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.

Notice to Bidders

The City of Katy requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for selective demolition and renovation for new public restrooms to the Katy Visitors Center building located on a block bounded by Avenue B, 2nd Street, Avenue C, and 3rd Street in downtown in the incorporated limits of the City of Katy, Texas.

Bid Due Date:
Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 10:00am (Bids submitted after 10:00am will not be accepted). Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time. Interested parties may attend.

Bid will be received at the following Location:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Pre-Bid Conference:
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 1:30pm at the:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Scope of Work:
The Project consists of construction of the following:
Exterior and interior renovations to provide public restrooms (total of approximately 434 S.F.) to the Visitors Center building. The scope of work includes selective demolition and renovation to accommodate the new restrooms. The work is both exterior and interior.

Evaluation Criteria:
The contract will be awarded to the most qualified General Contractor based on the bidder who provides the best value for the City. In determining the best value for the City, the municipality may consider the following weighted criteria:
(1) the purchase price (30%);
(2) the reputation of the bidder (10%);
(3) the quality of the bidder's goods or services (5%);
(4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the City's needs (10%);
(5) the bidder's past relationship with the City (15%);
(6) the impact on the ability of the City to comply with laws and rules relating to contracting with historically under-utilized businesses and non-profit organizations employing persons with disabilities (5%);
(7) the total long-term cost to the municipality to acquire the bidder's goods or services (5%); and
(8) the completeness of the bid (20%).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid.

Bid and Bond Requirements:
Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner. A completed Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties must accompany the bid.

Bid Documents:
Plans and specifications will be available on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

February 9 Puzzle Answers

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

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 S P E E D O M E T E R
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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA ("CivCast") website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Harris-Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 3 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28 2023, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

HARRIS-WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3 CANE ISLAND - SECTION 30 15-244-22

A **non-mandatory** Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, entry monuments, entry and pedestrian gates, planting space and irrigation infrastructure zoning.

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to the Owner.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS, in duplicate, addressed to City of Katy, Attention: Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary, for construction of the Katy Historic Town Square, LJA Job No. 2266-22001, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 2, 2023, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Bidding Documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and Amtek or may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per set (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

City of Katy will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 16, 2023. City of Katy reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Successful Bidder, if any, is the Bidder offering the best value for the Owner based on the published criteria provided in the bid documents and on its evaluation. (Texas Local Government Code 252.043)

Bid security in the form of bid bond, certified or cashier's check payable to City of Katy in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid submitted, must accompany each Bid.

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

Bidder/Contractor declares that it has not received from a governmental body a notice of noncompliance with a provision of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code, or, if such notice has been received, bidder/contractor has taken adequate steps to ensure future compliance with such subchapter and has provided or upon request will provide documentation of same.

**KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
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Katy, Seven Lakes advance to area round



Lyric Barr drives past a defender during a game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The playoff field got set for District 19-6A last, as the season came down to the last day to decide seeding and which teams would get in the playoffs.

Katy came away as district champions, while Tompkins took the two seed in the district, with Seven Lakes claiming the third see with a win over Cinco Ranch on the last day of the regular season, and Cinco Ranch getting the fourth and final playoff spot after losing to Seven Lakes.

Taylor narrowly missed out on the playoffs by one game, finishing district with a 9-7 record, while Paetow Jordan, Mayde Creek and Morton Ranch rounded out the non-playoff teams.

The bi-district round kicked off Monday.

Katy came into the playoffs fresh

off a district championship and with high expectations.

The Spartans had been on a very hot run lately, winning seven straight games and handing Katy its only loss in district play before playing Fort Bend Elkins, which the Spartans beat in last year's playoffs.

Both ended up winners, with Katy beating Ridge Point 63-40 and Seven Lakes beating Fort Bend Austin 66-50, as both had dominant victories to kick off their playoff runs.

Katy will move on to play either Bellaire or Jersey Village in the area round, date time and location to be determined.

Seven Lakes will move on to play Memorial after a dominant performance from the Mustangs (26-10) who come off a 73-37 win over Houston Heights in the bi-district round. The game date, time and location has yet to be determined.



Justice Carlton drives between two defenders during a game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

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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 10 a.m. Local Time, Friday, March 10th, 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 Heritage Boulevard 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, fencing, pedestrian concrete trail, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held Monday, February 27th, 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: search NWC112. 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. 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.

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Katy Times

Tompkins' Funk, Sriniketh named to THSCA Super Elite Teams

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

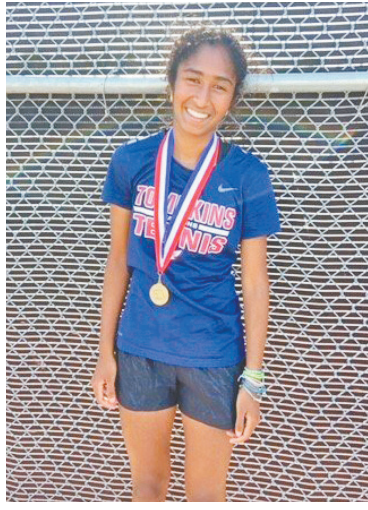
Tompkins was the lone Katy ISD school to place students on the Texas High School Coaches Association Super Elite Teams for fall sports this year.

Junior offensive lineman Ashton Funk was named to the Class 6A football super elite team, while sophomore Ananya Sriniketh was named to the Class 6A team tennis super elite team.

Sriniketh was one of just five students named to the team for team tennis, while Funk was one of just 29 students named to the team for football, as both proved themselves both on and off the field throughout the year.

The THSCA Super Elite Teams consist of exemplary high school players nominated by the members of the THSCA. Players must meet the award criteria, including being of good moral character and excelling in their current sport. A committee evaluates each nominee and determine finalists where coaches and other THSCA members decide on who makes the team.

Funk, a Texas A&M commit, is one of the top 2024 recruits in the nation in football, while Sriniketh, a class of 2025 tennis player, is considered one of the top players in her class and is the sister of current University of Denver tennis player and Tompkins graduate Anish Sriniketh.



COURTESY KATY ISD

Tompkins' Ananya Sriniketh was named to the THSCA Super Elite Team for tennis.



Ashton Funk stands on the sideline during Thursday's game between Tompkins and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



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