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THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Chili cookoff precedes annual Livestock Show and Rodeo

CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Business Association have been busy recruiting chili teams who are ready to put their favorite recipe to the test. Over 34 chili teams will be competing this year, cooking a variety of chili to share with the community. The cookoff is from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Feb. 11 in the parking lot at American Furniture Warehouse, 500 Pin Oak Road. Team setup begins at 7 a.m. and judging begins at 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Katy ISD FFA. "We appreciate our partnership with the Katy Business Association and their support in ensuring the success of this year's cook-off," Matthew Ferraro, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce president/CEO, said. "We invite everyone to join

us at the chili cook-off as we raise funds for Katy ISD FFA students." Attendees will be able to sample chili from each participant and are invited to cast their vote for their fan favorite. A panel of judges will determine the best overall chili, high school favorite, and best booth presentation. American Furniture Warehouse is

See **RODEO**, page A3



The Texas Chili Cookoff will feature 34 teams hoping to wow both judges and enthusiasts with their chili and culinary talents. KATHY M. SLAUGHTER

Katy ISD names new principal for Leonard Elementary

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD has announced Jason Sowders as the new principal of Olga Leonard Elementary School. Sowders, who has over 20 years of educational experience, will join the Leonard Leopards beginning Feb. 20.

"I look forward to working with the staff, students, parents, community, and name-sake Olga Leonard, to continue the campus' vision of 'Leading the Legacy,'" Sowders said. "Since the school's inception in 2019, the campus has welcomed many new families to our thriving school district. I'm excited to be the newest Leopard on campus and to continue Leonard Elementary's tradition of delivering unparalleled learning experiences."



JASON SOWDERS

See **PRINCIPAL**, page A3

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The Katy High Lady Tigers basketball team honored longtime Katy residents Doug and Pat Harrell for their support. KATY ISD

Sweethearts & Superfans

Katy couple enjoys local sports as they celebrate Valentine's Day

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Valentine's Day is Tuesday, Feb. 14, and no, the sweethearts profiled here have not yet made their plans for that special day. Pat Harrell said it depends on the Katy High sports schedule. "We'll probably be going to a ball game if it's Tuesday," Harrell said.

Doug and Pat Harrell are fixtures at Katy High sports events. He retired after working for a decades-long career at Houston Lighting & Power, later known as Reliant Energy. She retired after working as principal secretary at Katy High for 30 years. They have two daughters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The children and grandchildren are Katy

ISD graduates. Their daughter Debra died in October 2021, and their other daughter Shelli is a flight attendant with Delta Airlines. Recently, Harrell said, Shelli just returned from a flight to Korea.

"I hate to think about it when she's 15 hours over an open ocean," Harrell said, with a chuckle. "That kind of bugs me. I'm glad when she gets back home."

The three great-grandchildren are Katy ISD students. One is at Katy High, another is at Katy Junior High, and the third is at Katy Elementary.

"We're working on great-grands now," Pat Harrell said.

But even with a family with such ties, the Harrells are fans of all the student-athletes who wear Katy red. The school has reciprocated. Last month, the Katy Lady Tigers basketball team honored the Harrells

See **SWEETHEARTS**, page A3



Japanese delegation visits, learns about Katy businesses

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy-area leaders Tuesday welcomed a 35-person Japanese delegation to Houston Community College Katy campus, 22910 Colonial Pkwy., hoping both to introduce the community and look for potential investment opportunities.

The Katy visit comes as Japanese companies are looking for a more business-friendly environment than California. Ichori Sone, Japan External Trade Organization executive director, said Japanese manufacturers, suppliers and service industries seek central US locations that makes it easier to ship to American consumers, whether on the east or west coasts.

Japanese total direct investment in the US reached a record level of \$679 billion in 2020, according to Japan external trade organization statistics. Canada (\$570 billion), Germany (\$564 billion), the United Kingdom (\$481 billion) and China (\$55 billion) or the other top investors, Sone said.

In 2019, 973,800 Americans were employed by Japanese companies in all US business sectors. This is an all-time high, according to the organization's statistics. Of that number 527,500—more than half—were in manufacturing. About 307,400 workers were employed by German companies, according to the organization statistics.

Texas, the organization said, is one of 38 states in which the total number of manufacturing jobs by Japanese firms ranks among the top three in terms of number of employees in manufacturing.

See **BUSINESS**, page A3



Ichori Sone, Japan External Trade Organization executive director, meets with Mayor Dusty Thiele. GEORGE SLAUGHTER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

National Charity League Star Chapter recognizes senior class of 2023

On Feb. 19, National Charity League (NCL), Inc., Star Chapter will present the Senior Class of 2023 at its annual senior recognition ceremony. This formal event includes family and friends, dinner and dancing and will take place at 7 p.m. at The Westin Houston. The evening honors each of the 18 members of the graduating class for their accomplishments and their contributions to our community.

"The Class of 2023 has completed a six-year program designed to foster the mother-daughter relationship through active community service and instill a sense of compassion and drive to serve those in need within our community," Jackie Lanier, NCL, Inc., Star Chapter president, said. Over the past six years, these young ladies, alongside their mothers, have contributed over 3,500 volunteer hours at 35 local charities, including The Westvill School, Neighborhood KidZ Club, Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP), Interfaith Ministries (Meals on Wheels), The Ballard House, Katy Christian Ministries (KCM), Fort Bend Women's Center, The Krause Center, The Monty Ballard YMCA, Brookwood, Willow River Farms, and Texas Children's Hospital.

In addition to serving their community through volunteering, these young ladies were honing their leadership skills by holding various board or liaison positions within the chapter, organizing class retreats as well as planning and leading annual chapter-wide social and philanthropy events, including: Holiday Philanthropy Fair, Mother-Daughter Tea and even hosting last year's Senior Recognition of the Class of 2022. They have also been expanding their cultural awareness by attending the ballet, the symphony, the opera and musical theater.

"The last two years presented its own unique set of challenges with the pandemic. Volunteering and meetings were different; however, the girls continued to fulfill their responsibilities and seemed to have a greater appreciation for their involvement once restrictions were eased and they were able to get out in the community once again," Lanier said. "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to watch the girls grow



The National Charity League Star Chapter. Pictured are, first row (seated on floor): Abigail Patton, Grace Lanier, Taylor Burke and Caroline Chapman. Second row (seated on floor): Brynn Smith, Emily Johnson, Sophie Prothro and Kennedy Hatten. Third row (standing): Sarah Drury, Ellery Kovacs, Kaelyn Sweeney, Tanvi Patel, Marie Wadlington, Lauren Dorsettand, Racquel McCauley. Fourth Row (standing): Amy Abke, Brett Ashton Kelley and Diane Weber.

into confident, young adults. We are very proud of them and who they have become. Whatever they choose to do, we know they will be prepared to serve, lead, and be successful,"

Sueba USA announces plans for San Paseo in Katy

Sueba USA is expanding its portfolio of upscale multifamily developments with the addition of San Paseo, located off the Grand Parkway and less than one mile north of I-10. San Paseo will feature 272 class-A apartment homes and 20 two-story townhomes with attached garages.

Located at 1724 Partnership Way next to two other Sueba USA-developed multifamily properties, San Tierra and San Remo, the four-story midrise is minutes from west Houston employment centers, hike-and-bike trails and other outdoor experiences. It also is conveniently located within short driving distance to Katy Mills Mall, Memorial City Mall, and CityCentre.

San Paseo's well-appointed apartment homes will feature a stainless steel appliance package, granite countertops, luxurious bathrooms with custom-framed mirrors and, in most homes, walk-in shower. Features also

include under-mount sinks and subway tile backsplash, spacious walk-in closets, 42" kitchen cabinetry with brushed nickel accents, wood-style flooring, full-size washer and dryer, and patios or balconies in select homes.

Studio, one, two and three-bedroom plans offer standard nine-foot ceilings with 12-foot ceilings available in select plans. Apartment homes range from 496-2,088 square feet.

San Paseo residents will enjoy Sueba's resort-style pool, ultra-luxe leisure spa, outdoor cabanas and grilling areas, 24-hour Cross-Fit inspired athletic center, Net Café with complimentary computers and printer, and a gourmet coffee bar. The community also offers complimentary covered parking and app-enabled access at all entry gates.

Three open-concept townhome plans feature three bedrooms, 2.5 or 3.5 baths, island kitchen, spacious flex room and a private, two-car garage. Plans range from 2,387-2,577 square feet.

The San Paseo apartment community and adjacent townhomes will be managed by Southhampton Management, Inc., an affiliate of Sueba USA.

Pre-leasing is expected to start in March 2024.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

I smell a good deal

BY TIMOTHY GENE SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

HGTV hosts lead viewers on tours through spectacular remodels, featuring hip designer colors, the latest technology and the coolest upgrades. The visual representation convinces viewers to believe that nothing sells homes faster than smart remodels. But the purveyors of visual stimulation, although correct, missed something.

These hosts cannot be blamed for the oversight, because we do not own smellvisions.

Yes, well-executed remodels net bigger bucks for the sellers. However, in my new book, *How the Pros Sell Their Homes in 29 Days or Less*, I stress that offensive smells present the largest deterrent to home sales. A fellow real estate investor shared this piece of wisdom. "If the home stinks, people say no thanks," he said.

Imagine a potential buyer, standing at your front door, determining if he or she will enter. According to Ed Kampf, owner of Hygienitech Solutions, "Buyers prejudice everything based on sight and smell — the 'smell' sense will determine fight or flight. The buyer's nose will play judge and jury to determine if they are in for a rough ride."

Buyers list cigarette smoke, pet urine and regional cooking as the big three smell offenders. In my career I witnessed dozens of buyers refuse to enter a reeking home. Now, you may think your home does not smell, as your senses are dulled to repeat scents. Still, a reputable Realtor should offer an honest smell-pinion.

There's more. The odors represent the symptom, not the problem. According to Kampf, "Odors are the result of a process called off-gassing. The off-gassing process starts with malodorous (foul-smelling) molecules released by any number of sources. While you may try to use deodorizers, air fresheners or ozone treatments, these products only mask the odors and do nothing to permanently eliminate them. Odor molecules have a secret, migrant life about which most people are unaware. Once let loose from the original odor source, these malodorous molecules literally take over the place."

According to Kampf, retail products only briefly mask the problem. He recommends you find a company that "Destroys the malodorous molecules on a nanoscale. So, the entire odor cycle is eliminated permanently."

Offensive smells often indicate an unsafe living environment, so use an expert, like Hygienitech Solutions to ensure you reside in a non-toxic environment.

Offensive smells repel, pleasant scents sell. If you considering selling and want a free copy of my book, *How the Pros Sell Their Homes in 29 Days or Less*, email tsojka@seetimsell.com.

Timothy Sojka is the broker of the See TIM Sell Team at Keller Williams. His team has sold over 2,000 homes. Tim is also the author of the Amazon #1 political thriller *Payback Jack*, *Politikill* and the upcoming addiction thriller, *39: Your Last Birthday*.

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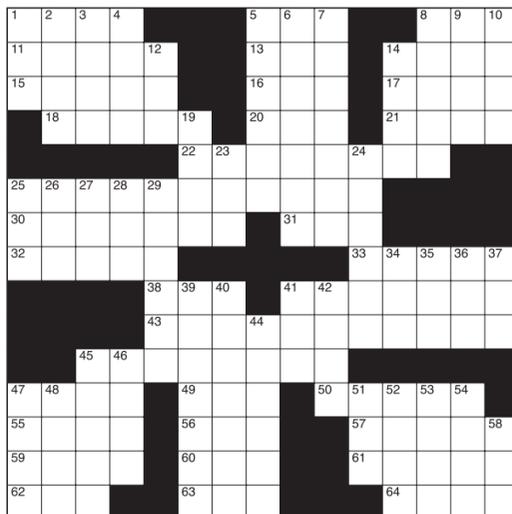
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Functions
- Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
- Trigonometric function (abbr.)
- Secret political clique
- Type of gibbon
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Famed American playwright
- Mesopotamian goddess
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Long ridge of gravel and sediment
- A place to stay
- Actor Idris
- One who behaves in a rebellious way
- A way to measure movement
- Distinguish oneself
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- Basketball great Baylor
- Masses of salivary matter
- Calls balls and strikes
- Plant that grows along the ground
- A recreational activity in the air
- Consumes too much
- Island nation
- Pistol
- Mixtures of soul and calypso
- Ancient Greek City

CLUES DOWN

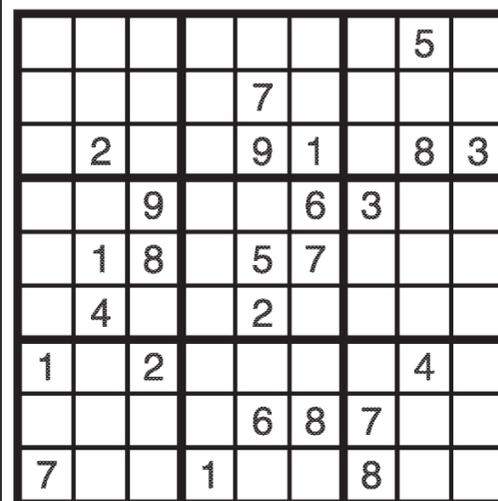
- Fiddler crabs
- Discount
- Partner to "flows"
- Ethnic group of Laos
- Beloved "Seinfeld" character
- Book of tickets
- The last name of "Hermione"
- Type of TV package
- Helps to heal a cut
- Town in Galilee
- Actor Horsley
- "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
- Bird-loving group (abbr.)
- They respond when someone is sick
- Emerged
- Midway between south and southeast
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- Unit of work or energy



- Indicates near
- Famed river
- For each
- News organization
- CNN's founder
- They __
- Areas off to the side
- Satisfies
- A spare bed
- Legendary singer Diana
- Frothy mass of bubbles
- A kind of sorcery
- River in South Africa
- Philippine Island
- County in China
- S. American plant
- Beverage containers
- Edge
- Protein-rich liquids
- Moved quickly on foot

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.



KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The annual Texas Chili Cookoff is set for Feb. 11. Key volunteers in making it happen are, front row from left to right, Jennifer Pierce, Katy Business Association; Bill Lacy, Independent Bank Mortgage; Matthew Ferraro, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, and back row, from left to right, Lisa McGarity, Advancial Federal Credit Union; Jacob Colby, American Furniture Warehouse; Angela King, H-E-B and Olivia Martin, KTX Window Cleaning, LLC.

RODEO

from page A1

the title sponsor. H-E-B, Independent Bank Mortgage, the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Business Association are presenting sponsors. LoadUp Technologies is the raffle sponsor.

Individual tickets are only \$5 and are available for sale online now or on-site the day of the event. Children 12 and under are free. The event is open to the public.

For more information, to purchase tickets or donate to the Katy ISD FFA, visit the website katychamber.com.

Katy ISD announces FFA livestock show schedule

Katy ISD has once again partnered with the Katy Rodeo Committee to continue this tradition from Feb. 14-18 at the Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road. Students will compete in categories including steers,

goats, lambs, hogs, broilers and rabbits.

"This year, we will be celebrating eight decades of agricultural success in the Katy ISD school community. Four hundred and seventy-seven FFA students, with the support of their agriculture teachers and families, have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into their animal projects," David Laird, Katy ISD FFA events coordinator, said. "We are excited to honor the tradition of Katy ISD FFA and the people who have made this program one of the best in the State of Texas."

The public can support Katy ISD FFA students through auction and barn sale purchases, along with add-on donations via in-person or online.

For more information about the livestock show, visit the website katyisd.org/live-stockshow. For more information about the rodeo, visit the website katyrodeo.org.

FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHEDULE

Feb. 14

9 a.m., Floral Challenge
3 p.m., Rabbit Show
4-5 p.m., Steer Weigh-In at Barn #5
4-5:30 p.m., Swine Weigh-In at LD Robinson Pavilion
8 p.m., Barn Closing

Feb. 15

8 a.m., Online Barn Sale Opens for Rabbits
8 a.m. - Noon, Art Set Up
10 a.m., Special Rodeo
1 p.m., Best Buddies Grand Drive
1 p.m., Art Show Judging Begins
3 p.m., Broiler Show
3-4:30 p.m., Goats and Lambs Weigh-in
8 p.m., Barn Closing

Feb. 16

8 a.m., Swine Show
8 a.m., Online Barn Sale Opens for Broilers
1 p.m., Steer Show*
5 p.m., Art Awards
7 p.m., Rodeo Performance
8 p.m., Barn Closing

Feb. 17

8 a.m., Online Barn Sale Opens for Steers and Swine
8 a.m., Goat Show
10 a.m., Lamb Show*
(Online Barn Sale for Goats and Lambs will open approximately one hour after each show respectively)
1 p.m., Auction Sale Meeting* *(Mandatory for all auction participants)*
7 p.m., Rodeo Performance
8 p.m., Barn Closing

Feb. 18

9:30 a.m., Katy Rodeo Parade
11 a.m., Buyers' Luncheon Invitation Only
1 p.m., Auction (Barn Sale closes one hour after the conclusion of the auction)
7 p.m., Rodeo Performance

**The show/auction meeting will start no earlier than the scheduled time. However, if the previous show runs long, the next show/meeting will be set to begin 15 minutes after the conclusion of the previous show/event.*



SWEETHEARTS

from page A1

as "All-Time Greatest Loyal Fans." In June, Pat Harrell said, they will celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary.

They grew up in the town of May, Texas, which is about 20 miles north of Brownwood in Central Texas and about 288 miles northwest of Katy. They met in church. Her father was a pastor and they lived in the parsonage, Pat Harrell said.

"His grandmother lived across the road and about 100 yards up," Harrell said.

They married July 30, 1955. Doug was not yet 17 and Pat was 15, she said. Doug's father worked for Humble Oil, now Exxon, and got transferred to Katy. Doug and Pat came along and made their home here. Doug graduated from Katy High in 1957, and Pat graduated in 1958.

"We just got started when our girls were in school," Harrell said. "We're talking mid 1970s here."

In those days, Harrell said, there were fewer

"We just love teenagers. We just loved the kids, all of them, and it gives us something to do besides watching terrible television."

—PAT HARRELL

options for girls' sports. Still, there was volleyball, basketball, swimming and track. Their girls participated, and the Harrells continued to attend and enjoy watching the games.

"We just love teenagers," Harrell said. "We just loved the kids, all of them, and it gives us something to do besides watching terrible television."

What's the secret of having 68 years together?

"Part of it is doing everything together," Harrell said. "We don't do much apart. He might go to a baseball game without me occasionally, because I prefer softball."

When they were younger, Harrell said, they traveled

together. Now that they're older they don't do as much traveling. Going as far east as Memorial City Mall is a big trip today.

"Our daughter says we have no business driving in Houston," Harrell said, with a chuckle. "OK, whatever you think."

Although Katy has grown substantially over the years, it retains that small-town feel, she said.

"People asked me that question all the time," Harrell said. "I think it's because it's the community school, and not the neighborhood school. It's where people want to be because it has that community, small-town feel. It's just the place to be."

PRINCIPAL

from page A1

career in 2002 as a teacher at Alexander Elementary School in Alief ISD. Two years later, he transitioned to Miller Intermediate School, also in Alief ISD. Looking to expand his educational career, he took on the role of instructional technology specialist for the campus in 2011, and three years later he was promoted to assistant principal.

Sowers joined Katy ISD in 2016 when he was named assistant principal at Williams Elementary. He remained with

the Williams Wranglers until he joined the Winborn Elementary family in 2021 as the assistant principal.

Sowers has a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary studies from the University of Houston and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Houston—Clear Lake.

Leonard Elementary School is located within the Morton Creek Ranch subdivision, in the northwest quadrant of Katy ISD.



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Mayu Kasukawa, Japan External Trade Organization director of business development, visits with Angie Thomason, Katy Area Economic Development Council acting president/CEO.

BUSINESS

from page A1

"They produce something here and export it to the rest of the world," Sone said, citing Honda, Nissan and Toyota as examples of Japanese companies that produce their products in the United States.

But the key advantage to Japanese investment in the US isn't about dollars or job creation, Sone said. Research and development are other key opportunities being sought.

"They are investing for the future," Sone said, adding that Texas and Katy are growing both in population and its economy.

Sone said the cost of living and doing business has gone up in California. As for Texas, he said, there's no other place like it.

"It used to be, for Japanese companies, California was the gateway," he said. "We exported manufactured cars to the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles. Nissan had a sales headquarters in Los Angeles. Today, 70% of Japanese cars are made in the US. We don't export as much anymore."

Katy area leaders have said they're interested in bringing more high-end manufacturing jobs, and the relatively higher incomes that come with them, to the community. Last October, the Katy Area EDC last October welcomed a Belgian delegation to Katy, hoping to explore potential economic opportunities.

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Grateful for National Freedom Day

It's one of the best days of the year and we owe our gratitude to the remarkable man who made it possible.

Feb. 1 is National Freedom Day and its origin is as wonderful as is freedom itself.

The creation of this day dates back to 1863, during the thick of the Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

His proclamation changed the legal status of more than 3.5 million African Americans from "enslaved" to "free."

Following the war, with the passage of the 13th Amendment on Feb. 1, 1865, slavery was formally abolished.

One 11-year-old boy from Dalton, Ga., who had been born into slavery, now faced a future of freedom—and he took full advantage of his new freedoms to flourish and help many others flourish.

His name was Major Richard Robert Wright, Sr. and, according to the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, he was a "post-Reconstruction pioneer and trailblazer, who made remarkable contributions in education, banking, politics, publishing, journalism, real estate and civic affairs."

A military officer, serial entrepreneur and early civil rights advocate, Wright founded a black high school and a black college in the South and owned several newspapers.

You'd think those accomplishments would have been enough for one lifetime.

But at age 86 Wright was driven to bring one more idea to fruition: establish a national day to celebrate the freedoms that all American citizens enjoy.

According to the American Folklife Center, in 1941 Wright invited national and local leaders to meet in Philadelphia (where he had started a bank) to formulate his plans to set aside Feb. 1 each year to memorialize the signing of the 13th Amendment.

To win support for his dream, Wright spent the rest of his life working with legislators, holding grassroots celebrations and events, and traveling the country on a national speaking tour.

His persistence and hard work paid off.

In 1947 both houses of Congress passed a bill making



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Feb. 1 National Freedom Day and, in 1948, President Harry Truman signed it into law—though, sadly, Wright had died the prior year.

Wright was determined to establish an annual observance of the freedoms we enjoy—and too often take for granted—to "promote goodwill, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens, and to rededicate the nation to the ideal of freedom."

Nobody values freedom more than someone like Wright, who knew what it was like to live without it, how precious and fragile it is and how we must work always to preserve it.

It's essential that we remember and celebrate his legacy on Feb. 1 as we celebrate the First Amendment—the right to speak freely, assemble peacefully and worship as we wish without fear of government restraint.

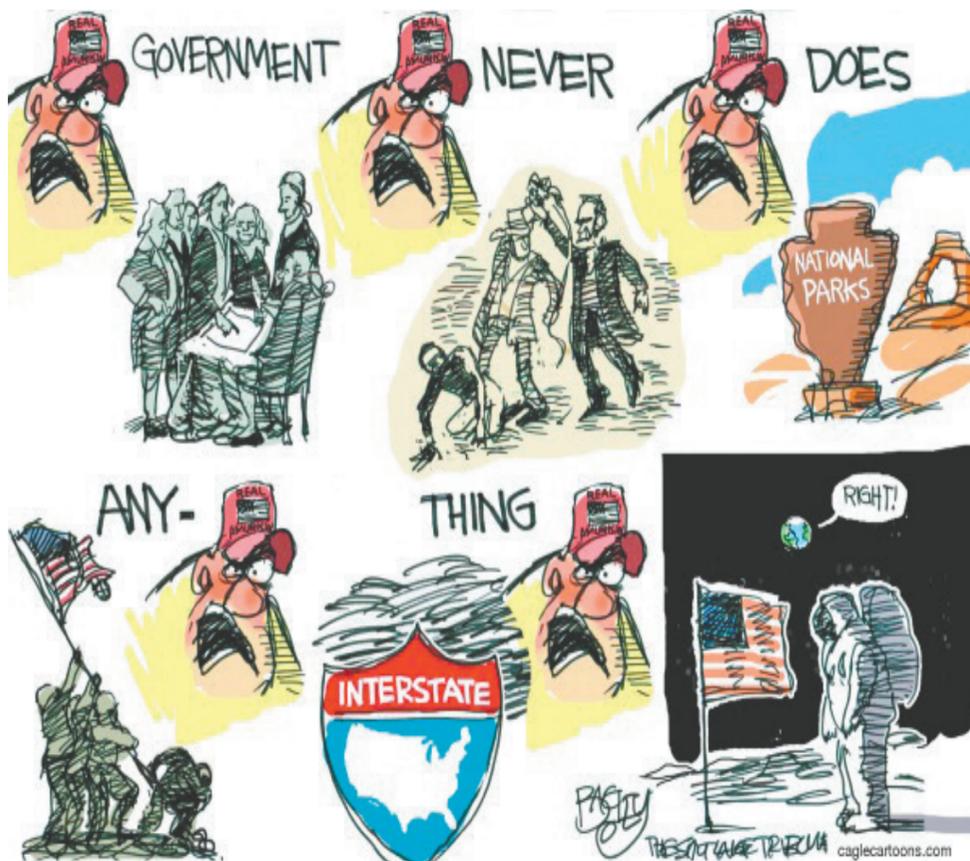
It's worrisome that we are losing these basic freedoms in some of our private organizations (social media) and institutions (universities) that block or shut down political messages or speakers who think differently than those in charge.

Let's follow Wright's lead and infuse some goodwill, harmony and equal opportunity to express what we're thinking into peaceful discussions in which all of us are free to disagree.

Let's follow the wisdom of a man born into slavery who accomplished many successes in his life, despite numerous obstacles, because he had the freedom to pursue his happiness and get things done.

That's the intent, spirit and beauty of National Freedom Day. Let's not let it go to waste this year.

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.



Brother, can you spare an excuse?

Middle-class philanthropy may be dying.

Citing a study released by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, "National Review" magazine says the share of American households donating to charity nosedived from 66 percent in 2000 to 50 percent in 2018.

And only one-third of the decline was directly attributable to economic hardships, with the remainder coming from decreases in interpersonal trust, decline in empathy and an unfortunate "give until it hurts" loophole that lets people identify as the Princess and the Pea. ("Ouch! I got whiplash signing that donation. This lawsuit will pay for a heck of a lot of pea-free mattresses.")

Sure, millionaire donors and prestigious foundations are doing a bang-up job of funding museums, metropolitan hospitals and trendy causes ("I'm pledging one million dollars to the Make A Wish Foundation For Endangered Mussels, just as soon as the mussels, um, develop enough of a brain to actually make a, you know, WISH"). But local charities such as animal shelters, soup kitchens and libraries are continually tightening their belts and dealing with neighbors who mutter, "I gave at the Zoom meeting. Yeah, that's the ticket."

(Ever notice that the people who insist "charity begins at home" are the same jokers who grab the last piece of chicken, hog the blanket and leave a trail of dirty laundry? But I digress.)

No matter how many veterans



DANNY TYREE
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Widespread giving has been described as the "lifblood of civil society" and we must brainstorm ways to get the blood pumping again.

need rides or parks need beautifying, we find ways to create even more dilemmas. ("Ow! I detached my retina and walked into traffic while trying not to make eye contact with fundraisers. A little help, please?")

Some analysts connect the dots between the erosion of community involvement and the decline in religious affiliation. In 2004, 46 percent of households gave money to churches or other religious organizations. As of 2018, that had dropped to just 29 percent of households. ("What Would Jesus Do? YOU say he would volunteer at the homeless shelter. I say he would change water to Roth IRAs. Agree to disagree.")

I know there are highly motivated, civic-minded young people out there; but by and large, there is a discernible difference in

the work ethic and charity ethic of different generations. ("But, like if the old dude dies because he can't pay his heating bill, he can buy another life, can't he? What? For real?")

Let's all keep our eyes open for opportunities and dig a little deeper for good causes to which we can contribute our money, time, talents or hideous sweaters that we can convince great-aunt Hilda need dry cleaning every time she inquires about them.

Widespread giving has been described as the "lifblood of civil society" and we must brainstorm ways to get the blood pumping again.

I know it won't be easy. The law of inertia has worked mightily to chip away at traditional dedication to charity. People got out of the habit of giving because of a temporary economic setback or because government agencies seemed to have things under control, and it's hard to get back in gear.

Unfortunately, identifying that problem leads to other problems. Since it's the law of inertia getting the blame, some rabble-rouser will inevitably lead a group of volunteers to desecrate the grave of Sir Isaac Newton.

("I'm not too keen on the law of universal gravitation, either. And his fig bars stink.")

Sigh Anybody want to volunteer as a tutor?

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Katy Times

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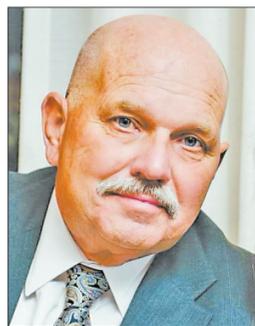


DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

TRIBUTE

James Edward Davidson of Katy, age 70, died Saturday, January 28, 2023, at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Jim was born in Flint, Michigan on May 13, 1952. He married Keiko Yamasaki on August 1, 1981, and they moved to Houston the same month. He graduated from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with a Bachelor of Arts in 1974 and a Master of Arts in Education in 1981. He later earned a mid-management certificate at Prairie View A&M University.

Jim served as a teacher, coach, and school administrator for over 35 years, the majority of which was dedicated to Katy ISD. He coached soccer, football, and swimming, taught AP English & AP US History, and served as an assistant principal for 20 years. He said that public education was the great equalizer, the place that leveled the playing field of opportunity. He loved the power of potential and believed in incremental change. He loved the kids; he said he understood them since he was a kid at heart. During his career, he was very active in the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches, including serving as treasurer. In 2004 Jim was recognized as the Region 4 ESC recipient of the Outstanding Principal award from the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.



JAMES EDWARD DAVIDSON
1952-2023

Jim was very active in his church and served on the Holy Spirit Episcopal School Board of Directors, as a delegate to the Diocesan Council, as well as several other volunteer ministries.

In retirement, Jim continued his public service as a committee member and investor in the Katy ISD Education Foundation.

Jim loved playing club soccer, starting as a founding member of the Flint Sports Soccer Club in the late 1960s and continuing to play and referee for decades thereafter. He was also an active member of the Space City Radio Control Airplane Club.

Jim was a masterful storyteller, a sign of a life well-lived. He could hold court with just a few and could make an auditorium roar. He lived out loud with his beloved, lifelong

friends. Decades of their shared experiences were a wellspring of source material. Jim had integrity; he was a rare individual with unwavering principles guided by a loving heart. He was honest, fair, and direct, and he had a deep and abiding faith in God. Jim took up a lot of space in many people's hearts and will be missed by many.

Jim was devoted to his family and is survived by Keiko, his beloved wife of 41 years; his children, Christopher, and Carolyn (Andy) Bauerschlag; his grandson Benjamin; his brother William, sisters Alice Davidson and Martha Warburton; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his son, Benjamin Joseph; his parents, The Reverend Canon F. Robert & Constance Davidson; and his brother, John C. Davidson.

A visitation will be held on Friday, February 10th from 4:00-7:00 pm at Schmidt Funeral Home on 1344 W. Grand Parkway in Katy. The funeral service will be on Saturday, February 11th at 9:30 am at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church on 12535 Perthshire Road in Houston. The Reverend Josh Condon is officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church Endowment Fund.

MEYER HONORED AT CHAMBER BANQUET



CHRIS HARRIS

The West I-10 Chamber of Commerce honored Herman Meyer, the longtime owner of Midway Barbecue and Midway Food Market, Thursday night at its 20th annual appreciation awards banquet at Beckendorff Farms, 28533 Morton Road. Pictured from left are Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson, Meyer, Ward A Council Member Janet Corte, and Mayor Dusty Thiele.

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD celebrating National School Counseling Week

This week, Katy ISD is celebrating National School Counseling Week to highlight the contributions of its school counselors and their impact in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

The district said its counselors work with school administrators, teachers, school staff and Katy ISD community stakeholders every day and do so much more than is realized.

Katy ISD teachers to play Harlem Wizards Feb. 17

Teachers and staff from Haskett Junior High and its six Katy ISD feeder campuses will compete against the Harlem Wizards in a fundraiser basketball game.

For each ticket purchased on behalf of a participating school, the Haskett Junior High PTA will donate two dollars to that school's PTA.

The six elementary schools that feed into Haskett Junior High are Bethke, Hutsell, King, Leonard, McElwain and Robertson.

The basketball game will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Paetow High School gymnasium, 23111 Stockdick School Road.

For more information, visit the website haskettjhpta.com.

To purchase tickets online, visit the website harlemwizards.com.

Katy ISD to officially dedicate Robertson Elementary Feb. 21

Katy ISD said it will officially dedicate its newest elementary school Feb. 21.

Robertson Elementary, 7400 Innovation Dr., opened Aug. 17, on the first day of the 2023-24 school year. The district typically holds its dedication ceremonies in the spring semester after the school opens.

The elementary is named in honor of Steve and Elaine Robertson. Steve Robertson began his career as an elementary teacher in Spring Branch ISD in 1985. He later served in roles in Conroe ISD and then Katy ISD, where he served as an elementary, junior high and high school principal. Eventually, he became an assistant superintendent for secondary school leadership and support. In these roles, Dr. Robertson led school improvement efforts, increased student performance, and provided support and mentorship to staff and campus leadership.

Elaine Robertson joined Katy ISD in 1997 as a parent-infant advisor. In 2002, she took a leadership role as an instructional officer for deaf education, vision and assistive technology. She wrote grants to fund innovative instruction, provided engaging and inspiring staff development sessions, and served on inclusion and site-based management teams. She also organized extracurricular programs to bridge academic and social gaps between the deaf and hard of hearing and other students. Robertson played a key role in establishing Katy ISD's Audiological Center.

Katy High School Alumni Association Banquet set for June 10

The Katy High School Alumni Association Banquet has been set for June 10 at Beckendorff Farms, 28533 Morton Road.

The alumni meeting is from 5-5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. Live music, dancing, and auction and mingling will follow, from 7-10 p.m.

Tickets are limited and must be purchased online by March 1. For more information, visit the website katyhighalumni.org.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



James Fairbanks, left, a Mayde Creek High senior and Kyle Goldman, a Taylor High senior, listen to Monique Tate, of Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, talk at a Reality Fair held Feb. 2 at the Katy ISD Miller Career and Technical Center, 17345 Katyland Dr. At the fair, sponsored by Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, students were given pieces of paper listing a given profession and their expected monthly salary after taxes. Students then visited various booths to see how much it costs for an apartment, vehicle, entertainment, food, mobile phones, and so forth and make choices based upon their expected salaries. Fairbanks said he expected to go into welding when he graduated. Goldman said he hoped to go into film work when he graduated.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER



ROYAL ISD

The West I-10 Chamber of Commerce honored Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner at its 20th annual appreciation awards banquet at Beckendorff Farms, 28533 Morton Road. The chamber honored Kershner for his career, which has been dedicated to helping students be successful.



Taylor High theatre and choir student Eduardo Agnese has been selected as the Best Supporting Performer in a Musical by Broadway World for his performance as Harry Houdini in the Southeastern Summer Theatre Institute's 2022 production of Ragtime. Agnese was chosen out of 25 other nominees who were each selected from all musicals produced in South Carolina last year, including professional productions.

KATY ISD



KATY ISD

The Katy High School FFA Floral Team won first place at the Fort Worth Stock Show Floral Contest. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, they were awarded a bouquet of scholarships totaling \$7,000.



Robertson Elementary opened last August and will celebrate its official dedication Feb. 21. Robertson Elementary is home of the Bulldogs.

KATY ISD



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

TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes inches closer to playoff berth

Spartans end Katy's 22-game win streak

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes feels underrated. The Spartans dealt with things early in the season, with injuries keeping Seven Lakes from getting off to a hot start in district play. But things changed once the second half of district rolled around — the Spartans were back healthy and the players had started to build chemistry and a rapport with each other. The Spartans have turned a new leaf and battled their way back into playoff contention and continued to play better ball, and the team had its best game of the season Friday, as they beat Katy 58-39 to become the first District 19-6A team this season to defeat the Tigers. "People underestimate us as a team because of what we went through early this season," said junior forward Justice Carlton. "It's just all the things we went through this year and the perspective we

See SPARTANS, page B5

"My dream job"

Ryans returns to Houston to lead Texans' rebuild

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

DeMeco Ryans wanted to come home.

The man who was drafted by the Houston Texans and spent the first six years of his NFL career with the franchise knew how special it would be to return as the team's head coach, and you could see the joy returning to the city gave him at his introductory press conference as the Texans' head coach on Thursday.

"When it came down to it, there's no place I wanted to be more than H-Town," Ryans said. "It was an easy pick for me, no matter what options were put in front of me — coming here and coming home was a no-brainer. This wasn't a difficult decision at all — this is where I want to be and I can't wait to get started."

Ryans became the sixth head



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans chairman and CEO Cal McNair on the field before the start of an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on Dec. 4, 2022, in Houston. The Browns won, 27-14.

coach in franchise history last Tuesday, following Dom Capers, Gary Kubiak, Bill O'Brien, David Culley and Lovie Smith. He comes into a franchise that has had little recent success and was

See RYANS, page B5



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Trevor Martz goes up for a layup while guarded by two defenders during Tuesday's game between Jordan and Taylor at the Jordan gym.

Jordan earns pivotal win over Taylor as season hits home stretch

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan has experienced growing pains at times this season.

The Warriors have a young team, with both of their backcourt players only sophomores and underclassman at many positions across the court. The Warriors have been able to find success despite this though, as their talent and coaching have prevailed and kept them in the District 19-6A playoff race.

But close, tight knit games had been the Warriors' Achilles heel in recent weeks, as they had lost games by just one basket to both Paetow and Seven Lakes and

Cinco Ranch while also dropping a close game to Seven Lakes.

The Warriors went to work on figuring out how to fix those growing pains and the team's resilience shone through on Tuesday, as Jordan played a good game against District 19-6A playoff contender Taylor and used a strong fourth quarter to come out 66-54 winners.

"You have to trust those guys and trust that they can fight through those kind of mistakes," said Jordan head coach Charlie Jones. "Tonight they fought through those mistakes and continued to play good basketball and make plays. It was a game that could have gone either way

but guys stepped up big and our seniors stepped up really big. We had really good leadership on the court tonight and I'm really proud of the guys for the way they played tonight."

Jordan came out and set the tone from the start of the game, with sophomore post Jude Oluokun came right down and scored five quick points early in the game. The Jordan offense was clicking but it was still a Taylor lead after one quarter, as the Mustangs led 16-15 after the first quarter. But the Warriors' defense locked down in the second half as they allowed just eight Mustangs

See JORDAN, page B5

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS SOCCER

Saturday

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

Tuesday

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

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday & Tuesday

- Bi-District Round

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

WRESTLING

Friday & Saturday

- Class 6A Regional Meet

GIRLS SOCCER

Saturday

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

Tuesday

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

BOYS SOCCER

Saturday

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

Tuesday

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

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78 Katy ISD student-athletes sign to collegiate level

STAFF REPORT

A total of 70 Katy ISD student-athletes formally committed to their college or university of choice during National Signing Day on February 1. An additional eight athletes also officially announced their college or university of choice during the 2022 Winter Break. Their hours of practice, sweat and effort were recognized during celebrations in which each athlete signed a binding letter of intent to play a sport in college.

Following are the student-athletes:

Cinco Ranch High School Signees:

- Eddie Paton – Cross Country/Track – St. Mary's University of Minnesota
- Cooper Corkrean – Baseball – Galveston College
- Gavin Rutherford – Football – Stephen F. Austin State University
- Adrian Hahn Vadstein – Cross Country/Track – Lamar University
- Braden Williams – Football – McMurry University
- Abigail Mercadante – Girls Soccer – Lander University
- Noah Abboud – Football – Black Hills State University
- Gissel Morales – Softball – Daytona State College**

Jordan High School Signees:

- Aloni Ransom – Track – University of Texas at Tyler
- Victoria Hewitt – Swim – Le Moyne College
- Aidan McHugh – Baseball – Norwich University
- Monty Bognar – Baseball – New Mexico Junior College

Katy High School Signees:

- AJ Yaklin – Cross Country/Track – Ottawa University
- Jessie Leach – Volleyball – Webster University
- Peyton Watson – Softball – San Jacinto College
- Presley Bunting – Volleyball – Concordia University
- Paige Bunting – Softball – Blinn College
- Maddy Chaapel – Volleyball – Adelphi University
- Addison Chapman – Volleyball – University of



Aloni Ransom, Victoria Hewitt, Aidan McHugh, Monty Bognar

Jordan student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.

PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

- Louisiana Monroe
- Brady Englett – Baseball – Navarro College
- Chisholm Hill – Football – Benedictine College
- Isaiah Ybarra – Football – Stetson University
- Broderick Johnson – Football – Stephen F. Austin State University
- Dallas Glass – Football – Snow College
- Damian Neveaux – Football – Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- Jacob Egg – Football – Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- Reese Ruderman – Baseball – Alvin Community College
- Lucas Moore – Baseball – University of Texas at San Antonio
- Graham Laxton – Baseball – Houston Christian University
- Cole Kaase – Baseball – Texas Tech University
- Josh Dunayczan – Baseball – University of St. Thomas
- Tyler Morgan – Soccer – Johnson & Wales University in North Carolina
- Seth Davis – Football – Mississippi State University*
- Arian Parrish – Football – Arizona State University*
- Johnathan Hall – Football – Utah State University*

Morton Ranch High School Signees:

- Jamill Lindsey – Football – Stephen F. Austin University
- Jamill Lindsey – Football – San Bernadino Valley College
- Santana Scott – Football – Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- Josh Johnson – Football – Air Force
- Zach Session – Football – Sam Houston State University
- Charmar Smith – Track & Field – Fort Scott Community College*

Paetow High School Signees:

- Cullen Johnson – Football – Auburn University
- Royal Henderson – Girls Soccer – Texas Southern University
- Cortez Hunter – Football – Langston University
- Jason Blue – Football – Trinity University
- Jarra Anderson – Football – University of Memphis
- Nicolas Lira – Football – Football – Arkansas Tech University
- Altwaim Pearson – Football – Texas Wesleyan University
- David Hicks Jr. – Football – Texas A&M University
- Alexander Kilgore – Football – Southern Methodist University*
- Daymion Sanford – Football – Texas A&M University*
- Justin Stevenson – Football – University of Wyoming*

Mayde Creek High School Signees:

- Braden Turner – Football – Stetson University
- Beau Bankston – Football – Stetson University
- Donovan McKey – Football – Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Tay/Shawn Wilson – Football – Baylor University
- Nick Paul – Baseball – Central Maine Community College
- Alicia Loera – Soccer – Texas A&M University - Texarkana
- Sommer Rhodes – Cross Country/Track – Texas State University

- Anthony Perez – Cross Country/Track – Our Lady of the Lake University

Morton Ranch High School Signees:

- Jamill Lindsey – Football – Stephen F. Austin University
- Jamill Lindsey – Football – San Bernadino Valley College
- Santana Scott – Football – Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- Josh Johnson – Football – Air Force
- Zach Session – Football – Sam Houston State University
- Charmar Smith – Track & Field – Fort Scott Community College*

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- Jason Blue – Football – Trinity University
- Jarra Anderson – Football – University of Memphis
- Nicolas Lira – Football – Football – Arkansas Tech University
- Altwaim Pearson – Football – Texas Wesleyan University
- David Hicks Jr. – Football – Texas A&M University
- Alexander Kilgore – Football – Southern Methodist University*
- Daymion Sanford – Football – Texas A&M University*
- Justin Stevenson – Football – University of Wyoming*

Seven Lakes High School Signees:

- Marcel Davis – Football – Colorado School of Mines
- Landon Ross – Football – University of Texas Permian Basin
- Shay Bangert – Football – Southwestern University

Taylor High School Signees:

- Summer Calles – Girls Soccer – Texas A&M University - San Antonio
- Hunter Ham – Baseball – New Mexico Junior College
- AJ Pyfferoen – Baseball – St. Mary's College of Maryland

Tompkins High School Signees:

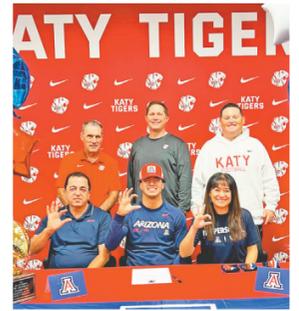
- Ivan Gomez – Baseball – McPherson College
- Matthew Ogunrin – Football – The University of Tulsa
- Emmanuel "Manny" Lawton – Football – University of Texas Permian Basin
- Pedro Da Silva – Football – Prairie View A&M University
- Cody Chapman – Football – West Texas A&M University
- Brandon Welch – Baseball – Ranger Junior College
- Darius Woodson – Baseball – Wilberforce University
- Kayla Boven – Girls Soccer – Trinity University
- Gaby Vazques – Girls Soccer – William Peace University
- Tayden Alexander – Softball – Navarro College
- Kaden Bertrand – Baseball – University of St. Thomas
- Caleb Komolafe – Football – Northwestern University



Katy student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Tompkins' student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Arian Parrish signed to play football at the University of Arizona over the winter signing period.



Seven Lakes student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Cinco Ranch student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Paetow student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



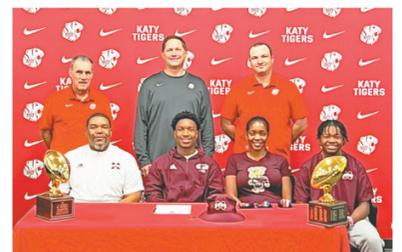
Taylor student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Morton Ranch student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Johnathan Hall signed to play at the University of Utah over the winter signing period.



Seth Davis signed to play at Mississippi State over the winter signing period.



Mayde Creek student-athletes celebrate after signing a national letter of inter to play a sport in college.



Caleb Komolafe signed to play football at the Northwestern University over the winter signing period.



Charmar Smith signed to run track and field at Fort Scott Community College over the winter signing period.

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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, 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, 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 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.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

The Houston Cougars' offense celebrates after a fourth-quarter touchdown in an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas. Houston won 44-37.

FOOTBALL

University of Houston unveils first Big 12 schedule

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Big 12 announced its 2023 football schedule on Tuesday, in what will be the University of Houston's inaugural season in the conference.

The Cougars' first year in the Big 12 will feature visits to TDECU Stadium from TCU and the University of Texas, while Cincinnati, Oklahoma State and West Virginia will round out the home schedule. As the Cougars will look to make a statement as they join the Big

12, which has been a goal for the school since they were left out when the Southwest Conference disbanded.

"It's going to be challenging and we have a lot of work to do," said University of Houston head coach Dana Holgerson. "I've been saying this for about a year, but we're at a point with our guys in the building and this team where we are talking about the Big 12 because that's who we have to compete against. There's a level of play you have to reach and way things have to look like and we're working to get there. It's awesome to be a part of, but obviously it's

going to be a challenge. We're all excited to get to work."

The Cougars' home and Big 12 Conference opener will be a very tough matchup, as they take on national championship finalist TCU on Sept. 16, in what will be the first time TCU will play the Cougars in Houston since 2003.

The Longhorns will also travel to Houston, in what will be the two teams' first matchup since 2002, and Houston will be in search of their first win over the University of Texas since 1991.

On the road, Houston will visit Texas Tech, Kansas State, Baylor and UCF.

Kansas State comes off a year in which it won the Big 12 Championship over TCU and made an appearance in the Sugar Bowl.

"Being here is huge for us," Holgerson said. "Before we would pitch to recruits and they would really like it here and in Houston, but at the end of the day the best recruits want to play in the power five. Now we have that in our back pocket too, and you can see that when we're recruiting now. Guys want to play against the best and it gives us a chance to close the deal in the end."

Houston will open the season by playing UTSA at home on Sept.

2 before facing city rival Rice in the Bayou Bucket at Rice Stadium on Sept. 9, before beginning conference play.

Of the Cougars' 12 opponents, 10 will be teams that went to a bowl game last season. The Cougars will also play 10 games in the state of Texas this season, their most since 1990.

"We play seven Texas schools — no other conference has that and it's a really cool thing," Holgerson said. "There's connections everywhere with this conference, with the coaches, with the players, everything. It's going to be an exciting time and all of the dudes can't wait for it."



Houston Cougars wide receiver KeSean Carter (20) reaches for an overthrown pass during an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

HOUSTON COUGARS 2023 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Houston vs. UTSA, Sept. 2
- Houston at Rice, Sept. 9
- Houston vs. TCU, Sept. 16*
- Houston vs. Sam Houston, Sept. 23
- Houston at Texas Tech, Sept. 30*
- Houston vs. West Virginia, Oct. 12*
- Houston vs. Texas, Oct. 21*
- Houston at Kansas St., Oct. 28*
- Houston at Baylor, Nov. 4*
- Houston vs. Cincinnati, Nov. 11*
- Houston vs. Oklahoma St., Nov. 18*
- Houston at UCF, Nov. 25*

Houston Cougars head coach Dana Holgerson during an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas.



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February 2 Puzzle Answers

W	E	E	P	S	A	R	D	A				
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6	7	4	1	2	5	3	9	8
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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.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The County of Waller is soliciting proposals for:

Road & Bridge Software Application and Services

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts February 20, 2023 until 2:00 pm in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. February 21, 2023, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on March 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

We are soliciting proposals for Software Application and Services related to this program. Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 pm on February 20, 2023 at 836 Austin St, Hempstead, TX, 77445, Attn: Alan Younts, County Auditor or a.younts@wallercounty.us. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us.

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:05 P.M. on February 21, 2023, for Lakeview Recreation Area. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, sod, pavilion, sidewalk, fishing pier, site furniture, playground structures, parking area. Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Form shown in Spec Book) Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted. A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 2:15 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area. The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas. The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard: "The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements." The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on February 21, 2023, for Lakeview Phase 1 Landscape Improvements.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, makeup well, and sod.

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

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

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

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

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

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

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.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Waller County M.U.D. No. 34C in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:10 P.M. on February 21, 2023, for **Lakeview Water Plant Landscape Screening**.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, and sod.

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

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Waller County M.U.D. No. 34C in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 2:30 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

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

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

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

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

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TYLER TYRE

Elijah Black goes up for a layup during Tuesday's game between Jordan and Taylor at the Jordan gym.

JORDAN

from page B1

points while taking a 34-24 lead into halftime.

"We started off quick and took what we had been doing in practice and brought it into the game," Oluokun said. "Our offense was great all game, but we really locked in defensively in the second and fourth quarters. We just have to keep doing that."

Taylor trimmed the gap in the third quarter but Misaías Herrera kept the Mustangs at bay as he hit two of his five three pointers in the quarter. Jordan then pulled away down the stretch as they were able to seal the game.

"The team and myself, we had come off a rough two week stretch," Herrera said. "I had been in a little slump and we had lost a few as a team, so to just be able to get a win like that and see the ball go in the back of the net, it was great. It's unconditional love over here — this is a family."

The win was a huge one for Jordan, as it put the Warriors back into a tie for second place in district, in what is a very tight playoff race.

The Warriors are still only one game

ahead of fifth place in district and they know that from here on out they have to be at their best in every game and every practice.

"The next game is the big one for us," Jones said. "There's no looking forward, we have to take care of what is right in front of us and not focus on the past or what could be in the future. You always know you have a chance to win the one in front of you so that's our goal is just to take care of the next one."

District 19-6A

JORDAN 66, TAYLOR 54

Points: (J) Misaías Herrera 18, Elijah Black 11, Isiah Tchokonte 9, Trevor Martz 8, Jude Oluokun 7, Rayan Fadika 7, Jaden Holt 5; (T) Aiden Rainey 10, Luke Robbie 8, Reece Hymowitz 8, Jabari Parker 8, Logan Plemons 7, Tikur Arrey 5, Benjamin Agboola 4, Catch Robbie 2;

Halftime: Jordan 34-24; 3-Pointers: (J) Herrera 6, Black, Tchokonte; (T) Plemons, Arrey; Records: Jordan 22-8, 9-4; Taylor: 21-10, 8-4;

RYANS

from page B1

desperately in need of something to cheer for — Ryans' hiring gave fans that and has lifted spirits around the building both with the players and the front office.

"The reality is football is a people business and I can't think of a better person to lead this organization than DeMeco Ryans," said Texans General Manager Nick Caserio. "What he's done as a coach, what he exuded as a player, it's the epitome of what you want from a head coach. The more time we spent to with him, the more obvious it became that there was no better fit for this team, organization or city. He's one of our own, he believes in this program and for him to come home is awesome. I can't wait for us to get started and for us to work together."

The Texans are not without assets though, and have a promising young core along with a haul of draft picks to use in the next two drafts, being able to build a culture and

provide leadership to younger players is something that Ryans is very excited about. Jalen Pitrey and Derek Stingley Jr. are just two of the young pieces that Ryans is excited to work with and were part of a secondary that was one of the better pass defenses in the NFL last season.

The most important thing for Ryans though is to bring back an excitement to Houston and work to make the Texans winners again, and it's something he will work tirelessly for.

"I'm so excited to get started and get to work with these young guys," Ryans said. "I'm fired up — we are going to bring a winning team that Texans fans will be proud of. We are going to fill up NRG Stadium and build back what we've had in past years here. We are here to build this the right way with the right people. We have places where we have to get better and build, but we have the resources to do that."



Houston Texans fans cheer during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on September 11, 2022 in Houston. The game ended in a scoreless overtime period.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

SPARTANS

from page B1

have from it that has made us a better team. We had six players to start this season — it just says a lot about us the way that everyone has banded together. We're finally healthy and we're starting to get all the way back."

It was a game that was important for both sides, as Katy was closing in on an undefeated district title, while Seven Lakes was trying to keep their spot at third in the district standings and come a step closer to securing a playoff berth.

It was a back and forth contest from the start, with Katy going ahead 16-11 after the first quarter, but Seven Lakes coming back to tie things up at 26 heading into halftime.

Behind Carlton, who finished the game with 33 points, the Spartans started to find their groove in the second half. The Spartans jumped out to a 10-point lead in the third quarter, and withstood a Katy comeback to still lead 38-36 heading into the final quarter of the game. And from there, Seven Lakes controlled things to finish with a win and take a huge step towards clinching a playoff berth.

"We just had to play to our speed, and after the first quarter we really started doing that better," said senior point guard Shreya Jategaonkar. "They wanted to press us and get us uncomfortable, but we just played fast, got out on the break, found open players and played our



TYLER TYRE

Justice Carlton goes up for a layup during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

game. It was great for us to get past that and keep pushing and show what we could do against a team of this caliber. We know that we could do some special things when we play like this."

The win also ended Katy's 22 game win streak, including a streak where the Tigers had not lost in district play all season, although the Tigers still clinched a district championship. But the Spartans' work isn't done, as they know how important it would be to clinch a third seed in the playoffs with a win over Cinco Ranch in the team's regular season finale on Tuesday.

"I'm so excited and so proud of this group," said Seven Lakes head coach Angela Spurlock. "I've been waiting a long time and they've been waiting a long time for us to put together a complete team

performance like this. This team has waited, they've been patient, they haven't given up on themselves and they've raised their level because they've had to. That's a tough Katy team — it doesn't get tougher than that and I love these games and the way we responded, but the jobs not done."

District 19-6A

SEVEN LAKES 58, KATY 39

Points: (SL) Justice Carlton 33, Madison Carlton 8, Shreya Jategaonkar 7, Lenore Hudspeth 5, Caitlyn Quintero 3, Calianna Calbo 2; (K) Lyric Barr 19, Nyla Wold 12, Ashlynn Alexander 6, Brianna Nelson 2;

Halftime: 26-26; 3-Pointers: (SL) Hudspeth; (K) Barr 2, Alexander; Records: Seven Lakes: 19-13, 10-5; Katy: 28-2, 14-1;

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COURTESY ROYAL ISD

Jeremiah Robinson and Da'Shawn Adams signed to play college football at Royals recent signing day.

Royal athletes sign to play at next level

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Brookshire Royals had two athletes sign to the collegiate level at their signing day last week, with Jeremiah Robinson and Da'Shawn Adams both signing national letters of intent to play collegiate football.

Robinson, a defensive end, signed to play at the University of Incarnate Word. He chose them over offers from Lamar, Louisiana Tech, Tuskegee, Northwestern State, Navy and Texas Southern.

Adams, a wide receiver who was named the District 10-4A, Division II offensive player of the year this season, signed with UTEP, choosing the Miners over offers from Texas Southern and Prairie View A&M. Adams was a big force for the Falcons this year, catching 33 passes for 849 yards and nine touchdowns, averaging 77 yards per game and over 25 yards per reception in his senior year.

Da'Shawn Adams signed to play football at UTEP.

COURTESY ROYAL ISD



COURTESY ROYAL ISD

Jeremiah Robinson signed to play football at the University of Incarnate Word.



COURTESY ROYAL ISD

Brookshire Royal head girls basketball coach Deidric McGowan won his 100th game as the head coach of the Falcons recently.

Royal's McGowan earns 100th head coaching win

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Brookshire Royal head coach Deidric McGowan recently won his 100th career game as a head coach, in what has been a very strong year for the Falcons. The Falcons earned big wins over

Needville and Wharton as McGowan earned his 100th coaching win, and Royal closed out the season on Tuesday to earn a co-district championship along with Navasota.

Royal has a 23-7 record so far this year and clinched a strong seed to start the playoffs by finishing district 12-1 record.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

University of Houston junior hurdler De'Vion Wilson broke a school and conference record to be named the American Athletic Conference player of the week.

University of Houston's Wilson earns conference honor

STAFF REPORT

University of Houston's junior hurdler De'Vion Wilson broke the school and conference record twice, earning American Athletic Conference Male Track Athlete of the Week honors.

The Austin, Texas, native ran the fourth-fastest time in the country in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.69 seconds. The time is the 13th-fastest time in the world so far this season. Wilson ranks fifth nationally and 22nd in the world on the descending order list.

In the preliminary heat of the 60 hurdles, Wilson ran 7.70 seconds, beating the school record by one one-hundredth of a second. In finals, the hurdler topped his previous time by another hundredth of a second to win the event for the third consecutive week.

Houston's previous school record of 7.71, set by Marcus McWilliams (2016) and then tied by Amere Lattin (2019), also stood as the conference record until Wilson ran 7.69 at the Houston Invitational.

Wilson is the first Cougar track and field athlete to win a weekly conference

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