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SPORTS | B1

Katy Times

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VOLUME 112, ISSUE 5

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Katy's FFA events – Livestock Show and Rodeo – set for February 15-17

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It's February – and that means it's the start of rodeo season!

Two of Katy's favorite hometown events – the Katy Rodeo and the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show – will take place February 15th through 17th. The rodeo – managed by the Katy Rodeo Association -- will be held at the W.E. Billy Morgan Rodeo Arena, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd., Katy, while the livestock show and auction – run by the Katy Independent School District -- will happen at the adjacent Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center at 5801 Katy Fort Bend Cut-Off Rd.

The two organizations work closely together to coordinate their events.

"The Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) FFA Livestock Show has been a cornerstone for students to showcase their talents in the field of agriculture," said the district in a January 29th press release. "This year marks the 81st edition of this esteemed event, and the district is proud to once again collaborate with the Katy Rodeo Committee to uphold this rich tradition."

See **SHOW**, page A3



Stickhorses for the Katy Rodeo's unique stickhorse race, designed for young children, are made by local FFA students. During January, over 75 students came together at the Ag Center to create over 250 horses for this year's event. Proceeds from the sale of the horses go toward the Katy Rodeo Association's scholarship fund.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KATY RODEO ASSOCIATION

'Tried & True... Red, White & Blue'

FFA Rodeo Parade coming Saturday morning in Katy

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The 2024 Katy FFA Rodeo Parade will take place on Saturday, February 17th at 9:30 a.m. The parade theme for 2024 is "Tried & True... Red, White, & Blue." Don and Ida Fay Elder will serve as Parade Grand Marshals; Don Elder is a former mayor of the City of Katy.

There is no charge to participate in the parade but pre-registration is required. Registration is open until Wednesday, February 14th. Participation Requirement: All parade entries will be required to pre-register. For registration forms See the website katyrodeo.org/documents/2024%20Parade%20Registration%20&%20Waiver.pdf to download the Registration Form and Waiver & Release from Liability Form. Parade Day Registration WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS.

See **PARADE**, page A3

Katy Rodeo features stickhorse race for young cowpokes

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Cowboys and cowgirls up to five years old can fulfill their dream of being a rodeo star by participating in the Katy Rodeo's unique stickhorse race, which is featured each of the three nights of the event, held February

15-17 at the W.E. Billy Morgan Rodeo Arena, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd., Katy.

The Stickhorse Race began about 30 years ago after "Aunt Dude" Morgan came up with the idea to get small children involved in the rodeo, said

See **STICKHORSE**, page A3

KATY FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHEDULE

Events (with the exception of the parade) will be held at Katy ISD Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut-Off Rd., Katy, 77493

TUESDAY, February 13, 2024

- 9 a.m.: Best Buddies Grand Drive
- 10 a.m.: Special Rodeo
- 1 p.m.: Art Show Judging
- 3:30 p.m.: All Lamb, Goat, and Swine must be in place
- 4-5 p.m.: Steers weigh-in at Barn #5
- 4-5:30 p.m.: Swine weigh-in at LD Robinson Pavilion
- 6 p.m.: Broiler Show
- 8 p.m.: Barn Closing

WEDNESDAY, February 14, 2024

- 8 a.m.: Online Barn Sale Opens for Broilers
- 9 a.m.: Floral Show
- 10 a.m.: Horticulture Show
- 2 p.m.: Rabbit Show
- 4-5:30 p.m.: Goats and Lambs weigh-in at LD Robinson Pavilion
- 8 p.m.: Barn Closing

THURSDAY, February 15, 2024

- 8 a.m.: Swine Show
- 8 a.m.: Online Barn Sale Opens for Floral, Horticulture, and Rabbits
- 1 p.m.: Steer Show*
- 2 p.m.: Ag Mech Show
- 4 p.m.: Online Barn Sale Opens for Swine
- 5 p.m.: Art Show Awards
- 7 p.m.: Rodeo Performance
- 8 p.m.: Barn Closing

FRIDAY, February 16, 2024

- 8 a.m.: Online Barn Sale Opens for Steers
- 8 a.m.: Goat Show
- 10 a.m.: Lamb Show* (Online Barn Sale opens for Goats and Lambs approx. one (1) 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

SATURDAY, February 17, 2024

- 9:30 a.m.: Parade
- 11 a.m.: Buyers' Luncheon Invitation Only
- 1 p.m.: Auction (Barn Sale Closes one hour after 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 mins after the conclusion of the previous show/event. Schedule subject to change without notice.

KATY FFA RODEO SCHEDULE

W.E. Billy Morgan Rodeo Arena
5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd Katy, Texas

February 15th through 17th

- Gates open at 6 p.m.
- Rodeo Start Time is 7 p.m. each night
- Carnival
 - o Thursday, February 15th – 7 p.m.
 - o Friday, February 16th – 7 p.m.
 - o Saturday, February 17th – 7 p.m.

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February 1, 2024
12 pages | \$1

Rotary members hear updates for 2024 Wild West Brew Fest

The group also honored three members with Paul Harris Fellow awards

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy Rotarians got a sneak peek at updates planned for the 2024 Wild West Brew Fest during the club's weekly meeting on January 25th at the Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Dr., Katy. The annual craft brew show is an all-volunteer effort which raises money for local scholarships and contributions to local charitable organizations.

Wild West Brew Fest is

moving this year to Typhoon Texas, said chairman and founder David Loesch. He said that the event is off to a good start – running ahead on volunteers and ticket sales. This year the focus is on customer service, Loesch said. "We want to give our customers a better VIP experience." He described how the VIP tents and Reserve Craft Room would be relocated to better serve VIPs and that VIPs would have better access to the silent auction items. Restrooms are also



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Beverly Yeiter (left) awards Paul Harris Fellow medallions to club members (left to right) David Loesch, who earned seven diamonds; Dusty Thiele, who earned six diamonds; and Thom Polvogt, who earned eight diamonds, during the January 25th meeting of the Katy Rotary Club at the Club at Falcon Point. The award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Rotarian, according to the organization's website.

being improved, Loesch said.

Loesch also said that the event would feature "stupid human tricks" in addition to great food in the new food hall.

The Katy club, which began a brewfest partnership with another Rotary club in Pflugerville, TX, in 2023, is also in talks with a club in

Orlando to begin a brew fest in that city. Discussions also started with a club in Las Vegas but fell apart, Loesch said.

The January 25th meeting also included an award ceremony, during which three club members

See **ROTARY**, page A3

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Fulshear branch library to hold Lunar New Year Celebration

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Libraries will host a Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 17, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the new Fulshear Branch Library. Activities and crafts celebrating the Year of the Dragon are planned for families with children of all ages.

Dancing lions from the Houston Lion Kings Dragon & Lion

Dance Sports Association will kick off the celebration at 2 p.m., in the lobby of the library. The dancing lions have been a very popular part of the celebration for many years.

Visitors may join in playing Cai Deng Mi, or "Guessing the Lantern's Riddle," and win a prize if the answer is correct! The answer to the question, "What building has the most stories?" may be simpler than one thinks!

Visitors will also have an opportunity to learn about the art of Chinese calligraphy. A station will be set up in the lobby, where Peter Maa, a volunteer instructor at the T.E. Harman Center in Sugar Land, will demonstrate the art of calligraphy by writing names in Chinese.

Calligraphy masters will be available to write names in Chinese. Children may visit the library's Youth Department, where

they can make their own paper lantern to take home with them.

The Chinese Lantern Festival marks the culmination of the Lunar New Year celebration. The festival is part of an ancient ceremony welcoming spring, and the lantern symbolizes the lengthening days of the season. It is also thought to ward off evil spirits.

The Lunar New Year activities are free and open to the public.

For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), or call the Fulshear Branch Library (346-481-6800) or the library system's Communications Office (281-633-4734).

Fort Bend County Libraries' Fulshear Branch Library is located at 6350 GM Library Road, off Texas Heritage Parkway, north of FM 1092.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

"Adopt a Bluebird Nest Box" on February 3rd at Willow Fork Park

Friends of Willow Fork Park will host "Adopt a Bluebird Nest Box," on Saturday February 3 from 8 to 9 a.m. in cooperation with Wild Birds Unlimited-Katy. This is a free, family-friendly activity for all ages. Help out the Eastern Bluebird population in the Katy area through building and adopting a backyard nest box. Please plan to attend with your family, or by yourself, and help build these structures. All materials will be provided. The one-hour program starts at 8 a.m. at the pavilion. Willow Fork Park was developed by Willow Fork Drainage District in collaboration with Katy ISD and is located at the northwest corner of 99/Grand Parkway and Cinco Ranch Blvd., north of Cinco Ranch High School.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Friends of Willow Fork Park will host "Adopt a Bluebird Nest Box," on Saturday February 3 from 8 to 9 a.m. in cooperation with Wild Birds Unlimited-Katy.

Cinco Ranch Library presents African drum performance on February 10th

In recognition of Black History Month, Fort Bend County Libraries will present a special musical performance of "African Hand-Drumming" on Saturday, February 10, beginning at 11 a.m., in the Meeting Room of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.



Enjoy the traditional tribal rhythms and spiritual gifts of West African djembe drumming in a special performance by Gregg "Jebada" Powell, founder and director of the Joy of Djembe Drumming Ensemble. Powell will talk about the history of the instrument and the culture of the people who originally produced it. He will perform a variety of rhythms to demonstrate the influences of

different countries and traditions. Powell began playing hand drums in 1964 in the Spanish Harlem neighborhood of Upper Manhattan in New York City, where he grew up. He

learned to play the congas, bata drums, timbales, and the African djembe, and his primary focus has been on Latin, Afro-Cuban, and West African rhythms.

Thought to have been created by the Mandé people during the Malian Empire approximately 400 to 800 years ago, the djembe drum is a rope-tuned skin-covered drum played with bare hands. The goblet-shaped body of the djembe drum is carved of a single piece of African hardwood and its drumhead is made of untreated rawhide, most commonly made from goatskin.

The Joy of Djembe Drumming Ensemble is a group of Houston musicians who share the joy of music, particularly that of West African djembe drumming. Made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, the performance is free and open to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), or call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library (281-395-1311) or the library system's Communications Office (281-633-4734).

AARP to meet on February 13th

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday February 13 at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd in Katy. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a short meeting and announcements. Afterwards, entertainment will be provided by vocalist Dennis Evans, a versatile entertainer with something for everyone. He sings songs from many eras and styles including big band, jazz, rock, and country. His show is sprinkled with light humor and he takes requests. Visitors are welcome. Allow time to purchase any food before the meeting starts.

Join Katy Packathon 2024

at Faith West Academy on February 24th

Registration is open for the Katy Packathon 2024. Rally your families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, churches, community organizations, and sporting groups, or come on your own and help pack part of the 1 MILLION NUTRITIOUS MEAL goal for children in need in 2024. Every participant will serve about two hours and package around 240 meals - enough food to feed



one child lunch for up to an entire school year! Communities locally, nationally, and internationally will be impacted by your service of this amazing "mission trip" in our backyard. The event will be held Thursday, February 22nd through Saturday, February 24th at in the gym at Faith West Academy, 2225 Porter Rd, Katy. Register here: <https://www.feedthehunger.org/katy/>. If you can't attend the Packathon, But wish to make a contribution to sponsor meals, please go to the Katy Donation page:

[feedthehunger.org/katy-packathon-donation/](https://www.feedthehunger.org/katy-packathon-donation/)

If you would like to give by check, please make the check out to Feed the Hunger and in the memo write Katy PAT 2024 and mail the check to PO Box 2347 | Burlington, NC | 27216

Celebrate Lunar New Year at No Label on February 25th and see the Lion Dances



Get ready for a vibrant explosion of culture and fun on February 25th! No Label Brewery is bringing the Lion Dances to the silos - a spectacle you don't want to miss, and it's absolutely FREE! Enjoy an array of delicious treats from food vendors and choose exclusive Lunar New Year merchandise. The Lion Dances start at 3 p.m. No Label Brewery is located at 5351 1st St in Katy.

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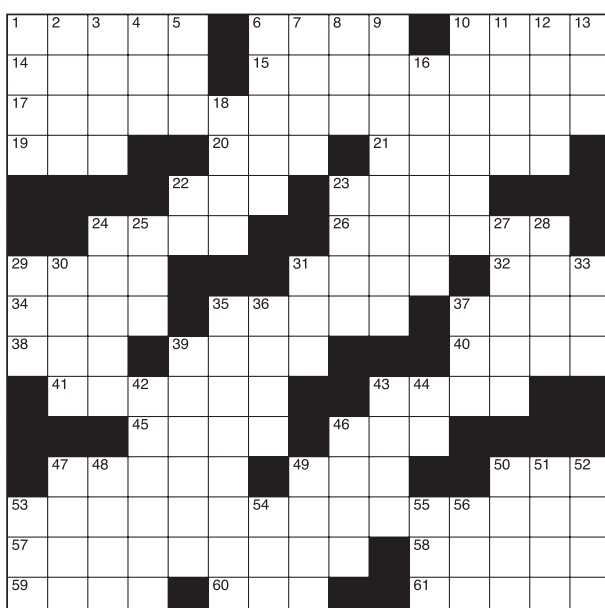
CLUES ACROSS

- Become less intense
- Variety of pear
- Religion native to China
- Type of tooth
- Fitted out
- Make every effort
- Autonomic nervous system
- Complete
- Alternate name
- River in France and Belgium
- Miami's mascot is one
- Turfs
- Most cognizant of reality
- Broad volcanic crater
- Canadian surname
- Satisfaction
- Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- Collide
- Immune response
- Feline
- High opinion of one's own appearance
- Thin strip to align parts
- Containers
- Convicted American spy
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- I.M._, architect
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal

- Dutch and German surname
- Square measures
- 2,000 lbs.
- Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

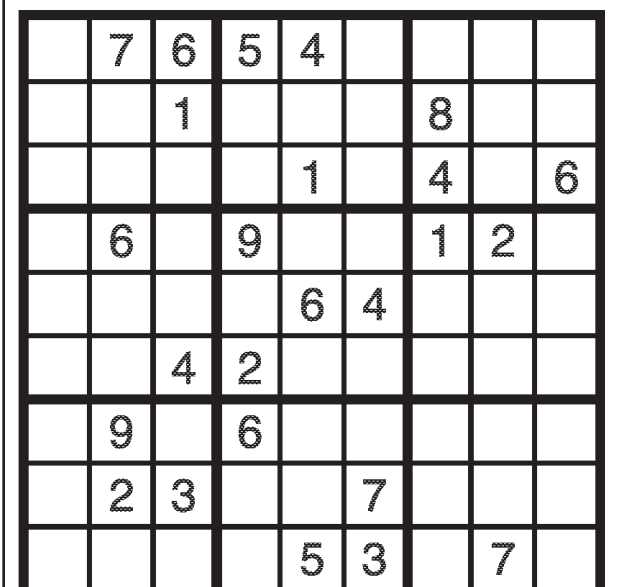
- Siberian river
- Blessing
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Principle underlying the universe
- Work unit
- Yellow edible fruits
- Gemstone
- A place ships dock (abbr.)
- Evergreen tropical tree
- Reality TV star Richards
- Nonflowering aquatic plant
- Stakes
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Make warm again
- Light beams
- Lethal dose
- Terrorist group
- Kids love him
- Naturally occurring solid
- German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- Popular cuisine
- Partner to cheese
- Type of horse
- ___ Diego
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Most shrewd
- It may be for shopping



- Midway between south and southeast
- A stock of foods
- The bindings of books
- Swiss river
- Megabyte
- Sammy ___, songwriter
- Dutch colonist
- Clare Booth ___, American writer
- Sun or solar disk
- Popular type of bread
- Transfers of money (abbr.)
- Association of engineering professionals
- Young women's association
- City
- Niger-Congo branch of languages
- Pointed end of a pen

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

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Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SHOW

from page A1

According to a statement on its website, Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show and Rodeo Association, Inc. (KFLSRA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation consisting of Katy area business leaders, current and former FFA parents, and other volunteers created to hold the annual rodeo that has been a Katy institution for over 78 years. The rodeo supports agricultural education within the Katy Independent School District and is held in conjunction with the school district's annual FFA livestock show. The rodeo association also works with other community organizations to put on the rodeo: concessions are operated by Knights of Columbus #6950 - St. Bartholomew, and gate ticket sales are handled by the VFW Post #9182 Ladies Auxiliary.

The combined events feature the

rodeo - with favorites like mutton busting, barrel racing, the stick horse race, a calf scramble and other traditional rodeo competitions - and a carnival, and the livestock show, which includes a livestock auction. The carnival opens each evening at 7 p.m.

Gates open at 6 p.m. each evening with - rodeo start time at 7 p.m. Tickets, which range from \$7.00 to \$15.00, may be purchased from outhousetickets.com:

- \$15 - Adult General Admission
- \$7 - Child General Admission (Ages 4-11 - Ages 3 and Under are Free - ALL Children are Free on Thursday Night)
- Thursday is Military and First Responder Night - FREE ADMISSION with Valid ID

PLEASE NOTE: All events are Rain-or-Shine. With the exception of complete event cancellation, no refunds

will be issued. Refunds due to personal unforeseen circumstances may be covered if the request meets limited conditions and Refund Protection was purchased.

For additional information:

Katy Rodeo Association

- Email Address: KFLSRA.President@gmail.com
 - For general Rodeo questions, contact KFLSRA.President@gmail.com
 - For Mutton Bustin questions only, contact Gail Hanna gailhanna0802@yahoo.com
 - For Jr. Barrel questions, contact Steven Poorman poormansteven@gmail.com
- Katy ISD: Contact Nick Petito, General Manager of Media Relations at nicholaspetito@katyisd.org.

PARADE

from page A1

Parade Route: Parade will depart the West gate of Rhodes Stadium onto Katyland Drive, proceeding south on Katyland Drive to Old Katy Road/Hwy 90, then west on Old Katy Road/Hwy 90 to FM 1463, turning south on FM 1463 to end at Katy High School. The parade route is approximately two miles long, and the Judges Stand is about the halfway point.

Judging: Parade Judging Categories are: Adult General Cars, Toys and Tractors Churches/Church Organizations Civic Organizations Commercial Cowboys/Cowgirls Performing/Marching Groups School Organizations Scouting Organizations Performing for Judges: Any group that wishes to perform for the judges MUST be ready to start their performance when they reach the judges stand. Each group will have 30 SECONDS to perform. After 30 seconds, participants will be asked to move on so the parade can run smoothly.

Awards: First and second place will be awarded in each judging category with a plaque. Winners will be available after 3:00 p.m. on parade day by either e-mailing KatyRodeoParade@gmail.com, or viewing the list posted on the Katy Rodeo Facebook page. Awards will be mailed to the address on the registration form. For more parade information, please contact the Parade Committee directly at KatyRodeoParade@gmail.com.

ROTARY

from page A1

received Paul Harris Fellow medallions. Named after Paul Harris, founder of Rotary in 1905 in Chicago, the award is available to Rotarians and non-Rotarians who demonstrate the high professional and personal standards exemplified by Paul Harris. According to the organization's website, the award is given by The Rotary Foundation in recognition of substantial and exemplary community service in support of Rotary ideals. The award is also available to individuals who make substantial financial contributions to Rotary Foundation, with a diamond awarded for each \$1000.00 contribution. Recipients were Dusty Thiele, who earned six diamonds; David Loesch, who earned seven diamonds; and Thom Polvogt, who earned eight diamonds.



David Loesch, founder and chairman of the Katy Rotary Club's Wild West Brew Fest, updates club members and media representatives on new features of the 2024 Wild West Brew Fest during the organization's weekly meeting at the Club at Falcon Point on January 25th. The beer fest, which raises funds for local scholarships, will be held at Typhoon Texas on March 21-23.

SUSAN ROVEGNO

STICKHORSE

from page A1

Carrie Lowery, a member of the Rodeo Committee and the Chairman of the Stickhorse Committee and Rodeo Scholarship Committee. "Since that time, several generations of Katy Citizens have been able to run across the rodeo dirt and feel the adrenaline of being in the rodeo arena," said Lowery.

The horses sold at the gate are made every year by Katy ISD high school FFA students and are each as unique as the students who make them and the children who ride them, says the association's website.

"Eventually, the idea of making stick horses and selling them came about as a way to raise funds for the Rodeo Scholarship," said Lowery. "Several years ago, I decided to include all of the FFA Chapters in creating them. Each year, FFA Students from across the district meet at the Ag Facility to make at least 200 stickhorses. The students earn community service hours, but also enjoy working alongside FFA members from other schools, and really like picking out the horse

they 'made' when they race on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. This year, we had over 75 FFA members help make the stickhorses."

Over 250 stickhorses were made by the students this year by the in a two-hour session at the Ag Center, said Nick Petito, Katy ISD General Manager of Media Relations.

During the rodeo, the rodeo association sells the stickhorses to children five and under for just \$10. However, the rodeo association's website cautions that the stickhorses sell out fast, and early purchase is recommended. Entrants are welcome to bring their own stickhorses; there is no other cost to participate.

It's not necessary to sign up to race -- an announcement will be made during the course of the evening to come down to the gate to line-up for the race, according to the association's website. There will be someone on both sides of the arena holding up a sign for participants to come down for the race shortly before the announcement as well.

"We call for all stickhorse racers during the rodeo, and they meet us on the end of the arena and we go in and run toward the end! We do not charge for participation in the race, and children are allowed to bring their own stickhorses if they would like. Every child leaves the arena with a ribbon, and this is a great photo opportunity for our families," said Lowery. "My own children are 23, and I still have all of their stickhorse ribbons! It really is a great time for families to do something together, and honor the traditions that the Morgans started so many years ago."

"We don't have set age requirements for participation in the stick horse races," says the association's website. "However we recommend ages 3 to 8; simply because children are running in the dirt arena and any younger than 3 may struggle over the terrain, and typically by 9 years, or 3rd Grade and older, kids are too big to run along side their younger counterparts. We encourage parents to use their judgment as to what is

best for their family."

The proceeds from the stickhorse sales go towards the Rodeo Scholarships given out by the Rodeo Association each year. Typically, the Rodeo Committee gives two to five Rodeo Scholarships of \$1,000 each to a deserving FFA Member based on their application and involvement in the FFA.

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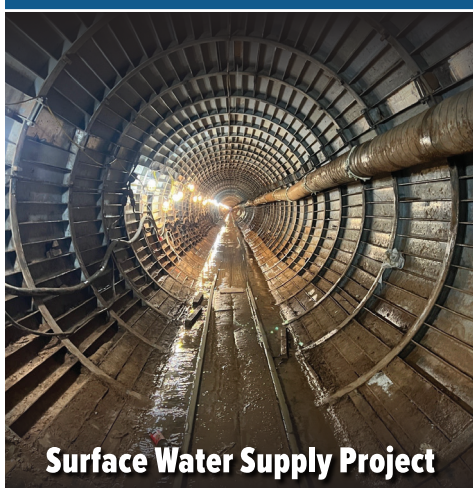


Northeast Water Purification Plant Expansion Project



Created by the Texas Legislature in 2001 to comply with groundwater reduction as mandated by the Harris Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD), the WHCRWA is committed to securing a long-term supply of quality drinking water as well as promoting water conservation.

whcrwa.com/projects



Surface Water Supply Project



WHCRWA Distribution Lines

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FACILITY ID #105906

Fellowship Church celebrates 30th anniversary

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A huge outdoor celebration is planned for Sunday, February 25th, as the Fellowship Church, 22765 Westheimer Parkway, commemorates its 30th anniversary. “We will have our two regular services with lots of celebrating the past and anticipating the future of what God has in store for The Fellowship,” said lead pastor Dr. Jerry Edmonson in an interview with the Katy Times. “After the services, we will have food, music, and outdoor activities. Just praying the weather cooperates that time of year.”

Dr. Edmonson is not only the lead pastor but also the founder of the congregation, which is generationally, ethnically, and culturally diverse. The Fellowship is led by a body of elders, pastors and staff that seek to become “whole people who take the whole gospel to the whole world,” he said.

The actual anniversary date of the congregation is February 13, 1994, when the Fellowship was formed after a split from another congregation. The Fellowship was originally a church plant of Katy’s First Baptist Church, where Dr. Edmonson was on staff as their Teaching Pastor. Dr. Edmonson planted the church on February 13, 1994, with several families from First Baptist with a heart to reach the families and neighbors of the growing community of Cinco Ranch. He prayed two prayers at the beginning: “Lord, I want to begin a church that I can give my life to,” and “Lord, I don’t ever want to be the bottleneck to what You want to do.”



DR. JERRY EDMONSON

The Fellowship originally began as The Fellowship at Cinco Ranch. It met at Fielder Elementary for seven years and then Williams Elementary for one year and then at the Monty Ballard YMCA while their first building was being completed, which just happens to be across from the church’s property. The Fellowship is situated on just over ten acres in the heart of Cinco Ranch at the corner of Peek Road and Westheimer Parkway. It has two buildings that were built with the community in mind. It has been the dream of The Fellowship to build multipurpose buildings that are utilitarian. Dr. Edmonson said. From the beginning, The Fellowship has opened its doors to the community, nonprofits, other churches, and organizations desiring to bless the community, he added.

When asked what makes the Fellowship stand out among Katy’s many churches, Dr. Edmonson

responded: “The Fellowship loves Katy and our community of great churches. We pray for two to three churches every Sunday by name and believe that we are called to work together for the common good of our city. Katy is a city of churches that love each other and collaborate for the glory of God. The Fellowship strives to live out its mission embodying five values that spell the word GREAT: Gospel centered, Relentlessly relational, Externally focused, Authentically transparent, and Teaching the next generation.”

The Fellowship is also unique in that it seeks to develop Followership. Followership is a process developed by Dr. Edmonson that describes the priority and practice of following Christ first and leading others second. That desire is fueled by their commitment to their spiritual formation process called Faith Walking.

The Fellowship is committed to

servicing the community. It has been involved in starting Compassion Katy and several other nonprofits such as Friends of Sundown and Katy Cares. It leads, trains, and encourages its members to have a ministry in the church and a mission in the world. The Fellowship is also currently partnering with KISD Keys Mentoring and Compassion Katy’s Back 2 School Backpack Drive. “When there is a need, The Fellowship seeks to come alongside, partner with, collaboratively working in whatever way possible to meet needs in our community,” Dr. Edmonson said.

According to the church’s website, services are about 75 minutes and consist of a time of worship and prayer, a message, an opportunity to give, announcements, and communion, twice a month. Services are at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. For more information on the celebration and the congregation, go to thefellowship.org.

Katy attorney expands with additional office in Sugar Land

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy personal injury and accident lawyer Shane McClelland has expanded his practice and is opening a new location in Sugar Land at 18722 University Blvd, Suite 243. McClelland will maintain his current location at 21733 Provincial Suite 910 in Katy and will accept clients at the new Sugar Land office by appointment only.

The firm provides compassionate legal representation and pursues financial damages for victims of personal injuries caused by negligence. “It’s crucial for people injured because of another’s negligence to have an attorney who can passionately serve them while tenaciously pursuing the financial damages they deserve,” said McClelland’s office in a press release.

With Shane McClelland’s free consultation process, potential clients discuss the facts of their case and allow the attorney to assess the situation and clarify the best path forward without upfront costs. In fact, they only pay if the Law Office of Shane McClelland recovers money. Personal injury victims may be entitled to various forms of compensation,

including but not limited to medical costs, lost income, property damage, emotional suffering, inconvenience, loss of companionship, disability or disfigurement, diminished earning ability, and pain and suffering.

Something that sets Shane McClelland apart from other attorneys is that he is available to speak directly with his clients without the client having to go through an army of paralegals or case managers. He believes in providing personal attention to every client and does not hand off responsibility to junior attorneys or assistants. According to attorney McClelland, “My passion is to serve members of my community by providing compassionate legal representation to injured people. The difference with our firm is that we put our client’s needs first and vigorously pursue the best outcome for each client’s case. That means you are our number one priority. We walk side-by-side and shoulder-to-shoulder with our clients to give them the personalized representation they need and deserve.”

For more information about the Sugar Land location of the Law Office of Shane McClelland, visit <https://www.hmtrial.com/sugar-land-personal-injury-attorney/>

Katy Cares honored for family support

FROM STAFF REPORTS



Dr. Dawid J. Pieterse, president of local nonprofit Katy Cares, Inc., announced on January 25th that the organization had been named “Best Single-Parent Family Support Organization 2023” in December by the EMG Publishing Ltd. Global 100 Awards, a group that recognizes and celebrates excellence across the globe.

Katy Cares, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2016 as a solution-driven response to the community’s most vulnerable population – single-parent families who are victims of trauma due to a life-altering event such as separation, divorce, abuse, intimidation, domestic violence, financial challenge caused by loss of employment, income, child support, and/or a natural disaster.

Sunterra is Texas’ best-selling community

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Sunterra — a Katy community by Starwood Land and its development partner Land Tejas — is the top-selling master-planned community in Texas for 2023, according to a report by RCLCO Real Estate Consulting, said a January 11th press release from Land Tejas. Builders sold

1,293 homes last year in Sunterra, which is ranked third nationally and leads all communities in Texas for most sales in 2023.

“Buyers continue to seek out Sunterra, drawn by Katy ISD and Royal ISD schools, an amazing array of planned amenities and the very best homebuilders in the country,” said John Brian, Regional President for Starwood

Land. “2023 was incredible, with new-home sales increasing 63 percent over the prior year. Construction beginning on the amenities along with incentives offered by homebuilders designed to help lower interest rates also attributed to the increase in Sunterra sales. The Retreat will open later this year.”

Sunterra was listed at No. 8 in last year’s ranking.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Katy ISD celebrates winter graduation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On the evening of Thursday, January 25, Katy ISD held its Winter Graduation ceremony to celebrate a significant milestone in the academic journey of the 113 students who were successful in meeting or exceeding their graduation requirements. The event was held at the Leonard Merrell Center, 6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy. "We extend our warmest congratu-

lations to the winter graduates of Katy ISD. Your tireless dedication to your education has led you to this significant accomplishment," said Ronnie Edwards, Assistant Superintendent. "As you embark on new adventures, remember that your education is a powerful tool, and we have full confidence in your ability to make a positive impact on the world. Best wishes for a bright and successful future," he added.

Texas Leadership Scholars program offers full-ride scholarship to eligible students

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas Leadership Scholars program is seeking applicants for its Fall 2024 cohort. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

Students selected for the program will have tuition and fees fully covered for all four years of their experience provided they attend a participating institution and continue to meet program requirements. They will also receive a stipend covering the average cost of room and board at their university.

In addition to financial assistance, students in the Texas Leadership Scholars program will benefit from a peer network, mentoring, and more. The program includes a scholar-specific living-learn-

ing community for the first two years of the program; peer, corporate, and alumni mentoring; and access to undergraduate research experiences.

To be eligible, students must demonstrate the following:

- Evidence of leadership and service in their community
- Scholastic record and ability
- Demonstrated financial need
- Graduation from an accredited Texas high school
- Acceptance to a participating four-year institution

Information on eligibility, the application process, participating universities, and more can be found at texasleadershipscholars.org.

Katy ISD celebrates students' Exemplary Musical Achievement

71 students earn All-State honors

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) proudly announced on January 10th the outstanding achievement of 71 of its talented musicians who have earned the prestigious All-State honors following a rigorous and highly competitive selection process. According to the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) which sponsors the Texas All-State competition, only 2.6% of musicians who initially audition earn All-State

recognition, making this accomplishment particularly special.

This competitive process begins across the state with over 70,000 students competing through auditions hosted by 33 TMEA Regions. Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part. Based on this ranking, a select group of musicians advance from their respective Region to compete against musicians from other areas in eight TMEA Area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians from the TMEA Area competitions earn the privilege to perform at the 2024 TMEA

Convention in San Antonio, an event that attracts an annual attendance of over 30,000 attendees.

"We are incredibly proud of these students for their remarkable accomplishment in earning All-State honors. This achievement is a testament to their unwavering dedication and musical abilities, as well as the support of their families," said Damon Archer, Executive Director of Fine Arts. "I also want to extend my deep appreciation to our exceptional teachers whose role has been instrumental in shaping these accomplished musicians," he added.

The 2024 TMEA All-State Musicians include:

| Name | Instrument | School | Name | Instrument | School |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Noah Machart | Cornet/Trumpet | Cinco Ranch | Benjamin Bush | Eb Clarinet | Seven Lakes |
| Julia Wright | F Horn | Cinco Ranch | Olivia Owen | F Horn | Seven Lakes |
| Ryan Gover | Percussion | Cinco Ranch | Sarah Clarridge | Violin 1 | Seven Lakes |
| Micah Marsh | Tenor 2 | Cinco Ranch | Sam Lin | Violin 1 | Seven Lakes |
| Lucy Ebben | Cello | Cinco Ranch | ChenXi Ling | Violin 2 | Seven Lakes |
| Peiyao Ning | Viola | Cinco Ranch | Brady Ji | Violin 2 | Seven Lakes |
| Rosemary Chen | Flute | Jordan | Samir Gandhi | Viola | Seven Lakes |
| Daniel Yu | Oboe | Jordan | Bill Sun | Cello | Seven Lakes |
| Brayden Sanchez | Contra-Bass | Jordan | Shugo Sakamoto | String Bass | Seven Lakes |
| Diane Shim | Soprano 1 | Jordan | Grace Dias | Viola | Seven Lakes |
| Sasha Shetty | Soprano 1 | Jordan | Parham Vakili | Piano | Seven Lakes |
| Ava Cooper | Alto 2 | Jordan | Ella Jackson | Bassoon | Taylor |
| Christian Olowookere | Bass 1 | Jordan | Michael Guzman | Cornet/Trumpet | Taylor |
| Nathan Xu | Violin 1 | Jordan | Jonas Ruelas | Tenor Trombone | Taylor |
| Brian Rhee | Viola | Jordan | Cristian Rodriguez | Tenor 1 | Taylor |
| Jeweet Fang | Cello | Jordan | Henry Liu | Violin 2 | Taylor |
| Pranav Kelwada | String Bass | Jordan | Michael Brockmann | String Bass | Taylor |
| Sophie Zeng | Violin 1 | Jordan | Adam Spillman | Violin 2 | Taylor |
| Jacob Jang | Cello | Jordan | Sophia Tang | Violin 1 | Taylor |
| Maxwell Tang | Violin 1 | Jordan | Leah Wu | Bassoon | Tompkins |
| Timothy Shim | Violin 2 | Jordan | Bridget Collier | Percussion | Tompkins |
| Daniel Hribik | Violin 2 | Jordan | Maria Diaz | Soprano 2 | Tompkins |
| Huanran(Henry) Yu | Violin 2 | Jordan | Sri Pithani | Alto 2 | Tompkins |
| Jaiden Suh | Viola | Jordan | Carter Andry | Bass 1 | Tompkins |
| Caleb Elrod | Bass Trombone | Katy | Skyler Karnopp | Alto 1 | Tompkins |
| Saniya Menzies | Soprano 2 | Katy | Anisha Arumilli | Alto 2 | Tompkins |
| Mackenzie Simkins | Alto 1 | Katy | Jake Jiang | Violin 1 | Tompkins |
| Jessica Miranda | Alto 1 | Katy | Arjun Chandupatla | Violin 2 | Tompkins |
| Jerald Mercado | Tenor 1 | Katy | Kendall Porter | Cello | Tompkins |
| Brennan Ellsworth | Bass 1 | Katy | Peter Song | Violin 1 | Tompkins |
| Luke Gosch | Bass 2 | Katy | Crystal Yang | Viola | Tompkins |
| Adryan Pineda | Tenor 2 | Katy | Lydia Kang | Cello | Tompkins |
| Ari Gopinath | Alto 2 | Morton Ranch | Andrew Yang | Cello | Tompkins |
| Walter Bryant | Bass 2 | Paetow | Yuchan Chung | Violin 1 | Tompkins |
| Daniella Sellers | Alto 1 | Paetow | Ray Cheng | Cello | Tompkins |
| Jude Sepulveda | String Bass | Paetow | | | |

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Bates passes 2,000 career points in win over Jordan

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

There's been a lot of boxes checked for AJ Bates over his four-year varsity career at Seven Lakes.

Back-to-back district MVP's, back to back district championships, an undefeated district championship, Seven Lakes all-time leading scorer — those are just some of the accomplishments that Bates has achieved so far in his career. But one he has been chasing for a long time has been to join a club no

AJ Bates goes through contact to shoot a layup during Saturday's game between Seven lakes and Jordan at the Jordan gym.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Spartan has ever reached, by scoring 2,000 points in his career.

It's a milestone Bates has been chasing all season and nearly got earlier this week when he had a 36 point performance in a win over Mayde Creek, but he saved it for an even more important game, reaching that point during a critical point during the Spartans 81-67 win over Morton Ranch on Saturday.

"This is special for me, but it's not just about me," Bates said. "My teammates are what's gotten me to this point. From my freshman year to now, they've made me a better man and a better player. But this is something that I've really put in the work to accomplish and I'm just glad that I've made it — it's really special."

The moment for Bates came early

in the third quarter when Bates got free after a pump fake and put up a floater from the free throw line. Those points, along with every point, were badly needed in what had been a very close game through the first half. But that's what Bates has done his entire career — come up with tough points when the Spartans needed it and that floater started a big run that helped Seven Lakes pull away for the win in the second half as the Spartans were able to celebrate both the win and Bates reaching such a big milestone.

"Good things happen to good people and career milestones come when you put in the hard work," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston.

See **BASKETBALL**, page B2

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

- Jordan vs. Tompkins, 7 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 1 p.m.

Wednesday

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

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

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

Wednesday

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

WRESTLING

Thursday

- District 9-6A Championships, 8:30 a.m.



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

TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes' Carlton named McDonald's All-American

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Justice Carlton was named a McDonald's All-American on Tuesday, just another honor for the Seven Lakes forward that is one of the nation's top basketball players.

Carlton was named to the All-American games Western roster, becoming

one of just 24 players in the entire United States to be named to the game who will play at the highest level of high school basketball in the country.

"Justice's inclusion in the McDonald's All-American Team is a reflection of her outstanding commitment to the game. Her talent, leadership and hard work have

See **CARLTON**, page B2

Katy moves into third in district with win over Jordan

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has put together a strong season by playing for each other.

The Tigers don't do things individually — everything up and down the court is done as a team with only winning in mind, and that's led to the Tigers being right in the middle of the playoff hunt in District 19-6A.

Katy faced one of the most important games of its season so far on Friday, as they went against Jordan in a battle of teams that were tied in the district standings as both tried to keep pace in an ever competitive top half of the district. In the end, the Tigers came away with a big victory, winning 75-58 behind a tremendous second half where they never let Jordan get into the game.

"It's all about finding the win in front of you and getting that one, and that's what the kids focused on today," said Katy head coach Michael Elizondo. "I was so proud of how unselfish all of the guys on the court were and how they stepped things up. It was a great game from those kids and they played for each other."

Jordan jumped out in front of the



Tomas Belaiter scored 21 points in Katy's win over Jordan.

TYLER TYRE

See **KATY**, page B2

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AJ Bates tries to get past Elijah Black during Saturday's game between Seven lakes and Jordan at the Jordan gym.

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KATY

from page B1

beginning of the game and had control for most of the first half, but Katy managed to keep it close as Jordan led 18-12 after the first quarter and 35-32 at halftime.

But something flipped for the Tigers in the locker room before the third quarter and they came out and locked down Jordan with their defense in the second half. Katy kept cutting into the deficit and finally retook the lead for the first time since the early goings in the first quarter when they made it 48-46 late in the third.

Katy went into the final quarter up 52-50 and never looked back, pulling away down the stretch and stifling the Jordan offense throughout the fourth quarter.

"We just had a different level of urgency in the second half," Elizondo said. "They controlled the pace and were more physical than us in the first half and we turned that around in the second half. We really stressed about playing in the half court on both sides and making Jordan take tough shots, because that's a really good team with guys who can score. So we tried to contest every possession and make it hard. Our kids did that in the second half and really embraced it."

Tomas Belaïter led the way for Katy with 21 points, while Brady Willis had 20 and Michael Hernandez had 19. The win put Katy in sole possession of third place in district, but there are more tough games coming up, as the Tigers' next two opponents are both playoff contenders in Paetow and Cinco Ranch.

"We competed the way we need to every game in that second half," Belaïter said. "We have to come in every day in practice and keep that same energy, keep working towards that goal and see where it takes us because we know that we can compete with anyone."

District 19-6A

KATY 75, JORDAN 58

Points: (K) Tomas Belaïter 21, Brady Willis 20, Michael Hernandez 19, Jayden Stewart 6, Joel Cashiola 4, Blake Gillespie 2, Greg Santos 2; (J) Elijah Black 21, Jaden Holt 13, Rayan Fadika 9, Jalen Black 6, Jude Oluokun 3, Landon Kjar 2, Jacob Oluokun 2, Corey Nicholson 2;

Halftime: Jordan 35-32; 3-Pointer: (K) Stewart 2, Willis; (J) Black 3, Holt 2, Jude Oluokun; Records: (K) 17-9, 7-3; (J) 21-7, 6-4;

BASKETBALL

from page B1

"When you look at the greatest players at the highest level, their work effort is legendary. Even here, every district MVP from Katy ISD put in extra hours in and it just sets the tone for every person who comes through these schools. It's not an accident that the kids who are determined to get work in improve. That's what separates great from good. It's been so fun to watch him grow into the man he is."

The Spartans and Warriors went punch for punch in the first half, as Bates had a slow start but Nasir Price, Brett Norton and Isaiah Santos stepping up to lead Seven Lakes. Bates turned it on in the third quarter, scoring 11 points and making plays on defense as the Spartans pulled away with the game eventually turning into a blowout in the fourth.

"We turned defense into offense in the third quarter," Bates said. "I didn't do as good of that in the first half but in that third quarter we were so engaged defensively and it got us easy buckets. It helped us come out with a win and that's the important thing."

This has been Bates' strongest season yet.

He is playing within himself both with and without the ball and is on a team where a number of players can create their own shot. The senior is averaging 22 points per game and has helped lead the Spartans to a No. 9 ranking in the state and so far an unbeaten run throughout district.

"AJ is the head of the snake for us, he's the lead guy and if he gets going it's always great for us," Heston said. "But the great thing about his group is that other guys get it going as well and it makes AJ even more dangerous and that's a really cool thing."

This milestone hasn't satisfied Bates though and he knows there is more to do in his final high school season. Firstly, he is determined to become Seven Lakes all time assist leader, a mark he is inching towards every game, and he wants to keep the Spartans' 32-game district win streak going through the end of the season. But there are bigger goals as well. Getting a second straight undefeated district championship is the first of those, then getting back to regional tour-

namment, and the biggest one for both Bates and the Spartans is finding a way to get to San Antonio and the state tournament.

"We have big goals but for us we have to focus game to game," Bates said. "We can't think too far ahead or worry about the future, but we can focus on beating every opponent ahead of us. There's things still to work on — our defensive communication, those types of things. We have to keep improving and staying in the here and now."

District 19-6A

SEVEN LAKES 81, JORDAN 67

Points: (SL) Nasir Price 22, AJ Bates 20, Isaiah Santos 19, Brett Norton 15, Christian Follis 3, Tillman Jaramillo 2; (J) Elijah Black 21, Rayan Fadika 19, Jaden Holt 13, Jude Oluokun 7, Jacob Oluokun 4;

Halftime: Seven Lakes 37, Jordan 35; 3-Pointers: (SL) Price 4, Norton 2, Bates, Follis; (J) Black 2, Rayan Fadika 2, Holt; Records: (SL) 29-2, 12-0; (J) 22-8, 7-5

CARLTON

from page B1

been a driving force for our team, and we are thrilled to see her recognized on a national stage."

Carlton is a five-star recruit who is ranked as the No.7 player in the 2024 class, along with being the highest ranked player out of the state of Texas.

She is joined by fellow University of Texas commit Jordan Lee, who was also named to the Western roster for this springs game.

Carlton is on a roll with the Spartans at the moment, as they have surged up the District 19-6A standings and are currently tied for first in district with Tompkins. Carlton has been a huge part of that since her return from injury shortly before the Christmas break as Seven Lakes continues to improve behind her and Mad-

ison Carlton's play.

The McDonalds All-American game will be played very close by, as it will be held at the Toyota Center in Houston at 5:30 p.m. on April 2. Following is the full roster for the game.

"Witnessing Justice receive this well-deserved recognition brings immense pride to our school," said Kerri Finnesand, Principal of Seven Lakes High School. "Her hard work, determination, and sportsmanship serve as an inspiration to her teammates and fellow students,"

West

- Imari Berry
- Jaloni Cambridge
- Justice Carlton
- Morgan Cheli

- Avery Howell
- Jordan Lee
- Alivia McGill
- Me'Arah O'Neal
- Mackenly Randolph
- Arianna Roberson
- Kennedy Smith
- Allie Ziebell

East

- Mikayla Blakes
- Kendall Dudley
- Joyce Edwards
- Kayleigh Heckel
- Zamareya Jones
- Kate Koval
- Maddy McDaniel
- Olivia Olson
- Zania Socka
- Sarah Strong
- Sylva Swords
- Berry Wallace



Justice Carlton dribbles under the basket during a game between Seven Lakes and Taylor at the Taylor gym.

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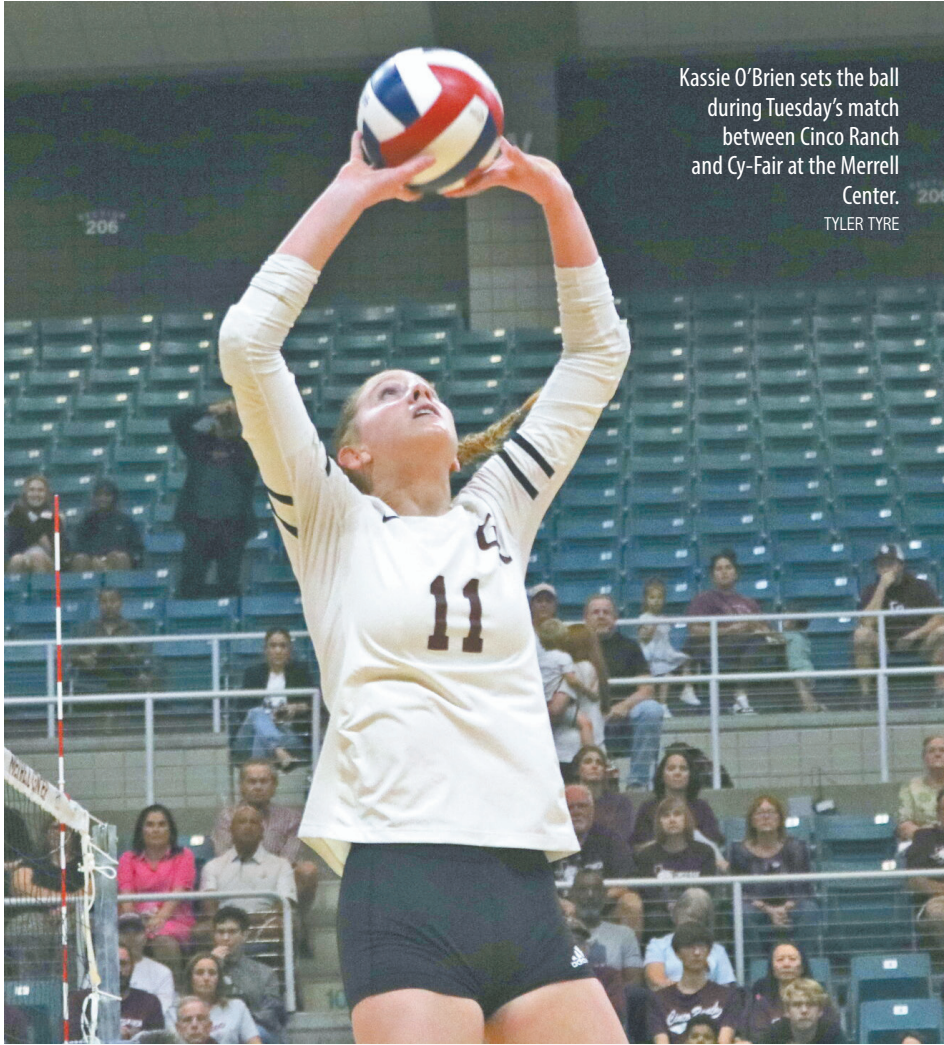
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Kassie O'Brien sets the ball during Tuesday's match between Cinco Ranch and Cy-Fair at the Merrell Center.
TYLER TYRE



Above: Brooklynn Merrell gets ready for an incoming serve during Tuesday's match between Tompkins and Ridge Point at Wheeler Field House. Left: Makenna Loo digs a ball during Tuesday's match between Cinco Ranch and Cy-Fair at the Merrell Center. Below: Gabi Martinez spikes the ball during Tuesday's bi-district match between Cinco Ranch and Fort Bend Travis at the Merrell Center.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Four Katy ISD volleyball players named All-State

Katy ISD had four players named to the Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association All-State Team after another great year from the district where teams made it all the way to the highest level in Texas High School Volleyball.

Cinco Ranch's Kassie O'Brien, Makenna Loo and Gabi Martinez and Tompkins' Brooklynn Merrell were all named to the Class 6A All-State team after leading their teams to top finishes in district and deep in the playoffs.

O'Brien was named to the third team as setter, as the lone setter. She finished the year with 1385 assists, 388 digs, 137 kills, 25 aces and 22 blocks. Merrell was also named to the third team as a libero. Merrell had 496 digs, 134 assists, 102 aces and six kills on the season.

Both Martinez and Loo were named to the honorable mention team as well. Martinez had 523 kills, 436 digs, 39 assists, 23 blocks and 15 aces on the year, while Loo had 380 kills, 347 digs, 17 blocks, 45 assists and nine aces.

Grand Oaks swept the coach and player of the year, with Samara Coleman won player of the year and Morgan Rogers won coach of the year after winning a state title over Cinco Ranch.

Following is the full Class 6A Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association All-State Team

CLASS 6A

COACH OF THE YEAR: Morgan Rogers, Grand Oaks

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Samara Coleman, Grand Oaks

FIRST TEAM

Outside hitters: Samara Coleman, Grand Oaks; Favor Anyanwu, Sachse; Aniya Joseph, San Antonio Harlan
Middle blockers: Jaela Auguste, Grand Oaks; Ayden Ames, Prosper; Chloe Tui-asosopo, Copperas Cove
Setter: De'Mya Mann, San Antonio Harlan
Libero: Sophie Bridges, Prosper

SECOND TEAM

Outside hitters: Halle Thompson, Grand Oaks; Lauryn Lambert, Plano East; Jade Workman, Odessa Permian
Middle blockers: Sydney Thornton, Prosper; Adell Murray, FB Austin; Rheanna Deen-Jackson, Atascocita
Setter: Tinsley Welker, FB Austin
Libero: Gabbie Kennedy, FB Austin

THIRD TEAM

Outside hitters: Jaelynn Kohli, Eastlake; Kaitlyn Salgado, Eastlake; Kaelynn Sims, Sachse
Middle Blockers: Wylie Singleton, Alvin; Ashby Daniel, Plano East;
Setter: Kassie O'Brien, Cinco Ranch
Libero: Brooklynn Merrell, Tompkins

HONORABLE MENTION

Outside hitters: Gabi Martinez, Cinco Ranch; Caelyn Emmerling, Grand Oaks; Makenna Loo, Cinco Ranch; Reese Renfrow, Prosper
Setters: Simone Robinson, Shadow Creek; Megan Nguyen, Plano East; Kylee Bagley, Round Rock Stony Point

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

TO ANY INTERESTED PARTY OF FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 37:

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 49.111 of the Texas Water Code FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 37 (the "District") will hold an election on May 4, 2024 without providing a voting station that meets the requirements for accessibility under 42 U.S.C. Section 15481(a)(3) on Election Day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance. The District will provide a voting station that meets the accessibility requirements for voting by a person with a disability if a request for such voting station is received from any voter in the District on or before March 20, 2024. Requests for an accessible voting station and any questions should be directed to the District c/o Johnson Petrov LLP, 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77019, Attention: Marisa Roberts.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, NR Vijay, residing at 28707 Bonham Park Ct, Katy, TX 77494, have changed my name from Nagabhushanaradhya Renu Vijay to NR Vijay vide affidavit dt: 10/12/2022 for all future purposes.

January 25 Puzzle Answers

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

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PARA TODA PARTE INTERESADA DEL DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE PRESTACIÓN DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DEL CONDADO DE FORT BEND NRO. 37:

Se notifica por el presente, en conformidad con el Código de Agua de Texas, Sección 49.111, que DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE PRESTACIÓN DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DEL CONDADO DE FORT BEND NRO. 37 (el "Distrito") llevará a cabo una elección el día 4 de mayo de 2024, sin proporcionar una estación de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de fácil acceso bajo 42 U.S.C. Sección 15481(a)(3) el día de elección ni durante el período de votación anticipada en persona. El Distrito proporcionará una estación de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de fácil acceso para que una persona con una discapacidad pueda votar, si se recibe una solicitud de tal estación de votación por parte de cualquier votante en el Distrito para el 20 de marzo de 2024, inclusive. Los pedidos de una estación de votación de fácil acceso y preguntas deben ser dirigidos al Distrito, a la atención de Johnson Petrov LLP, 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77019, Attention: Marisa Roberts.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Late Hours Permit by Cowboy Rothchild I, LLC dba 1836 Republic Bar and Grill to be located at 27252 Katy Freeway Suite 1000, Katy, Fort Bend, Texas 77494. Managers of said limited liability company are Michael A. Estes - Manager, Dontua P. Estes - Manager, and Joseph B. Rothchild - Manager.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Retail Dealer's Off Premise License by Acapulco Tropical LLC, to be located at 5512 N Fry Rd, Katy, Harris County, Tx 77449. Owner of said corporation is Julian Santana.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE: As provided in Section 49.111 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Mason Creek Utility District of Harris County, Texas (District), having its administrative office at 847 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450, hereby gives notice of its intention to hold its May 4, 2024 general election (for officers) without providing a voting station that meets the requirements for accessibility under 42 U.S.C. Section 15481(a)(3) on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance. Any voter in the District may request the use of a voting station that meets the accessibility requirements for voting by a person with a disability. Such a request must be submitted in writing to the District at its administrative office (address above). The District shall comply with a request for an accessible voting station if the request is received not later than the 45th day before the date of the election, in accordance with State law.
AVISO: Como se indica en la sección 49.111 del Código de Aguas de Texas, en su versión modificada, Distrito de Servicios Públicos de Mason Creek del Condado de Harris, Texas (distrito), que tiene su oficina administrativa en 847 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450, notifica su intención de celebrar su 4 mayo, 2024 elección general (para oficiales) sin proporcionar una estación votadora que cumple con los requisitos para la accesibilidad bajo en 42 U. S. C. § 15481 (a)(3) para el día de las elecciones, y durante el período de la votación anticipada por apariencia personal. Cualquier votante en el Distrito puede solicitar el uso de la mesa de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de accesibilidad para la votación de una persona con una discapacidad. La solicitud deberá ser presentada por escrito al Distrito en su oficina administrativa (dirección arriba). El distrito deberá cumplir con una solicitud de votación accesible si su solicitud es recibida a más tardar 45 días antes de la fecha de la elección, de conformidad con la ley del Estado.
THÔNG BÁO: Như được quy định tại Mục 49.111 của Bộ Luật Thủy Cục Texas, như được tu chính, Cơ Quan Tiệm Ích Mason Creek của Quận Harris (Cơ Quan), có trụ sở hành chính tại 847 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450, theo đây đưa ra thông báo về dự định tổ chức cuộc tổng tuyển cử vào ngày 4 tháng Năm, 2024 (cho các viên chức) mà không cung cấp một trạm bỏ phiếu đáp ứng các yêu cầu tiếp cận cho người khuyết tật theo Mục 42 U.S.C 15481(a)(3) vào ngày bầu cử và trong suốt thời gian diễn ra thủ tục đích thân tới bỏ phiếu sớm. Bất kỳ cử tri nào trong Cơ Quan có thể yêu cầu sử dụng một trạm bỏ phiếu đáp ứng các yêu cầu tiếp cận để bỏ phiếu đối với người khuyết tật. Yêu cầu đó phải được đệ trình bằng văn bản cho Cơ Quan tại trụ sở hành chính của Cơ Quan (địa chỉ trên đây). Cơ Quan sẽ tuân thủ yêu cầu về trạm bỏ phiếu có thể tiếp cận cho người khuyết tật nếu yêu cầu được nhận không trễ hơn ngày thứ 45 trước ngày bầu cử chiếu theo luật pháp Tiểu Bang.
通知: 基於修訂後的Texas州水務法第49.111條, Texas州Harris郡之Mason Creek公用事業區(下稱"本區")之行政管理部門(地址為: 847 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450)特此通知, 其擬於2024年5月4日舉行普選(官員選舉), 且不會在選舉日與親自出席提前投票期間提供符合美國法典第42卷第15481(a)(3)條中關於無障礙投票之規定的投票站。本區任何選民有權要求使用可協助殘疾人進行無障礙投票的投票站。此申請必須以書面形式交於本區之行政管理部門(地址如上)。應本州法律, 如果申請在不晚於選舉日之前45天收到, 本區須履行此申請。

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Mr. Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received electronically or at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 9:30 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 22, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Paving and Appurtenances to Serve Twinwood Business Park Phase 4 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 570 057 800#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of paving and appurtenances.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held remotely on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Local Time to attend the non-mandatory pre-bid conference via Microsoft Teams, the Meeting ID is 258 798 137 967, and the Passcode is AZKLL8. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 934 843 886#.

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 Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. 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 one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of \$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Checks should be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. No cash will be accepted.

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 <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

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 the time for 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 bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Mr. Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received electronically or at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 22, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Waller County FM 359 Improvements for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 476 996 34#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of grading, paving, drainage and pavement markings on FM 359.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held remotely on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time to attend the non-mandatory pre-bid conference via Microsoft Teams, the Meeting ID is 224 385 577 885, and the Passcode is zW8Dmu. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 892 039 566#.

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 Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. 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 one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of \$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Checks should be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. No cash will be accepted.

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

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Tompkins keeps pace in district title race

Tompkins girls enjoy 81-52 win over Morton Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins has a determined bunch of players this year. The Falcons have improved game by game this season and it's resulted in a team that is at the top of the pack in Katy ISD, as they have stayed atop the standings all season.

Tompkins has continued to take steps forwards in recent weeks and with an 81-52 win on Friday over Morton Ranch. The Falcons will enter the final week of the regular season with a chance of at least a share of the District 19-6A title.

"This is all on the players, they have been terrific," said Tompkins head coach Tamatha Ray. "They let us as a coaching staff do our job, and we through this second half of district have really just been able to focus on the film, what our opponents are doing and what we need to take away. But they have gone out there and executed at such a high level. They've taken what we are trying to teach and gone out on the floor and played exceptionally. It's all them and the way they allow us to coach them."

The win was just another for Tompkins as they have been on a roll, winning nine of their last 10 and they have done that by playing selflessly on offense and being very strong on the defensive end. A big part of that defensive success comes from senior post Caitlyn D'Addieco, who has stepped into



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Rihanna DeLeon shoots a 3-pointer during a game between Tompkins and Cinco Ranch at the Tompkins gym. Left: Caitlyn D'Addieco shoots a layup during a game between Tompkins and Katy at the Katy gym.

the starting lineup in her senior season and been one of the key figures for the Falcons. Despite being undersized, she has been a force in the post for the past two years and offensively is an important figure as well, chipping in with 13 points in Friday's win.

"She's just solid," Ray said. "The thing about it is I know exactly what I'm going to get from her. Caitlyn is one of the toughest kids I've ever coached and she has the intangibles. She does all of the dirty work for us, gets every loose ball, every rebound and does all

the little stuff other people don't want to do. That doesn't get the headlines but it makes every big of difference in the game. She's doing just as well as anyone in that position who's come before her."

Rihanna DeLeon led the way offensively in the win with 27 points, while Sascha Coughran had 16 and 10 different Falcons scored.

"Everyone on this team trusts each other," DeLeon said. "We all know that whoever gets the ball is going to do with it and score or create. It's fun when you have everyone scoring and getting involved, that's what you want."

Now the goal for Tompkins is to win out in district and clinch at least a share of the district title. They had done it three straight years going into last season but came up just short finishing in second last year. That still stings for

this year's senior class and they're out to find a way to take that title back.

"It's a really big deal," D'Addieco said. "We know that we can do it and that's what we're striving for. It was rough at first this year, but we've grown and gotten better and that's what you do it for is to compete for a district championship. We all just want to win out and hopefully have this carry over into playoffs."

District 19-6A

TOMPKINS 81, MORTON RANCH 52

Points: (T) Rihanna DeLeon 27, Sascha Coughran 16, Caitlyn D'Addieco 13, Kate Hopkins 4, Haylie Panter 4, Gabby Panter 4, Dliana Omobude 4, Isabella Riggan 3, Kayli Jensen 3, Brittany Tolle 2; (MR) Holly Sylve 16, Trinitee McFarland 8, Divinefavor Ekuma 6, Janae Gray 6, Denecia Gardiner 4, Victoria Mire 4, Alexis Scott 4, Chassity Mandley 3, Jennifer Mendoza 1;

Halftime: Tompkins 34, Morton Ranch 20; 3-Pointers: (T) DeLeon 3, Coughran, Riggan; (MR) McFarland 2, Sylve; Records: (T) 25-6, 10-2; (MR) 8-21, 2-11;



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Sascha Coughran shoots a 3-pointer during a game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Tompkins gym. Left: Gabby Panter dribbles past a defender during a game between Tompkins and Katy at the Katy gym.

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PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy's Maddy Hunter during a track meet last spring.



Tompkins' Ananya Sriniketh pictured after qualifying for the state tournament in 2022.

Katy ISD students-athletes named to Tennis, Cross Country Super Elite Team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD had one student-athlete each named to the 2023 Super Elite Team in Team Tennis and Cross Country after successful years for their programs.

Athletes are nominated to the super elite teams for being of excellent moral character as well as being excellent in their sport.

Tompkins' Ananya Sriniketh was named the Class 6A Super Elite Team for Team Tennis after making it to the state finals in her junior season.

Katy's Maddy Hunter was named to the team after a big year where she led the Tigers to a state appearance, where they finished fourth as a team and Hunter finished fourth individually. The Tigers had one of their best ever seasons in cross country in part due to Hunter's stellar running.

On the volleyball side, Cinco Ranch's Kassie O'Brien was named to the Class 6A Volleyball Super Elite Team. O'Brien was an integral part of Cinco Ranch claiming an undefeated District 19-6A title this year before the Cougars went on a run all the way to the state title game in a historic year.

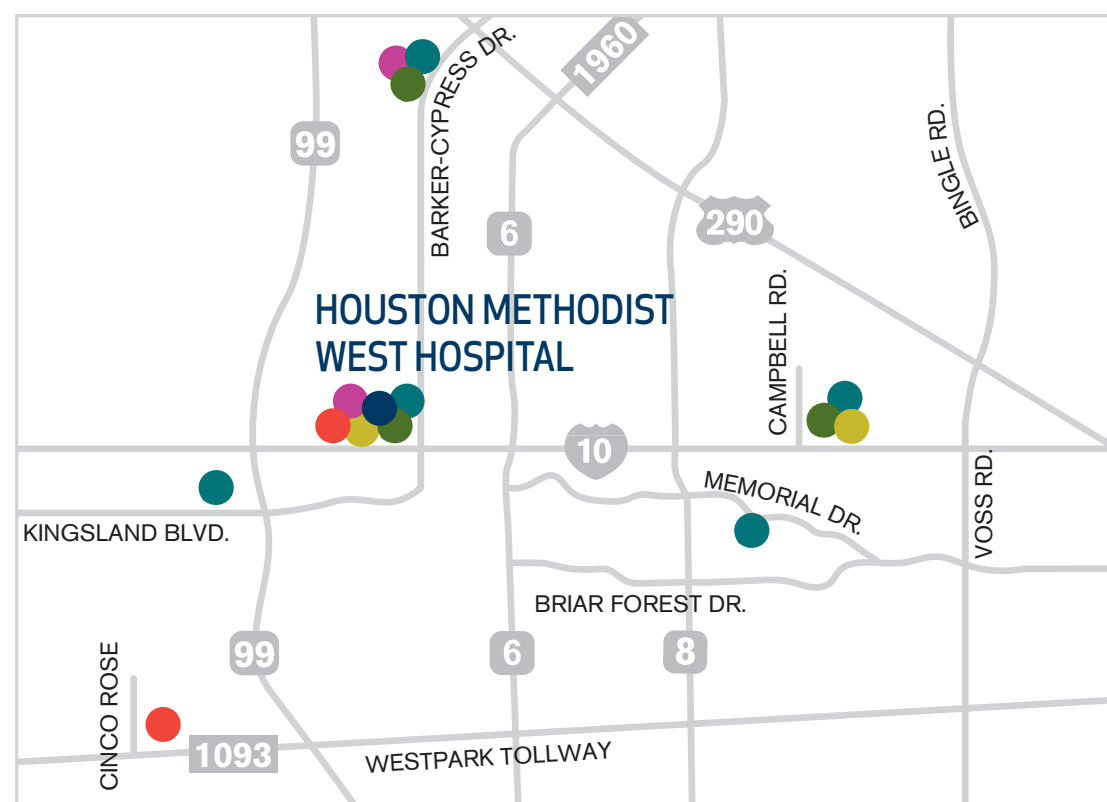


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