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SPORTS | B1

Katy Times

Christmas at The Park

Dec 2, 2023 • 5 – 8 PM
 Katy Heritage Park
 KATYHERITAGESOCIETY.COM

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Three shot at Katy Mills Mall

Police said the incident appeared to be a drive-by shooting involving two groups of juveniles

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A shooting occurred Saturday, November 25th outside Katy Mills Mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in

Katy where three people were injured around 9 p.m. after gunfire erupted in the parking lot adjacent to mall entrance number 5, which is near Sun & Ski Sports.

In a taped press conference, Katy

Police Chief Noe Diaz stated there was no active shooter involved and that preliminary information indicated that two groups of juveniles were involved. Diaz added that six juveniles between 14 and 17 years old were detained and that one vehicle which was reported stolen had

See **SHOOTING**, page A3

More than 550 guns turned in at fifth gun buyback

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston-area residents turned in 559 guns on November 19th during the fifth gun buyback event hosted by Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones in partnership with Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Participants lined up before the gates opened at 8 a.m. for the drive-thru event at METRO's Westchase Park and Ride on Harwin Drive. 1,557 gift cards worth nearly \$78,000 were distributed to residents who voluntarily turned in unwanted firearms for safe disposal.

The gift cards were funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

- Participants turned in:
- 155 Semi-Automatic Handguns
 - 124 Semi-Automatic Rifles
 - 82 Revolvers
 - 77 Shotguns
 - 59 Rifles (Hunting)
 - 58 Non-functioning firearms
 - 4 Single-shot guns

"What keeps me up at night is the safety of my three little girls and all children here in Harris County. This gun buyback is one of the many actions we are taking to prevent crime," said Commissioner Lesley Briones.

See **GUNS**, page A3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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STUDENTS TREAT THE KATY PD



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS ONLINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Texas Online Preparatory School students donate sweet treats and fruit to the Katy Police Department, where they were given a tour of the jail and police vehicles and learned about the canine unit. Pictured left to right: Cassidy Trahan, Ziloh Sanders, Alejandra Martinez, Chanel-Kyle Seals, Mia Trygubenko, Kamar Al Rayes, Kaela Jones, Jayla Sanders, Ja'Den Strohmman, A. Martinez, Cody Vega (teacher).

18TH ANNUAL TOY BLESSING



SHERREL ROGERS

Mosaic House of Prayer held its 18th Annual Toy Blessing at the Hangar Unity Center in Brookshire on November 28th. Pictured are (left to right) Vickii Watson, Cassidy Campbell and Mark Watson. The Hangar, a nonprofit organization offering a variety of services to the community including activities for teens, resources for families in need and a variety of local events throughout the year for residents of southern Waller County, is located at 4010 4th St. in Brookshire.

FORT BEND COUNTY

KP George to host annual Community Toy Drive

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Judge KP George is set to host his Annual Community Toy Drive at noon on Friday, December 15, at the Rosenberg Annex, 4520 Reading Rd, Rosenberg, TX 77471. In conjunction with Fort Bend County Health and Human Services, the toy drive will be held for pre-registered families who receive assistance through Fort Bend County Social Services.

Community partners and residents can help make the holiday season brighter for those less fortunate by:

Donating Toys: Bring your unwrapped toys to the Rosenberg Annex or one of the 10 drop-off locations by December 13th. The following Fort Bend County library locations will accept toy donations:

Mission Bend

8421 Addicks Clodine Road
Houston, TX 77083

Cinco Ranch

2620 Commercial Center Blvd.
Katy, TX 77494

George Memorial

1001 Golfview
Richmond, TX 77469

Please visit fbctx.gov or on social media @FortBendCountyJudge of Facebook, @_kpgeorge on Instagram for a complete list of locations.

Monetary Donations: Contribute by December 1st to help support the toy drive. For more information on donations, please email hhsoutreach@fbctx.gov or call the Rosenberg Annex at (281) 342-6414.

For more information or to coordinate donations, please contact the Fort Bend Department of Health and Human Services at hhsoutreach@fbctx.gov or call the Rosenberg Annex at (281) 342-6414.

Briones to host small business forum Dec. 15

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones has announced a "Small Business Meetup" for local businesses and entrepreneurs. The exclusive session offers guidance from experts including U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE Mentors, #SBDC, and #HCPrecinct4. Get insights, answers, and connect with valuable resources. Learn how SBA programs and community resources can help your business succeed. The free session will be informative and allow for networking and Q&A. The event will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road in Houston. To register, go to <https://MeetupDec15.eventbrite.com>.

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Libraries feature festive activities for teens, adults during holidays

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Catch the holiday spirit at Fort Bend County Libraries! Throughout the month, the Cinco Ranch Branch Library and the Mission Bend Branch Library will have a variety of programs, from performances to holiday-themed crafts and activities, for teens and adults.

The activities are free and open to the public. For more information or to register, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us) or call the branch library or the library system's Communications Office at 281-633-4734.

Materials for these activities are made possible by the Friends of the Library.

Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd, Katy (281-395-1311)

- **DIY Stocking Stuffers for Teens** – Tuesday, December 5, 5:00-6:30 pm. Teens (grades 9-12) will discover easy-to-make gifts for family or friends. Registration required.

- **Zentangles Mindfulness** – Tuesday, December 12, 6:00-7:30 pm. Escape the stress of the holidays with the mindfulness craft of Zentangles, an easy-to-learn, relaxing, fun way to create beautiful images. This repetitive, pattern-making exercise is perfect for increasing relaxation and focus, while expanding one's imagination and creativity.

Registration required.

- **Shimmer Flute Choir Performance** – Saturday, December 16, 10:30 am. The flute ensemble will perform a musical interpretation of the children's story *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* and a musically narrated telling of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The performance will be followed by refreshments and wintery crafts.

- **DIY Glitter Vases for Teens** – Tuesday, December 19, 3:00-4:00 pm. Teens (grades 9-12) will learn how to make glitter vases to use as décor for their rooms or to give as gifts. Registration required.

- **Wrap & Yap: A Gift-Wrapping Party** – Thursday, December 21, 11:00 am. Anyone needing a helping hand wrapping gifts – or

who just wants some company while wrapping – is invited to get and share tips or simply enjoy the camaraderie of others during this festive activity. Some wrapping materials will be available, but those attending are encouraged to bring their own.

Mission Bend Branch Library, 8421 Addicks Clodine Road (832-471-5900)

- **DIY Decorations: Holiday-Bauble Creations** – Tuesday, December 5, 3:00-4:30 pm. Craft some holiday cheer while repurposing leftover craft supplies to make personalized décor to brighten the home or give as gifts during the winter season. Registration required.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fussell Senior Center hosts open house on December 1st

The City of Katy's Fussell Senior center invites the community to their Holiday Open House, at 11 a.m. on December 1. The party is at 5370 E. Fifth Street in Katy and will feature the Katy Elementary School Choir.

Play in a Winter Wonderland at Lightbridge Academy on December 2nd

Fun for the family begins Saturday, December 2nd from 9 to 11 a.m. at Lightbridge Academy, 1711 Spring Green Blvd. in Katy. Enjoy holiday crafts, face painting, games and refreshments. For more information, please call 281-769-1230.

Second annual Holiday Craft Fair to be held December 2nd at Big Z's Pizza

Get ready for Big Z's Pizza's second annual holiday vendor market with a toy drive benefitting nonprofit Children like Loni. Bring a new toy for your chance to be entered into the raffle. With over 20 confirmed vendors, there will be free pictures with Santa and much more. Festivities begin at 10 a.m., continuing until 2 p.m. at BIG Z's Pizza House & Brew, 2004 S. Mason, Katy.



Celebrate Christmas at the Park with the Katy Heritage Society at Katy Heritage Park on Saturday.

Light the night at MKT Distillery's annual tree lighting on December 2nd

Join the community for this popular event as MKT Distillery lights its Christmas tree atop the Katy Rice Dryers. The event -- now in its sixth year -- starts at 5 p.m. at 5372 1st St in Katy. Dusk is estimated at 5:49 pm and the tree will be lit around 7 pm, which should be when it is dark. Come out and enjoy some great cocktails, and awesome spirits, all within Katy's historic rice dryers as the historic tradition of putting a Christmas

Tree on the Rice Dryers is revived and continued.

Christmas comes to Katy Heritage Park on Saturday

Celebrate the season at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Dr, Katy from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 2nd. Ticket includes a cup of hot cocoa while supplies last, a letter to Santa, a Christmas craft, tour of our historic homes and the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Christmas music. Food, hayrides, popcorn, drinks will be

available as add-ons. Tickets are required for all attendees except infants under age 1. Activities and events are subject to change. No refunds. For tickets, go to katyheritagesociety.com/event-details/christmas-at-the-park-2023?fbclid=IwAR3WfarOoueqE_3HP2ZZ-T5KGhVNr0nAsBDY_auTGTIPzE-HQIVfYM6qpZylo

Have pancakes with Santa at the Katy Fire Department on December 9th

Santa will be visiting Katy Fire Station No. 1 at 1417 Avenue D on

Saturday, December 9th from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. where he (and you) can enjoy pancakes. The breakfast features 55 pancake plates, music, and fun for everyone! Raffle tickets are available for \$5.00 and proceeds benefit the KT Firefighters Scholarship program.

Activate and Extreme Offroad partner for toy drive on December 9th

New gaming venue Activate Games is teaming up with neighbor Extreme Offroad & Performance in their Toys for Tots drive on December 9th. Toys may be dropped off at Extreme Offroad & Performance at 20235 Katy Fwy, Ste A.

KATY AARP Chapter Meeting December 12th

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday December 12 at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd in Katy. The evening will start at 6:30 p.m. with a short meeting and announcements. Afterwards, entertainment will be provided by the Morton Ranch High School Choir. Visitors are welcome. Allow time to purchase any food before the meeting starts. For more information, please contact Patty Phelps at pbpamid@aol.com.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Old English letters
- Sculpture
- Showing up again
- Tie the knot again
- Washington city
- Stiff structures in invertebrates
- Mark over a vowel
- Explosive
- Popular race: ___ 500
- Pile up
- Mint
- Commercial
- A minute amount (Scottish)
- Small Eurasian deer
- Baseball stat
- Numbers cruncher
- Japanese masked drama
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Blood group
- Assist in wrongdoing
- Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
- Grayish-white
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- Microorganism
- Place under prohibition
- Calm, dependable
- Congressman
- Force

CLUES DOWN

- Make a mistake
- Gordon and Snider are two
- Geographical region of Finland
- Ejected saliva
- A way of performing
- Scotland's longest river
- One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- Body art
- Two-toed sloth
- Electronic counter countermeasures
- Foolish person (Brit.)
- Of the wind
- Grand home
- Sound
- English river
- Symbol indicating ownership
- Pouch
- Apart from
- Satisfaction
- The bill in a restaurant
- Sea bream

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

SHOOTING

from page A1

been recovered. No guns were recovered but several knives were found, he said. Diaz said that there were no fatalities and that the injuries suffered by the victims were superficial and that they had been transported to Memorial Hermann, following immediate treatment by the police staff. Diaz said that KPD and the Katy Fire Department responded to the event in under five minutes.

Captain Javier Martinez of KPD said that after a review of the available video, it appeared that the gunfire came from the area of a vehicle in the parking lot and that shots were fired toward the mall

entrance. Martinez said the investigation is ongoing.

"This is a safe environment here," Diaz said during the press conference. There is a strong police presence in the area, he continued, but he urged shoppers to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings.

"The safety and security of our shoppers, retailers and employees is our highest priority," said a spokesperson for Simon Properties and Katy Mills Mall. "We have an elevated police and security presence at the property and are grateful for their quick response to this isolated incident."



Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones visits with Houston Police Department officers at the November 19th gun buyback event held in Harris County.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4

GUNS

from page A1

"We will never know how many youth suicides may have been prevented by turning in these guns. We will never know exactly how many school shootings in this region we may have prevented. We will never know how many domestic violence intimate partner homicides we may have prevented. What we do know is that we are preventing crime in partnership with the community, and I am thankful for every person who joined us today to make our region safer."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, along with Harris County Sheriff's Office will process each gun and determine whether it was stolen or used in a crime. HCSO will destroy all guns that are not considered evidence in a crime and those that cannot be returned to their rightful owners.

"We're taking action. We're not staying idle. We're moving the needle in a positive direction and our numbers are reflecting that things are moving in the right direction when it comes to gun violence in our community," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

About 400 gun safes were distributed to buyback participants, courtesy of the Houston Police Department and Spring Branch Management District. The Harris County Sheriff's Office provided 1000 gun locks.

"These gun safes, while not a permanent storage solution, are a start to keeping dangerous away weapons from criminals and from our children. Keep your weapons safe by keeping them locked in a safe and use gun locks to ensure that our families are safe," said Houston Police Department Assistant Chief Ernest Garcia.

Gun violence continues to kill more children and young adults than car crashes, according to a press release from the county. In Harris County, homicides committed with firearms were the primary cause of death for children aged 0-17 from 2016 to 2021. Firearm-related offenses among youth increased nearly 40% during that same time.

In September 2022, Harris County Commissioners Court approved nearly \$1.1 million in ARPA funding for up to eight gun buyback events.

"There are so many things we can do as individuals and as a community, whether it's legislative or otherwise, to keep our communities safe," said Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher, who voted in support of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 which funded the gun

"We're moving the needle in a positive direction and our numbers are reflecting that things are moving in the right direction when it comes to gun violence in our community."

—ED GONZALEZ, Harris County Sheriff

buyback program. "With the bipartisan Safer Communities Act we have worked on reducing the threat of gun violence through all channels including funding for schools. That was a first step, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to continue the important work of addressing gun violence."

Over 4,000 guns have been collected and disposed of by Harris County in partnership with the City of Houston in four previous buyback events. This was the second buyback held at METRO's Westchase Park and Ride location.

"At METRO, safety is a top priority, but we can't get this done by ourselves. We understand the effectiveness of community partnerships and that is why we are here to support our friends at the County, at the Sheriff's office, at the city, members of congress, HFD and HPD. Because fighting crime takes teamwork and we are and I am proud to be a part of this team," said Sanjay Ramabhadran, chairman of METRO's board of directors.

Harris County's approach to public safety goes far beyond gun buybacks. In 2022, Harris County Public Health launched the Community Violence Interruption Program (CVIP). This year, Harris County Commissioners Court approved numerous public safety investments, such as the expansion to the Holistic Assistance Response Teams (HART) Program, which connects residents experiencing mental health crises with appropriate services without having to involve public safety officers, freeing law enforcement to respond to violent crimes.

"No one gun buyback event, no one policy action will solve the problem of gun violence," said Commissioner Briones. "We are committed to a holistic approach and to working across levels of government to create a safer Harris County."

This event was made possible with support from: Harris County Precinct 4, Harris County Sheriff's Office, City of Houston, METRO, Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, Asian American Peace Officers Association, and Spring Branch Management District.

TRIBUTE

Linda Burg Newton, 78, of Katy, Texas, passed away on October 11, 2023, after a brief illness. A descendant of the early settlers of Florida, she was born in Palm Beach County on December 6, 1944, to Irene (née Underhill) and Roy Burg. Linda was reared in Loxahatchee, Florida, on the westernmost edge of Palm Beach County. She initially attended Palm Beach High School and graduated from Forest Hill High School with the Class of 1962. After attending then-Palm Beach Junior College, Linda began her career in the legal field, working for some of the most prominent attorneys in Palm Beach County. In 1977, after reading in the newspaper that paralegals in Houston were being paid the outlandish sum of \$800 per month, she (like one of her favorite sayings) was "gone to Texas." Without a job, Linda arrived in Houston with three kids and \$300 in her purse. She soon met Don Newton, a Vietnam helicopter pilot and the love of her life. They were married after only four months and enjoyed many happy years until he passed in 2018.

On a Sunday in the spring of 1978, Don, Linda, and their kids took a drive to see what was in Katy. They bought a house that day, and Katy would be Linda's home for the next 45 years. They settled first in West Memorial and, later, on the golf course in Falcon Point. Many "Katy kids" (whom Linda treated as her own) grew up in the Newton family home.

Linda worked for 20 years in Houston as a paralegal and legal administrator for many well-known and prominent Houston trial lawyers. Although she did not possess a law degree or license, her organizational skills and ability to work under extreme pressure made her a valuable "second chair" at trial. She worked on many noteworthy lawsuits in the 1980s and 1990s.

When the first of her



LINDA BURG NEWTON
1944-2023

grandchildren arrived, Linda left the legal field and founded Showcase Enterprises, Inc., with Don. Over the next 20 years, they built Showcase into not only a very successful video and advertising business but also a work family. They loved the people who worked with them at Showcase and worked well after they should have or needed to in order to be with and support their work family.

Most often anonymously, Linda donated to many local charities even when she didn't have the money to spare. She also gave freely to friends and family in need, holding back on paying one of her own bills if necessary. And she instilled the same generosity in her children. She loved a Hallmark movie, a glass of Chardonnay, and sitting on the back patio with her honey at sunset. Linda's Sundays were devoted to Southern cooking and watching football. Indeed, on her final day, she asked to watch a college football game. She loved painting watercolors, making ceramics, and dancing. She surprised the family by being the first to own an iPod Shuffle just so she could dance to Michael Jackson. There wasn't a fast-food item or sweet treat that she denied her grandkids. Linda loved animals and inanimate objects alike, even running outside in the rain to save a few clothespins. If you knew Linda, you knew she loved a Monarch

butterfly. And she had the most infectious giggle.

Late in life, Linda became a certified Texas Master Gardener, which helped make her weekend property in New Ulm a showplace. She also attended evening painting classes at the University of St. Thomas and earned a certificate from the New England School of Protocol. Manners and grammar were of the utmost importance in the Newton household. Until the day of her death, she had no problem correcting her kids.

In addition to her parents, Linda is preceded in death by her daughter, Christa; her husband, Don; her brother, Norman Burg; and her sister, Karen Johnson, along with her most beloved Cocker Spaniel "Patsy" and parakeet "Petey," whom she never stopped loving.

She is survived by her son, Duke (Jennifer) Keller, Jr., of Katy; daughter Michelle (Ron) Lovett of Katy; daughter Pam Keller (David Stone) of Fayetteville, Texas; stepson Michael (Nicole) Newton of Nashville, Tennessee; grandchildren James Lovett, Kate Lovett, Brock (Reagan) Lovett, Madeline Keller, McKenna Keller, Lauren Keller, Hamilton Keller, Logan Stone, Lauren (Zaq) Widdows, and Michelle (Chris) Bray; brother Clifford F. (Sheri) Burg of Indiantown, Florida; sister-in-law Susan Newton (Nate Therien) of South Hadley, Massachusetts; brother-in-law Ken (Connie) Newton of St. Joseph, Missouri; and her first husband, Duke Keller, Sr., of Palm Springs, Florida.

A private memorial service was held for Linda in the courtyard at Brennan's, her favorite restaurant. She will be inurned with Don at the Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Linda's honor to the Down Syndrome Association of Houston, the Wounded Warrior Project, or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



KATY AREA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

ENERGY GROWS HERE

Join us at Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston West - Katy for the KAEDC Holiday GA meeting!

Monday, December 4th from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Registration required, please visit www.katyedc.org



Featured Presentation:

Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale

James Franklin McIngvale, also known as "Mattress Mack", is an American businessman. McIngvale is known for owning and operating the Gallery Furniture retail chain, based in Houston, Texas, where his energetic, fast-paced sales pitches, typically ending with some variant of his catchphrase "saves you money!" Also, he is known for his great support and love of the Houston Astros. McIngvale wears many hats, but is probably most recognized as a philanthropist as he generously gives back to the community in the Greater Houston Area.



Special opening and event performances by Katy ISD's Paetow High School Choir, under the direction of: Sara O. Proodian, Director of Choral Activities, Paetow High School, TMEA, TMMMA, TCDA, TCTA, T4PE

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FORT BEND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Applications open for Citizens Police Academy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the Citizens Police Academy scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2024, according to a department press release. Online registration begins November 20, 2023 and ends on January 5, 2024 at 5 p.m. The program will accept 35 qualified participants.

The 11-week program is free of charge and will be held at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, located at 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, directly across the street from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Detention Center. The program consists of two-hour sessions held on consecutive Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The first session will begin on January 18, 2024,

and conclude on April 4, 2024.

The Citizens Police Academy is designed for members of the community seeking to learn about law enforcement as well as individuals who are considering a career in the field. The focus of the program is to provide an overview of the criminal justice system and various functions of the Sheriff's Office through classroom presentations and practical hands-on

experience.

Participants will have an opportunity to tour the Sheriff's Office, as well as learn about the inner workings of each division, including Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Detention, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center, Law Enforcement Training, and Narcotics.

Qualified applicants must be 18 years of age and must not

have a criminal arrest record.

Persons interested in enrolling in the Citizens Police Academy may register online using the following link: fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/sheriff-s-office/community-services/citizens-police-academy.

Email socp@fortbendcountytx.gov for additional information or contact the FBCSO Crime Prevention deputies at 281-238-1536.

WILL ANDERSON SURPRISES ROYAL HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM WITH PRE-THANKSGIVING FEAST



The Houston Texans' Will Anderson (above, on the right) and family surprised the Royal High School Falcons Football team with an early Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21st. The event took place at the high school cafeteria.

PHOTOS BY SHERREL ROGERS

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Katy Times

PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP GROUNDBREAKING



Adam Jungeblut (center), residency director at Parkway Fellowship's north Katy campus, leads the groundbreaking ceremony held November 19th at the church's new location at 5911 Morton Road in Katy. Senior Pastor Mike McGowan (right, in white) also spoke at the event, which attracted a large crowd of several hundred people.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS HARRIS



Elected officials who turned out for the groundbreaking included (starting at second from left and continuing to the right) City of Katy Councilmember Gina Hicks, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Councilmember Rory Robertson and Texas State Representative Mike Schofield.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS HARRIS

Texas Bar Foundation supports justice for youth through grant to Child Advocates of Fort Bend

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

With a mission that includes enhancing the rule of law and system of justice in Texas, especially for programs that relate to the administration of justice for the underserved, the Texas Bar Foundation awarded Child Advocates of Fort Bend (CAFB) a grant

to support its work in court advocacy for children and youth met with child abuse or neglect. The award was announced in a November 21st press release from the foundation.

CAFB provides court advocacy for child victims in sex abuse and criminal cases and is the Guardian ad Litem appointed by the court in civil cases to advocate the best interest for children in foster care. CAFB has a staff of two Criminal Court Advocates for sex abuse cases and relies on hundreds of community volunteers to serve as court-appointed advocates (CASA Advocates) to fulfill this charge in family court and is one of the largest services we provide.

"The news headline of a convicted sex abuse criminal is but one facet of a long and arduous journey for a child victim of abuse," said Ruthanne Mefford, CEO of Child Advocates of Fort Bend. "In our mission, court advocacy helps strengthen the voice of the child, coupled with a multi-disci-

plinary approach to achieve justice for them. Our CASAs are justice warriors in civil cases for children in foster care who need someone advocating for their safety, wellbeing and permanency needs," she added.

CAFB started services in 1991 with the support of a civil court judge and a few local volunteers who saw a need to advocate for children removed from their homes and placed in foster care and left with little support systems besides Child Protective Services. Today, the organization offers an array of 18 services to one client in a depth and breadth approach to healing and justice for children, including outreach efforts to bring awareness of child abuse so that it can be prevented. The Texas Bar Foundation's support is critical to help ensure that all its court advocacy services can continue for child victims of abuse.

in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$26 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.

About Child Advocates of Fort Bend

Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a non-profit agency dedicated to ending child abuse by Strengthening the Voice of the Child, Healing the Hurt, and Breaking the Cycle of abuse and neglect for children and their families in Fort Bend and surrounding counties. Through its Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASATM), Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and more than 200 trained community volunteer advocates, Child Advocates improves the lives of more than 400 children each month and has served more than 22,000 children since opening its doors in 1991.

About the Texas Bar Foundation

Since its inception

Katy Times

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TRIBUTE

Jesse Juanita Wilson Calhoun of Katy, Texas passed away on October 18, 2023, following a lengthy illness. She was born February 14, 1930, in Van Buren, Arkansas, the fifth child of Rev. R. E. Wilson and Beverly Pruitt Thompson Wilson. She graduated from Paragould High School in Paragould, Arkansas in 1948. She enrolled in Arkansas State Teachers College where she met Clarence Jesse Calhoun. They married on December 23, 1949.



JESSE JUANITA WILSON
1930-2023

Juanita had a passion for helping others. During the fifteen years she lived in Carthage, Texas, she was a member of the First Methodist Church, was a home room mother for her children, Brownie leader, Cub Scout leader, and volunteered alongside her husband with his work with the youth. After moving to Waskom, Texas, she taught youth Sunday School, developed a United Methodist Youth Fellowship, church youth choir, and was very active in the United Methodist Women (UMW) of the First Methodist Church. She was active with the UMW, holding office on the church and district level, during their time as members of Mangum United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun went on mission trips in the United States with Mangum United

Methodist Church. They went on a mission trip to Belize with their daughter's church, Spring Woods United Methodist Church of Houston. They made many trips to Houston to help with the Northwest Assistance Ministries homeless program through Spring Woods UMC with Juanita doing the cooking for the shelter. After moving to Katy, Texas, she was active in the First United Methodist Church, Sunshine Sunday School Class, United Methodist Women, Katy Heritage Society, and volunteered at Memorial Herman Katy Hospital.

Juanita is survived by her son and daughter-in-law: Kenneth and Brenda Stuart Calhoun of Pittsburg, Texas; daughter: Beverly Calhoun of Katy, Texas; five grandsons: Adam Calhoun and wife Amanda, Aaron Calhoun and wife Jessica, Asa Calhoun and wife Brandy, Greg Stuart and Wife Keri, and Jonathan Stuart; seven great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and four brothers and sisters-in-law: Hermon Thompson (Betty), Otis Wilson (Marhea), Burl Wilson (Jean), and Paul Wilson (Adela).

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers memorials be given to First United Methodist Church of Katy or the charity of your choice.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Lexi Morgan (left) is congratulated by David Greene (center), president of the Fort Bend County West Lions Club and Brenda Hunter Martin (right) of the Katy Heritage Society as she receives a \$1000.00 scholarship jointly awarded by the two groups. Morgan won the scholarship on the basis of her essay, "Katy: City of Churches." The presentation took place at the Katy Heritage Society's quarterly meeting, held November 16, at the VFW Hall, 6202 George Bush Drive in Katy. Martin also announced the awarding of a \$1000.00 scholarship from the Katy Heritage Society to Jameson Wiley, who was not able to attend the ceremony. He wrote about the history of football in Katy.

The Katy Times Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

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Katy HS Choir performs at UH High School Choral Invitational



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

The Katy High School Choir performed at the prestigious Moores Opera House at the University of Houston on November 6th – one of only four area high schools to be invited.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy High School choir is the only choir from KISD in recent memory to be invited to the University of Houston High School Choral Invitational, according to a press release from Katy ISD.

This is an annual event, where the University of Houston Moores School of Music features four outstanding high school mixed choirs with one goal – to celebrate choral excellence. The 31st Annual High School Choral Invitational concert was held on Monday, November 6 in Moores Opera House. This year the distinguished choirs invited include

Cypress Creek High School, Katy High School, Manvel High School, and Pasadena Memorial High School. The Katy High School Chorale is directed by Katy Cuddihee and Milla Boles with Barbara Jones as collaborative pianist.

Chorale members who sang at this event included: Elise Aagard, Layla Alter, Erick Alvarez, Kenia Arriaga-Quiroga, Major Autrey, Paige Bedient, Emma Belnap, Ella Bonnini, Jordan (George) Bynum, Grace (Alex) Carey, Kyle Chippi, S. Marie Easley, Caleb Elliott, Brennan Ellsworth, Yamileth Flores Cantu, Charlie Frost, Terry Gaffney, Luke Gosch, Zoe Guess, Samuel Gunn, Destinie Harris,

Nate Hery, Chloe Holland, Jessica Holmes, Andrew Holycross, Olivia Jerry, Aziid Jones, Hailey Kasmiroski, Griffin Khoury, Justin Le, Spencer Legon, S. Marcy Martinez, Daniela McMullen, Saniya Menzies Jerald Mercado Jessica Miranda, Jucelia Miranda, Aevary Nass, Austin Ondruch, Madisen O'Shields, Adyson Owens, Adryan Pineda-Perozo, Hunter Reeves, Hunter Rives, Dariel Romero, Alexander Sandberg, Mackenzie Simkins, Jordan Smith, Kiera Stinson, KayleeBelle Sullivan, Shannon VanDyk, Valeria Villarreal, Colette Wembolenga, Madalyne Wilkerson, Sara Winiarski and Jayden Wylie.

Royal High School students celebrate achievements in All-Region Band

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal ISD announced the results of the Region 23/27 All-Region Band competition in a November 15th story on the district website. "Congratulations to all these talented students from Royal High School for their exceptional musical skills and dedication," said the district in a statement on its website.

The following Royal students were recognized:

- **Flutes:** Lindsey Moreno, Fernanda Rodriguez, Sydney Bartels and Yuri Campos
- **Clarinets:** Dulce Hernández**, Carmen Billasano and Zully Garcés
- **Alto Saxophone:** Joseph Turner*
- **Tenor Saxophone:** Rafael Garcés**
- **French Horn:** Javier Ramos**and Christian Solorio
- **Euphonium:** Damian Ramirez* and Justin Segura*
- **Trombone:** Timiyah Johnson**
- **Trumpet:** Devin Ruley** and Andy Perez*
- **Tuba:** Edwin Majano** and Víctor Arámbula
- **Percussion:** Navaeh Houston, Chloe Jeffrey, Ayden Stamps, Christopher Tobar and Ivory Lasker

The stars (*) next to some names represent their achievements in the All-Region Band competition:

* Indicates selection for the Region 23/27 All-Region Band.

** Indicates selection for the Region 23/27 All-Region Band and advancing to the Area level.



THE AMERICAN PRIZE

The Seven Lakes High School Symphony Orchestra won The American Prize in Orchestral Performance, 2023.

Seven Lakes orchestra wins The American Prize

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Seven Lakes High School Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Desiree Overree, John Mays and Sean Carlton, is the winner of The American Prize in Orchestral Performance, school orchestra division, 2023, according to a press release from The American Prize. The Katy ISD school Symphony Orchestra was selected from applications reviewed recently from all across the United States.

The Seven Lakes Symphony Orchestra is comprised of the top two string ensembles and the top band at Seven Lakes High School. In its 17-year history, the ensemble has earned numerous

awards and accolades at the regional, state, and national level, including being a National Winner in the Mark of Excellence / National Honors Project since 2015, winning the American Prize in Music in 2018 and 2021, and being named the state champion full orchestra for Texas Music Educators Association in 2016 and 2020. Seven Lakes High School was acknowledged by the GRAMMY Foundation in 2010-2011 as a GRAMMY Signature School. The school's Fine Arts Department is built on the tenets of collaboration and excellence, bringing innovative performances to the community, according to the press release.

The American Prize National Non-

profit Competitions in the Performing Arts is the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the performing arts. It is designed to recognize and reward the best performing artists, directors, ensembles and composers in the United States at professional, college/university, community and high school levels. Now in its 13th year, The American Prize was founded in 2010 and is awarded annually. Thousands of artists from all fifty states have derived benefit from their participation in the contests, representing hundreds of communities and arts organizations across the nation. Information about the 2024 season of contests is available at theamericanprize.org.

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All roads in Region III volleyball lead to Katy ISD



Tompkins' Brooklynn Merrell digs a ball during a match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD has continued to prove one thing over the past four years in volleyball. Everything in Region III goes through District 19-6A.

This year marked the third time in four years that Katy ISD sent a team to the state final game, and that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the accomplishments.

For the second straight year and the third time in four years there was an all Katy ISD Region III 6A Final. For the fourth straight year there was a Katy ISD team in that regional final as seven out of the eight teams to make it that far from 2020 on have come from District 19-6A.

"This is the hardest district in the area and in maybe some regions, I don't know all of the region's but I do know the level of volleyball in this district," said Cinco Ranch head coach Danielle Wells. "Every year teams from our district find a way to get to the third round, to the regional tournament and to state. It's a statement when you have teams doing that year after year. We have such a strong district and that's the benefit is you have to come ready to play every single night."

Cinco Ranch led the way in



Makenna Loo spikes a ball during a match between Cinco ranch and Seven Lakes at the Cinco Ranch gym.

the district, making it all the way to the state final game, a feat that Tompkins accomplished last year and Seven Lakes accomplished three years ago when they won a state title. The Cougars finished the year with a 38-6 record, including a 16-0 unbeaten district championship, but were far from the only team to have major accomplishments in the district.

Seven Lakes overcame a gauntlet in the playoffs after finishing third in district. The Spartans had

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B3

WEEK OF DECEMBER 1

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday

- Taylor vs. Alief Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Shoemaker, 2 p.m.
- Katy vs. Conroe, 2:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Woods, 2:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Bush, 2:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Pearland, Dawson, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. George Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Oak Ridge, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Willis, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Fort Bend Travis, 5:30 p.m.

Friday

- Jordan vs. Monterey, 9:30 a.m.
- Paetow at Fort Bend Austin, 2:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cy-Falls, 2:30 p.m.
- Seven lakes at Summer Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Klein Collins, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Clear Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Fulshear, 7 p.m.

Saturday

- Taylor at Bridgeland, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday

- Seven Lakes vs. Klein Oak, 4 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Benjamin Davis, 4 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Klein Oak, LS5SM, 4:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Fort Bend Marshall, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Conroe, 7 p.m.

Friday

- Mayde Creek vs. Lamar, 2 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Foster, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fulshear, 2 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Brennan, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Stratford, 6:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Klein, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

- Paetow vs. Benjamin Davis, 10 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. George Ranch, 2:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Dobie, 2:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Lakes, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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



Brett Norton dunks the ball during Monday's game between Seven Lakes and Pearland Dawson at the Seven Lakes gym.

Seven Lakes tops Dawson as Heston earns 200th win

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes has big goals this year. The Spartans have laid the framework. They've continued to improve year by year, become a force in the area and made a name for themselves.

Now it's about taking things a step further

and finding a way to the state tournament.

Seven Lakes is laying the groundwork for that now. They've opened the season by playing four state ranked teams in their first 10 games and have purposely given themselves as tough a schedule out of the gate as possible as the Spartans want to test themselves against the

See **SPARTANS**, page B6

Texans fall to Jaguars in huge AFC South game

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston hadn't been in a game this important since 2019.

The Texans were in a huge spot on Sunday — win and you are in first place in the AFC South, with a clear path to the playoffs and big tiebreakers in their favor within the division.

But lose and you go a step back in the wildcard race and two games back of a very good Jacksonville Jaguars team, with games ahead in the schedule becoming ever more important as the season heads deeper.

Houston came inches away from getting the result they needed, but fell just short, losing to the Jaguars 24-21 to go to 6-5 on the season and two games back in the AFC South.

"There are things we need to clean up and ultimately we have to play better," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "We had self inflicted things today that we have to be better at. We have to get the right people on the field quicker, we have to execute, all those things have to be better than today."

Houston's offense struggled early. The Texans got the ball first but couldn't get anything going, but the team's defense stepped up after the punt, limiting Jacksonville to a field goal. The Texans still couldn't get anything going on their next two drives though and the Jaguars finally got to the endzone early in the second quarter, getting a pass interference penalty to put the ball on the 1-yard line before Trevor Lawrence ran in a quarterback sneak.

Houston's offense responded after

See **TEXANS**, page B3

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36 Katy ISD student athletes sign to next level

STAFF REPORT

On November 8, 2023, 36 student-athletes from six Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) high schools signed their National Letters of Intent, marking a significant achievement in their academic and athletic journeys.

These student-athletes have excelled in their respective sports while representing their schools. Katy ISD congratulates these dedicated individuals and wish them well as they take their next step and compete at the collegiate level.

"We are incredibly proud of these outstanding young men and women who have worked tirelessly to reach this point in their athletic careers. Their accomplishments reflect not only their individual commitment but also the tremendous support they have received from our dedicated coaches, teachers and parents," said Lance Carter, Executive Director of Athletics. "We look forward to watching them flourish at the collegiate level and beyond."

Katy ISD student-athletes who signed their National Letter of Intent:

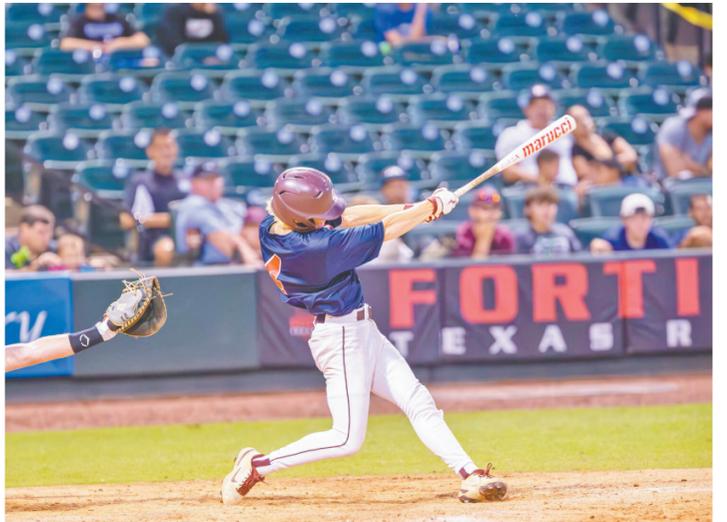
NAME	SCHOOL	SPORT	UNIVERSITY
Brock DeYoung	Cinco Ranch High School	Baseball	Texas State University
Connor Ficarra	Cinco Ranch High School	Baseball	Angelina College
Ambrye Fortune	Cinco Ranch High School	Girls Soccer	Texas A&M San Antonio
Brayden Hodge	Cinco Ranch High School	Baseball	East Texas Baptist
Makenna Loo	Cinco Ranch High School	Volleyball	Blinn College
Sierra McCluer	Cinco Ranch High School	Girls Soccer	Winthrop University
Ethan Muniz	Cinco Ranch High School	Baseball	Grayson College
Faith Piper	Cinco Ranch High School	Softball	Baylor University
Shea Rainosek	Cinco Ranch High School	Volleyball	Midwestern University
Ari Willis	Cinco Ranch High School	Volleyball	University of St. Thomas
Avery Coates	Katy High School	Diving	University of Hawaii
Maddy Hunter	Katy High School	Cross Country	University of Houston
Cooper Lucas	Katy High School	Baseball	Fort Scott Community College
Hannah Phillips	Katy High School	Girls Soccer	University of North Texas
Addison Hodge	Jordan High School	Softball	Oklahoma Wesleyan University
Leah Hoss	Jordan High School	Volleyball	Blinn College
Ella Koch	Jordan High School	Volleyball	Midwestern State University- Wichita Falls
Madison Lambert	Jordan High School	Girls Soccer	University of North Texas
Abbi Nelson	Jordan High School	Girls Golf	Idaho State University
Owen Rodgers	Jordan High School	Boys Soccer	University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy- St. Louis
Addison Sutton	Jordan High School	Girls XC & Track & Field	Samford University, AL
Kaeli White	Jordan High School	Swim	University of Houston
Michelle Meeks	Morton Ranch High School	Softball	Prairie View A&M
Anthony Bates	Seven Lakes High School	Boys Basketball	Louisiana Tech
Sameena Burns	Seven Lakes High School	Volleyball	Sam Houston State University
Justice Carlton	Seven Lakes High School	Girls Basketball	University of Texas
Hagen Knight	Seven Lakes High School	Boys Basketball	McPherson
Matthew Montgomery	Seven Lakes High School	Boys XC & Track & Field	University of North Texas
Joel Nace	Seven Lakes High School	Swimming	University of Arizona
Simone Romriell	Seven Lakes High School	Volleyball	Utah State University Eastern
Wagoner Townsen	Seven Lakes High School	Girls Soccer	Belmont University
Isabelle Allen	Taylor High School	Softball	Angelina College
Jackson Aronoff	Taylor High School	Tennis	Mary Hardin Baylor
Vanessa Eregie	Taylor High School	Volleyball	University of the Incarnate Word
Timya Grice	Taylor High School	Girls Basketball	Arizona State University
Samantha Rank	Taylor High School	Girls Soccer	A&M Corpus Christi



Taylor student athletes pose for a photo on national signing day.



Seven Lakes student athletes pose for a photo on national signing day.



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



Left: Morton Ranch student athletes pose for a photo on national signing day.

COURTESY KATY ISD



Right: Katy student athletes pose for a photo on national signing day.

COURTESY KATY ISD



Jordan student athletes pose for a photo on national signing day.



Cinco Ranch student athletes pose for a photo on national signing day.



Makenna Loo blocks a shot from a Seven Lakes player during a match between Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes at the Cinco Ranch gym.

TYLER TYRE

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TYLER TYRE

Emily Killam blocks a kill attempt during a match between Cinco ranch and Seven Lakes at the Cinco Ranch gym.

VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

to get through higher ranked seeds in each playoff matchup, beating Fort Bend Austin and Stratford before taking down Tompkins to clinch a spot in the regional tournament and sweeping Deer Park to reach the regional final for the first time since 2020. The Spartans made a big jump after a second round exit last year and finished the season at 29-16. Tompkins made it to the third round for the second straight season after finishing second in district and even the fourth place finisher in district, Jordan, nearly pulled off a huge upset victory over Ridge Point in the opening round of the playoffs.

"This district is just crazy good and competitive," said Seven Lakes head coach Amy Cataline. "It makes you better when you play in this district and prepared us for the playoffs. You're already at that level of competitiveness because of what you've gone through the past two months."

That high level of performance shows no signs of slowing down either. Each of the teams that made the playoffs will bring back a number of strong players next season while teams like Katy and Taylor, who were very competitive in their own right, will try to build on this season with their strong young cores.

One thing is certain. If another team



TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes players celebrate after winning a set during Tuesday's match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center.

in Region III is going to make it through to the state tournament, they're going to have to go through the teams in Katy ISD, and no one has had luck with that over the past couple of years.

"There's so much skill in this district," said Cinco Ranch senior middle blocker Emily Killam. "You never know what you are going to face on the court and it's so challenging every time you go out there against anyone in this district. It helps you because you are always focused, you're always determined and you always have to overcome another really good team."



Above: Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) before a snap during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Pittsburgh Steelers on October 1, 2023 in Houston. Left: Texans wide receiver Nico Collins (12) reacts after scoring on a 2-yard touchdown catch during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Pittsburgh Steelers on October 1, 2023 in Houston.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

TEXANS

from page B1

that, marching down the field on five plays and gaining 75 yards before the drive was capped off with a 7-yard touchdown pass from CJ Stroud to Tank Dell. Jacksonville came back and increased its lead with another long field goal, Houston put together a two-minute drive just before the half to try and trim the lead, but a long field goal went wide to the right. The Jags moved the ball inside the one-yard-line after that, but Houston's defense stepped up again. Stopping a first and goal with one-second left to keep the Jaguars lead at 13-7 going into the locker room.

"That was a really big play for us," Ryans said. "It kept us in it and I thought that momentum that the defense gave us would carry over to the second half. But we let them converting on third downs and driving. For us, we knew to win this game we had to be better than we were today and better on third downs."

The Jaguars marched down the field again to start the second half and were helped once again when for the second time in the game a questionable pass interference in the endzone put the ball at the one-yard-line. Jacksonville converted it into eight points with a touchdown pass from Lawrence to Calvin Ridley and a two-point conversion using the same connection. Houston couldn't answer back on its next drive, with it stalling after a sack near mid-field. Jacksonville added a field goal early in the fourth quarter to make it a 10 point game. Jacksonville and Houston's defenses traded stops before Houston drove down the field and scored on a 17-yard pass from Stroud to Nico Collins, trimming the deficit to three. The Texans defense again came up big, forcing a punt, but with a chance to drive to tie or win the game, Houston's offense stalled and was forced into a long field goal and it came up inches short, bouncing off the uprights and back in play as the Jaguars closed out the win and claimed first place in the AFC South.

Houston will continue its homestand

next week with another important one as they face another AFC wildcard foe in the Denver Broncos. The Texans have now had seven straight games decided on the last drive of the game.

"It was a missed opportunity for us," Ryans said. "We didn't play our best and it's like I told our guys, when you don't play your best and don't execute against a really good team then this is what happens. There's no need to hold our head down or sulk, we have to do something about it and we have to get out there on the field, execute and play better. If you play better you win the game, today we didn't deserve to win because we didn't play to that level."



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans wide receiver Tank Dell (3) warms up before an NFL game between the Texans and the Jaguars on November 26, 2023, in Houston.

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Texans hold on for 21-16 win over Arizona

The win sets up battle for first place with Jaguars

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston's offense has stepped up countless times this season. For the most part, it's been the offense that's been the story for the Texans, with CJ Stroud putting up numbers and leading the team to wins in clutch moments. But when Houston needed a play to be made on Sunday, it wasn't the offense that gave it to them — it was the defense that stepped up repeatedly in Houston's game, stopping the Arizona Cardinals every step of the way in a 21-16 win as the Texans kept pace in the AFC South and the wild card chase.

"I'm so proud of our guys," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "Hopefully we can stop making them so close, but when you're coming out on the right side of it, you'll take it every single time. I'm proud of them and the growth they keep displaying. No matter what happened, nobody cared or flinched. Everyone had the mindset of finding a way to win and that's what it's all about."

Arizona was the team that punted first — the Cardinals went 75 yards in just four plays, scoring first on a 48-yard touchdown pass from Kyler Murray to Rondale Moore. The Texans then turned it over on downs inside the redzone to give Arizona more



Texans defensive end Jerry Hughes (55) celebrates after a tackle for loss during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on November 5, 2023 in Houston.



Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) celebrates with wide receiver Tank Dell (3) after scoring on a two-point conversion play in the fourth quarter of an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on November 5, 2023 in Houston.

momentum, but Houston's defense came up with a stop and the team tied it on a 20-yard pass from Stroud to Schultz midway through the first quarter. Arizona regained the lead on a 57-yard field goal by Matt Prater, but Houston came back and took its first lead of the game early in the second quarter on a 12-yard run by Devin Singletary. The Houston defense continued to step up, as Derek Stingley Jr. came up with a big interception and Houston extended its lead late in the half on a huge 41-yard pass from Stroud to Tank Dell, going into the locker

room leading 21-10. The Texans' offense stagnated in the second half but the defense kept up its strong performance. Arizona scored after a long drive late in the third quarter to make it a five point game, but the Texans' defense made a big stop on fourth down in the redzone early in the fourth quarter and then after a Texans three-and out Houston recovered a muffed punt inside the Arizona redzone. Houston's offense couldn't convert this into points though and gave the ball back to Arizona when Stroud threw an interception. Houston's defense

came up with another fourth down stop though, but Stroud's third interception of the day gave the ball back to Arizona with five minutes left in the game. Arizona proceeded to drive down the field, but the Texans' defense had one more stop in them, as Steven Nelson batted down a pass attempt on fourth down and the Texans forced a turnover on downs for the fourth

time in the game to clinch the win. "Credit to our guys especially in those moments because none of it was too big for them," Ryans said. "We had an opportunity and the guys made big time plays. They communicated, we had guys step in at different position and they all came up huge and communicated in those pressure moments. It was awesome to see them step up."



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About the Bee

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For More Information

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The National Civics Bee is presented by The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce with support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

SPARTANS

from page B1

best so they can make improvements early in the year.

Seven Lakes continued that journey on Monday with a matchup against Pearland Dawson in a game that has been a battle over the years. The Spartans had come into the matchup having lost to the Eagles each of the past three seasons, but Seven Lakes turned that around in a big way, beating Dawson 74-50 to improve to 8-3 on the season.

It was a night of celebration at Seven Lakes. Before the game the Spartans had a moment to celebrate Bates, who became the school's leading scorer for a career earlier in the season, and after the game, the team celebrated what was the 200th win of head coach Shannon Heston's career.

"This was a big one for us," said senior point guard AJ Bates. "We wanted to bounce back after a loss over the weekend and I had been a

part of the last three losses to these guys so I really wanted to get this one. We came out and had a lot of energy and played well on both sides of the ball. You don't get to celebrate many times like we were able to tonight, so to be able to do this in our home opener this year was awesome. It was a great night."

Seven Lakes and Dawson went back and forth through the first half. The Spartans led 14-10 after the first quarter but Dawson came back to take the lead early in the second quarter before the Spartans answered with a run of its own and went into the half with a 30-24 lead.

The third quarter was where Seven Lakes broke things open — the Spartans opened up a 20-point lead behind a upped defensive intensity and clinical fast break play. Seven Lakes then closed it out with a strong fourth quarter as the Spartans didn't waver in their intensity

for the entire second half.

"The game was still close and when we came out of the half we just talked to ourselves as a team and told each other 'let's end this, don't let them fight their way back into it, we need to step on their throat,'" said senior guard Brett Norton. "We did that and it was a great half. That's how we want to play basketball."

But the night might have had more meaning to Heston than anyone else. The coach notched his 200th win as the head coach of the Spartans and it was against a significant opponent. Heston did not want to hype up the accomplishment, but he did speak about just what the Seven Lakes basketball program has meant to him.

"This program has taken me from a cocky, arrogant junior high coach to someone who is humbled and honored to be here and be a



TYLER TYRE

Isaiah Santos drives to the basket during Monday's game between Seven Lakes and Pearland Dawson at the Seven Lakes gym.

part of this program and its history," Heston said. "I have worked with incredible coaches here and so many incredible kids and young men. I just hope that I've been able

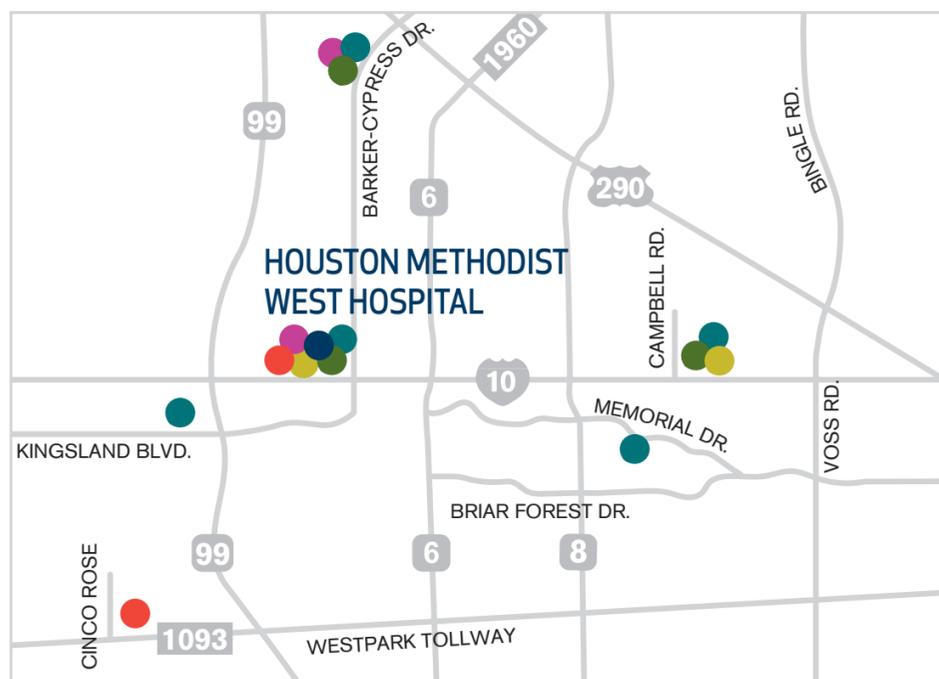
to affect their lives positively. This has meant the world to me and is my life's dream come true. I'm where I've always wanted to be doing what I've always wanted to do."

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