

SEVEN LAKES  
SURVIVES STIFF  
TEST FROM KATY  
IN DISTRICT  
OPENER

SPORTS | B1

# KatyTimes



VOLUME 112, ISSUE 50

THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

## School board approves names for new elementaries

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

At its December 9 regular board meeting, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees approved the namesakes for two new elementary schools opening in fall 2025, as recommended by their respective School Naming Selection committees.

Elementary #47, located at 7402 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, in the Elyson area,

will be Alfred and Ann Boudny Elementary, and Elementary #48 at 900 Sunterra Shores, in the Sunterra development will be James and Mitzi Cross Elementary. These schools are part of the district's 2023 Bond and will support the growing population in the district's northwest quadrant.

"Our namesakes are an important part of the Katy ISD community and we are looking forward to adding the Boudny

and Cross families to that special group," said Ken Gregorski, KISD Superintendent. "These dedicated educators continue to pour into our district and we look forward to seeing the impact they'll have in these new school communities."

All four of the namesakes are retired KISD educators.

See **NAMES**, page A3

## Katy city council appoints Woytek as KPD chief

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

A near-capacity crowd – including many Katy Police Department officers and at least four former mayors – cheered as Katy city council members appointed Captain Bryon T. Woytek as the city's chief of police in a 4-0 vote. Councilmember Janet Corte was not present at the meeting.

Woytek has served as interim chief for the department since mid-August, following the departure of Noe Diaz, who left Katy to become police chief for the City of Houston. Woytek, who has worked for the department since 1994, was sworn in by Municipal Court Judge Jeffrey Brashear.

Six speakers took the podium during public comments, with four individuals addressing the city's takeover of the Katy Market Day event. Betsy Proctor, who has run the event for 30 years, told council that she had a petition with over 2,000 signatures opposing the move.

See **CITY**, page A3

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### LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

The City of Katy opened the holiday season with the lighting of the Christmas tree in Katy's historic downtown square at Second Street and Avenue C on December 5. This year, the tree – officially lit by Santa Claus himself – was positioned in front of the Katy Civic Center on the square, rather than in front of City Hall as in past years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

Flooding caused by a broken pipe forced the Pregnancy Help Center of West Houston to close temporarily. The center is at 1450 E. Summity Drive in Katy, near the intersection of Park Row and Westgreen.

## Pregnancy Help Center floods, closes temporarily

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The scene is all too familiar to Katy survivors of Harvey and "the freeze." Water-soaked carpeting, buckled flooring, and ruined furniture – and the subsequent cutting away of drywall, heaters blowing around-the-clock, fixture removal, and dealing with insurance adjusters.

On December 1, 2024, the Pregnancy Help Center of West Houston flooded due to a clogged water filtration system. The center, located at 1450 E Summity Circle in Katy, has temporarily closed while repairs are underway – at a time when the young mothers they help may be facing additional challenges due to the upcoming

holidays.

"Our greatest concern is not losing furniture," said Kelli McAnally, Executive Director. "We are most concerned about lost opportunities to serve our precious clients in time-critical situations."

The Pregnancy Help Center serves to empower women in their pregnancy journey by providing free resources, which include physical, spiritual and emotional support. Many underprivileged women depend on the diapers, wipes and baby supplies they receive weekly. Others need a lab-quality pregnancy test or ultrasound to confirm their pregnancy for insurance purposes. Yet others need the support they

receive in prenatal and parenting classes, or the opportunity to discuss their pregnancy options with a registered nurse and make a well-informed parenting decision. Some just need to hear the empowering words, "You are strong. You can do this. We will help you."

The staff at the center is grateful that the clinic offices and ultrasound equipment were spared, said Development Director Becky Munoz in an email to the Katy Times. As such, the PHC hopes to re-open its doors on a limited basis starting around mid-December, Munoz said. In the meantime, donations can be made at: [www.phckatypartners.org](http://www.phckatypartners.org) to help them as they recover.

See **KCM**, page A3

## Brookshire rings in the season with Christmas tree decorating contest

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The City of Brookshire's annual Christmas tree decorating contest was a dazzling display of holiday cheer as local businesses and organizations came together to showcase their creativity and festive spirit. Participants assembled at the Brookshire Convention Center, 4029 5th Street in Brookshire, on December 6 to decorate trees provided by the city.

The winners of the contest, as voted on by the community, were announced at the city's Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 7:

See **BROOKSHIRE**, page A3

### FINAL KATY MARKET DAY HELD



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

A convention of Clauses was spotted at the corner of Avenue B and Second Street in old Katy on December 7, as Katy Market Day held its largest and most popular event, the Christmas market. It was the final Katy Market Day under the direction of local businesswoman Betsy Proctor, who has run the monthly vendor street fair for 30 years. The City of Katy will be taking over the market in 2025, according to city officials.

## LEADING CANCER CARE in Katy & West Houston

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# Cinco Ranch branch library hosts ‘Sleeping Beauty’ marionette show on Dec. 14

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Youth Services department at Fort Bend County Libraries’ Cinco Ranch Branch Library will present a special performance of the marionette puppet show, “Sleeping Beauty & the Handsome Prince,” on Saturday, December 14, beginning at 3 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.

Master puppeteer Jean Kuecher,

producer of Marionette Playhouse, will entertain children of all ages with her beautifully handcrafted marionettes on an elaborate stage, with music and lighting. In this puppet show, the Good Fairy helps the Handsome Prince battle the Wicked Witch’s dragon, but then the prince can’t remember how to awaken the Princess Sleeping Beauty. With a little help from the audience, maybe he will remember, and the Handsome Prince and the Princess Sleeping Beauty will be reunited! After the perfor-

mance, stay to learn some of the backstage secrets. The delicately handcrafted, 1/3-life-sized marionettes are built by Kuecher, who also designs their beautiful costumes and majestic scenery. A member of the Puppeteers of America and the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild, Kuecher holds a master’s degree in education, counseling and guidance from the University of Houston, and has used her puppetry skills to enrich classroom education. Space is limited. The per-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEAN KUECHER

Enjoy a free marionette performance of “Sleeping Beauty & The Handsome Prince” at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Blvd. in Katy, on December 14, performed by master puppeteer Jean Kuecher.

formance is free but tickets are required for entry and will be handed out starting one hour before showtime. No late admittance. Made possible by the Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, this performance is free and open

to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website ([www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://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).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Bluey comes to Kid to Kid in Katy on December 14

Meet Bluey from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at a meet-and-greet event hosted by Kid to Kid at 610 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy. Come say hello and get a free photo. “Bluey” is an Australian animated preschool television series which premiered on ABC Kids on October 1, 2018. The show follows Bluey, an anthropomorphic six-year-old (later seven-year-old) Blue Heeler puppy who is characterized by her abundance of energy, imagination and curiosity about the world, according to Wikipedia.

### Arc of Katy to hold Fa La La Fashion Show and Revue on December 14

Come support the Arc of Katy at the Fa La La Fashion Show and Revue. The event will be held at Crossroad Church, 700 Westgreen Blvd. in Katy from 2 to 4 p.m. on December 14. Free. The Arc of Katy provides adult day programs and summer programs to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### Get your ‘Gift in Time’ at the December 14 holiday market at Mo’s Irish Pub

Shop for artisan handmade gifts and food on December 14 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Mo’s Irish Pub at 23511 Katy Freeway in Katy. The event is hosted by Farmers Market on Grand Parkway.

**CLEARLY, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**MEET PACO!**

This sweet 3-year-old, 8-pound bundle of joy is wagging his tail in excitement because he’s part of the Empty the Shelters Holiday Hope Event sponsored by Bissell Pet Foundation! During this special event, Special Pals is able to reduce adoption fees for Paco and all of our adult dogs over 5 months old as well as all of our cats. Paco and so many other pets are hoping to find their forever homes this holiday season, and with your help, they just might!

**SPECIAL PALS**  
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### Ho Ho Ho! Get free photos with Santa at Minuti Coffee/ Katy Mills on December 21

It’s a “Coffee Party” set for December 21 from 12 to 4 p.m. at Minuti Coffee’s Katy Mills location at 814 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy. Get a free photo with Santa from 1 to 3 p.m. and enjoy a free hot chocolate and a free small gelato while enjoying all the festive vibes.

### Get ready to celebrate Christmas like never before at Katy Beer Garden on December 21

Join the Katy Beer Garden team on December 21 from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. for a day packed with holiday cheer, live entertainment, and festive fun – and real snow. Expect live music all day from one band and five DJs. Win exciting prizes all day long and win a Jack Daniels barrel by counting the number of peppermints correctly. Be one of the first 100 to order a Peppermint Shooter and take home a collectors engraved KBG keepsake whiskey glass. Show off your wrapping skills to win the gift-wrapping contest or come dressed as Sexiest Santa, Jolliest Santa, or Best Elf or wearing your Ugliest Sweater to win the costume contest. Katy Beer Garden is located at 5345 E. Third Street in Katy.

### Join the Fussell Senior Center for these December events

The City of Katy’s Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. Fifth Street in Katy, announced these events in their December newsletter:

- December 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Holiday Open House – A festive afternoon of warmth, cheer and community spirit. Free to attend.
- December 16 from 2 to 5 p.m.: Cookie exchange. Bring two dozen of your favorite homemade cookies to share with other participants.
- December 19 from 2 to 4 p.m.: Bingo. Bring \$2.50 in quarters – winner takes the pot!
- Late December trips:
  - o December 14 from 4:30 p.m. to midnight: Elizabethan Madrigal Feast. The Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences’ event transports guests to the enchanting Yuletide of Renaissance England. As she has for three decades, Queen Elizabeth will arrive with pageantry in Clute. See Pat at the Senior Center for ticket information.
  - o December 18 from 6 to 9 p.m.: Christmas Lights Tour of Katy. There is no cost for this driving tour of Katy.
  - o December 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.: State Capitol Tour with Representative Mike Schofield. Journey to downtown Austin for a tour of this historic building, personally conducted by Schofield.



### Enjoy more fun in December at the Steve Radack Center

Harris County Precinct 4’s Steve Radack Community Center at 18650 Clay Road in Houston will offer the following programs in mid to late December:

- December 14 at 11 a.m. Kid Craft—Canvas Tree. Get



into the holiday spirit by joining volunteer instructor Julie to make your very own tree on a canvas. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

- December 16 at 11 a.m. Safety During the Holidays. The holidays can be a dangerous time with so many people traveling to and from celebrations. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) encourages everyone to put safety at the top of their list this holiday season. Join Sergeant Stephen Woodard as he goes over tips and things to watch for to keep your holidays merry and bright.
- December 20 at 9 a.m. Free immunization for Children. Children under 18 years old with no health insurance or who are under-insured, on Medicaid, Indian/Native American, or Alaskan Native are eligible to receive free immunizations from Harris Health. Legal guardians must bring the child’s immunization records to participate.
- December 20 at 9 a.m. Free Immunizations for Adults. Harris County Public Health is offering free vaccinations and boosters for the flu, COVID-19, and MPox. No ID, insurance, or citizenship status is required. To make an appointment, call 832-927-8787. Walk-ins are welcome.
- December 21 at 11 a.m. Kid Activity—Gingerbread Houses. Join a festive holiday activity and create your own gingerbread house. Get creative with the decorations and once your masterpiece is complete, take it home to display for your family and friends. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

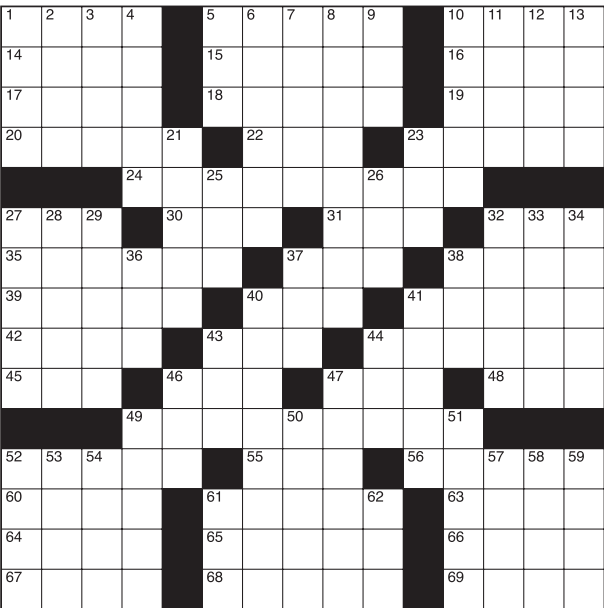
CLUES ACROSS

1. Nuclear undersea weapon
5. President of Syria al—
10. Partner to flows
14. “Snow” in Welsh
15. Famed Mexican painter
16. Song
17. ticks outward from the crown
18. Doddering
19. Resist authority (slang)
20. Antsy
22. Wrath
23. Spills the beans
24. Past
27. The woman
30. One has 24 hours
31. Talk
32. It can sting
35. Astronomy unit
37. Halfway
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Australian river
40. Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
41. Fabric
42. Crucifix
43. Defunct European economic group
44. “Hotel California” rockers
45. Michael Knight’s car
46. Actress Ryan
47. A digital tape recording of sound
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Golden— corn
55. Israeli city — Aviv
56. Sword

60. Ottoman military title
61. Aromatic plants
63. Cold wind
64. Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
65. Political unit
66. Indiscreetly reveal secrets
67. Comfort food dish
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

1. One point east of southeast
2. Italian monetary unit
3. Warship prison
4. Tropical American tree
5. Alias
6. Normal or sound powers of mind
7. English county
8. Not compatible with
9. Female deer
10. Not late
11. La — Tar Pits, Hollywood
12. “Jupiter’s Legacy” actress Leslie
13. Impudence
21. Advises
23. Founder of Babism
25. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
26. Male parent
27. A type of plug
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Fungal disease
32. Shelter
33. Finished
34. Excrete

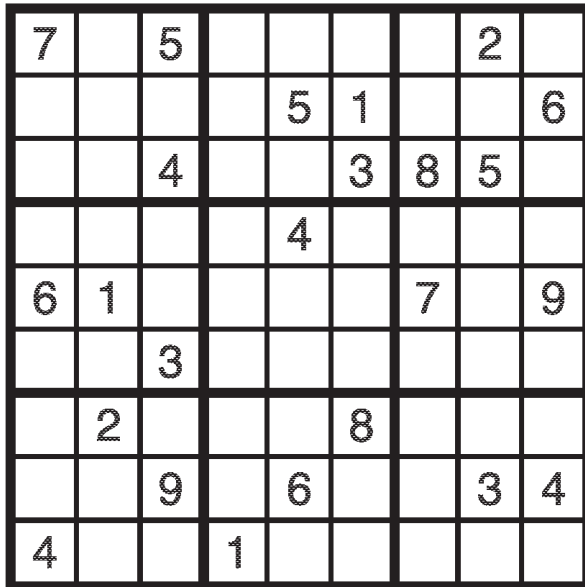


36. Unhappy
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Spend time dully
41. Makes full
43. Snakelike fish
44. Take in solid food
46. — student, learns healing
47. A way to take away
49. Impart a lesson to
50. “Transformers” actress Fox

51. Spiritual leader
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Indian city
54. 17th stars
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor —, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

## SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here’s How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.



BROOKSHIRE

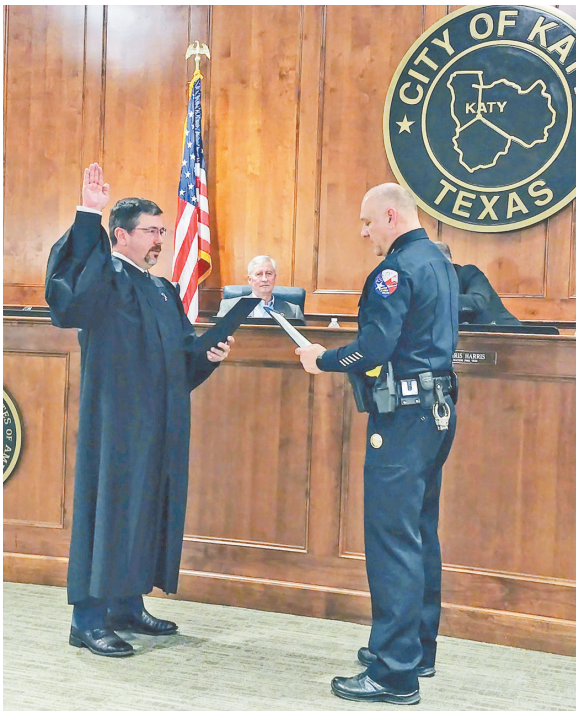
from page A1



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

The City of Brookshire hosted their Christmas Festival at the Brookshire Convention Center, 4029 5th Street on December 7. Makhi Campbell (left) and Emari Campbell visited with Santa Claus at the event.

- \* Most Whimsical Tree: Jordan Ranch Dental, a newcomer to the Brookshire area, brought a playful twist to the holiday season with their Grinch-themed tree.
  - \* Most Festive Tree: Edward Jones, experts in personalized financial advice, celebrated the tradition of cardinals at Christmas with a vibrant and festive tree.
  - \* Most Traditional Tree: The Brookshire Police Department, dedicated to ensuring community safety, crafted a classic and elegant tree that honored time-honored holiday traditions.
  - \* Most Creative Tree: Church's Chicken, famous for their crispy, flavorful fried chicken, surprised and delighted with a unique and innovative tree that showcased their brand's fun and playful side.
  - \* Best Themed Tree: The Brookshire Public Works Department, responsible for maintaining the city's infrastructure, created a stunning tree that celebrated the hardworking spirit of their team.
- The winning trees will be on display throughout the month of December.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Municipal Court Judge Jeffrey Brashear (left) swears in Bryon Woytek (right) as the new chief of the Katy Police Department at the December 9 city council meeting as Mayor Dusty Thiele looks on. Woytek has served as interim chief since mid-August.

KCM

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ing high-quality services and support to those in need, I feel fortunate to collaborate with an exceptional team that has established Katy Christian Ministries as a leader in our field."

Gonzalez holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and brings seventeen years of experience in the nonprofit sector, including stints with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and CASA, alongside over five years of expertise within both civil and criminal justice systems.

Gonzalez is stepping into the role vacated by former executive director Deysi Crespo, who left KCM in October 2024, after more than 17 years with the organization. Crespo now heads the

NAMES

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- The recommendations were made to the board during last month's board work study meeting, and on December 4, the district held public forums where the public was invited to share thoughts on the recommendations.
- In other actions in Monday night's meeting, the board:
- Approved a contract to build out the Merchants Way building on a 6-1 vote, with board secretary Mary Ellen Cuzela dissenting. The building will house the Katy Plus program, serving approximately 165 special education students from age 18 to 21 in a life skills program at one centralized and upgraded location rather than at individual campuses.
  - Heard public comments from more than a dozen speakers, including three who spoke in opposition to KISD's book ban, former trustee George Scott who expressed concern about the Texas Education Agency's "academic fraudulence in student testing," two teachers requesting more planning time, and a number of students who spoke on topics ranging from artificial intelligence to electric school buses.
  - Convened in closed sessions three different times; first to consider safety improvements and potential property acquisition; to consider a Level Three



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY ISD

James and Mitzi Cross



Alfred and Ann Boudny

FNG grievance; and for an unspecified purpose, according to the agenda document.

The next meetings of the school board will be:

- Work study meeting on January 13, 2025
- Regular board meeting on January 21, 2025

CITY

from page A1

- In other action, council also approved in unanimous votes:
- Awarding bids for drainage projects for two areas. The Heights-Airline-Drexel improvement project, estimated to cost \$5,832,834.00, would start in January and take 13 months to complete, said city engineer David Kasper. A second project would expand the Pitts Road detention pond at a cost of \$1,620,933.70.
  - Engineering and construction phase services through ARRK Engineers, LLC were approved for an asphalt overlay project from East Avenue to Katyl and Blvd., a striping improvement project at Franz and Cane Island Parkway, a waterline replacement project in Pinewood Terrace Phase 3, a sewer rehabilitation project affecting the Danover-Roberts-East Avenue area, and a sewer



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Local businesswoman Betsy Proctor speaks to the city council on December 9 in opposition to the city's decision to take over the Katy Market Day event, which Proctor has run for thirty years.

improvement project for Pine Meadow and Crystal Forest Trail.

Council also went into closed session to consider an amendment to a development agreement involving the proposed Katy Boardwalk hotel. After council came out of closed session, the amendment was approved with no discussion.

The next meeting of Katy's city council will be January 13 at City Hall, 901 Avenue C. in Katy.

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**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**  
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Closed Christmas Day

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
Tuesday, December 31  
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY 2025**  
Wednesday, January 1  
12 p.m.–5 p.m.



# Katy Christian Ministry’s ‘Santa’s Sleigh’ delivers gifts – and hope – to Katy’s less fortunate

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

The holidays are not always merry and bright for some families in the Katy community. “People do not know that Katy is not the ‘land of plenty,’” said Patti Lacy, past president of Katy Christian Ministries’ board of directors in an interview with the Katy Times. “There is a huge underserved population of students in Katy ISD. And there is a huge homeless population which just means that that these children aren’t living in their own home and may be living with someone else temporarily.” Sometimes the need is invisible, Lacy said. “Sometimes people live in an affluent neighborhood and go to an affluent school, but we don’t know what happens behind closed doors.”

Lacy quantified the degree of need in Katy by pointing to the number of students served by Katy ISD who require assistance in one form or another. According to information provided by a spokesperson for Katy ISD, the district has 25 Title 1 schools serving low-income students and has over 25,827 students participating in free and reduced-cost meal benefits. “Unfortunately, the need is growing,” Lacy said. Year-round, Katy Christian Ministries serves many of these families through its food pantry at 3506 Porter Road in Katy as well as through its social services program. But celebrating Christmas can be really hard for these families who are struggling just to keep a roof over their heads and the lights turned on. “The numbers go up at our crisis center and our food pantry during the holidays,” Lacy said. Through its annual “Santa’s Sleigh” program, Katy Christian Ministries’ Social Services helps families find and maintain some balance when they fall into financial crisis. The Santa’s Sleigh



Volunteers from Katy Christian Ministries are ready for the big day December 6 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy – distributing Christmas gifts – including bicycles – to needy families during the nonprofit’s annual “Santa’s Sleigh” project. Left to right: Terin Bates, KCM board of directors past president Patti Lacy, Mariana Gaines, Carolyn Chandler, Theresa Wiens and Jennifer Alcoser.



A sea of black bags – each containing Christmas gifts to fulfill the specific wishes of needy children helped by Katy Christian Ministries’ social services program – are labeled and ready to give out on December 6 at the Merrell Center in Katy.



More than 200 bikes – of all kinds and sizes -- were donated to Katy Christian Ministries and then assembled by volunteers from area bicycle clubs, in order to be ready for distribution to families helped by the nonprofit’s social services program.



Bags customized for 102 senior citizens served by Katy Christian Ministries are organized in green bags and labeled with the recipient’s name and staged at the Merrell Center prior to being distributed on December 6.

program – which has been a KCM project for over 35 years -- is only for active clients of KCM Social Services who have met with the organization’s case managers for a full assessment of their needs, Lacy said. This year, Santa’s Sleigh will help almost 1300 children and more than 100 senior citizens, all of whom signed up months ago, Lacy said. The program is a huge endeavor that started in September with signups taking place in October.

Participants in the program are “adopted” by 150 to 200 generous donors who fulfill their wish lists by shopping for and donating the requested items. The wish lists of three items each are limited to less than \$100.00 in value and are pre-screened by KCM staff to ensure that the requested items are needed and are age-appropriate, and to confirm sizes. Food and candy are not included -- but occasionally, gift cards are. “We want to do what is right for the children,” Lacy said.

The gifts are gathered by volunteers and sorted into bags customized for each recipient. Toys are the most requested items by children, but frequently a child will request a bicycle for Christmas. Santa’s Sleigh will furnish over 200 bicycles and helmets this season, many of which have been donated or assembled by members of local bicycle clubs following donations of more than \$16,000.00. The Southwest Cycling Club donated 235 bikes, Lacy said. But Lacy said that she has been

personally moved by children’s more basic requests — a warm new coat of their own, or a set of sheets and blankets that will fit their own bed. “It is heart-breaking to hear a child ask for something that is so basic,” she said. And senior citizens also often have simple needs, too, such as a sweater. Then – there are the logistics of distribution. Lacy thanked Katy ISD for donating space at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, to stage and distribute the gifts. More than 150 volunteers – some from local churches and groups such as the National Charity League and the Boy Scouts – must be deployed where they are needed throughout the course of the project. The program is also supported by local companies including Memorial Hermann Hospital, Wood Energy, Ridgewood Energy, PCL and Transcore, as well as by churches such as St. Edith Stein Catholic Church and Westland Baptist Church. Families lined up at the Merrell Center early on December 6 – each with their customized placard identifying their family request number – and volunteers quickly matched them with their gift bags....and bicycles too, in some cases. “Friday is crazy to watch,” said Lacy. Lacy stressed that Santa’s Sleigh is not just a seasonal project – and that KCM needs the community’s support year-round. On December 3, Lacy said that the KCM food pantry received donations of more than 19,401 pounds of food – more than is typically received in an entire week. Volunteers are also needed for the nonprofit’s various initiatives, including the two resale stores. And Lacy encouraged end-of-year monetary donations to KCM as well. “We want to help as many people as possible,” she said. For more information on Katy Christian Ministries and Santa’s Sleigh, go to [ktcm.org](http://ktcm.org).

## Katy Responds completes renovation of Katy home damaged by lightning

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO,  
PUBLISHER

It was tragedy upon tragedy for Cimarron resident Cynthia. Her father passed away, leaving her a modest three-bedroom, two bath home in the older neighborhood in Katy near Kingsland Blvd. and Red River. The single mother of two was working two jobs while going to school. She attempted to get insurance for the property she inherited but was unsuccessful – she was told that the house needed a new roof and she just didn’t have the funds to make that happen. Then – coming home in the late summer of 2022 after working her second shift, she turned the corner to her street and saw a huge fire and fire trucks. Her house had been struck by lightning and what the fire didn’t destroy -- the water did. It was a total loss and uninhabitable. But the Katy community came together to help Cynthia through a series of actions from concerned individuals and companies. Ron Peters, the executive director for Katy Responds, a volunteer organization dedicated to restoring and rebuilding homes for families in West Harris County, Fort Bend County, and Waller County, heard about Cynthia’s situation through Nick Doherty of NBD Graphics, who had learned of the story through his church. Doherty contacted Peters to ask for tarps to cover the damaged structure. After furnishing the tarps as requested, Peters worked with Cynthia to fill out an application for help from Katy Responds. “At the time, I was 100 per cent sure that we could not help her,” Peters told the Katy Times in an interview. Peters advised Cynthia to sell the property rather than trying to renovate it.

However, Chris Ajamiseba, client services coordinator for Katy Responds said, “Cynthia never lost her faith in God and prayed daily for a miracle. Katy Responds, their donors and volunteers were able to bring Cynthia home for the holidays to a completely furnished home.” For over two years, Cynthia lived with her sister near the University of Houston main campus but commuted back to Katy to keep working her two jobs while the work was being done. Peters said that Katy Responds invested about \$80,000.00 on the renovation, producing work with a market value closer to \$150,000.00. However, the organization was not able to raise as much money as was needed, falling about \$20,000.00 short, but dipping into other resources in order to complete the renovation. While Katy Responds normally only does demolition and renovation work, it was clear that Cynthia’s plight called for more help. Peters reached out to the Lakewood Church, which provided furniture to replace what had been destroyed in the fire. Loew’s – where Cynthia works part-time – provided appliances, and many other companies as well as area churches stepped up with donations. And so, on Saturday, December 7, Cynthia walked through the front door of her completely renovated house, greeted by shouts of “Welcome home” from Katy Responds staff and volunteers. “Oh wow,” said Cynthia upon seeing the newly painted, refurbished and furnished residence. While her children are now grown and on their own, Cynthia will be bringing her elderly mother to live with her, thanks to the remodeling project which also included work to make the guest bathroom ADA-compliant. The house still needs some work – Cynthia



Above: Homeowner Cynthia (left) is greeted by shouts of “Welcome home!” as she is escorted by Katy Responds volunteer coordinator Chris Ajamiseba (center) into her rehabilitated residence in the Cimarron subdivision in Katy on December 7, as Executive Director Ron Peters (right) looks on.

would like to have doors installed on the closets – but the house is once again a home – complete with a Christmas tree and holiday decorations. To learn more about Katy Responds – including how you can help Cynthia – please go to the organization’s website at [katyresponds.org](http://katyresponds.org) or call 281-305-8545.

*Publisher’s note: Some details (such as Cynthia’s last name and her address) are being withheld by the Katy Times in order to protect Cynthia’s privacy.*



A lightning strike on August 10, 2022, caused Cynthia’s Cimarron house – which she had had just inherited from her father – to catch fire. The residence and its contents were almost completely destroyed.

## Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher  
TYLER TREJE | Sports Editor  
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Office Manager/Bookkeeper  
MARISSA FERREIRA | Page Designer

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday  
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678  
PHONE: 281-391-3141

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

TO REPORT SPORTS SCORES:  
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## LEGACY AT FALCON POINT TREE LIGHTING



George Kellerman (center) sings for fellow residents before officially lighting the Christmas tree on December 5 at the Legacy at Falcon Point, 1520 Katy Gap Rd. in Katy, with assistance from elf memory care activities director Marecyl Barnes (left) and activities director Tyrice McLaren as the Easter Bunny. (right). The 99-year-old Kellerman is the longest-residing member of the Legacy at Falcon Point senior living community; he moved there in February 2020.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



KATYTIMES.COM

## Carriage Inn celebrates centenarian

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy resident Lillian Sundstrom celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at Carriage Inn Senior Living Community on October 4th. Sundstrom, who has lived at Carriage Inn since 2015, received a letter from Katy Mayor William H. Dusty Thiele in recognition of her 100-year milestone. She was presented with the letter and acknowledged by Carriage Inn Executive Director Tony Rivas at an event in her honor.

Sundstrom's family joined her in the community for the special occasion.

When asked her secret to living such a long life, Sundstrom matter-of-factly replied, "Good genes."

"It's a blessing to reach such a milestone," said Executive Director Tony Rivas. "We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Ms. Sundstrom's 100th birthday with her family and our Carriage Inn community."

Carriage Inn Katy offers



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIAGE INN

Carriage Inn Executive Director Tony Rivas presents Lillian Sundstrom with a special acknowledgment of her 100th birthday, a tribute from Katy Mayor William Dusty Thiele.

independent living, assisted living, and memory care options for older adults to live life to the fullest in a manner that best suits their interests and desires. The community is located at 1400 Katy-Flewellen Road, Katy, TX. For more information about senior living options and life at Carriage Inn Katy, visit [www.cardinalbay.org](http://www.cardinalbay.org) or contact Tony Rivas at 281-392-2800 or [trivas@cardinalbay.org](mailto:trivas@cardinalbay.org).

Locally owned, Carriage Inn is a Cardinal Bay community managed by The Long Hill Company, a subsidiary of United Methodist Homes, a nonprofit senior living provider organization with a 150-year history of caring.

## 'Wreaths Across America' to honor veterans at Magnolia Cemetery on December 14

FROM STAFF REPORTS

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to "remember, honor and teach" at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad, according to the Wreaths Across America website. The event theme for 2024 is "Live with Purpose."

"Over the course of the last year, and then especially on the escort to Arlington last December, I listened to people who had gone through great adversity, and they'd taken that adversity and turned it around as a call to action to spend the rest of their lives making sure that every day was meaningful

and that they lived with purpose," said Karen Worcester, Executive Director, on the group's website.

Locally, the Wreaths Across America is being coordinated by American Legion Post 164. The organization will be laying wreaths at Magnolia Cemetery, 6801 Franz Road in Katy from 10 to 11 a.m. on December 14.

After a short ceremony, volunteers will lay wreaths on the graves of over 550 veterans buried there.

The ceremony is open to the public and everyone is

welcome to attend.

Volunteers should follow the location coordinators' instructions on where to place wreaths, as well as how they should be placed. The organization also needs volunteers to help with clean-up after the event; interested individuals should check in with the location coordinator for clean-up instructions.

To volunteer, to donate or for more information, go to the post's website at [wreath-sacrossamerica.org/pages/43364/Overview/?relatedId=42114](http://wreath-sacrossamerica.org/pages/43364/Overview/?relatedId=42114).



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# Local chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi brings ‘Room to Read’ to Rhoads Elementary

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

A local fraternity wants to help elementary school students learn to love reading.

Leonard Spearman is a member of the fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and a KEYS mentor for Katy ISD. Through the district’s KEYS program (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success), Spearman is a volunteer mentor for three young men -- one at Mayde Creek Junior High and two at Rhoads Elementary.

But Spearman wanted to do more to help local students, especially those attending KISD’s Title I schools like Rhoads.

Through his fraternity – Kappa Alpha Psi Inc., Spearman recruited almost a dozen volunteers from the local chapter to come to the Rhoads campus at 19711 Clay Road in Katy on December 4 to read aloud to second graders in the school’s library.

The men wore their distinctive red blazers identifying them as members of the fraternity. Spearman, as a member of the fraternity for more than 50 years, is entitled to wear a special white blazer. Pairing up and working with small groups of students, the fraternity brothers read aloud from books selected by Rhoads librarian Beth Stevens.

The initiative is a part of the fraternity’s national “Room to Read” program.

The “Room to Read” program had a soft launch in Milwaukee on November 15, 2019, and officially launched January 2, 2020, in Las Vegas during the Annual National Founders’ Day celebration with a national press conference, according to the fraternity’s website at [kappaalphapsi1911.com/room-to-read](http://kappaalphapsi1911.com/room-to-read). Since then, the fraternity has donated books provided by Room to Read to elementary schools throughout the country and announced it is donating more than 32,000 new books to students in second through fourth grade to schools located within Kappa Alpha Psi’s 12 regions in the United States.

The local chapter of the fraternity also sponsors a pizza party for the



PHOTO BY RACHEL ROSS, KATY ISD

Participating in the “Room to Read” program December 4 at Rhoads Elementary, 19711 Clay Road in Katy of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. are Front row (left to right): Dr. Ralph Brock II, Leonard Spearman, Jr., Dr. Cornell McGhee. Back row: Christopher Alexander, Gerald Lewis, Kevin Ross, Dr. Adedayo Adeseye, Mark Reese, Frederick McCoy and Vern Crawford. Not shown: Antoine Carter and Dr. Jerry Higgs. The men read stories to second graders at the school on December 4 as part of Katy ISD’s KEYS mentoring program.



Dr. Cornell McGhee (center) and Antoine Carter (right), members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., read a story chosen by the Rhoads Elementary library staff to second graders in the school library on December 4. The campus, a Title I school, is located at 19711 Clay Road in Katy.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Rhoad’s fifth-grade graduating class each year, in addition to a “Fable Festive” holiday writing contest in which students are encouraged to write about different kinds of holiday celebrations. Three contest winners will be selected this month and awarded prizes of \$75.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place and \$25.00 for third place.

Spearman told the Katy Times that more assistance and more mentoring is needed to help Katy ISD’s Title I schools. A spokesperson for the district confirmed that the district has 25 Title I schools.

To learn more about the KEYS mentoring program at KISD, go to [katyisd.org/Page/10324](http://katyisd.org/Page/10324).

## WINTER WONDERLAND FESTIVAL



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Royal High School’s National Honor Society held its inaugural Winter Wonderland Festival on December 7 at the campus at 34499 Royal Rd, Brookshire. The festive event included a gingerbread decorating station, Polaroid photo opportunities, ornament painting, a Santa hat ring toss and other games. All proceeds from the event will benefit senior scholarships.

## Katy High Class of 2027 invites public to help with ‘Stay Warm’ drive

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy High School’s Class of 2027 is supporting a “Stay Warm” drive to collect blankets, socks, jackets, long sleeve shirts, backpacks and similar items now through January 13, according to an article in the Katy High enewsletter.



The donations will go to Katy Christian Ministries and Compassion Katy, a spokesperson for Katy ISD confirmed in an email to the Katy Times.

Area residents may participate by bringing new or gently used items to the collection boxes in the main reception area of KHS at 6331 Highway Boulevard in Katy.

“No matter how big or how small, your donation makes a difference!” said the enewsletter.

# Katy ISD holds annual brick unveiling, honoring 2023-2024 campus ‘Teachers of the Year’

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a festive celebration, hundreds attended Katy ISD’s annual brick unveiling ceremony on December 3, honoring campus Teachers of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year. Each of the 76 educators who were recognized with the prestigious honor received a commemorative brick in Katy Heritage Park serving as a permanent tribute to their dedication for teaching and outstanding accomplishment.

Katy Heritage Park, located at 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy, showcases the personalized bricks in a permanent display.

“Tonight is about celebrating the educators who go above and beyond to serve our students and schools,” said. Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD Superintendent. “It is my privilege to thank each of you for the extraordinary impact you have on our students, schools, and community.”

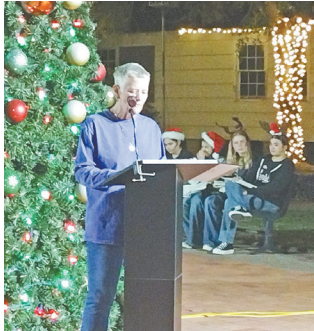
“In collaboration with Venus Construction, Modern Pest Control, and the Katy Heritage Society, the brick unveiling event honors the enduring legacy of exceptional educators in Katy ISD’s history,” said a spokesperson for the district in a subsequent press release. “This celebration not only recognizes Katy ISD Campus Teachers of the Year but also pays tribute to the broader Katy community. The commemorative bricks at Katy Heritage Park serve as a timeless testament to the decades of outstanding educational experiences provided across Katy ISD campuses.”

It was a bittersweet moment for Ida Franklin, owner of Venus Construction, who originated the commemorative brick event over twelve



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Proudly unveiling the “Teacher of the Year” bricks at Katy Heritage Park on December 3 are (left to right) Katy ISD Superintendent of Schools Ken Gregorski, KISD board member Dawn Champagne, KISD board president Victor Perez, KISD board member Mary Ellen Cuzela, Katy Heritage Society President Adrienne Davitz, and event sponsors Ida Franklin of Venus Construction and Del Lawson of Modern Pest Control.



Ida Franklin, owner of Katy-based Venus Construction, greets Katy ISD’s 2023-2024 “Teacher of the Year” honorees at the December 3 unveiling of commemorative bricks installed in Katy Heritage Park at 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy. Franklin originated the event more than 12 years ago as a way to honor area educators, and this year’s ceremony will be her last before she retires at the end of the year.

years ago. At the December 3 ceremony, Franklin said that it would be her last year to be involved with the event, as she is selling her company, Venus Construction. “I am so proud of the legacy that this has turned into,” Franklin said on her Facebook page on December 4. “It has grown to be one of my favorite things over the last twelve years. [I am] very proud that [new owner] Robert will be continuing on with the sponsorship of this event along with my friend Del Lawson from Modern Pest Control and Adrienne Davitz and the Katy Heritage Society. I am also eternally grateful for the support of the Katy school

district. There is no way we could have grown it to what it is today without their continuing support.”

“It has been an honor,” Katy Heritage President Adrienne Davitz replied to Franklin’s post. “Thank you so much for your vision and dedication.”

Franklin has supported Katy ISD as a “partner in education” in various ways for many years, including supporting construction-related education at Cimarron Elementary in March 2023. She also served as a judge in the inaugural National Civics Bee sponsored by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at Morton Ranch High School in 2024.



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**Katy Times**





TYLER TYRE  
Tomas Belaieter backs down a defender during Friday's game between Katy and Cy-Woods at the Katy gym.

# Katy determined to reach new heights

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy had its best season in decades last year. The Tigers earned 21 wins, made the playoffs and achieved almost every goal they set for themselves in the process in Michael Elizondo's first season as head coach, achieving their best result on the hardwood since the early 2000's. But the Tigers come into this year hungry and wanting more. They aren't satisfied with their success last season and the goal

this year is to take a step even further. So far, that mission is well on its way towards coming to fruition. The Tigers have stormed out the gates this season to a 12-2 record and have earned some big wins during that stretch. The team's growth showed on Friday, as they took down a strong Cy-Woods team 77-52 and continued one of the best starts to the season that this Tigers program has seen in a long period.

See KATY, page B6



TYLER TYRE  
The Katy bench celebrates after a basket during Friday's game between Katy and Cy-Woods at the Katy gym.



TYLER TYRE  
Sean Mwesigwa shoots a layup during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

# Seven Lakes survives stiff test from Katy in district opener

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes has thrown its young players into the fire to start the season. The Spartans knew how important it would be for a young team to be ready for the rigors of District 19-6A play and the coaching staff made sure they were ready. They put all their players to the test early and often, playing one of the toughest non-district schedules in the state while growing their players' chemistry. That sink or swim mentality could have backfired after the Spartans lost their first three games of the year. Some teams would have lost their sense of belief or turned on each other early in the season. But instead, a young Seven Lakes squad learned,

See SPARTANS, page B5



TYLER TYRE  
Brady Willis shoots a layup during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 13

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Monday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Monday

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



TYLER TYRE  
Dylan Jones-Bynum shoots a layup during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and George Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

# Cinco Ranch shining early in the season

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch has come so close to the playoffs each of the past two seasons. Each year the Cougars have finished a game back of fourth place and each year have battled all the way to the wire, but this year they want to get back to where the Cougar program is used to being, competing in the playoffs. That goal has had Cinco Ranch hungry since last season and they have come out with a fire to start this season, taking down teams left and right on the way to a 12-2 start and one of the strongest resumes in the area thus far. That strong play continued

on Friday as the Cougars took down George Ranch 55-50 during the second day of the Katy ISD Tournament in a strong effort, coming from behind to win and continuing what has become the norm this season with another win. "There's just a lot of chemistry and comradery with this group," said sophomore point guard Dylan Jones-Bynum. "We're all brothers on and off the court and it's showing in our game. We return five guys and we've continued to build on last year and we all trust each other and the coaches to put us in the right spot to win." Cinco has been in the right spots a lot so far this year.

See COUGARS, page B6



# O-Line duo of McMath, Nelson sign to continue football careers

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

It's been a lot of hard work for Patrick McMath and Byron Nelson to get to this point.

The duo has played together for four years, becoming a force on Katy's offensive line and pushing each other to greater heights. They put in the work to succeed on the field, in practice, in the weight room and beyond. That hard work led to a celebration on Wednesday, as the duo both signed national letters of intent to play football at Power Four Conference schools, putting themselves in positions to continue their football careers and have a scholarship while in college.

"It's been a lot of hours, a lot of work, a lot of preparation and determination," Nelson said. "We gave everything, blood, sweat and tears, but this moment here makes it all worth it. I'm so happy that I get to keep playing the sport I love."

Nelson will be continuing his academic and football career at the University of North Carolina. The 6-foot-2, 295-pound senior is ranked as the No. 52 interior offensive line recruit in the country. He had plenty of schools to choose from when choosing his collegiate destination, but ultimately, Chapel Hill felt like home to him.

"The people, the environment and the coaching staff were all amazing. Even with the changes coming I know that we are going to be in a great spot and that we are going to be competing for championships in the future. I love everything there. The players are amazing, I was treated so well and I knew it was the spot for me."

McMath meanwhile will be staying in Texas and playing in the Big 12. The senior, who is ranked as



Patrick McMath and Byron Nelson pose for a photo during Wednesday's signing ceremony at Katy High School.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

the No. 89 interior offensive line-man in the country, signed to play at Texas Tech University, choosing the Red Raiders over the likes of Houston, Arizona, Baylor and BYU.

"I went on a visit during the spring and the moment I walked on campus, I knew that's where I wanted to be," McMath said. "The program almost feels like Katy. It's a big brotherhood and the staff is amazing. They built the relationship with me so fast, it made my

decision easy."

Nelson and McMath are enrolling early and will compete in spring practices, hoping to earn a spot and playing time come fall. But they have a jump start on preparing for those situations. That is what Katy prepares their players for, that is what the program is about and it's just one of many reasons that the Tigers' football program and Gary Joseph are so special.

"This place and Coach Joseph — they teach you hard work, they teach you how to be a man and they teach you how to deal with adversity," Nelson said. "I don't think there is a program in the nation that could better prepare you for college football and that's part of what is so amazing about this place."

Both will be traveling to their new schools and enrolling in just over a month. While they won't be

able to enjoy a high school spring semester, they both are extremely excited and they can't wait to get going as they push to have success on the collegiate level and beyond.

"I can't wait to get up there, get in that environment and get to work with all the guys," McMath said. "I'm excited about this next step, Tech is going to get the hardest worker they've ever had and I just can't wait to be a part of the program."



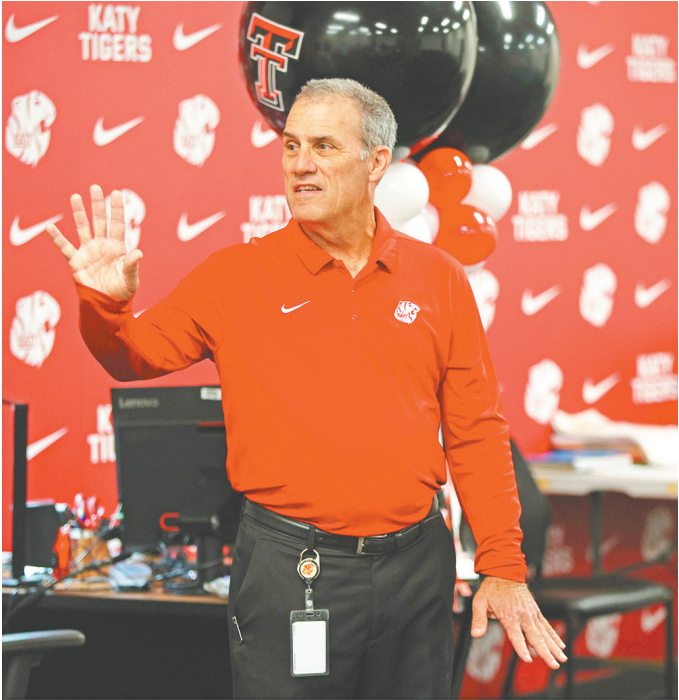
Above: Byron Nelson poses for a photo with his father and mother during the December 4 signing ceremony at Katy High School. Below: Patrick McMath poses for a photo with his father and mother during the December 4 signing ceremony at Katy High School.

**"It's been a lot of hours, a lot of work, a lot of preparation and determination. We gave everything, blood, sweat and tears, but this moment here makes it all worth it. I'm so happy that I get to keep playing the sport I love."**

—BYRON NELSON

**"I went on a visit during the spring and the moment I walked on campus, I knew that's where I wanted to be. The program almost feels like Katy. It's a big brotherhood and the staff is amazing."**

—PATRICK MCMATH



Gary Joseph talks before the December 4 signing ceremony at Katy High School.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



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**KATY TIGERS**

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6A - DIVISION I  
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Katy's 2024 district and bi-district title trophies were on display at the December 4 signing ceremony at Katy High School.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES





PHOTO COURTESY BEN SIMISKEY

Seven Lakes student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Jordan student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



Paetow student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



Mayde Creek student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



Taylor student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



Tompkins student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



Katy student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.



Katy softball players pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent at the Katy gym.

# 57 Katy ISD students sign to play sports at next level

## STAFF REPORT

Fifty seven student-athletes from Katy ISD signed signed letters of intent to play at the next level on National Signing Day, November 13. These talented athletes represent a variety of sports and will play in collegiate programs across the nation. “Katy ISD Athletics prides itself on not just building award-winning programs at

the high school level, but also on preparing our student-athletes for success at the next level,” said Lance Carter, Executive Director of Athletics in Katy ISD. “These students have been prepared academically and athletically to excel and we wish them the very best.” Katy ISD student-athletes who signed their National Letter of Intent are listed below:

NAME	SCHOOL	SPORT	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
Marley Barnard	Cinco Ranch	Swimming	US Naval Academy
Abby Borchardt	Cinco Ranch	Volleyball	West Texas A&M
Jonas Dark	Cinco Ranch	Swimming	Air Force Academy
Aniya Foy	Cinco Ranch	Basketball	Kansas State University
Lucas Franco	Cinco Ranch	Baseball	Texas Christian University
Sophie Hassall	Cinco Ranch	Softball	University of St. Thomas
Gabriella Martinez	Cinco Ranch	Volleyball	California Baptist University
Josh Morelli	Cinco Ranch	Baseball	Pratt Community College
Kassidy O'Brien	Cinco Ranch	Volleyball	University of Kentucky
Camille Torrence	Cinco Ranch	Basketball	UT Permian Basin
Emma Aumaugher	Jordan	Swimming	University of Wyoming
Allie Hakimzadeh	Jordan	Basketball	Midland University
Abbie O'Shay	Jordan	Volleyball	College of the Mines
Damisi Osibodu	Jordan	Volleyball	William & Mary
Grace Robertson	Jordan	Soccer	East Texas A&M
Maddy Way	Jordan	Soccer	Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Aiden Barrientes	Katy	Baseball	Texas Christian University
Adam Carter	Katy	Track & Field	Texas State University
Kendall Gussert	Katy	Soccer	Hardin Simmons University
Atiana Lara	Katy	Soccer	Incarnate Word University
Cade Nelson	Katy	Baseball	Texas Christian University
Aliah Nadine Stevens	Katy	Soccer	Citadel
Connor Udland	Katy	Baseball	University of Houston
Montgomery Henderson	Katy	Softball	Oklahoma State University
Lauryn Soeken	Katy	Softball	Louisiana State University
Hailey Gore	Katy	Softball	University of Houston
Avery Porter	Katy	Softball	University of Missouri
Paige Stall	Katy	Softball	Cisco College
Brooke Fechner	Katy	Softball	McLennan College
Jamal Chretien II	Mayde Creek	Basketball	University of New Orleans
Elijah Ferguson	Mayde Creek	Track & Field	Texas Tech
Alexia Ruiz	Mayde Creek	Softball	Columbia University
Yarel Delgado	Paetow	Baseball	Rice University
Eryianna Singleton	Paetow	Track	Northern Iowa
Alexandra Angueria-Colombani	Seven Lakes	Diving	Florida State University
Chloe Callahan	Seven Lakes	Soccer	St. Edward's University
Heidi Wingate	Seven Lakes	Volleyball	University of St. Thomas (MN)
Nathan Johnson	Seven Lakes	Baseball	University of Texas San Antonio
Connor Jones	Seven Lakes	Swimming	Stanford University
Kate Kuehn	Seven Lakes	Volleyball	Florida International University
Carter Nannini	Seven Lakes	Baseball	East Texas Baptist University
Olivia Orellana	Seven Lakes	Soccer	University of Louisiana-Lafayette
Kennedy Reed	Seven Lakes	Soccer	University of Texas San Antonio
Owen Wade	Seven Lakes	Baseball	University of St. Thomas (Houston)
Carlos Cardozo	Taylor	Baseball	Florida Gulf Coast
Kara Hart	Taylor	Basketball	Henderson State
Kendall Hemperley	Taylor	Soccer	Northwestern State University
Kaelyn Lerma	Taylor	Softball	UT Tyler
Julia Porath	Taylor	Volleyball	University of the Pacific (California)
Jordyn Talbert	Taylor	Softball	Texas Southern University
Sophia Ybanez	Taylor	Softball	Arlington Baptist University
Riri Deleon	Tompkins	Basketball	University of Texas Permian Basin
Leah Gershman	Tompkins	Softball	Denison University
Cami Hearn	Tompkins	Softball	Montana State University Billings
Jenna Lightle	Tompkins	Soccer	Sul Ross State University
Tristan Rodriguez	Tompkins	Diving	University of Hawaii
Chase Simon	Tompkins	Baseball	Odessa College



Cinco Ranch student-athletes pose for a photo after signing their national letters of intent.

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<p><b>ZELANTETECH</b> LLC has openings for the position Technical Consultant w/ bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Engineering any, Technology or related and 2 yrs of exp to design, develop, implement &amp; support of software components that enhance or extend the reach our client software develop initiatives. Contributes to the develop, delivery &amp; maintenance of tech-based buss sol. Design front-end pages using React, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript,Bootstrap,jQuery, TypeScript, NodeJS for interactive cross browser functionality, complex user interface &amp; using AJAX to build responsive, dynamic pages. Design &amp; develop various syst &amp; subsystems using NodeJS, REST, Oracle PL/SQL. Exp w/ microservices architecture, RESTful APIs, &amp; service discovery. Implement back-end Web API with the use of MongoDB, Express JS, &amp; NodeJS and established connectivity with the use of Axios. Work loc is Katy,TX w/ req'd to travel and work from various unanticipated client worksites throughout the USA. Please mail resumes to 21422 Provincial Blvd, Katy, TX 77450 (OR) e-mail: <a href="mailto:hr@zelantetech.com">hr@zelantetech.com</a></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>ANYONE HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHEREABOUTS of SAVANT EQUITY PARTNERS, LLC or their registered agent JOE LEE with a last known address within the confines of Katy, Texas, please contact Charlie Draughter, Jr., Attorney at Law, at (337) 485-9353.</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer &amp; Wine Liquor License by All Americans Holdings, LLC dba All Americans Sports Complex, to be located at 4246 FM 2855 Katy, Waller County, TX 77493. Owners of said corporation are Jon Derek Richards &amp; Frank Trigg.</p>
950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES

December 5  
Puzzle Answers

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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**Katy ISD Provides Evaluations  
for Students  
with Suspected Disabilities**

The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISD Department of Special Education at 281-396-2066. The Department of Special Education will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to obtain academic and non-academic benefit. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

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

Legal Notice

Notification is hereby given that JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., 1111 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43240 has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") on or about December 12, 2024, as specified in 12 CFR Part 5, for permission to establish a domestic branch at the southeast corner of the intersection of Woodland Hills Drive and Madera Run Parkway, Humble, Harris County, TX, 77346. If you have any additional comments, you can send them to the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 7 Times Square, 10th Floor Mailroom, New York, New York 10036 or [LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov](mailto:LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov)., within 30 days of the date of this publication. The public portion of the filing is available upon request from the OCC. The public may find information about the filing (including the closing date of the comment period) in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available at [www.occ.gov](http://www.occ.gov).

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION  
FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0014963001

**APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION.** Beacon Estates Water Supply Corporation, 513 West Navigation Street, Brookshire, Texas 77423, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014963001, which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 75,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on April 23, 2024.

The facility is located approximately 800 feet east of Farm-to-Maket Road 359, approximately three miles north of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 359 and Farm-to-Market Road 1458, in Waller County, Texas 77423. The treated effluent is discharged to Bessies Creek, thence to Brazos River Below Navasota River in Segment No. 1202 of the Brazos River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is intermediate aquatic life use for Bessies Creek. The designated uses for Segment No. 1202 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-96.000277,29.872222&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Brookshire-Pattison Library, 3815 Sixth Street, Brookshire, Texas. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: [Pending Application Information: TPDES \(Treated Wastewater Discharge Permits\) - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - www.tceq.texas.gov](#).

**ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE.** Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION.** The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment) within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.**

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Beacon Estates Water Supply Corporation at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Jan Shelton, Executive Administrative Assistant, at 281-934-3931.

Issuance Date: December 3, 2024

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AmenEl Tadesse shoots a hook shot during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.



Dean Spencer shoots a layup during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.



Tomas Belaiter is surrounded by Seven Lakes players during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

## SPARTANS

from page B1

they dug deeper and they played better after facing that adversity and sense then, it's been nothing but wins.

Seven Lakes has reeled off nine straight wins since those three losses so start the year, with Tuesday's being the most important of all, as the Spartans started district play with a 67-56 win over Katy, overcoming a strong effort from the Tigers (10-2, 0-1) to improve to 9-3 on the year and 1-0 in district.

"It's always important to start district off the right way, especially against such a tough team," said sophomore Isaiah Santos. "This is one of the toughest teams we have faced all year, so it feels good to get this win, start district strong and set the tone for the rest of the season."

Seven Lakes jumped out to a big lead early in the game and led 14-4 in the first quarter, but that was trimmed to 16-8 by the quarters end. Katy then went on a huge run in the second and went into the half leading 32-26 on the back of its motion offense which gave the Spartans fits in the first half before they finally settled in and slowed down the Katy offense in the second half.

"Katy does so many things so well, especially on the back side of that motion offense and we were losing sight of the ball," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "The guys came out and fixed what we struggled with in the first half and got



Isaiah Santos makes a pass on the baeline during Tuesday's District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Katy at the Katy gym.

their head on a swivel. It's stuff we work on every day, but it was more of a reminder than anything else about how we have to play defensively."

The Spartans came out and took control in the second half, going up 47-42 by the end of the third quarter before pulling away down the stretch. Right at the center of it was Santos, who seemed to get his hand on every key loose, ball, every key rebound and score almost every key point down the stretch. That's part of the maturation of the sophomore's game, who despite only being in his second

season of varsity ball has become one of the teams key leaders both on and off the court. But he wasn't alone either. Fellow sophomore Dean Spencer and Alex Teahen both came away with huge buckets, Amelel Tadesse ran the Seven Lakes offense very well, getting players involved and scoring points himself and Sean Mwesigwa was a force on both ends.

"I'm just playing my role and trying to do my job the best that I can," Teahen said. "I'm going to have to make the most of my opportunities, shoot when I have the chance, rebound and play good defense. It's getting more comfortable and I'm glad I was able to help my team get a win tonight."

That is part of the growth that this Seven Lakes unit has shown early in the season. The players believe in each other, in the system and in how they play the game. And that's exactly why they are confident they can make another run this year.

"They believe in themselves," Heston said. "After those first three games it would have been easy to be worried or look around and blame someone else. It's tough for any kid in those situations," Heston said. "But these kids put their heads down, they worked and now nine wins later, that confidence has completely blossomed because they see the success on the court. It's been so fun to see because I knew they could always do it, but they had to learn it for themselves."

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**Katy Times**







Kellen LeCronier goes through a defender during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and George Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.



Prince Jones-Bynum attacks the basket during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and George Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.



Joseph Kanyinda shoots a layup during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and George Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

COUGARS
from page B1

The Cougars have won five straight games and were dominant in their district opener against Taylor, continuing that into the Katy ISD Tournament. A big part of that has been the duo of brothers Dylan and Prince Jones-Bynum. Both know that they can step up for the other at any time and make plays when the other needs it. On Friday it was Dylan who stepped up in the first half with seven points while Prince struggled from the field and then Prince took over in the second half, scoring nine points and helping lead the Cougars to the win.
'If one of us drives the other is always open for the kick, if one isn't on their game, the other one of us always steps up, we just know how to play together because we have done it for so long,' Prince Jones-Bynum said. 'When the two of us are going, it gets everyone else on the team going as well, so we just know that we have to find a way to make this offense go.'
Cinco jumped out to a big lead in the first quarter, but it was trimmed to 19-14 by the quarters end. George Ranch took the lead in the second quarter and went into the half 23-21, but Cinco bounced right back to make it 39-33 at the end of the third and then stretched it to double digits in the fourth quarter. George Ranch made a late comeback, but two clutch free throws from Prince sealed the deal and gave Cinco the win.
'We talked at halftime about our transition defense and the rebounding because they had hurt us on the boards,' said Cinco Ranch head coach Neil King. 'We focused in on that, made it a half-court game and that worked for us. That is one thing that these guys have been great at this year is making adjustments when we ask them to. We have some great leadership and hard workers and it's helped us get off to this start.'
The goal now for Cinco is to continue this the rest of the way through district play. They know they have the pieces to do it and the fire in the team to do it, but they also know they cannot overlook anyone in Katy ISD.
'There aren't going to be any easy ones, not with this district,' King said. 'It's going



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Dylan Jones-Bynum shoots a floater during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and George Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

to be challenging every night and it's going to be up to us to go out, execute our game-plan and find a way to win. It's fun because all these kids know each other, they grew up together and they all have a connection, but this district is tough, and it is a grind. The key is to be focused, be ready and stay healthy. There's a lot of good teams in this district and we have to find a way to be there at the end.'

KATY ISD TOURNAMENT
CINCO RANCH 55, GEORGE RANCH 50

Points: (CR) Dylan Jones-Bynum 18, Prince Jones-Bynum 9, Kellen LeCronier 10, Campbell Turner 6, Joseph Kanyinda 5, Melijah Battiste 4, Brayden Gonzalez 2, Noah Pearce 2; Halftime: George Ranch 23, Cinco Ranch 21; 3-Pointers: (CR) Turner 2, Prince Jones-Bynum, Dylan Jones-Bynum, Kanyinda; Record: Cinco Ranch: 12-2, 1-0;

KATY
from page B1

'We just have a lot of continuity from last year and we've been able to build on that,' said senior guard Michael Hernandez. 'We have depth and our bench has been great for us. We added size and even aside from the physical stuff, I think we've just grown a lot as varsity athletes. Last year was a lot of our first varsity seasons and I think there's a comfort level now this year.'
The Tigers returners have stepped up and it's helped improve the team this year. From being coaches on the court during practice, to communicating and fixing things themselves without a timeout during games and knowing the level it takes day in and day out, this group has figured out what it takes to succeed. Offensively, the team feeds off of Tomas Belaiter, but he is just one cog in the machine and that was one of the biggest things that showed on the scoreboard on Friday. Even in an off game for Belaiter, Katy got 26 points from Brady Willis, 17 points from Hernandez and 12 points from Jayden Stewart in an all around effort That epitomizes what the Tigers are trying to build and how the team works at its best, with players making extra passes and playing selflessly.
'I love these guys because they're learners,' Elizondo said. 'They watch a lot of film, they ask a lot of questions and it keeps our whole coaching staff on our toes. We have to be prepared as well as we can because the kids want to be prepared that way as well. That hunger from them has really helped us take the next step both offensively and defensively.'
The Tigers had to play scrappy in the first quarter against Cy-Woods and only led 15-13, but they opened things up in the second, increasing their lead to 43-26 at the half. That lead kept building and ballooned to that 77-52 victory in the second half.
Those types of performances have become the norm from Katy this year as they have jumped out to this great start. The Tigers are averaging over 60 points per game and on the defensive end have given up just 50 points per game on average. It's a credit not just to Katy's offense, but their defense as well as Elizondo has built a unit that is stingy and doesn't allow any offense to get into its rhythm.
'All of us spent a lot of extra time and practice any time we could so we would be



TYLER TYRE

Michael Hernandez shoots a layup during Friday's game between Katy and Cy-Woods at the Katy gym.

ready for this challenge,' Willis said. 'In the gym, in the weight room, watching film, the whole team lives and spends so much time making sure we are as prepared as we can be. We wanted to be better this season and we aren't going to let anyone out work us.'
The next step for Katy is getting through he gauntlet of District 19-6A play. The Tigers finished tied for third last year in district and to take a step up this year they will need to be at their best in a district that is jam packed with talent no matter the team this season.
But Katy believes it has what it takes. They think they can take that next step and they are up for the challenge.
'There's no game you can walk into and feel comfortable in this district,' Elizondo said. 'It makes it very fun, but very stressful. But the important part for us is to approach it one game at a time. You can't look forward at all with the teams we face, you can't think about anything in the future, not playoffs or anything else or you will get in trouble quick. That's the biggest focus is keeping our eyes on the next game and making sure we take care of that.'

KATY ISD TOURNAMENT
KATY 77, CY-WOODS 52

Points: (K) Brady Willis 26, Michael Hernandez 17, Jayden Stewart 12, Jayden Stewart 12, Kenneth Little 8, Tomas Belaiter 7, Blake Gillespie 3, Chris Rodriguez 3, Adam Severin 2; Halftime: Katy 42, Cy-Woods 26; 3-Pointers: (K) Stewart 4, Willis 4, Little 2, Gillespie, Belaiter; Record: Katy 12-2, 0-1;

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