

TAYLOR GIRLS DOWN TOMPKINS TO KEEP PACE IN DISTRICT RACE
SPORTS | PAGE 7

Katy Times

HAPPY NEW Year!

VOLUME 113, ISSUE 2

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

KP GEORGE APPEARS IN COURT FOR ARRAIGNMENT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Surrounded by news media, Fort Bend County Judge KP George walks into Judge Teana Watson's courtroom on January 3 for his arraignment on a misdemeanor charge of misrepresenting his identity during the 2022 elections. Sources told the Katy Times that George was more than 85 minutes late to court, that he stayed for a while and signed something but that his attorney would not explain what George signed.

City of Katy announces events, launches new social media pages

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The City of Katy announced on January 3 the launch of "The Katy Exchange" – a new series of events that will bring local artisans, vendors, and makers to the Historic Downtown Square at Second Street and Avenue B.

The Katy Exchange will bring six new events, scheduled from March to December, to the square and will offer free entry to the public, providing a space for the community to shop, explore, and enjoy the best of local craftsmanship, according to the press release. Each event will feature a spotlight on select local nonprofits, with all proceeds benefiting the designated charities. The inaugural Katy

Exchange will support the Katy VFW Post 9182 and Camp Hope's PTSD Foundation of America. Representatives from each branch of the military will be in attendance and honored at the event.

"We are so excited to offer a platform that not only promotes our Historic Town Square but also engages with local businesses, history, and charitable organizations that contribute to our community," said Mayor Dusty Thiele. "With 2025 being a year full of exciting developments, including the final projects of our downtown revitalization, we're looking forward to the enhanced experiences that will make our Historic Downtown

See **KATY**, page 3

Family seeks information in death of son

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

It was a birthday celebration on January 2...but the birthday boy wasn't there.

The family of Raphael Rogers-Davis gathered Thursday at Clemons Cemetery in Pattison to celebrate his thirty-third birthday, enjoying his favorite treats of turtle cookies and brownies. More than a dozen relatives and friends, decked out in commemorative sweatshirts imprinted with this photo, joined in singing "Happy Birthday" before a balloon release sent their personal messages skyward.

But his mother Sherrel Rogers and sister Chaya Calip need more comfort than the simple

See **INFORMATION**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Sherrel Rogers, mother of slain Brookshire resident Raphael Rogers-Davis, joined with other family members on January 2 at Clemons Cemetery, 5087 Muske Lane in Pattison, to celebrate the thirty-third birthday of the murdered man. The family is partnering with CrimeStoppers of Houston to offer a reward for information leading to the charging or arrest of suspects in the as yet unsolved case.

Clothed by Faith receives \$50K Inspire Change grant from Houston Texans

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Clothed by Faith has been awarded the 2024 Inspire Change Grant from the Houston Texans, the nonprofit group announced in their December 27, 2024, quarterly newsletter. The Inspire Change

Grant is presented in partnership with the Houston Texans, ConocoPhillips, Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages and Ashley, and is annually awarded to nonprofit organizations in Houston to fund

See **GRANT**, page 3

Study underway through mid-Feb. for Westpark Tollway issues

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Harris County Toll Road Authority, Fort Bend County and other agencies are partnering to conduct a Westpark Tollway study to improve mobility and optimize transit options.

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Partner agencies for the study include the city of Houston, Fort Bend County, and METRO.

The survey closes in mid-February and organizers say local voices are key in defining how the counties can improve safety, connectivity, and the overall travel experience for everyone using the Westpark corridor. The survey may be taken online at westparkmobility.org

The study addresses pressing transportation needs, mobility and safety issues, alternative transportation, public spaces, noise impacts, flooding and drainage concerns, community underrepresentation, among other issues. The study area encompasses a 21-mile stretch of the tollway from S. Gessner Road in the Westchase area, west to Fulshear.

DECEMBER STORM DAMAGES HOMES



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Homes along Bartoncliff Drive in Katy's Winward subdivision off Longenbaugh Road and Katy Hockley Road remain tarped on January 2 in the wake of winds from a December 28 storm. The homes, damaged by a suspected tornado, are located about a mile west of Freeman High School.

Sheriff's Office launches task force to improve Highway 99 safety



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Investigator Lonnie Wilson is one of the members of a multi-agency task force that will investigate crashes along Highway 99, including Harris and Fort Bend Counties.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In response to rising crashes and fatalities, the Harris County Sheriff's Office has launched a multi-agency task force to aggressively reduce dangerous driving behaviors on Highway 99 (Grand Parkway), the department announced in a December 18 press release. This initiative combines the resources and expertise of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Sheriff's Offices of Fort Bend, Chambers, Liberty, and Montgomery counties.

The partnership began in November to

improve safety on one of Harris County's most hazardous roadways through proactive traffic enforcement.

"Highway 99 has unfortunately become one of our most dangerous roadways," said Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "Collaborating with our partners sends a clear message: reckless driving will not be tolerated."

This initiative directly responds to the alarming increase in crashes and fatalities on Highway 99. This year the Harris County Sheriff's Office has responded to 2,280 crashes on the roadway. Before the

See **HIGHWAY**, page 3

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40th annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference slated for Feb. 6

Event will focus on teaching sustainable practices to help producers maximize efficiencies, profitability

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in Fort Bend County will host the 40th annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference on February 6 in Rosenberg, the office announced in a December 20 press release. The

event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building C, 4310 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg. The cost is \$35 before Jan. 25, and \$45 after. To register visit tx.ag/FBVegetable.

The conference is a celebration of vegetable production along the upper Gulf Coast region. In addition to Fort Bend County, Waller, Wharton, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Colorado and Austin counties will participate in the event focusing on teaching sustainable practices to help producers maximize efficiencies and profitability.

A total of five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available — two general, two integrated pest management, and one laws and regulations.

Topics and speakers

- Melon production for small acreage and backyards — Larry Stein, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension specialist and professor, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Uvalde.
- Locally adapted vegetable cultivars and small growers' cultural practices — Kevin Crosby, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research vegetable breeder and professor, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Bryan-College Station.
- Improving backyard vegetable production — Tom LeRoy, AgriLife Extension county agent emeritus, Montgomery County.
- Pesticide laws and regulations — Don Renchie, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension pesticide safety program



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host the 40th annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference on February 6 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building C, 4310 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg.

coordinator and associate director for the AgriLife Extension Agricultural and Environmental Safety Unit, Bryan-College Station.

• Integrated pest management — Rafia Khan, Ph.D., AgriLife Ex-

tension entomologist and assistant professor, Department of Entomology, Overton.

For more information, contact Lorraine Niemeyer at Lorraine.niemeyer@ag.tamu.edu.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

City of Katy Parks & Recreation Dept. to offer winter sports



Katy Parks is teaming up with Sportball this winter to bring fun and engaging soccer, t-ball, and multisport programs for kids ages 2 to 10, the department announced January 2 on its Facebook page. With a wide range of ages and a variety of sports, there's a class out there just for you, starting in January. Ready to register already? Visit <https://app.sportball.com/en> and search Katy, TX for all

available classes. Or check out <https://www.cityofkaty.com/.../parks.../youth-programs> to explore these programs more and see some other fun options.

AARP to hold monthly meeting on January 14

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday, January 14, at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd. in Katy. The event will start at 6:30 pm with a short meeting and announcements. Please join in welcoming the group's newest board members including: Jeanne King, President; Don Flemmons, vice president; and Sandee Sutter, secretary. Entertainment will be provided by Buddy and Jeannie Trotter

who sing many of the classics from country, rock and pop. Visitors are welcome. Please allow time to purchase any food before the meeting begins.

Katy Elks Lodge #2628 to hold fish fry on January 26

Join the Katy Elks Lodge for their annual Sweetheart Fish Fry and Fundraiser on January 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy. Enjoy all-you-can-eat fish and the trimmings for only \$18.00 per person (children aged 4 and under eat free). The family-friendly event includes a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds benefit Texas Elks Children Services. For more information, please call Irene Hargy at 281-224-3636.

It's 'Ladies' Night' in downtown Katy on January 30

It's another ladies' night in Downtown Katy! Join in the fun on January 30 from 3 to 8 p.m. with The Limited Edition Art & Antiques, Vintage Back Roads and other participating shops who will vie for your vote on best meatballs. You have to get a stamp from all the shops to register for the gift basket full of goodies plus gift certificates. Maps available in all the shops including The Limited Edition Art & Antiques at 5717 Second Street on Katy's historic downtown square

Ring in the Lunar New Year on February 1 at the Chinese Community Center

Celebrate the Year of the Snake at the 2025 Lunar New Year Festival on February 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park Drive in Houston. Free admission and parking. Festival highlights include:

- Traditional and contemporary Asian cuisine from local vendors and CCC's own food booth -- this is your chance to try homemade Chinese food.
- Cultural performances, including the traditional lion and dragon dances, martial arts demonstrations, k-pop dance and more.
- Festive merchandise and shopping for unique finds and Lunar New Year merchandise.
- Immersive cultural activities including Chinese calligraphy workshops, origami and papercutting.
- Family-friendly games and activations for children and families.
- Live snake exhibit, brought to you by Nature Discovery Center <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/>
- 45 Years of CCC History Exhibit Wall, commemorating the Chinese Community Center's 45th anniversary.

The Ballard House to host 10th annual clay shoot fundraiser on February 7

The Ballard House, a facility that offers free short-term lodging for patients traveling to the Houston area for medical treatment, will hold its tenth annual fundraising event on Friday, February 7 at Westside Sporting Grounds, 10120 Pattison Road in Katy. Tournament start time is at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Enjoy live music, refreshing drinks, ample networking opportunities, and a variety of auction and raffle items. For more information or to register, go to theballardhouse.org/events/sporting-clay-shoot-tournament-friday-february-7-20.

TRIBUTE

Peggy Ann Green Koski, born December 12, 1931, at her parents' home on Walnut Street in Mariana, Arkansas, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2024, in Leander, Texas, surrounded by her beloved children. She was 92 years old.

Peggy was the daughter of Andrew Evans Green and Verna Wilson Green. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Onnie R. Koski, as well as her older sisters, Zilah Lucile Green Breazeal and Hilda Jane Green Perkins. Peggy is survived by her children: Laura Leigh Koski, Peggy Suzanna Cincotti, Arnall Rudolph Koski, John Eric Koski, and Zilah Jane Daley. She was also a devoted grandmother to Andrew, Adam, Kaitlyn, Sarah, Ryan, Lindsey, Shannon, Caraline, Jackson, Sophie, and Ella. And a proud great-grandmother to Lily, and Onnie, Elliott and Bailey.

A graduate of Marianna High School, Peggy was a proud member of the MHS Porcupine Women's Basketball team and was honored as the MHS Senior Queen. In 1972, she made history as the first woman elected to the Derby, Kansas, City Council. She went on to have a successful career as a Realtor with Crye-Leike Real Estate in Memphis, where she earned the respect and admiration of many.

Peggy attended Blue Mountain College near Ripley, MS, and later the University of Mississippi, where she became a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. In 1988, she was proudly awarded the ZTA White Violet 50th Anniversary pin and was recently recognized for her 75th anniversary.

A passionate lover of music, especially opera, and dance, Peggy dreamed of pursuing an acting career in California. That love of the arts is why Peggy was a long-time supporter of the Ger-



PEGGY ANN GREEN KOSKI
1931-2024

mantown High School Popular Pike Theater, where three of her children perform. Peggy's vibrant personality, wit, and warmth were felt by everyone around her, earning her the affectionate nickname "Mama Kitty" from her children's friends.

She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Moss Point and St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas. Throughout her life, Peggy remained deeply committed to her family, her faith, and her community.

A visitation will be held in Peggy's honor on January 10, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Heritage Funeral Home in Moss Point, MS. Funeral and graveside services will take place on January 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Finnish Lutheran Church & Cemetery, 3900 Finland Avenue, Moss Point, MS. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Peggy's memory to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at michaeljfox.org, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.

Peggy's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew her, and she will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Heritage Funeral Home, locally owned and operated in Moss Point/Escatawpa, MS, is honored to serve the family of Peggy Koski.

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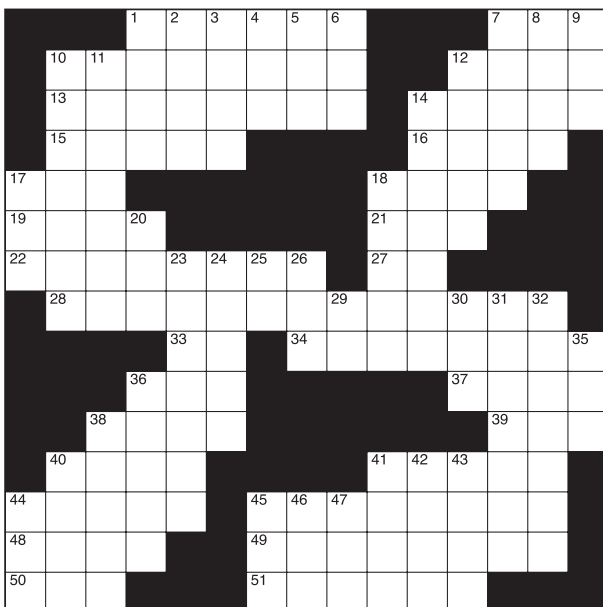
CLUES ACROSS

1. Topsides
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. A Sultan's court
12. Maine city
13. Largest living land animal
14. Appetizer
15. Encounters
16. Leader
17. The source of bacon
18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
19. Celery (Spanish)
21. Pie _ _ mode
22. Eye disease
27. Hello (slang)
28. Those in their 80s
33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
34. Business organizations
36. Mimic
37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
38. Feeling
39. Visual way to interact with computers (abbr.)
40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
41. Essential oil used as perfume
44. Norwegian composer

45. Coast
48. _ lang syne, good old days
49. Gland behind the stomach
50. Tooth caregiver
51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN

1. N. American indigenous people
2. Fascinated by
3. Root of out
4. Patti Hearst's captors
5. Atomic #50
6. Habitual drunkard
7. Arabic for "peace"
8. Trickery
9. One's physique (slang)
10. Not quite there
11. Wistfully mournful
12. Popular dance
14. Cut of meat
17. A way to stand
18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
23. A way of jumping
24. Utah town
25. Of I



26. Actress de Armas
29. Silver
30. Play a role
31. _ Falls
32. Attaches to
35. Japanese title
36. Expressed pleasure
38. Buckets
40. Dirt
41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
42. Restaurant drive-__
43. Digs up
44. He voices "Olaf"
45. Relaxing place
46. Body part
47. Pesky house critter

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

KATY

from page 1

Square the heart of Katy."

Katy's Parks and Recreation Department will play a vital role in the success of 2025's calendar of events, the press release said. "From seasonal festivities to cultural celebrations, the department's efforts will bring a diverse range of events, making downtown Katy a year-round destination for residents and visitors alike," the release said.

The City of Katy also announced the launch of the official City of Katy Historic Town Square Facebook and Instagram pages dedicated to promoting the rich history, vibrant businesses, and future events of the city's Historic Downtown Square, according to the press release. "These social media platforms will serve as a hub for showcasing the ongoing renovations, the area's storied

past, and the wide array of events planned for 2025, making this year one of the most exciting in the city's history," the release said.

The new social media channels will also feature the stories of downtown Katy businesses, highlighting their contributions to the community and their own unique histories. From family-owned shops to the evolving culinary scene, these platforms will

be a celebration of local entrepreneurship and the deep roots that tie businesses to the city's identity.

In addition, the social media pages will collaborate with the Katy Rice Harvest Festival to promote the city's annual festival which celebrates Katy's rice farming history and the enduring importance of agriculture to the community.

INFORMATION

from page 1

remembrance ceremony could offer. They need closure.

Rogers-Davis - a native of Brookshire who went to Royal High School and who later attended Mayde Creek High School in Katy - died sometime in early November following his release from the Harris County jail in Houston on November 12. His body was discovered on November 19 in Buffalo Bayou near the 600 block of N. York Street in Houston, with an apparent gunshot wound to the chest. His shoes were missing.

To date, police have not been able to identify a suspect or a motive in the killing, Sherrel Rogers told the Katy Times. She and the family are working with CrimeStoppers of Houston to try to gain information from the public about the incident.

"Somebody had to see something," Rogers said.

CrimeStoppers is offering a reward of up to \$5000.00 for

information leading to the charging or arrest of suspect(s) in the case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), by submitting information online at crime-stoppers.org or through the CrimeStoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls directly to CrimeStoppers are anonymous and eligible for the cash reward.

Rogers noted that her son was the first baby born in 1992 at Memorial Hermann in Katy, with a picture of the new family featured on the front page of the January 9 edition of the Katy Times.

Calip, older than her brother by eight years, wants him to be remembered as "a great kid" and a "gentle giant" who was a loving father to his eight-year-old son, Malachi. She said that he worked in Brookshire helping to bottle local vodka and had just recently gotten a car. "He was getting on his feet," she said.

"He was not a troublemaker." He was an avid gamer who enjoyed playing Fortnite and other on-line games, she said.

Rogers-Davis spent his free time with family members, visiting his sister's home for food and games on weekends and breaks when he had custody of Malachi. Calip wants to continue to be involved in her nephew's life, hosting him at her home just as she did when his father was alive. "I want to be the auntie he deserves," she said.

But the hole in their lives won't be healed until they know what happened to their beloved son and brother. And they are praying that someone comes forward with the information about Raphael Rogers-Davis' last hours that will identify his killer and bring justice to the grieving family.

Publisher's note: Sherrel Rogers is a contributor to the Katy Times.

HIGHWAY

from page 1

initiative, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office reported 322 crashes in their jurisdiction of Highway 99.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office also responded to nine fatal crashes on the highway, while the Texas Department of Public Safety responded to three fatal crashes. Montgomery County saw two fatal crashes, and Chambers County reported one fatal crash on the roadway

this year.

The task force is taking decisive action to combat unsafe driving behaviors. This includes increased patrols, targeted enforcement of speeding and impaired driving, and technology for speed detection. In the early weeks of the initiative, the task force issued a total of 418 citations and warnings, including 149 speeding violations.

"Roadway safety is a shared

responsibility," Sheriff Gonzalez added. "Every life lost on our roadways is one too many. Through proactive traffic enforcement, we aim to prevent these tragedies and promote a change in behavior within our community to encourage safer driving habits."

Drivers are urged to remain vigilant, obey all traffic laws, and prioritize safety while traveling on Highway 99.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLOTHED BY FAITH

The staff of Katy nonprofit Clothed by Faith attended a Houston Texans game on December 15 where they received a check \$50,000.00 for their charity work in providing gently used clothing for those in need.

GRANT

from page 1

programs, seed projects and create partnerships that unlock pathways to new opportunities and support social justice and racial equity efforts in Houston, according to the website for the Houston Texans. An advisory committee selects winning nonprofits to receive funds to create change in the community.

A check for the \$50,000.00 grant was presented to Executive Director Melinda Stephenson at the December 15, 2024, Houston Texans game, according to the Clothed by Faith Facebook page. The grant will be used for Clothed by Faith's "Closets for Schools" program, Stephenson told the Katy Times.

"This recognition is not just a testament to the growth and impact of Clothed by Faith but also a reflection of God's faithfulness and the collective effort of countless individuals who have supported our mission over the years," said Stephenson in the

newsletter. "We are reminded of every volunteer, donor, and supporter who has been part of our story. This milestone belongs to each one of you. Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of children and families across our communities."

"Eleven years ago, our founder Abi Fourie told co-founders Audrey Hosie and Susanne Hewson that one day Clothed by Faith would grow so big it would be recognized by organizations like the Astros and the Houston Texans," said Stephenson. "Back then, they were sitting on trash bags of clothes outside Abi's garage, trusting God to use Clothed by Faith to make a difference."

This past year, Clothed by Faith served 19,123 children and adults in need, according to the newsletter. The nonprofit, which provides gently used clothing to those in need, has a location in Deer Park in addition to their Katy location at 802 Dominion Drive, Katy.



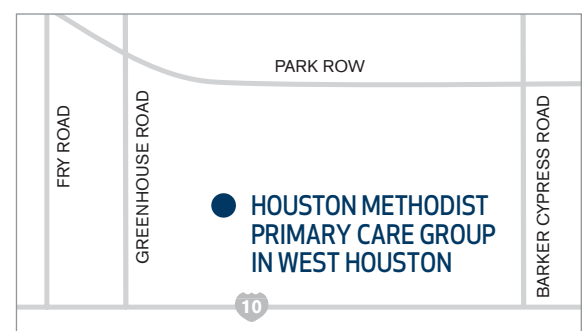
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Harmony Public Schools' North District wins JET grant to bolster engineering

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harmony Public Schools - Houston North District has been awarded a \$233,225 Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program, the charter school system announced in a December 19 press release. The funding will support the training of 125 students as Civil Engineers addressing the growing demand for professionals Engineers in Texas.

The JET program is part of a \$15 million initiative announced by Governor Greg Abbott, designed to enhance career and technical education (CTE) programs across the state, the press release said. The \$233,225 grant awarded to Harmony Public Schools - Houston North will support innovative educational programs and resources designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application.

Students will benefit from access to state-of-the-art technology, project-based learning, and mentorship opportunities from industry professionals, ensuring they are equipped for immediate success in the engineering field.

"As Texas' economy grows, so does the demand for a highly skilled workforce," said Governor Abbott. "These career training grants help prepare students for high-demand, good-paying careers, ensuring they have opportunities that lead to a better job and a brighter future."

"We are honored to receive the JET grant, which will create new opportunities for our students to pursue meaningful careers in healthcare," said Selcuk Bakir, Superintendent of Harmony Public Schools South Texas District. "This funding supports our mission to prepare students for college and career, shaping the next

generation of skilled professionals."

In the first year, this grant will help Harmony Public Schools South Texas train 125 students, contributing to the state's goal of equipping more than 6,900 students with career-ready skills through the JET program.

Harmony Public Schools are 60+ high performing PreK-12 college preparatory charter schools throughout Texas. Harmony blends the highest standards and expectations, with a rigorous math- and science-centered curriculum and dedicated and engaged teachers and families to cultivate excellence and prepare students to succeed in college, careers and life. At Harmony Public Schools, the team believes every child can succeed and is committed to helping them realize their full potential. To learn more about Harmony Public Schools and its 62 campuses across Texas, please visit: www.harmonytx.org.

WEDDING

Dunham-Johnson



Miss Margaret Macon Dunham and Mr. Scott Edward Johnson were united in marriage on Friday, October 11, 2024, at half past five o'clock in the afternoon. The ceremony was performed by Don Carman at the Wool Factory in Charlottesville, Virginia. A dinner reception and dancing followed.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dunham III, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brugh, all of Charlottesville, Virginia.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Johnson of Magnolia, Texas.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Maid of Honor was Angela Leal of Houston, Texas. Bridesmaids were Brandi Tyree of Anchorage, Alaska, Jeanne Lahrson of Wasilla, Alaska, Carolyn Heine of Riverside, California, Sherri Mai, sister of the groom, of Calgary, Canada. Evelyn Mai and Alexandra Leal were flower girls.

Groomsmen were Nick Adair Best Man of Guatemala, Michelangelo Hardy of Austin, Texas, Joe Mather of Houston, Texas, Robert Dunham, brother of the bride, of Charlottesville, Virginia.

The bride is a graduate of Kent State University (Bachelors) and Western Governors University (Masters) and is a registered nurse at Houston Methodist Hospital.

The groom is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin and is a consultant at Capco and a realtor with eXp Realty.

The couple reside in Katy, Texas.



Apply for Fort Bend County Fair scholarship by Jan. 16

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Fair is now accepting applications for its scholarship program, the fair announced in a December 17 press release. The opportunity to be awarded a \$5000.00 Fair scholarship is open to many qualifying students, but an application is required.

The deadline to submit a scholarship application is Thursday, January 16, 2024.

All recipients must be high school seniors graduating in spring 2025 from a recognized Fort Bend County

private, public, or home-schooled program.

To be eligible, students must have participated in the Fort Bend County Fair Livestock Shows, art programs, rodeo events, FCCLA, ag mechanics competition, horticulture contest, Queen contest, or have been Fort Bend County Fair volunteers. Scholarship recipient selections are based on Fair involvement, school activities, community involvement, and academic achievement.

Since 1979, the Fort Bend County Fair has been giving back to the county's youth through its schol-

arship program. In 2024, the Fair awarded over a quarter of a million dollars to deserving youth.

"These scholarships are supporting our youth in achieving their educational goals. We aim to assist our kids because they represent our future. We encourage students to submit their applications," says Keith Smith, Executive Manager of the Fort Bend County Fair.

For more information on the 2025 scholarship requirements and application, visit fortbendcountyfair.com or call the fair office at 281-342-6171.

TCEQ offers Mickey Leland environmental internship program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Let the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program (MLEIP) help with summer staffing or staffing shortages you may have. Now entering its 34th year, the program is currently accepting sponsor requests for summer 2025.

Businesses and organizations with a presence in Texas may sponsor a paid summer intern. Sponsors will interview, select, and provide internship placement and compensation for these motivated interns. They also set internship dates, pay rate, duties, and work hours.

The MLEIP places undergraduate and graduate college students pursuing a wide range of disciplines at TCEQ, other participating state agencies, within city and county government, and with participating private sector companies from across Texas. While the program primarily attracts STEM majors, those pursuing public health, law, accounting, criminal justice, communications, and other degrees apply as well.

For more information on how to become a summer internship sponsor, visit TCEQ's MLEIP sponsor webpage at tceq.texas.gov/jobs/mickeyleland/sponsor. Potential sponsors may also contact Juanita Baldwin, MLEIP education and outreach coordinator, at juanita.baldwin@tceq.texas.gov.

The program honors the late U.S. Congressman George "Mickey" Leland, a strong advocate of public health and environmental issues. According to the TCEQ program website, Congressman Leland is best known for:

- Serving as a member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.
- Consistently addressing public health issues related to minority communities.
- Demonstrating a passion for growing future leaders by advocating for the education and professional development of students, particularly those in underserved and underrepresented regions.

Congressman Leland was killed in a plane crash on August 7, 1989, enroute to Ethiopia on a mission as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Hunger.

KISD to host 'Men Who Mentor' on Jan. 24

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Calling all men to bring a friend and join Katy ISD for the "guys only" KEYS Mentor event!

KISD invites men of the community to join the KEYS mentoring program (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success) in order to provide strong role models for students. "Men Who Mentor" is an informative session which describes the role of community volunteers who work with assigned students.

The event will be held on January 24 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. and will include a free breakfast.

Festivities will take place at the district's Professional Development Annex, 6361 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, located across from the Merrell Center.

RSVP at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRqUoi7_ai-2OIlFYWY-iamQtd98SmznJzIXi-FQKkEOshOdA/viewform.

Offered at every campus at every grade level, the KEYS Mentor Program's primary focus is on relationship building, rather than tutoring, according to the district's website. Teachers, counselors and school administrators identify students who are good candidates for the program, while Katy ISD Partners

in Education recruits mentors from the community.

KEYS mentors come from varied backgrounds, experiences and age groups. Each KEYS mentor must make a one school year commitment to the program, apply and pass the same criminal background check used for Katy ISD employees and attend a campus orientation. Mentors are placed with a student by the KEYS campus liaison who will support and supervise the relationship. Mentors and their mentees meet each week on campus in an open, monitored environment such as the library.



Members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc Fraternity Inc., shown at a December 4 event where they read aloud to students at Rhoads Elementary, 19711 Clay Road in Katy, are among the "Men Who Mentor" at Katy ISD.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

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Annual Report Hearing Scheduled January 21st, 2025

The Katy Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2023-2024 Annual Performance Report on January 21, 2025. The hearing will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees at 5:00PM in the Katy ISD Administration Building at 6301 South Stadium Lane.

Texas Education Code (TEC) § 39.306 requires each school district's board of trustees to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), PEIMS, Financial Standard, accreditation status, campus performance objectives, special education determination and intervention policies, student performance in post-secondary institutions, and progress towards meeting early childhood literacy and math proficiency as well as college, career and military readiness.

Katy Times

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KATYTIMES.COM

Parkway Fellowship to hold North Campus grand opening

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Parkway Fellowship's Morton Road location (formerly referred to as their North Katy location) will hold its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, January 12, at 9:30 a.m. Space is limited and an RSVP is required. Please RSVP to pam.magee@parkwayfellowship.com if you plan to attend.

Situated on 14.5 beautiful acres in the heart of old Katy, the new 28,000-square-foot facility at 5911 Morton Road, near the corner of Morton Rd. and Katy Hockley Road, features spaces for kids and students, creating a vibrant place for all ages to connect, grow, and experience God's love, according to a

press release from the church.

In addition, the church is also building the Scroggins Chapel, named in honor of the Scroggins Family, who have lived since the 1950s on the land where the new building is now located. Once completed, the chapel will serve as a welcoming space for weddings and funerals, with doors expected to open to the community by mid-2025.

"This grand opening marks a significant new chapter for our church, which opened this location in 2014," said the press release. "Now, after years of prayer, dedication, seeking God's will, meeting in three schools and a leased grocery store, we're excited to welcome you to celebrate our new permanent home. What a momentous day it will be."



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Nestled among the trees in a park-like setting, the new north campus of Parkway Fellowship will hold its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on January 12, with limited seating available. In addition to the completed sanctuary, a chapel is also under construction and will be named after the Scroggins family, who for many years owned the land near Morton and Katy Hockley Road where the church is located.

TRIBUTE



DANIEL J. ANTICH
1944-2024

Daniel J. Antich, born April 17, 1944, in Michigan, passed away on November 23, 2024, in Texas. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



HANUKKAH CELEBRATION RAISES FUNDS FOR HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Rabbi Scott Hausman Weiss (left) lights all the candles on the menorah in celebration of the eighth night of Hanukkah on January 1 at Fuzzy's Pizza, 613 S. Mason in Katy, as Elyse Spector Kalmans (center), board chair of the Holocaust Museum Houston looks on. Fuzzy's owner, Jeff Hajjar (right) said that 18 percent of the evening's proceeds would be donated to the museum. International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be observed at the museum on Jan. 26.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

KATY CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Networking Luncheon
February 5, 2025 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Join us on the first Wednesday of every month for our chamber networking luncheon! Open to both members and non-members. All are welcome! A great place to network with like-minded leaders, business owners, and professionals in the greater Katy area. Luncheon format includes table networking and room-wide attendee introductions. Bring a give-away and receive an extra shout out to bring attention to your product or service.

FRIDAY FEB 5 2025

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WEEK OF JANUARY 10

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Saturday

- Taylor vs. Morton Ranch, 11:30 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Mayde Creek, 11:30 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Tompkins, 11:30 a.m.
- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday

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

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday

- Tompkins vs. Elkins, 10 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Friendswood, 2 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Clements, 4 p.m.
- Katy vs. Dickinson, 4 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Midlothian Heritage, 6 p.m.
- Taylor vs. North Shore, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Springs, 7 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Grapevine, 8 p.m.

Friday

- Morton Ranch vs. Lake Highlands, 9 a.m.
- Katy vs. West Fork, 10 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Rockwall-Heath, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Clear Lake, 3 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Brandeis, 3 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Pasadena, 5 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Stratford, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. A&M Consolidated, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Waxahachie, 7 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy vs. Brazoswood, 10 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Cy-Lakes, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Bowie, noon
- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Austin, noon
- Mayde Creek vs. Rudder, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Lamar, 7 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Johnson, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Lee, 8 p.m.

Wednesday

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

GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday-Saturday

- All Katy ISD Schools at I-10 Shootout

Wednesday

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

Callie Schmalz shoots a layup during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Taylor gym.

TYLER TYRE



Taylor downs Tompkins, keeps pace in district race

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Blair Ary has been preaching to her team the importance of starting fast.

Taylor has struggled at times this season with slow starts and having to come back in games. It nearly cost them earlier in the week when they had to overcome a 17-point fourth quarter deficit to Paetow.

But games like that are a learning lesson,

and learn is exactly what Taylor (19-5, 7-1) did, using one of its best starts of a game they've had this season on Friday en route to a 77-63 win over Tompkins (15-11, 6-2).

"It's something we've talked about for a while — a big focus is starting games faster and stronger," Ary said. "It takes some time for everything to click with new, younger kids, but they're understanding the importance of

See **TAYLOR**, page 8

SOCCER

I-10 Shootout returns with ranked teams abound

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The I-10 shootout is set to return to Katy, as some of the strongest teams throughout the state will gather to compete in brackets hosted by nine of Katy ISD's schools.

It will be a first look not just at Katy ISD schools, but some of the top schools in the area and state and will culminate with games played at Legacy and Rhodes Stadium on Saturday as teams gear up for district play.

Seven Lakes will lead the way among the ranked teams at the tournament, as they start the season ranked No. 1 in the region. Jordan sits just behind them at No. 2 and Tompkins is at No. 9, bringing three teams from Katy ISD to the tournament that are ranked as the top of the region.

But they aren't the only strong teams that will be there. No. 3 ranked Brazoswood, No. 5 ranked Ridge Point, No. 6 ranked Atascocita, No. 7 ranked Memorial, No. 8 ranked Stratford and No. 10 Clear Springs will all be at the tournament along with Class 5A ranked Friendswood and Santa Fe as talent will be all throughout the tournament in every bracket.

The tournament begins Thursday, with all nine District 19-6A teams hosting their brackets through Friday until the finals, which will be played at Legacy and Rhodes Stadium on Saturday.

Cinco Ranch will host the Cougar bracket, which will include Cy-Woods, Deer Park, Kingwood, Dawson, Northbrook and Manvel.

Seven Lakes will host the Spartans bracket, which will include Stratford, Clear Springs, Cy-Ranch, Duncanville, Friendswood, Clements and O'Connor.

Katy will host the Tigers bracket, which has Barbers Hill, Clear Lake, Lumberton, St. Agnes, Travis, Cy-Falls and McArthur Aldine.

Taylor will host the Mustang bracket, that includes Brazoswood, Canyon Lake, Churchill, Cy-Lakes, Santa Fe, Westside and Cy-Ridge.

Mayde Creek will host Aldine Davis, Stafford and Westfork in the

See **SHOOTOUT**, page 8

Seven Lakes leads Region III in boys, girls preseason soccer rankings

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes came away with the top honors on both the boys and girls sides in this year's Region III-6A Teas Association of Soccer Coaches preseason rankings, being ranked No. 1 in the region heading into the season.

The Spartans took the top spots on the

boys side but were not alone when it came to Katy ISD teams with big expectations. On the boys side, Cinco Ranch was ranked second in the region, while Jordan was ranked No. 5 and Tompkins was ranked No. 10.

All four of those programs come off very successful seasons. For the Seven Lakes boys, they come off their second straight state championship and third straight state final appearance. The Spartans went 15-1-2

on the year, including 13-1-2 in district while outscoring 113 to 16 for the season and 23-3 in the playoffs.

Cinco Ranch meanwhile secured the second overall ranking after a tremendous season last year in which they reached the regional final before losing to Seven Lakes. The Cougars went 17-4-4 overall and 11-2-3 in district play, finishing second in District 19-6A before going on a dominant playoff

run that saw them reach the regional final.

Jordan earned the No. 5 spot in the rankings after another strong year in which they made a playoff run. The Warriors went 13-8-4 on the season, finishing fourth in district, but they went on to upset Ridge Point and beat Cy-Ridge before falling to Seven Lakes on penalties, giving the Spartans their

See **RANKINGS**, page 8



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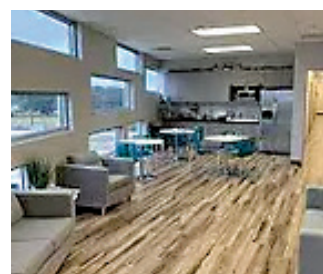
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TAYLOR

from page 7

starting a game better than we have sometimes. They're starting to get it and that fast start was crucial today against a team like Tompkins that has so much talent where you can't have an off night."

The Mustangs jumped out to an 11-0 lead to start the game and led 21-7 after the first quarter in what turned into a big win for the Mustangs. The two teams came into the day with both needing a win to stay tied for the lead in district and it was Taylor that managed to do it amid a dominant display.

"We wanted to get out and make our presence felt right away," said junior guard Kolbi Cairns. "This was a game we couldn't have any let up and for us to get out to that lead really helped us put the game away later on."

Kara Heart led the way for the Mustangs with 29 points in a strong performance from the low post, while Casey Scherpereel had 18 points and Cairns had 10 points as Taylor had three people with double digit points. Hart was a steady presence for the team, coming up with timely buckets when Tompkins went on runs, taking the ball up court when Tompkins tried a full-court press and being a presence in the rebounding game as well to help lead the Mustangs to the win.

"Watching Kara grow into the player and leader she is has been one of greatest blessings I have ever had as a coach," Ary said "She's so calm and steady and our team really goes as she goes. Her mentality is so important to us and I don't think we could have the success we are having this year without her."



Kara Heart shoots a layup during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Taylor gym.

The Mustangs continued their offensive onslaught throughout the game, leading 40-27 at half and 61-44 after three quarters before sealing things in the fourth. They did it with a balanced offensive attack where they found the open man, made extra passes and played selflessly, always finding the right person to get the ball in the hoop. It's a tactic that has worked all year for Taylor and is how they have found so much success, with teams being unable to hone in on any one player.

"We have players that can do everything and that's such an asset," Hart said. "We just find the weakness of another team and that's what we attack because we have players who can attack anything. Having players that have different things they can

do with their game makes everything easier on the court."

Now the goal for the Mustangs is to keep this level of performance up throughout the rest of district in what has become a very tight race not just for the district title, but for the playoffs. The top three teams in district are all separated by one game, while fourth through sixth all have winning records for the season as well and could go on runs in the second half of district. For Taylor, the importance will be focusing on every individual game as the team tries to claim the district crown.

"Anything can happen in the second round with the teams in this district," Ary said. "Mayde Creek is on fire, Paetow is playing teams well. The four teams at the op can all beat each other on any given night. Anything can happen, but we have prepared for that. We knew how tough this district would be from the beginning and so our focus is very intentional on focusing on only the next game. That's the only thing you can do. There can't be any looking ahead of that."

DISTRICT 19-6A

TAYLOR 77, TOMPKINS 63

Points: (TA) Kara Hart 29, Casey Scherpereel 18, Kolbi Cairns 10, Callie Schmaltz 8, Addison Middleton 6, Tyarie Jack 6; (TO) Sascha Coughran 27, Kate Hopkins 9, Elsa St. Rose 8, Kali Stiger 6, Kayli Jensen 6, Chika Okwonna 3, Haylie Panter 2, Natalie Kitts 2;

Halftime: Taylor 40, Tompkins 27; 3-Pointers: (TA) Scherpereel 2, Cairns 2, Middleton 2, Schmaltz; (TO) Coughran 4; Records: Taylor: 19-5, 7-1; Tompkins: 15-11, 6-2;



Seven Lakes forward Sienna Marchitello (24) moves the ball during the Class 6A girls state soccer semifinal between Prosper and Seven Lakes on April 12, 2024 in Georgetown. Prosper won 3-0.

RANKINGS

from page 7

toughest game of their entire playoff run.

Tompkins is ranked No. 10 after reaching the second round of the playoffs last season. The Falcons went 15-6-4 overall and 9-4-3 in district, finishing third overall. They earned a 2-1 win over Fort Bend Austin in the first round before falling on penalties to Northbrook in the second round of the playoffs.

On the girls side, Seven Lakes claimed the top spot after making it to the state tournament last year and bringing back a lot of their talent from last season. The Spartans went 19-4-5 last year and 11-2-3 in district to claim a share of the district title. They then went on to win their first four playoff games without allowing a single goal before beating Jordan in an overtime thriller in the regional final, making it to the state tournament before losing to Prosper.

The Spartans were followed by Jordan at No. 2 in the rankings after they head a tremendous season as well last year. The Warriors shared the district crown with Katy and went 17-5-5 on the season and 11-2-3 in district play. The Warriors went into the playoffs and

won four games, including beating Stratford on penalties, before falling to Seven Lakes in overtime of the regional final.

Tompkins joined the rankings, coming in at No. 9 after reaching the second round of the playoffs last year was Tompkins. The Falcons went 17-5-2 on the season and 11-4-1 in district, beating Fort Bend Clements in the first round before falling to Stratford in a hard-fought game in the second round of the playoffs.

Following is the full Region III-6A Boys Rankings:

1. Seven Lakes
2. Cinco Ranch
3. Humble
4. Kingwood
5. Jordan
6. Elsie
7. Dobie
8. Strake Jesuit
9. Northbrook
10. Tompkins

Following is the full Region III-6A Girls Rankings:

1. Seven Lakes
2. Jordan
3. Brazoswood
4. Pearland
5. Ridge Point
6. Atascocita
7. Memorial
8. Stratford
9. Tompkins
10. Clear Springs

SHOOTOUT

from page 7

Rams bracket, while Morton Ranch will host Kempner, Cy-Springs and Sterling in the Maverick bracket.

Tompkins will host the Falcons bracket, which includes Wylie, Mansfield, Atascocita, Cy-Creek, Elkins, Bellaire and George Ranch.

Jordan rounds out the bracket by hosting the Warrior bracket, hosting Cedar Park, Ridge Point, Fulshear, Memorial, Summer Creek, Lamar and Langham Creek.

The teams will split into a winners and consolation bracket after Thursday. Those that make it undefeated until Saturday will play in the winners bracket finals at Legacy and Rhodes.

The Mayde Creek and Morton

Ranch bracket final will be played 9 a.m. at Rhodes Stadium, while the Paetow bracket final will be played at 11 a.m., Cinco Ranch bracket final will be played at 1 p.m. and Taylor bracket final will be played at 3 p.m. at Rhodes. At Legacy, Katy's bracket final will be played at 10 a.m., Tompkins bracket final will be played at noon, Jordan's bracket final will be played at 2 p.m. at Seven Lakes' bracket final will be played at 4 p.m.

For more information on the tournament, go to <https://i-10shootout.org/>

For bracket schedules and live scores, go to <https://i-10shootout.org/pages/brackets/>



Seven Lakes midfielder Madison Holland (8) brings the ball under control during the Class 6A girls state soccer semifinal between Prosper and Seven Lakes on April 12, 2024 in Georgetown. Prosper won 3-0.

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