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KatyTimes



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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. R. RICHARDSON

It was a sea of maroon at the December 8 meeting of the Katy ISD board of trustees as board members honored Cinco Ranch High School. The board recognizes a different high school at each regular board meeting.

School board sets May election, hears from paraprofessionals and opens nominations for naming transport center

FROM STAFF REPORTS

After contentious debate spanning two board meetings, the Katy ISD board of trustees voted 3-2 to call the next school board election for May 2, 2026.

Board member Mary Ellen Cuzela, who is up for reelection along with trustees Amy Thieme and Morgan Calhoun, maintained that the election should be moved to November in order to increase voter turnout, which has remained in single-digit percentages for many years, she said. Cuzela also said

that May elections tend to favor candidates who support the status quo. During public comments, six public speakers also supported the move to November while one speaker supported keeping the election in May.

District officials, including general counsel Justin Graham, said it would cost more to conduct the elections in November and that it was also more difficult to get election workers for a fall election.

Board president Lance Redmon, board secretary Dawn Champagne and trustee James

Cross voted to keep the elections in May, while trustees Cuzela and Thieme voted against the May date. Trustees Rebecca Fox and Calhoun were not present for the vote.

The board also heard from five impassioned public speakers about low compensation rates for the district's paraprofessionals. One current employee said that he is making less than \$26,000 per year while the average pay for school paraprofessionals is more than \$31,000 per year in Texas

See **KISD**, page 3

Council moves forward with plan for Katy City Park while preserving tennis courts

Public speakers voice opposition to potential loss of two courts

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

After substantial public feedback and lengthy discussion during its December 8 meeting, Katy's city council voted unanimously to proceed with a base proposal for improvements to Katy City Park at 5850 Franz in Katy.

The proposed project consists of three parts: installation of artificial turf field at a cost of \$1,084,010, conversion of two existing tennis courts to pickleball courts and an artificial turf field for \$828,619.30 and installation of sport LED lighting in the amount of \$210,000.

Nine of the 14 public speakers spoke in defense of the tennis courts during public comments.

Council approved the installation of the artificial turf and the sport LED lighting system but asked city staff to come back with different options to increase the number of pickleball courts at the park.

In other action, council:

- *Heard a presentation on Wild West Brewfest by David Loesch. The event, scheduled at Typhoon Texas March 26-28, 2026, is organized by the Rotary Club of Katy, which applied for \$120,000 in HOT grants for tourism-related advertising and also sought approval for street closures. The requests were approved by unanimous votes.

See **CITY**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Wild West Brewfest chairman David Loesch presents information about the craft brew event to members of Katy's city council at its December 8 meeting. The event, managed by the Rotary Club of Katy, will be held March 26-28, 2026, at Typhoon Texas and is expected to draw a large number of out-of-town attendees. Organizers applied to the city for a hotel occupancy tax grant to help advertise the event.

WALLER COUNTY LEADERSHIP SHAKEUP

Dan Smith announces bid for Waller Co. Precinct 4

Special election to be held for Smith's position on Katy city council

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dan Smith, a current member of the Katy City Council representing Ward A, has formally launched his campaign for Waller County Commissioner Precinct 4, running on a platform of "Safer Communities, Managed Growth, and Responsible Spending."

Smith, a fifth generation Texan and resident of southern Waller County, said in a statement to the Katy Times that he is seeking the seat because he "cares deeply about this community" and believes the area needs "steady, conservative leadership to protect what makes Waller County a great place to call home." His priorities as commissioner will include supporting law enforcement, improving mobility



DAN SMITH

See **SMITH**, page 3

Duhon won't seek new term as Waller County judge; Beckendorff files to run for position

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon has decided not to run for an additional term, he announced in a December 8 post on Facebook.



CARBETT "TREY" J. DUHON III

"After much prayer, reflection, and discussion with my family, I have decided not to seek re-election for a fourth term as Waller County Judge," the post said. "Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and this decision was not made lightly. I believe this is the right time to step aside and allow new leadership and fresh perspective to guide our county into the future."

Duhon has served as county judge

See **JUDGE**, page 3

Briones launches 'Safe Holidays 4 Safer Harris County' to reduce impaired driving, domestic violence, unintentional shootings involving children

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As families across Harris County prepare for one of the busiest travel and gathering seasons of the year, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones is urging residents to take simple and preventive steps that can save lives. Through her "Safe Holidays 4 a Safer Harris County" call to action, she is elevating concerns around impaired driving, domestic violence, and unsecured firearms in homes with children. These issues historically worsen during the holiday season and require greater community awareness, her office said in a December 8 statement.

"Safety is my top priority, especially during the holidays when families are travel-

ing and gathering," said Briones.

"During the holidays we see the best in people, but we also see some of the most preventable tragedies," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "Our DWI unit has already made 571 impaired driving arrests this year, and we will have enhanced enforcement on the roads because one bad decision can destroy a family in an instant."

Holiday travel brings increased risk on local roads. More than 30 percent of vehicle fatalities in Harris County involve impaired driving. This share is higher than both the Texas average and the national average. December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, and year after year, DWI contribute to nearly one third of fatal crash-

es statewide during this time. Officials are encouraging residents to plan safe rides in advance, avoid driving while impaired, and step in when a friend or family member may be at risk.

"As a mother who lost my daughter Destiny to a drunk driver, I live with an empty chair at my table every day," said Charisse Thomas with Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "Please do not drink and drive; think about the families who never get a second chance."

Safety concerns inside the home also rise during the holidays, the commissioner's office said. Financial pressure, emotional strain, and reduced access to support services often lead to an increase in domestic

violence. Harris County experienced a 34 percent increase in domestic violence homicides between 2023 and 2024. Nationally, law enforcement agencies respond to approximately 20 percent more domestic violence calls in December.

To meet these challenges, Harris County has strengthened partnerships with more than a dozen survivor support organizations and invested more than \$20 million in services since 2022. The Domestic Violence Assistance Fund has helped more than 3,800 households and 6,650 individuals. The Early Childhood Resiliency Fund is providing children affected by violence with mental

See **SAFETY**, page 3

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Keep your child active and happy this winter break at USA Ninja Challenge Katy, an obstacle course training gym for children. Local coaches will guide your child to take on the obstacles, play ninja games, and have fun. Daily camp sessions are \$50 per child, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Dec. 22, 23, 29, 30, 31. For more visit <https://www.ninjakatytx.com/camps> or call 281-394-1986. The facility is located at 22564 Franz Road in Katy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USA NINJA CHALLENGE KATY

Plan now for annual Fort Bend
Regional Vegetable conference

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Register now for the 41st annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference on February 17 at the Fort Bend County Epicenter.

It's not only a new location but also a new format. The program will include multi-track sessions for backyard gardeners, agricultural pesticide applicator 5 CEUS, teacher/Educator CPEs, small producer/market garden-

ers and food preservations, safety & recipes.

Early registration is \$45.00 through Jan. 15. The program will feature speakers, exhibitors, door prizes, refreshments and a BBQ lunch. The conference will be offered from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 28505 Southwest Freeway in Rosenberg. Late registration will be \$55.00 through Feb.6. To pay in person, visit AgriLife Extension-Fort Bend County, 1402

Band Road (Annex Building) in Rosenberg.

For more information or to become a sponsor, call 281-342-3034. Visit Manual Registration Form 2026. pdf or 41ST ANNUAL FORT BEND REGIONAL VEGETABLE CONFERENCE Tickets, Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite. Contact Lorraine Niemeyer at 281-633-7033 or lorraine.niemeyer@ag.tamu.edu for information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join the senior citizens' Christmas party in
Brookshire on Dec. 18

Come to the Brookshire Convention Center at 4029 Fifth Street in Brookshire on December 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a special Christmas party for senior citizens. Please consider bringing a new pair of socks for seniors in need. For more information, please call Quotatious Dunn at 346-257-7405.

It's 'Procrastinators and Prosecco'
on the square on Dec. 18

Dig out that super ugly Christmas sweater or T-shirt and join Katy's downtown merchants for an Ugly Sweater contest on December 18 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Katy's historic square at Second Street and Avenue C in Katy. Nibbles will also be served.



Work off those holiday calories
at the 'Reindeer Run' on Dec. 20

Kick off the holidays with a festive 5K hosted by the Katy Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. The Reindeer Run will be held on December 20 at 9 a.m. at Willow Fork Park, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy. The organization is also collecting new or gently used pajamas, which can be dropped off at the tent near the start/finish line. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/KAACReindeerRun>.

View a live nativity on Dec. 21

Join in for a family-friendly celebration of the birth of Jesus, featuring music, storytelling and a live nativity under the stars on December 21 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at 23051 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy. Stay for food, fellowship, crafts, a Christmas carol hymn sing, games and activities. The public event is hosted by Victory of the Lamb Lutheran Church and Victory of the Lamb Lutheran Preschool.



Enjoy a night of soulful joy at Katy Vibes on Dec. 21

Celebrate the holidays with a powerful gospel experience featuring the incomparable Kimberly Brown, a three-time Grammy Award-winning artist. Presented by Catherine Brown Reeves in honor of her 50th birthday, the evening promises to be a night full of blessings. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are available at katyvibes.com. It all happens at Katy Vibes, 24757 Katy Freeway in Katy. For more information, call 832-437-2807.

Take a trip or enjoy a movie with the Fussell Senior
Center on Dec. 22

The City of Katy's Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. Fifth in Katy, has two events planned for December 22:

• Camp Hope delivery: from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., help the center lead the Harris County Precinct 4 bus as volunteers deliver donated items to Camp Hope in Houston, where veterans receive help with PTSD. Upon arrival at Camp Hope,



participants will unload the bus and bring everything into the warehouse. There is no cost for this trip.

• Movies and lunch: from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., join other seniors for a fun day at the movies and lunch with friends. Movie and restaurant details were set to be shared on December 15 after the Katy Times went to press for this issue. No advance cost – just bring money for your movie ticket and your meal.

Have cookies with Santa at Stellar Bank on Dec. 23

Meet Santa Claus from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on December 23 at Stellar Bank, 722 Pin Oak in Katy, and enjoy delicious cookies while you tell him what's on your wish list for this year.

Celebrate a special retirement
at the Fussell Center on Dec. 30

Join the staff of the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. Fifth in Katy, on December 30 between 1 and 3 p.m. for a "come and go" retirement party for long-time employee Pat Baker. Baker has served the City of Katy Senior Center for more than 22 years and has touched countless lives through her dedication, compassion, and commitment to the local senior community, the Fussell Center said in its December newsletter. In the spirit of adventure, please bring a postcard with a special message for Pat to take on her next journey. There will be extra postcards at the event. For questions or for more information, please call or text Amanda Di Dio at 832-732-5387 or email adidio@cityofkaty.com.

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MERRY
Christmas

from the staff of

Katy Times

We will close at Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and
reopen on Friday, Dec. 26 so that our employees
may spend time with their families.

Deadline for Dec. 25 publication is Wednesday, Dec. 17, Noon

Deadline for Jan. 1 publication is Tuesday, Dec. 23, Noon

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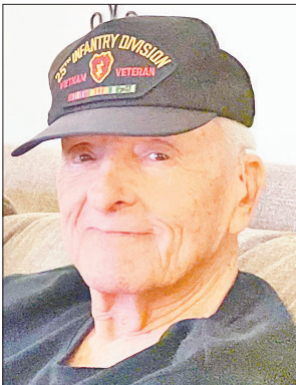
TRIBUTE

Richard Wayne Foushee, a proud veteran and deeply devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away peacefully before dawn on Sunday, October 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at the age of 91 in Katy, Texas.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, in November 1933, Richard was the oldest of Robert and Margaret Foushee’s five children. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1952 and began a distinguished twenty-year military career. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant and served in the 25th Infantry Division. Richard was a veteran of both the Korean War (1952–1953) and the Vietnam War (1969–1970), earning a Bronze Star Medal w/ V Device and 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal (5th Award), National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device (1960), among other commendations.

After his military service, Richard obtained a master’s degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and later became a teacher. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Mary Beth Foushee, with whom he shared 71 years of marriage. Together, they raised three children: a son, Gregg Foushee, and two daughters, Tamera Hazlewood and Monica Steadman.

Richard lived his life to the fullest, and was known for his incredible hugs, his infectious jokes, his love of animals, and his generosity



RICHARD WAYNE FOUSHEE
1933-2025

of spirit. A true family man, he prioritized his family above all else, and his shared wisdom and casual anecdotes will continue to be cherished by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Margaret Foushee, his sister Marjorie Davis, and two brothers, John Foushee and James Foushee.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Beth Foushee; his children and their spouses, Gregg and Sandy Foushee, Tamera and Steve Hazlewood, and Monica and David Steadman; his brother, Terry Foushee and his wife Cathy; seven grandchildren: Ryan Tremont, Jenna Miller, Lyndsey Peterl, Lauren Suarez, Garrett Tremont, Jacob Hazlewood, and Jordan Hazlewood; and ten great grandchildren: Kaiden Miller, Annabelle Tremont, Adalyn Miller, Emilia Tremont, Carson Feterl, Gage Tremont, Evelyn Suarez, Parker Feterl, Norah Suarez, and Luca Suarez.

In accordance with his wishes, Richard donated his body to science, and his remains will be cremated followed by a private family memorial.

KISD

from page 1

and almost \$35,000 per year in the U.S. One employee said that she could no longer afford health insurance.

A spokesperson for Katy ISD confirmed to the Katy Times that the district employs almost 3,000 paraprofessionals. “Katy ISD recognizes the invaluable contributions of our nearly 3,000 paraprofessional and auxiliary staff,” a spokesperson for the district said in a subsequent statement to the Katy Times. “For the 2025 – 2026 school year, these hard-working professionals received a 3 percent raise, funded by a combination of HB2 legislated funding (1.3 percent) and local Katy ISD funds (1.7 percent). Though HB2 included meaningful support for teacher pay, state funding for auxiliary and paraprofessional support lags behind. The district will

continue advocating for higher pay and increased state support on behalf of these dedicated employees.”

The board also approved the formation of a naming advisory committee for the North Transportation Center. The new facility is a part of the voter-approved 2021 Katy ISD Bond.

The North Transportation Center joins three existing transportation centers to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation to and from school for the district’s more than 95,000 students. The new center covers the growing northwest region of the district, servicing schools including Boudny Elementary, Cross Elementary, Youngblood Elementary, Nelson Junior High and Freeman High School.

Community members interested in submitting a nomination for

naming the facility should review the Katy ISD Board Policy CW (LOCAL) for guidance.

Nominations will be accepted online, and requested nomination materials include:

- A nomination form
- Biographical or historical data
- A description of significant contributions and
- A statement about why a campus or facility should be given a particular name.

The deadline to submit naming nominations is 4 p.m. Monday, January 5, 2026.

Visit the school and facility naming webpage at www.katysid.org/board/board/school-and-facility-naming for more information.

JUDGE

from page 1

since 2014, overseeing the county during times of great challenge as well as great change.

“Whether it was dealing with Hurricane Harvey, the Tax Day flood, the Memorial Day flood, the Arctic Storm, the Justice Center Bond, the Mobility Bond, building a new county community center, jail, sheriff’s office, District Court building, Pct 4 Annex, County Courthouse, twelve (12) county budgets, lowering the property tax rate almost every year, defeating a landfill and a high speed rail project to protect private property rights, and trying to navigate and lead one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Texas... these are just a few of the things that I could not be more proud that we have accomplished during my tenure as Waller County Judge,” Duhon said in the Facebook post. He thanked his supporters as well as the staff of the county government and local charitable organizations “for all of their tireless commitment to our residents and our children.”

“While I will not be seeking another term, my commitment to Waller County will not end,” Duhon said. “I will continue working every day for Waller County through 2026 to the end of my current term. Past that, I look forward

to continuing to serve our community in new ways, supporting local and state initiatives, and lending my time and experience wherever I can be helpful. Waller County will always be my home, and its success will always be close to my heart.”

Waller County Precinct 4 Commissioner Justin Beckendorff announced his candidacy for Waller County Judge in a Facebook post on December 8.

“After 11 years of serving you as your county commissioner, I’ve made the decision to take the next step:



JUSTIN
BECKENDORFF

Beckendorff is a lifelong Waller County resident with deep ties to the community, having friends and relatives who have served the public in numerous capacities for generations. He attended Katy High School

and went on to Texas A&M, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 2004. Prior to serving as county commissioner, Beckendorff worked as a business development manager and worked for his family business.

In his post, Beckendorff also thanked Judge Duhon for his years of dedicated service to the county. “I wish him nothing but the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life. Judge Duhon has left big boots to fill but I will do my best to pick up where he left off and pave the way for Waller County’s success.”

Beckendorff said that he is running for county judge “because I believe in a government that puts you first.”

“Waller County is growing fast, and we need a bold vision for the future. I will continue to fight for smart growth, strong communities, more law enforcement, lower taxes, and a solid investment in our mobility infrastructure,” his Facebook post said. “Our citizens deserve a county government that focuses on what matters most—roads, safety, and efficiency. We cannot afford to be complacent. We must be proactive, innovative, and bold as we prepare for the future.”

“Let’s get to work,” Beckendorff concluded.

SMITH

from page 1

and drainage, and ensuring tax dollars are used efficiently and responsibly.

Smith’s campaign emphasizes the record he has built during his service on the Katy City Council, he said. During his tenure, he strengthened public safety by increasing the number of police officers on the streets each year. He helped advance major transportation projects that improved many miles of roadway, utilizing creative funding sources and strong regional partnerships to ease the cost burden on residents. He also supported fiscal policies that consistently lowered the property tax rate, culminating in the adoption of a rate below the no-new-revenue rate for 2025.

Smith said that he will “bring that same steady, conservative leadership to Commissioners Court” and work closely with local leaders to ensure that growth in Precinct 4 is safe, smart, and sustainable — “without placing new burdens on the families who are already here.”

Smith’s professional background includes an MBA and spans more than

24 years with a Fortune 100 company, including over a decade as a multi-unit leader managing hundreds of employees and multi-million-dollar P&Ls. He views public service the same way he views professional leadership: as customer service. “As residents we pay taxes, and in return we should expect to receive professional service by people committed to constantly improving the experience living here,” Smith said.

“County government is in the business of providing good service to you. You are my focus,” Smith added.

Under the “resign to run” proviso in the City of Katy’s city charter, Smith vacated his seat on Katy’s city council by announcing his candidacy for the Waller County position. Per the city charter, a special election must be held to fill his unexpired term within 120 days of his announcement. The Katy city council was scheduled to meet in special session on December 15 (after the Katy Times went to press for this issue) to call for a special election to be held on January 31, 2026.

SAFETY

from page 1

health consultations, counseling, and home visits. These initiatives reflect the County’s long-term commitment to helping survivors rebuild their lives.

“For many survivors, the holidays are the most dangerous time of the year, not the most joyful,” said Amy Smith, Senior Director of Operations & Communications for Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. “Believe the people in your life who disclose abuse, help them find safety and remember that we must stop blaming victims and hold perpetrators accountable.”

Firearm safety is another major concern during the holidays when more children and visitors are present in homes, according to the statement from Precinct 4. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. In Harris County, most firearm deaths among youth ages 0 to 17 are homicides. Many unintentional shootings involving children occur when firearms are left unsecured. Officials are urging residents to use gun locks or safes, keep firearms unloaded, and store ammunition separately.

Commissioner Briones emphasized that creating a safe holiday season does not require major changes. Small preventive steps can make a significant difference. Avoiding impaired driving, checking on loved ones, seeking help in moments of crisis, and practicing responsible firearm storage all contribute to a safer Harris County.

“We see more deadly home fires in November, December and January than at any other time of year,” said Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie Christensen. “Giving space heaters room, blowing out candles, checking smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and practicing two ways out with your family can prevent devastating losses.”

CITY

from page 1

*Unanimously authorized the mayor to sign a three-year renewal with Everbridge Inc. for continuation of the KT Alert notification system.

*Unanimously authorized the mayor to sign a contract worth up to \$1,459,370 for professional design services for a new wastewater treatment plant to be located at 25839 Katy Freeway, just south of another water facility and adjacent to the city’s animal control facility.

*In a unanimous vote, authorized the Katy Development Authority to use up to \$4,462,612.30 in METRO funds for roadway extension and bridge construction along Nelson Way. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said that the improvements would be needed in the near future when Interstate 10 is shut down for construction.

*In a 4-1 vote (with Councilmember Gina Hicks dissenting) authorized the Katy Development Authority to use up to \$249,838 in METRO funds for construction of a traffic signal at Franz Road and Scott Ranch Road. City Engineer David Kasper said that the signal, which will help residents using the city’s new trail system to cross Franz Road safely, will remain green in both directions on Franz, unless triggered by pedestrians or by cars approaching from Scott Ranch Road.

*Unanimously approved annexation of 24.28 acres in Fort Bend County in the Katy Boardwalk Reserve.

*Via consent agenda, approved dates, street closures and hotel occupancy tax grant applications for city-hosted events in the historic town square, including seven dates for the Katy Exchange street market, Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade and Katy Rice Harvest Festival.

The next meeting of Katy’s city council will be on January 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

CROSSWORD THEME: AT A BAR

CLUES ACROSS

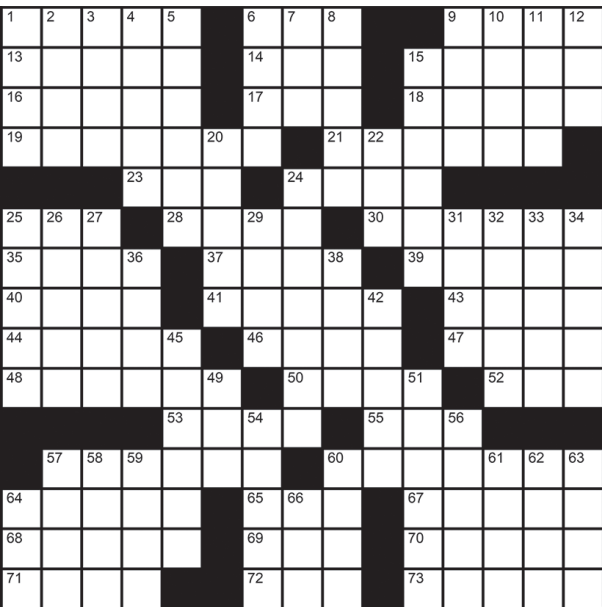
1. Slovenly ones
6. To do this is human?
9. Not flip
13. Mistress or lover, arch.
14. Precedes de Rivoli
15. Lift a hefty load
16. Sheep-like
17. Invoice qty.
18. Republic on Arabian Peninsula
19. *Aromatic additives
21. *Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.
23. Major Uziel Gal-designed gun
24. Clarified butter
25. Although, for short
28. Distressed cry
30. Bamboozled
35. What a willow did?
37. J in B. J. King
39. Raspberry drupelets
40. Pelvic bones
41. Birch family tree
43. Banned apple spray
44. Impolite dinner sound
46. Left, Latin prefix
47. Dissenting clique
48. a.k.a. chickadee
50. Four seasons
52. Abode for #1 Down
53. Do, re or mi
55. Buddy Holly’s “Peggy ____”
57. *Measuring tool at a bar
60. *Not shaken
64. Dough or cabbage
65. *Gross!”
67. Lacking guile
68. *‘The Day the World ____ Still”
69. Intelligence org.
70. Ruhr’s industrial center
71. Job for a body shop

72. Finish

73. Condemn

CLUES DOWN

1. #1 Across, sing.
2. Jeans maker Strauss
3. Leave out
4. Swahili and other languages
5. One of the seven dwarfs
6. Victorian one and Elizabethan one, e.g.
7. *Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller
8. *Verb related to hangover
9. Fine print add-ons
10. Feeble
11. Above and beyond
12. Mightier than sword
15. Shenzi of “The Lion King”
20. *Spanish dry red wine
22. *For ____ a Jolly Good Fellow”
24. Seductive stare (2 words)
25. *Citrus peel
26. Greeting
27. Laudanum ingredient
29. *Same as rail at a bar
31. South American wood sorrels
32. Trickeries
33. Roleplay
34. *Like martini with olive brine
36. Queen of Hearts’ pastry
38. Campbell of “Scream” fame
42. Cook in the oven
45. Sent a modern message
49. Ballerina’s support
51. Decayed or disintegrated
54. Cease-fire
56. Use other end of pencil
57. Burlap fiber
58. Desktop picture



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59. Small cave
60. Herring’s cousin
61. Microprocessor design, acr.
62. “____ and anon”
63. Controvert
64. Psychedelic drug
66. *Liquor in Tom Collins and Gimlet

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

EDIBEL USA OFFICIALLY OPENS KATY OFFICE
HOUSING U.S. HEADQUARTERS



Above: Edibel USA Packaging Solutions Inc. celebrated three separate ribbon cuttings and shared information about the company through a brand showcase event on December 10 at 24285 Katy Freeway Suite 615 in Katy. The company, whose motto is “Think green, pack smart,” manufactures cost-competitive packaging materials which are 100 percent plastic-free and made from plant fibers and recycled materials. The occasion marked the grand opening of the company’s Houston facility and the official launch of Edibel’s sustainable packaging presence in the United States. Right: Sarah Zhang, CEO of Edibel USA Packaging Solutions Inc., welcomes honored guests to the company’s official ribbon cutting on December 10 at 24285 Katy Freeway Suite 615 in Katy. Among dignitaries in attendance were Alice C. Cheng, the first Asian American woman elected to serve on the City Council for the City of Stafford, and Sam Chang of the Asian Chamber of Commerce, as well as representatives from China and other parts of Asia. Members of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce supported the event as well.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



Johnson Development continues north
and west Houston-area volunteer programs

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Johnson Development continues to make an impact in the north and west Houston regions, teaming with area real estate agents to donate time and money to local charities.

Through its 2025 volunteer program, Johnson Development donated \$8,000.00 and engaged 130 volunteers who worked 310 hours at four area non-profits: SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship, Boys and Girls Country, The Ballard House and Cy-Hope.

“It’s inspiring to see the impact these charities have on the lives of people living in the north Houston region,” said Monica Conchola, Realtor Relations Liaison for Johnson Development’s north Houston communities. “We are happy to not only donate our time and money to support their efforts, but also to introduce them to others in the area who might continue volunteering.”

In February, a team of 40 Realtors and Johnson Development employees volunteered at SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship in Spring, which uses equine-assisted activities and therapies to help people with disabilities. The group worked for three hours to clean horse stalls, hang blinds in the barn, remove old obstacles and paint new obstacles and gates.

Thirty real estate agents and Johnson Development staff worked at Boys and Girls Country near Tomball in June, preparing emergency kits and organizing boxes from their summer event. Boys and Girls Country is a residential community for children ages 5 to 18 where each cottage operates as an



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHNSON DEVELOPMENT

The Ballard House, a nonprofit located at 21421 Cinco Park Road in Katy which offers no-cost temporary housing to medical patients traveling to the Houston area for treatment, was the beneficiary of volunteer hours from 30 employees of Johnson Development in September. The company also donated \$2,000.00 to Ballard House.

independent family unit. They also provide a home to young adults trying to obtain a degree or a technical certification, enter the military or begin their careers.

The Ballard House in Katy was next, with a group of 30 volunteering in September. They cleaned apartments and cooked dinner for overnight guests as they or their loved ones awaited medical treatment at a nearby hospital. The volunteers also trimmed bushes, watered plants and added some cheer by putting up holiday décor. “We absolutely loved having the team from Johnson Development for Adopt-a-Day at The Ballard House,” said David Brown, Executive Director. “We are so grateful for both the financial support and the willingness by so many to assist with all the things needed in a day to take care of our guests and caregivers. It was very inspiring for our guests to see so many from Johnson assisting and

serving with us.” In November, 25 volunteers helped Cy-Hope prepare for upcoming holiday events by packaging silverware, sorting gifts and wrapping presents for decorations. Cy-Hope partners with families, schools and the community to help students in the Cy-Fair Independent School District and is expanding its efforts in Katy and in Waller County.

Johnson Development also gave each charity \$2,000. Johnson Development’s north Houston communities started the volunteer program in 2023 and have donated a total of \$16,000.00 to eight charities and volunteered at 11 different organizations. The participating communities include Grange in Katy, Grand Central Park in Conroe, Woodforest in Montgomery, Kresston in Hockley, Briarley in Montgomery

“It’s inspiring to see the impact these charities have on the lives of people living in the north Houston region. We are happy to not only donate our time and money to support their efforts, but also to introduce them to others in the area who might continue volunteering.”

MONICA CONCHOLA
Realtor Relations Liaison for Johnson Development’s north Houston communities

and Amira in Tomball, all communities by Johnson Land Ventures, an affiliate of Johnson Development. Learn more at www.johnsondevelopment.com.

Snap-a-Box brings
Texas’ first robot-
cooked Chinese
takeout to Katy area

Family-owned restaurant offers robot-assisted wok cooking, tip-free service, eco-friendly packaging

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Snap-a-Box, a family-owned Chinese takeout and delivery restaurant, has been serving the Katy-Fulshear communities since September 2025. As the first Chinese takeout restaurant in Texas built around robot-assisted wok-cooking technology, Snap-a-Box combines high-tech culinary innovation with a tip-free service model and eco-friendly packaging for busy families and hungry diners.

“At Snap-a-Box, we’re using robotics to make authentic, classic Chinese takeout more consistent and more accessible,” said co-owner Ryan Liu, who operates the restaurant with his wife, Kankan. “Our robot wok system allows us to cook dishes at high heat while delivering consistent flavors in every order. We want our neighbors to enjoy restaurant-quality stir-fry without the awkwardness of tipping.”

The robot simulates traditional wok flipping with smoky “wok hei” at temperatures up to 500° F. It is a precision machine that measures, dispenses and stir-fries like a master chef, firing in up to 16 ingredients at just the right moment, Liu said.

The restaurant’s menu features a mix of authentic and classic favorites — including General Tso’s chicken, kung pao chicken, Mongolian beef, mapo tofu, legit fried rice and customizable lunch boxes — all prepared in robot-assisted woks. Every entrée is made from scratch using fresh ingredients, rather than relying on pre-made products from vendors, reflecting the family’s commitment to quality and authenticity. Snap-a-Box’s emphasis on eco-friendly kraft packaging aims to reduce waste compared with traditional takeout containers, and its tip-free approach removes pressure from customers during pickup or dine-in visits.

Snap-a-Box is located at 29807 Jordan Crossing Blvd., Suite 700, on the edge of Jordan Ranch at the center of five master-planned communities in the Katy-Fulshear area, just across the street from the new H-E-B Jordan Ranch store. The restaurant offers takeout, delivery and limited dine-in service to customers across Katy, Fulshear and the surrounding Fort Bend area.



IMAGES COURTESY OF SNAP-A-BOX

CVS COMING TO FULSHEAR



Construction is underway for a new CVS Pharmacy at the corner of FM 359 and Rogers Road near the Pecan Ridge subdivision in Fulshear. It is expected to open in February 2025, according to local sources.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

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Bear Creek nonprofit Miracles R Real Outreach helps neighbors experiencing tough times

BY DACHAR LANE, HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES
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Bear Creek is a quaint community tucked within northwest Harris County. Full of life, history, and nature, the area has grown into a haven for families across Harris County Precinct 4.

But beyond its park space and tight-knit neighborhoods lies something just as special — a sense of love, hope, and community. A major contributor to this feeling is Miracles R Real Outreach, a faith-based nonprofit organization located in the very heart of Bear Creek.

A miracle born from love

Miracles R Real Outreach (MRRO) first began in 2013 as a simple act of kindness — a donation of Christmas gifts to a local group home for girls — and has since grown into a powerful network of service. Entirely volunteer-run, this organization has become a light for those navigating difficult circumstances.

“We love people right where they are,” said Yolanda Ford, President and Founder of MRRO. “And we show them that they matter by listening, helping when they

are vulnerable, and giving them a second chance.”

Built on the pillars of love, empowerment, and liberation, MRRO strives to restore hope, nurture purpose, and empower individuals to live with strength, faith, and dignity.

The work behind the miracles

Through programming like their Community Resource Hub, MRRO connects Bear Creek residents with direct access to essential support — from food and hygiene distribution to employment assistance, public aid applications, and even mobile device repairs.

MRRO’s Expanded Wellness Program goes a step further, focusing on financial coaching, faith enrichment, self-care education, and mental health support. But perhaps one of their most inspiring initiatives is the Junior Ambassador Program, designed to answer a question many communities face: “How do we prevent homelessness?”

The answer, for MRRO, begins with youth empowerment. Through the Junior Ambassador Program, children gain hands-on experience serving their community, develop leadership skills,

“We love people right where they are. And we show them that they matter by listening, helping when they are vulnerable, and giving them a second chance.”

YOLANDA FORD, President and Founder of MRRO

and are introduced to new possibilities for their future. Many graduates of the program have gone on to complete high school, pursue higher education, and begin successful careers — proof that early investment in youth can transform futures.

A family that serves together

The volunteers at MRRO describe themselves as a family.

Ava Jex, a volunteer who has been a part of the MRRO family for two years now, loves the genuine impact they are able to make in the Bear Creek community.

“I love seeing their brightened faces

when they see our bus come down their street,” said Jex. “It’s like seeing a relative you haven’t seen in a while because they are our family too.”

Another volunteer, Ingrid Chevannes, takes pride in the way every member of MRRO stops at nothing to serve others.

“Even if Ms. Yolanda doesn’t have the volunteers for a particular initiative, she isn’t afraid to roll up her sleeves and do it herself,” said Chevannes. “Now imagine having an entire team filled with people like that.”

And for Annette McNary, it’s the organization’s heart that keeps her inspired.

“The community needs people that will not just talk about what they are going to do but will follow through with action — and that’s exactly what we do,” said McNary.

Stronger together

Organizations like MRRO remind us that community is built by people who choose to care. By continuing to show up for one another, we are contributing to the strength and resilience of Precinct 4.

For more information on MRRO, visit their website at miraclesreal.org.



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Title: Vice President of Financial Operations. **Company:** Synthesis Health Partners, Inc. **Location:** 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. Ste H120 Katy, TX 77494. **Job duties:** Oversee budgeting, forecasting, financial planning, and analysis for multinational entity. Manage preparation of financial statements, ensure compliance with regulatory requests & internal policies; Deliver quarterly financial review to Board of Directors; Lead efforts to optimize financial resources, including investment strategies, fundraising, & revenue-generating initiatives. This is a telecommuting role that can be based anywhere in the U.S. **Requirements:** Must have a Master's degree in Business Analytics, Accounting, Business Administration or related field & 6 years of experience as a Manager or Director of Financial Planning & Analysis, or related. 1 year experience working with a start-up SaaS provider; 2 years experience building KPIs from scratch; 2 years experience providing financial review with Board of Directors and/or equity governing body; 1 year of experience working on investor/duediligence; 1 year of experience using GAAP accounting principles; 5 years working with IFRS accounting principles; 5 years experience working with financial analysis, budgeting, reporting, & forecasting; 2 years experience in KPI development with multiple organizational stakeholders. **Response Info:** Persons interested in this position should send an email with their resume to people@synthesis.health. Title email: Vice President of Financial Operations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 43-foot, 9.5 inch telecommunications pole at the approximate vicinity of 8850 2/3 Interchange Dr, Houston, Harris County, TX, 77054 (LAT:29-40-33.15 N, LONG: 95-24-53.09 W). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp Eve Gray, e.gray@trileaf.com, 7700 Hwy 71 West, Suite 200, Austin, TX, 78735, (512) 519-9388.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 43-foot 9.5 inch telecommunications pole at the approximate vicinity of 8840 2/3 Kirby Drive, Houston, Harris County, TX, 77054 (LAT:29-40-33.38 N, LONG:95-24-44.70 W). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp Eve Gray, e.gray@trileaf.com, 7700 Hwy 71 West, Suite 200, Austin, TX, 78735, (512) 519-9388.

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
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees, and its agents, officers, and staff members shall not discriminate 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.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Management District, Attention Mr. Donald P. Cox, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, January 15, 2026**, and then publicly opened and read for **"Water Reuse Pipeline Project"** for Katy Management District No. 1, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the installation of approximately 18,500 feet of water reuse pipelines from the City of Katy's wastewater treatment plant, sizes ranging from 6-inch to 12-inch. The project consists of five segments: from the Wastewater Plant to Main Street, along Main Street and Kingsland, extending to Heritage Lane and Prairie Parkway, with spurs to Boardwalk Park and Heritage Lane, and a full loop around Katy Mills Circle. In addition to the water reuse pipeline, this project also includes the reconfiguration of the mall entrance drives, by closing in certain entrances as shown in the plans. The bid shall include all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Bids received after closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL** pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. local time via Microsoft Teams**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Microsoft Teams:
Meeting ID: 214 329 794 160 92
Password: cE9pM3S3

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **VFW Lift Station Replacement, until 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 15, 2026**. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy City Hall. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the replacement of an existing small wastewater lift station located at 6206 George Bush Drive in the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- a. Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- b. Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- c. Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **2:00 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2026**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 275 889 555 453 11
Passcode: W4Bc6XT6

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

First Publication: **Thursday, December 11, 2025**
Second Publication: **Thursday, December 18, 2025**

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December 11
Puzzle Answers

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

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Game changers

Luna Bazezy sets tempo, tenacity for ‘new look’ Cinco Ranch girls basketball

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

She shattered her comfort zone. Leading the pack for an entire team that had to rebuild and rebrand after losing significant height and scoring as seniors graduated and went on to college, Luna Bazezy took the challenge and ran with it.

A self-proclaimed defensive specialist and role player, Bazezy had to do more as a leader and a scorer coming into this season. To answer that call, she took her training to the next level, rallied teammates and learned to be more self-assured as a player and person. Her coach, Lavar Brown, played a significant role in that step up.

“I’ve learned [to] believe in myself more and have confidence,” Bazezy said. “I did not really have that before, but now because my coaches keep instilling it into me, I have it. Coach Brown is good at motivating us to be better, giving us all the tools, letting us come before school or after school and showing us that hard work does pay off.”

Bazezy, who recently signed to play college basketball at Stevens Institute of Technology, leads the team in scoring, is shooting 42 percent from the field and is the second-leading rebounder on a scrappy team that is undersized compared to previous years but is holding its own.

She recalled how getting off to a solid start the first game of the season was a defining moment. Launching strong showed her she could meet expectations and contribute in multiple ways. The relentless pursuit of excellence is nothing new to Bazezy, and getting accepted to one of the top colleges in the nation didn’t come easy.



Cinco Ranch senior guard Luna Bazezy’s tenacity on the court and in the classroom inspires confidence. PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

She plans to become a doctor, studying in the pre-med program.

Enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit Classes, Bazezy has become an expert at time management, balancing studying, practicing and additional training. When asked her motivation for pushing so hard on the court and in the classroom, the answer’s easy for the Cinco Ranch senior.

“My mom inspires me,” she said. “She does so much for our family. She immigrated from Madagascar to come here, and seeing the work she did to give us the life that we have right now makes me want to keep going. She had a hard life, but she did everything she could to make her life better. So even if I go through something hard, I can keep going because the person before me went through something harder.”

Coach Brown has seen the strides Bazezy has made as a student-athlete, and it comes as no surprise to him. She’s the first person on the team to earn Cinco Ranch’s coveted three-point license — making 3,000 three-point shots in the gym before being able to take one in a game. She leads on the court and in the classroom, and the three-point threat has earned Coach Brown’s full confidence.

“It just shows the dedication that she has and everything she puts into not only basketball, but her academics,” Brown said. “She goes with the same tenacity in the game, to play defense, to come get a three-point license and puts that into her schoolwork.”

Harmony School of Innovation-Katy seniors awarded full scholarship through QuestBridge

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nine Houston-area Harmony Public School seniors — including one from Katy — have been matched as 2025 QuestBridge National Scholarship program, the charter school system announced in a December 3 press release.

Nahaar M., a senior at Harmony School of Innovation-Katy, has been matched for a full scholarship at California Institute of Technology, according to the school’s website. The campus is located at 21650 Bellaire in Richmond.

The other eight students attend Harmony School of Innovation-Sugar Land, Harmony School of Advancement-Houston and Harmony School of Discovery-Houston, the release said.

“These students have demonstrated that they are prepared to excel on their college campuses and beyond,” the press release said. “They will receive

comprehensive scholarships to one of the nation’s top colleges, covering the total cost of attendance — including tuition, books, room and board, and additional expenses — for four years.”

Roughly 30% of all QuestBridge finalists are awarded a full-ride scholarship. Remaining finalists may still receive substantial financial aid packages through the Regular Decision program.

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that connects the nation’s most exceptional, low-income youth with leading colleges and opportunities. Its mission is to increase the percentage of talented low-income students attending the nation’s top colleges and to support them as they pursue successful careers and contribute to their communities.

The QuestBridge National College Match has connected more than 19,000 students with full scholarships at some of the nation’s best colleges.

TGCA releases girls basketball poll

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On December 8, the Texas Girls Coaches Association released its top 25 girls basketball teams, including two from Katy ISD. Both Taylor High School and Jordan High School made the list. The complete list for Class 6A in the December 8 poll is:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Southlake Carroll 16-0 | 14. The Woodlands 12-2 |
| 2. Longview 11-0 | 15. El Paso Eastwood 9-1 |
| 3. Austin Westlake 17-0 | 16. Manvel 16-2 |
| 4. Weslaco 17-0 | 17. Odessa Permian 13-2 |
| 5. Fort Bend Hightower 9-1 | 18. Royse City 11-2 |
| 6. Summer Creek 12-2 | 19. Sotomayor 13-2 |
| 7. Shadow Creek 12-1 | 20. Katy Jordan 11-2 |
| 8. Arlington 12-1 | 21. San Antonio Brenna 14-3 |
| 9. Flower Mound 9-1 | 22. Dallas Skyline 9-2 |
| 10. Waxahachie 9-1 | 23. McKinney Boyd 8-1 |
| 11. Forney 11-1 | 24. Buda Johnson 10-2 |
| 12. Katy Taylor 11-1 | 25. Grand Oaks 6-1 |
| 13. Pearland Dawson 13-2 | |

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THSCA announces 2025-2026 super elite teams for cross country, including two from Katy HS

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) released its 2025-2026 Super Elite Teams for UIL Cross Country on December 5, honoring standout student-athletes from across the state for their exceptional performance this season.

Ryder Darcy of Katy High School has been named to the boys cross country super elite team for Class 6A.

Vienna Fish of Katy High School has been named to the girls cross country super elite team for Class 6A.

The full list of Cross Country Super Elite Team selections is available at <https://www.thsca.com/super-elite-teams>.

"THSCA extends its sincere appreciation to the coaches who dedicate their time, expertise, and mentorship to the athletes

nominated for recognition this year," the organization said in its press release. "Their commitment plays a vital role in the growth and success of student-athletes across Texas. The association also congratulates each honoree for achieving this distinguished recognition and representing their schools and communities with excellence."

Super Elite Team honorees are nominated by THSCA professional members and selected through a review process led by sport-specific advisory committees and the Super Elite Team (S.E.T.) Committee. The S.E.T. Committee includes 808 coaches representing all eight THSCA regions. Final selections are determined based on committee recommendations.

To be nominated, athletes must meet the following criteria:

- Be varsity team members in good standing

- Demonstrate strong character and exemplary athletic performance
- Be nominated by a head coach who is a current THSCA professional member and meets all nomination deadlines

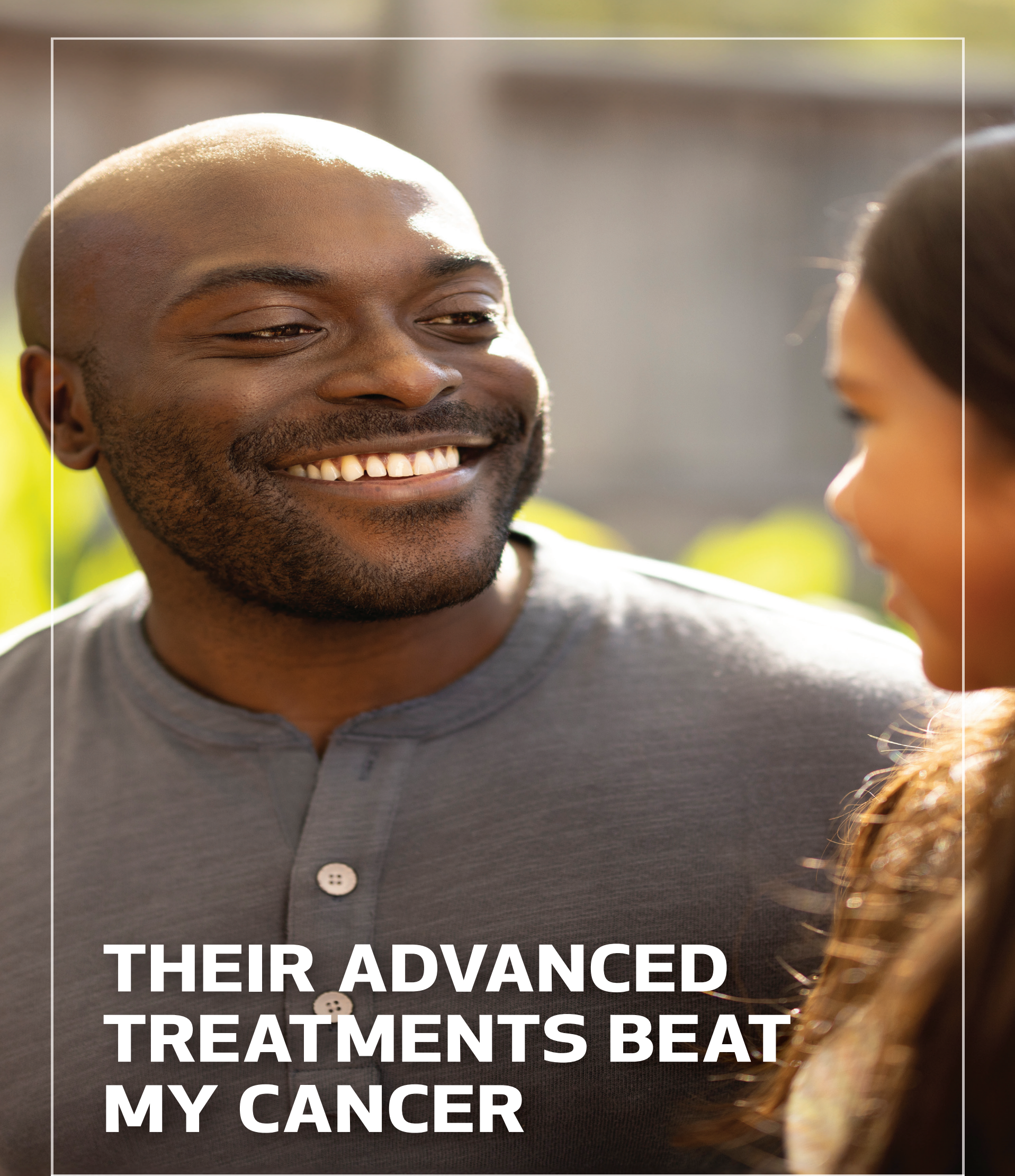
About the Texas High School Coaches Association

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) is Texas high school coaches' principal advocate and leadership organization. The THSCA provides the highest quality representation, education, and services to Texas high school coaches and affiliate members by enhancing the professionalism of coaches and the schools they represent. The mission statement is simply this: To help and serve Texas high school coaches as they work to help and serve student-athletes. "HELPING COACHES HELP KIDS." For

more information on THSCA, visit www.thsca.com

About Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation

The mission of the Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation is to develop funds from a broad range of donors to provide professional education programs that will strengthen, reinforce, and enhance professionalism in high school coaches throughout the state of Texas. These programs provide instructional material and training in character development to coaches in Texas at both the high school and middle school levels and can directly impact the lives of over 1.5 million student-athletes each year. The two established events are the Texas Coaches Leadership Summit and the R.O.C.K. Mentoring Workshop.



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