KATY ISD BASKETBALL HEATS UP SPORTS | PG. 6

Katy, Jennes



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022

Katy ISD urged to adopt single-member districts

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund, at the behest of a group of Katy ISD parents, is asking Katy ISD to change from at-large trustee representation to single-member district representation for future trustee elections, beginning with the May 2023 election.

"As you know, all seven members of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees are elected at large by voters district-wide to specific numbered places," the letter, written by assistant counsel Antonio Ingram II, said. "Katy ISD has used this practice since it became a school district in the early 20th century. We believe that this at-large system dilutes the votes of Katy ISD's voters of color and may violate the voting rights act because it prevents Black and Latinx voters from electing their preferred candidates to the Board of Trustees and from participating in the electoral pro-

cess on an equal footing."

Cameron "Cam" Campbell is a Katy ISD parent and is among those who worked with the NAACP to prepare and send the letter. Earlier this year he unsuccessfully sought election to the Texas House of Representatives from the Katy portion of Harris County.

The letter was sent to Greg Schulte, position 5 trustee and school board president. Efforts to reach Schulte for comment by press time were unsuccessful. Ingram wrote that the board had several possible courses of action for ensuring "that all members of the Katy ISD community are able to participate equally" in shaping Katy ISD's educational decisions. He wrote that the most effective option would be to change from at-large elections to trustee elections from single-member districts.

"Elections from single-member districts would ensure that the diverse communities residing in different parts of the district would all be able to elect candidates from their local area, leading to a more representative board of trustees," Ingram wrote.

According to its website, Katy ISD has an enrollment of 92,914 students as of Dec. 26. Here is a breakdown of students by ethnicity.

Asian: 15,542, or 16.7%.Black: 13,204, or 14.2%.

See **DISTRICTS**, page 3

Gerber settles lawsuit with City of Katy

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

Chelsea Gerber, the former Katy Animal Control Department worker who had filed suit against the city, said she has settled her lawsuit.

Gerber, whose suit alleged the city violated the Texas Whistleblower Act, said many factors went into her decision to settle.

"I just needed peace," Gerber said. "I already moved away from the Katy community, and the lawsuit has been going on for two years. Ultimately, it was in my best interest to settle."

Gerber, who was a part-time animal control employee, filed a complaint against her two full-time colleagues, David Brown and Spencer Antinoro, alleging animal cruelty. The matter became a controversial issue both on social media and several Katy City Council meetings.

The Katy Police Department, which has authority over the animal control department and shelter, investigated and largely exonerated Brown and Antinoro. Both men remain in their roles.

In April 2021, the council

See **LAWSUIT**, page 3

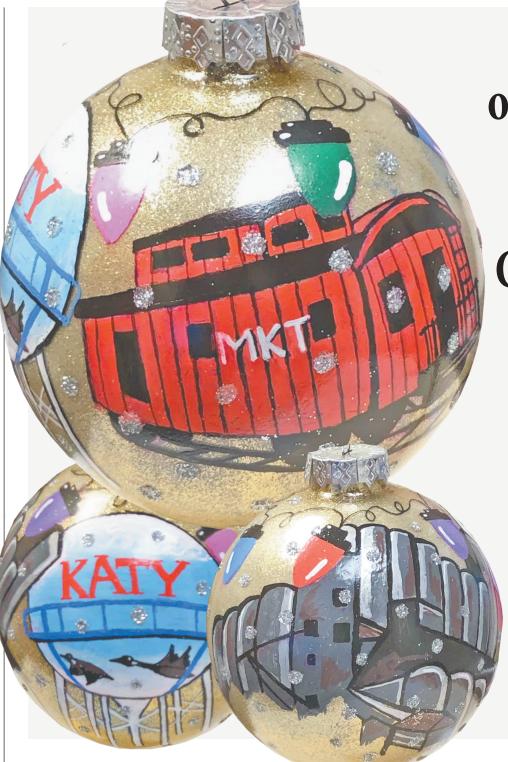
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December 29, 2022 10 pages | \$1



Katy-themed ornament takes its place on Texas House Christmas tree

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

In a long-standing tradition, the Texas House of Representatives puts up a Christmas tree in the middle of the House chamber at the state Capitol building in Austin. And each year, representatives are invited to take a blank ornament back to their respective districts to be painted in such a way that is reflective of those districts.

"It's a nice tradition," Rep. Mike Schofield, who represents the Harris County portion of Katy, said. "But a lot of them give you generic stuff."

Not so with Katy's ornament this year, painted by Katy ISD teacher Kimberly Glasgow. She painted the ornament to include three Katy icons: the railroad caboose, rice dryers and painted water tower.

"For us, Kimberly Glasgow created a beautiful ornament that reflects the spirit of Katy," Schofield said. "It's a great honor for us to be

See **ORNAMENT**, page 3

Clockwise from top: The ornament features an image of the iconic Katy caboose, Katy rice dryers and an image of one of the Katy water towers.

KATY ISD

Officials urge safety when using fireworks for New Year's celebration

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

Katy-area residents hoping to begin 2023 with a joyful fireworks kaboom or two are being reminded to do so both safely and outside the Katy city limits.

Shooting fireworks inside the Katy city limits is illegal, Katy Fire

Marshal Gregg Peterson said. Those celebrating outside the city limits should check with the county where they plan to shoot those fireworks and be aware of any restrictions that might be in effect.

Peterson said people should

See **FIREWORKS**, page 3



Shooting fireworks makes for an exciting show, but Katy Fire Marshal Gregg Peterson said the improper disposal of used fireworks materials can be a potential fire hazard. Peterson recommended that people soak their used fireworks materials with water and put them in separate buckets for disposal. Such buckets can be purchased at home improvement stores, he said.

Following safety precautions can make a New Year's fireworks display more enjoyable.



PEXELS

JAN. 4

The Highway 36A Coalition will hold its January luncheon on the fourth at 11:30 at the Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Texas State Representatives Cody Vasut and Stan Kitzman will offer their previews of the upcoming 2023 Texas legislative session, including the major pieces of legislation anticipated, the budget outlook, and their thoughts on Texas' mobility needs. Individual tickets are \$60 - \$70 and tables of 8 can be sponsored for \$600 - \$700. For more information please contact the coalition at debbie@36acoalition.org or 281-732-7118.

JAN. 8 LACENTERRA SPECIALTY FARMERS MARKET

La Centerra Farmers Market, with over 40+ of the best local vendors in Texas, with highest quality, one-of-akind specialty items and farm-fresh produce. Discover new pantry finds and beyond. The event is pet friendly. The market is every second and fourth Sunday of each month. It runs from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at LaCenterra, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.

JAN.9 **ASPIRING WRITERS WORKSHOP**

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library invites aspiring authors to participate in a new monthly workshop, the Prose Pros Writing Group. The first session is from 8-7:30 p.m. Jan. 9 in the conference classroom of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. The workshop is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us.



JAN.9 HANDMADE CHUNKY BLANKET **WORKSHOP**

Join volunteer instructor Rebecca Garza as she teaches, step by step, how to hand knit a chunk lap throw. Participants must bring four skeins of chunky yarn. Registration is required and limited to 10 adults. The class will be from 9

Community Calendar

January



a.m.-12 p.m. at the Hockley Community Center, 28515 Old Washington Road in Hockley. For more information, visit the website hcp4.net/hockley

JAN. 10-11 LEARN MS WORD AND EXCEL BASICS

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., is presenting introductory computer classes this month on the use of Microsoft Word and Excel software programs. The classes will consist of a hands-on introduction to basic skills for those wanting to learn more about using these programs. The computer classes will take place in the computer lab of the library.

• "MS Word 2016 Survival Basics" is from 10:15-11:30 Jan. 10. Learn the basics of using this word-processing software program to create letters, resumés, forms and other types of documents.

• "MS Excel 2016 Survival Basics" is from 10:15-11:30 a.m. Jan. 11. Learn the basics of this spreadsheet software program, which features helpful calculation tools for financial and statistical needs. Classes are free and open to the

public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. For more information and to register, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us

JAN. 11 The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce will feature Pete Garcia, President US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce at its monthly membership meeting. Garcia's topic is "Doing Business with Mexico." The chamber meets at Parkway Fellowship 27043 FM 1093, Richmond, TX 77406 with networking at 7:30 a.m.and the program beginning at 8 $\,$ a.m. For more information please call

JAN. 13 AMERICAN RED CROSS ADULT/PEDIATRIC-**CPR/FIRST AID/AED**

(832) 600-3221.

The Mary Jo Peckham Aquatic & Fitness Center, 5597 Gardenia Lane, hosts this training session from 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$35. Check or money order only. Registration deadline is Jan. 12. For more information, visit the website hcp4.net/ peckham or call 832-927-8890.

JAN. 13 BELLAMY BROTHERS TO PERFORM

The Bellamy Brothers band will perform at Mo's Place, 21940 Kingsland Blvd. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$25 reserved and day of show. For more information, call Mo's Place at 281-392-

JAN. 14 KT ANTIQUES WINTER JUBILEE The jubilee features sales, with refreshments and caricatures by local cartoonist and author Bob Doll. The event is from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. at KT Antiques,

JAN. 14 KTX MARKET DAY AT NO LABEL BREWING CO.

A family-friendly with local vendors, local music, and local food trucks. The event is from 1-5 p.m. at No Label Brewing Co., 5351-A 1st St.

JAN. 18 AND JAN. 21 A CLOSER LOOK AT NATURE: **WINTER FINCHES**

All are welcome at this program designed especially for school-age children. Each program includes a 30-minute presentation followed by an activity. Two dates are available:

• 2-3 p.m. Jan. 18 • 10-11 a.m. Jan. 21

The programs will be at the John Paul Landing Park & Environmental Education Center, 9950 Katy Hockley Road. Registration is required as space is limited. To register, email johnpaullanding@hcp4.net or call 713-274-3131.

and be sure to say which day you want to attend.

JAN. 18 AND JAN. 30 MILLER CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Katy ISD's Miller Career & Technology Center, 1734 Katyland Drive, is hosting open houses for students grades 6-11. The center offers career-related courses in a variety subjects, from architecture to health sciences to law enforcement to veterinary medicine. Dates are:

• Grades 9-11: 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 18.

• Grades 6-8: 6-7:30 p.m. Jan 30. For more information, visit the website katyisd.org/mctc.

JAN. 19 STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Dusty Thiele and City Administrator Byron Hebert give the annual State of the City address at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. The event is from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. For more information, call the chamber at 281-391-5289.

JAN. 21

INAUGURAL **KATY PIE RUN** This event benefits the PTSD

Foundation of America and Houston's own Camp Hope

as they help combat veterans fight this disorder. The run begins at 22765 Westhiemer Pkwy. For more information, visit the website katypierun.com.

JAN. 24 KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Join the Katv Area Chamber of Commerce as it hosts its annual

gala, the theme of which is Mardi Gras. The gala is from 6:30 p.m.-midnight at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy. For more information, call the chamber at 281-391-5289.

JAN. 26 ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

The Steve Radack Community Center hosts an arts and crafts exhibition which features paintings, wreaths, needlework, quilts and more. Light refreshments will be available. The center is located at 18650 Clay Road, Houston, TX 77084. Call 832-927-3000 to register.

For more information, visit http:// hcp4.net/radack.

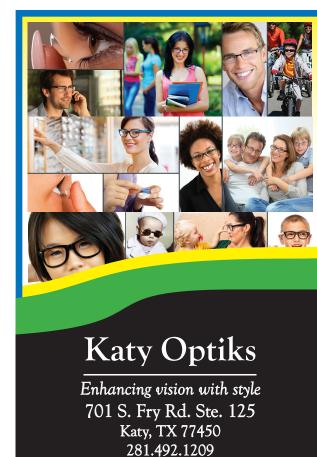




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CROSSWORD PU

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Product or __ (abbr.) 4. Zodiac sign
- 9. S. China seaport
- 14. Former OSS 15. Early English printer
- 16. Aphid genus 17. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 18. Aussies 20. Dissuades
- 22. Make law
- 23. Drench
- 24. Soak in a liquid 28. Male child
- 29. It cools your home 30. Small constellation
- 31. To call (archaic) 33. Explores beneath the Earth
- 37. Commercial 38. W. hemisphere
- organization 39. You can find it in a can
- 41. "Land of the free" 42 36 inches
- 43. Footwear
- 44. Challenges
- 46. They hold things together 49. Of I
- 50. Partner to flow 51. Not connected by kinship
- 55. Worries
- 58. Garlic mayonnaise 59. A way to take by force

60. Legendary English rockers

- 64. Your consciousness of your
- own identity 65. Fencing swords
- 66. Silly 67. Actor DiCaprio
- 68. Encircles with a belt 69. Mails a message
- 70. Longing
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Horse mackerels
- 2. It can be viral
- 3. Prickly plants
- 4. Consciousness
- 5. Type of sarcoma 6. Tax collector
- 7. Sun up in New York 8. One who scorches
- 9. Influential psychotherapist
- 10. Situated at an apex
- 11. Communicative 12. Forearm nerve
- 13. Former CIA
- 19. Folk singer DiFranco
- 21. Employee stock ownership plan
- 24. Large-scale
- 25. School environment 26. Remove
- 27. Male parents 31. Large rodent
- 32. Weighed down
- 34. Held tightly
- 35. __ route: going there
- 36. Explains again 40. Exclamation of surprise 41. Courteously
- 45. Lying down 47. Judge
- 48. Forcefully took 52. Loosely compacted sediment
- 53. High mountain Answers will be provided in next week's edition.
- - 54. Portable conical tents 56. Cereal grass
 - 57. Dining utensil
 - 59. Thoughtful 60. Helps you walk
 - 61. Indicates near 62. Midway between northeast
 - and east 63. Local area network
- 6

3 6 Socios 4 6 3 6 5 посособи 8 2 9 3 2 5

9

Level: Intermediate

8

5

Fun By The Numbers

8

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.

3

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.

Local charities receive funds from Sugar Plum Market

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Junior Service League, together with title sponsor Memorial Hermann Sugar Land announced that this year's Sugar Plum Market raised \$352,000. Proceeds from this year's market were presented to 24 local charities serving Fort Bend County on Dec. 13 at a check presentation ceremony hosted by Memorial Hermann Sugar Land hospital.

Speakers in attendance included Malisha Patel, CEO and Senior Vice-President of Memorial Hermann Sugar Land, and Tanesha

Mosley, Fort Bend Junior Service League president. The City of Stafford has partnered with the league to host the Sugar Plum Market at the Stafford Centre since 2004.

The following beneficiaries were presented with grants just in time to celebrate the holidays: Access Health, Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Houston, Brazos Bend Guardianship, Catholic Charities, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, College Community Career, East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry, Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center, Fort Bend History Association, Fort Bend Hope, Fort Bend Rainbow Room, Fort Bend Seniors, Gigi's Playhouse, God's Garden, Hope Fort Bend Clubhouse, Hope for Three, Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land, Literacy Council, Parks Youth Ranch, Reining Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship, Sire, Texana Center, and the Fort Bend Junior Service League Community Assistance Fund. The fund allows market proceeds to continue helping deserving individuals and worthy agencies through the league's scholarship program and emergency/emerging grant oppor-

The 21st Annual Sugar Plum Market drew about 6,000 shoppers returning to shop from over 105

"This year's market was a true testament to the importance of every sponsor, vendor, volunteer, and patron," Mosley said. "The proceeds we raise will further allow us to give back to the community we love and serve. We wouldn't be able to do any of this without your support."

Since its inception in 2001, the Sugar Plum Market has raised over \$4.8 million for this community.



FORT BEND ILINIOR SERVICE LEAGUE

Representatives of organizations receiving proceeds from the 2022 Sugar Plum Market joined members of Fort Bend Junior Service League and representatives of Memorial Hermann on Dec. 13 to celebrate the market's success.

FIREWORKS

from page 1

avoid shooting fireworks near churches, elderly care facilities, hospitals or schools. If shooting on private property, get the property owner's permission first.

Fireworks shows can be hard for small children and family pets, as they are unused to the noise. Peterson said bringing small children and family pets inside the house, and comforting them as necessary during the fireworks show, can be very helpful.

Shooting fireworks makes for an exciting show, but Peterson said the improper disposal of used fireworks materials can be a potential fire hazard. Peterson recommended that people soak their used fireworks materials with water and put them in separate buckets for disposal. Such buckets can be purchased at home improvement

Peterson recommended that those buckets be kept outside, away from a house or garage. This is because the used fireworks materials could still be smoldering and therefore be a potential fire hazard, he said.

Peterson urged citizens to call the Katy Fire Department's non-emergency number at 281-391-3500 to report fireworks complaints or issues.



State Rep. Mike Schofield holds the Katy-themed ornament before placing it on the Christmas tree in the Texas House of Representatives chamber.

ORNAMENTS

from page 1

able to come to the House and hang it."

Schofield said every year brings a different ornament. Each ornament is the same size, he said, and representatives can have them done however they want. The House publishes an album that enables readers to see the ornaments from each district.

"Every year, we try to get somebody in the district to paint the ornament," Schofield said. "We try to get an ornament that reflects Katy, and not just Texas. This is a really beautiful ornament and we've got a lot of compliments on it already. I was really impressed with her ornament. You can't get much more Katy than that."

DISTRICTS

from page 1

- Hispanic, 33,766, or 36.3%.
- Native American: 208, or 0.2%. • Pacific Islander: 108, or 0.1%.
- Two or more races: 3,963, or 4.3%.

• White: 26,123, or 28.1% Much of the growth is taking place in the north and northwest areas of the district. The district's northernmost high school, Paetow, 23111 Stockdick School Road, opened in 2017. It has a student population breakdown that is 49% His-

panic, 23% Asian, 17% White, 6% Black,

and 3% two or more races, according to

Ingram provided an example figure that illustrated how a single-district representation map might look. Under this plan, Ingram wrote that four of the districts would be majority-minority

Ingram wrote that the example was one of several versions of a seven-single-member school board map that can be drawn with multiple majority-Black and Latinx districts in northern Katy.

While most school districts in Texas have at-large representation exclusively, not all of them do. Richardson ISD, near Dallas, recently adopted single-member districts. According to its website, five of the seven trustees on the Richardson ISD board are elected from single-member districts. The other two trustees are

"Whatever method or methods the Katy ISD **Board of Trustees chooses** to ensure a more fair and equitable electoral process for choosing its members, we urge the board to act with all deliberate speed, as failure to act could expose the Katy ISD to liability under the VRA (Voting Rights Act)."

 ANTONIO INGRAM II, **NAACP Assistant Counsel**

elected at-large.

The single-member district issue has been raised in at least one previous Katy ISD trustee campaign. Local attorney Scott Martin called for single-member districts in an unsuccessful 2018 trustee campaign.

Not immediately clear now is whether the NAACP is approaching only Katy ISD for such changes, or whether it is approaching other school districts in a

similar fashion.

But other options are available to trustees, Ingram wrote. Among these are:

• Cumulative voting in at-large

• Requirements for more diverse representation on the board, such as a requirement that all board members reside in different school attendance zones. According to the map Ingram provided, all seven trustees live south of Interstate 10.

· Moving the election date to November, when other significant races are on the ballot, therefore increasing voter turnout.

"Whatever method or methods the Katy ISD Board of Trustees chooses to ensure a more fair and equitable electoral process for choosing its members, we urge the board to act with all deliberate speed, as failure to act could expose the Katy ISD to liability under the VRA (Voting Rights Act)," Ingram wrote.

The seats held by Position 3 Trustee Ashley Vann, Position 4 Trustee Leah Wilson and Schulte will be up for election in May. Filing deadline is Jan. 18. The board's next regular meeting is set

Ingram requested the district respond in writing by Jan. 6. Trustees are set to meet Jan. 23.

LAWSUIT

from page 1

created an animal control advisory board that worked with Police Chief Noe Diaz to suggest improvements in animal control practices. In August 2021, Diaz said the board made eight recommendations, six of which were adopted. These changes included reinstatement of a 72-hour stray hold, establishing a euthanasia policy and purchasing a cat cage. Other recommended changes that were adopted included requiring vaccinations for all intakes, modernizing the shelter and beginning public outreach.

The two recommendations referred to city staff were to find a rescue coordinator and establish a Katy pet wellness pilot program.

Gerber, who was placed on leave during the investigation, was asked to return to work but was fired Aug. 10, 2021. She filed her lawsuit in November 2021. The city denied her allegations in court-filed paperwork.

Gerber said she felt she accomplished her goals because of the positive changes happening at the Katy animal control department. She said these changes would not have happened had a lawsuit not been filed. She said her goals were to make sure all animals coming into the Katy Animal Control Department were treated humanely and that the department followed state-mandated standards for care.

Despite settling the lawsuit, Gerber said she planned to write more about the situation in Katy. She said she does



CHELSEA GERBER

Chelsea Gerber holds her dog Downey in a 2010 photo.

not feel the public got a full picture of the situation and the complaints.

She said one regret about the matter was learning what other city officials knew about the situation. She said Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson told her he was looking forward to a trial so he could be subpoenaed and testify.

Robertson said he was provided information by both Gerber and the city, and he wanted the story to be made

"I had hoped that information would be brought to light to the public so as a community we could come together

and correct any wrongdoings and move forward together with an animal control we could be proud of," Robertson said, adding that he is proud of how things at the animal control department are going now. "Through all the vitriol that we've seen on both sides over the past two years, I am very proud of what Ms. Gerber has accomplished and what the city has accomplished. I'm very proud of the volunteers and the officers at the animal control department and all the progress they have made. I have spoken to them and see the vision to the future and it is very bright."

Gerber said she would address issues involving discrimination, abuse of power by the police and being held to policies that did not exist.

"What was released on social media was a very small sampling of what was submitted to the Katy Police Department," Gerber said. She said, however, she was not sure how she would publish the information, but hoped to do so in the next couple of months.

Today, Gerber and her family have moved to the Rosenberg area. There, she is constructing her own dog boarding facility. She said cats might be boarded in the future at her facility, but starting out it will just be dogs.

"Construction is not fun," Gerber

With reporting from R. Hans Miller.





REMEMBER WHEN WE'D

CHECK THE NUTRITIONAL

VALUE *BEFORE* WE'D

2022 Food trends: Love them or hate them?

s I write this year-end essay about 2022 trends in food and dining, I must confess that I'm playing catch-up.

I have obligations and hobbies, so I wasn't technically paying attention (i.e., giving a rat's rump) as 12 months of decadent delights, culinary controversies and avocado abominations unfolded. ("Homo sapiens still ingest food? What about that crazy 'opposable thumbs' fad? How long did THAT last?")

Okay, I was narrowly focused on one aspect of food. I spent several months attempting to update George Carlin's "7 Words You Can't Say On TV" routine to include the really dirty words: "portion control."

(To clear my head, I threw on my relaxed-fit jeans and rented a stretch limo for a joyride; but the deceptively named monstrosity stretched in all the wrong places!)

Still, mostly, it boils down to the fact that I'm a simple man—a "well, only if the escargot is on the value menu" man. I don't need to keep tabs of chef migrations or counterintuitive sauces or balsamic gamechangers.

I can still muster a childlike sense of wonder concerning foods that other people long ago became jaded about. ("Wow. Potato chips in a canister! What will they think of next? No, wait—don't tell me. My heart can't take it.")

This simplicity is a throwback to my childhood. I would spend weeks and months poring over menus and brochures in preparation for a family vacation and the exotic cuisine that it would entail. Invariably, once we reached an eatery, I would look up at my father and ask, "Can I just order a hamburger?"

(Surely it was only my imagination that Dad muttered, "Can I just order a paternity test?")

More power to all the foodies n search of the Next Big Thing, but sometimes I think we've gotten too soft. Back when men were men and pronouns were the evil twin of sentence diagramming, you heard people stoically declaring "My arteries are 90 percent blocked" or "My lone remaining kidney is failing." Now you can't toss a rock in a crowd without hitting someone who is whining, "My taste buds are under-titillated."

I'm sure I would be hanging on every word of a food influ-



DANNY TYREE SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

I'm sure I would be hanging on every word of a food influencer if I hosted dinner parties, but I don't. My apron doesn't say "Kiss the cook"; it says, "Phone me up and give me a short description of YOUR meal as we each enjoy our blessed solitude."

encer if I hosted dinner parties, but I don't. My apron doesn't say "Kiss the cook"; it says, "Phone me up and give me a short description of YOUR meal as we each enjoy our blessed solitude."

I see that "climate-friendly" food has been a major trend this year. Vegan, plant-based diets. Meat-and-dairy-free "cheese" and "butcher" shops. (I'm leery of foods that come wrapped in quotation marks. What's next? "Fry me up a piece of that iambic pentameter, Bubba"?) Sustainable seafood. *Sigh* In the old days, the only sustainable part of a good meal was a sustainable belch.

I noticed that a large percentage of the food trends were exacerbated by TikTok videos. So...a Chinese video-hosting site sucking up user data like a bumpkin slurping his soup is America's "go to" place for gastronomic advice. I don't think that's the way Americans used to do things. ("Honey, why don't you call up Joe Stalin and ask him how to make the casserole?")

Thanks for letting me vent. I realize I may have to eat some of my words in 2023.

But if I smear my words on a butter board first...

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol. com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Hope is all we have

'm filled with a renewed sense of hope all of the sudden. Truthfully, I don't know why I feel such hopefulness.

Last Friday I went to the hospital to have a hernia surgically repaired. They stuffed a hose down my mouth and pumped me with air, then sliced and sewed and got my torn parts back in order.

My throat is still throbbing. My torso feels like someone drove a locomotive into it. I slept much of the dark, cold weekend,

And yet I just woke from a Monday afternoon nap filled with a sense of wellbeing and hope.

Don't misunderstand me. There's plenty of despair in our

In our personal worlds we mourn, as we head into the holidays, the loss of our loved ones. My family has had its share of such pain this year.

It doesn't matter who you are, loss and suffering are a part of life, and both are felt at their keenest this time of year.

We also worry about our politics and the anger, division and nastiness among so many people. We are being torn apart and we know that a nation divided cannot long stand.

Our culture is running amuck. So many of our young people are depressed and disoriented and not even sure what they are or want

So many of our kids are being harmed by the decisions they make now—when the true blessing of a young life is to flourish and grow and become what God intends you



We were taught that as we strive for good, we must fend off bad behavior: excessive pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed and sloth.

I will soon experience my 60th Christmas on Earth and my childhood was immersed in so much more clarity and simplicity.

We didn't have an abundance of material things, but we had a lot of laughter and joy and, thanks to the nuns at St. Germaine Catholic School, tremendous clarity.

The good nuns taught us that there is order in our conflicted universe-that there is good and bad, and that they're at battle everywhere, every day, in every heart.

They taught us we have the free will to choose our direction, good

We were taught to pray to align ourselves with good and order and to root out dishonesty and nastiness from our beings.

The virtues were pounded into

our developing minds and we had better learn to embrace and master them: prudence, temperance, courage and justice.

We were taught that as we strive for good, we must fend off bad behavior: excessive pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed and sloth.

These are known as the seven deadly sins-activities I like to save for the weekend!

It is very simple, really. You are either moving toward the light and goodness or away from it. It's the eternal struggle of humankind.

But sadly, our modern world is moving away from light and goodness in so many ways.

We are straying from the most simple, basic truths of human nature—as we embrace and encourage as truth the kind of wrongheadedness that can only lead to failure and human despair.

It's easy to get down in these noisy, confusing times. But still, I am filled with hope

that we can right our course. It'll take prayer, charity, love—

and hope. That is what I am focusing on as we celebrate the Christmas season. I am praying for those I love, my

neighbors, my country, my world. I don't know what impact I will make, but hope is all I have. And

I'll give it everything I've got. Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Purcell, creator of the infotainment site Thurbers Tail. com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

Katy • Times

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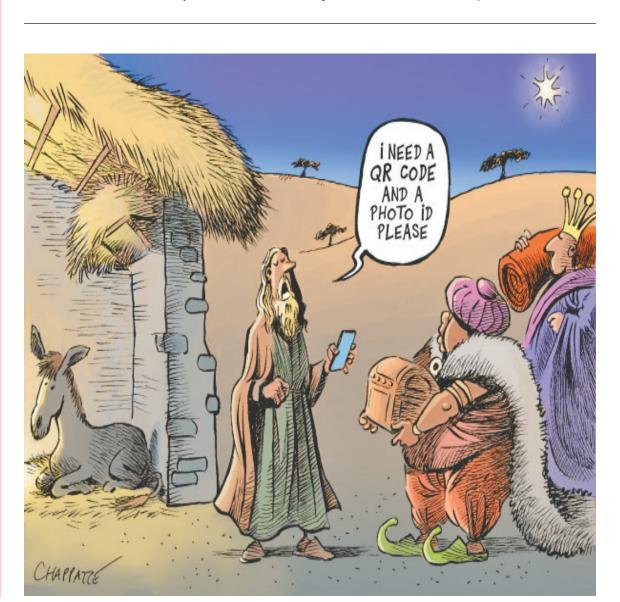
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COMMUNITY & FAITH



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Katy Elementary partnering for Jan. 3 blood drive

The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is holding a Jan. 3 blood drive at Katy Elementary School, 5726 George Bush Ave. For more information, email Kim Roberson at kimberlydroberson@katyisd.org, or call 281-237-6575.

Lycée International de Houston to hold Jan. 21 open house

The Lycée International de Houston bilingual school is hosting an open house from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Jan. 21 at its campus, 15950 Park Row Dr.

For more information and to make reservations, email admissions@lihouston.org or call 832-474-1013. The website is lihouston.org.

Katy-area graduates make dean's lists

Katy-area graduates have made the dean's lists at various universities around United States.

- Dylan Erwin, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas
 - Luke Mitchell, University of St. Mary, Leavenworth, Kan.



The Katy Police Department welcomed two new officers this month. Pictured from left to right are Ward A Council Member Janet Corte, Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, new officers Braulio Guerrero and David Beliard, Captain Byron Woytek and Mayor Dusty Thiele.

• Tessa N. Badger, Edward A. Calero, Eric Eaton and Hannah Hwang, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.

—CONTRIBUTED AND STAFF REPORTS

TRIBUTE

Cynthia "Cindy" Alviset Haraughty was born on November 7, 1944 in Houston, Texas to F.H. Alviset and Virginia Ingersoll Alviset. She grew up in Houston, Texas, graduated from Spring Branch Senior High School in 1962 and then went on to graduate from Southwest Texas State University in 1967. Cindy was an original founding member of the Delta Zeta Sorority at Southwest Texas State University.



CYNTHIA "CINDY" ALVISET **HARAUGHTY** 1944-2022

Cindy has called Katy, Texas her home for nearly 50 years. She was a teacher in Katy I.S.D. and taught for more than 32 years. She loved teaching each one of her

Cynthia "Cindy" Alviset Haraughty passed away on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 in a Houston hospital at

She is survived by her son, Kyle Haraughty; sister, Margaret Bedell and her husband Leonard; sister-inlaw, Mary Margaret Cadden and her husband David; nieces and nephews, Karyn, Pam, Stephen, Marshall, Casey, David and Andi Sue; as well as many other loving family members and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Kelly Rae Haraughty on November 15, 2010; and by parents, F.H. Alviset and Virginia Ingersoll Alviset.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 6, 2023 at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, in Katy, with Rev. Fred Willis officiating. Interment will be private.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Brenham State Supported Living Center, please make checks payable to Volunteer Services, 4001 Hwy. 36 South, Brenham, TX 77833.

To express condolences, please visit www.Schmidt-FuneralHome.net

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday

• Seven Lakes at Colllege Station

Friday

- Katy vs. Fort Bend Bush, 10:30 a.m.
- Mayde Creek at Waco ISD Tournament · Paetow at Klein Collins, 1 p.m.

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

BOYS BASKETBA

Thursday

- Jordan at Bridgeland Tournament • Mayde Creek at Leander Glenn
- · Morton Ranch at Aldine Davis Tournament

Friday

• Jordan at Bridgeland Tournament Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Ridge, 1 p.m.

Wednesday

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

GIRLS SOCCER

- Paetow vs. Brenham, 11 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Spring Woods, noon Katy vs. Klein Cain, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday

• Taylor vs. Lamar, noon

Monday • Katy at Cy-Creek, 11:30 a.m.

- Tompkins at Foster, 7:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Jersey Village, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday • Mayde Creek at Alief Elsik, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Kempner, 5 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Fulshear, 7:15 p.m. · Taylor vs. Fort Bend Austin, 7:15 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

- · Cinco Ranch vs. Caney Creek, noon
- Morton Ranch vs. Cy-Park, 1 p.m. • Tompkins vs. Cy-Springs, 1 p.m. at Legacy
- Stadium Seven Lakes vs. the Woodlands, 7:30 p.m.

Monday

- Katy vs. Clear Springs, 1 p.m.
- Taylor at Elkins, 5:45 p.m. Jordan vs. Lamar, 7:15 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Wisdom, 7:15 p.m. • Tompkins vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:15 p..m.

Tuesday

· Morton Ranch vs. Dobie, 1 p.m. at Legacy

Katy players celebrate signings

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Katy's Seth Davis, Johnathan Hall and Arian Parish all celebrated their commitments to play at the next level last week as they held a signing ceremony at the school.

Davis signed to play at Mississippi State while Hall signed to play at Utah and Parish signed to play at Arizona as all three committed to play football at

See SIGNINGS, page 9

Seven Lakes, Katy hold leads in district





Katy continues hot run with win over Cinco Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has built a recipe for success this year. A suffocating defense that presses all game, a team full of length and an offense that plays for one another and is willing to make the extra pass has led the Tigers to one of the best starts to the season in all of Houston.

The Tigers' (19-1, 6-1) strong play continued Tuesday, as they beat a tough Cinco Ranch (16-4, 5-2) team 50-34, winning their 13th straight game and staying a game up in

See KATY, page 9

Aniya Foy dribbles around a defender during Tuesday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy gym.



191

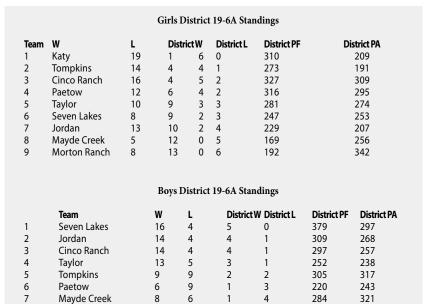
254



Macy Spencer shoots a floater during Monday's District 19-6A game between Tompkins and Seven Lakes at the Tompkins gym.

"We went through that growth and had teams take advantage when we made mistakes, and now our guys have realized not only how to fix those mistakes, but how to capitalize on it when other teams make those mistakes as well."

-SHANNON HESTON, Seven Lakes head coach



Morton Ranch

Katy



Caleb Davis shoots a floater during Monday's game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes gym.

BASKETBALL

from page 6

them can take off. It's just been a whole team effort of everyone doing the little things well."

The Tigers have earned big wins over two of their big contenders in district this year in Tompkins and Cinco Ranch, putting themselves in prime position to see things through in the second half of district play and claim their first district title since 2019.

But that will not be an easy task, Tompkins is only a game back in the race and has won three district titles in a row, while both Cinco Ranch and Paetow sit two games back with plenty of time left in the season. Taylor sits a game back of the playoffs and Seven Lakes sits a game and a half back, as the Spartans have work to do to get back in the playoff and district mix and fulfill the expectations of being ranked the No. 19 team

in the state in this years preseason Texas Basketball Coaches Association poll. Jordan sits a half game back of the Spartans, while Mayde Creek and Morton Ranch are still searching for their first district wins on the year.

Spartans hold one game district lead heading into break

On the boys side, it's been Seven lakes that has answered the bell once again, as they look to claim their second straight district title behind a high powered offense and a defense that has stifled district teams with its length and athleti-

"We had a lot of growing we did in non-district," said Seven Lakes head coach Shannon Heston. "It's allowed us to make fewer mistakes and make other teams pay now that we've gotten to district because

of how tough our non-district schedule was. We went through that growth and had teams take advantage when we made mistakes, and now our guys have realized not only how to fix those mistakes, but how to capitalize on it when other teams make those mistakes

as well." The Spartans have been averaging over 75 points per game through district, while they have given up less than 60 on average, starting district 5-0 and riding an eight game win streak. Seven Lakes has already scored big wins over Tompkins and Jordan, but will be tested with their first district games back from the break when they play Katy followed by Cinco Ranch and Taylor, two playoff contenders.

Jordan has impressed in its first season in 6A and is tied with Cinco Ranch for second place in district, with both teams having only one loss on their district record thus far, while Taylor sits just a half game back of those two. Tompkins sits even at 2-2, just outside of the playoffs as of now, but the Falcons will be determined to get back into it, while Mayde Creek is 1-4 in district, but has been in almost every game so far in district, losing by one point to both Taylor and Tompkins and the Rams will definitely do everything in their power to get back in the playoff picture. Paetow sits at one win in district as well while Morton Ranch and Katy are both searching for their first district wins of the seasons so far.

Things are shaping up to be exciting in the second half of district as teams look to cement their spot as a playoff team or get back in the hunt, while the teams at the top battle for the district



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with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage On-premises Permit CNBGB, LLC DBA Pappa Gyros, to be located at 21910 Franz Road, Katy, Harris County, TX. Officers of this company are Christos N **Batsios and Georgios Batsios.**

Application has been made

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC **BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A MIXED** BEVERAGE LICENSE/PER-MIT AND A FOOD AND BEVERAGE CERTIFICATE BY QUAKER STEAKS, LLC D/B/A PHILLY FLATS, TO BE LOCATED AT 24025 KATY FREEWAY, SUITE L, KATY, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS 77494. THE SOLE OWNER OF SAID LIMITED LIABIL-ITY COMPANY IS SCOTT BOYER, MEMBER.

December 22 Puzzle Answers

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA ("CivCast") website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Harris-Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 3 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

HARRIS-WALLER COUNTY **MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3** CANE ISLAND - PHASE 4, PONDS P,Q, R, S Project No. 015-237-21

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 03, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, planting space and irrigation infrastructure

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to the Owner.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

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- **FLEXIBILTY:** Advertising that fits the size of the business and the size of the event, with short deadlines.
- 6. **CREDIBILTY & TRUST:** Consumers trust newspapers and frequently seen ads create a level of implied trust. You purchase the trust the Newspaper has spent many years building.
- **SELECTIVE NOT INTRUSIVE:** Today's shoppers are far less likely to accept advertising that is spooned out to them. Newspapers are the medium used most for shopping during an average week. (59% of Shoppers)
- **ENVIRONMENT:** Readers trust the newspaper to regularly deliver relevant news and information. People still love to read their names of names of people they know, or see their pictures in the local newspaper.
- **RELIED UPON:** Newspaper advertising is a valuable commodity to consumers. Newspapers outdistanced other media in terms of: shopping plans, comparing prices.
- 10. RESULTS: Consistent newspaper campaigns have been very effective in building Brand recognition, delivering Merchandising messages and motivating customers with attractive "Call-to-Action" limited opportunities.





Above: Shanna Marhofer talks with her team during Tuesday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy gym. Right: Nyla Wold shoots a three-pointer during Tuesday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Katy gym. PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



KATY

from page 6

the District 19-6A standings as schools head into their winter breaks.

"They are just playing super well as a team," said Katy head coach Shanna Marhofer. "It's really an entire team effort and I think that makes it hard for others to scout against us. We don't have that one stud — we have lots of kids that all play well and contribute. Everyone is touching the ball — everyone's scoring and they're all feeding off each other. Everyone is playing together, not playing selfish basketball and that's how you win games. I preach 'team above self,' and they're doing that and they're playing with so much intensity."

That intensity showed on Tuesday. The game started as a back and forth tight knit affair in the first quarter, with the teams tied as seven. But Katy's pressure got to Cinco Ranch in the second quarter.

The Tigers implemented a full court trap to get the ball out of Aniya Foy's hands and in the second quarter the pressure started working, as Cinco scored just four points in the quarter, while Katy scored 15 to increase their lead to 11 points going into halftime.

"Cinco Ranch is a good team but we knew that trapping Aniya and making her pass and be uncomfortable would be big for us," said senior post Lyric Barr. "We pressed them and then we tried to make plays on those passes, keep our hands high and force turnovers and that defensive intensity was a big part of the win today."

Offensively, the Tigers moved the ball and got every player involved and it made things difficult for the Cougar defense that was not able to hone in on stopping just one player.

Barr finished the game with 23 points while Nyla Wold had 11 points while two other players had five points each for the Tigers, as Katy pulled away in the second half and never allowed Cinco Ranch back into things.

"We have learned to play together as a team and we play really well that way," Wold said. "We're making that extra pass — giving it to the open player it just brings the energy level up for the entire team. It's hard to play us when the whole team is in it together like that."

The Tigers hold a one-game lead atop district heading into the winter break, and they know that it will be important to stay sharp jump straight back into things when they get back.

"I almost wish we didn't have this break because the entire team is playing so well right now," Marhofer said. "I just finished talking to them about how we have to treat this next week. They have seven days off, but you can't take seven days off. They have to be working and holding each other accountable to that. We'll only have two days of practice before our first game when we get back and we'll have to get back in the swing of things fast. Hopefully we can keep this run going and keep doing exactly what we have been."

DISTRICT 19-6A KATY 50, CINCO RANCH 34

Points: (K) Lyric Barr 23, Nyla Wold 11, Brianna Nelson 5, Ella Robinson 5, Ashlynn Alexander 3, Kaylea Marhofer 3; (CR) Aniya Foy 18, Isabella Hart 4, Madison Lee 4, Sophie Bavan 4, Keeana Hickman 2, Lauren McCray 2;

Halftime: 28-28; 3-pointers: (K) Barr 3, Wold 2, Robinson, Marhofer, Alexander; (CR) Foy: Records: (K) 19-1, 6-0; (CR) 16-4, 4-1





the stop on King Panthers' Jerrell Wimbley #10 during the UIL regional playoff game between Katy Tigers and King Panthers at Legacy Stadium in Katy. Left: Johnathan Hall makes a stop on an Atascocita

KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

II Region III Final between Katy and C.E. King at NRG Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO

THE KATY TIMES

Seth Davis runs past

the Class 6A-Division

a defender during



SIGNINGS

from page 6

the Division I level.

Davis is a part of Coach Mike Leach's final recruiting class at Mississippi State and he takes great honor in that. The senior is excited to get to Starkville and prove himself at the SEC level against great competition.

Hall, who can play both linebacker and safety, is a great get for the Utes and will add to the hard nosed, tough minded football they play there and in the PAC-12. He was one of the district 19-6A defensive players of the year and will join a team that has been very successful on the

defensive end of the ball.

Parish, also a safety, will also be joining the PAC-12 school in Arizona. The Wildcats finished the season with a 5-7 record and will have a young improving secondary that Parish will join next season as they hope to get better.

player during the game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium.

The three were all huge parts of the Tigers' success the past three years and were big in the team claiming a District 19-6A championship, a Class 6A-Division II Region III title and making another state semifinal berth this season.



Katy's Seth Davis, Arian Parish and Johnathan Hall celebrate signing to play football at Division I Universities.





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KATYTIMES.COM

Royal places three on superlatives in strong all-district showing

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Royal had a good number of students named to the District 10-4A, Division II All-District football team after a very strong season in which the Falcons finished second in district, only losing two games and making it back to the playoffs.

Justin Cryer was the top award getter in the district, being named the District MVP after a huge senior season.

The Northwestern commit was a force defensively at linebacker, leading the Falcons all year, while also adding 299 receiving yards and three touchdowns offensively, as he helped lead the Falcons back to the bi-district round and to their best season in over a decade.

Cryer was not alone in being named to the superlatives list, as



The Royal Falcons football team.

DeShawn Adams was named the district's offensive MVP of the year.

Adams was a tremendous threat for the Falcons throughout the year in the pass game. The senior led the team in yards and was tied for the team lead in touchdowns, finishing the year with 33 receptions for 849 yards and nine touchdowns, averaging 77 yards

per game and over 25 yards per reception while also having a season long of an 82-yard catch.

Ashton Robinson was named the newcomer of the year in the district after a huge coming out party to prove himself in his sophomore season.

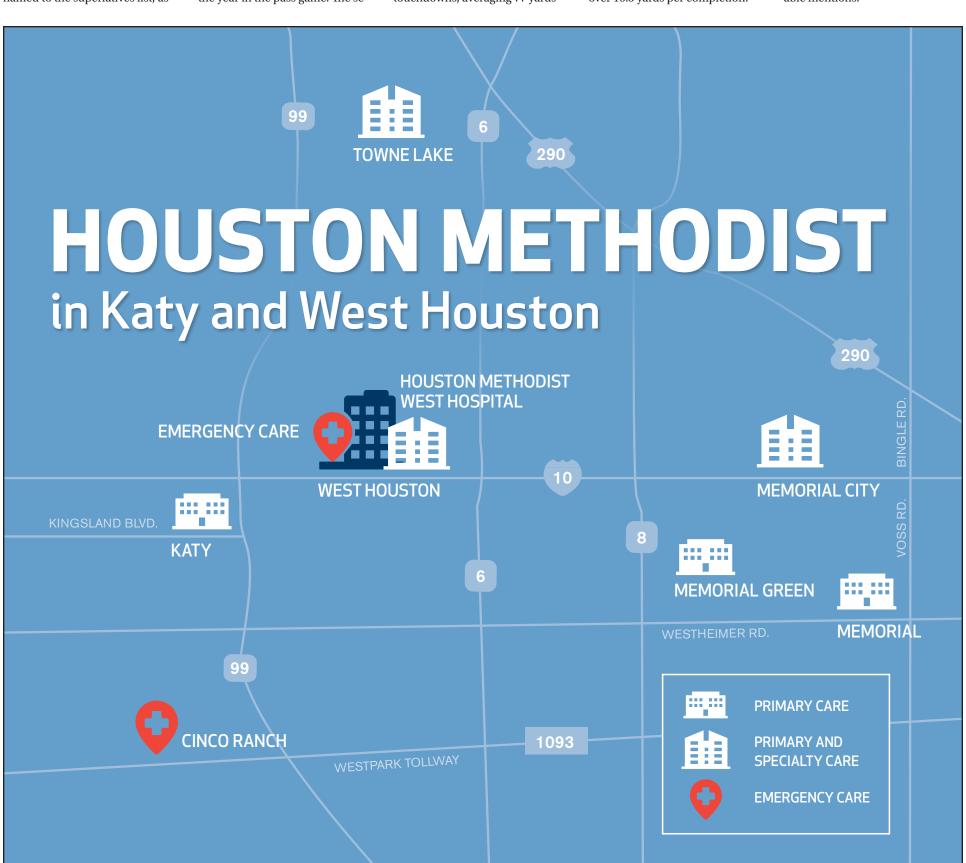
The quarterback made the Falcons' offense go all year and was a huge part of their success. He was instrumental in Royal having such a successful season and is someone with a bright future ahead in the program.

Overall, Robinson finished the year with 2238 yards passing and 25 passing touchdowns to just nine interceptions on the season, completing 136 of his 243 passes. Robinson averaged over 200 yards per game and two touchdown throws per game while averaging over 16.5 yards per completion.

Robinson added 272 yards rushing and two rushing touchdowns on the year. Robinson will make for a very strong duo for the next two years with backfield partner Zakai

Royal had two players named to the first team offense in Jalen Bray and Antonio Page. Page was also named to the first team defense along with Jeremiah Randolph and Jeremiah Robinson. Mauricio Diaz was named first team special

Zakai Anderson was named second team offense along with Avery Robinson Jr. and Gustavo Infante while Robinson Jr. was also named to the second team defense along with Zechariah Robinson. Derick Noel, Joseph Garcia, Erick Robledo, Dyler Williams and Kendrick Vinson were named honorable mentions.



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