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Katy Jexas III es



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

Local author publishes second thriller

■ Editor's Note: This article is the first in an occasional series.

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Some authors say their stories begin with a character. Other authors say their stories begin with a plot. But for local author Tim Sojka, the story begins with something that bothers him.

Earlier this year, Sojka released his second thriller, Politikill, through Black Rose Writing, a Castroville-based publishing house. His first thriller, Payback Jack, appeared in 2021.

For Politikill, Sojka said what bothered him was Abscam, a late 1970s FBI sting operation that sent seven members of Congress, among others, to jail for corruption. Abscam started him thinking: What if bribe-taking officials were found and caught today? Who might be behind such a scandal, and why? How might the crimes be solved?

"It bugs me so much I'm going to start looking into it, not because I have to, but because I want to," Sojka said. "And then you have your waterfall moment when you see it all, and then you have who would be the strangest person possible to solve it."

When Sojka puts in his hour or so of writing each morning, he addresses what bothers him. But in his day job, he and his Keller Williams team sell houses. They have sold more than 2,000. He also writes a monthly real estate column for the Katy Times.

"It's helped my wife and I own a commercial building," Sojka said. "I have a great wife (Lori) who has helped me in the business, and I married the right woman. We did all the things right. I didn't start writing until I was financially fit, but it also means that I need to keep my business going. So, I can't write a

See **AUTHOR**, page A3

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December 22, 2022 12 pages | \$1



PopStroke golf, dining venue opens in Katy

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

PopStroke, a Florida-based golf and casual dining facility, chose Katy for its first non-Florida location, opening in a Dec. 15 ceremony at 23110 Grand Circle Blvd.

The venue features miniature golf on putting greens designed by associates of professional golfer Tiger Woods. Yet it offers other games—table tennis and foosball among them—and a casual dining experience for its guests. Those wishing to watch the big golf tournament (or whatever sports event might be on) can do so on several televisions. The venue features a private event space for gatherings. The goal is to provide for golfers and non-golfers alike, whether they are young families, professionals or something in between.

PopStroke founder Greg Bartoli said unlike a roller coaster, which has height restrictions for its riders, or an R-rated movie, which has age restrictions for its viewers, PopStroke offers more options without restrictions.

"We have something here for everyone, regardless of your age or background," Bartoli said, adding that miniature golf is something everyone can do and that they are not intimidated by it.

Bartoli said the Katy location was the first of several locations planned in Texas. He said PopStroke was looking to develop locations in Frisco, Austin, San Antonio, and several college towns around the state. The company is also looking to open venues in other parts of the Greater Houston area.

Florida has four PopStroke locations with another set to open soon,

See **POPSTROKE**, page A3

New principals appointed at Schmalz, Stephens elementary schools

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD has named Kara Fox as principal at Schmalz Elementary and Carole Langley at Elementary.

Fox has 26 years of educational experience. She began her career as an elementary teacher in 1996 at Rees Elementary in Alief ISD. While at Alief ISD, Fox also served as a lead teacher, math committee chair, math interventionist, and assistant principal. She joined Katy ISD in 2016 when she accepted a position as assistant principal at Rhoads Elementary and she most recently served as assistant principal at Mayde Creek Elementary. Fox holds a bachelor's degree in multidisciplinary studies from Texas Tech University and a master's degree in educational management from the University of Houston–Clear Lake.

"Schmalz Elementary has a history and tradition of preparing students to be effective communicators, good citizens and valued leaders of the future," Fox said. "I'm honored to join the Schmalz family and look forward to working collaboratively with our students, staff and parents to build on that tradition."

Langley has 18 years of experience in public education. She began her career in 2005 as a teacher at Spence Elementary in Aldine ISD. She joined

See **PRINCIPALS**, page A3



Greg Goedecker

FILE PHOTO

Bundle up: Potent cold front to precede Christmas in Katy area

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

Katy-area residents dreaming of a white Christmas can expect a cold one, if not a white one, this weekend.

The National Weather Service said temperatures would begin dropping Thursday night, with a low expected around 17°. On Friday, skies will be sunny with blustery winds and a high expected around 30°.

Friday night, skies will be partly cloudy and the low expected around 20°. Christmas Eve conditions on Satur**INSIDE**: CenterPoint offers tips for preparing for colder temperatures, page A5.

day call for sunny skies and a high expected around 38°, the weather service said. For Saturday night, conditions are expected to be mostly clear, with a low around 23°.

Temperatures will begin warming up

See **COLD**, page A3



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mike Daniels named Crown Pizza general manager

The Neches Restaurant Group has named Mike Daniels as general manager of the allnew Crown Pizza in Katy.

In this role, Daniels will oversee staff and daily operational activity on-site for a unique dual general manager role of both Crown Pizza and its sister restaurant, Willy Burger, where he has served the role for the last six years.

Daniels brings experience, positivity and a valuable knowledge of the restaurant business to go with his innate leadership and his service-first personality. Chef Alden Pond, Neches Restaurant Group chief product officer, said Daniels will help launch the new pizzeria as it enters the new year.

"Nobody represents the vision of the Neches Group quite like Mike Daniels," Pond said. "He gives a hundred percent all the time. He makes a difference and that's exactly what we want to do with Crown Pizza: make a difference."

Daniels trained at the original Willy Burger in Beaumont years ago and has served in multiple roles over the years leading up to the general manager position. He is a familiar face in Katy, having helped coach youth football for years.

"I love this," Daniels said. "I love when it gets busy, people are moving, things are clicking, and working together so everyone's having a good time on both sides of the counter. We want to serve the good people of Katy with something special and a great experience, and Crown Pizza is poised to do just that."

Under this new Neches ownership, Crown Pizza is set to open soon at Tiger Square near Willy Burger, directly across from Katy High School.

Cinco Ranch Branch Library seeking donations of art materials for community art swap

The Cinco Ranch Branch Library is hosting a community art swap Jan. 28 in the meeting room of the library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd.

Between Jan. 5-23, artists are encouraged to clean out their art supplies and donate any unwanted art materials in good, usable condition. Materials should be brought to the library during business hours no later than Jan. 23.

Artists who bring their unused arts supplies during this period will receive a ticket for special early access (10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.) to



Westlake Volunteer Fire Department EMS supervisor Efren Gonzalez-Perez, Fire Chief Shannon Draper and firefighter/EMT Ivan Gorski. The American Legion Post 164 held its annual first responder dinner Dec. 10 at the Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road. At the dinner, the legion honored first responders from the Katy Fire Department, Katy Police Department, Katy ISD Police Department, and Westlake Volunteer Fire Department.



Paramedic Juanito Velasquez receives congratulations from Katy Fire Department Battalion Chief Jacob Duke.

the community art swap.

After 2 p.m. Jan. 28, the event is open to everyone, including those who did not contribute supplies. Free art supplies can be claimed by anyone after 2 p.m. while



Officer Joseph Campbell receives congratulations from Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz.

supplies last.

This is an excellent way for anyone who is thinking about trying art as a hobby to pick up start-up materials without investing in a large amount of money.



Officer Jason Ryan receives congratulations from KISD Police Chief Henry Gaw.

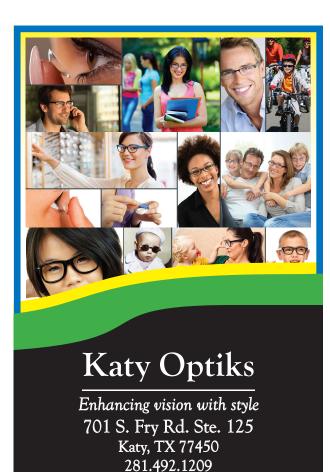
The event is free and open to the public. For more information, see the website fortbend.lib.tx.us.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS





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CROSSWORD PI

CLUES ACROSS

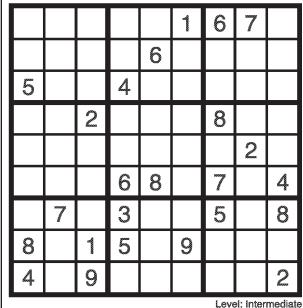
- 1. Take weapons away from 6. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 9. Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- 13. Actress Lathan
- 14. Baseball's strikeout king
- 15. British codebreaker Turing
- 16. One who lives by disreputable dealings
- 17. Tropical American plant 18. Opposite of right
- 19. Importance
- 21. Monetary units
- 22. Lawmen
- 23. Cool!
- 24. Affirmative answer 25. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! 29. Muslim nobleman
- 31. About aviation
- 33. Scientific instrument 36. Protests strongly
- 38. Not polished 39. Grab
- 41. Alias
- 44. Large wrestler
- 45. Relative quantities 46. One who is big and awkward
- 48. Sunscreen rating
- 49. Atomic #90 51. Mock
- 52. Whales
- 54. Peoples 56. A state of being unclothed
- 60. Ottoman military commanders

- 61. Gatherer of fallen leaves 62. Norse personification of
- old age 63. Muslim mystic
- 64. German river
- 65. Measuring instrument 66. Have witnessed
- 67. Disallow 68. Proverb

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- 2. The back side of the neck
- 3. A type of imine
- 4. Black bird
- 5. Partner to "Pa"
- 6. Puts together in time
- 7. Lucid 8. Transmits genetic
- information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 9. Demonstrates the truth of
- 10. Ancient Greek City 11. Nishi language
- 12. Slang for fidgety
- 14. Southwestern farmers 17. Metric weight unit
- 20. Instant replay in soccer 21. Less polished
- 23. Popular pickup truck model 25. Slang for a cigarette
- 26. Large pile
- 27. Solid geometric figure 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Male admirers
- 32. Balsam is one
 - 49. Volcanic ash Answers will be provided in next week's edition.
- 34. Local area network
- 35. Canadian law enforcers
- 37. Koran chapters 40. Cooperstown, NY museum
- (abbr.)
- 42. Certificate (abbr.) 43. An official who carries a mace of office
- 47. Briefly in fashion
- 50. Dutch city
- 52. Made of wood 53. Legendary golfer
- 55. Restaurant 56. None
- 57. Spanish city 58. Stony waste matter
- 59. Father 61. Confederate soldier 65. The ancient Egyptian sun god

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Fun By The Numbers Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have

you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

LIGHTNING STRIKE IGNITES HOME



Firefighters from Harris County Emergency Services District 48, Community Volunteer Fire Department, Willowfork Fire Department/Fort Bend ESD 2, and the Katy Fire Department worked to put out a fire that occurred the morning of Dec. 19 at a house in the 24000 block of Waterline Lane. Crews worked to rescue family pets from the home, and no injuries were reported. Firefighters said the cause of the fire was a lightning strike from morning thunderstorms.

POPSTROKE

from page A1

he said.

So, why Katy for the first location? Bartoli cited several reasons.

"The combination of weather, the economy here is booming," Bartoli said. "The demographics are super-important. If you look behind you, you can see 5,000 cars driving by on any given day."

Bartoli said the area in which the Katy PopStroke sits, north of I-10 and east of the Grand Parkway is a hub that connects major thoroughfares around the Houston area.

"It's very attractive," Bartoli said.

Bartoli said he got the idea for PopStroke, which began in 2019, from another miniature golf company he created seven years earlier.

"I thought this would be a good time to put a modern spin on miniature golf," Bartoli said. "The most rewarding part of the business is when you can put everyone's iPads down. You can see families and

again on Christmas Day. The

Christmas night calls for

high is expected to be near

44° and skies will be sunny,

mostly clear skies and a low

around 29°. Monday's condi-

tions call for sunny skies and

The cold conditions

severe as Winter Storm Uri

from February 2021. Still,

Greg Goedecker, Katy city

emergency management

possibility of power outages

existed due to wind gusts.

coordinator, said the

are not expected to bring

precipitation nor be as

the weather service said.

a high around 55°.

COLD from page A1



PopStroke founder Greg Bartoli speaks before a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Katy PopStroke location at 23110 Grand Circle Blvd.

friends reconnecting out here. Grandparents and grandkids. Millennials on dates nights. Depending on the time of day, the clientele will shift.

haven't already, for the cold-

er temperatures. Goedecker

livestock and tropical plants.

The cold temperatures could

Proper winterization is a

"The important thing is to

have proper winterization of

exposed pipes and plumb-

that people with sprinkler

systems should drain their

lines, shut off their systems,

and protect the pipe setups

ing," Goedecker said, adding

be fatal to the animals and

damage the plants, Goe-

key, Goedecker said.

decker said.

said area residents should

take care of their pets,

half the company, but is more involved from a course design standpoint.

"It's been a lot of hard work," Bartoli said. "There's been a lot of different people

Bartoli said Woods owns

involved."

Katy-area residents plan

to go out of town for the

the colder temperatures.

their pets, livestock and

holiday, they might consider

shutting off their water sup-

ply to prevent any damage if the water pipes burst due to

Besides taking care of

piping, Goedecker suggest-

ed that people limit their

outside exposure, partic-

Goedecker urged

expected.

ularly on Friday morning

with a dangerous windchill

residents to check on their

They should also use their

elderly relatives and friends.

AUTHOR

from page A1

novel in a month because I still pay my bills by selling 200 homes a year. Our team still sells 200 homes a year. That still has to come first."

When he writes, Sojka likes to know where the story goes before sitting down to write.

"Planners, that's me, have to have everything laid out before I start," Tim said. "Pantsers just write by the seat of their pants. Pantsers run into writer's block a lot. I don't get writer's block because I always know what I'm writing to." Yet every plan has

last-minute changes. Just because a plot is meant to go in one direction doesn't mean it can't-or won'tgo in a different direction.

"The thing about the plan is, though, you know certain points, but getting to those points can be interesting," Sojka said. "It doesn't mean it doesn't change. It just means that you have a rough idea of what you're writing to. But the other step the people don't think about, and to me is really important, is once you have the plot laid out, to me the next most important thing is to lay out a timeline."

Sojka said it was important that novels be able to reflect their time period. If one is writing a story set in the 1970s, for example, it should include the events of that time, whether it be the Watergate or Abscam scandals, or not having personal computers or mobile phones. At the least, it should reflect character awareness and reaction to those events.

Sojka said his third book is with his publisher and is due in March.

"My third book, 39, is about a guy who whose father and grandfather killed themselves on their 39th birthday, and he's 38," Sojka said. "My first two books are political thrillers," he said. 'My third book is not. It's just more of a literary thriller."

Sojka described his fourth book, to be called Claws, as a tweener-thriller.

"I think any book you have to start with, if not somebody dying, you have to start with that event that propels people into the future," Sojka said. "I think narrative drive is one of the things that authors consider the least, but it's the most important thing. What's going to pull people through your book."

"I'm proud to lead a school community that values the partnership of parents and community and ensures all students reach their greatest potential. We will continue to provide a positive learning environment and quality educational experiences for all of our Stallions."

-CAROLE LANGLEY, Newly appointed principal at Stephens Elementary

PRINCIPALS

from page A1

Katy ISD in 2008 as a teacher at McRoberts Elementary. She taught at McRoberts Elementary until 2016, and throughout that time served as a kindergarten teacher, team leader, Junior Achievement Liaison and was named the Campus Teacher of the Year in 2015.

In 2016, Langley became assistant principal at McRoberts Elementary. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management with an alternative teaching certificate from LeTourneau University and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

"I'm proud to lead a school community that values the

partnership of parents and community and ensures all students reach their greatest potential," Langley said. "We will continue to provide a positive learning environment and quality educational experiences for all of our Stallions."

Charlotte Gilder, the current principal at Schmalz Elementary, recently accepted the principalship at one of Katy ISD's newest elementary schools, Elementary School #45, while Michael Schwartz, the principal of Stephens Elementary, will be taking on the principal role at Elementary School #46. All four principals will transition to their new roles this January.



KARA FOX.





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Christmas lights: A judgmental guide

ne of my fondest childhood memories of Christmas in the 1970s was riding around in the family station wagon, "Bessie," to look at Christmas lights while I whined to my parents about needing a snack—again. There was something magical about a familiar evening landscape transformed to a radiant wonderland at the expense of someone's lumbar spine.

My dad always made sure that our house was exemplary in its presentation of illuminated holiday décor, and even now, his legendary displays make my own attempts look like those of an unsupervised toddler with a Lite-Brite toy.

Little did I know as a child exactly how much work goes into producing a respectable home display that delights passersby and annoys the neighbors. But now that I'm an adult (sort of), I take pride in climbing on the roof and crawling around the yard for the sake of an electrified Christmas spectacle that makes me feel like I've sprained everything except my belly button.

Maybe because of the intense effort I put into my own residential Christmas lights, I've become a bit of a snob when evaluating those of others-to the point that I've come up with the following categories:

The Griswold

This is the type of display for which I strive each year. It includes every string of lights that can be scrounged up from the attic-along with a cartload purchased as soon as Walmart replaces the Brach's Mellowcreme Pumpkins with Little Debbie Christmas Tree Cakes in late October. This is the kind of overwhelming display that might cause acute retinal damage with prolonged exposure. It's truly a sight to behold—if you dare.

The My-Wife-Made Me-Do-It

This display (if you can call it that) is clearly installed under duress-and probably during the commercial breaks of a Dallas Cowboys football game. The jumbled lights look as if they've been strung by someone being attacked by hornets, and they





include the absolute minimum - maybe one string of bulbs and a mildewed inflatable Nutcracker sagging toward the storm drain. It's better than nothing-but just barely.

The Cheater

It's obvious that someone paid big bucks to have professionals do all the work on this geometrically-precise display with meticulous ridge line coverage. It's beautiful, no doubt, even bordering on the Griswold, but I say that if you aren't in a bad mood and in need of prescription painkillers when you're done, it doesn't count.

The Grinch

This is the house without so much as a plastic baby Jesus glowing on the porch, a single cheap light-up deer in the yard, or even a wreath of dilapidated pine cones on the front door. It's almost ostentatiously dark and gloomy.

When I see these houses during the holidays, I often catch myself mumbling something like, "How can they not put out a single decoration? Are they out of Tylenol?"

My wife inevitably replies, "Maybe they can't afford decorations. They could be ill or elderly. Or maybe they don't celebrate Christmas."

Then I feel like The Grinch, Scrooge, The Abominable Snow Monster, Heat Miser, Mr. Potter, Frank Shirley and Scut Farkus all rolled into one insensitive naughty-list doofus.

It's at those times that I need a good lecture from Linus in "A Charlie Brown Christmas. Sure, Snoopy has the best lights, but Linus knows what Christmas is all about.

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@ sbcglobal.net.



American's fading malls no longer a holiday shopping staple

TOM

PURCELL

TO THE KATY TIMES

SPECIAL

read a great piece in the Tribune-Review about the nostalgia many Pittsburghers hold for their favorite old suburban shopping malls-especially around the holidays.

Malls around the country are in trouble these days. Experts say their Golden Age ended years ago and Pittsburgh proves it.

Century III Mall, which was a hub of activity when it opened in the southern suburbs of Pittsburgh in 1979, has been shuttered since

In the city's eastern suburbs, Monroeville Mall has many empty retail storefronts.

South Hills Village is the mall my friends and I frequented during our high school years in the '70s.

A year ago, I wrote about my experiences and my affection for "The Village," which in our era of constant disruption is holding strong as far as malls go.

Disruption is said to be a healthy thing for a vibrant economy-though the decline of malls proves it is not often pleasant.

Just as the migration from city neighborhoods to the suburbs disrupted and ultimately killed most big department stores in downtown centers, online shopping has disrupted and, in some cases, has killed suburban

Regrettably, there is another reason fewer people are frequenting malls: fear of violence. According to the American

Psychological Association, more than a third of Americans fear going to crowded public places,

such as malls, because they fear

mass shootings. Social media sensationalizes relatively rare acts of violence and makes us more fearful in our daily

lives than we should be. **But Psychology Today reports** that "active shooter" incidents in public spaces have in fact increased considerably since 2017.

Google "mall and shooting" and several stories will pop up.

Most are not mass shootings, but the ugly truth is that in the back of many people's minds when they head to the mall, they are worried about someone planning violence

The Tribune-Review article shares examples of the tremendous nostalgia people have for the malls where they spent their formative years—a nostalgia that I share.

I've never been a big shopper, but the mall was always a cheerful and eventful place to visit, especially during the holiday season.

I remember one year in the 9th grade when I saved enough money to buy my mom and dad a lava lamp at Spencer Gifts, the store specializing in nutty and funny

My dad did his best to thank me when he opened that gift on Christmas morning, but it was clear he was thinking, "What the hell am I going to do with a lava lamp!"

The truth is, though today I live only five or six miles away from South Hills Village, I don't often visit it. The last time was to buy a new black suit for my dad's funeral.

I have no plans to visit the Village during the Christmas season, either, and I have no idea how busy the place is now.

But I do fondly remember the energy and excitement of visiting it in my "mall-rat" years.

The hustle and bustle of Christmas was always alive there. We never knew what to expect-or what friend we might bump into along the crowded walkways.

Those fun, carefree days of shopping at the mall are a thing of the past now—for me and many others.

But if someone were to visit Spencer Gifts to buy me a lava lamp for Christmas, I'd be forever in that person's debt!

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.

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SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher GEORGE SLAUGHTER | News Editor TYLER TYRE | Sports Editor **DEBBIE PREJEAN** | Office Manager/ Bookkeeper

MARISSA FERREIRA | Page Designer

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Campbell receives Houston Texans' Inspire Change 2022 Changemaker Award

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Houston Texans announced that Coach Cameron Campbell is the team's recipient for the 2022 Inspire Change Changemaker Award. The NFL created this inaugural award to recognize individuals who are making a difference in

their communities through social justice work across each of the NFL's 32 club markets. Known as "Coach Cam," Campbell was recognized at the Dec. 18 Kansas City Chiefs-Houston Texans game at NRG Stadium.

For over 12 years, Coach Cam has left his mark on **CAMERON** Houston's youth and the CAMPBELL family sports space through his nonprofit work. He's a servant, sports enthusiast and social entrepreneur who transformed his passion for sports into a career. Campbell currently serves as a master trainer for USA Football. He has also been an integral part of the Texans' Youth Football initiatives including Play Safe, Coaches Academy and Youth Football Camps over the past few seasons. Through these roles, Campbell worked with Katy ISD coaches and student-athletes.

"Being named the Texans' 2022 Inspire Change Changemaker Award means everything to me," Campbell said. "As a contributor, it's your job to give. You don't give expecting to receive anything, and I believe that we can create a positive impact and some change with the right recognition and resources. There's

always more work to be done."

The former NCAA Division I athlete and graduate of University of Houston also launched his own small business in 2017 named Texas Athletics Construction. The mission and purpose of the organization is to build athletic surfaces around the Houston community and

to improve the lives of all

Campbell and the 31 other Inspire Change Changemaker Award recipients were selected based on their outstanding work in the community and their support for one or more of the key pillars encompassed in the Inspire Change initiative: police-community relations, criminal justice reform, education and economic

advancement. Each winner will receive a \$10,000 donation to the social justice 501c3 nonprofit organization of their choice courtesy of the NFL Foundation.

Since 2017, the NFL family has provided more than \$244 million to 37 national grant partners and hundreds of grassroots organizations across the country, nearing its 10-year, \$250 million commitment to social justice efforts.

On Dec. 12, as part of the Texans' Inspire Change efforts, the team and its partners awarded \$400,000 to 15 local nonprofits through the Inspire Change Grant Fund. In addition to the reception, Coach Cam was also surprised with four tickets to Super Bowl LVII. For more information, visit the website HoustonTexans.com/InspireChange.

CenterPoint offers tips for colder temperatures

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

CenterPoint Energy continues to monitor the weather forecast, as Katy and the greater Houston area is expected to experience colder-than-normal temperatures later this week and into the weekend. The company is preparing for the upcoming weather and wants customers to be prepared as well.

CenterPoint Energy encourages customers to have an emergency plan, particularly if they depend on electricity for life-sustaining equipment and natural gas or electricity to heat their homes. The company is offering these safety tips to help customers prepare:

Natural gas

- · Make sure your heating system is working. Malfunctioning heating equipment can cause a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. Check that outside furnace vents aren't blocked by snow or ice.
- · Use space heaters safely. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off feature, and keep children, pets and all items at least three feet away. A space heater that uses gas, propane or wood should be vented to the outside. Stoves and ovens should never be used for space heating.
- · Check your carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke alarms. Test your alarms monthly and change batteries

as recommended by the manufacturer.

• Immediately report a suspected natural gas leak. If you smell the "rotten egg" odor of natural gas, immediately leave on foot, go to a safe location and call both 911 and CenterPoint Energy at 713-659-2111 or 800-752-8036. Don't use electric switches/ outlets, phones (including cell phones), drive or start a car inside or in close proximity to the location, or do anything that could cause a spark.

Energy efficiency

For a furnace, the largest natural gas consuming appliance, follow these tips:

Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees. If possible, set it at 65 degrees when you are home and 60 degrees when you are away.

• Installing a programmable thermostat can help you automatically control your heat usage.

Other appliances: Although they consume less natural gas, you can still maximize their efficiency. Run your washing machine, dishwasher and gas dryer only with full loads.

Make your home more airtight and keep cold air outside by following these steps:

· Seal leaks around doors, windows, and other openings such as pipes or ducts, with caulk or weather-stripping. The most common places where air escapes are floors,

walls, ceilings, ducts, fireplaces, plumbing penetrations, doors, windows, fans, vents and electrical outlets.

• If it has been a while, consider adding more insulation in your attic.

• On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let the sun's warmth in. Close them at night to insulate against the cold air outside.

Electric

• Always assume downed lines or wires are energized and potentially dangerous if contacted.

• Do not go near downed lines or fallen wires.

• Keep your distance from objects touching downed lines (tree limbs, vehicles, fences, etc.).

• If someone is actively being shocked due to contact with a power line, do not try to rescue them—you cannot help if you become a victim. Instead, call 911 immediately.

• Report downed power lines to 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143.

• Never use an electricity generator inside your home or any other building.

CenterPoint Energy has taken measures to prepare for winter weather across greater Houston and surrounding communities. In addition, CenterPoint Energy is closely monitoring grid conditions and information from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

The Katy Times

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EDUCATION

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STAYING IN STITCHES



The Amy Campbell Elementary Sewing Club members practiced stitching on the new sewing machines they received with funds from their Katy ISD Education Foundation grant.



HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

Choirs and bands from various Katy ISD schools added to the holiday spirit by staging performances at the Katy ISD Education Support Center, 6301 S. Stadium Dr. Pictured at left is the Memorial Parkway JH choir.

KATY ISD PHOTOS



The WoodCreek Elementary choir.



The Morton Ranch High mariachi band.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD seeking 2023-24 instructional calendar input from parents, students

Katy ISD is asking parents and staff to take its 2023-24 instructional calendar survey. The district said the survey outlines proposed changes to its 2023-24 calendar, as well as start and end dates.

The survey is open until Jan. 11. Parents and students who have not received a survey are asked to email west@k12insight.com.

Cinco Ranch academic decathlon team participate in district competition

The Cinco Ranch High School academic decathlon team competed in the Katy ISD district event.

Below are the medal winners. Bella Mei came in first place overall, beating out 150 other decathletes for the top

- Art: Yu Jin Cha finished first, Grace Zhang and Bella Mei finished fourth.
- Economics: Teymur Hajiyev finished first, Bella Mei finished third, Henry Ebben and Robert Marbach both finished fifth.
- Literature: Bella Mei finished second.
- Math: Teymur Hajiyev finished first, Robert Marbach second, and Younghoon Kiel and Henry Ebben finished fourth.
- Music: Bella Mei finished second.
- · Science: Yu Jin Cha finished first, and Bella Mei finished fourth.
- Social Science: Bella Mei and Advait Dadi finished first, while Yu Jin Cha finished

second. Other decathletes participating included Ava Ross, Janice Zhang, Rebecca Jung, Justin Wu, Ethan Moloney and Dylan Nguyen. Team sponsors are Ashley Miller and Samiha Rahman.

Katy ISD Career and Technical Education Job Fair set for Jan 25

Katy ISD is hosting its first career and technical education job fair, and is inviting



Katy ISD will host its first career and technical education job fair Jan. 25 at the Merrell Center.

local businesses to participate.

The job fair is Jan. 25 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Dr. Shifts are from 8 a.m.-12 p.m., and 5-8 p.m.

Registration deadline is Jan. 13. For more information, contact Remona Clark, college and career specialist, at 281-396-7452 or remonalclark@katyisd.org.

To register, visit the website https://bit. ly/3H1aAd7.

Cinco Ranch FFA team participates in leadership development competition

The Cinco Ranch High School FFA program took six teams to compete in Texas FFA Leadership Development Events earlier this month at Sam Houston State University.

The LDEs, as they are called, focus on creating situations for members to demonstrate their abilities in public speaking,

decision making, communication and their knowledge of agriculture and the FFA organization

Cinco Ranch teams participating included:

- Agricultural Advocacy, sixth place: Rachel Grant, Mia Moderski, Sydney Herring and Elizabeth Mahady.
- Jr. Agricultural Skills Demonstration, sixth place: Lainey McDonald, Justin Sapp
- and Alejandro Pereira. • Sr. Spanish Creed Speaking, third place:
- Olivia Bellolio Abad. • Sr. Agricultural Skills Demonstration, second place: Ella Mirabelli, Whitney Mc-
- Donald and Madison Thomas. • Ag Issues Forum, semifinalist: Emma Avery, Connor Reese, Rachel Grant, Lucia Ball, and Lindsey Delgado.
- Public Relations, semifinalist: Emma Avery, Adison Baker, Mia Moderski, and Lily

The students finished third in Texas in sweepstakes points.

The FFA advisors are Mike Ellisor, Kaylen Gaines, David Helmcamp, Amanda Kacal, Shawn Peters and Rachel Wendt.

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award Winner

Sydney Herring, a Cinco Ranch High School sophomore, is that school's 2023 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award winner. She will represent Cinco Ranch at a conference this summer and will learn leadership styles, connect with leaders around the state and meet with other O'Brian award winners across the state.

Cinco Ranch quiz bowl teams compete in online tournament

Four Cinco Ranch High School quiz bowl teams competed in the Holiday Party online tournament, which featured some of the best teams in Texas and the nation.

The A Team of captain Tamim Hasan, Hayden D'Gama, Dimitris Kalafatis and Robbie Hahn finished fourth, losing in the final four bracket. Hasan finished ninth in individuals, while Kalafatis and D'Gama were 17th and 18th, respectively.

The B Team of captain Arnav Joshi, Tony Liang, Enina Edosomwan and Grace Park made the playoff bracket before falling to Strake Jesuit. Joshi finished 12th in individuals for his first-ever top-20 placement.

The C Team of captain Ella Hill, Ishan Paliwell, Zuhair Assaduddin and Arsen Imanbayev scored several wins. Paliwell finished 19th in individuals.

The D Team of Maria Waseem, Nicholas Zang, Bao Vu and Heather Tan scored one

The quiz bowl sponsor is Bob Diethrich.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS





WEEK OF DECEMBER 23

SCORES & **SCHEDULES**

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes
- at Aggieland tournament
- Taylor at Boerne ISD Tournament • Tompkins at Lake Travis Tournament

Wednesday

- · Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes
- $at\,Aggiel and\,Tournament$
- Jordan vs. Oak Ridge, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at MT Rice Tournament
- Tompkins at Lake Travis Tournament · Taylor at Boerne ISD Tournament

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday

- Mayde Creek at Leander Glenn
- **Tournament** • Seven Lakes and Tompkins at Conroe **Tournament**

Wednesday

- Mayde Creek at Leander Glenn
- Tournament Seven Lakes and Tompkins at Conroe Tournament

GIRLS SOCCER

Tuesday

· Cinco Ranch at Fort Bend Elkins, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

· Paetow vs. Klein Cain, noon

BOYS SOCCER

Wednesday

- · Katy at Cy-Park, 10 a.m.
- Paetow at Strake Jesuit, 2:30 p.m. • Taylor vs. Sam Rayburn, 1 p.m.



Katy running back Seth Davis (23) breaks a tackle attempt by Vandegrift Vipers junior defensive back semifinal football game Dec. 10, 2022 in San Antonio.

Davis named **Touchdown Club of Houston** offensive player of the year

BY TYLER TYRE

Seth Davis added another accomplishment to his ever-growing resume

on Wednesday. The Katy senior running back was honored as the offensive player of the year by the Touchdown Club of Houston at the Club's 43rd annual banquet after a season in which he became Katy's all-time leading rusher and led the Tigers to a district title and state semifinal appearance. The banquet was

held at the Bayou Special Events Center. Davis finished the year with 2,473 yards and 34 touchdowns, bringing his career yardage numbers to 6,691 and surpassing Katy legend Rodney Ander-

See **DAVIS**, page B5



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco Ranch's QB Gavin Rutherford #12 delivers a pass during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

Cinco Ranch's Rutherford named District 19-6A MVP

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch's Gavin Rutherford was named the District 19-6A football MVP on Monday, capping off a record-setting season and career for the senior in what was a very successful season for the Cougars.

Rutherford had a tremendous senior season. The quarterback completed 209 of 340 passes with a completion percentage of 61.5% while throwing for 3,326 and 32 touchdowns to just six interceptions. He averaged 255 yards per game on the year while leading the Cougars to a regional semifinal appearance. Rutherford ended his career as the Cinco Banch and Katy ISD all-time leading passer in yards, touchdowns, completions and attempts.

There was a three-way tie for both offensive and defensive player of the year in the

See **DISTRICT**, page B3



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Joseph-led PNG makes run to state title game



Port Neches-Groves head coach Jeff Joseph (center) talks with his team during a timeout in the Class 5A Division II football state championship game between South Oak Cliff and Port Neches-Groves in Arlington, Texas, on Dec. 16, 2022.

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Gary Joseph may not have been coaching this week but he still had plenty of reasons to smile and a reason to head up to AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

That's because his son, Jeff Joseph, had led Port Neches Groves to the Class 5A-Division II state title game — the first time Jeff Joseph had led a team there as a head coach, and that made it a special week for Gary Joseph.

The playoff run came to an end for Port Neches Groves on Friday night when the 13-3 Indians fell 34-24 to South Oak Cliff, as the Bears claimed their second straight state title.

Port Neches-Grove led 19-12 at halftime, but South Oak Cliff scored 22 points in the second half to come away with the victory.

We played well in the first half, but we let them convert on a third and 18 and things started to shift from there," Jeff Joseph said after the game. "That was a real turning point momentum wise in the football game, and then in the second half not a ton

See **JOSEPH**, page B5



Texans falter late again in overtime loss to Chiefs

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

The Texans almost did enough once again. Almost.

Houston put together a strong gameplan and a good game against a great team. They forced turnovers and Davis Mills looked

But once again, the Texans came up just short.

Houston held a fourth quarter lead for the fifth time this season, but fell to the Kansas City Chiefs, losing 30-24 in overtime to fall to 1-12-1 after the Texans offense did not do enough to win despite a strong game from the defense.

'We had a chance to win for the second straight week and for the second straight week we just couldn't finish it out and grab it," said Texans head coach Lovie Smith. "We've played two teams that have a chance to win it all the past couple weeks and it kind of shows us what we can do and what we can be. We had guys step up today and there's some positives to take. The guys fought and that's what I expect. But you have to finish games."

The Texans' defense came out and held strong in the first quarter despite being undermanned, holding Kansas City to just 25 yards over the team's first two drives.

The Texans' offense took advantage of the strong defensive start by going on an 11-play 80-yard drive in which they drove the field and milked the clock before Davis Mills hit Teagan Quitoraino on an 8-yard pass for a touchdown to give Houston the lead.

The Chiefs responded right back to tie things though, going on a 7-play 75 yard drive before Patrick Mahomes threw a 20-yard touchdown to Jerick McKinnon. The Texans' offense was stalled the next drive and forced to punt, but the defense continued to make plays and Mario Addison forced a fumble that the Texans recovered deep in Kansas City territory with a chance to take a lead.

Houston did just that, as Mills



Houston Texans running back Royce Freeman (26) is tackled on a carry during an NFL game between the Texans and the Chiefs on Dec. 18, 2022, in Houston. The Chiefs won, 30-24, in overtime.

broke contain on a play and waltzed in for a 17-yard rushing touchdown, the longest rushing touchdown of his career as the Texans once again built a touchdown lead. The Texans were driving once again late in the first half, but Smith decided to punt on a fourth-and-one from midfield, giving the Chiefs the ball back with four minutes rremaining. Then Kansas City took advantage of going on a 13-play, 9-yard drive and scoring a touchdown with 14 seconds left in the half on a 4-yard

pass from Mahomes to Maquez Valdez-Scantling, trimming the Texans' lead to 14-13 heading into halftime.

"It's the coaches' decision and I understood it," Mills said. "We had a lead and he wanted to protect it. Obviously there's hindsight and they went down the field and scored but we had a good punt and pinned them back."

The Chiefs got the ball first out of the half and immediately went down to take the lead on a 27-yard field goal and Houston was not

able to respond, going 3-and-out and punting on its first possession of the half.

But once again, the Texans' defense made up for a lackluster offensive drive. Tremon Smith stopped a Chiefs drive by forcing and recovering a fumble by Juju Smith-Schuster and giving the Houston offense the ball back in Kansas City territory. Mills then took the team on a 7-play drive that culminated with his third touchdown of the day, a 12-yard pass to Jordan Akins, giving the

Texans a 21-16 lead late in the third quarter.

"Our quarterbacks allowed us to stay right there in the game with one of the best teams in football," Smith said. "The quarterback play gave us an opportunity and that's what they needed to do. That's been talked a lot about but we need to make improvements in a lot of areas."

After falling behind though, the Chiefs had an answer once again. Mahomes led the team on a 9-play, 84-yard drive before running in a 5-yard touchdown and converting on a 2-point conversion to take a 3-point lead.

The Texans' offense came back with a good drive of their own, but the Chiefs held strong in the redzone to force Houston into a 29-yard field goal, tying things up with five minutes remaining in the game. Mahomes tried to respond, driving the Chiefs into field goal range before Harrison Butker missed what would have been a 51-yard game winning field goal.

The Chiefs got the ball first to start overtime and were forced into a punt. But Davis Mills fumbled the ball on the first play of the Texans' overtime drive, giving the ball back to the Chiefs in field goal range. But the Chiefs did not even need that, as McKinnon took a handoff 26 yards for a touchdown to end the game.

It was yet another game Houston had a chance to win yet couldn't finish and that is the biggest things that Smith knows they have to work on the rest of the vear and fix.

Houston has a short week and will take on the Titans next Saturday in an away matchup.

"We keep giving ourselves a chance to win but we haven't finished a game offensively," Smith said. "We put ourselves in good positions through the game — the team played well, but at the end we just couldn't finish and that's what we need to be better with. We have to take that next step."





Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) scores on a a 17-yard touchdown carry during an NFL game between the Texans and the Chiefs on Dec. 18, 2022, in Houston. The Chiefs won, 30-24, in overtime.





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THE KATY TIMES R3

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

#12 Gavin Rutherford Cinco Ranch

PLAYER OF THE YEAR #23 Seth Davis - Katy

#10 Wyatt Young - Tompkins #3 Santana Scott - Morton Ranch

ALL DISTRICT TEAM

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

#7 Johnathan Hall - Katy #1 Caleb Komolafe - Tompkins #0 David Hicks Jr. - Paetow

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR #97 Adam Carter - Katy

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

#3 Andrew Marsh - Jordan 19-6A COACH

Katy

M. Ranch

OF THE YEAR Gary Joseph - Katy High School

2023 DISTRICT 19-6A ALL DISTRICT TEAM

OFFENSIV	E LI	NEMEN		
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
U - 1st T	75	Ashton Funk	Jr	Tompkins
U - 1st T	74	Zach Session	Sr	M. Ranch
1st Team	77	Isaiah Ybarra	Sr	Katy
1st Team	69	Jason Clarks	Sr	Katy
1st Team	78	Coen Echols	Jr	Katy
2nd Team	76	Chris Ageh	Sr	Tompkins
2nd Team	64	Jamill Lindsey	Sr	M. Ranch
2nd Team	75	Patrick McMath	Soph	Katy
2nd Team	65	Ennes Ismail	Sr	Tompkins
2nd Team	66	Qazi Jan	Sr	C. Ranch
3rd Team	66	Teagan Marroquin	Sr	Jordan
3rd Team	65	Alan Ramirez	Jr	C. Ranch
3rd Team	60	Kyle Jones	Sr	Tompkins
3rd Team	65	Carl Broussard	Jr	Paetow
3rd Team	77	Nicholas Rial	Sr	M. Ranch
3rd Team	62	Nick Lira	Sr.	Paetow
CENTED				

CENTER					
RANK	#	Name	Class	School	
1st Team	58	Jacob Egg	Sr	Katy	
2nd Team	70	Pedro Da Silva	Sr	Tompkins	
3rd Team	75	Adrian Covarrub	ias Sr	M. Ranch	
RUNNING BACKS					

RUNNING	BAG	CKS		
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
U - 1st T	3	Santana Scott	Sr	M. Ranch
U - 1st T	23	Seth Davis	Sr	Katy
1st Team	1	Caleb Komolafe	Sr	Tompkins
2nd Team	7	Sam McKnight	Sr	C. Ranch
2nd Team	21	Caleb Blocker	Jr	Tompkins
2nd Team	18	Dallas Glass	Sr	Katy
3rd Team	2	Chad Gasper	Soph	Jordan
3rd Team	2	DJ Johnson	Sr	Paetow
3rd Team	17	Eric Eckstrom	Sr	C. Ranch
EIIII DACK	,			

(
#	Name	Class	School
28	Ryan Hall	Jr	M. Ranch
8	Chase Johnsey	Jr	Katy
41	Colten Michalec	Sr	C. Ranch
	# 28 8	# Name 28 Ryan Hall 8 Chase Johnsey	# Name Class 28 Ryan Hall Jr

EIVE	RS		
#	Name	Class	School
3	Seth Salverino	Sr	C. Ranch
3	Andrew Marsh	Soph	Jordan
19	Noah Abboud	Sr	C. Ranch
2	Mike Gerald	Jr	M. Ranch
1	Zechariah Sample	Jr	Jordan
4	Matthew Ogunrin	Sr	Tompkins
2	Beau Bankston	Sr	MCHS
13	Fischer Reed	Sr	C. Ranch
6	Marcel Davis	Sr	Seven
	# 3 3 19 2 1 4 2 13	 3 Seth Salverino 3 Andrew Marsh 19 Noah Abboud 2 Mike Gerald 1 Zechariah Sample 4 Matthew Ogunrin 2 Beau Bankston 13 Fischer Reed 	#NameClass3Seth SalverinoSr3Andrew MarshSoph19Noah AbboudSr2Mike GeraldJr4Zechariah SampleJr4Matthew OgunrinSr2Beau BankstonSr13Fischer ReedSr

QUARTERI	BAC	<u>K</u>		
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
U - 1st T	12	Gavin Rutherford	Sr	C. Ranch
2nd Team	9	Josh Johnson	Sr	M. Ranch
3rd Team	8	Colin Willetts	Jr	Jordan

TIGHT ENI	2			
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
1st Team	84	Luke Carter	Jr	Katy
2nd Team	0	Rhys Phillips	Jr	Tompkins
3rd Team	85	Landon Ross	Sr	Seven
				Lakes

ALL PURP	OSE	PLAYER OFFENSE		
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
1st Team	10	Wyatt Young	Jr	Tompkins
2nd Team	3	Santana Scott	Sr	M. Ranch
3rd Team	7	Sam McKnight	Sr	C Ranch

Tompkins' Wyatt Young runs during a game	
between Tompkins and Paetow at Rhodes Stadium.	
MARK GOODMAN SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES	

PUNTER				
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
1st Team	97	Adam Carter	Soph	Katy
2nd Team	84	Erben Birkoff	Soph	Tompkins
3rd Team	13	Jackson Waller	Jr	Taylor

2nd Team	18	Name Andrew Horner Santiago Taborda Jake Kilander	Sr	School Tompkins C. Ranch Jordan
RETURN S	PEC	IALIST		
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
1st Team	3	Seth Salverino	Sr	C. Ranch

RANK	#	Name	Class	School
1st Team	13	Fischer Reed	Sr	C. Ranch
2nd Team	84	Luke Carter	Jr	Katy
3rd Team	50	Brady Downs	Jr	Taylor

2nd Team 20 Micah Koenig

3rd Team 3 Santana Scott

RANK	#	Name	Class	School
U - 1st T	0	David Hicks Jr.	Sr	Paetow
1st Team	91	Easton Schultz	Sr	Katy
1st Team	93	Broderick Johnson	Sr	Katy
1st Team	44	Tosin Odulate	Sr	Jordan
2nd Team	20	Eduwa Okundaye	Jr	Tompkins
2nd Team	52	Jarra Anderson	Sr	Paetow
2nd Team	94	Jamall Lindsey	Sr	M. Ranch
2nd Team	99	Emmanuel Lawton	Sr	Tompkins
3rd Team	94	Tyler Willis	Jr	Katy
3rd Team	19	Rotimi Olayinka	Jr	Tompkins
3rd Team	92	Emmanuel Ekuma	Sr	M. Ranch
3rd Team	9	Logan Thomas	Jr	Paetow
3rd Team	90	Ashton Coker	Jr	Taylor

LINEBACKERS													
RANK	#	Name	Class	School									
1st Team	46	Alex Kilgore	Sr	Paetow									
1st Team	45	Blake Geiman	Sr	Katy									
1st Team	3	Daymion Sanford	Sr	Paetow									
1st Team	33	Damian Neveaux	Sr	Katy									
2nd Team	35	Griffin Simonton	Sr	Tompkins									
2nd Team	44	Connor Johnsey	Jr	Katy									
2nd Team	23	Donovan McKey	Sr	MCHS									
2nd Team	20	Dean Ford	Jr	M. Ranch									
3rd Team	9	Dakyus Brinkley	Jr	Seven									
				Lakes									
3rd Team	39	Braden Williams	Sr	C. Ranch									
3rd Team	7	Colbie Pullin	Sr	M. Ranch									
3rd Team	11	Hunter Boudreaux	Jr	Tompkins									

SECONDA	RY			
RANK	#	Name	Class	School
U - 1st T	7	Johnathan Hall	Sr	Katy
1st Team	1	Caleb Komolafe	Sr	Tompkins
1st Team	0	Micah Sweat	Sr	Katy
1st Team	6	Arian Parish	Sr	Katy
1st Team	5	Jhase McMillian	Jr	Tompkins
2nd Team	1	Taytum Johnson	Jr	C. Ranch
2nd Team	7	Cullen Johnson	Sr	Paetow
2nd Team	8	Cyrus Reyes	Jr	Taylor
2nd Team	1	Zechariah Sample	Jr	Jordan
2nd Team	4	Deyjon Pettaway	Soph	Paetow
3rd Team	5	Christian Hurd	Sr	Paetow
3rd Team	3	Cody Chapman	Sr	Tompkins
3rd Team	0	Zion Jones	Soph	Jordan
3rd Team	2	Superior Hill	Soph	C. Ranch
3rd Team	11	Evan Tymon	Sr	Tompkins

1st Team	1	Caleh Komolafe	Sr	Tompkins
RANK	#	Nam	Class	School
ALL PURP	<u>OSE</u>	PLAYER DEFENSE		
3rd Team	11	Evan Tymon	Sr	Tompkins
3rd Team	2	Superior Hill	Soph	C. Ranch
3rd Team	0	Zion Jones	Soph	Jordan
3rd Team	3	Cody Chapman	Sr	Tompkins
ora ream	5	Christian nuru	31	Paelow

Paetow

2nd Team 3 Daymion Sanford Sr

3rd Team 9 Jed Olotu-Judah Jr



DISTRICT

from page B1

Katy's Seth Davis, Tompkins' Wyatt Young and Morton Ranch's Santana Scott shared the offensive player of the year's honors, after each of the three helped lead their teams to the playoffs.

Katy's Davis helped lead Katy to a state semifinal appearance for the second straight season and ended the year with over 2000 yards rushing and 31 touchdowns. Davis averaged over 150 yards per game while becoming the Katy and Katy ISD all-time leading rusher.

Tompkins' Wyatt Young started the year as a wide receiver and running back, but switched to quarterback after four games and had a big season helping lead the Falcons to the playoffs. Young finished the season with 685 yards passing to go with seven touchdowns and no interceptions, while rushing for 565 yards and 10 touchdowns and catching 13 passes for 157 yards and two touchdowns.

Santana Scott was a major force in Morton Ranch ending a six-year playoff drought and continued to be one of the biggest offensive threats in the district during his senior season. Scott finished the season with 1,444 yards and 14 touchdowns, going over 100 yards on the ground in nine games and averaging 7.6 yards per carry. Scott also added 210 receiving yards on 16 catches to go with three touchdowns on the year, while the Mavericks clinched a playoff spot in the last district game of the year and put up a fight in their bi-district round game.

On the defensive side of the ball, Katy's Johnathan Hall, Tompkins' Caleb Komolafe and Paetow's DJ Hicks Jr. were all named defensive players of the year in the district.

Hall helped Katy get back to state semifinal while making big plays including a game sealing interception vs. C.E. King in the playoffs and was huge for the Tigers in both the pass and run game.

Komolafe was a Swiss Army knife for the Falcons and was huge at the safety position. Komolafe played both sides of the ball and was also a very valuable running back but was the leader of the Falcons' defense as they made it back to the playoffs.

Hicks was maybe the biggest singular



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy head coach Gary Joseph during the Class 6A-DII state semifinal football game between Katy and Vandegrift on Dec. 10, 2022 in San Antonio.

defensive force in the district on defense. He contributed to a highly successful Paetow defense that kept its team in games and improved throughout the season.

Katy punter and kickoff man Adam Carter was named the special teams player of the year after a huge sophomore season in which he was one of the biggest legs in the district. Katy's Gary Joseph was named coach of the year after leading the Tigers to a 14-1 record, a district title and a state semifinal appearance.

Jordan's Andrew Marsh was named the district's newcomer of the year. In his sophomore season, Marsh caught 53 passes for 845 yards in 10 games to go with 11 touchdowns. Averaging over 84 yards per game receiving despite being regularly double teamed and being the focal point of opposing defensive

At left is the full District 19-6A all-district teams.





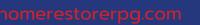
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PUBLIC NOTICE - WALLER

COUNTY - TEXAS COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

MITIGATION METHOD

OF DISTRIBUTION

(CDBG-MIT MOD)

The County of Waller will submit two CDBG-MIT MOD

applications for a total of \$8,774,400 funds for county-wide

planning, water improvements located in Prairie View,

and drainage improvements located in the south part of

the County related to declared disaster events to the

General Land Office (GLO) CDBG-MIT MOD Program.

Applications will be available for review on and after

12/22/22 at the County Courthouse at 836 Austin St.,

AVISO PUBLICO - LA CONDADO

DE WALLER - TEXAS MÉTODO

DE DISTRIBUCIÓN DE

Hempstead TX 77445 during regular business hours.

PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

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

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of

sidewalk, planting space and irrigation infrastructure

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage On-premises Permit by 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.**

NOTICE

THE MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2022, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, HAS BEEN CANCELLED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

> By Order Of Mayor And City Council City Of Katy, Texas October 10, 2022

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 3066 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON DECEMBER 12, 2022:

NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS AMENDING THE **ZONING ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 621;** AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2987 "KATY **PLANNED** DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT; FOR THE ADDITION OF APPROXIMATELY 189.5 ACRES OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE "KATY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF \$2,000 FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

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900 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

900 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

45th Annual Gavitheman Bull & Female Sale January 21, 2023 • 12:00 Noon El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, TX 100 BULLS • 250 FEMALES www.cattlemansale.com Adrian Knight Kelly Conley Colt Adams TX Lic #11102 TX Lic #9558 TX Lic #17836 903-452-7591 903-850-3449 361-920-1618

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DC Cherry Blossom Tour: Home games at Washington Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 2023 Red Sox.

Nationals, NY Yankees & Boston

East Coast Tour: Home games at Yankees, Red Sox, Orioles, Phillies, Nationals, Aug. 18-27, 2023 Mets & Little League World Series.

Tours include additional sightseeing, motor coach transportation and quality hotels/game tickets.

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Costa Rica 9 Day Tour \$995 with All Meals, All Hotels, All Activities.

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experienced travelers. 1-800-CARAVAN Caravan.com

Choose a Guided Tour+tax, fees 9 days \$**995** Costa Rica 8 days \$995 \$995 Guatemala 8 days Mexico

9 days \$**995** - Ancient Civ. 8 days \$1295 - Copper Canyon

Costa Rica \$995 - 9 Day Tour, with all meals, all

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financing, 5% down. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com,

AUCTION

Public Farm Auction - Wed., Dec 28, on site and online, starts at 9:58 a.m., 5254 N 595 Rd, Proctor, OK 74457. Tractors, trailers, hay equipment, 500+ bales of hay, cattle equipment, farm implements, beehives, overhead feed bins, creep feeders, and more. For more info & pictures, visit chuppsauction.com, 918-630-0495.

Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental 45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale 12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, www.dental50plus.com/txpress #6258

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The above-described construction will be performed

be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

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.

TO ALL INTERESTED

Notice by Publication of an Amendment of an Existing Permit

Enstor Katy Storage and Transportation, L.P. (10375 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77042) is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for an amendment to an existing gas storage reservoir permit. The applicant is storing natural gas in the Yegua Formation, Fulshear (Hillebrenner) Field, KST Katy Lease, amending Well Nos. 3, 8A, and 12. The Facility is located 2 miles in the southeast direction from Katy, in the Fulshear (Hillebrenner) Field, in Fort Bend County. The gas storage reservoir is located in the subsurface depth interval from 6872 feet to 7699 feet. The request in this application is to amend the permit removing the temporary exceptions granted grated by the RRC on Well Nos. 8A and 12. The temporary exceptions were granted regarding minimum packer depths on the referenced Injection wells. With the amended permit, the No. 8A well will be reclassified as an Observation well. The packer on the No. 12 well was lowered during a workover and now complies with the packer depth restrictions in the original permit. Enstor is not seeking to increase the size of the gas storage facility or to change the location of any surface facilities. A copy of all materials submitted by the applicant is available for public inspection at the Railroad Commission of Texas office at 1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, Texas 78701.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for more information about the application may be made to: Injection-Storage Permits Unit, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711, (Telephone 512/463-6792). Persons who can show they may be adversely affected by the amended existing gas storage reservoir may request a public hearing on the application. Such request must be received in writing within fifteen days of the last date of publication of this notice. Requests for hearing should be sent to the Environmental Services Section at the address

December 8 Puzzle Answers

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MITIGACIÓN SUBVENCION EN BLOQUE PARA EL DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO (MIT-MOD) El condado de Waller presentará dos solicitudes

CDBG-MIT MOD para \$8,774,400 de fondos para planificación en todo el condado, mejoras de agua ubicadas en Prairie View y mejoras de drenaje ubicadas en la parte sur del condado en áreas relacionadas a eventos de desastres declarados al programa CDBG-MIT MOD de la Oficina General de Terreno (GLO). Las solicitudes estarán disponibles.

PUBLIC NOTICE - REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS -**DEMOLITION SERVICES** WALLER COUNTY, TX

Waller County has received a Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) from the General Land Office to purchase homes affected by flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Waller County is seeking to contract with multiple qualified demolition contractors (individual/ firm) to assist in demolishing 4 to 8 homes to provide relief for survivors affected by repetitive flooding. These homes are located in Waller County. This service is for the County's grant #20-066-011-C074, which will use federal funds to acquire these properties. Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, 836 Austin St., Suite 221, Hempstead, TX 77445 and email to tyler@grantworks.net. Proposals shall be received by the County no later than 2pm on Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, which is at least ten (10) days after this publication. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals of firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, HUB, Labor Surplus, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity

AVISO PUBLICO - SOLICITUD **DE CALIFICACIONES -**SERVICIOS DE DEMOLICIÓN CONDADO DE WALLER, TX

El condado de Waller recibió una subvención en bloque para el desarrollo comunitario - recuperación ante desastres (CDBG-DR) de la Oficina General de Tierras para comprar viviendas afectadas por las inundaciones del huracán Harvey. El condado de Waller busca contratar a varios contratistas de demolición calificados (individuales/empresas) para ayudar en la demolición de 4 a 8 casas para brindar alivio a los sobrevivientes afectados por inundaciones repetitivas. Estas casas están ubicadas en del condado de Waller. Este servicio es para la subvención del Condado #20-066-011-C074, que utilizará fondos federales para adquirir estas propiedades. Envíe su propuesta de servicios y una declaración de calificaciones para los servicios propuestos a la siguiente dirección: Waller County, Attn: Alan Younts, condedo de Waller auditor, 836 Austin St, Hempstead, TX 77445 y email to tyler@grantworks.net. El Condado deberá recibir las propuestas a más tardar a las 2 p. m. del 18 de enero de 2023, que es al menos diez (10) días después de esta publicación. El Condado se reserva el derecho de negociar con todas y cada una de las personas de las empresas que presenten propuestas, según la Ley de Adquisición de Servicios Profesionales de Texas y las Normas Uniformes de Gestión de Contratos y Subvenciones. Sección 3 Se alienta a los residentes y empresas comerciales, HUB, mano de obra excedente, empresas comerciales de minorías, empresas comerciales pequeñas y empresas comerciales de mujeres a presentar propuestas. El condado de Waller es un empleador de acción afirmativa/igualdad de oportunidades.

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McPherson inducted to **GHBCA Hall of Honor**

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Former Katy head baseball coach Tom McPherson was inducted into the Greater Houston **Baseball Coaches** Association Hall of Honor on Thursday.

McPherson retired this spring after leading the Tigers to a regional semifinal appearance. He coached for 45 years and was the head coach for Katy from 1987-2022, the final 34 years of his

During that time, McPherson became the all time winningest coach in Class 6A Texas high school baseball during his time at Katy. He finished his career with 891 wins over the course of his time at Katy, Canyon, Levelland and Johnson City while he also spent time at Texas Tech and Hardin Simmons. McPherson ended his career with two state tournament appearances and a number of district championships

Joining McPherson as 2022 inductees were



Former Katy head coach Tom McPherson was inducted into the GHBCA Hall of Honor on Thursday.

Langham Creek head coach Armando Sedano, former Bellaire head coach Rocky

Manuel and former Elkins and Prosper coach Rick Carpenter.



Port Neches-Groves head coach Jeff Joseph during the Class 5A Division II football state championship game between South Oak Cliff and Port Neches-Groves in Arlington, Texas, on Dec. 16, 2022.

JOSEPH

from page B1

changed, we were able to run the ball some in the second half but it wasn't consistently. We couldn't get anything going down the field in the passing game either and I thought that was the difference."

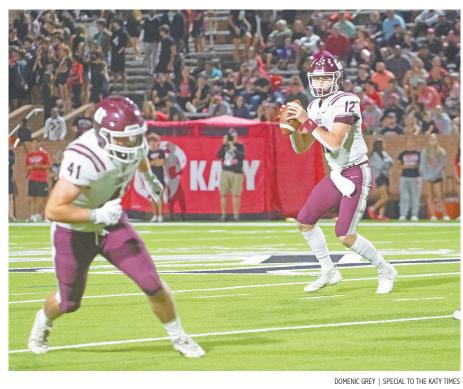
It was a very strong season for Port Neches-Groves as Joseph led the team to their first state title game since 1999 in his first year as head coach at the program.

Joseph brought a strong defensive background with him along from his time as a player at Katy and his time as an assistant at Texas A&M, Magnolia West, Austin Westlake and Southlake Carroll. He also brought two coaches from the Katy coaching tree to Port

Neches-Groves with him in Matt McDaniel and Tony Bradley. That defensive approach showed throughout the season as the Indians held nine different teams to under 20 points, including three playoff opponents.

And while the Indians may have lost Friday night, Jeff Joseph knows how much an experience like this means to a program and knows how much the season meant to a Port Neches community that — like Katy - comes together and supports their home town high school team.

"Our town loves reminiscing about old teams like this," Joseph said. "These guys are going o be one of those teams for a long time."



Cinco Ranch's Gavin Rutherford looks to pass during Friday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at Rhodes Stadium.



Katy's Jonathan Hall recovers a fumble during Friday's Class 6A-Divison II Region III Semifinal at Turner Stadium.

DAVIS

from page B1

son for the top mark in a Tigers uniform. Davis, a Mississippi State commit, has continued to add to his resume before leaving for Starkville Ms. He was named the offensive player of the year over a number of finalists that included Cinco Ranch's Gavin Rutherford.

North Shore defensive lineman Elijah Fields was named defensive player of the year after helping lead the team back to a Class 6A-Division I state championship game. He beat out a number of finalists for the award that included Katy senior safety Johnathan Hall and Paetow defensive lineman D.J. Hicks Jr.

Westfield's Matt Meekins was named coach of the year after leading the Mustangs to a 12-2 record and a 7-0 record in District 14-6A. Meekins beat out Cinco Ranch's Chris Dudley for the award, as the Cinco Ranch head coach was a finalist.



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Houston's Dell named AP All-American

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

University of Houston junior Nathaniel Dell was named an Associated Press All-American after helping lead the Cougars

The Cougars finished with a 7-5 record and went 5-3 in American Athletic Conference play, while securing a bowl game berth.

Dell was a force all season, and over the course of 12 games caught 103 passes for 1354 yards and 15 touchdowns. He also was a big presence in the punt game, as he returned nine punts for 153 total yards and a touchdown. He was the no. 1 player in receptions and receiving yards for the second straight season in the AAC and moved into sixth all time in receiving yards and seventh all time

in receptions in conference history over the course of this year.

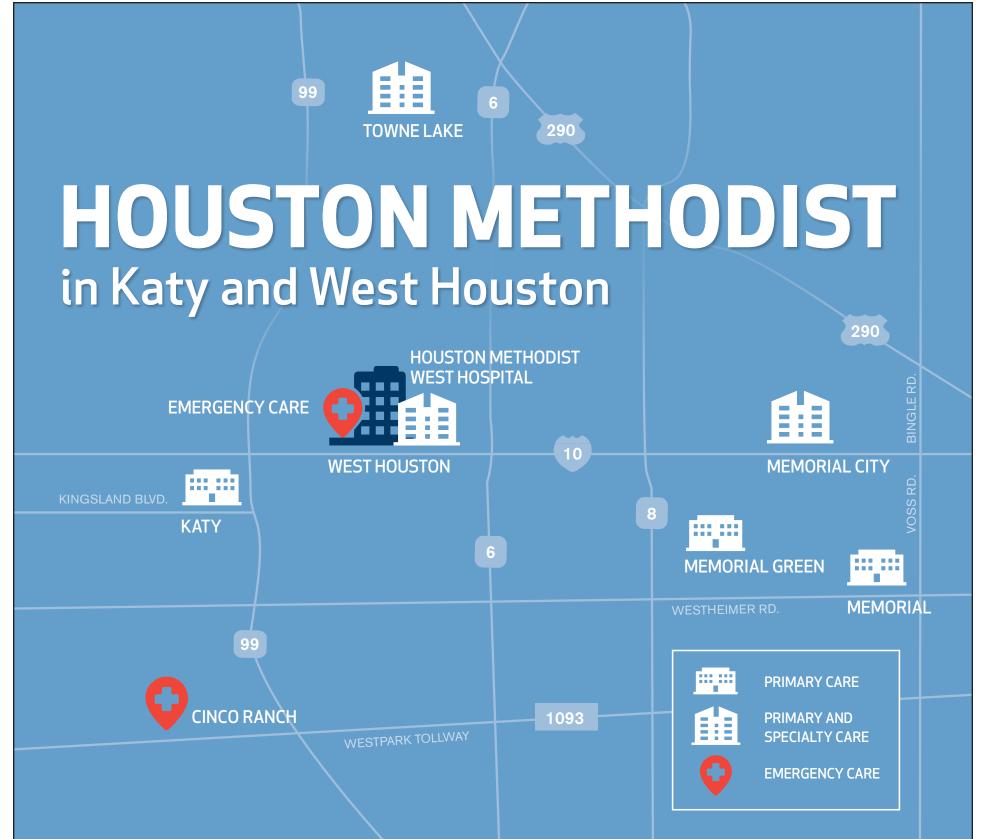
Dell was named to the third team of the AP All-American team, being beaten out by Purdue's Charlie Jones and SMU's Rashee Rice for the second team and Ohio States' Marvin Harrison Jr. and Tennessee's Jalin Hyatt for the first team.

Dell announced after the regular season that he would forgoe his senior year of eligibility and enter the NFL draft this year, but he does intend to participate in the University of Houston's bowl game.

Houston Cougars wide receiver Nathaniel Dell (1) scores on a 48-yard touchdown reception during an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEM





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