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SPORTS | A7

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

Discrimination complaint filed against Katy ISD

SEAT complaint concerns district's transgender policy

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT), a student-led movement demonstrating youth visibility in edu-

cational policymaking, filed a formal complaint of discrimination on November 13th with the U.S. Department of Education regarding a comprehensive anti-transgender policy passed by the Katy Independent School District's Board of Trustees in August, according to a press release posted on the organization's website.
The Katy Times reached out to Katy

ISD for commentary but, due to the holiday closure of the district offices, a response was not received by press time.
The complaint, delivered to the federal department's Office of Civil Rights, challenges the policy's adverse impact on transgender students, asserting violation of Title IX rights with Gender Identity discrimination and perpet-

uating harmful sex stereotypes and heteronormative gender roles.
In accordance with the policy, Katy ISD evidently outed at least 19 students to their parents, as reported by a Public Information Request by the independent news organization Houston Landing, said the press



CAMERON SAMUELS

See **COMPLAINT**, page A3

NEW BUSINESSES OPEN IN OLD KATY

New coffeehouse now open in old Katy

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Humble Grounds Coffeehouse, which has had a location at 11525 S. Fry Rd. in Fulshear since 2020, has added a second location, now in old Katy at 1512 Avenue C. Owners Becca and Garrett Speed remodeled the Katy location inside and out before opening the shop in early December. The pair are strong supporters of the Fulshear

See **COFFEE**, page A3



Humble Grounds Coffeehouse at 1512 Avenue C is now open daily for breakfast and lunch.



COURTESY OF CAROLINE COSTLEY

Caroline Costley has expanded her salon with a kids' room where children can play while parents have their hair styled by her experienced team.

Live Oak Salon expands to offer kids' room

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Experienced stylist Caroline Costley has expanded Live Oak Salon at 5803 Second St. Ste.#1&2 in Katy with a room designed especially for the children of her patrons. The new addition opened right before Thanksgiving.
"I have been doing hair for 14 years," said Costley. "I found a suite for rent in this charming little house in Old Katy Townsquare five years ago. It had a perfect amount of space for me to cut hair and to have a separate room

See **SALON**, page A3

Woodforest National Bank opens third H-E-B branch

New in-store branch in H-E-B in Katy adds to over 760 branches in 17 states nationwide, with 90 in the Greater Houston area

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Woodforest National Bank® (Woodforest) has recently opened its third H-E-B retail branch, located at 1621 Mason Rd. at Highland Knolls in Katy, the company announced on December 20th. The nearly 600-square-foot, in-store branch offers full-service banking with a staffed lobby and ATM services for H-E-B shoppers and area consumers.
The new Katy branch complements two other in-store H-E-B branches Woodforest opened in Conroe and Magnolia in 2022.
Woodforest, which is headquartered in Montgomery County, TX, has 767 branches across 17 states in the U.S., with 90 branches

See **BANK**, page A3



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

TxDOT wants everyone home safe for the holidays

Department urges Texans to find a sober ride during the holidays

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

AUSTIN - The holiday season is officially underway, with lots of office parties, neighborhood open houses and family dinners. For the friends and families of the 1,246 people killed last year in Texas by drunk drivers, the holidays this year (and for many years to come) will be a time of grief and sadness.
Starting Dec. 1, 2022, there were 108 people killed and 229 people seriously injured in just 32 days in DUI-alcohol related crashes across the state. All of these families suffered painful memories that will last a lifetime.
"Don't turn your holiday event into a life-changing tragedy by drinking and driving," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "A safe and sober ride should be at the top of

See **DRIVING**, page A3

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METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Donations of art materials needed for libraries' community art swap

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

To encourage creativity and reduce waste through reusing and repurposing, Fort Bend County Libraries' Cinco Ranch Branch Library will have a Community Art Swap on Saturday, January 27th, in the Meeting Room of the library, located

at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy. Between January 2nd and 20th, 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

See **ART**, page A3

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Fort Bend County West Lions Club seeking new members

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy-based Fort Bend County West Lions Club is seeking service-minded individuals to join them in making a difference in the community. Around the world, Lions are serving their neighborhoods and beyond while focusing on the global causes: helping humanity, ending hunger, battling pediatric cancer, protecting the environment, serving youth, defeating diabetes, saving vision, and relieving disaster.

"Our club inspires members to advance worthy causes, serve with friends, and become leaders in the community. This club means a lot to our Lions, but it means so much more to the people we serve," said Rev. David Greene, the club's president.

The group's upcoming projects include:

- Cleaning and hygiene supplies drive

for Hope Impacts, a Katy-area nonprofit that helps the homeless. Cleaning supplies, soap, laundry detergent, deodorants, shampoos and other cleaning or hygiene supplies may be dropped off at Anodyne Pain and Health Group on Saturday, January 13th from 3 to 6 p.m. at 23519 at Katy Freeway, Katy.

- Food drive for Hope Impacts. Donate unexpired canned goods, boxed mixes, boxed and canned milk and non-perishable foods on Saturday, February 10th from 3 to 6 p.m. at Anodyne Pain and Health Group, 23519 at Katy Freeway, Katy.

"We want to share the impact we're making in the community, and let others know how they can help," said Raevyn Adams, the club's vice president.

The Lions International motto is "We Serve," and the club has lived up to it, said

Greene. For over 51 years, the Lions in Katy have served through scholarships, vision assistance, environmental cleanups, food collecting, toy drives, disaster recovery initiatives after catastrophic weather events, and partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, he said.

The club also hosts monthly community seminars on the third Wednesday of each month at Park Place at the Boardwalk, 25551 Kingsland Blvd C102 in Katy, starting at 7 p.m. Greene encourages the public to come out and learn more about the club's work. The January 17th meeting will feature:

- Mia Williams of DM Clinical Research speaking on consumer and clinical research
- Lisa Modglin of MESA Outreach sharing the food bank and community center's needs
- Judge Mike Englehardt speaking about

the 151st Civil District Court and civil disputes.

To learn more about the club, its monthly seminars held by the Fort Bend Lions, and its service projects, contact Rev. David Greene, President & Executive Director - Fort Bend County West Lions Club. DGreene@beagreatlion.org (713) 714-6789.

Lions International is the largest service organization in the world. Its 1.4 million members in more than 49,000 clubs serve communities in over 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information about the local chapter of Lions International, visit beagreatlion.org.

DICK'S House of Sport hosts multiple events benefitting local charities



PHOTO COURTESY DICK'S HOUSE OF SPORT

Members of the Harris County Sheriff's office assisted children from the local nonprofit, Katy Cares, in a holiday shopping spree at DICK'S House of Sport in Katy on December 20th.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy location of DICK'S House of Sport brought guests from all over the world — including the North Pole — to put smiles on the faces of deserving children in the greater Katy area during December.

On December 16th the store's Winter Festival created day of festive delight and family-friendly activities, all completely free including an electrical indoor train ride, holiday themed games, a scavenger hunt to win a Yeti Cooler, face painting, ornament craft building, an opportunity to discover new local businesses among local vendors and enjoy a warm cup of hot cocoa. Donations benefitted The Hangar in Brookshire.

Houston native and Chicago Cubs pitcher Hayden Wesneski joined eleven children from Lamar Little League for a holiday shopping event at the DICK'S House of Sport in Katy on December 19th.

Wesneski was joined by Gabe Klobisits, who made his major league debut with the Washington Nationals and is now with the Toronto Blue Jays.

The surprise event provided each child with a \$150 gift card as they spent time shopping with Wesneski, who served as the



PHOTO COURTESY DICK'S HOUSE OF SPORT

Gabe Klobisits (left) who made his major league debut with the Washington Nationals and is now with the Toronto Blue Jays, joined Houston native and Chicago Cubs pitcher Hayden Wesneski for an autograph session at DICK'S House of Sport in Katy on December 19th. The pair helped eleven local youth with a holiday shopping spree at the store.

children's personal shopping consultant for the afternoon.

The event, which was not open to the public, included a meet-and-greet, a Q&A session, a photo opportunity with these professionals, as well as the chance to

obtain their autographs.

DICK'S House of Sport also hosted its first "Shop with a Cop" event in partnership with the Harris County Sheriff's Office on December 20th. The Harris County Sheriff's Office joined forces with the retailer to provide ten deserving children from Katy Cares, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting underprivileged youth of single parents with a special holiday experience. Participants had the unique opportunity to explore the store and engage in various store activities, including a Rock Wall and a Multi-Sport Cage. DICK'S House of Sport provided \$100 per child for a shopping spree at the Katy location, ensuring each child could pick out items that bring them joy.

Additionally, each child received a goodie bag filled with exclusive DICK'S House of Sport branded swag. The store also gave the Harris County Sheriff's Office two bags filled with sports balls for the organization's Police Athletic Activities League, or PAL, program. To add to the festive atmosphere, Home Run Dugout provided food and beverages for all participants.

DICK'S House of Sport is located at 24600 Katy Fwy, Suite 1100 in Katy.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Our thanks and best wishes to all of you!

Katy Times

will be closed on Monday, January 1.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- A way to injure
- Mutual savings bank
- Rock TV channel
- Large number of fish swimming together
- Military mailbox
- Female of a horse
- Category
- City
- Breeded through
- Officer who bears a mace
- Tax collector
- "Cheers" actress Perlman
- Pauses before acting
- Extracted information from a wave
- Tendency to revert to something ancestral
- No seats available
- Nocturnal rodents
- Moves gently to and fro
- Not good
- A way to ready
- One who makes something better
- Things associated with American history
- Ancient Phoenician fertility god
- A continuous portion of a circle
- Volcanic craters
- Units of electrical resistance

CLUES DOWN

- "The world's most famous arena"
- Polite interruption sound
- Private school in New York
- Refuse of grapes
- ___ Tomei, actress
- Adult beverages
- Supporter
- Papier-___, art material
- Forests have them
- Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- Downwind
- Marketplace
- Flowering plant genus
- Street where nightmares happen
- Admirer
- Dip lightly into water
- When you hope to get there
- Partner to cheese
- Egg
- A way to disqualify
- South American plant

CLUES ACROSS

- Gamble on
- Ethiopian town
- One point east of northeast
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- State of fuss
- Keyboard key
- Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

- Fold-away bed
- Debbie Harry album "___ Koo"
- Swoosh
- Swedish krona
- Displaying warmth and friendliness
- Official orders
- Bowling alley necessity
- Stray
- About milk
- Expressed pleasure
- Caribbean dance
- If not
- ___ fide (Latin)
- Swiss river
- Hebrew calendar month
- One easily swindled
- Point that is one point south of southwest
- Small island (British)

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TRIBUTE

Edgar Charles Walton, Jr. passed away on December 5th, 2023, at home following a courageous battle with Parkinson's at the age of 89 with his wife and children by his side. He was a principled man full of faith, humility and generosity and was deeply respected by family and friends and all who knew him.

Born on September 29, 1934, to Edgar Charles Walton, Sr. and Anna Mae Gaudling of Overton, TX, Ed was the eldest of his two loving sisters, Jimmie Compton and Evelyn Rathke. A member of the Corps of Cadets and the Singing Cadets at A&M, Ed graduated with a chemical engineering degree. He was commissioned to serve his country as a pilot in the United States Air Force, training on F-86 Saber Jets and later fought the Cold War flying



EDGAR CHARLES WALTON JR.
1934-2023

B-47 bombers retiring honorably with the rank of Captain.

Ed began his engineering career in the oil and gas industry and then moved his young family to Katy, TX in 1965 where he worked in the Katy Gas plant for Humble Oil & Refining, renamed

Exxon in 1973, from which he ultimately retired. He became active in the community serving as President of the Katy ISD school board, a member of the Rotary Club and as a Deacon, Sunday school teacher and choir member at Katy First Baptist Church. Ed cherished his relationships and celebrated shared milestone birthdays with Kenneth Welch, Griff Robason and Bobby Dorsett.

Exxon moved Ed and his family to the Humble area where he served at Humble First Baptist Church as a Sunday school teacher and choir member. After retiring, he moved to Pearland to be near his son John and wife Debbie. Ed loved boating, traveling and taking cruises together with Kathryn and enjoyed many vacations with friends and family. His greatest joy

was serving the Lord and his family, especially as "Papa" to his two grandson's Jonathan and Michael.

Ed is survived by his devoted wife of 64 years, Kathryn Mae Walton, his 3 sons and daughter Edgar Charles Walton, III (Gay), John Fred Walton (Debbie), Tom Michael Walton (Jesael), Suzanna Mae Chiriboga (Jorge), grandchildren Jonathan Walton Chiriboga and Charles Michael Walton, sisters Jimmie Compton and Evelyn Rathke and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Saturday, January 6th at Pearland United Methodist Church, 2314 N. Grand Blvd. Pearland, TX 77581, beginning at 11 a.m. Doors open at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the charity of your choice.

COMPLAINT

from page A1

release. "This negligent enforcement raises serious concerns about privacy and emotional well-being of transgender students, who should be entitled to a safe and inclusive educational environment equal to that of cisgender peers," the press release continued.

"We used public knowledge as the basis of the complaint because students must be 18+ or obtain parental consent to submit the complaint form, and because of the sensitive nature of this policy, many transgender students without supportive families have had to remain silent," said SEAT Executive Director Cameron Samuels in an email to the Katy Times. "We do encourage and support students/parents statewide in filing their own complaints if they experience discrimination, and from our understanding, we are the first but not the only to file a complaint against Katy ISD's anti-transgender policy in some regard."

Samuels, a graduate of Seven Lakes High School, previously testified before the House Judiciary Committee on the Judiciary for a hearing of the Full Committee on "Book Bans: Examining How Censorship Limits Liberty and Literature" in Washington, D.C., on September 12th.

Katy ISD's policy, passed at the district's August 28 board meeting, prompted resounding community opposition with many individuals, including many students, expressing disapproval during more than four hours of impassioned public comments. Despite opposition, the board narrowly voted 4-3 shortly before midnight.

"I've seen firsthand how this policy has impacted transgender students, such as hostility and tension between students and educators," said Katy ISD sophomore and SEAT organizer Grace Ding. "Creating barriers for students to access support from trusted adults is a setback to progress made over decades."

"SEAT is no stranger to increasing hostility by Katy ISD toward LGBTQ+ students in recent years, including

unprecedented book bans and internet censorship," said the SEAT press release. Amid these challenges, the inaugural Katy Pride brought together over 2,000 attendees at FCC Katy in October, demonstrating the community's commitment to supporting all students, regardless of gender identity. Katy Pride, a nonprofit formed in June 2023, is committed to empowering the LGBTQ+ community in Katy and West Houston by creating inclusive events, advocating for equality, and fostering a supportive community of acceptance and diversity.

Katy Pride President Amanda Rose issued the following statement:

"Katy Pride is founded on the belief that all humans should be valued and celebrated for their authentic selves. Living into our mission of advocacy, education and community, we stand in solidarity with students, parents and community members who experience discrimination as a result of policies that target LGBTQ+ people. Katy Pride continues to hear from students, educators and parents who are distressed by the anti-trans policy. We will continue to connect our Katy community members with resources and support to meet their needs. In the new year Katy Pride will continue to be present at school board meetings, host advocacy and education events such as voter registration and informational events and support Katy ISD LGBTQ+ student organizations. As an organization, our mission is to empower the LGBTQ+ community in Katy and West Houston by hosting inclusive events, advocating for equality, and fostering a supportive culture of acceptance and diversity."

In collaboration with Katy Pride and the ACLU of Texas, SEAT organized a Know Your Rights training for LGBTQ+ students and families in the district in November. The training empowered families with immediate understanding of the policy and direct resources, including SEAT's Student Resource Hub. SEAT and the Katy community have

shown a steadfast commitment to supporting students across all backgrounds and identities, said the SEAT press release. Katy ISD junior Jarred Burton addressed the school board at a November meeting and published an op-ed on Friday in the Houston Chronicle to continue highlighting student experiences. Burton was also interviewed last week by ABC 13 news.

"This policy tries to endanger and erase trans students all under the misleading guise of parental authority and student safety, when it is clearly driven by ignorance and hate," said Burton. "Attempts at mental health awareness mean nothing with policies like this in place attempting to erase queer youth."

In its federal complaint, SEAT seeks a resolution that repeals Katy ISD's policy, provides direct resources to students impacted by the district's enforcement of that policy, establishes professional LGBTQ+ inclusion training for district personnel, and codifies nondiscrimination protections for gender identity.

"We have not received an update yet from the regional Dallas branch of the Office, but we seek a mediation to completely repeal the policy, directly cover costs related to counseling or other support services for students impacted by the policy, establish LGBTQ+ inclusion training for district personnel, and adopt a nondiscrimination statement that protects LGBTQ+ students," said Samuels in the December 19th email to the Katy Times.

"Educators care deeply about their students. I have seen the amount of love they pour into their jobs and into their classes. Now, Katy ISD is forcing them to out their students and put children into potentially dangerous situations," said Katy ISD senior and SEAT organizer Pooja Kalwani. "By enforcing this discriminatory policy, Katy ISD will be intruding on students' free expression and privacy. Our lives are not something to manipulate with narrow beliefs, cis or trans."

DRIVING

from page A1

your list when making plans with family and friends. If not, you risk your job, your life and the lives of others. It's just not worth it."

Drunk driving crashes are completely preventable, yet they can cause physical, emotional and financial consequences that last for years. If you drink any amount of alcohol this holiday season, never get behind the wheel. Instead, designate a sober driver, use a rideshare service or taxi, stay put, call a friend or family member, or use public transportation to ensure you get home safely.

To remind Texans about the serious consequences of drunk driving and to always find a sober ride, TxDOT is bringing a mobile video exhibit across the state in a series of holiday-themed outreach events. Each interactive stop will feature powerful video testimonials from people who have dealt firsthand with the consequences of drunk driving, either as an offender or survivor. These stories and tips on finding a sober ride can be found at <https://www.soberrides.org/media-center/>

To encourage everyone to enjoy the holidays without drinking and driving, TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign will include PSAs on TV, radio, billboards and online, and at bars, restaurants and convenience stores statewide. The campaign runs in support of a heightened law enforcement period from Dec. 16 through Jan. 1, when more officers are on the road looking for drunk drivers.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of August 16, 2023.

ART

from page A1

business hours no later than January 23rd.

Those who bring their unused arts supplies during this period will receive a ticket for special early access (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) to the Community Art Swap on January 27th.

After 2 p.m. on January 28, the event is open to everyone, including those who did not contribute supplies during the donation period. Free art supplies can be claimed by anyone after 2 p.m., while 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 a large amount of money." Said library officials in a press release.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, see Fort Bend County Libraries' website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us) or call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library (281-395-1311).

SALON

from page A1

for my kids to play if they had to come to work with me. As it turned out, my customers loved it too, when they had to come with their kids as well!"

"As my kids grew and our customer base grew, the kids' room became another stylist room and the kids just had a corner of our back room," she said. "We eventually added another part time stylist and the three of us have shared days working in the two stylist rooms. We recently received word that the tenant in the suite next to us was moving out and we were able to break down the wall to connect and expand into the suite next door! This now allows the three of us to each have our own stylist room, and additional rooms to add one or two more stylists and we have our kids room again!"

Costley says that she loves old Katy because of its hometown traditional values. "It is very important to us that we find stylists who are aligned with our values so that we can maintain the warm-hearted, uplifting atmosphere of our salon. Our customers become like family, and we want to provide them the best experience for our customers and our stylists."

The family-friendly salon specializes in highlights, hair color and haircuts for men, women and children. For more information, call 281-619-0174 or to make an appointment, use the booking website:

<https://www.fresha.com/a/live-oak-salon-katy-5803-2nd-street-j4l6onic/booking?menu=true&pId=41171>

COFFEE

from page A1

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce where the company often supplies the coffee for the organization's monthly breakfast meetings at Parkway Fellowship Church at 27093 FM 1093 in Richmond.

"Our dream for Humble Grounds was to have a space where we could be intentional with creating relationships

within our local communities of Ful-shear, Katy, Richmond and surrounding areas," according to the company website. Coffee beans are locally sourced to provide a wide variety of favorites such as caramel macchiato, ice Horchata latte, or a peach green tea. The café serves both breakfast and lunch, with

specially made breakfast items, panini-style lunch sandwiches, small bites and pastries.

The shop is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekends from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, go to humblegroundcoffee.com or call 346-387-6199.

BANK

from page A1

positioned across the Greater Houston area in Harris and Montgomery Counties.

"This newest branch marks our fifth Woodforest bank branch in Katy, which is one of the fastest growing areas of the Houston metropolitan area," said Woodforest President and Chief Retail Officer, Julie Mayrant. "As a community bank, Woodforest is built upon the needs of our customers, which includes offering convenient and competi-

tive banking products and services along with excellent customer service. We are pleased to add an additional branch to serve the needs of the Katy community."

During the grand opening celebration, representatives from Woodforest and H-E-B participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

About Woodforest National Bank

Celebrating over 40 years of community banking

service, Woodforest National Bank has successfully stood among the strongest community banks in the nation, proudly offering outstanding customer service since 1980, the company said in a press release. Woodforest currently operates over 760 branches in 17 states across the United States and is an Outstanding CRA rated institution.

For more information about Woodforest National Bank, please visit www.woodforest.com

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SINCE 1917

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Katy Times TheKatyTimes

Help needed for RISD employee's family following tragic house fire

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal Junior High employee Victoria Ortega and her family lost their home in electrical fire which spread through the structure on Tuesday morning December 19th, around 2:30 a.m., destroying the home and their belongings.

Their son woke to the smell of smoke and alerted his dad. The family was able to escape the fire, but they were not able to rescue their dog and cat.

"Your show of support is greatly appreciated," said district spokesperson Christi Ginn on the Royal ISD website.

WANT TO HELP?

Please visit <https://bit.ly/48vlfqf> to learn how you can assist.



PRIMROSE SCHOOLS

The Katy area locations of Primrose Schools joined in the organization's national canned food drive.

Katy locations join Primrose Schools canned food drive

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Primrose Schools across Houston donated 37,553 canned goods to local organizations on a mission to feed families this holiday season, according to a press release from the organization. The nation-wide initiative is part of Primrose's "Caring & Giving" initiative.

Primrose's Caring & Giving Initiative encourages children to complete age-appropriate household chores for allowance money to buy canned goods and fosters "giving without expectation," a key component of the Primrose Schools Balanced Learning curriculum.

The 35 participating schools in the Houston area included: Primrose School of Atascocita, at Balmoral, of Barker-Cypress, of Bridgeland, of Champions, of Cinco Ranch, of Copperfield, at Crossroads Park, of Eagle Springs, of Eldridge Parkway, at Fall Creek, of Friendswood, at the Galleria, of Greatwood, of Harmony, of Imperial Oaks, of Kelliwood, of Kingwood, at Lakeshore, of League City at South Shore, of League City at Victory Lakes, of North Mason Creek, of Sienna, of Spring Cypress, of Spring-Klein, at Summerwood, of The Westchase District, of The Woodlands at College Park, of The Woodlands at Creekside, of The Woodlands at Hughes Landing, of The Woodlands at Sterling Ridge, at Waterside Estates, of West Cinco Ranch and of Woodcreek Reserve.

"Nurturing generosity in young children is an investment in the future of our society," said Jo Kirchner, CEO of Primrose Schools. "At Primrose Schools, we believe that teaching children the value of giving, sharing and caring is a cornerstone of early education. And, by educating children to be service-minded and to give without expectation, we are working together toward a brighter future of caring, community-oriented citizens."

Based in Atlanta, Primrose Schools is national family of accredited early education and care schools serving infants through kindergarten, after-schoolers, their families and communities, according to its website.

Two Katy area private high schools ranked among top 25 in Houston area

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

According to its website, Niche Magazine has compiled a list of the top 25 private high schools in the Houston area - and two of them are located in the greater Katy area.

Coming in at number eight overall in the Houston area is the British International School of Houston, located at 2203 N. Westgreen in Katy. The school was also rated number 20 in "Best Private High Schools in

Texas" according to Niche. The British International School of Houston is a premium independent school serving children from Pre-K3 to 12th Grade. Learning and achievement are supported by collaborations with The Juilliard School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and UNICEF. Annual tuition at the school is \$30,250.00.

Achieving the rank of number 17 is the Lycee International de Houston, which is at 15950 Park Row in Houston just west of Highway 6.

The school was also ranked number five in the "Best High Schools for the Arts in Texas" category. The Lycée International de Houston (LIH) is a American-French bilingual private international school offering bilingual instruction for students ages 18 months through 12th grade. Yearly tuition is \$22,950.00.

Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents, according to its website.

Cat Lift Trucks scholarship program open

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston-based Mitsubishi Logisnext Americas, one of the world's leading manufacturers and providers of material handling, automation and fleet solutions, is now accepting applications for its 20th Annual Cat Lift Trucks Scholarship Program. This long-standing initiative continues its tradition of recognizing an exceptional Houston-area high-school senior interested in pursuing a four-year degree related to the material handling industry.

The chosen recipient will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to support their pursuit of higher education.

"Innovation and education are the cornerstones of progress in our industry, and we're thrilled to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Cat Lift Trucks Scholarship Program," said Ken Barina, president of Mitsubishi Logisnext Americas. "By championing the ambitions of young talent, we are investing in the future of material handling, automation and fleet solutions and helping shape the landscape of our industry."

Since its launch in 2005, the Cat Lift Trucks Scholarship Program has awarded a cumulative \$140,000 in educational assistance to 27 outstanding students from the Greater Houston area.

Past recipients have gone on to enroll in prestigious Texas universities and colleges, including Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin and Texas State Technical College, pursuing degrees in diverse fields, such as mechanical and chemical engineering, welding technology and entrepreneurship. Selection criteria include academic performance, community service involvement, leadership abilities and financial need.

As the Official Lift Truck Provider of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ (HLSR),

Cat Lift Trucks will announce the winner of the 2024 scholarship during the annual HLSR event, scheduled to take place from February 27 to March 17, 2024, in Houston.

"Each year, we witness remarkable academic achievements and a deep dedication to community service among our scholarship applicants," said Jerry Sytsma, executive vice president, Sales and Aftermarket, at Mitsubishi Logisnext Americas. "Their dedication fuels our commitment to nurture the industry's future leaders as we celebrate two decades of this program."

Applications for the 2024 Cat Lift Trucks scholarship must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. CST on January 31, 2024. Applicants must be from a Houston-area school district and plan to enroll in a college, university, or technical school in Texas focusing on engineering or a business-oriented or technical trade field related to the material handling industry.

For more information on this year's scholarship program and requirements, or to apply, visit <https://www.logisnextamericas.com/en/cat/cat-lift-trucks-scholarship>.

DAR music scholarship applications now open

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

WASHINGTON - Undergraduate and graduate students studying music can apply for the DAR Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship. Sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the scholarship provides a one-time \$5,000 award to one student annually who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in music.

Applicants should be accepted or currently enrolled in an accredited university or college in the U.S. and have a concentration in music in their course of study. Music performance, composition, theory, or education are all areas that students may be specialized in to qualify for the scholarship. They should have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent GPA on the scale used by the institution is required.

In honor of Ms. Anderson's commitment to the community and her willingness to share her incredible talent with the world, applicants are asked to write a personal statement describing their humanitarian or volunteer contributions on behalf of their community and/or country.

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TRIBUTE

Betty Ann Chandler Cardiff, a beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully in her home in Katy on December 15, 2023. She was 98 years of age. Betty was born on July 23, 1925, in Enid, Oklahoma to Shirley and James Chandler. The family moved to various towns in Oklahoma and Texas following her father's career at Shell Oil Co. In 1933, the family settled in Brookshire, Texas, where Betty attended Brookshire Primary School. In 1942, she graduated from Katy High School at the age of sixteen as salutatorian of a class of sixteen. She attended Sam Houston State Teachers College for two years. Betty returned to Brookshire and joined Humble Oil Co. (Exxon) at the Katy Gas plant where she worked as a secretary for three years. While attending Katy High School, Betty met the love of her life, John Cardiff, the son of a local rice farmer and cattle rancher. Betty and John were married on January 3, 1945. After a brief honeymoon in San Antonio, John left two weeks later for service in the Pacific Theater where he served for the next two years. While John was serving overseas, Betty, with the help of John's father, Charles Cardiff Sr., built a home to surprise John upon his return from the service. This was the home where she lived for the next 76 years in Katy until her death. After John returned home, he joined his father and three brothers raising rice and cattle ranching, and Betty began organizing the home and raising their family. Early on, Betty was active in



BETTY ANN CHANDLER CARDIFF 1925-2023

functions involving her children. Most memorable was when she and John chaperoned dances at the Katy VFW Hall in the 1960's with unknown entertainers at that time, Roy Head and BJ Thomas. A few years later, their son, Wayne, began his music career in a band called The Customs. Always the gracious hosts, Betty and John welcomed Wayne's band rehearsals at their home, until a few windows were shattered from the sound. The band moved their practice to the garage. She was a member of the Twentieth Century Club since its creation in 1948 and remained active until her death. Betty was a charter member of the Katy Hospital Volunteers and served as a volunteer for 25 years. Because of her love for gardening, she was also involved in the Katy Friendship Garden Club and had a tree planted in her honor. In 2001, she was acknowledged as Katy Senior

Citizen of the Year for her volunteer efforts within the community. The most important things in Betty's life were her children, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. This was evident from the multitude of birthday dinners, family celebrations on Lake Buchanan, fun times in the mountains of Crested Butte, Colorado and the all-important Christmas day lunches that were always held and overseen by Betty at her home. She had a talent for decorating, and her home was her showcase. For many years she decorated for the four changing seasons. Chicken and rooster decorations were brought out to begin the new year and bring in the spring and then followed patriotic, 4th of July decor for summer. In late August her home would be transformed for fall and adorned with turkey plates and pumpkins. Decorating for Christmas is where her talent shined brightest. It made the holiday truly special. Amazingly, she continued this seasonal endeavor until the age of 94! Other loves of Betty's were traveling and antiquing. She was an original Round Top shopper from its inception in 1968 at the Rifle Hall until just a couple of years ago, and her worldly travels allowed her the opportunity to make some great finds. Betty lived a full life of joy, laughter, and love. She was preceded in death by her loving husband John William Cardiff, son Wayne Chandler Cardiff and parents Shirley and James Chandler. Betty is survived by two daughters, Gwen Cardiff Wall and her husband John Wall of Hous-

ton, and Diane Cardiff Murphy, and her husband Mike Murphy of Katy, her four grandchildren, Carlie Orlando of Houston, Megan Deen and her husband Matthew of Fort Worth, Lauren Ditchman of Houston, and Jonathan Ditchman and his wife Morgan of Katy, and six great grandchildren, Carter Orlando, Chase Orlando, Molly Deen, Thomas Deen, Harper Ditchman, and Hayes Ditchman. The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at Katy First United Methodist Church with Rev. Marlin Fenn officiating. Interment in Memorial Oaks Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Mike Murphy, Jonathan Ditchman, Matthew Deen, Tommy Stunson, Carter Orlando, Chase Orlando, Thomas Deen. Honorary Pallbearer will be John Wall. The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful and loving care given by: Bayou City Hospice Right at Home In Home Care & Assistance Berta Arocha Lisa Woods Linda Williams. In lieu of the usual remembrances, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284, www.heart.org. Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue - Katy, Texas 77493 - (281) 391-2424

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December 21 Puzzle Answers

S	A	G	S	B	O	S	O	N	S	A	F	E
A	M	A	H	C	R	A	P	E	A	R	I	A
P	I	L	I	D	A	L	E	Y	G	A	D	S
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9	8	7	3	6	2	4	5	1
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4	1	2	6	9	3	5	8	7
7	2	9	1	3	6	8	4	5
6	4	8	5	7	9	1	2	3
3	5	1	8	2	4	7	6	9

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Kinsley Harding drives to the basket during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Katy at the Katy gym.
TYLER TYRE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 29

SCORES & SCHEDULES



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday

- Taylor at Boerne ISD Tournament

Friday

- Katy vs. Bellaire, noon
- Mayde Creek at Rice Tournament
- Morton Ranch at Fort Bend Austin, TBD

Saturday

- Mayde Creek at Rice Tournament
- Paetow vs. Klein Collins, 1 p.m.

Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Manvel, 11:30 a.m.
- 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.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday

- Mayde Creek at Lee College Classic
- Seven Lakes at Bay City Classic
- Taylor at Pasadena Tournament
- Morton Ranch at Fort Bend Tournament
- Jordan and Tompkins at Vype Christmas Classic

Friday

- Jordan and Tompkins at Vype Christmas Classic
- Mayde Creek at Lee College Classic
- Seven Lakes at Bay City Classic
- Taylor at Pasadena Tournament
- Morton Ranch at Cy-Ridge, 1 p.m.

Saturday

- Seven Lakes at Bay City Classic

Tuesday

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

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

- Cinco Ranch at Humble, noon
- Katy at Shadow Creek, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Wisdom, 5:15 p.m.

Saturday

- Taylor at Grand Oaks, noon
- Seven Lakes vs. Bellaire, 7:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Tuesday

- Morton Ranch at Cy-Lakes, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Cy-Ranch, 5 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Paetow vs. Atascocita, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Cinco Ranch at Spring Woods, 11:45 a.m.
- Katy vs. Klein, 12:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Oak Ridge, 11:30 a.m.
- Seven Lakes at Grand Oaks, 9 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Foster, noon

Saturday

- Taylor at George Ranch, noon
- Mayde Creek vs. Waller, 1 p.m.

Monday

- Seven lakes at Pearland, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- Morton Ranch at Kempner, 6:30 p.m.
- Katy at Klein Oak, 6:45 p.m.
- Paetow at Waller, 1 p.m.
- Taylor at Fort Bend Austin, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Bellaire, 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Friday

- Cinco Ranch at Shadow Creek meet
- Katy at Cy-Fair meet

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch/Woodlands, 5 p.m.
- Katy at Rockwall/College Park
- Morton Ranch at Cinco Ranch

Huge second half leads Cinco Ranch past Katy

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch is hitting its stride. The Cougars have found a way to continue to improve this year and have stayed at the front of the pack in District 19-6A because of it, competing well against everyone and finding ways to win even against the

best competition. Cinco Ranch took care of business on Tuesday and got one of its biggest wins of the year, beating Katy 52-46 to take sole possession of first place in district heading into the Christmas break. The Cougars have had struggles against the Tigers over the past few years and it made the win all that much sweeter for the team.

"We just played hard and that's the key for everything," said junior guard Aniya Foy. "We knew what we were in for today — we haven't beat Katy in a while so our main focus was not ever letting them break us and finding a way to win. We did that and it's a really good feeling."

See **CINCO**, page A8

Texans' offense shut down in loss to Browns

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston's offense has had some struggles in recent weeks. The Texans sputtered against the Jets in a bad loss and barely got enough out of an offense down a number of players to win against the Tennessee Titans, but were hoping for an improvement this week against the Browns in an important matchup as Houston looked to keep pace in the AFC playoff picture. But that improvement never came, as Houston could never get anything going against a stingy Cleveland defense and looked lackluster in a 36-22 loss. "We just couldn't get moving on offense," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "No matter what happened, we just couldn't move the ball. Anytime we had a positive play, we'd end up having a negative play right after that and it seemed like we couldn't get out of our own way. From penalties to negative

See **TEXANS**, page A8



Shreya Jategaonkar shoots a jumper during Monday's game between Seven Lakes and Paetow at the Seven Lakes gym.
TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes downs Paetow for fourth straight win

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes is starting to find its rhythm. The Spartans have stepped up their game recently, finding something they

didn't have earlier in the season and getting big wins in District 19-6A. That improvement was on full display Monday, as Seven Lakes used a suffocating defense to beat Paetow 64-36, going

See **SPARTANS**, page A8

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Victoria Hudspeth shoots a layup during Monday's game between Seven Lakes and Paetow at the Seven Lakes gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

SPARTANS

from page A7

into the Christmas break on a high note as winners of four straight.

"It's always a work in progress when you have a new coach come in, but they're getting better every time out," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "It can be hard with a different style and new terminology but they came out and played as a team. They did some really good things today and they keep getting better, that's all you can ask for as a coach."

Seven Lakes had a slow start to the game, but turned it around quickly. After falling behind 10-9, the Spartans flipped things immediately and led 17-10 after the first quarter, increasing their lead to 31-18 going into halftime behind a strong full court trap that gave Paetow problems all game.

"Our press is hard for teams to deal with — we have a bunch of very long players and then two quick guards to back them up so a lot of teams have a hard time handling that pressure," said sophomore post Madison Carlton. "It's a huge advantage for us — it helps us get out on the break and it's a fun way to play."

Seven Lakes continued to grow its lead through the second half, going up 44-28 after the third quarter and keeping that lead on the way to the win.

Madison Carlton led the way with 24 points while being a huge



Madison Carlton shoots a layup during Monday's game between Seven Lakes and Paetow at the Seven Lakes gym.

presence in the post while freshman Gracie Hobin had 14 points and used her length extremely well.

"Gracie doesn't play like a freshman and she's not afraid of the moment," Watson said. "It took her a bit of time and she came over late from volleyball but she's just done

a great job of learning and picking things up quickly. She's a great piece to have on the team."

The game also marked the return of Justice Carlton as she continues to rehab from a torn ACL. The senior scored two points in limited time and will be hoping to ramp up more when the Spartans return after Christmas break. Overall, the Spartans sit in fifth place in district and will hope to keep gaining ground with the first half of district rounding up.

"The great thing about this team is we work hard and trust each other," Hobin said. "The practices have been great and everyone keeps getting better and better. We've been doing a lot of work and if we keep doing that we're going to keep moving up the standings."

District 19-6A

SEVEN LAKES 64, PAETOW 36

Points: (SL) Madison Carlton 24, Gracie Hobin 14, Shreya Jategaonkar 8, Victoria Hudspeth 5, Caitlyn Quintero 4, Justice Carlton 2, Calianna Calibo 2, Dulce Franco 2, Lenore Hudspeth 2; (P) Naddilee French 19, Tiera Hall 6, Sam Neitsch 7, Cameron Singleton 2, Amaya White 2;

Halftime: Seven Lakes 31, Paetow 18; 3-Pointers: (P) French 3, Neitsch; Records: Seven Lakes: 12-8, 4-2; Paetow: 8-9, 3-3;



Aniya Foy shoots a layup during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Katy at the Katy gym.

TYLER TYRE

CINCO

from page A7

It was a tight game though that took the Cougars into the second half to pull away behind a strong defense and an offensive outburst from Foy.

Katy came out on fire from three-point range and the two teams were tied 13 before Katy led 25-22 at halftime, mainly behind 14 points from Nyla Wold, who poured in four threes in the first half.

But Cinco started to dominate in the third quarter. The defense picked up and the Cougars only allowed two three pointers in the whole second half with Camille Torrence playing a big part in that with her play on the defensive end.

"Camille takes that role really seriously on our team," said Cinco Ranch head coach Tamara Collier. "A lot of times when we play teams with a special player, Camille will come to me and tell me she wants to lock them down. I appreciate her taking that leadership role and wanting to stop those offensive threats."

Foy made the biggest impact on the offensive end as Cinco Ranch pulled away in the second half. She had 20 of her 26 points in the third and fourth quarters as the Cougars gained a 34-32 lead at the end of the third quarter before pushing that lead to double digits in the fourth and hanging on down the stretch.

"Aniya was doing so much in that first half — she was defending and rebounding and that's what I have to remind her when her shot

isn't going in," Collier said. "But she started feeling it in the second half and when that happens, it's go time. No one can guard her when Aniya is in that mindset. No one can stop her and when she does decide to take over like that, it not only opens things up for her teammates but it allows her to continue to build that confidence."

The win puts the Cougars a half game up in first in the district standings, as the Cougars have not yet had their bye. Cinco will return from the break to play Manvel, before going on a very difficult stretch of their schedule, playing Seven Lakes, Taylor and Tompkins all in a row.

"This was an amazing feeling," Torrence said. "I had never beaten Katy before so it was something we had all been wanting and for us to come out and put a performance like that together was huge."

District 19-6A

CINCO RANCH 52, KATY 46

Points: (CR) Aniya Foy 26, Camille Torrence 15, Keeana Hickman 5, Ava Haven 2, Jinhwa Jung 2, Jordan Bristol 2; (K) Nyla Wold 17, Macey Spellins 8, Ashlynn Alexander 7, Kaysen Miller 6, Sophia Garza 6, Emma Lawler 2;

Halftime: Katy 25-22; 3-Pointers: (CR) Torrence 3, Hickman; (K) Wold 4, Garza 2, Spellins, Alexander; Records: Cinco Ranch: 13-5, 6-1; Katy 15-5, 4-2;

TEXANS

from page A7

yardage, we stayed behind the chains and that can't happen against a very good defense."

The Browns came out with big plays from the start, returning the opening kickoff past their 40 and then hitting a huge pass on the first play from scrimmage that got them inside Houston's 10-yard line. They got their touchdown on a 4-yard run by Jerome Ford within 2 minutes of the start of the game to take the lead.

Houston's offense couldn't get anything going through the first quarter and Cleveland doubled its lead early in the second on a big 75-yard touchdown pass from Joe Flacco to Amari Cooper. But Dameron Pearce got Houston back into it with a much needed 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. They followed that up with another touchdown on a pass from Flacco to David Njoku. Cleveland had a chance to add to the lead shortly before halftime, but Derek Stingley came away with an interception in the endzone to keep the deficit at 22-7.

"There were self-inflicted wounds in critical moments and the game just got away from us," said quarterback Case Keenum. "They have one of the best defenses in the NFL and then on offense they had Joe (Flacco) and their receivers playing great and it was tough keeping up. You go through tough games in this league but it's about getting back up and getting back out there. We still have a chance and an



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Browns cornerback Greg Newsome II (0) breaks up a pass intended for Texans wide receiver John Metchie III (8) during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on December 24, 2023 in Houston.

opportunity, so we have to get back up — there's still a couple games to go and we'll see how this thing shakes out."

The second half was more of the same for Houston. Joe Flacco threw another touchdown to Cooper from 7 yards out late in the third quarter and Kareem Hunt ran in a 1-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter while Houston's offense never came close to getting them back in it, with Davis Mills throwing two garbage time touchdowns to trim the deficit before things ended.

The loss dropped the Texans to

8-7. Houston will be at home again next week when they play the Titans in their home finale. It will be another huge game as Houston tries to keep their playoff hopes alive.

"The main thing is we have to play better football," Ryans said. "Before we have the opportunity to talk about playoffs or getting in or anything like that, you have to play better and you have to earn those spots to get in the playoffs. You can talk about that stuff but until you go out there and earn it and play to that level, then it doesn't matter. We have to do a much better job collectively."



Jinhwa Jung tries to get a shot off under the basket during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Katy at the Katy gym.

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