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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Katy couple charged with conspiracy to commit felony in MS

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

A Katy couple is free on \$20,000 bond apiece following their arrests and charges of conspiracy to commit a felony in Mississippi.

Angela McClelland, of Katy, was arrested Jan. 18 in Fort Bend County. She was released on Jan. 20 on fugitive bond so she could travel to Mississippi to appear in a Ridgeland, Miss., municipal court.

When McClelland arrived Jan. 23 at court, authorities told her that her husband, Colburn McClelland, would also be charged. Both pled not guilty and were arraigned.

"They've been arrested, they've been bonded out," Boty McDonald, Ridgeland Municipal Court prosecutor, said in an interview with the Katy Times. "In Mississippi, when you're arrested in a city, the felony comes through my court (a city court) for a bond to be done and an arraignment to be done."

Now, McDonald said, their case will be given to the Madison County, Miss., district attorney, for presentation to a grand jury, which will decide whether to indict.

The case involves an alleged kidnapping by two men: Jerrell Powe, a former Ole Miss and NFL player from Hattiesburg, Miss., and Gavin Bates, of Rosemont, Calif. They were charged with conspiracy to commit a felony and kidnapping Bryce Mathis. Reportedly, Powe and Bates were among



RIDGELAND, MISS., POLICE DEPARTMENT
Angela McClelland booking photo

some investors with Mathis, who reportedly was fronting a multi-million medical marijuana growing plant near Powe's hometown of Buckatunna, Miss.

Reportedly, Powe and Bates were trying to collect money Mathis owed them and took him to a Chase bank in Ridgeland where he supposedly had the money. But it wasn't enough money, and police arrested Powe and Bates for taking Mathis to the bank against his will.

"The fact that someone may owe you money does not allow you to collect your debt," McDonald told the Mississippi Daily. "When this becomes a Netflix series, it's going to be Apple Dumpling Gang meets The Sopranos."

Powe and Bates posted bonds of \$100,000 apiece, according to local reports.

Details of the McClellands' alleged involvement in the case have not been made public. McDonald said he guessed the case would be presented to the grand jury within the next two to four months because

See **MCCLELLANDS**, page A3



Katy City Hall

CITY HALL ROUNDUP

Repairs underway on 1st Street

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The City of Katy has closed 1st Street from Bartlett Road to Victoria Lakes Drive for street reconstruction.

Work includes reconstruction of the street pavement, bridge, driveways, sidewalks and storm

sewers.

Work began Jan. 30. The city said the street working hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, with the closure expected to run through April.

For more information, contact the Aranda Brothers Construction project manager at 281-506-8680.

Council, planning and zoning commission receive strategic plan update

At a Jan. 24 workshop at City Hall, Gary Mitchell, Kendig Keast Collaborative president and project manager, gave an update

See **CITY**, page A3

Relationships and relevance: Katy ISD Teachers of the Year share perspectives

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Tasha McDonald and Dax Nesossi have been named Katy ISD's district-wide Teachers of the Year. McDonald is an ESL/ISST (English as a Second Language/Instructional Support Specialty Teacher) at Rylander Elementary. She's taught there since 2009.

"I work with all of our students that participate in the ESL program, which is English as a second language," McDonald said. "I work mainly with beginners and intermediate students that are learning



Tasha McDonald is an ESL/ISST at Rylander Elementary School.



Dax Nesossi is a history teacher at Paetow High School

See **TEACHERS**, page A3

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February 2, 2023
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HCC working on programs for horticulture, environmental, agriculture studies students

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

As Katy-area students continue to show a strong interest in agriculture, horticulture and environmental studies issues, officials at Houston Community College's Katy campus are developing programs to train workers in those fields.

Zach Hodges, HCC Northwest Campus president, said the college's approach is two-fold. First, the college is developing certificate and short-term courses to provide workers.

"It's a workforce program for the local agricultural and horticultural industry," Hodges said. "There are lots of certificate programs within the landscaping industries. 'There are a lot of small agriculture businesses, lots of commercial and residential businesses. We want to create

"We want to build the transfer program. We're just getting started, but it's a commitment we're making to the agricultural and horticultural industries."

—ZACH HODGES, HCC Northwest Campus president

workers for those industries, from entry-level through management."

One certificate program the college now has works with the Texas Landscape Nursery Association, Hodges said. Through this program, Hodges said, a student can sit for his or her first certification exam.

The second part of the college's approach is developing a program where students can attend HCC for their first two years and transfer, with credits, to colleges with four-year agricultural and horticultural programs,

such as Texas A&M University or Sam Houston State University. The college has 300 similar transfer plans to 65 partner universities, according to HCC's website. Major areas of study include art and design, business, engineering, health sciences, industry and manufacturing, public service and science and technology.

"We have such successful FFA programs in West Houston and Katy ISD," Hodges said, adding that other area districts such as Sealy, Royal, Lamar, Spring Branch and Alief have FFA programs.



Zach Hodges, HCC Northwest Campus president.

"Those kids are interested in majoring in agriculture," Hodges said. "We want to provide a pathway for them to transfer to a four-year university."

Towards that end, Hodges said, HCC wants to work closely with area FFA instructors.

See **COLLEGE**, page A3



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wild West Brewfest set for March 23-25 at Typhoon Texas

Preparations are underway for the 2023 Wild West Brewfest, a fun weekend full of great beer, live music, food and more hosted by the Rotary Club of Katy. The K-Town Throwdown will kick-off the multi-day event on March 23, followed by the Launch Party on March 24. The official Brewfest will be on March 25. The entire weekend of events will be hosted at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road.

The Brewfest showcases some of the best liquids, including over 800 different beers, plus a fantastic wine garden. The event is more than just a great time, it's about helping others in need through its proceeds. Founded in 2011 by Katy Rotarians, the event was volunteer run and 100% of all proceeds are given back to the local community in student scholarships and donations to charitable organizations. Since its inception, the Brewfest has raised and donated over \$1 million.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website wildwestbrewfest.com.

Texas utility help program receives more energy bill assistance fundings

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced it is directing an additional \$48 million from the Federal Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act to the Texas Utility Help program to support homeowners and renters who need help paying energy bills.

Through Texas Utility Help, homeowners and renters can pay off total past due utility bills for electricity, natural gas, propane, water, and wastewater, plus get up to \$2,400 in prospective payments. All approved payments are issued directly to the utility company on the applicant's behalf.



Topo Chico hard seltzer has been among the drinks for Wild West Brewfest attendees to enjoy. The next Brewfest is set for March 23-25 at Typhoon Texas.

DAVID FRISHMAN

Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify:

- Household income must be at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

- At least one occupant in the household must be a United States citizen or Qualified Alien.

"The past year was hard on Texans, with rising food, housing and transportation costs and higher energy bills due to extreme heat over the summer. With the additional funds, we hope to ease some of the burden for as many renters and homeowners as possible," Bobby Wilkinson, TDHCA executive director, said. "We anticipate receiving more funding this year, although it's unclear when or how much that will be, so we encourage everyone to apply now if they need help."

For more information and questions, the call center is staffed

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and can be reached toll free at 855-566-2057. Help is available in multiple languages.

Clothed by Faith to host celebration as it serves its 100,000th client

Clothed by Faith invites the public to join it as it serves its 100,000th client. Clothed by Faith serves at risk children and adults hope and dignity through the gift of clothing. Two celebrations are set—one in Katy, the other in Deer Park.

The Katy event is set for 5-7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Clothed by Faith office at 802 Old Dominion Road. The event is free but RSVPs are requested as space is limited. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP for the event in Katy, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3WJT4rh.

For more information, call 281-676-8837.

Pup Crawl 2023

The Social Sports Pub, 5810 FM 1462 in Fulshear, is hosting a Pup Crawl from 12-3 p.m. Feb. 4.

The event features free pet microchipping (while supplies last), food and drink specials, pet nail trimming, a food drive for pet rescues, a raffle, pet adoptions,

and vendors.

For more information, call 281-396-4627.

Cottage Charm LLC acquires Cottage Charm at the Romack House

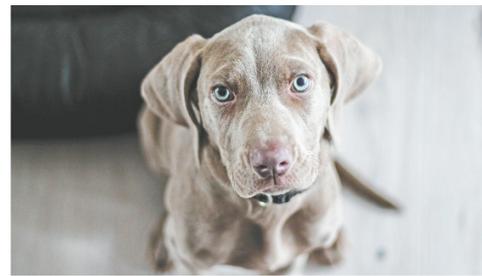
The historic Cottage Charm at the Romack House, an event venue and fixture in the Old Town Katy district, has been acquired by Cottage Charm LLC.

Originally built in 1905, this nostalgic cottage sits on an all-weather, half-acre site that is completely shaded by 100-year-old heritage oak trees. The Cottage Charm venue is ideally suited for parties up to 100 guests and is the frequent choice for private party and event planners for weddings, baby showers, bridal showers, Quinceañeras, family reunions, graduation parties, anniversaries, business meetings, private catered dinners, Prom and Homecoming events.

Longtime Katy residents and new owners of the property, Hector and Magdalena LaRotta, will continue to operate the property as one of Katy's premier event venues. The sellers and operators of the Cottage Charm venue, Nancy and David Gillespie, will assist the buyers in the transition and fulfillment of events already scheduled at the venue.

For more information, photos, video tours and booking details for the Cottage Charm at the Romack House venue, visit the website CottageCharm.org.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



Dogs such as this one will be available for adoption at the Social Sports Pub's Pup Crawl, which is from 12-3 p.m. Feb. 4 at 5810 FM 1462 in Fulshear.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Shed tears
- Luxury jewelry designer
- Goddess of wisdom
- Convert into a particular form
- Working-class people
- It borders Canada (abbr.)
- A princess can detect its presence
- Red-brown sea bream
- Defunct retail empire
- Vase
- Demeter's equivalent
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- French and Belgian river
- Small amount
- High schoolers' test
- Animal's foot
- Some is red
- Per ___: each
- Swedish jazz pop duo
- Plate for Eucharist
- Train line
- Russian pop duo
- Stake
- Plant by scattering
- Female sibling
- City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- Popular cookie brand
- Group of Niger-Congo languages
- A team's best pitcher
- Vomits

CLUES DOWN

- Global public health agency
- Snake-like fish
- Midway between northeast and east
- Dabbed
- TV show
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Canadian flyers
- Of the dowry
- Commercial
- The act of imitating
- Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- Lands of an emir
- Swiss river
- Island
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- Garfield is one
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Small boats used in the Black Sea
- Small savory Spanish dishes

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TEACHERS

from page A1

English and I help to facilitate that learning to where they are able to communicate and continue to learn the English language.”

Nesossi teaches history at Paetow High, where he is also the academic decathlon coach. This is his third year there. He taught at Tompkins High before moving to Paetow and taught in Cy-Fair ISD before that. He is a US Navy veteran.

Teachers are selected Campus Teacher of the Year at their respective campuses. Campus principals and those teachers submit nomination essays to a Districtwide Teacher of the Year selection committee, which uses a blind application review process to make selections. Teachers with the three highest scores are brought in for interviews, and from there the committee makes its final selections.

On relationships and relevance

Two keys to great teaching, McDonald and Nesossi said, were building relationships with students and making the content relevant to students. To build that good relationship, McDonald said teachers must be student-centered.

“Building that relationship with the student is your very first, I guess not line of defense, but the first thing that you need to do so that student not only trusts you, but you build that respect,” McDonald said. “If you respect your students and you have that relationship with them, they’re going to be willing to do anything and everything they can for you.”

Nesossi said there were slight nuances between the elementary students McDonald teaches and the high school student he teaches, and it was important to understand and work with them.

“I work with 11th graders, and I think particularly what we need to pay attention to is that these are human beings that also have life outside of school,” Nesossi said. “And so, when I look at the tremendous portfolio of some of our students extracurriculars, many of them don’t get home until 7 o’clock at night.”

High school students can be overextended, and Nesossi said he and other teachers try to work with that.

“If they come to me and say they need an extension on a deadline, nothing as large as a research paper—that’s pretty much established, and they know they’re working towards that goal at the end of the semester—but if there’s a small little assignment that they need an extra night on and they said, look, I’m going to the Ag Barn at 5 a.m. and we’ve been at a basketball game up in Brenham until 11 p.m., a good teacher, a great teacher will understand to be flexible with that student to meet them halfway,” Nesossi said.

Nesossi also said it was important to provide, as he put it, “a consistent rationale for what you’re teaching and providing a connectivity to the real world.” As a history teacher, he said this meant he wasn’t going to start listing a litany of dead people with dates and birthdates

for memorization. He wants students to understand how history impacts them.

“You try to put into the lap of the students the content so they have a rationale and in turn start to learn intrinsically,” Nesossi said. “They might think, oh, this impacts me. I have a stake in this bit of information or in this content. When they find themselves in that, then they become better students and we have that symbiotic relationship.”

McDonald said teachers who make the content relevant to the students get that student buy-in.

“I love the term buy-in,” Nesossi said. “I use that quite a bit myself. You’ve got to have that and establish that in the first two weeks of school. I have young mentees that I work with, first- and second-year teachers, and I’m like, you don’t get those first two days of school back. And I’m not trying to make you nervous on that first day of school, but that’s where you are selling yourself to the students and they’ve got to have that buy-in.”

McDonald said students speak 28 different languages at Rylander, and the students she works with have little to no English.

“It’s really just letting them know that I’m there for them, that I care about them and that we are really going to work together,” McDonald said. “It’s not me versus them or them just doing the assignment. We are working together so that they can grow in their ability to speak English, to listen, to read and to write and working on those small steps. It is a step at a time.”

CITY

from page A1

on efforts to update the city’s strategic plan and the priorities it spells out for the city. The top five of those priorities are:

- Ongoing attention to Katy’s infrastructure and public safety services.
- Proactively preparing for ongoing growth.
- Enhancing mobility at access.
- Achieving an even more livable Katy.
- Advancing plan priorities through new and improved implementation tools.

To address these areas, the plan focuses on growth capacity, land use and development, transportation, economic development and recreation and amenities.

The plan calls for 19 actions for the city to take. Two of them—completing a review of the city’s zoning and land development regulations and providing input for the Texas Department of Transportation for the Brookshire-Katy Mobility Study—are to be completed in two years.

The plan calls for nine actions to be completed within five years and three within 10 years. The remaining five

actions, which are ongoing, include:

- Continually evaluating new technologies and options for improving public service delivery.
- Completing advanced municipal service planning for the future growth of the city’s incorporated areas.
- Securing Katy’s long-term water supply.
- Continuing efforts to use the Historic Downtown Square more regularly.
- Continuing to implement the city’s 2022 parks, trails and recreation master plan.

The plan comes as city officials look at a growing community. According to the July 2021 Census Bureau estimate, Katy has a population of about 24,000 people, Mitchell said.

Efforts to update the strategic plan have been underway for about a year. Officials and Kendig Keast Collaborative representatives have held listening workshops with former Katy mayors and other community leaders. They have also held meetings with a comprehensive plan advisory committee, most recently in December. Two public hear-

ings on the final proposed plan are expected to be set. One will be later this month, and the other in March.

The city has been working with Kendig Keast, an urban planning consultancy, on the plan revision. Kendig Keast is based in Sugar Land, according to its website.

To see the working draft of the plan, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3YdWZ0H.

To see the previous strategic plan, issued in 2001, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/40hSLXK.

Election candidate filing period underway

The candidate filing period for the city’s May 6 election is underway.

Three seats are up for election, and the incumbents—Council Member-at-Large Chris Harris, Ward A Council Member Janet Cote and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson—have filed for re-election. Nobody else has filed as of Jan. 30, according to the city’s secretary’s office.

Filing deadline is Feb. 17.

TRIBUTE

Henry Dale McReynolds was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, to George J. McReynolds and Lois Crain McReynolds on November 19, 1943. He was the youngest of four sons. He grew up in Caseyville, Illinois. As a young man, Henry and his family were involved with the Boy Scouts of America and attended Methodist Youth Fellowship. He later worked with his father in the St. Louis Shipyards.

Henry enlisted in the Army to fight for his country. He was stationed in Germany and served in Vietnam. When he was stationed in Texas, he met the love of his life, Janet Lesikar. They married in 1969 in San Antonio, Texas. Henry graduated from San Antonio College and later continued his education at the University of Houston. He went on to work with multiple oil related companies including Exmar Offshore.

He was a loving devoted family man. He never met a stranger and always helped everyone in need. He and his family attended Faith West Church where he was involved with the Royal Rangers, and more



HENRY DALE MCREYNOLDS
1943-2023

recently, he and his family attended New Life Church of Houston, Texas.

Henry was preceded in death by his father George J. McReynolds, his mother, Lois Crain McReynolds, and eldest brother, William R. McReynolds.

He is survived by his wife, Janet, brothers, Jack McReynolds, and Ed McReynolds, his wife, Louella, & children. His children, Angela Porter, Joseph B. McReynolds and wife Carolyn, Laura McReynolds Smith and

Jared, and his grandchildren, Nathan, Natalie and Cody Peyres, Matthew, Marissa, Joshua, Austin, and Roman, and step-grandchildren Lauren, Gage, and great grandchildren, Beaux, Wyatt, Adeline, Guy and Lucia. And many nephews, nieces and cousins who loved him dearly.

A service to celebrate his life will be February 11, 2023, at 11 am.

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COLLEGE

from page A1

“We want to build the transfer program,” Hodges said. “We’re just getting started, but it’s a commitment we’re making to the agricultural and horticultural industries. We hope to continue to implement the certificate program. Or working to implement this transfer program.”

Hodges said the college hope to have students enrolled in the transfer program by this fall.

Hodges said the program has been endowed, and would be called the Warren Bernard Itz Agriculture, Horticulture and Environmental Studies Program. According to materials provided by HCC, Itz, a native Texan, served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II and received the Bronze Star. Following his honorable discharge from the military, he returned to Texas and went on to a long career in banking, ranching and farming. He served in a number of community service positions in San Antonio and Houston.

MCCLELLANDS

from page A1

electronic data, including mobile phone and text messages, remained under review.

“We’ve got a lot of electronic data,” McDonald said, adding that the car used in the kidnapping attempt was a Tesla, which has a GPS camera and other electronic data to be reviewed.

If indicted, tried and convicted, the McClellands would face a maximum five years in Mississippi state prison and a \$5,000 fine.

The McClellands are known locally as the former owners and operators of Willy Burger, 6191 Highway Blvd. Their son Bronson is a former Katy High School quarterback.

With additional reporting by William Moore, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

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Hot for hot chocolate

I've never been a huge fan of hot chocolate. For some reason, I don't enjoy cauterizing the inside of my mouth after being duped by the deceptively-tepid whipped cream or marshmallow topping.

These days, I mainly have hot chocolate when my three teenage daughters, who I'm pretty sure started drinking coffee as toddlers, invite me and my credit card to join them in the drive-thru of one of our roughly 200 local coffee shops. Since I've never learned to relish the scalding bitterness of designer coffee, and I refuse to order anything with a name as silly as "Frappuccino," I typically order myself a hot chocolate to avoid feeling left out.

Unfortunately, in addition to costing about the same as several gallons of premium unleaded, the hot chocolate from these caffeine dispensaries usually tastes like the water out of an old tire — if the tire were on fire.

And I won't even get into the abominations inflicted upon the American public by Swiss Miss. I'm not sure who this young lady is, but she should apologize to the fine people of Switzerland for representing them with those so-called marshmallows.

In spite of my checkered history with this classic winter beverage, I was willing to put all of that behind me on our recent family vacation to New York City. We happened to be in the Big Apple during a historically-frigid arctic blast that even made it too cold for native New Yorkers to curse at the tourists.

Since we were in the city during the holiday season, my daughters were keen to visit several famous holiday markets. Our first stop was the Holiday Shops of Midtown Manhattan's Bryant Park Winter Village, touted as a "European-inspired open-air market" and designed to separate tourists from their cash with multicultural flair.

For me, the highlight of the market was a large cup of Max Brenner classic hot chocolate. This was the hot chocolate my blood glucose levels had been waiting for my whole life. It was the perfect temperature (meaning that it didn't cause the top layer of my tongue to peel off), and it tasted like a freshly baked and liquefied homemade brownie. It was so good that I nearly forgot about the frostbite.

The next day, we hit the

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



In spite of my checkered history with this classic winter beverage, I was willing to put all of that behind me on our recent family vacation to New York City. We happened to be in the Big Apple during a historically-frigid arctic blast that even made it too cold for native New Yorkers to curse at the tourists.

Union Square Holiday Market, featuring 185 local craftsmen, artists and entrepreneurs (all equipped with hand-crafted credit card readers). It was here that my eldest and most expensive daughter introduced me to the social media-famous Rubyzaar Baked Liquid S'mores.

Normally, I prefer to eat marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers in their pure, untainted states, but the combination of ingredients in this molten cup of decadence was something to behold. It's really difficult to describe, but let's just say that if preparing hot chocolate requires the use of a miniature blowtorch, sign me up!

Our visit to New York opened my nostrils to new levels of freezer burn, my wallet to new levels of emptiness, and my taste buds to new levels of chocolaty deliciousness. Until I return, I guess I'll somehow make do with Swiss Miss—and my own miniature blowtorch.

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.



Grateful for Punxsutawney's silly fun

Groundhog Day cannot come soon enough.

It's the thick of winter. Cabin fever is setting in. Incivility is worse than ever.

A delightful, silly diversion is what we need about now, and Punxsutawney Phil has been delivering needed joy this time of year since 1887.

As you know, every Feb. 2, on Groundhog Day, Phil is pulled from a tree stump on Gobbler's Knob, a few miles outside of downtown Punxsutawney, Pa.

If he sees his shadow, his Inner Circle organizers allege, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring will be just around the corner.

Regardless of what Phil proclaims, there will be an abundance of fun surrounding the event.

The Inner Circle, a group of local dignitaries, works hard all year long to make sure of that.

As the legend goes, the Inner Circle president is the only person on Earth who understands Phil's native language, "Groundhogese."

At daybreak on Feb. 2, Phil tells the president whether or not he has seen his shadow. The president then directs his vice president to present a paper scroll that shares Phil's prognostication to the world.

This event has put smiles on thousands of people's faces for many years, but, with the popularity of the delightful 1993 Bill Murray movie, "Groundhog Day," it has swelled to attract some 20,000 visitors to the small town every year.

In addition to the festivities on Feb. 2, visitors enjoy a large banquet, a talent show, a dueling-piano contest and a "Groundhog Club" event in which Phil's fans from all over the world celebrate their love of all things Phil.



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

If he sees his shadow, his Inner Circle organizers allege, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring will be just around the corner. Regardless of what Phil proclaims, there will be an abundance of fun surrounding the event.

Phil's popularity has led to the establishment of the Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center, which, this Feb. 2, will induct Phil as the final member of the Weather Discovery Center's Meteorologist Hall of Fame.

The Center hosts a series of entertaining and educational weather exhibits for children, as well as adults, that helps them learn and explore "tornados, thunderstorms, weather folklore (including our own famous Punxsutawney Phil), precipitation, clouds, the water cycle, weather forecasting technology, lightning, and weather emergency readiness."

The Center also hosts a variety of field trips and educational events, such as the exploration of the winter season through activities, games and technology. Their "Snow Day Saturday"

lets children immerse themselves in winter-related exhibits, snow crafts and activities like the "famous snowball fight"—even though that old-fashioned childhood "sport" is probably now illegal in other parts of the country!

All of these wonderful, fun and informative communal events—which have grown out of an innocent and silly bit of folklore—are what we need right now.

They offer an example of human nature at its best—one worth noting in a world surrounded by so many examples of human nature at its worst.

I wish I had planned ahead to attend the events in Punxsutawney this year.

My two-year-old Labrador, Thurber, was born there (he can't predict the weather but he sure does have meal times down pat).

I've become good friends with the two terrific "Punxsutawney-ians" whose two beautiful dogs, Sunny and Tank, gave me the best pup I could ever hope for. (See more at ThurbersTail.com.)

The point is, every day, each of us has the choice to be positive or negative, hopeful or dour, kind or rude.

The kind citizens of Punxsutawney have chosen to bring much needed cheerfulness into an increasingly uncheerful world with an enjoyable and upbeat tradition that brings out the best in us all.

When a whole town of people get civility and good humor so right, it's worth calling attention to their great work!

Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.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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TRIBUTES

Randy Lemmon, Houston radio host of The GardenLine program on 740 KTRH, died Jan. 4. He passed away at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City of complications due to a stroke. He was surrounded by his family.

For over 25 years, Lemmon hosted the weekend gardening program, during which he shared all sorts of tips, tricks and serious science for handling this area's unique climate. In what he called the "Most-listened-to Garden show in the country", he was faithfully followed by serious landscapers as well as the weekend gardener as he shared his enthusiasm and advice about lawns, gardens and outdoor living. He was a go-to expert when climate issues became serious or dangerous to the public such as during hurricanes and deep freezes.

Before his radio program Randy spent years as a television and radio producer for the Texas Farm Bureau. He then spent nearly a decade at his alma mater- Texas A&M University producing news and commentary for an agricultural network he created with the College of Agriculture. One of his responsibilities was producing the R.C.

Slocum show.

Randy authored four books on everything from fertilizer schedules to the 10 commandments of mulch. His most recent book, New Decade Gardening: a Gulf Coast Guide can be found at nurseries, garden centers and feed stores in and around the greater Houston area. Over the past few years in addition to his radio program Randy shared his passion and expertise with homeowners throughout the Gulf Coast region through his company, Randy Lemmon Consulting.

He was born Randal Scott Lemmon on January 4, 1962 in Whittier, California to Richard "Dick" Lemmon and Phyllis Lemmon. The family moved to Houston where Randy attended Robert E. Lee High school and went on to Texas A&M University



RANDY LEMMON
JAN 4, 1962 – JAN 4, 2023

where he graduated in 1984 with a BS degree in Journalism. While at Texas A&M he lived in Moses Hall. Later while working for the University's College of Agriculture, Randy earned a Master of Science in Agriculture degree.

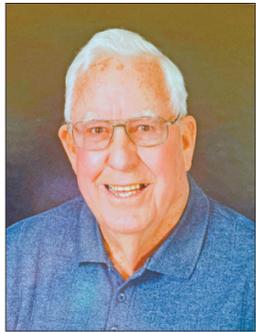
He volunteered his time for many years with the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo where he served on the media committee and the Best Bites competition.

In addition to Randy's passion for all things growing, he was known for his sense of humor, his cooking skills, and his passion for Aggie football and Astros baseball. Randy also enjoyed other hobbies including concerts, disc golf, racquetball and Broadway shows. He was a talented singer and was involved in acting and musicals in high school and college. He even earned extra money in college doing singing telegrams.

Randy was a devoted father. He and Yvonne Salce Lemmon were married from 1999 to 2021. Together, they continued putting their two children first and were dedicated to making Randal and Selena's dreams come true.

Randy was predeceased by his parents and his uncle, Tommy Lemmon. Randy was married for 22 years to Yvonne Salce Lemmon (a graduate of Katy High School, 1987), and is survived by Yvonne and their children, Randal, 21 and Selena, 16. He is also survived by his sister, Terri Langer (Ron) and his Sister-in-laws, Jennifer Spriggs (Kevin) and Melissa Salce (Joab), as well as nieces; Lindsey Langer, Lauren Langer, Jessica Spriggs, Jamie Spriggs, Paighton Salce, and nephews Preston Salce and Parker Salce. He's also survived by his aunt and uncle, Janelle and Ron Stokes and their two sons, Conner and Reid, along with his cousins, Jennifer and Tony Masuccio, and Loretta and Chuck Bradshaw.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to Salem Lutheran Church SSM, 22601 Lutheran Church Road, Tomball, TX 77377.



RODERICK JOSEPH NICHOLS
1936-2023

Roderick Joseph Nichols, 86, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2023. Rod was born on November 11, 1936, to Simeon Eugene Nichols, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Blaise Nichols in Houston, Texas. In 1959, he met the love of his life, Betty Sue Dearing and they wed in 1961. They had 2 children, Laurie and Lisa. In 1965, the family relocated from Houston, Texas to Katy, Texas and lived there for the next 42 years. Rod worked as a home builder for many years and was a talented cabinet maker and wood worker. He was employed by Katy I.S.D. Maintenance Department as a craftsman for 27 years before retiring. After retiring in 2007, Rod and Betty moved to Edna, Texas to be near their grandchildren. Rod spent his time enjoying going to

his granddaughters' sporting events, spending time with family and occasional trips to the casino.

Rod was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Dearing Nichols; father, Simeon Eugene Nichols, Sr.; mother, Mary Elizabeth Blaise Nichols; brothers, Simeon Eugene Nichols, Jr., Peter William Nichols, John Francis Nichols and sister, Ethel Perl Nichols Raif.

He is survived by his daughters, Laurie Nichols of Victoria and Lisa Gabrysch (Kent) of Edna; grandchildren, Stephanie Laskowski (Luke), Courtney Novella (Jonathan), Morgan Musser (Rhett); great grandchildren, Ryleigh Novella, Madisyn Laskowski, Lane Laskowski (on the way) and his beloved cat Toby.

Visitation for family and friends will be Friday, January 27, 2023 from 1PM-2PM at St. Theresa Catholic Church in La Salle. A rosary will be recited at 2PM with a Funeral Mass to follow with Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng officiating. Burial will be at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Luke Laskowski, Jonathan Novella, Rhett Musser, Payton Gabrysch, Craig Gabrysch and Logan Gabrysch.

We would like to thank all of the doctors, nurses and caregivers who so lovingly cared for Rod during his illness.

Memorial donations may be made to Jackson County Home Health.

Words of comfort may be shared at www.rosewoodfuneralchapel.com.

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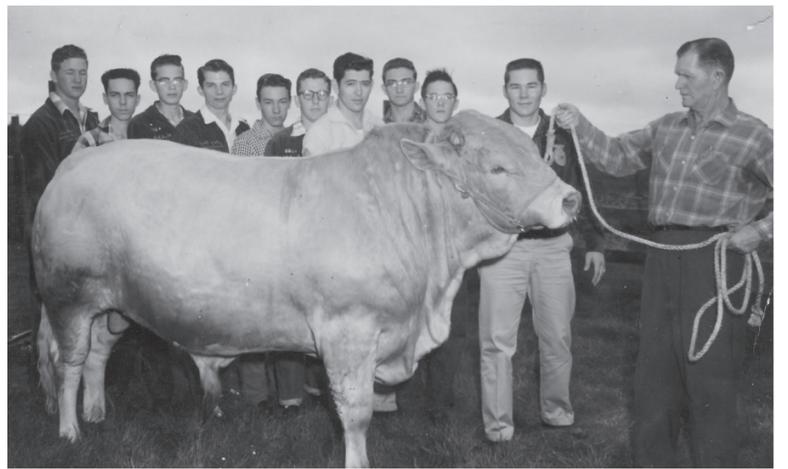
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Students from Faith West Academy served dinner Jan. 23 to residents at the Ballard House, 21421 Cinco Park Dr. Ballard House provides temporary housing for patients and their caregivers coming to Katy/West Houston area medical facilities for treatment of life-threatening illnesses.

BALLARD HOUSE



DIANA ROBINSON ELDER

In this undated photo, Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show founder L.D. Robinson, right, with Jonesy, a Charolais bull, and Katy FFA students.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

BIS Houston named International School Awards 2023 Winner of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Award

The British International School of Houston (BIS Houston) has been named winner of the 'Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice' Award from ISC Research at the 2023 International School Awards.

The winners were announced during a live online event on Jan. 24. ISC Research received 291 applications this year from international schools in 61 countries.

BIS Houston won its award for its initiative which involves a school-wide auditing of curriculum offerings to ensure the representation of all stakeholders. BIS Houston was the only school in North America to win an award and be shortlisted.

Barrie Scrymgeour, BIS principal, accepted award on behalf of the school.

"We are immensely proud to receive this award," Scrymgeour said. "Rooting DEIJ within the curriculum at BIS Houston is integral and impactful at BIS Houston. As an international school with a diverse international community BIS Houston are proud to celebrate such good practice."

BIS Houston was also shortlisted for Innovation and creativity in learning: This award recognizes a school initiative that is being implemented that supports students in future thinking and creative innovation.

Katy ISD releases 2024-25 instructional calendar

Katy school trustees approved the 2024-25 instructional calendar at their Jan. 23 meeting. The calendar includes the following highlights:

- Wednesday, August 14, 2024: First Day of School
- Friday, May 16, 2025: Last Day of School for Seniors
- Thursday, May 22, 2025: Last Day of School

Included in the approved calendar are district holidays such as Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Day, Good Friday and Memorial Day.

Katy ISD will continue providing a full week off for Thanksgiving, two weeks for Christmas and New Year's, as well as one week off for spring break.

Trustees also reviewed and approved minor amendments to the 2023-24 instructional calendar that affect staff only and include the addition of one new teacher orientation day and changes to flex days for i00 and i01 pay grades.

The development of both calendars follows weeks of community feedback from over 16,000 participants throughout the Katy ISD boundaries.

Hangar Unity Center to offer construction training

The Hangar Unity Center, 4010 4th St. in Brookshire, is offering the Hangar Trade Program, a program in which students grades 6-12 can learn how to use tools and basic construction skills.

Classes begin Feb. 6 at the Hangar Unity Center. Classes are 2:30-4 p.m., and from 4:30-6 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays.

No previous experience is necessary and tools are provided.

For more information, call Paul Kitchen at 254-220-2149.

Sam Houston State University dean's list includes 188 students from Katy

Sam Houston State University has

recognized undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours. The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for the Fall 2022 semester.

Students honored from Katy are:

- **A-G:** Kathryn Adams, Nathan Adesso, Brandon Aguilar, Andrea Agundis, Lesley Alfaro, Cristina Alsobrook, Jaime Amezcuita, Daisy Asemota, Erin Bailey, Matthew Bailey, Rebecca Bailey, Nicole Baney, Agustin Barbosa, Cielo Barrientos, Alexander Barton, Stephanie Bashorun, Denae Beal, Alondra Bermea, Christina Biello, Blake Bishop, Dylan Blair, Cole Borowski, Alana Boudreaux, Ethan Bowles, Joshua Bragg, Heaven Branscum, Parker Britt, Tara Brod, Bailey Bronstein, Jon Bull, Nadia Campos, Benjamin Carlile, Jenna Caskey, Martina Deni Castro, Jaqueline Cerna, Brooke Chippi, Madison Choate, Keith Clarkson, Emma Clinton, Mallory Compton, Charle Cooper, Natalee Cormier, Lauren Costa, Marlen Covarrubias, Liany Cruz, Lorena Cudina, Stephanie Cuero, Jessica Cuevas, Bryan Deason, Malia Delaguila, Xotchie Delrio, Ojas Desai, Fadima Diaby, Lucas Dos Santos, Deanna Elsasser, Nicole Erazo, Lauren Farias, Haley Fehr, Neyfi Fernandez, Gunner Ferretti, Nicholas Free, Caitlin Furley, Andres Garcia, Sophia Garcia-Gil, Cassie Gates, Lala Geidarova, Jonathan Glines, Elimar Gonzalez, Logan Grassau, Jaiden Greene, Sandra Gutierrez.
- **H-P:** Ashley Hall, Shadina Hamilton, Dalila Hammond, Spencer Hardin, Olivia Hattier, Maria Hearn, Crystal Henderson, Jacklyn Hernandez, Samantha Heslop, Alina Hikins, John Hikins, Joice Hill, Wednesday Hunter, Lauryn Hutson, Giancarlo Iannini, Jarrett Iltis, Oghenekaro Israel, Hongjin Jeon, Melany Jimenez, Jeane' Julien, Anjalika Kalkura, Hannah Kirby, Daniel Kittredge, Kelly Koeper, Junior Kuvila, Katelyn Larsen, Vivian Le, Vivian Lipp, Evelyn Lopez, Gabriela Lopez, Payton Loxton, Samantha Lozano, David Luley, Amy Mahoney, Matthew Manuel, Ella Marsh, Anastasia Marshall, Rianna Mata, Grace Maynard, Hayley McCain, Melissa Mccorkel, Taylor Mccreary, Alan Mcdermott, Nicolas Mckee, Emily Meade, Jonas Middleton, Paige Miller, Lindsey Moore, Paige Moore, Tendai Mukuka, Katelyn Nitsche, Sina Norouzi Kandalan, Adam North, Daniel North, Madison Olds, Natalie Ondrush, Naila Ortega Leal, Sonya Ortiz, Carter Pacovsky, Emily Parker, Aditi Patil, Aubrey Pedersen, Chloe Penny, Ruby Perez, Dylan Phillippi, Be'Dora Phillips, Jaylen Phillips, Genaro Prieto, Natalie Pruetz.
- **Q-Z:** Amna Rehman, Audrey Robin, Aliyah Robinson, Latrice Robinson, Kendra Rodrigue, Richard Romero, Skyler Ross, Shane Roy, Alberto Rubio Reyes, Angelina Ruiz, Isabella Rust, Zarek Sain, Hailey Saldana, Garrett Sansom, Whitney Sansom, Emily Scholl, Aaron Scott, Abigail Serrano, Jonah Serrano, Lisa Sevilla, Leah Sheffield, Emma Shurter, Remani Sigers, Garrett Skinner, Richard Smith, Zachary Snow, Gillian Spangler, Alison Spavale, Kendall Stankus, Ethan Staton, Brittney Stuart, Brooklyn Taylor, Hailey Tenaro, Caitlyn Thayer, Elliot Tice, Naomi Torres, Elaina Tramill, Alexis Trejo, Isabella Trew, Taha Usmani, Nadia Vasquez, Christian Velasquez, Carolyn Willardson, Hydeia Williams, Virginia Williams, Nicole Wolff, Huda Yousif, Bryce Yule.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show set for Feb. 14-18

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

This month marks the 80th anniversary of both the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show and Katy Rodeo. They began in 1943.

The livestock show runs from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Feb. 14-18. The rodeo begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 16-18. All events are at the Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road. The livestock show and rodeo run concurrently, but they are separate events organized by separate entities. Katy ISD oversees the livestock show. The Katy Rodeo oversees the rodeo, with proceeds benefiting the Katy ISD FFA.

Rodeo activities include barrel racing, bull riding, and a calf scramble. The rodeo also features a carnival and a buyer's luncheon for those looking to purchase livestock raised by Katy ISD FFA students. Prospective



The original Katy FFA chapter agricultural farm and facilities were a far cry from the modern Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center where the present-day livestock show is held.

DIANA ROBINSON ELDER

buyers can see the livestock at the livestock show. Sponsorships are available for the rodeo. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website katyrodeo.org. Other annual community events have been set up to support the livestock show and rodeo. The Texas Chili Cookoff, proceeds of which benefit the Katy FFA, is set for 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 11 in the American Furniture Warehouse parking lot, 500 Pin Oak Road. For more information, call the Katy Ara Chamber of Commerce at 281-391-5289.

The annual Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show and Rodeo Parade is set for 9:30 a.m. Feb. 18. The parade be-

gins at the Academy Sports Complex-Rhodes Stadium parking lot, 1733 Katy Fort Bend Road, and runs south on Katyland Drive, then west on Highway Boulevard, ending at the Katy High School campus, 6331 Highway Blvd. For more parade information, including sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, email parade committee at KatyRodeoParade@gmail.com.

While the livestock show and rodeo are contemporary events, they do have an interesting history. Diana Robinson Elder, daughter of show founder L.D. Robinson, shared some photos of the people and places of the livestock show's past.

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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Paetow, 7 p.m.
- Katy vs. Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Paetow, 7 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

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

Wednesday

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

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

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

Wednesday

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

SWIMMING/DIVING

Thursday-Saturday

- Class 6A Regional meet, Cy-Fair

WRESTLING

Friday

- District 19-6A Tournament

CINCO RANCH'S KING EARNS 300TH COACHING WIN IN OVERTIME THRILLER

OVER JORDAN



Left: Cinco Ranch head coach Neil King talks to his players on the court during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Jordan at the Jordan gym. Above: Josh Lennon drives past a defender during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Jordan at the Jordan gym.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch dug deep. They wanted to win Tuesday — they knew what the game against Jordan meant not just to their playoff hopes but also for their head coach Neil King.

The Cougars trailed for most of the game, but things clicked for the Cougars in the fourth quarter as they made a comeback and won in overtime 55-52 in thrilling fashion over Jordan.

The reason it meant so much to the Cougars? It was their head coach Neil King's chance to get his 300th win of his career, and the Cougars wanted to make sure it happened on Tuesday.

"He's just a great coach," said senior guard Josh Lennon. "He has so much experience and he always puts us in the right positions. We

trust him and what he does really just helps us win games. We're always in the right defense and always in the right play, I'm just glad we could get him win 300."

The win was more than just the 300th for King for Cinco Ranch. It was a win that kept the Cougars in the top four in what is a tight battle in District 19-6A, and a win over a Jordan side that they are competing with for playoff spots and positioning.

Jordan came out with a strong start and built a seven-point lead in the first quarter and went into halftime up eight.

But Cinco Ranch kept pushing and kept finding a way to stay in the game, and they started to get back into it in the second half, as the Cougars did not give in.

"I'm just so proud of the way we

See **KING**, page B3

Seven Lakes ready to defend district title, go for four-peat

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes has a number of goals this season.

The Spartans want to build off their historic year last year, where they made it to the Class 6A-State Semifinals, they want to prove they are one of the best teams in the state and they want to continue the legacy of the classes that came before them in the Spartans program.

But their first — and most important — goal right now is their main focus and not on any of that — it's on taking things a game at a time and defending the team's District 19-6A title, which the team has won three years running.

"That's our first goal and we talk about it at the beginning of every year," said senior striker Hunter Merritt. "We want to go on a run, we want to win



TYLER TYRE

Hunter Merritt crosses a ball during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes soccer field.

state and we want to do those things, but first and most importantly we have to take care of the here and now. Our first thing we have to take care of is winning a district championship. We want to make it four

straight and we don't want that streak to end."

The Spartans find themselves in prime position to be able to do that this season,

See **SOCCER**, page B5

Sophie Baran fights for possession against Paetow defenders during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

TYLER TYRE



Cinco Ranch cruises past Paetow, keeps pace in district playoff race

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Aniya Foy and Dani Williams feed off each other's presence on the basketball court.

The backcourt duo has grown over the past two seasons together and is the motor for the Cougars offense, and they have had the Cougars in a strong

See **CINCO**, page B3



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Tompkins' Ellis named Regional Assistant Coach of the Year



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins assistant coach Bethany Ellis was named a Texas High School Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year, garnering the honors in Region V-6A.

Ellis was named the assistant coach of the year for the region after helping Tompkins to a District 19-6A title, a Class 6A-Region III title and an appearance in the Class 6A state title game.

Tompkins finished the season 42-5, falling to Dripping Springs in the state title game in the teams first ever state appearance.

The Falcons went the entire district season without losing a match, winning 16 in a row over the course of District 19-6A, before going on their long playoff run. The Falcons produced five all-state members on the year and looks to have a very strong team returning for the 2023 season.

Tompkins head coach Allison Merrell and the Tompkins coaching staff talk to their team during a timeout against Canyon in the finals match of gold bracket Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament at Bridgeland.

TYLER TYRE

Royal's Reagins named THSCA Regional Coach of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Brookshire Royal head coach Theadis Reagins was named the recipient of the first ever Texas High School Coaches Association Football Regional Coach of the Year Award on Tuesday.

Head coaches from each region around the state were recognized and Reagins was named the Region VI-4A head coach of the year, while Royal offensive coordinator Phil Wilson was named the assistant coach of the year for Region VI-4A.

The two were named coaches of the year after a terrific season for the Falcons, which was their best season since 2010, in which they finished with a 9-2 overall record and mad the bi-district round of



THEADIS REAGINS

the playoffs. Royal lost only one game in district play, going 5-1 and finishing second to Silsbee as they continued to improve under Reagins. The Falcons averaged 34 points while giving up under 14 points on average in the regular season.

The Falcons fell in the first round of the playoffs but showed lots of improvement and look to be in just as good of a spot for next season.

Only one other Houston area coach was named as a coach of the year, in New Caney head coach Travis Reeve.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston guard Marcus Sasser (0) shoots a jump shot during an NCAA men's basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Southern Methodist Mustangs on Jan. 5, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 87-53.

Sasser earns spot on Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Watchlist

STAFF REPORT

University of Houston senior guard Marcus Sasser was named to the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Watch List, the Atlanta Tipoff Club announced Thursday.

Known for his offensive prowess, Sasser has been just as much of a leader for the Cougars on the defensive end of the court in 2022-23.

The Dallas native leads the Cougars and ranks seventh in the American Athletic Conference with 1.9 steals per game. Sasser has recorded at least one steal in all but five games with multiple steals in 10 contests this season.

A four-year letterman, Sasser leads the defensive efforts in the backcourt for the Cougars, who lead the nation in scoring margin (+21.2 ppg), rank second

in the country in field goal percentage defense (34.7) and scoring defense (54.2 ppg) and stand fourth in 3-point field goal percentage defense (26.0).

The Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Award is annually presented to the nation's most outstanding defensive basketball player who achieves tremendous on-court success. The award has been presented annually since 1969.

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CINCO

from page B1

spot in district all season.

That connection has been key to Cinco Ranch's success, and it was there once again as the two led the Cougars to a 60-32 win over Paetow, as Cinco Ranch kept pace in the District 19-6A playoff race, staying in third place as the regular season enters the home stretch.

"We just read each other and know how to work together," said Foy, a sophomore guard. "We've been playing with each other for almost two seasons now and we just know how each other are going to play — we make plays off each other and it just makes the game easier for both of us."

Foy and Williams combined for 37 points in the win, with Foy scoring 21 and Williams scoring 16 in the win in a game that Cinco Ranch had control over from start to finish.

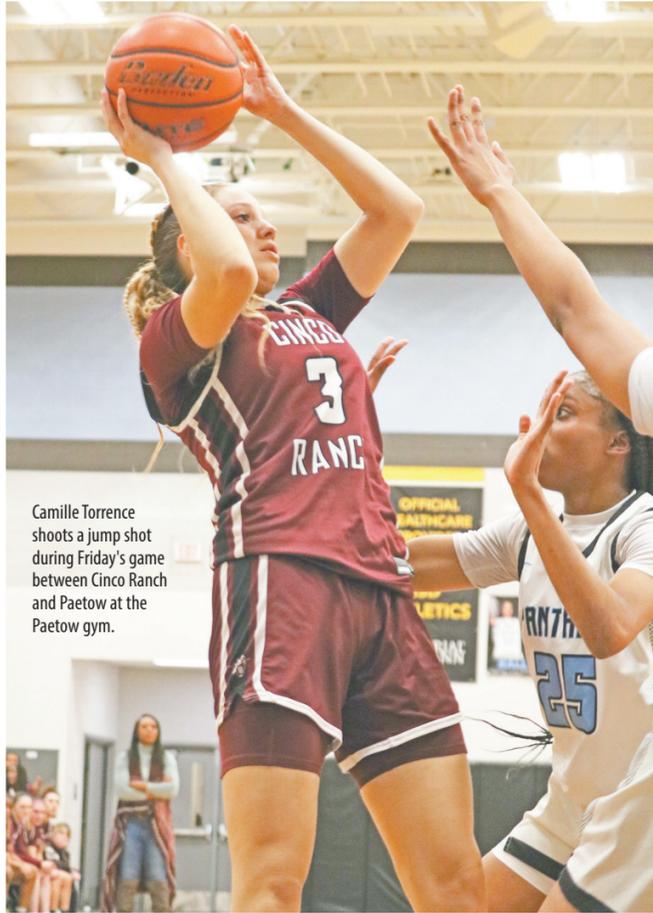
The Cougars jumped out to a four point lead in the fourth quarter but quickly ballooned that to an 11 point lead at the end of the second as they ended the half up 24-13.

And as much as the offense did for the Cougars, it was the defense that had the biggest impact, as they held the Panthers to just one double digit scorer and held Paetow under 10 points in all but one quarter on the night.

"The girls have really committed to playing on that end of the floor," said Cinco Ranch head coach Tamara Collier. "They're communicating and talking back there and it's made a big difference. It helps their rotates and switching and it just goes a long way in winning games."

The Cougars put things beyond a doubt in the third quarter, going up by 16 points before cruising the rest of the way in the fourth.

"We've been working on our passing as a team and wanting to make sure on every possession we have as many players touch the ball as possible," Williams said. "It's just a lot of team stuff that's improved our offense. We've been picking at a



Camille Torrence shoots a jump shot during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

lot of details in practice and getting better with that because it opens up the floor with everyone. That's something we've started to do really well I think."

The win keeps Cinco Ranch just half a game back of Tompkins and in the third spot in district. The Cougars have two games remaining, going up against two of the tougher teams in district in Katy and Seven Lakes to close things out, and they know they can't afford to take their foot off the gas.

"I think we just need to continue what we've been doing," Williams said. "We have to listen to our coaches, know what we need to do when

we go out there every night and listen to the minor details that we need to fix the rest of the way. If we do that we'll be in really good shape."

District 19-6A

CINCO RANCH 60, PAETOW 32

Points: (CR) Aniya Foy 21, Dani Williams 16, Camille Torrence 8, Madison Lee 5, Emerson Brown 4, Holly Frith 3, Sofia Budnik 1; (P) Lyne Lagat 15, Tiera Hall 7, Gabrielle Barnes 4, Lauren Johnson 4, Trinity Brown 2

Halftime: Cinco Ranch 24-13; 3-Pointers: (CR) Foy; (P) Lagat; Records: Cinco Ranch: 24-8, 10-4; Paetow: 14-12, 6-7;



Tiera Hall pulls down a rebound during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



Aniya Foy drives the baseline during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

"This win was such a big one for us. It's a confidence booster for us after we had lost some of these close games. We came back stronger and now have to go out and continue winning."

—PRINCE JONES-BYNUM

KING

from page B1

fought for this whole game," King said. "We battled for the entire time, a lot of things didn't go our way but they just kept competing. It's what we're about and to see them pull out a win here the way they did was awesome."

Cinco still trailed by eight entering the fourth quarter, but continued to get back into it and started to trim the deficit behind a terrific performance from Lennon. Lennon scored all 18 of his points in the third and fourth quarters, including seven in the fourth. The Cougars finally tied things with 40 seconds left and took the game to overtime where Prince Jones-Bynum scored six of his 18 points to seal the win for the Cougars.

Lennon had been out with an injury and his return was felt both on the scoresheet and with the way he helped open the offense up for others.

"He's a first team all-district player and a two-year letterman so he's a big piece," King said. "The team plays with a lot of confidence when he's out there — he's a part of everything that we do. I'm just glad that he was able to recover from that injury and credit to him for how he worked himself back. He didn't want to let any of his brothers down and he was huge for us tonight."

The Cougars continue to grind out performances and it's brought them to a decent position in the second half of the district schedule, but they know there is work to do and that they can't let up moving forward.

"This win was such a big one for us," Bynum said. "It's a confidence booster for us after we had lost some of these close games. We came back stronger and now have to go out and continue winning."



Prince Jones-Bynum shoots a layup during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Jordan at the Jordan gym.

District 19-6A

CINCO RANCH 55, JORDAN 52

Points: (CR) Josh Lennon 18, Prince Jones-Bynum 18, Nashir Waters 8, Drew Joyce 5, Emmanuel Gregory 5; (J) Jaden Holt 17, Trevor Martz 12, Tyler France 7, Shawn Mitchell 6, Elijah Black 4, Isiah Tchokonte 4, Quinn Ford 2;

Halftime: Jordan 24-16; 3-Pointers: (J) Holt 3, Martz; Records: Cinco Ranch 18-10, 7-4, Jordan 21-7, 8-3;



Emmanuel Gregory dribbles the ball down the court during Tuesday's game between Cinco Ranch and Jordan at the Jordan gym.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Waller County

The 88th Texas Legislature intends on considering the creation of a new County Court at Law for Waller County. This new proposed court will have jurisdiction only in Waller County and over cases as prescribed in the proposed language of the bill.

This notice has been approved, and paid for, by the Waller County Commissioners Court.

January 26 Puzzle Answers

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

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Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is Willowfork Fire Station, 2700 Spring Green Blvd, Katy, Texas 77494.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:05 P.M. on February 21, 2023, for Lakeview Recreation Area. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, sod, pavilion, sidewalk, fishing pier, site furniture, playground structures, parking area. Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Form shown in Spec Book) Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted. A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 2:15 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area. The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas. The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard: "The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements." The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The County of Waller is soliciting proposals for:

Road & Bridge Software Application and Services

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts February 20, 2023 until 2:00 pm in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. February 21, 2023, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on March 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

We are soliciting proposals for Software Application and Services related to this program. Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 pm on February 20, 2023 at 836 Austin St, Hempstead, TX, 77445, Attn: Alan Younts, County Auditor or a.younts@wallercounty.us. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us.

ALAN YOUNTS
County Auditor
836 Austin Street, Suite 221
Hempstead, Texas 77445

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision

Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023 by 3 p.m.

Specifications: Purchasing@kttribe.org or 830-773-2105

All proposals and scope of work will need to include materials, equipment, and labor for 10 new wood frame homes. Proposals must be received in a sealed envelope labeled: CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NEW HOMES IN THE VEGA LAND SUBDIVISION. A performance and payment bond will be required for this project. All proposals should be sent/delivered to: PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Government Building, 2212 Rosita Valley Rd., Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on February 21, 2023, for Lakeview Phase 1 Landscape Improvements.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, makeup well, and sod.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Form shown in Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Waller County W.C.I.D. No. 3 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Waller County M.U.D. No. 34C in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:10 P.M. on February 21, 2023, for Lakeview Water Plant Landscape Screening.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, and sod.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Form shown in Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. **This sum is non-refundable** and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Waller County M.U.D. No. 34C in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 2:30 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

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EMPLOYMENT

Like working with kids? HANK Inc seeks foster parents for Community Foster Homes caring for 6 kids. Home and vehicle provided in beautiful community of Medina County, Texas, 512-791-9410.

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision, Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023, by 3 p.m. Specifications: Purchasing@kttribe.org or 830-773-2105.

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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Sean Carlos Rivera tries to bring in a pass during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes soccer field.

SOCCER
from page B1

returning a large amount of talent from last year's team, especially on the attacking end.

That attacking prowess though has led teams to playing very defensively against the Spartans, and that's exactly what the Spartans faced on Saturday as Mayde Creek came out in a defensive heavy lineup and played deep, clogging space in front of goal and trying to keep Seven Lakes off the score sheet.

But it was something that the Spartans prepared for. They had faced a Morton Ranch team that had deployed the same strategy on Tuesday and in practice after the game they had worked on ways to break down a compact back line.

That paid dividends, as the Spartans scored two goals in the first 14 minutes in what ended up being a 3-0 Seven Lakes victory over the Rams.

"You have to be patient when you're going against a team in a 5-4-1 like they were," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Kreuger. "It can be frustrating to go up against and it can be tough to find those pockets of space you need. But when it opens you have to go quick, because as quick as it opens up it will close because the number of bodies there. We had moments where we did that today, we stayed patient, found the passing lanes and when the opportunity came to attack we did get a couple of goals."

The Spartans first came from an own goal after Daniel Ejerena swung in a cross that was deflected into the back of the net in



Kortay Koc dribbles past a defender during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes soccer field.

"We just have to keep playing the way we play. We have to play our game and not fall into what other teams want us to do. And we can't take any days off."

—AIDAN MORRISON

the 11th minute. Kortay Koc doubled the lead just three minutes later, playing a give and go with Jesus Duque, who played Koc in behind the Rams defense where he calmly put the ball past the Mayde Creek keeper.

Merritt sealed things in the second half when he took a cross from Aidan Morrison and headed it in to make things 3-0, as the Spartans were able to put a happy note on a rainy Saturday morning.

The Spartans had to replace all four of their back

four from last season as well as their goalie, as every starter from the defense graduated, but the team has been up to the challenge, only allowing one goal through their first four district games.

"We knew that was big to fill those roles back there and we've constantly worked on it," Morrison said. "We do whole things based on just the defense and everyone playing back there has stepped up in a big way. I'm proud of the guys and the job they've been doing so far and I know we can build on it."

The Spartans are 4-0 through their first four district games and are tied for first place in district, but they know they have to keep improving and pushing if they are to achieve their goals.

"We just have to keep playing the way we play," Morrison said. "We have to play our game and not fall into what other teams want us to do. And we can't take any days off."



COURTESY KATY ISD

Paetow student Nicolas Valadez was a finisher this year at the Houston Marathon.

Paetow student finishes Houston Marathon

STAFF REPORT

Paetow senior Nicolas Valadez was a finisher at the Houston Marathon last weekend, taking on a big challenge and finishing in the top third of the entire event in what

Valadez finished 445th overall out of more than 13,000 runners and had supports from his classmates as well, as

more than 40 Paetow National Honor Society students, including the National Honor Society Secretary at Paetow.

Valadez is active in both the academic and athletic side at Paetow, as he serves as the Treasurer of the National Honor Society and as a member of the cross country and track team in athletics.

Valadez advanced to the Class 6A Region III meet this year in cross country.

Elder joins AAC as Director of Football Operations

STAFF REPORT

Katy High School graduate Shane Elder joined the American Athletic Conference in Dallas this past year as the Director of Football Operation & Sport Administration. He assists in management and administration of the American's football programs which include regular season operational policies and coordination of the conference's annual football championship games. He will also serve as the staff administrator for the select Olympic sports.

Before joining the American Athletic



COURTESY DON ELDER

Shane Elder has joined the American Athletic Conference as Director of Football Operation & Sport Administration.

Conference (AAC), Elder was an Assistant Director for Recruiting and Operations for Texas A&M and also served in the Corporate Communica-

tions Department for the Dallas Mavericks. Shane joined Larry Coker, the head football coach at the University of Texas at San Antonio to start the first football program at UTSA as the Assistant Athletic Director for Football Operations and then joined the staff at the University of North Texas as the Assistant Athletic Director for Football Operations.

Elder graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor's in Kinesiology and a Master's degree in Sport Management. He and his wife Maddie have two sons, Easton and Beck, they live in Argyle.

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Katy Times

Registration open for National Girls and Women in Sports Day Conference

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Registration is open for the second annual National Girls and Women in Sports Conference, hosted by Morton Ranch High School on Feb. 20

Katy ISD female student athletes as well as Katy ISD coaches that coach female student athletes are invited to attend as conference speakers discuss

women making strides in the world of sports, competing and coaching in women's sports and more.

The conference will be held at the Morton Ranch High School Performing Arts Center from 8 a.m. to noon and will include a free breakfast for attendees. Attendees who register before Feb. 3 will also receive a free T-shirt.

Speakers and more details about the conference are still to be announced.

To register for the conference, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjc559BHUbyXBJkXEla_zCFHYWq27hDn93WoL08cYMaLFSyQ/viewform or scan the QR code in the graphic.

Morton Ranch is hosting its second National Girls and Women in Sports Day Conference on Feb. 20.

COURTESY KATY ISD



NGWSD
NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 20, 2023 8am-12pm
Morton Ranch High School Performing Arts Center
Check-In/grab-n-go breakfast 8am-8:30am
Conference begins at 8:30am

Register Today-FREE Event!
*Registration is open to ALL female KISD student athletes and any KISD Coach that coaches female student-athletes.
*Coaches will receive 4 PD hours for attending (additional registration in Eduphoria is required)

Register before 2/3/23 and receive a FREE Conference T-shirt



*Grab-N-Go breakfast will be provided at check in

@MRHSGirlsTrack

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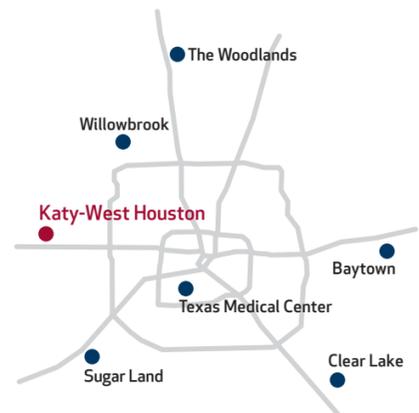
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