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SPORTS | B1

Katy Times

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VOLUME 112, ISSUE 7

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Katy city council calls for May 4th election



DAN SMITH



GINA HICKS

Council also approved additional equipment for police department

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

At Monday's meeting of the Katy City council, members voted unanimously to

call for the Saturday, May 5th election to elect council members from both Ward A and Ward B. The city is executing a joint election agreement and contract with Katy Independent School District to conduct the election. As previously reported in the Katy Times, the city and the school district have joined together to conduct elections. At the January 22nd meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees, Katy ISD general counsel Justin

Graham said that in 2023, the City of Katy paid the district \$25,000.00 to administer the city elections but that the figure represented a cost savings to taxpayers.

Incumbents Dan Smith (elected to Ward A in 2021) and Gina Hicks (elected to Ward B in 2021) have both filed for re-election; the deadline for filing is Friday, February 16th,

See **COUNCIL**, page A3

KISD school board meets for 'strategic design' workshop

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Continuing an extensive process that began over four months ago, the Katy Independent School District's Board of Trustees met Thursday, February 8th, for a workshop on the district's strategic plan. The three-hour meeting took place at the Community Room at Legacy Stadium, 5070 Franz Rd., Katy, and was facilitated by Julie Moynihan, Certified e2L Data-Informed Growth Coach. All board members, along with Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Chief Communications Officer Andrea Grooms, CFO Chris Smith, and other KISD staff members were in attendance.

This was the third and final workshop on the topic for the board; additionally, the board met for two "refresh days" during the process. Board president Victor Perez said that the district's strategic plan, begun in 2017, needed to be "refreshed" at regular intervals so that it remained relevant and aligned with current conditions and with the ever-changing needs of students, teachers and the community, as well as with the changes in school finance and safety/security.

Members of the Katy community have also been involved in the update to the district's plan.

See **KISD**, page A3

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February 15, 2024
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Katy ISD's FFA Best Buddies Special Rodeo

A Celebration of Joy and Friendship

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD's FFA Livestock Show is not just a showcase of agricultural excellence, but also a heartwarming testament to inclusivity and compassion as it annually hosts a Special Rodeo for students with special needs. Held on Tuesday, February 13, this event brought joy and smiles to all participants and attendees, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie.

The Special Rodeo provides an opportunity for students with special needs to experience the thrill of the rodeo in a safe and supportive environment. With the assistance of their "best buddy" FFA student, these remarkable individuals were able to saddle up and participate in a variety of rodeo activities tailored to their abilities.

"We are thrilled to see the excitement on the faces of all the participants at this year's Special Rodeo," said Jeannie Knierim, CTE Director at Katy ISD. "It's truly heartwarming to witness the genuine connections formed between our FFA students and their peers with special needs. This event embodies the spirit of our community, where everyone is valued and celebrated," she added.

While riding and roping, every moment was filled with laughter and encouragement as students from all nine Katy ISD high schools cheered each other on. The bond between the FFA students and their buddies from the special education program was palpable, providing a memorable experience where friendships are forged, and the memories last a lifetime.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg (left) speaks to community members at a January 26th "meet and greet" at Fuzzy's Pizza, 613 S. Mason, Katy, hosted by owner Jeff Hajjar (right).

Crime prevention, victim assistance programs get a boost from reinvested criminal assets

DA Ogg donates more than \$1 million to support crime prevention efforts

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg reinvested more than \$1 million from seized criminal assets into community

crime prevention programs in 2023 - the second-largest annual reinvestment since taking office in 2017, said a February 2nd press release from the district attorney's office.

"These assets are seized from those who intend to destroy our communities - the drug and human traffickers, street racers and money launderers," DA Ogg said. "By reinvesting these funds into community building and crime-prevention programs, we are disrupting the cycle of

crime for profit and intervening in high-risk communities before crime takes hold."

The HCDAO's Asset Forfeiture Division handled approximately 1,200 cases in 2023 and obtained judgments awarding more than \$4.8 million for law-enforcement purposes and crime-prevention programs.

About 70% of the seized funds go directly to law-enforcement agencies, and the District

See **ASSETS**, page A3

Fort Bend Transit breaks ground on new Westpark Park and Ride

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On January 29th, Fort Bend Transit (FBT) officially broke ground on its newest park and ride facility - the Westpark Park and Ride. The groundbreaking kicked off the construction phase of the facility which will support FBT's Commuter Service. The Westpark Park and Ride facility is scheduled for completion in November 2024 and is conveniently located just east of the Grand Parkway, on the frontage road of the Westpark Tollway.

"I am very excited about the long-awaited Westpark Park and Ride connection that will give Precinct One commuters the opportunity to travel from the Cinco Ranch area to the Energy Corridor," said Precinct One Commissioner Vincent Morales. "This will be a great asset for our working community who travels that route every day. We are also looking forward to the possibility of the location being a hub for other regional transportation options due to its ideal location off of the Westpark Tollway."

The facility will include 262 parking spaces (253 regular and

See **TRANSIT**, page A3

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Katy's culinary extravaganza – the Katy Taste Fest – returns to Typhoon Texas on March 2nd with savory samples from over 30 local restaurants. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARISTA GROUPS

Katy Taste Fest returns to Texas Typhoon on March 2

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy Taste Fest, a culinary journey, will be celebrating six years of delighting taste buds and supporting local nonprofits. This family-friendly event will feature a diverse array of delectable tastes from over 30 restaurants from the greater Katy area. Attendees can taste all that Katy has to offer, from savory delights to sweet treats!

The event is March 2 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., with VIP access beginning at 11:30AM. at Typhoon Texas,

555 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy.

“What makes Katy Taste Fest truly special is its commitment to community philanthropy,” said Cyril Thomas, the festival organizer, in a January press release. “The festival’s primary mission is to increase awareness of the needs in the community and showcase local non-profits that help fill those needs. Being entirely volunteer operated, our event is dedicated towards supporting local and international non-profits. Join us for a fulfilling experience where you can

contribute to a meaningful cause.” Katy Taste Fest supports several local charities that focus on vulnerable children and zero waste, he said.

In addition to the incredible food offerings, Katy Taste Fest provides a memorable experience for the entire family. From the Kids’ Zone with interactive games, to live entertainment for adults, as well as a silent auction - there’s fun to be had by the whole family. “Katy Taste Fest is not only a celebration of the culinary arts but also a platform to support our local community,” said Thomas. “By bringing together food enthusiasts, amazing restaurants, and non-profit organizations, we aim to create a truly memorable event that leaves a lasting positive impact.”

Tickets for Katy Taste Fest are available for purchase online at katytastefest.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ARC of Katy gala to be held February 16th

The Arc of Katy will celebrate Fiesta 2024 Viva! The Arc of Katy Friday, February 16th – a fund-raising social event that supports programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Join The Arc of Katy Board of Directors as they recognize the following honorees:

- Ann David Founders Award: Houston Junior Forum
 - Volunteers of the year: Marvin and Mary Keller
 - Community Champion: Rooms To Go
- The Fiesta will held Friday, February 16th, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Palacio Maria, 21728 Highland Knolls Dr., Katy. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or to be a donor, please go to events.readysetauction.com/arckaty/viva.

Pedaling the Prairie bike ride returns February 24th

Pedaling the Prairie, which organizers bill as one of the best training rides in Texas, will begin at 7 a.m. at the Waller County Fairgrounds, 22000 Fairground Road in Hempstead, on February 24th. This non-competitive race cruises past the rice fields and prairie between Bellville and Katy, Texas, with several well-planned routes, ranging from a 24-mile beginner course to a 68-mile endurance ride. Register online at Pedalingtheprairie.org; the first 500 registrants receive a free Dri-Fit. For more information, call Cheri Larson at 281-391-5683 ext. 226.

Harris County Precinct 4 presents “A Seat at the Table” at West Houston Institute on February 24th

Join the West Houston Institute for a powerful Black History Month networking breakfast and panel discussion hosted by Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones. Celebrate “A Seat at the Table” with inspiring Black women leaders on February 24th from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the West Houston Institute at 2811 Hayes Road, Houston. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/HCP4BlackHistory24>.

Celebrate Texas Independence Day on March 2nd with the Texas Heritage Festival at the Fulshear Branch Library

Jointly sponsored by the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, Christ Clinic and Houston Methodist West Hospital, the Texas Heritage Festival will offer unique ways to celebrate Texas’ independence. There will be Texas games, bounce houses, bull riding, longhorns, and a petting zoo, along with cultural exhibitions, live music, and square dancing. Local vendors will also offer items for purchase. The free event starts at high noon on March 2nd and continues until 4 p.m. at the Fulshear Branch Library, 6350 GM Library Road,

off Texas Heritage Parkway. For more information, call the chamber at (832) 600-3221.

It’s a blast from the past on March 2nd with “Retro Rewind” from Katy’s Parks and Recreation Department

Get ready to step back in time at Retro Rewind on March 2nd from 7 to 10 p.m. at the historic town square at 910 Avenue C in downtown Katy. Come join the night of nostalgic fun featuring live music from The Flying Ivories with their dueling pianos that will take you on a musical journey through the decades. Immerse yourself in the ultimate retro experience with classic arcade games, strike a pose at the rad photo booth, and let loose on the dance floor! It’s a blast from the past, and you won’t want to miss out on this unforgettable night. Free event. For more information, go to facebook.com/katyparksandrec.

Greater Katy Senior Expo comes to the Merrell Center on March 7th

Seniors can connect with dozens of local companies specializing in senior services at the Greater Katy Senior Expo at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy on Thursday, March 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event offers free parking, free health screenings, free refreshments and a chance to win a \$200 VISA gift card. Other prizes will be awarded hourly and there are additional giveaways as well. For more information on the expo, which is sponsored by Today’s Hearing, go to seniorexpousa.com/2024-greater-katy-texas-attendee.html#.

Katy Pride to host social event March 7th at BB’s-Tex Orleans

Meet the Katy Pride board of directors and other LGBTQ community members at Katy Pride’s social event at BB’s Tex-Orleans, 406 W. Grand Parkway in Katy on March 7th at 6:30 p.m. The event, sponsored by TLN Consulting, will be held on the patio if the weather cooperates or in the private room if not. All attendees will be responsible for their own food and drink with an automatic 20% gratuity.

Shop til you drop at the Rosenberg Spring Market March 8-10

Come to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds for a fun weekend of shopping with handmade crafts, home decor, jewelry, holiday accessories, children’s gifts, clothing boutiques & more on March 8-10. General admission hours are noon to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Food trucks will be available. The \$5.00 ticket is good for admission for all days and parking is free. Tickets can be purchased online at homefortheholidaygiftmarket.ticketspice.com/spring-market-of-rosenberg. Children 12 and under are free and strollers are permitted. The Fort Bend County Fairgrounds are located at 4310 TX-36 S, Rosenberg, TX 77471

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CLUES ACROSS

- Gene type
- Persian male given name
- Type of protection
- Cloud
- One who returns to life
- Gym class
- General’s assistant (abbr.)
- Baby’s dining accessory
- Enchantress
- Prefix denoting “in a”
- Spiritual leader
- Cavities
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Foot (Latin)
- Sweet potato
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Land
- More inquisitive
- Dog breed: ___ Apso
- Stood up
- Direct and uninhibited
- Authorless
- Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Macaws
- Actress Remini
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- Fitzgerald and Baker are two

CLUES DOWN

- DC Comics superhero
- Brew
- Play
- Single-celled animals
- Rough to the touch
- Small island (British)
- Often noted alongside cons
- Preparation of rootstock
- Atomic #44
- Egyptian unit of capacity
- About secretary
- Particular groups
- Poke fun at
- Make certain that something occurs
- Financial term
- Justify
- Arbiter
- 007’s creato
- Czech name for Prague
- Groans
- American time
- No seats available

CLUES ACROSS

- ___ Stahl, journalist
- Cleft lip
- Talk incessantly
- Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Curdled milk
- Running competitions
- A team’s best pitcher

CLUES DOWN

- Carthaginian explorer
- World-renowned city
- Most common Japanese surname
- The bill in a restaurant
- They ___
- City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- Distinctive practice
- One quintillion bytes

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

TRANSIT

from page A1

nine handicapped), a bus loading area with a canopy and a restroom, and a dedicated right-turn lane to the park and ride facility.

Fort Bend County has selected the following firms to complete the construction of the new facility:

- Project Contractor: SpawGlass
 - Project Design Engineer: IDCUS
 - Project Architect: PGAL
- The Westpark Park and Ride is the fourth park and ride facility under FBT's Commuter Service, with the others located at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, the University of Houston

– Sugar Land, and the AMC Theater at the First Colony Mall in Sugar Land. FBT's Commuter Service currently provides weekday public transportation to the Texas Medical Center (TMC) and Greenway Plaza, with a Galleria transfer option.

In 2005, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court approved the creation of the Fort Bend County Public Transportation Department now known as Fort Bend Transit, or FBT. FBT's mission is to provide safe and efficient public transportation services while maintaining service quality and customer satisfaction.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT BEND TRANSIT

Pictured from left to right: Sarah Coulter (Assistant Transit Director), Fort Bend County Commissioner Dexter McCoy, Fort Bend County Judge KP George, Fort Bend County Commissioner Vincent Morales, Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers, Fort Bend County Commissioner Grady Prestage, Perri D'Armond (Transit Director), David Ajlani (SpawGlass Operations Manager)

KISD

from page A1

"For the past seven years, Katy ISD has engaged in a community driven strategic planning process that has led to nine goals and over 60 objectives that have guided many of the outcomes and practices adhered to and utilized across our schools today," said Grooms. "This fall, the community completed work on its third districtwide strategic plan. The planning process commenced with a districtwide survey assessment this past fall in which community feedback was gathered pertaining to outcomes achieved over the past two-cycles of strategic planning, as well input on future districtwide priorities and objectives."

"The survey outcomes informed discussions and decision-making points among a group of over 100 parents, business leaders, faith-based leaders, retirees, students, and staff who comprised the Community Strategic Planning Committee," she continued. "This group updated district goals and defined specific results and objectives for the district to achieve by 2026. Their collaborative efforts have established the foundation of the district's next two-year strategic plan (2024-2026)."

Members of the Community Strategic Planning Committee were nominated by campus principals and Trustees. The committee met on November 30, 2023, and January 18, 2024.

During Thursday's board member workshop, participants reviewed the strategic design refresh process, reviewed the analysis of the goals; reviewed the specific results, action items and timeline for each goal; and developed "elevator speeches" to help inform constituents about the plan update. In the process of reviewing the goals, the facilitator provided board members

KATY ISD 2024-2026 Strategic Plan Goals

GOAL 1: Katy ISD will actively ensure safe and secure physical environments for students and staff.

GOAL 2: All learning environments will foster engagement by integrating personalized learning experiences.

GOAL 3: As a fast-growth district with changing demographics, Katy ISD will create and sustain operational resources and systems that benefit all students.

GOAL 4: Katy ISD will support best practices for utilizing effective assessments that inspire and inform purposeful instruction toward continuous improvement.

GOAL 5: Katy ISD will securely, effectively and efficiently provide best-in-class technology to accommodate, educate, and inform all stakeholders on the current and next generation of digital content and tools.

GOAL 6: Katy ISD will attract, develop, support and retain high quality staff members.

GOAL 7: Katy ISD will continually identify, address, and communicate the ongoing challenges in the public-school finance system.

GOAL 8: Katy ISD will engage its entire community to develop and implement intentional strategic relationships which capitalize on the strengths, resources and talents of all stakeholders.

GOAL 9: In collaboration with families and community, Katy ISD will actively support the well-being of students and staff.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy ISD Board of Trustees president Victor Perez (second from left) calls the special meeting of the board to order on February 7th at the Community Room at Legacy Stadium, 5070 Franz Rd., Katy. Participants (left to right) were KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Perez, board secretary Dawn Champagne, board vice president Amy Thieme, trustee Morgan Calhoun, trustee Rebecca Fox, an unidentified staff member, trustee Lance Redmon, Katy ISD Chief Communications Officer Andrea Grooms, and Julie Moynihan, Certified e2L Data-Informed Growth Coach, who facilitated the workshop.

with a summary of clarifications from the community committee regarding what each goal was, and what it was not.

The next meetings of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees are:

- Work study meeting on February 19
 - Regular board meeting on February 26
- For meeting times, locations and agendas, go to katyisd.org/Page/8012.

ASSETS

from page A1

Attorney's Office receives 30%, the press release said.

The District Attorney's Office donated \$1,043,266 from its portion of the funds in 2023 to local crime prevention and victim assistance programs, including the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to fund a "high risk team," the TXFNE Center of Forensic Excellence to quadruple its staff of forensic interviewers to assist adult victims of sexual assault, the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Success to Significance outreach program, and the Albert Schweitzer Scholarship Program to provide

resources for women after incarceration.

"This grant will help women turn their lives around after incarceration," Dr. Andrea Link, executive director of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Houston Galveston said. "Our Fellows work with programs like Angela House to provide health-related services to help women with a history of low-level offenses and co-occurring mental illness to truly get a fresh start."

Other recipients include American Youthworks, the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Chester Street Foundation, Hope for Families Inc., Min-

aret Foundation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and The Council on Recovery.

"We are sending criminals a strong message that

we do not tolerate crime for profit and that we are invested in the long-term health and safety of our communities," Ogg said.

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COUNCIL

from page A1

with February 21st as the deadline for write-in candidates, according to the City of Katy's city secretary office. As of press time on February 13th, no other candidates had filed to run in this election.

Council also authorized new equipment for the Katy Police Department, consisting of four mobile fingerprinting devices purchased at a cost of \$9,000.00 and the revision of a previous lease agreement in order to provide for five additional cameras for the department's license plate reader program. The new camera lease agreement, authorized for \$104,550.00, voids the previously approved lease for 35 cameras which was approved on January 22, 2024. KPD Chief Noe Diaz said that the five new locations would include Woods Road, Pitts Road near Morton Road, Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, Katy Hockley Road and on Katy-Flewellen Road near Katy Mills Mall. Diaz also said that through partnerships with local businesses and others, KPD has access to between 35 and 40 additional cameras. Installation of the cameras is already paying off, he said, with uses in addition to fighting crime. By using one of the cameras, the department was quickly able to answer a question about traffic counts going west on Pitts Road from Avenue D to FM 2855 – placing the number at about 65,000 cards in a week's time.

Council approved a number of resolutions supporting infrastructure projects, including:

- Authorization for the mayor to sign a resolution authorizing the issuance of unlimited tax road bonds to MUD No. 199.
- Authorization for the mayor to approve a proposal with ARKK Engineering for design and construction of asphalt street improvements to 10th Street, 13th Street, and First Street.
- Authorization for ARKK Engineering to perform waterline replacement in Pine Terrace, Phase 1; drainage improvements along 3rd Street; and sewer rehabilitation.
- Repair of a motor in a water well at City Water Plant No. 5.

In other action, a vendor agreement for the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Woodland Park, 443 Danover, was also approved. Annexation of 189.454 acres of land in Harris County situated in the H. & T. C. R. Co. Survey into the City of Katy was also approved.

Via consent agenda, council approved the following by a 5-0 vote:

- Approved use of hotel occupancy tax funds for the Houston MG Car Club's North American MGB Annual Car Show and Conference at Katy Mills Mall, April 21-25, 2024; for festival production services for the 2024 Katy Rice Harvest Festival, October 11-13, 2024; and \$100,000.00 for an upgrade to the HVAC system at the Johnny Nelson Museum.
- Street closures for upcoming events: Katy Elementary School Carnival, February 23, 2024; and the 2024 Run for Hope, April 6, 2024.

Council member reports focused on the current week's FFA Rodeo, parade and related activities.

Mayor Dusty Thiele announced that City Hall will be closed February 19th in observance of President's Day.

The next meeting of City Council will be February 26th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.



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Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital celebrates ten years

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital is celebrating ten years of being a part of the Houston Methodist hospital system. Since February 2014, Continuing Care Hospital, originally Christus St. Catherine Hospital, has been providing the Houston Methodist standard of care to its patients and has expanded to meet the growing needs of the community. The facility is located on a tree-lined campus at 701 S Fry Rd, in Katy.

A celebration was held in late January with hospital board members, hospital leaders, physicians, employees and volunteers. The event reflected on the hospital's decade-long journey with Houston Methodist and its contributions to the system and the community.

In 2014, the hospital had 14 beds and 78 employees. Today, Houston Methodist Continuing Care has grown to 58 beds and 398 employees.

Gary Kempf, chief executive officer of Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital, said, "Our journey over the past decade has been extraordinary. As we celebrate this milestone, I am inspired by the continuous growth and evolution of Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital."

As the only long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) within the Houston Methodist system, Houston Methodist Continuing Care plays a vital role in offering extended hospitalization services to patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital moved swiftly to open a high-intensity care



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital – the only long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) hospital in the entire Houston Methodist Hospital system – is located at 701 S. Fry in Katy. The facility just celebrated its tenth anniversary as part of the Houston Methodist Hospital system.

unit, which treated critically ill patients and assisted with surge capacity across the Houston Methodist system. In 2020, the hospital opened a new location in the Texas Medical Center, which has a 40-bed capacity to serve the growing demand for long-term acute care services.

"The dedication of our physicians, employees and volunteers has been the driving force behind our success. Together, we have built a hospital that not only meets but exceeds the healthcare needs of our community," said Kempf.

The Houston Methodist Continuing Care campus also houses a range of outpatient services, including imaging, rehabilitation, wound care and cardiac rehabilitation. To learn more about Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital, visit houstonmethodist.org/continuing-care.



Founded in 2015, Two Tarts' Toppers has been a staple in the Texas hat scene, captivating audiences with its unique blend of costuming and everyday hats. The Katy location has now opened at LaCenterra, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., across from Alamo Draft House.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Three tenants celebrate openings at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch

lululemon, Nando's and Two Tarts' Toppers are now open at the outdoor lifestyle shopping center

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, an outdoor lifestyle shopping center located at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy, announced February 6th that three new tenants, including lululemon, Nando's and Two Tarts' Toppers, are now open. These tenants join LaCenterra's unique lineup of retailers and restaurants tenants at the center including Teal Poppy, Sephora, Dish Society, Warby Parker and more.

"LaCenterra is thrilled to be starting the year off strong with the opening of several new tenants," said Norma Garza, General Manager at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch. "From stylish activewear to delicious food, these additions to our robust tenant mix offer something for everyone in the community to enjoy."

New tenants now open at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch:

lululemon

lululemon is a high-end yoga-focused activewear retailer offering stylish athletic wear, loungewear, footwear and accesso-

ries. The brand's new location is located in a 4,133-square-foot space next to Sephora.

Nando's

Helping people find their spicy place one piece of chicken at a time, Nando's is the home of the legendary South African flame-grilled PERI-PERI chicken and sauces. Nando's is now open in a 2,754-square-foot space next to Jamba Juice.

Two Tarts' Toppers

From everyday fashion to costuming, Two Tarts' Toppers offers affordable, artistically adorned hats as well as accessories like clips and headbands that accommodate various budgets. The locally-owned and operated retailer is now open in a 1,113-square-foot space next to CycleBar and across from Bar Louie. For more information, visit <https://www.lacenterra.com/>.

About LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch

Blending uptown style and old-town charm, LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch is a lifestyle shopping center in Katy, Texas, managed by JLL, offering more than 60 upscale shopping, dining and entertainment options in a relaxed Main Street-style setting. Located in one of the nation's premier master-planned communities on the western edge of metropolitan Houston, LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch is the ultimate Dine-Shop-Play-Live-Work destination. For more information, visit <https://www.lacenterra.com/>.

Nando's new restaurant combines food, tributes to South African culture

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nando's PERI-PERI, the beloved restaurant brand recognized around the world for its flavorful, flame-grilled chicken and commitment to South African farmers and creatives, made its much anticipated debut in Cinco Ranch on Monday, February 5th.

The brand's third Texas location at 23501 Cinco Ranch in La Centerra Cinco Ranch comes on the heels of its Addison opening and will be followed by a location in Austin later this year. "Launching our third Nando's location in Cinco Ranch marks a significant milestone for us in Texas. The reception we've experienced across the state has been phenomenal, with tremendous support and warmth from the local communities," said CEO John Fisher. "We are thrilled to not only introduce our renowned flame-grilled PERI-PERI dishes but also to weave ourselves into the vibrant fabric of the Cinco Ranch community."

The new Nando's Cinco Ranch boasts a kaleidoscope of color and texture, embodying the vivacious spirit of a brand with strong ties to their

cultural heritage.

A standout feature of the Cinco Ranch location is its exterior facade, brought to life by a monumental hand-painted geometric mural created by South African artist Agrippa Hlophe. The mural wraps around the building, creating a visually arresting backdrop for the new pergola. The pergola is a framework for a covered outdoor patio for approximately 77 guests and is adorned with terracotta-shaded string lights, cooling fans, and abundant greenery, providing an oasis for al fresco dining.

Guests can now finally savor the signature flavors of Nando's flame-grilled chicken. Classic options for indulging range from the HalfChicken and Chips (fries); the PERI Chicken Bowl, a mouthwatering combination of Portuguese rice topped with PERI-PERI chicken, arugula, roasted red peppers, grilled corn and velvety hummus; and the Nandocas Choice, a butterflied PERI-PERI chicken breast served atop garlic bread and complemented by house-made coleslaw.

Nando's Cinco Ranch is open seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. until 10 p.m.

New Fulshear branch library starts programs for teenagers

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Libraries' new Fulshear Branch Library offers programs specifically designed for high school-aged teens entering grades 9 through 12. The programs provide fun and challenging opportunities for these young adults, who are also encouraged to become active participants in designing and orchestrating new activities for teens in the library system.

The library will offer a Study Hall period every week on Thursdays, February 15, 22, and 29, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Computer Lab. Teens will have a designated study area free of distractions, with access to computers, research materials, and information specialists.

Teens can earn volunteer-service hours by participating in the library's Young Adult Advisory Council, where they can express

ideas, help organize upcoming activities, and suggest new programs and books that would be of interest to teens at the library. The first meeting of the Young Adult Advisory Council at the Fulshear Branch Library took place on February 14th.

The Fulshear Young Adult Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 28, beginning at 4:30 p.m. For the first meeting, those attending are invited to talk about the books they have been reading and what kinds of books they would like to talk about at upcoming meetings. The book club will meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

The activities are free and open to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us) or call the Fulshear Branch Library (346-481-6800), or the library system's Communications Office (281-633-4734).

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FULSHEAR KATY AREA CHAMBER WELCOMES PANEL OF LOCAL EXPERTS



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce presented a panel of local experts who gave an update on healthcare at the organization's quarterly luncheon February 7th at Gauchos Do Sul, 910 West Grand Parkway South. Panelists were (left to right) Freddy Frederick, owner of 4Ever Young Anti Aging Solutions Katy; Jay Donnella, who manages Population Health Communications for local charity clinic Christ Clinic; Jason Brown, general manager of ER Katy; and Dr. Craig Nemow of Chiro Dynamics. Each participant described his decision to enter the health care profession and related some of the most impactful moments of their careers and how technology and innovations such as AI have changed the healthcare system. All expressed concerns over how the availability and price of healthcare is currently managed, with many decisions dictated by insurance companies, they said. Panelists advised small business owners to provide health coverage and wellness programs for their employees as a way to attract and retain staff while boosting morale and productivity. Affordable options discussed included Christ Clinic's employer-sponsored membership.

Project Prom Brookshire to offer free prom dresses from March 4-8

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The third annual Project Prom week kicks off in Brookshire at The Hangar Unity Center, 4010 Fourth Street, starting on March 4th and continuing through March 8th. The event offers free prom dresses for Brookshire

students and features a boutique that will be open for young ladies to come find that special dress for their special night. For more information, call 832-722-8612 or go to facebook.com/Thehangarbrookshire. Donations of gently used dresses and evening wear are still being accepted.

KATY BUSINESS ASSN OPENS 40TH YEAR WITH OFFICER INSTALLATION



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Katy Business Association, one of Katy's oldest networking groups, is celebrating its 40th year in 2024. The group began the year with the installation of new officers at the January 24th meeting at Midway BBQ, 6025 Highway Blvd., Katy. The swearing-in was conducted by KBA member Skip Connor (left), who served as Katy's mayor from 1991 to 1995. New officers are (left to right): Olivia Martin of KTX Window Cleaning, president; Sandra Ross of Angels Surviving Cancer, vice president; Toni Burns of Reimagine Benefits, secretary; Mildred Vegara of Spoken Learning, membership; Carrie Swinsinski of Glass Doctor, marketing; and John Kirk of The Well Counseling, treasurer. Connor also received a special award from KBA recognizing his 40 years of membership in the organization.

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PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

Local student a candidate in U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Sneh Mamtora, a graduating senior at Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, has been named a Career and Technical Education candidate as part of the 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, according to a February 5th news release. The Career and Technical Education candidates were nominated by their Chief State School Officers based on their accomplishments in career and technical education fields.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize some



SNEH MAMTORA

exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program was expanded once again

to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical fields. Annually, up to 161 U.S. Presidential Scholars are chosen from among that year's senior class, representing excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's youth.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of up to 32 eminent citizens appointed by the President, will select the finalists, and the U.S. Department of Education will announce the 161 Scholars in May. Of these, up to 20 will be selected as U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Techni-

cal Education. U.S. Presidential Scholars are honored for their accomplishments during the National Recognition Program each June. To commemorate their achievement, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Sneh Mamtora is the child of Tejal Mamtora and Ashok Mamtora, and can be reached at snehmamtora@gmail.com.

For more information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars program, parents and students can call the Presidential Scholars Office at 507.931.8345, or send an e-mail to PSP@scholarshipamerica.org.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVENGO

Academy Sports + Outdoors, a national company headquartered in the greater Katy area at 1800 N. Mason Road, Katy, has announced the latest in a series of scholarships sponsored by the corporation. These scholarships, in partnership with the Grunt Style and the Children of Fallen Patriots, will benefit military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty.

Academy Sports + Outdoors and Grunt Style Foundation team up to support Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

Funds will help provide college scholarships to military children who lost a parent in the line of duty

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Academy Sports + Outdoors, in partnership with Grunt Style, is proud to support the education of Children of Fallen Patriots scholars. Through this collaboration, Academy Sports + Outdoors and Grunt Style raised over \$250,000 that will fund nearly 50 years of college education, ensuring a brighter future for deserving scholars.

The nonprofit's mission focuses on providing college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. They serve the families of servicemembers from all branches of the armed forces who have died as a result of combat casualties, military training accidents, service-related illnesses, suicide, as well as other duty-related deaths as ruled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. By providing college funding, they aim to alleviate the financial burden faced by these students and ensure they have the opportunity to pursue their educational goals.

This past summer, the two national brands collaborated on a merchandise program that donated a portion of select Grunt Style-branded product purchases made in participating Academy Sports + Outdoors stores or on academy.com, to Fallen Patriots. The proceeds from the sale of the limited-edition merchandise, as well as a generous donation match from The Grunt Style Foundation, resulted in funding that will cover college scholarships and educational counseling to the Gold Star scholars in Fallen Patriots' pipeline.

"We are immensely grateful to both

"We are immensely grateful to both brands for coming together to support our mission. Thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors and The Grunt Style Foundation, we have been able to cover the cost of a combined 49 years of college funding for our scholars from just this program alone, ensuring that the legacy of our fallen heroes is continued through their children."

— DAVID KIM,
Co-founder & CEO, Children of Fallen Patriots

brands for coming together to support our mission. Thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors and The Grunt Style Foundation, we have been able to cover the cost of a combined 49 years of college funding for our scholars from just this program alone, ensuring that the legacy of our fallen heroes is continued through their children. This support will empower them to focus on their studies, extracurricular activities, and personal growth, ultimately setting them up for success in their future careers. We are so incredibly grateful for this partnership and look forward to working together again in the future!" - David Kim, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, of Children of Fallen Patriots.

About Academy Sports + Outdoors

Academy, headquartered in Katy, is a leading full-line sporting goods and outdoor recreation retailer in the United States. Originally founded in 1938 as a family business in Texas, Academy has grown to 282 stores across 18 states. Academy's mission is to provide "Fun for All," and Academy fulfills this mission with a localized merchandising strategy and value proposition that strongly connects with a broad range of consumers. Academy's product assortment focuses on key categories of outdoor, apparel, footwear, and sports and recreation through both leading national brands and a portfolio of private label brands. For more information, visit www.academy.com.

About Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation honors the sacrifices of fallen military heroes by ensuring the success of their children through college education. Since 2002, the foundation has provided over \$76 million in support to more than 3,200 military children from all branches who lost a parent in the line of duty. The foundation estimates there are approximately 25,000 such children, and they will need \$625 million to complete college. Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation has earned a perfect rating from Charity Navigator, and due to generous Board donations, 100% of third-party donations go to programs. Help today by visiting www.fallenpatriots.org.

About the Grunt Style Foundation

Established in 2021, the Grunt Style Foundation is a 501(c)3 national nonprofit organization committed to providing life-changing resources and experiences in which veterans, service members, and their families thrive. The Grunt Style Foundation is the nonprofit arm of Grunt Style, a patriotic and veteran-operated apparel brand, to further Grunt Style's commitment to recognizing and celebrating those who bravely served the nation. The Grunt Style Foundation focuses on mental health and wellness, military transition, and sustainment while alleviating food insecurities, and ending homelessness for military and veteran communities.

To learn more about the Grunt Style Foundation, please visit www.gruntstylefoundation.org.

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo makes graduation reality for University of Houston-Downtown seniors

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

HOUSTON — Thanks to a \$125,000 Bridge Grant for Financial Gaps from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ (HLSR), University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) students who need financial support to complete coursework in their final semester will now be able to receive their diplomas in a timely manner and enter the workforce as professionals.

Since its beginning in 1932, the Rodeo has committed more than \$600 million to the youth of Texas and education, making HLSR one of the largest scholarship providers in the U.S. The 2024 Rodeo is scheduled for Feb. 27 - March 17.

"HLSR wants to ensure that the goals and dreams of UHD students are not derailed by financial burdens that could alter their careers and the earning potential that a college degree affords them," said Chris Boleman, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo president and CEO.

"Just as UHD offers academic support and interventions through targeted tutoring, mentoring, and advising for its students, HLSR is proud to partner with the University to provide the financial stability for its soon-to-be graduates who need the aid to succeed."

"UHD is celebrating 50 years of helping students and families move up the socioeconomic ladder by earning degrees of value in a reasonable time and with as little debt as possible," said UHD President Loren J. Blanchard. "Many of our Gators get so close to graduation yet don't have the resources to cross the finish line. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is now making the dream of a college diploma a reality for hundreds of our would-be graduates."

Seventy percent of UHD's student population is first-generation, and 60% of students' family annual income is at or below \$30,000.00. Because of the financial strain imposed by the cost of a college education, many UHD students struggle with basic needs insecurities. In the face of competing financial demands, students often enroll part-time (six hours or less) to manage outside employment or "stop out" altogether to manage other obligations. These measures either increase the time it takes students to complete their degrees or create hardships that are so difficult to overcome that students cannot persist through degree completion.

Approved by the Educational Contributions Review Committee of the HLSR, the Bridge Grant for Financial Gaps (Finish Line Grant) will serve as a one-time award, aiding students completing coursework in their final semester at UHD. The value of each award will be in response to the needs of each student in need who has a graduation application on file, is in good academic standing, and is registered in their final semester before graduation.

For more information on HLSR, visit rodeohouston.com. For more information on UHD, visit uhd.edu.

About the University of Houston-Downtown

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) is the second-largest university in Houston and has served the educational needs of the nation's fourth-largest

city since 1974. As one of four distinct public universities in the University of Houston System, UHD is a comprehensive, four-year university led by President Loren J.

Blanchard. Annually, UHD educates approximately 14,000 students, boasts more than 67,000 alumni, and offers 45 bachelor's degrees, 12 master's degrees, and 19 online programs within four colleges: Marilyn Davies College of Business, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Public Service, and College of Sciences and Technology. UHD has one of the lowest tuition rates in Texas.

U.S. News and World Report ranked UHD among the nation's Best Online Bachelor's Programs and Best Online Master's Programs in Criminal Justice, as well as a Top Performer in Social Mobility. The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse ranked UHD one of the best colleges in the U.S. for its 2024 rankings, with notable distinctions: No. 1 for diversity (tied) and No. 3 for student experience. The Stock-Watcher.com called UHD a "notable institution providing high-quality online MBA programs. UHD ensures that its graduates are well-prepared to succeed in their chosen career paths."

The University is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, a Minority-Serving Institution, and a Military Friendly School. For more information on the University of Houston-Downtown, visit uhd.edu.



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Nationally acclaimed science wizard to perform at 3 schools



Performance features David Hagerman from America's Got Talent Season 2021

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The magic of science is coming to three elementary schools in Katy in late February and early March. Master magician David Hagerman will be performing his science-based magical wizardry at:

- At 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Michael L. Griffin Elementary School, 7800 S. Fry Rd, Katy, on February 26th.
- At 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Memorial Parkway Elementary School, 21603 Park Tree Ln, Katy, on February 29th.
- At 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. at Ray and Jamie Wolman Elementary, 28727 N. Firethorne Rd, Katy,

on March 1st. Hagerman travels the U.S. inspiring children to pursue futures with math and science through his edutainment magic show. His science and math-based shows make kids hungry for knowledge in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields, said a February 1st press release.

"Technically, I'm a real modern-day wizard, using science and math to achieve illusions," said Hagerman. "Through my spectacle and performance, my real goal is to wow and inspire kids to consider science and mathematics as a future. It can be hard to get kids excited about STEM fields today and considering that science and technology are our future right now, through wizardry, I am happy to show them the awe and wonder behind the science and math." Performing a full-fledged math show that incorporates magical elements, Hagerman demonstrates visual science that stands on its

Magician David Hagerman, who was invited to perform on the 2021 season of America's Got Talent, uses magic to inform and entertain elementary students, while teaching important math and science concepts.

own without the help and support of magic. Cognizant of the fact that children's attention is sparing and fleeting, Hagerman delves into the importance of entertainment for really piquing children's interest. "My show is designed to be one of the most entertaining live performances that students will ever see related to science and math," said Hagerman. "By the end of the act, students will not even realize they have learned a considerable amount during their entertain-

ment enjoyment. I look forward to sharing my performance art with the students at Katy Independent School District this month." Similar shows to Hagerman's have demonstrated a 33% increase in test scores for the children attending the spectacle, according to Science in the Movies, the press release said. Known as the world's most secretive magician, Hagerman works hard to protect magic's secrets as the rise of smart devices and Internet tears down the mysti-

cism behind the performance. According to his website, hagermania.com, Hagerman spent over two decades perfecting his comical talent at theaters, theme parks, and schools all over the country before competing on America's Got Talent in 2021. His edited America's Got Talent performance can be seen at <https://youtu.be/86FYGTmE1CU>. For more information, or to contact Hagerman regarding a performance opportunity, visit: www.schoolscienceassemblies.com

Wreaths Across America expands to include free Black History Month curriculum for educators

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

COLUMBIA FALLS, ME — January 31, 2024 — National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) announces free access for educators with lesson plans highlighting Black History Month (February) curriculum. The WAA TEACH program, spearheaded by retired educator and Gold Star Mother Cindy Tatum, aims to equip educators with a service-based curriculum to instill the values of freedom and honor in students nationwide. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." In honor of Black History Month, the Wreaths Across America TEACH Program has developed lesson plans that honor the contributions and lasting legacies of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Sojourner Truth, Ruby Bridges, the Buffalo Soldiers, and many others. "Our lesson plans offer a comprehensive curriculum

designed to engage students of all ages in stories of courage and character," said Cindy Tatum, WAA Curriculum Developer. "As with all of our free lesson plans, we focus on character development and service projects, and the curriculum is tailored for kindergarten through high school, catering to diverse learning abilities." Lesson plans are available for free download at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/teach and accessible on Teachers Pay Teachers. Educators and homeschoolers are encouraged to explore and incorporate the materials into their lesson plans for Black History Month and beyond. The TEACH program encompasses materials from philanthropic and patriotic organizations, including the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and The Library of Congress Veterans History Project. To learn more about the "TEACH" program, please read the blog post: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/Home/News/1085>



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY ISD

KISD awarded nearly \$400K for energy-saving efforts

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) has been awarded \$391,502 so far this year as part of the CenterPoint Energy SCORE (Schools Conserving Resources and Energy) Program for its energy-saving efforts throughout the district. This figure represents a substantial increase of nearly \$140,000 compared to the amount received at the same time last year, the district said in a February 9th press release. As Katy ISD continues to experience tremendous growth and with the support of voter-approved Bond programs, the dis-

trict gives a great deal of consideration to identify and select which equipment is the most viable option to be used in its schools and facilities, the release said. With the opening of each new school, renovations to existing campuses, incorporating new Building Automation Systems, and replacing essential components such as HVAC systems, lighting, chillers and boilers, these decisions and enhancements have proven to be cost-effective and energy efficient. "We take immense pride in the great strides we have been able to make to reduce energy consumption district-wide," said Ted

Vierling, Chief Operations Officer at Katy ISD. "The energy-saving practices implemented across our schools and facilities are a testament to Katy ISD's responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds. As part of our ongoing effort, we will continue to pursue Energy Star Certifications for all our schools," added Vierling. Since its inception in 2006, the SCORE Program has incentivized and encouraged K-12 school districts to reduce peak electricity demand (kW) and/or reduce energy consumption (kWh) through energy efficiency projects and equipment enhancements.

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Katy student strives to keep John Lewis' legacy alive

Taylor grad awarded the John Lewis Good Trouble Scholarship

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Speaking atop the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 1, 2020 — just a few months before his death at age 80 — famed civil rights leader and Georgia congressman John Lewis said: "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

Lauren Forney of Katy is keeping Lewis' legacy alive. The Taylor High School graduate, who has lived in Katy since she was four, was just awarded the John Lewis Good Trouble Scholarship from National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), a national scholarship organization committed to advancing high achieving students and educators. Forney earned her scholarship for steps she took in the wake of the George Floyd tragedy, joining the thousands who marched the streets of Washington, DC to advocate for justice.

"As an engaged Teen President within the Katy-Prairie View Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., I was extended an opportunity to participate in the Legislative Summit in Washington, DC," Forney said. "Jack and Jill of America's dedication to social advocacy and encouragement to utilize our voices



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN FORNEY
Katy native Lauren Forney wants to carry on the legacy of legendary civil rights leader John Lewis through activism and community service through her local nonprofit academy.

have reinforced this commitment. At the heart of my inspiration was the urgent call for police reform and active advocacy for the Crown Act. Participating in the youth rally provided an excellent platform for me to actively voice my stance on issues that deeply impact both myself and the broader community."

Arriving in Washington, she found herself amid a sea of passionate individuals, all united by a common goal. She witnessed firsthand the impact of "good trouble" and recognized that being part of that collective presence sent a powerful message to lawmakers and policymakers. "I met Mr. Benjamin Crump who is a leading attorney advocating for civil rights, tirelessly fighting against racial injustice and inequality," Forney said. "His work, representing families like Trayvon

Martin's, embodies the belief that all individuals deserve dignity, respect, and protection of their rights. His efforts align closely with the belief that justice should be blind and that systemic injustices must be addressed to ensure fairness for all."

That experience led her to apply for the scholarship. "The essence of 'good trouble' and the legacy of John Lewis has inspired me to seek the John Lewis Scholarship. From the tender age of 4, I've been dedicated to instigating positive change within my community," Forney said. "Whether kicking off community canned food drives, launching my community service academy, challenging norms, or stepping out of my comfort zone, my actions have consistently aimed at fostering a better society. This scholarship resonates with my journey and the

values I hold dear, offering a platform to further expand my commitment to progress and justice in every community."

Forney has brought her experiences back to Katy where she raises awareness of injustices that require youth and adult involvement to correct. She continues to nurture and expand her nonprofit, Lauren's Community Service Academy which she established in 2016 during her time at McMeans Junior High, collaborating with youths from Harris and Ft. Bend County to consistently engage in meaningful service projects in the community.

"Upon returning from Washington, I was ignited with an even stronger determination to serve my community. I have diligently sustained my community service academy, spearheading various initiatives to address our community's needs," Forney said. "Additionally, I have remained steadfast in my role as a teen election clerk, actively engaging in civic duties. From writing postcards to our state representatives to rallying fellow youths to join me in service, I am driven by a commitment to make a difference and effect positive change."

She is now studying health sciences at Spelman College in Atlanta, Forney was drawn to attending the #1 HBCU Spelman College, for several reasons, including their mantra, "A Choice to Change the World," which she said "resonates with my life of service and career aspirations to continue serving in gynecology or dermatology."

In the last few years of his life,

Lewis worked tirelessly to get the Voting Rights Advancement Act enacted into law as a way to guarantee every American's right to vote. Asked about the upcoming elections, Forney said, "As a college student, I see upcoming elections through various lenses. I have a strong sense of idealism, believing that elections offer a chance for positive change and empowerment. I am particularly interested in issues like access to healthcare, quality education, and social justice, and I closely scrutinize candidates based on their stances on these matters. Despite some skepticism about politics' effectiveness, I recognize the importance of civic engagement and the impact my voice can have. Overall, I am motivated by the opportunity to make a difference and eagerly anticipate casting my vote."

"To uphold John Lewis' legacy and encourage others to do the same, I am committed to several actions," she continued. "I plan to continue leading by example and inspire others to do the same. I will continue to engage in community service projects and advocate for social justice causes, embodying the values he championed. Additionally, I recognize the importance of voting as a fundamental tool for representing change. By participating in these areas, I aim to honor Lewis' tireless efforts to expand access to the ballot box and ensure that everyone's voice is heard in our democracy. Through these actions and by sharing his story, I aspire to inspire others to join me."

Congressional Art Competition entries sought from students in U.S. 22nd Congressional District

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The office of U.S. Congressman Troy Nehls, who represents the 22nd Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. Congress, is now accepting submissions for the 2024 Congressional Art Competition. Entries may be submitted online only by Friday, April 26, 2024.

Artwork entered in the contest may be up to 28 inches by 28 inches, may be up to four inches in depth, and not weigh more than 15 pounds. If artwork is selected as the winning

piece, it must arrive framed and must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions.

- Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor
- Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collages - must be two dimensional
- Prints - including lithographs, silk-screen, and block prints
- Mixed Media - use of more than two

mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.

- Computer-generated art
 - Photography
- All entries must be original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a

painting or drawing).

The Congressional Art Competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and is open to all high school students in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas.

The winning artwork of the district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol, and the winner will also receive two plane tickets to Washington, D.C. The rules, regulations, application, and checklist can be found on Nehls' website at nehls.house.gov/services/art-competition.





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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Scores

- Seven Lakes 97, Ridge Point 48
- Fort Bend Travis 70, Tompkins 62
- Hightower 53, Cinco Ranch 49, OT
- Fort Bend Austin 86, Taylor 52

AREA

Friday

- Seven Lakes vs. Jersey Village, 7 p.m. at Bridgeland

BOYS BASKETBALL

BI-DISTRICT

Monday and Tuesday

- Seven Lakes vs. Ridge Point, TBD
- Paetow vs. Fort Bend Travis, TBD
- Katy vs. Fort Bend Elkins or Fort Bend Clements, TBD
- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Elkins or Fort Bend Clements, TBD

SOFTBALL

Thursday

- Seven Lakes vs. Teas City, 9:30 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Klein Oak, 11:15 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Memorial, 11:15 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Travis, 11:15 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Park, 11:15 a.m.
- Katy vs. Conroe, 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Huntsville, 4:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Stafford, 4:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Sealy, 4:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Creek, 4:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Heights, 4:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Carroll, 4:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Randle, 4:30 p.m.

Friday

- Tompkins vs. Tomball Memorial, 9:30 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Humble, 9:30 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Sealy, 11:15 a.m.
- Katy vs. Klein Oak, 11:15 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Heights, 2:45 p.m.
- Katy vs. Carroll, 4:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Westside, 4:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Cy-Lakes, 4:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Jersey Village, 4:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Fort Bend Travis, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy vs. Tomball Memorial, 9:30 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Carroll, 9:30 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Humble, 11:15 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Westside, 11:15 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Memorial, 11:15 a.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Springs, 1 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Heights, 2:45 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. North Shore, 2:45 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Boling, 4:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Cy-Lakes, 4:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Jersey Village, 4:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Texas City, 4:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Huntsville, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- Katy vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Friday and Saturday

- Class 6A State Meet



Madison Carlton goes up for a shot during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Ridge Point at the Merrell Center.

TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes blows out Ridge Point in bi-district

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes has been focusing on playing at their highest level.

For the Spartans, it's not about their opponent, it's not about what stage they are on and it's not about any external factors. For the Spartans, the only focus is on meeting

their own standard.

It worked to overwhelming success through the second half of District 19-6A, as Seven Lakes went on a run on their way to clinching a co-district title and that level of play showed up again on Tuesday, as the Spartans kicked off their playoff run with a

See **SPARTANS**, page B7

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tompkins, Cinco Ranch, Taylor have seasons end in bi-district round

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD sent one team through to the area round of the girls basketball playoffs, with Seven Lakes advancing, while Tompkins, Cinco Ranch and Taylor were unable to advance past the bi-district round.

Cinco Ranch had its season end in an overtime loss after almost upsetting state ranked Hightower in a great game from the Cougars while Taylor was unable to stay with Fort Bend Austin for four quarters and Tompkins couldn't come back against a strong Travis squad.

Tompkins was upset in its playoff appearance, losing to the fourth seed Travis 70-62. It's the first time in five seasons the Falcons have not made it to the area round.

The Falcons were a young team this year and will hope to build off a season where they were able to recapture a share of the District 19-6A title and will have a good amount of talent coming back.

Cinco Ranch almost pulled off a huge upset in the first round, but came up just short in overtime to a very talented Hightower team, losing 53-49. The Cougars jumped out to an early lead and were up 16-12 after one before Hightower came back to lead 31-26 at the half. Cinco continued to fight back and made it a one-point game going into the fourth before the two went to overtime after being tied at 45 at the end of regulation, where the Hurricanes were able to pull away and secure the win.

It was another strong year for Cinco Ranch. The Cougars secured their third straight playoff berth and will bring back

See **BI-DISTRICT**, page B7



Tompkins boys clinch regional swim title, Jordan girls finish second

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins and Jordan had big performances at last week's regional swim and dive meet, with the Falcons finishing first on the boys side and Jordan claiming a second place finish for the girls.

The Falcons had a big performance and even had their first ever regional swim champion at the event. Carter Gray

See **SWIM**, page B7

The Tompkins boys won the boys Regional Swim and Dive meet.
PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

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61 Katy ISD students sign to the collegiate level

STAFF REPORT

Katy ISD had 61 student-athletes who officially signed their national letters of intent last signing period. Athletes from all nine schools had signees to collegiate programs, including the University of Arkansas, Yale University, University of Texas and the University of North Texas.

Katy led the way with 17 signees on the day, while Paetow had nine signees and both Tompkins and Seven Lakes both had eight signees on the day.

"The commitment and determination

shown by these student-athletes exemplify the core values we strive to instill in all our students," said Katy ISD Athletic Director Lance Carter. "We congratulate them on this remarkable achievement, recognizing that their success is a testament to the collective effort of their coaches, and the support they receive from their parents and their community members. On behalf of the Katy ISD Athletic Department, we wish them continued success in their collegiate career."

Katy ISD student-athletes who signed their National Letter of Intent:

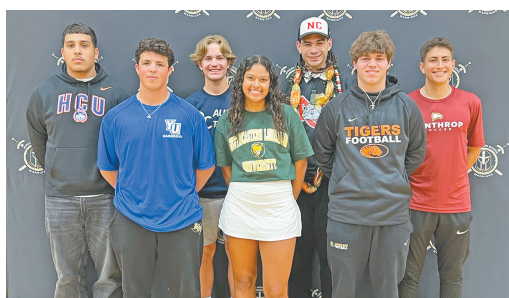


PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy student-athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Katy High School.



Ashton Coker and Corey Chachere pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Taylor High School.



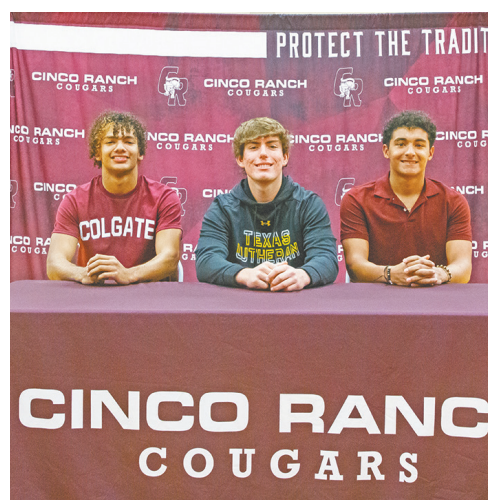
Jordan student athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Jordan High School.



Paetow student athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Paetow High School.



Luke Carter and Dakys Brinkley pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Katy High School.



Taytum Johnson, Paul Acosta and Thomas Guy pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Cinco Ranch High School.



Mayde Creek student athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Mayde Creek High School.



Dean Ford poses for a photo during the signing ceremony at Morton Ranch High School.



Morton Ranch student athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Morton Ranch High School.

NAME	SCHOOL	SPORT	UNIVERSITY
Paul Acosta	Cinco Ranch	Baseball	Alvin Community College
Thomas Guy	Cinco Ranch	Baseball	Texas Lutheran University
Taytum Johnson	Cinco Ranch	Football	Colgate University
Dallas-Patrick Alo-Suliafu	Jordan	Football	Navarro College
Ryan Armijo	Jordan	Boys Soccer	Winthrop University
Brooklyn Chavis	Jordan	Girls Soccer	Southeastern Louisiana University
Henry Galloway	Jordan	Tennis	Augustana College
Braden Lester	Jordan	Baseball	York University
Jovanni Melchor	Jordan	Football	Lamar University
Jon Artis	Katy	Baseball	Ranger
AJ Atkinson	Katy	Baseball	Sam Houston State University
Aaron Brashear	Katy	Baseball	Weatherford College
Dak Brinkley	Katy	Football	Kansas Jayhawks
Emily Budd	Katy	Softball	St. Charles Community College
Luke Carter	Katy	Football	University of North Texas
Noah Coughran	Katy	Football	Navarro Junior College
Nate Hall	Katy	Football	Stephen F. Austin University
Cameryn Harrison	Katy	Softball	Arkansas University
Jeremy Mazariegos	Katy	Baseball	Coastal Bend College
Stephan Ochai	Katy	Football	Sam Houston State University
Jed Olotu-Judah	Katy	Football	Old Dominion
Ashtyn Reichardt	Katy	Softball	Arkansas University
Colton Sanders	Katy	Football	Yale University
Paige Shulze	Katy	Softball	UT Permian Basin
Sawyer White	Katy	Tennis	St. Thomas University
Gabi Young	Katy	Volleyball	Wharton County Jr. College
Colin Willetts	Jordan	Football	East Central University (OK)
Braelon Green	Mayde Creek	Football	West Texas A & M
BJ Lumkins	Mayde Creek	Baseball	Northeast Texas Community College
Noah Villegas	Mayde Creek	Baseball	Oklahoma Wesleyan College
Dean Ford	Morton Ranch	Football	Sam Houston State University
Hashim Jaffa	Morton Ranch	Football	Houston Christian University
Ryan Hall	Morton Ranch	Football	Prairie View A & M
Mike Gerald	Morton Ranch	Football	Minnesota
JayTaylor Anderson	Paetow	Football	Blinn College
Alicia Briones	Paetow	Softball	San Jacinto College
Jabari Bush	Paetow	Football	Arkansas State
Jamaal Commie	Paetow	Football	Lane College
Cioni Cruz	Paetow	Football	Mercyhurst University
Yonis Descieux	Paetow	Football	Texas Wesleyan University
Kody Forshee	Paetow	Football	Midwestern State University
Jayla Harris	Paetow	Basketball	Cairn University
Joe Ugwu	Paetow	Football	University of Texas San Antonio
LeAnna Beaty	Seven Lakes	Volleyball	Shaw University
Ty Dawson	Seven Lakes	Baseball	Occidental College
Daniel Guerra III	Seven Lakes	Golf	The College of St. Scholastica
Barrett Hudson	Seven Lakes	Football	Austin College
Brooke Jackson	Seven Lakes	Track & Field	Princeton University
Krisna Mahendran	Seven Lakes	Golf	Suffolk University
Shaun Nair	Seven Lakes	Golf	UC Davis
Sofia Varela	Seven Lakes	Golf	Johnson and Wales University
Corey Chachere	Taylor	Boys Soccer	Pfieffer University
Ashton Coker	Taylor	Football	University of Texas - El Paso
Caitlyn D'Addieco	Tompkins	Basketball/Track	Muhlenberg College
Caleb Blocker	Tompkins	Football	UT Rio Grand Valley
Hunter Boudreaux	Tompkins	Football	Angelo State University
Noah Good	Tompkins	Football	McPherson College
Ava LaBrose	Tompkins	Swim	Colorado School of Mines
Elijah Lawton	Tompkins	Football	Hardin Simmons University
Jared Martinez	Tompkins	Football	Ottawa Arizona University
Dazer Van Leeuwun	Tompkins	Football	Tufts University



Seven Lakes student athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Seven Lakes High School.



Tompkins student athletes pose for a photo during the signing ceremony at Tompkins High School.



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Katy girls team wins regional wrestling title

Cinco Ranch boys finish in close second

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch and Katy both continued tremendous wrestling seasons with strong finishes in the Region III-6A Tournament on Saturday.

The Katy girls took top honors in the region by finishing in first place, garnering 163 total points, 38 point above second place Cy-Ranch. The Cougars kept a historic season going by having a very strong performance in regionals, finishing second in the region with 166 points, just half a point behind first place finisher Clear Lake as Cinco Ranch sent a number of wrestlers to the state tournament.

Katy had two players clinch regional titles on the way to their first place finish. Noelle Adams beat Paetow's Giada Muller in the 132 pound weight class final and Abby Fonseca beat Mayde Creek's Jade Boyd in the 235 pound weight class final to lead the way.

The Katy girls also got a third place finish in the 100 pound weight class from Natalie Roberson, a third place finish in the 120-pound weight class by Emily Beltran, a fourth place finish in the 138 pound weight class by Haley Pitts, a third place finish in the 145 pound weight class by Savannah Freifeld and a third place finish by Terra Pitts in the



A picture of the Cinco Ranch boys team after winning the District 9-6A championship.

152 pound weight class.

On the boys side, Cinco Ranch came just short of a regional title and finished second behind Clear Lake.

The Cougars had a great showing that included two first place finishers. Jackson Herman came in first in the 132 pound weight class, increasing his record to 42-2 this season. He was joined by Vince Echavarry on the gold medal stand, as Echavarry improved to 34-1 on the year by beating Clear Lakes Alex Adame in the 150 pound first place match.

The Cougars also got points from Max Marino, who finished fourth in the 106 pound weight class, Gabe Cox, who finished third in the 113 pound weight class, Dale Box in the 126 pound weight class, Max Herman finished second in

the 138 pound weight class, Maddox Fritz finished sixth in the 157 pound weight class and Anderson Tate finished fourth in the 190 pound weight class.

Jordan added two first place finishers on the boys side, Jeremy Alo-Perry claimed the gold medal in the 190 pound weight class and Garrett McChesney took first in the 138 pound weight class with his win over Max Herman. Katy's Adrian Fierros had a first place finish in the 120 pound weight class.

On the girls side, Cinco Ranch's Nevada Daniels took gold in the 114 pound weight class and Seven Lakes' Camryn Strohan finished first in the 152 pound weight class.

Below are all the Katy ISD finishers at the Region III-6A Tournament:



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

The Katy girls won the Region III-6A Title on Saturday, scoring 163 points as a team.



The UIL Region III-6A trophy won by the Katy girls team.

Boys		Girls	
106-pounds	3. Diego Carvajal, Tompkins 4. Max Marino, Cinco Ranch 5. Jiovani Hernandez, Paetow	100-pounds	3. Natalie Roberson, Katy 4. Celeste Gonzalez, Paetow
113-pounds	3. Gabe Cox, Cinco Ranch 4. Dylan Clay, Seven Lakes	107-pounds	5. Stephanie Lopez, Mayde Creek 6. Madison Fitzgerald, Cinco Ranch
120-pounds	1. Adrian Fierros, Katy 6. Tristan Lew, Seven Lakes	114-pounds	1. Nevada Daniels, Cinco Ranch 3. Emily Melhem, Taylor
126-pounds	2. Carlos Gonzalez Jr., Paetow 3. Dale Box, Cinco Ranch	120-pounds	3. Emily Beltran, Katy 4. Isabella Fresneda, Paetow 6. Luna TeHira, Seven Lakes
132-pounds	1. Jackson Herman, Cinco Ranch 4. Jebb Stone, Jordan	126-pounds	2. Natalie Grijalva, Taylor 4. Michelle Holden, Cinco Ranch
138-pounds	1. Garrett McChesney, Jordan 2. Max Herman, Cinco Ranch 5. Thomas Park, Seven Lakes	132-pounds	1. Noelle Adams, Katy 2. Giada Muller, Paetow
144-pounds	2. Diego Lopez, Tompkins 3. Noah Santos, Jordan 6. Jackson Vaught, Katy	138-pounds	4. Haley Pitts, Katy 5. Ryleigh Bennett, Cinco Ranch
150-pounds	1. Vince Echavarry, Cinco Ranch 4. Joshua Garcia, Morton Ranch	145-pounds	3. Savannah Freifeld, Katy 6. Piya Raghavan, Seven Lakes
157-pounds	6. Maddox Fritz, Cinco Ranch	152-pounds	1. Camryn Strohan, Seven Lakes 2. Emma Dutcher, Mayde Creek 3. Terra Pitts, Katy
165-pounds	3. Matteo Nikolov, Tompkins 5. Anuar Zhumagalieyev, Seven Lakes	152-pounds	1. Camryn Strohan, Seven Lakes 2. Emma Dutcher, Mayde Creek 3. Terra Pitts, Katy
175-pounds	2. Juan Liama, Morton Ranch 5. Kane Rosario, Seven Lakes	185-pounds	3. Sierra Joseph, Morton Ranch 6. Angelina Elias, Mayde Creek
190-pounds	1. Jeremy Alo-Perry, Jordan 4. Anderson Tate, Cinco Ranch 5. Eduardo Hernandez, Mayde Creek	235-pounds	1. Abby Fonseca, Katy 2. Jade Boyd, Mayde Creek
215-pounds	2. Dimitrios Katsigiannis, Katy 5. Anthony Hernandez, Seven Lakes		
285-pounds	4. Shane Trotter, Katy		

MARCH 21
K TOWN THROW DOWN
6-9 P.M.

MARCH 22 LAUNCH PARTY 7-10 P.M.
MARCH 23 BREWFEST GA 3-8 P.M. VIP 2-8 P.M.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Royal ISD is soliciting proposals for Food Service Management Contract Services. The complete RFP packet is available on the Royal ISD website at www.royal-isd.net. Contact Hector Herrera at 281-934-2248 or email at hherrera@royal-isd.net

A mandatory in-person pre-proposal meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024 at the Royal ISD Administration Building. Sealed proposals will be received until 4 p.m., March 18, 2024 at the Royal ISD Administration Building located at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas.

Opening of proposals will follow at 4:15 p.m., March 18, 2024 in the Board Room. The board has the right to accept or reject any or all parts of the proposal, and to waive any technicalities.

Royal ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(1) General Description of property: Unit is 10' by 10' non-climate-controlled unit. Unit contains several boxes, a dolly, wall clocks, shelving, television, and an ottoman.

(2) Lien: This unit is being sold to satisfy a lien owed to Cane Island Storage.

(3) Owner: The owner of this unit is Ashley Hamilton

(4) Address: The address of the self-storage facility is 27748 Highway 90, Katy, Tx 77494

(5) Site/Time: Auction will take place on February 12th through February 19th, 2024 at 11 am and will be hosted on SelfStorageAuction.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE at storagetreasures.com

The facility is at Huffmeister Mini Storage 13710 Huffmeister Rd, Cypress, TX 77429. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on February 23, 2024, and end at 12:00 pm on February 29, 2024. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Nichole Frazier, Jadril Campbell, Alexandria White, Eurydice Mofa, Stephanie Bailey.

CITY OF KATY, TEXAS PERMANENT EXHIBIT PROJECT AT KATY VISITOR'S CENTER REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

The City of Katy will be accepting Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified contractors, on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493. All proposals will be publicly opened and read on that date at 2:01 p.m.

All proposals shall be sealed and addressed to Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary at the above address and must include Bid Bonds in the amount of 10% of the greatest amount bid made payable to Owner (City of Katy).

The City will host a mandatory in-person pre-proposal conference on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Katy City Hall.

Copies of the Competitive Sealed Proposal Packages, which include plans and specifications, will be available digitally, beginning Friday, February 16, 2024, and may be obtained by requesting a digital link from Jesus Lozano-Boone, VLK Architects, Inc., 20445 TX-249 #350, Houston, Texas 77070, email jlboone@vlkarchitects.com. Award of this contract will be made on the basis of best value as determined by the Owner.

City of Katy, Texas
Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

Sealed Qualifications will be received by Waller County until Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. for the Drainage-Specific Engineering Services RFQ (#240207-14). Specifications and Required Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

The County intends to select one or more qualified Firms to perform drainage-specific engineering services for multiple projects located within Waller County. The selected Firm(s) may be asked to prepare hydraulic, hydrologic, and drainage studies; support the County in plans specification and estimates development, preparation, and review; drainage impact analysis review; cost estimate services; and assist with preparing drainage guidance documents. The selected Firm(s) will provide routine reports and updates to the Waller County Commissioners' Court and County Engineer.

Please submit one (1) original, four (4) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Submittals shall be remitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November March 5, 2024. Response shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm(s) in a contract. Complete Submittal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, Waller County Joe Kuciema Annex, 425 FM 1488, Suite 119, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFQ Project Number: 240207-14 for Drainage-Specific Engineering Services. Submittals will be opened on March 6, 2024 in the Waller County Commissioners' Court meeting.

Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISD Department of Special Education at 281-396-2066. The Department of Special Education will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to obtain academic and non-academic benefit. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees, and its agents, officers, and staff members shall not discriminate based on gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Katy West Municipal Utility District, Attention Suzanne Corbin, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, February 22, 2024, and then publicly opened and read for "Water, Sanitary, Drainage, and Paving Facilities to serve Katy Court Section 2 for Katy West Municipal Utility District, Harris County, Texas" You may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Teams, the number for this call is 1-832-856-3756 and enter access code 803 760 866# when prompted.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: 2,300 LF 8-inch waterline; 2,204 LF 8-inch sanitary sewer; and 1,396 LF 24-inch thru 30-inch storm sewer, and 7,934 SY of 6-inch concrete pavement.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. An **OPTIONAL** pre-bid conference will be held remotely on February 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Teams, the number for this call is 1-832-856-3756 and enter access code 117 979 093# when prompted.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

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

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, March 5th, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "Elyson FM529 Basin at Betz Landscape" Harris County, Texas" In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=92991270688>.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely on February 20th, 2024, at 10 a.m.** Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=96231477877>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt311**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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

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

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, March 14th, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for “**Elyson Crescent Park**” Harris County, Texas” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=99089299538>.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: picnic structure, concrete trail, kayak dock, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely on February 20th, 2024, at 10 a.m.** Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=96231477877>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt019**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, March 7th, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for “**Elyson Basin A3, A4 Trail Landscape**” Harris County, Texas” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=98679559220>.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely on February 20th, 2024, at 10 a.m.** Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=96231477877>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt206.A**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

Sealed Qualifications will be received by Waller County until Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. for the Mobility Bond Program Manager RFQ (#240207-26). Specifications and Required Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

The County intends to select one or more qualified Firms to perform mobility bond program management services related to the County's approved \$280 million mobility bond package. The selected Firm(s) shall provide bond program management duties and responsibilities to include general coordination and management, design consultant management and oversight, manage communications, and bond financial management and oversight. The selected Program Manager will provide routine reports and updates to the Waller County's Commissioners' Court and appropriate staff.

Please submit one (1) original, five (5) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as “confidential.” Submittals shall be remitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November March 5, 2024. Response shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm(s) in a contract. Complete Submittal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, Waller County Joe Kuciemba Annex, 425 FM 1488, Suite 119, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFQ Project Number: 240207-26 for Mobility Bond Program Manager. Submittals will be opened on March 6, 2024 in the Waller County Commissioners' Court meeting.

Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Parkside Capital on behalf of Katy West Municipal Utility District will be received **electronically** until 11:30 a.m. Local Time, March 7th, 2024, and then publicly opened and read for furnishing all plant, labor, material and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of: Katy Court Street Dedication Phase II. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids, you may attend the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Team, use the contact information below:

+1 832-856-3756 United States, Houston, Phone Conference ID: 142 914 242#

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer and Paving facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on February 22, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. Local Time. Below is the information to attend the pre-bid conference by teleconference.

+1 832-856-3756 United States, Houston, Phone Conference ID: 981 560 962#

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

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

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Parkside Capital on behalf of Katy West Municipal Utility District will be received **electronically** until 10:30 a.m. Local Time, March 7th, 2024, and then publicly opened and read for furnishing all plant, labor, material and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of: Katy Court Phase 2 Detention Pond 1. In addition to the opening of sealed Bids, you may attend the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Team, use the contact information below:

+1 832-856-3756 United States, Houston, Phone Conference ID: 422 382 975#

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of Water, Storm Sewer and Detention facilities. The scope of construction will also include mass grading.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on February 22, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. Local Time. Below is the information to attend the pre-bid conference by teleconference.

+1 832-856-3756 United States, Houston, Phone Conference ID: 821 293 551#

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

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

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

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

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

February 8 Puzzle Answers

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

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PHOTO BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Gunner Nelson waits for the snap during a game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

All-Katy ISD District remains after realignment

Royal placed in 4A-Division II

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD will again have its own UIL Class 6A district in every sport for the next two years, as the nine-team district remained in the 2024-2026 district realignment announced on Thursday by the University Interscholastic League.

It will be the same district as fans are used to, with the Katy teams staying in District 19-6A. Cinco Ranch has the highest student population with 3,790 students followed by Paetow (3,746), Seven Lakes (3,591), Katy (3,520), Taylor (3,209), Jordan (3,133), Tompkins (3,071), Mayde Creek (3,025) and Morton Ranch (2,863).

All were comfortably in Class 6A, with the cutoff for 5A being at 2,275. It's the fourth straight realignment where Katy schools have had their own district in Class 6A, and the second realignment in a row in which the district will have nine schools from Katy ISD in District 19-6A.

Freeman High School, which will open in the fall, will be the 10th Katy ISD High School.

Freeman has an enrollment of 861, but will not be aligned to a district until the 2026 realignment.

The biggest change for Katy ISD will come with what teams the district will face early in the playoffs. For the past few realignments, District 20-6A has consisted of Fort Bend ISD schools, including Ridge Point, Hightower and Austin. But with this next realignment that will change to a mixture of Alief and Lamar Consolidated schools. In all it will be a district consisting of Alief Elsie, Alief Hastings, Alief Taylor, Stake Jesuit, Fulshear, Richmond Foster and George Ranch. Those will be the schools that Katy ISD teams will face in the bi-district round of the playoffs for the next two years which is a huge change from the Fort Bend ISD schools which Katy ISD previously faced early in the playoffs.

Royal, which had a student population of 892, was once again placed in Class 4A-Division II and will compete in District 10 out of Region III. The Falcons are joined in the district by Wharton, Sweeny, West Columbia, La Marque, Harmony School of Innovation West and Katy Harmony. Harmony School of Innovation had an enrollment of 855 and Katy Harmony had an enrollment of 790.



TYLER TYRE

Marcelo Ojeda tries to get past Aidan Morrison during a game between Seven Lakes and Jordan at Legacy Stadium.



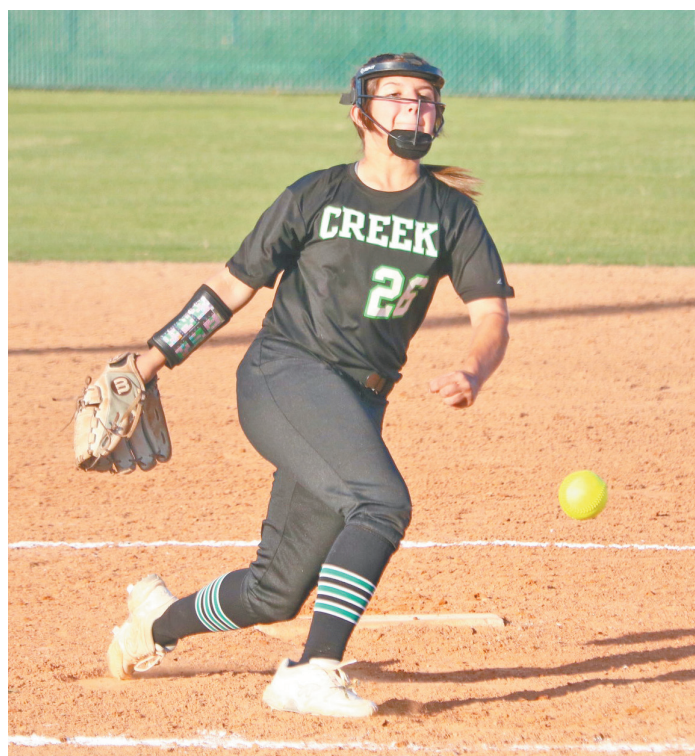
Caitlyn D'Addico shoots a layup during a game between Tompkins and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

TYLER TYRE



Above: Tompkins' Christian Cowart spikes the ball during a match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center. Below: Alyssa Gonzalez pitches during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at the Seven Lakes softball field.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE





Justice Carlton shoots a layup during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Ridge Point at the Merrell Center.

SPARTANS

from page B1

huge 97-48 win over Ridge Point, advancing to the area round on the back of one of their biggest wins of the year.

"Tonight was a great feeling," said senior point guard Shreya Jategaonkar. "We really wanted to let people know that we are here and we are a good team that can compete with anyone. That's what we came out to prove tonight and I think we did that. This is a team that can make a run."

It was Ridge Point that had the hot start to the game, going up 11-8 early, but the Spartans took a quick timeout and after some encouraging words from the coaching staff Seven Lakes went on a big run, going up 25-11 after the first quarter and increasing that to 55-21 at half.

"It was a slow start and it's been a week since we've played so we just reminded them about playing to our standard and not to our opponent," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "We weren't getting rebounds we needed, we were letting them get second chances and there were just things we had to do better. Once we started getting into our game, we got to where we needed to be."

Once the Spartans took the lead they never looked back — they increased their lead in the third quarter to 77-40,

continuing to pull away even with backups in in the fourth quarter.

The offense clicked like it has all season for the Spartans in the game. That part of the floor has been easy for Seven Lakes and players feed off of each other on the offensive end.

"This team really depends on each other and we've made sure it's not a one man show," Jategaonkar said.

"One man shows, no matter how good that one player is, eventually they get beat. This team has so many people that can score and we pick each other up when someone isn't at their best, which is going to happen. No one is selfish on the floor and that's what makes us so good."

The Spartans advance to play Jersey Village in the area round Friday 7 p.m. at Bridge-land. The Spartans advanced to the area round last season where they fell to Memorial and will be looking to make a further push this year.

"We talk a lot about our level of play and never playing up or down to anyone," Watson said. "It's all about our standard, we can't play to anything else. We have to go out there and play our best game — when we do that we'll be just fine, no matter who we play."



Kimora Lopez shoots a 3-pointer during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Ridge Point at the Merrell Center.

BI-DISTRICT

from page B1

a strong core for the 2024-2025 season.

Taylor was unable to hang around against the other big dog from District 20-6A in Fort Bend Austin, with the Mustangs falling 86-52 to end their season.

Austin jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, leading 16-9 after one quarter and growing that to a 40-18 lead at halftime. Taylor tried to fight back in the second half but Austin still took at 65-34 lead into the fourth quarter where they sealed the win.

It was a big year for Taylor. The Mustangs made the playoffs for the first time since 2019 and will try to build off this going into the offseason and next school year.



Sascha Coughran passes the ball during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

SWIM

from page B1

led the way for the Falcons with his first place finish in the 200-meter individual medley with a time of one minute, 50.58 seconds. Grey clinched the fifth best time in the entire state and will compete in the Class 6A state title for his efforts, joined by five other events for Tompkins. Tompkins also clinched state appearances in the 200-yard medley relay, where they had the 12th best time in the state at one minute, 34.81 seconds, while Tristan Rodriguez is headed to the state meet after clinching the sixth best 1-meter dive in the state, with a score of 489.30, while Tompkins also clinched a spot at state in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing 11th in the state with a time of one minute, 25.98 seconds. Tompkins had two called up as alternatives to state as well, with Logan Solomon clinching a spot in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 51.11 seconds while Falcons got called up with a 400-yard freestyle relay time of three minutes, 8.74 seconds.

On the girls side, Jordan was the top finisher in Katy ISD, coming in second at the regional meet. The Warriors had seven events advance to the Class 6A Swim and Dive meet. Maria-Jose Leviaguire Enriquez got to state in the one-meter dive, she had the 16th best time in the state with a score of 384.55 points. She was joined by Kaeli White, who had the ninth best time in the state in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of five minutes .46 seconds, the 400-yard freestyle relay from Jordan which had a time of three minutes, 31.5 seconds. The Warriors also had alternates advance. White clinched a second state spot in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of one minute, 50.36 seconds, while Emma Aumaugher made it to state in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of two minutes, 5.19 seconds, Aumaugher also made it in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 55.81 seconds while the Jordan 200-yard freestyle relay clinched a spot at state with a time of one minute, 38.56 seconds.

Along with the strong finishers, Seven Lakes head coach Jordan Beck was named the co-head coach of the meet on the boys side.

Following are the full Katy ISD state swim and dive qualifiers



The Jordan girls team finished in second in the girls Regional Swim and Dive meet.



Carter Gray became Tompkins' first ever regional swim champion by winning the 200-meter individual medley.

Girls 200-yard medley relay

10. Cinco Ranch, 1:46.81
- Call Up. Taylor, 1:48.71

Boys 200-yard medley relay

3. Seven Lakes, 1:32.07
12. Tompkins, 1:34.81

Girls 200-yard freestyle

10. Joel Nace, Seven Lakes, 1:39.49
- Call Up. Kaeli White, Jordan, 1:50.36
- Call Up. Ava LaBrose, Tompkins, 1:51.57

Boys 200-yard individual medley

5. Carter Grey, Tompkins, 1:50.58
7. Jonas Dark, Cinco Ranch, 1:51.01

Girls 50-yard freestyle

7. Olivia Bobrowski, Cinco Ranch, 23.63
- Alternate. Catherine Gray, Tompkins, 24.06

Boys 50-yard freestyle

11. Trace Lucio III, Jordan, 21.29

Girls 1-meter Dive

12. Aleandra Angueira-Colombani, Seven Lakes, 422.25
13. Avery Coates, Katy, 420.60
16. Maria-Jose Leviaguire Enriquez, Jordan, 384.55

Boys 1-meter Dive

6. Tristan Rodriguez, Tompkins, 489.30
12. Jonas Dark, Cinco Ranch, 49.69

Boys 100-yard freestyle

15. Derek Wintergrass, Katy, 47.09

Girls 500-yard freestyle

9. Kaeli White, Jordan, 5:00.46
- Call Up. Kirsten Engwall, Tompkins, 5:03.30

Boys 500-yard freestyle

9. Connor Jones, Seven Lakes, 4:31.32

Girls 200-yard freestyle relay

9. Tompkins, 1:37.82
- Call Up. Jordan, 1:38.56

Boys 200-yard freestyle relay

11. Tompkins, 1:25.98
- Call Up. Jordan, 1:26.00

Girls 100-yard backstroke

12. Zoe Park, Cinco Ranch, 56.80

Boys 100-yard backstroke

4. Connor Jones, Seven Lakes, 49.96
- Call Up. Logan Soloman, Tompkins, 51.11

Girls 100-yard breaststroke

- Call Up. Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch, 1:02.68

Boys 100-yard breaststroke

5. Dillon Dierschke, Seven Lakes, 56.26
6. Derek Wintergrass, Katy, 56.41

Girls 400-yard freestyle relay

12. Jordan, 3:31.50
- Call Up. Tompkins, 3:32.25

Boys 400-yard freestyle relay

7. Seven Lakes, 3:05.20
- Call Up. Tompkins, 3:08.74

Girls 200-yard individual medley

- Call Up. Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 2:05.19
- Call Up. Marley Barnard, Cinco Ranch, 2:05.89

Girls 100-yard butterfly

- Call Up. Emma Aumaugher, Jordan, 55.81

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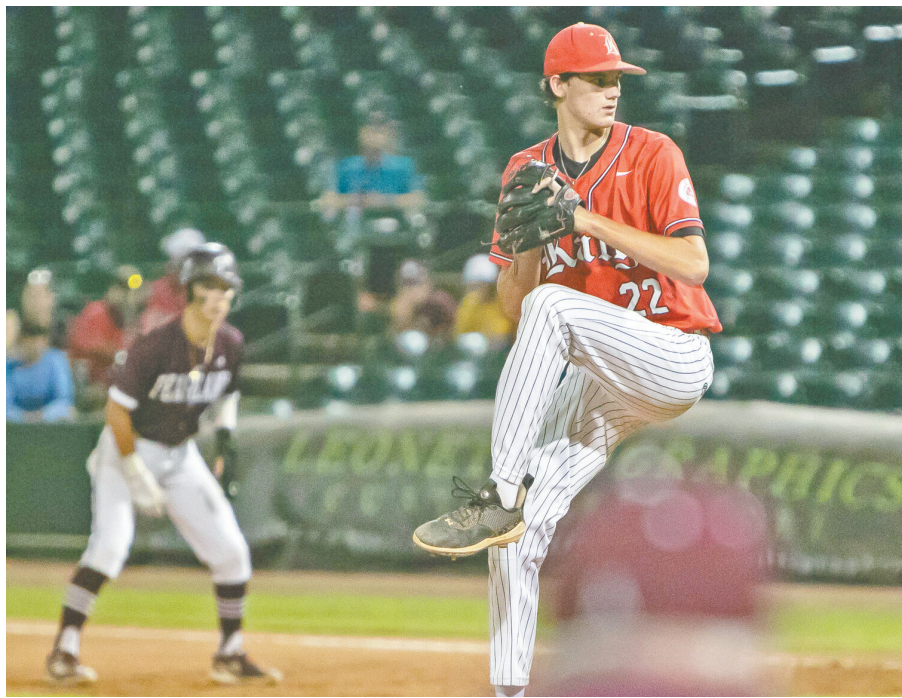
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DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cade Nelson pitches during a Regional Final between Katy and Pearland at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

Katy ranked at No. 6 in preseason baseball poll

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off their best season since 2006, the Katy Tigers earned some big praise in this year's Class 6A preseason Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association poll.

The Tigers were only behind Pearland Flower Mound, San Antonio Johnson, Rockwall-Heath and Westlake in the rankings. Katy is the second team in Region III ranked and one of three Region III teams in the top 10 along with Pearland

and Ridge Point.

Katy had a historic year last season, where the Tigers finished third in district before going on a huge run in the playoffs, winning every game from bi-district through the regional semifinals and making it all the way to the Class 6A Region III Final.

Katy returns some of the best pitching in the state this year and has some continuity with returners on the offensive side of the ball as well. The Tigers' goal is to push just as far as last season and find a way to Austin at the

end. The Tigers will start the season on Feb. 22 with a very interesting game where they will take on Ridge Point, a fellow top 10 in the preseason poll.

Following is the full Class 6A THSBCA preseason poll:

1. Pearland
2. Flower Mound
3. San Antonio Johnson
4. Rockwall-Heath
5. Westlake
6. Katy
7. Tomball
8. Prosper
9. San Antonio Reagan
10. Ridge Point



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