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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

School board approves naming of Nelson Jr. High

Trustees also passed resolution on school funding in spirited debate

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

At its December 11th meeting, the Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the naming of Junior High #18 during their December regular board meeting. The campus, located at 25747 Longenbaugh Rd., Katy, will officially be named Nelson Junior High and will open in the fall of 2024.

The Nelson family history spans across five generations in the Katy area. Over that time, family members have graduated from Katy ISD, served on the Board of Trustees, and have been deeply involved in various

district programs such as FFA. Their connection to the land that Nelson Junior High is being built on today is unique, with the family having purchased the land generations ago from a beloved Katy ISD school teacher. Representatives from the Nelson family expressed their thanks at Monday night's meeting, with gifts to board members made from oak trees from the school site.

The board also discussed and considered approval of a resolution regarding adequate funding of public schools. The resolution is intended to communicate the board's strong stance on school funding to both the state legislature and to the community, board members said. The board had previously discussed such a resolution in a spirited exchange at its work study meeting on December 4th, and a new version of the resolution was drafted based on input given to Board President Victor Perez. Board mem-



Board Vice President Amy Thieme (left) stands with members of the Hayes Elementary Choir who performed the National Anthem. Music director Kim Peterson is on the right.

See **KISD**, page A3

CITY OF KATY

City council approves annexation, street work

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Katy city council held a public hearing on Monday night, December 11th, to review a petition for annexation by the Woods Road Industrial Park, which is located along the east side of Woods Road from Highway 90 to south of I-10. Annexation of the tract of land – approximately 143.3 acres located in Waller County – was approved in a 5-0 vote. The city will now be able to provide police and fire protection and emergency medical services to the property, as well as water and wastewater treatment, among other services.

The council also unanimously approved a number of street improvements:

- A proposal authorizing the mayor to sign an agreement with ARKK Engineering in the amount of \$144,970.00 for the design and construction services for street improvements in the Town Park

See **CITY**, page A3



CITY OF KATY LIGHTS ITS CHRISTMAS TREE

The City of Katy officially lit the Christmas tree in front of City Hall, 901 Avenue C in downtown Katy, on Thursday, December 7th. Hundreds crowded the historic square for a chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus – and the Grinch – and to appear in a life-sized snow globe.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

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COURTESY OF JOE V'S

Joe V's – a division of HEB designed especially for the price-conscious shopper who wants a variety of diverse high-quality products – officially opened at 4107 N. Fry in Katy on December 6th.

Joe V's Smart Shop opens in Katy

STAFF REPORTS

Katy shoppers jammed the area around Fry Road and Clay Road on Wednesday, December 6th as Joe V's Smart Shop by H-E-B in Katy held its grand opening for its 10th location in the Houston region. "At 55,000 square feet, the Joe V's Smart Shop

Katy store will deliver the high-quality, fresh products H-E-B is known for at even lower prices with an assortment that's uniquely curated for the Katy community," said store officials in a press release. The store is located at 4107 N. Fry Road in Katy.

See **SHOP**, page A3

Walmart opens high-tech fulfillment center in Katy

STAFF REPORTS

On Dec. 4, Walmart unveiled its latest Market Fulfillment Center (MFC) at the Katy Supercenter at 25108 Market Place Drive in Katy, near Katy Mills Mall. The high-tech center is the first fulfillment center to open in Texas and one of five nationally. A second Texas location will open in Wichita Falls later in December.

Store manager Robert Smith said that the MFC, which opened in October, has pivoted slightly from the original concept. The original plans called for more automation; Smith said that the company has since learned that there

See **WALMART**, page A3

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Teacher of the Year bricks unveiled

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On December 5, local event sponsors Venus Construction, Modern Pest Control and the Katy Heritage Society came together with Katy ISD to host a special event celebrating the outstanding achievements of the 2022-23 Campus Teachers of the Year. During this annual tradition - now in its thirteenth year -- 74 exceptional educators were honored with commemorative bricks personalized with their names. The bricks are on permanent display at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Drive, Katy. Entertainment was provided by the Cinco Ranch Bravo Choir.

"Our teachers invest countless hours of time and energy into ensuring that every Katy ISD student receives the very best educational experience possible," said Ken



COURTESY KATY ISD

A close-up of this year's "Teacher of the Year" bricks which were unveiled on December 5th at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Drive, Katy. The bricks are on permanent display.

Gregorski, Superintendent of Schools. "These honorees have made a lasting impact in the lives of their students. Our community is proud of their commitment to excellence and congratulate them for their well-deserved recognition," he added.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Unveiling the "Teacher of the Year" bricks at Katy Heritage Park on December 5th are Adrienne Davitz, president of the Katy Heritage Society; Del Lawson of Modern Pest Control; Ida Franklin of Venus Construction; Victor Perez, president of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees; Amy Thieme, vice president of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees; and Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD superintendent.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes ugly sweaters to its annual "Ugly Sweater" party on December 14th

Bring your friends and family to this traditional annual event staged by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at Living Spaces Furniture, located on the Katy Freeway at Katy Village Parkway. The event will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on December 14th.

Frost Bank hosts holiday open house on December 14th with toy drive continuing through December 16th

Join the holiday party at Frost Bank's Katy Financial Center, 21875 Katy Freeway at S. Mason, and meet their special guest - Santa Claus! Festivities are from 5 to 7 p.m. The bank is also collecting new unwrapped toys, books, sports jerseys or small electronics through December 16th, which will be donated to local charities.

Enjoy "Coffee with a Cop" on December 16th at Cottage Charm

Drop in at Cottage Charm, 5806 Fourth Street in old Katy, at 9 a.m. for "Coffee with a Cop." Meet and support your local law enforcement professionals.

Free pictures with Santa at KTX Legacy Venue on December 16th

Meet Santa at the KTX Legacy Venue at 1306 Avenue A in Katy from 3 to 7 p.m. on December 16th. Get a free photo with the jolly old elf - all ages are welcome.

Give blood during LaCenterra's December 27th blood drive

Join with LaCenterra and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to donate blood during the holidays. The blood drive will be conducted on December 27th at the luxury shopping center at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. where the donor coach will be located outside the Kendra Scott store from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All successful donors will be given a free hoodie. To schedule an appointment to donate, go to commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo.

Depot Building hosts grand opening, ribbon cutting



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Above: A time capsule will be assembled by early January, with its re-opening planned for thirteen years in the future. Right: City officials, including (from left) Mayor Dusty Thiele, Councilmember Dan Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris and Councilmember Janet Corte, joined the crowd celebrating the grand opening of the Depot Building on December 6th.



FROM STAFF REPORTS

The new Depot Building at 908 Avenue B on Katy's historic town square held its official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, December 6th, with over 60 people present.

Attendees gathered at Southern Dough Restaurant for light bites, with the ribbon cutting hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce immediately following. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the time capsule which is being assembled. The capsule is currently empty - but interested parties have until January 31st to drop off contributed materials at KT Antiques, 5614 2nd St, Katy. Materials must fit in a 8.5"x11" sealed envelope and must contain the contact information for the person who will be there in 13 years for the opening of the time capsule, said Adrienne Davitz of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

A tour of the building followed, including shopping opportunities at the Sunshine Station Shop and a tour the new Middleton Venue.

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MERRY Christmas

from the staff of

Katy Times

We will close at Noon on Friday, December 22 and reopen on Tuesday, December 26 so that our employees may spend time with their families.

Deadline for Dec. 28 publication is Dec. 21, Noon
Deadline for Jan. 4 publication is Dec. 28, Noon

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Mimic
- Payroll firm
- Perform in a play
- Opine: __ philosophical
- Crony
- Political action committee
- 1991 Wimbledon winner
- Affirmative
- Exclamation of disgust
- Action of connecting
- A way to calm
- Especially fine or decorative clothing
- Walked proudly
- Group of people related through male heir
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Soft touch
- Erases
- Spanish river
- A princess can detect it
- Clouds of gas
- A way to get through
- Part of a book
- Southwestern US state
- Fields where rice is grown
- Area in Ghana
- Sayings
- Involve deeply
- Compels to act
- "Ignore all rules"

CLUES DOWN

- Inspiring
- Put into a box
- Breathes out
- Pacify
- Patriotic society for women
- Fell down
- Clothing
- Dishwasher detergent brand
- Former French republic
- Single lens reflex
- Men's fashion accessory
- Consumed
- Marry
- __ up: intensifies
- Body of water
- People of southern Benin
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- Snag
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Records brain activity (abbr.)

CLUES ACROSS

- Indoor entertainment space
- Born of
- Back muscle
- Sea dweller
- Tools that resemble an axe
- Prefix denoting class or kind
- Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- Car mechanics group
- Brought up to snuff
- __ faire: Economic approach
- Phil __, former CIA
- Affixed
- Period of adolescence
- Substance
- Danced
- Baked without its shell
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Satisfaction
- Balkans river
- Christmas carols
- Partner to tonic
- "The Godfather" character Johnny
- Swiss river

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



Bear Creek Elementary fifth grader Jacob Sotelo, who led the pledges, receives special recognition from board member Mary Ellen Cuzela.

KISD
from page A1

bers Rebecca Fox and Dawn Champagne questioned some of the changes made in the new draft, which omitted a number of things in the original resolution, including references to the Texas constitution, the state's \$30 billion surplus and the inclusion of all students. Perez said that the new draft of the resolution, which he read aloud, "gets to the point" and basically calls for an increase in the basic student allotment and to index it to inflation, to fund unfunded mandates, and to provide more money for teacher compensation. Board member Mary Ellen Cuzela said that the changes were a "stylistic decision" making the resolution more concise, and not a political decision. The motion to approve the original resolution presented at the December 4th meeting failed 4-3. A motion to approve the new revised resolution presented this week passed 6-0, with board member Champagne abstaining.

- The board also received reports on:
- Updates on Elementary and Sec-

ondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds which are one-time funds provided to districts following the pandemic. The ESSER II funds ended in September 2023 and the ESSER III funds will end in 2024.

- Elementary Literacy update.
- Academic support update.

Public comments prior to the board meeting included two speakers (one of whom is a mental health professional) who opposed the creation of a chaplain program, one speaker who pleaded for higher salaries for bus drivers, one who asked that members of the academic community be included on the board's new teacher retention committee and several students from the Cinco Ranch High School Power Club. Jo McPherson, wife of late coach Tom McPherson who served KISD for 34 years, gave a moving plea asking that the Katy High School baseball field be named in her husband's honor; she said that the booster club would help defray costs of additional signage.

Future meetings of the board:

- Work Study Meeting - January 16, 2024
- Regular Board Meeting - January 22, 2024



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Walmart team lead Anna Mearidy (left) and store manager Robert Smith demonstrate how a customer order is fulfilled after robots bring the requested items to the Static Work Station at Walmart's fulfillment center at 25108 Market Place Drive in Katy.

WALMART
from page A1

are some functions that are better performed by humans than by the company's fleet of sophisticated robots. That realization resulted in the addition of about 15 full-time employees to the large warehouse, which is adjacent to an existing conventional Walmart store. Anna Mearidy, a 12-year Walmart veteran, was brought in as "store lead" for the fulfillment center and she works closely with Smith and his team.

Stocking the MFC is done by hand by Walmart associates; robots then carry stocked items to their designated location in the warehouse. There is a separate area for refrigerated items. Order fulfillment is a mix of manual and automated processes; robots can pull most items from their assigned spots in the warehouse. However, some items, such as produce, meats and household chemicals are handled by Walmart associates rather than the robots. Oversize items which would not fit in the robot carts - such as big screen TVs and bicycles - are also handled by associates. Associates use the system to begin preparing orders for customer pick-up about two hours



Robots scurry back and forth carrying products to and from storage at Walmart's Fulfillment Center in Katy. The machines also retrieve items from the storage areas to fulfill customer orders for pick-up.

ahead of time.

Smith said that online shopping for groceries is increasing exponentially and has continued to grow since the beginning of the pandemic. Walmart currently leverages stores to fulfill more than 50% of digital orders and local delivery networks to get product to customers faster and at lower cost, according to an advance press release from the company. Using advanced robotic technology, Walmart's network of MFCs allows associates to manage larger volumes of online orders and minimize

fulfillment times - resulting in fewer out-of-stock items and substitutions and better experiences for Walmart shoppers, the press release said.

As part of its continuous efforts to innovate and improve its supply chain, Walmart started its journey into MFCs with a successful proof-of-concept store in Salem, NM, in 2019. Since then, it has opened MFCs in Arkansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, and plans to continue opening market fulfillment centers in select stores throughout the nation in the coming years.

SHOP
from page A1

In honor of the grand opening and in the company's spirit of giving, Joe V's Smart Shop enlisted the community to nominate schools in Katy ISD and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD who were deemed deserving of donations.

The contest took place via social media. Donations totaling \$30,000 to six schools were given to Robinson Elementary, Brosnahan Elementary, Thornton Junior High, (all in CyFair ISD), McRoberts Elementary and Rhoads Elementary and Cardiff Junior High in Katy ISD.

The winning schools -- Cardiff Junior High in Katy ISD and Brosnahan Elementary in CyFair ISD -- were each presented with a \$10,000 gift. The other schools were gifted \$2,500 each. An additional \$5,000 gift was presented to Katy Christian Ministries, a social service nonprofit serving Katy and West Houston.

The store will employ about 180 associates. The format has been specially designed, with wider aisles and longer "belts" at checkout, where the typical shopper generally places their average order of over 30 items.

Joe V's Smart Shop is an innovative price format that delivers a uniquely curated assortment of community focused products, and many



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Joe V's offers a large variety of tropical fruits at low prices, in addition to standard offerings such as bananas and snack-size apples.

of the high-quality fresh products H-E-B is known for at even lower prices, said company officials. "Joe V's Smart Shop is committed to delivering the lowest prices in the marketplace with the highest quality fresh products for its customers, also fondly known as Smart Shoppers," officials said. The store features low prices such as "three for a dollar" canned goods, "bundle boxes" of freshly cut meats for \$20.00 and a variety of weekly specials.

The store also offers a wide range of tropical produce and many varieties of Latino cheeses. A "hot food" area offering pizza and sushi

is also planned.

Joe V's Smart Shop launched in 2010 and currently employs more than 1,650 Partners across 10 stores in the Houston area. Continuing its expansion in the DFW Metroplex, H-E-B announced plans earlier this year to open two Joe V's Smart Shop by H-E-B stores in Dallas, the first locations the multi-format retailer will open outside the Houston area.

As a multi-format retailer, H-E-B operates Central Market stores across Texas, as well as Joe V's Smart Shop, and Mi Tienda stores. In addition, H-E-B also operates Favor Delivery, an

on-demand delivery service that serves hundreds of communities throughout the state.

CITY
from page A1

subdivision. The study will examine the costs and feasibility of resurfacing all the streets in the subdivision as well as possible drainage improvements.

• Several improvements to Katy Hockley Road (between Clay Road and Morton Road) were approved, including the purchase of additional right of way (using METRO funds).

• A road improvement agreement with RK Commercial Properties was approved in

the amount of \$7,000,000.00 (using METRO funds) for the northwest corner of Katy Hockley Cut-Off Rd and Morton Road.

In other action, council:

• Authorized the issuance of unlimited tax park bonds by Fort Bend MUD No. 161 not to exceed \$2,980,000.00 for the Reserve at Katy, located near FM 1463 and Katy Flewellen.

• Via consent agenda, approved street closures for various events in 2024.

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Last Minute Shopping Ideas

Rotary Club awards funds to nine local nonprofits

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Rotary Club of Katy awarded over \$46,000.00 in grants to nine community organizations at its December 7th meeting.

The club raises money for these contributions through its events, such as Wild West Brew Fest, the Rice Harvest Festival, and the Katy Triathlon, and other initiatives. Club President Jaime Corona presided over the distribution of funds.



Katy Cares, which provides training and counseling to single parents, received a grant of \$2,500.00. Left to right: Jaime Corona, Thom Polvogt, Dawid Pieterse, Jay Donnella, Kristin Searcy, Jennifer Rojo and Jerry Moye.
PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Christ Clinic received a grant of \$12,500.00 for its Dispensary of Hope program which enables the charity clinic to provide prescription drugs to their clients in need. Left to right: Jaime Corona, Christ Clinic Executive Director Lara Hamilton, Nick Schrader, Jay Donnella, Greg Hess, Marci Gibbs, Graydon Rochelle, and Alan Gibbs.



A \$5000.00 donation was given to The Ballard House, which provides temporary housing for patients traveling to the Houston area for life-saving medical treatment. Left to right: Heather Schuren, Jaime Corona, David Loesch, Ballard House Executive Director David Brown, and Graydon Rochelle.



The Katy Heritage Society received a check for \$6000.00 which will be used for work on the gazebo at Katy Heritage Park. Left to right: Don McCoy, Jaime Corona, David Frishman, Marilyn Frishman, Katy Heritage Society President Adrienne Davitz, Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris and David Loesch.

An award of \$10,000.00 was made to the Katy ISD Foundation for classroom teacher grants. Left to right: Graydon Rochelle, Jaime Corona, Jennifer Rojo, Katy ISD Director of Community Partnerships Janet Theis, Vicki Rao, Jordan Rzad, Callie Kuehler, Katie Curran and Jackson Yautis.



A grant of \$1000.00 was given to the Lone Star Symphonic Band for the purchase of new music. Left to right: David Frishman, Jaime Corona, Carol Levin, Freddy Frederickson, Stu Levin, Bob Bryant, Stephen Johnson and Beverly Bus.

The Non Pareil Institute received \$3000.00 in funds which will be used for technical and IT training and soft skills programs for post-secondary young people in its programs. Left to right: Jaime Corona, Jason Sanders, Donna Zimmerer, Dr. Ralph Brock and Graydon Rochelle.



A check for \$3000.00 was presented to Upbring for Krause Center, which will use the funds to add a medical table at its Katy site for foster children. Left to right: Jaime Corona, Nick Schrader, Diane Covert, Rodolfo Lobera, Kellie Sissom and Scotty Jung.

VFW Post 9182 received \$3,500.00 in funding. Left to right: Jaime Corona, David Frishman, Ruben Arriaga, Colonel Ken Burton, Colonel Peyton Lumpkin, Graydon Rochelle and Rodolfo Lobera.



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Enjoy The Holiday Shopping Season!

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KATY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS ANNUAL HONORS, GIVES GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS



SUSAN ROVEGNO

At its annual holiday party, the Katy Business Association named Glass Doctor of Katy as the 2023 Business of the Year. KBA President Olivia Martin (left) presented the award to Carrie Swinsinski, manager of the Katy Glass Doctor location. Sandra Ross (not pictured) was named KBA board member of the year. KBA also presented grants of \$600 each to these area nonprofits: Angels Surviving Cancer, Katy Christian Ministries, Christ Clinic, Pregnancy Help Center and Vital to Life Counseling.

MENORAH LIGHTING AT FUZZY'S PIZZA



Hundreds of area residents turned out for the lighting of the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah on December 7th at Fuzzy's Pizza at Kingsland and Mason in Katy. "We were honored to have Rabbi Gideon Estes of Congregation Or Ami (left) and Rabbi David Lipper of Temple Sinai (center) join us, lighting the Hanukiah and bringing warmth to our hearts," said Jeff Hajjar, owner of Fuzzy's Pizza Katy. Hajjar is on the right in the black cowboy hat.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



BROOKSHIRE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The City of Brookshire held its Christmas Festival in downtown Brookshire on December 1st. Pictured is the Donigan House, a historic landmark at Fifth and Cooper Streets in Brookshire.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERRYL ROGERS

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FAMILY LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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LEAD PASTOR: MR. HERNAN CASTANO
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FRANZ ELEMENTARY • 2751 WESTGREEN BLVD. • 281-578-0970
MICHAEL THOMPSON, PASTOR
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH MAYDE CREEK
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LARRY MADDOX, PASTOR
KATY'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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PASTOR: MIKE MCGOWN
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MITCH MAHER, PASTOR
RIVER BEND BAPTIST CHURCH
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281-579-6724 • TRINITYKATY.ORG
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1407 GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-5099
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281-769-5544 • WWW.GRACEANGLICANKATY.COM
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ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH
5356 ELEVENTH ST. • 281-391-4758
FR. CHRISTOPHER PLANT, PASTOR
ST. EDITH STEIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
3311 N. FRY ROAD • 281-492-7500
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CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BRIDGEWATER
21650 CRESTBROOK COVE DR. KATY, TX 77449
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6655 S. MASON ROAD • 281-579-3100
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2510 FRY ROAD AT FRANZ • 281-578-1897
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281-395-0544 • NATHAN BUEGE, PASTOR

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GRACE FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2655 S. MASON ROAD (NEXT TO GREAT S.W. EQUESTRIAN CENTER)
281-646-1903 • JIM LEGGETT, PASTOR
HOLY COVENANT UNITED METHODIST
22111 MORTON ROAD (AT MASON) • 281-579-1200
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RESURRECTION CHURCH A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
KATY HIGH SCHOOL 6331 HWY. BLVD., KATY
281-407-8716 • RESURRECTIONKATY.ORG
PASTORS: JASON SMITH (ENGLISH) • DANIEL HERNANDEZ (SPANISH)
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20775 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-8031
DR. PAT SPARKS, PASTOR

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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1603 Norwalk • 281-578-8934
BISHOP SCOTT BAUER
NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY WARD
281-578-8930
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
9950 SOUTH MASON
281-398-7796

NAZARENE WESTSIDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
3434 FRY ROAD • 281-492-0234
REV. KENT SCHWAMBERGER, PASTOR

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433 S. BARKER CYPRESS • 281-599-9777
JORGE H. CARDENAS, PASTOR

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
MEETING @ WOODCREEK J.H.S • 713-705-4878
CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH
26100 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494
WWW.CROSSINGSCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG
MEETS AT 10:40 AM AT KILPATRICK ELEMENTARY
THE DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1837 N. MASON RD. • 713-325-3061
THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER
20910 PARK ROW • 281-578-3535
DAVID ROBERSON, PASTOR
FAITH MANGER CHURCH
20701 KINGSLAND BLVD. @ DOMINION • 281-578-2550
DAVID L. BROWN, PASTOR
FAITH WEST CHURCH
2225 PORTER ROAD • 281-391-LIFE
GARY KERR, PASTOR
THE FELLOWSHIP
22765 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-3950
WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG • JERRY EDMONSON, PASTOR
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MEETS EVERY SUNDAY • 9 AND 11 A.M.
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SUN 9:30 & 11 AM • GREENHOUSECMA.ORG
HOSANNA!
17700 CLAY RD. • 281-345-1182 • JAMES P. BELL, PASTOR
IGLESIA CRISTIANA EN KATY FUENTE DE DIOS
906 AVENUE A, KATY • 281-222-4404
KATY BIBLE CHURCH
2500 AVENUE D • 281-391-7284 • 281-391-6855
MATT MANCINI, PASTOR
KATY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
24102 KINGSLAND BOULEVARD • 281-391-0099
TIM BARKER, PASTOR
LIFE CHURCH
26189 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-5433
SAM RUDD, PASTOR
LIVING STONES CHURCH
MEETING AT TOMKINS HIGH SCHOOL, 4400 FALCON LANDING
346-704-1542
NORTHWEST BELIEVERS CHURCH
5423 E FIFTH STREET • 281-829-8985
LARRY CONNER, PASTOR
POWERHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER
1818 KATYLAND ROAD • 281-391-0095
G. F. WATKINS, PASTOR
REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD/THE KING'S PALACE
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ROB MCKEE, PASTOR
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HAL HALTOM, PASTOR

PRESBYTERIAN CHRIST CHURCH PCA
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GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN
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REV. DEAN POGUE, PASTOR
281-646-7500
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN
1350 N. MASON ROAD • 281-492-8520
REV. BRIAN LONG
YE DARM PRESBYTERIAN
19946 SAUMS RD • 713-461-0709
YDPCH.ORG

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1913 EAST AVENUE • 281-398-1301
PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST



Mateo Gonzalez (left) and Alexis Salgado (right) look on as instructor Frank Cobio readies components which are part of Royal High School's HUNCH program partnership with NASA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

Katy ISD offering ECG screenings during UIL physicals

Screenings also to be available to KISD staff and qualified dependents

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Independent School District announced a significant advancement in student and staff healthcare on December 6th, after receiving 10 electrocardiogram (ECG) devices through a generous donation from AETNA. The devices will be used for screenings during University Interscholastic League (UIL) physicals, district officials said in a press release. "This initiative reflects the district's commitment to ensure the well-being of its students and staff by leveraging state-of-the-art technology for proactive health monitoring with the availability of these devices," the press release said.

Starting in February 2024, students participating in UIL physicals will have the option to undergo on-site ECG screenings for an additional \$20 fee. This service is separate from the \$30 cost associated with the standard physical examination. The optional ECG screenings are designed to provide valuable insights into the cardiac health of students, aiding in the early detection of potential issues.

Additionally, all Katy ISD health plan participants and their qualified dependents who are enrolled in the District's Health Plan will have access to the ECG service as well.

"Leveraging cutting-edge technology, Katy ISD is taking a proactive approach to student and staff well-being with the introduction of ECG devices during UIL physicals. This initiative underscores our commitment to harness state-of-the-art tools for health monitoring, providing valuable insights into cardiac health for early detection," said Lance Nauman, Director of Risk Management. "Starting February 2024, students opting for on-site ECG screenings, available for a \$20 fee, and Katy ISD insured employees and their qualified dependents will benefit from this optional service," he added.

Members of the Stephens family attended the event at Legacy Stadium. The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation was founded in memory of Cody Stephens, who died from an undetected heart condition just weeks before graduation from Crosby High School. Texas House Bill 76 (Cody's Law) was passed in the 2019 state legislature and gives parents in every school district the right to choose heart screening for their child.

The ECG screenings will be conducted on-site by Memorial Hermann doctors who will be assisted by Katy ISD nurses. Parents and guardians are encouraged to accompany their child during UIL physicals and consider this optional service to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their child's cardiac health, said district officials.

"We are excited to introduce this new layer of health screening for our student-athletes," said Lance Carter, Executive Director of Athletics. "The addition of on-site ECG screenings aligns with our ongoing commitment to prioritize the health and safety of our student-athletes. Early detection of cardiac irregularities can be crucial in preventing potential health risks, and we believe this initiative will contribute to the overall well-being of our students," he added.

"Investing in Our Tomorrow"

Royal CTE expands its horizons with NASA partnership

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In a groundbreaking collaboration, the Royal High School Career and Technical Education's (CTE) Machining Department has joined forces with NASA's High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH) program, taking education beyond the conventional boundaries of the classroom. This partnership, announced by the Royal Independent School District on November 30th, offers students a unique opportunity to engage with real-world projects developed by NASA and contribute to the advancement of space exploration.

The NASA HUNCH program is designed to provide high school students with hands-on, project-based learning experiences directly tied to NASA's mission, the district said in a news release. HUNCH allows students to work on authentic tasks that contribute to NASA's goals while gaining valuable skills and knowledge in science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics (STEM) fields. The program fosters collaboration between students, educators, and NASA professionals, creating a dynamic learning environment.

Students enrolled in Royal HS CTE Machining Classes manufacture the components of CubeSat Deployers (CSD). A CubeSat is a class of miniaturized satellites approximately 10 cm (3.9 in) cubes. Developed as educational tools, CubeSats have evolved into scientific research and even commercial applications, usually custom-built for each mission. CTE Machining students manufacture and assemble the components to produce complete CSD units.

The parts manufactured by Royal CTE Machining students will eventually make their way to the International Space Station (ISS). HUNCH provides materials and assistance needed for the CTE Machining students to manufacture their components. Through HUNCH, students gain manufacturing experience and become part of a continuing project

that provides actual space studies for future human exploration.

Eight Royal CTE Machining students took a training class on quality control with a HUNCH-certified inspector on November 30th. The students that pass the test the HUNCH-certified inspector administrators will receive numbered inspection stamps for students to use on their 829 and 881 forms. They will also receive a Quality Certificate.

"The collaboration between the Royal HS CTE Machining Department and the NASA HUNCH program exemplifies the power of partnerships between educational institutions and leading organizations, demonstrating the immense potential to inspire and prepare the next generation of scientists, engineers, and machinists," the district statement said. Royal High School CTE Department has long been committed to fostering excellence in STEM education, and the partnership with NASA HUNCH aligns seamlessly with the district's mission, 'Investing in our Tomorrow.'



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The new Harmony Middle-High School campus at 6300 Peek Road will open in the fall of 2024.

Whataburger scholarship program announced

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As part of Whataburger's commitment to serving its communities, \$600,000 in scholarship funding is now available to eligible students across the burger chains 14-state footprint for the 2024-2025 academic year, the company announced in a December 1st press release.

The Whataburger Feeding Student Success Scholarship, now in its third year, continues the brand's investment in students, one scholarship at a time. A total of \$600,000 in funds - \$500,000 from Whataburger and \$100,000 of support from Dr Pepper - are available to support students pursuing higher education.

Over 120 students will be awarded a non-renewable \$5,000 scholarship. The award can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing and applied at any college, university or not-for-profit vocational school.

"Support and funding shouldn't be

a barrier to any student's success," said Whataburger Community Relations Manager Allie Watters. "We want students to know Whataburger is in their corner. These scholarships will help students across the nation build the futures of their dreams."

Since its launch in 2021, the Whataburger Feeding Student Success Scholarship has awarded over \$1.2 million in academic support. The fund is part of Whataburger Feeding Student Success, the brand's signature community program serving at the intersection of education and food insecurity.

Starting December 1, 2023, students can apply for the Whataburger Feeding Student Success Scholarship until February 14, 2024, or until a cap of 1,000 applications is reached, whichever comes first.

For more on eligibility and application information, please visit stories.whataburger.com/whataburger-community-connections.

Harmony to open new campus in 2024-25, with football field

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harmony Public Schools Houston North District has broken ground on a new campus in Katy. The middle/high school will be located at 6300 Peek Road in Katy in the rapidly-growing northwest quadrant and will be the 11th campus in Houston North. The new campus will feature the Harmony district's first football field.

Demand is high for student enrollment into Harmony Public Schools, district officials said in a press release. According to the TEA in 2022, Harmony Public Schools outranked all other charter school systems in the state with the most students on their waitlist.

"We are very excited to be opening up our 3rd campus in Katy and our 11th in the Houston North District," said Harmony Public Schools Houston North District Area Superintendent Emin Cavusoglu. "With this expansion, we are thrilled to announce our first master planned community with the district's first football field. The 26-acre plot of land will now house elementary, middle, and high school campuses serving Pre-K -

12th grade students."

The new campus is set to open for the 2024-2025 school year and will serve approximately 850 students in grades 6-12. The football field will be a UIL standard field for both soccer and football, meaning the district can compete with other schools at state level. The gymnasium is also UIL standard for basketball and volleyball allowing students to compete in those sports with other districts across town and state.

The campus will have the HPS makerspace which will make it possible for Harmony students to put STEM learning to hands-on practice through 3D and laser printing, design, and manufacturing.

With the completion of this facility the Harmony system will have its first completed master plan campus in Houston. The two schools will make it possible for a student to attend Pre-K-12 without having to change locations, easing the travel/transportation issues for parents. Having children in different grades will not be an issue as the pickup and drop off is connected, allowing parents to pick up their kids at each school without having to leave the parking lot.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024

Our thanks and best wishes to all of you!

Katy Times

will be closed on Monday, January 1.



Taylor girls earn big district win over Tompkins

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor knows they have what it takes to compete for a district title this year.

The Mustangs have the pieces — they've come together and they have gained confidence all summer and fall. Now early in the district schedule, things are truly starting to come together.

Taylor put together a full team performance for one of its biggest wins of the year on Friday, beating Tompkins 70-64 behind a very strong defensive performance in the second half.

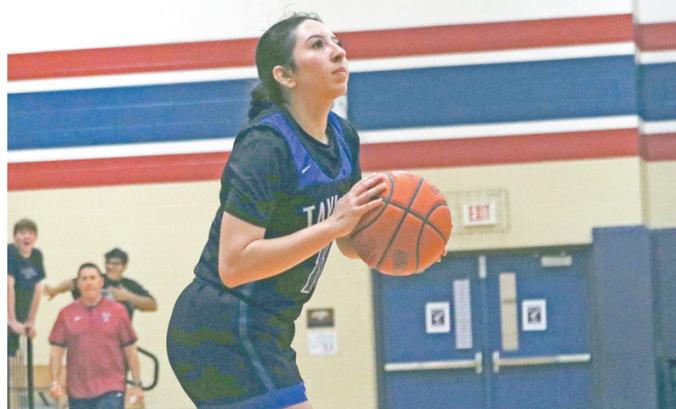
"I thought our kids stepped up to the challenge and did a really good job," said Taylor head coach Blair Ary. "Rihanna (DeLeon) is one of the best offensive players I have ever coached against, but our girls made sure to know where she was, didn't leave her and doing everything they could to slow her down. We just played really good team defense tonight and giving up what we wanted to give up. I'm proud of the way we played on that end."

Taylor came out and built a big lead in the first quarter, going up 21-11 behind a big quarter from Fiapaipaitufanuaitamalii Filoialii and Timya Grice, who both had nine points as the Mustangs came out fast and strong. Tompkins though, came back and trimmed the lead in the second quarter, with Taylor going into the half with a 36-34 lead.

"We've had slow starts at the beginnings of some of our games," Filoialii said. "But we really have been working on that, we want to start of strong every game and today we played the way that we should. This game in the past has been a tough one for us and so we really wanted it today."

It continued to be back and forth all game. Tompkins took a one-point lead into the fourth quarter, leading 53-52, but both teams traded baskets, until Taylor hit some clutch baskets down the stretch to increase their lead, eventually holding on for

See **TAYLOR**, page B3



Above and inset: Timya Grice goes up for a shot during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Tompkins gym. Left: Casey Scherpereel shoots a 3-pointer during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Tompkins gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Caleb Blocker jump cuts and tries to find a whole during a game between Tompkins and Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium.

UIL releases snapshot numbers for Katy ISD

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University Interscholastic League released their snapshot numbers for every Texas public school last Tuesday, which included all of Katy ISD's numbers, including Katy Freeman, which will open next school year.

Cinco Ranch jumped up to the highest enrollment numbers in the school district with 3,790 students. The Cougars had the second most students in the school district in the last realignment and jumped to the top, surpassing Seven Lakes by adding over 300 students.

Paetow made the biggest jump in the school district, adding nearly 600 students in the process, going from 3,169 in 2021 to 3,746 students and moving up three spots to the second most students in the school district. Cinco Ranch and Paetow will be locked into Class 6A-Division I if they make the playoffs in football by having the two largest enrollments in the school district.

Seven Lakes dropped two spots to the third most students in the district, Seven Lakes added nearly 150 students but Paetow and Cinco Ranch both added more to move in front. Seven Lakes enrollment figures will be at 3,591 students.

Katy stayed at No. 4 in terms of its en-

See **REALIGNMENT**, page B3

WEEK OF DECEMBER 15

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Monday

- Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 1 p.m.

Tuesday

- Taylor vs. Jordan, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Mayde Creek, 1 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Katy, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Huntsville, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

- Morton Ranch at Fort Bend Travis, noon
- Jordan vs. Taylor 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Seven Lakes 1 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Tompkins, 1 p.m.

Katy ISD sends reminder to parents, fans of school sports

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD sent out a reminder last week to fans, athletes and parents of high school athletics in regards to respecting officials.

There was a string of incidents regarding disrespect of officials around the state throughout the 2022-2023 school year and the Texas Association of Sports Officials is combatting that with their the Abuse of Officials Policy. Included in that policy is a three-strike guide that is strictly enforced, where if a school district has three requests from officials to remove fans then TASO has the right to refuse officiating services for sporting events. This makes it even more important for fans to always respect the people officiating games, even if they disagree with calls that may happen throughout.

Following is the full message from Katy ISD Athletic Director, Lance Carter.

Parents and Spectators,
With 19-6A District basketball in full swing, we want to applaud



PHOTO BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy fans cheer during Friday's area round game between Katy and Cy-Fair at the Berry Center in Cypress.

our athletes, parents, and fans for an excellent start to the season. It has always been the Katy ISD athletics expectation that spectators, at any athletic contest, promote sportsmanship and provide positive verbal support for their team. We will always seek to provide a great experience for all athletes and spectators through a safe and positive environment for competition.

To maintain good sports-

manship and a positive competition environment, the Athletic Department staff must do what is best for all stakeholders at their respective athletic events. It is not our desire to prevent a parent or spectator from supporting their team, however, game officials have the right to ask a school administrator to remove a person from an event if behavior does not meet expectations for good sportsmanship. All stake-

holders must understand that harassment of officials, coaches, or players (expressing dissatisfaction, taunting, questioning calls, & officiating from the stands) will not be tolerated and can lead to removal from the facility. In the event of a removal, Katy ISD reserves the right to prohibit attendance from future contests.

The Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) has a three-strike policy that is strictly enforced. Following the third incident that has led to removal at the request of the official, the organization holds the right to refuse officiating services for our sporting events. It is not possible to have our teams compete without officials.

At the end of the day, we want athletes to have the opportunity to compete and we want to provide spectators a first-class experience at each of our events. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

Lance Carter
Athletic Director, Katy ISD

For more information, go to <https://taso.org/news/2023-2024-taso-abuse-of-officials-policy/>

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PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Above: Texans running back Dameon Pierce (31) is tackled on a carry during an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Oct. 30, 2022 in Houston. Top left: Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) looks to pass the ball during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on November 5, 2023 in Houston. Bottom left: Houston Texans wide receiver Nico Collins (12) carries the ball after a catch during an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The Titans won, 28-25.



Texans fullback Andrew Beck (47) congratulates wide receiver Nico Collins (12) after a touchdown catch during an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on November 5, 2023 in Houston.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans in need of bounce back win against Titans

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston had an opportunity last week to increase their playoff chances.

The Texans were in prime position to move up the standings against a struggling Jets team, but instead of taking advantage, Houston had one of its worst performances of the season, falling 30-6 to New York in a game where they fell apart in the second half.

“We didn’t make plays — we were in position to make plays on the football and when we’ve won games, we’ve done that, [but] today we didn’t,” said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. “We didn’t make plays on the ball, we didn’t execute up front and we let them make plays out of the pocket. We knew that’s the style they wanted to play and we let them do that. That’s how you give up big plays and don’t play well.”

The loss puts Houston in a tougher spot, with must win scenarios down the stretch and a huge game coming up against the Tennessee Titans on Sunday. Houston though will come into the game hampered. CJ Stroud left the last game and is in concussion protocol last week, while Nico Collins, Blake Cashman,

Tavierre Thomas and Will Anderson all went down with injuries against the Jets that forced them to leave the game, adding to an already large injury room for the Texans that includes Tank Dell, Tytus Howard and Dalton Schultz.

But that won’t be an excuse for the Texans as they go into this week — they know the importance of it and the level at which they need to play.

“For me it doesn’t matter who lines up or who they line up against — they’re all NFL players,” Ryans said. “Everyone who’s out on that field is capable of making plays — that’s why they are in the league and in the position that they are in. Pro Bowl or no pro bowls it doesn’t matter — you have to go out and play your best every week.”

The Titans are 5-8 on the year and come off a win over the Dolphins, 28-27 on Monday. The Texans are currently in a six-way tie for sixth place in the AFC along with the Steelers, Colts, Broncos, Bengals and Bills. It’s a race that will probably come down to the wire and Houston will need every win it can get, which makes the loss to the Jets sting all the more.

“There weren’t many positives from this game for me,” Ryans said. “We have to play better. We’re going to go back and watch the film and tell the truth about it — that’s all you can do. You have to figure out what happened and make sure this same thing doesn’t happen again.”



“There weren’t many positives from this game for me. We have to play better. We’re going to go back and watch the film and tell the truth about it – that’s all you can do. You have to figure out what happened and make sure this same thing doesn’t happen again.”

—DEMECO RYANS, Texans head coach

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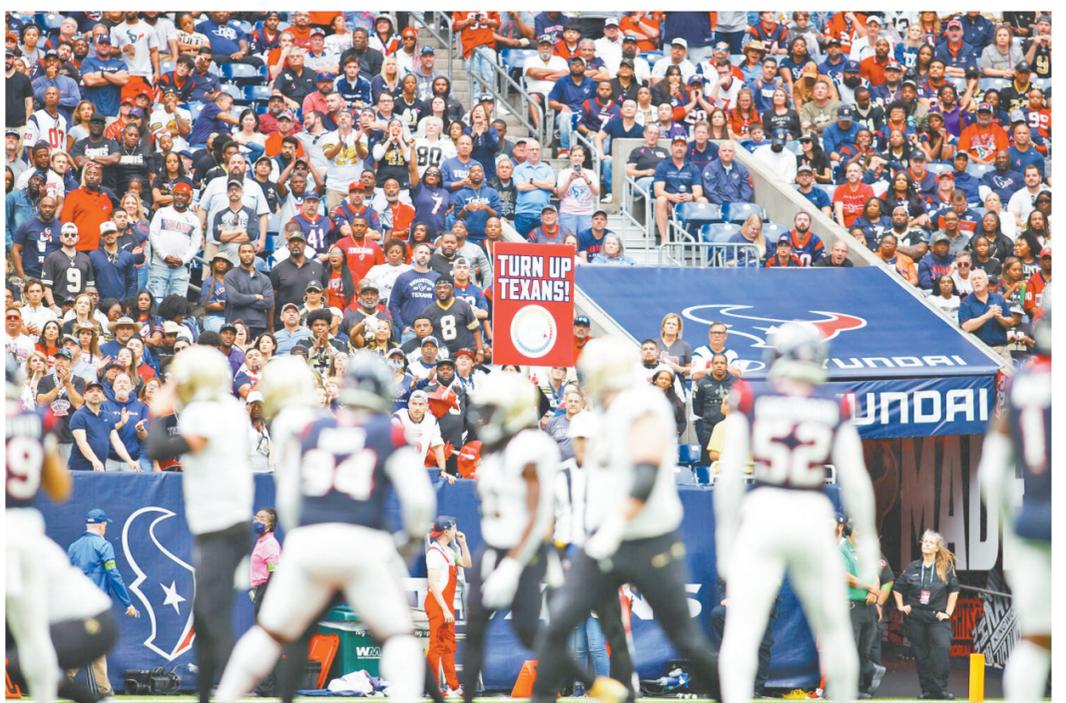
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Katy Times



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans fans cheer during the Saints’ last-chance drive late in the fourth quarter of an NFL game between the Texans and the Saints on October 15, 2023 in Houston. The Texans won, 20-13.



PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Above: Chad Gasper is tackled by two defenders during a game between Jordan and Paetow at Legacy Stadium. Right: Barrett Hudson runs through the Memorial defense during a game between Seven Lakes and Memorial at Legacy Stadium.



REALIGNMENT

from page B1

rollment figures. The Tigers went from 3,197 students to 3,520 this year. Taylor followed up in fifth with 3,209.5 students moving up one place from having the sixth most students last time around with realignment. Jordan will have the seventh most students in the school district, with 3,133 while Tompkins went from the third most students to the seventh most, with the Falcons realignment numbers being at 3,071. Mayde Creek followed closely after Tompkins with 3,025.5 students, finishing with the eighth most, while Morton Ranch again finished with the least numbers in the school district with 2,863 students in

FULL KATY ISD SNAPSHOT NUMBERS

Cinco Ranch: 3,790
Paetow: 3,746
Seven Lakes: 3,731
Katy: 3,520.5
Taylor: 3,209.5
Jordan: 3,133
Tompkins: 3,071
Mayde Creek: 3,025.5
Morton Ranch: 2,863
Freeman: 861.84

this round of realignment.

Freeman, which will open next school year, finished with an enrollment figure of 861.84.

The number figures mean it is likely that Katy ISD will continue to have an All-Katy ISD nine team district for sports, while Freeman's numbers would likely put it into the Class 4A ranks for the next two school years.

Superior Hill is brought down during a kick return during a game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Gabby Panter shoots a 3-pointer during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Tompkins gym.

TYLER TYRE

TAYLOR

from page B1

the win.

"We wanted to play inside out and take whatever Tompkins gave us out of the double team," Ary said. "It wasn't perfect but I thought our kids did a great job of being patient and waiting for what we wanted. It takes a team and it took everyone to get what we wanted and take this win tonight."

The Mustangs are now winners of six in a row and will look to keep pace with the top of the district as they face Morton Ranch and Mayde Creek next.

"We talk about it every year and this year it's the same, we can do this," Filoialii said. "We can play with anybody. This team plays for each other, we play together and we find shots for the whole team. We're all about being united and that makes us special."

DISTRICT 19-6A

TAYLOR 70, TOMPKINS 64

Points: (TA) Timya Grice 34, Fiapaipaitufanuaitamalii Filoialii 19, Mia Lopez 9, Casey Scherpereel 5, Kara Hart 3; (TO) Gabby Panter 21, Caitlyn D'Addieco 16, Rihanna DeLeon 9, Kate Hopkins 8, Sascha Coughran 8, Haylie Panter 2;

Halftime: Taylor 36-34, 3-Pointers: (TA) Lopez 2, Filoialii, Hart, Scherpereel; (TO) Panter 4, Coughran 2, DeLeon; Records: (TA) 15-2, 2-1 (TO) 12-4, 3-1



Above: Fiapaipaitufanuaitamalii Filoialii goes up for a layup during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Tompkins gym. Left: Filoialii drives to the basket during Friday's game between Taylor and Tompkins at the Tompkins gym.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO AMEND THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN/MAP FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

APPLICATION: *On behalf of the property owner, North Pines 1488 LP, Quiddity Engineering, LLC is requesting to be allowed to amend The Major Thoroughfare Plan/Map as noted in the application (9706 / 13854). The amendment will adjust Stone Bridge Parkway to align with the approved Solar Farm's 120' exclusion area for future ROW extension along the west side of the property.*

This amendment request, if approved, will only effect the applicant property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on (December 20th, 2023) at the Waller County Courthouse Annex, 425 FM 1488, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

- (1) General Description of property: Unit is 10' by 20' climate-controlled unit. Unit contains a dryer, several pieces of furniture including a couch set, and an HP printer.
- (2) Lien: This unit is being sold to satisfy a lien owed to Cane Island Storage.
- (3) Owner: The owner of this unit is Thomas Wiley.
- (4) Address: The address of the self-storage facility is 27748 Highway 90, Katy, Tx 77494
- (5) Site/Time: Auction will take place on December 18 Through December 31, 2023 at 11 am and will be hosted on SelfStorageAuction.com

December 7 Puzzle Answers

R	A	B	B	I	S	S	A	L	I	N	E		
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BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by KGA DeForest Design on behalf of the City of Fulshear in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on January 15, 2024, for **City of Fulshear Eagle Landing Park**.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including concession building, parking lots and driveways, natural turf sports fields, playground, irrigation and landscape.

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

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon request.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to City of Fulshear in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for January 04, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

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

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

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

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

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

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SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe (4) hands the ball off to running back Jase McClellan (2) during an NCAA college football game between Texas A&M and Alabama on October 7, 2023, in College Station, Texas. Alabama won, 26-20.

Tompkins grad Milroe heads to CFP after leading Alabama to SEC Title

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins graduate and Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe is headed to the college football playoff.

The sophomore quarterback led the Crimson Tide to a win in the SEC Title game over No. 1 ranked Georgia to secure that playoff berth in what was the biggest game of Milroe's career so far.

Milroe threw for 192 yards in the game while rushing for 68 yards, accounting for two touchdowns in a 27-24 win that ended Georgia's 29-game win streak and sent the Bulldogs home without a college football playoff appearance for the first time since 2020.

It was quite a journey for Milroe, who went from being benched earlier in the season to becoming an SEC champion.

"The biggest thing we've got to do is trust the process and keep getting better," Milroe said after the game. "But we beat the best

team in the nation considerably, so what do you consider us. The biggest thing about this team is we know there's unfinished business."

Milroe stepped his game up down the stretch of the season, leading Alabama to wins over Tennessee, LSU and Auburn to help get the Crimson Tide into the SEC Championship game before helping them get past the top ranked Georgia Bulldogs.

Alabama, who was ranked No. 4 by the college football playoff committee, will play No. 1 Michigan in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1 and it will be a big one for Milroe, as a win would send him to the College Football Playoff National Championship Game which will be played on Jan. 8 in Houston in what would be a homecoming for the quarterback, as it will be played in NRG Stadium.

"Before anyone had an opinion of me, I had my purpose already," Milroe said post-game. "The biggest thing was just stay true to myself and I had the right support system around me to uplift me."



Above: Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe (4) leaves the field after an NCAA college football game between Texas A&M and Alabama on October 7, 2023, in College Station, Texas. Alabama won, 26-20. Left: Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe (4) scrambles in an attempt to avoid a sack during an NCAA college football game between Texas A&M and Alabama on October 7, 2023, in College Station, Texas. Alabama won, 26-20.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Fritz hired as UH head football coach

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Willie Fritz was hired as the University of Houston's new head football coach last week, a coup for the program as Fritz brings with him a proven ability to build programs and win at every level in college football.

It only took the Cougars a week to go through their coaching search, after firing Dana Holgorsen, who led Houston to a 4-8 record in their first season in the Big 12.

"What we realized even before we decided to make a change is that to coach football at the University of Houston was different than it was two, three, five years ago. This was a job that was highly sought after by a lot of coaches, so we didn't need to settle," said Chairman of the Board of Regents Tillman Fertitta. "I use that term a lot in business, 'we're not going to settle.' We did our list of 10 names. We took it to five names after talking to a lot of different people,

and we didn't settle. We got the person that we wanted and that is Willie Fritz."

Fritz comes to Houston after spending the past eight years at Tulane. He led the Green Wave to an AAC Championship last year and their first major bowl appearance in 83 years last season. He then went on to lead Tulane to an 11-2 record this year, coming up just short of another AAC Championship and finishing behind SMU.

"No one in the country has been better at leading and developing student-athletes than Willie Fritz," Chris Pezman, Vice President of Athletics said. "Over his more than three decades of head coaching experience, he has guided several football programs to historic success. We're excited to welcome Willie, his wife, Susan, and their entire family, to Cougar Nation and look forward to putting our full support behind Coach Fritz as we look to take the next steps in the Big 12 Conference."



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

Willie Fritz at his introduction ceremony at the University of Houston.

Overall Fritz has accumulated a 247-121-1 record as a head coach and has helped Tulane become one of if not the best group of five program over the past few years. Fritz was chosen over a group that included UNLV head coach Barry

Odom and UTSA head coach Jeff Traylor.

"I am truly humbled and honored to join the University of Houston family and to be a part of the strong athletics tradition at UH," said Fritz. "There is no ceiling

for success, with the incredible fan support, excellent facilities, talented young men and a collective desire to compete for championships. We will build a program that all Cougs can be proud of and I cannot wait to see the results."

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Katy ISD's Miller Video Crew nominated for Student Broadcast Program of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD's Miller Video Crew has been nominated for the 2023 Student Broadcast Program of the Year award after a great year where they helped broadcast the Katy ISD football season.

The award, which comes from the Dave Campbell's Student Multimedia Spotlight Award which is given to ten schools throughout the football season, all of which are then put together to be nominated for the broadcast team of the year. The program of the year is given a \$2,500 donation and is presented their award during the UIL State Championship games at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

"The Katy ISD Miller Video Crew has greatly enhanced the game day experience by providing quality action shots, instant replays and fulfilling advertising contracts," said Katy ISD Athletic Director Lance Carter. "The Miller Video Crew consists of students from all over Katy ISD and are selected through a series of auditions. The production is such great quality that our partner, Dave Campbell's Texan Live uses the content for their live game day feed. We are grateful for this recognition of our hardworking kids."

Katy ISD is up against Aledo, Bridgeland, Jacksonville, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD, Tyler High, Waller, Whitehouse, Wimberley and Pflugerville Weiss for the award.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Above: Ethan Roberts on show control during a game at Legacy Stadium. Right: Juan Alvarado on the wireless camera during a game at Legacy Stadium.

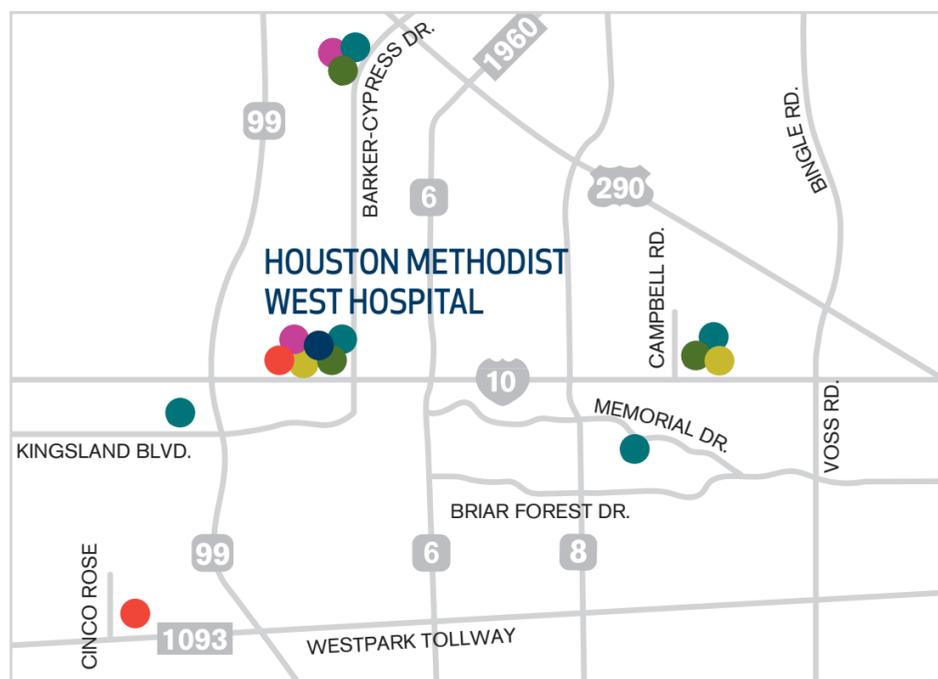


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