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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

FORT BEND COUNTY

Sheriff's office breaks ground on training facility



RENDERING COURTESY OF FORT BEND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A new training facility for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is now under construction in Rosenberg.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On January 10th, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office marked a significant milestone -- the ground-breaking for the construction of an advanced regional training facility. Located at the corner of West Fairground Rd. and Stella Rd., Rosenberg, the training complex will encompass 30.25 acres of Fort Bend County property. The training complex will be among the most advanced regional

training complexes in the metropolitan Houston area and the largest in Fort Bend County. The 189,523 square foot complex will host training sessions for municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The two-story training facility will be 99,267 square feet and will contain eight modern classrooms, an auditorium, administrative offices, conference rooms, and space for the Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center and EMS administrative offices. The facility

will house academy instructors and supervisors, administrative staff, Kids and Cops Officers, and firearms and driving skills instructors. Additionally, telecommunicators, dispatchers, supervisors, and support staff will occupy the second floor. A separate firearms range on the same complex will be 80,193 square feet, facilitating both rifle and handgun training and qualification, allowing for realistic simulations of active shooter

See **FACILITY**, page A3

Office of KP George launches 'Queer Alliance' committee

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On January 5th, the Office of Fort Bend County Judge KP George announced the official launch of the Queer Committee, a new initiative aimed at promoting inclusivity, providing resources, dispelling myths, and showcasing the economic contributions of the Queer community in Fort Bend County. The committee's launch was held on Friday, January 5th, at the Historic Fort Bend County Courthouse, 401 Jackson St., Richmond. At the event Fort Bend County Judge KP George introduced committee members and discussed the goals and significance of the Queer Alliance Committee to the

area community. Following the judge's opening remarks, committee members presented a comprehensive overview of the LGBTQIA+ mission in Fort Bend County. "This multifaceted mission encompasses the provision of essential resources, educational initiatives, and active promotion of LGBTQIA + businesses," said a press release from the judge's office. Members of the committee are Rev. Heather Patriacca Tolleson, pastor of First Christian Church Katy; Kendralyn Jasper, Ft. Bend County Attorney's Office; Leslie Morrison, Moms Demand Action; Samantha Gulley, KP George's Of-

See **ALLIANCE**, page A3



COURTESY OF THE REV. HEATHER TOLLESON

Members of the Queer Alliance Committee are (left to right) Rev. Heather Patriacca Tolleson, First Christian Church, Katy; Kendralyn Jasper, Fort. Bend County Attorney's Office; Leslie Morrison, Moms Demand Action; Samantha Gulley, KP George's Office; Lilian MBise, Fort Bend County Health and Human Services; Amanda Rose, president of Katy Pride; and Danielle Saldva, KP George's Office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK STRICKLAND, THE BODY BUOY

The Body Buoy, designed by local Katy inventor Mark Strickland, has the potential to revolutionize the life jacket industry, he says. Strickland believes that the unique "upside down" design will encourage more people to wear the flotation device when in the water, leading to improved water safety.

Local resident invents new type of life jacket

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Long time Katy resident Mark Strickler, together with his business partner Franklin Smith, have recently invented a new type of life jacket/personal flotation device which will

come on the market in the summer of 2024. The pair founded their company in 2019 (now with four employees) and spent over two years developing and testing the unique device, which goes around the wearer's waist rather than the upper body. "The overall process took

about seven years to develop the product and then get it tested," the inventor said. "COVID slowed this process down quite a bit." "The Body Buoy is the first of its kind United States Coast

See **LIFE JACKET**, page A3

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January 18, 2024
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Katy resident founds SeekerPitch to help job seekers find work

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Software start-up SeekerPitch, started by Katy resident Ryan Reisner, is breathing new life into today's hiring experience by helping candidates use short-form video to immediately showcase soft skills as a part of their initial submission, transcending typical application barriers. The new tech company helps candidates showcase and align their soft skills for a happier hiring process. "The root of the problem is an outdated and broken hiring system that is mismatched for the up-and-coming generations," said Reisner, who is president and CEO of SeekerPitch. "More than 75 percent of Millennials and Gen Z will make-up the workforce by 2025, and companies will need an adaptive approach to attract and retain the talent of these influential generations." SeekerPitch delivers a hiring process

that delivers a familiar and compelling user experience assessing people—not solely resumes—and addresses key points of failure in conventional hiring. Through a simple digital platform, candidates can watch videos directly from hiring managers and create job-specific application pitches to complement their resume submission. Hiring managers and recruiters can hear first-hand from the candidate prior to an introductory interview, saving employer time and money. On average, employers spend approximately 23 hours per open position, and those who use SeekerPitch see reductions in fill time by 30 to 50 percent, said the company in a press release. Not only that, but companies who use hiring video capabilities experience 36 percent increase in qualified applications, the release continued.

See **JOBS**, page A3

Briones listening tour returns to HCC-Katy on January 20th

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones has scheduled another "listening tour" in Katy, to be held January 20th from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Houston Community College Katy Campus, 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy. Additionally, the commissioner and her staff will have an open survey and interactive project map for Katy East residents to share their ideas. The commissioner's office has two community plans in the works for Katy East and East Spring Branch, which will create a list of recommendations to improve public safety, expand transportation and mobility options, ensure access to

See **TOUR**, page A3



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January 21	Sunday	1:30pm, 4:30pm
January 22	Monday	7:30pm
January 24	Wednesday	7:30pm
January 25	Thursday	7:30pm
January 26	Friday	7:30pm
January 27	Saturday	1:30pm, 4:30pm & 7:30pm
January 28	Sunday	1:30pm, 4:30pm

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Local businessman Bill Bain brings the past to the present and into the future

Items being sought until January 31st for Katy time capsule to be opened in 13 years

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A life-long love of antiques and memorabilia has created a decades-long career for local entrepreneur Bill Bain, owner of KT Antiques and the visionary behind the new Depot Building on Second Street in old Katy. Bain has been involved with antiques and collectibles since he was about nine years old, he said.

A step inside KT Antiques – an “antique mall” located at 5614 Second Street in old Katy – is a step into the past, notably Katy’s past from the last 100 years. The building was originally Dube’s Supermarket, one of the first structures in Katy with air conditioning and refrigerated air to cool vegetables and produce. An original sign for Dube’s is proudly displayed on the west side of the building.

Prominently featured at the front of the store is an antique safe which at one point belonged to Sam Houston IV and was acquired by Bain when he purchased the property. When the safe was finally drilled open, it was found to contain an envelope of \$2.00 bills, some coins and various legal documents including a marriage license and property deeds. Some of those items have been framed and are on display in the store just around the corner from the safe.

Other Texas-related items include original Blue Bell Ice Cream signs – first sold as “B&B Ice Cream” and a soda vending machine for Dublin, the oldest



Bill Bain (left) and his son David stand outside the recently completed Depot Building at 908 Avenue A in old Katy, which the pair developed and constructed together.

Bill Bain stands with his time capsule, a project that is nearing completion at the end of January. The capsule will be sealed at that time and it is slated to be opened in 2036 as part of the Texas Bicentennial celebration, Bain said.

bottler for Dr. Pepper. There is also an original MKT sign as well as replica signage for sale.

Other unusual items in the store include antique wooden church pews, which have been cut down to “bench” size for use in a home’s entry way or bedroom.

KT Antiques houses booths from over 45 independent vendors, most – but not all – of whom sell antiques or collectibles. Two of the vendors located near the front of the store offer more modern home décor items. Items such as antique china, glassware, quilts and textiles and jewelry can be found in many of the booths along with collectibles such as lapel pins and sports memorabilia.

“We try to have something for everybody,” Bain said while conducting a tour of the store.

Bain wants to preserve Katy’s past for current and future

generations – not only because he himself has fond memories of the decades that began in the 1940’s and 1950’s – but because he wants to preserve the values of those time periods as well.

“Just try to be honest,” Bain said. Bain and his son David also developed and built the recently opened Depot Building at 908 Avenue B in downtown Katy, which houses Southern Dough Bakery, a retail shop, an events venue and office space. Bain said that an “executive suites” concept is being constructed on the second floor and is nearing completion. The décor of the brick building evokes the look and feel of a mid-century railroad depot, beginning in the lobby where the building directory mimics an old train schedule, and the mailboxes are modeled after those which were used in old train stations. Upstairs, the halls leading to the offices are lined with photos depicting Katy’s history.

Bain’s time capsule, which was unveiled at the Depot Building’s grand opening on December 6th, is kept under the stairwell in the Depot lobby, securely chained to the structure and displayed with trunks and luggage appropriate to the period. Bain is still accepting items

for inclusion in the time capsule, which will be opened in March 2036 as part of the Texas Bicentennial celebration. Bain says that donated items must be in an 8.5x11” sealed envelope and must include the donor’s information, as well as contact information for the donor or someone else who may be reached when the capsule is opened in 13 years. Time capsule donations may be dropped off at KT Antiques at 5614 Second St in Katy until the end of January.

Bain is also a tireless promoter for the merchants of old Katy. He spoke at a recent City of Katy council meeting about the need for the city to acquire a parking lot on Avenue A in order to provide more parking for downtown events as well as for shoppers visiting the downtown merchants. Bain says that he worked together with the former parking lot owner for over ten years to keep the lot mowed and maintained – even cleaning up the site and ridding it of old tires and other items that had been dumped there.

To learn more about KT Antiques, go to the store’s website at kt-antiques.com. For more information on the time capsule project, please call the store at 281-391-2299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

YMCA hosts open house on January 20th

The Mark A. Chapman YMCA located at 1350 Main Street in Katy will be hosting a free open house on January 20th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The YMCA is a cause-driven organization that is for youth development, for healthy living and for social responsibility, organizers said. “We are community-centered, bringing people together of all ages and backgrounds to bridge the gap in community needs,” a YMCA representative said in an email to the Katy Times.



Master Gardeners offer free 'Fruit Trees' class on January 20th

Be an informed shopper when you go to the Feb. 10 Fort Bend County Master Gardeners annual fruit tree sale by attending a free January class. The Saturday, Jan. 20, class will be about “Fruit Trees.” The 90-minute class will begin at 9 a.m. at 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg. Go to <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/grow-your-own/> to register. Registration is due two days prior to class. Attendees will learn about fruit trees, including semi-tropical, which are suitable for and thrive in Fort Bend County.

Topics covered will include when and how to plant the trees, common problems and their resolutions. The class will be taught by Richmond Master Gardener Arti Bansai and Stafford Master Gardener Angela Chan. Bansai has been a Master Gardener since 2021 and Chan since 2019. This is the first in a six-class series called Grow Your Own offered by Fort Bend County Master Gardeners and Texas A&M AgriLife to help home gardeners create a productive and edible garden. For information, contact Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034 or brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

The Feb. 10 spring fruit tree sale will be in Barn H at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Go to <https://fbmg.org/events/spring-fruit-tree-sale/> for more information.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Microgram
- Where golfers begin
- Each
- Warm weather metropolis
- Coat with sticky substance
- Girl's given name
- Myth (Spanish)
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Former NBAer Jeremy
- Where rockers work
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Soft-finned fishes
- Localities
- Paddle
- Union
- Member of religious community
- Small shrill flute
- Small constellation in the Milky Way
- They ___
- College kid on vacation
- de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- Part of the human body
- A progressive grading
- Sound unit
- Noise some birds make
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Portuguese city
- Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- Resembling old Norse poems
- Ask for out of extreme need
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- An insane person
- ___ Boothe Luce, American author
- Buttock muscles
- Men's fashion accessory
- “Hotel California” rockers
- Electronic communication
- Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
- Hostelries
- A way to resound
- Exclamation: yuck!
- A resident of Indiana
- Exclamation of surprise
- Make a mistake
- Boundary
- Antilles island
- It's used to make furniture
- Clod
- They indicate where places are
- Robby __, NHL champ
- Profits money
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Appetizers
- Midway between north and northwest
- Spanish be
- Breezed through
- Grilled dishes
- In a way, excites
- Change mind
- A French abbot
- Popular candy
- Partner to cheese
- Wood or metal bolt

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TOUR

from page A1

greenspace, and foster economic opportunity, the office said in an email to constituents.

Continuing the momentum from her 12-stop listening tour in 2023, Briones is planning quarterly in-person sessions and bi-annual virtual listening sessions. "These sessions give me and my team valuable insights into your ideas and the issues you care about

most—from improving greenspace and flood resiliency to finding more transportation options and increasing public safety," said Briones in the email to constituents. "Your feedback is shaping the direction of Harris County Precinct 4 and can help lead to tangible changes. For example, this year we will finish our Precinct-wide parks plan, which began last September

and includes recommendations to increase park access and use parks to improve socioeconomic outcomes and physical and mental health."

Briones also plans to kick off her proactive call for partnership projects, Places4People in late February. "Because we believe deeply in the power of partnerships, we will once again

invite cities, school districts, MUDs, management districts, [and others]. to submit potential infrastructure projects they would like to work with Precinct 4 on," Briones said. "This initiative stretches your tax dollars by bringing together local governments and organizations to fund sustainable infrastructure projects that equitably support local com-

munities. Last year, Places4People helped to fund the landmark Buffalo Bayou Greenway Trail, which will connect Buffalo Bayou Park to Memorial Park, along with 31 other projects. If you have an idea for a project, contact your local City Council representative, MUD, TIRZ, or other government agency to work together on getting your proposal submitted."

JOB

from page A1

"With SeekerPitch, candidates are empowered to be their true selves at the beginning of the hiring process enabling holistic representation beyond hard skills and qualifications," said Reisner. "By helping navigate the intricacies of algorithm biases and unconscious prejudices, we can help diversify a work force while simultaneously creating a distinct company culture with employees who can make it flourish."

In fact, the Society of Human Resource Management Talent Acquisition Benchmarking Report states 43 percent of employees leave due to mismatched expectations and lack of fit, which can lead to

"Our talent discovery solution enables an authentic way for people to express themselves, their passion for a position and how they can make a difference in a way resumes simply can't. Conversely, we offer employers transparency and efficiencies to find the right candidates quickly."

—RYAN REISNER, SeekerPitch president & CEO

high turnover rates and high cost for companies.

"We want to revolutionize and vastly improve the hiring process for both candidates and employers," said Reisner.

"Our talent discovery solution enables an authentic way for people to express themselves, their passion for a position and how they can make a difference in a way resumes simply can't. Conversely, we offer employers

transparency and efficiencies to find the right candidates quickly."

The company held a launch event on January 11th at the ION innovation center in Houston. The event featured live product demos, the opportunity to hear firsthand from the company founders and to network with fellow Houston innovators. Attendees were able to partake in prize giveaways.

To learn more about SeekerPitch, visit seekerpitch.com.

ALLIANCE

from page A1

office; Lilian MBise, Ft. Bend County Health and Human Services; Amanda Rose, president of Katy Pride; and Danielle Saldua, KP George's Office.

"I love that the elected leadership is taking intentional action to highlight, feature, and create safe spaces for our communities," said Rev. Tolleson in a statement to the Katy Times. "It is important that we continue to call together our community and celebrate the strength we have in our differences."

"The intent of the alliance is to bring voice and visibility to the resources of the LGBTQ community here in our immediate area," Tolleson said. "I believe that we will also stand to create spaces for the queer voice in all aspects of community life and government here in Katy and Fort Bend County. It is important that we highlight the resources such as Transparent Closet, Katy Pride, Fort Bend County Health and Human Services, and others that provide resources to the LGBTQ+ community here in our area. We are a strong community and want to celebrate all that we are and all that we have. I know the committee is looking forward to representing the queer community,

highlighting queer and ally business in our area, and lifting up all the amazing resources our community has to offer."

Amanda Rose, president of Katy Pride, issued the following statement: "The formation of the Queer Alliance in Fort Bend county is a positive step to create a climate of support and empowerment for the LGBTQ+ community in Katy, Ft. Bend and West Houston. There is LGBTQ+ life outside of the loop and the need to recognize and expand the resources in our area has never been greater than right now. Serving on the Fort Bend County Queer Alliance aligns with the mission of Katy Pride. We are here to represent, support and uplift the LGBTQ+ community in the area and I am proud and honored to serve on the Queer Alliance on behalf of Katy Pride."

"As I have said many times, I believe in human dignity and respect regardless of anyone's origin, race, ethnicity, religion, or orientation," said Judge George. "One of the primary goals of this committee is to advocate for equal opportunities for all Fort Bend residents, irrespective of their orientation or gender identity."

LIFE JACKET

from page A1

Guard Type3/Level 70 approved PFD that you wear like a pair of shorts instead of a jacket," said Strickland. "It operates and meets the same standard as the life jackets available online or at your local sporting goods store. It took almost two years to go through all the testing that the UL puts it through."

"The biggest difference is obviously how you wear it, but some of the biggest reasons people love it is that it doesn't rise up under your arms or neck when you're in the water, and it frees your upper body up to move more freely," Strickland said. "It's not as hot on the body — oh, and no tan lines!"

Strickland says that the device is made up of buoyancy foam with neoprene skin covering it. Neoprene is a soft, cool material that is extremely comfortable,

he said.

"I invented it because I felt that fact that it was so much more comfortable than a standard life jacket that maybe more people would actually wear one instead of just storing them under the seat," Strickland said. "Over 85% of all boat drowning victims do not have a PFD on. I since learned that it is also an amazing product for aquatic exercising and rehabilitation."

"The idea came about when we were swimming at the lake and people were wearing standard life jackets upside down on their body -- looked like a big diaper. It wasn't very comfortable, but it worked great -- it allowed you to sit in the water and relax," said Strickland. "My daughter was doing this, and it was extremely uncomfortable and as a joke a cut a hole in

the back of her life jacket as a joke to fix the problem. The Body Buoy was born on that day! I started researching and found there was nothing like out there, so I applied for a patent and got one in 2018. I then reached out to the Coast Guard to see if there was any reason why they wouldn't approve something like this and they explained the test, and as long as it passes the safety test, it can get approved."

Strickland believes the Body Buoy has the potential to change the life jacket industry. The product is available exclusively online at www.thebodybuoy.net. The current price is \$69.95 each but the company runs all kinds of specials, Strickland said. "Katy Red is on sale for \$50 till the end of January," he noted. "Our target market is anyone who has a boat, kayak or paddle-

board and then you have anyone who want to do deep water aquatics needs aquatic rehab." View the product at www.Thebodybuoy.net or on FB, Instagram and YouTube @thebodybuoy.

Strickland has lived in Katy for 46 years now, graduating in 1986 from Katy High School where he was Class president and the John Culpepper Award winner in football. "Coach Joseph was my Defensive Coach when I was playing," said Strickland. "All of my kids have also graduated from Katy."

FACILITY

from page A1

scenarios. Overhead walkways will enable instructors to evaluate training and will allow teams of officers to manage threat exercises.

The training complex will also include a half-mile concrete driving track.

Since the founding of the Sheriff's Office in 1837, employees have received firearms training at outdoor firearms ranges owned by other law enforcement agencies. This new complex provides the County's first-ever firearms training center and will be available to Sheriff's Office employees and officers of other agencies.

The complex will also house a skills tower for SWAT teams, an area for K9 training, a physical fitness center, padded defensive tactics room, and a computer lab.

The initiative to establish an advanced training complex in Fort Bend County began in 2021, when Sheriff's Command Staff noticed that employees had difficulty scheduling use of a local outdoor firearms range to show weapons proficiency. Additionally, the lack of available classrooms often resulted in deputies undergoing training at distant facilities, incurring substantial costs.

On September 26, 2023, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court approved a County Property Lease for the Sheriff's Office Training Facility. Fort Bend County Texas Public Facility Corporation received \$150 million to lend to CFC-Epi-Center to build the training complex and lease county land to construct the facility. Fort Bend County will lease

the land and building at an annual cost of \$7.5 million over a 30-year period after which Fort Bend County will assume ownership of the building.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for law enforcement personnel in Fort Bend County and this region to receive skills-based training in a modern facility with a quality firearms range, well-designed driving track, progressive computer lab, and technologically advanced classrooms," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "We are pleased to have the support of Commissioners Court in creating a modern training complex to keep our employees highly trained, skilled, and competent. A well-trained department provides quality public safety services to our community."



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SUSAN ROVEGNO

The store features freshly prepared boudin, boudin balls, pork and chicken cracklins, a wide variety of specialty meats, and an array of Cajun grocery products.

Best Stop brings convenient Cajun cuisine to the Katy area

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Your first stop for Cajun cuisine should be one of Katy's newest restaurants -- Best Stop, located at 806 Katy Fort Bend Rd. Unit 400 Katy near the intersection of the Katy Freeway and Katy Fort Bend Road.

The Best Stop, which opened December 11th, is a Louisiana-based, Cajun cuisine convenience store known for its boudin, cracklins, sausage, specialty meats and Cajun seasonings. Founded in 1986 in Scott, Louisiana, The Best Stop currently has four locations, three of them being franchises. Several more franchise locations are on the way, said the local franchisee in an interview with the Katy Times. This is the first Best Stop franchise location to open in all of Texas.

The store -- which consists of both a deli and a meat market -- offers freshly prepared boudin, boudin balls, pork and chicken cracklins, a wide variety of specialty meats, and an array of Cajun grocery products. Products range in price from \$1.49 for a boudin ball to high quality specialty meats that average about \$20/pound. The Best Stop Katy uses recipes that have been perfected for over 37 years at the original Best Stop Supermarket in Scott.

All boudin and cracklins sold at The Best Stop Katy



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Best Stop -- a combination Cajun deli and meat market -- has opened at 806 Katy Fort Bend Rd. Unit 400 in Katy.

come from the Best Stop plant in Scott. The remaining are locally sourced and crafted daily in the Katy store's kitchen. Hot deli items are made fresh to order and feature a wide variety of breakfast items, po boys, hamburgers, and much more. The meat market features a wide variety of specialty cut meat perfect for baking or grilling. "We truly offer something for everyone -- anyone who enjoys fresh, Authentic Cajun food and high-quality specialty meats," the franchisees said.

The Best Stop Cajun Market in Katy is owned by lifelong friends, Robbie Abrusley and John Mendell. Friends since the age of 11, Robbie and John forged a bond that remained unbroken throughout their

college years as roommates and teammates on the University of Louisiana golf team. Born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, John is a CPA by trade with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. On the other side of the partnership is Robbie, a native of Oakdale, Louisiana. After college, he ventured into the world of real estate in Texas and about a decade later, he pursued the oil and gas industry to New Braunfels, Texas.

Their Louisiana roots and ties to Texas set the stage for the Texan-Louisianan connection that fueled The Best Stop -- Katy franchise. After conducting a great deal of market research, Robbie and John identified a distinct demand for authentic Cajun cuisine in Houston. They fell in love with the city of Katy and its people. Strategically located directly off I-10 with close proximity to Highway 99, the location in Katy seemed the

perfect spot to open the first Houston-area location.

"We are thrilled to be in Katy and would like to sincerely thank the community for the very warm welcome," the pair said.

Best Stop General Manager Nick Vroulis has lived in Katy for over ten years and feels a deep connection to the area. Passionate about supporting local businesses, he currently resides in Cinco Ranch with his wife and daughter.

The management teams' connections with Katy are strong -- they've joined the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and are also supporters of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Additionally, they said that, because community involvement is of the utmost importance to them, they look forward to supporting other local community initiatives as well.

Best Stop has broken ground on a location in New Braunfels and also has plans to open several more in Texas, the next being in The Woodlands.

Katy sisters open new location of The Dog Stop

One-stop-shop for dog care continues national expansion with new Katy facility opening January 20th

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Dog Stop, an all-inclusive and award-winning dog care brand rapidly expanding across the U.S., announced on January 8th that a new location would be opening in Katy. Located at 23165 Morton Ranch Rd. in Katy, the new facility's doors are set to open January 20th with a grand opening event featuring food, music, games, raffles, special sales, puppy yoga, and a comprehensive range of services designed to enrich every facet of a dog's life. From daily daycare and year-round boarding to nutrition and a full-service grooming spa, The Dog Stop offers a full range of products and services.

Spearheading the local venture are sisters, Ana Dunkel and Adriana Herrera, who are Katy natives. This is the first franchising endeavor for Dunkel and Herrera. Long-time animal lovers and disability advocates, Herrera and Dunkel, and her husband, Mark, established a non-profit organization, Paws Abilities, with the goal of providing training and employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have a passion for dogs.

"This project is motivated by love; love of family, love of community and love of pets," said Herrera. "Our community needs quality care for pets and The Dog Stop is the premier place where Katy dogs will be nurtured and loved. We also need training and jobs for adults with disabilities and The Dog Stop and Paws Abilities will open the doors to those opportunities."

Herrera has lived in Katy all her life, leaving her with a burning passion for helping her community. Prior to this venture with The Dog Stop, she worked in oil and gas compliance. Her corporate background taught her many skills, but most importantly provided her with a different perspective on management. "I feel strongly that everyone should feel accepted, respected, and

included in the workplace. Dunkel is CFO of her company and brings a wealth of business knowledge to this project.

"The Dog Stop's comprehensive approach to pet care perfectly suits our community's needs. I understand the importance of a dedicated space that caters to every aspect of a dog's requirements. This venture also allows us to provide around 20 new jobs to the Katy community and open the door to people with disabilities," said Dunkel.

Owned and operated by dog people since 2009, The Dog Stop understands the complex process involved in dog care and knows that there is no such thing as a one size fits all approach, according to a company press release. At The Dog Stop, expert staff at each location stay up-to-date on the ever-changing science that applies to dog care, behavior, grooming, and nutrition. A one-stop-shop also offering pet care products and supplies, each item on its shelves is the latest and greatest in its respective category, ensuring that each dog who stops by receives the very best treatment.

"We are excited to partner with Ana and Adriana to bring The Dog Stop to the Katy area," said Jesse Coslov, CEO and co-founder of The Dog Stop. "Our goal is to provide the community with reliable, high-quality boarding and dog care services, by ensuring a level of care that Katy and the surrounding area can trust."

About The Dog Stop

Founded in 2009 and franchising since 2013, The Dog Stop has been winning over dogs and owners with their all-inclusive facility complete with spa-style grooming, year-round boarding, individualized training, playtime-focused daycare, and a natural pet retail store that carries ranked products all run by highly-qualified staff. Each component is catered to stimulate every dog's physical and mental needs, ensuring that they leave happier and healthier. The Dog Stop currently serves dogs and owners in all 24 locations in 12 states, with over 50 new locations coming soon. For more information on The Dog Stop, visit thedogstop.com.

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Texas Borders relocates from Westgreen to Pin Oak

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Borders Bar & Grill, a well-known family-style restaurant and sports bar, has relocated from I-10 and Westgreen to 1251 Pin Oak Suite 141 in Katy, to the space previously occupied by Scholars & Scoundrels. Texas Borders offers a terrific selection of Tex-Mex and American food favorites, including burgers, wings, nachos, and more. The full bar supplies cold beers, mixed drinks, and quality wines. Local bands provide live music on the weekends.

The restaurant is still serving house favorites -- homemade gumbo, Kellie's shrimp quesadillas, chicken fried chicken and steak, the famous "Joel's" Buffalo chicken fried chicken and the "Original" blackened wings, said owner Kellie Messer. "Our most popular item is our New Orleans style hot boiled crawfish which is coming soon," she said.

New additions to the menu are lemon pepper wings and the "Wedge" salad with blackened shrimp and homemade dill dressing. Don't forget to leave room for bread pudding too, made from a family recipe. A new brunch menu will be rolled out later this month.

According to the restaurant's website, Kellie Messer started Texas Borders in November of 1996 with a concept to support the name. "Texas Borders" was born to sell great food from around its borders...a lil' All American, lil' Cajun, and a lil' from south of the border with exemplary service and a great upbeat atmosphere. Kellie grew up in New



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Texas Borders Bar & Grill has relocated to 1251 Pin Oak Road, Suite 141 in Katy.

Orleans and developed the love and passion of the hospitality industry from her late grandmother, Mary Francis, who had many restaurants and bars during her life span. Kellie followed in those footsteps working at Chi Chi's of New Orleans all through high school. After relocating to Houston to further her passion, she worked for Pappasito's and then Houston's

Restaurant for ten years prior to opening Texas Borders.

Messer also owns a second location of Texas Borders Bar & Grill at 26440 FM 1093 Rd, 400 in, Richmond. Under Messer's direction the two restaurants have been voted by Katy Times' readers as the "Best of Katy" in multiple categories every year as far back as 2014.

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National Charity League honors Class of 2024



HEATHER BROWAND

Top Row (standing): Shruti Godbole, Kendall Cooley, Faith Piper, Allison Reuber, Karlianna Kapche, Hannah Knicely, Erin Alanis, Kayla Rossi, Lauren Adams Middle Row (all seated): Grace Huizingh, Sarah Ivey, Hannah Nichols, Marlowe Ambrose, Claire Estes, Alexandra Matheson Front Row (seated on floor): Amanda Eubanks, Rowan Knox.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On January 14, the Class of 2024 were recognized and celebrated for completing their six-year program of The National Charity League, Inc., Star Chapter. The event took place at Brandt 1910 Event Venue in Wallis.

"This fosters the mother-daughter relationship and empowers today's girls to become tomorrow's leaders through service to their community and chapter," said Shani Matheson, National Charity League, Inc., Star Chapter president. Over the

past six years, these young ladies, alongside their mothers, have contributed over 7,580 volunteer hours at 29 local charities, including Katy Christian Ministries, The Ballard House, Neighborhood Kidz Club, Citizens for Animal Protection, Fort Bend Women's Center, The Hangar, The Brookwood Community, Willow River Farms, Texas Children's Pediatrics and The Delaney at Parkway Lakes.

"It has been a joy watching these girls' journey through NCL. They began as sweet, shy girls eager to learn and have grown into

confident young ladies ready to spread their wings and embrace all that life has to offer. Whatever their next journey, we know they are prepared to lead and serve. Their futures are endless," said Shani Matheson, NCL Inc., Star Chapter President. The seniors honored this

year are: Lauren Adams, Erin Alanis, Marlowe Ambrose, Kendall Cooley, Claire Estes, Amanda Eubanks, Shruti Godbole, Grace Huizingh, Sarah Ivey, Karlianna Kapche, Hannah Knicely, Rowan Knox, Alexandra Matheson, Hannah Nichols, Faith Piper, Allison Reuber and Kayla Rossi.

TRIBUTE

George "G.A." Gentry of Katy, Texas passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family on December 21, 2023. Born in Slaughters, Kentucky on October 27, 1933, the fourth of five children to William Forrest Gentry and Eva Ashlock Gentry, he graduated from high school in Oakland Maryland in 1951, and served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division, from 1956-1958. He married Mary Jean Asher in 1960, with whom he had four children and celebrated 51 years of marriage before her passing in 2012. He graduated from Louisiana State University in 1963 with a Bachelor's



GEORGE "G.A." GENTRY
1933-2023

degree in Civil Engineering, and spent his career working on large-scale industrial construction projects around the world. He retired

from Kellogg-Brown & Root in 1998 after over 20 years of service. George and family lived in Katy, Texas since 1978 and attended St. Peter's United Methodist Church. He was selflessly devoted to his family, loved working on cars, and to the end of his life he excelled in telling corny dad jokes. He is invariably remembered for his kindness by those who had the good fortune to know him.

George is survived by his sister, Margaret Gentry McCarthy of Scottsdale, Arizona; his children, George Gregory Gentry of Houston, Michael Asher Gentry of Scottsdale, Arizona, Richard Wade Gentry of Katy, and

Brenda Renee Gentry of Round Rock; two grandchildren, Jonathan Matthew Gentry of New York, New York, and Hannah Kathryn Gentry of Katy; as well as many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and other cherished relations and friends.

A Celebration of Life and Memorial will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas.

In lieu of flowers and other gifts, the family requests that charitable donations be made to St. Peter's United Methodist Church (stpky.org), and The Hyacinth Fellowship (hyacinthfellowship.org).

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PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

Taylor's Mustang Theatre presents The SpongeBob Musical

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

James E. Taylor High School's Mustang Theatre announced on January 8th the details of its upcoming production of The SpongeBob Musical, bringing Bikini Bottom to life on stage. This lively and colorful musical extravaganza will take place on January 19-20 and January 26-27 at 7 p.m. at the James E. Taylor High School Performing Arts Center at 20700 Kingsland Blvd, Katy.

Prepare to dive into the underwater world of SpongeBob SquarePants and his friends as they face the challenges of the deep blue sea. With infectious music, energetic dance numbers, and a delightful storyline, The SpongeBob Musical promises to be an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages.

The talented cast and crew of James E. Taylor High School have been working tirelessly to bring this beloved animated series to life on the stage. From the iconic characters to the vibrant set design, audiences can expect a visually stunning and entertaining performance, school officials said in a press release.

There will also be a unique opportunity to dine with the cast at the SpongeBob Character Dinner before the show on January 27th. The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the PAC lobby where Krabby Patties (hamburgers) and other treats will be served. There will be family activities and a chance to mingle with the cast before the show. Tickets to the dinner may be purchased at mustangtheatre.org.

Tickets for The SpongeBob Musical are available for purchase online at mustangtheatre.org.

About James E. Taylor High School's Mustang Theatre

James E. Taylor High School's Mustang Theatre is dedicated to providing students with a creative outlet to express themselves through the performing arts. The theatre program emphasizes teamwork, creativity, and a passion for storytelling, fostering a love for the arts within the school and the community.

COURTESY JAMES E. TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

Pictured: from left to right: Eduardo Agnese (Patrick Star), Kate Bowling (SpongeBob) and Jacqueline Netanel (Sandy)



Daniels announced as principal of Katy ISD's Bethke Elementary

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) announced on December 11 that Thomas Daniels would become the principal of Bethke Elementary, located at 4499 E Ventana Pkwy. In Katy in the fast-growing 77493 zip code. Daniels officially assumed his role on Tuesday, December 12.

Daniels is an accomplished educational leader with a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Lamar University and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University. With a proven track re-



THOMAS DANIELS

cord of excellence and a commitment to fostering academic growth, he brings a wealth of experience to Bethke Elementary.

District officials said in a press release.

His journey in education includes notable honors such as being recognized as the 2016-17 Teacher of the Year, being a Chick-Fil-A Teacher of the Year Nom-

inee, a recipient of the Katy ISD Foundation Grant, and a member of the Katy ISD Connected Learner Cohort.

Daniels has held key leadership roles, including his current position as Assistant Principal at Beckendorff Junior High since 2021. In this capacity, he has supervised 6th and 7th grades, served as the Safety Liaison, led CAT meetings, and played a crucial role in mentorship, and positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) initiatives.

Prior to his role at Beckendorff, Daniels served as Assistant Principal at Stephens

Elementary from 2017 to 2021. During this time, he supervised PK-5 and various special education programs, taking on responsibilities as the Safety Liaison, 504 Coordinator, and ARD Facilitator. Mr. Daniels has also contributed to the educational community as a Summer School Assistant Principal at Memorial Parkway in 2023 and 2017-2018.

In accepting the position as Principal of Bethke Elementary, Daniels expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "I am thrilled to join Bethke Elementary and work collaboratively with the dedicated staff, students, and parents to

create an environment that fosters the growth of every individual. I am committed to carrying out the school's vision and mission, ensuring that each student reaches their fullest potential academically, socially, and emotionally."

Ken Gregorski, KISD Superintendent of Schools, commented on Daniels' appointment, saying, "I am confident that Mr. Daniels' passion for education, leadership experience, and commitment to student achievement will have a positive impact on Bethke students and school community. We look forward to the continued success of the school under his direction."

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SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) signals to the offense before a snap during an NFL Wild Card playoff game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on January 13, 2024 in Houston.

Texans dominate Browns for first playoff win since 2020

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

CJ Stroud has been setting franchise records all year.

The rookie has been one of the very best at his position and has stepped up in big moments.

But no moment was bigger than this weekend in the rookie's first ever playoff game, and when the lights were shining the brightest, Stroud was at his best.

Stroud stepped up and led the Texans to their biggest win of the season on Saturday, with the Texans beating the Cleveland Browns 45-14 in the wildcard round as Stroud threw for 274 yards on 16 of 21 passing, becoming just the fifth rookie to ever throw for three touchdowns in a playoff game and tying the record for most touchdown passes by a rookie in the playoffs.

"For CJ to go out and have the type of game he had tonight is un-

believable," said Texans head coach Demeco Ryans. "I'm just so proud of him and all of our guys. I could see they were ready on Tuesday of this week, they were locked in and they put the work in to beat a really good team. We made every play we needed to win the game."

Both teams took some time to settle in on offense as they traded punts to start the game, and the Texans

See **TEXANS**, page B3

WEEK OF JANUARY 19

SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

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

Wednesday

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

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

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

Wednesday

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

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

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

Wednesday

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

WRESTLING

Friday

- State Duals at Wichita Falls



TYLER TYRE

Rihanna DeLeon shoots a 3-pointer during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Katy at the Katy gym.

DeLeon's buzzer beater lifts Tompkins past Katy

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It had been a struggle for Tompkins all night.

The Falcons could never find a rhythm, could never get their offense going against Katy. But they stayed in things, finding a way to overcome a overcome a six point deficit with three minutes remaining, trimming the deficit to one with just seconds remaining in the game. And with the game in the balance, there was only one person to go to for a clutch bucket — Rihanna DeLeon.

The junior shooting guard came up with one of the biggest plays of her career, slipping past defenders on the perimeter and



TYLER TYRE

Gabby Panter dribbles past a defender during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Katy at the Katy gym.

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

Tompkins' DC Robinson named head football coach at Freeman

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD announced Monday that Tompkins defensive coordinator and assistant head coach Eric Robinson has been named the first ever Head Football Coach and Campus Athletic Coordinator of Freeman High School, which will open this fall and become the 10th Katy ISD High School.



PHOTO COURTESY KATY ISD

Eric Robinson was named the Head Football Coach and Campus Athletic Coordinator of Freeman High School.

Robinson, who had been with Tompkins since 2018, comes with a lot of success under his belt. The Falcons reached the playoffs in all six of his seasons, reaching the regional semifinal in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Before joining Tompkins, Robinson was the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director for Brookshire Royal, from 2014-2016, and Beckville in the 2012 and 2013 seasons. He also served as co-defensive coordinator and special teams coordinator at Carthage. Overall in his five years as a head coach, Robinson compiled a 14-36 record as a head coach, with his best season coming in 2013 at Beckville where he led the Bearcats to a 7-3 record.

"We are thrilled to welcome Coach Eric Robinson to Freeman High School,"

See **ROBINSON**, page B3

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Young named District MVP after terrific senior season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

After a huge senior season even with missing time with injury, Wyatt Young took home the District 19-6A Most Valuable Player Award, leading Tompkins to its sixth straight playoff appearance and putting up numbers along the way.

Young passed for 524 yards and six touchdowns on the year while rushing for 936 yards and 11 touchdowns this season, averaging over 13.5 yards per carry and spearheading the backfield for the Falcons to lead them to a second-place finish in district.

Young was joined in the superlatives by two teammates, the first of which was Caleb Blocker, who was named the district's Offensive Player of the Year. Blocker helped carry the Falcons offense when Young was out for a portion of the year with an injury and had a huge season. Overall, Blocker ran for 1561 yards and 17 touchdowns, adding a touchdown passing and 109 yards receiving on 13 catches to go with four touchdowns receiving.

Jhase McMillan was the last Falcon to earn superlatives as the Falcons led the way with three members making the exclusive list. The senior was named the special teams player of the year. He was huge all year as a kick returner for the Falcons and as a rusher on the field goal block team, making a num-



Tompkins quarterback Wyatt Young (10) carries the ball for a touchdown during a high school football game between Morton Ranch and Tompkins on October 13, 2023, in Katy.

ber of blocks of field goals and extra points. He also was one of the best in the district on defense, making a large impact in the Falcons' secondary, intercepting four passes, while making a splash on offense as well, rushing for 219 yards and three touchowns

while catching three passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns.

Taylor's Ashton Coker earned defensive player of the year honors after helping the Mustangs get back to the playoffs after a two-year absence. Coker finished the year

with 44 tackles, six tackles for loss, three sacks and 14 quarterback hurries.

Katy took home two superlative awards. Jeremiah Smith was named the district's newcomer of the year after a big year as a sophomore. He made an impact on defense both with rushing the passer and in coverage, coming away with multiple game changing plays throughout the year and always being a force other teams had to account for.

Gary Joseph rounded out the superlative selections as he was named the district's coach of the year for the second straight season after leading the Tigers to a 10-2 record, a District 19-6A championship and an area round appearance.

There were a number of players that earned unanimous first team spots. Ashton Funk was a unanimous choice for the first team at offensive tackle while Coen Echols earned the honors at center, Blocker and Ryan Hall both earned the honors at running back, Chase Johnsey was unanimous at fullback, Andrew Marsh was selected unanimously at wide receiver and Luke Carter was unanimously selected to the first team as a tight end while also being named to the first team as a deep snapper. Defensively, Coker was unanimously selected to the first team along with Dean Ford and Cyrus Reyes.

Below is the full District 19-6A All-District football team.

2023 19-6A ALL DISTRICT FOOTBALL TEAM

DISTRICT MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
#10 Wyatt Young, SR, Tompkins
OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
#21 Caleb Blocker, SR, Tompkins
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
#90 Ashton Coker, SR, Taylor
SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR
#5 Jhase McMillan, SR, Tompkins
NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
#28 Jeremiah Smith, SO, Katy
19-6A COACH OF THE YEAR
Gary Joseph, Katy

FULLBACK				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	8	Chase Johnsey	SR	Katy
2nd Team	6	Dylan Rodriguez	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	6	Kaleb Molina	SR	Paetow
WIDE RECEIVERS				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	3	Andrew Marsh	JR	Jordan
1st Team	2	Zechariah Sample	SR	Jordan
1st Team	2	Dante Archie	SR	Taylor
2nd Team	11	Gavin Beavers	SR	C. Ranch
2nd Team	1	Israel Olotu-Judah	JR	Katy
2nd Team	11	Jabari Bush	SR	Paetow
3rd Team	6	Scott Eckel	JR	C. Ranch
3rd Team	1	Adebisi Bello	JR	Tompkins
3rd Team	7	Markel McNeal	SR	M. Ranch
QUARTERBACK				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	8	Colin Willetts	SR	Jordan
2nd Team	10	Wyatt Young	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	15	Gunner Nelson	JR	Katy



Tompkins defensive back Jhase Mcmillan (5) carries the ball on a touchdown run during a high school football game between Morton Ranch and Tompkins on October 13, 2023, in Katy.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	75	Ashton Funk	SR	Tompkins
1st Team	75	Patrick McMath	JR	Katy
1st Team	76	Jacob Valdez	SR	Katy
1st Team	59	Deshawn Owens	SR	Katy
1st Team	68	Byron Nelson	JR	Katy
1st Team	73	Erben Birkhoff	JR	Tompkins
2nd Team	65	Deacon Parrish	JR	Tompkins
2nd Team	58	Luke Uberecken	SR	C. Ranch
2nd Team	78	Anthony Vazquez	SR	M. Ranch
2nd Team	75	Jovanni Melchor	SR	Jordan
2nd Team	60	Hank Tulenko	JR	Taylor
3rd Team	71	Matthew Gray	JR	Jordan
3rd Team	73	Kai Nguyen	JR	Paetow
3rd Team	77	John Cleary	JR	Jordan
3rd Team	71	William Thornton	SOPH	Paetow
3rd Team	65	Alan Ramirez	SR	C. Ranch
CENTER				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	78	Coen Echols	SR	Katy
2nd Team	56	Michael Anderson	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	50	Brady Downs	SR	Taylor
RUNNING BACKS				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	21	Caleb Blocker	SR	Tompkins
1st Team	28	Ryan Hall	SR	M. Ranch
1st Team	40	Tremayne Hill	SOPH	Katy
1st Team	2	Chad Gasper	JR	Jordan
2nd Team	5	Barrett Hudson	SR	S. Lakes
2nd Team	7	Marcus Gadlin	SOPH	C. Ranch
2nd Team	4	Tessiah Young	JR	C. Ranch
3rd Team	10	Martavian Hill	SR	M. Ranch
3rd Team	1	Jake Farris	SR	S. Lakes
3rd Team	5	Tanner West	SOPH	Jordan

TIGHT END				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	84	Luke Carter	SR	Katy
2nd Team	0	Rhys Phillips	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	87	Ian Flynt	SR	Taylor
ALL PURPOSE PLAYER OFFENSE				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	2	Mike Gerald	SR	M. Ranch
2nd Team	2	Dante Archie	SR	Taylor
3rd Team	5	Tanner West	SOPH	Jordan
DEEP SNAPPER				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	84	Luke Carter	SR	Katy
2nd Team	66	Jared Martinez	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	50	Brady Downs	SR	Taylor
PUNTER				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	97	Adam Carter	JR	Katy
2nd Team	13	Jackson Waller	SR	Taylor
3rd Team	44	William Duncan	SR	Tompkins
KICKER				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	97	Adam Carter	JR	Katy
2nd Team	44	William Duncan	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	80	Wilson Kalvass	SR	Jordan
RETURN SPECIALIST				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	1	Zechariah Sample	SR	Jordan
2nd Team	2	Mike Gerald	SR	M. Ranch
3rd Team	13	Jackson Farrar	JR	Paetow

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	90	Ashton Coker	SR	Taylor
1st Team	20	Eduwa Okundaye	SR	Tompkins
1st Team	0	Carmello Brooks	JR	Paetow
1st Team	94	Tyler Willis	SR	Katy
2nd Team	97	Adam Carter	JR	Katy
2nd Team	99	Stephan Ochai	SR	Katy
2nd Team	19	Dallas-Patrick	SR	Jordan
2nd Team	7	Rotimi Olayinka	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	95	Alexander McMoore	JR	Taylor
3rd Team	94	Bra'shii Brown	SR	M. Ranch
3rd Team	91	Nicholas Elko	JR	Paetow
3rd Team	95	Justin Hughes	SR	C. Ranch
LINEBACKERS				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	20	Dean Ford	SR	M. Ranch
1st Team	44	Connor Johnsey	SR	Katy
1st Team	5	Landon Saurage	JR	Taylor
1st Team	28	Jeremiah Smith	SO	Katy
2nd Team	46	Nathan Hall	SR	Katy
2nd Team	9	Brayden Coffie	JR	Jordan
2nd Team	44	Victor Thomas	SR	Paetow
2nd Team	8	Abrien Ledet	SR	Paetow
3rd Team	8	Luke Mathiasmeier	JR	C. Ranch
3rd Team	13	Dazer Van Leeuwen	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	11	Kosi Okpala	SOPH	M. Creek
3rd Team	9	Dimitri Long	JR	Taylor
SECONDARY				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	8	Cyrus Reyes	SR	Taylor
1st Team	9	Jed Olotu-Judah	SR	Katy
1st Team	5	Jhase McMillan	SR	Tompkins
1st Team	4	Deyjhon Pettaway	JR	Paetow
1st Team	1	Taytum Johnson	SR	Cinco
2nd Team	0	Zion Jones	JR	Jordan
2nd Team	6	Noah Coughran	SR	Katy
2nd Team	12	Josiah Rodriguez	SR	Taylor
2nd Team	1	Jamaal Commie	SR	Paetow
2nd Team	11	Hunter Boudreaux	SR	Tompkins
3rd Team	4	Gavin Johnson	SR	Katy
3rd Team	11	Bryce Coffie	SR	Jordan
3rd Team	2	Superior Hill	JR	C. Ranch
3rd Team	27	Jacob Hiltton	JR	Katy
3rd Team	21	Daniel Scarabino	SO	C. Ranch
ALL PURPOSE PLAYER DEFENSE				
RANK	#	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL
1st Team	8	Cyrus Reyes	SR	Taylor
2nd Team	4	Deyjhon Pettaway	JR	Paetow
3rd Team	11	Hunter Boudreaux	SR	Tompkins

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Katy Times

TOMPKINS

from page B1

finding just enough space on the perimeter to nail a three pointer at the final buzzer, sending the Falcons to a 56-54 win over Katy and keeping Tompkins tied for first place in District 19-6A.

"I knew we had a good a good play for it and I just found a space," DeLeon said. "The ball felt good coming off my fingers and it was just an awesome feeling. I'm so happy we got this win and that we kept fighting all game."

Fight was the best word to describe what the Falcons did all night — overcoming everything thrown at them and beating a Katy team that was fighting for their playoff lives as teams enter the second half of district.

Katy came out as the aggressor from the start and took an early lead, not letting it go until the final seconds. The Tigers led 13-12 after the first quarter and built that into a 25-19 lead at halftime, which the Tigers held onto as they went into the fourth quarter leading 43-37.

But Tompkins met Katy's physicality head on in the fourth quarter and fought their way back into it, never letting up throughout.

"In the locker room after the game the players said the lessons they learned were 'never give up' and 'play to the last second,'" said Tompkins head coach Tamatha Ray. "That's what these girls did tonight. Katy came in with an awesome gameplan and they executed it. We had opportunities that we squandered. But the pressure we amped up in the third and fourth quarter really changed it. The press got us back into it."

Tompkins made that change to go into the full court press with around four minutes

District 19-6A

TOMPKINS 56, KATY 54

Points: (T) Rihanna DeLeon 17, Gabby Panter 15, Caitlyn D'Addieco 11, Sascha Coughran 6, Kate Hopkins 4, Haylie Panter 3; (K) Nyla Wold 16, Ashlynn Alexander 12, Kaysen Miller 8, Sophia Garza 7, Macey Spellins 5, Emma Lawler 3, Hailynn Obregon 3;

Halftime: Katy 25-19; 3-Pointers: (T) DeLeon 3, Coughran 2, Panter; (K) Wold 2, Lawler, Alexander, Obregon, Spellins, Garza; Records: (T) 21-4, 8-1; (K) 15-7, 4-5;

remaining and down nine in the fourth quarter and it immediately paid dividends. Tompkins trimmed the lead to six with three minutes left and down to four with just over a minute remaining on a big three-pointer by Sascha Coughran, then trimming it to one when Haylie Panter stole an inbounds pass and hit a layup, getting a foul and converting the free throw as well. After two free throws by Katy, DeLeon reduced the deficit to one with 30 seconds left on a contested layup and after forcing a turnover, Tompkins got an inbounds with just seconds left in the game that DeLeon converted on the game winning three-pointer at the buzzer.

"We just have the grit and composure in those moments," said Coughran, a sophomore point guard. "We never got down on ourselves and we found a way to win it in the end. Everyone stepped up and made plays



TYLER TYRE

Caitlyn D'Addieco shoots a layup during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Katy at the Katy gym.

when they had to."

DeLeon led the way with 17 for Tompkins while Gabby Panter had 15 and Caitlyn D'Addieco had 11 points. It was an important one for Tompkins as they kept pace with Taylor at the top of the district table as the Falcons try

to compete for another district title.

"This was a huge one," Ray said. "This whole district is a gauntlet and you can't just put down a win so to get a win and be able to come back like this against a really good team was big. I'm just proud of the fight."

TEXANS

from page B1

defense came up big on the Browns' second possession, forcing a three and out inside the Browns 10-yard line and getting the ball back for the offense in Browns territory after a punt, which the Texans took advantage of by getting all the way down to the 3-yard-line before having to settle for a 21-yard field goal.

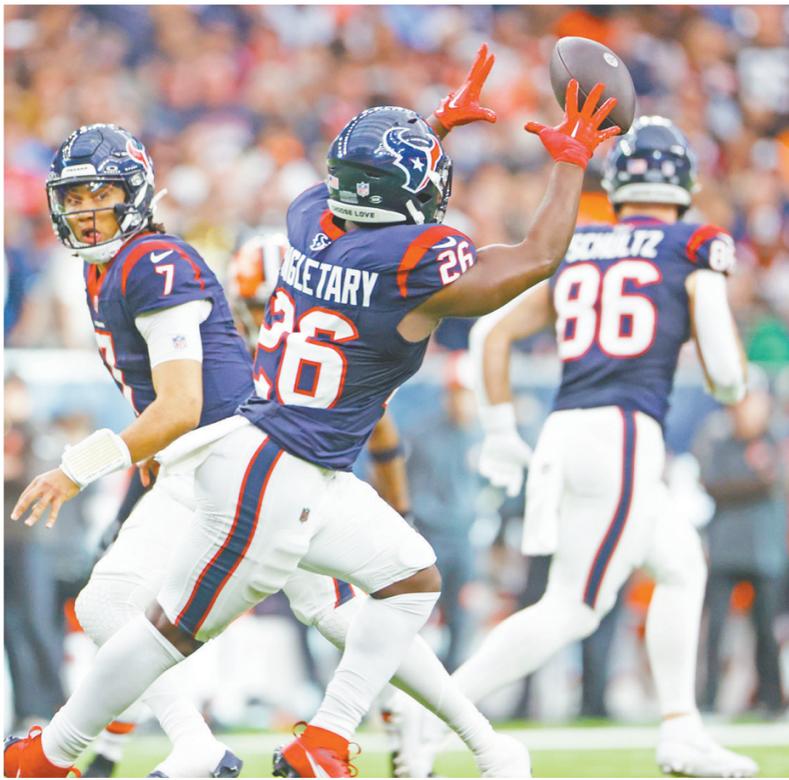
The Browns responded, going right down the field and taking the lead on a 1-yard Kareem Hunt run, but Houston answered right back, going on a 4-play, 75-yard drive that was capped off with a 15-yard pass from CJ Stroud to Nico Collins, making it 10-7 in favor of Houston shortly before the end of the first quarter.

Cleveland got another score early in the second quarter as Joe Flacco continued to carve up the Houston defense before throwing an 11-yard touchdown to Kareem Hunt, but it took Houston just one play to retake the lead with Stroud throwing a 76-yard touchdown to Brevin Jordan. Houston added one more touchdown shortly before the half to take things 24-14 on a 37-yard touchdown from Stroud to Schultz as Houston went into the locker room with all of the momentum.

"We wanted to throw the ball early and be aggressive and everyone just did a great job of making plays," Stroud said. "The offensive line did amazing and we had great play calls and we were just aggressive with it. That's a recipe for success and then we showed we could run the ball today too. This is the best we've played so far this year."

It was the defense that came out fired up and ready in the second half and they made one of the biggest plays of the game on the Browns first possession. Derek Barnett got to Flacco, who threw up a prayer of a throw that Steven Nelson came down with before returning 82 yards for a touchdown, and Houston did it again on the next drive with Christian Harris intercepting a pass and returning 36 yards for another score. Devin Singletary added another touchdown early in the fourth quarter as the Texans pulled the starters with over nine minutes left in the fourth quarter.

"We needed our defense to step up tonight and they did a fantastic job," Ryans said. "Flacco had a great game against us a few weeks ago and we knew it was going to be a challenge but we had to attack the foot-



Above: Texans running back Devin Singletary (26) catches a pitch from quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) as Stroud looks back during an NFL Wild Card playoff game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on January 13, 2024 in Houston. Left: Texans linebacker Christian Harris (48) reacts after a defensive play during an NFL Wild Card playoff game between the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns on January 13, 2024 in Houston.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

ball. For us to get two takeaways and attack the football and then go and turn that into points, that changes the game. It was huge."

Collins ended the day with 96 receiving yards and a touchdown on six catches, while Jordan had 76 yards receiving and a touchdown on his one catch.

The playoff win was Houston's first since 2020 when they beat the Buffalo Bills in the wildcard round. Houston will look to go further than it ever has next week when they play in the Divisional Round with a chance to get to the AFC Championship.

"It's one week at a time," Ryans said. "We're confident coming in and you have to be confident in all of these moments. We believe in each other and we have a special group here in the locker room. We just have to keep taking it one day at a time and keep going out and playing relentless football every day."

ROBINSON

from page B1

said Gina Cobb, Principal at Freeman High School. "His dedication to his student-athletes, impressive coaching resume, and commitment to excellence make him an ideal fit to establish a strong culture that our community can be proud of."

While at Tompkins and at Carthage, Robinson earned a number of accolades. He was named the Greater Houston Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year in 2022-23 and the Katy ISD Assistant Coach of the year in 2020-21. During his time at Carthage, they won three straight Class 3A-Division II State Championships from 2008-2010, with the team having an undefeated district record from 2007 to 2010, which included 31 consecutive wins.

Robinson graduated from Stephen F. Austin, where he played linebacker for the University and earned a bachelors and masters in kinesiology along with certifications in All Level Physical Education K-12 and Social Studies 8-12.

His final year at Tompkins was a strong one, where the Falcons had a 7-4 record, with a 6-2 District 19-6A record and a bi-district appearance, where Tompkins lost to Ridge Point. The Falcons won six straight games heading into the playoffs and gave up an average of 22.6 points per game on the season, lowering that to 19.8 points per game in district play, which was second best behind only the Katy Tigers. Overall during his time at Tompkins, the Falcons gave up just 17 points per game from 2019-2023.

Freeman will join the UIL in 2026 and will open this fall with its first ever freshman class, which Freeman will get a chance to mold before they join varsity play.

"I am excited and honored to begin my journey at Freeman High School. My family and I are excited to work alongside the community to help young people grow into amazing individuals on and off the field," said Coach Robinson. "I also want to thank my family at Tompkins High School for seven wonderful years. I am eager to begin a new era at Freeman and go Golden Eagles!"



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Filing# 188674767 E-Filed 12/27/2023 08:59:06 AM
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
IN THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
ORIANNA LIYAH GREEN DOB: 11/08/2010 Case No.: 2023-DR-2892-AD A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION OF JOINT PETITION FOR STEP-PARENT ADOPTION AND TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

To: **Otterway Ola Green**
Biological Father
23702 Aspen Cliff Ct.
Katy, Texas 77493-3393

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Russell J. Frank, Esq., whose address is Cordell Law, LLP, 5337 Millenia Lakes Blvd, Suite 200, Orlando, Florida 32839, rfrank@corde11law.com, on or before February 20, 2024, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Failure to file a written response to the petition constitutes grounds upon which the court may terminate parental rights. Failure to appear at the hearing constitutes grounds upon which the court may terminate parental rights. You have a right to ask that a future hearing be reset for a later date so that you may consult with an attorney; and an opportunity to admit or deny the allegations in the petition.

You are the legal father of a minor female child born on 11/08/2010 in Orlando, Orange County, Florida, to wit, O.L.G., and the birth mother describes you as being fifty (50) years old;

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: December 28, 2023 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Digitally signed by Carolina Garallues Date: 2023.12.28 11:08:44 -05'00'
By: Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Building And Standards Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2024

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m., Monday, February 12, 2024

Said Hearing Is To Hear And Discuss The Adoption of The 2021 Editions of the International, Standard, and National Codes, Including Local Amendments, That Will Go Into Effect March 1, 2024. The City Will Consider The 2021 Editions of the International Fire Code; NFPA 101 Life Safety Code; Repeal Of Previous Versions; And Any Local Amendments Thereto.

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2024-02, The Application Of **Jeffrey A Royal**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **1902 Myrna LN**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Reserve A, Block 5, Of The Katyland Section 3 Subdivision, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Platted Building Setback Of Twenty-Five (25) Feet For A Garage Structure.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **Rexora Lane Improvements, until 3:00 PM on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves **removal of existing pavement and driveways, installation of concrete roadway with curbs and driveways, Traffic Control, and Storm Water Pollution Protection** as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- a. Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- b. Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- c. Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **3:00 PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 local time via zoom.us.** Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is NOT MANDATORY. Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87171187580?pwd=SYH8TPyAbftieutAMI36jyCtAw8UPn.1
Meeting ID: 871 7118 7580; Passcode: 406353
One tap mobile: +13462487799

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

First Publication: **Thursday, January 18, 2024**
Second Publication: **Thursday, January 25, 2024**

January 11 Puzzle Answers

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

A	B	M	P	A	C	E	D	C	A	M	P	O	
Z	E	E	A	B	A	T	E	A	N	A	S	A	
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H	E	R	E	S	E	Y	R	E	S	S	S	R	

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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

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Annual Report Public Hearing Scheduled January 22, 2024

The Katy Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2022-2023 Annual Performance Report on January 22, 2024. The hearing will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees at 5:00 PM in the Katy ISD Administration Building at 6301 South Stadium Lane.

Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.306 requires each school district's board of trustees to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), PEIMS Financial Standard, accreditation status, campus performance objectives, special education determination status, violent or criminal incidents along with prevention and intervention policies, student performance in post-secondary institutions, and progress towards meeting early childhood literacy and math proficiency as well as college, career, and military readiness.

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2024-01, The Application Of **Charles Payton & Pamela Powell**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **5917 A Street**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lots 5 and 24, Block 3, of the Robertson Subdivision, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To Allow The Use Of A Pool And Other Accessory Improvements Without A Primary Use.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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Aviso final y explicación pública de una actividad propuesta en una llanura aluvial de 100 años

Para: Todas las agencias interesadas, Grupos e individuos.

Esto es para dar aviso de que la ciudad de Katy ha realizado una evaluación según lo requerido por el Ejecutivo Pedidos 11988, en conformidad con las regulaciones del HUD en 24 CFR 55.20 Subparte C Procedimientos para tomar determinaciones sobre llanuras aluviales. La actividad está financiada por el Programa de recuperación de desastres CDBG de HUD bajo Katy - 2022-100130-RMP-agua-alcantarillado Localización del proyecto: Todo el trabajo se realizará en la ciudad de Katy, condado de Fort Bend, Texas, en las siguientes ubicaciones: Mejoras del agua: • Roberts Rd desde Danover Rd. oeste 747' • Danover Rd desde Roberts Rd. hasta un punto 50' South St. • Armstrong Ln desde Danover Road oeste 175' • Barley St. desde Danover Rd. oeste 510' • North St. desde Danover Rd. este 425' • South St. desde Danover Rd. este 490' Mejoras de alcantarillado: • Danover Rd desde 110' al sur de Hwy Blvd hasta South St. • FILA entre Hwy Blvd. y Roberts Rd desde Danover Rd. oeste 400' • Roberts Rd desde Danover Rd. oeste 730' • Barley St. desde Danover Rd. oeste 140' • North St. desde Danover Rd. este 475' • Calle Danover. desde la calle Norte hasta la calle Sur. Descripción del proyecto propuesto [24 CFR 50.12 y 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]: Proyecto de agua y fuego. Este trabajo incluye la instalación de 4,510 pies lineales de nuevas líneas de agua de hasta 12 pulgadas de diámetro, 14 nuevos hidrantes contra incendios, nuevas válvulas de aislamiento en línea, reconexión de 59 líneas de servicio al cliente, pruebas y desinfección. • Línea de agua de 12 pulgadas: 1,870 LF • Línea de agua de 8" - 2,350 • Línea de agua de 6" - 290 LF • Reconexiones de servicio - 59 • Bocas de incendio - 14 • Válvulas de compuerta (12"/8") - 5 • Reparaciones de pavimento - 700 SQ Proyecto de mejoras de alcantarillado Esta obra incluye la rehabilitación de 3,782 pies lineales de tuberías de alcantarillado sanitario existentes, rehabilitación de pozos de registro existentes y reemplazo de 52 líneas de atención al cliente. El proceso utilizado para rehabilitar las tuberías principales de alcantarillado sanitario será mediante métodos sin zanjas, como Pipe Bursting y Curado-in-place Pipe Liner. • Rehabilitación de alcantarillado de 15" - 1,872 LF • Rehabilitación de alcantarillado de 8" - 1,890 LF • Reconexiones de servicio - 52 • Lateral de Servicio de Alcantarillado - 52 • Rehabilitación de paredes de alcantarilla - 153 LF • Reparaciones de pavimento - 412.7 SY Llanura de inundación Según el mapa de llanura aluvial de FEMA #48157C0040L (fecha de entrada en vigor 2/4/14), partes del proyecto se llevarán a cabo en la Zona X de FEMA (área de riesgo mínimo de inundación), la llanura aluvial de 500 años y la Zona AE (llanura aluvial de 100 años). Las actividades están permitidas en la Zona X y debido a que el proyecto no se considera una acción crítica, no se requieren acciones adicionales para las partes del proyecto ubicadas en la llanura aluvial de 500 años. Llanura aluvial de 100 años: Mejoras del agua: • Roberts Rd desde Danover Rd. oeste 755' • Danover Rd desde Roberts Rd. 150' al sur • Barley St. desde Danover Rd. oeste 510' Mejoras de alcantarillado: • FILA entre Hwy Blvd. (Hwy 90) y Roberts Rd desde Danover Rd. oeste 400' • Roberts Rd desde Danover Rd. oeste 730' • Barley St. desde Danover Rd. oeste 140' Área máxima de perturbación: 1.22 acres Valores naturales de la llanura aluvial: Los recursos naturales de la llanura aluvial incluyen recursos hídricos, biológicos y sociales. El proyecto propuesto tendrá impactos mínimos en la llanura aluvial porque habrá mínima alteración del suelo en estas áreas. La Ciudad de Katy ha considerado las siguientes alternativas y medidas de mitigación a tomar para minimizar los impactos adversos y restaurar y preservar los valores naturales y beneficiosos: 1. Trabaje sólo fuera de las llanuras aluviales. Debido a que varios de los beneficiarios se encuentran dentro de la llanura aluvial, no es posible completar el trabajo sin perturbar ninguna llanura aluvial (No Viable) 2. Obtenga una Carta de Enmienda del Mapa (LOMA) o una Carta de Revisión del Mapa (LOMR). Se determinó que ni una LOMA ni una LOMR eran probables ni prácticas para el área del proyecto. (No es viable) 3. Otras infraestructuras consideradas. - Después de considerar otros proyectos potenciales en la Ciudad, se determinó que de los proyectos elegibles, este era el de mayor prioridad. (No es viable) 4. Ninguna acción o acciones alternativas que sirvan el mismo propósito. Los sistemas actuales de agua y alcantarillado son inadecuados para el área y deben abordarse para prevenir riesgos para la salud pública. (No es viable) METRO Medidas de mitigación que se deben tomar para minimizar los impactos adversos y restaurar y preservar los valores naturales y beneficiosos: 1. Preservación de la propiedad: Los diseños de los proyectos deben, en la mejor medida posible, incorporar medidas para reducir el riesgo de daños a la nueva infraestructura a través de una inundación. 2. Preservar los valores naturales y minimizar los impactos: una vez finalizada la construcción, será necesario revegetar inmediatamente el área perturbada con pastos nativos. En la llanura aluvial y en el lugar sólo se utilizarán plantas autóctonas. 3. La deposición y excavación de materiales deberá realizarse de tal manera que se controle la erosión y la sedimentación. 4. Será necesario tomar precauciones en el manejo de combustibles u otros materiales peligrosos para evitar descargas o derrames que resulten en una menor calidad del agua subterránea. 5. Será necesario implementar y mantener durante la construcción medidas de control de la erosión, como fardos de heno o barreras de pantalla de sedimento, según sea necesario. 6. El ingeniero del proyecto deberá incorporar las mejores prácticas de gestión en las especificaciones y planes. Fecha de cualquier LOMR o LOMA final o condicional de FEMA: Ninguno solicitado. La Ciudad de Katy asegurará que sea aplicable se sigan los procedimientos estatales y locales de protección de llanuras aluviales. La Ciudad de Katy tiene evaluado las alternativas a la construcción en la llanura aluvial y ha determinado que no tiene ninguna alternativa viable. Los archivos ambientales que documentan el cumplimiento de los pasos 3 a 6 de la Orden Ejecutiva 11988 están disponibles para inspección, revisión y copia del público previa solicitud en los horarios y lugares delineados en el último párrafo de este aviso para la recepción de comentarios. Hay tres propósitos principales para este aviso. En primer lugar, se debe dar a las personas que puedan verse afectadas por las actividades en las llanuras aluviales y a aquellos que tengan interés en la protección del medio ambiente natural la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones y proporcionar información sobre estas áreas. En segundo lugar, un programa adecuado de avisos públicos puede ser una importante herramienta educativa pública. La difusión de información y la solicitud de comentarios públicos sobre las llanuras aluviales pueden facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales. En tercer lugar, como cuestión de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determine que participará en acciones que se lleven a cabo en la llanura aluvial, debe informar a quienes puedan correr un riesgo mayor o continuo. Los comentarios escritos deben ser recibidos por la ciudad de Katy a la siguiente dirección en o antes 26 de enero de 2024, un período mínimo de comentarios de 7 días calendario comenzará el día después de la publicación y finalizará el día 8th después de la publicación: Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Katy 901 Avenida C, Katy, TX 77493 y (281) 391-4800, Atención: William Thiele, alcalde. También se podrá revisar una descripción completa del proyecto de 9:00 am a 5:00 pm desde la dirección mencionada anteriormente. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a todd@ambientales.de.texas.con. Fecha: 18 de enero de 2024

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NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2024-02, The Application Of **Brandon McLain**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **5314 Kyla Circle**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lot 22, Block 1, Of The Heritage Park West Section 5 Subdivision, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Platted Building Setback Of Seven and One-Half (7.5) Feet For A Pool Structure.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals.

This is to give notice that the City of Katy has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain. The activity is funded under the HUD CDBG Disaster Recovery Program under Katy - 2022-100130-RMP-water-sewer Project Location: All work will occur in the City of Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas at the following locations: Water Improvements: • Roberts Rd from Danover Rd. west 747' • Danover Rd from Roberts Rd. to a point 50' South St. • Armstrong Ln from Danover Road west 175' • Barley St. from Danover Rd. west 510' • North St. from Danover Rd. east 425' • South St. from Danover Rd. east 490' Sewer Improvements: • Danover Rd from 110' south of Hwy Blvd to South St. • ROW between Hwy Blvd. and Roberts Rd from Danover Rd. west 400' • Roberts Rd from Danover Rd. west 730' • Barley St. from Danover Rd. west 140' • North St. from Danover Rd. east 475' • Danover Rd. from North St. to South St. Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]: Project for water and fire This work includes the installation of 4,510 linear feet of new water lines up to 12 inches diameter, 14 new fire hydrants, new in-line isolation valves, reconnection of 59 customer service lines, testing, and disinfection. • 12-inch Water Line - 1,870 LF • 8" Water line - 2,350 • 6" Water Line - 290 LF • Service Reconnections - 59 • Fire Hydrants - 14 • Gate Valves (12"/8") - 5 • Pavement Repairs - 700 SQ Project for sewer improvements This work includes the rehabilitation of 3,782 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer mains, rehabilitation of existing manholes, and replacement of 52 customer service lines. The process used to rehabilitate the sanitary sewer mains will be by trenchless methods such as Pipe Bursting and Cured-in-place Pipe Liner. • 15" Sewer Rehab - 1,872 LF • 8" Sewer Rehab - 1,890 LF • Service Reconnections - 52 • Sewer Service Lateral - 52 • Manhole Wall Rehab - 153 LF • Pavement Repairs - 412.7 SY FLOODPLAIN According to FEMA floodplain map #48157C0040L (Effective Date 4/2/14), portions of the project will occur in FEMA Zone X, (area of minimal flood hazard), the 500-year floodplain and Zone AE (100-year floodplain). The activities are allowed in Zone X and because the project is not considered a critical action, no further action is required for the portions of the project located in the 500-year floodplain. 100-year Floodplain: Water Improvements: • Roberts Rd from Danover Rd. west 755' • Danover Rd from Roberts Rd. south 150' • Barley St. from Danover Rd. west 510' Sewer Improvements: • ROW between Hwy Blvd. (Hwy 90) and Roberts Rd from Danover Rd. west 400' • Roberts Rd from Danover Rd. west 730' • Barley St. from Danover Rd. west 140' Max Area of Disturbance: 1.22 acres Natural Values of the Floodplain: The natural resources of the floodplain include water, biological, and societal resources. The proposed project will have minimal impacts to the floodplain because there will be minimal ground disturbance in these areas. The City of Katy has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: 1. Do work only outside the floodplains. Because several of the beneficiaries are located within the floodplain, it is not possible to complete work without disturbing any floodplains (Not Viable) 2. Obtain a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). It was determined that neither a LOMA nor a LOMR was likely nor practical for the project area. (Not Viable) 3. Other infrastructure considered. After considering other potential projects in the City, it was determined that of the eligible projects, this project was of the highest priority. (Not Viable) 4. No Action or Alternative Actions that Serve the Same Purpose. The current water and sewer systems are inadequate for the area and must be addressed to prevent public health hazards. (Not Viable) Mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: 1. Preserving Property: Project designs should, to the best extent possible, incorporate measures to reduce the risk of damage to the new infrastructure via a flood. 2. Preserving Natural Values and Minimizing Impacts: After construction is completed, the disturbed area will need to be immediately re-vegetated with native grasses. Only native plants are to be used in the floodplain and on the site. 3. Deposition and excavation of materials will need to be performed in such a manner that erosion and sedimentation will be controlled. 4. Precautions will need to be taken in the handling of fuels or other hazardous materials to prevent discharge or spillage resulting in lower groundwater quality. 5. Erosion control measures such as hay bales or silt screen barriers will need to be implemented and maintained during construction as required. 6. The project engineer will need to incorporate best management practices into the specifications and plans. Date of any final or conditional LOMR's or LOMAs from FEMA: None requested. The City of Katy will ensure applicable state and local floodplain protection procedures are followed. The City of Katy has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received by the City of Katy at the following address on or before January 26, 2024, a minimum 7 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 8th day after the publication: City of Katy City Hall 901 Avenue C, Katy, TX 77493 and (281) 391-4800, Attention: William Thiele, Mayor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from the previously mentioned address. Comments may also be submitted via email at todd@texasenvironmentals.com. Date: January 18, 2024

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Justice Carlton a nominee for McDonalds All-American Game

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes senior Justice Carlton received one of the biggest honors for a high school basketball player on Tuesday, as the five-

Seven Lakes Justice Carlton drives to the basket guarded by Pearland's Paige Bonner during a Regional Semi Final playoff game on Feb 25, 2022, Seven Lakes vs Pearland at the Merrell Center.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY KATY TIMES

star University of Texas commit was named a nominee for the McDonald's All-American game.

The game will be played April 2 in Houston at the Toyota Center with some of the best high school players from around the country coming together to compete on the highest stage.

Carlton was nominated for her accomplishments in basketball and her individual skill, basketball IQ, competitive motor and future potential, along with being a good student in the classroom.

Carlton is ranked at the No. 7 recruit in the nation in the 2024 class and the highest ranked recruit out of the state of Texas. She has helped the Spartans reach the playoffs each of the past three years with two area round appearances and a regional semifinal appearance.

The McDonald's All American Teams will be announced on Jan. 23 on ESPN's NBA Today between 2 and 3 p.m.

Past starters from the game include Candace Parker, Caitlin Clark and Breanna Stewart.

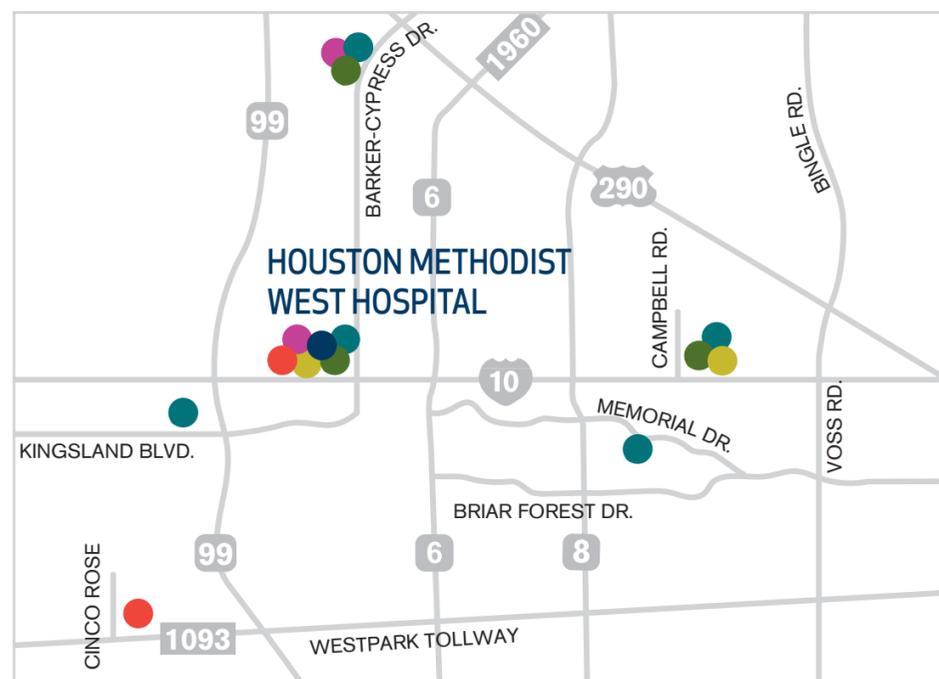


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