

GIRLS BASKETBALL FINISHES REGULAR SEASON
SPORTS | B1

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VOLUME 112, ISSUE 6

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Harris Co. Precinct 4 offering internships

Precinct is also seeking bus design contest entries from KISD students

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harris County Precinct 4 announced via Facebook in early February that the office is hiring for summer internship programs. "We welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds, offering positions for both college students and high school leaders," said the post. The program includes a paid eight-week internship during which participants will receive coaching and mentoring from Harris County Precinct 4 leaders. Applications may be made at <https://bit.ly/42kS9BO> until March 15th.

The precinct is also seeking talented artists - specifically from

See **INTERNS**, page A3

New parking garage open at Memorial Hermann Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital's highly-anticipated parking garage is now open, adding nearly 700 free parking spots to the growing campus, the hospital announced in a January 30th press release.

"We want to thank the community for their patience during construction of the garage and hope they are as thrilled as we are that it is now open," said Vivien Bond, Chief Operating Officer,

See **GARAGE**, page A3

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PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert (left) and Mayor Dusty Thiele address a capacity crowd at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's "State of the City" luncheon on February 2nd at Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Freeway.

CITY OF KATY

Officials describe 'what's next' at 'State of the City' luncheon

Jurassic Park: The Exhibition revealed as next big area attraction

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

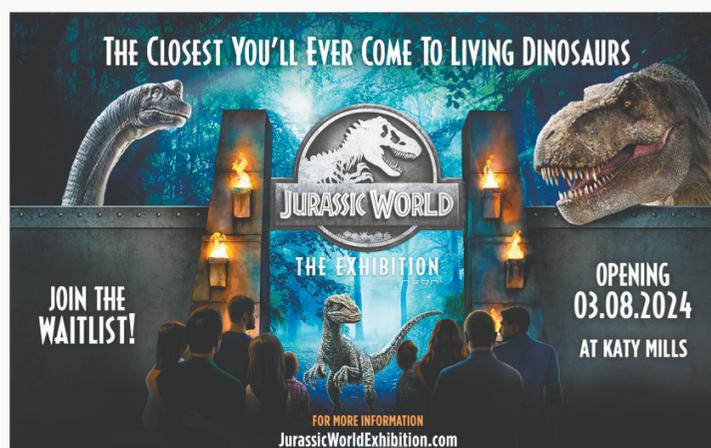
Dinosaurs may not still rule the earth, but they will soon be seen in Katy, with the opening of Jurassic World: The Exhibition, which was announced at the February 2nd "State of the City" luncheon hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Freeway.

The exhibit from Universal will open March 8th in a 40,000-square foot tent located at Katy Mills Mall, 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Katy, according to Byron Hebert, city administrator for the City of Katy. The Jurassic Park exhibit will be up for about a year, when it will be replaced by another exhibit from Universal, city officials said.

Hebert and City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele led up to the surprise announcement by focusing their annual presentation to the chamber on the answer to the question: "What's next?"

Thiele described issues facing the city, using the example of the recent addition of a Home Depot store in Katy - a project he championed from his first day in office, he said. Thiele became aware that Home Depot was looking for a site and he wanted that site to be in Katy. However, there were significant obstacles to overcome. The proposed site was outside of the Katy city limits, and inside Houston's extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Additionally, the project had no utilities or detention, and relocation of a drill site and pipelines would be required, along with an

See **CITY**, page A3



Jurassic World: The Exhibition opens March 8 at Katy Mills Mall

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The award-winning Jurassic World: The Exhibition has now become one of the fastest selling exhibitions in history since its launch, and has welcomed over 8 million visitors. After touring 19 cities around the world, including Dallas in 2021, this global sensation makes its back to Texas, with Greater Houston as its 20th city.

This exhibition engages audiences of all ages in settings inspired by Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment's Jurassic World franchise and is produced in conjunction with Universal Live Entertainment, NEON, and Animax Designs - the creators of the lifelike animatronic dinosaurs.

Jurassic World: The Exhibition will open its gates starting Friday, March 8, 2024, for a limited time here at Katy Mills. Tickets are available now at JurassicWorldExhibition.com.

"This will be the closest you'll ever come to living dinosaurs.... Here, in your very own backyard!" said a press release from Universal.

Fort Bend County Pct. 1 Constable's Office earns accreditation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Precinct 1 Constable's Office has achieved the prestigious "Accredited Law Enforcement Agency" designation from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, announced in a January 31st press release.

Begun in 2006, the Accreditation Program evaluates a law enforcement agency's compliance with 173 best practices for Texas law enforcement. These standards were carefully developed by Texas law enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of police service. The guiding principles cover all aspects of law en-



CONSTABLE CHAD NORVELL



forcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

This voluntary process required the Con-

stable's Office to conduct a critical selfreview of the agency's policies, procedures, facilities and operations. The lengthy process began in 2021 by preparing proofs of compliance for each of the Texas Law Enforcement Best Business Practices.

The Precinct 1 Constable's Office becomes the 202nd agency in the State to be accredited and only the 4th Constable's Office to attain accreditation.

"I consider our agency to be amongst the most professional and I take pride in the work my staff has done to receive this

See **CONSTABLE**, page A3

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Master Gardeners offering free garden soil class

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

A fertile, well-drained soil is a basic element to a successful garden.

Learn more about "Creating Healthy Garden Soil" in a free class on Saturday, Feb. 17, offered by

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend County with Fort Bend County Master Gardeners.

The Grow Your Own class will be taught by Master Gardeners Don Parkhouse and Ken Inkrott starting at 9 a.m. at 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg.

Visit <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/> to register. Registration is required.

The class will teach the basics on how to "supercharge" your soil and help home gardeners minimize environmental, pest and disease problems. Topics will

include soil structure, testing and analysis and how to enrich your garden soil.

This is one of six classes in the Grow Your Own series. Upcoming classes include "Warm Season Vegetables & Herbs" on March 13, "Vegetable Pest and

Disease Management" on April 20, "Growing Plants from Seeds/Cuttings" on May 4 and "Cool Season Vegetables & Herbs" on Aug. 3.

For more information, contact Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034 or brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

COMMUNITY EVENTS

'From Broken to Beloved' conference to be held February 9-10

Kintsukuori Ministries, Intl will host "From Broken to Beloved" on February 9th at 6 p.m. and February 10th at 12 p.m. at The Real: Wellspring Church International at 710 E. Hwy 90A in Richmond. The conference is dedicated to walking women through the process of picking up the pieces and exchanging them for a whole heart, said event organizers in a Facebook post. Saturday, doors will open for breakfast and coffee at 8:00 am. Come join Cristina Finney, Brenda George, Darlene Barber, Nicole R Banks, and Brittany Francis, with testimonies told by Ari Johnson, Kate Aguirri, Heather Rozycki, Jasmine Washington, and Dr. Ruth Charles. General admission tickets, which are \$49.95, may be purchased online at <https://www.eventbee.com/v/broken-to-beloved/#/tickets>

Learn to keep your devices safe at Katy Library's Cyber Security seminar on February 13th

Learn to protect your information and your devices in today's digital global market by attending the Katy Library's computer class on Cyber Security. Join the class on February 13th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the library at 5414 Franz Road in Katy. The Katy Library is a branch of the Harris County Public Library system. For more information, call 281-391-3509.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

The Katy Library will host a cyber security seminar on February 13th from 5-7 p.m.

event, presented by Harris County Precinct 4, will feature live music, dancing, photos and food. There is limited space available and pre-registration is required. Call 832-927-3000 or visit the front desk at the Radack Center to register. For more information, call 832-927-4444.

'Don't Look Back' tribute to Black history to be presented February 17th in Brookshire

Reverend Ray Campbell of the Jerusalem Baptist Church in Spanish Camp, TX, will be the featured speaker at "Don't Look Back," which commemorates Black History. Presented by the Brookshire I-10 West MLK Committee, the event will take place at 10 a.m. on February 17th at The Hangar, 4010 Fourth Street, in Brookshire. Participants are encouraged to come "dressed to impress" in colors of black and gray. Sponsors include Word of Promise Church, Greater Mt. Zion, Lively Hope Baptist Church, Texas Pride Disposal and Brookshire Hyundai.

DICK'S House of Sport hosts free Family Fun Day on February 17th

Calling athletes of all ages! Join DICK'S House of Sport Family Fun Day on February 17th from any time between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., where you'll engage in friendly competitions, crafts, bounce house and immerse yourselves in a variety of games and challenges that will keep everyone entertained. The indoor event also features a scavenger hunt where local vendors will offer a game or activity with prizes. Customers can turn in their scavenger hunt for a chance to win a \$100.00 gift card to the store. DICK'S House of Sport is at the Shoppes at Park West, 24600 Katy Freeway Suite 1100A, in Katy.

Fifth annual H-Town Sports Day coming to LaCenterra on February 17th

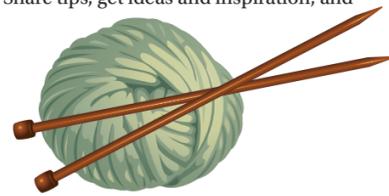
Meet players from all different types of sports at Central Green Park's fifth annual H-Town Sports Day on February 17th. The fun starts with Play 60 sign-up at 11 a.m. and Play 60 beginning at 12 p.m. Confirmed attendees include Houston Texans Arian Foster and Andre' Johnson - and the Texans' mascot Toro; Houston Dynamo Brian Ching, Street Team and Legacy Players; Houston Dash Street Team Legacy Players; and the Space Cowboys. Katy's own Ty Hymel, along with his racing car, will represent NASCAR. Central Green Park is located in the LaCenterra Center at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy.

Houston Glass Show comes to Fort Bend County Fairgrounds February 17th-18th

The Houston Glass Show & Sale, which showcases glass and pottery from 1860 to 1980, will conduct its show at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Highway 36, Rosenberg, on February 17th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on February 18th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will also feature other antiques in addition to glassware. Tickets are \$7.00 each and are good for admission for both days. For more information, go to maxmillerantiques.com.

Needlecrafters invited to Nifty Needlers Club at Fulshear Branch Library on February 20th

Needlework enthusiasts are invited to a monthly "Nifty Needlers" club at Fort Bend County Libraries' new Fulshear Branch Library on Tuesday, February 20, between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Share tips, get ideas and inspiration, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow needlecrafters. People of all experience levels who enjoy any type of crocheting, knitting, or sewing are invited to attend to get other needlecrafters' perspectives, critiques, and suggestions. Those attending should bring their own yarn, strings, and needles to start or finish a project, while chatting, networking, and enjoying the company of fellow needlecrafters. Samples of the library's instructional books, magazines, and websites on various crafts will be available. The program, which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, is free and open to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), or call the Fulshear Branch Library (346-481-6800) or the library system's Communications Office (281-633-4734). The new Fulshear Branch Library is located at 6250 GM Library Road, off Texas Heritage Parkway, in Fulshear.



Harris County Precinct 4 hosts Senior Valentine's Day Dance on February 14th at Steve Radack Center

A Valentine's Day dance just for senior citizens will take place at the Steve Radack Center at 18650 Clay Road, Houston, on February 14th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The free

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- One point south of due east
- Coagulated blood
- Fortifying ditch
- Devotee of Hinduism
- Trunk of a tree
- Bank note
- Capital of Guam
- Study again
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Opening
- Legendary Rolling Stone
- Stray
- Computer storing system
- Signal
- Pitching statistic
- Human being
- Malaysian isthmus
- The "Blonde Bombshell"
- A gland
- Bluish greens
- Endangered
- Three-dimensional

CLUES DOWN

- A way to board
- Get down
- Highly seasoned sausage
- First day of month
- Eurasian shrubs
- The organ that bears the oviducts of a flower
- Small lake
- Belief
- Sunrooms
- Metric weight unit
- Vasopressin
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- One-time family room staple

- In a way, precipitated
- God associated with dissolution
- Blemished
- Flow or leak slowly
- Disco legends The Bee
- Midway between south and southeast
- Got back together
- Anger
- Sang merrily
- Sea eagle
- Military men
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Found in the sea
- Protects from weather
- Type of medicine
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Lack of disunity
- One-time European Commission officer

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

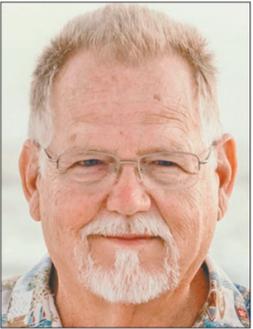
Level: Intermediate

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

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TRIBUTES



JOHN D. SALTER
1951-2024

John D. Salter of Hockley, Texas, passed away peacefully on January 28, 2024, leaving to join the Lord after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born October 8, 1951, to William Howard and Mary Eades Salter in Houston, Texas.

John attended Cy-Fair High School where a shop class would lead him to a career in machining, owning Salter Precision Machining in Katy for over four decades. In addition to being devoted to his company and employees, John enjoyed drag racing where he developed many friendships over nearly 50 years.

Most of all, John was proud of his family, especially his grandchildren Ethan and Emma who lovingly referred to him as "Pops."

John is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Michele Grice; brother Charles Salter; son John Ryan and wife Katie of Lubbock, Texas; daughter Kristi Mungovan and husband Michael of Fulshear, Texas; grandchildren Ethan and Emma Mungovan; stepsons Michael and Anthony Barbatto of Hockley, Texas; step-grandchildren Caleb, David, Caleigh, Dylan and Mia; and many other extended family members.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at The Bowery House and Gardens, 24902 Franz Road, Katy, Texas, 77493, on Sunday, February 25, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m..

Memorials can be sent to Hunt with Heart (<https://www.huntwithheart.org/>) or charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be given at www.hennekefuneralhome.com.

Henneke Funeral Home
Columbus, Texas

CAROLYN ANN LEE ARNOLD
1944 – 2024

Carolyn Ann Lee Arnold, 79, passed away on January 26, 2024, in Houston, Tx.

Carolyn was born on September 29, 1944, in Opelousas, LA. She married Larry Kit Arnold on January 18, 1964, in Opelousas, LA. She is survived by her husband, Larry Kit Arnold of Katy, Tx and her children, Denise Lund and Kim Miller of Katy, Tx and Bob Arnold of Tomball, Tx, and her sister Joan Kromer of Houston, Tx. Carolyn "Nana" has 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, Bryan Joseph Lee and Ima Ilene Dunn Lee of Houston, Tx, brothers Bryan J Lee, Robert J Lee and Larry G Lee.

The family will have a private service to celebrate Carolyn's life.

CONSTABLE

from page A1

coveted award," stated Constable Chad Norvell. "We're also proud to be the first county-level agency in Fort Bend County to be accredited," added Norvell.

The actual presentation of the award will take place at the annual TPCA conference in Galveston in March.

More information and description of the program may be found at: <http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org>.



Vivien Bond, Chief Operating Officer, Memorial Hermann Katy, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new parking garage at the Katy facility. She is joined (to her left) by Jerry A. Ashworth, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital and Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIAL HERMANN KATY

GARAGE

from page A1

Memorial Hermann Katy. "While it seems minor, we hope the simple act of quickly finding a free parking space will alleviate some of the stress they may feel when visiting the hospital or a doctor's office."

The new three-story garage, which can be expanded if needed, is located behind Medical Plaza 2. Visitor parking is located on the first two floors with the third floor reserved for employees and physicians.

The parking garage is part of the \$167 million expansion currently underway at the hospital, which has added 115,000-square-feet of new and renovated service areas, nearly 100 beds and soon a third professional office building to better serve the greater Katy area's growing population. For more information on Memorial Hermann Katy, call 713-222-CARE (2273) or visit www.memorialhermann.org/katy.

CITY

from page A1

expansion of Kingsland Blvd. Due to the May 2023 passage of Texas Senate Bill 2038, led by State Representative Mike Schofield who represents the Katy area in the Texas legislature, property owners can now exit a city's ETJ and petition for annexation by a different city's ETJ. This is what happened with Home Depot, Thiele said.

Home Depot was released from Houston's ETJ and annexed into City of Katy. Utilities were extended under I-10 and Kingsland Boulevard at Cane Island Parkway was expanded. Drill site and pipelines were relocated and detention was resolved. An additional eight pad sites were created as well. Home Depot has scheduled a Community Night for April 10th followed by a grand opening on April 11th, Thiele said.

Because the City of Katy is landlocked and surrounded by the ETJs of Houston and other municipalities, growth potential for Katy is limited, Thiele said. Senate Bill 2038 presents the solution to that issue, he noted. Hebert said that the city has conducted a study to identify all of the large landowners along I-10. "We want to work with them," said Hebert. He also outlined other new projects, including the expansion of the Love's Truck Stop and the construction of Texas Heritage Marketplace, a 472,000-SF mixed-use retail and grocery-anchored development located at southeast corner of I-10 and Pederson Road.

The pair also provided updates from the city's major departments:

- **Katy Police Department:** The department's partnership with Katy Mills Mall and the Katy Management District in a remote drone operation were

described, along with the FLOCK license plate reader operation, which was recently used to apprehend an organized motor vehicle theft crew, resulting in \$700,000-\$800,000 in recovered stolen vehicles and 16 arrests.

- **Katy Fire Department:** has maintained its ISO rating of 1, which Katy officials expect will help local homeowners and businesses save money on insurance thanks to improved fire protection. A new fire truck and new EMS vehicle were also acquired this year, Thiele said.

- **Public Works Department:** Ongoing maintenance to city-owned public infrastructure and facilities includes rehabilitation to water and wastewater treatment plants, improvements to the streets in the Town Park subdivision and drainage improvements along Third Street.

Major concerns about mobility were also addressed in the presentation, with an update on the use of Metro funds for projects such as the improvements to the intersection of Pitts Road and Morton and Katy Hockley Road at Morton.

A "more livable Katy" is also a goal of the city, Thiele said. He pointed to improvements in several city parks, including a shade structure at the city dog park, completion of new playground equipment at Katy Park and plans for new playground equipment at Woodland Park. Hebert described improvements designed to draw more people to Katy's historic downtown square, including the upcoming installation of

murals around the water tower. He also provided updates on the city's "3 B's" learning center and on plans to make Katy "a more walkable city" with the addition of a trail connecting Leyendecker Landing to downtown.

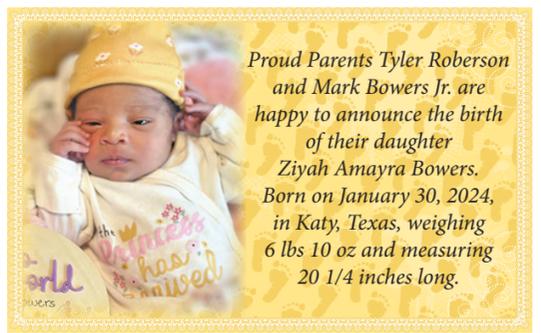
Hebert described progress at the Katy Boardwalk, noting that the 2.5-mile trail phase two is now complete. He said that the Boardwalk Square Lofts would be breaking ground in April 2024. The extension of Katy-Fort Bend Road (Phase 3) is now complete and is pending power, he said. A hotel and conference center is still on the table, he added.

Hebert recognized

Katy Mills Mall's growth as well. The mall is now nearly fully leased, he said, and has added recent tenants including Sephora, Hey Dude and Puma, along with opening the Slick City slide park attraction. He closed the presentation with the

first public announcement of the March 8th opening of the Jurassic Park: The Exhibition, a 40,000-square foot tent that will be located at Katy Mills Mall. (See sidebar).

"Now, watch us grow," said Thiele.



Proud Parents Tyler Roberson and Mark Bowers Jr. are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Ziyah Amayra Bowers. Born on January 30, 2024, in Katy, Texas, weighing 6 lbs 10 oz and measuring 20 1/4 inches long.



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Katy ISD Virtual School registration now open

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Registration for Katy ISD Virtual School (KVS) is now for the Summer 2024, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters.

KVS online classes are available for incoming ninth grade and current high school students enrolled in Katy ISD and are a great way for secondary students to acquire graduation credits. These paid, online supplemental high school credit courses are offered both during the summer and through-

out the academic year. With an annual enrollment that exceeds 4,000 high school students, the KVS program is designed to afford families the flexibility they need, all delivered at a comfortable and accessible pace.

Susan Richards, the Instructional Technology e-Learning Manager at Katy ISD, expressed the high demand for this e-learning model among high school students. She noted, "This innovative approach not only aligns with graduation plans but also ensures the delivery of quality

instruction to Katy ISD learners beyond traditional school hours. KVS courses empower students to gain credits proactively while providing access to courses that may not be available at their home campus."

All KVS educators are certified Katy ISD teachers, holding valid Texas Educator certification for their respective courses. Each KVS teacher has successfully completed a Virtual Instructor Certification Program through either Texas A&M or the Katy ISD Online Instructor Certification.

Teachers responsible for Advanced Placement courses and Gifted and Talented students undergo specialized approval processes to ensure the highest standards of education, said the district in a press release.

KVS provides a comprehensive range of courses, including Creative Writing, AP Art History, English III, World Geography, Economics and Psychology. Offering over 60 Advanced Placement, Katy Advanced Program and academic-level courses, KVS consistently

expands its offerings to provide students with a broad spectrum of educational opportunities. The semester cost is \$200, with reduced or waived fees for students identified as economically disadvantaged. Additionally, KVS courses are NCAA approved, ensuring student eligibility.

For additional information, students are encouraged to reach out to their campus counselors, contact KVS via email at katyvirtu-alschool@katyisd.org, or visit the Katy ISD Virtual School website at www.katyisd.org/kvs.

Katy Times

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'Stepping into the Future' scholarships taking applications

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Dr. James M. Jacobs with Your Total Foot Care Specialist announced on January 29th that 2024 applications are now being accepted for two \$1,500 "Stepping into the Future" scholarships for 2024 Katy ISD graduating seniors. Applications must be submitted to the office of Your Total Foot Care Specialist, 23230 Red River, Katy, by March 28, 2024, at 5 p.m. Applications and instructions are available at www.KatyFootCare.com.

A third-party committee will select

the two winning applicants.

The "Stepping into the Future" scholarship program is available to seniors graduating with an unweighted GPA ranging from 2.5 to 3.7. The two scholarship recipients will be announced at the Katy ISD Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

"Since 2010, we have had the privilege of being able to support local Katy ISD seniors. Supporting our next generation to succeed is our legacy," said Dr. Jacobs, who is the medical director for Your Total Foot Care Specialist. For additional information, please

contact Angey Cooper, acooper@aristagroups.com.

About Your Total Foot Care Specialist

The Board-Certified Podiatrists at Your Total Foot Care Specialist know that healthy, pain-free feet play a vital role in all aspects of life. With proper detection, intervention, and care, most foot and ankle problems can be addressed appropriately.

For more information visit: www.katyfootcare.com.

Katy High academic team competes, FCCLA advances

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

During the weekend of January 27th the Katy High School Academic Decathlon team competed at the regional competition, placing second in the region which includes all of Katy ISD, Fort Bend ISD, and other west Houston area schools. "This is the highest place we have ever earned at regionals, and we are currently ranked fifth in the state," said the Katy Tiger e-News for January 30th.

Connor Courtright earned 3rd place overall in the Honors category

and the following students earned individual medals:

- Connor Courtright - 2nd place Art; 1st place Essay; 2nd place, Literature
- Elyse Neves- 1st place Art; 2nd place, Science
- Rayan Hashmi- 3rd place, Literature; 2nd place, Science
- Roger Martinez- 2nd place, Literature; 3rd place, Math
- John Tellez Badillo- 2nd place Speech

Katy FCCLA Advances to State

During the last week of January the

Katy FCCLA competed at the region IV Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Conference in Galveston. All four students placed in the top five and advanced to the state contest which will be held in April, where they will be competing against the top 25 students in the state.

- Madalyne Wilkerson - Job Interview, 1st place
- Kaylee Speights - Career Investigation, 2nd place
- Hana Purcell - Children in Focus, 5th place
- Olivia Garcia - Children in Focus, 5th place

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TRIBUTES

Yer Yang was born on September 10, 1973, in Laos to Shoua Xiong. He grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from Appleton High School. Yer married the love of his life, Christina Vang on April 8, 1995 in Riverside, California.

He loved the Lord, enjoyed fishing, outdoor camping and cooking. Nature also brought him joy and it was evident with him having a green thumb. He was an avid collector of Transformers and loved Marvel and DC comic movies. He was a lover of art, and enjoyed working on cars. His favorite color was blue and favorite food was steak, Buc-ee's bbq sandwich, sunflower seeds, beef jerky strips, Wendy's chili, and a variety of Asian foods, as he was also a chef himself. Yer was charming and playful, kind and welcoming to everyone. Most of all, he loved kids. He also had an interesting humor and took pride in everything he did, from the simplest of cooking to cleaning or working on what he loved. Yer lived and was young at heart.

Yer Yang passed away on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 in Katy, Texas at the age of 50 years.

He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years and 9 months, Christina Yang of Katy, Texas; daughter, Cassandra Yang (26); son Romeo Yang (12); as well as



YER YANG
1973-2024

numerous other relatives and many friends.

Family and friends from Wisconsin, Oregon, Kansas, and California will celebrate Yer's life on Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18, 2024 at Crestlawn Pierce Brothers Memorial Park and Mortuary in Riverside, California, where a funeral service will be held.

"Come with Me, Yer"

God saw he was getting tired, and the cure was not to be. So He put his arms around him and whispered, "Come with Me." With tearful hearts we watched him fade away. Although we loved him dearly, we could not make him stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best. RIP Yer Yang.

Carl Phillip Borchers was born on March 13, 1945, in Temple, Texas to Chester Hugo Emil Borchers and Frances Louise Clark Borchers. He married the love of his life, Dolores Lynn Duderstadt on March 29, 1969, in Kerrville, Texas. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and had a distinguished career in law enforcement in the Houston area. He was an award recipient of the 100 Club of Houston in 1976. Carl was a Major with the Harris County Sheriff's Department, in Houston, when he retired in 2002. In addition to serving the citizens of Harris County, Texas, Carl served his country in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Carl's priorities were God - Family - Country. He was very spiritual and patriotic. Carl was a steadfast honest man with unwavering morals. He



CARL PHILLIP BORCHERS
1945-2024

loved history and learning about historical places and events. Carl enjoyed hunting, fishing, cooking, and Houston sports. He cherished his time at the family ranch in Harper. Most of all, his greatest joy in life was being Claire's father and a grandfather to his two granddaughters, Reece and Emma.

Carl Phillip Borchers passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in Katy,

Texas at the age of 78 years. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dolores Borchers of Katy, Texas; daughter, Claire Renfro and her husband Ryan of Houston, Texas; grandchildren, Reece Renfro and Emma Renfro; brother, Larry Borchers of Shamrock, Texas; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Carl will be remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor. He was loyal, faithful, and dedicated to his family, friends, and work. His courage served him well when facing life's challenges, especially health related ones later in life.

The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services will

be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Harper United Methodist Church, 23305 West U.S. Hwy. 290, Harper, Texas 78631, with Rev. Neal Matthews officiating. Interment will follow in the Harper Community Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, New York 10016, www.kidneywalk.org, Katy First United Methodist, 5601 Fifth Street, Katy, Texas 77493, www.katyfirst.org, or to the Harper Cemetery Association, 162 Bobbie Lynn, Harper, Texas 78631, or to another chosen charity.

Funeral services held under the direction of: **Schmidt Funeral Home**
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Tompkins choir director named H-E-B award finalist

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Obra D. Tompkins High School's Head Choir Director, Christian De la Cruz, was announced on February 2nd as a finalist for this year's H-E-B Excellence in Education Award. De la Cruz's nomination, which he achieved in only his second year in his current position, speaks to the positive impact he makes in the lives of his students and fellow staff members, said Katy ISD officials in a press release.

According to the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards website, the process begins by asking customers, H-E-B employees and community members to nominate outstanding teachers and principals from across the state. A panel of judges reviews the applications, narrowing the field to a group of semi-finalists. From that pool, five regional judging panels, consisting of former award recipients, administrators, and university and community leaders unaffiliated with H-E-B, choose 40 teacher and principal finalists.

As one of the 40 state-finalists, De la Cruz now stands the chance to be



recognized as one of the six teachers in Texas who will receive this year's award. Finalists are invited to a celebratory dinner, highlighting the exceptional achievements of these educators, with winners set to be announced at the event.

When asked about the significance music brings to the lives of his students, De la Cruz stated,

"Music is a way for students to express their complex emotions and it provides an outlet for them to convey their feelings in a safe and artistic way." Commenting on the honor of being named a finalist for this award, he added, "This recognition is so humbling and represents the hard work from our students, staff and the support



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY ISD

from our community."

Mark Grisdale, principal at Tompkins High School, expressed pride in De la Cruz, stating, "The Tompkins High School community is proud of Mr. De la Cruz for his steadfast dedication to his students and the vibrant atmosphere and learning experiences he creates both inside and outside the

classroom. He has helped build a program that invites students to become part of a team while teaching them an appreciation for music."

Finalists for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award, along with their respective schools, will receive a cash prize ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500, depending on category.

Beckendorff Memorial Scholarship Fund now accepting applications

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Applications are now being accepted for the Randall Beckendorff Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was founded in 1980 in memory of Randall Mark (Randy) Beckendorff. This scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to the student who is of average scholastic performance, but who is extremely dedicated and hard-working, and who is interested in pursuing an education in the field of agriculture. The Scholarship Committee takes an active interest in its recipients, and the Fund has a very high percentage of recipients who have graduated from their chosen colleges. The Committee is looking for the student who demonstrates the perseverance necessary to complete his or her

academic goals.

According to the organization's website, "We do not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients."

To be eligible to apply for the Randall Beckendorff Memorial Scholarship, the student must be a senior graduating from a Katy

Independent School District high school. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required, and the student must be pursuing an education in the field of agriculture. The Scholarship Committee does not discriminate because of race, gender, age, or religion. The total amount of the scholarship is dependent upon fundraiser successes.

To apply, go to randallbeckendorffscholarship.org. The deadline for the application is April 1st before midnight.

The Randall Beckendorff Memorial Scholarship is a 501(c)(3) exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code. 100% of donated funds are distributed directly to students of the Katy Independent School District to further their agricultural education.

Harmony Public Schools recognized with highest awards in school finance

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) has bestowed its highest awards for school financial responsibility in 2024 to Harmony Public Schools.

Announced by TASBO on Thursday, January 18, Harmony received both the Award of Excellence for Financial Management and Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations. The awards recognize schools for their exemplary purchasing practices and responsible stewardship of public funds. In choosing recipients, TASBO reviewed various procedures and practices including organization, policies and procedures, contract operations, staff training and certification, use of technology, communication, and management of co-operative programs.

The awards will be formally presented to Harmony's Department of Finance and Chief Financial Officer Ebru Akyildiz at TASBO's annual statewide conference, held February 21 in Houston.

"Effective, efficient and ethical financial practices are critical to ensuring our schools and students have all the resources they need for success," Harmony Public Schools CEO Fatih Ay said. "That's why Harmony is proud to be a leader in school finance for Texas public education. We appreciate not only our Finance Department for its hard work and responsible practices, but also our HPS Executive Board, as well as teachers and

team members at campuses across the state who help our schools operate as efficiently as possible without sacrificing educational quality."

In 2019, Harmony became the first Texas public charter school to earn the Award of Merit from TASBO. The school system has since won two others, including 2024's award. In 2023, Harmony also became the first Texas public charter school to earn TASBO's Award of Excellence in Financial Management.

"We're proud of the work our honorees do to streamline school purchasing operations, comply with regulations, and set the standard for how to utilize taxpayer dollars," said Tracy Ginsburg, TASBO Executive Director. "These organizations have not only demonstrated their professional acumen by documenting their districts' policies and procedures, but have also shared these best practices with colleagues throughout Texas."

Harmony Public Schools is a Texas-born, Texas-wide public charter school system with campuses serving PreK-Grade 12 students in 23 cities across the state, including Greater Houston, DFW, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Waco, Lubbock, Odessa, Bryan, Beaumont, and the Rio Grande Valley. Harmony also has one online-only campus: Harmony Virtual Academy. Harmony's curriculum places a heavy focus on STEM skills, Character Education, project-based learning, and college readiness.

Consolidated Connects educational grant program accepting applications

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Consolidated Communications (NASDAQ: CNSL) a leading broadband and business communications provider, announced January 16th that the Consolidated Connects Educational Grant Program is now accepting accept funding applications.

Consolidated Connects provides grants to schools serving K-12 students in the company's service area. Since launching in 2021, Consolidated Connects has provided \$112,500 to schools for a variety of technology-centered projects, including the creation

of a maker space, virtual and augmented reality curriculum integration, a podcast enhancing student literacy, and a technology services summer work internship program for students.

"The innovative projects we have funded through the Consolidated Connects Educational Grant Program are helping thousands of students gain hands-on skills and real-world learning experiences," said Jennifer Spaude, senior vice president for communications at Consolidated. "Consolidated is proud to support our schools and the innovative projects

and programs educators are developing to support their students today and in the future."

Schools and educational programs across Consolidated's service area are encouraged to apply now through March 1. Full program guidelines and the funding application are available at consolidated.com/ccconnects.

Consolidated Connects provides grants to programs that emphasize creative student learning; develop 21st century skills; promote critical thinking, reasoning and communication; and utilize innovative technologies to advance learning.

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BI-DISTRICT

Monday & Tuesday

- Tompkins vs. Ridge Point or Travis, TBD
- Seven Lakes vs. Ridge Point or Travis, TBD
- Taylor vs. Hightower or Austin, TBD
- Cinco Ranch vs. Hightower or Austin, TBD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Paetow, 1 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Katy, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Jordan, 1 p.m.

Wednesday

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

SOFTBALL

Friday

- Morton Ranch at Cy-Falls, 6 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cy-Fair, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

SWIMMING & DIVING

Friday & Saturday

- Region 5-6A Championships

WRESTLING

Friday & Saturday

- Region III-6A Championships

Tompkins clinches share of District title with win over Paetow

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Every year Tompkins enters the season with the same goal.

It's the same expectations year in and year out for the successful program and this year was no different. Find a way to win the district title.

Going into last year the Falcons had clinched a share of the title three straight times years, but they came up just short last season. All that did though, was make this year's group want it more.

The Falcons came into this year with those expectations but trying to figure out who they were with a number of players stepping into bigger roles. But Tompkins found their identity, the players found their chemistry and ultimately, they achieved their goal, as Tompkins clinched a share of the District 19-6A title on Tuesday with a 63-36 win over Paetow, finishing tied for the top record in Katy ISD with Seven Lakes.

"Any hesitancy we had about how this season would go was done as soon as we had our first practices and scrimmages," said Tompkins senior point guard Gabby Panter. "You could feel the chemistry between everyone and every single person in the building works hard and brings it every day. But then when we get out there we all play off each other, we find the best shot and it's

See **TOMPKINS**, page B2

Rihanna DeLeon tries to shoot a layup over a defender during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

TYLER TYRE



PLAYOFF PREVIEWS

Girls basketball playoff field set

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a thrilling year on the hardwood for girls basketball in Katy ISD and it culminated in a playoff race that came all the way down to the final day of the regular season to decide seeding.

The season ended with co-district champs, as both Seven Lakes (27-8, 14-2) and Tompkins (29-6, 14-2) split the title, capping off very successful regular seasons for both teams. The Falcons ended district with a win over Paetow while the Spartans clinched the co-district championship with a win over Cinco Ranch on the final day of the regular season.

The two teams flipped for the top seed out of district for the playoffs.

The Spartans enter the playoffs on the longest win streak in the district, having won 24 straight and have played on an extremely high level in the

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B2



Greg Santos shoots a layup during Wednesday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

TYLER TYRE

Katy boys survive Cinco Ranch in thriller

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy prepared for Tuesday like they did every other game.

The Tigers didn't want to amp themselves up, didn't want to be tense and didn't want to come out differently than they had been during a very successful spell.

But every Katy player knew the importance of their game against Cinco Ranch. Win and in all likelihood, you are headed to the playoffs — lose and that quest would become a lot harder.

Katy and Cinco Ranch came into Wednesday neck and neck in the playoff race, with the Tigers holding the third spot while Cinco Ranch was tied for the fourth and final playoff spot, just a game back of the Tigers.

It was a closely contested

game, but in the end the Tigers came away with arguably their biggest win of the season, beating Cinco Ranch 67-63, getting the winning bucket in the final seconds to secure an ever-important result in District 19-6A.

"We knew this was going to be a tough environment, but we came in focused and reminding ourselves that this is just one game," said Katy head coach Michael Elizondo. "You can't play to the circumstances or anything like that and the guys did a great job of that tonight. They went out there for 32 minutes, played together and the rest took care of itself. They took that message and they did exactly what they needed to do."

Katy came out fired up

See **KATY**, page B2

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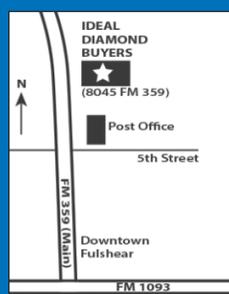
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Coins & Bullion

KATY

from page B1

and had a strong first quarter, leading 20-14 after one and were able to hold on to that, leading 33-30 behind an offense that made every extra pass to find open looks.

Cinco Ranch came back with a strong second half and both teams went back and forth not being able to gain any separation, Katy led 48-46 after the third quarter and built a five point lead in the fourth but Cinco never stopped pushing and tied the game with under a minute left in regulation. But Katy had the answer, Michael Hernandez, who was huge in the second half, hit a floater with just under 15 seconds remaining and then put the game away with another layup in the final seconds after a defensive stop, as Katy celebrated knowing how big of a victory it was.

"This felt amazing," Hernandez said. "You could feel what it meant in the locker room, we're just really happy. It's been a long time since we have had a chance to lock down a playoff spot and



Thomas Belaier drives to the basket during Wednesday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

to be in this position means everything, especially as a new group. We've been dreaming of this and we're just happy to be

in this spot." Hernandez led the way with 19 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter while Greg Santos

had 18, Brady Willis had 18 and Thomas Belaier had 11.

Katy faces Seven Lakes before closing out district against Taylor, Tompkins and Morton Ranch. They know the job isn't done yet and they aren't letting off the gas.

"We have to play solid and play our game," Belaier said. "We can't try and be something we aren't just because of who we're playing. It's all about playing our kind of game and competing."

District 19-6A

KATY 67, CINCO RANCH 63

Points: (K) Michael Hernandez 19, Greg Santos 18, Brady Willis 18, Thomas Belaier 11, Connor Maceiras-Kimball 2; (CR) Dylan Jones-Bynum 18, Prince Jones-Bynum 16, Kellen LeCronier 13, Noah Pearce 9, Darren Moore 2; Halftime: Katy 33, Cinco Ranch 30; 3-Pointers: (K) Willis 4; (CR) Dylan Jones-Bynum 2, Prince Jones-Bynum; Noah Pearce; Record: (K) 18-10, 8-4; (CR) 19-12, 7-6;

TOMPKINS

from page B1

so unselfish. You could tell right away it was a special team."

The Falcons did it with a very young team and a team that had a lot of turnover from last year. But every player stepped up, the seniors led by example and always put the right foot forward and Tompkins continued to improve all year. Tompkins head coach has Tamatha Ray given all of the credit to the players and continued to do so on Tuesday, saying that the team fostered the right culture and worked hard every single practice along with being coachable and teachable.

"This is one of my favorite teams I've coached," Ray said. "That's the reward I get to coach these girls. We saw what they could be as a coaching staff but you can't know if that will come to fruition. It took a while for them to establish their identity. We knew coming in we can play fast and we have shooters and once they figured that out on the court they just ran with it. But that's the reward for us is that these kids executed the plan from the jump."

Tompkins used that fast pace and constant pressure to

give Paetow problems all night. The Panthers could never settle into a rhythm as the Falcons grew their lead from 11-3 after the first quarter to 30-15 at half and 48-27 at the end of the third quarter. Tompkins always seemed to find the open player as well, making extra passes and making sure the right person got the ball in the right situation.

"It's so fun, everyone in this group is equally excited for each other and there's no selfishness," said senior post Caitlyn D'Addieco. "Everyone is excited anytime anyone does well and we all want each other to do something and see everyone excel in their role. When you see that happening it's just really exciting."

The Falcons aren't satisfied with just making it this far though. They're excited for the bi-district round and no matter who they play, they are going to come out ready to fight for every inch.

"We all wanted this so badly," Panter said. "I know for me and Caitlyn, we wanted and needed a piece of this title for our senior year. It's what we've been working for this whole time. We're ready for playoffs."



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

District 19-6A

TOMPKINS 63, PAETOW 36

Points: (T) Rihanna DeLeon 18, Gabby Panter 12, Sascha Coughran 12, Kate Hopkins 12, Caitlyn D'Addieco 6, Haylie Panter 2, Bella Riggan 1; (P) Lauren Johnson 8, Kelis Milam 8, Naddilee French 7, Tiera Hall 4, Sam Neitsch 4, Rihanna Fulshear 2; Halftime: Tompkins 30-15; 3-Pointers: (T) Coughran 2, DeLeon; (P) Milam 2, Johnson 2, French; Records: (T) 29-6, 14-2; (P) 10-18, 5-11;

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

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

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

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

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

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

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

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

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February 1 Puzzle Answers

A	B	A	T	E	B	O	S	C	D	A	B	A
M	O	L	A	R	A	P	P	A	R	E	L	E
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9	7	6	5	4	8	2	1	3
4	5	1	3	2	6	8	9	7
3	8	2	7	1	9	4	5	6
8	6	7	9	3	5	1	2	4
2	1	9	8	6	4	7	3	5
5	3	4	2	7	1	6	8	9
7	9	5	6	8	2	3	4	1
1	2	3	4	9	7	5	6	8
6	4	8	1	5	3	9	7	2

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Cinco boys, Katy girls take gold at district wrestling meet

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch and Katy took home the top honors on Thursday at the District 9-6A wrestling meet, with the Cougar boys and the Tiger girls taking home the team golds after tremendous tournaments.

The Cougars took home a number of first place finishes in the tournament, earning 268.5 points to take the gold. In the 106-pound weight class, Max Marino took home first place, beating Morton Ranch's Curtis Gibson, in the 113-pound weight class, Gabe Cox beat Katy's Josue Pizana in the 132-pound weight class, Jackson Herman beat Tompkins' Phoenix Semmes, and in the 150-pound weight class, Vince Echavarry beat Morton Ranch's Joshua Garcia. Other winners on the boys side were Adrian Ferros of Katy, who beat Cinco Ranch's Sammy Taylor in the 120 pound weight class gold medal match, Paetow's Carlson Gonzalez Jr. who beat Cinco Ranch's Dale Box in the 126 pound weight class final, Jordan's Garrett McChesney, who took first place in the 138 pound weight class with a win over Katy's Owen Vaught, Tompkins Diego Lopez, who came in first place in the 144 pound weight class with a win over Jordan's Noah Santos, George Ranch's Everett Nichols, who beat Morton Ranch's Grant Rogers in the 157 pound weight class final, Tompkins' Matteo Nikolov, who claimed first place in the 165 pound weight class with a win over Seven Lakes' Anuar Zhumagaliev, Morton Ranch's Juan Lizama who finished in first in the 175 pound weight class with a win over Seven



The Katy girls took home the team gold at the District 9-6A meet at the Merrell Center.



The Cinco Ranch boys took home gold at the District 9-6A meet at the Merrell Center.

Lakes' Kane Rosario, Jordan's Jermy Alo-Perry, who beat Cinco Ranch's Anderson Tate in the 190 pound weight class gold medal match, Katy's Dimitrios Katsigiannis, who beat Cinco Ranch's JP Smith took the gold medal match of the 215 pound weight class, and Tompkins' Deacon Parrish, who claimed first in the 285 pound weight class with a win over Mayde Creek's Chris Morales. Seven Lakes finished second

as a team on the boys side with 193 points, while Katy finished third with 169 points. Jordan had a fourth place finish, Tompkins finished fifth, Mayde Creek finished sixth, Morton Ranch finished seventh, Paetow finished eighth and Taylor finished ninth.

On the girls side it was Katy that had a dominating performance, finishing first with 228.5 points. The Tigers had a number of gold medalists, starting in the 100



The Cinco Ranch girls finished second at the District 9-6A meet at the Merrell Center.

pound weight class with Natalie Roberson, who beat Cinco Ranch's Alana Flick in the first place match. She was joined by Emily Beltran, who won the 120 pound weight class by defeating Paetow's Isabella Fresnada in the final, Noelle Adams in the 132 pound weight class, who won over Paetow's Giada Muller in the gold medal match, Haley Pitts in the 138 pound weight class, who beat Cinco Ranch's Ryleigh Bennett in that weight classes final and Savannah Freifeld in the 145 pound weight class, who won over Seven Lakes' Piya Raghavan.

The other gold medalists on the girls side were Seven Lakes' Leila Garcia in the 107 pound weight class, who won the final over Tompkins' Ashley Gore, Cinco Ranch's Nevada Daniels in the 114 pound weight class, who won that final over Taylor's Eily Melhem, Taylor's Natalie Grijalva in the 126 pound weight class, as she beat Cinco Ranch's Michelle

Holden in that gold medal match, Seven Lakes' Camryn Strohan, who topped Mayde Creek's Emma Dutcher in the 152 pound weight class final, Paetow's Malany Perez, who beat Taylor's Sakina Awanda in the 165 pound weight class gold medal match, Morton Ranch's Sierra Joseph, who beat Mayde Creek's Angelina Elias in the 185 pound weight class final and Mayde Creek's Jade Boyd, who beat Katy's Abby Fonseca in the 235 pound weight class final.

Cinco Ranch finished second as a team with 175 points while Paetow claimed a third place finish with 155 points. Seven Lakes came in fourth, Taylor came in fifth, Mayde Creek came in sixth, Morton Ranch came in seventh while Jordan and Tompkins tied for eighth place.

The Region III Championships will be held Friday and Saturday at the Merrell Center, with state qualifiers advancing to Berry Center the following week.

Four Katy ISD athletes nominated for Texas Student Athlete of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Four Katy ISD athletes have been nominated as finalists for the 2024 Texas Student-Athlete of the Year Award.

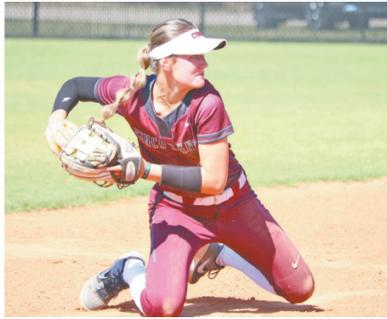
Strong student-athletes from around the state are nominated for the award and the winners are presented with the Letterman to Leadership Scholarship, where graduating seniors win a \$1,000 scholarship towards their college of choice, along with being named the Texas Student-Athlete of the Year, which is presented by 2Words Character Development.

There are two girls and two boys nominated for student athlete of the year, with Cinco Ranch and Taylor each garnering two nominations, one boy and one girl for each school.

On the girls side, nominees were Cinco Ranch senior softball shortstop Faith Piper and Taylor senior volleyball outside hitter Hannah Fan.

Piper had a big junior season last year, helping Cinco Ranch to a second place finish in district and a second round appearance in the playoffs, while leading off and providing terrific defense, and being named to the district's defensive player of the year.

Fan also had a strong year in her senior season in volleyball. The senior was named second team all-district and became the single season and career record holder for aces in a Mustangs uniform. Overall, she ended the year with 337 digs, 163 kills, 59 aces, 12 blocks and 30 assists on the year, helping out in every role



TYLER TYRE

Faith Piper throws to first after making a diving stop during a District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Mayde Creek at the Mayde Creek softball field.

for Taylor throughout the season.

On the boys side, Taylor senior wide receiver Jared Grafe and Cinco Ranch's senior swimmer Sebastian Pabon were the nominees.

Grafe helped Taylor reach the playoffs, where the Mustangs reached the bi-district round. He also helped the Mustangs finish third in district this season. He caught seven passes on the year for 63 yards, averaging nine yards per reception.

Cinco Ranch's Sebastian Pabon earned All-State honors last season while being awarded with academic honors from the college board national recognition program and also had a strong senior season this year.

To vote, go to <https://www.surveyyhero.com/c/6A>. Voting is open until Friday.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWC1311**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWC1206.A**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWC1019**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

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TheKatyTimes

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Retail Dealer's Off Premise License by Acapulco Tropical LLC, to be located at 5512 N Fry Rd, Katy, Harris County, Tx 77449. Owner of said corporation is Julian Santana.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Late Hours Permit by Cowboy Rothchild I, LLC dba 1836 Republic Bar and Grill to be located at 27252 Katy Freeway Suite 1000, Katy, Fort Bend, Texas 77494. Managers of said limited liability company are Michael A. Estes - Manager, Dontua P. Estes - Manager, and Joseph B. Rothchild - Manager.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

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

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

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

Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Mr. Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received electronically or at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 9:30 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 22, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Paving and Appurtenances to Serve Twinwood Business Park Phase 4 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 570 057 800#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of paving and appurtenances.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held remotely on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Local Time To attend the non-mandatory pre-bid conference via Microsoft Teams, the Meeting ID is 258 798 137 967, and the Passcode is AZKLL8. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 934 843 886#.

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

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of \$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Checks should be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. No cash will be accepted.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

- (1) General Description of property: Unit is 10' by 10' non-climate-controlled unit. Unit contains several boxes, a dolly, wall clocks, shelving, television, and an ottoman.
- (2) Lien: This unit is being sold to satisfy a lien owed to Cane Island Storage.
- (3) Owner: The owner of this unit is Ashley Hamilton
- (4) Address: The address of the self-storage facility is 27748 Highway 90, Katy, Tx 77494
- (5) Site/Time: Auction will take place on February 12th through February 19th, 2024 at 11 am and will be hosted on SelfStorageAuction.com

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Mr. Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received electronically or at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 22, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Waller County FM 359 Improvements for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 476 996 34#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of grading, paving, drainage and pavement markings on FM 359.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held remotely on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time To attend the non-mandatory pre-bid conference via Microsoft Teams, the Meeting ID is 224 385 577 885, and the Passcode is zW8Dmu. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 892 039 566#.

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

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of \$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Checks should be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. No cash will be accepted.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

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

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

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

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141**



**Notice
Proposed De Minimis for Use of Willow Fork Drainage District Trail
by TxDOT Highway Project State Highway (SH) 99
From Farm-to-Market (FM) 1093 to Interstate (I) 10
Control Section Jobs (CSJs): 3510-04-019, 3510-05-041
Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is improving State Highway (SH) 99 from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1093 to Interstate (I) 10 in Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT proposes to temporarily close the Willow Fork Drainage District recreational trail crossing under the SH 99 bridge over Buffalo Bayou, for a six-month period beginning in March and lasting through August 2024, during construction to widen the bridge and ensure pedestrian safety.

The temporary closure would be limited to the area under the SH 99 bridge over Buffalo Bayou (See Figure 1). Trail users would still be able to access the trail east and west of the temporary closure from adjacent neighborhoods located north of Buffalo Bayou.

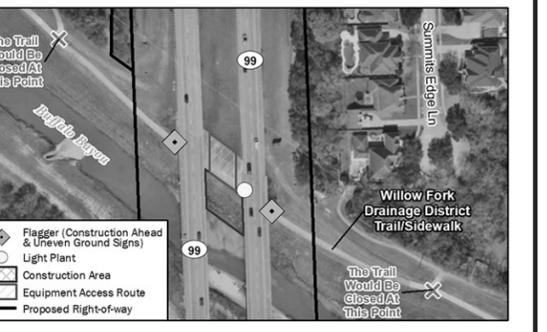
TxDOT proposes a *de minimis* determination regarding this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 U.S.C. 138). A *de minimis* impact is one that will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f). 23 CFR 774.17. The temporary closure would not permanently impact or change the trail.

Any environmental documentation or studies, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for review Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Fort Bend Area Office at 4235 SH 36, Rosenberg, TX 77471, and the TxDOT West Harris Area Office at 14838 NW Freeway (US 290), Houston, TX 77040.

The purpose of this notice is to provide the public with an opportunity to review and provide comments concerning the effects of the construction on the protected activities, features, or attributes of the Willow Fork Drainage District trail under the SH 99 bridge over Buffalo Bayou. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed use of the trail are requested and may be submitted in any language by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, P.O. Box 1386 Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before Friday, Feb. 23, 2024.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the use of the trail, please contact Adam Wood, Environmental Project Manager at (713) 802-5267 or by email at Adam.Wood@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



**Visit us online at
KatyTimes.com**

Seven Lakes stays unbeaten with victory over Jordan

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It's easy to have a let down coming back after winning a state championship. Having already accomplished the highest of highs in high school sports, there can be problems reclaiming that focus the following year and finding a way to bring it to the practice field every day. But Seven Lakes hasn't had that problem. The Spartans haven't had a let off — instead, it's gone the opposite direction and Seven Lakes has been even more ruthless than last season, jumping out to a 10-0 record and outscoring opponents 49-5.

It's continued into District 19-A play. The four-time defending district champions have jumped into first place with five straight wins to start district and continued their strong play on Friday, defeating Jordan 4-0 to stay unbeaten on the season.

"We want this bad," said senior winger Daniel Ejerenwa. "Coming back from last year with everything we had one loss and one tie, so now the goal is to one up ourselves. We want to go undefeated the whole way and improve. But to do that we have to focus on the game in front of us every day."

That one tie last year came in district play to Jordan and Seven Lakes did not want to let it happen again. The Spartans wasted no time in attacking and scored 11 minutes into the match, when Aidan Morrison played a give and go and then hit a screamer from outside of the box that nestled into the bottom corner to give Seven Lakes the lead. The Spartans kept up the pressure and Jesus Duque added a second in the 25th minute when he cut inside from the left side and tucked a shot from outside the box into the near post.

Duque has been one of the most pleasant surprises for the Spartans this year as he has gone from



TYLER TYRE

Jesus Duque and Fernando Lazo celebrate after Duque scored a goal during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Jordan at Legacy Stadium.

a player battling for playoff time on a loaded front-line last season to an integral part of the team and is someone who has a poachers attitude in front of goal.

"He's another technical weapon for us," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "Jesus was a guy who battled last year to get minutes and when the opportunity opened up this year, he's taken full advantage. It doesn't matter what minutes he gets — he's eager to get out there and make a difference in the game. Jesus is technical and shifty and it's just another element that causes issues for other teams."

The Spartans added a third in the 38th minute when Ejerenwa sent in a cross that the Jordan goalie couldn't handle and Kortay Koc followed up on the rebound for the goal. Ejerenwa assisted another 10 minutes into the second half, crossing a ball into the box that Duque latched on to and put past the keeper. Ejerenwa could easily have had four assists in the game if not for some very good saves and was named the man of the match.

"We've been in Daniel's ear about that since day one," Krueger

said. "He's good in open spaces and he's good when he's taking people on at speed. When Daniel is playing at the level you saw today, it opens up space and opportunities for other players that get a bulk of the spotlight. When he's on his game, it makes it so difficult to deal with the offensive weapons we have."

It's a testament to the culture built at Seven Lakes that this team is pushing for results the way they are, and that culture goes from the varsity on down to the junior varsity games and lower, where senior captain Aidan Morrison will walk around the bench and give advice to the underclassman during their games.

And this team isn't satisfied even with the big win over a playoff caliber opponent. They want and expect bigger things this year and that's what they're working towards.

"We all want that feeling again," Duque said. "We want to win district, we want to win the region and we want to go back and win it all. That's what all our effort is going towards and I really think we have a team that can do it."

NGWSD

NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 20, 2023; 8am-12pm

Check-in/grab-n-go breakfast 8am-8:30am; Conference begins at 8:30am

Scheduled to Speak

Dena Scott

Yvonne Igodim

Kimberly Smallwood

Onyi Chidomere

Nancy Zumaya

Cynthia Cavin

Morton Ranch High School Performing Arts Center

Register Today-FREE Event!

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

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

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

@MRHSGirlsTrack

COURTESY KATY ISD

Morton Ranch to host third annual National Girls & Women in Sports Conference

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Registration is open for the third annual National Girls and Women in Sports Conference, hosted by Morton Ranch high school on Feb. 19.

Katy ISD female student athletes as well as Katy ISD coaches that coach female student athletes are invited to attend as conference speakers discuss women making strides in the world of sports, competing and coaching in women's sports and the continuing struggle for equality for all women in sports.

The conference will be held at the Morton Ranch High School Performing Arts Center

starting at 8 a.m. and will include a free breakfast for attendees. Attendees who register will also receive a free T-shirt.

Speakers for this year's conference include Cy-Springs head volleyball coach Jocelyn Adams, Executive Director for Springs Branch ISD Athletics Paige Hershey, Multimedia Producer Jordan Highsmith, Denton ISD Assistant Director of Athletics Dr. Chivonne Kiser, CEO of Faith at the Plate Camaury Prados-Washington and Professional Football Player Nancy Zumaya.

For more information and to register for the conference, visit <https://mortonranchhs.my.canva.site/ngwsmortonranch#home>

March 2,
2024

12 PM to 3 PM

SCAN QR CODE

Katy's Best Food Festival!

- 30+ restaurants • Unlimited samples
- Best of Fest competition • Live entertainment
- Kids' Zone • Cooking demos

All proceeds benefit local area non-profits

More Info
www.katytastefest.com