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SPORTS | B1

Katy Times

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VOLUME 112, ISSUE 8

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024



SUSAN ROVEGNO

The highly-anticipated opening of the new H-E-B grocery store took place on February 21st. The store, at the corner of Morton Ranch Road and Katy Hockley Cutoff, will serve the rapidly growing northwest quadrant of the greater Katy area.

New HEB opens in Katy Park

FROM STAFF REPORTS

H-E-B opened its 94th Houston-area location on Wednesday, Feb. 21, in Katy Park at 24924 Morton Ranch Drive, Katy, with an onsite DJ as well as surprises and delights for customers waiting in line.

A community check presentation was made just before the ribbon was officially cut. "H-E-B is passionately

committed to its customers beyond the four walls of its stores, weaving an undeniable Spirit of Giving into its business philosophy," company officials said in a press release. "In this spirit and in celebration of the grand opening, H-E-B will donate \$5,000 to Katy ISD's Miller Career & Technology Center Culinary Arts Program. The two-year program exposes students to a variety

of post-secondary options in the restaurant and service industry through hands-on experience including restaurant management, food preparation, food safety, and more while running the onsite bistro."

Saltgrass Trail Riders were scheduled to arrive at Katy Park

See **HEB**, page A3

KISD board discusses chaplain program

Formal vote to be taken February 26th

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

In Monday night's work study meeting, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees discussed Senate Bill 763, which governs the employment or acceptance of volunteer services of chaplains by public school district and whether to adopt a policy authorizing the district to employ or accept as a volunteer, a chaplain under Texas Education Code Chapter 23.

Senate Bill 763 was approved in May 2023 and would allow Texas schools to use safety and security funds to pay for unlicensed religious chaplains to work on campus in mental health roles similar to those of school counselors. Volunteer chaplains would also be allowed in schools.

The bill requires that school districts vote by March 1 on whether to allow chaplains to serve as mental health counselors, either in paid or unpaid positions. The bill does not require any accreditation or licensing for chaplains.

Twelve individuals spoke on the matter during the public comments portion of the meeting prior to the board's discussion; eleven opposed the policy and one supported it. Those opposing the

See **KISD**, page A3

FORMER CUB SCOUT HONORED FOR HEROIC EFFORTS IN SAVING HIS MOM



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Paramedics from Katy Fire Station 1 look on as Thadyn Eubank (center) is honored by Cub Scout Pack 1029 at their Blue and Gold Banquet February 19th at the Community Center of Katy's First United Methodist Church, 5601 Fifth Street. Thadyn, an 11-year old sixth grader at Aristoi Academy, took quick action on January 20th to save his mom, Lorie, who was suffering a heart attack at their home in Eastside Terrace. Thadyn calmly called 911 and then called his aunt Dee before helping his mom to a chair. While waiting for paramedics, he comforted his siblings and called another family member who prayed with them. Paramedics remarked about how calm Thadyn was when he let them in the door. Thadyn said that he did some things "by instinct" and some things which he learned from Scouting. The former Cub Scout was awarded the first-ever "Thadyn Eubank Award for Extraordinary Merit" by Cubmaster B.J. Horton (fourth from left) and assistant Cubmaster Laura Gomez (fifth from left). "I'm just so proud of him," said his mom, Lorie Eubank, who said that she had no prior history of heart trouble.



SUSAN ROVEGNO

KAEDC hears economic update from GHP's Jankowski

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Members of the Katy Area Economic Development Council gathered on February 13th at the Katy campus of Houston Community College, 22910 Colonial Parkway, to hear Patrick Jankowski, chief economist and senior vice president for the Greater Houston Partnership, deliver his annual "state of the economy" presentation.

Jankowski began by stating that the U.S. economy is very robust and that a recession was avoided in 2023, in line with his prediction during his presentation to the EDC last year. Real EDP growth is strong at more than 3.4% and more than 353,000 jobs were created in January 2024, continuing a long trend of positive job growth.

Jankowski cited a CNN report that said that "unemployment hasn't been this low

since Nixon was president," adding that unemployment consistently remains below 4 per cent. He said that only three presidents have had extended periods of such low unemployment -- Harry S Truman (35 months), Richard Nixon (27 months) and Joe Biden (24 months).

Consumer confidence appears to be increasing as inflation fears start to ease, Jankowski said. He quoted the Wall Street Journal's survey of forecasters, which predicts that inflation in 2024 will be about 2.4 per cent. High interest rates, especially for 30-year fixed rate mortgages, remain a concern, and Jankowski said that they won't drop any time soon. Home ownership may become more difficult, as the percentage of households able to afford a mortgage continues to fall. In 2021, according to data

See **KAEDC**, page A3

Katy real estate: Turning small business owners into real estate tycoons

BY TIMOTHY SOJKA
REAL ESTATE BROKER, INDUSTRY WRITER

The number one question I'm asked for the last 18 years:

Why Katy?

My answer is simple - Visionary Real Estate Developers

Master-planned residential community developers delivered first -- creating nationally awarded communities like Green Trails, Cinco Ranch, Grand Lakes, and Seven Meadows. Next large-scale commercial developers captained Katy projects like La Centerra and the upcoming Katy Boardwalk.

As a practice, most commercial developers craft projects for large-scale national users designed to feed the rental market. The Katy area, like most current markets, offers abundant rental space in what some call a soft rental market. The nearby West Houston Energy Corridor currently has a 20.5% vacancy rate for office space and some aggressive pricing. The Katy Grand Parkway continues to perform well, offering just a 10.7% vacancy rate.

However, what makes Katy special is not the rental rates, but a rare chance for small business entrepreneurs to own instead of rent commercial real estate. A new breed of developers headlined by the Kilcommins Group, Stead-

See **REAL ESTATE**, page A3

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COMMUNITY

MLK LIFETIME GRAND MARSHALL AWARD



PHOTO BY SHERREL ROGERS

Apostle Blanche Barley (right) was honored with a MLK Lifetime Grand Marshall Award during Brookshire's Black History Program held at the Hangar Unity Center on February 17th. Her daughter, Apostle Sharon Barley, is shown on the left.

LEADING THE WAY



Helping lead Saturday's rodeo parade is Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert, atop an antique John Deere tractor.



Katy ISD Superintendent of Schools Ken Gregorski (left) is joined by KISD board member Mary Ellen Cuzela (center) and KISD board president Victor Perez (right) at Thursday night's rodeo. KISD hosts the FFA Livestock Show concurrent with the Katy Rodeo. Other board members in attendance Thursday included board vice president Amy Thieme and board member Morgan Calhoun (not pictured).



Jordan High School's band received second place in the performance/march category in Saturday's rodeo parade.

Katy Rodeo reveals parade winners



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Braving the chilly weather at Saturday's rodeo parade are (left to right) Councilmember Rory Robertson, Councilmember Janet Corte, Mayor Dusty Thiele, Councilmember Dan Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris and Councilmember Gina Hicks.



Winning first place in the "organization" category is Katy High School Alumni Association, which exemplified the red, white and blue theme of Saturday's parade.



The Katy Cowgirls group opened Thursday night's Katy Rodeo with the running of the colors, presenting the U.S. and Texas flags.



A young cowpoke receives assistance at Thursday night's Katy Rodeo.



Haskett Junior High School Cheer received second place Saturday in the school organization category.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy Rodeo held its parade in Old Katy on February 17th, along Katyland Drive to Highway Blvd. to FM 1463. Winners were announced that day via the Katy Rodeo's Facebook page:

2024 Winners

Performance/March groups -- First place: Morton Ranch High School Band; second place: Jordan High School Band

Commercial -- First place: Little Hands Learning Center; second place: Glass Doctor of Katy

Adult General -- First place: The Best Houston Movers; second place: Smith Ranch

Civic Organization -- First place: Katy High School Alumni Association; second place: Relay for Life of Katy

Cowboys/Cowgirls -- First place: Katy Cowgirls; second place: Miss Rodeo Texas Princess

Cars, Toys & Tractors: First place: Powderman Custom Powdercoat; second place: Texas Republic Vet Hospital School Organization

First place: Katy Junior High School Cheer; second place: Haskett Junior High School Cheer.

Scouting Organization -- First place: American Heritage Girls Troop TX 1489; second place: Cub Scout Pack 987

Church/Church Organization -- First place: Resurrection Church. No second place winner.

All awards will be mailed this year.

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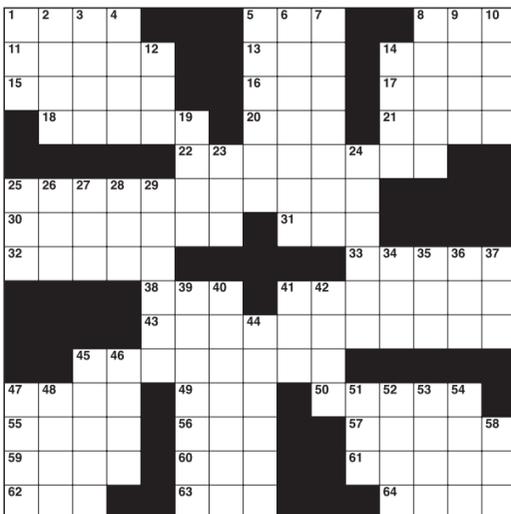
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Golf scores
- Shock therapy
- Ballplayer's tool
- Quench one's thirst
- Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- Every one of two or more things
- Member of Muslim people
- Play
- Type of cheese
- Type of lounge chair
- ___ King Cole, musician
- Fellows
- North, Central and South
- In an early way
- Foes
- Georgia rockers
- Cryptocurrency
- Narrow path along a slope
- Disallow
- Joyousness
- Inaccessible
- Evoke emotions
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- Sword
- Actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast

CLUES DOWN

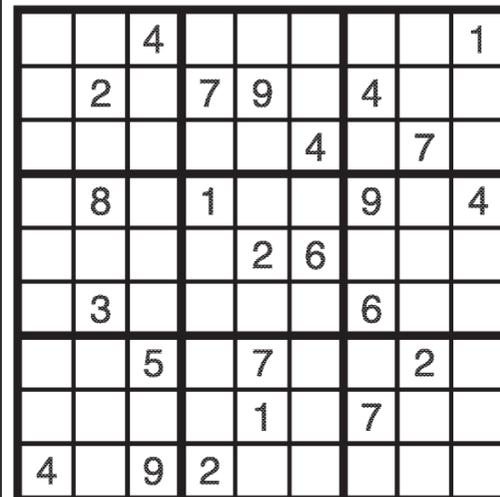
- Pacific Standard Time
- Protruding ridge on nematodes
- Indian king
- Type of milk
- One who brings home the bacon
- More comprehensible
- Connected with sense of touch
- Red mineral
- Breeded through
- Therefore
- Supplement with difficulty
- Early kingdom of Syria
- Satisfy
- They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- Brass instrument
- Domesticated animal
- Ribonucleic acid
- Snakelike fish
- Woman (French)
- Economically-minded aircraft
- When you hope to get somewhere



- Tease
- Actress Gretchen
- Midway between northeast and east
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Consume
- Does not tell the truth
- Improved something
- Spiritual leader
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Fix
- Evergreen tree genus
- Swiss tree
- Prejudice
- Major C. European river
- Long, narrow strap
- Male parent

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



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.

REAL ESTATE

from page A1

fast Interests, and Sheevaam Properties tailor properties for an assortment of small businesses, investors, and start-ups to own.

For instance, the Kilcommins Group offers owners a chance to enjoy modern office architecture on small business budgets. Owner Joey Kilcommins said, "Katy's small office market is strong partly because of organic growth, and partly because we helped create it." His Colonial Green Project will offer professionals, doctors, and lawyers, a chance to custom design offices to fit their needs from about 1800 SF to almost 7500 SF. Located on Colonial Green near Memorial Hermann Hospital, the project begins delivering offices to owners in 2025.

Steadfast Interests 1325 Katy Main Street Project offers small businesses a chance to purchase offices that deliver starting May 2024. Owner-occupants can purchase offices from 650 SF to 1320 SF, while investors can take down whole buildings from 5280 SF to 6600 SF and lease them to professionals. Steadfast Interests partner Robert Anthony said, "My business partner and I lived, worked, and invested in Katy for 25 years. It's never let us down. Katy's known as the city of Churches, and a great environment to own real estate, raise a family, and start small businesses."

Sheevam Properties' Katy Gaston Business Park offers something different, light industrial space owners have used for recreation (a basketball facility) and light industrial (shipping, export, storage). Warehouses range from 5600 SF to 7700 SF. The space offers soaring ceilings, insulation, and upgradeable electrical packages. The Sheevam management team says the reason for their success is accessibility to I10 and the fact that they are surrounded by master-planned communities.

Each project rests near Grand Parkway, I-10, the new Katy Boardwalk, and the West Houston Medical Complexes.

In conclusion, when a business starts, renting usually presents the only option. But wow, long-term, owning commercial real estate creates an engine that pays for your retirement, family cruises, your grandkid's college tuitions, and your great grandkids' weddings. Katy is one of the few suburbs boasting abundant opportunities for small business to own their space without going through years of development. No other Houston sub-market offers more commercial real-estate investment diversity. As a real estate agent, investor, and lover of Katy, I will say the time to strike now, when others complain about interest rates, politics, or the economy.

Timothy Sojka, is the Broker of the See TIM Sell Team, at Keller Williams; he is also the author of the Amazon #1 Political Thrillers Payback Jack, Politickill, 39: Your Last Birthday.

HEB

from page A1

(across from H-E-B Katy Park), after press time for the Katy Times. H-E-Buddy, Rodeo Mascot HOWDY, local cheerleaders, local band, and store Partners were scheduled to welcome the trail riders with signs and swag.

Area residents will enjoy spacious shopping with a pledge to deliver unsurpassed freshness and quality at affordable prices under the leadership of Moniece Shead, General Manager, a 24-year H-E-B Partner (employee) and long-time

KAEDC

from page A1

from the Houston Association of Realtors, 58 percent of Houston households could afford the median mortgage; in 202e, only 35 per cent could.

Commercial banks continue to tighten lending standards to both small and large firms, as shown by data from the Federal Reserve System.

Retailers, long bedeviled by pandemic-created supply chain issues, often over-ordered when goods were available and were carrying excess inventory, Jankowski said. That excess inventory has now been cleaned up and retailers are now ordering less -- impacting manufacturing, which is now receiving fewer orders for goods and facing a decline in employment.

For 2024 nationally, Jankowski predicts:

- Tight labor markets. Jankowski said that Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that job openings were 6.4 million before the pandemic and are projected to be 9.0 million this year. The number of people quitting their jobs is also falling, he said.
 - "Stubborn interest rates." Because of the Fed's dual mandate to maintain maximum employment and price stability, they are in no hurry to cut interest rates, Jankowski said.
 - Inflation will remain at about 2 per cent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, which studied core personal consumption expenditures adjusted for inflation, he said.
 - Real estate will be thrown into turmoil, particularly commercial real estate. Jankowski quoted stats from Bloomberg showing commercial property distress at a ten-year high and said that it is very difficult to get a commercial real estate loan. He said that commercial landlords are even handing properties back to lenders.
- Locally, what happens in the Houston area in 2024 depends on the industry,

KISD

from page A1

policy listed concerns including respect for the Katy community's diverse cultural and religious backgrounds; that chaplains are not certified or licensed and that their training centers on working with adults rather than children; that the program would take away badly needed funding for safety and security measures such as armed officers at each campus; that LBGTQ+ students would be harmed by potential "conversion therapy;" and that the district would be exposed to potential legal risk, as well as other concerns. The lone supporter stated that the policy was meant to be broad and that the board and KISD administration could define and implement the policy to address chaplain selection and certification and other procedural concerns.

Board President Victor Perez opened the trustees' discussion, noting that the board would vote on the issue in the next board meeting on February 26th. He clarified that "no one is talking about replacing school counselors with chaplains." Perez said that the school district is there to educate students and that such a policy would "cross a boundary" into the role of churches and parents. He also expressed concerns that the program does not allow the district to pick and choose who can apply, and that it does not define what a chaplain is nor does it require any licensing or training. Perez added that he did not want to take away from the district's limited resources to pay chaplains. He listed other opportunities for chaplains to volunteer at the district, including Men of Honor, the KEYS mentoring program and Watchdog Dads.

Board Secretary Dawn Champagne cited a letter written and signed by over 100 chaplains (a number she said has since grown to over 400) opposing the policy. Trustee Lance Redmon said that he did not want to have the chaplain program for children but recommended that a chaplain program be created for the well-being

Jankowski said.

- Net in-migration – the number of people moving to the greater Houston area, remains strong – at 85,044 in 2022 according to U.S. Census records.
 - Education, retail, entertainment, bars and restaurants will do well as a result of new people moving in.
 - Births are expected to exceed 94,000 – driving the need for more healthcare and more healthcare jobs.
 - As the population ages – with over 32,000 people turning 65 each year – additional demand for healthcare will be created.
 - Oil and gas will remain relatively stable, with few new jobs being created. Production will continue to become more efficient, he said, citing statistics showing high U.S. production from fewer oil rigs.
 - There will be growth in demand for professional services (law, accounting) as oil company mergers continue. Mergers almost always result in headquarters being moved to the Houston area, he said.
 - The future also looks bright for manufacturing, wholesale trade and transportation, along with hotels, and bars.
 - Office construction will be weak and industrial construction will also fall.
 - New home construction is expected to rise slightly to 37,200 starts, up from 36,900 in 2023.
 - Construction, finance, insurance and real estate will plunge in 2024.
 - Information companies, such as traditional media outlets, will also suffer in 2024.
 - Projected job growth will be 57,600 jobs in 2024, according to the Texas Workforce Commission and research by the Greater Houston Partnership.
- Jankowski concluded his remarks with the reminder that the Houston economy is more like a marathon than a sprint.

of district employees, on an adult-to-adult basis.

Vice President Amy Thieme said that she supported the policy as a way to help prevent teen suicide and teen pregnancy and that she did not want to turn down free resources. "I'm for trying something," she said, also expressing support for a chaplain program for teachers and employees. Trustee Morgan Calhoun clarified that under the chaplain program, no child would be compelled to see a chaplain, and felt that the program would be helpful in dealing with students feeling isolated or contemplating suicide. Although funding for the program would come out of the district's safety and security budget, Calhoun said that there are grants and funds available which would help pay for it.

Champagne expressed concern that the program removes parental rights. "You are not at the school when they are talking to the chaplain," she said. Trustee Mary Ellen Cuzela agreed that "parental authority is paramount" and added her concerns that the program does not define the role of chaplain or require certification. "Every creed would have to be allowed and there are some harmful creeds out there that I have learned about," she said.

Trustee Rebecca Fox, after noting her concerns about the policy's lack of restrictions and the lack of an exclusion against proselytizing, asked Perez to read the recommended resolution into the record in order to share it with the public prior to the February 26th vote. Perez did so, and said that essentially the proposed resolution to be voted on next week declines to accept the policy allowing chaplains, and maintains the status quo at Katy ISD. The resolution, if approved, would also allow the board to retain the right to reverse its decision in the future.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, February 26th.

TRIBUTE

Jane Anne Beeter Cernosek was born on July 31, 1969, in Las Vegas, Nevada, to Douglas Edward Beeter and Deborah Jane Henry Beeter. Jane spent her early years in Billings, Montana, where she attended St. Francis Catholic School. She was very independent and at times she was quite the tom boy and a tad bossy especially when it came to her three younger brothers, Mike, Matt and David. Jane loved reading, riding her bike and especially dancing and learning to tap dance. In 1981, her family moved to Littleton, Colorado. Then two years later, in 1983, they moved to Katy, Texas, where she would graduate from James E. Taylor High School in 1987. During her high school years, she joined the Pacesetters, where she poured heart and soul into her passion for dancing. She loved being on the drill team and got a job to help pay for all of the expenses. That same independent girl, now a young lady, had developed a steadfast work ethic and focus, who on her own bought her first car. With all the wholehearted time devoted to the Pacesetters and working a job, she still achieved very good grades and became a member of the National Honor Society.

After high school, Jane moved to Nacogdoches, Texas, and obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at Stephen F. Austin State University graduating in 1991. She would go on to obtain licensing as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

While attending college, she met Frankie "Frank" Cernosek, Jr. in a tax class they had together. They would go their separate ways, but about a year later, they incidentally attended the same event and began dating. Six months later, they were engaged to be married. On August 7, 1993, she married the love of her life, Frank Cernosek, in her home church, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, in Katy, Texas. After another six months, Jane and Frank bought a new home they were able to watch being built. In 1996, a son, Austin, was born followed by a precious daughter, Emilee, in 1999.

After working for several companies, Jane started her own small business specializing in assisting clients with accounting records, payroll and tax filing. For over 20 years, she built a successful business through her expert knowledge and sincere dedication to serving her clients' accounting needs. She remained loyal and committed to serving her clients right up to her last days.

Jane was an amazing wife and mother. She was a supportive mom who was always involved with all of the activities and sporting events of her children, such



JANE ANNE CERNOSEK
1969-2024

as helping the coaches and often serving as the Team Mom. She was the definition of a Baseball Mom and Softball Mom. She drove them to each event arriving early, always early, because to her arriving on time meant you were late. While Austin and Emilee were in college, she would travel to their games and tournaments, even to those out of state games. This mom's dedication to supporting her children included enthusiastically traveling to three NCAA National Championship games played out of state. To Austin and Emilee, she was the best; she was truly a "super mom" and always there for them.

Jane Anne Cernosek passed away on February 15, 2024, at her home in Katy, Texas surrounded by her family. She was 54 years of age.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 30 years, Frank Cernosek of Katy; her son, Austin Cernosek of Rosenberg; her daughter, Emilee Cernosek of Richmond; parents, Doug and Deborah Beeter of Florissant, Colorado; her three brothers, Mike Beeter of Possum Kingdom Lake, Texas, Matt Beeter and his wife Helena of Boise, Idaho, and David Beeter and his wife Carol of Houston; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Frank Sr. and Shirley Cernosek of Rosenberg; as well as other loving family members and many friends.

The family received friends from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, where a Celebration of Jane's Life was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, with Chaplain Daniel Schramm officiating. Interment in Davis Greenlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, in Rosenberg, followed by a luncheon gathering at the Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825 State Highway 36 South, Rosenberg, 77471.

Pallbearers will be Dylan Cernosek, Pete Cavazos, Mike Beeter, Matt Beeter, Lucas Beeter, David Beeter, Clayton Beeter and Steven Cernosek.

To express condolences, please visit her webpage at www.SchmidtFuneral-Home.net.

Funeral services held under the direction of: **Schmidt Funeral Home**
1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~ Katy, Texas 77494
~ (281) 391-2424

CORRECTION

A story about the National Charity League's Azalea Chapter's senior honorees originally appeared in the February 1, 2024, issue of the Katy Times with an incorrect photo. The correct photo and updated story appear in this week's edition.

The Times regrets the error.

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Fashion retailer Primark to open at Katy Mills Mall

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Mills Mall announced the addition of new, first-to-market international fashion retailer Primark to its dynamic line-up of retailers in a February 12th press release.

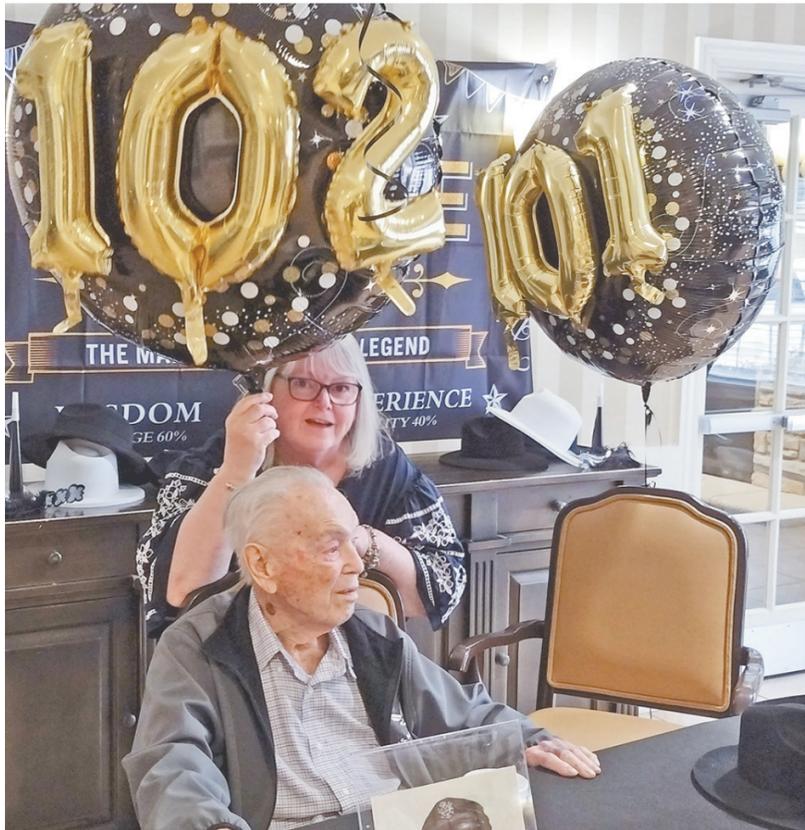
This marks the retailer's first store in the Katy and Houston area.

"As Primark continues to expand its footprint throughout the US, we're thrilled to bring 'Primania' to Katy, Texas, and the greater Houston-area, with the announcement of our lease at Katy Mills. We look forward to bringing quality affordable fashion, beauty, accessories, and homewares to more Texas shoppers while offering the joyful retail experience Primark is known for," said a Primark official in the release.

Primark's store at Katy Mills will bring the brand's signature combination of the latest fashion trends and essentials for the whole family, as well as homewares and beauty, all at affordable prices. When entering the store, shoppers will experience 'Primania' - the sense of excitement, discovery and adventure that shopping in a Primark store provides - upon walking into the store's vast collections and more trend-forward offerings, sought-after everyday essentials for men, women, and kids, as well as licensed collections, home goods offerings, beauty products and more.

Founded in Ireland in 1969 under the Penneys brand, Primark is committed to creating great retail experiences and currently has over 400 stores globally, including 24 U.S. stores across nine states and plans to expand to over 60 by 2026.

Primark at Katy Mills will be located in Neighborhood 6 in the mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy. Stay up to date on store hours, promotions, and new stores by visiting the Katy Mills website or following along on Facebook and Instagram.



'VINTAGE MAN' BIRTHDAY BASH

Staff and fellow residents of Cinco Ranch Alzheimer's Special Care Unit honored resident Ray Randall with a "Vintage Man" birthday bash on Friday, February 16th, as he prepared to celebrate his 102nd birthday on Sunday. Randall, shown with his daughter Claudie Bourgeois of Fulshear, is a World War II veteran who flew C46 and C47 planes over the China-Burma-India supply route while serving in the Army Air Corps (the predecessor to the U.S. Air Force). Randall spent much of his life in the Chicago area, working in sales and marketing for several canning food plants, but recently relocated from northern Arkansas to be near his daughter and grandchildren. Daughter Claudia credits his longevity to Randall's "very active lifestyle," which included golf, travel, and gardening, as well as "good genetics." Cinco Ranch Alzheimer's Special Care Unit is located at 3206 S. Fry Road in Katy.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy Christian Ministries announces launch of 'Worship Health' benefits plan

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

On February 20th, Katy Christian Ministries Executive Director Deysi Crespo announced the launch of a new initiative designed to make affordable health care more accessible to the Katy community. The announcement was made at the nonprofit's office at 3506 Porter Road in Katy.

Called "Worship Health," the program -- which is a "benefits plan" and not an insurance plan -- provides access to health care for the uninsured and underserved members of the community, Crespo said. The plan can also be used by those who already have insurance but who may be facing high deductibles.

"Affordable access to health care is one of the key social determinants of health," Crespo said.

The program has been developed in partnership with Shawn Fry, CEO and Data Scientist of OptimalMD Technologies, LLC, which is based in Katy at 154 Bella Katy Road, Suite 200, Katy. Worship Health is part of OptimalMD, which Fry said is a trailblazer in healthcare innovation where the power of telemedicine is blended with first principles functional medicine to deliver an Optimal Standard of Care.

Tennyson Smith of Vital 2 Life Ministries serves as an adviser to the project.

"At Worship Health, every family has the freedom to stay healthy without the complexities of traditional insurance," Fry said. "Plans from \$49 per month provide you with 24/7 access to physicians and the drugs you need to stay healthy WITHOUT traditional

obstacles such as deductibles, co-pays, prior authorizations and denials."

Because the plan is a "benefits" plan and not a traditional insurance plan, it is focused on providing primary care, and it doesn't cover certain other services such as MRIs, X-rays and so forth. "Our program covers 95% of the typical medical encounters per year," said Fry. "Most people go to the doctor or emergency room when they don't need to. It does make people feel better when their kid is sick, and if they are sick (turning blue, can't breathe, fever of 103, etc., they should go)." What is included in Worship Health, according to Fry, is 24/7 access to a doctor via telemedicine and discounted access to the rest of things. "We have detailed case studies that show 95% of incidents are covered by this program," said Fry. "It also shows this program radically reduces the number of more serious cases because people get care much earlier in the process. Most major issues come from not treating issues before they get severe."

Surgeries, chemotherapy and similar follow up procedures are not covered. "If your income is in certain ranges, you get free or deeply discounted services," said Fry. "If your income is ABOVE their thresholds, [and] if you get cancer, we would enroll you in an Exchange plan that covers your condition."

Acceptance into the Worship Health program is guaranteed, Fry said. "We promise everyone is approved regardless of illness, age, immigration status, income or any other reason. Get the healthcare you deserve without the cost and hassle from insurance companies."

The plan includes virtual visits with

health care providers, pharmacy benefits and mental health counseling. Fry said that over-the-counter (OTC) drugs were also available at reduced cost through this program and that other drugs, such as ADD meds, ED meds and birth control, could be obtained through the program.

Aging parents are one of the greatest challenges that families face today, Fry said. The program allows parents and in-laws to be added to a family's plan for just \$10.00 each per month.

The program is ideal for small business owners who may not be able to offer affordable health care options to their employees, Fry said.

The program is already live and accepting members, Fry said. Only a full name and email address are required in order to sign up, he continued. The program is month-to-month and does not require a long-term contract or agreement. Unlike conventional employer-provided insurance plans, the Worship Health plan is portable, staying with the enrollee in spite of job changes or other circumstances. Data is secure and private and not reported to insurance companies or anyone else, Fry said.

Crespo said that information on the Worship Health plan would be distributed to KCM's clients through the food pantry distribution, through the crisis center and through the nonprofit's social services department. Representatives from Worship Health will be at the Porter Road office of KCM on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help people get registered and to answer questions, Crespo said.

For more information on Worship Health, or to enroll, go to <https://www.worshiphealth.org>.

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NCL Azalea chapter honors area seniors for community service



PHOTO CREDIT: MONICA CUTRARO PHOTOGRAPHY

Katy-Fulshear area high school seniors honored at the NCL Azalea banquet on February 18th are (left to right): Bottom row seated (left to right): Gemma Tidwell, Luci Acuna, Lynnlee Capps, Mamie Grace McClelland, Brooke Geiman, Marina Garanzuay, Rachel Newton, Abby Taylor, Emma Kappes, Middle Row standing (left to right): Anneleigh Meleton, Mia Pierce, Avery Coates, Ashlynn Schoeneberg, Natalya Eichberger, Emily Bateman, Reagan Guilbeau. Back Row standing (left to right): Mia Hough, Jennifer Christian, Julianna Ghafari, Charlotte Murrill, Darby Dickenscheidt, Ashley Forinash, Caroline Roup, Caroline Shade, Briley Brewer, Corinne Kloss, Addison Knott.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE:
This story originally appeared in the February 1, 2024, issue of the Katy Times with an incorrect photo. The Times regrets the error.

The Azalea chapter of the National Charity League held its senior recognition banquet on February 18 at the Marriott Sugarland Town Square, 16090 City Walk, in Sugar Land. Each year, the organization highlights the graduating high school seniors who have spent hundreds of hours volunteering in the Katy and Fulshear communities.

The Azalea Chapter of the National Charity League

is a group of mothers and daughters who have come together in a commitment to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. The goal of the Azalea Chapter of NCL is to promote a sense of

community responsibility in our daughters that will perpetuate a lifetime of service. Through volunteer work, the group hopes to make the world a better place and has seen firsthand how its efforts benefit the community.



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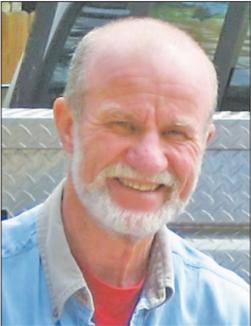
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TRIBUTE



JAMES ROGERS EMANIS
1942-2024

James Rogers Emanis, 81, of Katy, Texas, a cherished family man, respected engineer in Houston's oil and gas industry, and avid outdoorsman, passed away surrounded by his loved ones on Thursday February 8, 2024. James was born in Center, Texas, to parents Viola and J.R. Emanis.

After graduating from Texas A&M University, James ventured into the world, determined to carve out his own path. His career as an engineer flourished in Houston, where he became a well-respected figure in the

oil and gas industry. Two of his children and 3 grandchildren followed in his footsteps by attending and graduating from Texas A&M.

James Emanis leaves behind a legacy of resilience, hard work, generosity and devotion to family. His life was a testament to the power of determination and the impact of a loving father and grandfather. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

He is survived by son Jason Emanis and his wife Christina of Katy, daughters Stephanie Budnick and hus-

band John of Katy, Crystal Dietrich and husband Dwayne of Buchanan Dam. Grandchildren are Tori Thornton, Ashly Thornton, Amos James Emanis, Joel Emanis, Emily Dietrich, Natalie Dietrich, and Nicholas Dietrich and other extended family members.

A visitation for James was held Saturday February 17, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Katy Funeral Home, 23350 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77494, followed by a memorial service at 12 p.m.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/katy-tx/james-emanis-11660554>

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Members of the Mayde Creek CTE welding team and their teacher are (left to right): Seth Arevalo, Kevin Plata, Alex Salinas, teacher Ronald Mushinski, Rene Sandoval, Emilio Zuniga, and Roy Sixtos.

Inside the Mayde Creek CTE welding program: Where culture matters

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Mayde Creek High School's (MCHS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) welding program has achieved remarkable success under the guidance of their teacher, Ronald Mushinski, said Katy ISD officials in a February 12th press release. "Their success transcends mere skill development; within this program lies a shared purpose and passion, and the camaraderie that exists has created an atmosphere where friendships are forged, and professionals are made," said the release. "That is the culture of the MCHS welding program."

"I am so proud of their hard work and dedication as they continue to learn and grow individually as welders and collectively as a cohesive team. Their bond is so strong, which speaks to their character," said Mushinski. "Their efforts and talent have already produced outstanding results so far this year, evident in the

certifications they've obtained. I am so proud and excited about the opportunities and experiences awaiting them after high school graduation. They have such a bright future ahead of them," he added.

Competing in the Texas High School Welding Series (TXHSWS), these students have entered five competitions so far this school year, consistently finishing in the top ten among fields that consist of over 100 competitors.

Earlier this season, the team of six students placed second overall in an underwater welding competition. Among those six students was junior Rene Sandoval, who excelled individually and secured a spot in an upcoming underwater welding competition. Here, participants are fully immersed in a dive tank where they will be tasked to navigate the difficult challenges that come with welding underwater.

When asked about his affinity for underwater welding, Sandoval re-

plied, "Underwater welding presents its own set of challenges, and the added aesthetics make it such a unique and fun experience." With a clear career trajectory in mind, he shared, "I truly love the process of working on a project that could benefit the world and completing it to perfection."

Senior Emilio Zuniga echoed his teammate's sentiments, expressing gratitude for the invaluable experience gained through the Mayde Creek welding team. "Being part of this team has not only honed my skills but has also solidified my passion for the profession. I aspire to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University, furthering my education and skills," he stated.

The team's most recent competition was on Saturday, February 17th, in Hutto, Texas. This event marks another chapter in their journey through the TXHSWS series of contests, culminating at the State Competition later this school year in Waco, Texas.

HCC-Northwest's Zachary Hodges named finalist for AACC CEO award

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Zachary Hodges, Ed.D., president of Houston Community College (HCC) Northwest College has been named a finalist for chief executive officer of the year award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the college announced in a February 15th press release.

Hodges, who has led his college for 28 years, said he is honored to be among the group of finalists.

Northwest College is one of six colleges that make up the HCC District, with campuses serving the Alief, Katy and Spring Branch communities as well as some areas within the Houston Independent School District.

Hodges has implemented many student success initiatives, including an HCC-University of Texas Tyler engineering program partnership, a Chevron Texas A&M University Engineering Academy at HCC and the HCC-University of Houston Engineering Academy. Such pathway programs ensure community college students complete

their four-year degrees on time and with no extra courses taken.

Under Hodges' leadership, a campus was built in Katy, Tex., and opened 18 months ago to support student success at all levels. Already, enrollment has exceeded expectations with students thriving in state-of-the-art spaces and open labs.



ZACHARY HODGES

Hodges began at HCC in 1976 as its first campus-based counselor, bringing with him credentials as a licensed marriage and family therapist and counselor. He holds a doctorate and master's and bachelor's degrees from Texas A&M University at Commerce.

Other nominees include: Dr. Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College in Wisconsin; Dr. Dorey Diab, North Central State College in Ohio; Dr. Jim Murdaugh, Tallahassee Community College in Florida; Dr. Phillip Neal, Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College; and Dr. Christopher Reber, Hudson County Community College in New Jersey.

A winner will be announced at the AACC's annual conference in Louisville, Ky., this April.

Royal ISD board vacancy announced; position to be filled by appointment

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Royal ISD Board Trustees will fill the vacancy resulting from Trustee Perla Aguilar's resignation by appointment, the district announced on February 6th. Persons

interested in being considered for appointment to the Board should submit a letter of interest, application and resume to Gracie Espinoza (Administrative Assistant to the Board and Superintendent) by Friday February 23, 2024, at 4 p.m.

Applications may be found on the district website at www.royal-isd.net or picked up from Ms. Espinoza at the Royal ISD Administration Building. Applications, letters of interest, and resumes may be submitted in person to

Gracie Espinoza at the RISD Administration Building located at 3714 FM 359 Pattison, TX 77466.

All applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday February 23, 2024 to be considered. The Board will review application

packages at its board meeting on February 26, 2024, and interview select candidates at the Board meeting on March 18, 2024. Any questions should be directed to the Superintendent's Office (281) 934-6901.

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PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Seven Lakes, Jordan boys advance to area round

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes and Jordan advanced to the area round on Tuesday, with the first and third seeds out of the district earning wins in the bi-district round of the playoffs to both advance to the second round for the second straight season.

District 19-6A split with District 20-6A in the opening round of the playoffs. The Warriors and

Spartans advanced, while Paetow and Katy were unable to get wins against good competition, with the two's seasons coming to an end on Tuesday.

The Spartans beat Ridge Point 72-56 in the opening round, behind a huge second half. It was a slow start for Seven Lakes; the Spartans trailed 13-12 after the first quarter and still trailed by one at half, but they

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B6



Justice Carlton attacks the basket during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Fort Bend Austin at the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine.

TYLER TYRE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 SCORES & SCHEDULES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- AREA**
- Seven Lakes 89, Jersey Village 57
- REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS**
- Seven Lakes 81, Fort Bend Austin 74
- Friday**
- REGIONAL SEMIFINAL**
- Seven Lakes vs. Summer Creek, 7:30 p.m. at M.O. Campbell Center

- Morton Ranch vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:15 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Paetow, 6:15 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Seven Lakes, 6:15 p.m.

Thursday

- Katy vs. Ridge Point, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Lamar, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Dulles, 11 a.m.
- Jordan vs. Waller, 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Kerville Tivy, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Fort Bend Dulles, 2 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Ridge Point, 2 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Waltrip, 2 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Waller, 2 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Austin, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fort Bend Travis, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Kerville Tivy, 5 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. St. Thomas More, 5 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Richmond Foster, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Channelview, 5 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Fort Bend Austin, 5 p.m.

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Ridge Point 11 a.m.
- Katy vs. Richmond Foster, 2 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. St. Thomas More, 2 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Lamar, 2 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Dulles, 2 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Travis, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Lamar, 5 p.m.
- Katy vs. Waller, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Fort Bend Travis, 5 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Kerville Tivy, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Austin, 5 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Waltrip, 5 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Channelview, 5 p.m.

Saturday

- Katy vs. St. Thomas More, 11 a.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Waltrip, 11 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Fort Bend Austin, 11 a.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Kerville Tivy, 11 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Dulles, 11 a.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Richmond Foster, 11 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Ridge Point, 2 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Waller, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Channelview, 2 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Lamar, 2 p.m.

Monday

- Seven Lakes vs. Terry, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

- BI-DISTRICT**
- Seven Lakes 72, Ridge Point 56
 - Fort Bend Travis 74, Paetow 63
 - Clements 67, Katy 42
 - Jordan 36, Elkins 30
- Schedule**
- AREA**
- Seven Lakes vs. Cy-Creek, TBD
 - Jordan vs. Cy-Fair, TBD

SOFTBALL

- Thursday**
- Morton Ranch vs. Northbrook, noon
 - Katy vs. Cy-Woods, 1 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Cy-Falls, 1:45 p.m.
 - Morton Ranch vs. Sterling, 1:45 p.m.
 - Paetow vs. South San Antonio, 2:30 p.m.
 - Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak, 3 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Splendor, 3:30 p.m.
 - Jordan vs. Cy-Park, 3:30 p.m.
 - Paetow vs. New Braunfels, 4:15 p.m.
 - Katy vs. Weslaco, 5 p.m.
 - Jordan vs. Stratford, 5:15 p.m.
- Friday**
- Katy vs. Dobie, 9 a.m.
 - Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 10 a.m.
 - Katy vs. Fulshear, 11 a.m.
 - Paetow vs. McGregor, 11:30 a.m.
 - Cinco Ranch vs. Liberty, 11:45 a.m.
 - Paetow vs. Flour Bluff, 1:15 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Memorial, 6 p.m.
 - Seven Lakes vs. Klein, 6:15 p.m.
 - Jordan vs. Cy-Springs, 6:15 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Paetow vs. Harker Heights, 8 a.m.
 - Katy vs. Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial, 9 a.m.
 - Taylor vs. Stratford, 9 a.m.
 - Cinco Ranch vs. Woodlands, 9 a.m.

BASEBALL

- Tuesday**
- Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 6:15 p.m.

Seven Lakes stifles Austin to clinch regional tourney berth

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes had been fighting to get to this point all year.

The Spartans wanted another taste at the regional tournament, another chance to do what they couldn't two years ago and another chance to make history for the school.

The Spartans had a chance to get back to that point on Tuesday night and they didn't let it slip, outlasting Fort Bend Austin in the regional quarterfinals 81-74 at the Campbell Center in Aldine.

"I'm just so proud of all of these girls," said senior forward Justice Carlton. "I was in foul trouble but they all stepped up and played their part which is exactly what

they've done all season long. It was a great game and I'm just proud of every one of those girls."

It was a battle all night for the Spartans as they were able to reach their second regional tournament in the past three years, overcoming a halftime deficit in the process. Madison Carlton led the way with

See **BASKETBALL**, page B6



Justice Carlton shoots a layup during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Jersey Village at Bridgeland High School.

TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes advances to regional quarters with big victory over Jersey Village

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes has used its length to disrupt every team it's faced all season. The Spartans are unique in having three six-footers and having multiple other players on their roster that provide nearly that much length, giving the Spartans an advantage on both the offensive and defensive end.

Seven Lakes had been able to take it to smaller teams over the past two months. Dominating with their size and strength, but going into the playoffs they

knew that would be tested at some point. That point came on Friday, when the Spartans came up against Jersey Village in the area round of the playoffs. But the Spartans overcame that and didn't change their gameplan at all, dominating on the boards and suffocating the Falcons defensively on the way to a big 89-57 win.

"We just talked about the game plan and how we have to play to the level we want to play to," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "We turned up the

See **SPARTANS**, page B6

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ACADEMIC PROGRESS

SCANNED QR CODE TO REGISTER

GRAPHIC COURTESY KATY ISD

SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Katy, Taylor, Mayde Creek, Paetow earn district opening wins

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Katy, Taylor, Mayde Creek and Paetow earned wins on the opening night of District 19-6A play, starting off in good fashion early in the season.

Harrison, Soeken pitch shut out to open district against Tompkins

Katy earned a shut out win to open district behind a shut out from Camryn Harrison, as the Tigers won 12-0 in six innings over Tompkins.

Harrison pitched four innings of shut out ball in the win before Lauren Soeken came in to close the game out, pitching two innings without allowing a hit, Harrison struck out ten while allowing three hits while Soeken added four more strikeouts.

Harrison started things off in the first inning with an RBI double before Maddie Smith made it 2-0. Katy scored three more runs in the third inning, getting one on a fielders choice before Smith singled in another run and Ella-Kate Smith also hit a single to drive in a run. Harrison added two runs on a double in the fourth inning and an error made it 8-0 before the end of the inning. Ashtyn Reichardt hit into a fielders choice for another run in the fifth and an error scored two more runs. Payton Schulze hit into another fielders choice to score Katy's 12th and final run.

Harrison led the way for Katy at the plate with three hits and three RBIs, while both Smith's added two RBIs. Leah Gershman had two hits to lead the Falcons and Samantha Crumrin allowed eight runs on eight hits while striking out two in four innings.

Taylor has hot day at the plate against Cinco Ranch

Taylor had a strong day at the plate, starting district off with a win over Cinco Ranch, 13-5 in a team effort.

The Mustangs got a good effort on the mound from Ari Hughes, who pitched a complete game while allowing five runs and striking out five in the win.

Cinco Ranch got on the board first in the first inning, when Katie Schmidt-Pena doubled in a run to get things started. It stayed that way until the bottom of the fifth when Taylor tied the game on a single by Kenna Irvin, Bethany Fan kept things going by hitting a grand slam, Hughes hit an RBI double and Sophia Ybanez homered, driving in three more runs to make it 9-1 after five innings.

Cinco cut into the lead in the top of the sixth, as Aubrey Ramirez hit a solo home run to lead off the inning and Ossie Cooper doubled to drive in a run. Sophie Hassall then added another run with a fielders choice to close out the sixth inning. Taylor though scored four more in the sixth ining. Fan hit a two run homer and Katelyn Wentzler followed that up with a solo home run, and Taylor then got to 13 runs on a throwing error. Cinco Ranch got a final run in the top of the seventh on a Sydney Vandeventer RBI single but Taylor got out of the inning on a Hughes strike out to end the game.

Fan led the way for Taylor with six RBIs on three hits while Ybanez added three RBIs on two hits. Savannah Henningson pitched 4.1 innings for the Cougars, allowing five runs on six hits while striking out four. Faith Piper and Aubrey Ramirez led the way for Cinco Ranch offensively with two hits.

Mayde Creek rallies for win over Jordan

Mayde Creek overcame an early deficit to earn a big victory over Jordan on Tuesday, winning 9-3 behind a strong offensive showing and a good day on the mound from



Maddie Smith hits during a Area Round game between Katy and Bellaire at the Katy softball field.

Shy'Lynn Brown.

Brown pitched a complete game, allowing three runs over seven innings and striking out eight in the win.

Jordan got out to the early lead in the game. Madison Roysce got the Warriors on the board with a one-run single and Madeline Jovanovic hit a sacrifice fly to make it 2-0 in the top of the first. Mayde Creek trimmed the lead in the bottom of the inning when Brown hit a one run double. The game stayed that way until the third inning, when Alexia Ruiz hit a 3-run homer to give Mayde Creek a 4-2 lead. Mayde Creek got another run in the fourth inning on an error and in the bottom of the fifth Mayde Creek scored three more runs, with Madyson Rodriguez hitting a one-run single and Jalla Osborne driving in two runs on a single of her own. Brown added Mayde Creek's ninth and final run in the sixth inning on a line drive single. Roysce got one run back in the top of the seventh for Jordan before Brown got a strikeout to end the game.

Ryan McIntosh pitched for Jordan and allowed 13 hits and nine runs over six innings while striking out four. Roysce led the way offensively for Jordan with three hits and two RBIs.

Paetow has dominant showing against Morton Ranch

Paetow had a hot start and never looked back in a 19-4 win over Morton Ranch, opening district with a big run rule win over the Mavericks.

The Panthers had a strong day on the mound from Abigail Martinak, with the junior allowing four runs on three hits over four innings while also striking out two. But it was the offense that really made a statement.

Both teams scored runs in the first inning. Paetow started it in the top of the first ining as Alicia Briones had a steal of home, but Morton Ranch tied it in the bottom of the inning when Bailey Hays grounded into a fielders choice. Paetow then exploded for 10 runs in the second inning. Briones got a run in on a bases loaded walk and Amanda Vasquez drove in three with a triple to follow that up. Vasquez then stole home and Paetow scored again off of an error twice. Alicia Briones tripled to drive in two more to end the inning and make it 11-1 in favor of the Panthers. Paetow scored three more in the top of the third, as Gloria Howland singled to drive in two before Galarza scored on another steal of home. Morton Ranch got two runs in the bottom of the third off of an error. Paetow closed things out in the bottom of the fourth with a big ining. Briones doubled to drive in a run and Paetow got two more off an error, Branae DeLaRosa doubled to get another run across and Trinity Vasquez got the final run for Paetow across with an RBI single. Morton Ranch got a final run in the bottom of the fourth on a sacrifice before Paetow sealed the run rule win.

Briones had four RBIs while Vasquez had three Rodriguez, Galarza and Howland all chipped in with two RBIs as well. Makenzie Rimmer, Hays and Gisselle Sanchez had the hits for Morton Ranch.

Katy ISD to host College Recruiting Seminar

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD will host its second College Recruiting Seminar of the school year on Feb. 28, with students from all nine high schools open to attend the event at the Merrell Center.

The event provides information to parents and athletes about the college recruiting process and goes in depth on the difference between each level in play, from NAIA to Division and how scholarships are different at each level.

Athletes also will learn how to create their own athletic resumes and how parents play different roles in recruitment, along with the role of social media in coaching, how key it is to have good communication in coaching and more.

The event will be hosted by Todd Kelly and start at 6 p.m. with the junior high presentation, with Kelly explaining the early recruiting process, academic importance, parents' role in the process and when recruiting starts. It will move on to the high school presentation which will explain how to create a hudl highlight, social media management and hudl highlight reviews.

Kelly will also go into depth on financial aid, NCAA clearing house, scholarship breakdown, communication with coaches and coaches evaluation of film.

To register for the event, fill out the form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScetEt4qrK40yfk-MM3g5Xq_2adgC9VJilwISX9NIouaJ-CYX2A/viewform or scan the qr code in the graphic.

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Seven Lakes clinches undefeated district title

Paetow, Katy, Jordan round out playoff picture

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes clinched its second straight undefeated district title and third district title in a row on Wednesday, beating Taylor 69-43 to improve to 33-2 on the year. The Spartans had already wrapped up the first seed in the playoffs over a week ago and finished the district season undefeated, a first of their many goals this year. They will be joined in the playoffs by Paetow, who finished

second as well as Jordan and Katy, who finished tied for third and will play a play-in game to decide the final two playoff spots. Seven Lakes earned the first-place spot by going 16-0 in district play and only having one district. The Spartans finished the regular season on a 25-game winning streak. Paetow is back in the playoffs after a one-year absence. In their last playoff appearance, the Panthers made it all the way to the Region III-5A semifinal. Katy and Jordan rounded out the playoff finishers. Both finished with an 11-5 record, Jordan won the first matchup between the teams 59-55 away at Katy, but

Katy had a big answer when the two met at Jordan, winning 75-58 over the Warriors. Jordan finished the regular season on a four-game winning streak while Katy won its final three games of the regular season. Jordan claimed the tiebreaking game win last weekend win by beating Katy 63-44 to clinch the third seed, while Katy fell to the fourth seed with the loss. Cinco Ranch finished just outside of the postseason race in fifth with a 9-7 record, Tompkins (5-11) finished sixth, while Taylor (3-13) and Mayde Creek (3-13) were tied for seventh and Morton Ranch (2-14) finished in the ninth and final spot in district.



Rayan Fadika shoots a layup during a game between Paetow and Jordan at the Paetow gym.
TYLER TYRE

Jordan's McChesney, Cinco's Herman earn gold medals at state wrestling meet



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Above: Jordan's Garrett McChesney won the 138-pound weight class gold medal and was named the most outstanding wrestler at the Class 6A State Wrestling Tournament. Right: Cinco Ranch's Jackson Herman won the gold medal in the 132-pound weight class at the Class 6A State Wrestling Tournament.

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD came away with two gold medalists at the Class 6A State Wrestling tournament over the weekend, with Cinco Ranch's Jackson Herman winning the 132-pound weight class and Jordan's Garrett McChesney winning in the 138-pound weight class. It was a big day for McChesney, as he won his second straight state title and was named the tournament's most outstanding wrestler for his efforts, including finishing the season with an undefeated record. Garrett won his state title match to clinch the undefeated season at 43-0. Herman won his state title match and finished the season with only two losses on the way to his state championship, finishing the season 50-2. Overall Katy ISD had four people reach the medal stand, all on the boy's side, with Tompkins' Matteo Nikolov claiming a second place finish in the 165-pound weight class and Morton Ranch's Juan Lizama



finishing third in the 175-pound weight class. Nikolov made it all the way to the state title match before falling in his final to Arlington Martin's Grayson Carpenter, while Lizama made it to the semifinal match of the 175-pound weight class before winning the third-place match over McKinney Boyd's Cameron Girard. The highest placed finishers on the girl's side were Cinco Ranch's Nevada Daniels and Mayde Creek's Emma Dutcher, who both finished fourth in the 114-pound and

152-pound weight classes respectively. On the boys side Katy ISD had four fourth place finishers. Paetow's Carlos Gonzalez Jr. placed fourth in the 126-pound weight class, Cinco Ranch's Vince Echavarry placed fourth in the 150-pound weight class, Jordan's Jeremy Alo-Perry finished fourth in the 190-pound weight class and Katy's Dimitrios Katsigiannis finished fourth in the 215-pound weight class. Following are the full results of the Class 6A State Wrestling Finals:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BOYS | 190-pounds |
| 120-pounds | 4. Jeremy Alo-Perry, Jordan |
| 6. Adrian Fierros, Katy | 215-pounds |
| 126-pounds | 4. Dimitrios Katsigiannis, Katy |
| 4. Carlos Gonzalez Jr., Paetow | 285-pounds |
| 132-pounds | 5. Shane Trotter, Katy |
| 1. Jackson Herman, Cinco Ranch | |
| 138-pounds | GIRLS |
| 1. Garrett McChesney, Jordan | 114-pounds |
| 144-pounds | 4. Nevada Daniels, Cinco Ranch |
| 5. Noah Santos, Jordan | 6. Emily Melhem, Taylor |
| 150-pounds | 132-pounds |
| 4. Vince Echavarry, Cinco Ranch | 5. Noelle Adams, Katy |
| 165-pounds | 152-pounds |
| 2. Matteo Nikolov, Tompkins | 4. Emma Dutcher, Mayde Creek |
| 175-pounds | 235-pounds |
| 3. Juan Lizama, Morton Ranch | 6. Abby Fonseca, Katy |

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NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 3123 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, AMENDING ARTICLE 5.04 "FIRE CODES" OF CHAPTER 5 "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION", OF THE CITY OF KATY CODE OF ORDINANCES (THE "CODE") BY REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTIONS 5.04.001, 5.04.002, AND 5.04.003 OF THE CODE TO REFLECT THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (THE "IFC"), ADOPTION OF LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE IFC, ADOPTION OF AMENDED APPENDICES TO THE IFC, AND THE REPEAL OF THE 2015 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND, PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Sale to be held ONLINE at storagetreasures.com

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal. Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is accepting Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals for concrete pavement work located at Fire Station 3. The Proposal is due no later than Tuesday, March 12th at 2:00 p.m. at Martinez Architects, LP 900 Rockmead, Suite 250, Kingwood, TX 77339. The Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal will be utilized pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 775, Texas Health & Safety Code and Ch. 2269, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code. For additional information regarding this project, please contact Mr. Ricardo Martinez (ricardom@martinez-architects.com, 281-800-1023). Request for Proposals may be reviewed or requested from Martinez Architects, made available from Associated General Contractors, McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge, Virtual Builders Exchange.

Online bid-opening link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83915141463>
Meeting ID: 839 1514 1463

SUBSCRIBE! 281-391-3141

Notice to Bidders

Brookshire-Katy Drainage District ("Owner") requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for the construction of a new Administrative Building located at 1111 Kenney Street (on the north-west corner of Fourth Street and Kenney Street) in the City of Brookshire, Texas.

Bid Due Date:
Monday, March 25, 2024, at 2:30pm (Bids submitted after 2:30pm will not be accepted). Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time, but not awarded at that time. Interested parties may attend.

Bid will be received at the following Location:
Brookshire-Katy Drainage District
1111 Kenney Street
Brookshire, Texas 77423

Pre-Bid Conference:
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 2:30pm at the:
Brookshire-Katy Drainage District
1111 Kenney Street
Brookshire, Texas 77423

Scope of Work:
The Project consists of construction of the following:

New free-standing 6,368 square foot Administration Building and associated site infrastructure upgrades to support the new building including, but not limited to selective demolition, paved parking and drives, on-site utilities, and detention pond.

Evaluation Criteria:
The contract will be awarded to the most qualified General Contractor based on the bidder who provides the best value for the Owner (Brookshire-Katy Drainage District). In determining the best value for the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District, the agency may consider the following weighted criteria:

- (1) the purchase price (30%);
- (2) the reputation of the bidder (15%);
- (3) the quality of the bidder's goods or services (10%);
- (4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District's needs (10%);
- (5) the bidder's past relationship with the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District (5%);
- (6) the impact on the ability of the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District to comply with laws and rules relating to contracting with historically under-utilized businesses and non-profit organizations employing persons with disabilities (5%);
- (7) the total long-term cost to the municipality to acquire the bidder's goods or services (5%); and
- (8) the completeness of the bid (20%).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner (Brookshire-Katy Drainage District) reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of 90 calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Bid and Bond Requirements:
Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner. A completed Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties must accompany the bid.

Attention: Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2252.908, unless you are a publicly traded entity or a wholly owned subsidiary of same, you must be able to provide Brookshire-Katy Drainage District with printed and signed copies of a completed disclosure of interested parties form (Form 1295) and a certificate of filing at the time of the District's execution of the contract. Failure to do so will result in the District's inability to execute the contract. To complete the disclosure of interested parties form, or for further information, please visit the Texas Ethics Commission's website at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

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

Bid Documents:
Plans and specifications will be available on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>. Bidders must register on the website in order to view or download plans and specifications for this project. There is no charge to register and view or download the documents.

KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 15 Puzzle Answers

	M	A	F	A	S	A	P	O	R	
A	S	Y	L	U	M	C	I	R	R	U
R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	O	R
A	D	C			B	I	B	S	I	R
P	E	R		R	A	B	B	I	S	A
R	B	E		P	E	S	Y	A	M	T
			T	U	R	F		N	O	S
L	H	A	S	A				A	R	O
E	A	R	T	H	Y		A	N	O	N
S	R	I	A	A	R	R	M	S	A	R
L	E	A	H		P	A	R	E	U	L
E	L	L	A	S		P	I	N		I
Y	I		N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L
P	E	N	T	A	D	E	R	A	S	E
	B	O	O	B	S		T	E	R	M

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

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

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

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

Please submit one (1) original, four (4) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may 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, 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.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed electronic bids will be received electronically received on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com) until **2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, March 7, 2024**, and then an Apparent Low Bidders will be automatically generated and posted online for **Construction of Water, Sanitary and Paving Improvements for Lakeview Section 5** for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 34A (CI Job No. 2020046-PH2-DS-109). The Site of the work is Northeast of the intersection of FM 362 and Hebert Rd, in Waller County, Texas. A voluntary pre-bid conference call will be held at **2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, February 29, 2024**. All prospective bidders are invited to attend by calling 210-926-0892 and use the Conference ID: 625 257 908#. Bidding documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website. Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

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, March 5, 2024. Response shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm(s) in a contract. Complete Submittal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, Waller County Joe Kuciemba Annex, 425 FM 1488, Suite 119, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFQ Project Number: 240207-26 for Mobility Bond Program Manager. Submittals will be opened on March 6, 2024 in the Waller County Commissioners' Court meeting.

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

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SPARTANS

from page B1

intensity on defense when we needed to and all of them stepped up and made plays during the game. It's not always going to be a perfect game, but we found a way."

Seven Lakes was fueled by their experience in the playoffs last year, where they made the playoffs but were unable to get past the area round. They made sure not to let that happen a second year in a row and dominated from early on, building a 25-9 lead in the first quarter and stretching it to 42-25 by the end of the first half.

"We wanted this so badly," said Seven Lakes sophomore Madison Carlton. "Last year, getting to this point and losing really hurt and it sucked. This year the motivation is just so strong. We knew we couldn't come out and play badly today. This is just a really exciting team to be a part of."

Justice and Madison Carlton led the way for Seven Lakes with both scoring 24 points, while Shreya Jategaonkar had 15 and both Caitlyn Quintero and Gracie Hobin had six. Jategaonkar had three threes in the game and it opened things up even more for the Carlton sisters, with Jersey Village having to stretch away from the paint opening things up on the inside.

"People feel like we aren't a team that hits three pointers, so it opens

things up for us so much when we are hitting them and we have players who can," Carlton said. "It ruins teams' whole gameplan for us and it gets everyone on the team excited. I love it so much when we are hitting threes and like that."

With the win, the Spartans are back in the regional semifinals for the second time in three seasons, and they are ready for the challenge of trying to advance further and get to state.

"The goal all season for this group has been to make it to San Antonio," Watson said. "All along that's been what they've all wanted and to get to that goal we have to little milestones. I can tell in their eyes that they want this, every day in practice they bring it so we just have to keep on pushing."

Class 6A Region III Area Round

SEVEN LAKES 89, JERSEY VILLAGE 57

Points: (SL) Justice Carlton 24, Madison Carlton 24, Shreya Jategaonkar 15, Caitlyn Quintero 6, Gracie Hobin 6, Aisha Eltobgy 3, Victoria Hudspeth 2; (JV) Jayla Lewis 23, Ellie Roden 12, Chloe Barrientes 8, Niya Whiting 3Brooke Maxwell 2, Miyah Patton 2;

Halftime: Seven Lakes 42-25; 3-Pointers: (SL) Jategaonkar 3; (JV) Roden, Whiting; Records: (SL) 29-8; (JV) 21-15;



TYLER TYRE

Shreya Jategaonkar shoots a 3-pointer during Friday's game between Seven Lakes and Jersey Village at Bridgeland High School.

PLAYOFFS

from page B1

broke things open in the third quarter, outscoring Ridge Point 28-8 to take a 54-35 lead into the final quarter where they cruised to the win. Seven Lakes advances to the area round for the third straight season and will face Cy-Creek in the area round time and date to be determined

Jordan overcame the second seed Elkins in the area round, where they were locked in a defensive battle for a game that wasn't decided until the final whistle with the Warriors winning 36-30. Jordan took an 8-6 lead after the first quarter but Elkins used a strong second quarter to come back and go into the half up 19-13. Jordan turned things around in the third quarter and reclaimed a 26-23 lead before holding on by outscoring Elkins 10-7 in the final quarter. The Warriors advance to play Cy-Fair in the area round, time and date to be determined.

Paetow was unable to keep up with Fort Bend Travis in its first round matchup, falling 74-63. The second seeded Panthers fell behind 27-24 and could never make up the deficit, keeping things close but not being able to reclaim the lead as Paetow's season came to an end in the bi-district round.

Katy hung tough with Clements but was not able to stay with the No. 5 ranked Rangers, with Clements exploding in the second half to earn the win 67-42. The game was tied after one quarter at 11 and Clements only led 30-26 at half, but Clements outscored Katy 21-8 in the third quarter to open up a 51-34 lead which the Tigers were unable to come back from.



PHOTO BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Nasir Price shoots a stepback 3-pointer during a game between Seven Lakes and Jordan at the Jordan gym.

BASKETBALL

from page B1

28 points, while Justice Carlton had 24 and Shreya Jategaonkar had 11 points.

"It's the kids, they deserve all the credit here and they've been amazing all year," said Seven Lakes head coach Doug Watson. "They bought into us and they've played really hard. They play so well together and we've had contributions from a number of different girls. That's what makes us a formidable opponent is having multiple different options."

It was a close game from the opening tip to the final whistle. Seven Lakes led 21-20 after the first quarter but Austin came back to take a 40-34 lead at half. The Spartans made adjustments

at the half though and it paid dividends. Seven lakes slowed the tempo in the second half and switched from their normal full-court trap to half court man-to-man and it took away opportunities on the fast break and from the 3-point line for Austin. The result was Seven Lakes going up by 53-48 at the end of the third quarter and holding on for the win.

"Austin can really shoot the three, so we just thought it would be better to go to the half court to help us not lose those three point shooters. The girls did a great job of it in the second half — they defended, kept their hands up and it was a lot better. We got some rebounds as well

and I think it helped us."

It's been quite the run for the Spartans, who are now winners of 22 straight and continue to reach new heights. Now the task is to get further than the team got back in 2022, when they also reached the regional tournament. This Spartans team isn't satisfied — they want to reach the regional final and make it to San Antonio. Seven Lakes next test will be against Summer Creek, the No. 3 ranked team in the state. The two will play 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Campbell Center as both try to keep their seasons going.

"No matter who we play, if we get the ball inside we're going to be good," said Madison Carlton.

"We can play with anybody, it doesn't matter who they have on us. We just have to keep our determination and not let anyone keep us from playing our game."

Class 6A-Region III Quarterfinals

SEVEN LAKES 81, FORT BEND AUSTIN, 74

Points: (SL) Madison Carlton 30, Justice Carlton 25, Shreya Jategaonkar 11, Kimora Lopez 8, Lenore Hudspeth 2, Dulce Franco 2, Gracie Hobin 2; (A) Shun'Teria Anumele 23, Andrea Sturdivant 15, Crystal Schultz 13, Pfeiffer Greene 4, Aminah Dixon 4;

Halftime: Austin 40-34; Records: (SL) 30-8, (A) 32-3;



March 2, 2024

12 PM to 3 PM




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