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THE YEAR

SPORTS | A8

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

School board members (left to right) Adrian Rocha, board president Scott Hartman, board secretary Cori Vahalik and trustee Elton Foster join Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner (far right) in receiving commemorative shovels at Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony for the district's new elementary school. The campus, located at 1254 Bartlett Road in the Sunterra subdivision, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2025.

Royal ISD breaks ground for new elementary school in Sunterra

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Tuesday was a great day for Royal Independent School District, as district officials, vendors and the community gathered for the

groundbreaking ceremony for the district's second elementary school. The new campus – as yet unnamed – is slated to open in the fall of 2025 with a capacity of 800 students, serving about 2000 homes on the east side of the district. The

110,000 square foot facility at 1254 Bartlett Road will feature technology upgrades as the district rolls out improved technology for all campuses next year.

See **SUNTERRA**, page A3

Massage establishment owner agrees to close business after TDLR suspects human trafficking

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The owner of a massage establishment on the North Katy-Cypress area border that was closed

in early July by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) for suspected human trafficking has agreed to close the massage establishment and

to permanently quit the massage industry. The information came in a July 23 press release from TDLR.

See **MESSAGE**, page A3

KISD approves naming of Don Clayton Field House at CRHS

Board also approves property purchase for next new junior high

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

In a long and often contentious meeting Monday night, Katy ISD's board of trustees met in the district board room at 6301 S. Stadium Lane to honor a local educator, approve property purchase for a new junior high school and receive updates on the district's budget and on the district-wide program to improve student attendance.

Following public comments from a dozen speakers on various topics, the board prepared to go into closed session but at the suggestion of trustee Rebecca Fox, the board pulled an agenda item from the consent agenda and voted to unanimously approve the naming of the field house at Cinco

Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy, for former athletic director Don Clayton. In public comments former Cinco player James Radcliffe praised Clayton as the "winningest coach," while local mom Anne Russey questioned the necessity of spending \$13,000.00 on the naming project at a time when the district is experiencing a budget deficit; she also expressed concern that many other naming proposals were pending, which, if approved, would continue to add to the district's deficit.

Immediately after that action the board went into closed for about an hour and a half, conducting the superintendent's quarterly evaluation and approving the purchase of property for a new junior high. The board did not comment or take action on the evaluation of current superintendent Ken Gregorski following the return to the open meeting.

In open session, board members unanimously approved the purchase of

See **SCHOOLS**, page A3

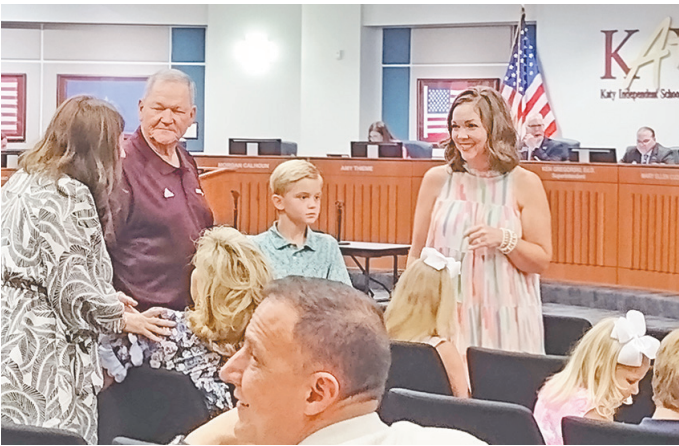


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Don Clayton (second from left) visits with friends and family prior to the start of Monday night's school board meeting at the Education Support Complex at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, where trustees voted to approve the naming of the field house at Cinco Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy, for Clayton, the school's former athletic director. Clayton said he spent 31 of his 38 years in education in Katy ISD.

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Briones sets 'virtual listening tour' for August 15

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Commissioner Lesley Briones, Harris County Precinct 4, will host a virtual listening tour on August 15 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and invites her constituents to join in in order to share their thoughts and concerns as well as to stay informed about progress being made in the precinct.

RSVP for the Zoom meeting at <https://bit.ly/VLT24Meta>.

Since taking office, Briones has conducted a series of in-person "listening tours," including several in the Katy area. "Your voice matters," said Briones in a Facebook post.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones will conduct a virtual "listening tour" via Zoom on August 15. The commissioners, whose precinct includes much of the unincorporated Katy area in Harris County, is shown speaking at an in-person listening tour held at the Katy campus of Houston Community College, 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy in January.

Gustafson receives national recognition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Amber Gustafson has been named a 2024 America's Retail Champion by the National Retail Federation, according to a July 12 press release from the local jeweler. Now in its seventh year, the program honors small retailers from across the country who speak out on public policy debates affecting the retail industry at the national, state and local levels.

Retailers were nominated by state retail associations and their peers based on engagement in public policy discussions. Forty-four retailers from 27 different states were selected as champions for the program and five were named as finalists. One small retailer will be named the 2024 America's Retail Champion

See **RECOGNITION**, page A3



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Prasek’s Family Smokehouse hosts 50th anniversary celebration

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Prasek’s Family Smokehouse is buzzing with excitement as they gear up for a grand celebration at the Sealy location on Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10. Festivities begin at 2949 SW I-10 Frontage Road in Sealy at 8 a.m. on August 9, continuing through 8 p.m. that night and resuming from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 10. The event celebrates a double milestone – marking not only seven successful years of the Sealy branch but also the golden anniversary of 50 years for the brand.

Visitors can expect a day filled with exclusive discounts, music, vendors and fun activities to keep everyone entertained, including interactive games, live entertainment and delicious food and drinks. Vendors include Turtlebox, Hein’s Salsa, Fredericksburg Farms, Festa Winery and Southern Select Nut Company. On Friday enjoy a trackless train, stilt walkers, a magician, a photo booth, a hula hoop girl, giant outdoor games, and an ice cream sandwich bar, in addition to giveaways and exclusive discounts. Saturday will feature a cornhole

tournament, balloon artist and face painting as well as the photo booth and ice cream sandwich bar. To register for the cornhole tournament, contact Clarke Moffitt at clarke@praseks.com. The entry fee for a two-person team is \$40.00, which will be matched by Prasek’s to donate to the local Casa for Kids of South Central Texas. Mike and Betty Jo Prasek purchased Hillje Grocery on October 1, 1974, a dream come true for the couple, according to the company’s website. To this day, Mike and Betty Jo’s kids and grandkids now run the show, still going

strong over four decades later. This commitment has led to unimaginable growth from those first days back in the home kitchen. From a small-town grocery begun back in the ’70s., Prasek’s has become a major player in the Texas world of roadside superstores, now with two locations, each offering over 100 smoked meat items, more than 100 different fresh-baked delicacies, a specialty meat market, a dine-in restaurant, specialty food items, ice cream shop, clothing selection and vast array of outdoor fixtures and curated gifts. The Prasek’s brand has also expanded

into other growth areas beyond retail. The popularity of their smoked meat products facilitated demand across the region, leading to the wholesale distribution division, including Prasek’s own label of smoked sausages and jerky now sold around the country. Prasek’s is also one of Texas’s leading wild game processors known to hunters far and wide. As product and service demand grew via expanding influence and the popular mall-order catalog, the family met the challenge by building Prasek’s own major meat processing facility in El Campo, Texas.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cinco Ranch Branch Library hosts plant swap on August 3

Fort Bend County Libraries’ Cinco Ranch Branch Library will have a Plant Swap on Saturday, August 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy. Gardeners are encouraged to bring any whole plants, seeds, or bare-root cuttings/clippings that they would like to swap with others. Be prepared to chat, trade, and learn about new and different plants. No plants for sale – just trade. This is an excellent way for plant owners to gather and swap plants and to learn about different varieties from other gardeners. Plants brought to the event must be pest-free. No monetary exchanges/transactions may be completed within the library; this event is strictly for trading plants. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, see Fort Bend County Libraries’ website at fortbend.lib.tx.us.

Harris County Precinct 4 announces August events at John Paul Landing Park

The August event calendar for the John Paul Landing Park Environmental Center at 9055 Katy Hockley Road in Cypress has been released by Harris County Precinct 4. A selection of events includes:

- August 8 at 11 a.m.: Discovery Days with the Coastal Prairie Conservancy. Join

the Discovery Days summer series for the opportunity to be up close and personal with local wildlife. From soaring birds to slithering snakes, the program is meant to deepen understanding of and appreciation for nature.

- August 9 at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon: Discovery Days with Wild Bird Adventures. An up-close experience with birds of prey.
- August 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Mosquitoes in Science Series. Hear observations made by participants and fellow data collectors of the series.
- August 15 at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon: Discovery Days with Houston Audubon. Birding art combines science and creativity with anatomy,, feather groups and field marks.
- August 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m; An Introduction to Cyanotype. Learn nature photography without cameras in the printing technique discovered in 1842. Collect botanical items, lay them on light-sensitive paper you’ll create, then expose it to sunlight to produce ethereal Prussian blue images. For additional events, or for more information, go to cp4.harriscountytexas.gov/jpl or call 713-274-3131.

It’s Veterans Trivia Night at the Elks Lodge on August 9

Katy Elks Lodge 2628 welcomes the community to Veterans Trivia Night on August 9 at 7:30 p.m. There is a \$5 per person

entry fee and four-person teams. The event also features a 50/50 drawing and dinner (hamburgers and hotdogs with chips may be purchased for \$6.00). Proceeds benefit the Katy Elks Lodge 2628 Veterans Program. The lodge is located at 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy.

New Katy chapter of The Senior Estate Concierge® to meet August 15

The newly formed West Chapter of the Senior Estate Concierge® will meet on August 15 at 9 a.m. at Cinco Ranch Alzheimer’s Care, 3206 S Fry Rd. The group is made up of businesses who offer trusted services to seniors. For more information, please contact Gail Stolzenburg at gail@seniorestateconcierge.com or 281-493-1955.

KAEDC to present Stan Stanley awards on August 20

The Katy Economic Development Council will announce the prestigious Stan Stanley awards on August 20 at a breakfast meeting at the Embassy Suites at 16435 Katy Freeway in Houston. Networking begins at 8 a.m., followed by the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The annual awards recognize two individuals who make exemplary contributions to the Katy community and to economic growth. The “Volunteer of the Year” award honors a dedicated volunteer who has selflessly served the Katy community or eco-

nomie development initiatives, demonstrating leadership, commitment and significant achievements. The “Elected Official of the Year” recognizes an elected leader who has displayed outstanding service in public authority roles and contributed significantly to economic and community development projects, showcasing outstanding leadership and notable achievements. To reserve your seat, please contact Susan Dixon at sdixon@katyedc.org or call the KAEDC at 281-396-2200.

Highway 36A Coalition hosts luncheon on August 20

Please join the Highway 36A Coalition on August 20 at 11:30 a.m. to hear from Carroll Robinson with TEX-21 and Phyllis Saathoff with Port Freeport. Carroll G. Robinson is an Associate Professor of Public Administration and Political Science at Texas Southern University’s Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs. He will speak on TEX-21, a 20+ year old collective, grassroots effort to improve the transportation infrastructure in the States of Texas and Oklahoma. Phyllis Saathoff, CEO of Port Freeport will give an overview of all the progress that is happening at the port. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston Energy Corridor at 11730 Katy Freeway, Houston. For more information or to register, contact Debbie Thelin at the Highway 36A Coalition at debbie@36acoalition.org or 281-732-7118.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. “Sleepless In Seattle” actress Ryan

4. One of Santa’s reindeer

10. Before the present

11. Type of butter

12. Location of White House

14. Motion

15. Tree part

16. Regions around the North Pole

18. Fits on a boat’s gunwale

22. Discuss after it’s happened

23. Milk substitute for coffee

24. Describes one who believes in supreme being

26. Equally

27. Famed director Forman

28. Popular apartment style

30. British School

31. Advanced degree

34. Order of architecture

36. Investment account (abbr.)

37. Snakelike fishes

39. Children’s tale bear

40. Norse personification of old age

41. Atomic #58

42. Moving your head

48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner

50. Frankfurter

51. Small, seedless raisin

52. Device in papermaking machine

53. Go

54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)

55. “Westworld” actor Harris

56. Saturated with salt

58. Marry

59. Report on

60. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Rays

2. Self-centered person

3. One you look after

4. Prosecutor

5. Portion

6. Speaks ill of

7. Formal system for computer programs

8. To make angry

9. Rural delivery

12. Group of languages

13. Large First Nations group

17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy

19. Excludes

20. Body cavity of a metazoan

21. Swedish monetary unit

25. Works with

29. Partner to “to”

31. Rewards (archaic)

32. One of Caroline Islands

33. Type of alcohol

35. Eat a lot

38. Nuns

41. Dog

43. Become more serious

44. Choose

45. Newspapers use it

46. World’s longest river

47. Commanded to go faster

49. Cabs

56. Mr. T’s “A-Team” character

57. Document signed (abbr.)

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Tucked away in a strip center north of the intersection of North Fry Road and FM 529, Gen Spa was closed in early July by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) for suspected human trafficking.

MESSAGE

from page A1

TDLR had issued a six-month emergency closure order on July 1 against Changjiang Zhong d/b/a Gen Spa (7014 Fry Road, Suite 110) just north of FM 529 in Cypress. Without admitting or denying TDLR's allegations about human trafficking, Zhong signed a settlement agreement on July 17, 2024, agreeing to a permanent license revocation for two massage establishments licensed at the location, as well as a lifelong ban on owning or managing any massage establishments in Texas.

It was the first emergency closure ordered by TDLR under authority granted by House Bill 3579, authored by Rep. Ben Bumgarner and sponsored by Sen. Phil King, and passed by the 88th Texas Legislature.

In mid-May, a TDLR inspector performed a routine inspection of the establishment located at 7014 Fry Road, Suite 110, in Cypress. Once the inspector managed to gain access to the establishment, they noted numerous potential indicators of possible human trafficking, including:

- An ATM machine in the lobby
- Advertisements showing the establishment is open 24 hours

- Lingerie and high heeled shoes in the laundry area
- Unlicensed employees providing massages
- Bedding and other items that showed employees were living in the establishment

In addition, TDLR had previously revoked Zhong's massage therapist license, as well as an establishment license for a different location. He still owes \$21,000 in administrative penalties from the previous violations.

This is the second emergency closure of a massage establishment that TDLR has ordered in the past six weeks. The agency was granted the authority to order an emergency closure through House Bill 3579, which went into effect on Sept. 1, 2023, TDLR's executive director can issue an emergency order halting the operation of any massage establishment if law enforcement or TDLR believes human trafficking is occurring at the establishment.

"We appreciate the Texas Legislature for providing this tool that will help us shut down massage establishments that are endangering their employees and, potentially, their customers. TDLR will continue to

defend vulnerable people who may be trafficked," said Courtney Arbour, TDLR executive director.

Anyone who suspects human trafficking is occurring can contact the National Hotline for Human Trafficking at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733). If the situation is an emergency or you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911 and alert the authorities.

You can also file a complaint on a TDLR-regulated business that you suspect may be participating in human trafficking by going to tldr.texas.gov/complaints/.

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 38 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

RECOGNITION

from page A1

during NRF's 2024 Retail Advocates Summit, the retail industry's premier advocacy event, on July 25 in Washington, D.C. The overwhelming majority of retailers are small businesses, with more than 98 percent of all retail companies employing fewer than 50 people.

About Amber Gustafson

Amber Gustafson is a master jeweler with 45 years of experience, renowned for her exquisite craftsmanship and innovative designs. She is the founder and owner of Amber's Designs Fine Jewelry, located at 722 Pin Oak Rd, Suite 102 in Katy. Gustafson's exceptional talent has earned her numerous awards, solidifying her reputation as a leading figure in the jewelry industry.

Under her leadership, Amber's Designs Fine Jewelry has grown into a thriving business, employing over 18 skilled professionals. Gustafson is currently expanding her business by building her own standalone facility.

Her influence extends beyond her business. Gustafson has served on several prestigious boards, including:

- President of the Katy Business Association
- Chair of the Texas Retailers Association
- Currently, President of the Texas Jewelers Association

For more information, please visit ambersdesigns.com or contact us at 281 391-6333.

SUNTERRA

from page A1

A principal has not yet been selected, said RISD Superintendent Rick Kershner, but an announcement is expected in January 2025.

"Today is a monumental day in RISD history," said Kershner in welcoming attendees. "It will begin a new place for today's world, tomorrow's world and beyond." The school will be a hub for the community, he added.

The district, which currently has an enrollment of about 2,800 students, is poised on the brink of exponential growth. Kershner said that there were 17 subdivisions now under construction in the district, with over 24,000 homes planned, bringing an expected increase in enrollment of about 14,000 new students in the next few years. Kershner added that the district is working with PASA (Population and Survey Analysts) to obtain updated demographic projections for the district and that their report is due in August.

"I couldn't be more excited," said Kershner.

Funding for the campus was made possible by the passage of a bond issue in May 2023, which was finally passed after three failed attempts. At that time voters approved Proposition A, for \$138,069,530. It covered safety and security measures, new construction, renovations and remodeling, upgrading existing facilities and improving the district's technology infrastructure.

SCHOOLS

from page A1

property for a new junior high school site. No details on the property were disclosed but a district spokesperson confirmed that the property was in the northwest area of the district which is experiencing rapid enrollment growth.

Board members also heard a scheduled update on the district's 2024-2025 budget from KISD's chief financial officer, Chris Smith. Smith said the objectives for the budget year were to maintain a balanced budget, maintain a competitive compensation plan, maintain the health plan, put a high priority on staff and student safety, to open Freeman High School and Nelson Junior High School and to prepare for the opening of two new elementary schools. Smith listed favorable changes affecting the budget as higher-than-expected interest income, higher-than-expected property value audits, career and technology state funding, and growth in average daily

attendance (ADA), which is used to calculate state funding received by the district. The improvement in attendance brought in an additional \$4.7 million in state funding, Smith said. Smith listed as unfavorable changes the cost of health insurance, the continued growth in housing starts and resulting growth in enrollment, inflation, stagnant state revenue and rising disaster expenses.

Smith also asked the board to approve language for a public notice to be published on August 8 which will determine the tax rate that will be adopted for the coming year. He said that the district has the option of adding a one-time "disaster penny" to the tax rate to help recoup costs from the three weather events that have affected the district this year. He listed the winter freeze, which caused broken pipes at some facilities; the May "derecho" storm and Hurricane Beryl in early July. If approved, this "disaster penny" would give the district

over \$5 million in additional funds which would offset the cost of repairs, lost attendance days and lost staff time. Smith said that if the "disaster penny" were added to the published rate, the board could always reduce the actual tax rate to be approved at the August board meeting, and not pass the "disaster penny" on to taxpayers. However, Smith said, the board could not increase the tax rate once the notice has been published. Board president Victor Perez polled the board members for their feedback, and the eventual consensus was not to add the "disaster penny" to the tax rate published in the upcoming public notice.

Jamey Hynds, assistant superintendent of finance and Ronnie Edwards, assistant superintendent for school leadership and support, presented a report on the district's student attendance initiative called "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow" which was implemented in the 2023-2024

school year. Campuses used a variety of incentives to improve attendance, including improved communication with parents and rewards for students with improved attendance such as recess and popsicles, pep rallies, drawings for prizes donated by local businesses and other ideas. The goal of the district-wide program was to increase average daily attendance by 0.5 percent; the pair said that the program exceeded that goal, coming in at a 0.6 percent increase, resulting in 570 more students in class each day. The program distributed \$2,200,000 in incentives to campuses and brought in an additional \$4,700,000 in funding from the state's per-student allotment. The duo said that the purpose of the program was not to increase district funding but instead to focus on positive student outcomes. The biggest gains in attendance came at the secondary campuses, with all junior highs and high schools achieving their goals. The successful

program was highlighted in Lone Star Magazine published by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), said trustee Fox, and board Vice President Amy Thieme said that other districts are contacting KISD for information about the program.

Dr. Christine Caskey, chief academic officer for the district, presented the quarterly academic report to the board, highlighting a need for the district to

achieve improvement in math.

The board also bickered at length over membership in TASB (Texas Association of School Boards), board member training classes and committee assignments before adjourning.

The next meetings of the school board will be held in August:

- Board work study meeting, August 19
- Regular board meeting, August 26



COMING
AUGUST 29th!

FALL FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2024

from
Katy Times

Is there anything more exciting than FOOTBALL in KATY, TEXAS?

Join us as we take a look at the upcoming high school football season for Katy ISD – including a preview of the new Freeman High School program. See highlights from Royal ISD as well as from local private schools. In the special section we'll take a look at the exciting new players for each team – whether it's from Katy, Cinco Ranch, Seven Lakes, Taylor, Tompkins, Morton Ranch, Mayde Creek, Paetow, Jordan, Freeman or Royal high schools. We'll also talk about who's coming back, what the coaches' goals are for the season and how they are working to maintain or improve their programs. It's going to be an exciting fall season in 2024 and your ad in the Katy Times can help us support local athletes as they work hard to make our communities proud.

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Carriage Inn centenarian celebrates 105th birthday

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

For nearly 20 years, the sound of Rosa Lee Hankey’s piano playing has delighted residents, staff and guests of Carriage Inn senior living community. Hankey has lived at Carriage Inn - Katy since 2006 and was one of the very first residents to settle into one of the community’s independent living cottages but was recently recognized for more than just her musical talents and longevity. On June 16, Hankey reached another impressive milestone – her 105th birthday.

The team at Carriage Inn coordinated a celebration in Hankey’s honor and prepared a beautiful slideshow of images, spanning over ten decades of her life, to show at the event. Décor was sponsored with the help of Fairmont Hospice and birthday cake and best wishes were shared with residents, staff, and guests. Hankey’s family members joined her for the occasion, which also featured a solo piano performance by the centenarian.

“Celebrating and planning Rosa Lee’s 105th birthday was an extraordinary privilege,” said Rebecca Borrello, Director of

“Celebrating and planning Rosa Lee’s 105th birthday was an extraordinary privilege. This milestone event was a testament to a life richly lived, filled with wisdom, love, and countless memories.”
— REBECCA BORRELLO, Director of Sales and Marketing for Carriage Inn

Sales and Marketing for Carriage Inn. “This milestone event was a testament to a life richly lived, filled with wisdom, love, and countless memories.”

Executive Director Tony Rivas shared a birthday wish on behalf of the entire Carriage Inn family. “Congratulations, Rosa Lee, and best wishes for another fabulous year,” said Rivas. “We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone with you and wish you the happiest of birthdays.”

Hankey was born in Kenefic, Oklahoma, and attended Southeastern State University. She worked as a language arts teacher and as a farmer/rancher with her husband, whom she met in high school. She was the mother to one daughter, Susan, who attended the birthday celebration. When Hankey was asked how she enjoyed

the event, her response was one of gratitude.

“It was one of the best days of my life!” Hankey said.

After 105 years, that’s saying a lot.

About Carriage Inn

Carriage Inn Katy, located at 1400 Katy-Flewellen Road, Katy, offers independent living, assisted living, and memory care options for older adults. For more information about senior living options and life at Carriage Inn Katy, visit cardinalbay.org or contact Tony Rivas at 281-392-2800 or trivas@cardinalbay.org. Locally owned, Carriage Inn is a Cardinal Bay community managed by The Long Hill Company, a subsidiary of United Methodist Homes, a non-profit senior living provider organization with a 150-year history of caring.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIAGE INN

Rosa Lee Hankey (center) is pictured with her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and John Turner, at the celebration of her 105th birthday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BALLARD HOUSE

Ballard House Naomi Williams, Community Outreach Coordinator (left) and Executive Director David Brown (center) visit with Houston Life host Lauren Kelly (second from left) as they prepare to film a segment for the TV show on July 17 at The Ballard House, 21421 Cinco Park Rd. in Katy.

Channel 2 films at The Ballard House in recognition of 100,000-night milestone

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Houston Life broadcasted live at The Ballard House, 21421 Cinco Park Rd. in Katy, on July 17 to spread the word on non-profit organization’s mission and upcoming milestone of providing 100,000 nights of no-cost temporary housing for patients traveling to the Houston area for medical treatment. Houston Life is carried on Houston’s NBC affiliate, Click2Houston (Channel 2).

The recorded segment from Houston Life may be viewed at <https://www.click2houston.com/houston-life/2024/07/17/the-ballard-house-katy-celebrating-milestone-this-summer-100000-nights-of-no-cost-housing/>

Ballard House, which relies solely on contributions from individuals and corporations, is on a mission

to raise \$100 contributions in support of the 100,000 nights achievement. To donate, go to <https://www.dptext.org/dpmeter/users/gifts/1260>. Other ways to help include volunteering time during scheduled workdays to assist with daily operations, maintenance, and events, or purchasing something they need off of their Amazon wishlist at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/293067874628L/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex.

According to the Ballard House’s website, the organization started in 2006, after Keller Williams Premier Realty in Katy responded to a challenge from the CEO, Mo Anderson, to “leave a legacy.” Keller Williams Premier Realty responded by founding Cinco Charities, Inc., aiming to provide temporary housing for patients and caregivers visiting the Katy/West Houston area for medical treatments.

While working towards their ultimate goal of a free-of-charge hospitality house for patients, Cinco Charities initially housed families in nearby hotels through the support of generous sponsors and friends at fundraising events.

In 2011, cancer patient Erin Ballard learned about Cinco Charities through her oncologist, Dr. Sunil Patel at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Katy. Inspired, she donated one of her rental properties, named Erin’s House, to expand Cinco Charities’ outreach. Touched by Cinco Charities’ mission, Monty Ballard established The Ballard Foundation to support the construction of their hospitality house in Katy. In December 2013, The Ballard House, a 20,000-square-foot facility on three acres, officially opened, welcoming families from around the world.

Katy native holds book signing for first book in werewolf trilogy

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Lee Payne, who grew up in Katy and graduated from Katy High School in 1985, held a book signing at Midway BBQ, 6025 Highway Blvd. in Katy, on Saturday, July 27. Now a professor of political science at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Payne’s first novel, “The Pack” was published on June 8, 2024.

Payne’s book – the first of a werewolf trilogy -- is set in the Piney Woods of East Texas, which he says is “a good place for werewolves.” He was inspired to write the book in December 2015 after a drive home down a dark country road when he saw a creature’s eyes glittering in the dark. By the time he got home, Payne said, he had already written chapter one in his head. The book sat for a while until the summer of 2016 when Payne began working from home, teaching an online class, and then Payne picked up the manuscript again and worked on it through 2017.

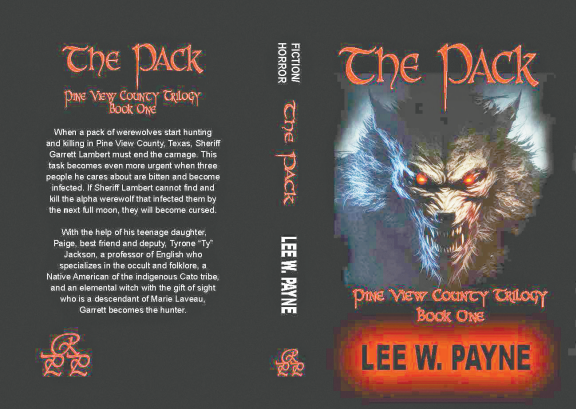
Payne said that it took six years to find a publisher; he was determined not to self-publish, he said, because he said that he wanted validation that the book was “good enough.” He is working with Rogue Phoenix Press, which bills itself as an ebook publisher in business since 2008.

The second book in the series is called “The Cloud,” and is due out next summer. The third book – “The Gathering” – involves a coven of witches.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy native Lee Payne (right), now a professor of political science at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, signs a copy of the first book in his werewolf trilogy for friend Malcolm LeBlanc (left). The book signing took place Saturday, July 27, at Midway BBQ at 6025 Highway Blvd. in Katy.



Payne’s first brush with publishing was a job with the Katy Times when he was 14. On Saturdays, he said, he would get the bundles of newspapers ready for the carriers to pick up for delivery. “It was my first paycheck job,” said Payne.

Payne has succeeded as a professor and author despite challenges. He broke his neck after a dive into a rice well and was left a quadriplegic. He said that the first three years afterward were hard, but

he became interested in political speech writing. At 32 he went back to school, double-majoring in political science and communication, obtaining a degree from SFA in 2003, a masters from the University of Houston in 2006, and a PhD from UH in 2008. He returned to SFA to teach, starting as an adjunct professor and becoming a full professor after 15 years.

“I feel lucky to be at SFA,” he said.

Katy Times

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TRIBUTE

Russel (Rusty) Windham

Russel Windham, known as Rusty to those who loved him, died peacefully on Friday, July 26 in Hattiesburg, MS at the age of 76.

A visitation was held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 29, at Baldwin-Lee Funeral Home in Pearl, MS. Funeral services were Tuesday, July 30, at the Pavilion at Lakewood Cemetery in Jackson, MS.

He is survived by his brother Rod, his sisters Becky and Kaye, his daughter Abbey and son-in-law Shawn, and his two granddaughters Lily and Chloe, both of whom he adored more than anything. He is also survived by hundreds, if not thousands, of students whose lives he touched over many years as an English teacher.

Rusty was an avid reader and loved baseball. Those that knew him would have no trouble picturing him on a couch in front of a Red Sox game on the TV, completing a crossword, occasionally dropping off for a nap. Though his travels took him to Texas and California, his heart and home belonged to Jackson, MS, where he was born, and where he lived in his final years. He will be interred at Lakewood Cemetery near his mother and father. He would have considered flowers “a bunch of fuss,” so in lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the MLB Youth Development Program in his name.

His family and friends will miss his laughter, his jokes and even his stubborn, stubborn nature. You are loved, Rusty. Thank you for making us smile.

Core Group Cares launches RISE initiative to support job prospects for vulnerable populations

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Core Group Cares, the philanthropic arm of Katy-based Core Group Resources, announced on July 24 the launch of its RISE Initiative. An innovative social responsibility platform and officially recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, RISE focuses on providing job placement and career support to the underemployed, vulnerable populations and those with barriers to employment by partnering with employers in search of top tier talent.

"At Core Group Resources, we believe in the power of second chances," said Matt Fuhrman, CEO of Core Group Resources. "We're focused on empowering men and women with tools, coaching and prospects to provide the support needed to re-enter our communities. This initiative is about enabling connections, transforming lives and strengthening our community."

Partnering with employers willing to provide fair-chance employment opportunities, RISE connects individuals in the Houston area with job opportunities that offer livable wages. Utilizing the unique staffing abilities, team, and technology

of Core Group Resources, RISE manages and tracks the impact of employment to showcase the initiative's effectiveness and benefits.

The initiative supports both employer clients and job candidates through comprehensive career coaching, job placement, tax credits, subsidies, and skill development. By partnering with companies to provide these vital opportunities, RISE is dedicated to making a difference and empowering individuals to rebuild their lives. RISE serves underemployed, vulnerable populations with barriers to employment, such as formerly incarcerated, recovered addicts, trafficking victims or veterans.

"Our mission is to bridge the gap between employers and at-risk job seekers to alleviate labor shortages and address social concerns through meaningful employment. By providing comprehensive support and transparent tracking, we help ensure that both parties benefit," said Jacob Sweeney, Executive Director of the RISE Initiative. "This initiative is driven by our conviction that all people have inherent dignity and value – and a good job is a significant way to complement that. Helping

vulnerable people overcome employment obstacles and secure a career while also assisting clients in meeting their personnel and business needs is a win for our candidates, our clients, and our community."

Core Group Cares is dedicated to giving back through partnerships with organizations like Mission of Hope, Frontline, WorkFaith, and Elijah Rising. These efforts allow employees and their families to address food shortages, global poverty, and support veterans. By combining its staffing expertise with partners' knowledge and resources, the organization aims to bridge the employment gap and create lasting careers for individuals at risk.

To learn more about RISE, Core Group Cares or Core Group Resources, and how you can get involved, please visit coregroup-cares.com/rise.

About Core Group RISE

Core Group RISE, a registered 501(c)3 and extension of Core Group Cares, is dedicated to creating opportunities for fair-chance candidates by connecting them with career-track jobs through its extensive network of clients, candidates, and part-

ners. Learn more at coregroup-cares.com/rise.

About Core Group Cares

Core Group Cares, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Houston, places service to others above self-interest. Through partnerships with organizations and various outreach programs, the group strives to address critical issues such as food shortages, human trafficking, global poverty, and support for veterans. Learn more at coregroupcares.com.

About Core Group Resources

Core Group Resources is a company specializing in the provision of personnel via executive search, recruiting, staffing, consulting, and contracting. The company is based in Katy at 21920 Merchants Way, Suite 200, Katy, TX 77449, with other offices in Georgia, Wisconsin, Delaware and Trinidad. Dedicated to connecting passionate professionals with leading organizations, they excel in various sectors, including maritime, healthcare, technology, renewable energy and more. For additional information, please visit coregroupresources.com.

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Katy ISD to provide ‘back to school’ vaccines

FROM STAFF REPORTS

State law requires students in Texas schools to be immunized against certain vaccine preventable diseases or submit required documentation for an exemption. Information below, provided by the Katy ISD Health Services Department, offers an opportunity for students needing to receive the necessary vaccines for school entry.

Vaccines will be provided by Texas Vaccine Institute.
When: August 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14
Where: Katy ISD – Professional Development Annex Building, 6361 South Stadium Lane, Katy
Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: one vaccine \$15; two vaccines \$25; three vaccines or more \$35
TVI will accept cash, credit and debit Card for payment.

Bring:
• Parent Notification of Immunization Due form (provided to you by your campus nurse)
• Personal immunization record
• Insurance card (if insured)
If there are any questions regarding state required immunizations, you may consult with your campus nurse or call the Katy ISD Health Services Department at 281-396-2629 for assistance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

More than 300 Katy ISD administrators gathered for a day of “Unparalleled Learning” on July 23 in sessions held in the Leonard Merrell Center and the breakout rooms of the Education Support Complex at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy.

Katy ISD kicks off year of ‘Unparalleled Learning’

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Kicking off a year of “Unparalleled Learning,” Katy ISD held its 2024 Administrative Conference on July 23 as more than 300 district and campus leaders met in advance of the 2024-25 school year, the district said in a July 23 press release.

Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD’s superintendent, welcomed new and returning campus leadership and department staff, celebrating the district’s progress and accomplishments. He also shared his vision for the year ahead.

“Through continued investments in academic supports, staff development, and classroom resources that include our 1:1 student to device implementation, our goal will always be to continuously fulfill our mission of providing ‘unparalleled learning experiences,’” said Gregorski. “We remain focused on providing our students, all our students, with a world-class education,” he added.

The district’s 2023-24 STAAR results showed Katy ISD students continuing to outperform their peers across the state. Compared to the state, Katy ISD students performed above the “Meets Grade Level” in every subject:

- +18 points in Math above the state
- +16 points in Reading/English above the state

- +20 points in Science above the state
- +20 points in Social Science above the state

Gregorski also noted that the district remains committed to enhancing school safety measures, fostering positive school cultures, strengthening local partnerships, and remaining fiscally responsible.

Recognizing the challenges of leading a growing, diverse school district, he emphasized that Katy ISD schools will be expected to continue to meet a range of students’ needs including increasing populations of students receiving special education services as well as those with limited English proficiency.

“We remain a destination district in the greater Houston area, and we will always strive to meet that standard and the needs of our students,” said Gregorski. “I expect that, as always, we will achieve great things this school year.”

Covering 181 square miles, Katy ISD boasts more than 96,000 students, and continues to grow by nearly 2,000 new students each year. The district has 78 schools, including its two newest campuses, Nelson Junior High and Freeman High School.

Katy ISD’s first day of school for the 2024-25 school year is August 14.

Thousands of Katy ISD students receive services throughout summer

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The fall semester may be about to launch, but in Katy ISD, learning has been year around. This summer, over 18,000 students participated in the District’s Katy Summer Academic Term (KSAT), or specialized instruction aimed at providing students with targeted interventions or interest-specific learning opportunities, the district announced in a July 26 press release. Others prepared for fall competition, on and off the field, through academic, fine arts or athletic camps.

Largest of the summer’s programs -- the district’s KSAT -- hosted enrollment across all three levels. Elementary students enrolled in ESL/Bilingual instruction attended grade-specific summer programs designed to build their English-language proficiency. Junior high and high school students were also able to earn original or recovery credit through Katy Virtual School.

“Katy ISD offers a robust summer learning experience for all students and our goal is to ensure they receive what they most need, either intervention, credit or enrichment,” said Carrie Sanguinetti, Coordinator for Online Learning Options, KSAT and Raines Academy.

Many students receiving special education also qualified for Extended School Year (ESY) services that provide them with year around interven-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Fine arts students participate in summer programs offered by Katy ISD on July 23.

tion. In June alone, more than 800 students received speech therapy as part of ESY support.

Late May through June, the Fine Arts Department offered several camps for young musicians, including elementary music, junior high choir, orchestra and band, and junior high and high school jazz.

Meanwhile, at the district’s Outdoor Learning Center students were able to engage in a summer recreation program at the Welch Outdoor Learning Center. Outside and away from their screens, students learned about farm animals, nature arts and crafts, and how to cook without modern conveniences.

High schools across Katy ISD of-

fered summer strength and conditioning camps for junior high and high school athletes in advance of next school year.

“Our student-athletes are dedicated to their sport of choice and work to improve, even during the summer,” said Lance Carter, Executive Director of Athletics for Katy ISD. “Our coaches and trainers create an environment that supports that desire to improve and opportunities for them to learn and grow.”

The district’s Athletics Department also offered recreation swim lessons for those wanting to be safe in the water.

Katy ISD’s fall semester begins Wednesday, August 14.

Former educators to play ‘hooky’ Aug. 14

FROM STAFF REPORTS

KARE – Katy Area Retired Educators – will host Hooky Day on Wednesday, August 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Community Room in Legacy Stadium, 5070 Franz Rd in Katy.

KARE is kicking off the 2024-25 year with the event, designed to recruit new members. Any TRS (Teacher Retirement System) retiree is invited to attend. Free refreshments, door prizes, and cruise-themed fun will be provided.

Hooky Day is an opportunity to learn about the organization, its mission and activities, and its committees. About KARE: KARE is a local chapter of the TRTA-Texas Retired



Teacher Association. The chapter currently has over 300 members.

KARE provides college scholarships to graduating seniors in Katy ISD who plan to become future teachers. In May 2024, KARE awarded 8 scholarships of \$1,200 each. KARE also sponsors a children’s book project in which members donate

and collect new and gently used books to donate to children in the Katy community. KARE members also donated their time in community service. Last year, KARE members gave 67,869 hours of volunteer service in the community. KARE earned 2nd place in TRTA District 4 for community service.

This year’s theme is Cruising on the U.S.S. KARE. KARE meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Members will “cruise” to a different destination each month. Members can enter a raffle to win a free cruise on Princess or Royal Caribbean.

For more information, contact Cheryl Glasser, KARE President, at cherylglasser@hotmail.com or 281-723-9882.

LOCAL AUTHOR BOB DOLL COACHES ON CREATIVITY

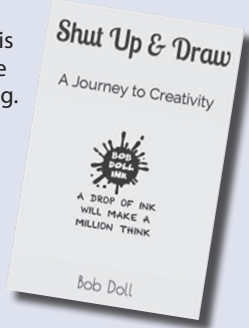
First published in 2021, *Shut Up and Draw: A Journey to Creativity* is a book about how anyone can be creative in whatever they’re doing. You don’t have to be an artist. The book tells a story about how drawing is just one way to explore one’s own creative endeavors with information about:

- How upbringing can influence your creativity
- How challenging long held traditions can be beneficial to your creativity
- How looking at things differently can reveal hidden treasures
- The creativeness of journaling
- How you’re not locked into a mindset
- and more

The book is loaded with the author’s own humorous illustrations to enhance your reading experience. Bob represents himself as an artist/writer who emphasizes creativity is for everyone regardless of your stage in life.

Available on Amazon: *Shut Up and Draw: A Journey to Creativity*

For more information, contact Bob at bob@bobdoll.com



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Provided salary of \$90,500. Requirements: Bachelor's in civil, mechanical or similar engineering fields; Prior demonstrated ability in project estimations; Strong communication skills. Email resumes for consideration to jobs@ballastpointconstruction.com

850
HELP WANTED

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Cho Dang Katy LLC dba Cho Dang Gol to be located 23015 Colonial Pkwy Ste 103 Houston, Harris County, Texas 77449. Member Manager of said limited liability company are Joanne Lee – Manager.

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

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Total \$437.10

Total charges cannot be computed until item is released.

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BROOKSHIRE, TX 77423 281-934-8711

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08 KAWK ATV BRUTEFORCE JKAVFDD128B500654
Total \$437.10

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **ORDINANCE NO. 3145** BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON JULY 22, 2024:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF KATY BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM “R-1” SINGLE-FAMILY DISTRICT TO “M” INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 65.02 ACRES OF LAND IN THE T.S. REESE SURVEY, ABSTRACT 330, IN WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY OF UP TO \$2,000 DOLLARS PER DAY FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THE ORDINANCE.

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF KATY

The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct a Public Hearing To Be Held At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, August 12, 2024

The Hearing Is Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On The Annexation Of A Property Described As Approximately 5.81 Acres Of Land In The Thomas Cresap Survey, Abstract 369, Fort Bend County, Texas In Accordance With Section 43.0671 Of The Texas Local Government Code.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to provisions of Occupations Code 2303 the following item has been impounded at:

KATY AUTOMOBILE STORAGE 20080 FRANZ RD
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Total \$437.10

Total charges cannot be computed until item is released.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Bids for **Scotts Bend – Sec. 3 Landscape Improvements** will be received digitally through CivCast until 2:00 p.m. Thursday, August 15, 2024, at which time unofficial results will be posted to CivCast for the furnishing of material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the Construction of Scotts Bend – Sec. 3 Landscape Improvements. Proposals tendered after closing will not be opened. Scope of Project: 1. Concrete Flatwork, 2. Landscaping, 3. Irrigation, 4. Minor Site Grading and Preparation, 5. SWPPP coordination & removal. Bid documents in digital format will be available through CivCast. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on at the offices of Half (14800 St Marys Ln #160, Houston, TX 77079) on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Questions submitted within 72 hours of bid opening may not be addressed. The successful bidder may be required to provide a performance bond, payment bond, and a maintenance bond as provided for in the bid documents, for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS
Career and Technical Education
Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools offers career and technical education programs in: Principles of Health Science, Medical Terminology, Medical Microbiology, Health Science, Anatomy & Physiology, Principles of Business, Marketing & Finance, Money Matters, Accounting, Marketing (Fashion, Social Media, Advertising, Sports & Entertainment), Robotics, Engineering Design and Presentation, Principles of Law, Criminal Investigation, Forensic Science, Career Preparation 1 & 2, Career & College Exploration, Forensic Psychology, Principles of Applied Engineering, Principles of Technology, Principles of Agriculture, Floral Design, Commercial Photography, Touch Systems Data Entry, Professional Communication, Turf Management/Landscape Design, College & Career Readiness, Leadworthy. Admission to these programs is based on grade level and course sequence.

It is the policy of Calvin Nelms Charter Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Calvin Nelms Charter Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 281-398-8031 or the Section 504 Coordinator at 281-398-8031.

Mindy Peper
Principal
mpeper@cnchs.net

CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS
Career and Technical Education
Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination
(Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional)

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools ofrece programas de educación técnica y profesional en: principios de ciencias de la salud, terminología médica, microbiología médica, ciencias de la salud, anatomía y fisiología, principios de negocios, marketing y finanzas, asuntos de dinero, contabilidad, marketing (moda, redes sociales, Publicidad, Deportes y Entretenimiento), Robótica, Diseño y Presentación de Ingeniería, Principios de Derecho, Investigación Criminal, Ciencias Forenses, Preparación Profesional 1 y 2, Exploración de Carreras y Universidades, Psicología Forense, Principios de Ingeniería Aplicada, Principios de Tecnología, Principios de Agricultura, Diseño floral, Fotografía comercial, Entrada de datos con sistemas táctiles, Comunicación profesional, Gestión del césped/ Diseño de paisajes, Preparación universitaria y profesional, Leadworthy. La admisión a estos programas se basa en el nivel de grado y la secuencia del curso.

Es norma de Calvin Nelms Charter Schools no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Calvin Nelms Charter Schools no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX en 281-398-8031, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 en (dirección), 281-398-8031.

Mindy Peper
Principal
mpeper@cnchs.net

July 25 Puzzle Answers

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

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

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Federal, State and Local Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 24 CFR Part 50 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The activity is funded under Section 221(d)(4) program of the National Housing Act.

HUD is proposing provision of insurance for funding the construction of Park Row Katy Living which will include new construction of a 93-unit multi-family development to be located on approximately 3.2 acres of undeveloped land at 19250 Park Row Drive in Houston, Harris County, Texas. As proposed, the project will consist of two (2) three- and four-story residential buildings, a pool, playground, pavilion, and parking spaces.

A wetland determination identified an offsite stormwater wetland located within a west adjacent detention pond owned and operated by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). Development plans include a stormwater drainage outfall into the detention pond with associated rock riprap which will permanently impact approximately 300 square feet (0.007 acre) of stormwater wetlands in the detention pond. Stormwater wetlands are designed and engineered specifically to treat stormwater, and they typically have less biodiversity than natural wetlands in terms of both plant and animal life.

The property is not located within a Special Flood Hazard Area but is located within the 500-year floodplain, and there are no anticipated impacts to historic resources or endangered species. Due to lack of unique natural features and use as a water quality facility, there is no expected public interest in the wetlands for recreational, scientific, or educational purposes.

HUD has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

1) *No Action:* HUD does not insure the proposed development. This alternative was not selected since the project was not found to have significant adverse impacts.
2) *Modify the project to avoid or minimize impacts to the wetlands:* Removing the rock riprap below the drainage outfall is not feasible since it is required for erosion protection. There are no other available stormwater facilities near the project without wetlands which could accept runoff from the new development. The site design has minimized the impacts as much as possible.
3) *Insure the development as proposed:* Wetland impacts will include filling 0.007 acres of detention wetlands which are potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S. due to a continuous surface water connection to downstream navigable waters. Compensatory mitigation is not required since the impacts do not exceed 0.1 acre. Stormwater runoff will be managed with an onsite underground stormwater system designed and approved through Harris County planning and local and state permits. All state and local water quality protection procedures will be included in the construction plans.

HUD has reevaluated the alternatives to building in a wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files documenting compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by HUD at the following address on or before **August 8, 2024:** HUD Fort Worth Regional Office, 307 W. 7th Street, Unit #1000, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 and (817) 978-5809, Attention: Michael Buis, Technical Branch Chief. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8am to 5pm at the same address as above. Comments may also be submitted via email at Michael.A.buis@hud.gov.

Date: August 1, 2024

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PHOTO BY TYLER TYRE



PHOTO BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN



PHOTO BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Harrison, Morrison & Keys named Katy ISD Athletes of the Year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD named its Student-Athletes of the Year this week and after phenomenal years there were co-winners on the boys side, with Seven Lakes' Aidan Morrison and Tompkins' Jayden Keys taking home the honors, while Katy's Cameryn Harrison was named the female student-athlete of the year. "This year was unique in that we have two male athletes of the year, but we felt that

all three were worthy of recognition," said Lance Carter, Executive Director of Athletics for Katy ISD. "These students have accomplished so much as high school athletes, and I am confident they will excel at the collegiate level." All three had terrific years and two of them were Gatorade Players of the Year for the state of Texas in their respective sports. All three will continue their athletic and academic careers at big programs as they got things done both on the field and in the

classroom at the high school level. Keys was one of the most dominant track and field athletes in the state of Texas over the past few years. He was named this year's Class 6A Track and Field Athlete of the State Meet and went undefeated in the long jump in all competitions this year. He won both the long jump and the 300-meter hurdles at this year's state meet

See **ATHLETES**, page A9

From left: Cameryn Harrison pitches during a game between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor softball field. Seven Lakes defender Aidan Morrison (10) celebrates after scoring the game-winning goal in the second overtime period of the Class 6A boys state soccer championship between Seven Lakes and Flower Mound on April 13, 2024 in Georgetown. Jayden Keys of Tompkins clears the final hurdle in the Class 6A boys 300-meter hurdles at the UIL State Track and Field Meet on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in Austin. Keys won the race with a time of 36.28 seconds.

Paetow grad Morse achieves dream of being drafted, begins journey in pro baseball

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cody Morse knew that the moment was coming. He had been told that he would likely be drafted somewhere around the 12th round of the MLB draft and that there were teams interested in him. He was patient and expected it to come, but when the moment happened, he couldn't help but feel emotional.



PHOTO COURTESY WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
Paetow graduate Cody Morse was drafted in the 12th round of the MLB Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I was confident but when it happened it was just a crazy feeling," Morse said. "It's everything I worked for my whole life since I was a kid. The dream is to play in the MLB and getting drafted has always been that moment you imagine. It's the stepping stone to playing in the majors and when that moment happened it was like by whole world lit up. It's a great feeling." A Katy native and 2021 Paetow graduate, Morse took a journey over the past three years to get him to this spot. He went to the University of Houston in his freshman season and after redshirting, he transferred to Weatherford Junior College and worked his way into a spot to be drafted over two years with the program. That draft moment came for him this July, when Morse was picked in the 12th round of the MLB Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers with the 370th overall pick. "Weatherford just put me in a position to succeed from the moment I came in," Morse said. "They helped me, not get on a program, but they gave me everything I needed to develop and grow my game and myself. I had to get serious and they helped me with that. Everyone there is fighting for a spot and playing time and so you have to put that extra effort

See **MORSE**, page A9



TYLER TYRE

Ben Aviles Vera celebrates with teammates after scoring the game winning penalty in Monday's Region III-6A Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Jordan.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes defender Aidan Morrison (10) in action during the Class 6A boys state soccer championship between Seven Lakes and Flower Mound on April 13, 2024 in Georgetown.

Morrison named THSCA Super Elite Team MVP

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The accolades keep pouring in for Seven Lakes' Aidan Morrison. The senior midfielder earned another honor, being named the Texas High School Super Elite Boys Soccer Team's Class 6A MVP after helping lead the Spartans to a state title in his final high school season. Morrison was joined in his accolades by two teammates, Kortay Koc was named the Class 6A Midfielder of the Year and Ben Aviles Vera was named the Goalkeeper of the Year. They were all part of a team that clinched a district championship before going on to win the Region III-6A Title for the third straight season and a state title for the second straight year. They were joined by Cinco Ranch senior Ossian Elgstrom, who was named to the team as a defender after

See **SOCCER**, page A9

SOCCER

from page A8

helping the Cougars finish second in district and reach the regional final and Jordan's Marcelo Ojeda, who made the the team as a midfielder after his junior year where he helped the Warriors finish fourth in district and reach the regional quarterfinals.

Following is the full Class 6A Texas High School Coaches Association Boys Soccer Super Elite Team:

- MVP: Aidan Morrison, Seven Lakes
- OPOTY: Caden Berg, Prosper
- DPOTY: Tate Jones, Prosper
- MOTY: Kortay Koc, Seven Lakes
- GOTY: Ben Aviles Vera, Seven Lakes
- Onedi Alex Agwunobi, Hightower
- Sam Allen, John Marshall Harlan
- Beckham Atkins, Waxahachie
- Christopher Cruz, Cypress Springs
- Landon Deleeuw, Flower Mound
- Ossian Elgstrom, Cinco Ranch
- Morgan English, Flower Mound
- Knox Hicks, Tyler Legacy
- Marcelo Ojeda, Jordan
- Federico Palafox, Waxahachie
- Blake Pipkin, Ridge Point
- Greydn Richards, John Marshall Harlan
- Nate Zozaya, Duncanville



Seven Lakes forward Kortay Koc (6) shoots the ball past Duncanville midfielder Eduardo Alaniz (10) during the Class 6A boys state soccer semifinal between Seven Lakes and Duncanville on April 12, 2024 in Georgetown. Seven Lakes won 2-0.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

ATHLETES

from page A8

and also came in second in the 110 meter hurdles. Overall in his high school career he won two gold medals, one silver and five bronzes while he set school records in the long jump, 110 meter hurdles, 300 meter hurdles and the 400 meter relay which he was a part of that ran the fourth fastest time in U.S. history. He was named a district, area, regional, state and Nike Indoor National Champion throughout his junior career. He was named the MVP of the super elite team by the THSCA and was an Academic All-District and Academic All-State selection. Keys will continue his academic and athletic career at the University of Georgia, one of the top track and field schools in the country.

Morrison shared the honors with Keys and it was a well deserved honor. Over his time at Seven Lakes, the Spartans' soccer program won four straight district titles, won a Region III-6A Title and went to the state tournament three years in a row, made three state finals and won two straight state championships to close out his career. He was named the Texas Gatorade Player of the Year in both his junior and senior years and both times was a finalist for the National Player of the Year, also earning All-American honors both years.

In his freshman season, Morrison was named the district newcomer of the year and he won the District MVP twice and he also was named the MVP of the state tournament during his senior season. He is the second all-time leading scorer

in Seven Lakes history, despite playing in a holding midfield and center back role for large portions of his career.

As a student, Morrison was named to the Super Elite Team by THSCA and earned academic all-district and all-state honors. Morrison will continue his athletic and academic career at Liberty University, one of the top soccer programs in the country.

Harrison earned the honors as girls student-athlete of the year outright and she did so after a tremendous high school career. Harrison earned a huge number of honors during her time at Katy, being named the Gatorade Player of the Year in her senior year, being named All-State multiple times, Softball All-America Summer Team, TFL Regional All-Star Team and being named SB Live's Top Pitcher in the Nation.

She had a huge senior season where she went 22-1 with a .53 ERA on the mound while hitting .500 with 10 home runs, 11 doubles and 47 RBIs. Over her four years at Katy she struck out over 800 batters, leading Katy to a district title every year she was part of the program and making both the regional semifinal and the regional final during her time with the program. As a student, Harrison was named to the Academic All-District and All-State teams. Harrison will continue her athletic and academic career at the University of Arkansas, a big softball program with one of the top recruiting classes in the country.

MORSE

from page A8

in and my time there just really helped me as a player I think."

Morse had a break-out year for Weatherford this last season as a sophomore, working both out of the bullpen and as a starter. Morse pitched 49.2 innings, striking out 53 to go with a 3.08 ERA while accumulating a 5-1 record in 15 appearances, including eight starts. He also earned a save and only walked 28 players all season. In his freshman year, Morse worked out of the bullpen and made 13 appearances, with two wins, two saves and 22 strikeouts in 15.2 innings pitched, helping Weatherford make the Junior College World Series and finish third.

"I just knew I was at a point this year to where I needed to start because I was pitching, well," Morse said. "I pitched a few games in relief and then I had a talk with my head coach and pitching coach and was like 'hey, I really think we would be better if you used me as a starter.' They gave me the opportunity and everything just fell into place. I pitched well and they told me that I would have a place every week if I kept it up and I just kept doing the same thing and things kept stacking. It was a big thing for me to get all of those extra innings."

A 6 foot-6 inch lefty, Morse has the frame for the next level and sat in the low 90's with his fast ball this past string while

getting lots of motion on his off-speed pitches. He was committed to play at the University of Oklahoma next year for Skip Johnson, one of the better coaches for pitchers in the nation in college, but at 21-years old he knew that he couldn't pass up a sure-fire chance to be drafted. And going to an organization like the Dodgers, which is known for developing their young talent, made the moment even sweeter.

"When I learned it was the Dodgers it just made me relieved cause I knew I made the right choice," Morse said. "They have one of the best development teams out of anyone and I think playing in this organization will just give me that extra little bit of a chance to become an MLB player."

Family is the reason that Morse has gotten to this point. He credits his parents for the time, money and effort they put in to get him an opportunity to earn a scholarship and he hopes to reward them one day. But for his parents, just seeing Morse get drafted was such a reward in itself.

"I knew it was coming, but when it happened, I just stared at the screen in disbelief. My son was just drafted. Things will forever change now. It was an awe-inspiring moment," Morse's mother Tawnya Morse said. "Everything he has ever worked for was validated at that moment. My son called his father to share in real time as he had

to work and he had a hard time keeping his composure, his voice cracked several times as they were speaking."

While it was a huge goal and dream accomplished for Morse, the work isn't done. His ultimate goal is to find a way to make it to the majors, and for that to happen he knows he will have to continue to outwork everyone.

"I just want to go out

there and prove to people that I'm here for a reason. I have the ability, I just need to put it all together," Morse said. "I'm going to prove to the Dodgers that I can do this. I visualize it all the time. I know in my mind and in my head that it's going to happen, it's just a matter of me putting in the work, being patient and making it happen for myself. It's all just crazy and I couldn't be happier."

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS Bids for Scotts Bend – Sec. 4 Landscape Improvements will be received digitally through CivCast until 2:15 p.m. Thursday, August 15, 2024, at which time unofficial results will be posted to CivCast for the furnishing of material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the Construction of Scotts Bend – Sec. 4 Landscape Improvements. Proposals tendered after closing will not be opened. Scope of Project: 1. Concrete Flatwork, 2. Landscaping, 3. Irrigation, 4. Minor Site Grading and Preparation, 5. SWPPP coordination & removal, 6. Playground installation (incl. safety surfacing and drainage). Bid documents in digital format will be available through CivCast. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on at the offices of Half (14800 St Marys Ln #160, Houston, TX 77079) on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 2:15 p.m. Questions submitted within 72 hours of bid opening may not be addressed. The successful bidder may be required to provide a performance bond, payment bond, and a maintenance bond as provided for in the bid documents, for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.	Notice to Creditors Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harley Ray Cave, Deceased, were issued on May 1, 2023, under Docket No. 23-CPR-038722, pending in the County Court at Law Number 5 of Fort Bend County, Texas, to David Joseph Cave. Claims may be presented as follows: David Joseph Cave, Estate of Harley Ray Cave, Deceased c/o Randall Gunter 1517 Trinity Street Liberty, Texas 77575 All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED July 24, 2024. Randall Gunter By: <u>Randall Gunter</u> Attorney for Applicant				

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Tompkins grad Sinz makes mark at first major tournament

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins graduate Elina Sinz achieved a rare feat this June, qualifying for a major and competing in the US Open, one of the biggest tournaments in golf.

Sinz put up a strong effort at the US Open, which was hosted at Lancaster Country Club in Pennsylvania. The 22-year old finished eight back of the cut line at the tournament, shooting a 154 over two days of competitive golf.

Sinz started the tourna-

ment by shooting a six over par 76 and on the second day shot a 78 to finish 14 over par over the course of two days. Overall, she finished tied for 134th in the tournament in her first time in a major environment.

It took a dramatic finish for Sinz to make it to Lancaster, as she came up clutch at the US Open Qualifier at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland. She finished 36 holes in a tie for second with a 139, behind only Texas A&M's Adela Cernousek. Sinz then defeated Junia Gabasa in a 2-for-1 play-off for the final spot in the US

Open out of the qualifier.

Sinz spent three years of her collegiate career at Auburn University, where she recorded three top-five, five top-10 and eight top-20 finishes and won the Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic, earning SEC Player of the Week Honors.

She transferred to the University of Alabama for her senior year and led the Crimson tide to the Regionals in her lone season there. She also finished third in the Women's Amateur and fifth in the Texas Women's Stroke Play last summer.

Seven current or former Cougars set to compete or coach at Olympics

STAFF REPORT

Seven current or former University of Houston athletes and coaches will head to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games – six as competitors and one as a coach – representing their countries at the highest stage this summer.

This marks Houston's largest delegation since the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games where the Cougars also

sent seven representatives. Houston will be represented by six countries in Paris, with two representing Great Britain. The other countries represented by the Cougars are Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and South Africa.

The 2024 Paris Olympic Games will take place from July 26-August 11 with coverage on the NBC family of networks.

Name	Country	Sport	Event/Position	Years at Houston
Elizabeth Jimenez	Dominican Rep.	Swimming	100m Backstroke	2023-Present
Alondra Ortiz	Costa Rica	Swimming	200m Butterfly	2022-Present
Louie Hinchliffe	Great Britain	Track & Field	100m, 4x100m relay	2024-present
Shaun Maswanganyi	South Africa	Track & Field	100m, 200m, 4x100m relay	2021-present
Cecilia Tamayo-Garza	Mexico	Track & Field	100m, 200m	2019-23
Tristan Evelyn	Barbados	Track & Field	100m	2018-21
Jane Figueiredo	Great Britain	Diving	Coach Diver	1983-86
			Diving Coach	1990-2014

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