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SPORTS | PG 9

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

ROYAL INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Leaders
advocate for
public school
investment,
policy reform

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner and RISD School Board President Scott Hartman, Secretary Melissa Woods, Trustee Elton Foster, and Trustee Rose Jones joined education leaders at the Texas Capitol for the 2025 Day at the Capitol, held February 25. The event provided an opportunity to advocate for increased investment in Texas public schools during the 89th Texas Legislative Session. During their visit, RISD leaders met with District 85 State Representative and Royal graduate Stan Kitzman (District 85) to discuss the needs of Texas public schools.

Superintendent Kershner is a board member of the Texas Association of Midsize Schools (TAMS). The TAMS board members joined the board of the Association of Rural Schools (TARS) for a meeting with District 1 State Representative Gary VanDeaver. As a retired superintendent, Representative VanDeaver understands the challenges facing Texas public schools. Discussions focused on the need for increased school funding, educator support, and policies that strengthen rural and midsize districts, said a spokesperson for RISD.

"The strength of Texas depends on the strength of our schools," said Kershner. "We appreciate Representative Kitzman and Representative VanDeaver taking the time to listen to the needs of our districts and the challenges facing public education."

As lawmakers debate key education policies, Texas educators are calling on state leaders to prioritize students, teachers, and communities, reinforcing the belief that strong schools build a strong Texas, a district spokesperson said in a subsequent press release.

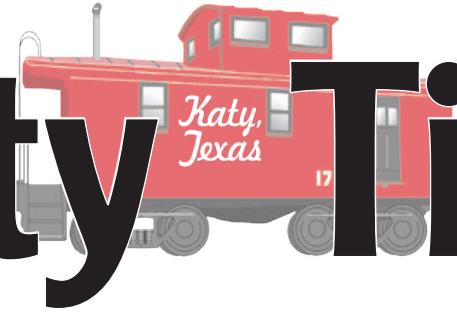
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Katy Times



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Katy ISD dedicates Freeman High, honors legacy of founding family

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It's been more than just a tradition - education has been a priority for the Freeman family since 1898, when widower Joe Freeman came from Iowa to what would eventually be Katy, Texas.

The Freeman family - in addition to launching successful rice farming and cattle operations -- also sowed the seeds of community service and made sacrifices so that the Freeman children could have a strong education.

On March 3, Katy ISD officially dedicated Freeman High School, proudly honoring the Freeman family's service to the Katy community. Since the late 19th century, the Freeman family has been part of the Katy community, with members serving as mayors, school board and city council members and part of the volunteer fire department. Now with its sixth generation in Katy ISD schools, the Freeman family remains a strong proponent of education in the area.

"The Freeman family has made a lasting and meaningful impact on the Katy community," said Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD Superintendent. "Their dedication to education, agriculture and community service has left a legacy that continues to shape both Katy ISD and the City of Katy."

Gina Cobb, school principal, emceed the event. Representing the Freeman family on stage were Lynn Freeman and her daughter, Carla Freeman Mattingly. Freeman shared that from the beginning, the Freemans ensured that their children knew the importance of an education, as evidenced by the many teachers in the family over the generations. Including Lynn Freeman, eight members of the Freeman family who are currently educators were present in the audience, along with dozens of other members of the clan. Mattingly noted that the name of the school's mascot - Boss, the Golden Eagle - is named after Mr. Freeman, who was affectionately nicknamed "Boss."

Even the proclamations read by elected



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Freeman High student Kayden Robinson presents the school's emblem to the Freeman family during the campus dedication ceremony on March 3.

officials were a little different this time. The special presentation by Texas State Representative Mike Schofield was penned by his chief of staff, Annie Callegari St. Paul, who herself is also a Freeman descendant. Schofield said that this occasion might have been the first time that a legislative recognition had been written by a member of the family being honored.

Additional proclamations and recognitions were presented by Paula Gibson, District Director for Texas Senator Lois Kolkhorst; Maide Guillen, Community Engagement Coordinator for Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones; and Dusty Thiele, mayor of the City of Katy.

The school's music program was on full display throughout the evening, as a string



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

(Left to right) Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Freeman High Principal Gina Cobb, educator Lynn Freeman, Freeman family representative Carla Freeman Mattingly, and KISD Board of Trustees President Victor Perez unveil the portrait of Freeman family founders during the March 3 dedication at the new campus at 7800 Katy Hockley Road in Katy.

See **FREEMAN**, page 3

Waller Co. commissioners hear update on Highway 36A project

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Officials from the Texas Department of Transportation traveled to Waller County to bring county officials up to date on progress on the proposed expansion of Highway 36A, which would create a north-south corridor from Freeport to central Texas, providing greater connectivity for the county and relieving road congestion, while also providing increased opportunities for hurricane route evacuation.

Sue Theiss, who serves as TxDOT's director for advanced project development for TxDOT's Houston District, presented the update on February 18 at commissioners court in Hempstead.

Theiss said that the project is needed because of the phenomenal growth in Waller and Fort Bend Counties and a lack of a direct north-south corridor in TxDOT's study area. The expansion of operations at Port Freeport, which is widening and deepening its channels in order to serve larger container ships, has created more traffic as more trucks are carrying goods north to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The proposed roadway project has been broken down into two segments: the southern segment to be built first at a cost of about \$2.5 billion, going from FM 1994 south of Needville to I-10, and the northern segment from I-10 to US 290/State Highway 6 at a cost of \$2.0 billion. The south project also includes all the direct connects to Interstate 10, Theiss said. The four-lane "facility" would not have service roads, but TxDOT will lay in alignments for construction of future frontage roads. TxDOT does not build service roads, she said.

Theiss detailed the process for the project, which includes a published notice of intent, public scoping meetings, a draft environmental impact statement (EIS), a public hearing, a final EIS and then a final decision. The final decision is expected in 2029, she said, with project "letting" in 2037 if funding is found for the currently-unfunded projects. The odds of having both segments of the project



SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO OF WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Sue Theiss, director for advanced project development for TxDOT, brings an update on the Highway 36A expansion project to Waller County Commissioners Court in Hempstead on February 18.

funded simultaneously are low, Theiss said. Construction of the roadway would take two to three years once funding is approved.

Theiss said that TxDOT is working with Waller County, which has its own thoroughfare plan, to look at all possible route concepts, which will be shown to the public during the public scoping meetings which will likely happen in 2026.

County Judge Trey Duhon expressed concern that constructing the southern portion first would create problems for Waller County, as north-bound trucks would travel the completed corridor up to Interstate 10 but then have to travel through the county on older farm-to-market roads and through the current bottleneck in Brookshire where FM 359 and FM 362 converge. Of particular concern is that one of the farm-to-market roads has sharp 90-degree turns and is now avoided by many truckers for that reason, forcing truck traffic onto the other farm-to-market road. Duhon asked for as much public engagement as possible as the project moves forward, so that Waller County citizens could

provide their feedback.

Precinct 3 County Commissioner Kendric Jones asked how the north end of the project could be sped up, stating that there are four separate developers who want to build in Waller County and who will be submitting applications in the next 30 days. Theiss replied that the idea behind the phasing the two segments included not confusing the public with separate hearings going on at the same time. Once the projects are started, "it is just a matter of following the process," she said. Theiss also said that she thought that the north segment would "go faster" than the south portion.

Precinct 4 County Commissioner Justin Beckendorff said that he wanted to set a pathway for the road before houses were built where it might go, and to that end, the county had signed an agreement with TxDOT. The agreement allows the county to work with developers to set aside an area where there will be no houses, so that homeowners are not surprised by the future development of the roadway, he said. A better way to get north and south is needed, Beckendorff said, especially in times of hurricane evacuation - noting that mass evacuations from Houston during Hurricane Rita in 2005 turned Waller County into a "parking lot." "This is not just a Waller County issue - this is a regional issue," Beckendorff said. Beckendorff also said that having a major north-south corridor makes a difference in the kind of businesses that would be attracted to come to Waller County, with a major thoroughfare drawing the desirable large manufacturers versus a smaller corridor serving smaller distribution warehouses.

Judge Duhon also asked about the future of US 290 at the time the 36A project would be completed. Theiss said that TxDOT staff was working on widening US 290 past the county line.

TxDOT Commissioner Stephen Alvis said that the project - now declared a "corridor of interest" for TxDOT -- will be needed long before 2037 and that there will be more pressure

See **HIGHWAY**, page 3

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Pin Oak Charity Horse Show returns March 19

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The excitement is building as we approach the start of the 2025 Pin Oak Charity Horse Show—Katy's signature event, held each year at the Great Southwestern Equestrian Center, 2501 S. Mason Road in Katy. Get ready to experience the thrill of world-class competition, celebrate equestrian excellence, and make unforgettable memories.

Show Dates:

- Pin Oak Breed Show: March 19-March 22, 2025
- Pin Oak Week 1: March 26- March 30, 2025
- Pin Oak Week 2: April 2-April 6, 2025
- Pin Oak Week 3: April 9 - April 13, 2025

The Pin Oak Charity Horse Show is known for its rich history, time-honored traditions, equestrian excellence and extraordinary giving, according to its website. As one of the oldest and most prestigious horse shows in

the country, Pin Oak is also one of Houston's unique social and fundraising events.

In 1945, founder JS Abercrombie had the vision to create a world-class horse show to benefit the community. His vision became a reality on May 26, 1945, with the sound of the trumpet heralding the opening of the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show.

JS Abercrombie was a man of great passion and love. He adored his only daughter, Josephine, who was an accomplished equestrian and horse lover. Mr. Jim's other passion was a desire to help sick and critically ill children. From there two loves came, the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show and the charter for the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

First the Pin Oak Stables, a world-class venue, was built especially for Josephine to care for and show horses. The first Pin Oak show opened on May 26, 1945, and was billed as the social event of Houston as well as one of the top horse competitions

in the United States. The show became a premier event for Houston's elite. Ladies and gentlemen dressed in their finest and filled the coveted box seats to watch the best of American Saddlebreds, hunters, jumpers, and ponies, from all over the world compete for top prizes.

Pin Oak holds the honor of being the first donor to Texas Children's Hospital in 1947, providing the seed money to begin the planning and building of the world's first pediatric hospital.

Using his social and business connections, the hospital became a reality. In 1952, Jim Abercrombie and his wife Lillie donated the first \$1 million to begin construction of Texas Children's Hospital. Today it is proud to consistently be recognized as a leader in pediatric care by U.S. News & World Report. The Pin Oak Charity Horse Show is the oldest non-profit partner of Texas Children's Hospital. Pin Oak has donated nearly \$7 million to support the healing of sick children and is

committed to supporting the growth of Texas Children's.

In 2018, the horse show continued to grow by adding a third week to the schedule, offering competition for American Saddlebreds and hunters, jumpers and equitation riders alike. Only a handful of horse shows continue to host a variety of breeds and disciplines as a major equestrian event. As such, Pin Oak was honored to be the first show in the United States to be designated as a Heritage Competition by the United States Equestrian Federation. The North American Riders Group (NARG) selected Pin Oak as a Top 25 Horse Show in North America three years in a row. Many other awards and "Best Show" designations have been collected over Pin Oak's history - creating the organization's tradition of excellence for this equestrian athletic event.

For sponsorship information or to learn more, go to pinoak.kimbria.com/2025horse-show.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AARP to meet on March

11

The Katy Chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday evening, March 11, at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd., Katy, Texas. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a short meeting and announcements. Entertainment will be provided by John Steele who sings classic country, western swing, R&B and other classic tunes. Please allow ample time to purchase any food before the meeting begins. Visitors are welcome.

Fussell Senior Center offers trip to College Station on March 13

Join your friends from the City of Katy's Fussell Senior Center for lunch and a trip to the George H. W. Bush Library and Museum in College Station on March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Housed on the campus

of Texas A&M University, the library seeks to preserve and make available the records and artifacts of George H.W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States. To sign up or for more information, call the Senior Center at 281-391-4837.

Join the Katy Pride and 'Espresso Yourself' on March 14

Katy Pride will host a networking event at Coffee Fellows, 3329 Gandy Parkway Suite 700, Katy on March 14. Grab a coffee, tea, pastry or whatever suits your fancy, and make new connections or even get some work done. Enjoy a safe space of community and allyship and meet up with others in the local LGBTQ+ community at 8 a.m.

Put your chili to the test at the Fussell Senior Citizen Center's Annual Chili Cook-Off on March 14

Think you make the best chili in town? Put your recipe to the test at the City of Katy Fussell Senior Citizen Center's Annual Chili Cook-Off on March 14 at 11 a.m. Held at the Fussell Senior Citizen Center, 5370 E 5th St, Katy, the event features first, second, third and People's Choice Awards. Entry is free and open to all. Additionally, senior service organizations will have the opportunity to briefly introduce their company to audience members, though there will not be space for marketing materials. For more information, contact adidio@cityofkaty.com.

Hamilton Loomis performs at Toddy Oaks on March 14

Join the crowd at Toddy Oaks, 20120 Franz in Katy, on March 14 for Hamilton Loomis, a Texas-based international recording artist performing blues, rock and soul. Reserved Seating begins at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is at 7:30 p.m. **Please note when purchasing a VIP table: you only need one ticket confirmation recipient for the entire table. The ticket includes admission for the number of seats at the table.** People under the age of 21 are not permitted on the property after 6 p.m. on concert nights and after dark on non-concert nights. Exceptions can be made for privately booked events with some stipulations as long as they are approved by management in writing prior to the event.

Friends of the Katy Library annual book sale to be held March 15

The Friends of the Katy Library will be selling books at the Katy Branch Library's meeting room at 5414 Franz in Katy from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 15. All pur-

PLANT SALE



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS

Fort Bend Master Gardener Deborah "Deb" Volkers has volunteered in the Extension Greenhouse to prepare the vegetable/herb plants for the annual FBMG sale on Saturday, March 8. She is holding a tray of Chef's Choice, an award-winning beefsteak tomato plant that will be offered for the first time at the sale. The sale is open 9 a.m. to noon at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg. Visit fbmg.org/vegetable-herb-sale-2/ for information.



Street and Avenue C from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Come shop, explore, and discover amazing craftsmanship from talented local creators!

Each "Katy Exchange" event will feature a spotlight on a local nonprofit, with all proceeds benefiting these wonderful causes, and the very first Katy Exchange will support the Katy VFW Post 9182 and Camp Hope's PTSD Foundation of America. The event will also honor military heroes with representatives from each branch of the military in attendance.

Reclaim your future with HerWell's two-day workshop March 21-22

Join Brookshire non-profit group HerWell for

an empowering two-day event featuring incredible speakers and valuable tools designed to support your journey as you regain confidence, re-enter the workforce and achieve financial independence. Attendees will walk away with a new interview outfit, a professional headshot and a mock interview experience. The event will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on March 21 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 22 at the HerWell Center at 511 Velasco in Brookshire. Dinner and lunch will be provided. Don't miss this opportunity to build confidence and take the next step toward success. To register or for more information, call 281-934-8727 or email info@herwell.org.

CROSSWORD THEME: DANCE MOVES

CLUES ACROSS

- Mrs. in Germany
- *Nan Nae's partner
- m in F = ma
- Deadly sin
- Hindu serpent deity
- Blood line
- State location of Miami University
- Last word on radio
- Best friend quality
- "Sideways dance step
- Buzzing pest
- "That is" in Latin
- Corvine bird's sound
- Omicron or Delta, e.g.
- Verb derived from "wreath"
- Although, for short
- Demijohn
- Kings of ___ band
- Act against
- Bruin legend Bobby ___
- Southern cuisine pods
- Cold war initials
- Transmitted radio signal
- French vineyard
- Strong suits
- Overnight flight
- Like a dancer in The Royal Ballet company
- Polynesian island country
- Dracula's bane
- Dancer's gardening tool simulation
- Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
- Eon, alt. sp.
- Reminiscent of certain hardwood, to sommelier
- In a tilted position
- Flower holder
- Cartoon lightbulb
- Police informer

- Before, poetically
- Koppel and Turner, e.g.

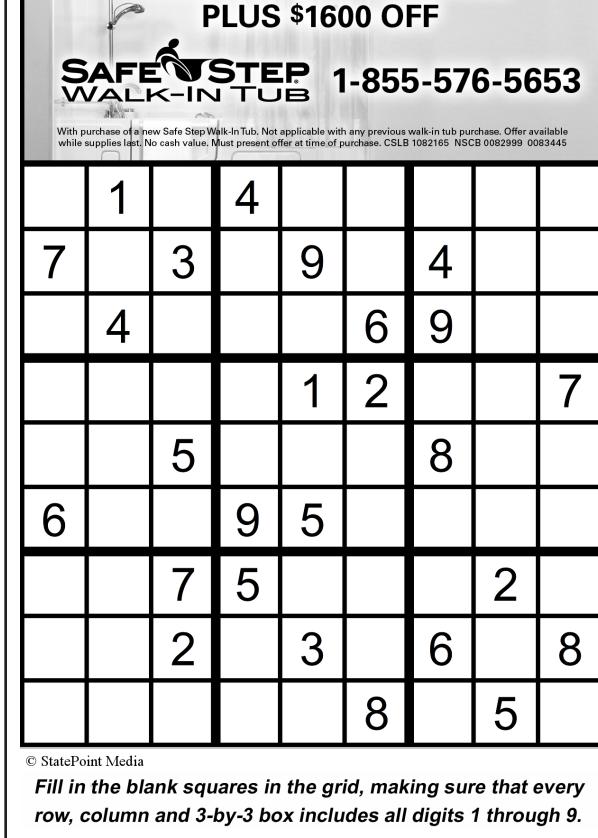
CLUES DOWN

- Use cat o' nine tails
- German industrial valley
- "Heat of the Moment" band
- Sir Thomas More's famous book
- Actress Viola ___
- provocateur
- Like some necessities
- Michael Jackson's backward move
- Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
- Immediately, to a doctor
- Salt in Mexico
- Nine-day Christian devotion
- Aquatic scum
- Authoritative proclamation
- "___ Me a River"
- Pull strings
- Not those
- Comedy Central's public humiliation
- *a.k.a. caterpillar, with The
27. a.m. prayer
- Ancient
- Follow as a consequence
- Sturgeon output, pl.
- Lingerie staple
- *Serena Williams' Super Bowl LIX move (2 words)
- Theater, to Socrates
- Sis' sibling
- King's mantle fur
- Painter Max or Director Lubitsch
- Armed gang member in India
- Asparagus unit
- What phoenix did
- Place a load on



Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TRIBUTE

Life Story of ARTHUR (ART) LEE PERTILE, III
As written by the man himself.

Art was born on March 9, 1961, in Midland, Texas. He transitioned on February 25, 2025. He was the child of Eula Martin Pertile of Keiser, Arkansas, and Arthur Lee Pertile (Patillo) of Foreman, Arkansas. He was married to Renita D. King for almost 35 years, although he still believed that the six years that the two dated should be added to that total. Art had two children, Arthur Lee Pertile, IV of Katy, Texas, and Krissica LeAnn Harper of Waco, Texas. He accepted Christ and was baptized at Northside Baptist Church in Midland, Texas at the age of nine. Art was a former trustee of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, which he joined in 1996. After returning to Katy, Texas, he attended Current-A Christian Church until his death.

"Rebel" years

Art was a "79er" a 1979 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School in Midland, Texas. He was voted "Mr. Valuable" in 1979. As a Lee Rebel, Art played basketball and ran track.

McMurry mark

Art graduated in 1983 from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. The mark he leaves on McMurry is indelible. Art was a member of the McMurry University Board of Trustees, a 2003 McMurry University Hall of Honor inductee, the 2018 McMurry University Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, the 2022 McMurry University Commencement speaker, and he served on the McMurry University Alumni Board. Art, along with his wife Renita, was a recipient of the Bob and Clara Brown Award, an award given annually to an individual whose contributions have had a lasting impact on McMurry's athletics department. He was a member of McMurry Student Government and was head delegate of the Model United Nations Outstanding Delegation while at McMurry. Additionally, he was on the Dean's List, voted Senior Class favorite, and received honors from Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Outstanding Young Men of America and the Optimist Club Outstanding Youth of Abilene award. As an outstanding collegiate athlete, Art was an All-American in track and won three individual conference championships in the 200-400- and 800-meter races and five conference championships as a member of the 4X100 and 4X400 meter relays. He was the conference Most Valuable Track Runner and was also the conference Track Freshman of the year. He was twice named as the McMurry track team's Top Performer and twice named

ARTHUR (ART) LEE PERTILE III
1961-2025

the track team's most inspirational performer. Art was selected as a member of the McMurry All Century Track Team. In 2017 Art co-founded and helped to spearhead the endowment of the McMurry African American Alumni Student Scholarship Fund. He joined his best friend/his "Room", Earnest Merritt, in this endeavor.

Law school life

In 1986 Art obtained his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in Austin. While there, he served as Vice President of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society and as Vice President of the University of Texas Black Student Association. He also met Renita in law school and, within a few short months, nicknamed her "Nita Jo."

Public sector service

Art represented governmental entities and public officials exclusively for almost 40 years. He began his legal career in 1986 as an Assistant City Attorney with the Waco City Attorney's Office. He also served as an Assistant District Attorney with the Harris County District Attorney's Office in Houston, Texas, and as an Assistant City Attorney with the City of Houston. Art was appointed City Attorney for the City of Waco in February of 1996. In November of 2007 he joined Olson & Olson L.L.P. where he continued his municipal practice and became an owner/partner of the firm until shortly before he retired. During his illustrious career, he also served as City Attorney for the City of Katy, City Attorney for the City of Stafford, and he represented countless other cities, counties, special districts, and public officials across the State of Texas. As recognition for his tireless work in the public sector, Art received numerous awards, including the "Outstanding Mentor Award" from the Texas City Attorneys Association; the "Marvin Glink Award" from the International Municipal Lawyers Association (for mentoring young lawyers and public service); and the "U.S. Williams Jr. Excellence In Service Award" from the Texas Association of Black City Councilmembers and Mayors. Leadership roles Art held included President of the International Municipal Lawyers Association;

President of the Texas City Attorneys Association; and service on the Boards of the following organizations - the Texas Municipal League, the Government Lawyers Section of the Texas State Bar, the Waco Foundation, the McLennan County Bar Association, Waco Parents for Public Schools, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and the YMCA of Central Texas.

Community impact

Art founded and served as a board member of the Waco Tigers charitable organization. He coached youth basketball for over 45 years and was a National Youth Sport Coaches Association certified youth basketball coach. Hundreds fondly call him "Coach Art" not only because of his basketball coaching skills, but, more importantly, because of his life coaching skills. He was appointed by former Texas Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, where he served as a Commissioner for 10 years. He received numerous awards for his service to the community, including the Frank Fallon "Sportsman of the Year Award" presented by the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce; the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation's "Contributors Award" for his work with the youth of Waco; and many other awards for his service to the community.

Arthur loved basketball, the Dallas Cowboys, L.A. Lakers and traveling. He enjoyed music, especially Country, Gospel and R&B; history and reading the Bible. He was a man of unwavering faith who had an encyclopedic knowledge of the Bible having read it cover to cover, three times. He joins his mother, father, sister Mary Pertile Jones and brother Randall Pertile in death. To cherish his memory, he leaves behind his wife Renita, son Arthur, and daughter Krissica; mother-in-law Ruth King; sisters Beverly Agomuo, Constance Roberts, Stephanie Roberts, and Nina LeBlanc-Moore; sister-in-law Sonia King; and brothers Earnest Merritt and Harry J. Starks. He also leaves behind a great-great aunt, Annie Mae Jackson; great aunt, Mary Lee; great aunt, Mary Rowe; uncle, L.A. Pertile and his wife Barbara; aunt, Patricia Pertile Johnson, and many cousins, nephews, nieces, mentees, friends, and former players on the many, many teams he coached.

A funeral Service for Arthur will be held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 12 p.m. in the Waco Convention Center located at 100 Washington Avenue, Waco, Texas 76701.

Funeral Services entrusted to

Schmidt Funeral Home
1344 W. Grand Parkway
South
Katy, TX 77494
(281)391-2424

FOR MORE OBITUARIES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 5

FREEMAN

from page 1

ensemble greeted guests in the foyer of the Performing Arts Center. The Freeman High School Choir performed the national anthem, and all of the musicians from the school's band, choir and orchestra came together to close the evening with the school song.

Built as part of the voter-approved bond in 2021, Freeman High School is located at 7800 Katy Hockley Road and serves families in Katy ISD's rapidly growing northwest quadrant. The school opened in August 2024, welcoming freshmen and sophomores to the Golden Eagle family.

Katy Taste Fest awards checks to seven area nonprofit groups

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

During the inaugural "Brunch After Dark" foodie event at Typhoon Texas on February 28, Katy Taste Fest founder Cyril Thomas presented ceremonial checks to seven Katy-area nonprofits. The donations, totaling over \$14,500.00, were funded by 100 per cent of the net profits from the 2024 Katy Taste Fest, Thomas said.

Recipients were:

- The Ballard House, \$5,000.00
- Lunches of Love, \$3,500.00

- Katy Christian Ministries, \$2,500.00
- The Arc of Katy, \$2,500.00
- Upbring (formerly Krause), \$1,500.00
- St. Jerome Foster Children program, \$1,000.00
- Katy Cares, \$1,000.00

Tina Hatcher of Hope Impacts and Melinda Stephenson of Clothed by Faith also spoke to the crowd about their nonprofit programs.

Katy Taste Fest followed on March 1 at Typhoon Texas, offering tastings from more than 30 area restaurants. The culinary experience started in 2015, Thomas said.

HIGHWAY

from page 1

to fund the construction, which could involve either public-private partnerships or toll roads. "TxDOT is an economic development engine for you, the citizens and taxpayers of Texas," he said, adding that he wanted to make this project a priority for the Houston district of TxDOT. Consensus helps speed the project along, he said.

Theiss also presented a safety update for the county, detailing "crash hot spots" from 2022 to 2024 including several farm-to-market roads, Highway 290 and State

Highway 6. She said that, over the past three years, there have been 28 fatalities, 157 serious injuries, 368 minor injuries, 341 possible injuries and 2100 non-injury crashes, for a total of 3118 accidents. Fatalities have happened on FM 359 (5), Interstate 10 (4), State Highway 6 (4), FM 2855 (3), US 290 (2) and FM 1488 (2), with nine fatalities along smaller roads.

To learn more about TxDOT's 36A project and to see a map of the study area, go to www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/houston/36a.html.

THE #1 BREW FEST IS BACK FOR 2025

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MARCH 27
K-TOWN THROW-DOWN
MARCH 28
LAUNCH PARTY
MARCH 29
WILD WEST BREW FEST



Tomatoes and Peppers and Herbs, OH My!!!



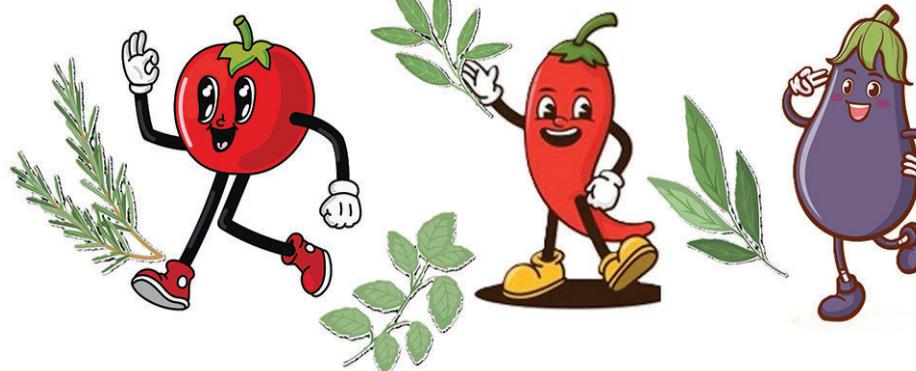
Spring Vegetable

and Herb Plant Sale

March 8, 2025 9:00a.m. - Noon

Bud O'Shieles Community Center

Rosenberg, TX 77471



69th Annual Royal FFA Livestock Show set for March 26-29

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Celebrate the 69th Annual Royal FFA Livestock and Project Show with the Falcon community March 26-29. This year's festivities will be held at Royal High School and in downtown Brookshire for an unforgettable experience of talent, hard work, and Falcon pride, said a spokesperson for Royal ISD.

"While renovations to the RISD CTE Expo Center are still underway, we're excited to host this year's events at the Royal High School Ag Expo Center (34499 Royal Road, Brookshire TX 77423)," said a statement on the district's website. "Get ready for a fantastic lineup of events showcasing our students' dedication and achievements!"

Event highlights:
• **Wednesday, March 26:** Goat & swine show at RHS Ag Expo Center
• **Thursday, March 27:** Cattle show at RHS Ag Expo Center
• **Friday, March 28:** Horticulture & broiler show at RHS Ag Expo Center
• **Saturday, March 29:**
○ 10 a.m. Parade through downtown Brookshire
○ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: BBQ lunch at the RHS cafeteria
○ 1 p.m.: Parade results at RHS Ag Expo Center
○ 1:30 p.m.: Livestock & Project Auction at RHS Ag Expo Center



FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEENO

The Royal FFA Livestock Show Parade, shown here in a 2022 file photo, will be held in downtown Brookshire at 10 a.m. on March 29. The event is free to attend.

The Oaks at Katy Mills offers small-office opportunities near Katy Mills Mall

BY TIM SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

After selling out their last two projects, innovative developer Steadfast Interest returns with the Oaks of Katy Mills Mall. Offering the most stylish small-office opportunities in Katy, their new product features 1,320 square feet with three private offices, a tech/work room, a break room, a glass-walled conference room, a reception area, and ample storage.

"Look, these are just cool. Simply cool," said commercial real estate

veteran Tim Sojka of See Tim Sell. "And the location rocks."

Perfect for a business owner's first commercial investment, business incubation site, branch offices, or the first (or next) office, this prime location is within walking distance of Momentum Rock Climbing, upscale and casual dining, AMC at Katy Mills, Bass Pro Shops, Typhoon Texas Water Park, and Katy Mills shopping. No other site offers more opportunities to indulge its owners while allowing visitors to drop off kids or spouses and conduct business seamlessly.

Located just seconds from I-10, minutes from Grand Parkway (99), major medical centers, and Old Town Katy, this is a rare opportunity to establish your business in the heart of Katy's thriving commercial hub.

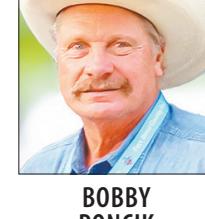
"Look, these guys are experts at this," said Sojka. "Their last project -- the 66 units Katy Main Street (a few blocks away from the new site), sold out before the first unit was completed. I had a lot of sad potential buyers who missed out. Do not wait on this one. Hop on Loopnet, find it, and call us, or you might miss out ... again."

Fort Bend County Fair saluted as Poncik named president

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The City of Richmond, along with Mayor Rebecca "Becky" Haas, the City Commission, and City Manager Terri Vela, has officially recognized the success of the 2024 Fort Bend County Fair in a special ceremony in early February. The proclamation also welcomed Bobby Poncik as the 2025 Fair President.

"We're grateful for the continued partnership with the City and the unwavering support from our dedicated community partners," said Bobby Poncik, the Fort Bend County Fair President. "Here's to another amazing year ahead!"



BOBBY PONCIK

Community engagement and celebration," said a spokesperson for the fair.

On January 23, the Fort Bend County Fair announced its new president, Robert "Bobby" Poncik, a long-time supporter of the fair, will guide the event into its 89th year. As a dedicated volunteer and

passionate leader, Poncik is ready to lead the charge for a fun-filled and impactful 2025 fair that will continue to celebrate family, youth, and agriculture.

For over 30 years, Poncik has been a constant presence at the fair, volunteering and taking on leadership roles across multiple committees. From his involvement in the Creative Arts, Culinary, and Livestock Committees to his time as Livestock Superintendent, his contributions span the fair's entire scope.

The 2025 Fort Bend County Fair will be held from Sept. 26 to Oct. 5. For event information, sponsorship, or volunteer opportunities, visit fortbendcountycountyfair.com.



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Harris Co. attorney's office alerts public to texting scam

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Harris County Attorney's Office has been made aware of a circulating text scam requesting money for unpaid tolls, according to a February 21 release from Mayra D. Hypolite, community outreach coordinator for the office.

"The Scam Free page on our website (<https://cao.harriscountytexas.gov/ScamFree>) has more info on ways to protect yourself and file a complaint," Hypolite's email said. "If you believe that you owe tolls to the Harris County Toll Road Authority, you can also visit hctra.org, or call (713)701-6000 for assistance."

TRIBUTE

Dorothy "Dottie" Jean Fletcher Walton (aged 90) was born on September 4, 1934, in Waco, Texas, to Rev. John T. and Hazel Taylor and passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on February 17, 2025, in Tyler, Texas. Dottie grew up in Freeport, Tx and eventually moved with her family to Houston where Rev. John T. was the pastor at Magnolia Park Baptist Church. Dottie graduated from Milby High School and followed in her parents' footsteps attending Baylor University where she graduated in record time with a bachelor's degree in education in 1955.

Dottie married the love of her life, Odell Fletcher in December 1954, whom she had dated her senior year at Milby High. By joining the Fletcher family, Dottie was introduced to a whole new wild and crazy outdoor life full of camping, hunting, boating, skiing and keeping up with the Fletcher boys (Odell and his brother, Bobby). She and Odell were charter members of the Houston Water Ski Association where she won numerous trophies for her newly acquired waterskiing skills. Dottie and Odell moved to Austin, Texas, where Odell finished his degree at the University of Texas and Dottie began her teaching career in Austin ISD. A life-long learner, Dottie



DOROTHY "DOTTIE" JEAN
FLETCHER WALTON
1934-2025

completed her master's degree at the University of Houston in 1967 and worked towards her doctorate at Houston Baptist University.

In 1972, Dottie and Odell moved their growing young family to Katy, Texas, where Dottie became a counselor and spent the next 30+ years in various positions at Katy ISD. Dottie and Odell were also active members of the First Baptist Church of Katy where they led the youth and young adult Sunday school program.

After the unexpected passing of Odell, Dottie met and married Robert (Bob) Walton in January 1989. Dottie and Bob were active

members at Second Baptist Church where she loved her Sunday school group, singing in the church choir and her women's Wellspring bible study. Dottie also became an active member in Katy civic organizations where she was elected and served on the Katy City Council.

Dottie enjoyed boating, traveling, and was an avid fan and follower of the Baylor Bears and Houston Astros, and never missed an opportunity to support all of her children and grandchildren in each and every one of their sports and activities.

Most importantly, however, Dottie was a strong woman of God who never missed an opportunity to share her faith with everyone she met through her actions, her kindness, her openness and acceptance of others and her unconditional love. She was a true prayer warrior who loved her family and friends with her whole heart. She will be truly missed.

Dottie is survived by her husband, Bob Walton, and her three daughters and their spouses Connie and Fred Parkhurst, Cheri and Mike Swillo, Christi and Julian Lowin and her stepsons, Robert and Stephanie Walton, Michael and Samantha Walton, her grandchildren and their spouses Callie Higginbotham (Bert), Carlie Morgan, Trey Morgan

(Taylor), Taylor Hindsman (Hunter), Morgan Winfield (Nick), Fletcher Lowin (Olivia), Leo Lowin and Brandon Walton and great grandchildren Payton, Sadie, Harper and Lily Higginbotham; Walker and McCoy Morgan; Joanna, Mason, Jack and Melanie Hindsman; and Sophie Winfield, as well as her beloved brother-in-law Bobby Fletcher and wife Nancy, and sisters-in-law Arlene Taylor and Linda Taylor and numerous treasured nieces, nephews and friends. She is preceded in death by her husband Odell Fletcher, her parents Rev. John T. and Hazel Taylor, in-laws Ather and Hellon Fletcher, sister Virginia Ray and husband Dudley, brothers Truman and Gene Taylor.

Her family will receive friends and family at a visitation from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2025, and funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 10, with a graveside service immediately following at Forest Park Westheimer Funeral Home, 12800 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas 77077.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution may be made to the Henderson County YoungLife TX438. Please make checks payable to Henderson County YoungLife TX438, and mail to PO Box 2538, Athens, TX 75751 with notation Dorothy Fletcher Walton.

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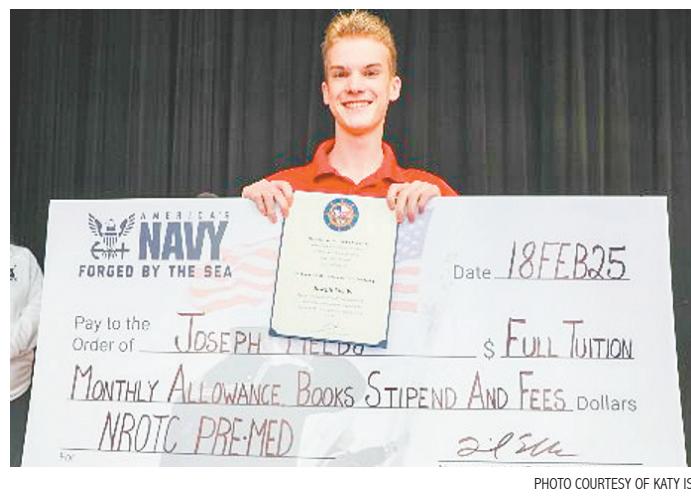
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EDUCATION



Katy High School student Joseph Fields was selected for a Navy ROTC scholarship, covering his college and medical school tuition.

First-of-its-kind NROTC scholarship awarded to KHS student

Award covers college and medical school tuition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Making history, Katy High School senior Joseph Fields was selected for the highly prestigious, highly selective Navy ROTC Scholarship, which provides him with tuition for college, medical school and a guaranteed commission as a Navy officer upon graduation, Katy ISD announced on February 28. Fields' selection is historic because he is among the first cohort of students to receive the inaugural NROTC scholarship.

"We are so proud of Joseph for earning this award and for

being a great role model for our Katy High School community," said Rick Hull, principal of Katy High School. "He's exhibited strong leadership and high achievement here at Katy, and I know that he will do great things in college and beyond."

Looking beyond a student's academic record, the scholarship considers a student's community involvement, leadership and extracurricular activities. After matriculating, selected students enroll in naval science coursework, in addition to their major course of study, as part of their leadership development in their school's ROTC unit.

Recipients of the Navy ROTC Scholarship may pursue several options for their studies, including general navy service, nursing or pre-med, upon completion of their college degree.



Katy ISD's Navy JROTC Unit based at Mayde Creek High School took third place honors during state competition in February.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Katy ISD's Navy JROTC unit ranks third in state

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Ranked among the state's best, Katy ISD's Navy JROTC Unit based at Mayde Creek High School earned third place at the 2025 NJROTC Area 17/18 Texas State Academics, Athletics and Drill Championships, held the last weekend in February at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The unit earned first place overall in Drill, fourth place in Academics and fifth place in both Personnel Inspection and Physical Training.

"I am proud of our cadets for their showing in the state meet, and throughout the competition season," said Commander Elvis Mikel, USN (Ret), Senior Naval Science Instructor. "Over the last few months, we've seen these cadets grow and step up as leaders, and we expect to have even greater success next school year."

Katy ISD's Navy JROTC Unit has had an amazing competition season, earning several first place wins this school year and qualifying for the state meet in November, a KISD district spokesperson said.

Katy ISD sends six teams to annual Academic Decathlon in San Antonio

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Looking to repeat last year's success, Texas' second-ranked Academic Decathlon team from Katy ISD's Taylor High School competed in the 2025 Texas Academic Decathlon San Antonio meet March 1-2 at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Teams from Katy, Morton Ranch and Seven Lakes high schools also represented the district at the meet.

Teams from the top 40 medium and large high schools are invited to the annual state competition in San Antonio with the next ranked teams from medium and large schools, and top 10 small schools, invited to the state competition in Frisco at Collin College's Frisco Campus. Teams from Jordan and Paetow high schools will represent Katy ISD at the Frisco meet.

"Academic Decathlon is fierce competition, and it is not easy to qualify each season for the state meet with more than a hundred high schools competing in the Houston region alone," said Dan-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD
Taylor High School's Academic Decathlon team was the second-ranked Academic Decathlon team last year.

ielle Sanchez, director of GT & advanced academics in Katy ISD. "We wish all of our teams the very best in their respective competitions."

Academic Decathlon tests students' knowledge of a singular

subject each year over 10 subject areas, including art, economics, essay, interview, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social science and speech.

Trustees, district leaders recognize 54 KISD all-state student musicians at board meeting

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Following their stellar performance at this year's Texas Music Education Association (TMEA) Clinic/Convention in San Antonio, Katy ISD's 2025 All-State musicians were honored by the Board of Trustees and district leaders ahead of the Board's regular February meeting on February 24.

This year, 54 students received All-State distinction – the highest honor a student musician can

earn – in band, choir and orchestra, joining the elite top 3 percent of student musicians in the Texas. Four of the students were ranked number one in the state on their respective instrument: Caleb Elrod (Katy), Leah We (Tompkins), Parham Vakili (Seven Lakes) and Brayden Sanchez (Jordan).

"The students represented Katy ISD exceptionally well at this year's convention, performing after just a few days of rehearsal with their counterparts from across the state," said Damon

Archer, executive director of fine arts in Katy ISD. "They, and their teachers, are very deserving of the Board's recognition."

Each year, tens of thousands of students across Texas begin the journey toward All-State recognition, auditioning in several rounds of competition. Those selected to be part of an All-State ensemble perform at the annual TMEA Clinic/Convention before thousands of attendees from across the country and around the world.

Innovations, fiscal best practices net Katy ISD statewide honor in financial management

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) has once again awarded Katy ISD's Financial Services Department its prestigious Award of Excellence in Financial Management, adding another distinction to the team's many accolades, the district announced in a February 26 press release. The award recognizes districts with a superior commitment to professional standards, best practices and innovation in financial management and reporting.

Katy ISD is one of only 32 districts to have earned this year's award and was honored February 26 at a reception at the organization's annual conference in Austin.

"This award is a recognition of the work we do as a team and the commitment to fiscal responsibility we've made to our community," said Christopher J. Smith, Chief Financial Officer in Katy ISD. "I am extremely proud of our work, and I appreciate TASBO's



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD
Katy ISD's Financial Services Department

acknowledgement of our efforts."

The Award of Excellence is based on the financial accounting and reporting guidelines established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG), and is granted to districts that submit documentation on the following 11 areas:

• Finance department essentials

- Staffing and training
- Controls
- Budget management
- Processes
- Cash management
- Communications
- Financial reports
- Financial analyses and projections
- External staff training
- Innovative practices



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Timeline of Events:

*Nominations Open: April 16th - May 21st

*Voting Open: April 23rd - May 30th

*Winners Announced: Monday, June 2nd

*Annual "Best of Katy" results published in the Katy Times: June 26

*Best of Katy Recognition Event: Thursday, June 26. The winners will be celebrated at an event on June 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Katy Beer Garden, 5345 Third Street in Katy.

KEEP READING THE KATY TIMES and katytimes.com
for updates and more information!

L. D. Robinson Scholarship program to host gala on March 11

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The L. D. Robinson Scholarship program will host "Expanding New Horizons," an evening of fine dining including a prime rib dinner and fun-filled auction on March 25 at Midway BBQ Banquet Room, 6025 Highway Blvd., in Katy. Individual tickets or table sponsorships of eight seats for the gala benefiting the program are available. Send RSVP along with payment (check or Zelle) by March 11 to reserve a space. For more information, contact ldrscholarship@gmail.com or lorischusterman@gmail.com.

The event's featured guest will be 2023 recipient, Jaime Hahn, a

sophomore at Texas A&M in the AgriLife Sciences Department, who served as Texas FFA Vice President 2023-24 and Katy FFA Chapter President 2022-23. Hahn has received numerous awards during her four years in the Katy FFA at district, area, state, and national levels and also during her time at Texas A&M.

The LDR Scholarship, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, is celebrating 55 years presenting four-year scholarships to outstanding seniors in the Katy ISD FFA, Agriculture Science Program. Currently there are 18 recipients now in college. The 2024 recipients were Sam Skinner, Jordan Ranch FFA; Briley

Brewer, Paetow FFA; Amber Hall, Katy FFA; Claire Butler, Taylor FFA; and "Expanding Our Horizons," the first LDR Vocational Scholarship in welding was awarded to Al Hasimovic, Taylor FFA.

Other recipients currently in college on the scholarship include Jaime Hahn, Haleigh Triolo, Grayson Schneider, Hanna Huntoon, Madailein Fitch, Delaney Keller, Lauren Sapp, Kacki Kyrish, Kristen Justilian, Kailey Kulhanek, Camryn Wilder, and Skyler Weathers.

The L. D. Robinson Scholarship was established in 1970 by former students and community leaders and approved by the Katy ISD Board of Trustees

to honor Robinson for his 29 years of service as founder of the Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show and Rodeo and first FFA Chapter Agriculture Farm and for his 44-year commitment to Texas education.

Applications for the 2025 scholarships are due by March 21 at 5 p.m. To learn how to apply through the online-only application process, go to ldrskaty.org/application.asp.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at their FFA End-of-Year banquet and are presented with a custom embroidered jacket with the official L.D. Robinson Scholarship logo, their name, the name of their high school, and year of graduation.

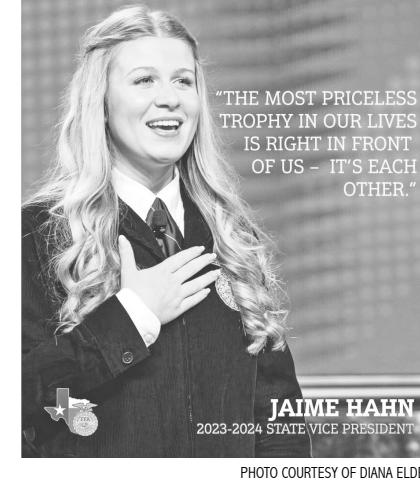


PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANA ELDER

Jaime Hahn, 2023-2024 FFA State Vice President and Katy High School graduate, will be the special guest at the L. D. Robinson Scholarship fundraiser on March 25.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner speaks at Royal Future Ready Superintendents Leadership at Hemi Hideout in Brookshire on February 26.

Shaping the future of Texas education

Royal ISD, Bellville ISD, and TASA welcome statewide leaders for FRSLN Event

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal ISD, Bellville ISD, and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) hosted approximately 134 education leaders from across Texas on February 26, for the latest gathering of the Future Ready Superintendents Leadership Network (FRSLN). The event, held at Hemi Hideout at 1172 Wilpitz Road in Brookshire, provided a collaborative platform for district leaders to engage in innovative discussions and leadership development.

Attendees from 42 school districts participated in collaborative activities and gained insights from a lineup of dynamic speakers, including:

- Rick Kershner, Superintendent, Royal ISD
- Nicole Poenitzsch, Superintendent, Bellville ISD
- Phylicia Glover, Assistant Superintendent, Royal ISD
- Dana Bashara, Superintendent, Alamo Heights ISD
- Rose Jones, Board Member, Royal ISD
- Cori Vahalik, Board Vice President, Royal ISD
- Sandra Buenger, Board President, Bellville ISD
- John Hovas, Owner & Curator, Hemi Hideout
- Ansell Sims, President, Grundfos USA
- Frank Alfaro, Assistant Superintendent, Alamo Heights ISD
- Nathaniel Richardson, Educator, Principal, Superintendent, School Board Member, and Professor
- Royal ISD Educator Panel
- Royal ISD Student Panel

The event featured performances and presentations from the Royal Sound Machine, Royal High School Cheerleaders, Royal High School Jazzettes and Royal MJROTC.

Attendees also had the opportunity to visit Royal ECC, Royal STEM Academy, and Royal High School to witness firsthand the innovative and transformative initiatives shaping the future of education in Royal ISD.

The gathering continued at Hemi Hideout with a networking reception and dinner. On February 27 Bellville ISD hosted the next segment of the event, providing further opportunities for learning and collaboration among future-ready education leaders.



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Falcon musicians advance to state, receive superior ratings and special recognition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In a February 23 press release, Royal ISD announced the outstanding achievements of the Royal High School musicians who

Royal High School musicians who participated in the Region 27 Solo and Ensemble Competition at Langham Creek High School on February 22 show their strength and determination.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

participated in the Region 27 Solo and Ensemble Competition at Langham Creek High School on February 22.

"Their talent, dedication, and hard work were on full display, and they

represented Royal ISD with pride," said a district spokesperson.

Among those receiving top honors, the following six students will compete at the state level:



Brass Quintet - Advancing to State:

- Christian Solorio
- Oliver Vince
- Devin Ruley
- Justin Segura
- Edwin Majano

Euphonium Solo - Advancing to State:

- Damian Ramirez

Additional Superior Ratings

- Joseph Turner
- Lindsey Moreno
- Eduardo Acosta

Special Recognition

Katelyn Turner received an excellent rating, demonstrating exceptional musicality and performance.

Sharp skills, big wins: 44 Royal ISD SkillsUSA students advance to state competition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal ISD's SkillsUSA Chapter achieved outstanding success at the District 9 SkillsUSA Competition, held throughout February at multiple locations across the Houston area, the district announced in a February 26 press release. Students earned numerous awards, medals, and trophies, with 44 students qualifying for the State Competition in Corpus Christi, scheduled for April 2-5, 2025.

Arts, Audio/Video Production

Royal ISD's A/V students excelled in multiple contests, earning state qualifications in the following categories:

- Customer Service & Photography: Elisha Glover
- Advertising Design & Photography (General): Gabriel Velasquez
- Photography (General): Kimberly Pedraza
- Quiz Bowl Team: Elisha Glover, Gabriel Velasquez, Kimberly Pedraza, Jesus Argueta, Elizabeth Moreland
- Audio Visual Quiz Bowl Team: Kylee Brown, Leo Escobar, Josue Arciga, Alisha Shaji, Jennifer Everett

Cosmetology

A milestone achievement for Royal High School, Esteban Carranza has been selected as a 2025-2026 District 9 Officer, a prestigious leadership role within SkillsUSA.

Royal's Cosmetology students achieved top placements in several categories:

- Barbering: Emily Mendoza (1st), Rodrigo Gonzalez (2nd)
- Cosmetology: Esteban Carranza (1st), Annabella Parada (2nd)
- Esthetics: Arely Gonzalez (1st), Shaelyn Gamez (2nd), Vilma Martinez (3rd)



Royal ISD's SkillsUSA Chapter will send 44 SkillsUSA students to the State Competition in Corpus Christi, scheduled for April 2-5, 2025.

Nail Care: America Palacios (1st), Liset Interiano (2nd)

- Cosmetology Quiz Bowl (2nd Place): Esteban Carranza, Maria Marin, Annabella Parada, Arely Gonzalez, Shaelyn Gamez, Liset Interiano, America Palacios

Fantasy Job Exhibit: Maria Lopez, Angeleen Lozana, Yadira DeLeon, Vilma Martinez, Chloe Scott

- Women's Color & Cut: Esteban Carranza, Debby Moreno

Men's Classic Haircut: Emily Mendoza, Jaiden Wilkins

- Men's Design Haircut: Rodrigo Gonzalez

Braiding: Aydrenna Stamps, Jackyline Chavez, Unique Johnson, JaUnsae Johnson

- 3D Nail Art: Sarah Villanueva, Emma Garcia

- Flat Nail Art: Dayrin Aguilar, Natali Nino-Gomez, America Palacios, Shaelyn Gamez, Maria Marin

Machining

All four Royal Machining students received Superior Ratings and qualified for state:

- Alex Castillo
- Mateo Gonzalez
- Eric Hernandez
- Ayden Stamps

Engineering

Royal ISD's Engineering program, one of the district's newest offerings, is already making an impact. Alex Castillo and Donis Addison both advanced to the state competition.

"Royal ISD is incredibly proud of these students and their achievements in the District 9 SkillsUSA competitions," said a district spokesperson in the release. "Their dedication and talent reflect the strength of Royal High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs."

Royal TAFE breaks records at state, advances to nationals

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Royal Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) team showcased their excellence at the TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit State Conference in Galveston February 16-19.

Nineteen state qualifiers competed in 12 events, and Royal TAFE made history with eleven students advancing to Nationals in nine events. In addition, for the third consecutive year, Royal TAFE earned the Gold Award for their chapter yearbook.

The students will now compete at the National Educators Rising Conference in Orlando, FL this summer. Lynette Beyer, TAFE advisor at Royal High School, expressed her pride in their hard work and dedication of all of the students:

- Franco Robles-Lara - JV Creative Lecture
- Quin Boak - JV Children's Literature K-3
- Eleanor Recinos & Kimberly Pedraza - Varsity Children's Literature Pre-K
- Eleanor Recinos, Kimberly Pedraza, Kelsey Jung, & Melina Mendonca - Gold Chapter Yearbook

Walter Diaz - JV Spanish Children's Literature K-3

- Sara Melendez - Varsity Spanish Children's Literature K-3

Andrea Rico and Ciana Diaz - Varsity Spanish Children's Literature Pre-K

- Victoria Gonzalez - Varsity Exploring Non-Core Teaching Subjects

Alex Castillo and Consuelo Aguinaga - Varsity Elem. Interactive Bulletin Board

- Eleanor Recinos, Kimberly Pedraza, Kelsey Jung, & Melina Mendonca - Gold Chapter Yearbook

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NOTICE TO OWNERS & lien holders:

Section 700.001 Your vehicle, 2017 BMW 740I XDRIVE Base 3cyl6 L1C TNZ*** VIN WBA7****9352, As of 02/08/2025, charges of \$5238.00. Contact Car Scientist, 5959 FM 1463, Katy, TX 77494 phone 832.437.7113 Owner, lien holder has 30 days from the date of this notice to claim this vehicle and pay all repair fees, towing, recovery, storage, notification fees, until car is picked up.

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



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Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at selfstorageauction.com beginning 03/24/25 at 9:00 am and will conclude 03/31/25 at 11:00 am. All sales to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on website. Facility address: 4125 Schlipf Rd, Katy, TX 77493. Tenant name: Joseph Bernardez. General description of property: Unit contains furniture, a suitcase, boxes and bags of miscellaneous items.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Willow Fork Drainage District, Attention: Mr. John Savage, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, March 27, 2025, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Cinco Ranch Boulevard Trail Crossing for Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 619 270 429#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construct approximately 900LF of 6" thick sidewalk (10-12' width), 252LF of 1'-1.5' tall cast in place concrete type C-1 curb edge and 614LF of safety handrailing, 2,007 SY of 5" reinforced concrete slope paving and relocation of 153SY of 18" RIPRAP in existing Willow Fork Drainage Ditch.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 367 412 268#.

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.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers at [https://www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com).

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

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

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

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the Lilac Lift Station Rehabilitation project, until 11:00 am Tuesday, March 18, 2025. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the rehabilitation of the existing lift station located at 5511 Lilac Street in the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A Virtual Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 266 368 035 92

Passcode: 4Rk9Bc70

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

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

First Publication: 2-27-2025

Second Publication: 3-06-2025

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the FY 2025 Striping Improvements Project until 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves striping improvements to be performed for various roadways and parking lots throughout the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 266 431 788 693

Passcode: Cn9CT9B2

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

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

First Publication: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Second Publication: Thursday, March 6, 2025



KATY TIMES

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JORDAN DEFEATS HARLAN 57-36

Above: The Katy Jordan Warriors celebrate with the game trophy after beating San Antonio Harlan in the state semifinal game on March 4, 2025, in San Marcos, Texas.
PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN



Jordan guard Elijah Black (3) passes the ball under the basket during the Class 6A division II state semifinal games between Katy Jordan and San Antonio Harlan on March 4, 2025, in San Marcos, Texas.



Jordan head coach Charlie Jones watches the action during the Class 6A Division II state semifinal basketball game between Katy Jordan and San Antonio Harlan on March 4, 2025, in San Marcos, Texas.

ROYAL'S ANDERSON COMMITS TO CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY



Royal Falcon Zakai Anderson is taking his talents to Central Methodist University, Royal ISD announced on February 27 on the district's Facebook page. "His hard work, dedication, and perseverance have paid off, and we couldn't be prouder," said the Facebook post.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

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NOTICE

THE MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

By Order of Mayor and City Council
City of Katy, Texas
February 10, 2025

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: Danny Rhea Moore, Shelly Lynn Sharp Lemm and Gail Holliday, owners, are requesting to be allowed to revise Lot 51 of West Magnolia Forest Subdivision, Section 1. The revision will be to partition Lot 51 into three lots. These newly configured lots would consist of Lot 51-A (13.668 acres), Lot 51-B (3.000 acres) and Lot 51-C (3.000 acres). Lot 51 of West Magnolia Forest Subdivision, Section 1 is situated in the O. Wingfield Survey A-269, Waller County, Texas, as recorded in Volume 192, Page 324, in the Deed Records of Waller County, Texas.

This replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicant's property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on April 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Joe Kuciembra Annex, 425 FM 1488 Hempstead, Texas 77445.

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Tom McPherson (center, in red hat) stands with his family as McPherson Field – formerly the Katy High School baseball field – is dedicated in his honor. McPherson coached for 45 years and was the head coach for Katy from 1987-2022, the final 34 years of his 45-year career.

McPherson Field dedicated at KHS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Former Katy High School baseball coach Tom McPherson threw out the ceremonial first pitch at McPherson Field at KHS prior to the game between the Tigers and Morton Ranch at the field now named in his honor. On March 25, 2024, the Katy ISD board of trustees voted unanimously to name the baseball fields at Katy High School, 6331 Highway Boulevard, Katy, for McPherson.

"Tom McPherson's name is synonymous with Katy High School and City of Katy," wrote Katy Times Sports Editor Tyler

Tyre upon McPherson's retirement in 2022.

McPherson coached for 45 years and was the head coach for Katy from 1987-2022, the final 34 years of his career. During that time, McPherson became the all-time winningest coach in Class 6A Texas high school baseball and finished his career with 891 wins over the course of his career. McPherson ended his career with two state tournament appearances and a number of district championships at Katy. He was inducted into the Greater Houston Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Honor in December 2022.



Former Katy High School head coach Tom McPherson is embraced by former KHS player Caleb Matthews, after McPherson delivered the ceremonial first pitch prior to the Katy-Morton Ranch game on March 4. The baseball field was named in McPherson's honor.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVINGNO

ROYAL BASKETBALL



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

Royal Falcons played against Waco Connally Cadets at A&M Consolidated High School on February 21. Royal Falcons took a loss on the play off 4A D2 Bi District game. Final score Royal Falcons 28, Waco Connally Cadets 41.

TGCA softball poll includes Tigers, Mustangs in top 25

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Girls Coaches Association state softball poll ranking the top 25 teams in the state, released March 3, shows Katy High School ranked second and Taylor High School ranked in 19th place.

Here are the complete results:

CLASS 6A	
1. El Paso Socorro 13-0	12. Humble Sum. Creek 11-1
2. Katy 16-1	13. Prosper 7-1
3. Forney 15-0-1	14. Austin Del Valle 6-1-1
4. El Paso Eastwood 18-1-1	15. Humble Kingwood 9-1
5. Pharr-San Juan Alamo 11-1	16. SA O'Connor 7-1
6. Atascocita 9-1	17. Wolfforth Frenship 11-1
7. Midland 15-2	18. Willis 9-1
8. Buda Johnson 7-0-1	19. Katy Taylor 10-2
9. Clear Lake 8-1	20. Ridge Point 9-2
10. Dallas Skyline 8-1	21. Waco Midway 8-2
11. Eagle Pass 8-1	22. Dripping Springs 9-3-1
	23. Harker Heights 14-3
	24. New Braunfels 11-3
	25. Schertz Clemens 12-3

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