LOCAL ARBORIST WIELDS CHAINSAW TO CREATE WORKS OF ART

NEWS | PG 4







VOLUME 113, ISSUE 12

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025



Becky McGrew, city secretary for the City of Katy, demonstrates the interactive screen at the new visitor's center. Patrons can select specific options in order to learn more about where to live, work, play and more by touching a button.

City offers 'sneak peek' at new visitors center during inaugural Katy Exchange market

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

Attendees at Saturday's first Katy Exchange market day in the City of Katy's historic downtown square were able to view the city's new visitors center at 5718 Second Street, which is expected to open in early summer.

Plans for the remodeling of the Katy Visitors Center, along with the installation of permanent exhibits, were originally unveiled at the April 22, 2024, meeting of the Katy City Council.

A 136" interactive touch screen will enable residents and visitors to drill down and zoom in on information on how to live, work and play in Katy. The screen will also feature a map, along with information about upcoming events and area schools. Two virtual characters who have lived in Katy all their lives - one a student and



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

A kids' zone at the new visitors center will introduce younger visitors to Katy's railroad heritage. Below: A large exhibit at Katy's new visitor's center will showcase the city's agricultural heritage in rice farming and its role in oil and gas.



Tesia plans to open 'Megapack' battery factory in **Brookshire**, will create 1,500 jobs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tesla is expanding its presence in Texas with a new "Megapack" battery storage manufacturing facility in Brookshire, bringing approximately 1,500 full-time jobs to the area, according to sources at the Waller County Economic Development Partnership.

The project, located at 111 Empire Blvd. in Brookshire, has been in negotiation for three to four months, said Waller County EDP Executive Director Vince

Yokum.

The county worked with the city of Brookshire on the project, Yokum said; both gave a 60% abatement on the building and qualifying manufacturing equipment during regular meetings in the first week of March. The jobs created by the project are expected to be "high paying " advanced manufacturing jobs, he said. Yokum added that he anticipated that the company will offer competitive medical

See TESLA, page 3

March is Colorectal **Cancer Awareness Month**

Houston Methodist West expert weighs in on the rise in colorectal cancer among young adults

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In recent years, studies have shown a concerning rise in colorectal cancer diagnoses among younge

colorectal surgeon at Houston Methodist West, attributes this to a combination of factors, many of which are within our control.

"This increase in colorectal cancer is not just about genetics; it's about the lifestyle choices many of us are making today," said Dr. Kamal. "Diet plays a significant role. People are consuming more processed foods and less fiber, which can contribute to a higher risk. A lack of exercise, smoking, and

environmental factors all add to this growing

adults, a trend that continues to grow.

According to the American Cancer Society, individuals born after 1980 are seeing an alarming increase in colorectal cancer rates. The American Cancer Society rec-

ommends that individuals begin regular colonoscopies starting at age 45 to aid in early detection and prevention. Dr. Tareq Kamal,



DR. TAREQ KAMAL

problem.' But while lifestyle is important, Dr. Kamal stresses the need for awareness. Understanding your family history is critical to early detection. "If colorectal cancer runs in your family, it's essential to talk to your doctor

about your risks and take action

See **CANCER**, page 3

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Search for the best Texasmade products ups the ante to \$100,000 in cash awards

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On March 10 H-E-B kicked off the 12th annual H-E-B Quest for Texas Best, a competition created to find the best Texas-made products. Submissions for the competition will be accepted from March 10 through April 23. Qualified participants will compete for a combined \$100,000 in cash prizes and the opportunity to feature their product on H-E-B shelves across the state.

H-E-B's Business Development Managers will select the top applicants who will present their products before a panel of judges selected by H-E-B this September in San Antonio. The panel of judges will determine the top four winning products and award \$50,000 to the Grand Prize winner, the title of "Texas Best", and placement on store shelves; \$25,000 to the first-place winner; \$15,000 to the second-place winner; and \$10,000 to the third-place winner.



H-E-B Quest for Texas Best call for entries open through April 23

Last year, Brookshire-based Honestly Texas Rice was selected as a finalist for HEB's 11th Annual Quest for Texas Best competition. "Out of 470 entries Honestly Texas Rice was selected as one of the top 10 Texas best products," Pam West, Business Manager of Texas Rice Milling (home of Honestly Texas Rice), shared on social media at the time.

H-E-B has discovered more than 1,000 unique products throughout the Lone Star State over the last decade - from cookies, coffees to empanadas, pickles, and pho, to salsas, spices, and everything in between. Nonfood submissions have included everything from beauty items, toys, home goods, and

household necessities, to gardening supplies, coolers, and more. Over the years, H-E-B has reviewed nearly 7,000 samples of the most creative Texas-made products and awarded nearly \$2.75 million in prize money complemented by marketing, mentoring, and supplemental support. Additionally, H-E-B has awarded 55 Quest for Texas Best suppliers to date with a commemorative H-E-B Million Dollar Club belt buckle for achieving \$1 million in sales.

"We look forward to connecting with Texas-based innovators each year and providing exciting opportunities through this competition," said James Harris, Sr. Director of Diversity & Inclusion and Supplier Diversity for H-E-B. "I can't wait to see what products are brought to the table this year. After 12 years of the H-E-B Quest for Texas Best and nearly 7,000 entries, the creativity and ingenuity of Texans still inspires me."

To prepare for Quest, participants will have the opportunity to visit with H-E-B Sourcing leaders about formation sessions March 27, April 2, April 10, and April 16. Registration is required. To register for an informational meeting, review competition details, and learn more about the two-minute

See QUEST, page 3





houstonmethodist.org/pcg/west 713.441.7265

COMMUNITY

Katy Sip N Stroll 2025

Premier event for wine lovers and foodies set for April 5, to benefit Christ Clinic

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The much-anticipated Katy Sip N Stroll is set to return April 5, from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m., offering attendees a one-of-akind experience that pairs exquisite wines, delicious food, and live entertainment all benefitting Christ Clinic. The event will be held at The ARK by Norris Event Center, 21402 Merchants Way in Katy, Produced by Food & Vine Time Productions, and presented by Kroger, Katy Sip N Stroll is in its 29th edition and is the original community wine event in Katy, organizers said.

The Katy Sip N Stroll offers a unique opportunity to sample fine wines from a variety of wineries and enjoy culinary creations from local restaurants, which will compete for the title of Premier Culinary Awards Winner judged by a panel of chefs, food influencers and media.

Event highlights:

 Wine/beverage Tastings: Explore over 300 beverages including over 200 selections of wine, craft beer, emerging categories, and craft spirits.

• Culinary Delights: More than 35 local restaurants and food vendors will highlight their finest offerings, providing the perfect pairings for wine lovers. Plus, the Kroger Experience Alley featuring 60-feet of gourmet food selections.

• Live Music & Entertainment: Enjoy a variety of live performances throughout the evening, adding to the festive, lively atmosphere.

 Local Shopping & Art: Browse local artisans' booths and discover unique handcrafted goods and art just in time for Mother's Day.

• VIP Experience: VIP ticket holders will enjoy early access to the event, exclusive premium wine tasting selections, the BIG glass, VIP swag bag and special perks throughout the evening.

'We are thrilled to bring the Katy Sip N Stroll back for 2025 and continue our tradition of pouring for a purpose and providing a fun and relaxed evening for wine, food, and music lovers, which supports a very worthwhile local charity...Christ Clinic who provides much needed medical care for people right here in the Katy and surrounding community" said Constance McDerby, one of the event's co-founders.

Tickets for Katy Sip N Stroll 2025 are now available for purchase at www.sipandstroll.com. General admission all-inclusive tickets are priced at \$65, while VIP tickets, which include additional benefits, are available for \$95.

Katy Sip N Stroll is presented by Kroger with support from Aruba Tourism, Genesis Corcoran Realty, Le Chloe Med Spa, Patton Properties, Alexander Valley Vineyards, Hess Persson Estates, Community Impact, Covering Katy, Katy Times, Katy Christian Magazine, PetTalk Magazine, Spring Branch Magazine, and SWOON Magazine.

CITY OF KATY HOSTS FIRST KATY EXCHANGE MARKET ON MARCH 15



Left: A miniature train took visitors around Katy's historic town square on Saturday at the city's inaugural Katy Exchange market event. The train is operated by JDK Trackless Train of Katy. Right: A family prepares to board the City of Katy's new trolley which made its debut on March 15 at the first Katy Exchange market event. The trolley took riders to and from Katy Heritage Park, where they could visit Katy's historic homes.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Epiphany Catholic School hosts 2025 Gala on March 22

Epiphany Catholic School will host its annual gala on March 22, inviting guests to follow the yellow brick road to "Epiphany's Emerald City" from 6-10 p.m. at Ashton Gardens West Houston. All proceeds benefit the school's operating costs while also funding projects and endeavors which enhance Epiphany's mission and vision. The evening includes a cocktail hour featuring signature event cocktails, dinner, wine pull, silent and live auctions, and dancing. The school will also recognize one of its generous supporters with the Seat of Wisdom award. For more information, to become a sponsor or to donate, visit epiphanycatholic.school/support/ gala. For information, contact Angey Murray, community engagement coordinator, at 832-391-6500.

Spring community campout set for March 25-26

Pack your tent and sleeping bags for a night of free family fun including an outdoor movie, activities, dinner, s'mores, and a light breakfast, all courtesy of the City of Katy's Parks and Recreation Department. Set-up begins Friday at 4 p.m. at VFW Park, 6202 George Bush Drive in Katy, and camp breaks by 9 a.m. Saturday morning. All participants must register at www.cityofkaty. com/Home/Components/Calendar/ Event/10321/161.

Shred your stuff at Frost Bank on March 26

Join the team at Frost Bank at 21875 Katy Freeway in Katy on March 26 for complimentary shredding services and sweet treats. Only paper products will be accepted, with a limit of 10 boxes/bags per visitor. The event starts at 11 a.m. and is free and open to the public.

Travel with the Fussell Senior Center to visit area attractions

The City of Katy's Fussell Senior Center has planned a variety of excursions for late March. For more information, contact the center at 281 391-4837.

• March 23, 12:30 - 6 p.m.: Game Over Escape Room and Dinner at Adriatic Café. Solve a number of riddles, find hidden objects and clues and join with other players to solve the mystery and escape the room on time.

• March 25, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Lunch and Movie. Join other seniors to watch a film on the big screen and enjoy lunch with friends. Movie and restaurant TBD on Monday, March 24. No advanced cost for this trip.

• March 25, 9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.: Wildflower Trip. Enjoy a scenic outing and experience the beauty of wildflowers in full bloom.

International Women's Day celebration set for March 27

Fort Bend County, in partnership with the UNA USA Houston Chapter,

will host an International Women's Day Celebration dedicated to advancing all women and girls' rights, equality, and empowerment. This event will feature an inspiring discussion on gender equity, highlighting women's resilience, achievements, and ongoing challenges in leadership, business, education, and community advocacy, featuring distinguished speakers and panelists, local leaders, community advocates, and industry pioneers, as well as UNA USA Houston representatives and Fort Bend County officials. The festivities will take place on March 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Houston Community College - Stafford Campus, 9910 Cash Rd., Stafford, TX 77477

Wild West Brewfest returns to Typhoon Texas March 27-29

Don't miss the Wild West Brewfest, hosted by the Rotary Club of Katy, with 100+ craft breweries, delicious food, and non-stop fun! This three-day event, held at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road, offers an epic weekend of craft beer, great vibes, and live music.

• Thursday K-Town Throw-Down, 6 to 9 p.m. Free admission

• Friday Launch Party, 7 to 10 p.m. Kick-off concert with Payton Howie starts at 7 p.m.

 Saturday WWBF, VIP admission 2 to 8 p.m. with general admission 3 to 8 p.m. All day entertainment with Love and Chaos at 3:30 p.m. and Escape Journey (Tribute Band) at 6 p.m.

🍣 CLEARLY, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! 🍣

homes!





CROSSV łE 1980s

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. *"Sunday Bloody Sunday'
- author, with The
- 5. *Saget of "Full House" fame
- 8. Last month 11. "Howdy, _
- 12. Hurtful remark
- 13. *Actor Hudson of Winston
- Zeddemore fame 15. Give the cold shoulder
- 16. *Musical based on 1980s rock "Rock of
- 17. *Comedy horror " Hell"
- 18. *Transparency, to Gorbachev
- 20. Slangy "Follow me!"
- 21. Coffee shop order
- 22. Pro vote
- 23. Heart abnormality
- 26. Act out Civil War battle, e.g. 30. Eisenhower, familiarly
- 31. Mediterranean island
- 34. Small island
- 35. *Oscar-winning "Tootsie"
- actress Jessica
- 37. Not hers
- 38. Dionysus' pipe-playing
- companion
- 39. Not on land
- 40. Water pipe
- 42. Dog tags, e.g.43. First lunar phase (2 words)
- 45. Higher education reward 47. Biblical mother
- 48. *What "I love Lucy" did in
- the '80s
- 50. Name of the Blue Ox 52. *Gull-winged sports car
- 55. Party handout
- 56. Smoothie berry
- 57. Clickable image
- 59. Follows orders
- 60. Mixed breed canine
- 61. *Air Jordan, e.g.

62. *"Cheers" setting 63. Byron: "Maid of Athens, we part" 64. Dispatched

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ambulance squad, acr.
- 2. "Shoot!"
- 3. Person of French descent
- 4. Preserve, as in body
- 5. Prejudiced one
- 6. Falstaffian in body
- 7. Cr me de la cr me 8. "Do ____ others as..." 9. Property right

- 10. _____ Aviv 12. Bridge-like structure
- 13. Wedding singer, e.g.
- 14. *Ceausescu's country
- Pasta accompaniment
 *"Owner of a Lonely Heart"
- band
- 23. *Arrigo Sacchi's Associazione
- Calcio . 24. Tsar's edict
- 25. Re-establish
- 26. Zwieback
- 27. Up and about
- 28. *Blinky, Pinky, Inky and

29. To the point

- 32. Sound unit 33. *Duran Duran's hit
- 36. *Hand-held "Tetris" device
- (2 words)
- 38. Give sheep a haircut
- 40. Gardening tool 41. Quick and skillful
- 44. Sets, in cricket 46. Metamorphic rock
- 48. Happen again 49. Fill with spirits
- 50. Rum cake 51. Affirm

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

54. "High" time

TESLA from page 1

benefits and possibly internships.

The Empire West industrial park, located on Woods Road between Highway 90 and Interstate 10, will house Tesla's new operations. Tesla has leased the site since 2021, with third-party logistics firm DB Schenker managing Tesla parts. With Schenker set to move out, Tesla will take over the space to begin Megapack production, in a 1 millionsquare-foot facility built by Stream Realty, which originally had no tenant, but was designed to attract economic development. Tesla will also occupy a new 600,000-squarefoot distribution facility at 103 Empire Blvd that will include some manufacturing capabilities, but will mainly be a warehouse to store the units. Yokum said that construction would start immediately, and that the facility is expected to be open and up and running by the end of

the year.

"This is a great example of our spec building abatement program which we initiated around 2009-2010, and Brookshire also used a spec abatement for many of the buildings in Empire West," Yokum said. "The existing building at 111 was constructed as a spec building by WCEDP partners Stream Realty. This was a great partnership between the City of Brookshire, Waller County, and Stream Realty."

Yokom called the facility "stateof-the-art" and highlighted its role in grid stability and preventing outages, according to teslanorth.com.

Tesla's Megapacks store electricity for renewable energy projects, helping to stabilize the grid when solar and wind power aren't generating. According to Tesla, each Megapack unit can store over 3.9 MWh of energy, which can power around 3,600 homes for an hour. The batteries are delivered fully assembled and ready to operate, allowing for fast installation and minimal maintenance. Equipped with a 20-year warranty, each Megapack is paired with its own inverter for greater efficiency and comes with over-the-air software updates for continuous improvement.

Megapacks are primarily aimed at utilities and large-scale commercial projects and help balance renewable energy supply on the grid, discharge power during peak demand, and can even delay expensive grid infrastructure upgrades by storing power locally, the company's website said. Additionally, Megapacks aid in stabilizing voltage and frequency, assist in microgrid development, and support energy needs during system operator alerts, according to the website.



Tesla is expanding its presence in Texas with a new "Megapack" battery storage manufacturing facility in Brookshire, bringing approximately 1,500 jobs to the area. The Empire West industrial park at 111 Empire in Brookshire, located on Woods Road between Highway 90 and Interstate 10, will house Tesla's new operations.

QUEST from page 1

video requirement, please visit heb.com/quest.

Interested suppliers and manufacturers must submit details about their products at heb.com/ quest by 4:59:59 p.m. on April 23 for consideration.

About H-E-B

H-E-B, with sales of more than \$46 billion, operates over 435 stores in Texas and Mexico. Known for its innovation and community service, H-E-B celebrates its 120th anniversary this year. Recognized for its fresh food, quality products, convenient services, and a commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability, H-E-B strives to provide the best customer experience and low prices. Based in San Antonio, H-E-B employs over 160,000 Partners in Texas and Mexico and serves millions of customers in more than 300 communities. For more information, visit heb.com.

VISITORS from page 1

one a retired person — will also interact with visitors, according to information originally presented last year by Associate Vice President and Creative Director Chris Frison of DG Studios, which won the bid to redesign the center. Themed racks for informational brochures will be installed along the walls near the screen. The updated center will

have a kids' zone depicting the area's industries of rice farming, oil and gas and the railroad. A large history wall will detail Katy's agricultural heritage as well.

During the Katy Exchange event, festivalgoers were able to ride the city's new trolley, which ran between the downtown square and the historic homes located in Katy Heritage Park. Attendees could also ride a trackless train which ran along the sidewalks at the square.

Before the event came



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The City of Katy's Visitor Center, located at 5718 Second Street in downtown Katy, was opened for a "sneak peek" on March 15 during the Katy Exchange market event. The center is expected to open in early summer, according to City Secretary Becky McGrew.

to a close, city officials, in cooperation with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, awarded a portion of the event's proceeds to two area nonprofits. The local chapter of the VFW and the PTSD Foundation of America, which operated Camp Hope for veterans recovering from the trauma of combat, each received \$2000.00.

CANCER from page 1

early," he said.

Dr. Kamal wants to emphasize that there are warning signs people shouldn't ignore. Persistent changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, unexplained weight loss, and abdominal pain are all red flags.

"People often think these symptoms are normal or just a minor issue, but they could be signs of something much more serious," said Dr. Kamal. "If you're experiencing any of these symptoms, don't wait seek medical attention. A colonoscopy could save your life."

For young adults, especially those with family history or risk factors, early screenings and consultations with a doctor are critical. By acting early, the chances of successful treatment increase, and lives can be saved.

For more information on colorectal cancer prevention or to schedule a colonoscopy appointment, call 832-522-8560.



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COMMUNITY

THE KATY TIMES THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

National EMS Academy celebrates Houstonarea EMT graduates including Katy resident

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Acadian Ambulance's National EMS Academy is recognizing its recent EMT graduating class in Houston, consisting of 21 students, the organization announced on February 21

The newest group of EMTs serving the Houston community includes Katy resident Alfredo



Avila Program Manager Timothy Dronet said, "These students have exemplified the skills and diligence required to be EMTs. We are proud of the effort they've put into their coursework and of their desire to save lives and aid their communities."

ALFREDO AVILA

The EMT course covers Basic Life Support (BLS) concepts, including patient assessment, airway management,

trauma management, cardiovascular emergencies, pediatric care and many other concepts that are needed to treat members of the community.

The National EMS Academy holds EMT classes throughout the year. The next class began on March 17, and is being offered at a 70% discount. For more information on the benefits of a career in EMS and to enroll, visit Houston. BecomeAMedic.com.

National EMS Academy offers initial education, continuing education, and refresher courses for a number of EMS career pathways, including EMR, ECA, EMTs, and paramedics. It is a nationally accredited EMS training facility with locations in Louisiana, Texas, and Tennessee and is an authorized American Heart Association Training Center for CPR and ECC courses.

For more information, visit www.nationalemsacademy. com.

Teen musician Leah Wu to return to Carnegie Hall as member of National Youth Orchestra

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tompkins High School student Leah Wu has done it again — and she is headed back to Carnegie Hall. On March 11, Carnegie Hall announced the names of



WU

the 96 outstanding young musicians selected from across the country for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA). And Wu, who plays the bassoon, was ong those chosen. The 17-vear-ol who is a member of the Houston Youth Symphony, said that she was inspired by her teachers, Brett Van Gansbeke and Elise Wagner, and by Paul Desmond, a jazz saxophonist. She is a prior member of both NYO-USA and

Local arborist wields chainsaw to create beautiful works of art

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A familiar name in the local tree care industry, Cody Geiman has taken his passion for trees to an artistic level.

Geiman is the owner of Cody's Tree Service and as an ISA-certified arborist, he has spent years caring for the trees in the Katy-West Houston area, ensuring their health and longevity.

Now, Geiman is channeling his expertise and deep connection with wood into an unexpected craft— chainsaw carving. What started as a professional necessity in tree care has evolved into a creative outlet, allowing him to transform logs into stunning works of art.

"Working with trees has always been my passion, but chainsaw carving gives me a whole new perspective," Geiman said. "Instead of just removing trees, I get to breathe new life into the wood and create something lasting."

His intricate carvings, ranging from wildlife sculptures to customdesigned pieces, are gaining attention in the Katy community and beyond. Using a combination of precision, experience, and artistic vision, Geiman is proving that chainsaws aren't just for cuttingthey can also carve beauty from nature.

Geiman told the Katy Times that one day, he just decided to try carving with a chainsaw. "I have had a chainsaw in my hand for 30 years, so one day I just said I am going to go carve a bear out of a pine log," he said. And he assured the Katy Times that he was fully sober and in full possession of his senses at the time.

Geiman generally gets the wood for his carvings from his tree service jobs or from his brother-in-law, who also brings him large logs from his tree service. He can complete a piece in as little as two hours, but more detailed work may require as many as 60 hours, he said. He does take special orders and will also carve trees that have died in people's vards or had to be removed due to storm damage. "My favorite wood to carve is American Elm," he said.

Recently, Cody has carved two sculptures for local Katy ISD schools - the new Freeman High School which just opened this year, and for the elementary school which he attended - Hutsell Elementary.

"Other completed pieces are on display at the ranch my wife and I own together, Turquoise Acres Ranch here in Katy," Geiman said. "Every piece I have made is available for purchase. I do give some as gifts." Prices for the pieces range from \$500.00 to \$7500.00, he said. So far, he has had only one major injury, Geiman said. "When my daughter Lilly was graduating from fifth grade, I ended up cutting my hand with a high speed grinder," he said. "Fileted my hand right open and had to have 22 stitches and physical therapy. My hand was put back together by a plastic surgeon."







NYO2.

The members of the 2025 orchestra—ages 16-19, hailing from 29 states plus the District of Columbia-have been recognized by Carnegie Hall as being among the finest players in the country following a comprehensive and highly selective audition process. This summer's orchestra features 23 musicians who previously played with NYO-USA, as well as 29 musicians who gained experience through NYO2, a program for younger players ages 14–17. All three of Carnegie Hall's national youth ensembles are offered free of charge, ensuring that all invited musicians have the opportunity to take part each summer.

This summer, NYO-USA musicians travel to New York in early July for an intensive two-week training residency at Purchase College, State University of New York (SUNY). World-renowned conductor Gianandrea Noseda leads NYO-USA at the orchestra's annual Carnegie Hall concert on July 20, followed by a six-city Asian tour. This summer, the orchestra makes its debut in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan and returns to Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai, China joined by violinist Ray Chen; then completes its tour with a return engagement in Seoul, South Korea with soloist Clara-Jumi Kang.

"The members of NYO-USA are among the finest young players in country," said Clive Gillinson, Carnegie Hall's Executive and Artistic Director. "As they come together, they will have the opportunity to learn from leading orchestral musicians, inspire one another in a way that raises everyone's standards as they collaborate with world-renowned artists, and perform on some of the finest stages across Asia. Throughout their two-week tour, the members of NYO-USA will represent the best of America as both musical performers and cultural ambassadors."

As he continues to hone his craft, Geiman hopes to share his

talking about

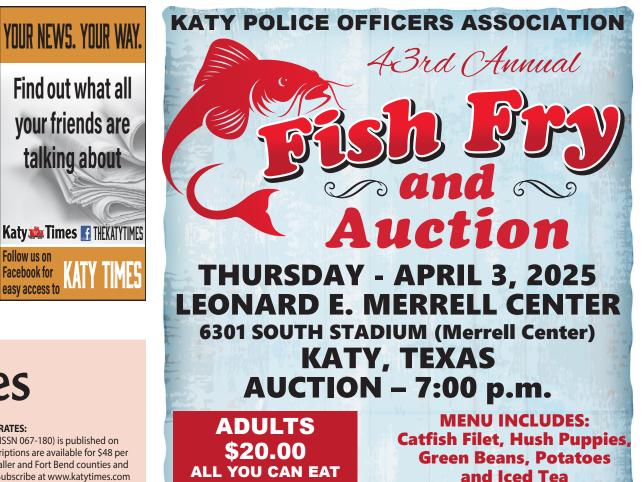
Left: Geiman's work — such as this giraffe — is on display on the weekends at Turquoise Acres, the Katy Ranch that he owns with wife Bethany Geiman. Right: Large intricate pieces such as this ape can take more than 60 hours to carve, Geiman said.

work with more people and inspire others to explore the artistry of wood carving. Whether maintaining trees or turning them into masterpieces, he remains deeply rooted in his love for nature.

For those interested in seeing his work or learning more, these carvings may be viewed on the weekends on Saturday and Sunday at Turquoise Acres Ranch, 3550

Schlipf Road in Katy, owned by Cody and his wife, Bethany Geiman.

Born in South Dakota, Geiman moved to Katy with his family as a young 10-year-old boy. Geiman attended Katy Junior High and is a proud 1993 graduate of Katy High School and has been married to Bethany Geiman for 13 years; together they have a blended family of six children.



Meals served from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Katy **...**Times

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KATYTIMES.COM

Fort Bend County Libraries hit by network disruption

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On February 24, the Fort Bend County Library System became aware of a network disruption that impacted some of its services. Upon learning of the incident, the library's IT professionals took immediate action to mitigate its impact, and most online resources have since been restored, according to a March 12 press release from the library.

"We are also working with cybersecurity professionals to investigate the matter," the release said. "We recognize that this may cause concern regarding the security of patrons' personal information. We want to reassure the community that the library intentionally limits the types of personal information it collects from patrons. The library does not store personal information from patrons that could easily be used to commit identity theft or fraud—such as social security numbers or financial information. Our primary objective is to restore full services and ensure the security of the library's network."

County Librarian Roosevelt Weeks said, "We sincerely appreciate your patience during this time, and we will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, our branches remain open, and our staff is available to assist with any service needs. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the public on the Fort Bend County Library system's website."

KATY NATIVE SERVES ABOARD USS RALPH JOHNSON



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS HANNAH FRY

THE KATY TIMES THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

SAGAMI BAY (February 4, 2025) – Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Shelby White from Katy, Texas, waits on the flight deck of Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) during flight operations in Sagami Bay, February 4. Ralph Johnson is forward deployed and assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, the Navy's largest DESRON and the U.S. 7th fleet's principal surface force.

The Katy Times Dírectory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship



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THE KATY TIMES



Support KISD teachers during 'Dine Out to Donate' at local restaurants April 2

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Save the date for Wednesday, April 2! Join the Katy Education Foundation in supporting these amazing restaurant partners who lead the way in supporting Katy ISD teachers. All proceeds benefit the Katy ISD Education Foundation and its teacher grant program. The foundation's staff encourages local foodies to "plan ahead, order ahead," and to mention "Dine Out to Donate" with your order.

Participating "Dine Out" restaurants, as of March 7:

- Aunt Bills
- Buzz & Bites Katy
- · Cabo Bob's Burritos
- Chick-fil-A Katy Mills
- Chicken Salad Chick Spring Green
- Chuckwagon BBQ Burgers
- Dish Society
- Doneraki Fuego y Mar Mexican Grill
- El Asador
- El Rancho Mexican
- Restaurant
- Gelato & Co
- Great Harvest Bread Co.
- Half Baked Goodness
- Hasta La Pasta
- Home Run Dugout
- HTeaO Katy Avenue D Humble Grounds
- Coffeehouse
- Jimmy Changas • Kilwins Katy Mills,
- La Centerra Kolache Factory
- Lomontes Italian Restaurant
- Mia's Table
- Midway BBQ

- Pearl and Vine
- PJ's Coffee of New Orleans
- Portillo's
- Raising Cane's
- **Chicken Fingers**
- Red River BBQ & Grill
- Roegels Barbecue Katy
- Rudy's "Country Store"
- and Bar-B-Q
- Sapore Detroit Pizzaria
- Company
- and Bar

- Ziggi's Coffee Katy

McCaul announces 2025 **Congressional Art Competition**

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On March 10, U.S. Congressman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) announced that the 2025 Congressional Art Competition, a contest for high school students in the 10th Congressional District, is officially open. The 10th Congressional District includes Waller County; please view the district map at https://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Texas%27s_10th_congressional_district#/map/0.

Texas' 10th district is home to many exceptionally talented students," said Rep. McCaul. "Art has a profound impact, and I'm always impressed by the skill and emotion our students pour into their work. Each year, I look forward to seeing their incredible submissions."

The winning selection will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol, alongside artwork from students across the nation. Additionally, first-place Congressional Art Competition winners and one guest will receive round-trip tickets to attend the Winner's Celebration on June 11th in Washington, D.C.

Artwork entered in the contest may be up to 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches in depth. Submissions cannot weigh more than 15 pounds. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must be framed by the entrant and still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions. Types of artwork include:

• Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor

• Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)

· Collages - must be two dimensional

• Prints - including lithographs,

silkscreen, and block prints

 Mixed media - use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.

- Computer-generated art
- Photography

To participate, please submit the 2025 Student Release Form found at https://mccaul.house.gov/services/ art-competition and original artwork to one of Rep. McCaul's offices. Submissions must be received by April 18, no later than 5 p.m. CT.

 College Station Office: 175 Century Square Drive, Suite 210, College Station, TX 77845

• Austin Office: 11614 FM 2244 Suite 160, Austin, TX 78738

For additional details on the competition, please visit https://mccaul.house.gov/services/art-competition . For questions, please contact staff member Destinee Vargas at Destinee.Vargas@mail.house.gov or 979-431-6480.

ELEMENTARY CAMPUS ROUNDUP

Cimarron Elementary seeking volunteers for April 3 World Tour Multicultural Event

Volunteers are needed to help make Cimarron Elementary school's "World Tour MultiCultural Event" a success, according to the school's March 6 newsletter. The festivities will be held on Thursday, April 3rd from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the campus at 1100 S. Peek, Katy.

"We're inviting families to share their culture with our community," the newsletter said. "Each participating family/group of families will receive a trifold board and table to showcase cultural artifacts, traditions, and even food. We are also looking for cultural performance groups, such as mariachi bands, dance troupes, or karate demonstrations."

Families can partner with others representing the same country or culture. The school's Parent Engagement Room will be available for preparation during the day, and an evening work session can be scheduled if needed.

Exley Elementary's PTA to host 'International Night' on April 10

"We encourage families to work together, so feel free to join with other families in representing the same country," the newsletter said. Exley Elementary School is located at 21800

Westheimer Parkway in Katy.

Nottingham Country Elementary participating in H-E-B recycling challenge

It's time for HEB Recycling Challenge at Nottingham Country Elementary!

Students and families are encouraged to start sending in clean, recycled plastic bags, such as retail shopping bags, produce bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, or newspaper bags. Please note that new bags do not count.

Bags will be collected at the campus at 20500 Kingsland in Katy from now through April 5.

The class with the most collected bags at the end will win a pizza party, according to the school's March 5 newsletter.

Wolfe Elementary carnival set for March 28

Katy ISD's Wolfe Elementary will hold its spring

- Scholars and Scoundrels Southern Dough Baking The Oaks Kitchen
- The Union Kitchen
- TMG Burger Grill
- Toasted Yolk Cafe
- Walk-Ons Sport
- Bistreaux
- Whiskey Cake Katy
- Orleans Seafood Kitchen
- Palinuro
- Pappa Gyros
- Peach Cobbler Factory



On April 10, students at Katy ISD's Exley Elementary School will "go global" and visit parent-run tables representing many cultures from around the world. Exhibitions of dance, art and culture are also planned, according to the school's March 13 newsletter.

carnival on Friday, March 28, from 5 to 8 p.m., the school announced in its March 7 newsletter. Wolfe Elementary is located at 502 Addicks Howell Road in Houston.

—FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harmony Public Schools wins 81 awards for communication, marketing efforts

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Texas-based Harmony Public Schools was honored with 81 awards for excellence in school communication and marketing in mid-February in San Antonio during the annual Star Awards for the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA).

Harmony, which is headquartered in Houston but includes

more than 60 locations in 23 communities across Texas, was recognized for its extraordinary efforts in keeping parents informed and engaged, spreading positive school culture, and overall communications strategy.

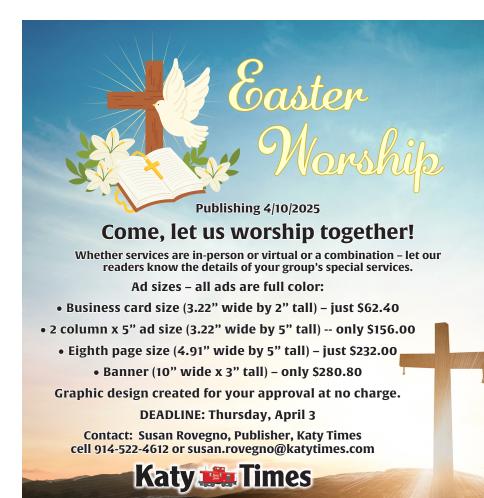
The awards were the most won of any school system or agency of any kind in Texas for 2025. The awards Harmony received were a "Best of" award, a Gold Star for excellence in writing and silver and stars in additional categories

"We are incredibly proud of the work our communications and marketing team does every day to share the inspiring stories of our students, teachers and schools. John Boyd, Harmony's Chief Communications & Marketing Officer, said. "Our mission is to bring to life the passion, dedication, and achievements within our school

system, and it's an honor to help tell that story in meaningful and impactful ways."

Harmony also won 43 awards in 2024 from the National Public School Relations Association, making it the most award-winning school communications and marketing department in America last year.

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





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EDUCATION

Royal Junior High Student Council earns top state honors from Texas Association of Student Councils

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Royal Junior High School Student Council has been recognized with the Outstanding Award & Sweepstakes Award from the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) — the highest honors a student council can achieve in the state, Royal ISD announced in a March 3 press release.

"This recognition highlights the students' exceptional leadership and dedication to service," said a district spokesperson in the release. The RJH Student Council ex-

celled in all key areas evaluated by TASC, including:

CAMPUS AWARD

RHS

RHS

RHS

RHS

RHS

RJH

RJH

RES

STEM

- Drugs, alcohol, safety & health
- Community serviceEnergy and environment
- Pride and patriotism

The following students played a key role in earning the honor: Fabian Campos, Anahi Valdez, Alexander Reyna, Kaylee Cruz, Gabriel Guerrero, Jan Campos, Heily Gonzalez, Jaidyn Houston, Braylie Brand, Killian Cedillo, Alexis Creed, Layle Uribe, Jennessey Palacios, and Alexia Venegas.

Additionally, Elizabeth Chaffin, the dedicated Student Council sponsor, played an integral role in guiding and supporting these outstanding student leaders, the

district said.

"We are incredibly proud of our student council members for their hard work, commitment, and leadership," said Rick Kershner, RISD superintendent. "This recognition from TASC is a testament to the positive impact they have on our school and community."

Royal ISD artists shine at Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Student Art Competition

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In January, schools participating in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo's School Art Program compete in district shows judged by the Show's School Art Committee. The artwork is divided into three categories: elementary, junior high and high school.

Best of Show, Gold Medal and Special Merit awards are also selected in each category. All work is eligible for the Show's School Art Auction.

Results from the auction are in, and Royal ISD celebrates two historic firsts in the art competition, the district announced in a February 21 press

AWARD STUDENT NAME Best of Show Eric Hernandez Gold Medal Kimberly Pedra

Gold Medal	Kimberly Pedraza	12
Gold Medal	Dannah Garcia	9
Special Merit	Alicia Sepulveda	11
Special Merit	Sara Melenaez	12
Best of Show	Abigail Flores	7
Gold Medal	Vanessa Dominguez	8
Best of Show	Sophia Hood	5
Gold Modal	Nicolo Parodos	Λ

release:

 Kimberly Pedraza (Lot 11) – Royal ISD's first repeat auction winner and the first student to earn a named spot as Reserve Champion Monochromatic

 Eric Hernandez (Lot 38) – Placed 6th

GRADE TITLE

"Honor Before the Ride" "Rodeo Fans" "Black Calf Wrangling" "Ready Set Rope!" "Stall Talk" "Prickly Pear in Bloom" "Sunflower Kiss" "Cowboy Hat de la Cactus" "The Lone Blue Nose Cow"

in the Monochromatic category

With 16 monochromatic pieces in the auction this year, Royal High School Art teacher Steven Crawley said, "I am so proud of these two and every Royal ISD student who competed this year."

MEDIUM

Junior High

Junior High

Elementary

Elementary

Monochromatic Drawing

Monochromatic Drawing

Monochromatic Drawing

Monochromatic Drawing Colored Drawing

2025 Dairy MAX scholarship applications open

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Dairy MAX will award three \$2,500 academic scholarships this spring, the Grand Prairie-based company said in a February 27 press release, stating that the company is committed to strengthening agriculture and sustaining a viable future for dairy farming. One-way Dairy MAX shows this commitment is through the Dairy MAX scholarship program, which supports local dairy farm families while investing in future generations. Dairy MAX will continue the program this spring and award three \$2,500 academic scholarships. Scholarship applications are now open until March 31, 2025.

"In the past 18 years, Dairy MAX has awarded more than \$95,000 in scholarships to students committed to the future of the dairy industry," said Todd Green, Dairy MAX vice president of industry image and relations. "The Dairy MAX scholarship program allows the organization to support the dairy industry's next generation and play a role in these young people advancing their education."

To be eligible for the Dairy MAX scholarship, students must reside in the Dairy MAX region, be a graduating high school senior or an undergraduate student currently enrolled in college and be a child of a dairy farmer, child of a dairy farm employee, or an FFA/4-H dairy show participant.

For a complete list of eligibility requirements, visit DairyMAX.org/ dairy/scholarships.

MCJROTC ROUNDUP Clinton AJROTC defeats Royal MCJROTC

Shooting their highest score of the season Clinton AJROTC defeated Royal MC-JROTC 911.9 to 595.4 in the 2025 National Air Rifle New Shooter League. Clinton AJROTC was led by Kayden Montgomery who shot a 282.5. The remaining contributing members were Elijah Heithold, Tristan Parker, and Jayden Hatfield. They are from Clinton, SC, and are coached by CPT Joseph Williams.

Overall Clinton AJROTC is ranked fifty-second. They have a 1 - 4 record.

Royal MCJROTC was led by Kayla Deltoro who shot a 224.0. The remaining contributing members were Dilon Meza, Jake Pistor, and Fernanda Rodriguez. Royal MCJROTC is from PATTISON, TX, and is coached by LaShan Bland.

Overall Royal MCJROTC is ranked sixty-third. They have a 1 - 4 record. This week Clinton AJROTC and Royal

MCJROTC each have a bye week.

Natchitoches Central AJROTC defeats Royal MCJROTC

Shooting their highest score of the season, Natchitoches Central AJROTC defeated Royal MCJROTC 844.7 to 805.0 in the 2025 National Air Rifle New Shooter League during the first weekend in March. Their second win in a row. Natchitoches Central AJROTC was led by Ainsley McLaren who shot a 216.1. The remaining contributing members were William Andrews,

> Member FDIC

Delilah Jackson, and Johannah Chauvin. They are from Natchitoches, LA, and are coached by Duane Bailey.

Overall Natchitoches Central AJROTC is ranked fiftieth. They have a 2 - 1 record.

Shooting their highest team score of the season, Royal MCJROTC was led by Jake Pistor, who shot a 247.2. Other contributing members were Kayla Deltoro, Dilon Meza, and Fernanda Rodriguez. Royal MCJROTC is coached by LaShan Bland.

Overall Royal MCJROTC is ranked sixtieth. They have a 1 - 3 record.

Next up, Natchitoches Central AJROTC will compete against Washburn Rural AFJROTC from Topeka, KS. Washburn Rural AFJROTC currently has a 1 - 3 record. Royal MCJROTC will compete against Clinton AJROTC from Clinton, SC, which currently has a 0 - 4 record.



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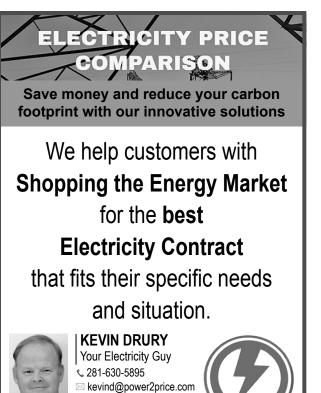


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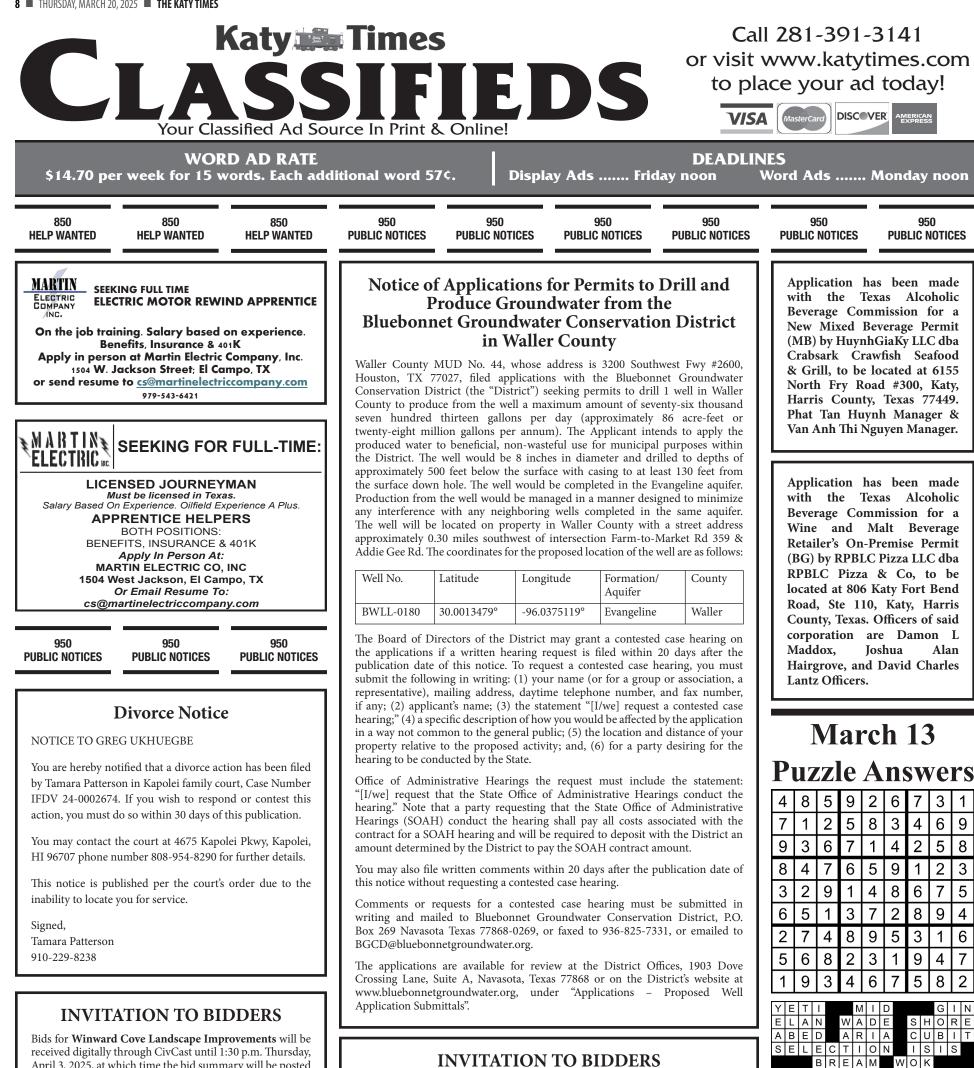
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Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be electronically received, until 2 p.m. Local Time, April 3rd, 2025, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "Elyson Section 61 Landscape" Harris

Minor Site Grading and Preparation, 5. SWPPP coordination & removal. 6. Playground installation (incl. safety surfacing, drainage, & coordination with playground installer), 7. Site furnishings, 8. Fencing. Bid documents in digital format will be available through CivCast. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on at the offices of Halff on Thursday, March 27, 2025 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.

April 3, 2025, at which time the bid summary will be posted

to CivCast for the furnishing of material, equipment, labor

and supervision necessary or incidental to the Construction

of Winward Cove Landscape Improvements. Proposals

tendered after closing will not be opened. Scope of Project:

1. Concrete Flatwork, 2. Landscaping, 3. Irrigation,

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Katy Development Authority in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on April 17, 2025, for Prairie Parkway East Streetscape.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including concrete and paver sidewalks, site furniture, lighting, irrigation, planting, fine grading and hydromulch.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid.

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon request.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Katy Development Authority in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

County, Texas" In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=97174234139.

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

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held remotely on March 25th, 2025, at 10 a.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at https://swagroup.zoom.us/my/gdietrichswa?omn=91574719808. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is MANDATORY, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search NWCt405. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

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All of our fallen soldiers deserve remembrance. **American Legion Post 164 of Katy** needs YOUR HELP!

The American Legion Post 164 of Katy, Texas, has discovered approximately 59 Veterans' graves that are buried in a local cemetery without their headstones.

The legion has decided to try and correct this terrible wrong.

The following is a list of the names of these veterans who are without their headstones.

We are looking for family members and/or friends of these warriors so that we can assist in obtaining a headstone for them.

If you know of or recognize any name on the list, please contact American Legion Post 164 or Past Post Commander Cormier at ernie2@consolidated.net.

Thank you

LARRY MARTIN BAHAN DUANE BERRY SARA BRAND(?) BOUCHER(?) EDWARD A. CAPLIN CATE WOODROW CLAYTON, SR. DUCHESNE DUPREE FALKNER(?) FORMAN JAMES PATRICK FRANCIS GARY HENSON FREDRICK D. HOYT(?) GROVER HUBLEY KRISTEL DAWN KNIPE K. LANG MAJESKI

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed electronic bids, addressed to WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DSITRICT NO. 34A will be electronically received on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com) until 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 27, 2025. The Apparent Low Bidders will be automatically generated and posted for furnishing all plan, labor, material and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of MASS GRADING AND DETENTION POND IMPROVEMENTS FOR LAKEVIEW PHASE 2. A VOLUNTARY pre-bid conference will be held remotely via conference call at 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 20, 2025. All prospective bidders are invited to attend by calling 210-926-0892 and use the Conference ID: 470 228 315#. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website. Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all PROPOSALS and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the **PROPOSAL**, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the PROPOSAL.

NOTICE

950

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING** 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2025

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 28, 2025

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive **Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance** Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; Amending Ordinance No. 3156 "Katy Court" Planned **Development District; Amending Certain Requirements** And Restrictions For Development Within The "Katy Court" Planned Development District; Providing A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And Providing For Severability.



Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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



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SPORTS

THE KATY TIMES THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 KATYTIMES.COM

Katy Little League to hold opening day ceremonies

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Baseball is back! Opening Day Ceremony for Katy National Little League, taking place on March 22 at 9 a.m. at the Katy National Little League Fields, 24927 Morton Ranch Road in Katy.

"This year's event is particularly special as it marks the first time we will gather for this celebration since 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Macy Walker, in an email to the Katy Times.

Registration starts at 9 a.m., followed by a parade at 9:30 a.m. Games will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Games, pictures, raffles and other activities will also be featured, according to the group's website.

A turnout of up to 1,000 attendees, including players, families, coaches, and community supporters is anticipated. The ceremony will feature exciting activities, including team parades, special recognitions, and community speeches, highlighting the resilience and spirit of young athletes and their families.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www. knll.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY!

ROYAL COACHES, BASKETBALL TEAMS AND BAND HONORED DURING HERITAGE CELEBRATION



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

At the March 16 Heritage Celebration at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 1335 Waller Avenue in Brookshire, area coaches and athletes were honored with special awards. Left to right: Howard Randle, Royal boys varsity basketball coach; student Elijah Matthews, and Royal Head Coach/Athletic Coordinator Theadis Reagins received recognition during the evening. The Royal varsity boys basketball team and the Royal varsity girls basketball team, along with the Royal High School Marching Sound Machine Band, were also saluted at the event hosted by Rev. Dr. Lee Jones at the church.

THSBCA releases March 17 baseball poll

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association has released its March 17 baseball poll, which did not include any schools from Katy ISD.

- Here are the complete poll results: 1. Tomball 13-2-1 2-01.
- 2. Prosper 12-3-1 0-0
- 3. Spring Branch Memorial 11-3-1 2-0
- 4. Round Rock 14-1-1 3-0
- 5. Flower Mound 12-5 2-0 6. Woodlands 15-4-1 5-0
- 7. Humble Kingwood 18-1 2-0
- 8. Rockwall 14-3 1-1
- 9. Southlake Carroll 12-3-1 2-0
- 10. Dripping Springs 10-6 2-0

TGCA softball poll shows Katy, Taylor in top 25 teams in state

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy High School Tigers are ranked second in the state, while the Taylor Mustangs come in at number 22 in the latest softball poll from the Austin-based Texas Girls Coaches Association poll, released March 10.

Here is the complete list of the top 25 teams in 6A in the state, according to the poll:

Class 6A

- 1. El Paso Socorro 18-0
- 2. Katy 21-1
- 3. El Paso Eastwood 20-1-1
- Pharr-San Juan Alamo 13-1
 Atascocita 11-1
- 6. Midland 18-2
- 7. Forney 16-1-1
- 8. Eagle Pass 8-1
- 9. Prosper 9-1
- 10. Humble Kingwood 11-1-1
- 11. Ridge Point 10-2
- 12. Waco Midway 10-2
- 13. Round Rock Cedar Ridge 7-3 14. Schertz Clemens 13-3
- 14. Schertz Clemens 13-. 15. Duncanville 12-2-1
- 16. Lewisville Hebron 10-2
- 17. Wolfforth Frenship 12-2
- 18. Clear Lake 9-2
- 19. San Antonio O'Connor 9-2
- 20. Dallas Skyline 9-2 21. Humble Summer Creek 12-2
- 22. Katy Taylor 11-3
- 23. Willis12-3
- 24. San Antonio Reagan 11-3 25. El Paso Montwood 17-5
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