AREA THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVES

NEWS | PG 5

AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES

SPORTS | PG 8

Katy Times

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PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Andrea Burrridge, Vice Chancellor, Strategy, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness at Houston City College, outlines HCC's new AI strategies for business and community leaders at the November 3 steering committee meeting at the college's Katy campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy.

HCC crafts policies and strategies for AI-enabled future

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The use of artificial intelligence is growing by leaps and bounds in almost every aspect of everyday life – including student learning and in the workforce. Now one educational institution is devising strategies and guidelines for the responsible and effective use of AI both in the college's learning environment and in preparation for the use of AI as students enter the rapidly-evolving workforce.

At the November 3 meeting of the business community steering committee at Houston City College's Katy campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy, Andrea Burridge, HCC's Vice Chancellor, Strategy, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness, outlined the steps that the college system is taking to create those strategies and guidelines.

Artificial intelligence is changing the skills expected in nearly every industry, Burridge said. "Students are already using AI, but their access, knowledge and skills are uneven," she said. "Education and industry need shared expectations for preparing students to use AI effectively."

HCC is starting its approach to responsible AI usage using six core beliefs, Burridge said:

• Human judgment must remain central

• Learning outcomes must drive AI adoption

• Responsible and transparent AI use is essential

• Assessments must evolve for an AI-enabled world

• AI implementation must be discipline-specific

• Industry collaboration must inform workforce preparation

There are three central pillars of HCC's approach:

• Learn: developing practical AI literacy; understanding

See **HCC**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEEP KATY BEAUTIFUL

Local business owners Olivia Martin of KTX Window Cleaning (left) and Kelly Richman of A Lifetime of Clicks Photography display the special holiday decorations they created for Keep Katy Beautiful's 2026 "Adopt A Wreath" program. The wreaths will go up on the vintage-looking light poles within the City of Katy during the week of Thanksgiving and will remain up until early January.

KKB prepares to deploy 'Adopt a Wreaths' around City of Katy

Holiday decorations created by local businesses to beautify downtown

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The City of Katy will soon be donning Christmas holiday decorations, thanks to the "Adopt a Wreath" program organized by Keep Katy Beautiful.

The "Adopt A Wreath" program of KKB is a community-wide partnership involving businesses, schools, churches and organizations in the city of Katy. These groups adopt and decorate a wreath provided by Keep Katy Beautiful, which will be placed around the city on the black vintage-looking light poles on many city streets.

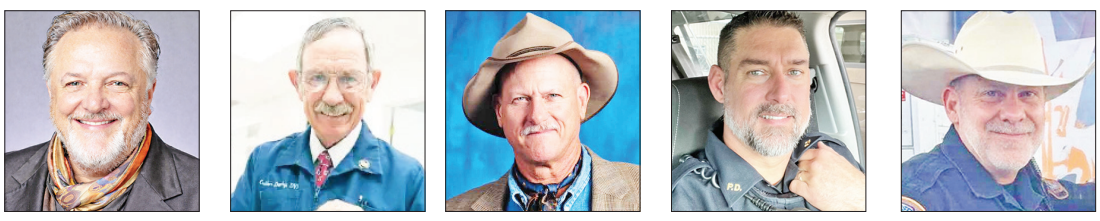
A total of 52 wreaths have been adopted this year, KKB said. There are even more green wreaths with red metal bows that also will be placed on the poles along Highway 90.

The program has been in place for more than 18 years, said Jamie Wolman, KKB member. Around that time, Sandy Schmidt, then-chairman of KKB, came up with the beautification project and turned it into a community-wide partnership with many organizations and businesses in Katy participating. Businesses and participants must be located within the city limits of the City of Katy.

The program has many benefits, said Wolman. It beautifies the city for the holidays and increases community spirit while promoting community awareness of the participating businesses, churches, schools and different organizations in the Katy area, she said.

"Local groups have fun creatively designing their wreaths,"

See **WREATHS**, page 3



CHARLIE WINFREE | CULLEN DAUCHY | MAC MCSTRAVICK | MATT GORE | BRIAN BRAWNER

Film starring Katyites to be shown at annual Kilgore film festival

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A film being showcased in Kilgore at the Reel East Texas Film Festival this week features four Katy area residents in the cast: Brian Brawner, Cullen Dauchy, Matt Gore, and Charlie Winfree. The film, called "The Rocin Chronicles," is being produced by former Katy ISD educator and coach Mac McStravick.

The Reel East Texas Film Festival is held in Kilgore, Texas from November 11-14. "The Rocin Chronicles" will be shown on Friday, November 13 at the Texan Theater in Kilgore. The film is about a football coaching staff in a small town in Texas during the early 1970's — somewhere between Houston and San Antonio — and it uses humor and some drama to see how men create and build community.

The Reel East Texas Film Festival will be the feature's first film festival, following the year of editing on the project. "It is a well-run festival that has given

See **FILM**, page 3

LOCAL SERVICE CLUBS SALUTE AREA VETERANS AT ANNUAL BREAKFAST





Above: Area veterans representing all branches of military service (with the exception of Space Force) gather for a group photo following the annual breakfast hosted by the Brazos River Rotary Club and the Fulshear Simonton Lions Club on November 6 at the Weston Lakes Country Club, 5646 Weston Drive in Fulshear. The keynote speaker was Dan Walters, MGySgt (Retired USMC). Left: Each branch of the U.S. armed forces was recognized during the annual breakfast hosted by the Brazos River Rotary Club and the Fulshear Simonton Lions Club on November 6 at the Weston Lakes Country Club, 5646 Weston Drive in Fulshear.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



Above: World Series signage and photos of Logan Henderson as a Cinco Ranch Cougar decorated the baseball field at Cinco Ranch High School, 2307 High Landing Lane in Katy, during a special community celebration honoring the Cinco grad on November 8.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

CINCO COMMUNITY CELEBRATES WORLD SERIES STAR LOGAN HENDERSON



Logan Henderson's journey from Katy's Cinco Ranch High School to the World Series as a starting pitcher for the Milwaukee Brewers was detailed in a special exhibit at a community celebration held at the Cinco Ranch High School baseball field on November 8. Henderson pitched for McLennan Community College before being selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the fourth round of the 2021 Major League Baseball draft. He was called up by the Brewers and served as starting pitcher for Milwaukee in Game 2 of the World Series versus Tampa Bay on October 24.



Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Logan Henderson pauses between visits with scores of fans and supporters during a community celebration held at the Cinco Ranch High School baseball field, 2307 High Landing Lane in Katy, on November 8. The cool weather did not faze Logan, a Cinco Ranch graduate who was the starting pitcher for the Milwaukee Brewers in Game 2 of the 2026 World Series on October 24.

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VFW hosts Nov. 14 author talk on narco-terrorism and organized crime in western hemisphere

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On November 14 award-winning author Mike Chavarria will appear at VFW Post 9182, 6206 George Bush Dr, Katy, to present "The Impact of Narco-Terrorism and Organized Crime in This Hemisphere." The event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the post at 6206 George Bush Dr., Katy.

Chavarria is a retired Supervisory Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), with 33 years of law enforcement experience. He frequently provides presentations to members of the U.S. military and law enforcement communities as a subject matter expert on Latin America's violent cartels, narcotics trafficking, and narco-terrorism.

This presentation will provide attendees with an inside perspective on the evolution of organized crime and drug trafficking (highlighting Mexico's role), and the growing threat posed by narco-terrorism. Drawing on his extensive experience in Latin America and the United States, Chavarria provides a unique perspective on the "War on Drugs" and its continuing impact on the United States.

Chavarria will also share background and firsthand insight into his newly released true-crime book, "Junior: A Son of the Gulf Cartel," which draws upon his extensive career and experiences in the world of international drug trafficking and organized crime.

The event will be attended by active-duty and retired military personnel, law enforcement officers, and members of the local community. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY MILLS MALL

Caring Santa® will bring a sensory-friendly photo experience to Katy Mills Mall, 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy, on December 6. Reservations are required.

Caring Santa® to pay special visit to Katy Mills Mall for children with special needs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sometimes the sights and sounds – and the crowds – of the holiday season are just too much.

That's why the team at Katy Mills Mall is bringing Caring Santa® to the mall for a special visit, designed especially for children with special needs.

The sensory-friendly experience – which includes photos – is set for Sunday, December 6, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at a time when the mall is quiet and uncrowded, and the usual holiday music is turned off.

Santa will be located in Neighborhood 8 near American Eagle at the mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy. Photos will be taken and available for purchase at this event.

Reservations are required for this private event. To reserve your spot, go to https://whereissanta.com/mall/0641?utm_campaign=events-katy-mills&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=website-simon. Only one reservation is needed per family. Please note: multiple families are scheduled during the selected 15-minute time.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Get toasted before you head to Nutcracker Market at Toasted Nutcracker Experience Nov. 13

Just want to go to the Nutcracker Market and shop with friends and family hassle-free? Then the Toasted Nutcracker event on November 13 is definitely for you. Eat, drink, and be merry at the Toasted Yolk in Katy before boarding a bus bound for the holiday market. Get energized with a breakfast buffet, enjoy some bubblies for your morning pick me up, step on board for chauffer service in a luxury bus to the grand Houston Nutcracker Market so you can shop 'til you drop. Relax your feet and hydrate on the bus after a successful day of shopping for loved ones. Bus 1 departs at 8 a.m. from The Toasted Yolk, 98 W. Grand Parkway South #100 in Katy. Purchase your ticket at https://armorofhope-foundation.org/the-toasted-nut-cracker/. Only a few spaces left.

Save the date for Carriage Inn's third annual Casino Night on Nov. 13

Local seniors are invited to join Carriage Inn residents on November 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. for the community's third annual Casino Night. The event at 1400 Katy Flewellen Rd. in Katy promises a high-stakes night of fun and excitement, featuring classic casino games, sparkling drinks, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to win big. Guests can enjoy an evening of gaming, laughter, and great company—no luck required! Bring a friend along for the fun, meet and mingle with Carriage Inn residents, and get acquainted with the community. Tours will be available. Free to attend. RSVP by November 6 at 281-759-1781.



Tropicon Book Expo featuring USA TODAY best-selling authors comes to Aloft on Nov. 14

Want to meet best-selling authors in person? You'll have your chance to do so at the Tropicon Book Expo on November 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Aloft by Marriott Katy Mills, located at 25330 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy. Hosted by Texas native Lynessa Layne, Tropicon is a one-day book signing dedicated to bringing local indie authors to the area for readers. In this technology age, the art of reading a physical book is often lost but Layne hopes to bring this to the local charm of Katy while helping authors achieve their goals.

Among those attending is USA TODAY Bestselling authors, Mariah Kingsley, Finley Brown, and Lynessa Layne. Popular small town and Claymore award winning author, Leigh Hall will be present as well. International award-winning novelist and American Fiction award winner Cris Burl will be having his launch party celebrating his newest release, "Two for the Road."

For more details regarding Tropicon Book events, please visit https://www.tropiconbookexpo.com/about-3.

Gardeners invited to free freeze-protection program on Nov. 14

Fort Bend County Master Gardener Deborah Birge will talk about "Mastering the Texas Freeze - Winter Maintenance & Survival Tactics" on Nov. 14 at Enchanted Forest in Richmond. The free program - part of the Landscape Success series - will be offered from 3-5 p.m. Enchanted Forest is located at 10611 FM 2759. Birge of Richmond has been a Master Gardener since 2002 and has written articles about this topic. Landscape Success is an online program offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend County, along with the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners to help create and maintain home landscapes.

Help Fort Bend shelter pets during Patsy's Pet Market's annual laundry soap drive now through Dec. 31

Patsy's Pet Market is conducting its annual laundry soap drive for Fort Bend County Pets-Fort Bend Animal services starting now through the end of the year. Owner Patsy McGirl says that the shelter uses a lot of laundry soap in order to clean pet beds, blankets and towels. All kinds of detergent (liquid or powder) will be accepted and may be dropped off at Patsy's Pet Market at 1644 S. Mason in Katy.

Morton JHS to hold 7th annual community cookout on Nov. 19

Morton Ranch Junior High, 2498 N. Mason in Katy, will hold its seventh annual community cookout from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on November 19. Local businesses will have tables offering opportunities to connect with MRJHS families. Free entry and everyone is welcome.

Transgender Day of Remembrance set for Nov. 19 at Mary Jo Peckham Aquatic & Fitness Center

Katy Pride LGBTQ Inc. and Trans Voices Houston will hold a remembrance ceremony and vigil in honor of Transgender Remembrance Day on November 19 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Mary Jo Peckham Aquatic & Fitness Center, 5597 Gardenia in Katy. Free to attend.

Mark your calendars for LaCenterra's tree lighting on Nov. 20

The LaCenterra shopping complex at 23501 Cinco Ranch BLvd. in Katy is kicking off the holiday season with its annual tree lighting ceremony on November 20 from 5 to 9 p.m. In addition to watching the tree light up, enjoy festive activities, live entertainment, local vendors, and holiday fun for all ages. Take a photo with the giant gift boxes. Free to attend. For additional information, go to https://brnw.ch/21x6zKZ.



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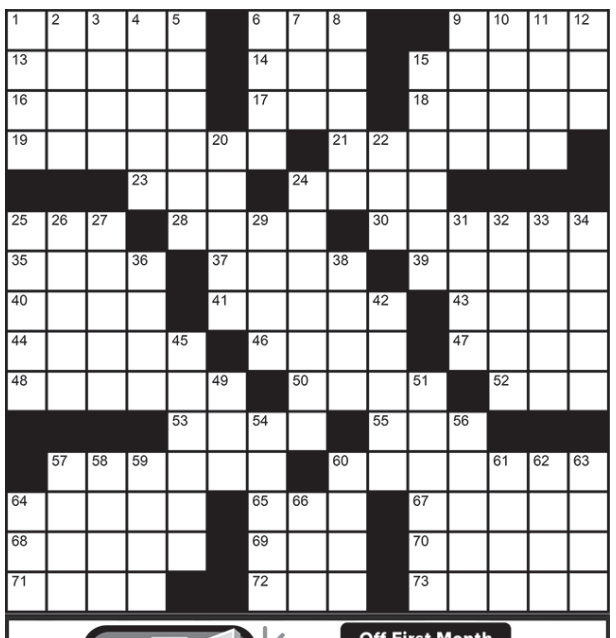
THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

CLUES ACROSS

1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. * "Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

CLUES DOWN

1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare



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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

HCC

from page 1

opportunities, limitations and risks, and learning from industry and emerging practices

• Apply: moving from understanding to practical use, including evaluating, refining and scaling with human judgment and responsible use

• Protect: including protection of originality, privacy, safety and accountability, and teaching students to question AI-generated answers

The use of AI by HCC's faculty is still developing, Burridge said. While 84 percent are familiar with AI, just 72 percent use it in teaching and only 42 percent use it for planning and materials. But 72 percent of the faculty believe AI can improve student learning, she said.

Responsible AI use is the foundation of HCC's policy development, Burridge said. That includes privacy and security, including protection of student data, along with its responsible use. HCC is also working to ensure equity in access to AI across all programs and disciplines, including making AI tools available in its learning labs. Accuracy and reliability, as well as transparency and accountability, round out HCC's policy development.

As it develops its AI policies, HCC is moving quickly in some areas but much more carefully in others, Burridge said. HCC is moving quickly in the areas of AI literacy, teaching and learning pilots, workforce-aligned credentials, faculty and student support and industry-informed learning and credentials. The institution is moving much more cautiously in handling high-risk student decisions, confidential and personally identifiable information, large-scale automation and any uses which would require significant human oversight.

HCC has established an "AI Hub" along with AI guidelines on its website, which may be viewed at hccs.edu/aihub and hccs.edu/aiguidelines.

HCC is now building new systems for assessment and learning integrity, determining if students are developing the intended skills or whether AI created an "illusion of learning." The school will help faculty use AI purposefully as a tutor, coach and learning partner, Burridge said. The college is also defining what every HCC graduate should know and be able to do with AI and plans to measure when AI actually improves learning, readiness, access and engagement.

Preparing students for the changing workforce requires collaboration, Burridge said. HCC needs to work with local independent school districts to build AI literacy and to understand its limitations, to verify information and to recognize responsible use. AI should be used purposefully in instruction, career exploration, advising and authentic problem-solving, Burridge said, while preserving learning, privacy, originality, equity, human connection and judgement.

Business and industry should define evolving workforce capabilities. HCC plans to bring industry perspectives into the program and to help establish expectations for security, confidentiality, accountability and human oversight.

HCC still has many questions to explore, Burridge said:

• When should learning be AI-free?

• When should AI be encouraged, limited, required or prohibited?

• How does HCC ensure equitable access to AI for all students?

• How will the human connection be preserved?

HCC will complete faculty, staff and student surveys to better understand AI readiness, expectations and needs, Burridge said. The college system will also collaborate with local school districts, advisory boards and other partners to understand the needs of the community. HCC will refine its AI framework to define institutional principles and expectations for AI across teaching, learning, workforce preparation, operations and governance, Burridge said. That will allow the college system to identify implications for curriculum, faculty practice, assessment, credentials and workforce alignment, governance and responsible use.

"I don't know of another college system anywhere that is doing anything like this," said Zachary Hodges, president of HCC Northwest said at the conclusion of Burridge's presentation.

Business and community leaders at the meeting explored the challenges of teaching responsible AI use and recognized that students who do not develop AI literacy may be disadvantaged in the future workforce. The conversation also addressed how rapidly changing technology is transforming both education and industry. The meeting concluded with an emphasis on continuing initiatives and community partnerships to help HCC respond proactively to technological and workforce changes.

"HCC is committed to thoughtfully integrating AI into education while maintaining its focus on student success, academic integrity, durable skills, human judgment, and workforce readiness," an HCC spokesperson said following the meeting. "Continued collaboration with business and industry will be essential to ensuring students are prepared to succeed in an increasingly technology-driven workplace."

KEEP KATY BEAUTIFUL HOLD 'AMERICA RECYCLES' DAY



Volunteers from Keep Katy Beautiful greet residents bringing old electronics, scrap metal and other items to the parking lot of First Baptist Church of Katy at 600 Pin Oak on November 7, during "America Recycles" day. The Lions Club was also on site to collect eyeglasses and Clothed by Faith held a coat drive during the event.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

FILM

from page 1

us some roots to plant into the Texas soil, I am grateful for including us in the program," said producer Mac McStravick said.

McStravick, with "Good on Ya Mate Productions," worked at Katy ISD for 17 years in the early 1990's, through the mid-2000's. His Houston-based company uses cast and crew coming from the Houston area. The producer, the director and the DP are all local as well, with deep roots in the community, McStravick said.

"My family is from Houston, though we spent almost four years in Sale, Australia," McStravick said. "As a kid, playing sports in Sale, if you played hard— no matter if you won or lost, the old timers would come over, tap you on the shoulder and say, 'Good on ya, Mate.' That is why my production company is called 'Good on Ya, Mate'— you do your best in this life, and, even if you make a mistake, you apologize, get up, and keep on going."

McStravick went to high school in Tomball and joined KISD after college, spending three years at West Memorial Jr. High, and 14 years at Katy Jr. High where he taught history and coached football, basketball, and track. He also had a junior high soccer club (boys' and girls' teams) at Katy Junior high called Los Tigres. He left Katy to move closer to home — in Richmond, but continued to teach at private schools and later in Lamar CISD at Briscoe Jr. High.

Brian Brawner attended Katy High School where he played football through his sophomore year, then becoming an athletic trainer. He was in Tech Theater from his sophomore year through senior years. While stationed in Moscow during his stint in the Marine Corps, Brawner tried out for local theater production of "Catch Me If You Can," auditioning for a minor role and ending up as the main character in the play. Brawner later saw "Coach Mac" who asked him to try out for the role of "Coach Ski" in the film. Brawner, who is working on two additional ideas for future movies, is the son of former City of Katy Mayor Chuck Brawner.

Cullen Dauchy, who performs the voice over in the film, moved to Katy fresh out of vet school at Texas A & M in August of 1971 and has lived in West Katy on Carnation Street since 1974. He graduated from Prairie Lea High School in 1964 in Caldwell County where he played football, basketball, baseball, tennis, and ran track. "My one experience in play-acting is when I was recruited from the freshman class to play a male part in the junior class play in the spring of 1961, because they didn't have enough boys in the junior class," Dauchy said.

Matt Gore, who plays "Officer Beckendorf," grew up in Williamsburg Hamlet and attended Winborn Elementary and McDonald Jr High and graduated from Katy High in 1999. He attended McNeese State University on football scholarship, playing from 1999-2003.

Charlie Winfree, who plays "Kovar," went to Spring Woods HS and moved to Cinco Ranch as an adult. "I played all the sports, but football was my favorite," Winfree said. "I wasn't involved in theatre but admired it from afar. At 62 — forty-four years later — I decided to take the leap and what a wonderful experience it has been. I have proved to myself it's never too late to chase a dream and gained the confidence to just keep going with no expectations while reaching for the stars." Winfree has another project, a feature film, coming out soon.

The story of the film concerns a small town in Texas — Rocin — in the early 1970's, and how the men on the coaching staff build community using humor, while leaning on each other in the hard times. It is the combination of two award-winning scripts, concerning the same small town, with an ensemble cast anchored by John Enick, as Emil Lee (Muley) Sanchez.

This film was shot in Orchard and Wallis Texas, with the set at the old high school in Orchard. Narration for the film was done at a recording studio in Katy, Go Long Studios.

"I originally wrote this script as a way for young men to see that we all make mistakes," said McStravick, "and it is how we deal with those mistakes that build character; it is also for older men to remember they need to be mentors for those who are following behind them: 'as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.'"

The film will make the film festival circuit in hopes of gaining some idea of the interest in a story about a small Texas town, and the men who love their community and work to be good shepherds of those they serve, McStravick said. "I would love to see us continue to film in and around the Katy area, and use local actors, actresses, artists and musicians to make a few more of 'The Rocin Chronicles,'" he said.

"Katy, Texas, was and is a special place for me," McStravick said. "Many of the ideas for this story have it's roots in the history and the people of Katy. When I go there, to old town Katy, I feel a bit like I have returned to Rocin, Texas, with their love of football, and the welcome of old friends."

WREATHS

from page 1

said Wolman. "Groups enjoy collaborating together to make their wreaths."

The basic green wreath is provided by Keep Katy Beautiful to the participating group — free of charge — with a large red metal bow and a KKB-provided sign in the middle of the wreath with the name of the adopting organization. Adopters design their own wreath, and each one is always unique, Wolman said.

Each adopter receives a sheet with specific guidelines to follow, including the use of materials. The wreaths and all decorations on them become property of KKB/City of Katy. The guidelines provide the date for pickup or a KKB volunteer delivers to the adopter. Then wreaths are picked up in about two weeks and delivered to the City of Katy storage building until the week of Thanksgiving. During that week the City Parks department hangs the wreaths on the decorative light poles around the city, where they remain in place until the first week of January. Wreaths may be used for two years, 2026 and 2027.

But KKB's holiday spirit extends beyond just the "Adopt A Wreath" program. The organization has placed big red bows on the geese and welcome signs at the entrance of the city. The Parks department is also promoting and asking for participation from downtown business in a window decorating contest, Wolman said.

19th Annual
Home for the Holidays
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Experience "The Way Shopping Should Feel" with Katy's Largest Gift Market!

For 19 years, Home for the Holidays Gift Market has been a beloved annual tradition in Katy, bringing together more than 130 carefully selected merchants under one roof. Discover boutique clothing, handmade gifts, holiday décor, gourmet treats, home accents, and one-of-a-kind finds you won't see anywhere else.

Whether you're starting your Christmas list or finishing it, you'll find everything you need in one festive holiday shopping setting!

Gather your girlfriends, mom, or daughter and enjoy a true Katy holiday tradition while supporting small businesses from across Texas!

Shopping Hours

'First Call Friday' Hours
Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

General Admission Hours
Friday 12:00 pm-5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm
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Katy Times
will be closed Thursday, November 26 in observance of
Thanksgiving

Deadline for all advertising in November 26 issue is Thursday, November 19 at Noon

We will also close at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 27. Deadline for display advertising in December 3 issue is Wednesday, November 25 at Noon.

Best Wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving!



Adopter Joel with his new cats, Leia and Ahsoka, at a Mighty Cat Coalition adoption event at PetSmart in October.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIGHTY CAT COALITION

Mighty Cat Coalition helps fight overpopulation, finds loving homes for abandoned cats

Volunteer-run organization partners with PetSmart in Katy for adoptions

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

There are just too many cats and not enough homes – but one organization is stepping up to do something about it.

Monica Moussight started the Mighty Cat Coalition after seeing the problem close to home. “We started this work because there were cats in our own neighborhoods with no one else coming for them.”

“The need is clear,” said Moussight. “BARC, the city of Houston's shelter, took in 22,445 dogs and cats in 2025 and returned 980 cats to their neighborhoods through trap-neuter-return, according to the city's annual report. Statewide, Texas shelters would need to find homes for 32,000 more cats to reach no-kill status, according to Best Friends Animal Society's 2025 data, which also ranks Texas first in the nation for killing healthy, treatable pets in shelters. Each female cat we spay means fewer litters born outside next season, and that is why TNR [trap-neuter-rescue] matters.”

Mighty Cat Coalition is a volunteer-run, foster-based cat rescue in west Houston's Energy Corridor, which works to reduce cat overpopulation through trap-neuter-return, rescue, medical care, fostering and adoption. A three-member volunteer board runs the organization, which has no paid staff, and every cat in the Mighty Cat program lives in a volunteer foster home until it is adopted.

The organization is based in the 77079 ZIP code and currently focuses on west Houston but is available to help with trap-neuter-rescue (TNR) needs in Katy as well. “We don't currently manage colonies in Katy, but we help Katy-area residents with community cats as needs come up,” said Moussight.

Mighty Cat Coalition is a rescue partner of the city of Houston's BARC Animal Shelter, which allows the group to pull at-risk cats from the shelter. “We focus on the cats that have the hardest time leaving on their own: seniors, medical cases, shy cats and cats that have been there a long time,” said Moussighi.

Volunteers foster cats, trap community cats, drive cats to vet appointments and staff Mighty Cat’s adoption events. About 75 people, counting board members, volunteers and foster families participate in the program with about 20 of those approved for foster homes. Fosters provide daily care and medication, help shy cats get used to people and bring cats to adoption events. Mighty Cat Coalition covers the cats' veterinary care. To get involved, go to Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573210712408 or email mightycatcoalition@gmail.com.

Mighty Cat Coalition Inc. was founded by Moussight and incorporated as a Texas nonprofit on May 13, 2026. The IRS recognized it as a 501(c)(3) public charity effective the same day. In its first year, volunteers have trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, ear-tipped and returned about 30 community cats. In October, SNIP International awarded the group with a grant of 2,000 British pounds (about $2,661) to pay for more sterilization surgeries through April 2027. The project has been made possible with the support of SNIP International. The organization also applied through Walmart's Spark Good Local Grants program, which lets local stores support nonprofits in their communities. The Walmart on FM 529 awarded $500 to the Mighty Cat Coalition in October, which will help pay for vaccines, spay and neuter surgeries, and vet care for local cats.

Mighty Cat Coalition works with several low-cost clinics, including Special Pals, Houston Spay & Neuter and Houston Pets Alive, for the sterilization surgeries.

The group focuses on getting cats adopted when possible.

“Truly feral cats aren't adopted,” Moussight said. “They are happiest outdoors, so we sterilize, vaccinate and ear-tip them, then return them to their colony. During TNR, though, we often find friendly cats and kittens, usually abandoned pets or kittens young enough to learn to trust people. Those cats go to a foster home. Each one gets a vet checkup, a spay or neuter, vaccines, a microchip and testing for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus, plus time to get comfortable with people. Then we list it for adoption.”

As of November 2, the Mighty Cat Coalition has recorded 35 adoptions this year. “About 28 cats are in our care now,” Moussight said. “We have paused new intake until more of them are adopted so we can focus on finding homes for every cat we have. In the meantime, we still help adopters take home cats directly from BARC, and we welcome applications from adopters outside the Houston area.”

PetSmart Charities approved Mighty Cat Coalition as an adoption partner Sept. 9. In late October, the Katy PetSmart at 19945 Katy Freeway, at Fry Road, agreed to host the organization and potential adopters can meet adoptable cats there most Fridays and Saturdays.

“The cats need homes, and you don't have to drive far to meet them,” Moussight said. “Readers can see our adoptable cats on our Facebook page or come see us at the PetSmart on Fry Road most Fridays and Saturdays.”

The current adoption schedule is on the group’s Facebook page or at mightycatcoalition.org.

For more information or to request help with feral cat colonies, please contact mightycatcoalition@gmail.com.

From Switzerland to Katy: Coralie Charriol to make special appearance at Amber’s Jewelers on Nov. 17

Swiss luxury brand’s CEO and Creative Director visits its first Texas retailer since its U.S. reintroduction

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Coralie Charriol, CEO and Creative Director of Swiss luxury jewelry and watch brand CHARRIOL, will travel from Switzerland for a special one-day appearance at Amber’s Jewelers on Tuesday, November 17 from 3 to 6 p.m. The Trunk Show & Meet-and-Greet with Coralie Charriol will be held at 5510 Roberts Rd., Katy.

The visit celebrates Amber’s Jewelers becoming the first retailer in Texas to carry CHARRIOL since the brand’s reintroduction to the United States, bringing an international luxury experience to the Katy community.

During the meet-and-greet and trunk show, guests will have the opportunity to meet Coralie personally, explore the collections and learn about the inspiration behind the designs. Known for its signature cable designs, CHARRIOL brings together Swiss craftsmanship and distinctive style.

The daughter of founder Philippe Charriol, Coralie carries forward her family’s legacy while shaping the brand’s creative direction. Her visit offers local jewelry enthusiasts an opportunity to connect directly with the woman leading the internationally recognized brand.

Refreshments will be served as guests browse the collections and enjoy this special afternoon.

ABOUT AMBER’S JEWELERS

Founded in 2001, Amber’s Jewelers serves the Katy community with fine jewelry, custom design and in-house jewelry repair. For more information, visit ambersdesigns.com.

Houston's Coco Crepes & Coffee opens new location in Elyson

Houston-born creperie brings 11th location to Elyson Town Center; grand opening celebration slated for Nov. 14

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston’s original creperie, Coco Crepes & Coffee, is now open at Elyson Town Center (7040 Elyson Exchange Way, Suite E-400 in Katy), bringing its made-to-order sweet and savory crepes, waffles and a full espresso bar to one of the fastest-growing communities in the country. The new location will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, November 14, with a day of family-friendly festivities, including face painting, balloon animals and special promotions. Attendees can enjoy a complimentary Nutella crepe or Berry Berry smoothie from 7 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. The celebration will also feature giveaways, including a chance to win free house coffee for 30 days and Coco-branded merchandise, such as hats and T-shirts.

The restaurant is among the first to open in Elyson Town Center, the new retail and dining hub at the northwest corner of the Grand Parkway and FM 529. Elyson, a 3,600-acre master-planned community, ranked among the nation’s top 50 best-selling communities in 2026. Its ZIP code, 77493, ranked No. 4 in the United States for inbound moves during the first half of the year. The Elyson opening is Coco’s 11th in the Houston area, with locations in Memorial City and Bellaire planned next.

“Since opening our first Coco Crepes in Houston in 2005, our goal has been to create a welcoming place for people to gather over great food and coffee,” said Coco founder Youssef Nafaa, CEO of Bella Restaurants Group. "We’re excited to bring the Coco experience to Elyson, welcome new guests and become part of the community.”

Owned by franchisees Gianna Gozzo and Antonio Ventura, the 2,010-square-foot restaurant seats 55 inside, with room for 20 more on its outdoor patio. Designed by Gozzo herself, the space combines the brand’s signature brown and yellow colors with a modern, inviting aesthetic—brown accent walls, yellow banquette seating and a neon sign that reads “Oh Crepe, That’s Good!” A kids’ area with smaller tables and books rounds out the family-friendly design.

The menu centers on crepes and waffles made to order, sweet and savory, with original, whole-wheat and gluten-free options. Chef’s picks include the Tiramisu Crepe, the Waffle Gelato Sandwich and Nafaa’s personal favorite, the White Chocolate Raspberry Crepe with raspberry compote, bananas and white chocolate mousse. Savory crepes range from Beef Bourguignon with braised beef stew to Merguez Moroccan Sausage with caramelized onions and sun-dried tomato pesto. The kitchen also turns out paninis, salads and daily soup, and guests can build their own crepe or waffle from more than 35 ingredients and sauces. Halal meats and vegetarian options are available throughout.

Coco’s coffee bar pours classics alongside house signatures such as Moroccan Cortado (espresso, vanilla, steamed and foamed milk), Coco Addiction (espresso, white mocha, heavy cream over ice) and Cococcino, Coco’s ice-blended coffee drink made with house gelato in dark mocha, white mocha, vanilla or caramel. Smoothies are built with house gelato and fresh fruit, from Coco Loco (pineapple, banana, orange juice, coconut gelato) and Berry Berry to spinach-based Coco Green and protein-boosted Power Up (banana, peanut butter, vanilla protein powder). Also on the menu are an organic chai latte, loose-leaf and iced teas, hot dark chocolate, lemonade and Sweet Moroccan Mint Tea, a nod to Nafaa’s heritage.

Coco Crepes & Coffee in Elyson is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

About Coco Crepes & Coffee

Coco Crepes & Coffee opened as Houston’s first creperie in Midtown in 2005. Founder Youssef Nafaa, a chef and native of Morocco, was inspired by his children’s love of crepes. Today the chef-driven concept operates 11 locations across the Houston area, with further Texas expansion underway. Coco Crepes & Coffee is part of Bella Restaurants Group, which also operates ZOA Moroccan Kitchen, Mia Bella Trattoria and Mi Luna Tapas Restaurant & Bar. For locations, menus and franchise information, visit cococrepes.com.



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Rotary District 5890, Rotary Club of Katy launch 'Operation Turkey' service project Nov. 25-26

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In partnership with Rotary District 5890 in greater Houston, the Rotary Club of Katy will host Operation Turkey on Thursday, November 26, from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Katy Elks Lodge #2628, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd., Katy.

Operation Turkey is a large-scale, volunteer-driven Thanksgiving meal program organized by the Rotary Club of Greater Houston Veterans and supported by multiple Rotary clubs, including the Rotary Club of Katy. The goal is to prepare, package, and deliver warm Thanksgiving meals to veterans, and individuals and families in need across the Houston area. The motto for the endeavor is "Feeding our community, serving with gratitude."

The project consists of two service opportunities:

• Operation Tailgate – Preparation Day – November 25

• Operation Turkey – Delivering meals – November 26, 6 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Both options will be available at the Katy location at the Katy Elks Club Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy. There are three other project locations in the greater Houston area.

The effort also needs funding. To donate or for more information, please go to https://www.katyrotary.com/page/contact-us-1.

Clothed by Faith announces boutique opening in Katy

Premium donated items turn community shopping into support for essential clothing needs

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Clothed by Faith is announcing the opening of the Clothed by Faith Boutique, a shopping destination where sales of premium donated items will support the nonprofit's work helping individuals in need. The boutique is officially open at 802 Dominion Dr., Suite 500, Katy.

The boutique gives shoppers an opportunity to find quality items while helping bridge persistent gaps in essential clothing supplies. Proceeds from boutique sales will help Clothed by Faith purchase new underwear, socks, and attire specifically needed for school or employment.

By turning premium donations into funding for these ongoing needs, the boutique will complement the organization's clothing assistance efforts. Each purchase will help provide essential items that support everyday comfort and readiness for the classroom or workplace.

Clothed by Faith has also launched an eBay store, offering another way to shop for a purpose—from the comfort of home or during a break. Online purchases support the nonprofit's mission to provide a week's worth of clothing to individuals in need.

Whether shopping at the boutique or on eBay, community members can turn their purchases into practical support for neighbors in need. Shop with purpose and support Clothed by Faith in providing a week's worth of clothing to individuals facing difficult circumstances.

The boutique is open Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Grundfos partners with The Hangar to give away 500 turkeys on Nov. 23

Recipients in need should register by Nov. 19 in order to receive Thanksgiving meal

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Team Big Hearts, the community engagement committee from Grundfos USA's headquarters in Brookshire, has announced that they will be partnering with The Hangar to give away 500 turkeys to community members in need. The distribution will take place beginning at 10 a.m. on November 23 at The Hangar, 4010 Fourth Street in Brookshire and will continue while supplies last. Along with the turkeys, recipients will receive additional sides and "fixings" donated by generous sponsors.

Those interested in receiving the donated meals should register on Thursday, November 19 at 10 a.m. at The Hangar. While advance registration is preferred, no one will be turned away, organizers said.

Hangar Manager CaSandra Runnels said that her organization is working with the Brookshire Police Department to manage traffic flow, ensuring that the line does not block roadways or highways.

"People usually come from a 30 to 40-mile radius," said TJ Howard of the Team Big Hearts group.

For more information on the program, please call The Hangar at 832-722-9512.

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NOTICE

THE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

By Order of Mayor and City Council
City of Katy, Texas
September 28, 2026

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code Saums Road Self Storage located at 19936 Saums Rd, Katy, Texas 77449 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The auction will take place online at www.storagetreasures.com, The auction will start on **November 06, 2026** at 12:00pm and will close **November 13, 2026.** Units are believed to contain household goods, unless otherwise listed. Saums Road Self-Storage may refuse any bid & may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the property. Clean up deposit required in CASH only. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants.
DESTINT MCNEESE; COURTNEY TAYLOR; CHRISTOPHER GLOVER; JOSE AVILA; ENOLA BOYD-RADFORD; ARTURO SANCHEZ; ARKADINA TAYLOR.

THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED PURSUANT TO Texas state law before the sale, the tenants listed may pay the amount necessary to satisfy the lien and the reasonable expenses incurred to redeem the personal property.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES | 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit by QUALITY LICENSING CORP., dba Quality Licensing Corp #4592, to be located at 24919 Westheimer Pkwy, Katy, Fort Bend, TX 77494. The officers of QUALITY LICENSING CORP. are Carey Fenton, President; Matthew Allen, Vice President; Sarah Little, Assistant Secretary; and Brandon Vick, Assistant Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit(Q) by Quality Licensing Corp. dba Sam's Club #4913, to be located at 29153 Katy Fwy, Katy, Waller County, Texas 77494. Sarah Little, Assistant Secretary; Matthew Allen, Vice President; Carey Fenton, President; Brandon Vick, Assistant Secretary; Wal-Mart Lone Start Licensing, LLC. Stockholder/ Shareholder.

November 5 Puzzle Answers

U	S	E	R			P	A	P			K	A	Y	
T	A	X	A		T	I	L	E		O	P	I	N	E
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T	H	E	R	M	O			C	O	N	N	O	T	E
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T	O	L	U		P	O	L	L	E	X		K	E	A
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D	I	T	S	Y		A	V	E	R		A	H	O	Y
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4	3	8	6	7	2	1	5	9
5	7	6	1	4	9	2	3	8
9	1	2	8	5	3	7	4	6
7	4	9	5	2	1	8	6	3
1	2	3	4	6	8	5	9	7
6	8	5	3	9	7	4	2	1
8	5	4	7	3	6	9	1	2
2	6	7	9	1	5	3	8	4
3	9	1	2	8	4	6	7	5

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Public Notice

Hemphill, LLC proposes to build a 135-foot communications monopole at the approx. vicinity of 6011 Brookfield Drive, Houston, Harris County, TX 77085 [LAT: 29-36-47.66 N, LONG: 95-28-24.16 W]. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Eve Gray, e.gray@trileaf.com, 7700 W. Hwy 71, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78735, 512-519-9388.

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, Inc., the office of the Engineer, LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Tuesday, December 1, 2026, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Ditch VA3B Rehabilitation 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: 714 419 198#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Drainage and storm sewer improvements to Ditch VA3B within Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, November 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time at LJA, 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: 639 680 057#.

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

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at https://civcast.com.

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

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

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

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

APPLICATION: IU Heritage LP, owners are requesting to be allowed to amend Restricted Reserve "A", Block 1, Second Final Replat of Pederson Road Business Park. The amendment will create 3 commercial reserves.

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 December 9th 2026 9:00 a.m. at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street., Hempstead, Texas 77445.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code Saums NOTICENotice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at storagetreasures.com beginning 11/20/26 at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude 12/03/26 at 11:00 a.m. All sales to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on website. Facility address: 20220 Morton Rd, Katy, TX 77449. Tenant name: Amanda Knox. General description of property: Unit contains assorted kid and baby items, name brand adult shoes, duraflame heater in box, storage containers.

Legal Notice

Notification is hereby given that JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., 1111 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43240 has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") on or about November 12, 2026, as specified in 12 CFR Part 5, for permission to establish a domestic branch at the northwest corner of the intersection of Memorial Drive and Country Place Drive, Houston, Harris County, TX 77079. If you have any additional comments, you can send them to the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 7 Times Square, 10th Floor Mailroom, New York, New York 10036 or LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov, within 30 days of the date of this publication. The public portion of the filing is available upon request from the OCC. The public may find information about the filing (including the closing date of the comment period) in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available at www.occ.gov.

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Seven Lakes color guard captain Niya Shirsat leads on field and at lectern

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Singing, dancing, violin and debate — Seven Lakes High School student Niya Shirsat has never been short on talent. But it was the precision, choreography and storytelling of color guard that captured her heart and transformed her high school experience.

"What I love about color guard is performing with the people I love the most," Shirsat, a color guard captain, said. "I've been with a lot of these girls for many years, and to see them grow and to see them become such wonderful women has been amazing."

Shirsat's journey began in sixth grade when her mother encouraged her to try color guard after years of dance. What started as a new creative outlet became a passion, helping her rediscover a love of performing and lasting friendships with teammates.

Seven Lakes Color Guard Director Stephanie Click has witnessed that growth firsthand. Click began coaching Shirsat in sixth grade before becoming director of the Spartans' program.

"She has a natural gift," Click said. "I've loved being able to mentor her and see her grow. "She does all the little things on her own time outside of rehearsal. To see that and see her gift just accelerate and blossom has been special for me."

As captain, Shirsat helps lead one of the state's most accomplished color guard programs. Seven Lakes has earned seven Color Guard Circuit state championships, while the school's marching band has made eight appearances at the UIL Marching Band State Championships.

For Shirsat, however, the relationships behind those accomplishments mean just as much as the performances.

"It's a really enjoyable feeling to get on that field with them and know that they have my back, I have their back and we're just creating an amazing show for people to watch," Shirsat said.

While color guard commands much of her time, Shirsat's ambitions extend beyond the field. A former orchestra student who continues to play violin and sing, she has also discovered another passion: law.

As a member of the varsity debate team, Shirsat competes in congressional debate and dramatic interpretation. She also studies law through the practicum program at the Miller Career and Technology Center, building on her natural confidence in public speaking and desire to advocate for others.

"I gravitated towards law because I like debating, and I also love helping people in need," Shirsat said. "It's a big passion of mine. I don't like when injustice happens and I'm not able to do anything about it. That's something that's always pulled me towards law."

Shirsat brings that same determination to the classroom. An "A" student, she is taking three Advanced Placement (AP) courses this semester after completing two over the summer. She balances those academic demands with color guard rehearsals, varsity debate, Girl Scouts and Bollywood dance.

Managing such a demanding schedule requires communication, discipline and careful planning — skills Click says Shirsat has mastered.



Niya Shirsat mesmerizes on the field, soothes with her musical talents and dominates in the debate room.

IMAGE COURTESY OF KATY ISD

"Niya is a great example of somebody who works with all of her coaches together," Click said. "I have her calendar for multiple clubs, and we can decide when she's going to do speech and debate, when she's going to do another club and when she's going to do color guard."

When she needs a break from rehearsals, competitions and homework, Shirsat turns to music. Playing violin and singing give her an opportunity to recharge while staying connected to her artistic roots.

"They're both passions of mine," Shirsat said. "I want to keep that passion through high school and college."

Whether she's leading her teammates through a color guard routine, preparing for a debate competition or practicing violin, Shirsat approaches every opportunity with purpose. It's a mindset she hopes to pass along to the next generation of Spartans.

"There's a difference between other people believing in you and you believing in yourself," Shirsat said. "Things will only happen whenever you start trusting that it'll happen for you and putting in that effort. I want to leave that legacy here for all the girls after I'm gone."

Houston City College receives more than $1.5 Million in workforce training grants

Largest grant supports Tesla's Megafactory in Brookshire

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston City College (HCC) will provide customized workforce training to employees of four Texas businesses through more than $1.5 million in Skills Development Fund grants awarded by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the college system announced on November 2.

TWC Chairman Joe Esparza presented the grants, which will support training partnerships with Tesla Inc., Texas Tissue Converting LLC, Karsten Management LLC and Watchfire Signs LLC. The funding will help strengthen workforce skills, prepare employees for evolving industry demands and support business growth.

"We are honored to be a partner with HCC. We are listening to industry, and employers are telling us where they want to go in today's economy," said Joe Esparza at the latest HCC Board of Trustees meeting attended by TWC representatives, business leaders, state lawmakers and community leaders.

The TWC Skills Development Fund helps Texas businesses develop specialized training programs for new and current employees. Grants can cover curriculum development, training materials, instructor certifications, and the purchase or upgrade of training equipment.

The largest grant, totaling $782,998 for Tesla Inc., will fund technical training for 261 new employees supporting the company's Megafactory battery operations in Brookshire. Training will cover advanced manufacturing, robotics, programmable logic controllers, automated material handling, industrial welding, electrical systems, quality control and high-voltage safety.

HCC Corporate Training and Development will coordinate the program in partnership with the college's Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence Southwest and the Material Science Center of Excellence Welding Department.

A second grant of $690,044 for Texas Tissue Converting LLC and Karsten Management LLC will support training for 300 employees, including 80 new hires and 220 current employees.

The third grant, valued at $83,963, for Watchfire Signs LLC will support scalable training to advance innovation efforts.

"Building a strong workforce requires strong partnerships. These grants demonstrate how state agencies, employers and Houston City College can work together to meet evolving workforce needs, strengthen Texas businesses and create meaningful opportunities for workers. This is Future Forward in action, connecting talent with training and preparing our communities for long-term success," said HCC Chancellor Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D.

Katy student among 45 Harmony seniors named QuestBridge finalists

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Forty-five Houston-area Harmony Public School seniors have been selected as 2026 QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship program finalists, the charter school system announced on October 27. These students who attend Harmony School of Innovation - Katy, Harmony School of Ingenuity-Houston, Harmony Science Academy - Houston , Harmony School of Innovation - Sugar Land, Harmony School of Advancement- Houston and Harmony School of Discovery - Houston are among the 7,526 outstanding students selected out of more than 25,000 applications.

The names of the individual students were not released.

Out of the finalists, roughly 30 percent will be awarded a full-ride scholarship to 55 of the nation's top colleges and universities. At the same time, the remaining students will have the opportunity to receive a hefty financial aid package through the Regular Decision program.

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that connects the nation's most exceptional, low-income youth with leading colleges and opportunities. QuestBridge aims to increase the percentage of talented low-income students attending the nation's best colleges and to support them to achieve success in their careers and communities.

Each finalist must show substantial academic achievement (with an average grade point average of 3.90 or higher), high test scores on the SAT or ACT, financial circumstances, strong character, and exemplary accomplishments and leadership roles in extracurricular and community activities while ranking in the top 10 percent of their graduating class.

On December 1, finalists will receive notification if they are selected as National College Match Scholarship recipients for early admission. These students will receive a comprehensive scholarship to one of the nation's top colleges, which will cover the total cost of attendance, including tuition, books, room and board, and additional expenses for four years.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Wiggles Ngoh received her Under Armour Next All-American Jersey in a special presentation at the Seven Lakes High School gym.

Seven Lakes volleyball star Willtrace Ngoh earns Under Armour All-American honors

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Seven Lakes High School has volleyball royalty in its midst – Willtrace "Wiggles" Ngoh. She received her crown in the form of an Under Armour (UA) Next All-American Jersey during a special presentation in the Seven Lakes gymnasium, surrounded by family, friends and teammates.

The jersey ceremony paid tribute to Ngoh's selection to the UA All-American team, an honor that only 28 student athletes in the United States received.

"I get to represent more than myself," Ngoh said. "I get to represent my school, my family and everyone who has supported me and believed in me throughout my journey."

Standing six feet tall, Ngoh has built a reputation for her remarkable athleticism and powerful hitting ability. She set a Seven Lakes single-season record for blocks this year and can dunk a basketball. Despite her success, Ngoh remains humble and focused on improving her game. But according to Seven Lakes Volleyball Coach Amy Cataline, it's Ngoh's dedication off the court that sets her apart.

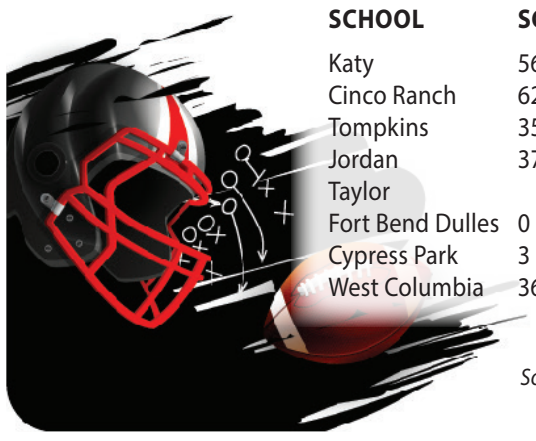
"She has instinctive, raw athleticism," Cataline said. "But what you don't see is the work she puts in when she's not on the court. There aren't too many players who will ask me over the summer to open up the weight room or gym so they can get more reps in. She's an All-American because of her work ethic and coachability."

She has also earned international recognition, winning gold medals while competing overseas with the USA U19 and U23 national teams. She described the opportunity to compete alongside and learn from some of the nation's top volleyball players as an experience of a lifetime.

Ngoh has verbally committed to continue her volleyball career at the University of Southern California (USC), one of the nation's premier collegiate volleyball programs. Cataline believes Ngoh's athletic ability, determination and work ethic position her for continued success at the next level.

For now, Ngoh remains focused on helping the Spartans compete for a UIL state championship and making the most of her remaining time on the court with her teammates.

AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES



SCHOOL	SCORE	SCHOOL	SCORE
Katy	56	Mayde Creek	14
Cinco Ranch	62	Seven Lakes	17
Tompkins	35	Paetow	21
Jordan	37	Morton Ranch	14
Taylor		BYE	
Fort Bend Dulles	0	Freeman	62
Cypress Park	3	Fulshear	52
West Columbia	36	Royal	14

Source: Dave Campbell's Texas Football

TIGERS CELEBRATE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP WIN OVER MAYDE CREEK, 56-14



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

The Katy Tigers clinched the district championship by defeating the Mayde Creek Rams 56-14 at Legacy Stadium on November 6. Katy takes on Fort Bend Travis on November 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium, in round one of the playoffs.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Many thanks for your generous donations to the Tiger on the Tank Fund! With your help we were able to add the 2026 Softball State Championship to the Downtown Katy water tower.

Don and Ida Faye Elder
William H. "Dusty" Thiele
Byron and Ellen Hebert
Jim and Paula Taylor
Paul and Rebecca Follis
Johnston and Amy Dietz
Joey Killion
Woody & Kathy Jo Stewart

