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SPORTS | PG 9

Katy Times

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VOLUME 113, ISSUE 9

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board postpones action on proposed changes to school naming policy

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

Following feedback from the community and from current Katy ISD namesakes, the Katy ISD board of trustees voted on February 24 to table action on proposed changes to the district's policy for the naming of school campuses and facilities. The suggested changes, which were first discussed in the board's February 17 work study meeting, created outcry in the community on social media and drew concerns from prior school namesakes and their families.

Eleven of the fourteen public speakers at Monday night's meeting spoke on the proposed policy changes which had been presented at the February 17 meeting, with one person in favor and ten opposed. Speakers opposed to the changes included representatives from namesake families including Jenks, Jordan, and McMeans. Twenty namesakes or their representatives were in the audience

and public speaker Tana Weiss said that ten of them would have been eliminated from consideration under the proposed changes. Tracy Malloy, of the Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. sorority, said that her group stood in opposition to the policy, saying that it removed the voices of the community. Several members of the sorority were present in the audience. Anne Russey, founder of Texas Freedom to Read and a frequent speaker at board meetings, presented the board with a petition signed by 350 people, asking the board to table any changes to the naming policy until after May school board election.

Board president Victor Perez said in an overview prior to board discussion of the "CW local policy" that he wanted to clear up some "misunderstandings" of the naming policy and proposed revisions to it. Principally, he said that the focus of the changes, which were first discussed in a December

See KISD, page 3



At the February 24 meeting of Katy's city council, council members approved a HOT tax grant application for \$60,000.00 to the purchase of a 2013 Ford Trolley, which will be used at the city's events, beginning at the inaugural Katy Exchange on March 15. Left: The interior of the trolley features wooden seats and leather straps.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Council calls for temporary moratorium on installation of in-ground fiber lines

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

Following reports of damage to water lines and private property created during the installation of in-ground telecommunication/fiber lines, Katy's city council has enacted a temporary ban as it considers an ordinance to regulate such installations in city right-of-way.

Since October 2024 sixteen incidents in which water lines have been hit, as well as other "close calls," have been reported to the city, said City Secretary Becky McGrew in the initial reading of the ordinance. Since January 1, the city has received 35 requests for access to the city's right of way.

"Our priority is to ensure the safety and reliability of our

city's infrastructure," said Mayor Dusty Thiele in a February 18 press release prior to the meeting. "The repeated damage caused by fiber installations has led to unacceptable disruptions for our residents and businesses. I am seeking possible action to halt these activities while we assess how best to regulate and

See COUNCIL, page 3

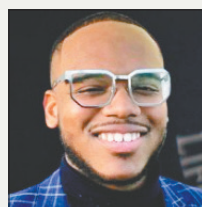
Khris Fields files as write-in candidate for school board Position 2

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Khris Fields, the founder and principal officer of the Wise Up to Rise Up™ Foundation, filed paperwork with the Katy Independent School District on February 14 which will allow him to run as a write-in candidate for the Katy ISD Board of Trustees Position 2, currently held by Lance Redmon.

Fields' application states that he has lived in Texas for ten years and ten months and has lived in KISD for six months. The Katy Times asked Fields for additional information, including his campaign website or Facebook page, but did not receive a response by press time.

The Wise Up To Rise Up Foundation™ is dedicated to fostering a love for learning and creativity among young people, particularly in underserved areas, focusing on creating vibrant, supportive environments that empower youth to become lifelong learners and positive leaders, according to the organization's website. The foundation is headquartered in Houston, Manvel, Pearland and Katy.



KRIS FIELDS

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February 27, 2025
10 pages | \$1

IT'S BACK! 'Best of Katy' to return in 2025

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a surprise announcement at the February "State of the City" luncheon sponsored by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, Katy Times Publisher Susan Rovegno, together with Chamber leaders Matthew Ferraro and Adrienne Davitz, said that the "Best of Katy" readers' choice awards program would be returning this year after a two-year absence.

The beloved decade-long program, "Best of Katy," is making its highly anticipated return in 2025

See BEST, page 3

City officials offer update on 'State of the City' at Katy Chamber luncheon

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

A capacity crowd filled the Community Rooms at Legacy Stadium, 1830 Katyland Drive in Katy, on February 20 for the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's annual "State of the City" luncheon. Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele and City Administrator Byron Hebert outlined the city's achievements over the past year, including upgrades to infrastructure, mobility, parks and public safety, as well as providing an update on the local economy.

In the area of public works, Hebert listed improvements to the city's infrastructure, including projects designed to hold water north of the city in order to prevent flooding of the city's streets. Specific projects include:

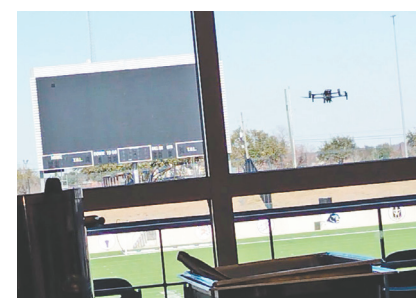
- Replacement of the 10th Street Bridge, which has been lifted to allow more water to flow underneath
- Expansion of the Pitts regional detention pond
- Rehabilitation of the Danover Street area sewer and water system
- Pinewood Terrace water line replacements
- Town Park subdivision street improvements and street overlays in other areas
- Rehabilitation to the wastewater treatment plant, water plant and water well

Hebert listed four drainage projects totaling more than \$12 million: Airline/Heights/Drexel at over \$5 million, West Katy at just under \$4 million, Village Green at just under \$1 million and Third Street at \$2.82 million. The Third Street project will also add 114 parking spaces for



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy administrator Byron Hebert (left) and Mayor Dusty Thiele address a capacity crowd at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's annual "State of the City" luncheon on February 20. The event was held at the Community Rooms at Legacy Stadium, 1830 Katyland Drive in Katy.



A Katy Police Department drone peers through the windows at attendees at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's annual "State of the City" luncheon at the Legacy Stadium community rooms, 1830 Katyland Drive, on February 20. Police Chief Bryon Woytek conducted the live demonstration of the drone, which is deployed in a partnership with Katy Mills Mall.

the burgeoning entertainment area which includes Katy Beer Garden.

Upcoming mobility projects to be funded through METRO include widenings of north-south corridors Katy Hockley Road and Katy Hockley Cutoff Road, and improvements to east-west corridor Morton Road, Hebert said. Improvements to Pederson Road and Pin Oak are also planned. Nelson Way will be improved so that it can function as an east-west alternative to Interstate 10 when that roadway undergoes future construction, he said.

Thiele introduced park improvements which include the addition of a multi-purpose field

at Katy City Park which will add two fields and which will have pickleball courts near the current tennis courts. Hebert said that the 3B Learning Center will finish up the Fussell House and will improve the acreage behind it in preparation for a possible opening in the spring of 2026. A walkable trail of more than three miles will be built from Ley-endecker Landing near Pitts and Morton to the historic downtown square, Hebert said.

Improvements to the historic downtown square - where restoration efforts started in 2013 -- include the addition of local-

See CITY, page 3

Double the Flavor, Twice the Fun!



February 28, 2025 | 6PM-9PM March 1, 2025 | 12PM-3PM

Two Events, One Delicious Weekend!

BROOKSHIRE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



PHOTO BY SHERRIL ROGERS

Latonia Moore was the keynote speaker celebrating Black History Month, held at the Hangar Unity Center, 4010 Fourth Street in Brookshire, on February 22. Moore, a Brookshire native, served in the Armed Forces for eight years. Her service extends to the federal government where she worked in finance and administration. Moore is a pastor in San Antonio, where she resides with her husband of 36 years.

Libraries support aspiring writers with monthly workshops

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Libraries will present several workshops in March that encourage fledgling writers, or anyone who has ever wanted to write a novel, to take the plunge and pursue their dreams in a helpful, supportive environment.

Throughout the month, Fort Bend County Libraries will host programs that are intended to encourage new writers by providing tips and tricks, writing and publishing advice, and support from other aspiring novelists.

These programs are free and open to the public.

- Prose Pros Writing Group – March 3, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd, Katy. During this session, take advantage of the library's space, quiet atmosphere, seating, power outlets, and snacks to kick-start your own literary masterpiece! Bring a laptop and anything else needed for some quality writing time. Participants will have an opportunity to share their manuscripts with others and get constructive feedback.
- Writer's Block – March

10, 6 to 7 p.m., Mission Bend Branch Library, 8421 Addicks Clodine Rd, Houston. In this monthly group for aspiring writers, get tips on writing basics, themes, techniques, and ways to unlock writer's block. This group meets on the second Monday of every month. It is recommended for adults and teens aged 16 and up.

- Writer's Workshop – March 20, 2 to 3 p.m., Fulshear Branch Library, 6350 GM Library Road, off Texas Heritage Parkway in Fulshear. In this monthly series, learn the basics of creative writing. Get tips on story structure, characterization, setting, tone, and more. Registration required.

- Story Spinners Writing Club – March 20, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview, Richmond. From beginning blogger to published novelist, writers of all genres and experience levels are welcome to write, share, learn, support, network, and critique each other's work. Writing prompts, brainteasers, and brief exercises will be available to ignite the imaginations of any and all wordsmiths who wish to hone their craft. This program is recommended for adults and teens aged 14 and up. Registration required.

For more information, or to sign up for the programs requiring registration, see Fort Bend County Libraries' website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on "Classes & Events," select the library, and choose the program on the online calendar, or call the library system's communications office at 281-633-4734.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sealy Lions to hold dance on March 1

The Lions Sealy Dance Club is having a dance on Saturday, March 1 at the Sealy American Legion Hall, 1630 Meyer St, Sealy. The band, Liberty Hill, will be providing live music from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. The public is always welcome.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

The Knights of Columbus Council 9759 will host its annual Lenten Fish Fest at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church every Friday from March 7 through April 11.

'Boots, Bluebonnets, and Bravado' for Katy-Area community band on March 2

The Lone Star Symphonic Band continues its 32nd Concert Season with a concert at 4 p.m. on March 1 at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, 22111 Morton Road, Katy. Tickets are available at the cost of \$11 each and season tickets for the three remaining performances for this year's concert season are available for purchase at (<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?subscription=lssb>). Be prepared, "podnuhs," for music that'll make you want to jump up and shout, "Yahoo!"



-- featuring music from John Williams, Aaron Copland, and others as the band celebrates Texas Independence Day. The Lone Star Symphonic Band is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to bringing performances of artistic merit to the Houston metropolitan area. Founded in 1993 as the West Houston Concert Band, the band is comprised of musicians from all walks of life and instills the value that music is a life-long event.

Enjoy a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper with the Brookshire-Pattison Lions and First UMC on March 4

Join the members of the Brookshire-Pattison Lions Club and First United Methodist Church of Brookshire for their pancake supper on March 4 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The event takes place at the church at 707 Cooper Street in Brookshire and offers all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage for \$15.00 per person.

Fulshear chamber's quarterly luncheon set for March 5

Join the team at the Fulshear Regional Chamber FOR Commerce's quarterly membership luncheon on March 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Gauchos Do Sul, 910 West Grand Parkway Sin Katy. Enjoy a delectable lunch while hearing from two dynamic speakers who will share actionable strategies to elevate your business. Tara Dotson Riley, founder of Tara Lynn Media will address "Building a Marketing Plan that works for Small Businesses" followed by Chamber President Don McCoy who will speak on "Using AI in Your Business." To register, go to the chamber's website at chamber.fulshearregional.com/.



Homebuying 101 Seminar: From pre-approval to keys in hand on March 8

Homebuying 101 Seminar: From pre-approval to keys in hand on March 8

Thinking about buying a home? Whether you're just starting to explore or ready to take the next step, Homebuying 101 will give you the knowledge and confidence to make smart decisions. Join the free seminar led by Members Choice Mortgage experts as they break down the entire homebuying process—from understanding mortgage options to improving your credit score and getting the best financing terms.

March 8 from 10 a.m. - noon at Members Choice Credit Union, 18211 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77094.

Knights of Columbus Council 9759 presents annual Lenten Fish Fest starting March 7

The beloved Annual Lenten Fish Fest is back! Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council 9759 at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, this community tradition kicks off Friday, March 7, and continues every Friday through April 11. For nearly two decades, the Lenten Fish Fest has been a highlight of the season, bringing family, friends, and neighbors together over delicious seafood and great entertainment. With more than 500 meals served each Friday, this event has become one of the largest Lenten gatherings in the area. This year's menu features fried, baked, and grilled fish and a new blackened salmon entrée. Live music by bands The Prairie Grass Band and Horizons Band will ensure a fun and festive evening for all. The fish fest takes place at the Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church - PAC Building 1530 Norwalk Dr, Katy, Friday from March 7 to April 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Thomas Pielech at 713-320-5269 or tpielech@icloud.com

Brett's BBQ to host chili cook-off on March 8

In conjunction with National Chili Day on March 8, Brett's BBQ will hold a chili cook-off to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Katy. The family-friendly event featuring ten competing chili teams will offer prizes, a petting zoo, a bounce house, music and more starting at 12 p.m. at 25220 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy. Tickets are \$10.00.

Annual March 'Macaroni Madness' to be hosted by Ambrosi Realty on March 8

Bring your best macaroni dish and enter it to win a prize during the annual March Macaroni Madness contest hosted by Ambrosi Realty. Not entering the contest? Come join the festivities anyway for a fun community get-together with good food and great conversations. The event takes place from 3 to 6 p.m. on March 8 at Ambrosi Realty, Inc., 1603 S. Fry Road in Katy. Free.

It's the Great '80s as the City of Katy celebrates 80th birthday on March 8

Get ready for The Great 80s Bash! The City of Katy is celebrating 80 years since its incorporation with an epic throwback

to the '80s! Come rock out to a live band, strike a pose at the photo booth, unleash your inner gamer at the arcade, enjoy delicious bites from local food trucks, sip on cool cocktails, and groove to the best hits from the 80s. All the fun happens from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Historic Town Square, Second Street and Avenue C in Old Katy. Free to the public! Bring the whole family and let's party like it's 1985!



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CROSSWORD THEME: THE OSCARS

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1/10
 - European tourist tax, acr.
 - "Germinal" author ...mile
 - Bye, in Paris
 - Bigheadedness
 - Relating to wine, arch.
 - Tabletop mountains
 - H+, e.g.
 - Large key on the right
 - *"___ Boys"
 - *"Emilia PÉrez" leading actress
 - H in HMS, sometimes
 - Kids' get-away
 - Like certain Four
 - Queen of Carthage
 - Razzed
 - Scary fairytale creature
 - Soft drink
 - Like certain egg order
 - Sir Mix-___
 - *Sean Baker's original screenplay
 - Loyal, arch.
 - Caldecott award
 - Ascus, pl.
 - AI's learning material
 - Harry ____, once of One Direction
 - Wearing footgear
 - *At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm Just ___"
 - Sushi restaurant libation
 - Unit of length of yarn
 - *This year's Academy Awards host
 - *Elphaba and Galinda story
 - Antique shop item
 - Metal-bearing rock
 - Mountain nymph
 - Southeast Asian org.
 - Lavatary, abbr.
 - *___ Theatre
 - Whimper

- Sodium hydroxide
 - Follow
- CLUES DOWN**
- Scottish cap
 - Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
 - Not yet final, at law
 - Mold a mind
 - Like ear of corn that is ready to cook
 - Bride's cover
 - Opposite of hence
 - Polynesian kingdom
 - Zn
 - "I'm ___ you!"
 - Property right
 - Acronym, abbr.
 - Evening worship
 - "All My Children" vixen
 - Invoice qty.
 - Colossus, pl.
 - Fizzes
 - End of a shoelace
 - *"The Brutalist" leading actor
 - Spanish lady
 - Old, in Scottish
 - Go stealthily
 - Related on mother's side
 - *Chalmet's role
 - Et alibi, abbr.
 - St. Louis' Gateway
 - Garlicky mayonnaise
 - Acne, technically
 - Famous frat house
 - Crack
 - Grassy mound
 - Ohio metropolis
 - Yorkshire river
 - Tea or beer
 - Iranian money
 - We have
 - Mature elvers

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57 58 59 60 61 62

63 64 65 66 67

68 69 70

71 72 73

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- Dabu-___, chili pepper condiment
- Operator's equip.
- Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic
- Yellow #5, e.g.

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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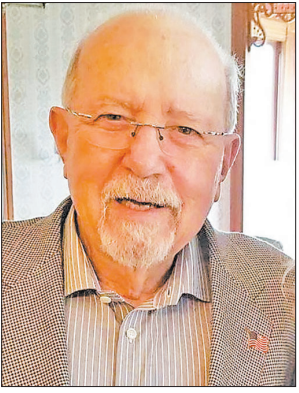
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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TRIBUTE



RALPH C. PENDARVIS
2025

Ralph C. Pendarvis, 92, a Katy resident since 1987, passed away peacefully Saturday, February 15, 2025. Born in Houston, Ralph graduated from Milby High School in Houston in 1950. Shortly after, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving during the Korean conflict on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Oriskany.

Following his military service, Ralph returned to Houston and began a long career as a professional engineer. He retired as the executive president of Associated Pipeline Contractors at the age of 80 before starting his own pipeline consulting firm. In 2015, he took a position as manager of engineering for MPG Pipeline Contractors. Eight years later, he fully retired at the age of 90.

In 1955, Ralph married Billie Joyce Allison. They shared nearly 58 years of marriage until her passing in 2013. He was a dedicated husband, father, and role model. He coached Little League baseball, attended school events, and most recently, cherished time spent with his great-grandsons.

Ralph had many interests outside of work. He enjoyed watercolor painting, cooking, and being a life member of Katy VFW Post 9182.

He is survived by his children: Randall Pendarvis, Lisa Gonzales and her husband Ray, and Jodi Pendarvis, all from Katy, Texas; his grandchildren: Lindsay Hanson Lee and her husband Brian, Christina Hanson, and Jacob Zawadzki; his great-grandchildren: Roman, Cesar, Trinity, Martha, and Parker; and his sisters: Jacquelynn Earles and Linda Binion, along with several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Billie, and his parents.

Services will be held at Katy Funeral Home, 23350 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX 77494.

- Visitation: March 7 from 4-8 p.m.
- Funeral: March 8 at 11 a.m.
- Graveside service will follow at Katy Magnolia Cemetery, 6801 Franz Rd., Katy, TX 77493.

Afterwards, his immediate family plans to gather from 1-3:30 p.m. at Midway Barbecue, 6025 Hwy Blvd, Katy, TX 77494. Everyone is welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The 100 Club, Ronald McDonald House, or VFW Post 9182.

FOR ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 5.



PHOTO BY KELLY RICHMOND, A LIFETIME OF CLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Katy Times publisher Susan Rovegno (left), Katy Area Chamber Vice President of Membership Adrienne Davitz and Chamber President/CEO Matthew Ferraro announce the return of the "Best of Katy" readers' choice awards during the February 20 "State of the City" luncheon at the community rooms at Legacy Stadium, 1830 Katyland Drive. The popular award program, in which winners are nominated and voted on by members of the public, was been conducted by the Katy Times for more than ten years before ending in 2022. The Chamber will partner with the Times to revive the awards this spring.

BEST

from page 1

as a joint initiative by the Katy Times and the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, The "Best of Katy" provides an exciting opportunity for the community to recognize and celebrate local businesses and organizations for their exceptional services and contributions to the Katy area, chamber officials said.

"The Best of Katy is a reflection of the incredible spirit and dedication of our community," said Adrienne Davitz, Vice President of Membership & Community Relations of the Katy Area Chamber. "We are honored to bring this program back to highlight the hard work and achievements of those who make Katy the best place

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- Nominations Open: April 16th - May 21st
- Voting Open: April 23rd - May 30th
- Winners Announced: Monday, June 2nd
- Annual "Best of Katy" results published in the Katy Times: June 26
- Best of Katy Recognition Event: Thursday, June 26

to live, work, and play!"

"We have seen so much excitement surrounding these awards, and I continue to receive calls and emails each week, requesting that we bring back the 'Best of Katy' contest," said Susan Rovegno, publisher of the Katy Times. "We are delighted to partner with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce in making this happen this year."

As in previous years, all nominations and voting will take place online, with over

140 categories to choose from.

There is no cost to participate. This year's program promises to be bigger and better than ever, with new categories and a streamlined process for nominations and voting, said Davitz. The winners will be celebrated at an event on June 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Katy Beer Garden, 5345 Third Street in Katy, where the community will come together to honor the very best Katy has to offer.

CITY

from page 1

ly-themed murals at the base of the water tower. The long-awaited visitor's center will hold a soft opening in conjunction with the city's inaugural Katy Exchange market on March 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The popular geese sculpture, now located at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Katy Fort Bend Road, will be relocated across from City Hall, Hebert said. Thomas Park near downtown will tie together with the Rylander Project and another piece of property to create more green space downtown, Thiele said, with an RFQ pending.

Looking toward the future, Hebert gave an economic update. Katy Court, along Katy Hockley Cutoff Road, is the last piece of residential property available for development within the city, with Phase 1 nearing completion and Phase 2 ready to start, he said. The Green at Katy Park at Morton and Katy Hockley Cutoff will have a green space larger than the LaCenterra Shopping Center, which will be surrounded by shops and restaurants and will feature a two-story office building. Hebert said that Target is coming to open in the third quarter of 2026; he said that "Others are on the way, but I can't tell you who yet." Katy Mills Mall, which

Thiele called the "number one economic driver" of Katy, has recently added new tenants, including Coffee Fellows, True Religion Brand Jeans and BN Jewelry, with restaurant P. F. Chang's and fashion retailer Primark coming soon, he said. The Boardwalk project is "moving," said Hebert, with the third phase of the upper trail open. Two new loft projects - at \$60 million each - are coming to the Boardwalk, he said.

Thiele touted Katy as a "smart city," pointing to the recent creation of an IT department and hiring of an IT director. He said the city is working with a consultant on cybersecurity. The city continues to work with its license plate reader program; Thiele stated that due to the program, the city was able to solve and make arrests in 103 cases in 2024. The FLOCK cameras used in the program can also be used to acquire updated traffic counts: on Saturday, February 8, the cameras counted over 566,000 cars traveling through the city limits. "Everybody has found us," Hebert said. Hebert added that the city has no plans to use AI at this time.

Katy Police Chief Bryon Woytek provided a live demonstration of the drone in use in a partnership with Katy Mills Mall and the Katy Management District.

COUNCIL

from page 1

manage these projects going forward."

Local resident Sean Dolan, the sole public speaker on the issue, opposed the measure, expressing concern that the moratorium would hurt small businesses by delaying access to high-speed internet, as well as adding layers of red tape. He urged a probationary program which would punish repeat offenders.

Following Monday's meeting, the City Planning & Zoning Commission held another public hearing on February 25. While no action was taken by the Commission at that time, this step is necessary to advance the moratorium, according to the initial press release. The final step in the process will take place during a Special City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m., when the second reading of the proposed ordinance and final consideration by Katy City Council will take place. If passed, the moratorium will go into effect for a period of up to 120 days. The moratorium will temporarily suspend all fiber installation work in the City's right-of-way while the city develops new guidelines to mitigate infrastructure damage and ensure safer operations, with the exception of fiber companies that currently have an approved agreement with the City.

- In other actions, council:
- Approved a \$60,000.00 tourism grant application funded through hotel

occupancy tax dollars for the purchase of a 2013 Ford Trolley van and a carport awning to house the van. City Administrator Byron Hebert told the Katy Times that the trolley would be used during the city's events in the historic downtown square and that it would run between the square and Katy Heritage Park. The trolley would be free to ride and children under 12 who tour the historic homes at the park would get a token for free ice cream, redeemable at Southern Dough on the square. Hebert said that the trolley will also be used to transport Rice Harvest Festival attendees from the parking area at Merrell Center. Hebert said that he had been considering acquisition of a trolley since 2013 after the idea came up in conversation with then-mayor Doyle Callander.

• Approved acquisition of new software and services for the Katy Animal Control Department which will streamline paperwork and facilitate communication with animal shelters and other pet adoption agencies. Animal control supervisor said that she hopes that the software purchase will lead to the city eventually allowing adoptions directly from the shelter.

The next meeting of city council is set for March 4 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy, where a second reading of the proposed moratorium ordinance will be conducted.

KISD

from page 1

2024 board meeting, is to include more community members on the naming committees and to allow more time for committees to review of the "voluminous" nomination packets. The changes would not be retroactive and would not affect any schools already named. The requirements for former KISD employees to namesakes to be retired for five years, as well as the initial suggested changes to the "family naming" requirements have been removed, Perez said. Secondly, namesake nominees are to be notified when their applications are received and whether or not that they are being considered or not and if not, why not. Another change, Perez said, is that the naming committee members are to be provided the materials seven days prior to the meeting of the committee. Additionally, in order to include more parental voices in the future school's naming zone, a quorum of local parents has been established. Going forward, namesake nominees cannot become a school board candidate, Perez said.

Perez then moved that the policy be tabled to a later date to allow more time to gather feedback, and Trustee Rebecca Fox seconded. Board member Morgan Calhoun asked that a specific date be set

for reconsideration of the policy and Perez said that he would prefer not to set a specific date at this time.

Fox asked that the restriction on namesakes not being allowed to run for school board be removed, saying that she had consulted with attorneys and was told that it was unlawful. Perez says that in two meetings with KISD general counsel Justin Graham, that portion of the policy was legal, and Graham reiterated that during Monday's meeting. Fox also questioned the increased number of parents on the committees and suggested alternatives to parents including representatives of the Education Foundation, Improvement Committee and others. Trustee Dawn Champagne asked that Katy ISD's chief communications officer Andrea Grooms be included in the development of the process.

The motion to table the item passed 7-0.

In other action, the board:

- Heard a presentation from Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Gwen Coffey on "Special Education - Focusing on Developing Essential Academic, Social, and Life Skills."
- Conducted a public hearing on the 2023-2024 Annual Report to include the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR).

- In closed session, conducted the quarterly performance review for Superintendent Ken Gregorski.

Future meetings of the board are:

- Board work study meeting on March 24
- Regular board meeting on March 31

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Rotary Club of Katy clarifies end of endowment scholarship through KISD

The Rotary Club's main scholarship efforts will not be affected

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

At Monday's regular meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees, school board members voted via consent agenda to refund the Katy Rotary Endowment Scholarship.

But since the matter came up for discussion in the February 17 board work-study meeting, the situation has created some confusion in the community, where the Rotary Club of Katy is well-known for awarding more than \$100,000.00 in scholarships to Katy ISD seniors each year. Two funding entities comprise Katy Rotary's contributions to educational scholarship endeavors in Katy ISD: the Katy Rotary Fund Endowment and the Katy Rotary Scholarships for Seniors, said Rachel Ross, General Manager of Media Relations for Katy ISD.

The Rotary Endowment Scholarship which is being refunded - an older program -- is completely separate from the Rotary Club of Katy's current scholarship programs, said Jeff Thompson, President of The Katy Rotary Fund Board, the nonprofit arm of the club. The current scholarship programs continue to be funded through the club's local initiatives such as Wild West Brewfest and the Rice Harvest Festival.

"The original endowment has grown to around \$200,000 at this time but the last financial statement we received was in August of 2023 and the balance at that time was a little over \$180,000," Thompson said in an interview with the Katy Times.

From 2001 to 2014, Katy ISD identified qualifying students to be awarded funding in accordance with the endowment's terms, according to Ross. During this period, at least one graduate from each Katy ISD high school received a \$1,000 scholarship. As the fund grantee, Katy ISD has managed the fund and identified the recipients.

"The scholarship endowment was originally created in 2001 with a purpose of funding needs-based assistance to KISD students for college classes," Thompson said. "The original agreement with the school district was that neither the Katy Rotary Club or the Katy Rotary Fund, our 501c3 that provided the endowment funding, could be involved in the selection of recipients from the endowment. Our understanding of the functioning of the endowment was that the school district was responsible for identifying student needs and utilizing the funding to provide assistance for these students. In 2015 KISD advised us that the greater need was for dual credit funding for students taking classes at HCC and the Katy Rotary Club approved realigning the purpose of the en-

dowment for that use. However, the discretion to award money to students remained completely with KISD and not with The Katy Rotary Club or The Katy Rotary Fund."

Thompson does not know the reason that KISD stopped awarding the scholarships. "I cannot speak to why the funds have not been used since 2015, but that lack of use was the reason for us to inquire about what changes needed to be made in order to put the funding to use. We did not and have not ever requested that the funds be returned to The Katy Rotary Fund or to The Katy Rotary Club."

"We were close to finalizing the request in the spring of 2024 and have communications from the Katy ISD business office confirming that the KISD business office would retain discretion over awarding the funds, but they recommended transfer to HCC Foundation," Thompson said. "The KISD business office rationale for recommending the transfer was that the HCC Foundation could provide better investment returns on the endowment, directly award funding to students' accounts, and had a staff dedicated to this activity. Unfortunately, a staff change in the business office in early 2024 resulted in a delay in completing the process."

The Katy Rotary Fund has been working with the administration of HCC and the HCC Foundation to provide KISD Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Saneel Bell, and the Katy ISD business office, with full background on the history of the endowment and rationale for their recommended transfer to HCC Foundation since September of 2024, Thompson said. "We were not notified that the request was being presented to the school board but are happy to answer questions for the school board regarding our request to transfer the funding. Our goal is to see the funds put to use helping KISD students as originally intended."

Katy ISD will continue to manage the selection process for eligible students, and the HCC Foundation will oversee the investment and administration of the fund, Ross said. "With its larger investment network, the HCC Foundation can generate higher interest rates, has access to student accounts and can efficiently transfer funds to recipients with the support of dedicated staff."

While the funding for this original endowment came from The Katy Rotary Fund, it is separate from the club's own scholarship program, the Katy Rotary Scholarships for Seniors, Thompson said. "Our annual scholarship program provides need-based scholarships for graduating students from KISD and will again be awarding over \$125,000 in scholarships for graduates this year. Our scholarship program has no restrictions on choice of college, and the selection and awards process is managed by The Katy Rotary Fund. We are currently in the midst of our application and selection process and will be announcing the 2025 scholarship recipients in March."



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Local commercial real estate agent Tim Sojka provides an update on forthcoming commercial real estate projects, including Colonial Green, during the February 20 general assembly meeting of the Katy Area Economic Development Council at Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston West, 16435 Katy Freeway in Houston.

Work on Colonial Green medical and professional office complex underway

BY TIM SOJKA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

This month, innovator Joey Kilcommins, the developer behind Bella Katy Medical and Professional Offices, kicked off his new project, Colonial Green. This project features a premium location, at the corner of Colonial Parkway and Park West Green, behind Dick's Sporting Goods, near Katy Mills Mall, Old Town Katy, plenty of shopping and dining opportunities, blocks from Memorial Hermann, a few miles from Texas Children's West campus & Houston Methodist, seconds from I10.

Kilcommins said, "I saw a real demand to allow doctors and business owners to move from tenants to property owners. A chance for them to buy a real estate investment that can support their retirement, pay for grandkids' college, maybe even start a real estate empire."

The buildings can be one or two stories and range in size from 1500 square feet to about 8000 square feet. Veteran commercial real estate agent Tim Sojka of See Tim Sell stressed, "What makes Mr. Kilcom-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEL GARRETT

Sales for the Colonial Green office complex near Katy Mills Mall kicked off in February.

mins stand out is he builds every building, exactly to the doctors' (or professionals) needs. Each building is custom, and the owner can design a unique experience for them and their employees, patients and their guests. Colonial Green is already half-way-sold-out, and I just started marketing it. I would encourage people not to wait and hop on Loopnet right now if they are interested."

Stress, poor sleep can take a toll on heart health

CONTRIBUTED REPORT



DR. TARIQ DAYAH

In today's fast-paced world, sleep often takes a backseat, but neglecting it can harm one of your body's most vital organs — your heart. Dr. Tariq Dayah, a cardiologist with Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center at West Hospital, explains how poor sleep and stress contribute to heart disease.

Sleep and the heart: An unlikely connection

Sleep does more than recharge your body; it's crucial for physical health. During sleep, your body releases important hormones that help maintain a healthy cardiovascular system. But when sleep is compromised, it raises blood pressure and strains the heart.

"Blood pressure is supposed to drop during sleep, but when you're sleep-deprived, it remains elevated throughout the day, increasing the risk of heart disease," Dayah said. Over time, this can lead to chronic conditions like hypertension.

The stress factor

Stress, whether from work or life pressures, also takes a toll on the heart. It can damage blood vessels and elevate heart disease risk.

"Chronic stress causes inflammation and damages blood vessels, contributing to heart disease," Dayah said. Moreover, stress and poor sleep often go hand in hand, worsening the effects on your heart.

Sleep apnea: A common culprit

Sleep apnea, which causes irregular breathing during sleep, is another major contributor to heart problems. "Sleep apnea disrupts sleep and raises blood pressure, significantly increasing the risk of heart disease," Dayah warned.

Tips for better sleep, stress management

To improve your sleep and manage stress, Dayah offers several strategies:

- Good sleep hygiene: Make your bed a space solely for sleep and establish a nighttime routine.
- Limit stimulants: Avoid exercise, caffeine, and electronics before bed.
- Watch your diet: Choose light, healthy meals in the evening.
- Treat sleep disorders: Seek treatment for conditions like sleep apnea.

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'PATRIOT LIBERTY TREE' PLANTED BY NSDAR AT VFW PARK AHEAD OF NATION'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Star of Destiny Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution held a "Patriot Liberty Tree dedication" at VFW Park, 6202 George Bush in Katy on February 22. The live oak tree, at left, was planted in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord which began America's fight for independence from England. The Liberty Tree was a famous elm tree that stood in Boston near Boston Common, in the years before the American Revolution. In 1765, colonists in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at the tree. During the local ceremony, held in conjunction with the Robert Rankin Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, Joanne Zumbun (at podium) called out the names of members' ancestors who fought during the revolution while descendants rang a bell held by chapter Regent Laurel Cull. The soldiers were also recognized on individual signs displayed along the walkway. The chapter also presented a donation to the Katy Heritage Society.

TRIBUTE

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Patricia L. Woods, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, who departed this world surrounded by her family on February 15, 2025, at the age of 83. Patricia, affectionately known as "Patty," was born on June 26, 1941, in Baird, Texas, to Gilbert Pollard and Mary Tom (Pollard) Williford. She embraced life with love, laughter, and unwavering tenacity, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Patty graduated from Spring Branch High School in 1959 before attending Southwestern University, where she met the love of her life, J. D. "Des" Woods. Their love story began on July 8, 1960, when they exchanged vows at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. Together, they created a beautiful family, one that she cherished deeply.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her be-



PATRICIA LYNN WOODS
1941-2025

loved son Trey Woods, and her brother Billy Pollard. Patricia leaves behind her devoted husband, Des, who stood by her side through every trial and triumph. She is also survived by her loving children: Christiana Woods Toler and her husband Wesley; Jonas Woods and his wife Nicole; and Rebecca Lynn Brink and her husband Andy. Her legacy lives on through her grandchildren, who reflect her warmth, strength, and joy for life: Madeline Cuba, Chase Woods, Hudson Woods, River Woods,

Samuel Brink and his wife Chloe, Caroline Brink, Adelaide Floyd and her husband Benjamin, Baden Brink, Rocky Brink, Liberty Brink, and Cedar Brink (Sonny) Pollard.

Beyond her devotion to family, Patricia was a force of nature - strong, tenacious, and courageous, often described as a spitfire with a delightful sense of humor. Her passions were many, and she found joy in horseback riding, hunting with Des, cooking exquisite meals, and engaging in games of bridge and Rummikub. Patricia cherished her time spent with her mother in the Garden Club, where they nurtured both plants and their bond. She had a love for movies that could transport her, evoke laughter or tears, and provide moments of shared joy with family and friends.

A funeral service for Patricia was held on February 22, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Katy First United Methodist Church, where family

and friends were invited to gather and celebrate her life. The service was officiated by Rev. Marlin Fenn, who helped us reflect on the many gifts Patricia brought into our lives. Interment followed in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Patricia's memory to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Houston Humane Society, or Shriner's Hospital for Children. These charitable organizations reflect her compassion and desire to help those in need.

As we honor Patricia L. Woods, let us remember her strength, wit, and the love she shared so freely. She has left a lasting legacy of kindness and resilience that will continue to inspire us all. In the final moments of her life, she expressed her tremendous love of Jesus, and His name was in her last words. Rest in peace, dear Patty. You will be forever loved and never forgotten.

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Local high school student strives to bring coding to underserved areas around the globe

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

At the ripe old age of 16, high school junior Mary Adegbesan has already accomplished a lot. She is a published author and the founder of her own nonprofit and has been honored nationally by WOMEN IN TECH® North America as a Global Teen Winner & Global Aspiring Teen Finalist. Additionally, she was a national winner in the 2025 National US Center For Women In Technology Aspirations in Computing and a Girls Who Code X CPB 20 Girls Under 20 Honoree. Mary will also be a TED X Third Ward 2025 Speaker in March 2025.



Mary Adegbesan

But she wants to do more – to help bring coding to the underserved – not just locally, but around the world.

Adegbesan, who attends an online private high school called Laurel Springs, is deeply involved in coding and technology-focused initiatives. She is the founder and president of a Girls Who Code club, where she strives to cultivate a supportive, welcoming environment for young women interested in technology. Through hands-on workshops and collaborative projects, she aims to encourage more girls to embrace coding and see themselves as future leaders in the tech industry.

In 2017, when Adegbesan was nine, her family immigrated to the United States from Lagos, Nigeria, in search of greater educational opportunities. “My parents made the courageous decision to move our family—myself, my five siblings, and them—to Texas, drawn by its excellent academic institutions, rich cultural diversity, and promising pathways for growth and advancement. Over the past eight years, we have built a life here, navigating the balance between embracing new experiences and holding onto the deep-rooted traditions of our Nigerian heritage.”

Soon afterward, Adegbesan

became interested in coding. “I still remember my very first computer science class like it was yesterday,” she said. “It was a sixth-grade computer science and programming elective, and while I knew next to nothing about programming, I walked into that classroom filled with excitement, curiosity—and a bit of nervousness. Little did my 11-year-old self know that being one of only three girls in a class of twenty would mark the beginning of an incredible journey—a journey into the boundless world of computer science.”

As a naturally curious child, Adegbesan had always been fascinated by technology: how websites functioned, how games were built, how apps responded to a user’s touch. “But when I first encountered coding, I realized something transformative—I could create rather than just consume,” she said. “My first experience with programming was through Python, and as I experimented with simple projects, I quickly came to see coding not as a rigid set of instructions but as a tool for creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. That realization sparked a passion that has shaped the trajectory of my life ever since.”

As she delved deeper into computer science, Adegbesan

became acutely aware of the vast disparities in access to technology education. “While I had the privilege of discovering coding through school and online resources, I met countless students—both in my local community and beyond—who were eager to learn but lacked the tools, mentorship, or exposure necessary to do so,” she said.

“One defining moment came when I began tutoring younger students in coding. Many had never been introduced to programming, not because they lacked interest, but simply because they didn’t have access to a computer or didn’t realize that learning to code was even an option for them. Seeing their enthusiasm, curiosity, and untapped potential made it clear to me that access to technology education should not be a privilege—it should be a right. That realization became the foundation of CTRL Code, a movement dedicated to ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to explore and thrive in the world of technology.”

Adegbesan was so passionate about coding that she formed CTRL Code (ctrlcode.org), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded to ensure that underrepresented youth—especially those from communities like hers—have access to technology and educational resources.

Since its inception, CTRL Code has reached over 400+ students globally, providing free coding workshops, mentorship programs, and access to STEM resources, she said. “Our work has been recognized and supported by Google, Code.org, and other industry leaders, and in 2024, Google awarded us a \$50,000 grant to expand our initiatives over the next three years,” she said.

CTRL Code offers a variety of free programs, including:

- Virtual coding classes/camps
- Multi-week online programs

where students learn Python, JavaScript, and AI fundamentals.

- Hackathons – Collaborative events where students tackle real-world challenges through coding.

- Mentorship programs – Pairing students with seasoned mentors who provide guidance, support, and industry insights.

“CTRL Code was built on the idea that talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not,” Adegbesan said. “I know firsthand what it means to seek better educational opportunities, and I want to ensure that every student—regardless of background—has the chance to explore the world of technology. Through CTRL Code, we are bridging educational gaps by offering free coding boot camps, hackathons, and mentorship programs, giving students the tools they need to break barriers and pursue careers in technology.”

In 2024, Adegbesan authored and self-published “Coding Unplugged: An Offline Guide to Python Programming,” a book designed to teach programming to students without reliable internet access. All of the proceeds support CTRL Code’s mission, and the book is currently being distributed to communities in Houston, Katy, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Nigeria, and beyond.

After high school, Adegbesan plans to pursue a degree in computer science and education while continuing to expand CTRL Code’s reach. “My long-term goal is to develop scalable, tech-driven solutions that bridge educational gaps and create opportunities for underrepresented communities,” she said. “Opportunity should never be a privilege—it should be a fundamental right. No matter where you come from, your voice, ideas, and potential have the power to make an impact. If you see a gap, a challenge, or an unmet need, don’t wait for permission—be the one to create change.”

Memorial Hermann’s GoHealth Urgent Care offering midnight hours

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Responding to community needs, four Memorial Hermann-GoHealth Urgent Care centers in Spring, Katy, Pearland and Houston now offer midnight hours.

“By extending our hours, we’re making it easier and more affordable for people to get care, when and where they need it,” said Peter Dagher, vice president of operations. “Sore throats, fevers, coughs and minor injuries don’t wait for a convenient time to occur. With our late-night hours, we are caring for patients up until midnight, helping families avoid the emergency room or waiting until the next day for medical attention.”

Memorial Hermann-GoHealth is now open from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. seven days a week at its Fulshear center at 5102 FM 1463, Suite 1200, Katy.

Memorial Hermann-GoHealth’s midnight hours increase Greater Houston’s access to critically needed urgent care services, helping people avoid emergency room visits or putting off medical attention, company officials said in a press release. Memorial Hermann-GoHealth providers can also make priority referrals to top Memorial Hermann specialists if follow-up care is needed.

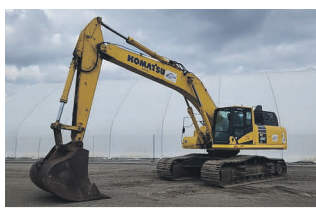
Patients seeking care can be seen quickly and easily by walking into any of Memorial Hermann-GoHealth’s centers or by going online to save a spot and pre-register. For details about all Memorial Hermann-GoHealth locations, visit www.gohealthuc.com/memorialhermann.

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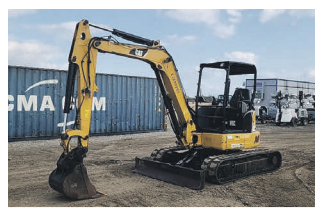
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

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

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 266 368 035 92
Passcode: 4Rk9Bc7o

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

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

First Publication: 2-27-2025
Second Publication: 3-06-2025

950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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

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

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

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

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 266 431 788 693
Passcode: Cn9CT9B2

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

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

First Publication: **Thursday, February 27, 2025**
Second Publication: **Thursday, March 6, 2025**

Notice of Applications for Permits to Drill and Produce Groundwater from the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District in Waller County

The proposed Woodhaven West single-family residential development on behalf of Woodhaven West, Ltd., whose address is 2450 Fondren Road, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77063, filed an application with the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") seeking a permit to drill a well in Waller County to produce from the well a maximum amount of one hundred seventy-five million two hundred thousand gallons per day (approximately 538 acre-feet per annum). The Applicant intends to apply the produced water to beneficial, non-wasteful use for municipal purposes within the District. The well (BWLL-0168C) would be 20 inches in diameter and drilled to depths of approximately 1,000 feet below the surface with casing to at least 650 feet from the surface down hole. The well (BWLL-0168C) would be completed in the Evangeline aquifer. Production from the well would be managed in a manner designed to minimize any interference with any neighboring wells completed in the same aquifer. The well will be located on property in Waller County with a street address of 0 FM 1488, Magnolia, TX 77355. The proposed Waller County well is generally located approximately 0.7 miles N. of FM 1488. The coordinates for the proposed location of the well are as follows on FM 1488:

Well No.	Latitude	Longitude	Formation/Aquifer	County
BWLL-0168C	30°11'41.3"N	95°49'44.4"W	Evangeline	Waller

The Board of Directors of the District may grant a contested case hearing on the applications if a written hearing request is filed within 20 days after the publication date of this notice. To request a contested case hearing, you must submit the following in writing: (1) your name (or for a group or association, a representative), mailing address, daytime telephone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be affected by the application in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the proposed activity; and, (6) for a party desiring for the hearing to be conducted by the State.

Office of Administrative Hearings the request must include the statement: "[I/we] request that the State Office of Administrative Hearings conduct the hearing." Note that a party requesting that the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) conduct the hearing shall pay all costs associated with the contract for a SOAH hearing and will be required to deposit with the District an amount determined by the District to pay the SOAH contract amount.

You may also file written comments within 20 days after the publication date of this notice without requesting a contested case hearing.

Comments or requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing and mailed to Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District, P.O. Box 269 Navasota Texas 77868-0269, or faxed to 936-825-7331, or emailed to BGCD@bluebonnetgroundwater.org.

The applications are available for review at the District Offices, 1903 Dove Crossing Lane, Suite A, Navasota, Texas 77868 or on the District's website at www.bluebonnetgroundwater.org, under "Applications – Proposed Well Application Submittals."

February 20 Puzzle Answers

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

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

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Katy, Attention: City Secretary, will be received at Katy City Hall located at 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, April 10, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read for **City of Katy Public Works Fleet Shop Expansion Project.** Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes partial Demolition of existing facilities to expand the current servicing capabilities of the Fleet Shop via the Construction Addition to the Fleet Shop Building for the City of Katy Public Works, located at 5452 Franz Rd, Katy, TX 77493.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held in person on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Local Time, at the Katy City Hall located at 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493.

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 five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search "City of Katy Public Works Fleet Shop Expansion Project" 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.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Council's judgment will be most advantageous to the City 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/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

City of Katy

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Tompkins High School students soar at NASA's global app design challenge



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Tompkins High School junior May Lynn Espinola (left); Zain Khan, Local Lead for NASA International Space Apps Challenge – Houston (center); and Tompkins High School senior Sahus Gupta (right) earned Honorable Mention at the 2024 NASA International Space Apps Challenge.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Reaching upper atmospheric heights in a worldwide competition, Tompkins High School senior Sahus Gupta and junior May Lynn Espinola earned Honorable Mention at the 2024 NASA International Space Apps Challenge, according to a February 3 press release from Katy ISD. The worldwide competition saw nearly 10,000 entries from 95,000 participants. The team was one of less than 20 entries chosen for honorable mention. Along with 40 teams chosen as finalists, they represented the top 1% of all entries in a competition that included working professionals, college students and high school students.

Created by Gupta and Espinola, their "FarmVis" app was inspired by their collective commitment to sustainability and climate impact. Describing the global challenge they wanted to solve, NASA notes that farmers face water-related challenges due to unpredictable weather, pests and diseases. These hurdles impact

crop health, farmers' profits and food security, and depending upon the geography, farmers can face extreme floods and droughts within the same season. Gupta and Espinola's app uses openly sourced NASA data to help optimize water usage plans for farmers. Learn more about the app at www.spaceappschallenge.org/nasa-space-apps-2024/find-a-team/farmvis/?tab=details.

"We are so proud of Sahus and May Lynn for this accomplishment, and for being counted among the world's best in this competition," said Elisabeth Brodt, principal of Tompkins High School. "It's gratifying to know that what our students learn in our classrooms can influence what they do in the future and what they're doing now." The campus is located at 4400 Falcon Landing in Katy.

The NASA International Space Apps Challenge gives coders, scientists and designers the opportunity to address real-world challenges through access to NASA's open data. Visit www.spaceappschallenge.org to learn more.



COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Sahith Iyer – 2025 District Spelling Bee Winner



COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Arnav Vijay, 2025 District Spelling Bee winner

A First in Katy ISD: Sundown Elementary debuts robotics club for elementary students

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Launching for the first time in elementary grades in Katy ISD, Sundown Elementary premiered a robotics club for its students this year, the district announced in a February 18 press release.

With curriculum designed specifically for young learners, the pioneering robotics students are part of the FIRST LEGO League, which has STEM activities for students in grades as young as prekindergarten. The school is located at 20100 Saums Road in Katy.

The club is led by Sundown teacher Katie Kruszka and currently has 16 students in grades 4 and 5. Kruszka hopes to add even more young engineers next year and expand to include grades 2 and 3.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our students here at Sundown because it allows them to use their creativity and ingenuity in STEM," said Dr. Kari Torres, principal of Sundown Elementary. "These students can use the skills they're learning now to pursue a career in robotics and engineering, all thanks to the club."

All Katy ISD high schools have world-class robotics teams that compete annually at state and world championships. Sundown's students will be ready to join their high school teams armed with advanced knowledge of robotics and STEM through early exposure and hands-on learning.

FIRST LEGO League, part of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) nonprofit, was created just for elementary and junior high school students and provides them with the space to learn coding and robot-building skills using LEGO materials. Visit www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll to learn more.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Elementary school students at Katy ISD's Sundown Elementary School, 20100 Saums Road in Katy, can participate in the district's first-ever robotics club designed especially for elementary school students.

Back-to-back champs, Katy ISD students best spelling Bee — again

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Repeating their skillfulness at spelling, Beckendorf Junior High sixth-grader Arnav Vijay and Beck Junior High sixth-grader Sahith Iyer will represent Katy ISD at the upcoming 2025 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee, the district announced in a February 7 press release. As fifth graders, the pair were named district champions last year.

This year's bee featured the top 60 spellers from across the district's elementary and junior high schools, and once again Vijay and Iyer outlasted the formidable competition.

"It is so special for a student to win a district spelling bee, and so to have Arnav and Sahith win the bee twice is incredible," said Nina Anderson, English Language Arts Coordinator for Secondary Curriculum and Instruction in Katy ISD. "We are so proud of them and wish them success in the regional bee."

The 2025 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee will be hosted by Houston Community College on March 22 and include the top spellers from 22 counties across southeast Texas. The top three spellers from the regional bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, held in Washington, D.C., where they will compete to become the national champion.

This year, Scripps celebrates the centennial anniversary of the first National Spelling Bee, which included just nine superlative spellers. Visit www.spellingbee.com to learn more.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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KATY ISD TEAMS SALUTED AT THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB IN HOUSTON



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Recently, the Touchdown Club of Houston hosted its annual Sportsmanship Luncheon, where Cinco Ranch and Katy High Schools were nominated for the prestigious Sportsmanship Award, Katy ISD announced February 11 on its Facebook page. The district also extended a special congratulations to Katy High School's football program for being named runner-up. The Touchdown Club of Houston is an organization dedicated to the sharing of fellowship through football and is the Houston chapter of the National Football Foundation. Founded in 1947 with leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame -- a non-profit educational organization -- runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people, according to the organization's website.

Taylor, Fulshear named among state's top girls basketball teams by TGCA

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Girls Coaches Association released its latest state basketball poll on February 20, with Katy Taylor selected in 6A Division 1 and Lamar Fulshear in 6A Division 2. Both teams were tied for ninth. Here is the complete list:

CLASS 6A DIVISION 1

1. Pearland Dawson
2. Duncanville
3. Plano East
4. Cedar Hill
5. SA Brennan
6. Summer Creek
7. North Crowley
8. Cibolo Steele
- 9T. Flower Mound
- 9T. Timber Creek
- 9T. Aldine Nimitz

9T. The Woodlands

- 9T. Katy Taylor
- 9T. Cypress Falls
- 9T. Round Rock
- 9T. Laredo United South

CLASS 6A DIVISION 2

1. Cypress Springs
2. Ft. Worth Boswell
3. Ft. Bend Hightower
4. SA Churchill

5. San Marcos

6. Lancaster
7. Wolfforth Frenship
8. Alief Taylor
- 9T. Converse Judson
- 9T. Austin Vandegrift
- 9T. Desoto
- 9T. Grand Oaks
- 9T. Little Elm Braswell
- 9T. Denton Guyer
- 9T. Clear Brook
- 9T. Lamar Fulshear

Katy High's Emily Beltran wins state wrestling title

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy High School's Emily Beltran clinched this year's state wrestling title for her weight class, jostling Katy's girls' team to 3rd place overall in 6A competition at the state's 2025 UIL Wrestling Tournament. Beltran bested her opponent in the second period with a pin and sealed her standing in history among state title holders, the district announced in a February 21 press release.

This year's competition was held at Cy-Fair ISD's Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road in Cypress, and included 6A wrestling contenders from across Texas. Beltran is among the nearly two dozen top 10 finishers from Katy ISD, carrying forward the district's perennially strong showing in wrestling.

"We are proud of this year's competitors and their coaches for another impressive competition season," said Lance Carter, executive director of athletics in Katy ISD. "Through hard work and dedication to the sport, our wrestling programs continue to produce state champions and top finishers."

The results from this year's wrestling state tournament include:



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Emily Beltran (right) of Katy High School is declared the state 6A wrestling champion for her weight class after defeating her opponent in a match at the Berry Center in Cypress.

GIRLS RESULTS

Name	Weight Class	School	Result
Emily Beltran	107	Katy	State Champion
Nevada Daniels	114	Cinco Ranch	4th Place
Emma Dutcher	152	Mayde Creek	Top 8 Finisher
Savannah Freifeld	138	Katy	4th Place
Natalie Grijalva	126	Taylor	3rd Place
Stephanie Lopez	114	Mayde Creek	5th Place
Mia Medrano	145	Cinco Ranch	6th Place
Emily Melham	120	Taylor	5th Place
Sydney Miller	138	Jordan	Top 8 Finisher
Aylin Pagan	126	Paetow	Top 8 Finisher
Hailey Pitts	132	Katy	2nd Place
Natalie Roberson	100	Katy	3rd Place

BOYS RESULTS

Name	Weight Class	School	Result
Santiago Garcia Contreras	120	Katy	5th Place
Adrian Ferrios	113	Katy	4th Place
Andrei Gavaza	138	Cinco Ranch	Top 8 Finisher
Carlos Gonzalez	132	Paetow	Top 8 Finisher
Max Herman	150	Cinco Ranch	Top 8 Finisher
Diego Lopez	144	Tompkins	6th Place
Josue Pizana	126	Katy	6th Place
Kane Rosario	190	Seven Lakes	5th Place
JP Smith	215	Cinco Ranch	4th Place
Shane Trotter	285	Katy	2nd Place

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February 28, 2025 | 6PM-9PM

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- Live music, games, activations

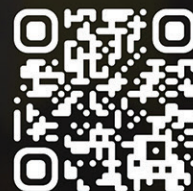
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Katy ISD celebrates female student-athletes at conference

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

For the fourth consecutive year, Katy ISD celebrated female student-athletes with Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road in Katy hosting the National Girls & Women in Sports Conference during the week of February 19. The event drew more than a hundred student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors and community members to hear from a slate of passionate and successful speakers who were all former high school athletes, the district said in a press release.

The speakers shared personal stories and tips of encouragement on topics including discipline, resilience and making wise choices. Jennifer Vaden, head volleyball coach and assistant athletic director at Jordan High School, recounted her personal journey from high school athlete to her time as a Division I athlete and coach. She spoke about world-famous athletes like Simone Biles and Katie Ledecky and the mental toughness



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

More than a hundred female student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors and community members attended the National Girls & Women in Sports Conference during the week of February 19, held Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road in Katy.

that has helped them become inspiring individuals.

"Success is not a scoreboard or a position; it's whether or not you reach your full

potential," said Vaden. "In reality, failure is what will make us grow."

Melissa Hoffmann, Morton Ranch's head girls' track coach, began organizing the event four years ago as part of a class assignment for her master's program. There was also a more significant reason for Hoffmann - her principal had asked the school's athletic staff to find a way to get more female students involved in sports.

"This event is about celebrating and empowering our female athletes in Katy ISD to dream BIG. It is my hope that after attending the conference they will leave feeling inspired and motivated to be the best version of themselves both as an athlete and as a person," said Hoffmann.

Among this year's attendees were Coach Jill Voss and the Freeman High School softball team, recently honored at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as recipients of the Grant Teaff Beyond the Game Team Award. The team attended this year's induction banquet,

held in Waco, met with 2025 hall inductee and 3x Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner and attended a Baylor softball game.

"I've attended this event for several years now with my teams because I want my athletes to hear from women who have been where they are now and who have so much wisdom to share," said Voss. "Participation in sports teaches life lessons, values that I want my players to have with them beyond their playing time."

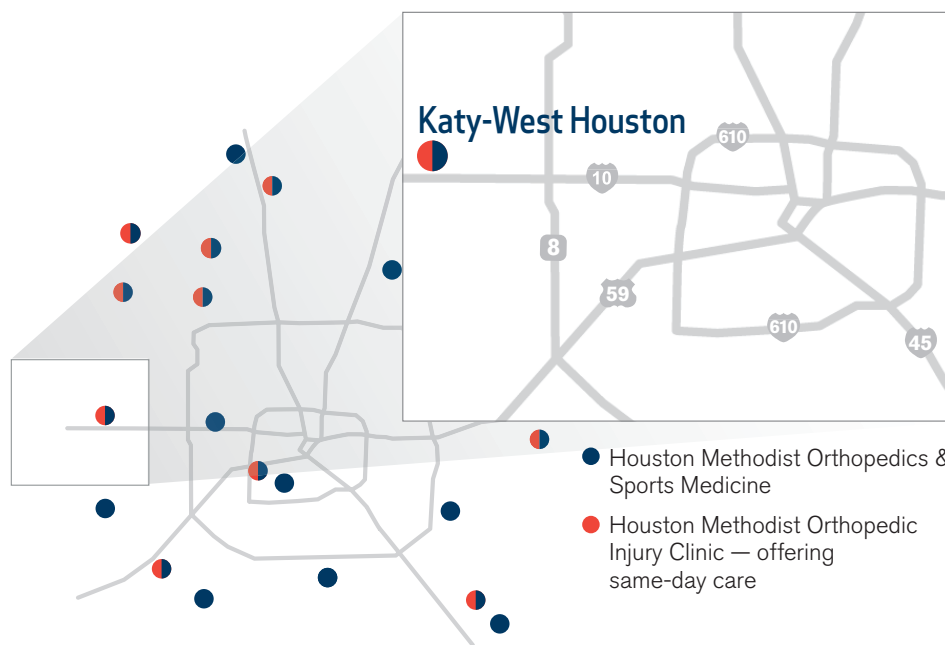
This year marks the 39th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day held in remembrance of Flo Hyman, Olympic silver medalist and University of Houston 3x All-American volleyball player. Since her passing from Marfan syndrome, the day has evolved to recognize the positive influence sports has on girls and women, and to bring attention to the continued fight for equality in sports. Visit the Women's Sports Foundation at www.womenssportsfoundation.org/get-involved/ngwsd/ for more information.



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