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Katy's ONLY Locally Owned Newspaper

Volume 24 | Number 22 | www.TheKatyNews.com | November 15, 2013 | FREE

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Community EVENTS

Send Calendar Listings to:

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NOVEMBER 16
Katy Market Days
2nd St & Ave. B
10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fresh produce, arts, crafts and antiques. Vendor spaces are available for $20. Call 281-391-1993 for information.

NOVEMBER 16
Katy City Wide Garage Sale
For more information call 281.391.4717.

NOVEMBER 19 & 20
VIP'S GOT NO FEES!
CAPS Night Out
17555 Katy Freeway
1 - 6 p.m.
No adoption fees on VIP's (animals that have been at CAP more than two months) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Come find the love of your life for free!

NOVEMBER 23
LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch's Home for the Holidays
23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
3 - 6 p.m.
Tree Lighting immediately follows.

NOVEMBER 24 THRU DECEMBER 22
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
Santa Comes to LaCenterra
23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
Saturdays 1 - 5 p.m.
Sundays 1 - 4 p.m.

Katy Tiger Football Caps 10-0 Season

By Tom Behrens

The Katy Tigers ended their regular season as they have all season, with a convincing win, this time over the Memorial High School Mustangs, 35-0.

The Tigers spread the offensive laurels around. Rodney Anderson scored on a 5 yard run in the first quarter. Quarterback Garrett Doiron connected with a 25 yard pass to Andy Coonrod in the second quarter. Anderson added his second touchdown, this time catching a 9 yard pass from Doiron in the third quarter. Also in the third quarter Kiley Huddleston, now in at quarterback, hit Sloan Spiller with a 35 pass for another touchdown. Trent Findley capped off the Tiger scoring with an 8 yard run at 11:14 in the fourth quarter.

Manny Mendoza continued his perfect kicking streak, converting all the point after touchdowns.

Anderson finished 17 carries for 74 yards. Doiron went 11-15 in passing for 123 yards; Huddleston 2-3 for 44 yards.

Rodney Anderson (26) added two touchdowns to the Tigers' last regular season game. the Katy Tigers are now in position to win their 8th State Championship. Photo by Murali Santhana.

Boosterthon Fun Run at Creech Elementary

The Boosterthon Fun Run team came to Katy ISD again this fall, introducing their fitness-focused fundraiser "Camp High Five" to Creech Elementary. The school raised nearly triple their previous fundraiser with this one effort that allows all students to participate in the event by running on the track with the entire grade to great music and lots of cheers. At the end of the event, students had received pledges from 39 states and 9 different countries and most had run more than 2 miles!

Margo Faulkner's 5th Grade Homeroom, pictured here, collectively completed 35 laps first (more than 2 miles). Top Row: Bennett Hanks, Shweta Machiraju, Aidan Book, Anna Bremauntz, Kymani Powell. Middle Row: Maria Bravo, Zanghyun Jo, Jonathan Hayes, Emily Mannion, Jenna Gillson, Makenzie Wise, Jacob Whitney, Nicholas Tuma, Aditya Goswami, Jose Rangel-Orozco, Trinity Cruz. Bottom row: Boosterthon's Nate Thiry, Cailynn McGlory, Ian Putiz, Teacher Margi Faulkner.

Inside:
The Katy News Holiday Special Edition

Home for the Holidays at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch

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Owl Prowl and Coyote Howl

Join the Katy Prairie Conservancy for Owl Prowl and Coyote Howl with Master Naturalist and birding expert Glenn Olson on November 22nd at Katy Prairie Conservancy, Indiangrass Preserve, 31950 Herbert Rd., Waller at 6 p.m. The cost is $50 per person, and part of that fee goes toward funding KPC educational programs. The event includes a light dinner and requires advance registration.To register for the November KPC activities, go to katyprairie.org and click on the "Visit" tab to find "events." If you are interested in volunteering for the Range Ride, contact Jaime Gonzalez at 713-523-6135.

Ft. Bend Master Gardeners

Home Landscape Series Water Conservation Workshop

The public is invited to a workshop that will cover many practical steps that homeowners can take to reduce water use in the landscape and maintain a healthy landscape with plenty of curb appeal. The Home Landscape Series Water Conservation Workshop will be held in Katy on Saturday, November 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Katy High School at 6331 Highway Blvd. Participants will have hands-on learning opportunities involving irrigation system components, including converting to a drip system and understanding the controller, and assistance in assembling their own take-home rainwater collection barrel. Workshop topics include landscaping to conserve water, irrigation efficiency, managing water supplies, and rainwater harvesting methods.

The workshop is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, The City of Katy, Keep Katy Beautiful, Katy HS Science Olympiad, and the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners. The registration fee is $25. More information and a registration form are available at www.fortbend.agrilife.org or www.fbmg.com or by calling Brandy Rader at 281-633-7029.

Garden Insects – Getting to Know What Bugs You

Learn to recognize the most common insects encountered in your gardens, and distinguish between beneficial insects and pests. Our program on November 21 will be presented by Master Gardener Entomology Group members. The format will involve exhibits that will be set up in the meeting room by 6:30 p.m., staffed by Entomology Group members. The public is invited to come at 6:30 p.m. and browse the exhibits before the program from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to this free program hosted by the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg. For more information call 281.633.7033 or visit www.fbmg.com. FBCMG is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Katy Library Re-Opens

The Katy Library, 5414 Franz Road, has reopened. The 10 year old building owned by Harris County is maintained by the City of Katy. All Harris County Libraries will be closed for the Thanksgiving holidays from November 29 through December 1.

CAP Thrift Store

CAP Thrift Store located at 11925 Katy Freeway, Houston, sells gently used and brand new items of all types. The thrift store is closed on Mondays and donations are accepted Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Proceeds directly benefit CAP's sheltered animals. Call 281-497-7559 for more information.

Store hours are Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Sunday: 12:00 noon - 6:30 p.m., Monday: Closed.

Build-A-Bear Workshop

Build-A-Bear Workshop recently opened a newly imagined store at Memorial City Mall that incorporates the traditional bear-making experience with the latest in interactive technology. Local students from Briarmeadow Charter School along with the first 200 store guests made bears to donate to Children's Memorial Hermann-Memorial City.

Straight A students from Briarmeadow Charter School, pictured with representatives from Children's Memorial Hermann-Memorial City, show off the bears they made to donate to Children's Memorial Hermann-Memorial City.

Very Important Update
Are you concerned about **Obamacare** and how it will affect **You**, your **Family** and your **Business?**
We are here to help with individual, employer group, and Medicare supplement products. Open enrollment begins in November, for 01-01-14 effective dates! Please contact us and let us help you with options in 2013 before rates sky rocket in 2014!
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Letters to the Editor
The Katy News publishes letters to the editor. Please send letters to Pat@TheKatyNews.com. The deadline is Friday before publication. Letters should include writers Full Name, Address, Daytime and Evening phone numbers. Please make letters as brief as possible. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Subscriptions
The Katy News is published bi-weekly and is delivered to 29,700 homes free of charge within our distribution area. We place 2,300 papers on newsracks throughout the area. If you live outside our area and would like to receive a copy of the paper you may do so by sending $35.00 to The Katy News, PO Box 5183, Katy, TX 77491; Attn: Pat Wilson.

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Volunteer With Christian Emphasis

Story and Photo by Tom Behrens

Sandy McAfee, a Certified Spiritual Director, moved from Victoria, TX to Cinco Ranch in Katy 13 years ago with her husband, Ed to live closer to children and grandchildren. Now in their 70's and feeling blessed with health, family and friends, they stay active giving back many hours to the community.

Sandy has supported, volunteered and 'worked out' at the Katy Family YMCA for over 36 years. At the Katy YMCA she is part of the Christian Emphasis Committee and heads up the Prayer Ministry that includes staff and members. She is a regular in cycle, yoga & Pilates classes. "I spend so much time there I feel like it's my second home. The members are so friendly. The staff are all so wonderful and go out of their way to be helpful and to make people welcome."

As a Certified Spiritual Director (Companion) she offers members and staff at the YMCA the opportunity to reflect with another about how they are growing in their relationship with God, manifested in prayer and everyday living. "As Directors we like to call ourselves companions more than directors because in our line of work we listen more than talk. It's all about hearing that individual story. For people of all faiths, it's an ongoing process of discovery, discernment and discipleship," explains McAfee.

Sandy McAfee

Sandy is a member and volunteer at the Epiphany Catholic Church. She has served on the Pastoral Council, Outreach programs, Eucharistic Ministry, Prayer Ministry and Bible Study. She's also an Affiliate and volunteer with the Cenacle Retreat House in Houston and active with retreats and prayer groups.

Her Daughter, Lori, is married to Jeff McBride, who was the director and responsible for opening the Katy YMCA. The McBrides and their daughters, Leigh, Leppert and Melissa moved six years ago to Orange County, CA where Jeff is CEO and President of the YMCAs there. Daughter, Lynne & son-in-law Jim Sanders live in Spring, TX with grandsons, August & Grayson. Son, Chad, lives in Madisonville, TX. Daughter, Stacey, and son-in-law, Brian Mahalik live in Commerce, MI with grandchildren, Riley and Von.

Coffee and Conversations

Coffee and Conversations is a way for women veterans to connect with other veterans in their community while sipping on their favorite free Starbucks Drink. Held on the last Friday of each month from 1 - 2 p.m. Future meeting date is November 29th. Meet at the Starbucks, 1998 Katy Mills Blvd., Katy. For more information call 713-726-6325.

GRACE AFTER FIRE
PROTECT. CONNECT. RENEW

KBA Monthy Meeting Nov. 27

The Katy Business Association will be holding their Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, November 27 at Midway BBQ located at 6025 Highway Blvd. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. with a Thanksgiving luncheon for $15.00 per person. There will be a Door Prize drawing.

Please bring guests as we will be having a great speaker, Gregory Turner, AIA, Leed, AP, MBA. Mr. Turner is the architect for the New Katy City Hall. Mayor Fabol Hughes, has asked the KBA to have our members give input in to the design of our new City Hall.

Please R. S.V. P. to Jean Machann at town1245@aol.com or by calling 832-656-3993 so that we can get an accurate count for lunch.

Amber's Designs Open House

Amber will be hosting a few of her favorite vendors December 4th from 4 to 8 p.m. at her store at 722 Pin Oak Rd. You will find unique items for Christmas. Enjoy refreshments while you shop for those special gifts.

Wallis American Legion Dance Club

The Wallis American Legion Dance Club will hold its monthly dance Saturday, November 16th, with music by Odessa, playing good country western and mixed music for your dancing pleasure from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy. There will be lots of door prizes and free coffee.

For more information call Steve Muzny 979-478-2494 or Charly Janik 979-478-6226.

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Dignity MEMORIAL

Water tower and train images courtesy of County Parks Portrait.

Watch The Katy News Facebook page for your chance to win tickets to Dickens on the Strand.

This week's puzzles can be found online at www.TheKatyNews.com

Bird Hikes at Seabourne Creek Nature Park to Resume

The Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter is eager to inform the public of the resumption of their monthly bird hikes. The next hike will be December 4th, from 8 – 10 a.m. The bird hikes take place the first Wednesday of each month through May. They are led by expert birders in the Chapter and are free and open to the public. Participants, novices and up, should gather in the parking lot to meet their guides and obtain birding lists. Binoculars are strongly recommended. Seabourne Creek Nature Park is located on Hwy 36 next to the Rosenberg Civic Center.

The Texas Master Naturalists program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. For additional information call 281.633.7033 or email mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu.

Limited Edition Christmas Ornaments are back!

The fourth annual ornament is our favorite! The beautiful cloisonné ornament features the rice driers, rice, bluebonnets, our Welcome to Katy Sign and more. Pick up the 2013 ornament for a $35 donation to the Katy Heritage Society Christmas Fund. Ornaments are available while they last at the MKT Depot Visitors Center and the Wright Museum. Just a few of the 2012 ornaments are still available and we expect all to sell out this year. For more information call 281-391-2550.

the YMCA
The Fellowship at Cinco Ranch

GO THE DISTANCE
JOIN US FOR KATY'S LARGEST FUN RUN!

11th Annual Thanksgiving Race
November 28, 2013
7:10 am • 1 mile Kids Fun Run
7:45 am • 10K Race
8:15 am • 5K Race
9:15 am • 1 mile Walk/Run
Register today!

To learn more, register or volunteer, visit ymcaturkeydash.org.

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2013 Holiday Guide

The Katy News

Happy Holidays to All of our Advertisers, Customers and Friends.

The Staff of The Katy News

Inside:

Katy Holiday Happenings
Fun Things to do around Houston and Texas.

Allegro Ballet
OF HOUSTON

The Breakfast

with the
Sugar Plum Fairy
and
Sugar Plum Market

Benefiting the Allegro Ballet of Houston

Saturday,
December 7, 2013
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lakeside County Club
100 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, TX 77042

For tickets online: allegroballetofhouston.com or 281-496-4670

12th Annual Full Length Performance

The Nutcracker

Presented by Allegro Ballet of Houston

Saturday, December 21, 2013
2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday December 22, 2013
2:30 p.m.

James E. Taylor High School
Performing Arts Center
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Katy, TX 77450

For tickets online:
allegroballetofhouston.com
or 281-496-4670

Holiday Happenings

A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story of Christmas

Nov 15 – Dec 26 — *A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas* returns to light up the Holiday Season downtown on the Hubbard Stage November 15 to December 26. In addition to the adult cast, over 20 children from the Greater Houston community will be cast in this production.

In addition to the public performances, 12 matinees will be performed for students during the week at 10 a.m. For more information contact the group sales department at 713.315.3346.

Tickets to *A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story of Christmas* start at $25. Performances of *A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas* are Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m. and Matinees at 2:30 p.m. All tickets to *Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas* are available for purchase at www.alleytheatre.org, at the Alley Theatre Box Office, 615 Texas Avenue, or by calling 713.220.5700. Groups of 10 or more can receive special concierge services and select discounts by calling 713.220.5700 and asking for the group sales department.

Frosty's Market

Nov 16 – Get your holiday shopping done now. On Saturday, November 16 from 10:00 a.m.to 4:30 p.m. at Frost Elementary, 3306 Skinner Lane you will find a fun-filled day full of shopping with over 75 vendors. $3 per person admission includes one raffle ticket. Salt Grass Steak House will be offering lunch that can be purchased. Enjoy live music, dance performances and more. Come on out and help the Frost Elementary PTO raise money for a wonderful cause, our children. Additional information can be found at www.frostpto.org/fundraisers.html.

Jekyll & Hyde – a Classic Battle Between Good and Evil!!!

Through Nov 24 — The gothic musical theatre phenomenon, JEKYLL & HYDE, is now playing at the award winning Fort Bend Theatre, 2815 N. Main Street in Stafford, TX. Shows run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m., now through November 24th.

An evocative tale of the epic battle between good and evil, JEKYLL & HYDE is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story about a brilliant doctor whose experiments with human personality create a murderous counterpart. Convinced the cure for his father's mental illness lies in the separation of Man's evil nature from his good, Jekyll unwittingly unleashes his own dark side, wreaking havoc in the streets of London as the savage, maniacal Edward Hyde. Featuring some of Houston's finest actors, you'll want to come and see for yourself why this macabre PG -13 production attracted legions of loyal fans even before the show began its smash-hit Broadway run. Tickets are only $16 for adults, $15 for students and seniors, with group rates available. For more information or to purchase your tickets online, go to the FBT website, www.fortbendtheatre.com, or call 281-208-3333.

Katy YMCA Turkey Dash

Nov - 28 – Due to overwhelming positive feedback following last year's inaugural 10K event, The Katy YMCA will be hosting the Turkey Dash in 2013. This year the 5K and 10K courses will be separated to better accommodate participants. Some things, though, remain the same – such as the traditional Thanksgiving Thursday date, the 5K race and the family-themed events like the Kids 1 Mile Fun Run and a family-oriented 1 mile walk/run.

Of course, the best tradition of all is the Y's commitment to the community and the funds generated to award scholarships for child care, summer camps, swim lessons, sports leagues, eyeglasses for KISD students and assistance to the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Katy.

Last year over 5,800 people participated and for the first time raised more than $158,000. Register this year – for a great cause, a great series of events and our post-race activities which include a kids fun zone, games and food.

Holiday Home Tour

Dec 5 & 6 – The Cinco Ranch High School Cougar Stars Dance Team is proud to host their 10th Annual Holiday Parade of Homes December 5 and 6 from 6 - 10 p.m. Tour five local Katy-area homes. Tickets are $12 and are available at Beau Kisses, Curtain Call, Hauerland's, Ya Ya Club, or from your favorite Cougar Star. Tour beautifully decorated Katy-area homes full of holiday decorations while enjoying the sounds of the award-winning Cinco Ranch High School Bravo Show Choir and Cinco Ranch High School Orchestra. The Cougar Stars will be on hand at each home to help guide you on your tour. Proceeds from the tour help support the Cougar Stars' activities. For more info, visit crhscougarstars.org.

Celebrate Christmas: A Drive-thru Life of Christ

Dec 6 - 8 – Join River Bend Baptist Church at 27600 FM 1093 in Fulshear and bless your family with an amazing opportunity from to see Celebrate Christmas: A Drive-thru Life of Christ. Join them December 6, 7 and 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and be captivated by the life of Jesus reenacted in 12 scenes with a live cast and animals. You will receive a prerecorded CD telling you portions of Jesus' life from the Bible and how it relates to you. After you drive-thru, they invite you to come inside and enjoy free refreshments and live music. Look for them on Facebook and YouTube at "Celebrate Christmas – A Drive-thru Life of Christ" or visit RiverBendBC.org.

Willowfork Fire Department

Toys for Tots

Willowfork Fire Department is teaming up with the US Marine Corps to sponsor Toys for Tots in the Katy area. It is the eighth year Willowfork has participated. Donations of unwrapped toys for ages infant through high school can be brought to Station 1 at 24655 Westheimer Pkwy starting November 11th through December 13th between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.. If you have a group that collects a large amount of toys you can arrange for pick up by contacting the station at 281-395-0011 extention 121 or at wfdinfo@willowforkfire.com.

Caliber Collision

Toys for Tots Collection Drive

Caliber Collision at 25430 Bell Patna Dr. will be hosting a Toys for Tots Collection Drive on December 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

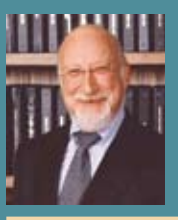
Give back, and enjoy this great event featuring muscle and classic cars, and more. Please bring at least one full bag of new toys for a boy or girl for entry. Donations can also be made by visiting their location. For more information email contact@westhoustonmuscle.com.

Christmas Cantata

Memorial Lutheran choir, bells, and instrumentalists will be performing at Katy Mills Mall 5000 Katy Mills Circle on December 15th at 11 a.m. to bring Christmas cheer to shoppers and onlookers.

Elf – The Musical at TUTS

Dec 6 – 22 Theatre Under The Stars (TUTS) welcomes the whole family to enjoy the new holiday classic Elf – The Musical, based on the movie starring Will Ferrell. This instant favorite promises fun for the young and young-at-heart and proves that the holiday spirit comes in all sizes. The show runs Dec. 6 – 22 at Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall. For more information visit TUTS.com/Events.


Stuart Levin
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Partner

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Karen Taylor

Levin & Atwood, LLP
Attorneys at Law

The attorneys and staff of Levin & Atwood, LLP wish our clients, friends and family a joyous Holiday filled with Peace, Love and Prosperity. Best wishes for a joyful New Year!

Business | Transactional | Corporate Setups
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281-579-6044
20501 Katy Freeway, Suite 217,
Katy, TX 77450
levinandatwood.com

A Katy Old Fashioned Christmas Festival

Dec14 – The 4th Annual Katy Old Fashioned Christmas, organized by Katy Market Days, will take place on December 14th on Avenue B in Old Katy. Booths open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 11 a.m. there will be snow for the kids. Pictures with Santa are $5. This event has been very successful in the past. Last year over $1,000 was raised for the Christ Clinic and boxes of food were donated to the Katy Christian Ministries Food Pantry. This year's event features produce, arts & crafts, antiques, jewelry, gifts, carolers, food, entertainment and SNOW!

Photo by Debi Beauregard for The Katy News

Let's help our neighbors this Christmas. The Katy Business Association is partnering with Katy Market Days' Food Drive. Bring canned goods for KCM Food Pantry. Proceeds from this event will benefit a local charity. Vendor space is still available. Last year over 85 vendors participated. Call 281-391-1993 for details.

HO-HO-HOT DOG!

James Coney Island Offers Holiday Gift Card Special

The holiday season is upon us and James Coney Island, Houston's classic coney stop and American grill, has a deal to help Houstonians with their gift list that will give the shopper a little something special, too!

Now through December 31, 2013, for every $30 in James Coney Island gift cards purchased, JCI will give the purchaser $10 in dining certificates as a thank you! That's right, $10 in dining certificates (given as two $5 certificates) for the purchaser to use themselves or maybe stuff into someone's stocking. Hot Dog!

The purchased cards can be any combination of cards/amounts to total $30. The complimentary certificates are redeemable January 1 – March 31, 2014.

Deck The Trees

Alley Theatre's Deck the Trees Celebration kicks-off with a tree lighting ceremony on November 15. Trees will be on display until December 26. The Alley Theatre is located at 615 Texas Avenue, Houston.

Christmas Tree Lighting at Harvest Plaza

In its 41st year, this annual event is a family classic. The official lighting of the City Christmas Tree will be held on December 5th at Harvest Plaza, 5701 Third Street from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Photos with Katy's Santa Claus are sure to attract any family. The Parks and Recreation Department will have children's activity booths with holiday activities including letters to Santa to making your own Christmas Ornaments and Candy Cane Reindeer! Photos with Santa are available for $5. The event hosts local entertainment from church and school choirs to dance teams and the community favorite Katy Tiger Mascot.

Celebrate the Season with Lone Star Symphonic Band

The Lone Star Symphonic Band, the winner of the 2013 Sudler Silver Scroll from the John P. Sousa Foundation, will be presenting its holiday concert – *"Celebrate The Season"* – at 4 p.m. on December 15. The concert will take place at the CrossPoint Community Church, 700 Westgreen Blvd., Katy, Texas.

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Let Amber and her staff help you pick out the perfect gift.

Amber's Open House
December 4th
4 to 8 p.m.

722 Pin Oak Road
(Inside Enterprise Bank Building)
281-391-6333

www.AmbersDesigns.com

2013 Dickens On The Strand Celebrates For 40th Anniversary With Additional Day

With a nod to the ghost of Dickens past and an eye towards the future, the 40th anniversary of Galveston's world famous Victorian holiday festival returns to Galveston Island December 6-8.

The annual holiday street festival, based on 19th-century Victorian London, features parades, non-stop entertainment on five stages, strolling carolers, roving musicians, bagpipers, jugglers and a host of other entertainers. Costumed vendors peddle their wares from street stalls and rolling carts laden with holiday food and drink, Victorian-inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, holiday decorations and gift items.

With over 150 vendors throughout the festival, Dickens on The Strand is your opportunity to get a head start on your holiday shopping. Be sure to visit Friday evening as the vendors will be offering the public their first opportunity to view and purchase items from the incredible variety of booths that only Dickens on The Strand provides.

Returning this year with an expanded bazaar, performance of Steampunk Curiosity Shop, and Saturday night street ball is Airship Isabella, an alternative Victorian "Steampunk" group of performers featured in Steampunk Square and on the Westminster Abbey stage.

Other returning favorites for 2013 are the Whimsical Whisker Revue, a facial hair contest for the bearded and the dandy, judged by the Austin Facial Hair Club; the Dickens Bed Races; a Victorian Costume Contest; Civil War living history encampments and daily parades through Galveston's National Historic Landmark Strand District. Kid friendly options include Piccadilly Circus, a children's playground with elephant and camel rides and a petting zoo; Artful Dodger Lane, where art students create a chalk London on Galveston's streets; and a true island rarity, Snow on The Strand, in the festival snow yard offer a one-of-a-kind family experience.

Tickets are available at www.dickensonthestrand.org, by calling, 888-305-7627 or at all area Randall's stores. Attendees in Victorian costume are admitted for ½ price.

A Simple Christmas at Brazos Bend State Park

Escape from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Bring the family out to the country and enjoy "A Simple Christmas" under moss-draped live oak trees at Brazos Bend State Park, Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. This 16th annual event includes children's story time and craft, Victorian Era games, Dutch-oven cooking demonstrations, refreshments, marshmallow roasting, hayrides and of course Santa Clause. The evening would not be complete without a performance by "The Brazos River Pickers" – old time, blue grass volunteer community band. (The pickers also play at the park the first Saturday of each month, October through April www.brazosriverpickers.com). See the beautiful lighted windmill from Thanksgiving weekend through New Year's Day. The event is held outdoors at the Nature Center lawn and amphitheater. (Weather permitting). Bring a picnic supper. Event is free with park admission of $7 per person age 13 and up, age 12 and under free, senior discount.

The park's Nature Center is open to the general public Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. year 'round. The center is also open most holidays (except Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day). Free nature programs and hikes offered every weekend.

For park information call 979-553-5101 or visit www.brazosbend.org for event schedule and www.tpwd.state.tx.us for Christmas events at other Texas State Parks.

Special One-Night-Only Performance

John Williams Joins Yo-Yo Ma

On Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. two music superstars and longtime friends join the Houston Symphony at Jones Hall for an evening of music by John Williams composed for the concert hall and for some of Hollywood's most beloved films. Williams and the legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma perform the composer's lush and virtuosic Cello Concerto, followed by thrilling selections from some of his most popular film scores.

For information, call (713) 224-7575 or visit www.houstonsymphony.org.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Music by the Houston Symphony will tell the beloved Dr. Seuss tale of the grouchy creature with a heart "two sizes too small," his loyal dog Max, and their encounters with the merry and warm-hearted Whos. Baritone Reginald Smith, Jr. from the Houston Grand Opera Studio will join a local high school chorus and the musicians of the Houston Symphony to take you into the world of Whoville. Performances will be Saturday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, December 14, at 11:30 a.m. Robert Franz, conductor and Reginald Smith, Jr., baritone from the Houston Grand Opera Studio will be featured. For information, call (713) 224-7575 or visit www.houstonsymphony.org.

Local Jeweler Goes to the Ends of the Earth

Few people know that high quality diamonds are cut and traded in the Holy Land in Israel. Amber Gustafson of Amber's Designs at 722 Pin Oak Road in Katy, recently traveled to Tel Aviv where the Jewish community has been trading diamonds for centuries. Diamonds are sorted from the rough, cut and certified and then shipped for sale to locations around the world as well as in the United States. Gustafson had the opportunity to see diamonds in the rough, viewing them with a sophisticated Sarin machine. This machine takes a digital image of the diamond, examining every external and internal characteristic, to assist in determining the cut, style and approximate final diamond weight. "Watching the process from uncut stones, to the cutters and finally visiting the trading offices where I was able to purchase those diamonds, is a great experience," says Gustafson.

Just arrived at Amber's are patented cut, star-shaped diamonds purchased directly from the cutter. These stones are famous for being the star-shaped diamonds in the Super Bowl rings of the Dallas Cowboys. Amber's Designs is the exclusive retailer of the star-shaped diamond in Texas.

On her recent buying trip, Amber also visited a factory which makes jewelry using sterling silver and 2000 year old roman glass. These exquisite pieces can now be seen in her store just in time for holiday giving. "Being able to hand pick one-of-a-kind handmade pieces of art for my customers is a unique opportunity," Gustafson said.

Custom designed jewelry with her stones or yours is Amber's specialty. "We manufacture right here in Katy, Texas, using all the same methods and equipment as the big name jewelers."

In the past few years Amber has traveled to the gem mines of Brazil, stone carving factories of China and Thailand, jewelry manufacturing plants in China as well as the diamond cutting houses in Antwerp. She has shopped for fine colored stone factories in Germany. "I want to go directly to the sources," claims Gustafson. "No one in Houston can say they go to that length to get the best, most unique items from around the world."

The staff at Amber's Designs has a combined 255 years of experience in all types of repair, appraisals, stone cutting, lost wax jewelry manufacturing and watch repair. Having expanded her location two years ago, Amber once again find herself with too little space to showcase her unique designs. With Christmas around the corner, this is the perfect time to browse her cases and bring home that special item for that special someone in your life.

Very Merry Pops

A Houston Symphony tradition, Very Merry Pops returns this Centennial Season with all the holiday music you love. Plus, experience a special piece, Glad Tidings, featuring spiritual leaders from the Houston community as guest narrators. Commissioned by the Houston Symphony in 2003, this musical journey through the story of the first Christmas will warm your heart and help you remember the true meaning of Christmas. Get in the holiday spirit with favorites like "Joy to the World," "Jingle Bells" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

Friday, December 13, 2013, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, 2013, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 15, 2013, 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 15, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Michael Krajewski, conductor
Houston Symphony Chorus
Charles Hausmann, director

For information, call (713) 224-7575 or visit www.houstonsymphony.org.

Handel's Messiah

Delight in Houston's premier performance of Handel's transcendent and revered masterpiece – the Messiah – performed by the Houston Symphony, Chorus and star soloists. Experience the powerful words and music of beloved choruses and arias like *"Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted," "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion," "Rejoice Greatly"* and the timeless *"Hallelujah"* chorus.

Thursday, December 19, 8:00 p.m. (Sugar Land)
Friday, December 20, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 21, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 22, 2:30 p.m.
Handel's Messiah
Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Dominique Labelle, soprano
Christopher Ainslie, countertenor
Thomas Cooley, tenor
Douglas Williams, baritone

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts take place at Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana Street, in Houston's Theater District. For tickets and information, please call (713) 224-7575 or visit www.houstonsymphony.org unless otherwise noted. Tickets may also be purchased at the Houston Symphony Patron Services Center in Jones Hall (Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). All programs and artists are subject to change.

3rd Annual Spartan Showcase of Holiday Homes

On Thursday and Friday, November 29th and 30th from 6 to 9 p.m., the Seven Lakes Spartans 3rd Annual Holiday Home Tour begins. Six lovely homes filled with wonderful holiday decorations will be available for guests to tour. Strolling through beautifully decorated homes, each one a winter wonderland, is sure to spark your Christmas spirit.

Proceeds from this event fund teachers' wish list items, school beautification projects, student programs, and our scholarship fund. Tickets are available for $12 in advance or $15 at the homes the night of the Tour. For more information contact Paula Rucky at paula@ruckyproperties.com or Cindy Erickson at boomr@earthlink.net.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Award-winning Fort Bend Theatre, 2815 N. Main Street in Stafford, is presenting a delightful Christmas show, "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*." Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m., December 6th – December 22nd.

Come out and join FBT for this wonderful holiday show that you won't want to miss! Tickets for *"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"* are $16 for adults, $15 for students and seniors, and $13 for children, with group rates available. For more information or to purchase your tickets online, go to the FBT website, www.fortbendtheatre.com, or call 281-208-3333.

Breakfast with Santa in Storybook Land

Please join the Fort Bend Theatre, along with Pappasito's Cantina on Saturday, December 7th, from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. for this one of a kind fundraiser! Patrons attending will not only be treated to a buffet from Pappasito's menu, they will have the opportunity to receive a picture taken with Santa or one of their favorite Fairy Tale characters, including Cinderella, Prince Charming, Snow White, The Little Mermaid, Rapunzel, or Peter Pan. Rounding out the event, will also be Christmas carols led by the storybook characters.

Tickets for this fundraiser are $25 for adults and $15 for children 10 and under. Tickets may be purchased through the Fort Bend Theatre website, www.fortbendtheatre.com or at the box office on 2815 N. Main Street. For more information call 281-208-3333.

Katy Mills Celebrates The Season With Santa's Arrival, Holiday Music Festival, Community Gift Wrap And More

Katy Mills, the largest outlet and value retail shopping destination in South Texas, is gearing up for the holiday season with great fun and entertainment for residents and visitors alike.

• Holiday Music Festival – December 6-15 at AMC Plaza

Enjoy the sounds of the season with a special Holiday Music Festival featuring local choirs, school bands and dance groups. Featured performers, include Texas Little Star Dancers, Stephens Elementary Choir, Columbus Elementary School Choir, Memorial Lutheran Church Choir, Katy High School Choir, Shafer Elementary School Choir, Katy Elementary School Choir, West Memorial Elementary School Choir and Beck Junior High School Choir, Band and Orchestra. This event is free and open to the public.

• Community Gift Wrap – December 7-8, December 14-24

Guests can take a break from shopping and enjoy gift wrap services for a nominal fee with proceeds benefiting a variety of organizations, including Philanthropical Education Organization, Katy High School Band, West Memorial Jr. High PTA, Juleigh Holley School of Dance, Cypress Lakes Color Guard, 7 Lakes High School Color Guard, Girl Scout Troop 3203, Mayde Creek High School Orchestra and Katy Girls Basketball Team.

For more information about Katy Mills' special events and promotions, and for a complete list of retailers, please call (281) 644-5000, visit www.KatyMills.com or check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ShopKatyMills and Twitter at www.twitter.com/KatyMeansMore.

Houston Food Bank's Holiday Cards Offer Gift-Giving Alternative With A Heart

Need a corporate gift idea for employees, co-workers, clients or business associates? Looking for just the right thing for the person who has everything? This year, spread holiday cheer and do something good with your gift-giving by making a donation to the Houston Food Bank.

Houston Food Bank's holiday card program makes gift-giving easy, and provides hope to thousands. This year, there are three card types and six card designs from which to choose!

Your donations can make a big impact – for each $1 donated to the Houston Food Bank, they can provide 3 full meals to a hungry neighbor in need.

Orders will continue to be fulfilled through the end of the year, but due to postal processing time and seasonal closures, deadlines to order cards to arrive in time for the holidays are:

Hannukah - Order by Friday, November 22
Christmas - Order by Wednesday, December 18
New Year - Order by Monday, December 23

For more information, or to purchase the cards go to http://houstonfoodbank.org/holidaycards.

Holiday Movies

Friday, November 15, 2013

The Best Man Holiday

When college friends reunite after 15 years over the Christmas holidays, they will discover just how easy it is for long-forgotten rivalries and romances to be ignited.

Director: Malcolm D. Lee

Cast: Taye Diggs, Morris Chestnut, Terrence Howard, Harold Perrineau , Nia Long, Sanaa Lathan

Rating: R for language, sexual content and brief nudity.

Dear Mr. Watterson

Dear Mr. Watterson is a documentary film about the greatest comic strip in the history of the universe: Calvin & Hobbes.

Documentary

Director: Joel Allen Schroeder

Stars: Berkeley Breathed, Seth Green, Stephan Pastis

No Rating

Friday, November 22, 2013

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark become targets of the Capitol after their victory in the 74th Hunger Games sparks a rebellion in the Districts of Panem.

Director: Francis Lawrence Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson , Liam Hemsworth, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Elizabeth Banks, Woody Harrelson

Rating: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some frightening images, thematic elements, a suggestive situation and language.

The Delivery Man

An affable underachiever finds out he's fathered 533 children through anonymous donations to a fertility clinic 20 years ago. Now he must decide whether or not to come forward when 142 of them file a lawsuit to reveal his identity.

Director: Ken Scott Cast: Vince Vaughn , Chris Pratt, Cobie Smulders , Britt Robertson, Jack Reynor

Rating: PG-13 for thematic elements, sexual content, some drug material, brief violence and language.

Movie Review

Thor 2 Number 1 with $86M Opening Week

By Sam Eifling

Why do we have a Thor? In the Marvel pantheon — now Disney's plaything, natch — we fine no more dullsville lunk among the top-tier characters. He's back in a second disposable movie, *"Thor: The Dark World,"* in which Chris Hemsworth's shaggy locks almost distract you from his faux Victorian delivery and the fact that, aside from a magical hammer and a jawline to match it, this plodding interdimensional Viking space prince doesn't have much to recommend him. Iron Man cracks wise and enjoys eye-popping special effects. The Hulk wrecks cities as easily as squishing sand between his toes. Even Captain America shows us more verve during an extended trailer before this *"Thor"* installment (a fellow member of the Avengers, ol' Cap is slated for his own sequel next spring). Thor can fly, and favors capes, and has a thing for Natalie Portman. His fans look at themselves and say, hey, two out of three.

At least in *"The Avengers,"* the third-highest-grossing movie ever, he was squaring off against an entertaining villain: Loki, played again here by actual actor Tom Hiddleston. Loki is Thor's brother by adoption, making them both princes and giving them quarrel over who will succeed Odin (Anthony Hopkins, in Santa beard) as king of Asgard. With Loki now passing time in the palace's four-star dungeon, Thor needs another bad guy to almost beat him, so we get a ruthless dark elf named Malekith (Christopher Eccleston) with all the personality and verve of an amputated leg. He has an evil magic weapon that will destroy the nine realms once they come into alignment and [interlude of mumbly comic-book glop] with Stonehenge and gravitational anomalies. So of course Thor and friends caper in and try and rescue everything everywhere.

The overall non-enjoyability of Thor jives with a truism about superheroes: namely, that they can't be too super. His nominal mortality and his soft spot for human ladies goes only so far in making Thor your quasi-god next door. Early on in *"The Dark World,"* Thor descends onto some war-torn planet to conk heads. He and his magical space-Viking pals crack wise as they fight, until everyone shuts up and steps aside for a stone Goliath to trudge onto the battlefield and stare Thor down. Our hero chuckles and offers to accept the monster's surrender. The monster of course isn't interested, so Thor rubblizes him with one swing of the hammer. He does this surely to highlight how improbably tough Malekith is when the two fight later. But it's yawn-inducing to watch the casual razing of a creature that would've taken up five solid minutes of awesome fighting in a *"Lord of the Rings"* sequel.

Thor might suffer by the comparison, but it's evident Marvel/Disney is hoping to grab some of that fantasy/sci-fi audience that doesn't know where to spend its entertainment cash between installments of *"The Hobbit,"* uh, trilogy. Directing *"Thor"* were two solid Hollywood hands: Kenneth Branagh and Joss Whedon. With those fellows onto other things, Disney hired the less-famous Alan Taylor for the sequel. What has Alan Taylor been up to lately? Oh, just directing six episodes of *"Game of Thrones,"* the far darker, sexier, scarier, funnier, more nuanced HBO fantasy series. *"The Dark World"* suffers in that comparison as well, but you can see where Disney's aiming: *"Game of Thrones"* for 10-year-olds. It's just too bad they can't give their hero a dose of humanity and infuse its villains with more than a vague mission of "do evil." Not even the intentional comic relief can rescue *"The Dark World"* from this unintentional silliness.

Thor The Dark World
Rated PG-13
Action | Adventure | Fantasy
Director: Alan Taylor
Writer: Christopher Yost, Christopher Markus
Stars: Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston

Returning to Their Roots

Katy Vacuum has been serving the Katy area since 1970, more than 40 years. They are your "One Stop Service Center" repairing vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, televisions, and Built-In Central Vacuums. They even rewire lamps.

The company is one of the largest authorized dealers of quality vacuums like the German Miele and Sebo vacuums. They also feature the American made Simplicity Vacuum and carry a complete line of janitorial supplies by Namco.

Recently Katy Vacuum, returning to their roots, brought back Katy's Cleaning Service providing professional carpet cleaning, floor buffing and grout cleaning. Katy Vacuum are pet enthusiasts and specialize in cleaning carpets that need special attention. Namco products such as liquid enzyme, Doggy Do Shampoo, #1 Pet Stainerator, and Get Out Odor-B-Gone are just a few of the products that they use to rejuvenate your carpets. The Holidays are just around the corner so don'twait to book your carpet cleaning with Katy Vacuum. Call now.

And for you folks who will be building a new home don't forget to include a Built-in Central Vacuum. Katy Vacuum features the finest built-in systems manufactured in France and Germany that carry up to 15 years of warranty. There's no more carrying around a hose because these systems have retractable hoses and automatic kitchen sweeps.

So if your Vacuum won't suck, your sewing machine won't stitch, or your TV is on the blink, take it to Katy Vacuum for a reliable, honest evaluation.

Katy Vacuum is located at 602 Mason Road at the corner of Kingsland Blvd. and Mason Road. Call 281-392-6655 or visit their website at www.KatyVacuum.com.

Presented by Katy Market Days
4th Annual
A Katy Old-Fashioned Christmas Festival
Beer Garden
Hosted by No Label Brewery
Featuring Produce • Arts & Crafts • Antiques • Jewelry
Gifts • Carolers • Food • Entertainment and SNOW!
Vendor Space $30
Let's help our neighbors this Christmas. Bring canned goods for KCM Food Pantry. Proceeds from this event will benefit a local charity. Vendor space available, call 281-391-1993 for details.
Dec. 14th
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Avenue B
Snow at 11 a.m.

Auditions:

Alley Theatre Holds Auditions for 2014 Oskar and the Big Bully Battle! School Tour

The Alley Theatre will hold open auditions for the 2014 Oskar and the Big Bully Battle! School Tour on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at the Alley Theatre. Auditions will be by appointment only.

Oskar and the Big Bully Battle! is a 43-minute children's touring production depicting the roles and types of bullying behaviors to K-5 students. It is a comedy with a serious message. Rehearsals begin January 27, 2014. Tour dates are during school hours (early morning to early afternoon) February 17 - March 28, 2014, with a few weekend or evening performances. There will be a maximum of 13 performances per week.

To obtain an audition appointment, email contact information, headshot and resume to oskar@alleytheatre.org. Actors will be provided sides for the auditions. No phone calls please.

Requirements For Actors

This is a non-union educational tour. To be eligible for casting, actors may not be members of Actors' Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA or AGMA. All actors auditioning must be at least 18 years old, live within a 50-mile radius of downtown Houston, be available for weekday and/or weekend rehearsals and a few weekend performances and have a valid driver's license. All actors must be physically adept. Experience with improvisation, clowning and foley artistry a plus. Actors of all ethnicities encouraged to audition.

Auditions to be held Tuesday, December 3, 2013 from 4-9 p.m. at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave., Houston, TX 77002 **By Appointment Only.**

Character Breakdown

Oskar: 10-year-old boy. He is very dramatic and he has a lively imagination. He gets bored very easily and is perhaps ADHD. He is very physical and throws himself into each moment.

Man: Plays multiple characters ranging from 10 years old to adult.

- Frank: 10-year-old boy. Friends with Oskar usually. Dramatic. He listens to opera. Likes math but is perhaps not good at it. Diligent with an active imagination and often imagines he's a fire truck; constantly writing interesting stories in his head.
- Principal: good intentioned and "tweedy."
- Menacing Kid: a figment of Mom's imagination conjured by Mom.

Woman: Plays multiple characters ranging from 10 years old to adult.

- Beth: 10-year-old girl, physical and self-assured. She is friends with Oskar.
- Mom: Oskar's good conscience takes the form of his mother. She is really inside his head.
- Mrs. Hooligan: A teacher at the school. Tired but good intentioned. She wears sweaters that depict the current holiday they are celebrating and is the kind of teacher who wears pumpkin earrings at Thanksgiving.

For more information, email oskar@alleytheatre.org.

Your Smartphone Can Help You Shop and Save on Black Friday

During the holiday season, which kicks off with Black Friday, the stores can be even more stress-inducing than usual -- but only if you don't plan.

Luckily, being prepared is easier than ever. Over three-fifths of US adults have smartphones, according to a study by Pew Internet & American Life Project, changing the way people communicate, do their jobs and even shop. To better navigate this busy shopping season and save time and money in the process, use your smartphone as your personal shopping assistant.

If you aren't yet up to speed with how mobile technology can help with shopping, here are some ideas for how to use your smartphone to save money and time this holiday season:

- Plan ahead: If you have a preferred shopping mall or shopping district, view its website on your phone to consult its directory, get a map of the mall, find out about store hours and learn about special events and deals.
- Simplify with Technology: It's easy to get overwhelmed by the bombardment of ads touting coupons, Black Friday sales and holiday store hours. By simplifying, you can sort through the heavy stream of information coming at you via television, radio as well as print and online media. Use your smartphone -- it's called smart for a reason -- to help you find deals based on where you like to shop and what products you're looking for.
- Make a list: Santa makes a list for good reason and so should you. Before hitting the stores, create a shopping list on your phone. You can use a shared document to store everyone in the family's wish list in one place. This will help you avoid potentially large impulse purchases stimulated by sales and help you stay focused on what you really need. Use personal finance apps to help you stay on budget as you shop.

Don't ruin the "the most wonderful time of the year" with shopping stress. Take advantage of new tools that can make your time in the store more productive and cost-effective -- from identifying new trends to finding the best deals.

Source: StatePoint

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch Hosts 6th Annual Home for the Holidays Tree Lighting Ceremony Presented By: Texas Children's Hospital West Campus

The Christmas tradition continues as LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch in Katy hosts the sixth annual "*Home for the Holidays*" tree lighting ceremony, Presented By: Texas Children's Hospital West Campus. The annual Christmas celebration will include a magnificent 30-foot tree, hand bells, carolers, train rides, face painting/ balloons and of course, Santa Claus making his grand appearance at LaCenterra!

Thank you to our title sponsor: Texas Children's Hospital West Campus and to our sponsors; Costco, enTouch, Excel Urgent Care, Fidelity Investments, Green Mountain Energy, The Goddard School and Whole Foods Market for making this event a huge success!

Saturday, November 23rd
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Houston Chamber Ringers

The Houston Chamber Ringers will kick off the Christmas Celebration with their grand ensemble of 14 professional hand bell performers as Santa Claus makes his way into LaCenterra!

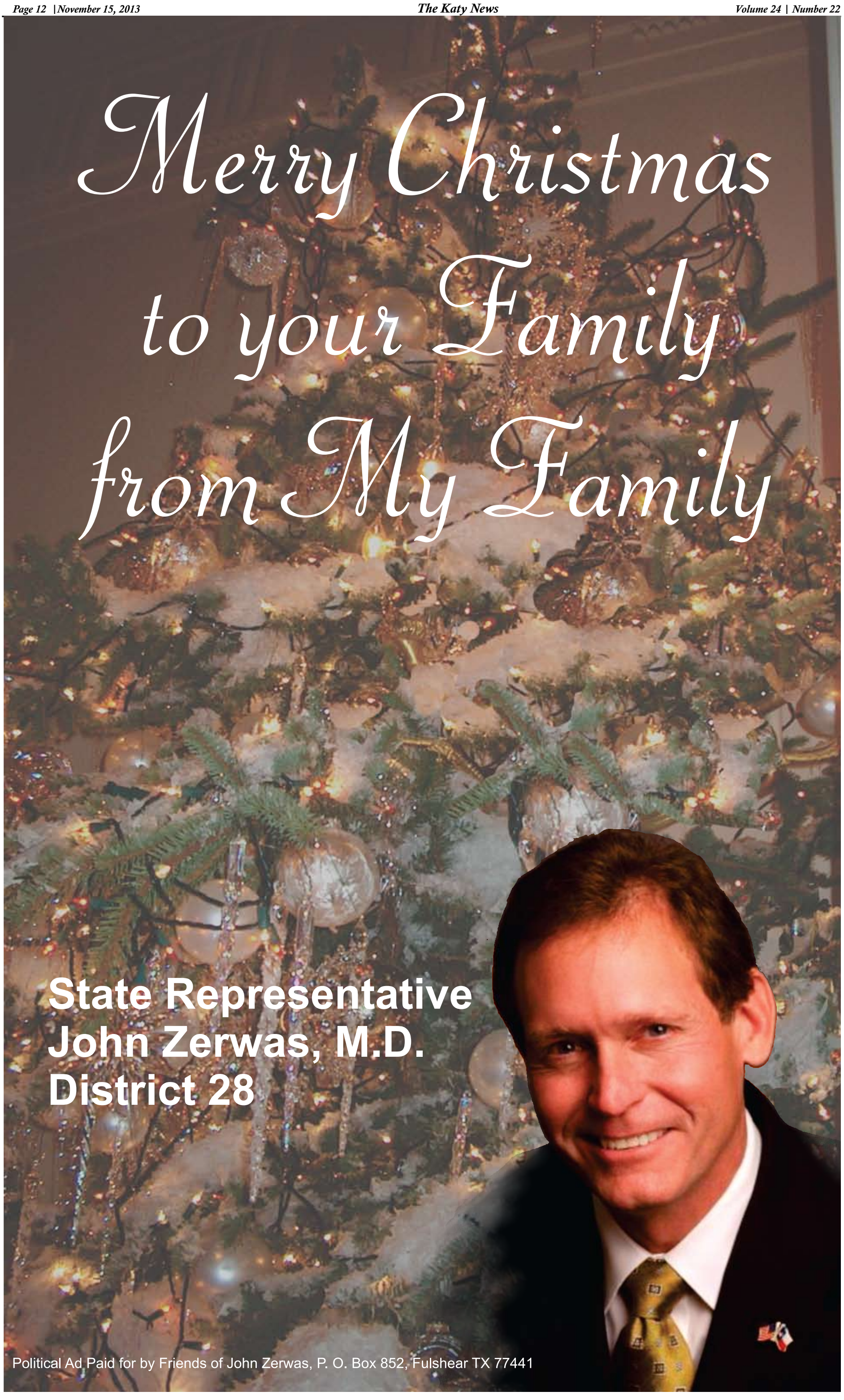
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Viva Vocé Victorian Carolers

Celebrating their 25th Christmas Season, the Viva Vocé Victorian Carolers will spread the holiday cheer with their seasonal tunes and will even be dressed for the occasion in their Victorian era costumes.

6:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Tree Lighting Ceremony

Don't miss the spectacular tree lighting ceremony as LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch dazzles the crowd with their 30-foot Christmas tree!

For more information visit LaCenterra.com or find us on facebook: www.Facebook.com/LaCenterra.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ART in Katy

Katy ISD Fine Arts Calendar

The All Choir Music Café

Nov 15 — The All Choir Music Cafe will be November 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the CRHS Main Commons. Your $5 ticket covers a night of exceptional music with coffee and a dessert bar. Additional information about this and other choir events can be obtained by emailing DorothyJWilson@katyisd.org, or by calling 281-237-5204.

Tom Sawyer

Nov 22-23 — *"Tom Sawyer"* Mark Your Calendars Now. This play is a perfect night out for children to experience the theater in a smaller setting! *Tom Sawyer* will be presented at Beckendorff Junior High School, 8200 South Fry Road. The play starts at 7 p.m. both nights. Tickets sold at the door for $8.00/Adults $5.00/Student and Child. Questions about this play? Contact gggslammer@aol.com or call 281 237-8800.

Jet Band Jingle 2013

Dec 3 — James E. Taylor High School Band will hold a fundraising party that includes dinner, bake sale, silent auction and concert on Tuesday, December, 3rd. Dinner will be provided by Corporate Caterers and will consist of Pasta Italiano with chicken and Italian sausage or Churrasco Steak and gallo pinto rice. Salad with dressing; vegetable chips and homemade salsa, Tea and Lemonade. Dinner will be served continuously from 5:00 until 7:00 and the concerts begin at 6:00. Dinner will be served in the THS Commons and the Concerts will be in the Performing Arts Center. For more information and to purchase tickets to the event, come by the Taylor High School front office. Forms will be available November 4th through November 22nd.

It Runs in the Family

Dec 5-7 — Mayde Creek Theatre Company proudly presents *"It Runs in the Family"*, an English farce by Ray Cooney. Misunderstandings, mistaken identities, and a liberal amount of misleading facts drive this fast action play. Performances will be in the Mayde Creek High School Black Box Theatre Thursday, December 5th, Friday the 6th & Saturday the 7th at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a matinee performance at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7th. Tickets are $8 for adults and $6 for students and seniors in advance, and $10 for adults and $8 for students and seniors at the door. Tickets are available online at www.seatyourself.biz/mchs. For more information call 281-237-3803. *"It Runs in the Family"* is produced by Special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Now at the KCAM:

KCAM School of Film

Director: Bringing It to Life

On November 20 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Katy Contemporary Arts Museum, at 805 Avenue B, Kevin West, director of the KCAM School of film will host the second in a four part lecture series *"Bringing It to Life."*

Guest speaker Jarred King has directed seven independent films and numerous television commercials in his career. Currently the visionary behind Swagger Films in Houston, King will discuss what it takes to direct a film and how you bring it all together to make the magic of film happen. King has a true eye for the camera and will share his methods and elaborate on the greats in film directing.

Admission is $10. Stay for the K-Scene event following for no additional charge.

K-Scene

Be a part of the hip, happening art scene in Katy. Every third Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at KCAM is a wine social. Tickets are $10 and include 2 glasses of wine, or bring your own for a $10 corkage fee. This month's K-Scene being held on November 20th, follows the KCAM School of Film lecture. Come early, stay late. Be part of the Art in Katy.

Now showing is *"Primitive or Is It?"* Works by Ibsen Espada and John Irizarry.

Art Hip-Story: What is Abstract Expressionism?

Join Ana Villaronga-Roman, director and curator of KCAM, at 805 Ave B, Katy, on Thursday, November 14th at 7p.m. and learn about Abstract Expressionism, one of the most important art movements of our time. Free.

Central Green at LaCenterra

Free events for the whole family!

November

15 – Live Music – rock band "Prophets and Outlaws" 7:30 p.m.
16 – Movie Under the Stars - "Billy Elliot"
22 – Live Music – pop band "Nervous Rex" 7:30 p.m.
23 – Farmer's Market 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
29 – Live Music - country "Brade & Hurst"
30 – Movie Under the Stars - "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

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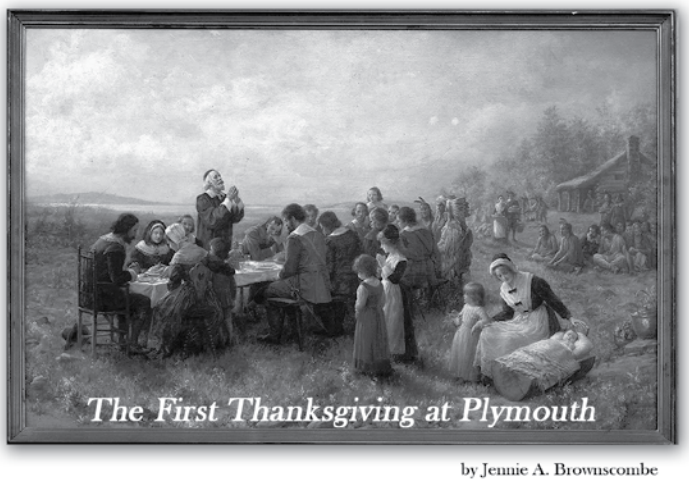
Devotional Page



by Jennie A. Brownscombe

Enter His gates with *Thanksgiving* and His courts with *Praise*

Psalm 100:4

Volunteer Opportunities

Give a Senior a Ride!

A rewarding opportunity for those who enjoy helping others awaits you. Katy area Volunteer Driver applications are now being accepted. If you love people and have a few hours a week, call 281-994-4238. A senior is waiting for you. Volunteer applications are subject to background checks and driver record checks.

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2013 Katy Community Thanksgiving Feast

Antioch Baptist Church on Danover Street in Old Town Katy, began a tradition of serving holiday meals to people in need that lived in the surrounding area. As word of their outreach spread, the Antioch mission multiplied and eventually outgrew its home church. Last year, the event was held at Alief Baptist Church in Downtown Katy. Local businesses donated and cooked the meat, drinks, and ice, while Katy churches, community groups, and individuals provided the side dishes and desserts. Prayer warriors covered the event in prayer. Close to 900 meals were served and lives were touched! Those that came also received donations of blankets, gently used coats, and non-perishable canned goods. It was a joyous way to start the holiday season! Please join us as we continue this wonderful ministry and annual Katy Community Event.

The feast will be held Thanksgiving day at the First United Methodist Church of Katy, 5601 Fifth Street. Set-up: 7 – 9 a.m.; Donations Drop off: 9 – 10:30 a.m.; Serving 11 – 1 p.m.; Greeting 10 – 1 p.m. Food Delivery 11 a.m. – 1p.m., Tear Down 1 p.m. – 2 p.m., Prayer Team 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Whatever you can do is appreciated – it will be a great day. Please contact Renee Anchors (ranchors@comcast.net or Kathy Fraser kmfraser@entouch.net re: volunteer sign ups & training. Catch the Spirit…the Spirit of Giving.

A Celebration Of Thanks And Giving

Join us as we declare a fast from complaining; a moratorium on taking things for granted. A celebration of thanks and giving will be held on Sunday, November 24 at 7 p.m. at Living Word Lutheran Church. The service will be led by the students and young adults of Living Word. We will gather together to declare our thanks to God for the ways in which we have been blessed. We will sing loudly. We will pray actively. We will give testimonies about what we are thankful for in 2013. And we will encourage each other to give back a portion of what we've been given, for the benefit of those who have very little. When you come, please bring some non-perishable food items. We'll collect them, and donate everything to the Houston Food Bank.

Living Word Lutheran Church is located at 3700 S. Mason Road in Katy. For more information visit www.LivingWordKaty.org or call 281-392-2300.

Thanksgiving Community Free Food Distribution

Eternal Food Ministry, an evangelistic food mission, will hold a community food distribution event for all that need emergency food supply on Saturday the 23rd of November, 2013. Venue is Journey Church, 541 Pin Oak Road Katy TX 77494.

Time is 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Registration to receive food is between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Nobody will be turned back! For more information, visit www.eternalfoodministry.org.

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Katy Sports

Morton Ranch Secures Fourth Playoff Spot With 28-17 Win

By Tom Behrens

The Morton Ranch Mavericks secured the final football playoff spot Thursday evening defeating the Spartans of Seven Lakes, 28-17. "This is the biggest win Morton Ranch has had in a long time," said a jubilant Morton Ranch Head Coach Dave Meadows. "It was a chance to secure a playoff position, and we were playing a team (Seven Lakes) that was really good. Our guys played up and did a good job; they are excited."

The Spartans opted to kickoff to start the game with Bryce Brown kicking the ball out of the Maverick end zone. Morton Ranch began play at their 25 yard line, consuming 7 minutes of the first quarter with a grinding ground game. E.J. Achelus, Jacob Harper and Ryan Burciaga moved the ball down the field in a 75 yard drive culminating with Harper going over from 6 yards out. Arron Shiffler added the point after and the Mavericks were ahead 7-0.

In the second quarter the Seven Lakes Spartans moved the ball to the Maverick 11 yard line where the Morton Ranch defense held. Brown split the uprights with a field goal making the score 7-3.

The Mavericks went back to their ground assault this time with Roemello Burros, Harper, Dartavious Dixon and Achelus moving the ball from the Morton Ranch 8 yard. Harper scored from the Seven Lakes' 16 with PAT by Shiffler.

At 4:36 on the clock Morton Ranch intercepted a Randolf Turnbull pass. Seven plays later, again with all the yardage on the ground, Dixon scores for the Mavericks second score of the quarter. Seven Lakes came back at 1:27 left with Braeden West running loose for 34 yards for the touchdown; Brown added PAT and the halftime score was 21-10.

Coach Meadows explains how the Mavericks emphasize the ground game during practices. "We end practice every day driving the ball down field 80 yards. If it didn't look good, we go back and start over. Our kids believe in that. We had a 92 yard drive and a 75 yard drive in the first half tonight. I'm proud of them."

In the third quarter both teams were unable to score. The Mavericks on their second possession quarterback Burciaga surprised the Spartan defense with a pass to Justin Paige, moving the ball 58 yards to Spartan 36 yard line.

"I just had to catch the ball and get a first down," said Paige. "When the coach calls my number I have to be ready and make it work." Coach called Paige's number again, this time with him running the ball to the 25 yard line. "I was trying to break one, but #6 (Batchlor Johnson) cut my legs," said Paige. From 11 yards out, the Mavericks missed a chance to score when they fumbled and Seven Lakes recovered.

During the third quarter the Spartans alternated between Randolf Turnbull and Tristian Hibbeler, causing concern whether Turnbull was hurt, or maybe it was an effort to get the Spartan passing game on track. The Spartans were 3-10 in passing at this point.

Coach Lydell Wilson explained the substituting between Turnbull and Hibbeler was part of the Spartans game plan. "We knew going into the game that we wanted to give both quarterbacks a chance to play"

At 11:16 in the fourth quarter, Turnbull of the Spartans connected with Cameron Thomas for a touchdown. Extra point was added by Brown making the score 21-17. Spartan fans were on their feet cheering the Spartans on for another TD. The Morton Ranch Mavericks seemed to be helping the Spartan effort with numerous penalties and fumbles.

"We put ourselves in some bad positions, but you know winners overcome stuff and our guys overcame it," said Meadows. "Two picks at the end really helped. Our defense has been our strength all year. They saved the second half for us." A Maverick touchdown by Harper with 2:32 left in the game started the celebrating on the Maverick side of the field.

"We had our chances to win the game and we just didn't execute the way we were capable of doing," said Wilson. "The kids played hard throughout the football game, but we just missed a play here and a play there. It's a team game. We lost the game as a team and that's the just way it is. We didn't execute on offense and we didn't execute on defense.

"We didn't finish up the way we wanted, but we made strides and have gotten better," concluded Wilson. "We had the most wins in football at Seven Lakes High School from freshman level to varsity in the history of the school. We are going in the right direction."

Week 9

Katy Tigers Take Advantage Of Cougar Mistakes

By Tom Behrens

On a bright sunny Saturday morning, over 9,800 fans packed into Rhodes Stadium to see the game between the Katy Tigers and Cinco Ranch Cougars. Both teams came into the game, needing to win this game for the coveted title of champion of District 19-5A. Katy won 40-7.

After an interception by Collin Wilder of a Luke Klingler pass, returning the ball to the Cinco Ranch 3 yard line, the Tigers were first to put points on the scoreboard. Rodney Anderson in his first game back since a foot injury, pushed the ball across the Cinco goal line with 4:23 left on the clock. Manny Mendoza added the PAT and the score was 7-0.

Head Coach Gary Joseph of the Katy Tigers said it was a no-brainer to say that it was good to see Anderson back on the field. Anderson hadn't played since the The Woodlands game in week 3 of the regular season.

"We needed to get him back," said Joseph. "He creates, does some good things for us." Joseph credits Kyle Porter with some great games in Anderson's absence, but now with both running backs sharing the most of the Tiger running attack, it will set the team up for the upcoming playoff run…"give us a boost in the fourth quarter."

Cinco Ranch scores in the second quarter:

At a little over 4 minutes into the second quarter, Denzell Bates of the Cougars fought his way over the Katy goal line. Jared Barrera added the PAT and the Cougars were on the score board. Unfortunately for the Cougars that was the last time they scored.

In the second quarter the Tiger defense was tuned in on the Cougars offensive passing attack. Sy Slater intercepted a Klingler pass, setting up the first of Mendoza's 4 field goals. Slater added another interception to his stats at 5:08 on the clock, this one for a touchdown. Mendoza added the PAT and later on another field goal.

"We have to run better routes, throw the ball better, have to protect better," said Cougar Head Coach, Don Clayton. "All facets of the passing game were not as sharp as they needed to be.

Katy does a good job of reading your routes. If you don't run a good route, Katy is going to be all over it."

Coach Joseph on Wilder's and Slater's key interceptions: "In practice you always work on the other team's best plays, different routes that they run. I think both of them (Wilder and Slater) made good breaks on the ball when the quarterback started throwing. Their quarterback," (Klingler) has a great arm and we have to make plays such as the interception in able to help our offense."

In an earlier game this season against Taylor High School, quarterback David Coffman took over the offense when Klingler was ineffective in his passing game. This week, Clayton stayed with Klingler.

"We stayed with our quarterback," said Clayton. "We have to go with the quarterback who we have practiced with, will perform in the game the way we want. Luke had done that. He is the starting quarterback with us, regardless of some of the things that went on. I think he still gives us a good chance to get the job done.

"Winning is an entire team effort, starting with protection, route running, throwing the football and other things. It's not on one guy, although we have a tendency to look at it like that way. Sometimes it is, but in this case, it wasn't.

"When we evaluated our offense, not a single offensive player graded high enough this week with a winning effort."

In the third quarter, Mendoza added 2 more field goals for Katy, one for 52 yards, setting a new school record for Katy High School. In the fourth quarter Anderson added two more TDs, one being a 55 yards run. Anderson finished the game with 2 touchdowns and 14 carries for 57 yards, 2 catches for 58 yards.

Katy improves to 9-0 and 6-0 in District 19-5A with its 47th consecutive regular season win. Cinco Ranch dropped to 7-2 and 5-1. Both teams unofficially are playoff bound. Bellaire Cardinals is the probable opponent in the first round for Cinco Ranch; Coach Joseph expects the Tigers will play either Madison or Westside High School.

Katy's Rodney Anderson scored three touchdowns against Cinco Ranch on his first game back after being on the injured list. *Photo by Craig Mosely/PhotosByMose.com.*

PLAYOFF GAMES
Katy vs. Madison at Rhodes, Nov, 15 at 7 p.m.
Cinco Ranch vs. Bellaire at Barnett Stadium, Nov. 16 at 1:00 p.m.
Morton Ranch vs. Lamar at Rhodes Stadium, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m.

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