

# THE Katy News

Katy's ONLY Locally Owned Newspaper

Volume 25 | Number 23

www.TheKatyNews.com

December 5, 2014 | FREE

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### Community Events

Send Calendar listings to:

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DEC 5-16

**Holiday Music Festival Katy Mills Mall Neighborhood 1**

Various choirs from Katy Independent School District and Katy churches, plus local dance groups will perform and entertain shoppers at the AMC Plaza in Neighborhood 1.

DEC 6

**Gingerbread Jog 6:45 a.m.**

**Lacenterra at Cinco Ranch**

Call 281-578-0078 for information.

DEC 9

**Katy Chapter #2655 AARP Meeting**

**Katy VFW Hall**

**6206 George Bush Dr.**

**Christmas Pot Luck.**

For information, call 281-744-5302.

DEC 14

**Handel's Messiah 7 p.m.**

**St. Peter's United Methodist Church**

**20775 Kingsland Blvd.**

Soloist and full orchestra for this holiday sing-a-long.

For more information, call David Galasso at 281-492-8031.

DEC 20

**Harvest Feast**

**Alief Baptist Church,**

**906 Avenue A**

**8 - 9:30 a.m.**

Registration to receive food is between 8 and 8.30 am. For more information, visit www.harvestfeast.org.

## Memorial Hermann Life Flight® Wins 2014 EMS Air Medical Service of the Year Award



Memorial Hermann Texas Trauma Institute is proud to announce that Memorial Hermann Life Flight® has been named the winner of the Texas Department of State Health Services' 2014 EMS Air Medical Service of the Year Award. This prestigious award honors a public or private air medical service in Texas that has demonstrated the highest standards in providing patient care, leading the way in innovation and commitment to patient care.

Winners in 13 different categories were announced Tuesday at the annual Texas EMS state conference in Fort Worth. Each category honors a person or organization that exemplifies the best that the Texas EMS and trauma system has to offer. This year marks the third time that Life Flight has achieved this recognition, winning previously in 2001 and 2004.

"We are so grateful and humbled that our esteemed EMS colleagues around the Lone Star State have elected to honor us with this significant award once again," said Tom

Flanagan, chief operating officer of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, home to the Texas Trauma Institute. "It reinforces and rewards the amazing work our Life Flight teams do every day, providing the highest quality of in-flight care possible while helping to revolutionize the air medical field by constantly introducing new advancements and technologies."

Memorial Hermann Life Flight is a critical care air medical transport service based in Houston – the city's only hospital-based air ambulance – that serves the community within a 150-mile radius of the Texas Medical Center with helicopters and worldwide using fixed-wing transport.

Founded in 1976 by James "Red" Duke, M.D., who still is medical director, the service operates around the clock – 24-hours a day, 365 days a year – retrieving critically ill and injured patients in the greater Houston area. Crews perform more than 3,000 missions each year, making the John S. Dunn Helistop one of the busiest helipads in the world. Since its

*Award continued on page 4*

## Katy YMCA Turkey Dash Celebrates 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**10K, 5K, Kids Mile and 1 Mile Walk/Run draws record crowd**

Attracting serious runners to recreational walkers and families, benefitting the YMCA Annual Campaign, the Turkey Dash annually brings community spirit to Katy. This year's 12th annual event attracted over 6,400 participants on Thanksgiving morning.

"The Turkey Dash has grown to be more than a race. It's become a holiday tradition that brings our community together to celebrate the season and generate funds for a worthy cause" said Brain Haines, District Vice President of the YMCA. "One hundred percent of proceeds from our event go to help provide Y programs and services to Katy area families. This year, due to an increase in both sponsorships and participants, I am proud to announce that the Turkey Dash was able to raise a record amount of over \$200,000."

The event was the brainchild of leaders from the Y and The Fellowship at Cinco Ranch wishing to organize a large-scale holiday event to promote community bonding. The race has grown by leaps and bounds over the years to become the area's premiere fun run. Carla Holycross, church member and event volunteer coordinator says "We couldn't have put on the event without the help of so many wonderful volunteers who made the day run smoothly. Over 350 volunteers spent their morning with us and we are so thankful for their dedication of their time and talent."

The Turkey Dash presenting sponsor was

Reliant, an NRG company. Other major sponsors included: Texas Children's Hospital West Campus, UnitedHealthcare, Grand Vision, Cram Crew and DSS Security. "Support from our local businesses is critical for hosting our festive, family fun event," commented Beth Strand, YMCA Community Liaison, "We are grateful for all of our sponsors' generosity and commitment to our race cause."

In addition to the running events, participants enjoyed a large post race area which included many local businesses who provided refreshments. There was also a Kids Zone complete with a rock wall, moonwalks, face painting and games.

10K winners were: Overall Male, Sesar Figueroa, with a time of 32:19, Overall Female, Alyse Goldsmith, with a time of 40:08, Overall Masters Male, Eric Abecassis, with a time of 37:51 and Overall Masters Female, Michelle Meyer, with a time of 45:57.

5K awards went to: Overall Male, Jonathan Falcon, with a time of 16:06, Overall Female, Kacie Corbin, with a time of 18:34, Overall Masters Male, Stephen Bernard, with a time of 17:55 and Overall Masters Female, Maria Isabel Noriega, with a time of 23:12.

For official age category race results, visit ymcaturkeydash.org. To learn more about sponsorships for next year's event, contact Beth Strand at 281-392-5055 or beths@ymcahouston.org.



Emily Thrower, Trevor Tice, Kyle Royal, Marcus Brown and Scott Tice participated with 6,400 others in the Katy YMCA 12th Annual Turkey Trot held on Thanksgiving Day.



Dr. Craig Nemow, D.C.

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Dr. Craig Nemow is Texas Board Certified and has worked with the Houston Texans, Houston Astros and the Houston Dynamo.

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### A Simple Christmas Event

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 6, 2014 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. This 18th annual event includes children's story time and craft, Victorian Era games, Dutch-oven cooking demonstrations, refreshments, marshmallow roasting, hayrides, face painting (small fee for face painting benefits the Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization) and of course Santa Claus. The evening would not be complete without a performance by "The Brazos River Pickers" – old time, blue grass volunteer community band. 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. Donations are appreciated and will benefit the Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization.

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](http://www.brazosbend.org) for event schedule and [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) for Christmas events at other Texas State Parks.



### New Katy Master-Planned Community, Cane Island, To Offer Over 2,000 New Homes

A 1,000-acre site in Katy will be developed into an amenity-rich, master-planned community to be known as Cane Island, the first master-planned community in the city's boundaries which upon completion will include over 2,000 new homes priced from the \$200's to the millions.

Named after the 1872 settlement which later became Katy, the Cane Island master-planned community will be accessible from Interstate 10 at the new Cane Island Parkway interchange, scheduled to open in mid-2015. The four-lane, north-south boulevard, less than four miles west of the Grand Parkway, will serve as the entry to Cane Island and the major thoroughfare through the community to Morton Road.

Developed by Rise Communities, Cane Island is minutes from the Energy Corridor, Katy Mills, the La Centerra Shopping Center and Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital. Families in Cane Island will attend schools in the acclaimed Katy Independent School District.

"Cane Island offers convenient I-10 access, proximity to major employers, new healthcare and shopping as well as accessibility to other areas of town by the nearby Grand Parkway," notes Dan Naef, president of Rise Communities.

Concurrent with the opening of Cane Island Parkway, the development team will complete the community's first phase with 13 model homes in seven neighborhoods. Prestigious homebuilders include Coventry Homes, David Weekley Homes, Perry Homes, Ryland Homes, Shea Homes, Toll Brothers and Trendmaker Homes.

Both traditional family homes and luxury patio homes will be available in the first phase. Three of the seven neighborhoods will be gated.

Cane Island's first phase will cover the build out of a four-acre Amenity Center featuring an outdoor amphitheater shaded by rescued, 75-year-old oak trees. Residents will have unlimited use of a family pool with

adjacent splash pad, an adult pool, a fully equipped, two-story fitness center rivaling the finest health spas, a yoga studio and multi-purpose room with commercial kitchen.

Among its many unique touches, the Amenity Center will house a glass-walled, heavily planted conservatory ideal for exhibits, lectures, private events or just a special place to relax and reflect. Residents also will enjoy two spacious tree houses with decks offering elevated views of the amphitheater and a \$1 million, mobile projection system.

The Cane Island Amenity Center will be home to Hub, a trained Golden Retriever who during the day will meet residents and guests, pose for pictures and even present his business card in his official capacity as Cane Island Ambassador. Periodically, Hub will invite residents with the unique opportunity to spend the night in his exclusive, fully furnished Ambassador Suite with direct access to the tree houses.

The community's heavily forested, half-mile arrival experience will feature Cane Island's Living Archways, two impressive tunnels made of evergreens and seasonal colors stretching over Cane Island Parkway. The entry also includes a three-acre lake, a series of water features and occasional views of the scores of elk, buffalo and deer on the adjacent property.

Cane Island also will offer a spacious Welcome Center which will incorporate wall-mounted, LED touch screens and other high-tech tools.

Future phases call for the addition of Cane Island Elementary School, part of the Katy Independent School District, and the continuation of an extensive trail system and meandering waterways. Future efforts also will cover the build-out of additional residential neighborhoods, open green spaces, pocket parks and several play areas which pay tribute to the area's history in railroads, oil and gas, farming and other industries.

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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**  
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## It's a Katy Thing

Santa and Mrs. Claus recently visited the Katy Contemporary Arts Museum at 805 Ave B in Historic Downtown Katy. KCAM sponsored and afternoon of treats and photos of Santa with the kids.

While they were there, Mr. and Mrs. Claus picked up a set of "It's a Katy Thing" mugs for their own holiday gift giving. Make a point of taking your holiday company there to see the current exhibit and then stop by the gift shop to see all of the great items that are Made in Katy. It's a great way to support art in Katy and give some one of a kind gifts made by local artisans.



Photo by Debi Beauregard

## BJH International Festival

Beck Jr. High's annual International Festival was held on Friday, November 7, 2014 to celebrate the diverse cultural background of the school. This was a chance for students to sample food from different countries. Some of the volunteers came dressed in their traditional clothes from their home countries. The International Festival is made possible by the wonderful volunteers of Beck Jr. High PTA.

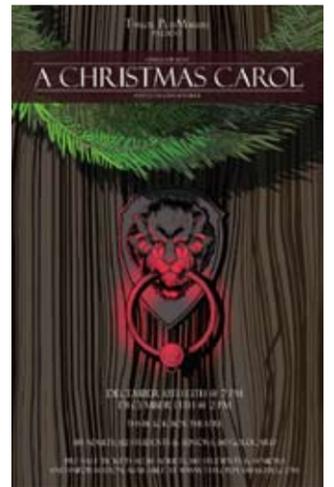


Pictured in the front row are Mercedes Monasterio, Gena Wartko, Maria Eugenia, Elena Plasencia, Kajal Jain, Frances Hernandez-Chawlani, Claudina Lo Valvo Marinano. Back row: 6th Grade Vice Principal Marsh Dufner, International Festival Coordinator Usha Machiraju, Cathy Wawrzyniec, Karen D'Mello, Kristin Vigeant, Ai Chou Lin, Jeanne King, Priya Ravi, Helen Bradley, Cindy Ye, Yun Chen, Yasmeen Arya, Angela Bazzi, Maria Barros.

## Taylor Playmakers present Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

The Taylor Playmakers present Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, on December 10th - 13th at 7:30 p.m. and on December 13th at 2 p.m., in the Taylor High School Black Box Theater. This richly textured adaptation brings the full spirit of the book to life on stage, combining the eeriness of the ghost story and the thrill of the fairy tale with the grubby realism of Victorian London. All of the much loved characters are in place, and exactly like Dickens' original extraordinary tale, the play is lively, sentimental and transformative; moral parable and family entertainment appealing to the grown-up in children and the child in every grown-up.

The Taylor PlayMakers will be sharing the stage with future Taylor Thespians from both Memorial Parkway and McMeans Junior Highs in this production. Please see [www.TaylorPlaymakers.com](http://www.TaylorPlaymakers.com) for pricing and advance ticket information. Tickets will also be available at the door. For more information email [tickets@TaylorPlaymakers.com](mailto:tickets@TaylorPlaymakers.com).



## Breakfast with Santa and Friends

The Mayde Creek Theatre Company invites you to Breakfast with Santa and Friends on Saturday, December 13th at MCHS/PAC from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Tickets for the breakfast are: Kids \$10 Adults \$5.

This event will feature a continental breakfast, picture with Santa, fun activities and auction baskets. One photo with Santa per child is included in tickets purchased. Advanced Tickets can be purchased at <http://mchs.seatyourself.biz/> or you can mail a check to: Mayde Creek High School, Attn: Kelley Hughes, 19202 Groschke, Houston, TX 77084.

## Cinco Ranch Branch Library To Close In Observance Of December Holidays

All branches of Fort Bend County Libraries will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, and will remain closed through Sunday, December 28, for the Christmas holiday. Regular library hours will resume on Monday, December 29.

The libraries will close at 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 31, and will remain closed through Thursday, January 1, for the New Year's holiday. Regular library hours will resume on Friday, January 2.

Your online library is always open at [www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us) for searching the catalog, renewing books or placing holds, downloading e-books, or using the research databases.

For additional information, contact the library system's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.

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Award continued from page 1

inaugural flight, Life Flight has flown more than 140,000 missions. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS), Life Flight is committed to excellence in aviation safety and clinical care. Each flight is staffed by highly skilled personnel and equipped advanced emergency equipment and necessary medications, and can transport up to two patients. Life Flight already has a long list of advanced, in-flight capabilities, including: pre-hospital blood product administration, LVAD capabilities, ECMO capabilities, intra-aortic balloon pump, portable blood warmers, ultrasound diagnostics, clot-busting agents for STEMI, hemostatic agents for blood clotting

and night vision goggles for all crew members, just to name a few. Last week, the service added yet another groundbreaking capability to that list, becoming the first program in Southeast Texas to be granted authority to conduct flights under instrument flight rules (IFR) by the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). This new capability allows Life Flight crews to continue caring for the community when weather conditions might restrict flights under visual flight rules (VFR). "While some flights may still not be possible in cases of extremely inclement weather, the use of IFR will significantly expand Life Flight's ability to safely serve the greater Houston area and surrounding communities," said Christopher "Todd" Grubbs, ATP, chief pilot of Life Flight.

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### Caring Santa

On Sunday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Katy Mills will also provide children with special needs and their families with a sensory-friendly environment to safely experience this time-honored tradition through the Caring Santa program. Caring Santa events have expanded from seven Simon malls in 2011 to over 100 Simon malls today, reflecting the positive impact of this unique program. In 2013, Simon and The Noerr Programs were honored by Community Gatepath, earning a Community Impact Award for their efforts in pioneering Caring Santa. Guests can register in advance at [www.simon.com/caringsanta](http://www.simon.com/caringsanta).

### Back-to-Back CASI Chili-Offs Held at Katy Elks Lodge

On Saturday, November 22 and Sunday, November 23, two separate CASI sanctioned Chili Cook-offs were held at the Katy Elks Lodge. This is an annual event with the proceeds going to help with the Katy Elks' local charities involving special needs children and Veterans.

**Saturday's winners were:**  
Chili: 1st – Don Hay; 2nd – Vern Gilpin; 3rd – Nancy Netadus; 4th – Dee Hay; 5th – Maxine Reed; 6th – Spud Griffin; 7th- Rolland Pate; 8th – Doris Greenlees; 9th – Stan Johnson; 10th – Ed Blair.  
**Showmanship:** 1st – Mick Joplin; 2nd – John Thompson; 3rd Lewis Garrett.  
Beans: 1st – Spud Griffin; 2nd – Stan Johnson; 3rd – Larry Arnold.  
Salsa: 1st – Joni Bowen; 2nd – Larry Arnold; 3rd – Van Poorman.

**Sunday's Winners were:**  
Chili: 1st – Leslie Pate; 2nd – Deanna Johnson; 3rd – Kathryn Cavender; 4th – Kent Cavender; 5th – Emily Hammond; 6th – Mick Joplin; 7th – Lewis Gossett; 8th – Rolland Pate; 9th – Pat Krenek; 10th – Ed Nesbitt.  
**Showmanship:** 1st – Mick Joplin; 2nd – Pat Krenek; 3rd – Lewis Goallett.

Chili cooks compete to earn points toward qualification for entry in the renowned Terlingua Chili Cook-off held in October each year. A number of the participants were well on their way to qualifying while others received their first point of the new Chili season. Trophies were donated by Custom Awards of Katy. The Chair for this event was Katy Elk member and Chili cook, Nancy Draper. She was assisted by her husband Kevin Draper.



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The Sunday Chili winner was Leslie Pate.



Showmanship winner both days was Mick Joplin.

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Stuart Levin  
Partner



John Atwood  
Partner



Ashley Atwood



Karen Taylor

### City of Katy Senior Citizen Christmas Party

On Friday, December 19, the City of Katy will host a senior citizen Christmas party. It will be held at the Katy VFW Hall, 6202 George Bush Dr. from 5 - 8:30 p.m. Entertainment will feature "Frank & Dean and Swingin' Band." Tickets will be \$30 per person and are available at Katy's Fussell Senior Center located at 5370 E Fifth Street. The dress will be business casual. No tickets will be sold at the door.

### Share Your Holidays December 5th

December 5th the Maud Marks Branch will once again be the drop off location for food donations in Channel 13's annual "Share Your Holidays" Food Drive. The library has participated every year since it opened in 1993. All food donated will be distributed by Katy Christian Ministries and benefit families in the Katy area. The library will be accepting donations of food from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday, December 5th at the entrance of the library building. The drive begins early in order to allow commuters the opportunity to stop by on their way to work. Previous years have seen donations of over 100,000 pounds of nonperishable food items brought to the library. We encourage individuals and member of businesses and civic organizations to bring their donations to the library on that date. For more information about Share Your Holidays contact Katy Christian Ministries at 281-391-5261.

# Katy Sports

By Tom Behrens

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## IT'S DOWN TO ONE TEAM

By Tom Behrens

At deadline for this edition, the Katy Tigers are piling up strong evidence they can make it to Dallas again this year with a solid offense that can not only run the ball, but can also throw when the opponent presents the opportunities. The Tigers have scored no less than 35 points in a game since the loss to The Woodlands earlier in the season. Most of the games have been won by 50 points or better. The defense, since the loss to The Woodlands, has on the average limited opponents' production to an average of seven points per game.

Katy Head Coach Gary Joseph describes the 2014 edition of the Katy Tigers as "very consistent, very unselfish all season long. They understand stats are just stats. It's based on performance. I've been pleased with that. In several of our games, all of our kids got to play. It tells you we have a little depth and have some good football players."

"Our offense has been able to score points; our defense doesn't put our offense in places where it put a strain on them. Our kids have confidence in each other."

The Westside playoff game (73-7) is a good example. The offense exploded for 73 points, but the defense got it all started with three quick pick sixes in the first quarter.

For the season, the Tiger secondary has picked off 14 opponent passes, with Sy Slater, Colin Wilder (committed to Texas Tech), Travis Whillock and J.R. Blades leading the way.

Where they easy interceptions? No, it's a lot of hard work. "Our defensive secondary studies a lot of film, looking for what their opponents are going to throw against them. They study our opponents' receiver routes, the receiver's position, the quarterback's throwing motion, the offensive linemen, and their movements, how they drop back and cover. It's understanding where you are supposed to be and doing your job, understanding the big picture. The kids do a good job with it."

Joseph is quick to point out it's not just the defensive secondary that shines in the interception category.

"A lot of the pick sixes is caused by the pass rush of our kids up front, our three down lineman, senior, Jesse Brown, sophomore, Corey Bethley and junior, Joey Woodring. "Brown, the guy that gets the push in the middle, Bethley leads the team in sacks and Woodring...all three of these kids have a done a really good job this year."

In addition to defensive backs Slater, Wilder, Whillock and Blades, outside linebacker, JoVanni Stewart is second in sacks. Paddy Fisher, a two year starter is the glue for the kids up front.

"At the beginning of the season, I knew the defensive line had to grow up. Our secondary had all these kids coming back with varsity level experience, many had already played 26 ball games, and that certainly helps. These are the kind of kids we have to have. All the kids have done really good, very steady."



Katy's #5 Kyle Porter picks up the first down before getting tripped up at the Class 6A Division II Region III semifinal.

The Katy Tiger offense has always been noted for its running attack. "We feel we have to be able to run the football, a thing we have had to do over the years," said Joseph. But opponents' defenses are learning they had better be able to shut down the Tiger passing attack also.

Joseph is quick to point out that Katy has had some great quarterbacks in the past who have gone on to great careers at the college and professional level. Andy Dalton quarterbacked the Tigers in 2004-05; Bo Levi Mitchell in 2006. "When we have kids like that who are capable of throwing the ball, we have thrown the football.

"We have one right now at quarterback who is capable of throwing a football (Junior, Garrett Doiron) and we have kids that can catch it (Tony Mullins, 42 receptions for 666 yards, and Kyle Porter, 130 receptions for 248 yards).

"Garret, who started six games for us last year as a sophomore, has played well all year long, consistent, very effective in running our offense. He had a bad game against The Woodlands, but it wasn't just him that had a bad game. We can only be as effective as our offensive line, effective as our running backs are. We have to give him a chance. You have to have receivers that can get open and run the right routes."

Tony Mullins has been the go-to Tiger receiver. "We need him to perform well, somebody we can throw the ball to. Kyle Porter has caught the ball well. We need to get Cole Haring back on the field." Haring has been injured for part of the season; Porter is a dual offensive threat who can line up as running back or a wide-out.

Rodney Anderson (1,989 yards, 33 touchdowns) continues his offensive display for the Tigers this season. Committed to the University of Oklahoma, he has had several Division I schools vying for his football talents, including Texas A&M and Alabama.

Katy's football excellence year after year... "We are just fortunate to have some kids come back with experience. We have our work cut out for us. There are some great teams to play yet."

"One of our goals is getting back to the state championship game. we understand it's a process, it's about the next opponent. Go out and play and lose and it's all over."

**Playoff Update:** On Friday at Rice Stadium, Dawson became the latest team to experience how locked in the Tigers are. They won the Class 6A Division II Region III semifinal 63-20 to reach the fourth round for the third consecutive season.

### OTHER KATY NEWS...

**The Katy Youth Football Turf Bowl Championship** was won by the Sr. Varsity Bears over the Titans, 14-8, on a cold, rainy evening at Rhodes Stadium. The Bears finished undefeated. Congratulations to both teams on a good season.

**Seven Lakes defensive back Batchlor Johnson IV and Wilson Pappas, Cinco Ranch offensive tackle were among 25 other Houston athletes who were finalists in the Greater Houston High School Football-Scholars awards.**

The event recognizes the top Greater Houston seniors who are starters on their respective high school teams with the best academics and citizenship. Each finalist receives a \$500 academic scholarship.

Johnson finished third in the final standings. He is a four-year class president, Eagle Scout, choir vocalist and student ambassador to Australia to represent the United States and the Katy ISD Youth Leadership Committee. Pappas is a captain for the Cinco Ranch Cougars.

Clements senior wide receiver Luke Mayock was selected as the Touchdown Club of Houston's top scholar athlete. A talented wideout, Mayock had 17 touchdowns and more than 1,000 yards receiving this season. In second place was Jersey Village senior Mitchell Fly.

Congratulations to all the athletes, but especially Johnson and Pappas for making the top 25. The awards were given out Nov. 12 at the J.W. Marriott.

## Where's Bo Levi Mitchell?

By Tom Behrens

Everyone knows what former Katy High School quarterback, Andy Dalton is doing now...leading the Cincinnati Bengals to a possible playoff berth in the NFL. But what about Bo Mitchell, another great Katy Tiger quarterback?

Mitchell while at Katy passed for 2,451 yards and had 37 touchdowns. In his senior year, he led the Tigers to an undefeated season and a State Championship.

After graduation Mitchell was recruited by Coach June Jones to come to Hawaii and play. Then Jones, who left the head coach job at Hawaii, took the same position at Southern Methodist University and lured Mitchell to play for him at SMU.

Mitchell was tabbed the starting quarterback for SMU as a true freshman. He started his first seven games with SMU before being sidelined with a shoulder injury which put him on the sidelines for the rest of the season. His replacement, Kyle Padron had a great season and Mitchell was walking the sidelines the next year.

Mitchell decided to move on to Eastern Washington, who recruited him while he played for Katy.

After graduation from Eastern Washington Mitchell considered two professional football options. Not being drafted by the NFL, he considered trying to win a job with the Houston Texans in training camp, but the Texans already had two quarterbacks, Schaub and Lienart.

The CFL's Calgary Stampeders then stepped in, offering Mitchell a chance to earn a roster spot.

Mitchell went from being a third string quarterback his rookie year, to being named the starter this season where he led the Stampeders to a 7-1 start.

On Sunday, Nov. 30, Mitchell led his Stampeders to win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, 20-16 in the Gray Cup Championship, the Super Bowl of Canadian professional football. Check out the Stampeders website [www.stampeders.com](http://www.stampeders.com) for information on the game and a great interview from Mitchell.

# Mark Your Calendar

December 17th 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Come One; Come All!**  
 Enjoy savoring some excellent food, hot cocoa and apple cider.  
 Need to pick up that last-minute Christmas gift from one of our vendors' booths?  
 We'll have lovely raffle drawings and fun games.  
 A Must See! Rosenberg's nationally-recognized K-9 Unit will be performing at 4:30. (Our nation's No. 1 Social Media Police Department.)  
 Santa is making a guest appearance.  
 You don't want to miss Salt and Pepper, who will be performing. And a surprise guest show!  
 Don't miss out on Cinco Ranch's fun-filled, festive evening with your loved ones!

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## Exciting Events at WFDD Central Green

- Dec 5 Movie Night - Quote Along Elf Dusk
- Dec 6 Art in the Park Noon - 2 p.m.
- Dec 11 Kaia Jam 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 12 Kick Off 4 Kids Blanket Bingo 7 p.m.
- Dec 13 Tai Chi 10 a.m.
- Dec 14 Big Tent Hanukkah 4 p.m.

WFDD Central Green is located inside LaCenterra Shopping Center at Cinco Ranch  
 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Katy, Texas 77494  
 www.CentralGreenPark.com  
 WFDD Central Green is Owned and Operated by Willow Fork Drainage District

## Katy Home And Garden Show January 24-25

**Largest Show Of Its Kind In West Houston Features Celebrity Craftsman Chip Wade**

Get a head start on your home and garden expansion at the largest show of its kind in West Houston with more than 250 exhibits; Gardening and Landscape Extravaganza; Home Improvement Stage; NEW Pet Neighborhood and more at the 9th Annual Katy Home and Garden Show. Get inspired to kick start or finalize renovation plans with the help of design and renovation experts like Chip Wade host, designer and contractor on Elbow Room, who will give tips on how to customize and transform houses to suit your lifestyle. Stroll through two buildings of one-stop shopping including: decorating, gardening, remodeling, window treatments, home theater, landscaping, kitchens & baths, do-it-yourself, flooring, windows & doors, siding, heating/cooling, pools, outdoor entertainment and a myriad of other home related products and services. New for this year—a special area dedicated to pets including products and pet training seminars. The Katy Home and Garden Show is sponsored by Superior Window Company.  
 The show runs Saturday, January 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, January 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Merrell Center located at 6301 S Stadium Lane. Tickets are \$9 for adults; \$8 for seniors and \$5 for military. Kids under 12 are free. Parking is free. \*facility charges \$1 per ticket fee - which will be added at time of purchase. For more information, visit www.KatyHomeandGardenShow.com.

## Church In Katy Texas To Sell Their Facilities

During a Special Business Meeting held on Sunday, November 30 of the Family Life Assembly of God (FLAG) official membership, the congregation voted in a unanimous decision to sell their Mason Road property to Art Venues, Inc. in the amount of \$1.395M.  
 The membership also voted to lease back the same property from Art Venues, Inc. during the time they will be constructing their new 22,000 square feet facilities on their eight acre Roesner Road property in south Katy.  
 Groundbreaking for FLAG's new church complex is anticipated early next year. The builder will be Maco Construction, Humble, Texas.  
 Family Life Assembly of God is currently located at 1012 South Mason Road, Katy, Texas 77450. They can be contacted at 281-392-0637, or via their website: www.flag.church.

## Nottingham Country Garden Club

On Thursday, January 8th, 2015, Nottingham Country Garden Club will feature Peg Turrentine and Jennifer Plihal. Their presentation topic will be "Spring Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces". Peg and Jennifer are organic vegetable farmers and egg producers. They operate Three Sisters Farm in the Needville area, close to Brazos Bend State Park. They sell their produce, eggs, and various prepared foods, such as pickles and jellies, at farmers markets and to various restaurants in the Houston area. Peg and Jennifer are active members of the Fort Bend County Master Gardener Association, where they gained their knowledge of gardening principles and practices.  
 Meet and greet time begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program will start at 10:00 a.m., followed by the NCGC meeting. Please join us at the Municipal Utility Building #81 at 805 Hidden Canyon Drive in Katy (77450). For more information please see our website: www.nottinghamgardenclub.org or call 713-870-5915.  
 We welcome all people interested in gardening and gardening related topics. We serve the West Houston and Katy areas. You do not have to live in Nottingham Country to belong to our group.  
 NCGC is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Federation of Garden Clubs. The purpose of the club is to promote beautification of our community, support local and national educational and civic organizations and educate the community about our environment. Donations from the NCGC are funded by our annual Spring Plant Sale and various projects throughout the year.

## Living Word Lutheran Church to Present "Behold the Star"

Living Word Lutheran Church invites the community to its presentation of "Behold the Star" on Sunday, December 14 at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Living Word is located at 3700 S. Mason Rd., Katy 77450 at the corner of Westheimer Parkway. For more information, please see the church's website www.livingwordkaty.org or call 281-392-2300.

## Wild West Brewfest Will be Debuting in a New Location for 2015 Event

Katy is the home to the largest craft Brewfest west of Downtown; with over 400 taps and 90+ brewers and over a 100,000 square feet of pure craft beer nirvana this event will surely impress the most discriminating beer aficionados will be coming to the Katy Mills Mall for their 2015 event.  
 "The Villagio Town Center was a great location for us, however we have outgrown that venue" said David Loesch – event chairman. "We are excited about the opportunity that the Katy Mills Mall gives us. With well over 100,000 square feet to work with, we will be featuring more bands, more beer, a larger Hop House (VIP) expanding up to 82x82 from 60x40 – this will give our patrons what they are looking for, each year our Hop House sells out months in advance, we believe with the added space this will create a unique atmosphere for our patrons."  
 They will also be featuring an enclosed climate controlled silent auction tent along with our one of a kind specialty bar every patron attending will be able to enjoy. The WWBF will be working with distributors to create a unique one of a kind Beer Garden, featuring some traditional along with some unique craft beer selections along with seating and lots of shade. Along with the added space, they will be offering more styles and varieties of beer, with over 70+ brewers participating in the 2014 event, they plan on enlarging that to at least 90 for the 2015 event.  
 Tickets on sale now at www.katybrewfest.com

## Cub Scout Pack 337 Garage Sale

Cub Scout Pack 337 Garage Sale benefiting St. Vincent de Paul will be held at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Hall located at 5356 11th Street on Saturday, December 13th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.  
 Donations of gently used, clean clothing will be accepted Friday, December 12th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

## New Principal for Cardiff Jr. High

During their Monthly Board Meeting last night, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees announced Bryan 'Scott' Rounds as the new principal of Cardiff Junior High.  
 He first joined the District in 2005 as an assistant principal at Katy High School before moving up to associate principal at that campus in June 2009. Prior to joining Katy ISD, he was a teacher and assistant principal with Alief ISD for nine years.  
 Rounds holds a BA in Theology from Ambassador University, a BS in Education from Arkansas State University and a Master of Science in Education from Prairie View A&M University.



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## Devotional Page

The Lord your God is with you,  
 the *Mighty Warrior* who saves.  
 He will take great *delight* in you;  
 in his *love* he will no longer rebuke you,  
 but will *rejoice* over you with *singing*.

Zephaniah 3:17



Provided by Jasmine Ezzell

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*The Katy Business Association*  
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 Music with DJ  
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 Includes 2 drink tickets furnished by KBA  
 Guests Welcome  
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RSVP to Jean Machann at town1245@aol.com or  
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 Reservations due by December 14th

## Nearly 500 Katy ISD Classes Benefit from 17th Annual Promise to Read Program

Community members, businesses and organizations across Katy came together over the past two weeks to bring the love of reading into nearly 500 Katy ISD classrooms. The annual reading program is part of a 17-year-old tradition led by the Katy ISD Partners in Education department that brings the community into the classroom. Through Promise to Read, the program provides the business community a unique opportunity to reacquire themselves with the world of children's literature by spending 30 minutes reading to a classroom full of excited elementary students. The program currently runs for two weeks at 13 elementary campuses each year in November.

This year's Promise to Read event was hosted with Partners in Education at: Hays, Holland, Katy, Memorial Parkway, Schmalz, Shafer, Stanley, Stephens, Sundown, West Memorial, Wolfe, Wolman and WoodCreek elementary schools. Host campuses rotate each year so that, over a three year period, every Katy ISD elementary has an opportunity to participate.

"Promise to Read has become a treasured community event thanks to hundreds of devoted community volunteers, many of whom join us every year, and our Katy ISD host campuses," says Janet Theis, Katy ISD's Director of Community Partnerships. "Promise to Read continues to open the door for our business community to embrace and inspire the love of reading and share that magic with classrooms across the district."

Readers represented a cross section of local companies and organizations including: H-E-B, Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, AXA Advisors, McDonald's, Tradition Bank, Second

Baptist Church, Katy Memorial Hermann Hospital, CenterPoint Energy, Members Choice Credit Union, The Shady Lady Window Coverings, Children's Lighthouse, Pepper Lawson Construction, Omni Hotels, Christian Brothers Automotive, Pump It Up, Junior Achievement, Herff Jones Graduation Center, Firethorne, Bicycle World, Spring Creek Barbeque, Katy Fire Department, Mar-Mar's Candy Jar, KCC Orthodontics, HCC NW, Edward Jones, Johnny's Pizza House, Two Forks Catering, Adams Law Firm, Sylvan Learning, Harris County Public Library, Houston SPCA, Schakolad Chocolate Factory, Chick-fil-A Mason Road and Chick-fil-A Cinco Ranch, KVPAC, Dignity Memorial Katy Funeral Home, Houston Museum of Natural Science, PUPS - Prevent Unwanted Pets, Tutor Doctor, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Texas Taxi, Cross Community Church, Cotton Holdings, Costco Wholesale, Thomas C. Harrison, DDS, Inc., Amegy Bank, Westpark Springs Hospital, Spectra Energy, City of Katy Senior Center, Keep Katy Beautiful, Marriott Energy Corridor Hotel, PBK Architects, Grand Vision Center, Gina Cornelius Swim Academy, Krenzien, Krenzien & Associates, Tista's Fine Furniture and many other Katy community members and area businesses.

Promise to Read is one of several community involvement programs offered by Katy ISD Partners in Education and essentially fulfills the mission of bringing the community into the classroom. Find more information about Partners in Education on the Katy ISD website.

## Katy Prairie Conservancy Gets Ready For The Holidays With Three Fun Nature Events:

### Two Wild West Tours and One Unplugged Adventure All Involve Birds

With the holidays soon upon us, Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) offers a varied menu of fun and engaging nature events for all ages on the Katy Prairie in December. Winter is one of the most spectacular times to visit the prairie, as there is an abundance of hawks, eagles and other migratory birds; pleasant weather; and vibrant sunsets.

On Dec. 7 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., KPC kicks off with its first Wild West Tour, "Wintering Sparrows," on Indiangrass Preserve, 31950 Hebert Road in Waller, led by Master Naturalist and birding expert Glenn Olsen. Join Olsen and others interested in birding as they seek out various species of sparrows that call the prairie home in winter.

The second Wild West tour organized by Olsen is "Owl Prowl" on Dec. 12 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., also at Indiangrass Preserve. After a light dinner, the group will look and listen for elusive owls as these birds of prey hunt for their own dinner. Participants in both Wild West Tours will also explore preserves usually closed to the public.

The cost for each Wild West Tour is \$50 per person, and a portion of that fee goes toward funding KPC educational programs. The events require advance registration. Walking shoes, clothing layers, gloves and a hat are recommended, since the prairie tends to be chillier and windier than an urban setting. Participants are also encouraged to bring water, cameras, and snacks, if desired.

Adults and children are invited to come out to the prairie for the Unplugged Adventure "Gifts for Nature" on Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., which is a perfect outing for the entire family. Cost is \$3 per person. The holidays are a time of giving, and this is a way to give back to nature. Join us for a morning of gift making

as participants create feeders and homes for wildlife on the prairie. We will also take a short hike on Indiangrass Preserve to share our gifts with birds, insects, and other animals.

"Birding continues to be incredibly popular, and each of these activities focuses on birds in some way," says KPC Executive Director Mary Anne Piacentini. "Last year, KPC's preserves were designated a Global Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, recognizing how critical our prairie and wetlands are to bird preservation and conservation."

"The two Wild West Tours and our Unplugged Adventure offer ideal opportunities for people to appreciate the diversity of birds that inhabit the Katy Prairie," Piacentini continues. "We especially hope that parents will bring their children out for 'Gifts for Nature,' which combines education, entertainment and the joy of giving back."

To register for these KPC activities, go to katyprairie.org and click on the "Visit" tab to find "events." If you are interested in volunteering for "Gifts for Nature," contact Christine Mansfield at 713-523-6135.

The Katy Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving an ecologically vital tallgrass prairie and associated wetlands area on Houston's far west side for the enjoyment and benefit of all.



The LeContes Sparrow and other types of sparrows are the focus of Katy Prairie Conservancy's Wild West Tour "Wintering Sparrows" on Dec. 7 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Photos by Greg Lavaty

# @ The Movies

By Sam Eifling

## Horrible Bosses 2

From behind bars, one of the horrible bosses from the predecessor to "Horrible Bosses 2," here a savage Kevin Spacey, asks the three dundering heroes at the center of these movies who, in fact, is the worse boss: him or them? He might be evil, yes, but early in the sequel, the schmucks — Nick, Kurt and Dale, played anticly by Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis and Charlie Day — have torpedoed their hopes at running their own business. Stupidly, they've allowed catalog company to renege on a big order of their home-invented shower gizmo. Which is the worse boss, indeed? One who squishes your ego between his fingers like a whitehead? Or ones who let Christoph Waltz, as a smarmy purveyor of yuppie stocking-stuffers, fleece them by canceling a verbal deal?

Not that it matters much; the troika of quick-yammering goobers decide their best way to recoup their losses is to commit another grave crime, achieving some warped justice to boot. In the previous movie, they conspired to kill their respective bosses, on the way to more than \$200 million at the box office, sort of inexplicably. It wasn't all that great. This one's not, either, but it is amusing, and does feature, again rather inexplicably, three Oscar winners in the cast, as both Spacey and Waltz are two-time winners and Jamie Foxx, reprising his role as a sort of underworld consultant named Mother Jones, except with an f-bomb stapled to that first name. We even get Jennifer Aniston again as a sex-crazed seductress-dentist and Jonathan Banks (Mike from "Breaking Bad") filling the screen as an LAPD detective. There's a lot of talent here — more than enough, in fact, to squeeze some legit fun out of a goofball script with more lulls than LOLZ.

The victim of the criminal novicemind plot is catalog-biz heir Chris Pine, the cocky jock with the sapphire eyes, who could use nothing more desperately than a hard slap across the puss. After his old man shanks our protagonists, they decide to kidnap

him and ransom him back to the old man. It's a tough story for writer/director Sean Anders ("Hot Tub Time Machine," "We're the Millers" among his screenplays) to keep interesting for the duration of a medium popcorn. Mostly time passes with the three leads tossing dialogue around like pinball bumpers. Bateman, for the nth time in his developmentally arrested career, is the straight man. Sudeikis, half as smart and twice as randy, and Day, a self-incriminating rack of nerves, are the best friends you'd draft last if you were filling your felony fantasy team.

There's not much of an underlying point to the hijinks, lest you count Waltz's speech on a putting green that wealth, not hard work, creates wealth. Stick it to the Man, you say in reply, Let's see 'im squirm. As soon as the movie hands you a pitchfork, it forgets which way to point it, in true American style. A great number of bosses are not horrible, but at least an equal number of them determine they ought to be in charge largely because they are unseemly sorts. At least in the first "Horrible Bosses," a vaguely populist vibe drove the action. Ah, but that was 2011. Now the stock market's up, unemployment's down, and people maybe hate their bosses a little less, if they're lucky enough to have 'em in the first place.



**Horrible Bosses 2**  
**Rated R**  
**Comedy**  
**Director:** Sean Anders  
**Writer:** Sean Anders, John Morris, Jonathan M. Goldstein  
**Cast:** Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day, Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Aniston

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### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

#### THEME: Year in Review

#### ACROSS

- Good for biceps
- "... alive!"
- \*Many Kurds did this from Syria in 2014
- Unctuous Heep, of "David Copperfield"
- Not pre-owned
- It made Harry Potter's i invisible
- Common Thanksgiving Day action
- ATM extra
- Reduce, \_\_\_\_, recycle
- \*Captured drug lord
- Zoo section
- Go wrong
- Hat part
- Old age, archaic
- Musical compositions for one
- African equines
- \*Suspect in PA police ambush was denied this
- Kosher establishment
- Davy Crockett's last stand
- Popular Creole vegetable
- \_\_\_\_ Miss hot chocolate
- Auditory
- MC Hammer's "2 \_\_\_\_ 2 Quit"
- Last two words of certain shoe company's famous slogan
- "Rambling Wreck From Georgia \_\_\_\_"
- \*Beyonce and Jay Z performed in them together in '14
- Antonym of #14 Across
- "Big Island" flower

#### necklace

- Leave them behind for riches?
- Grazing area
- \*Animated Oscar-winner
- \*Billboard Music Awards hologram guest
- Indian restaurant condiment
- Schiller's " \_\_\_\_ to Joy"
- Got up
- Remove, as in a Pinterest post
- A cool \_\_\_\_, as in money
- Takes it easy
- They're famous for being busy
- Snake-like reef dweller
- Arrogant one

#### DOWN

- 27 is the \_\_\_\_ of 3
- Russia's \_\_\_\_ Mountains
- Reduced Instruction Set Computer
- Wood-shaping device
- Barn scissors
- Facts and figures
- Tiger's peg
- Take an oath
- Bloodsucking hopper
- Displeasure on one's face
- "Piece of cake!"
- Obtain or create, barely
- \*Russia/Ukraine "apple of discord"
- Cattle control, pl.
- "That is to say"
- Suffering from gastric distress
- \*It caused a scare globally in 2014
- Kobe, e.g.

#### 27. Sad song

- Off-color
- The Phantom \_\_\_\_, Mickey Mouse's nemesis
- a.k.a. honey badger
- White liturgical neckwear
- \*2014 Olympic site
- Been in bed
- \*Infamous terrorist group
- Type of monument
- Jane's mate
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- Type of sticker, pl.
- \*Washington Nationals

#### gave away a Jayson Werth garden

- Ohio rubber hub
- Olden-day temple
- \_\_\_\_ for the picking
- Elevator inventor
- Come together
- \*Hope \_\_\_\_ set U.S. soccer record for career shutouts
- Norse capital
- Egg holder
- Cause friction
- Bond movie "Live and Let \_\_\_\_"

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

This week's answers are on page 11

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# Library News

**Maud Marks**

## Celebrate Local Authors

At the Maud Marks Library, we are big fans of writers, all writers, and we've decided it is time to celebrate them. Come on out on Saturday, December 6 as we celebrate our local authors. We will begin at 1 p.m. that day with a short meet and greet. Then from 1:30 to 5 p.m., many of the authors will be holding readings from their books. At the same time, local writers are encouraged to join us in the meeting room where we will offer resources to help get that book out of your head and onto paper for everyone to enjoy.

Come meet authors from the Houston area and get a chance to buy signed copies of their books for yourself or as a holiday gift for that special someone.

## DIY Crafts: Wrap Your Gifts

Join us on Tuesday, December 9 at 2 p.m. as we make wrapping paper. Bring your holiday gifts with you as we create fun ways to wrap them up for the season. All materials will be provided. Seating is extremely limited. Please call the Maud Marks Library at 281-492-8592 for more information and to register.

## The Affordable Care Act

Are you confused about the brand new Affordable Care Act and the health insurance exchange? You are not alone. The Maud Marks Library wants to help. Come out on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. to learn all about the nuances of what is commonly called Obamacare. Change Happens will be here to help us make sense of it all. Seating for this program is limited. Please call the Maud Marks Library at 281-492-8592 for more information and to register.

## Intermediate Microsoft Excel Class

Are you interested in getting more out of your Microsoft Excel program? On Tuesday, December 16 at 10 a.m., the Maud Marks Library will be teaching beyond the basics of Microsoft Excel. Come explore what Microsoft Excel 2013 has to offer. Learn how to create tables, sort and filter your data, insert graphs and charts, and more. This class is designed for intermediate computer users - attendees must be familiar with the basic layout and function of Microsoft Excel. Seating for this is extremely limited. Please call the Maud Marks Library at 281-492-8592 for more information and to register.

## Santa's Ranch

Join us at the Maud Smith Marks Branch of Harris County Public Libraries as we celebrate our Santa's Ranch Open House on Friday, December 19 from 1-4:30 p.m. Come listen to Christmas music. Visit Santa and join the elves in his workshop for fun crafts and other treats. For the complete schedule contact the library at 281-492-8592.

## Cinco Ranch Library

### MS Excel Survival Basics

On Thursday, December 11, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Computer Lab. For more information, call at 281-395-1311.

### Digital Camera Basics

"Digital Camera Basics" will take place on Wednesday, December 17, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Computer Lab at Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. The classes are free and open to the public.

### Library Helps Shoppers Learn About Electronic Reading Devices

Fort Bend County Libraries' Cinco Ranch Branch Library will have an E-Reader Question-and-Answer session on Wednesday, December 17, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., in the Conference Room of the library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.

Library staff will be available at this come-and-go session to answer questions about different types of e-readers, using the library's online digital library, and downloading e-books.

The session is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more information, call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library at 281-395-1311 or the library's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.




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## Katherine Tyra Branch Library @ Bear Creek

### Savvy Stitchers

Savvy Stitchers is a place to share ideas, to learn new knitting and crochet techniques or to teach someone else a new skill. The next meeting is on Thursday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m. Make sure to bring your needles and yarn. All ages welcome.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information call 281-550-0885.

### Friends of the Library Open House

Did you enjoy a program or event at the library? Thank the Friends of the Library. Or better yet, become a Friend of the Library. Learn more about joining the Friends of the Library at our fun open house on Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Face painting for kids and treats for all ages.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information call 281-550-0885.

## Katy Branch Library

### Internet 101

Learn the basics of surfing the World Wide Web on Monday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. Find out how the internet works, how you can get connected and navigate your web browser, and learn basic internet safety. This class is designed for new computer users - use of a mouse and keyboard is required. Registration is requested; please visit [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net) or call the library at 281.391.3509 to reserve your spot.

### Files and Folders Practice

On Wednesday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. you can practice working with files and folders on your computer. Learn how to create, name, and organize all of the files stored on your computer. This class is designed for beginning computer users. Registration is requested; please visit [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net) or call the library at 281.391.3509 to reserve your spot.

### Knotty & Nice Club

The Knotty & Nice Club (formerly the Knitting & Crochet Club) is the place for you if you want to learn new needlework techniques, teach someone else, or just hang out with other crafters. The club meets from 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday. Meeting this month is December 10. The Katy Branch Library is located at 5414 Franz Road. Call 281-391-3509 for more information.

### Tech Help

Katy Branch Library staff are available from 2 - 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10 during a weekly instructional one-on-one clinic to help you understand your mobile devices or answer your simple tech questions. Appointments will be held in the library's Study Room and may be scheduled for 2:00, 3:00, or 4:00 - please call the library at 281.391.3509 to register.

### Internet 102

Learn the basics of using email Find out how to send and receive emails using the internet, basic email security, and even have the opportunity to open your own email account on Thursday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m.

This class is designed for beginner computer users - use of a mouse and keyboard is required. Registration is requested; please visit [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net) or call the library at 281.391.3509 to reserve your spot.

### Katy Gardening Club

Join other gardeners in your area on Thursday, December 11, 11:00 a.m. to learn new ways to grow. Also, bring your leftover seeds and exchange them for a new seeds to try. The Katy Library Gardening Club meets every month on the 2nd Thursday. This month's topic will be organic gardening.

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# Friends Of The Library Groups Provide Behind-The-Scenes Help To Libraries

Although the enormous amount of work that they do to support the Fort Bend County library system may not always be visible at first glance, the members of the Friends of the Library organizations provide invaluable support and financial assistance to the libraries by holding membership drives and book sales throughout the year.

The Friends of the Library groups are composed of many individuals who donate their time and expertise to support, promote, raise awareness of their libraries, and augment the resources of their libraries. They do this through advocacy and through fundraising (usually book sales).

In Fort Bend County, every branch library in the county system has its own Friends group. Library patrons may be surprised to learn how many of the library's services and programs they enjoy are made possible by the ongoing efforts of the Friends groups.

Money raised for the library system by the Friends of the Library organizations helps to underwrite the costs of special programming and various cultural events that are enjoyed by children, adults, and families at the libraries throughout the year. They also provide needed funds for materials, equipment, and beautification projects not funded by the library's budget.

Example of events made possible by the Friends groups are the children's opera performances by Houston Grand Opera's Opera to Go program. Children all across the county have been introduced to opera in a way that was fun and easy for them to appreciate when they listened, spellbound, to musical renditions of *Strega Nona*, *Cinderella*, *Rapunzel*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Daniel and the Dreamcatcher*.

The Friends organizations are also major sponsors of the library system's Summer Reading Clubs for children and teens, providing funds for programs and for the materials for crafts and activities. These activities were enjoyed by more than 35,000 children, teens, and their families across the county last summer.

Many library programs for the adult crowd were also made possible by funds provided by the Friends groups. Most recently,

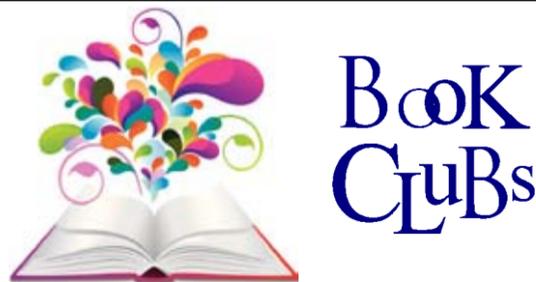


Houston Grand Opera's Opera to Go program performed Cinderella for children at the Fort Bend Libraries thanks to Friends of the Library.

nationally-recognized speakers on genealogy and forensic science spoke to packed audiences at George Memorial Library. For many, many years, the Friends of George Memorial Library was the major sponsor of the hugely popular Shakespeare-by-the-Book Festival, before it went on hiatus.

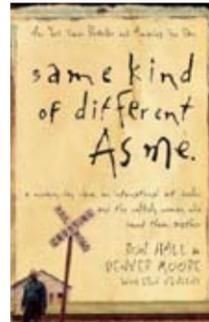
Some of the items purchased with money from the Friends groups are used and appreciated by the public on a daily basis. Furniture and soft sculptures in the Youth areas at the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch and at the First Colony Branch make an inviting area for children and teens to relax with a good book or research materials for homework assignments. Several branches have received technological support from the Friends groups in the form of things such as laptop and desktop computers, software licenses, cameras and Nintendo Wii™ controllers.

For information on how to become a Friend of the Library, ask for an application at any of the branch libraries. Information is also available on the Fort Bend County Libraries website, [www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us). You may also call the library system's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734 for assistance.



## Cinco Ranch Library

The next meeting of the **Cinco Ranch Night Readers** book club, on Thursday, December 18, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Classroom, at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. in Katy. The book to be discussed is *Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer, and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound Them Together*, written by Ron Hall. For more information, call the branch library at 281-395-1311.



## Maud Marks Library



The **Afternoon Book Club** meets on the second Thursday of the month, December 11, at 1 p.m. We will be discussing the 2014 Gulf Coast Reads selection, *"Tomlinson Hill"* by Chris Tomlinson. For information, call 281-492-8592.

The **Just Desserts Mystery Book Club** will meet on Wednesday, December 17, at 2 p.m. We will be reading *"Christmas Cookie Murder"* by Leslie Meier. You are encouraged to bring your favorite dessert to eat while we discuss whether our villains get their just desserts. For information, call 281-492-8592.



# KATY Aquatics to Compete in the 2014 Speedo Winter Junior National Championships in Seattle

Over 1,500 swimmers are expected to come from around the country to participate in this year's Speedo Winter Jr. National Championships that will be held Dec. 10th – 13th, 2014 in Seattle, WA. All participating athletes are expected to step up the intensity, the enthusiasm and the execution to hold their own at this upcoming meet.

KATY Aquatics is proud to announce its 2014 National Junior Team roster, honoring the club's top up-and-coming swimmers. The team consists of Davidmichael Bernal, Glen Cowand, Gavin Erdmann, Hanna Huston, Kyle Nash, and Michael Rudd.

In order to qualify for USA Swimming's National Meets, each of these swimmers had to first post a qualifying time in a single swimming event at a previous competition meet during the period of November 1, 2013 through December 2, 2014.

These athletes train in our High Performance group, the highest level of training within our club. This group focuses on "Commitment without Exception" and trains to compete at National and International level competitions.

This rising crew of six KATY Aquatics individuals is definitely something to watch, as this group has already demonstrated some defined and explicit swimming skills in the pool. These swimmers are looking forward to giving their all during this 4-day travel meet.

Our KATY athletes should be commended for swimming with a lot of confidence, and for proving that commitment and training can build a strong team spirit. Our coaching staff would like to congratulate each of these young athletes on their achievements so far, and wish you all the best at Junior Nationals this month.

# Beck Jr High Student Selected to Compete in International Math Contest

Mathworks at Texas State University has announced the four Texas students who have been selected to be members of the 2015 Primary Math World Contest (PMWC) team. One of the four team members is Edward Lu, a seventh-grade student at Beck Junior High.

Lu, along with his three teammates, will attend the 2015 Residential Junior Summer Math Camp program at Texas State University this coming June, and then compete in the PMWC in Hong Kong in July. Lu was selected from the 284 students who participated in the 2014 Mathworks Math Contest.

Mathworks is a center for innovation in mathematics education at Texas State University, whose programs raise mathematics achievement for all students, while developing future leaders in science, engineering and mathematics.

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THE KATY NEWS



## Ho, Ho, Ho!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
 A: Frostbite.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
 A: Snowflakes.

Q: What do you get if you cross mistletoe and a duck?  
 A: A Christmas Quacker.

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?  
 A: In a snow bank.

Q: How do you scare a snowman?  
 A: You get a hairdryer!

Q: How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?  
 A: Nothing, it was on the house!



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