

THE Katy News

Katy's ONLY Locally Owned Newspaper

Volume 27 | Number 2

www.TheKatyNews.com

February 5, 2016 | FREE

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FEB 5, 12, 19, 26

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Katy Contemporary Arts Museum
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Includes Lunch and Drinks
\$13 members
\$15 non-members.

Pre-purchase tickets at
KCAM.org/index.php/
events/healthy-fridays

FEB 6

2016 Katy Half Marathon
6:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Katy Mills Mall
For more information go to
www.athletpath.com/katy-
half-marathon/2016-02-06.

FEB 9

Katy Chapter # 2655
AARP Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Katy VFW Hall, 6206
George Bush Dr.

Pot luck supper, meeting
and entertainment by Emily
Harris, "Laughter for the
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Adults are welcome For
more information call
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FEB 14

**Valentine's Day Greek-
Style**
6:00 p.m.

Central Green Park in
LaCenterra at Cinco
Ranch
23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
Ice sculptures, performances
from the Olympia Greek
dancers, and a showing of
My Big, Fat Greek Wedding.

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KPC Presents February Nature Events With Spring In Mind

The Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) continues its winter programming, with an eye on spring, as it presents two nature events in February— Ranger Trek: Rebuilding Paradise and Unplugged Adventure: Promise of Spring. The two events will begin at KPC's Indiangrass Preserve, 31950 Hebert Road in Waller. They include:

Ranger Trek: Rebuilding Paradise: Saturday, February 13, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. The Indiangrass Preserve restoration is a demonstration of KPC's commitment to improving the quality of its preserves for wildlife and for humans too. Come out and learn how this ground-breaking work is being done, take a hike on the newly restored Indiangrass Preserve, and help pot up a few new plants for the restoration effort. Cost: Free. Audience: Adult Learners.

Unplugged Adventure: Promise of Spring: Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Spring is right around the corner, and now is the perfect time to learn how you can prepare your yard for a productive, green season. Participants will take a fun hike looking for signs of spring, do a take-home activity in our Native Seed Nursery, and talk about how you can prepare your yard for your wild neighbors. Cost: \$5. Audience: All Ages.

"We invite people all over the Houston area to check out the Katy Prairie with one or both of our February activities, where you can see first-hand how the Indiangrass Preserve is being restored and improved," says Christine Mansfield, KPC's Community Outreach Manager. "With Ranger Trek, you can do a good deed for nature and for our Unplugged Adventure, guests will learn how their yards can be transformed for wildlife."

KPC Nature Events continued on pg. 6

BP America, Inc. Contributes \$50K to Katy ISD STEM Program

The Katy ISD Education Foundation is pleased to announce that BP America, Inc. has returned for its second year as a Foundation Cornerstone Investor by contributing \$50,000 for STEM related teacher grants. The BP STEM Grant Program is administered via the Foundation's Inspiring Imagination teacher grant initiative for grants in place this school year. STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and represents the integration of science and mathematics into existing areas of study. "We are grateful for our alliance with BP America, Inc. and welcome its continued support," said Ken Janda, Katy ISD Education Foundation Board President. "Our BP STEM Grant Program has already benefitted hundreds of Katy ISD teachers. This second BP contribution will reach even farther, providing teachers with countless opportunities to bring



Ken Janda, Katy ISD Education Foundation Board President; Maria Viso, BP Director Communications and External Affairs; Alton Frailey, Katy ISD Superintendent; Michael Moore, BP Senior Director Communications and External Affairs.

extraordinary classroom experiences to their students."

BP, which has a long standing relationship with Katy ISD through the Cinco Ranch High School FIRST Robotics Program, Junior Achievement and other programs, is eager to deepen their support through the BP S.T.E.M. Grant Program.

BP STEM Grant continued on pg. 6

Faith West Academy Student Selected as Texas All-State Musician



Sofia Rendek

Sofia Rendek, a member of the Faith West Academy Choir, will perform with the Texas All-State (Band/Choir/Orchestra) in San Antonio, Saturday, February 13, 2016 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center as part of the 2016 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention. Sofia, 10th grade, earned third chair Soprano 1 for the State Performance. She was chosen for this prestigious honor through a competitive process held this year across the state at District, Region, and Area levels. "It is exceedingly difficult to earn a chair in one of the All-State Choirs," said Faith West Academy choir director Carren Ellis. Only the top 3% of 64,000 musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians.

Sofia is a student of Michel Dial & David Golasso and she sings at school under the direction of Mrs. Ellis who is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, a 12,000+ member organization

headquartered in Austin. This was Sofia third time competing at the Area level, but her first time to perform as a member of a TMEA All-State organization.

Sofia's interest in music began during 5th grade. She was exposed Rock Music at an early age, as her dad toured with the band Rush. She had the opportunity to meet Geddy Lee, lead vocalist for Rush, on several occasions and he remains one of her favorite singers today along with Ariana Grande. However, Sofia's music interest is operatic in style, from the Romantic period of the late 18th and early 19th century. She sites Johann Sebastian Bach as one of her favorite composers.

In preparing for competition she will drink as much as eight bags of tea, followed by warm-ups. "I make noise like a siren," she demonstrates; "eeeeeeeeeeeee, weeeeeeeeee, whoop, whoop, whoop, wooo, wooo, wooo." She states she doesn't get nervous before an audition, and attributes her mother as getting her interested in drama at an early age, which boosted her self confidence. "The most difficult part of an audition," she says, "is how to set the tone for the piece. Understanding the meaning of the piece, and how to put my own stuff, my own artistic style into the piece, is critical."

Sofia is the daughter of Steve and Jennifer Rendek of Katy. The Texas Music Educators Association is an association of over 12,000 school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. Go to www.tmea.org/convention for more information.



Sunday Brunch

Starting Sunday, February 14th, 2016, The Courtyard Marriott Houston Katy Mills will serve a weekly Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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The Golden Buddha JAZZ Orchestra

Katy's new World Theater is on a roll: from "Katy's Got Talent!" opening January 30th to "The Golden Buddha Jazz Orchestra, with performances on February 18th and 19th.

The Chinese Cultural Consul, Mr. Song Yang, has written to Burton Wolfe, Executive and Artistic Director of World Theater: "I am very pleased to inform you that Chinese Consulate General in Houston has arranged a special United States Premiere Tour of The Golden Buddha Jazz Orchestra during the season of 2016 traditional Chinese New Year... This is an opportunity for our joint cooperation once again, so I would like to ask you to organize two concerts at your newly opened World Theater performance hall on February 18th and 19th"

The Golden Buddha Jazz Orchestra consists of talented professional musicians, playing original Jazz music with a combination of Ancient

Chinese and Western musical instruments. The performances on February 18th and 19th will be The United States Premiere, and will take place right here in Katy, at World Theater. Burton Wolfe, World Theater Executive and Artistic Director, in anticipation of the performances, has said: "We here at World Theater in Katy, are honored to host the USA premiere performances of The Golden Buddha Jazz Orchestra. We all can't wait to hear the mix of ancient Chinese and Western instruments playing jazz together - what a treat!"

More information regarding the concert along with ticketing information can be found at the World Theater website: www.worldtheater.us. Let's sway to the Jazz music of ancient Chinese and Western Instruments - all that JAZZ right here in Katy!



Learn About Growing Citrus Trees

Fort Bend County Libraries will present the program "Citrus: Getting Started Right," on Monday, February 15, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library, located at 8100 FM 359 South in Fulshear.

Fort Bend County Master Gardener Deborah Birge will talk about varieties of citrus fruit trees that can thrive in the Gulf Coast climate. Hear about proper planting techniques and recommended maintenance tips to encourage fruit production in the fall and winter. Birge will also talk about ways to protect citrus from cold weather. Anyone interested in learning more

about growing citrus trees is encouraged to attend.

Citrus is a popular fruit that ripens in the fall and winter," said Birge, who has been a master gardener for 13 years and holds specialist certifications in Citrus Culture, Home Fruit Production, and First-Defender Plant Pathology. "With proper care, (citrus) trees can last for decades."

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library at 281-633-4675 or the library system's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.

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Choosing
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Sherry Ahart-Davies
Location Manager,
Katy Funeral Home

one and to assist survivors in the grieving and healing process. A memorial gives people who are close to you the time to come together and remember your life—and the chance to say goodbye. Without such a service, people sometimes struggle to find the closure they will need.

Q: What happens to the "ashes" after the cremation service?

A: As the number of people choosing cremation has grown, so have the available options for permanent memorialization. Today there are many ways to create a lasting and beautiful memorial for those choosing cremation. From simple remembrances to more elaborate family memorials, cremation allows you to choose from a wide variety of memorial types. Families often choose options such as family estates, cremation niches, in-ground burial or personal memorials in specially designed cremation gardens. After cremation, creating a lasting, personal impression of a special life helps to ensure that memories will live on in the hearts and minds of family and friends. Your funeral arranger can provide information about ways you can memorialize your loved one or plan ahead to leave your own lasting legacy.

Q: I know I want to be cremated, but I'm not sure I want a memorial service. Any advice?

A: In my experience, a funeral or memorial service can be very important for two reasons. First of all, your life is unique! Why not celebrate all you are and how much you meant to others? With cremation, you aren't limited when it comes to memorialization or remembrance. Cremation provides a great deal of flexibility. A tribute of any kind can be held before or after the cremation has taken place and with or without the casket or urn present. The service itself can be as simple or elaborate as you choose. And whether you opt for a tribute with catering or calla lilies, it's your special celebration and should reflect your life and your passions.

Secondly, many people who don't want a memorial service may not realize that a ceremony can help your loved ones begin to accept your passing. Cremation is simply one way of preparing for remembrance and memorialization. There is still a need for a meaningful gathering to celebrate the special life of that loved

If you have more questions, visit your local funeral provider. They are a good source of information for funeral, cremation and cemetery options.

Sherry Ahart-Davies is the Location Manager at Katy Funeral Home, a member of the Dignity Memorial® network serving the Greater Houston community and families nationwide. Originally from St. Louis, Sherry has more than 20 years of experience providing families with compassionate care and professional service. She is an active member of the Katy Chamber of Commerce and KAEDC and is a Cinco Charities/Ballard House volunteer. For more information or any questions, contact Sherry at 281-395-7070 or Sherry.Ahart-Davies@Sci-us.com.

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Letters to the Editor
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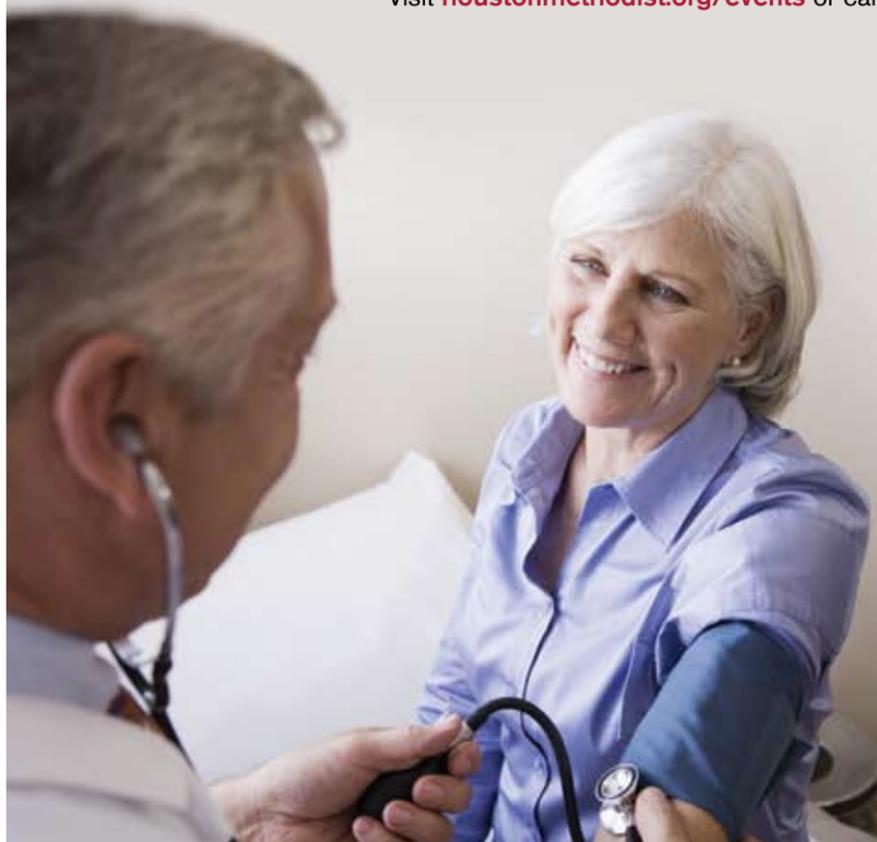
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National Charity League Event Honors Graduating Seniors

Katy, Texas - The National Charity League, Inc., Azalea Chapter will honor its graduating seniors at its annual Senior Recognition in late February at the Sugar Land Marriott at Town Center. At the dinner and dance attended by family and friends, chapter members will celebrate the accomplishments of each of the girls in the Azalea Class of 2016 and recognize her contribution to the community during her years of service in the six year National Charity League (NCL) program.

The mission of the NCL is to foster mother daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. The Azalea Chapter was formed in 1999 and in the past year its members have served over 8,500 volunteer hours in support of 25 charitable organizations in and around Katy.



Pictured are: Front row – left to right Hannah Robicheaux, Madelyn Wagner, Madeline Robicheaux, Harleigh Tally. Second row – Katie Rinderknecht, Sarah Steffes, Keely Meloche, Hope Huddleston, Megan Ward. Third row – Madison Goldblum, Claire Bieber, Morgan McCoy, Gina Martinez, Claire Ameen, Alexis Hubbard, Rebecca Guilbeau, Shelby Angel. Forth row – Bethany Barham, Katelynn Moore, Anna Arneson, Meredith Baughman, Avery Dwyer. Photo credit: Kevin Hoehne of See What Develops.

National Charity League, Inc., Star Chapter Honors Senior Class

On Sunday, January 17, National Charity League, Inc., Star Chapter (NCL, Inc.) will honor members of its graduating class at the chapter's Class of 2016 Senior Recognition and Presentation. The black-tie affair will take place at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square beginning at 6:30 p.m. At the event, the 18 young ladies, known as Ticktockers, will be honored for their service to the community, which included volunteering more than 3,000 hours at local philanthropies over the last six years.

"It has been a pleasure to watch these girls grow into confident, young adults ready to embrace the world," said NCL, Inc., Star Chapter President Mary Kay Yu. "We congratulate them on their accomplishments and are excited to see what the next chapter will bring for each of them."



Pictured are: Front row – left to right Kaycee Swierc, Sarah-Kate Fowler, Caroline Black, Sarah Roberts, Cassidy Lovett, Anna Miller, Christine Butterfield, Kaitlin Everhard Back row – left to right Taylor Watson, Dana Barker, Sarah Staines, Kaylee Buchanan, MacShayne Walpole-Molinar, Stefanie Chang, Cydney Varner, Brenna Smith, Cami Squires, Claire Sullivan. Photography by Nikki Guest.

Free Tax Help

Tuesday, February 9th and Friday, February 12th from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Get free tax help from the AARP.

Please bring copy of last year's return, W-2 forms from each employer, all 1099s, and receipts or cancelled checks for itemizing. You must have Social Security

card for self and dependents. First come, first served. Sign up at the Information Desk at Katherine Tyra Branch Library @ Bear Creek beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and on the sign up sheet posted to the front doors after noon on Fridays.

IRS Small Business Workshop

Do you know your tax responsibilities as a small business owner?

On Saturday, February 13th at 1:00 p.m. the Katherine Tyra Branch Library @ Bear Creek is hosting a free workshop is designed to assist you with your federal tax obligations. Gregory E. Vernon CPA, MBA, is scheduled to be the featured guest speaker. IRS provided small business materials for this event. For reservations call 713-302-6249.

Orange is The New Fit

Orangetheory Fitness has officially opened its Cinco Ranch studio. With 63 classes a week, open seven days a week, the new group fitness studio is helping Katy residents kick-start their fitness journey. Their 60-minute class is divided into cardio and strength training and is led by a certified personal trainer so class goers will achieve an intense full-body workout in just one hour. While the workout is designed to achieve results, Orangetheory Fitness is appropriate for all fitness levels – they'll take you from where you are to where you want to be.



Orangetheory Fitness Studio Manager, Kathy Vallejo, welcomes new members to the recently opened Cinco Ranch location.

Members are raving about the workout saying there is nothing like it out there. Class goers wear a proprietary heart rate monitor during the workout so heart zones and calorie burns are recorded and displayed throughout the workout in real time. The studios are equipped with large TV screens that exhibit everyone's results allowing members to see how they stack up to the rest of the team. Orangetheory brings technology and fitness together in a new and exciting workout that appeals to everyone from high schoolers to retirees.

Participants use treadmills, water rowers and a strength floor complete with dumbbells, ab dollies, TRX straps and medicine balls throughout the class to achieve their calorie burn. Classes hold a max of 24 people so each member can receive personal attention from the trainer, while also getting the benefits of group fitness. Unlike some programs, no two Orangetheory Fitness workouts will ever be the same, which confuses your body and accelerates your fitness journey. All you have to do is show up for class and the rest is taken care of by their expert instructors.

Trainers will guide participants to reach various heart rate zones to maximize calorie burn both during, and after, the

workout. When participants stay in the "orange zone" for 12-20 minutes, they continue to burn calories for the next 36 hours. It's as easy as showing up, burning an average of 600 calories for women, 800 calories for men and saying "goodbye" to those extra pounds!

Orangetheory Fitness is more than just a scientifically backed workout; the trainers become part of your family and support, inspire and motivate members and the community. The studio often hosts events to keep the fun flowing! From 80s night with throwback tunes to charity classes that benefit community partners, the studio is always full of energy and camaraderie. Come check out the brand new location near the intersection of Cinco Ranch Blvd. and Grand Parkway 99; grab a heart rate monitor and try your first class for free! As a member, you can take classes at any studio nationwide. Other Houston-area studios include Pearland, San Felipe, Sugar Land, Town and Country, Vintage Park and West University.

Stop by or call the Cinco Ranch studio at (281) 727-0098 for additional details on how to become a member. Various membership packages available.

Orangetheory Fitness: 23144 Cinco Ranch Blvd. Katy, TX 77494, (281) 727-0098 www.orangetheoryfitness.com.



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Muralist Visits Kilpatrick Elementary



Muralist George Bevill shares his illustration, inspired by Chris Van Allsburg's book *The Polar Express*, during Odessa Kilpatrick Elementary School's annual Polar Express Day. Pictured Front row: Alyssa Clutter, Timmy Hutchins, Brianna Cabral, Elizabeth Mower, Gonzalo Garcia, and Brianna Cabral. Back row: OKE Principal Malynn Rodriguez and Muralist George Bevill.

Free Practice SAT® Test

Representatives from Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions will conduct a free SAT® practice-test session at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library in February.

The SAT tests are college-entrance exams used by U.S. colleges to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work, as well as to determine admissions and award scholarships and grants. The full-length practice-test sessions help students to gain experience and become better prepared for the actual test.

In March 2016, a new version of the SAT® will be launched by the College Board. This new test will affect the graduating class of 2017. The SAT® practice-test session in

February will be for the NEW version. The SAT® test is three hours and 30 minutes long, and consists of three sections – Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. The practice test takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., including administration and breaks. Students should bring two #2 pencils and a non-graphing calculator.

The February SAT® practice-test session for the NEW version will be held on February 27 at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.

The sessions are free, but seating is limited and reservations are required. Participants may register by calling the Cinco Ranch Branch Library 281-395-1311.

Katy Marketing Firm Wins National Award

By Dennis Spellman - Covering Katy

The City of Katy has a resident who is a rock star in the field of new media marketing, and she recently won a national award for her skills. Rae Hoffman received the 10th annual Pinnacle Award for affiliate marketing. Hoffman and her husband, Sean Dolan, own Katy-based marketing firm PushFire.

"We are very proud that Rae took home this year's big award," said Dolan. "Rae has spent nearly two decades contributing to the affiliate marketing industry in the form of information, training and advocacy. It's fantastic to see her recognized for that work."

Affiliate marketing is a way for a company to sell its products by signing up individuals or companies ("affiliates") who market the company's products for a commission. This is common on the Internet. Ads that are found on websites are often affiliate marketing, where the owner of the website, be it the Houston Chronicle or a local blogger, will receive a commission on all sales made to readers who click the ad and buy a product.

The Affiliate Summit Pinnacle Awards are the industry's top honor - recognizing exceptional performance in the affiliate marketing industry. Hoffman is a pioneer in the industry; her involvement began in the early days of the Internet's popularity.

This year isn't Hoffman's first time to receive a nomination in the Pinnacle Awards. In 2014, she was nominated for both Affiliate of the Year and Affiliate Advocate of the Year. In 2015, she was once again nominated as Affiliate of the Year. In 2016, she took home the honor.

"Rae is legendary when it comes to three things - search engine optimization, affiliate marketing and speaking her mind," said Missy Ward, president and co-founder of Affiliate Summit. "Rae is a long-time pioneer in the affiliate world. She has had such a tremendous and positive influence on the affiliate industry, and her receiving this award was well-deserved."

What makes Hoffman's story particularly interesting is her background. She hasn't been handed any breaks in her journey to the top. She's a former foster child and only obtained computer skills as an adult, after her father gave her a laptop following her infant son's stroke. Hoffman had no knowledge of computers, so her father gave her one and suggested she start researching her son's medical condition.

Little C.J. suffered a rare bilateral stroke. Finding information on his health problems was challenging, but the computer helped.

"In 1997 my son had a stroke. He lived until he was 15. My son had serious medical issues," Hoffman said. "C.J. would be 18 if he was alive today," she added.

Hoffman did more than research with her computer. She learned how to build websites and created one dedicated to pediatric strokes.



Rae Hoffman who, with her husband Sean Dolan, owns Katy-based marketing firm PushFire received the 10th annual Pinnacle Award for affiliate marketing. Photo courtesy Affiliate Summit.com.

It was just the beginning of what was to come. She also learned how to market that site by studying search engine optimization, a very valuable skill if you're as good as Hoffman at understanding how Google and other search engines decide what websites will show up when people across the world search for information online.

Following the death of C.J., Hoffman dove deeply into her work.

"It was what kept me busy and distracted," she recalled.

Hoffman attended her first affiliate marketing conference in 2003 and learned how ahead of the curve her skills were in understanding affiliate marketing and search engine optimization.

"I didn't realize that I was outperforming all these guys who were super sophisticated," Hoffman said.

Over the years she's consulted Fortune 500 companies and even the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Hoffman and her husband have settled in Katy proper, with children Faith, 15; Sam, 12; and Thomas, 4.

After the birth of Thomas, Hoffman was able to take time off because her websites were still earning income through affiliate marketing.

"I spent a year and a half just living off the residuals from all the sites that I'd built."

"People told us you need to move the business to Houston to make the company appear big, but I thought, 'I want no part of this, I'm very much a small town girl,'" Hoffman said. She grew up in a small town in New Jersey and then moved to rural area of Florida as an adult. Small communities makes Hoffman feel at home. It is why she loves Katy proper.

"I don't ever want to live anywhere else," she said.

"We moved out to the Pederson Road area and have more room," she said. Her husband agrees, "Our lifestyle is so flexible; it's a nice balance," Dolan said.

"I only take clients if they are fun and easy to work with," Hoffman says with a smile. "We have business meetings at Snappy's."

Cinco Ranch Night Readers To Discuss "Everything I Never Told You" At February Meeting

Fort Bend County Libraries invites booklovers to attend the next meeting of the Cinco Ranch Night Readers book club, on Thursday, February 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 *Everything I Never Told You*, written by Celeste Ng.

The Cinco Ranch Night Readers meet on the third Thursday of every month. Copies of the book are available at the checkout desk. Anyone interested in joining this literary-review club is invited to attend. For more information, call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library at 281-395-1311 or the library system's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.

Maud Marks Book Clubs

The Maud Marks Library hosts several book clubs that meet monthly. The Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Thursday of the month, February 11, at 1 p.m. They will be discussing *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery.

The Just Desserts Mystery Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 17, at 1 p.m. They will be reading *Still Life*, by Louise Penny. You are encouraged to bring your favorite dessert to eat while you discuss whether your villains get their just desserts.

The library is located at 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Call 281-492-8592 for information.



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Fulshear Book Clubs Announce February Reading Selections

Share your love of reading with other book lovers at one of the book clubs that meet monthly at Fort Bend County Libraries' Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library, 8100 FM 359 South in Fulshear. New members are always welcome.

The next meeting of the Fulshear Book Club will take place on Monday, February 15, beginning at 12:00 noon, in the Meeting Room of the library. The book to be discussed is *The Aviator's Wife*, written by Melanie Benjamin.

The Fulshear Night Readers Guild will meet on Monday, February 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library. The book to be discussed is *The Promise*, written by award-winning Sugar Land author Ann Weisgarber.

Anyone interested in joining these literary-review clubs is invited to attend. For more information, call the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library at 281-633-4675.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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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 832-773-8645. A senior is waiting for you. Volunteer applications are subject to background checks and driver record checks.

Katy Area Ride Service



Easter at The Fellowship

Make a fresh start this Easter weekend, March 25-27, experience your life the way it was meant to be lived.

Good Friday - March 25 - 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. Journey to the Cross, a reflective interactive event for your family. Register online.

Saturday - March 26 - 10:00 a.m. Join us for a community-wide family show starring Tommy Toombs with a 10,000 egg hunt immediately following show. Tickets are limited but free.

Sunday - March 27 - 8:00, 9:15, 10:30, 11:45 a.m. Four services with our special Easter choir. Come experience dynamic worship, inspirational teaching, and captivating children's programming.

More information available: www.thefellowship.org

Devotional Page

Jesus

Fear not, for I am with you. I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

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ETERNAL FOOD MINISTRY

BP STEM Grant continued from pg. 1

"BP is excited to support this innovative program for a second year, especially after seeing the initial grants in action and the enthusiasm they generated among the KISD teachers and students," said Michael Moore, senior director of communications and external affairs at BP America. "This donation reaffirms BP's commitment to S.T.E.M. education and to the communities where we live and work."

In its first three years of operation, the Katy ISD Education Foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 in teacher grants to Katy ISD teachers all across the district. Its fourth annual Inspiring Imagination teacher grant cycle launched November 1 with grant applications due March 30, 2016. All Katy ISD educators directly involved in classroom instruction are invited to apply. To learn more, contact us at 281-396-6031 or visit www.katyisdeducationfoundation.org.



The Indiangrass Preserve, under the leadership of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, is undergoing restoration to improve the quality of this important area of the Katy Prairie. Photo by Lajla White.

The events require advance registration on katyprairie.org by clicking the "Visit" tab to find "Events." 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, binoculars, and snacks, if desired. For information go to our website or call 713-523-6135. Directions to Indiangrass Preserve are also available.

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. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @katyprairie.

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Storm into Summer with a job at Typhoon Texas! Positions include: Water Safety, Food and Beverage, Front Gate, Park Service and much more.

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Typhoon Texas is located east of Katy Mills Mall at 555 Katy Fort Bend Road, Katy, TX 77494.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Expanding Family Practice office in Katy in need of a front desk medical clerk and a back office medical assistant. Generous package offered including benefits. Two years of experience and Spanish speaking is a must. Please send email with resume to masayita@yahoo.com c/o Dr. Jarquin or fax to 281-599-3030.

Faith West Academy in Katy has immediate openings for experienced, part-time daycare workers.

- Teacher Aide needed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Extended Care daycare workers daily from 5:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Daycare/preschool experience a plus. Please email or fax resume to rphillips@faithwest.org or 281-391-2606.

To place Classified Ads, email information to ads@thekatynews.com or call 281-396-3333. Deadline for classified ads is Monday before the edition at Noon.

ALL Classified Ads placed must have a valid contact number & billing address for in-house purposes.

Notice To Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM LAWRENCE DeLUCA, were issued on January 12, 2016, in Cause No. 444919, pending in the County Probate Court Number Four (4) of Harris County, Texas, to: LAURETTE DeLUCA BRUDER a/k/a SUZANNE LAURETTE DeLUCA BRUDER.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Laurette DeLuca Bruder
a/k/a Suzanne Laurette DeLuca Bruder
1402 Hidden Canyon
Katy, Texas 77450

DATED the 5th day of February, 2016.

Rhonda Walls
Attorney for James L. Smith
State Bar No.: 00791873
21320 Provincial
Katy, Texas 77450
Telephone: (832) 437-0973
Facsimile: (832) 437-0980
rule21aservice@sawpllc.com.

Computer Class: Google Drive

On Saturday, February 13th at Katherine Tyra Branch Library @ Bear Creek at 3:30 p.m. you can learn how Google Drive can transform the way you store your information. Learn how to use the power of the "cloud" to store your files, photos and documents for free and access them from anywhere. This class is designed for advanced computer users

Social Security Planning for Baby Boomers

A new generation is getting ready to collect Social Security. Find out what you need to know to make the most of your retirement benefits on Saturday, February 13th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Katherine Tyra Branch Library @ Bear Creek located at 16719 Clay Rd, Houston, TX 77084. RSVP to Madelin.Ramos@mramos@2020fa.com.

eMail Basics

On Wednesday, February 10 at 4:30 p.m. join the staff at the Katy Branch Library to learn about the different email providers that exist, email features and terminology, how to send and receive email, attaching files to an email, as well as keeping your information safe. We will be using Gmail in this class. No registration is required. Please contact the library with any inquiries.

All programs are free and open to the public. The Katy Library is located at 5414 Franz Road. For more information call 281-391-3509.

Katy Sports

By Tom Behrens

© The Katy News 2016

GIRLS SOCCER

I-10 SHOOTOUT

Mayde Creek, Taylor and Morton Ranch Girls win their brackets

The 11th annual I-10 Shootout Tournament was held Jan. 14, 15, and 16 with 56 Varsity teams and 36 Junior Varsity Teams representing all four Texas UIL regions participating. There were an estimated 1,850 student athletes in attendance for the three-day event of non-stop women's soccer.

The I-10 Shootout partners with seven Katy ISD girls' soccer teams and is held at the different Katy high school soccer fields.

Of the 42 teams that participated in last year's playoffs, 29 are from Division 6A, 13 from Division San Antonio, one from Division 4A and two from TAAPS. Additionally, 25 of the teams were bi-district champions, 14 area champions, six regional semi-finalists, four regional finalists and one regional champion/state semi-finalist, Division 6/A.

Any tournament proceeds are used either to fund the I-10 Shootout Scholarship Program or to support the local high school soccer programs through their school booster clubs. Over the past eight years, the I-10 Shootout has been able to award more than 160 \$500 to \$1,000 scholarships to student athletes to be used towards their post-secondary education.

In the Championship Brackets:

Cougar Bracket: After two stoppages for lightning, Klein defeated Clear Springs 1-0 on penalty kicks. The first stoppage was with 29:10 to go. The second occurred during the wait period of the first stoppage. It was decided to go straight to the penalty kick once the all clear was given.

In the Spartan Bracket, San Antonio Johnson defeated Brazoswood 5-0; Taylor defeated Ft. Bend Austin 6-5 on penalty kicks; LaPorte blanked Lumberton 2-0 in the Tiger Bracket; Ridgepoint lost to Memorial 3-2; Morton Ranch had an easy match with Clearbrook, winning 6-1; and Tomball defeated Nederland 2-0.

In other specific Katy school games, Cinco Ranch, 1-2-0, lost to Austin Westlake in a third place match. After nine shooters, Seven Lakes, 1-1-0 lost to Brazoswood. The game versus Deer Park was cancelled due to weather issues.

Taylor 3-0-0 won their bracket and Tompkins 1-2-0 lost to Cy Woods in the third place match. Katy 1-2-0, lost to LaPorte in the opener, beat Langham Creek but eventually lost to Stratford.

Mayde Creek, 1-2-0 defeated New Caney in the consolation bracket runner up match. Morton Ranch, 3-0-0, was crowned champion of their bracket.



Katy Taylor's Natalie DeGeeter keeps the ball away from Shana Hardin of George Ranch during the second round of play of the I-10 Shootout Soccer Tournament on January 15, 2016. Photo by Diana L. Porter.

Girls' Soccer

All - Tournament Team:

Allie Snow, Defender - Brazoswood
Lexie LeBlanc, Central Defender - Clear Springs
Megan Reilly, Midfielder - Ft Bend Austin
Ashley Stamps, Forward - SA Johnson
Bailee Shanks, Defender - SA Johnson
Alyssa Malonson, Midfielder - Klein
Cameron Tharp, Defender - Klein
Jacie Reis, Defender - LaPorte
Alyssa Ruffin, Defender - LaPorte
Madison Soileau, Wing - Lumberton
Grace Collins, Forward - Memorial
Giulana Madrigali, Midfielder - Memorial
Ashleigh Mitchell, Center Mid - Morton Ranch
Ashley Thornhill, Outside Mid - Morton Ranch
Madison Ledet, Forward - Nederland
Courtney Pawlik, Midfield - Ridgepoint
Ally Brittain, Forward - Taylor
Sarah Bahi, Defender - Taylor
Zoe Mottershaw, Goalkeeper - Tomball
Olivia Urrutia, Midfielder - Tomball
Samantha Cain, Midfielder - Clearbrook

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cinco Ranch Boys Basketball going for another District Title

The Cinco Ranch Cougar boys basketball team is gunning for another District 19-6A title this year. After completing the first go-around in District, the Cougs are 6-1. Last year Cinco Ranch was undefeated in District and on a 23 game winning streak when they were defeated by Davis, 65-61. The goal this year is to go even further.

The Cougars graduated six players from last year's team, but forward Marcus Jones was the only starter. Returning this year are senior guards, J.R. Adams and Tyrus Perez; junior guard, Jay Jay Chandler and senior post Zack Zeller.

Head coach Neil King said Adams picked up where he left off, scoring 20 points per game. King is playing 'hard-nosed' defense. Six-foot three Chandler has increased his scoring from 12.2 points per game last year to 20 this year and Zeller is making his presence known on the inside. Tyrus Perez is scoring 20 points per game from the outside.

The Cougars only loss this season at press time was to Seven Lakes, 61-57 on Jan. 8. Mayde Creek pushed the Cougs into overtime, with Cinco Ranch coming out on top, 72-66.

Mayde Creek Rams say they will be in the playoffs this year

The Rams finished fifth in District 19-6A last year. At press time, Mayde Creek is 12-9 overall and tied for fifth place at 4-4 in district play with Taylor. The big thing in Mayde

Creek's favor as they fight for the last playoff position is the ability of the Rams to score big. Averaging right at 70 points per game, they are the highest scoring team in the District. Presently they have 538 total points as compared to the next high scoring team, first place, Cinco Ranch with 507. Seven Lakes, who is now in fourth place has 467 and Taylor with 395.

The Rams graduated eight players last year from the team, including guards Demarco Enoch and Kalu Idika, but Jvon McCormick is back, leading the team in points, rebounds and assists. The senior guard is a two-time First Team All District player and the 2012-13 Newcomer Of The Year for 19-6A.

The Rams promoted six seniors from junior varsity and added senior point guard Dezmond Barnes, a transfer from Cypress Lakes. Ram head coach, Nicholas Barosh, describes Barnes as a player who brings defensive energy to the Ram game, a good three point shooter, averages 10 points per game and with five assists.

Another returning player, senior guard/forward, Keinann Ayers averages 16 points per game and is second in rebounding.

With Barnes leading the way on defense, Mayde Creek needs to cut down the points scored against them. They lead the district with 540, with second place being Morton Ranch at 496 who is in last place in the district.

SWIMMING:

Cinco Ranch Swimmers Expected to Repeat

Along with soccer and basketball being in the thick of District competition, swimming shares the spotlight. Katy ISD returns eight individuals and several relay members who qualified for state last winter.

Katy ISD schools and Strake Jesuit athletes assemble for the District 19-6A championships, Jan. 29-30 at Katy High School. The preliminaries began Friday, Jan. 29, with the diving finals began the following day at 10 a.m. and the swimming finals began at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Cinco Ranch Cougars:

Cinco Ranch is the defending champion in both the boys' and girls' divisions. The Cougars scored 168 points, and is the only team with 100 or more. The Lady Cougars amassed 160 points, with Seven Lakes the runner-up at 121.

Swimmers from the Meet from last year, Seven Lakes senior Kristen Hepler and Cinco Ranch junior Glen Cowand, are projected to win again this year.

The top six entries in each event advance to the Region 5-6A meet, Feb. 5-6 at the Conroe ISD Natatorium. The Cougars are the defending regional champions.

Cowand won the 100-yard backstroke last year. The Cougars also bring back three members of their 200-yard medley relay that was the state runner-up. Senior Alex Smilenov (100 and 200-yard freestyle), senior Chris Betts (50 free) and junior Christian Rossi (500 free) all made state individually as well.

Hoping to repeat as state qualifiers among the Lady Cougars' are sophomore Aria Bernal (100 back, 200-

yard individual medley) and senior Randi Doran (100-yard breaststroke). They also had three state finalists in last year's medley relay returning.

Additional Cinco Ranch qualifiers include Rachel Morrow, Finley Quinn, Jamie Turlington, Roman Garcia, Kaitlyn Little, Billy Fales, Keely Meloche, Reed Ryan and Christopher Hung.

Seven Lakes Spartans:

Senior Kristen Hepler (100 breast, 200 IM) and sophomore Danielle Hepler (200 free, 500 free) made state in multiple events last year and could lead the Seven Lakes girls this year.

Regional qualifiers from 2015 from Seven Lakes include Jake Libby, Brayden Rudd, Miriam Aviles, Abigail Sherman and Wesley Tsai. Taylor's Grace Harlan, Andrew Zinkham, Alexis Willis, Ana Lucia Garza, Mallory Minear, Damen Hannah, Jacob Schababerle and Max Tumanov.

Tompkins Falcons:

Regional qualifiers from Tompkins include Amber Finney, Jacob Won, Charis Won and Reed McKinney.

Katy Tigers:

Qualifiers include Haley Watters, Kaloyan Bratanov, Chloe Ceyanes and Jordan Clark

Mayde Creek Rams:

Mayde Creek's Karolina Krozel and Ashelen Alvarez made regionals.

The UIL state championships are scheduled for Feb. 19-20 at the Texas Swim Center in Austin.

Cinco Ranch JV Swimmers Sweep District Championships

District 19-6A Junior Varsity swimming and diving championships were held December 11 at the Katy High School Natatorium. For the girls, the Lady Taylor Mustangs finished third with 91 points, Lady Katy Tigers, second with 115 points, and the Lady Cinco Ranch swimmers swam away with first place with 168.5 points.

In the Boys' events Strake Jesuit took third with 98 points, Taylor captured second with 144 points, and Cinco Ranch made it a complete sweep for the Cougars with 149.

Mark Your Calendars:

UIL will announce district reorganizations for the 2016-2018 seasons on Wednesday, Feb. 3. This is before our press deadline, but we at The Katy News feel assured that District 19-6A will probably not change...although you can never tell.



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Lone Star Symphonic Band Performs Rodeo And Broadway Themed Concert

The Lone Star Symphonic Band will perform a concert full of Texas and Broadway themed music on Sunday, February 28th, 2016. The concert will begin at 4:00 p.m. at CrossPoint Community Church, 700 S. Westgreen, Katy, Texas. Tickets for the concert are available on the Band's website - www.lssb.org - for \$5.50 each, and will be available at the door the day of the concert for \$10 each.

Pieces to be performed for this concert include Southwest Saga, Saddle Up!, The Texans, The Yellow Rose of Texas, Sing!, Texas, Sing!, Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral, music from the musical Chicago, Backstage Pass, Trombones on Broadway, and Highlights from West Side Story.

The Winborn Elementary School Choir from Katy ISD will also be performing two pieces with the Band during the concert.

DIY Crafts: Candy Bouquets

It's Valentine's Day and at the Maud Marks Library we will be making a sweet treat to give our significant others on Tuesday, February 9 at 2 p.m. Seating for this is extremely limited. All materials will be provided. Participants may register by calling the library at 281-492-8592 or by visiting the library.

Citizenship Class

Are you interested in becoming a U.S. citizen? The Maud Marks Library will be hosting a citizenship class series on Mondays, at 6:30 p.m. Topics for the class will include preparing for the citizenship interview, tips for demonstrating English ability during the interview, and general knowledge of U.S. government and history. This class will continue to meet on Mondays, February 8, 15, and 22. This class will be taught in English only. For information call the library at 281-492-8592.

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