

THE Katy News

Katy's ONLY Locally Owned Newspaper

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www.TheKatyNews.com

June 9, 2017 | FREE

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Community Events

Send Calendar listings to:
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JUNE 9

Cane Island Summer Concert Series
6:00 p.m.
Cane Island
2100 Cane Island Pkwy.

The summer-long concert series will kick off with a performance from Sydney Bryant in the Amenity Village. The event will be paired with fine wines from Yellow Brick Road Winery. Admission is \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents. Food trucks will also be close by.

JUNE 9

Katy Summer Nights Friday, June 9, 2017
8:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Katy City Park
5850 Franz Rd.

The City of Katy invites families to come out and watch a movie under the stars. This event is free to the public. Visit cityofkaty.com.

JUNE 10-11 & JUNE 17-18

Family Fishing Events at Bass Pro Shops
5000 Katy Mills Cir.

Free in-store family activities include learning how to cast a reel at a catch-and-release pond – complete with a “first fish” certificate and free photo downloads, seminars and informative Gone Fishing guides with tips for family-friendly fishing outings, as well as special giveaways. Events will take place 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. For more details visit BassPro.com/GoneFishing.

JUNE 11

The Great Pyrenees Rescue Meet-and-Greet
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Katy Mills Mall
5000 Katy Mills Cir.

Advocates of animal rights can come meet beautiful Great Pyrenees dogs that need loving homes and learn more about how to get involved with the group. Visit txpyrs.org.

JUNE 12

Family Night – Father's Day
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Chick-fil-A Katy Green
19303 Katy Fwy., Houston

Celebrate Dad's with Bass Pro Shops as we partner with them for a fun craft and enter to win Youth Fishing Gear giveaways. Plus, complimentary face painting by Ms. Butterfly.

See The Katy News Online, go to www.TheKatyNews.com It's FREE. No Subscription required.

To the Citizens of Katy:

When you elected me mayor four years ago, I did not take this privilege lightly and we set to work, accomplishing many projects and putting momentum in motion for completion of many more projects over the next couple of years. Rapid growth was coming and we devised a plan to manage it through annexations and zoning. With growth comes mobility challenges. Through an arrangement with the City of Houston, metro tax money flows to us for mobility projects, money that does not come from city coffers. This allows us to take on the many projects without spending any City of Katy money.

We protected the tax base and provided for commercial development in the I-10/Hwy 90 corridor, bringing retail sales tax, which helps in lowering the tax rate. Typhoon Texas, Bucee's, Amazon, Bel's Furniture, and Katy Boardwalk are some of the larger commercial/retail developments that have come to Katy. Cane Island, Young Ranch, Avalon At Spring Green, The Reserve, Falls of Green Meadows, and Enclave are some of the developments that have complemented our city with excellent homes.

We endeavored to protect our city's heritage and traditions and we made Katy safer and more secure with attention to our fire and police departments. Over the past four years the Volunteer Fire/EMS Department was converted to a full-time department of fire fighters, with a new chief and structure throughout the entire command staff.

We are in the fourth year of a plan we set in place, a systematic plan for tax rate reduction, along with an increase in the exemption for seniors and disabled.

None of these accomplishments could have been done without the dedication of the city employees. City administrator, Byron Hebert, has assembled a really great support staff to complement the mayor and council agenda.

I want to express my gratitude for you allowing me to serve as your mayor this past four years. Serving has been a real pleasure and honor, one that I and my family shall treasure and cherish.

Thank you,
Fabol Hughes
Mayor, City of Katy

City of Katy Senior Citizen of the Year Sibyl Westenhaver



Pictured above from left to right are: Jessica Everitt, Zack Westenhaver, James Westenhaver, City of Katy Mayor Chuck Brawner, Sibyl Westenhaver, 2017 Senior Citizen of the Year for Katy, Rebecca Everitt, Thao and Jeff Westenhaver at the City Council on Monday, May 22nd after Sibyl was read her proclamation and given her a plaque.

Katy Police Dept Presents Plaque to Former Mayor Hughes



Pictured from left to right are: Captain Woytek, Officer Glover, Officer King, Officer Jones, Chief Hastings City of Katy former Mayor, Fabol Hughes, Paula Hughes, Assistant Chief Tyler, Corporal Rucker, Corporal Pena and Officer Shiller during the City Council Meeting on Monday, May 22nd. The Katy Police Department presented Mayor Hughes with a plaque with the names of all the officers that served the City of Katy during his term.

Katy Proud Business Award Presented to ARDT

Advanced Rupture Disk Technology (ARDT) was started in March 1994, in Houston and moved its offices to the Seven Meadows area in Katy in 2005. In July 2003, ARDT purchased the property at 1010 Avenue A from the original owner, Dona Tucker Barker.

Originally build in 1949 as a family home, ARDT purchased it as a commercial property and updated the interior, keeping the charm of the home and grounds in historic downtown Katy.

Advanced Rupture Disk Technology is owned by Kathy Denning, Shannon Birchum and David Denning II. It is a manufacturer's representative firm, selling pressure relief devices to the petrochemical and drilling industries. The owners and employees enjoy their “home” office space and are proud to be in the heart of Katy.

Landscaping and maintenance are provided by Nalesnick's Landscaping.

Congratulations and thank you for being Katy Proud.



Pictured from left to right: Keep Katy Beautiful Members: Albert Thompson, Kay Callender, Chuck Brawner, City of Katy Mayor; Advanced Rupture Disk Technology Owners, Kathy Denning and David Denning, Shannon Birchum; Tourism and Marketing Assistant City of Katy, Jess Washburn, Keep Katy Beautiful Members: Sharon Rhoads, and Sandra Byrd.

Katy Teacher Says Yes



Matthew Craven created a romantic proposal on May 18th at Beck Junior High. Matthew went to the principal, Carra Daniels and requested a special Pep Rally for the 6th and 8 grade students of Beck Junior High. Matthews idea was to propose to his girlfriend of 1½ years at the pep rally. The couple met at Beck Junior High. Matthew worked with Ms. Daniels planning the entire thing to ensure it was a picture perfect proposal.

Matthew is a 8th grade science teacher as well as a basketball and tennis coach. Matthew and his girlfriend walked into the gym hand in hand. Kendall Stiefel is a 6th grade history teacher as well as a volleyball and track coach. Both, Matthew and Kendall then went to different sides of the gym to their teams. The pep rally went on as usual. At the end there was a game set up. There were 6 volunteers chosen including Kendall. The six left the gym and onlookers set up a section of cups set up on their rims. The six then returned to the gym with Kendall blindfolded.

The object was for the other 5 to guide Kendall through the cups without stepping on one. Close to the end of the cups Kendall knocked one over. She froze not knowing what to do when she heard the gym erupt in screams and clapping hands.

At this time Kendall was instructed to remove the blind fold and in front of her on his knees was Matthew with an open ring box. Matthew asked the most important question of their lives and Kendall said yes. Matthew and Kendall kissed and then he slipped the ring on her finger. Behind them the art teacher had created a banner that read "Will You Marry Me" and the cheerleaders held up signs that read "She Said Yes".

The gym erupted as the students rushed forward with their congratulations and hugs. The couple was separated by the students while congratulations continued. Kendall said that she knew that they would eventually get to this point in their relationship, "however this was totally unexpected."

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cuttings May



May 10th - C.A.G. UPSCALE Resale LLC
931 South Mason Rd. Katy, 77450



May 18th - Beat Strong Fitness & Nutrition
6420 FM 1463, Suite 200, Katy, 77494



May 25th - iLuv Dental
3820 North Fry Rd. Suite 102, Katy, 77449



May 30th - Mo's Irish Pub
23511 Katy Freeway, Katy 77494



May 31st - Walmart 4512
22850 Morton Ranch Rd., 77449

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Summer Dance Clinic with Katy Bengal Brigade

You can improve your dance technique with the Katy Bengal Brigade. Morning sessions start June 13th and continue through July 13th.

Each class will be a hour and a half and will be held at the west end of the KHS campus.

All incoming freshman are invited to enroll. You can pay \$15 per class or \$110 for the entire summer.

Contact Alison Lowrey for more information at ShauneALowrey@katyisd.org.

Kick Off 4 Kids Weekend Celebration

Kick Off 4 Kids tenth anniversary celebration is June 9-10. For tickets and information go to www.amobiokoyefoundation.org.

Fort Bend 4-H Summer Robotics Classes

Plug into the world of 4-H Robotics & connect with future 4-H club members. Fort Bend 4-H will be holding three introductory robotics classes this summer at various Fort Bend County libraries.

The classes are FREE and open to Fort Bend County youth in 3rd-8th grade. Youth will use Lego EV3 kits to explore constructing and programming simple robots. Just choose the class nearest you and reserve your spot online at agrilife.org/ftbend4h. A maximum of 14 youth per class will be enrolled.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. Fort Bend 4-H is part of your local Extension family and proudly offers summer activities for youth to have fun, learn, and make friends in a safe space. For more information, visit our website at <http://agrilife.org/ftbend4h/> or contact us at 281-342-3034.

Classes will be held at University Library, Sienna Library and Cinco Ranch Library. Reserve your spot now.

University Library 14010 University Blvd. Sugar Land, Texas 77479
July 6, 2017 | 1-4 PM
RSVP by 7/3/17

Sienna Library 8411 Sienna Springs Blvd. Missouri City, Texas 77459
July 13, 2017 | 1-4 PM
RSVP by 7/10/17

Cinco Ranch Library 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. Katy, Texas 77494
July 20, 2017 | 1-4 PM
RSVP by 7/17/17

Katy's ONLY Locally Owned Newspaper

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Letters to the Editor
The Katy News publishes letters to the editor. Please send letters to Pat@TheKatyNews.com. The deadline is Friday before publication. Letters should include writers Full Name, Address, Daytime and Evening phone numbers. Please make letters as brief as possible. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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

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Katy ISD Announces Assistant Superintendent for Elementary School Leadership and Support

The Katy ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name Dr. Dawn Carlson-Scruggs as the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary School Leadership and Support.

Dr. Carlson-Scruggs has worked in the field of education for 25 years.

She served as an assistant principal from 2001-2005 in Austin ISD and Round Rock ISD, respectively. While in Fort Bend ISD she served as a principal, coordinator of Leadership Development, Director of Special Education and most recently as Director of Student Affairs.

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Katy ISD Honors High School Seniors with Awards of Excellence



Katy ISD recognized 88 high school seniors who were chosen by their campus administration for their dedication, perseverance and achievement during the 2016-2017 school year. Alongside each one of them, an outstanding teacher who was selected by the student, was also acknowledged for having a profound impact in that student's life.

These students are the finest example of the character and

commitment of the Katy ISD community. Their passion for excelling embodies the Katy ISD mission and vision to prepare and inspire each student to live an honorable, fulfilling life to create the future.

"The accomplishments of this senior class are outstanding," said Superintendent Lance Hindt during the ceremony. "It is gratifying to know that Katy ISD will be well represented in colleges, universities, the military and the work force throughout our nation."

YOU'RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL documentary screening.



Please join us for a free screening of *Being Mortal*, the PBS FRONTLINE film based on the best-selling book by Atul Gawande, M.D. After the film, engage in a thought-provoking discussion with medical and end-of-life service professionals about the value and benefits of planning ahead.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, 6:30 P.M.

The Atria Senior Living - Cinco Ranch
24001 Cinco Village Center Blvd., Katy

Hosted in partnership with Hospice Foundation of America, this event is a program of The Atria Senior Living - Cinco Ranch and Katy Funeral Home, generously underwritten by the John and Wauna Harman Foundation.

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Katy's Which Wich® Owner Presented Founder's Award

Which Wich® owner Julio Chavez, was honored with The Founder's Award at the LEAP Conference that was held in Dallas on April 24-27 and happens every two years.

LEAP is a conference on Leadership, Excellence, Acceleration and Potential. Mr. Chavez has shown his ability in all four of these categories. How many 27-year-olds do you know that own three franchises that show double digit growth?

The Founder's Award was developed by Which Wiches® founder and CEO, Jeff Sinelli. The award is given to a person who goes above and beyond and really lives the "vibe" that is the soul of Which Wich®. Mr. Chavez has become a successful franchise owner because of his dedication, leadership and drive.

"Julio's work in Texas has really helped create positive experiences for those who enter his locations - and that positive experience then goes with those guests wherever they travel afterward," said Sinelli, "He's a great example to the employees in our system that if they are committed and have the same spirit as Julio, they could go from working in a Which Wich® to owning a Which Wich® one day."

With the support of his family, Julio Chavez now owns 3 franchises of Which Wich® Humble/Atascocita, Katy and Cinco Ranch and is hoping to open another. Mr. Chavez told us that he started working at the store 10 years ago as one of the cooks. He eventually worked his way up to General Manager. At this point he began thinking about owning a franchise of his own. When the opportunity presented itself he purchased his first store in Humble. As they say, the rest is history.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Julio Chavez and he explained the entire ordering system to me. They do box lunches, traditional trays, signature trays and wrap trays. My husband and I went back during the following weekend and had lunch. At some places it seems like sandwiches are mostly bread. Not so at Which Wich®. The whole experience was delightful and delicious.

Which Wich® Superior Sandwiches was founded in Dallas in late 2003 by restaurant



Which Wich® owner Julio Chavez shown here with his father Marcelino Chavez at his Mason Road location in Katy.

entrepreneur, Jeff Sinelli. The national sandwich franchise chain is best known for its customizable sandwiches, creative ordering system, and personalized sandwich bag. In 2014, QSR named Which Wich® one of their "2014 Best Franchise Deals" and Forbes listed Which Wich® as one of their 2014 "30 Best Franchises To Buy." Which Wich® is also the recipient of the 2015 Nation's Restaurant News MenuMasters "Healthful Innovations" award. Which Wich® currently has 500 locations open or in development in 39 states and 12 countries. For more information, visit www.whichwich.com.

Congratulations to Mr. Chavez on receiving the company's prestigious Founder's Award and we wish you continued success.

Katy Sports

By Tom Behrens
© The Katy News 2017

Katy Raiders Play at Cooperstown

The Katy Raiders, a 12 and under select team, received an invitation to play at Cooperstown Dreams Park, spending a week in the Baseball Village clubhouses beginning June 3. A tournament of 104 teams begins June 4 with six pool play games and extends into a single-elimination bracket June 7-8.

The team will take 12 players to Cooperstown, a trip they were awarded by the Lone Star Pride in Bellville, who played at the Dreams Park tournament last year. Selected teams receive "grandfather" bids to offer to another team that has registered for the tournament.

The majority of the Raiders are from Katy, but the team also has three players from Houston, two from Bellville and one from the Sugar Land area. The core group has played together for four years.

Team members include David Carrillo, Daniel Villarreal, Simon Massi, Jhonnatan Ferrebus, Eli Stewart, Harrison Acquaro, Cam Kaminsky, Brett Dolejsi, Cole Neumann, Parker Booth, Nathan Fan and Blake Linseisen. The Raiders are coached by Ty Stuckey, Len Jones and Miguel Stewart. Peter Acquaro is the general manager.

Stuckey was quoted as saying his focus

is on developing the players for middle school and high school baseball. He is a former Klein Collins and University of Houston standout. A left-handed pitcher and outfielder, Stuckey was drafted from UH by Cincinnati Reds in the 26th round in 2010 before playing professionally in the independent Pecos League.

The Raiders are one of 10 teams from Texas in the tournament, along with the Bellaire Baseball Club, Dynasty Black, Timbergrove Thunder, West University Wranglers and three Houston Post Oak squads among those representing the Houston area.

In addition to competing against teams from around the country, members of the Katy Raiders will be enshrined in the prestigious American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame and had the opportunity to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Team members had a chance to participate in the "King of Swat," "Road Runner," "Golden Arm", and "Around the Horn Plus" skills competition.

Competing in Triple A in USSSA and as a 12U Premier team in Nations Baseball, the Raiders have held their own against quality competition. They won the 2016 USSSA Global World Series in Destin, Florida.

Kayla De Leon to be Guest of USMC



From Left to Right: Sergeant Boatman, Gunnery Sergeant Arriaga and Major Gray all from Marine Corps Recruiting Station Houston, City of Katy Mayor, Chuck Brawner, Cinco Ranch Cougar wrestling coach, William Dushane, Kayla De Leon and her parents Angela and Anthony De Leon.

Kayla De Leon, a Cinco Ranch High School student and a champion jiu-jitsu wrestler was selected as a Semper Fidelis All-American. She will receive an all-expenses paid trip to attend Battles Won Academy, held in Washington D.C. July 13-17.

According to a Marine Corps press release, De Leon will participate in an immersive Marine Corps experience, team building outings, sporting events and behind-the-scenes tours of our Nation's Capital.

The selected Semper Fidelis All-Americans will also have the opportunity to network with an elite circle of speakers from all walks of life and various industries who will share their inspiring stories of fighting and winning battles in their own lives.

"In recognition of the importance of building a support

system to enable the success of the next generation, each All-American will be given the opportunity to invite a mentor to attend the event as well. Finally, becoming a Semper Fidelis-All American will make students eligible for select scholarship opportunities only available to program participants." Source: sfaap.marines.com.

Cinco Ranch Cougar wrestling coach, William Dushane describes De Leon as one of the most talented wrestlers he has ever worked with.

"She is a three time State Finalist, the only one in Cinco history. She was the undefeated State Champion her sophomore year, team captain in both her junior and senior years, and has an unbelievable 137-7 career record. She leads in almost all stats for the girls program," said Dushane.

Athletics Trainer Mitchell Leaving THS for Marble Falls ISD

"I was very impressed with her demeanor and the way she came across," Marble Falls athletics director Matt Green said. "I got rave reviews on her from everybody I talked to."

One thing that stood out to Green was the way Mitchell works with students and parents.

During a contest, a player suffered a neck injury that caused him to be transported to a hospital by helicopter. The student and parents were deeply afraid of what the results would be, but Mitchell spoke to both the athlete and the parents and eased their concerns as they made their way to the facility.

"They talked about how good she was at diffusing a stressful situation into something people could handle," Green said. "That's a nice thing to say about trainers. She was professional and dedicated in how well she worked with kids. I look forward to working with her."

Can Home School Athletes Play?

The Texas Senate passed a bill in April to allow home-schooled students to participate in University Interscholastic League sports.

Senate Bill 640, which passed by a vote of 23-8, would end a years-long ban on home-schooled students from playing with public school teammates. It still needed to pass the Texas House. After much debate, according to Legiscan (legiscan.com/TX/bill/SB640/2017), the legislature referred the bill to Public Education before a vote could be taken.

Sen. Van Taylor, R-Plano, filed the so-called Tim Tebow bill to allow home-school families to pay a fee to participate in University Interscholastic League events. It's named after the former NFL and University of Florida quarterback who was home-schooled in Florida but competed with public-school teammates.

Home-school families speaking before the Senate education committee earlier were split on the bill, with some wanting expanded access to organized extracurricular activities and others fearing it could open the door to government regulations.

Supporters said sports participation is often a key part of community building for their children. But as their kids get older, options become more limited and they are often excluded as they age out of Little League and their peers move on to public-school teams.

Opponents of the bill, like Texas Girls

Coaching Association Executive Director Sam Tipton, claim it will disrupt the UIL irreparably. He and the TGCA are not alone in objecting to perceived unfairness. The Texas High School Coaches Association has been sending out frequent legislative alerts exhorting members, media and all others to phone their representatives and implore them to vote down the measure.

THSCA Executive Director D. W. Rutledge explained, "There's a lot of rules that the public school students have to go by. They're scrutinized by several different people as far as their grades and eligibility are concerned. We're just trying to keep it a level playing field for our public school students."

Texas has about 350,000 children who are home-schooled, according to state estimates. Representatives from the Texas Home School Coalition who spoke at hearings on the bill noted that more than 5,000 of their families have signed a petition in support of it.

The bill previously failed in 2013 but was brought back in 2016.

Mark Your Calendars and Order Your Tickets

Katy ISD football fans can now mark their calendars for the 2017 season, including the historic first game at Mike Johnston Field at Legacy Stadium. Taylor hosts Foster on Aug. 31 in a clash of 2016 playoff teams.

Katy Tigers plays five of its first six games at Legacy, gets its first shot under the lights on the namesake field of its former coach Sept. 1 in a showdown of state powers with Austin Westlake.

Morton Ranch hosts Nimitz the same night at Rhodes Stadium, while Seven Lakes meets old district foe Memorial, Sept. 2 at Legacy Stadium to close opening weekend.

A total of 23 games are scheduled to be played at Legacy Stadium, in which every KISD team plays at least four times. Legacy and Rhodes will host games during the same day 11 times, with start times an hour apart to accommodate traffic at the adjacent venues.

The second stadium achieved a district goal in reducing the number of Thursday contests, with only four such games scheduled for KISD venues and none during the last four weeks. The schedule also does not include Saturday doubleheaders, with the last Saturday night game set for Week 7.

Most KISD teams will play eight games on home turf, the exceptions being Morton Ranch with nine, including six at Legacy, and Seven Lakes with seven, also six at Legacy.

Katy spends the most time under the Friday night lights, playing all but three games on that day. Taylor has the least Friday dates, playing three games on Thursday and Saturday.

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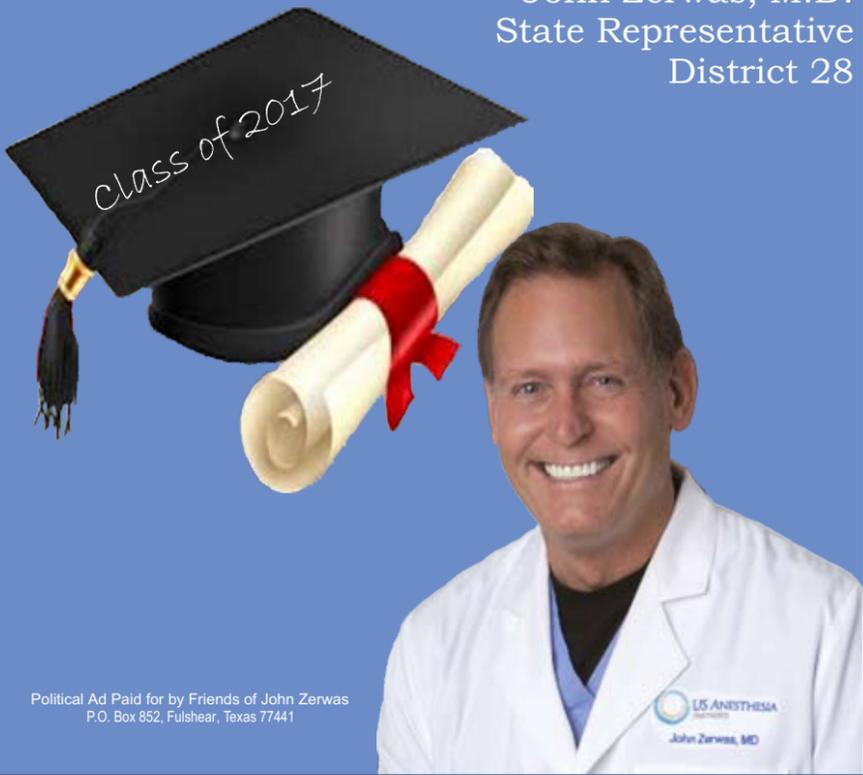
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District 28



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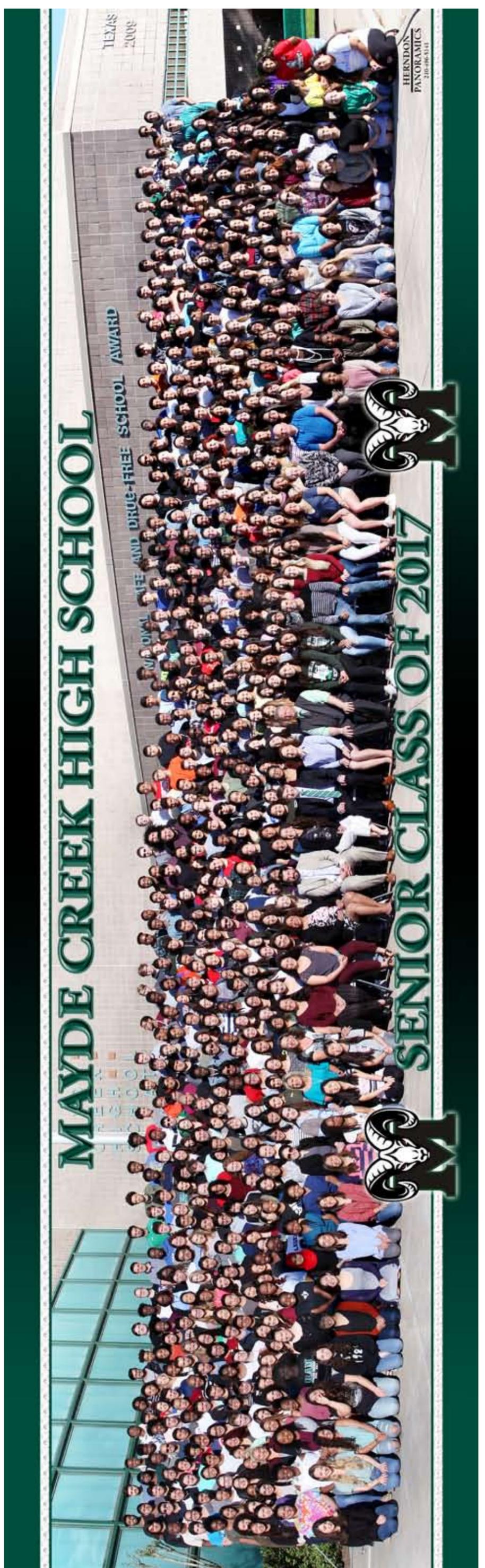
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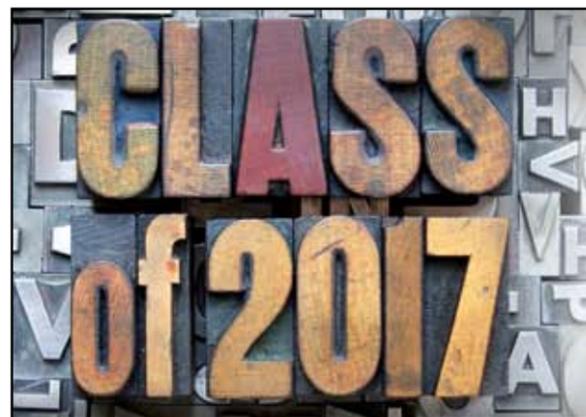
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Taylor High School



Senior Class of 2017



Devotional Page



May God Bless Seniors 2017

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. - Colossians 2:6-8

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The No Label 5K is a great father's day present for any Dad or Mom who enjoys craft beer and exercise. This event starts and finishes at No Label Brewery and runs the streets east of downtown Katy, TX. on Saturday, June 17, 2017 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the No Label Brewing Co. located at 5351 1st St. Strollers are welcome. Registration includes an eight-ounce souvenir glass and four tastings. Visit runintexas.com.

CRHS Summer Dance Clinic

Cinco Ranch Cougar Stars are holding a dance clinic June 12th to the 15th. You can improve your dance technique, have fun with arts and crafts and perform for parents and guests on the last day. The clinic is open to anyone from the ages of 4 to 13. You can pre-register or sign-up the day of the clinic. Cost includes the clinic, a t-shirt, daily snacks and doing crafts. For pricing contact Samantha Cockerham at SamanthaECockerham@katyisd.org or ChristimeEDeci@katyisd.org.

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MCHS's Brayden Cruz

Seventeen-Year-Old Entrepreneur

"I have one mission in life - to inspire people of all ages to follow through with their life passions. I believe that with the right mentality, dreams can become realities." This is what Mr. Brayden Cruz, 17-year-old entrepreneur lives by. Brayden Cruz is a soon to be senior at Mayde Creek High School who intends to run his social media marketing agency, Reach'd Consulting, once he graduates in 2018. With the skills he gained from past ventures, his experience throughout high school in his local Future Business Leaders of America chapter, (FBLA), working two jobs and running his business part-time, Brayden is well equipped for the business world he soon faces.

At the age of 12 Brayden created his very first business, "Splash Zone Car Wash". "I took saved up money and bought some car wash equipment. Then I designed some flyers and set out going door to door in several neighborhoods during the peak of Texas summer heat asking to wash their cars for a small fee." Brayden said. Throughout this venture he learned what it really takes to market yourself door to door and how hard the world of sales can be. No easy feat for just any 12-year-old. Brayden also learned how to manage expenses and how to allocate his time amongst his clients as he serviced several neighborhoods. But, more important than that, Brayden discovered what he loved to do. "It was then that I fell in love with entrepreneurship before I even knew what that word meant." He would go on to say, "He truly has a passion for helping people by offering his services and enjoying the perks of running a business in the process."

Fast forward a few years skipping several other businesses he started: from fish breeding to rare coin trading. He was now in high school and discovered FBLA, a club that exists at the high school and collegiate levels and focuses on providing young people with the professional resources and experiences they need to become successful leaders of tomorrow. "It was in this club that I zeroed in on my business skill set from marketing projects to business plans and discovered my life's work." Brayden stated. He recalls his most memorable moment in high school as follows, "Well, the day I entered the business room my freshman year I knew I wanted to be a part of that. I was fortunate to meet two amazing people in FBLA who have become my lifelong friends. We traveled together with FBLA competing at the district, state then national level in various business presentation events. We've been to San Antonio, Atlanta and now California. I'm so happy I joined the club because it taught me the foundational skills I use in my business now. Using the skills learned in FBLA I founded Reach'd Consulting, a social media marketing service aimed at providing simple and effective social media marketing strategies to small businesses everywhere. I manage 5 clients as of today and have been running the service for two years now." As he recounts his experiences, it's easy to see just how profound FBLA was in developing Brayden into a well-suited individual to run a business at such a young age.

However, Brayden is no stranger to the realities of the business world. He tells us, "Yeah, it's hard being so young doing something so big. Not too many people I go to school with understand what it is I'm doing. But,



17-year-old entrepreneur Brayden Cruz

at the end of the day you just have to keep your head high and remember why you started." He says. "It's not about the money or the fame. It's not even about proving the skeptics wrong. Skeptics will come from all corners, your friends, teachers and even your family. For me it's always about doing something that I love and never working a day in my life." He states. "Too many times I see my peers get stuck in the routine of things. They get a standard 9-5 job and become stuck with real passions and desires for their life that they feel they must suppress due to social and internal pressure. I want to show everyone that you can do literally anything if you have a true burning passion for it." Brayden goes on to say, "He is passionate about sharing this message with the world and empowering others to as he says, "turn their dreams into realities."

Once he graduates in 2018, Brayden intends to invest a large amount of money into the business. He is saving up during the year prior by working two jobs: at a grocery store and at an investment firm. With such dedication, he sees himself driving Reach'd Consulting as far into success as possible. "See, in my business age doesn't matter. In fact, clients come to me because of my young age. The fact that my generation is so plugged in helps make my service look attractive to business owners who don't know how to use social media or lack the time resources to do so. Social media for business however, is a very different game. Through my skills in FBLA and certifications I have obtained, I am highly skilled in what I do and my clients can attest to that." Brayden has a brilliant marketing mind and he makes the following prediction on his industry, "In the next ten years, social media for business as we know it today will either be dead or evolved entirely." Brayden informs us that the rate at which the social media marketing industry is changing is beyond measure. "Someone could literally post a piece of content tonight and it could revolutionize online marketing forever." He goes on to say, "Therefore, he feels that he must take advantage of the industry at its current state and achieve his dreams in the process."

Brayden Cruz is a story about someone with true drive, motivation and obsession with a passion greater than himself. He wants to show you, the Katy area, what it means to be successful. It's not about the money or fame, it's about doing something that doesn't require you to work a single day in your life, your passion. If you want to learn more about this up and coming marketing mind here in our very own Katy area, send him an email at Brayden.cruz14@gmail.com or visit his businesses website at reachdsocialmediac.wixsite.com/reachd.

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