

Katy parents urge zero-tolerance reform

Group advocates change in school discipline policies

By HELEN ERIKSEN
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Katy Zero Tolerance is taking its case for reform of school disciplinary policy to the state level by addressing parents and legislators on the issue at an Austin summit.

The group's members, along with several parents from Houston-area schools, are planning to attend a student discipline summit, hosted by state

Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Rosenberg, at the Texas Capitol Friday.

School district spokesman Steve Stanford said, "We hope all community members in Katy take the opportunity to participate in the legislative process, and that they continue to let legislators know how they feel about important educational issues such as discipline, determining the school calendar and school funding.

"It is in the best interest of students when parents participate in setting the framework for districts to develop policies that reflect the desires of the communities served," Stanford said.

"The summit will explore what is wrong and what needs to be changed."

—FRED HINK

spokesman for Katy Zero Tolerance

Within the past year, Hink said, Katy Zero Tolerance has received inquiries about school district discipline policies from the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area, San Antonio and the Greater Houston area.

Parents are fighting to reinstate their rights, Hink said, by

WANT TO GO?

■ **What:** Texas Summit on Student Disciplinary Action

■ **When:** Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

■ **Where:** Texas State Capitol Legislative Conference Center, Austin

■ **Details:** Contact state Rep. Dora Olivo at 512-463-0494.

making it state law for districts to notify them immediately when their children are accused of a discipline-code violation.

Please see **ZERO**, Page 3

Katy rejects west-end airport project

City Council, residents opposed to public facility

By JUDITH HINDMAN
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Katy City Council on Monday voiced unanimous opposition to a developer's plan to build a public airport on 1,980

acres about 4 miles west of Katy.

Ron Henriksen, who last year lost a bid to build a 575-acre jetport near Fulshear, is seeking to convert the Air Rice airport from a small, private airport to a public facility.

Air Rice is a private airport located on FM 2855 in Waller County. It has a grass runway that is 100 feet wide and 3,500 feet long. Henriksen wants to

change it to a public airport by adding instrument approach procedures and paving and extending the runway's length by another 1,000 feet.

Ben Guttery, senior program manager for the Federal Aviation Administration in Fort Worth, has asked to receive all public comments by Feb. 7.

Katy officials are opposing the airport's expansion and reclassification. They contend

that this will diminish property values and reduce the city's income.

Regina Morales, president and CEO of Katy Area Economic Development Council, said Henriksen filed for the status change on Jan. 5.

She said the Air Rice facility proposal could only accommodate airplanes with jet propellers.

Please see **AIRPORT**, Page 16



SUZANNE R.

Take me home

SCOTT Pope of Bear Creek goes at the Saturday Cocker Spaniel Texas, a nonprofit adoption 19945 S. Fry Road.



FACES IN THE CROWD

Chamber salute HCC administrator Zachary Hodges is honored. **PAGE 2**

COMMUNITY

Concert of Hope An area church raised funds for tsunami victims. **PAGE 3**

CALENDAR

Romantic comedy 'Twelfth Night' opens at Taylor High. **PAGE 4**

SPORTS

Playing for time Natasha Azizi doesn't want her playing days at Cinco Ranch to end. **PAGE 9**

spoof on Merlin the magician of the King Arthur legend.

"Marlin is just a bumbling idiot, and he always makes mis-

with TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) testing," said Mickey Trainer, theater director and fine arts chair-

Morton Ranch

Morton Ranch High School, which just completed its January production of *Oliver!*, will

perform *Oliver!* from Feb. 21-22 at the school's black box theater. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Details: 281-237-4423.

AIRPORT: Developer's jetport turned down last year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"However, because of the size of the property where the airport is located, he could easily double the runway space if he wants to extend it in the future," she said.

Morales also said there are four small, private airports surrounding the Air Rice site.

Because Henriksen would be using his own money instead of public funds to support the projects, the Federal Aviation Administration is only evaluating the proposals based on the amount of airspace they would need.

"He does have some air space conflicts with other airports," Morales said.

Morales said Henriksen has also resubmitted a modified earlier proposal for a jetport near Fulshear.

Councilman Don Elder said that Air Rice and the other small airports in the area are really not airports. He said they all have grass runways.

"These are strips, they are not airports," he said.

The Air Rice extension is the

latest attempt by Ron Henriksen to build a Houston Jetport West.

He initially wanted to build a 575-acre jetport with a 7,000-foot runway in northern Fort Bend County, just outside the Fulshear city limits.

Those plans were opposed by Katy, Fulshear, Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, Fort Bend County, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land.

The FAA rejected those plans Nov. 8, citing air space conflicts with three smaller commuter air strips that were within 4 miles of the proposed jetport.

At Monday's council meeting, Waller County Commissioner Frank Pokluda asked the Katy council to not pass the resolution until they have all the facts.

He said the proposed public airport could be part of an industrial park and potentially a good revenue source for the county and the Royal Independent School District.

"I'm not saying it's a good thing or a bad thing," he said.

However, several homeowners who have battled Henriksen's Fulshear location urged the council to pass the resolution opposing the airport.

Nancy Gabany said she moved to the area more than four years ago for the peace and quiet.

"It's very important to all of us that we keep the airport away," she said.

Also during Monday's session the council tabled a request to seek bids for an enclosed storm sewer along First Street.

The new storm sewer will replace the large, open ditch along First Street.

City Engineer David Leyendecker said the new storm sewer will connect to a smaller one that is 30 years old. Because it will also store less water than

the open ditch, the new storm sewer may cause more minor street flooding in west Katy, he said. Mayor Pro Tem Don Rao asked Leyendecker to return in two weeks with a plan to also increase the older storm sewer to avoid more flooding.

The \$400,000 First Street project is one of six drainage projects, which is financed by \$3.2 million in bonds.

In other business, council members unanimously approved holding the city's election on May 7. The first day to file an application for a place on the ballot is Feb. 7. The last day to file is March 7.

Three positions will be on the ballot: the mayor's position, held by Doyle Callender; Ward A council member, held by Kenneth Berger; and Ward B council member, held by Mayor Pro Tem Don Rao.



BENTLEY

BENTLEY HOUSTON

View our Fine Selection of Luxury Cars
online: inventory changes weekly.
www.bentleyhouston.com

spot
breaking
news
online

spot
breaking
news
online

24/7

The Houston
Chronicle

Your daily information source
houstonchronicle.com

The Texas Baby and

KIDS
EXPO

and Family Safety Feat

February 12th &

Reliant Area

Call 713-831-6853 for mo

www.texaskidsexpo

Ford
HOT DEALS ON
HOT WHEELS



NEW 2005 F-150 STX

Automatic, A/C, Premium 6-Disc
CD w/MP3, 17" Machined
Aluminum Wheels & More!
MSRP \$22,520 -
\$2000 Rebate - \$3521
Tommy Vaughn Discount



NEW 2005
A/C, AM/FM
Windows &
Wheels, R
Defroster
MSRP \$18,999
Rebate - \$1,000
Vaughn

\$16,999

\$12,999



713-869

1201 N. Sh

1 Mile North Of I-10 h
www.tommyvaughn.com

Prices Good Day of Ad Only.

Give A
Valentine
That Lasts!



Banners, Pennants, Flags,