# Katy Times



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020

Henry Gaw has been hired as Katy ISD's new chief of police. Gaw will step into the shoes of Robert Jinks who retired at the end of

# Katy ISD lowers tax rate

By R. HANS MILLER

Katy ISD hired a new chief of police at its Monday evening meeting and voted to lower the district's property tax rate by 5.43cents per \$100 valuation. The new tax rate was reduced due to legislation passed by the 86th Texas Legislature which adjusted how tax rates are set for municipalities within the state.

'Our goal is to consistently provide high-quality education to our learners while being a good steward of our taxpayers' dollars. With this decrease, a residential household will see an approximate savings of \$148 for the 2021 taxable year," said KISD CFO Christopher Smith.

The adopted property tax rate keeps the debt service portion of the rate at \$0.3900 per \$100 valuation of a property within the district, a carryover from the 2019-20 tax year. The reduction comes from the maintenance and operations - often referred to as the M&O rate - which saw the 5.43 cent reduction. Last year's rate was \$1.0531 per \$100 valuation, compared with this year's

See TAX, page 7

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October 1, 2020

## Katy approves budget, tax rate

By R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

aty City Council approved the 2020 tax rate and 2020-21 budget during its Monday afternoon meeting. The combined debt tax rate and maintenance and operations tax rate establish a total property tax rate of \$0.447168 per \$100 valuation for the city.

"(Mayor Bill Hastings) has done a great job getting a balanced budget in a very difficult time and actually lowering the taxes of people, and I know that you put out the word back when this process started that you were going to have a balanced budget that was not going to increase taxes and I know that a lot of folks worked on it - this council worked on it - and we have delivered for the people here tonight," said Council Member Frank Carroll III.

Individually, the debt tax rate was set at \$0.082227 per \$100 valuation and the maintenance and operation tax rate was set at \$0.364941 per \$100 which add together to establish the \$0.447168 rate. The new combined rate is a decrease of \$0.0.2832 per \$100 valuation and is expected to save the average

homeowner in the city about \$48 on their tax bill, according to city documents. That savings is about 3.75% which brings the average property tax bill for the city down from \$1,280 last year to \$1,232 this year prior to bringing county, utility district or school district property taxes into calculations.

Katy City Council also voted unanimously to approve the municipality's 2020-21 budget. The balanced budget shows total revenues and expenditures of about \$32 million.

The top two revenue sources are property taxes at about \$13.6 million and property taxes at roughly \$13.1 million. The next largest income source for the city is service charges which come out to roughly \$2.5 million, then licensing and permitting revenue at \$1.2 million. The remaining three revenue categories were fines and forfeitures at \$687,000, then grants and interest earned at \$282,000 and \$222,200 respectively.

The chief expenditures Katy's new budget lists are the police and fire departments. Policing comes in at about \$10.1 million, an increase from last year's roughly \$9.9 million. Meanwhile, the KFD expenditures come out to about \$6.84 million - also an increase from last year's \$6.78 million. Council members and



### Commissioner for Pct. 3 candidates discuss the issues

By R. HANS MILLER

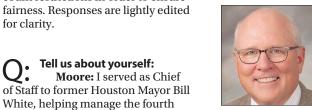
After more than 30 years in office, Harris County Commissioner Steve Radack announced last year that he would not be running for reelection. The announcement makes it certain that for the first time in decades, Har-

ris County will have a new commissioner in the precinct 3 seat.

Two candidates are running for the seat Radack is vacating. Democrat Michael Moore is facing Republican Tom Ramsey to determine who will be Radack's successor.

Each candidate was provided the questions below at the same time and had the same deadline and word count restrictions in order to ensure fairness. Responses are lightly edited for clarity.

largest city in our country with a



TOM RAAMSEY

MICHAEL MOORE

multi-billion dollar budget. He was the mayor's point person for Houston's response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, working closely with local, state and federal emergency responders. I co-chair the Senior Care Facility Coronavirus Task Force, which is working to keep our

See CANDIDATES, page 3

### Batenhorst excited for final chapter as Spartan

By DENNIS SILVA II

The No. 3 ranked volleyball prospect for the Class of 2021 seems more confident these days, surer of herself on and off the court.

That is not good news for opposing blockers trying to solve the riddle of Seven Lakes senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst.

Batenhorst has been a dominant force through the

first six games of this season, even more than usual. She is averaging 6.8 kills per set in leading the Spartans to a 6-0 start heading into the start of district play Tuesday.

"I'm just working hard, getting into a rhythm with my new teammates," Batenhorst said. "Just having that energy and staying consistent is what we need to do. We didn't lose that many seniors. so having that year under our belts will help us a lot."

The 6-foot-4 athletic marvel is in a comfort zone. Batenhorst knows she's headed to Big 12 powerhouse Nebraska, with plans to join the vaunted Cornhuskers program in January after graduating high school early in December. She knows she's a force to be reckoned with. She knows her team is a force to be reckoned with.

The Spartans have a lot going for them. Batenhorst is the headliner, but younger sister and

SMU junior commit Casey Batenhorst is a talented setter, and the team has persistent playmakers in sophomore Grace Lanier, junior Emma Schroder, senior Mayo Olibale and senior

Peyton Sykes. "It's real exciting," Batenhorst said. "It's

sad I have to leave. It's been four years with Coach (Amy Cataline) and it's just insane how fast it's gone. But I'm also super excited to

finish strong." Batenhorst is working hard to be smarter on the court this season. Her approach to her attacks is something she wants to fine-tune before college.

"I'm just trying to be smart with the ball," Batenhorst said. "A lot of times, I just hit as hard as I can. This year, I'm trying to be a bit smarter. Seeing the block more, seeing what's open. Doing different hits, going more inside."

See **BATENHORST**, page 9

### Waller Commissioners OK election measures

By R. HANS MILLER

During its Sept. 23 meeting, the Waller County Commissioners Court formally approved the Nov. 3 election and multiple measures supporting the election, including COVID-19 safety measures for poll workers. It also received an update on Waller County Child Welfare Board activities and needs.

#### Election

Commissioners approved the formal call for the upcoming Nov. 3 Election Day during the meeting and moved voting for Precinct

418 to the county's new Precinct 4 Annex located between Brookshire and Katy on Hwy. 90. The voting location had been jostled around due to facility changes at prior locations and scheduling conflicts at the Houston Executive Airport where it had been held in July.

"I think it'll be nice to have a new home for (precinct) 418 because it's been a challenging precinct," County Judge Trey Duhon

The court also approved a mandate for poll workers to wear face masks or shields during

See **ELECTION**, page 14



Waller County Commissioners moved forward with preparations for the Nov. 3 elections during their Sept. 23 meeting, including setting up safety protocols for poll workers and accepting federal funding to assist with those safety precautions as requested by Elections Administrator Christy Eason (pictured).



### **COMMUNITY**

KATYTIMES.COM

### Jinks retires from Katy ISD Police Department

By R. HANS MILLER

Katy ISD Police Chief Robert Jinks retired Sept. 30 after serving in law enforcement since 1977, with the majority of his career - since 1984 - served at Katy ISD. Jinks said he has enjoyed his career with the district, especially the opportunity to interact with the students over the years.

"That was the best part is working with (the students) and being able to, you know, be somewhat of a mentor if I could and just let them know that I was there for them if they needed

Jinks said interacting with the students was a unique experience in law enforcement and one only for officers with a mindset of service rather than strict enforcement of the law.

'It's about prevention is what it is," Jinks said. "It's about trying to be there for the kids so that they don't go down the wrong path. Now, you're not always successful, and you have to do your job, but it's good when you can make an impact before the kids go down the wrong road."

Jinks said he knows he's had an impact on students and he was proud of the work he'd done to help those students grow up to be productive members of society without having arrest records when a guiding hand was just as helpful as a pair of handcuffs.

"Because that's the most rewarding part of it," Jinks said. "You have to do your job (and make arrests), but there's no gratification in that. Gratification is seeing the positive effect on the kids, and you know, my motto has always been, 'I don't want to be somebody important. I want to be important to somebody."

Jinks said he began his career in law enforcement as an officer in 1977 in the Katy area, and was hired by KISD as a security specialist in November of 1984. He is a graduate of Katy High School and has been proud to serve the district he graduated from.

In 1984 there was still no formal police department for the district and he worked with the Waller County Sheriff's Office as a reserve officer, he said. He maintained his certifications as a law enforcement officer and joined KISD PD when it was formed in 1988.

I was still young at the time and wanted to get out there and do the job, and Mark Hopkins was hired and he had experience and he was a security specialist with (KISD)," Jinks said. "He was appointed chief and I was appointed sergeant - second in command."

In 2015, Hopkins retired, and Jinks accepted the position of

"I decided at that point in my career that I could probably do more good for the department if I went ahead and applied for the chief job and I did and (former KISD Superintendent Alton) Frailey appointed me chief," Jinks said.

During his career, Jinks said he's seen a lot of changes in what KISD PD deals with. When he first started, most issues officers responded to were marijuana, drinking or fights, he said. But that has changed.

"When we first started the police department, we never dreamed we would have a detective assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. You couldn't imagine that," he said.

Still, Jinks said, while the crimes and situations may have changed as the internet - especially social media - evolved, the job remains the same: keeping everyone in the district safe and trying to be a positive impact on students.

As chief, it remains about that and helping young officers be successful, Jinks said.

"Being chief had nothing to do with Robert (Jinks)," he said. "It had everything to do with what I could do for the troops because I could have retired before I even became chief. I had the time. But when it came up, I thought, 'Maybe I can get some things done here in the next few years that will benefit people."

Jinks doesn't have specific plans for retirement, but hopes to remain involved with the district, especially in agricultural programs. He said he is looking forward to retirement, but he is going to miss the people - students, staff and faculty - at KISD that he has come to call family over the years, especially the officers he works with.

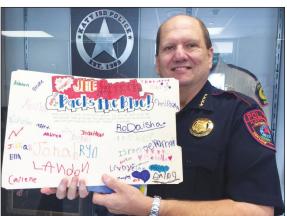
"They become a part of you, and then part of your life," Jinks said. "Especially in the police world - I mean, we depend so much on each other and we put our lives in each other's hands and we've become a pretty tight group."











Katy ISD Police Chief Robert Jinks retired from the department Sept. 30 and was presented with gifts from his coworkers the week prior. Jinks had served the district in a security role since November of 1984, moving from a security specialist, to sergeant and subsequently to chief. He said that while he is looking forward to retirement, he will miss his coworkers and working with the students a great deal.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

### 6 4 8 9 6 8 6 1 6 9

Level: Intermediate

#### **Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678 979-885-3562

#### This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

#### **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Part of (abbr.)

- 4. Persons
- 9. Moved with a curvying
- trajectory 14. Bitterly regret
- 15. Cause to feel embarrassed
- 16. Type of toast 17. Bobby \_\_\_, NHL champ
- 18. Analogies
- 20. Mixes
- 22. Beloved flowers
- 23. Clinton special prosecutor 24. Avoids
- 28. Innermost brain membrane: \_ mater
- 29. Atomic #18 30. Remain as is
- 31. One who's been canonized
- 33. Indian king or prince 37. The Bay State
- 38. Forms adjectives
- 39. Give off
- 41. Partner to flow 42. Biblical Sumerian city
- 43. Popular clothing material 44. Organism parts
- 46. Central US Native American
- people 49. Blood type
- 50. Wrath
- 51. Perennial tropical grass
- 55. Vetches
- 58. Buffaloes
- 59. Envelope type
- 60. Tuberculosis 64. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
- 65. Pops 66. Indo-European languages
- 67. Fiddler crabs
- 68. Large bank 69. Not fresh
- 70. Scientist's device (abbr.)
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. High schoolers' dances

32. Type of turtle

- 21. Smile 24. Wrap
- 26. Island off the coast of

2. Style of rock music

4. Softened by soaking

3. Maryland athlete

5. Native Aussies

6. Some are on it

7. Clairvoyance

8. Broken piece

9. Wrong

10. Starts over

13. Gov't lawyers

- 25. A citizen of Iran

11. Where to hang clothes

12. One point north of due east

19. Mass of eggs in a shellfish

- Tanzania
- 27. Knifes 31. Beloved "Doctor"

- 48. "Wayward Son" rockers 52. Bring out of sleep

41. Retired but allowed to retain

- 53. Auburn legend Newton
- 54. Heavy wooden shield in
- ancient Greece
- 56. Choose to represent
- 57. Peace
- 59. Work hard

34. Leg (French)

45. Algerian port

47. African country

36. Self-doubt

40. Of I

35. Indicates position

- 60. Reciprocal of a sine
- 61. Express delight 62. Explosive
- 63. Journalist Tarbell
- Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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### **ELECTION**

#### **CANDIDATES**

from page 1

seniors safe and healthy. I will use my experience to help repair our economy. I will focus on investing in infrastructure to prevent flooding, upgrading roads and transportation options, and improving county healthcare services.

Web: www.mooreforcommissioner.com Social: www.facebook.com/ MooreForCommissioner3

Ramsey: I am running because I believe every resident has the right to feel safe in their own home, benefit from proper infrastructure and keep more of their hard earned money by paying lower taxes. As Mayor of Spring Valley, I cut the tax rate by 21%, invested over \$38 million in infrastructure and flood control projects and led the city to being named the safest in Harris County according to FBI statistics. For these accomplishments, I was named, along with Judge Ed Emmett, the "Elected Official of the Year" in 2017. I will bring this same proven leadership to Commissioners Court.

Web: www.votetomramsey.com Social: www.facebook.com/votetomramsey

#### • What steps do you feel • Harris County should take to help residents recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Moore: Getting the pandemic under control is key to rebuilding our economy. I co-chair the Senior Care Facility Coronavirus Task Force – and we are listening to doctors and scientists, not self-interested politicians, as we work to keep our seniors safe and healthy during this crisis.

We need to support small businesses by extending the county's small business recovery grants program and get the state to do their part.

We need to speed up infrastructure projects – including flood prevention and road projects – that create good jobs and boost the local economy.

We do NOT need to raise taxes giving residents and small businesses some breathing room during the recovery. And we need to close unfair corporate tax loopholes so that everyone is paying their fair share. Right now, corporate property tax appraisal loopholes allow large commercial property owners to undervalue their properties – and when they pay less, we have to pay more to make up the difference.

Some of these proposals will involve legislation at the state level. I will fight to make sure Harris County – which has more voters by far than any other county in Texas – uses that leverage to get the assistance we need from the state

Ramsey: Economic recovery begins with a lower tax rate. We cannot burden citizens with historic tax increases like the democrats on Commissioners Court proposed in 2019. I will provide the balance needed on the court to ensure that these tax increases do not happen.

The court must also get back to the basics of prioritizing expenses to provide for safe neighborhoods and proper infrastructure for roads and flood control.

Safe neighborhoods - for our economy to grow, residents must feel safe in their homes, grocery stores, places of business or houses of worship. While Mayor, I led Spring Valley to being named the safest city in Harris County. I will bring that leadership to Commissioners Court.

I will work to maintain and improve Pct. 3 road and flood control infrastructure. The ability to go to and from one's job is critical to maintaining a healthy economy and this can only happen when our roads and bridges are properly maintained. Additionally, our economy can recover and thrive when communities can be free from the threat of constant flooding. The voters approved a \$2.5 billion bond issuance for flood control projects. Getting those projects moving immediately will be one of my top priorities.

• As the precinct continues
• to see rapid growth,
what will you do to protect and
expand green spaces throughout
precinct 3?

**Moore:** Protecting and expanding green spaces is a huge priority for me. It's the triple crown of good public policy: It improves our qual-

ity of life, helps control flooding, and provides positive benefits for clean air and clean water.

When I served as Chief of Staff to former Houston Mayor Bill White, I was involved in the creation of Houston's signature urban park – Discovery Green – which has become a model for urban parks across the country.

Protecting and expanding our green infrastructure – including building new parks, restoring natural areas like the Katy Prairie and continuing the development of a precinct-wide trail system connecting residents in Precinct 3 to the Katy Prairie and to multiple parks and other green spaces in the precinct – are all part of my sixpart plan, which is detailed in my answer to the question on flood mitigation below.

Ramsey: Pct. 3 has 61 parks and 14,888 acres of green spaces which are the pride and joy of the community; contributing to our excellent quality of life.

We should take every opportunity to acquire land or have it donated to create additional parks and green spaces which will be critical to servicing population growth.

In addition to family, sporting and other recreation activities, our parks, conservation lands and wetlands help in mitigating the impact of flooding. They make a tremendous difference in the unincorporated area of Pct 3, which is 75% of the Pct, and help in the incorporated areas of Houston as well.

My company assisted Harris County in developing the tool kit of solutions regarding the marrying of green space infrastructure and flood mitigation.

We should always seize on incremental improvements like the Katy (Prairie) Conservancy does. An example of this is Bunker Hill Village Strey Lane Project which avoided a bottleneck and was able to get this community critical flood control improvements. In Harvey, no one flooded in Bunker Hill.

With a growing population comes growing traffic. What will you do as commissioner, if elected, to maintain and improve mobility throughout precinct 3 which has limited walkability in some areas?

Moore: Precinct 3 is very

diverse, both in terms of its people, and also in the kinds of neighborhoods we live in and the places where we work. That's why we need a multi-pronged approach with a variety of transportation options.

I supported the METRONext measure on last year's ballot because it focused on numerous options. The METRO plan extends HOV lanes to Katy Mills and adds more Park and Ride locations. Metro's plan also focuses on a regional express network, bus rapid transit and boosting their signature bus services to many parts of precinct 3.

Transportation is huge issue for precinct 3. We will continue to be one of the fastest growing regions in our state and we need to focus our resources on high capacity transit options for the future.

In addition to expanding transportation options, we need to upgrade existing streets and roads. If elected, I will perform an audit of the precinct's Traffic Hot Spots, to focus resources and bring more transparency and accountability to how road funds are used. We need to make sure that design and construction contracts are being used where they are needed most – rather than being handed over to big campaign contributors.

Ramsey: There are 1,879 miles of road in Pct. 3 which need to be maintained so we can keep traffic moving. We can (begin) by ensuring that every penny earmarked for our road and bridge building, maintenance and improvement gets spent on those items. Unfortunately, the Democrat controlled court recently approved a different entity to handle the funds previously supervised by HCTRA. The only mandate for this new entity is to spend the funds to "invest in this community." This means that the current \$300 million balance, and \$90 million annually moving forward, which were heretofore designated to help maintain our roads, can now be used for anything that the majority of the court desires. This will, most assuredly, negatively impact our roads and bridges because of the lack of oversight and funding. This is unacceptable and must be rectified right away.

I have significant experience building roadways that have helped reduce congestion including the Hardy Toll Road and hundreds of other projects in Pct. 3 and 50 other Texas counties and cites

My company also built the ACEC Award-winning Birnam-wood Roadway improvements which became a model for the entire country. I have the proven experience to keep traffic moving in Pct. 3.

Harris County faces serious drainage concerns as Hurricane Harvey and more recently Tropical Depression Beta have shown us. While improvements have been made, what are two specific things you will do as commissioner to improve flood mitigation/drainage in precinct 3?

Moore: I will use a regional approach to coordinate all levels of government, push to expedite projects already underway, and prioritize green infrastructure. Rice University's flooding expert Jim Blackburn has endorsed my campaign.

My plan includes:

(1) Increase protected/preserved lands, striving to double the county portion of the Katy Prairie Conservancy and double the current 10,000 acres under their control.

(2) Restore the land on the Katy Prairie and many other nature-based infrastructure areas. Let the Prairie be a sponge that holds back floodwaters, allowing other areas to drain.

(3) Enlarge and enhance land on both sides of all waterways throughout Harris County on our creeks, bayous and large green spaces to keep people safe from flooding.

(4) Continue creation of a precinct-wide trail system connecting residents to the Katy Prairie and to multiple parks and other green spaces in the precinct, including reservoirs, levees, detention areas and utility corridors.

(5) Limit major thoroughfares through the Katy Prairie Conservancy and keep existing roads as minor connector roads.

(6) Advocate at the state and federal levels to designate the Katy Prairie Conservancy as state or federal protected lands and to

See **CANDIDATES**, page 7

#### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 130 for Defined Area No. 1, will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., by teleconference at 1-888-251-2909, Access Code: 3732912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: D. Smith, P. Gray, M. Rusk, & L. Hitchock

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: R. Graham

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year*		This Year			
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 0.870</u> /\$100	<u>\$</u>	<u>0.870</u> /\$100			
	Adopted		Proposed			
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.870</u> /\$100				
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%				
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 0		\$505,558			
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0		\$ 0			
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 0		<u>\$505,558</u>			
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 0.00</u>		<u>\$4,398.35</u>			
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$4,398.35 0.0000%				

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

Property that is located inside Defined Area No. 1 of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 130 is also subject to the tax rate levied on all property within the district. A separate Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate is being published for such tax rate in the amount of \$.53 per \$100 of taxable value, resulting in a total tax rate of \$1.40 per \$100 of taxable value on property located inside Defined Area No. 1.

\*There were NO residential homes in Defined Area No. 1 of this district on January 1, 2019.

Th. 074

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

#### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 130, will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 12:00 noon, by teleconference at 1-888-251-2909, Access Code: 3732912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: D. Smith, P. Gray, M. Rusk, & L. Hitchock

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: R. Graham

and percentage of increase (+/-)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Last Year <u>\$ 0.630</u> /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.530 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	<u>-\$0.100</u> /\$1	00
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	-15.87309	<u>6</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$405,104</u>	<u>\$410,656</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$405,104</u>	<u>\$410,656</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,552.16	\$2,176.48
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	-\$375.68	

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

<u>-14.7201%</u>

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

# Kidney dialysis in the age of COVID

n an election year, you can't go a day without hearing some politician somewhere cry out for reform of the nation's healthcare system. Even former Vice President Joe Biden, whom the Democrats nominated for president last week, devoted a considerable portion of his acceptance speech to the

The solutions to the problems we face won't be found by rearranging the deck chairs on the titanic system America has built to deliver healthcare and pay for it. What the policymakers should pursue are solutions arising from innovations that lower costs and improve patient

That sometimes involves looking backward. In 1973, 40 percent of all kidney dialysis was done at home. In 2020, that number is 10 percent, largely because of a 1972 law that made Medicare the entity responsible for dialysis payments regardless of need. Perversely, that incentivized innovations good for providers and payers and generally killed home care.

Both kinds of dialysis hemodialysis, which involves filtering the blood outside the body and then returning it under supervision, and peritoneal dialysis, where the blood vessels in the lining of the stomach filter the blood with the help of a cleansing solution - are now typically performed at hospitals and big, expensive dialysis centers.

That's inconvenient, and it can be expensive, timeconsuming, and risky. It forces people who are already sick and vulnerable to other kinds of diseases out into the world where they must mix with other sick people. As we've learned while trying to combat the coronavirus, that can be a deadly combination. Instead, care should come to the patient.

The smart play is to push dialysis back into the category of a procedure generally performed at home. The big machines and all the other aspects of the hospital and dialysis center treatment setting aren't always necessary. When they're not, being able to be at home, taking treatment while



sleeping or performing other routine tasks ought to be an easy choice.

America spends more than \$110 billion a year fighting and treating kidney disease. It's the ninth leading cause of death in the U.S. and affects more than 37 million people. That's not sustainable. Recognizing this, the Trump administration recently issued a plan to "shake up" kidney care. By executive order, the president directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop policies to increase the number of patients getting dialysis at home instead of in hospitals and at dialysis centers.

The industry and the bureaucracy may not like this, but the patients and doctors should love it. It frees up caregivers, allowing them to focus on those with the most critical needs while making things easier for people already fighting a tough fight. Starting in 2021 people with end-stage renal disease will be eligible to enroll in Medicare Advantage plans to cover the costs associated with their care. That's an essential first step toward expanding home care, but only if the government and the insurance providers negotiate for fair rates and prevent costs from rising that leaves all seniors paying for it. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services can and should be leading in this area by removing any impediments that keep everyone from to getting to "Yes.

Scholars and policymakers continue to focus on flattening the healthcare cost curve by imposing price controls and rationing. That doesn't work. It may reduce the perceived costs of care, but it doesn't solve the problem.

We need to be looking for what works - or once worked best. Like house calls and

## \* (Before Coronavirus) GROOMED FEARLESSLY HUGGED RITUALISTICALLY DINED CASUALLY NEVER IMAGINED

### Walk away from COVID-19 coverage

JASE

GRAVES

fter watching the daily COVID-19 coverage on CNN, I've found that the best way to overcome lingering thoughts of depression, hopelessness, and Chris Cuomo is by going on a brisk walk around our neighborhood with my wife.

Not only do we get some exercise, but it also gives us a chance to vent about the worries and frustrations of living with three teenage daughters during a pandemic, which makes us feel depressed and hopeless again, but at least we're exhausted and

Really, though, I'm not sure how much actual exercise we get on these power strolls - other than when we're assaulted by one of those invisible ninia spider webs and have a synchronized full-body cardio freak-out in the middle of the street. We then pray that nobody saw us and that the spider hasn't set up housekeeping in our underwear.

Because we usually walk late in the evening, I often carry an old broom handle, both for protection and so that I can pretend like I'm Gandalf from "The Lord of the Rings." You never know when you might have to face an orc, goblin, or the neighbor's flesh-eating Chihuahua mix.

On a few of our walks, we've seen actual wildlife, and I don't mean children on those

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES electric scooters. No, I mean real woodland creatures not normally found frolicking around yard art

and garage sales. Recently while walking at night, we stumbled upon a large copperhead snake rippling across the warm pavement. After we shared a special moment together admiring its natural beauty - we both rushed back home for a fresh pair of Nike shorts.

As we were passing by our house on another evening walk, my wife spotted what appeared to be an obese housecat in need of a substance-abuse intervention waddling underneath my eldest daughter's car. When I squatted down to identify the creature, I came eye-to-eye with a corpulent opossum huddling directly under the drain plug - and I couldn't even talk him into doing a quick oil change.

Speaking of untamed animals, we always invite our daughters to join us on our walks. Usually, they respond by looking up at

us from their cell phones as if we just asked them to crawl over hot shards of broken glass using only their lips and eyeballs. Occasionally, though, our middle daughter accompanies us and uses it as an opportunity to demonstrate that no matter how little exercise she gets on a daily basis, she can still make both of her parents look and feel like disabled Galapagos tortoises as she sprints up hills and runs in

circles around us. Even so, it gives us an opportunity to have some quality time visiting with her - until she announces that she is going to jog the rest of the way home because I've started asking questions about her current boyfriend - like whether or not she approves of his

deodorant. Over the past few months, I've really come to depend on these daily walks with my wife, and I think she enjoys them, as well. Eventually, I'll probably wind up like one of those elderly dudes taking laps around the local shopping mall concourse in my nylon training suit, listing ever so slightly toward the Victoria's Secret store when I pass by.

Until then, I'll continue to hit the streets of our neighborhood so I can try to forget about COVID-19 for a while, breathe some fresh air, and entertain the neighbors when I walk through a spider web.

### **Katy** Times

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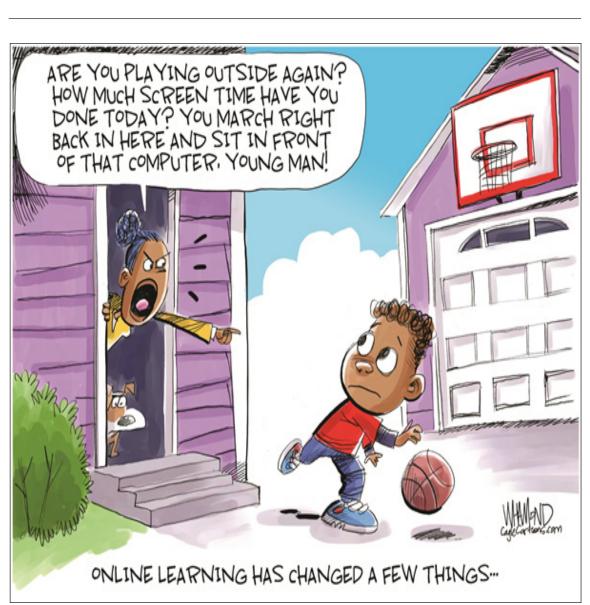
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## Child Advocates of Fort Bend opens clinic

By R. HANS MILLER **NEWS EDITOR** 

Child Advocates of Fort Bend has partnered with AccessHealth, Harris Health and Fort Bend County to open a clinic dedicated to helping child victims of sexual abuse, the organization announced in a press release. The facility will be housed with the AccessHealth clinic at 400 Austin St., Richmond.

'We are delighted to have a local clinic in Fort Bend County where children we serve at our Children's Advocacy Center can be referred for their forensic exams, commonly referred to as sexual assault exams," Child Advocates of Fort Bend CEO Ruthanne Mefford said.

Operations at the new clinic will begin Oct. 1 and will work hand in hand with the medical staff already on site for seamless medical care if children that undergo an exam related to sexual assault have other medical needs, the press release

said. The clinic will be staffed by a nurse from Harris Health with a sexual assault nurse examiner - or SANE - certification.

'The (SANE) is a critical step in the child's physical and emotional healing as well as in the prosecution of criminal offenses of child abuse," said Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton.

The new clinic will be more convenient for families in Fort Bend County than having to go to the Texas Medical Center, Mefford said.

According to the press release, Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Children's Advocacy Center refers more than 200 children annually for sexual assault examinations following disclosures of sexual assault or abuse.

While the clinic is housed at the AccessHealth facility, the health care organization has worked to establish privacy and confidentiality for children and families by locating the clinic in a private hallway within the medical center.



Child Advocates of Fort Bend has partnered with AccessHealth and Harris Health to open a medical center in Richmond that will offer exams to child victims of sexual crimes. Pictured from left to right are AccessHealth CEO Michael Dotson, Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office Child Abuse Division Chief Suzy Morton, Child Advocates of Fort Bend CEO Ruthanne Mefford, Child Advocates of Fort Bend Board President Betty Baitland and Harris Health System Forensic Nursing Program Director Sandra Sanchez.

### For breaking news and updates, check out our website at katytimes.com or follow us on thekatytimes @KatyTimes





#### Water District **Notice of Public Hearing** on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by leconference at 1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 919-970-533 and videoconference at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/919970533. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: P. Kerr, K. Thornhill, M. DuBois, M Williams &

**AGAINST** the proposal: (none) **PRESENT** and not voting: (none) ABSENT: (none)

and percentage of increase (+/-)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Last Year \$ 0.790 /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$</u>	This Year 0.790 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.000</u> /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$185,287</u>		\$194,093
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$</u> 0		\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$185,287</u>		\$194,093
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,463.77		\$1,533.33
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		<u>\$69.56</u>	

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

4.7521%

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

### **Water District Notice of Public Hearing** on Tax Rate

The Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 11:30 a.m., by teleconference at (877) 873-8017, Access Code: 1107286. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

R. Hudson, W. Skelton, V. Brown, A. Wiggins & **FOR** the proposal: D. Moon

**AGAINST** the proposal: (none) **PRESENT** and not voting: (none)

**ABSENT:** 

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

(none)

unit last year to taxes proposed on the av	erage residence i	iomestead tim	s year.
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Last Year \$ 0.340 /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$</u>	This Year
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.000</u> /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$433,63 <u>1</u>		\$427,33 <u>5</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0		\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$433,631		\$427,33 <u>5</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 1,474.35</u>		<u>\$1,452.94</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		-\$21.41 -1.4522%	

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

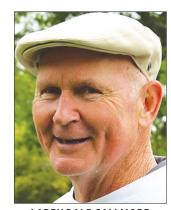
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

Larry Dale "Willie" Gallmore was born on December 26, 1949 in Santa Maria. California to Paul and Lorene Butler Gallmore. He grew up in McAlester, Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1972. On November 25, 1972, he married Nancy Rice in Lenexa, Kansas. Willie's career in finance in the oil and petrochemical industry took them around the country from Pittsburgh, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, and finally to the Katy area, where they have lived since 1980.

Willie enjoyed traveling with his family and finding any reason he could to be outside. Whether it was walking, working outside, or spending time by the water, he was happiest outdoors. If he could not be outside, he was an avid reader. He and Nancy traveled all over Europe and took many cruises together. His favorite places to vacation were the Cayman Islands and London. Above all, Willie enjoyed spending time with his wife, his daughters and their families.

He was a kind person and always saw the good in ev-



LARRY DALE GALLMORE

eryone he met. His generous and loving spirit allowed his body to be donated to LifeGift so that others' lives may be improved. He will be dearly missed by all who loved him.

Larry Dale "Willie" Gallmore passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2020, in Houston, at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Gallmore of Katy; daughters, Kim Oelkers and her husband Casey of Katy, Natalie McMeans and her husband Micah of Katy, and Lindsay Gallmore of Katy; grandchildren, Jack and Kate Oelkers, and Mackenzie and

Kylie McMeans; mother-inlaw, Barbara Wolfe of Georgetown, Texas; brothers-in-law, Bill Rice and his wife

Kathy of Katy, Jim Manley and his wife Cassandra of Cashiers, North Carolina, and Bill Hoey and his wife Jane of Plymouth, Massachusetts; as well as his niece Michelle Schneider and her husband Jason of Austin, TX, nephews Michael Gallmore of Norman. Oklahoma, and Sean Hoey of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and other loving family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Lorene Gallmore. and brother, Don Gallmore and his wife Sue Gallmore.

A private family celebration of life will be held.

If you would like to honor Larry's memory, donations may be made to Camp For All, a barrier free camp for children and adults with challenging illnesses or special needs and their families. Campforall.org/donate.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

Delma Garner Jacks, 92, went home to her beloved Savior on September 21, 2020. She was born in San Antonio, Texas

on February 27, 1928 to Dale and Lillie Garner who preceded her, as did her sister, Dorothy, and brother, Lewis. Delma graduated from Tech High School in San Antonio, 1944, and the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in 1949, where she served on the Board of Trustees.

Delma taught school 31 years before fulfilling her call to the mission field. She taught ESL in China, Thailand, and Senegal, West Africa. Fol-

lowing her husband's retirement from the ministry, together they served in the Philippines, West Indies, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Belgium, and England. Delma was never ashamed to share her love for Jesus; she had a heart for winning the lost and loving the poor and downcast.

She leaves behind her husband of 73 years, Claude W. Jacks, Jr, and four children: Claudia Flora; Melanie (Bob) Hilburn; Jeff (Karen) Jacks, and Kevin (Teresa) Jacks; grandchildren, Kris Kervin, Aaron Coronis, Melissa McFarlin, Laura Long, Kevin Grant

Jacks, Garrett Jacks, and Hunter Jacks; 19 great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

A special thank you to the staff of Caydance Assisted Living and Brenda Dineen, Hospice Nurse, Accredited Hospice, for their loving care and concern for Delma during her final days.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2020 at Katy's First Baptist Church, 600 Pin Oak Road, Katy, Texas, where a Celebration of Delma's life will be held at 3:00 p.m. A private

family burial will take place at Houston National Cemetery in Houston.

For those wishing to honor her memory, an educational scholarship in her name, Delma Garner Jacks has been established at University of Mary-Hardin Baylor: UMHB, Box 8433, 900 College St. Belton, TX 76513.

Condolences may be expressed at www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-



our Church Directory Online at www.katytimes.com

**DELMA GARNER JACKS** 

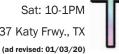
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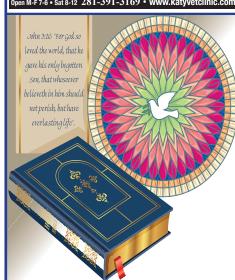
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Psalms 94:19

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Albert W. Thompson

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

are many,

**Psalms 94:19** 





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### Semifinalist named

**LUKE PARMENTER** 

By R. HANS MILLER NEWS EDITOR

St. John XXIII College Preparatory in Katy announced that class of 2021 senior Luke Parmenter has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The semi-

finalist designation means Parmenter will be up for more than 7,600 scholarships worth more than \$30 million when he graduates this coming May.

Parmenter was among 16,000

students selected out of 1.6 million PSAT/NMSQT testers last year.

"Mr. Parmenter is representative of the excellent educational and character forming opportunities that exist at SJ23," A press release put out by the school said.

The next step in the selection process will

come in February 2021 when the list is narrowed down to finalists. Afterward, awards for the various scholarships will be announced in



The Katy ISD Board of Trustees has approved renovations for the old L.D. Robinson Pavilion site in March to support Project TYKE, an early childhood intervention program. The district is seeking name nominations for the new facility shown in this concept artwork.

agencies and governmental

organizations, including school

districts which focus on provid-

ing positive police interactions

for students and campus staff.

"I am looking forward to

joining the Katy ISD team," said

Chief Gaw. "Building relation-

ships with officers, school staff

and students is very important

to me. I plan on being very vis-

ible and accessible, as officers

and I work together to ensure

we are consistently delivering

effective, efficient and compas-

sionate services to the Katy ISD

school community," Gaw said.

Gaw will succeed retiring

KISD Police Chief Robert Jinks.

(See our story on page 2.)

#### TAX from page 1

\$0.9988 per \$100 valuation. The total tax rate for the district is being reduced from \$1.4431 per \$100 valuation to \$1.3888 per \$100 valuation.

The savings Smith mentioned are applicable only to the portion of a property owner's tax bill associated with the district as other municipalities within the district such as MUDs may have increased their

The new rate takes effect immediately and will be reflected on tax statements this fall.

**Security Chief** 

Trustees also approved the

hiring of Henry Gaw as the dis-

a 26-year law enforcement pro-

fessional with experience in the

Houston Police Department in a

A press release from KISD

variety of leadership positions.

said Gaw has strengths in

the community, including

building partnerships within

businesses, law enforcement

trict's new chief of police. Gaw is

#### Naming names

The school district has also announced that it is accepting name nominations for the old L.D. Robinson Pavillion near the Education Support Complex that hosted the KISD Livestock Show and Rodeo prior to the new facility being constructed on Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

The building is currently under renovations to be repurposed for the Project Teach Your Kids Early - also known as

Project TYKE - program's new home. The roughly \$5 million project will redo the facility and give Project TYKE a permanent home as well as provide office and meeting space for the district, KISD staff said in March.

"Though the program has been housed at various locations throughout the years, to see the approval of a new home for our families and children will be a great opportunity to continue providing early intervention services to our future Katy ISD students," said ECI Program Diretor Martha Aki at the time.

The program is currently housed in portable buildings just west of the Katy ISD Opportunity Awareness Center on the Raines High School campus. Between 300 and 400 children are served through the Project TYKE program each year for a total of about 15,000 children since the program's initiation more than 30 years ago, Katy ISD staff said.

Name nominations may be submitted until Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. according to a district press release. Forms for the nomination and policies are available through the Katy ISD website.

#### BUDGET

from page 1

city council candidates have all said that those two line items in the

important to keep residents safe and support them being a priority. Other cities in Texas such as Austin have been criticized for reducing police funding, with Tex. Gov. Greg Abbott considering having the state take over the Austin Police Department due to recent budget

Streets are the next big-ticket item for the city with about \$2.6 million going out for maintenance and construction of streets in the city, according to the budget. Debt service expenditures - paying down bonds and related expenses the city has incurred - account for about \$2.1 million.

Four other line items come in at over \$1 million. SAFER grant expenditures come in at about \$1.3 million; permits and inspection costs at roughly \$1.7 million; sanitation at \$1.2 million; and administration at around \$1.2 million. All other expenditures were under \$1 million and the city's budget is

**CANDIDATES** 

conserve 24 percent of undevel-

Ramsey: 1) With significant

watersheds, voters approved a \$2.5

billion flood control bond initiative.

Federal, state, and local partners

added another \$2.4 billion which

means we are currently working

on 181 projects with a \$4.9 Billion

forward as quickly as possible.

As a result, no homes flooded

budget. These projects must move

2) As Mayor of Spring Valley, I

structure and flood control projects.

during Harvey. We need to take this

neighborhood by neighborhood

approach to addressing flooding.

implement such a program. Imme-

our storm water detention capacity

I have often been called upon

throughout Pct. 3 and the county.

for my expertise and have signifi-

cant drainage project experience

Master Drainage Plan, Galveston

County Master Drainage Plan and

the Harris County Drainage Plan

Update.

including the Brazoria County

diately, we can begin to broaden

I understand how to effectively

invested over \$38 million in infra-

oped regional lands as natural

input from residents in all 22

from page 3

spaces by 2040.

posted online via Katy's financial transparency page.

Katy City Council also approved:

- Spending \$29,550 of the city's Hotel Occupancy Tax funds to repair historical historic buildings in the city. HOT funds may only be spent for tourism development and maintenance of associated items.
- Awarding a contract to Huitt-Zollars, Inc. to design drainage improvements for Fortuna
- Awarding two engineering jobs to Costello, Inc. for engineering for two improvements to the city's wastewater treatment facility which would make it less susceptible to storm water damage.
- · Contracts totaling about \$187,000 for replacement of sanitary sewer lines along Roberts Road.
- Issuance of \$4.02 million in road bonds for projects near the Village at Katy subdivision.
- · A telecom agreement with Motorola for software updates and support for the Katy Fire Depart-
- An agreement with IDEMIA Identity & Security USA, LLC for maintenance of KPD equipment.

level. What will you do to reach across the political divide to serve your constituents rather than hold an inflexible party line? Moore: My experience has

been in nonpartisan government, where I juggled multiple constituencies and brought Republicans and Democrats together to get the job done. I would submit that my experience in nonpartisan government will ease the tension on the current Commissioners Court. I am a practical person, not an ideologue, who knows how to build coalitions and who will listen carefully to my constituents and fellow commissioners.

In my role as chief of staff to former Houston Mayor Bill White, I saw first-hand how a well-run local government benefits everyone regardless of your politics. I helped oversee a \$2 billion general fund budget and a city workforce of over 20,000 employees providing services to a city of 2 million people. Most notably, I helped implement innovative solutions to ease freeway traffic and helped coordinate response efforts to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike. I was part of the city's team that dealt with the economic downturn during the Great Recession between 2007-2009, without cutting city services.

From flooding and traffic to safer neighborhoods and better parks, schools and health care - I will work with anyone, anywhere to get the results we need and deserve in

Ramsey: Watching my dad serve as a Pastor for over 60 years, being married to my wonderful bride, Marsha, for 48 years, teaching two Sunday School classes at Second Baptist Church, running a successful small business and serving as mayor has taught me a valuable lesson and skill...how to listen. Another thing I've learned is that every person, regardless of political affiliation, has the right to feel safe in their own home, experience the benefit of properly maintained infrastructure and keep more of their money by pay ing a lower tax rate.

I am honored that so many have recognized my qualifications, support my core messages and have endorsed my candidacy, including Commissioners Steve Radack and Jack Cagle; Harris County Constables Ted Heap and Mark Herman, The Houston Police Officers Union; the Harris County Deputies' Organization, The Houston Realty Business Coalition; The C Club, the American Council of Engineering Companies-Houston, Texas Right to Life and hundreds of other citizens and groups. While I'm proud to be the Republican nominee for County Commissioner, I'm also honored to have endorsements from groups who traditionally support Democratic candidates such as the Baptist Ministers Association (the oldest and largest minority pastors organization in the area).

Commissioner Radack has served for more than three decades. What new ideas do you intend to bring to the table now that a new commissioner will be sworn in?

Moore: I appreciate Commissioner Radack's long-time service to the residents of Precinct 3. I also appreciate his recognition that, as Precinct 3 has changed dramatically in the last three decades, it's time for new leadership.

I plan to be a commissioner or all of Precinct 3 and not just of selected areas or communities. I will be a hands-on elected official and will be in the community. I will establish a new community outreach team for Precinct 3 that will be responsible for establishing communications throughout the precinct to give all the precinct a voice. Currently we do not have that in Precinct 3.

I will also take a more proactive, aggressive approach to flood mitigation, including holding the Army Corps of Engineers accountable. For example, the CORPS has delayed its interim report on fixing the problems at the Addicks and Barker reservoirs. And its published timeline to do the work is a whopping 23 years.

The last study by the Corps was done in 1995 - and the decision was to do nothing. Our region cannot afford another cycle of more talk, a long study, more delays, people forgetting about it,

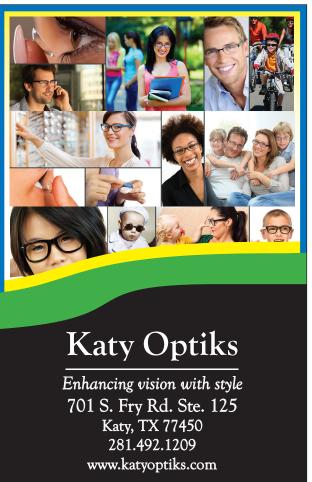
a devastating storm, finger-point-

Ramsey: For 32 years, Commissioner Steve Radack has served Pct. 3 with honor and distinction, and I am humbled to have his endorsement to serve as the new Commissioner. When Commissioner Radack took office, there were 9 parks, now we have 61, the constable program, which protects families, businesses and property, has flourished under his leadership, and our many community and senior centers are treasured by residents. I will continue his excellent legacy while bringing my expertise to the

As a business owner in Pct. 3, I employed hundreds and completed multiple engineering projects in the area. As Mayor, I cut the tax rate by 21%, invested over \$38 million in infrastructure and flood control projects and led Spring Valley to being named the safest city in Harris County. I have additional leadership experience including serving on the Harris County Storm Water Task Force, President of the local chapter of American Public Works Association, President of the Harris County Mayor Council Association, President of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Treasurer of Loving Kids (an organization to help children who are in need).

I have the experience to hit the ground running on day one.







#### 2020-2021 KATY **AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE**

To submit scores, news or schedules, email dennis. silva@katytimes.com

#### **THURSDAY, SEPT. 24**

**FOOTBALL** 

 Taylor 37, Cypress Springs 0 • Memorial 20, Seven Lakes 15

#### FRIDAY, SEPT. 25 VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes 3, Cy-Fair 2
- Mayde Creek 3, Paetow 2
- Tompkins 3, Bellaire 0
- Brenham 3, Taylor 0
- College Station 3, Katy 1 • Morton Ranch 3, North
- Shore 1 Clear Falls 3, Cinco Ranch 0

#### FOOTBALL

- Mayde Creek 24, Conroe 14 • Tompkins 24, Magnolia 21
- Morton Ranch 24, Cypress Lakes 14
- · College Park 20, Cinco Ranch 13

#### **SATURDAY, SEPT. 26 VOLLEYBALL**

- · Seven Lakes 3, A&M
- Consolidated 0 • Tompkins 3, Clear Springs 0
- Morton Ranch 3, Spring Woods 0
- Mayde Creek 3, Cypress Ridge 0
- Ridge Point 3, Cinco Ranch 0
- Taylor 3, Crosby 0

#### **FOOTBALL**

• Katy 28, Clear Springs 13 • Paetow 21, Barbers Hill 20

#### **TUESDAY, SEPT. 29 VOLLEYBALL**

- Seven Lakes 3, Katy 0
- Taylor 3, Morton Ranch 0 · Cinco Ranch 3, Tompkins 1
- A&M Consolidated 3, Paetow 0

#### THURSDAY, OCT. 1 **FOOTBALL**

- Taylor at George Ranch, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Aldine Davis, at Thorn Stadium,

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 2 **VOLLEYBALL**

- Taylor at Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy at Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Waller, 6 p.m.

#### **FOOTBALL**

- · Paetow at Morton Ranch, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Clear Springs at Tompkins, at Rhodes Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, OCT. 3 VOLLEYBALL**

- Seven Lakes at Morton
- Ranch, 5:30 p.m. Tompkins at Taylor, noon
- · Mayde Creek at Katy, 12:30 p.m.

#### **FOOTBALL**

- Katy at Cy-Woods, at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium, 6 p.m.
- Cy-Lakes at Mayde Creek, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.
- · Klein at Seven Lakes, at Rhodes Stadium, 7 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, OCT. 6 VOLLEYBALL**

- Morton Ranch at Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- · Taylor at Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- · Katy at Cinco Ranch,
- 5:30 p.m. • Paetow at Brenham, 6 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, OCT. 8 FOOTBALL**

• Dulles at Mayde Creek, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.

## NO BACKING DOWN

### Dumas-Wilson connection ignites Paetow to comeback win



Paetow senior running back Damon Bankston (right, 26) celebrates with junior receiver Tyler Collinsworth (left, 82) after Bankston's 59-yard touchdown run early in the first half of the Panthers' win over Barbers Hill on Sept. 26 at Legacy Stadium. By DENNIS SILVA II

SPORTS EDITOR

It went from a moral victory to a statement victory in a matter of minutes.

Paetow's come-from-behind 21-20 win over Barbers Hill on Sept. 26 at Legacy Stadium produced an elation from the home team that is often more synonymous with playoff wins. That's how much the victory meant, with the third-year varsity program upending a renowned area power led by legendary coach Tom Westerberg.

But it was more the manner the win came in that provided true joy for the young men in black and blue. That's not surprising; coach B.J. Gotte's team has always been about the process and journey more than the results.

With Paetow trailing 20-14, junior quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. found junior receiver Kole Wilson from 12 yards out along the back-left corner of the end zone with 21 seconds left, followed by junior Anthony Fuentes' bigtime extra-point make that sealed the win. It capped a five-minute-plus game-winning

See **PAETOW**, page 13

### Davis, defense lift Katy to win

By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

Senior running back Jalen Davis admirably anchored an otherwise sputtering Katy offense and the Tigers' defense was once again stellar as Katy won

its season opener against Clear Springs 28-13 at Columbia Challenger Stadium in League City on

With senior starting quarterback and four-year varsity letterman Bronson McClelland sidelined for undisclosed reasons, Katy's offense struggled to sustain consistent

drives. Coach Gary Joseph started junior Bryce Nirider, but primarily used sophomore backup Caleb Koger midway through the second quarter and on.

McClelland was not listed on the team roster for the game, but he was on the team depth chart and was with the team in League City. The Houston Chronicle reported Mc-Clelland was caught with an illegal substance, according to an anonymous source close to the situation. His status with the Tigers is uncertain.

Nirider, making his first career start, and Koger combined to complete just 3 of 11 passes for 26 yards, with Koger responsible for all three of the completions. Fortunately, the punishing Davis was spectacular, carrying the ball 22 times for 113 yards and three touchdowns of 6, 1 and 46 yards, respectively.

Katy's defense was dominant in the first half, holding Clear Springs to 39 total yards and sacking quarterback Luke Sampson six times in building a 14-7 lead. Senior defensive end Cal Varner had three sacks, senior nose tackle Cohen Dearman had two and junior defensive end Malick Sylla,



Taylor junior Michael Whitaker Jr. carries the ball during the Mustangs' game against Cypress Springs on Sept.

# Mustangs show depth and confidence in win

By DENNIS SILVA II

Overjoyed to simply be playing football, Taylor celebrated early and often during its season opener against Cy-Springs on Sept. 24.

And the Mustangs were adamant the Panthers not join their party.

Taylor dominated Cy-Springs 37-0 in a start-to-finish laugher at Legacy Stadium, eager to justify high expectations following a state semifinalist appearance last season.

"We've been waiting for this season to start," said senior defensive tackle

See TAYLOR, page 13

## Jordan High's Sutton making early impact

By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS FOITOR

Jordan High freshman Addison Sutton was nervous going into her first varsity cross country meet on Sept. 12. Scared, even.

And still, Sutton came away victorious at the Pearland Dawson Early Bird meet. And then she followed that with two more first-place finishes in her next two meets, making her 3-for-3 as meet

champ to start the season. "I'm a lot more assertive and confident," Sutton said. "I know my body more during races and I can apply faster paces and keep up longer. I know how to spread

my pace out throughout the race." But it all started that Saturday in Pearland, when Sutton ran a time of 12-minutes, 39-seconds to win the two-mile race, make program history as its first varsity individual champion, and help

the Warriors to a first-place team finish in the program's first meet.

"After the first meet, I knew I'd do really well in the upcoming meets," Sutton said. "I know later in the year during the season, there will be more competition, but I'm also excited for that so it can push me even more and hopefully keep beating my PRs."

After the Pearland win, Sutton won first at the Brazosport ISD Invitational, running a 15:56.30 in the 4000-meter run, and posted a personal record of 12:01 in winning a meet last week at Paetow High, running a 12:01 in the two-

"When coaching Addison, I have to remind myself that she is just a freshman," Jordan girls cross country and track and field coach Kimberlee Trnka said. "She has the focus and competitiveness of a veteran runner. Addison has been progressing nicely each

meet and improving her times, despite taking an early lead and having to pace the last two races on her own. She keeps a positive mindset and is always wanting to improve."

Indeed, Sutton is always looking for an edge. This season, she started researching her competition the day before races.

"I love how competitive she is," Trnka said. "She goes into every race with the desire to win and the mindset that she will." Sutton has a tx.milesplit.

com account and uses it to her competitive advantage. She looks up the teams that will be running each race and makes a note of the top times of their top runners.

"I like to know my competitors, so I can set up a goal in my mind during the race," Sutton said. "It's common sense to



See **SUTTON**, page 13

Jordan High freshman Addison Sutton.

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## After lost seasons, Nielson ready for finale

**Bv DENNIS SILVA II** SPORTS EDITOR

Heidi Nielson's cross country and track and field seasons during her junior year did not go as expect-

A femur injury sidelined Nielson's cross country season in the fall of 2019 after an exhausting summer representing Team USA at the Pan Am U20 Championships. Then the novel coronavirus COVID-19 abruptly shortened her track season in mid-March. The global pandemic also hindered Nielson's recruiting, as she was unable to make visits to colleges or compete in significant events.

"It really sucked," Nielson said. "The cross country season, I get hurt, and it was like, 'Welp, there it goes.' I was still hyped, I was really ready for the track season, and then everything gets shut down. I was so sad. Even now, I'm still, like, ugh."

Still, it all worked out. A star distance runner since her eye-opening freshman season for the Cougars, Nielson, now a senior for Cinco Ranch, verbally committed to continue her athletic career at the University of Arkansas in an Instagram pledge on Sept. 9.

"It has such an incredible program and I already know a lot of the girls on the team," said Nielson, who joins nine other Razorback recruits from Texas. "I love the coach; he's great. I was able to go and visit the campus, walk around, and it just felt right. I had lots of good options, but it felt like the right place. It made

Nielson will compete in cross country and run track at Arkansas, which won the 2019 national championship in women's cross country.



Cinco Ranch senior Heidi Nielson will be running for the University of Arkansas.

Last year, she established a strong relationship with Arkansas women's cross country and track and field coach Lance Harter when she competed at the USATF Cross Country championships in February 2019.

Nielson picked Arkansas over other prominent schools that expressed significant interest, like Georgia, Oklahoma State, Wake Forest, Virginia, UCLA, Oregon and Alabama, among others.

"He's been recruiting me this whole time, and he's been optimistic," Nielson said of Harter. "He's made a lot of other athletes really

good and really wanted me to be a part of their team. I want to be on a team where we have a chance to win national titles and Arkansas is one of those teams."

Despite what was essentially a lost junior season, Nielson had enough impressive credentials her first two years of high school to get the attention of colleges.

As a freshman, she placed fourth at the state cross country meet and was an all-state selection in cross country and track, qualifying for the Foot Locker National Championships that summer.

After the high school cross country season her sophomore year, Nielson competed at the USATF Cross Country Championships, qualifying for Team USA and the World Cross Championships in an international event. That spring of 2019, she qualified in the 1600 and 3200 runs at the state track and field

Between the high school and national events, Nielson learned how to compete in small and large races. Where the smaller local races demand knowing when to go for the lead and break out from the pack, the bigger races require a runner to stay with the pack and sustain footing, not getting behind.

"Those experiences helped a lot and definitely made me a better runner," Nielson said of the Foot Locker, USATF and Team USA events. "They shaped me and taught me lessons, both as a runner and as a person. They kept me going to keep getting better. They were big in helping me get recruited in light of the junior track season getting canceled."

Even last season, after a washed cross country season, Nielson showed signs of recovering well from the femur injury. She performed admirably at the Team Cross Country Nationals South regional in the winter, and right before the high school track and field season was canceled, she ran the fastest 1600-meter time in the nation with a 4-minute, 47.90-second mark at the Alamo City Mile and Steeple.

Nielson has methodically trained since then, tending to a strained quad injury around competitions at the AAU Junior Olympics Games and the Music City

Distance Carnival, running times of 4:36.09 and 4:29.33, respectively.

"It's been crazy, very up and down," said Nielson, who added her quad feels good. "I took some time off once things got canceled, then started running again, then hurt myself and strained my quad, I took another break. Now I'm running again. It's been weird. Now I'm doing more track races, so I went to Nashville to run in a distance race. Since that ended, I've had fewer workouts to slow down and really focus on cross country with some base training and workouts with the team."

Nielson said she feels she's "learned how to race" ever since that freshman year when she was pretty much relying on her natural, God-given talent.

"Not that I was dumb my freshman year, but the more you do it, the better you get at it," she said. "I understand my body more, I understand when to push. I have better instincts, as far as the times of when to take the lead and when not to take the lead."

Though track is her favorite of the two sports, ever the competitor, Nielson is hungry to redeem herself on the cross country course this season after missing out last year. So far, she's done just that, finishing second at the Klein ISD and Brenham Hillacious invitationals to start the season.

"I'm really excited," she said. "Like they say, 'last one, best one,' right? I'm a senior. I want no regrets. Let's just have a great season. Not get injured, though! I just want to have fun with these girls one last time and have a good time and learn as much as I can before I go to college."

#### BATENHORST

from page 1

It's working. Batenhorst is hitting at a blistering 36 percent, by far a career best. Her previous best was the .283 mark she hit during her freshman year.

'She's more versatile, being that she can move anywhere along the net and get a good swing," Cataline said. "She's more flexible with the different options along the net."

Batenhorst is also a better leader, another sign of how comfortable she's feeling. Prior to this season, she had a tendency to let the upperclassmen and seniors take the reins of

"Her experience has shown her that she can be that leader, she can be that voice," Cataline said. "Early on, I think she was afraid to step on toes. She's always kind of just stayed in her lane. As each class has graduated, it's kind of given her more permission to lead.'

Batenhorst admits she was "kind of new

to everything early on" in her high school

"I was in everybody's shadow for a little bit, being younger," she said.

But now she knows she's the face of one of the top programs in the region. She's stronger physically, more vocal, smarter and simply knows the game better.

It's all come together," Batenhorst said. "Now I'm comfortable. I had always struggled being vocal and asserting myself as a leader, but over the years through club and (Junior Team) USA and playing here, I've

grown into that. I know my leadership role is important, and Coach Cat pushed me to do that."

With her physical and intangible skills meshing at just the right time, Batenhorst has one last mark to leave before departing Seven

"I really want to go to state again," she said. "It's been two years and I so badly want to go back. With our team, and the way we've been training, I think we really have a shot. I'm really confident in that."

#### WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **ON TAX RATE**

The MASON CREEK U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Said hearing will be held via telephone conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access Phone: 800-719-8139, Conference Code: 447079. Any Director or other person may participate in the hearing by calling such toll-free access number. Also, an electronic copy of any agenda packet will be made available on the internet at www.mcud.com/meeting-info/ (scroll to and click on link for "Agenda Packet"), and alternative means of communicating with District Directors include: (i) email addressed to "directors@mcud.com," (ii) mail, phone or fax to District Directors at 847 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450, phone 281-578-7272, fax 281-578-1419.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Len Forsyth, James G. Hamblet III, Brian Connolly, **FOR** the proposal:

John H. Cameron, and Robert Wills

**AGAINST** the proposal: None PRESENT and not voting: None ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

_ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		7		
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Last Year \$ .35100/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ .35100/\$100 Proposed		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ .00000/\$100	)		
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	.00%			
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 275,445	\$ 277,577		
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 55,089	\$ 55,515		
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 220,356	\$ 222,062		
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 773.44	\$ 779.43		
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	+\$ 5.99 +0.77%			

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

[Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011]

#### WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **ON TAX RATE**

The CORNERSTONES M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Teleconference: 1-888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 986 5911 6374.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: Morgan Stagg, Michael D. Chittwood, Lionel A. Garza, Stephen A. Talecki and Virginia P. Lester

**AGAINST** the proposal: None PRESENT and not voting: None

Difference in rates per \$100 of value

ABSENT:

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

None

Last Year This Year Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) \$.30000/\$100 \$.30000/\$100

Adopted Proposed

\$.00000/\$100

Percentage increase/decrease

in rates (+/-).00%

Average appraised residence homestead value \$ 304,539 \$ 300,973

General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or

disabled person's exemptions) \$ 60,908 \$ 60,195 Average residence homestead

taxable value \$ 243,631 \$ 240,778

Tax on average residence homestead \$ 730.89 \$ 722.33 Annual increase/decrease in taxes if

proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) -8.56 and percentage of increase (+/-) -1.17%

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

# Rams' new offense shows potential

By DENNIS SILVA II SPORTS EDITOR

In a lot of ways, Mayde Creek's new-look offense in the Rams' 24-14 season-opening win over Conroe on Sept. 25 at Rhodes Stadium was a lot of what new head coach Brian Randle had in mind. And in other ways, it was not.

All of that was to be expected for the first game of a program transitioning from a run-heavy attack to a more pass-happy, albeit balanced, scheme. So, considering it was the debut in the green and white for Randle, assistant head coach Phil Wilson, offensive coordinator Brooks Haack and senior quarterback Jace Wilson, they'll take it.

"I think it was pretty good," said Jace Wilson, Phil's son and a transfer from Del Valle High in central Texas. "We definitely left a lot of points on the field. But this is a young team, a lot of young receivers out there. Everybody's first year playing together, really."

That's the optimism. And now for the reality.

"If we catch the ball, it's 42-0," Randle said. "If we execute, we're going to be pretty tough. We've got a lot of work to do.'

Rams receivers had about a handful of dropped passes throughout the night and the offense struggled against Conroe's defensive adjustments after halftime. But it's also telling that the Rams felt underwhelmed with their offensive effort despite totaling 24 points, 397 yards and averaging 6.7 yards per play.

Rams quarterbacks only attempted 134 passes in 12 games last season, an average of 11.2 per game. The Rams threw 15 passes by halftime against Conroe. And the offensive transition is not even taking into account a lack of depth at receiver-senior defensive backs Joseph Kinyock and Alpha Khan saw a lot of snaps alongside talented wideouts L'den Skinner and Leroy

Once we go back and watch



From left to right, Mayde Creek senior running back Julius Loughridge and senior quarterback Jace Wilson headline a new-look uptempo offense for the

the film, the sky's the limit," Haack said. "It's going to be scary once we're clicking."

Make no mistake about it: Mayde Creek still revolves around senior running back Julius Loughridge. Loughridge carried the ball 24 times for 173 yards and two touchdowns.

But he also caught three passes for 39 yards and a touchdown, a sign of the times these days for the Rams. Loughridge had not had a receiving touchdown since his sophomore year.

'I'm definitely in the passing game a lot more," said Loughridge, who caught one pass all of last season.

Mayde Creek's new offense expands horizons for Loughridge. He is hungry to dismiss the notion that he is just a power back. He showed against Conroe he can be much more if the play-calls allow for it.

"I'm just trying to be a full player, all over the field," he said. "Just get me in one-on-one situations."

While Loughridge is the soul of the Rams, Wilson is the heart. The 5-foot-11, 173-pounder had a fine outing, completing 12 of 23 passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns to one interception while rushing for 52 yards on 11

But the value of the Furman University commit comes in his football I.Q. Wilson looked impressive captaining a team that has only been his for a few months. His decision-making

was sound and he spread the ball around to five different

"He's a playmaker, always looking for that big play," Loughridge said. "His knowledge for the game is phenomenal. I've never seen someone so young who can read defenses like that, calling audibles mid-play. Just a great QB mindset."

Wilson arrived in Katy in the summer after coming over from Del Valle, where he threw for 2,526 yards and 27 touchdowns to six interceptions last season.

"Originally, we didn't know Phil Wilson had a kid," Randle said. "I interview (Phil) and come to find out he has a kid. and it's Jace. It worked out well.

"Jace is an (offensive coor-

dinator) on the field. He knows and understands football. His dad's a heck of a ball coach, so he has that pedigree."

Being the son of a coach is only one of the reasons Wilson has quickly established a close relationship with Haack. Their blossoming partnership has expedited the growth of the

"He's a young coach and we can definitely relate on so many levels," Wilson said. "He played at Katy, played quarterback. His dad was a coach for him like mine is. I feel like we're already best friends, always texting and being in his office every day after school. It's going to be a great relationship and we're looking forward to breaking some records here at Mayde Creek."

Wilson guessed that the team is only at about a 65-70 percent comfort level in the offense. Not all the concepts and plays are installed.

"And I'm still realizing what my strengths are," Wilson said.

That will mostly come down to Haack. The beloved former Tiger is respected in coaching circles for his offensive mind. Randle had been trying to get Haack on his coaching staff for years. It finally happened during the spring.

Haack said the acclimation period of a new offense was tough at first for players, but there was no questioning the buy-in. Receivers constantly called him and were eager to jump on Zoom calls with him to discuss the possibilities.

"They wanted to digest the offense and be explosive," Haack said. "It's our job to showcase what all these guys can do."

Haack credited Phil Wilson, and assistant coaches Javarris Williams and Lee Mattingly with getting players on board with something vastly different than what they were accustomed to.

"It's pick your poison," Randle said. "We're in a unique situation with Julius and Jace. We've just got to get our arms around it and grasp it."

#### **Water District Notice of Public Hearing** on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 287 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon, by teleconference at 1-877-336-1839, Access Code: 3973612. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

F. Sheehy, D. Ho, A. Secor & C. Pacioni **FOR** the proposal:

**AGAINST** the proposal: (none) PRESENT and not voting: (none) **ABSENT:** J. Grisham

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Last Year \$ 1.160 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 1.150 /\$100  Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	<u>-\$0.010</u> /\$	3100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	<u>-0.8621</u>	<u>%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$211,456	\$211,725
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$</u> 0	<u>\$ 0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$211,456</u>	<u>\$211,725</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$2,452.89</u>	<u>\$2,434.84</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	- <u>\$18.0</u> ; -0.7359	

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

#### **Water District Notice of Public Hearing** on Tax Rate

The Harris County Utility District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.by teleconference at (888) 808-6929, Access Code: 6732258. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: R. Watkins, J. Sugg, D. Durgin, R. Arce & A. Grzanka **AGAINST** the proposal: (none) **PRESENT** and not voting: (none) ABSENT: (none)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

1 1			7
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) \$	Last Year 0.2025 /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$</u>	<b>This Year</b> 0.1900 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.013</u> /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-6.1728%</u>	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$147,907		\$162,538
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>-\$29,581</u>		-\$32,508
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$118,326</u>		\$130,030
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$239.61</u>		<u>\$247.06</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		<u>\$7.45</u>	

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

3.1092%

and percentage of increase (+/-)

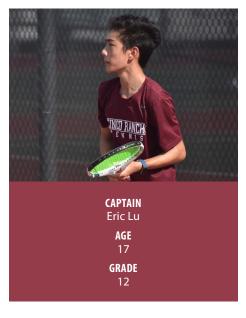
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

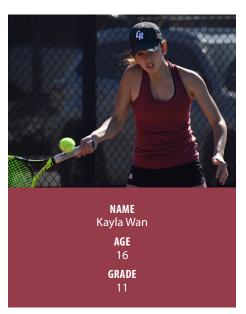
#### CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

## WHO TO WATCH





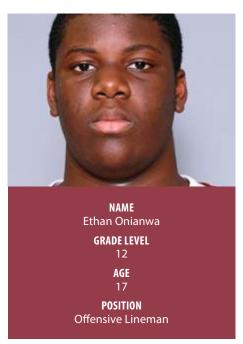




#### CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## WHO TO WATCH







#### **COUGARS STARTERS**

DE-Increase Oputa

DE—Zach Dycus

DT—Bowen Cheng

DT-Rhett Cox-Rodabaugh LB—Gracen Villafone OR Nathan Rothwell

LB—Kasey Murry

DB—Odera Nsobundu

DB—Zach Amaya

DB—Eric Eckstrom DB—Fordham Parks

DB—Christian Graham OR Jackson Pursley

#### **OFFENSE**

OL-Ethan Onianwa

OL-Colby Millenbruch

OL-James Gevser OL-Tyler Miller

OL-Valentin Schaller

REC-Grayson Williams REC-Noah Abboud

REC—Seth Salverino

RB—Caleb Leapheart OR Nathan Cai OR Trey Carron FB-Lane Staton OR Landon Parrish

OB—Gavin Rutherford OR Gabe Simmons

### Water District **Notice of Public Hearing** on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 167 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm via teleconference at (888) 808-6929, Access Code: 9901521. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Verneath Hronas, Claudia Buentello, Shirley Dean, **FOR** the proposal:

Juan Medrano, Brad Yeaney

**AGAINST** the proposal: PRESENT and not voting: None ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Last Year This Year \$0.96000 /\$100 Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) \$1.00000 /\$100 Adopted Proposed

Difference in rates per \$100 of value \$-0.04000 /\$100

Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)

Average appraised residence

Tax on average residence homestead

and percentage of increase (+/-)

-4.00%

homestead value \$189,945.00 General homestead exemptions available

(excluding 65 years of age or older or \$0.00 disabled person's exemptions) \$0.00

Average residence homestead taxable value \$189,945.00 \$202,721.00

\$1,899.45

Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) \$46.67

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at

281-482-0216.

### WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **ON TAX RATE**

The CIMARRON M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 21, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Teleconference: 1-877-402-9753, Access Code: 7731329.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: Richard May, David F. Jones, David Aitken, John

Linn, Gary V. Russell

**AGAINST** the proposal: None **PRESENT** and not voting: None **ABSENT:** None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

This Year Last Year \$.36500/\$100 Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) \$.36500/\$100 Adopted Proposed

Difference in rates per \$100 of value \$.00000/\$100

Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)

\$202,721.00

\$1,946.12

2.46%

Average appraised residence homestead value \$ 215,520 \$ 215,787

.00%

General homestead exemptions available

(excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) \$ 43,157 \$ 43,104

Average residence homestead

taxable value \$ 172,630 \$ 172,416

Tax on average residence homestead \$ 630.09 \$ 629.31 Annual increase/decrease in taxes if

proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) -.78 and percentage of increase (+/-) -.12%

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

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Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

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950 **PUBLIC NOTICES** 

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Public Sale of Property To satisfy a landlords lien.

Sale to be held online at www.storagetreasures.com

> Facility is located at 20603 Clay Rd. Katy, TX 77449

Bidding will open at 10:00am on October 9th, 2020 and conclude at 10:00am on October 13th, 2020.

Unit items sold as is. Tenant name is Marella Narasse 1995 GMC Yukon

### September 24

#### Puzzle Answers

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#### **AUCTIONS**

Case Ranch Herefords Third Annual Hereford Bull Sale, Mon. Oct. 5, 12:30 p.m. at the Ranch, Midway between Eldorado & Mertzon, TX, on FM 915. Online bidding accepted at www.superiorlivestock.com. Pete Case: 325-650-6209, pete@caseranch.com, www.caseranch.com.

Halliburton Real Estate Auction - Industrial site sells without reserve! Pampa, TX, 8590 County Road 12 1/2. Industrial site containing 5 Structures with a total of 37,532+/- sf on 41.66 Acres. Auctions: 10 a.m., Thur. Oct. 22, on site or bid live from anywhere at Life Alert. One press of a button sends help FAST, LIC 550021; Thomas E. Barnes III AUC LIC 6457. Call 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/halliburton.

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#### WALLER COUNTY, TX WALLER COUNTY intends to participate in the

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CBDG-MIT program with funding from the Texas General Land Office. We are soliciting qualifications from Texas-registered engineers to provide engineering services related to this program. Submittals for these services will be accepted until 2:00 PM on October 27, 2020 at 836 AUSTIN ST., SUITE 221, Attn: ALAN YOUNTS-COUNTY AUDITOR. WALLER COUNTY reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Disadvantaged Business Management Standards. Enterprises, including Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. WALLER COUNTY is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

#### **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals for a <u>Water Plant No. 7 - Plant Improve-</u> ments will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.

Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for each project at the office of the Engineer, Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173, upon deposit of a check or cash only in the amount of \$40.00/set, payable to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. Bidder must telephone before coming to pick up plans. Said amount will be refunded if the bid documents are returned in good condition within one (1) week of the date of bid. Otherwise, no refunds will be made. Additional sets may be purchased for \$40.00. Subcontractors and Suppliers may purchase sets for \$40.00 which will not be refunded.

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed written proposals for Wastewater Treatment Plant Unit 3B. Expansion to 3.900 MGD will be received at the City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 28, 2020. At that time the bids will be opened and read aloud.

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas. The Engineer is Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. email CANDL12@aol.com.

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

The project consists of constructing concrete aeration and aerobic digester basins, with related blowers, piping, and electrical work to expand the plant capacity by 0.825 MGD. No clarifier or disinfection is included. The estimated cost range is \$3.50 million to \$4.50 million.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.

A non-mandatory site visit will be held at the plant site 25839 IH 10, Katy, TX 77494 beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 21, 2020. PPE and distancing protocols must be observed. Any questions raised will be noted, and responses will be provided via email as set out in the Bid

Bid Documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view the Bid Documents, and printing can be done through the website. Hard copies of the Bid Documents will not be provided. Complete sets of the Bid Documents must be used by the general contractors in preparing their bids (proposals) and by subcontractors and vendors in preparing their quotes or prices for the general contractors. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will have any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of the Bid Documents.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL **DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating**

Katy Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2020 in the Education Support Complex Board Room 6301 S. Stadium Lane

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Katy Independent School District's rating on the State's Financial Accountability System.

Katy, Texas

#### NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT **OF ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT MEETING** PLACE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FORT BEND **COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 174**

To the residents and taxpayers of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 174 (the "District"), and to all the persons interested in the meetings of the Board of Directors of such District:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the District, at a meeting held August 20, 2020 established an additional meeting place outside the boundaries of the District at LJA Engineering, Inc. 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 600, Houston, TX 77042. The meeting place previously established at the offices of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 600, Houston, TX 77042 is hereby abolished.

Said meeting place is hereby declared to be a public place and open to the public. All residents and taxpayers of the District and all other interested persons are hereby invited to attend any meetings of the Board of Directors at such location and other locations previously established by the Board of Directors as meeting places of the District.

> /s/Paula Rucky Secretary, Board of Directors

### **KATY ISD PROVIDES SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS** WITH **SUSPECTED DISABILITIES**

The Katy Independent School District Special Education Department provides screenings for students with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. The screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of three and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact your child's home campus. The Special Education office will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.

> Katy Independent School District 6301 South Stadium Lane Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal

opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees and its agents, officers and staff members shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or

#### **SPORTS**

#### VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS AS OF SEPT. 30

DISTRICT 19-6A							
	DIS	TRICT	OVE	RALL			
	W	L	W	L			
Seven Lakes	1	0	7	0			
Cinco Ranch	1	0	2	3			
Taylor	1	0	3	5			
Tompkins	0	1	4	3			
Katy	0	1	2	2			
Morton Ranch	0	1	2	5			
Mayde Creek	0	0	2	3			
x-clinched playoff berth							

y-clinched district title							
۱LI							
L							
0							
1							
1							
3							
3							
4							
4							
7							

#### FOOTBALL STANDINGS AS OF SEPT. 30

Katy Taylor Tompkins Mayde Creek Morton Ranch Seven Lakes Cinco Ranch x-clinched playoff berth y-clinched district title	DIST W 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	RICT L 0 0 0 0 0 0	OVER W 1 1 1 1 1 0 0	ALL 0 0 0 0 0 1 1	SCOR PF 28 37 24 24 25 15	13 0 21 14 14 20 20
DISTRICT 10-5A, D1	DISTRICT W L		OVER W	ALL	SCOR PF	ING PA
Paetow	0	ō	1	ō	21	20
Terry	0	0	1	0	48	0
Richmond Foster	0	0	1	0	79	7
Angleton	0	0	1	0	42	13
Manvel	0	0	0	1	27	28
Hightower	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kempner	Ü	U	0	Ü	0	0
Milby	U	U	0	0	0	Ü

#### **SUTTON**

from page 8

prepared for race day. The day before a meet, I'm thinking about that race and how I'm going to pace. I can do that because I have an idea of who I'm competing against."

Sutton has a passion for running. She has fallen in love with the routine.

The night before races, she'll eat pasta with vegetables as side dishes. Then she says a prayer, centered around her favorite verse Philippians 4:13, before going to bed. The next morning, 3-4 hours prior to the race, she'll have a fruit smoothie with a protein bar.

"During the run, it might be a challenge and you're supposed to push yourself, but I really like the feeling after you accomplish something big or make a PR," Sutton said. "It just feels amazing to me to accomplish a goal."

x-clinched playoff berth

y-clinched district title

**DISTRICT 19-6A** 

Sutton competed at Seven Lakes Junior High her seventh-grade year, and it was during that track season she said she became "attached" to running. She competed at Adams Junior High for eighth grade, when she was recognized as Track Co-MVP for 2020.

She's looking forward to future races, when nerves

won't be an issue and she will know what to expect from competing at the highest level for a first-year program looking to establish its name.

"It's different than a normal program where you have girls that have been there for multiple years and have already set the standard," Sutton said. "We get a chance to create traditions and set expectations, so the girls after us know what to expect and can follow those standards."

#### TAYLOR

VJ Bronson, who had a fumble recovery in the win. "We've been getting right, been working hard to keep the momentum up from the big run last year. We've got to keep it going."

The Mustangs outgained the Panthers 332-107 in total yardage and held them to five first downs in kicking off a season, albeit delayed and uncertain in nature due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19, swimming in potential.

"It's really exciting, especially after all the stuff we've been through in the summer," senior right guard Bryce Foster said. "All the crazy schedules and even the question of whether we'd even be able to play or not. Especially it being my senior year, I'm really blessed to be out here and playing with my brothers."

And the Mustangs played quite admirably. Offensively, Taylor was methodical in averaging 5.9 yards per play. Defensively, the Mustangs forced three turnovers and held Cy-Springs to 2.2 yards per play.

Taylor's lone hiccups were a fumbled punt return and eight penalties for 65 yards.

"We've got some things we've got to clean up like in any first game, typically, but overall our kids got after it and played hard," coach Chad Simmons said. "We were pleased. We had guys step in from backup roles at several

spots. Our offensive line dominated the line of scrimmage. The defense tackled pretty well and kept them out of the end zone."

Taylor did not even have to rely much on its primary playmakers.

Senior running back Casey Shorter, an Army commit, only rushed four times for 21 yards. Senior quarterback J Jensen III only attempted 14 passes, connecting on nine for 140 yards and touchdown

What the Mustangs did show off was their depth. Junior Michael Whitaker III was impressive in his varsity debut, playing running back and receiver. The 5-foot-10, 165-pounder caught five passes for 79 yards and a touchdown and carried the ball 12 times for 44 yards and another score.

"He's an explosive kid," Simmons said. "Great vision. He sees things well. He makes good cuts. His success was not unexpected at all. He'll be one of

Whitaker was anything but nervous during his first game under the bright lights, crediting his work during the offseason on improving at reading blocks and as a receiver.

"We have a good O-line and I can find holes easily," Whitaker said. "I got two touchdowns, made me feel good. I haven't had an offensive line like that in my whole life. They make the game very easy."

Whitaker said he needs to work more on running harder to break more tackles. For now, however, it was not a bad start.

"He's a different back from Casey," Foster said. "Casey is a tough runner, three yards and a cloud of dust. Mike is a guy who will get the ball, find where the holes are and do his jump cuts. His speed and quickness is special."

Aside from Whitaker, Simmons acknowledged the play of many other talented, inexperienced youngsters. Players like sophomore safety Joe Jefferson Jr., who was responsible for one of the takeaways with a nice interception in the first half; sophomore safety Andrew Meza, who also rushed for 26 yards on 10 carries; and sophomore defensive end Dylan Spencer and freshman tight end Ian Flynt.

Freshman Ashton Coker, brother of former Mustangs star and current TCU offensive lineman Andrew, also had strong moments at defensive tackle.

Senior backup quarterback Michael Cummings, who is back playing football after taking a year off to play basketball, completed 4 of 7 passes for 35 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 39 yards and a touchdown on seven

"We're coming in with more confidence after last year," Foster said. "I think last year we were very timid at the beginning of the season. We were playing some big-name teams and it kind of spooked us a bit. That second of thought or doubt is a second too late on the field.

"The big difference this year is we walk onto the field with our heads high and we know what we're capable of doing."

#### **PAETOW**

from page 8

drive and a thrilling rally from a 13-point deficit with 8:58 left in the third quarter.

Entering the game, Barbers Hill was ranked No. 4 in Class 5A in the Houston high school football media poll. Paetow was ranked No. 10.

"Grit. Toughness. They're not going to back down," Gotte said about what he learned about his team. "They're going to play hard for four quarters. That's what I wanted to see. I wanted to see our guys in a battle and play somebody who's going to help us get better. We did that. The fight was good to see."

Dumas said he was approached by Wilson in the huddle prior to the play, "Blue Zero X Snag." Wilson said he had a corner route open.

"With the safety playing over in the middle, I knew it was going to be wide open," Dumas said. "I just made the throw, but it was really all about the O-line giving me the

The Panthers ran it earlier in the game but never quite got what they wanted out of it.

"It'd been open all game," Wilson said. "The line gave great protection, he threw a great pass and I came down with the

Up until that point, the Panthers' offense had been the Damon Bankston show. The senior do-it-all speedster rushed for 194 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries to go with 24 yards on three catches.

Bankston accounted for 67 percent of the Panthers' total yardage.

"They over-pursued a lot, so I tried to hit a lot on the backside," Bankston said. "The holes just opened up. Sometimes they clogged up, but I just kept going and the O-line kept pushing."

Bankston was workmanlike in being domi-

nant. His touchdown was a 59-yard burst late in the first quarter and he had six runs of 10 or more yards.

"He's a year in our system and he knows he's the guy," Gotte said. "Last year, we had a tandem. This year, he's the guy. The other guys will complement him. He knows that and he wants that challenge."

Bankston and a relentless Paetow defensive front that collected eight sacks allowed time for Dumas to eventually find his groove.

Though senior nose tackle Andrew Rutherford was unavailable because of back spasms, Paetow showed off considerable depth in its pass rush in defensive line stalwarts Agumba Otuonye and Jacob Johnson, and senior Luis Toscano filling in for Rutherford.

**Emerging sophomore** linebacker Alex Kilgore, who had two sacks, was also a significant factor in limiting the Eagles to 132 total yards.

As Bankston and the defense held steady, Dumas starred when it mattered most. He completed four of six passes on the final drive and converted a trio of fourth downs, including a 4th-and-1 via 2-yard keeper in the final minute.

Overall, Dumas completed 13 of 22 passes for 136 yards and two touchdowns to one interception.

"We just wanted to keep putting pressure on them," Dumas said. "They were dropping like flies, getting really tired. So, we kept pressing and pressing and then beat them over the top."

Hungry to sustain the momentum from last year's 8-3 breakout season that put the Houston high school football world on notice, the Panthers still aren't satisfied.

"We're trying to win a district championship, plain and simple," Dumas said. "It's going to take wins like this to get us there."

### KATY

from page 8

one of the top prospects for the Class of 2022, also had

But in the second half, the Chargers kept the Tigers' pass rush at bay with quicker drop steps to get rid of the ball faster. Sampson left the game early in the third quarter and did not return until late in the fourth. In between then, backup Cody Kuhlmann lifted Clear Springs' offense. His 30-yard scoring pass

to Kaleb Hymes cut Katy's deficit to 21-13 with 4:53 left in the third.

The game remained that way until a pair of precocious Katy sophomores secured the win by breaking open the game with 3:47 left. Running back Seth Davis, younger brother of Jalen, produced two explosive runs of 14 and 46 yards, respectively, and Koger capped off the threeplay, 53-second drive with a 1-yard keeper for a score.

Seth Davis finished with 85 yards and a score on six

Clear Springs 210-164. Clear Springs had 11 first downs to Katy's eight. The Tigers had a turnover and committed eight penalties for 60 yards. The Chargers mustered just two rushing yards on 24 carries and completed 18 of 36 passes

for 162 yards. Aside from the Davis brothers and the defensive front seven, senior punter Fuller Shurtz also has had a standout outing for Katy, coming up big time and time again to help the Tigers win the field position battle. Shurtz punted nine times for a total of 372

yards, or 41.3 yards per

The Chargers punted 11 times.

Katy plays Cypress Woods at 6 p.m. Saturday at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium.

The Wildcats beat Kingwood 21-7 in their opener last weekend. Cy Woods outgained Kingwood 343-276 in total yardage, rushing for 218 yards. Running back Trayse Holmes rushed 35 times for 132 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Dylan Cormier completed 9 of 14 passes for 125 yards and a TD.





### Jim Baker's Unified **Theory Of Everything** --- With God's Help

(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020 **BAKER'S BOOKS, Katy, TX** 

22237 Katy FRWY (close to Landry's)

(ad revised: 11/22/2019; previous ads are null and void)

This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry.

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of <u>God's Amazing Answer To Prayer</u>, in 2012.

## Texas to use \$171M to prevent evictions

By JUAN PABLO GARNHAM THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas is using \$171 million in federal coronavirus relief funds to provide financial and legal aid to renters facing eviction, Gov. Greg Abbott announced Friday.

The vast majority of that money — \$167 million will go toward rental assistance. Another \$4.2 million will be used to fund legal services for Texans.

Abbott's office also said in a press release that the state is creating the Texas Eviction Diversion Program, which will coordinate state agencies, local governments and nonprofits to help renters avoid evictions and catch up with missed rent payments.

It wasn't immediately clear how the money would



EMREE WEAVER/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

An apartment complex near downtown Waco in 2019. Gov. Greg Abbott on Friday announced he was dedicating \$171 million in federal coronavirus relief money to helping renters avoid evictions.

be divvied up or how Texans could seek assistance.

"The Texas Eviction Diversion Program is crucial to our state's response to COVID-19, and it will help

many families recover from the impact of the pandemic without the looming threat of eviction," Abbott said in the release. "This innovative partnership, coupled with the renters assistance provided through CARES Act funding, will strengthen our economic recovery efforts and provide a lifeline to renters and property owners alike."

Since the pandemic began in March, more than 3.5 million Texans have filed for unemployment and staying current on rent has become a main concern of Texans who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut. According to a survey done in late August by the U.S. Census Bureau, 36.8% of Texans said they were somewhat or very likely to face eviction or foreclosure in the next two months. Data from the Princeton based research center The Eviction Lab show that eviction filings have increased in some of Texas largest cities since a statewide moratorium ended in mid-May.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier this month announced a new nationwide eviction moratorium, that will last until Dec. 31.

Since then, the Texas Supreme Court ordered every eviction citation to include information about the moratorium, as well as the form that tenants are required to fill to seek protection from being evicted.

Christina Rosales, deputy director of the advocacy organization Texas Housers, said that Abbott's new program was "unprecedented" and a "good start," but more needs to be done to avoid an increase in evictions in January, when the CDC moratorium expires.

"In Texas, tenants can be evicted because of non payment of rent. The thing that will keep them housed is rent assistance," Rosales said. "Legal assistance, right to counsel and eviction diversion will help manage the crisis, but if we want to steer our way out of the crisis, we will need more rental relief." Similar rent assistance

programs have been created by Texas' most populated cities and counties, mostly using CARES Act funding, too. These have experienced high levels of demand. San Antonio offered residents \$50.3 million for rent and legal assistance, which city officials expected to be tapped by the end of this month, according to KSAT. In Houston, the first round of a \$15 million rental assistance program was drained in 90 minutes. Since then, the city announced a new \$19

#### **ELECTION**

from page 1

the meeting at the request of **County Elections Administrator** Christy Eason. Eason said the request came about because people who may have otherwise been interested in working the polls were refusing due to COVID-19 concerns after good turnout in the July runoff elections where voters were good about wearing masks but some election workers were not.

"The problems we did have were with our poll workers. AS you know, they sit in a very close proximity to each other," Eason said. "We're having a hard time signing poll workers - I would say that at least half of them have declined to work in the election if they are not - and the people beside them - required to wear a mask or a face shield."

County Judge Trey Duhon said he had reached out Jim Allison, general counsel for the County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas, to find out if such a mandate was legal and that Allison had confirmed it was due to the fact that the poll workers are an extension of the county in their capacity

at the polls. Duhon and Eason said they had been speaking with their counterparts in other counties who were having a similar issue getting poll

"Wether you believe that masks work or you believe it's an imposition or not, you have to deal with people, some of which don't want to be in a situation if the person next to them is not wearing a mask," Duhon said.

According to Pew Research, 58% of poll workers are 61 years of age or older, a high-risk group for COVID-19 complications if they are infected by the disease.

Funding for the necessary precautions needed comes from a Help America Vote Act CARES Act grant of about \$47,300 the commissioners also voted to accept at the meeting.

Eason said dividers were also being set up at voting locations to protect poll workers and processes to sterilize equipment such as stencils used with voting equipment

were well established to keep voters and poll workers safe.

Commissioners also approved a proclamation promoting voter registration.

#### **Child Welfare**

Waller County Child Welfare Board Chairperson Katina Harris provided a report on the county's child welfare programs to the commissioners court, noting that reports of child welfare issues had recently increased, possibly due to school starting back up.

"In August we had 30 intakes," Harris said. "We've seen a little spike that could be because we're getting more eyes and ears on our

Those reports and other cases left the county with 33 children in its care, Harris said. Of those, 14 are 9 years of age or younger; 15 are 10-17 years of age; and the remainder are 18 years old or above. While 18-year-olds are legally adults, if they were wards of the state that attend college, they remain on the county's rolls, she said.

Combined with that issue, the return to school had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Harris said. School clothing purchases had been complicated by suppliers no longer offering discounts to nonprofit organizations and some had also halted children's clothing lines.

With these considerations in mind - along with all of the COVID safety precautions - we've transitioned to allow the caregivers to shop on their own for the kiddos and to just send us any receipts," Harris said. "That way, we don't have to worry about things not fitting or whatever could happen."

Harris said the nonprofit portion of the board was in need of additional volunteers to serve on the board or in other capacities. Anyone who wanted to volunteer can reach out to her by emailing her at waller.cwb.2017@gmail.com.

Additionally, fundraising to help the children was upcoming in the form of a clay shoot to be held Oct. 22 at the Westside Sporting Grounds in Katy. Those interested in participating in the event can

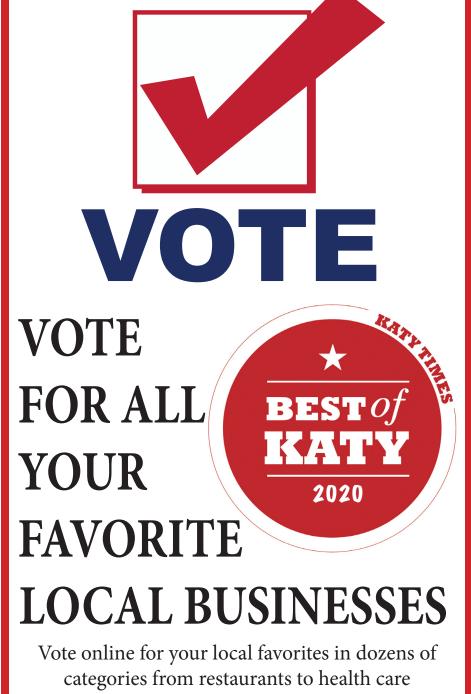
find more information at www. co.waller.tx.us/page/wccwb\_sporting clay.

million program.

#### Other actions

In addition to the items reported above, the court also approved:

- A utility permit for Comcast of Houston, LLC to install fiberoptic lines within the right of way for Owens Road near Prairie View.
- An annual audit of the Waller County District Attorney's Forfeiture/Seized Funds accounts - an event which occurs each year as a standardized practice.
- Telecom improvements at the new Waller County Justice Center which county staff said would save the county about \$200 a month.
- An agreement with Halff Associates to allow the firm to apply for a grant to fund a study of the Spring Creek Watershed and participation in the Brazos River Flood Update Study.
- The tabling of an agenda item that would have had the court considering a burn ban. The item was tabled after it was noted that fire risk scoring was very low.



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