

SEVEN LAKES
TOPS FULSHEAR
IN VOLLEYBALL
HOME OPENER
SPORTS | B1

KatyTimes

50 - 80% OFF RETAIL
BoxDrop
Mattress
Katy
BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY:
832-339-7136

VOLUME 109, ISSUE 33

THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

Abbott tests positive for COVID-19



GOVERNOR
GREG ABBOTT

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Office of the Governor Communications Director Mark Miner today issued a statement after Governor Greg Abbott tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

"Governor Greg Abbott today tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The Governor has been testing daily, and today was the first positive test

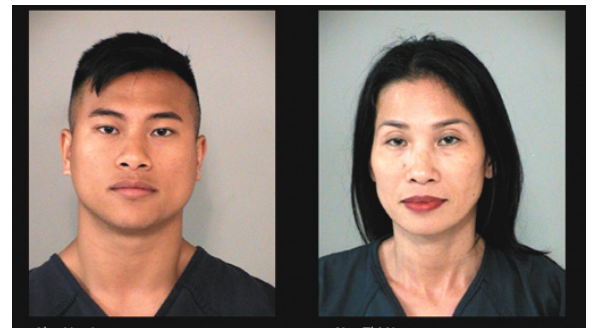
result," Miner said Tuesday.

Abbott is in constant communication with his staff, agency heads, and government officials to ensure that state government continues operation, Miner added. Abbott is isolating in the Governor's Mansion and continues to test daily. He is receiving Regeneron's monoclonal antibody treatment.

"Governor Abbott is

fully vaccinated against COVID-19, in good health, and currently experiencing no symptoms. Everyone that the Governor has been in close contact with today has been notified. Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott tested negative," Miner said.

Editor's note: This is a developing story. Keep an eye on www.katytimes.com for updates.



FBCSO

Alex Van Le, 32, and his mother Nga Thi Nguyen, 47, who both live in the Willowfork subdivision in the Katy area, have been charged with second-degree felonies in association with their alleged involvement in a vehicle theft ring.

STATE OF HEALTHCARE

Local medical leaders discuss state of health care at chamber event

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Leaders with major hospitals and clinics in the Katy area expressed concern regarding the current state of health care in the region at an Aug. 12 meeting hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

A panel made up of executives from health care providers said the COVID-19 pandemic – especially the current surge of the delta variant – was placing an extraordinary strain on the health care system.

"The current surge that we're in, is really something that's really escalated quickly," said Jerry Ashworth, CEO of Memorial Hermann Hospital System's Katy and Cypress facilities. "I think if we look back to the first part of July, as a health system, Memorial Hermann, we had about 100 COVID-positive patients in our facilities and over the course of the next four to six weeks, we've seen those numbers grow rapidly. Currently, (as of Aug. 12) we have over 800 positive patients in our facilities and it's really stretching, I think, all of the hospitals, pushing us to our limits."

Ivett Shah, senior vice president of Texas Children's Hospital's west campus, echoed Ashworth's sentiments and said the surge is a pattern seen across the Texas Medical Center's partner hospitals. Shah said TMC hospitals are all working in tandem to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which she said is quite serious in the Katy area. Shah said cases are showing up in younger patients as well as in pregnant women as the

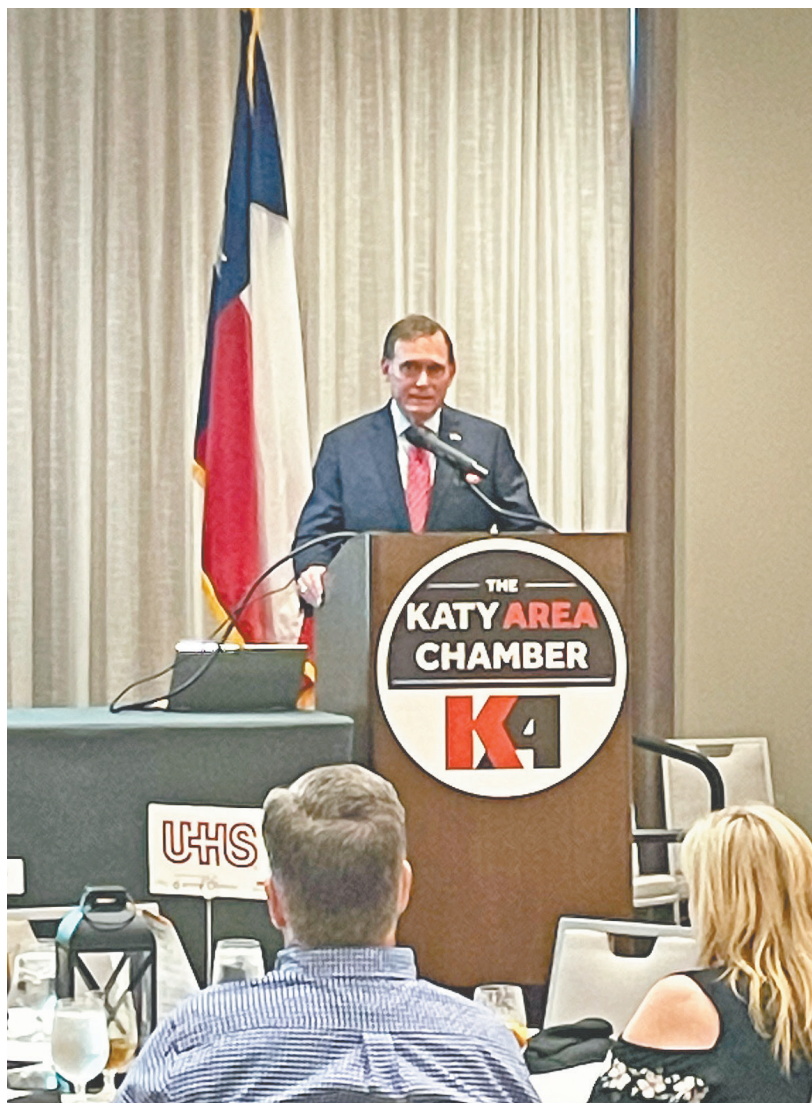


PHOTO COURTESY MATTHEW FERRARO/KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

University of Texas System as Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. John Zerwas, who also serves on Texas Governor Greg Abbott's COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force, speaks at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's State of Healthcare event on Aug. 12.

delta variant attacks the region.

"What you're hearing out there, I think there's a perception that perhaps (news of a fourth wave) isn't true," Shah said. "... We can't stress enough how important it is to wear a mask, social distance – et cetera. The

media seems to be exaggerating, but it is not an exaggeration."

Each of the six panelists, Ashworth, Shah, Wayne Voss of Houston Methodist West, Ashley Quinones

See **HEALTHCARE**, page A3

Two Willowfork residents arrested in association with auto theft ring

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office has announced the arrests of Alex Van Le, 32, and his mother, Nga Thi Nguyen, 47, in association with a luxury vehicle theft ring case. Authorities say they have recovered vehicles worth about \$528,000 altogether after receiving a tip from an informant.

"On Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, Detective (Robert) Hartfield of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Division received information in reference to possible stolen vehicles located at the residence of 1814 Brea Ridge Trail in Katy, Fort Bend County Texas, com-

See **AUTO THEFTS**, page A3

Harris, Fort Bend counties instate mask requirements

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Citing a rapid increase in cases in their respective counties, officials in both Harris and Fort Bend counties issued orders requiring face coverings in schools and county buildings last week while at the same time filing lawsuits to fight Texas Governor Greg Abbott's executive order against such mandates.

"The governor has decided that he would put a roadblock in place to prevent local leaders, who know the

See **MASKS**, page A3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

news@katytimes.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

281-391-3141



August 19, 2021
16 pages | \$1

Local hospitals require vaccinations for staff

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Three of the major hospitals that serve the Katy area have all issued policies requiring staff to be vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. Texas Children's Hospital was the last of the three local hospitals to issue such a mandate when they announced the policy Aug. 11.

"We recognize the profound and encouraging truth that getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is safe, effective and the primary mechanism to combat this pandemic," said Mark A. Wallace, president and CEO of Texas Children's. "By taking this step, we are further protecting the health of our team members, patients and community."

Houston Methodist West was the first to adopt such a policy on June 8, while the Memorial Hermann system established a similar requirement Aug. 2.



R. HANS MILLER

Methodist West Hospital's Katy campus as well as Memorial Hermann Katy and Texas Children's Hospital are now all requiring their staff to get immunized. Administrations in these hospital networks say it is vital to have their staff protected, especially with overwhelming numbers of COVID-19 patients filling ICU beds.

According to a Memorial Hermann press release, the policy is an effort to ensure safety for patients and staff within their facilities. At the time of the hospi-

tal system's mandate, Memorial Hermann reported that 100% of its executives, 95% of managers and almost 87% of bedside staff were already inoculated as a

means of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the hospital system.

"The painstakingly gathered and reported medical research data overwhelmingly demonstrates that the COVID-19 vaccines are extraordinarily safe and effective," said Dr. David L. Callender, president and CEO of Memorial Hermann. "Other factors contributing to the timing of this decision include the significant percentage of the Greater Houston population that remains unvaccinated, the relaxation of public safety measures such as masking and social distancing, and the alarming increase in new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations over the past several weeks."

Jerry Ashworth, CEO of Memorial Hermann's Katy and Cypress facilities said he agreed that the step was necessary to protect staff, patients and the general public that may come into hospitals.

See **VACCINATIONS**, page A3

GET READY FOR
BACK TO
SCHOOL!



PHYSICIANS
PREFERENCE
VITAMINS

Boost your immune system with our Immune Pak, Teen Pak and Kids Pak.

Order your Immune Paks today! Use code KTN at checkout for a 10% concession.

Visit physicianspreferencevitamins.com or call 281-646-1659.



TX DPS
State Trooper Drew Stoner of Rosenberg is presented with the Medal of Valor by DPS Director Steven McGraw (right, front) during an Aug. 12 ceremony in Austin. Stoner witnessed a shooting and provided aid to one of the victims after arresting the perpetrator this past Feb. 20 near his home.

State trooper awarded DPS Medal of Valor for Rosenberg arrest

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

State Trooper Drew Stoner of Rosenberg received the Medal of Valor from the Texas Department of Public Safety during an Aug. 12 ceremony. Stoner was joined by five other officers from across the state in receiving recognition during the ceremony.

“These awards exemplify the bravery and dedication that our employees exhibit on a daily basis within DPS,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “I’m pleased to recognize each of these men and women for their service and commitment to the state of Texas.”

Stoner received the award in recognition of his actions on Feb. 20 of this year. He was leaving his home at the time and noticed two men in a driveway near his cul-de-sac. He witnessed one man shoot the other several times in the chest. The suspect then entered the home with his weapon drawn.

Stoner left his vehicle and entered the house through the front door with his sidearm drawn and shouted commands at the suspect. Startled, the man complied with the order to drop his

weapon and lie down on the ground. Stoner then disarmed and apprehended the suspect.

Stoner also identified a woman in the home that had also been shot and provided first aid to her until medical assistance arrived. She survived but the male victim in the situation succumbed to his wounds.

Joining Stoner were Technical Sergeant Kyle McCarty of the Texas Highway Patrol who received a Lifesaving Award for saving a choking victim; Highway Patrolman Curtis “Drew” Woodard who also received a Lifesaving Award for saving a 6-month-old and the child’s mother from the Rio Grande; Highway Patrol Sergeant Rae Lee for who received the 2020 Outstanding Women in State Government Award for her expertise in crash site reconstruction; Assistant Chief Todd M. Early of the DPS Infrastructure Operations Division who received the Director’s Award for 27 years of service to the state; and Lieutenant Colonel Randall B. Prince, DPS Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Operations who received a Director’s Award for 32 years of service to DPS, including time in the Texas Rangers.

Chipotle opens new Katy location with drive-thru

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Chipotle Mexican Grill opened its latest location in Katy at 25226 FM 1093 W. on Monday. The restaurant opened at 10:45 a.m. and will remain open until 10 p.m. According to a Chipotle press release, this will be the first Katy location to feature a “Chipotlane,” the restaurant chain’s drive-thru option.

The chain is known for its made-to-order burritos, bowls and salads as well as quesadillas and tacos.

The location is participating in the ongoing effort by the Chipotle chain to help support learners through the Kids In Need Foundation’s Supply a Teacher Program which works to help fund 100 under-resourced schools with supplies. Diners simply need to round up their bill to the next highest dollar amount through the restaurant’s app or when checking out.

The restaurant is hiring and expects to



COURTESY CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL
Chipotle Mexican Grill opened its latest Katy area location Aug. 16 at 25226 FM 1093 W. in Katy. The chain restaurant offers a variety of Mexican-inspired foods including made-to-order burritos, salads and bowls.

offer about 25 positions at the new Katy location. Benefits include an opportunity for a crew bonus worth an extra month of pay annually, a debt-free college program, English as a second language education and access to mental health care for employees and their families. More information is available at www.chipotle.com/careers.



PHOTOS COURTESY FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION
2019 Jr Royalty from left to right: Fort Bend County Fair Princess - Leia Guebara, Prince - Tanner Pias, Jr Fair Queen - Savannah Melendez, Duke - Dakota Johnson, and Duchess - Brooke Wasik.

Fort Bend County Fair seeks talent, Jr. royalty contestants

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Fort Bend County Fair Association has announced multiple upcoming events for the Fort Bend County Fair. Events are currently scheduled through Oct. 3, but right now organizers are looking for participants in the annual Junior Royalty Pageant and talent contest.

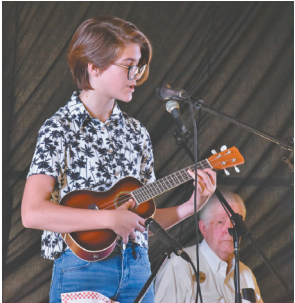
The pageant will be held Sept. 18 in at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds Building B, located at 4310 Highway 36 South in Rosenberg. The contest is broken up into three categories and includes the Fair Prince and Princess event at 10 a.m.; the Fair Duke and Duchess event at 1 p.m.; and Junior Fair Queen event at 3 p.m. Entry is \$35 per person, and a \$5 sibling discount is available for those that qualify. Participants must be residents of Fort Bend

tyfair.com/events/2021/jr-fair-royalty

The fair will also host a talent contest with five divisions including Elementary, Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Adult categories. Entry ranges from \$20-\$30 depending on the division and cash awards will be given out for first, second and third place. The Talent Contest will be held Sept. 25 beginning at 11 a.m. on the Texas Stage of the fairgrounds.

Talents displayed can be anything from singing and dancing to twirling and magicians. Entries must be received by 4 p.m. on Aug. 25 and should be submitted to the Fort Bend County Fair Office at 4310 Highway 36 South in Rosenberg (zip: 77471).

For full details and other events information for the Fort Bend County Fair, visit www.fortbendcountyfair.com.



The Fort Bend County Fair hosts an annual talent competition that features a variety of entertainment styles. Musical, magical and other performances from area residents keep the event lively. For more information, visit <https://www.fortbendcountyfair.com/events>.

County or zoned to a Fort Bend County School.

Winners will get to ride in the Fort Bend County Fair Parade to be held Sept. 24 on a float provided by the Junior Royalty Committee. More details can be found on the pageant website: <https://www.fortbendcountyfair.com/events>

Sunny's SECURE ~ SAFE ~ CLEAN
GRAND PARKWAY SELF STORAGE
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED.
WHERE WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

1555 W. Grand Pkwy N., Katy, TX 77493 ~ 281.395.3449

www.selfstorageinkaty.com • sunnysselfstorage@gmail.com

LIMITED AVAILABILITY!!
CALL AND RESERVE
to secure your unit today!
Thank you, Katy!

SUDOKU

		1	9			8			
			4						
						1	6		9 5
		8		9					3
9		7			2				
2				5		8			
					9	6		2	
4	2			6					
								7	

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between east and southeast
- Sun up in New York
- Japanese honorific
- Czech name for Prague
- Ochocinco's first name
- Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)
- Scots word for "home"
- Upper class young woman (abbr.)
- Monetary unit of Albania
- Raise
- Drain of resources
- Uncultured, clumsy persons
- Hikers use them
- Retrospective analysis (military)
- Tibetan form of chanting
- Influential European statesman
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Monetary unit of Romania
- Round green vegetable
- Well acquainted with
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Basics
- "The Godfather" actress Keaton
- Snakelike fish

CLUES DOWN

- Abstain from
- Vast desert in North Africa
- Cover the crown of a tooth
- A major division of geological time
- Urban center
- Crook
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Questions
- A pack of 52 playing cards
- Recording of sound
- Pithy saying
- Atomic #22
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Plant with ridged seedpods
- Innate
- Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)

- Soda receptacle
- Spanish stew: ___ podrida
- Viet Cong offensive
- Large body of water
- Beginning military rank
- Dissimilar
- Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
- Shows who you are

- Chinese dynasty
- Type of verse
- African nation
- Quite
- Former Bucks star Michael
- Showed again
- Body part
- Steal

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

AUTO THEFTS

from page A1

monly known as the subdivision, Willowfork,” said FBCSO Sergeant Daniel Calvillo during a press conference announcing the arrests.

Calvillo said the investigation is ongoing, but investigators were able to recover five luxury vehicles with a combined value of about \$528,000. Those vehicles included a 2016 Mercedes S550 worth about \$95,000; a 2021 Mercedes S580 valued at about \$130,000; a 2018 Audi R8 with an estimated value of \$140,000; a 2021 BMW X6 worth an estimated \$65,000; and a 2021 Lexus X570 with an approximate value of about \$98,000.

Authorities said the investigation has indicated that six area vehicle dealers were associated with the crime ring. Those businesses include Auto Source of Houston; McKenna Motors LLC; A1-Imports; Freeman Auto Sales; PR One Sales LLC; and McKenna of Houston LLC. Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said anyone who has purchased a vehicle from one of those establishments is encouraged to reach out to the Auto Theft Unit to have their vehicle

reviewed to ensure they were not a victim who was sold a stolen vehicle.

Calvillo said Le and Nguyen faced second-degree felony charges for theft of property. He added that the investigation is ongoing and more suspects could be arrested in the future related to the auto theft ring.

Fagan asked that anyone with information related to the case or similar cases in Fort Bend County reach out to the Auto Theft Division at 281-341-3853.

The Fort Bend County Auto Theft Unit’s website offers these tips to help prevent your vehicles from being stolen or to aid in the recovery of a vehicle if it is stolen:

- Hide your valuables or take them with you.
- Never hide a second set of keys in or on your car.
- Park in well-lit areas or attended lots.
- Never leave your car running.
- Do not leave the registration, title, or personal documents in your car.

- Park with your wheels turned toward the curb, and use your emergency brake.
- If you have a garage use it, however, do not leave the garage door opener in your vehicle.
- Disable your vehicle when leaving it unattended for an extended period.
- Engrave your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or personal I.D. number on expensive accessories and parts.
- Get an ignition or fuel kill switch.
- Get locks for inside your car. e.g. steering wheel locks, floorboard locks, gearshift locks, wheel locks, hood locks, or an armored collar around the steering column.
- Install an alarm.
- Install a vehicle tracking device.
- When purchasing a used vehicle, be very thorough to make sure that it is not stolen.

For more information on the Auto Theft Unit, including vehicle inspections to verify a purchased vehicle is not stolen, visit their website at: <https://bit.ly/3LYZFid>.

HEALTHCARE

from page A1

of the Memorial Hermann Health System, Amanda Hamlin of the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Mandy Westerman of Universal Health Services for West Oaks Hospital’s Katy Excel Center and Lara Hamilton of Christ Clinic said the current surge in cases is straining staff. Staff are getting sick, quitting due to burnout or moving to other positions as hospitals offer more money to staff to entice them.

“We’re losing a lot of our medical staff to these larger entities quite regularly,” said Christ Clinic CEO Lara Hamilton. “Quite frankly, I’m a nurse and as the CEO of Christ Clinic I could make more money doing bedside nursing in any of these organizations.”

Hamilton said the pandemic has been particularly hard on clients. Many new clients for the low-cost clinic have started coming in and she said about 75% of the clinic’s patients were negatively impacted financially over the last year and a half.

Multiple panelists said the pandemic has also caused a strain because many patients avoided going to the doctor during the first 12 months of COVID-19’s attack on the Katy area. Diabetic patients had blood sugar that was out of control and other chronic health conditions caused similar issues. Now, as the delta variant causes the sharpest caseload spike in the pandemic roughly 18-month history, those issues are complicating the availability of health care, they said.

Voss said hospitals across the TMC are seeing not only staffing but ICU bed shortages in the current delta variant wave. More than 90% of those patients suffering from COVID-19 are unvaccinated and emergency rooms are facing delays in accepting patients from EMS crews as the wait for ICU beds causes delays.

Dr. John Zerwas, former Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, now serves on Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s

COVID-19 Supply Chain Strike Force. As part of this role, he has worked to ensure Texas health care providers have the supplies they need to protect staff and treat COVID-19 patients.

Zerwas said during his keynote address that treatment of COVID-19 has improved, but several of the therapies hoped to improve treatment – convalescent plasma, remdesivir and others – but only steroidal treatments and monoclonal antibodies seem to be providing more reliable results. The best option, he said, is for Texans to get vaccinated to relieve the strain on the health care system and prevent mortality if breakthrough cases do occur. Zerwas said the vaccines are both safe and effective in preventing severe cases of COVID-19.

“If there is any silver lining that came out of this, it was an incredible reinvention of how we create vaccines that was desperately needed. It’s been desperately needed for a long, long time,” Zerwas said.

VACCINATIONS

from page A1

“We believe we have a responsibility to safeguard our facilities, not just for the patients that come in and for our community members, but also for our employees, for our physician partners and anyone else that would come into our facility,” Ashworth said.

Wayne Voss of Houston Methodist West said that, across the Methodist system of about two-dozen locations, 153 staff had resigned or been terminated as a result of the vaccine requirement. However, he said, he’d expected Houston Methodist West’s Katy location to be hit harder than it was.

Voss said several employees did file suit against the Methodist system; however, the judge ruled in the hospital system’s favor in the case. Voss said that, upon reflection, he feels Methodist’s executive team made the right decision.

Initially, he said, he had expected about 50 employees to leave. However, through an education effort, he and his executive team were able to bring that number down to only 22 staff.

“About half of those 22 were what we call PRN employees, so they weren’t full-time, but we did lose probably 12 to 15 full-time employees,” Voss said. “We didn’t want (the requirement) to do that, but I guess I’m glad now because everyone’s catching up. Because, you know, with the tough labor market, we didn’t want to put any other impediments on it.”

The Katy Times has reached out to the MD Anderson Cancer Center to enquire regarding vaccination requirements, but has not received a response as of press time.

MASKS

from page A1

needs of our communities better than anyone, from taking action during an emergency, which prohibits us from using the tools we need to fight COVID-19 and hurts local communities and schools across the state in their decision-making abilities,” Fort Bend County Judge KP George said during an Aug. 11 press conference.

Before the press conference closed, Fort Bend County Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson announced that a temporary restraining order against Abbott’s executive order GA-38 had been issued. The order prohibits municipalities in the state from issuing mask orders, among other requirements.

The restraining order was issued by the 434th District Court by Judge Christian Becerra and provides at least temporary authority to George to issue a mask mandate.

The Fort Bend mask order requires that masks be worn and social distancing be observed in government buildings within Fort Bend County, George said. Additionally, health screenings will be required in county offices.

Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee filed suit on behalf of Harris County after the Harris County Commissioners Court authorized the suit Aug. 12. Afterward, the 345th District Court issued a restraining order granting

Harris County the right to issue the mask order.

Menefee said the restraining order is temporary until a final decision in the case is issued.

“While this decision is temporary, it’s a victory for residents in Harris County who are concerned about this public health crisis,” Menefee said in a written statement. “We need every tool at our disposal to stop the spread of COVID-19, including masks and other measures that are proven to slow the spread.”

Both the Fort Bend and Harris orders require masking in schools and appear to have restraining orders backing them up, at least until a decision is made that says otherwise. However, Katy ISD has opted to follow Abbott’s guidelines, according to a statement from KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski.

“If you have been following the news throughout Texas, there appears to be a political battle as to who has the authority to regulate Texas public schools. Katy ISD finds itself in a unique position as we are situated in three counties. I understand the uncertainties of the political landscape surrounding this situation can be frustrating for our families. I will not allow Katy ISD to become a political football when the conflict exists between state and local elected officials,” Gregorski said in a formal statement posted to KISD’s



FORT BEND COUNTY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Fort Bend County Judge KP George (at podium) speaks during an Aug. 11 press conference announcing a lawsuit to fight Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s ban on mask mandates and other orders at the county level to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. George was joined by a sign language interpreter in the front on the left and in the background by (from left to right) Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton, Fort Bend County Health Authority Dr. Jacqueline Minter, Fort Bend County Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson and Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan.

website.

Gregorski said the district intends to follow guidance from the Texas Education Agency as well as Abbott’s orders. However, he did note that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health officials recommend masks, and he encourages that as a best practice given the health risks of COVID-19.

Similar battles in courtrooms throughout the state, including in the Texas Supreme Court, are being fought. Two of the most notable outside the Katy area are for Bexar and Dallas counties, near San Antonio and Dallas, respectively. Menefee said his team had

filed an Amicus Brief in support of local mandates on Aug. 14.

“This was a very quick turnaround, but we were able to make sure Harris County’s voice was heard before the Texas Supreme Court makes its decision in two similar cases,” Menefee said. “Their decision has the potential to impact local governments and residents across the state.”

Abbott and his legal team, including Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, have stood firm in their defense of GA-38 and Abbott’s right to issue the order and the role of personal responsibility in defeating the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The path forward relies on personal responsibility—not government mandates. The State of Texas will continue to vigorously fight the temporary restraining order to protect the rights and freedoms of all Texans,” Abbott said in an Aug. 11 statement related to the Bexar and Dallas cases.

Editor’s Note: The lawsuits involving Harris and Fort Bend counties are fluid situations and changing quickly. The information in this story is valid as of press time at 8 a.m. on Aug. 18. Follow us at www.katytimes.com for more information as the cases progress.

Brown Eyed Girl by Roxie

A Boutique for the Free Spirited Person

- Lots of Embroidered Clothing
- Girls Clothing
- Beautiful Mexican Clothing
- Jewelry
- Great Gift Items
- Goats Milk Soaps and Lotions
- Root Candles
- Pet Accessories & Gifts
- Original Water Colors
- Talavera Pottery
- Photography Canvas Prints
- Upholstery, Draperies, Refinishing and Custom Shutters

EXTRA DISCOUNTS for TEACHERS – AND STUDENTS!
(Students must show student ID)

30318 2nd Street • Fulshear, Texas 77441
281-468-7036

NEW STORE HOURS effective 8/1!
Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm
Closed Sundays and Mondays

DISCOUNTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

[f](#) @BEGDbyRoxie [ig](#) Browneyedgirlbyroxie

The Katy Times will be closed on

Labor Day

Sept. 6, 2021

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **September 9 edition** is **5 p.m. on Thursday, September 2.**

*Have a safe and happy holiday from
The Katy Times staff*

Katy Times

(281) 391-3141
www.katytimes.com

TWIA and transparency, or lack thereof

Recently, the Texas Wind-storm Insurance Association board voted for a 5% rate hike on Coastal residents and businesses. This action was wrong and demonstrates why TWIA transparency and disclosure must be improved.



TODD HUNTER

STATE REP,
R-CORPUS
CHRISTI

Transparency Question 1

How many Coastal residents and businesses were contacted by TWIA to get their input? I bet hardly anyone. Each year, TWIA threatens and tries to increase rates on Coastal residents and businesses, creating a constant battle that people living and working on the Coast must fight. Prior to each annual TWIA board meeting, public comment is solicited, but the results are rarely published. Maybe it's because the answer is overwhelmingly no. Where is the transparency?

Transparency Question 2

Why is the TWIA board's annual vote for higher rates an issue of insurance versus non-insurance? Maybe because insurance almost always wins. Higher rates mean higher costs to Coastal residents and businesses, but when the rate increases, someone else benefits — not the Coast. Those pesky insurance experts and corporations always say TWIA rates are actuarially unsound and need to be increased. However, private insurance is unavailable or unaffordable to the Coast and so Coastal residents and businesses are driven to TWIA by a lack of alternatives. The result becomes increased rates because TWIA is the insurer of last resort. Is this the insurance industry guarding the TWIA henhouse? Where is the transparency?

Transparency Question 3

If TWIA is in favor of helping the Coast, which involves 14 counties, then why is TWIA located in Austin and not in one of the 14 Coastal counties? I haven't seen a weather hurricane hit Austin yet. It seems reasonable that if you service the Coast, you should be located in the Coast. Where's the transparency?

Transparency Question 4

Does the TWIA board really represent and reflect Coastal pol-

icyholder interests? How many TWIA board members are connected to the insurance industry? On rate increases, the TWIA board almost always sides with insurance interests. If certain insurance corporations and groups are contacting, lobbying, communicating with interest groups, lawmakers and others on issues that may be adverse to Coastal policyholders, then shouldn't this information be provided to TWIA board members so it can be disclosed before a vote on rate hikes? This seems reasonable. Where's the transparency?

Transparency Question 5

The Texas Legislature recently passed a law that requires a 2/3 vote of the TWIA board before any rate increase can be validated. The law goes into effect on September 1, 2021. However, the TWIA board meeting took place on August 3, 2021 and the board voted to raise rates on a 5-3 vote. (TWIA has a nine-member board.) This vote was not 2/3. It is interesting that public comment, 22 legislators, county/city representatives, bankers, realtors and others asked that the TWIA board wait until after the new law went into effect before taking a vote on any rate increase. The TWIA board ignored these requests and went ahead and voted to raise rates just weeks before the new law went into effect. Where's the transparency?

I'm proud of the Texas Coast and our great State of Texas. If taxes, fees, insurance, and rates are going to increase, then let's have full transparency and full disclosure, so everyone knows. Listening to the public, ratepayers and policyholders should be impactful and constructive. "To be" or "not to be" seems to still be the TWIA question.

State Representative Todd Hunter of Corpus Christi represents District 32 in the Texas House of Representatives.



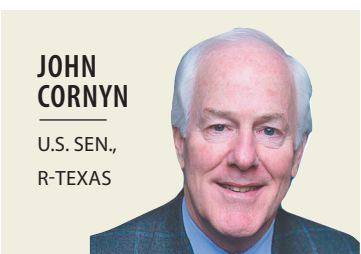
Well, I'll bee! Aug. 21 is National Honey Bee Day

National Honey Bee Day, which falls on August 21st this year, is the perfect time to pay homage to all of the black and yellow striped pollinators out there, from Buzz the Honey Nut Cheerios Bee to the honey bees we see buzzing above blooming Texas sunflowers.

On the third Saturday in August every year, this celebration for beekeepers, honey lovers, and all things that bloom reminds us how sweet these worker bees really are for our gardens. Honey bees play a tremendous role in our lives pollinating plants and producing honey, and their hard work contributes a whopping \$15 billion to the American economy every year!

With fruit trees producing fresh peaches, plums, and nectarines in August and snow cones and sugary drinks filling the bleachers at All-Star baseball games, it's common to hear the buzz of a honey bee on a hot summer day in Texas. For honey bees August denotes the start of their New Year, as they are working overtime to prepare for the long winter ahead.

You may not BEE-lieve this, but of the more than 20,000 bee species that have been discovered worldwide, over 1,000 of those bee species live in Texas! Unfortunately, that number is declining each year with some of these pollinators finding themselves on the endangered species list. However, with dedicated and compassionate individuals like Austin-area resident Erika Thompson, honey bee hives across the Lone Star State are being safely placed and maintained securing the future well-being of Texas honey bees. Thompson is a professional beekeeper and social media star



JOHN CORNYN

U.S. SEN.,
R-TEXAS

who created Texas Beeworks to educate, inspire, and advocate for bees to her millions of followers. She specializes in bee colony removals and even offers private lessons to new beekeepers. This University of Texas graduate is raising important awareness for honey bees not only in Texas, but across the entire globe!

Keeping honey bees healthy and active pays dividends too. A single honey bee hive can produce four gallons of honey annually and the state of Texas is actually ranked as the 4th top honey producing state in the country, producing nearly 9 million pounds of liquid gold last year alone.

On an even sweeter note, our very own Uvalde, Texas is known as the Honey Capital of the World. The small South Texas town earned this title during the 1905 World's Fair and has lived up to its reputation ever since. The 2nd Annual Uvalde Honey Festival wrapped up in June with locals and visitors enjoying tasty treats, live music, and all things honey!

The buzz of bees echoes throughout our state in other places as well from the bumblebee mascot of the Academy Independent School District in Little River, Texas to the city of Bee Cave, which got its name from the colonies of honeybees that lived in the banks of Barton Creek. There is also a city of Beeville and a Bee County in Texas, however, both

are named after Colonel Barnard Elliott Bee, Sr., who served as the Secretary of State and later as the Secretary of War for the Republic of Texas.

Besides being frequenters of baseball games and wildflower fields, honey bees are also critical creatures in the food chain. They pollinate 70 of the estimated 100 crop species that feed 90% of the world and 90% of wild plants benefit from bees.

This year has been especially difficult for honey bees in our state due to the severe winter storm that Texans endured in February. Most flowering was set back several weeks which meant limited food sources for pollinators, but thanks to the help of so many Texas gardeners, this year's work should recover for honey bees as they prepare for winter. If you're looking for inspiration for your garden, consider some of the popular plants for pollinator gardens like Pot marigolds, asters, and sunflowers.

Learning more about honey bees and beekeepers gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "busy as a bee." Lucky for us, honey bees really do stay busy pollinating, producing honey, and keeping our ecosystems intact. Whether you decide to celebrate National Honey Bee Day by recognizing the beekeepers who tend the hives, collecting and spreading local wildflower seeds to promote honey bee pollination, or simply enjoying locally grown honey, I hope it will BEE real sweet!

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher
R. HANS MILLER | News Editor
TYLER TYRE | Sports Editor
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Bookkeeper
MARISSA FERREIRA | Page designer

EDITORIAL INTERNS:
Melani Alanis
Megan Bassioli
Nitya Hosur

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Monday - Friday
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 678, Katy,
Texas, 77492-0678
PHONE: 281-391-3141

TO REPORT NEWS:
Call 281-391-3141 or email
news@katytimes.com

TO REPORT SPORTS SCORES:
email sports@katytimes.com

ADVERTISING:
For information on advertising
in the Katy Times, in print or
online, contact us at 281-
391-3141 or email katyclass@
katytimes.com. Advertising
deadline is noon on Friday
for both classified and retail
advertising.

BILLING:
Address billing inquiries to:
Debbie Prejean, Bookkeeper
bookkeeping@katytimes.com

PRESS RELEASES:
Press releases are accepted
but are not guaranteed for
publication. Press releases
should be e-mailed only to
news@katytimes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
We encourage your Letters
to the Editor submissions,
but we reserve the right
to edit for content and for
space restrictions. All letters
must contain the full name

of the person who wrote the
letter, as well as their address
and telephone number for
verification purposes. Letters
can be submitted via e-mail to
news@katytimes.com.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180)
is published on Thursday.
Subscriptions are available for
\$35 per year in Harris, Waller
and Fort Bend counties and
\$45 elsewhere. Subscribe at
www.katytimes.com or by
mailing payment and delivery
information to Katy Times, P.O.
Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678.
Periodical-rate postage paid at
Katy, Texas 77494.

CORRECTIONS:
We strive for accuracy and
transparency in our reporting.
If you believe that we have
made a factual error in
reporting, please call 281-
391-3141 or email editor@
katytimes.com with a link to
the story in question, along
with information on what you
believe is factually incorrect
in the reporting. Individual
columns in the Katy Times
do not necessarily reflect the
newspaper's editorial opinion.

CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries
at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The
Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy,
Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of
the Texas Press Association. The
weekly newspaper is published
every Thursday. Visit our Web
site 24 hours a day, seven days
a week at www.katytimes.com for
more news and information.



5K supports special needs athletes, inclusion

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Katy Area Running Club's Back to School 5K not only provides the local running community with a fun Labor Day event but supports a charity focused on including special needs children and adults in running events.

KARC was founded in 2016 to provide group running opportunities and social events for local runners. The club also wanted to host a race for the general running community. KARC ultimately decided to donate the bib fees from the race to a local charity. Initially, proceeds went to the Katy Students Run, a program in which local high school students learned to set goals through mentorship and training for a half-marathon. From 2016 to 2018, KARC donated a total of \$19,000 to KSR. After that organization folded and KARC looked for a new charity to support.

Ainsley's Angels, a group that provides opportunities for special needs children and young adults to participate in endurance events, came to the club's attention through members Shawn and Paige Siemers. Shawn and his daughter had participated in races with Ainsley's Angels with Shawn pushing Anna in a specialized wheelchair. Over time, other KARC members became wheelchair pushers for other Ainsley's Angels members.

The group was founded by Marine Corps Major Kim "Rooster" Rossiter, who had a child with a disability. Rossiter and his wife noticed that, when they took her on walks in her wheelchair, her face would light up and she would smile. Rossiter decided to take her on a run and the same thing happened.

Rossiter started running races with his daughter, and then got the idea to start an organization that would ensure everyone can experience an endurance event no



COURTESY KATY AREA RUNNING CLUB/AINSLEY'S ANGELS

The Katy Area Running Club is hosting its annual Back to School 5K fun run which seeks to help those with disabilities participate in fun runs in cooperation with Ainsley's Angels.

"It was clear that KARC cares more about having a good time and pushing riders than they care about the time they get at a race. To me that is extremely special."

—TRACEY FINCH, SOUTHEAST TEXAS AMBASSADOR FOR AINSLEY'S ANGELS

matter what disability they have. He also wanted to build awareness of America's special needs community through the inclusion of the disabled into local racing events.

Named for Rossiter's daughter Ainsley, Rossiter started the first chapter in Louisiana. Today, more than 70 chapters exist throughout the country, said Tracey Finch, Southeast Texas ambassador for

Ainsley's Angels.

Ainsley's Angels participants have a variety of physical and developmental disabilities.

"For the disabled, just signing up for a race is not that simple," Finch explained. "Not all races are wheelchair friendly."

Making a race more accessible to wheelchair participants can include giving them a head start before other runners. This way, they

can spread out across the course, giving space to other racers once they begin running. Since riders and their families often must pay for a custom-made wheelchair for races, Ainsley's Angels ensures their entrance fees are comped.

Finch has been overwhelmed by the generosity of KARC, he said. At the 2019 race, Finch got to speak about the Ainsley's Angels mission. "They really seemed to

care about who we were," Finch recalled of KARC's reaction to Ainsley's Angels.

After the event, KARC contacted Finch and said they had decided to donate 100% of the race bib fees, \$7,500, to Ainsley's Angels. KARC donated the \$6,000 in bib fees from the 2020 Back to School 5K to Ainsley's Angels, and again will donate fees from this year's race to the group.

"It was clear that KARC cares more about having a good time and pushing riders than they care about the time they get at a race," said Finch. "To me that is extremely special."

Ainsley's Angels used the money from the 2019 Back to School 5K to purchase a 20-foot trailer to transport specialized running chairs. The money the group fundraises primarily goes to pay for these chairs, which range in cost from \$1,000 up to \$6,000.

"Because we have riders with all kinds of disabilities, the chairs won't fit certain body types," Finch said. "When a family decides they want to ride all the time but may not be comfortable in a chair because of legs or back, we hook them up with Rooster and his team and they work with designers to make custom chairs for the riders."

Working with the riders and their families, Finch has seen the joy they get from participating in Ainsley's Angels. Her own life also has been enriched by pushing riders in races. "There's just something about doing something for somebody else," Finch said. "You realize that there are so many more important things in life than going to the mall."

The Back to School 5K will take place on Monday Sept. 6 at 7 a.m. The racecourse will run on Peek Road, starting and finishing at the Villaggio Town Center on Westheimer Parkway. Runners and walkers can sign up at <https://bit.ly/3yWQAL2>.

The Katy Times

Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

Schmidt FUNERAL HOME

Serving Katy and West Houston since 1945

(281) 391-2424

1508 East Avenue • Katy, Texas 77493
Mailing Address: 1415 East Avenue, Suite B • Katy, Texas 77493

Katy Hardware

Kay & Mickey Powers, Owners

559 Pin Oak Rd.
Katy, TX 77494

281-391-3437 • Fax 281-391-6922
www.katyhardware.com

Katy Veterinary Clinic

Serving the Greater Katy Area Since 1964

Kari Cleavinger, D.V.M. • Lori Smith, D.V.M.
Hillary Barra, D.V.M. • Catherine Berry, DVM
Jessica Machala, DVM

27227 Hwy. Blvd., Katy
Open M-F 7-6 • Sat 8-12 281-391-3169 • www.katyvetclinic.com

TRUE FIX A/C & Heating

Quality Service for over 42 Years

Living in KATY, Working in KATY & KATY Proud

"We're in Your Neighborhood and We'll Be Here When You Need Us"

281-392-9334
www.truefix.com

281-492-6064

21715 Kingsland Blvd. Ste. 105
Katy Tx, 77450
katyteeth.com

M-Th 7am-7pm
Fri. 7am-3pm
Sat. 8am-2pm

Harrison & Bethke
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce

Networking, Upcoming Events, & More Info

Where Christian Businesses Meet

When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:19

Clay's

IN YOUR FAMILY'S TIME OF NEED...

3923 Fifth Street
Brookshire, TX 77423

281-CLAY-WAY (281.252.9929)

ClaysMortuary.com

Your Ad Here!

Call Debbie for more information

281-391-3141

ASSEMBLY OF GOD EL SHADDAI ASAMBLEA DE DIOS

5610 LILAC STREET • 281-391-8339

PASTORS: PETER & ESTELA PINON

FAMILY LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

24911 ROESNER ROAD • 281-392-0637

ALBERT CORTEZ, PASTOR • WWW.FLAG.CHURCH

JOURNEY CHURCH

541 PIN OAK ROAD, KATY • 281-391-3326

SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30 AM
WWW.JOURNEYCHURCHKATY.COM

JEREMIAH HILL, LEAD PASTOR

BAPTIST ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

655 DANOVER • 281-391-2263

TYRONE FREEMAN, PASTOR

BRIDGEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH

FRANZ ELEMENTARY • 2751 WESTGREEN BLVD. • 281-578-0970

MICHAEL THOMPSON, PASTOR

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH MAYDE CREEK

2855 GREENHOUSE ROAD • 281-492-2689

LARRY MADDOX, PASTOR

KATY'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

600 PIN OAK • 281-391-1100

COLEMAN PHILLEY, SR. PASTOR

GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOUSTON

2502 KATY HOCKLEY CUT-OFF • 281-391-9199

VIRGIL YEHNERT, PASTOR

KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

20555 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-0785

PASTOR RYAN RUSH

PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP

27043 FM 1093 • 281-391-6673 • WWW.PARKWAYFELLOWSHIP.COM

PASTOR: MIKE MCCOWN

PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP

5819 10TH ST. • KATY, TX 77493 • 832-222-9282

REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

24201 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • 281-371-2156

MITCH MAHER, PASTOR

RIVER BEND BAPTIST CHURCH

26700 FM 1093. • 281-346-2279 • WWW.RIVERBENDC.ORG

JOHN C. CROWE, PASTOR

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, West Campus

19449 KATY FREEWAY • 713-465-3408

DR. ED YOUNG, PASTOR

TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST

5715 PEEK ROAD • 281-371-3900

RICK SHRADER, PASTOR

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

10000 SPRING GREEN BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494

281-579-6724 • TRINITY-KATY.ORG

PASTOR JOSH GUAJARDO

WESTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

1407 GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-5099

ROY MEADOWS, PASTOR

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH & ACADEMY

3883 LAKES OF BRIDGEWATER DR • 281-492-3448

REV. RICHARD D. BUTTS, PASTOR

ANGLICAN THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHIAS DIOCESE OF MID AMERICA

4142 DAYFLOWER • 281-463-2304

GRACE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

24968 KATY RANCH ROAD, KATY, TEXAS 77494

281-769-5544 • WWW.GRACEANGLICANKATY.COM

RECTOR: ROBERT HENSON

CATHOLIC EPIPHANY OF THE LORD CATHOLIC

1530 NORWALK DR. (NOTTINGHAM) • 281-578-0707

FR. TOM LAM

ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH

5356 ELEVENTH ST. • 281-391-4758

FR. CHRISTOPHER PLANT, PASTOR

ST. EDITH STEIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

3311 N. FRY ROAD • 281-492-7500

REV. RYSZARD KULMA, PASTOR

CHRISTIAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

22101 MORTON ROAD • 281-492-2693

REV. HEATHER TOLLESON, MINISTER

CURRENT-A CHRISTIAN CHURCH

26600 WESTHEIMER PKWY • 281-395-4722

DARREN WALTER, MINISTER

CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX ST. PAUL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH Western Rite

1717 KATY GAP RD. • KATY, TX 77494 • 281-201-6439

FATHER SYMEON KEES • ADMIN@STPAULKATY.COM • COMCASTBIZ.NET

CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST - KATY

5438 E. 5TH STREET • 281-391-7606

CINCO RANCH CHURCH OF CHRIST

6655 S. MASON ROAD • 281-579-3100

AARON WALLING, MINISTER

CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BRIDGEWATER

21650 CRESTBROOK COVE DR. KATY, TX 77449

FRY ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 FRY ROAD AT FRANZ • 281-578-1897

BOB PULLIAM

WESTPARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT FULSHEAR COMMUNITY CENTER

281-712-1492 WWW.WESTPARKCOC.ORG

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

1225 W. GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-3310

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL

1936 DREXEL, KATY • 281-391-2785

REV. MARK WILKINSON

LUTHERAN CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

700 S. WESTGREEN • 281-398-6464

PAUL GOEKE, LEAD PASTOR

LIVING WORD EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN

3700 SOUTH MASON ROAD • 281-392-2300

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN MISSOURI-SYNOD

3RD ST. & AVE. D, KATY • 281-391-0171

JOHN DAVIS

VICTORY OF THE LAMB-WISCONSIN SYNOD

20351 CINCO RANCH BLVD. @ PEEK RD.

281-395-0544 • NATHAN BUEGE, PASTOR

METHODIST KATY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5601 FIFTH STREET • 281-391-2121 • KATYFIRST.ORG

REV. JASON SMITH, SENIOR PASTOR

GRACE FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2655 S. MASON ROAD (NEXT TO GREAT S.W. EQUESTRIAN CENTER)

281-646-1903 • JIM LEGGETT, PASTOR

HOLY COVENANT UNITED METHODIST

22111 MORTON ROAD (AT MASON) • 281-579-1200

FRED WILLIS, SENIOR PASTOR

ST. PETER'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

20775 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-8031

DR. PAT SPARKS, PASTOR

MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

1928 DREXEL • 281-391-0687 • 281-391-5439

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

1603 Norwalk • 281-578-8934

BISHOP SCOTT BAUER

NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY WARD

281-578-8930

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

9950 SOUTH MASON

281-398-7796

NAZARENE WESTSIDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

3434 FRY ROAD • 281-492-0234

REV. KENT SCHWAMBERGER, PASTOR

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH ON THE ROCK

433 S. BARKER CYPRESS • 281-599-9777

JORGE H. CARDENAS, PASTOR

BELIEVERS' WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

1600 WOODS ROAD • 888-334-BWOC(2962)

TOMMY AND RACHEL BURCHFIELD, PASTOR

THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER

20910 PARK ROW • 281-578-3535

DAVID ROBERSON, PASTOR

FAITH MANGER CHURCH

20701 KINGSLAND BLVD. @ DOMINION • 281-578-2550

DAVID L. BROWN, PASTOR

FAITH WEST CHURCH

2225 PORTER ROAD • 281-391-LIFE

GARY KERR, PASTOR

THE FELLOWSHIP

22765 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-3950

WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG • JERRY EDMONSON, PASTOR

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

1507 KATY FLEWELLEN RD. • 281-646-1084

DON GRIFFIN, PASTOR

HOSANNA!

17700 CLAY RD. • 281-345-1182

JAMES P. BELL, PASTOR

KAINOS COMMUNITY CHURCH

19946 SAUMS ROAD • 281-599-1473

JOE AND YOLAND HERRON-PALMORE, PASTORS

KATY BIBLE CHURCH

2500 AVENUE D • 281-391-7284 • 281-391-6855

MATT MANCINI, PASTOR

KATY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

24102 KINGSLAND BOULEVARD • 281-391-0099

TIM BARKER, PASTOR

KINDRED SPIRIT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

22025 I-10 W., RAMADA LIMITED HOTEL, RM. 306

281-855-3402 • REV. L. R. FURR, PASTOR

LIFE CHURCH

2610 GREENBUSCH • 281-395-5433

SAM RUDDO, PASTOR

CHRISTS MERCY

3506 PORTER RD. • 281-391-2273

WADE CASHION, PASTOR

NEW HORIZONS WORD OF FAITH CHURCH

906 AVENUE A (CHAPEL) • 281-391-6770

EDDIE L. STALLWORTH-CHERRY, JR., PASTOR

NORTHWEST BELIEVERS CHURCH

5423 E FIFTH STREET • 281-829-8985

LARRY CONNER, PASTOR

POWERHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER

1818 KATYLAND ROAD • 281-391-0095

G. F. WATKINS, PASTOR

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

MEETING @ WOODCREEK J.H.S. • 713-705-4878

RESURRECTION CITY CHURCH OF KATY

DR. BLANCHARD D. LAYTON, SR., SENIOR PASTOR

MINISTER CRISelda VALVERDE, ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

CHURCH SERVICES: 11:30 - 1:00

5819 10TH STREET

CHURCH #: 281-291-8596

PASTOR'S CELL: 832-332-4687

MINISTER'S CELL: 832-335-2552

CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH

26100 CINCO RANCH BLVD.

KATY, TX 77494

WWW.CROSSINGSCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

MEETS AT 10:40 AM AT KILPATRICK ELEMENTARY

PENTECOSTAL TRINITY FAITH CHURCH

10TH & AVE. D • 281-391-3310

DR. PHILLIP AND JILL CELEMENTS, PASTORS

HERITAGE FAMILY CHURCH

2120 KATY HOCKLEY CUTOFF • 281-391-1010

MICHAEL FILLMER, PASTOR

WWW.HERITAGEFAMILYKATY.ORG

THE PENTECOSTALS OF KATY

1941 WESTBOROUGH • 281-492-1175

ROB MCKEE, PASTOR

PRESBYTERIAN CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL-PRESBYTERIAN

1351 S. MASON RD. • 281-579-1080

REV. CARTER SANGER, PASTOR

GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN

6035 S. FRY RD.

REV. DEAN POGUE, PASTOR

281-646-7500

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

1350 N. MASON ROAD • 281-492-8520

REV. BRIAN LONG

CHRIST CHURCH PCA

10818 GASTON ROAD

281-392-0002

REV. FRED GRECO, SENIOR PASTOR

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1913 EAST AVENUE • 281-398-1301

PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

RISD calls for \$99.5 million bond election

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Royal ISD has opted to place a \$99.5 million bond election on the Nov. 2 ballot to fund renovations to four campuses and the addition of two new campuses in light of growth coming to the district. The call for the election comes after trustees heard from members of the district’s community advisory committee.

“We are excited about the opportunity to work with our community to update our current student learning facilities and build new ones to embrace the growth underway in Royal ISD. In doing so, we can provide every Falcon student with the best possible environment for their success,” RISD Superintendent Rick Kershner said.

The decision to move forward with the bond comes after the committee met several times over the last few months to discuss the district’s needs in regards to maintenance and accommodating



FILE PHOTO BY R. HANS MILLER
RISD Operations Director Derrick Dabney shows where urinals are missing from the walls in the boys’ bathroom and Royal Junior High School. Collapsed drainpipes in the walls and under the floor have prevented the installation of new urinals – one of many serious maintenance issues at the half-century-old campus that the district hopes to fix via a bond election this fall.

upcoming growth. During those meetings, Kershner said that new subdivisions coming to the district would bring thousands of students to the small district and that some sort of expansions would need to be considered in order to avoid options such as portables.

Additionally, tours of each of the district’s campuses were pro-

vided at separate meetings of the advisory group. All of the campuses, except Royal High School which is relatively new, showed evidence of wear and tear including tripping hazards, electrical concerns, outdated or unusable kitchen equipment, unsafe bathrooms and other maintenance concerns.

RISD Director of Operations

Derrick Dabney said his maintenance crew does its best to keep up with the maintenance needs of the district. However, the crew is limited and while additional positions are available, the district is now competing for maintenance staff with organizations such as Amazon on Old Highway 90 and Goya, among others.

The maintenance concerns and growth combine to illustrate the need for campus improvements, district officials said. About 1,800 homes are already planned to be built within RISD and more are expected in subdivisions such as Crystal Lakes, Windsor Estates, Freeman Ranch, Sunterra and Kingsland Ranch.

Kershner said that, while the new homes are expected to increase the district’s population, they will also add to the tax base, reducing the burden on individual taxpayers. As a result of that and the district’s recent early payoff of older bonds, RISD should be able to handle the additional bond funding without the need

to increase the district’s property tax rate, currently set at \$1.427170 per \$100 in value – down from 2014’s rate of \$1.540000 per \$100 valuation.

If approved by voters on Nov. 2, the bond package would allow the district to construct a new campus to serve prekindergarten through fifth grades and a new junior high school. It will also allow the current Royal Junior High campus to be renovated along with the Early Childhood Center, Royal Elementary, Royal STEM Academy and the district’s transportation, according to an RISD press release.

Staff and consultants for the district have said they believe the renovations and additional campuses will allow the district to absorb the expected student body growth in the coming years. Additionally, they said, authorization of the bond does not mean bonds will be sold immediately, but rather only when projects are planned for related bond funds.

Early voting for the fall 2021 elections runs Oct. 18-29.

UHV takes second in affordability for online education

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Online Colleges, a website that gathers information about online degree programs in Texas, has ranked the University of Houston-Victoria as second in affordability statewide. The website took into account accreditation, tuition and the availability of at least three online bachelor degrees.

“It is an honor for UHV to be recognized,” said Chance Glenn, UHV provost and vice president for academic affairs. “At UHV, our faculty and staff are consistently committed to providing students with a quality education. Given our current circumstances, flexibility in course delivery is critical for student success.”

UHV students, including those at its Katy campus, can take advantage

of online degree programs in arts and sciences, business administration and health professions and human development which have been offered for more than two decades by UHV.

UHV is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges, according to a UHV press release. Individual programs within the various schools at UHV hold separate accreditation such as that from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

UHV distributed more than \$39 million in financial aid to students during the 2020 fiscal year, the press release said.

One retired Katy area educator who taught for 25 years in Katy and the Victoria area, Peggy Titt, said she went back for her graduate degree in 2020 through

UHV, enrolling in the school’s Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program.

“I would attend the American Book Review events at UHV and would always hear about the UHV MFA program,” she said. “I like to write, and I would like to write a memoir about my family one day. I had heard so many good things about the UHV MFA program, so I finally decided it was time to join.”

Titt said the online aspect was intimidating at first, but with the help of UHV faculty and staff to assist her, she was able to enjoy the courses and be successful. She continues taking her courses online at her own pace.

“This degree is one of the best bargains and gifts I have ever given myself,” she said. “I am enjoying my time as a student so much.”



R. HANS MILLER
The University of Houston-Victoria, which shares a campus in Katy with the University of Houston, has been recognized for its affordable online bachelors degree programs.

Katy and Royal ISD students participate in SkillsUSA events

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Students in both the Katy ISD and Royal ISD chapters of SkillsUSA, a nonprofit partnership of education and industry organizations oriented toward developing the nation’s workforce, participated in SkillsUSA events over the summer.

Katy ISD students Daniel White and Levend Karayaka were named national champions in the SkillsUSA Mechatronics competition at the 2021 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Both attend classes at KISD’s Miller Career and Technology Center and participate in mechanical and electrical engineering events – otherwise known as mechatronics. Their prior awards include winning first at the region and second at the state level.

“The Katy ISD SkillsUSA chapter is a fairly new group of students who came together during the 2019-2020 school year. In total, we have 45 students who are part of the group, many of which qualified at various competitions throughout the year. I am so proud of their willingness to try something new. To earn a national championship on their first attempt speaks to their commitment to representing MCTC and Katy ISD,” said MCTC Instructor of Manufacturing Engineering Dallas Bergstrom.

On Aug. 5 and 6, Royal ISD SkillsUSA officers visited Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy to participate in the Royal chapter’s officer camp. The two-day event gave officers the chance to work together, network and have a little fun, according to a RISD press release. The camp began with a review of the purpose and organizational framework of SkillsUSA.



COURTESY RISD
Royal ISD SkillsUSA students met at Mary Jo Peckham Park earlier this month for team building and training to ensure a successful year for the organization.



COURTESY KISD
Katy ISD students Daniel White (left) and Levend Karayaka (right) participate in the national championship for SkillsUSA’s Mechatronics competition. The pair have performed well over the last year in engineering and electronics competitions.

“SkillsUSA officers truly became a team and it was a great learning experience for the officers as well as a productive camp for all.”

—RISD ADMINISTRATION

Under the theme “United As One” the Royal students focused on the SkillsUSA mission of building a stronger workforce. Breakout sessions for the training included revising the chapter’s constitutions, working to increase chapter membership and designing a new SkillsUSA chapter t-shirt.

The team also discussed how the chapter could be involved more in the school district and community.

“SkillsUSA officers truly became a team and it was a great learning experience for the officers as well as a productive camp for all,” a statement from RISD’s administration said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Royal Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., August 30, 2021 in the Board Room, Royal Administration Building, 3714 FM 359, Pattison, TX 77466. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.960300 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.358817 / \$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget		
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:		
Maintenance and operations	3.27 %	(increase) or (decrease)
Debt service	1.13 %	(increase) or (decrease)
Total expenditures	2.60 %	(increase) or (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)		
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 2,212,914,548	\$ 2,647,444,942
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 117,405,881	\$ 438,865,960
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 1,749,151,895	\$ 2,054,086,306
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 115,038,825	\$ 399,019,134
* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).		
** “New property” is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).		
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).		

Bonded Indebtedness	
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness*	\$56,014,944.40
*Outstanding principal.	

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$0.963000	\$0.358817*	\$1.321817	\$10.091	\$3.632
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.991166	\$0.220398*	\$1.211564	\$10.786	\$2.026
Proposed Rate	\$0.960300	\$0.358817*	\$1.319117	\$12.357	\$2.294
* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 187,016	\$ 205,874
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 147,529	\$ 161,964
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.321817	\$ 1.319117
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,950.06	\$ 2136.49
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 186.43
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.		

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.319117. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 1.319117.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 7,921,990
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 2,612,671
A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.	



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, JR. FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas' cities such as Austin and their suburbs are booming. The state is home to three of the country's 10 largest cities and four of the fastest-growing. The state's Hispanic population is now nearly as large as the non-Hispanic white population, with Texas gaining nearly 11 Hispanic residents for every additional white resident since 2010. Those trends set up a pitched battle for political control when state lawmakers redraw legislative districts.

People of color make up 95% of Texas' population growth

Cities and suburbs booming, 2020 census shows

BY ALEXA URA, JASON KAO, CARLA ASTUDILLO AND CHRIS ESSIG
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Setting the stage for what is expected to be a bruising battle over political representation, the results of the 2020 census released Thursday showed that Texas' explosive growth over the past decade was again powered by people of color.

And it is the state's cities and suburbs that are booming, with Texas home to three of the country's 10 largest cities and four of the fastest-growing.

Texas gained the most residents of any state since 2010, and its Hispanic population is now nearly as large as the non-Hispanic white population, with just half a percentage point separating them. Texas gained nearly 11 Hispanic residents for every additional white resident since 2010.

Texans of color accounted for 95% of the state's population growth. The 2020 census puts the state's population at 29,145,505 — a 16% jump from 25.1 million in 2010. Hispanic Texans were responsible for half of that increase.

Non-Hispanic white Texans now make up just 39.8% of the state's population — down from 45% in 2010. Meanwhile, the share of Hispanic Texans has grown to 39.3%.

The Hispanic population's approach to becoming Texas' largest demographic group marks a significant milestone ahead of this year's redistricting, during which state lawmakers will draw new political maps divvying up seats in Congress and the state House and Senate in a fight over political control of the state for the next decade.

Texas Republicans hold every lever of power to try to lock in or even expand their majorities at the state Capitol and in Congress. But they will be working to redraw the state's political maps while confronting the demographic reality that the state is growing in ways that the party's position.

Hispanic leaders will surely point to the growth to lobby for increased political control and representation, particularly as lawmakers consider

how to draw the two additional congressional seats — the most gained by any state — Texas earned from its fast growth.

The state's Hispanic, Black and Asian populations all significantly outgrew the white population since 2010. The white population growth — an increase of just 187,252 — was swamped by the total growth among Asian Texans, who make up a tiny share of the total population but have seen their numbers grow at the fastest pace in the state. The state's Asian population grew by 613,092 since 2010.

The Hispanic population saw the biggest growth, with nearly 2 million additional Hispanic people now calling Texas home.

The state's growth has been concentrated in diverse urban centers that serve as Democratic strongholds and suburban communities, several of which have either already turned blue or are trending in that direction. Since 2010, 44% of the state's growth took place in its five largest counties — Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar and Travis. All 10 of the state's fastest-growing counties in the last decade were suburban.

Over the last two decades, the GOP has maintained its power by drawing political maps at the expense of voters of color. During the last round of redistricting, federal courts found that Texas lawmakers discriminated against Hispanic and Black voters. The Legislature's Republican majority was

reprimanded by federal judges for intentionally diluting the power of their votes; their maps after the 2010 census flunked both the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act.

The growth driven by people of color easily surpassed the growth captured in the 2010 census, which showed people of color accounted for 89% of the total increase in population that decade.

This time, though, the GOP will be working in a more favorable legal landscape.

The 2021 round of political map-making will be the first in nearly half a century without federal oversight that previously helped shield against gerrymandering.

Congress has worked slowly in its bid to revive some of those protections by restoring preclearance, which required the state to submit any changes to its elections and maps for federal review to ensure they would not harm voters of color. The U.S. Supreme Court knocked down that requirement, a linchpin of the Voting Rights Act, in 2013. This year, the court also continued to whittle away at other portions of the act used to challenge discriminatory districts.

Congressional and state House and Senate districts must be reconfigured ahead of the 2022 elections to account for the state's population growth and to balance district populations.

But that work is running well behind schedule, largely because of pandemic-induced delays of the census. With Thursday's release, the Legislature's number-crunchers will begin processing the massive set of data released by the Census Bureau — down to the block level — to upload it into the system lawmakers will use.

But the actual work of drafting maps, wrangling the numbers that represent communities and neighborhoods, might not begin until next month.

On Aug. 12, state Rep. Todd Hunter, the Corpus Christi Republican who chairs the House Redistricting Committee, told his colleagues to expect the data to be ready for them by Sept. 1.

Editor's Note: This article has been edited to fit in the space available.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/08/12/texas-2020-census/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at texastribune.org.

THE HISPANIC POPULATION SAW THE BIGGEST GROWTH, WITH NEARLY 2 MILLION ADDITIONAL HISPANIC PEOPLE NOW CALLING TEXAS HOME.



Ramsey speaks at Katy EDC meeting

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Tom Ramsey was the keynote speaker at this month's Katy Area Economic Development Council's general assembly meeting. During his comments, Ramsey spoke on three topics that he referred to under the acronym, HIT, which stands for high crime, infrastructure and taxes.

"You know what crime does to businesses? It devastates businesses," Ramsey said.



FILE PHOTO

Harris County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Tom Ramsey spoke at the Katy Area Economic Development Council's monthly meeting on Aug. 17. During his talk, he spoke about crime, infrastructure and taxes.

said he'd reached out to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that Mayde Creek south and east of Greenhouse Road was desilted. That project will allow water to flow from the northwestern portion of that waterway which has been cleared by the Harris County Flood Control District into Addicks Reservoir.

Finally, Ramsey expressed his support for a proposed \$4-5 billion flood mitigation tunnel that would take water from Addicks and Barker reservoirs to the Gulf of Mexico in the event of a severe storm such as Hurricane Harvey. Ramsey said funding for the tunnel would likely come from his budget and that of Harris County Commissioner for Precinct 4 Jack Cagle.

"We're going to build a tunnel because that's the only way we're going to get the water here on the west side into the bay and that tunnel's going to help a lot of different groups," Ramsey said.

Taxes

Ramsey said he opposes any tax increase that may be presented at a commissioners court meeting.

"We not going to be raising taxes. We don't need to be raising taxes," Ramsey said.

Ramsey said that rules within the commissioners court prevent a raise in taxes without at least four members of the court present to form a quorum to vote on the tax rate. He said that, if necessary, he would break a quorum as his predecessor, Steve Raddack, and Cagle had two years ago in order to prevent a quorum for an issue he feels so strongly about.

Ramsey said he supports a tax rate that would fit the criteria of a "no new revenue" tax rate in which the county receives the same amount of funding in property taxes. With increased property values, that is likely to reduce the tax rate for Harris County.

In closing, Ramsey expressed appreciation for the Katy EDC and the business leaders that make up its membership.

"I appreciate what y'all do as an entity in terms of coverage of businesses," Ramsey said.

High Crime

During his speech which lasted slightly longer than 15 minutes, Ramsey said he was interested in working with community partners to attack what he termed a "crime-demic." He cited prostitution activity along Bissonnet Street between Beltway 8 and State Highway 59 as one of the major crime centers in the U.S. for prostitution. That area, he said, is full of empty buildings because crime has driven businesses from the area and he wants to change that.

Part of Ramsey's plan to reduce crime is to hire 50 additional police officers to patrol neighborhoods in Harris County. He said he proposed the hiring a few meetings ago and disagrees with other members of the Harris County Commissioners Court on their proposed solution to growing crime.

"We can't do what the court did in this last meeting and say, 'I know, we'll solve the problem by sending psychologists out next time we get a 9-1-1 call.' We got to get serious if we're going to address it," Ramsey said.

Infrastructure

Ramsey said the Precinct 3 Road and Bridge team is out working on a variety of projects throughout his precinct.

According to the Precinct 3 website, construction of additional detention and wetland habitat areas is underway at John Paul Landing Park north of the city of Kat. Louetta Road from Stablewood Farms Drive to Little Cypress Creek is being converted to a four-lane boulevard. Peek Road is also being expanded to four lanes from Grand Ventana to Stockdick School Road. Asphalt repairs are being conducted on Bauer Hockley Road, Kickapoo Road, Badtke Road, Becker Road, House Road, North Eldridge Parkway, Clay Road, Wind-song Trail, Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, Becker Road, Roberts Road, A.J. Foyt Road and Nichols Road.

No costs for the above projects were listed on the Precinct 3 website.

Drainage infrastructure is also a priority for the county, Ramsey said. He

Texas Heritage Parkway set to open Friday

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Andy Meyers announced Monday that the long-awaited Texas Heritage Parkway will open Friday, Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. The roadway is a joint effort with the Texas Department of Transportation, Fort Bend County, Waller County and the cities of Fulshear and Katy paying for portions of the construction with additional resources provided by subdivision developers in the area.

"The Kingsland to I-10 segment is the last bit of the (Texas Heritage Parkway) that is still being constructed, but all vehicles will have access to 10, the only issue being that the road goes from four to two lanes at Kingsland. This segment of the THP is in Waller County, and I have no control over that part of the road," Meyers said via Facebook.

According to BGE, the engineering and construction management consultant for the project, the parkway will run 6.25 miles from I-10 at Pederson Road in the north, just west of the city of Katy, to FM 1093 in the south, just



COURTESY COMMISSIONER ANDY MEYERS

Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers (center with scissors) cuts the ribbon to open Cane Island Parkway in February of this year. Meyers has been an advocate for mobility improvements in the Cinco Ranch area which makes up a large portion of his precinct. He announced Aug. 16 that Texas Heritage Parkway, a multi-agency project, is expected to open Aug. 20.

east of Fulshear.

The roughly \$55 million roadway will feature several roundabouts and two traffic lights along the four-lane roadways with two lanes on each side

of the parkway. It will also feature walking paths along each side with paths going beneath the roadway to provide for pedestrian safety, according to the BGE drawings.

YOUR NEWS.

YOUR WAY.

Find out what all your friends are talking about - follow us on Facebook for easy access to The Katy Times!

facebook.com/thekatytimes

CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

A growing number of school districts, counties and cities have defied Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order banning mask mandates, as COVID-19 cases continue to spike due to the delta variant and a lower-than-national-average vaccinations in Texas.

Officials in Dallas and Bexar counties won a first-round decision in court requiring masks in public schools and most government buildings, but upper courts soon overturned those rulings. School districts in Austin, Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, among others, are also requiring masks on campuses, though those issues are also being addressed in court.

Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton are fighting multiple court battles across the state and have vowed to sue any government official who defies the governor's executive order banning mask mandates. (See coverage of local cases on page A1.)

1 Democratic lawmakers still absent; arrests ordered

The Texas Senate last week passed Senate Bill 1, which would establish new restrictions on voting, despite a 15-hour filibuster by state Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston. Meanwhile, Democratic lawmakers in the House continued to break quorum to stave off a House vote on the measure, despite arrest warrants issued by House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont.

The Texas Supreme Court on Thursday temporarily blocked district court orders that would have allowed more than 40 House Democrats to avoid civil arrest warrants. The Democrats were expected to issue a response this week, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Texas Democrats have denied Republicans a quorum since the closing days of the regular legislative session. The Legislature is now in its second special session, with Democrats decamping to Washington, D.C. to push for a federal voting rights bill. Some lawmakers have since returned to Texas but continue to stay away from the state Capitol.

2 Hospitalizations, COVID-19 cases continue to rise

Meanwhile, the number of



STOCK PHOTO BY MAX FISCHER VIA PEXELS

Masks mandates, especially as it relates to Texas classrooms, continue to be a hot topic in homes, local government offices and in courtrooms across Texas as officials at various levels of government try to balance personal freedoms and public safety.

new cases of COVID-19, overwhelmingly among unvaccinated Texans, continues to rise with 98,383 reported in the past week along with 628 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Hospitalizations are approaching the peak levels of mid-January, with 11,381 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, up 27% from the week before.

As students return to classrooms across the state, the number of children in Texas hospitalized with COVID-19 is at one of its highest levels since the pandemic began. In the 19-county region around Dallas and Fort Worth, there were no staffed pediatric beds available late last week, according to KUT.org.

DSHS reports 13.055 million Texans are full vaccinated, about 44.7% of the total population.

3 Pedestrian, bicyclist deaths continue to climb

While traffic casualties declined in 2020, Texas saw a steep rise in the number of people killed while walking or biking on the state's roadways. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 731 people died in pedestrian-related crashes last year, up 9% from 2019. Bicyclists killed in crashes totaled 82, up from 68 deaths the previous year. Overall, the number of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths has been steadily increasing the past five years, according to TxDOT.

"Whether you're behind the wheel, on foot or riding a bicycle, we're reminding all Texans that they need to be safe and smart, and that starts with paying attention to driving and obeying traffic laws," said Marc Williams, executive director of TxDOT.

The agency's "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign features safety reminders on

television, billboards, gas pumps, buses and social media. They are components of #EndTheStreakTX, which encourages driver safety. The last death-free day on Texas roadways was Nov. 7, 2000.

4 Early August rainfall above normal for half of state

Just 1% of the state is suffering drought conditions, primarily in the Big Bend area, a small piece of Northeast Texas near the Oklahoma border and the northwest tip of the Panhandle. That's the latest report from Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

Three months ago, 45% of the state's area was in drought, while a third of the state suffered from drought conditions a year ago.

5 Seized alligator snapping turtles returned to nature

A multi-agency effort has led to the release of 21 adult and six juvenile snapping turtles back into East Texas, after being seized in an illegal traffic attempt. A 2017 investigation by game wardens with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department into the poaching of the turtles led to the arrest of three men, two of whom received prison time in December of that year.

Alligator snapping turtles are among the largest freshwater turtles in the world and can grow to weigh more than 200 pounds with a lifespan of more than 100 years. The turtles are designated as threatened with statewide extinction under Texas law.

The turtles were taken to the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery after the seizure and released recently under a joint effort with TPWD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stephen F. Austin State University and others. The turtles are a popular food item in Louisiana, which limits catches to one per day.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gbborders@texaspress.com.

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 35 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding LLP, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Ste. 1400, Houston, TX 77056. 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. Battistini, S. Handal, S. Olsen, S. Ruske & T. Feng
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.

	Last Year	This Year
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$0.425</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$0.410</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.015/\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-3.5294%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$390,731</u>	<u>\$399,596</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$390,731</u>	<u>\$399,596</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$1,660.61</u>	<u>\$1,638.34</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		<u>-\$22.27</u>
and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>-1.3411%</u>

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.

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 220 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding, L.L.P., 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 1400, Houston, Texas 77056 or by teleconference at 1-877-304-9269, Access Code: 571475. 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:	C. LeBouf, K.Gehringer, B. Dahl, B. Colliander & G. Krejci
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.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 1.500</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$ 1.500</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.000 /\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>0.0000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$266,211</u>	<u>\$271,361</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$266,211</u>	<u>\$271,361</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$3,993.17</u>	<u>\$4,070.42</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		<u>\$77.25</u>
and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>1.9346%</u>

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.



David Pollack, left, is head coach for the girls cross country team at Seven Lakes High School. He has been teaching for 20+ years. Scott Kenney, right, is head coach for the boys cross country team at Seven Lakes High School. He has been coaching for over 20 years and is also an AP Human Geography teacher.

Seven Lakes cross country preps for fall

BY NITYA HOSUR
EDITORIAL INTERN

Seven Lakes girls cross country coach David Pollack and boys cross country coach Scott Kenney are preparing for the upcoming season.

Kenney has been with the program since its inception in 2005, and at that time, he was hired as the head coach for the girls track team. For the first eight years of the school's existence, he served as the head coach for the girls track team, and then he became an assistant coach to spend more time with his family.

Five years ago, Kenney said he got back into coaching cross country and then was able to serve as the head coach for the boys cross country team. Kenney said that he has always wanted to be a social studies teacher and a coach, and he also teaches AP Human Geography alongside cross country.

Pollack grew up around coaches, which influenced him and his idea for the future. He played football in high school and competed in track in high school and college. After graduating, Pollack moved to Texas from New York and coached track and football until 2012 at Hightower High School.

In 2012, when the head coaching position for the track team opened at Seven Lakes, Pollack applied and was given the position, as long as he was the head coach for the girls cross country team as well. Although Pollack knew nothing about cross country, Pollack said that Kenney, who was the head coach at the time, helped Pollack learn the ropes.

"Cross country is a sport classified by the UIL as an individual sport," Kenney said, "but there is a much bigger team component to the sport."

Cross country involves running a distance anywhere between two miles and five kilometers. Each school tries to put together a team of runners, which consists of a minimum of five scoring runners and a maximum of seven runners. Each team competes with other schools over a 5k or two-mile race, and the first five runners are the scoring runners. Depending on their finishing position in the race, they will be allocated a certain amount of points, which will be totaled up to give a final score to the team. The sixth and the

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, page B6

Taylor confident heading into season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

A culture of success isn't built overnight.

And that culture doesn't just go away because of the graduation of a senior class. A point that this year's Taylor Mustangs are out to prove.

"I've learned that words coming from outside are just words — they don't mean anything," said senior defensive back Hollis Robinson Jr. "They've doubted us before. Before my sophomore year they did it, junior year they did it, they're going to do it this year and next year again. We're used to it and it doesn't affect us."

The Mustangs return four starters on both offense and defense to a team that went three rounds into the Class 6A, Div. II playoffs and will look to build on the success of past years.

Taylor returned to the field last week for their first week of practice, capping it off with an intersquad scrimmage Saturday.

"I was so excited to compete against someone in that

See **TAYLOR**, page B7

TYLER TYRE

Keith Muse breaks past the defense during Friday's practice at Taylor High School.



TYLER TYRE

Cole Francis prepares to make a pass during Tompkins scrimmage against Cypress Ranch on Friday at Legacy Stadium. Below, a Tompkins wide receiver attempts to stiff arm a defensive back during the scrimmage against Cypress Ranch.



FIRST LOOK

FALCONS GET PREPARED FOR SEASON WITH SCRIMMAGE AGAINST CY-RANCH

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Collin Marshall had been waiting for an opportunity.

The Tompkins senior running back had to contend with a crowded backfield last season, but this year he knows he is going to play a big role in the Falcons success.

Marshall took advantage of his time in the backfield Friday in Tompkins scrimmage against Cypress Ranch, scoring three rushing touchdowns, including a long run during the timed quarter of the scrimmage.

"We've been waiting the whole year for this," Marshall said. "The whole team has been waiting for it. We've all been practicing hitting, going hard and we're ready to go."

The Tompkins offense scored five times in the scrimmage, with all five scores coming on the ground. Marshall credited the work of his offensive line.

See **SCRIMMAGE**, page B7

Seven Lakes tops Fulshear in home volleyball opener

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It's been a transition for Seven Lakes to start the season.

After graduating ten seniors from last year's Class 6A state championship team, the Spartans have had to find a way to make the new pieces fit, and gel as a new team in the process.

But that hasn't been hard for

senior Emma Schroder and the rest of the Spartans, as they have formed a bond, even if it's early in the season.

"It's amazing with everyone here," Schroder said. "It's so easy with us; no one has any sort of gossip or anything like that, and we all just like to have a fun time together. It's really been perfect so far."

Seven Lakes (7-3) has had tests

early in the season, facing Clear Springs to start the season before spending last weekend in the Cy-Fair/Katy ISD tournament, where the team went 6-2.

There wasn't any break after that for the Spartans, as they had a stiff test against Fulshear, the Texas Girls Coaches Association pre-season No. 2 team in Class 5A, on Tuesday at the Seven Lakes gym.

"We wanted to come out and

play the best," said Seven Lakes head coach Amy Cataline. "We are going to have to learn and we want to see where all our weaknesses are. That lets us know and then we can chip away at it, get back in the gym and be a better team. That was our goal in the offseason, and you can see it starting to happen."

The Spartans didn't feel any ill effects from the number of games they played last week and swept

the Chargers (7-5) three sets to zero; 25-12, 25-15, 25-14.

"We were able to bring our A-game today because of everything we learned at the tournament," said senior setter Casey Batenhorst. "Playing in that really let us work out all the kinks, and even though we lost two games, they were good losses. We worked

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B8



SELL US YOUR AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING SYSTEM

BVS Home Experts, will provide up to **\$3,759** in discounts and rebates toward the purchase and installation of a new BVS Home Comfort System

Your energy savings could even pay for your new system!

**CALL US TODAY to schedule a
FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!**

We will give you an exact quote on how much you can save in your home.

(281) 394-0031
GOBVS.COM





Josh Moore is the top returning receiver for Texas. He had 30 receptions for 472 yards and nine touchdowns for the Longhorns last season. PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS

Training camp underway for Longhorns

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The first block of training camp of the Steve Sarkisian era is underway at Texas.

The Longhorns finished their first four-day string of training camp on Monday. Following a day off on Tuesday, they will have three more practice days before scrimmaging on Saturday.

“I thought we got a lot of football in, and I give the guys a lot of credit for trying to do it right,” Sarkisian said Monday. “We saw a really steady diet of improvement. I like the progression of where we’re headed, but we’ve got work to do.”

The 2021 season begins at home against Sept. 4 against Louisiana and continues with a trip to take on rival Arkansas on Sept. 11 and another home game against Rice on Sept. 18 before Big 12 play begins.

Sarkisian said the first four days were spent installing his playbook. The players that joined the team in January are at a different level than the ones that first suited up in June.

Josh Moore led all Texas receivers last season with 30 receptions for 472 yards and nine touchdowns. Jordan Whittington had 21 catches for 206 yards with no scores as he battled through injuries.

Beyond that, the Longhorns’ receiving corps is relatively unproven.



Texas: University of Texas players run out on the field before a game last season.

Sarkisian and the coaching staff are still figuring out who can make big plays at critical improvements.

“In our offense, you have to have the ability to conceptually learn,” Sarkisian said. “We don’t teach our receivers to play one spot, and only one spot, on the field. We’d like to move people around. As we get to game plan-

ning, we can create some of the matchups we want.”

As for who is going to be throwing the ball to them is still an unanswered question.

Early on in Sarkisian’s coaching career, he helped make a decision between Matt Cassel and Matt Leinart at USC. He said this year’s decision between Casey Thomp-

son and Hudson Card is probably the most difficult choice as a head coach.

“I had a feeling this would happen,” Sarkisian said. “They’re both playing well and improving and doing the things we’re asking them to do. I wanted them to make it hard on us, and they’re doing just that.”

“We saw a really steady diet of improvement. I like the progression of where we’re headed, but we’ve got work to do.”

— STEVE SARKISIAN, LONGHORNS HEAD COACH

Like every team in college football, Texas has been able to take advantage of the transfer portal. Players like Devin Richardson (New Mexico State) and Ray Thornton (LSU) have joined the fold for the Longhorns, while Kellan Robinson and Ben Davis followed Sarkisian from Alabama to Texas.

“I think their approach to it from a veteran standpoint, but also from a championship mentality standpoint (has helped),” Sarkisian said. “These guys were College Football Playoff participants and national champions. The influence started in the summer and has carried over to training camp.”

IT'S TIME FOR THE TIMES.



Katy Times

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR JUST \$35.00 per YEAR!

Senior and Veteran Discount: \$22 per year

- Convenient delivery via US Postal Service each Thursday and unlimited access to the katytimes.com website which is updated daily throughout the day
- Choose your subscription method
 - * Mail this form with your payment to Katy Times, PO Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678
 - * Call 281-391-3141
 - * Go online at katytimes.com and look for the "subscribe" button

Date: _____ Phone#: _____


Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cash _____ Check _____ # _____

Card _____ # _____ Exp. _____ CVV _____



Katy Optiks

Enhancing vision with style

701 S. Fry Rd. Ste. 125
Katy, TX 77450
281.492.1209
www.katyoptiks.com

NOW THERE ARE TWO STATIONS TO HEAR HOUSTON'S BEST SPORTS TALK RADIO

TUNE IN NEAREST YOU



PEARLAND PASADENA THE WOODLANDS BAYTOWN



SUGAR LAND KATY CYPRESS WEST HOUSTON

JOHN GRANATO • LANCE ZIERLEIN
CHARLIE PALLILO • JOEL BLANK • JOSH INNES
FRED FAOUR • A. J. HOFFMAN

Katy Times CLASSIFIEDS

Your Classified Ad Source In Print & Online!

Call 281-391-3141
or visit www.katytimes.com
to place your ad today!



WORD AD RATE				DEADLINES			
\$14.00 per week for 15 words. Each additional word 54¢.				Display Ads Friday noon		Word Ads Monday noon	

620 HOUSES FOR SALE	850 HELP WANTED	850 HELP WANTED	850 HELP WANTED	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

2,000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.

**680
COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY FOR RENT**

OFFICE SPACE
FOR sublease
1200 sq. ft.
through April 2022.
Prime location 99
and Kingsland.
4 offices, lobby,
kitchenette, rest-
room and storage
closet. Call Mary
(347) 247-7000.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



**850
HELP WANTED**

**HELP
WANTED**
YARD WORK
EVERY SATURDAY
\$15.00 PER HOUR
CALL
713-249-5154

**FIND OUT
WHAT
ALL YOUR
FRIENDS
ARE
TALKING
ABOUT**



**YOUR NEWS.
YOUR WAY.**
Katy Times

Follow us on
Facebook for
easy access to
**THE KATY
TIMES**



**LAKE
MANAGEMENT**
Company in Katy
seeking
**FIELD SERVICE
TECHNICIAN.**
Outside work, hands
on training, no
experience necessary.
Benefits available.
Pay depends on
previous work
experience. Apply in
person - Mon-Fri:
9am to 3pm @
4110 Katy Hockley
Cut-Off Rd, 77493.
281-391-3688



**The Classifieds
RIGHT
ON THE
MONEY!**
Trade your unwanted
items for fast cash with
the Classifieds.

PLACE YOUR
AD TODAY
281-391-3141
debbie.prejean@katytimes.com
katytimes.com
Katy Times

950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Board of Directors Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, will be received, until **2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, September 7th, 2021**, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for Construction of **“Avalon at Cypress West & Mason Road Softscape”** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, Harris County, Texas”.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete Trails, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on **Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time**. To join call Telephone Number 877-853-5257, and use Passcode: 749926 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/91490401962?pwd=dUZBNkhnR1lKK0R3aHBPaVFxeUJpZz09>

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

A Bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and bid securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and bid securities must be submitted through www.civcastusa.com. Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and bid security.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

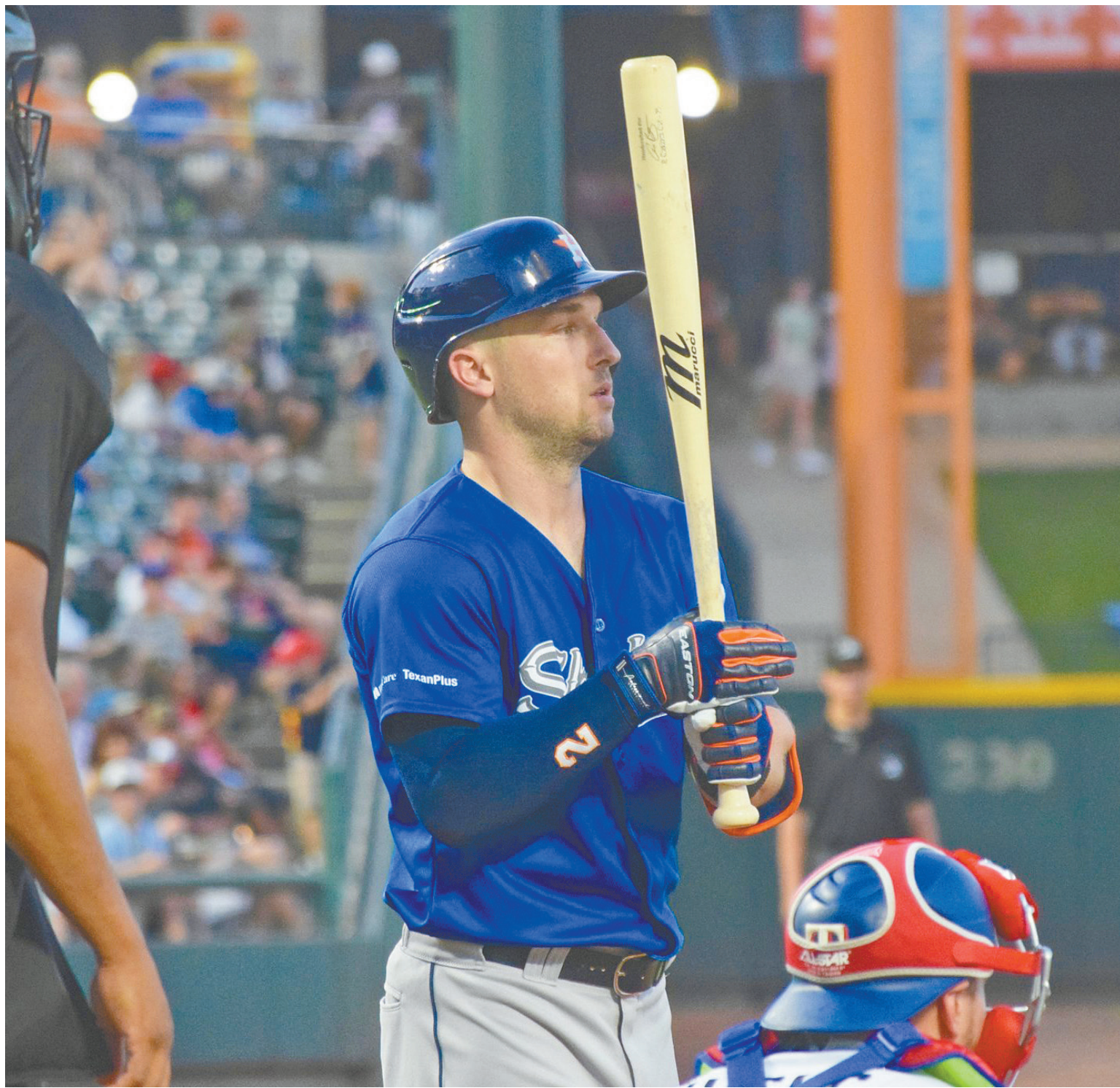
HC MUD 165

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WALLER COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS INCREASES IN SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES			
Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 152.013 of the Texas Local Government Code, that the Waller County Commissioners Court will set the salary and allowances of elected County or Precinct Officers at 9:00 A.M., on the 15th day of September, 2021 in Commissioners Court, located at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445.			
The purpose of this notice is to inform the general public of the following proposed salary and allowance increases for Elected Officials and Precinct Officers.			
OFFICE	2021	2022	INCREASE/(DECREASE)
Criminal District Attorney			
Salary Supplement	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00	\$
506th District Judge			
Salary Supplement	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Court at Law			
Salary	\$ 151,000.00	\$ 151,000.00	\$
CPS Stipend	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$
Longevity	\$ 156.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 52.00
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Sheriff			
Salary	\$ 79,015.00	\$ 82,966.00	\$ 3,951.00
Longevity	\$	\$ 104.00	\$ 104.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Judge			
Salary	\$ 85,322.00	\$ 89,589.00	\$ 4,267.00
Longevity	\$ 364.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$	\$ (6,000.00)
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Clerk			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 73,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
District Clerk			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 73,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Longevity	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 1,628.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance			\$
Treasurer			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 73,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Longevity	\$ 2,528.00	\$ 2,828.00	\$ 300.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
Tax Assessor Collector			
Salary	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 73,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 69,736.00	\$ 3,321.00
Longevity	\$ 468.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 69,736.00	\$ 3,321.00
Longevity	\$ 156.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 69,736.00	\$ 3,321.00
Longevity	\$ 468.00	\$ 104.00	\$ (364.00)
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 69,736.00	\$ 3,321.00
Longevity	\$ 364.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Constable, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 55,329.00	\$ 2,635.00
Longevity	\$ 1,028.00	\$ 1,128.00	\$ 100.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Constable, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 55,329.00	\$ 2,635.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$	\$
County Constable, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 55,329.00	\$ 2,635.00
Longevity	\$ 468.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
County Constable, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 52,694.00	\$ 55,329.00	\$ 2,635.00
Longevity	\$ 2,528.00	\$ 2,828.00	\$ 300.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 5,943.00
Longevity	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 5,943.00
Longevity	\$ 156.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 5,943.00
Longevity	\$ 572.00	\$ 624.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 62,057.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 5,943.00
Longevity	\$ 1,128.00	\$ 1,228.00	\$ 100.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Carbett “Trey” J. Duhon III Waller County Judge			

The Katy Times is pleased to bring you our fall sports preview in our Aug. 26 edition. Packed with loads of local football information, this 32-page special publication will tell you what to look forward from Katy area teams. Support local teams and see what you can look forward to by picking up a copy for just \$1 at local newsstands.

KATY AREA FALL SPORTS PREVIEW
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO KATY TIMES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

Bregman returns to Dell Diamond



Houston All-Star third baseman played at Dell as part of his rehab assignment

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Fans have been letting Houston players hear it across the major leagues since the Astros were busted for using technology to steal signs in 2017 and 2018.

But Alex Bregman didn't pay much attention to anything fans shouted at him as his rehab assignment with the Sugar Land Skeeters brought him to Dell Diamond for a few games last week.

"I'm focused on my rehab, it's all good," Bregman said. "They can say whatever they want."

In fact, the two-time All-Star and World Series Champion only had good things to say about the city and stadium since he was last in town as a member of the Fresno Grizzlies in 2016.

"Round Rock was one of my last stops on my way to the big leagues before I got called up," Bregman said. "This stadium is awesome, it's one of my favorite places to play in the minor leagues. The whole energy here is great. It's a great environment to play."

Bregman's wife lived in Central Texas for a little bit, so he used the opportunity to see where she lived. He also got a firsthand look at where his salsa — Breggy Bomb Salsa — is made.

The LSU product also got to chop it up with some Texas fans, as they will soon enough be rivals in the SEC.

"I'm super excited that Texas and Oklahoma are gonna join the SEC," Bregman said. "It's going to make (the conference) even better."

Bregman played all nine innings in back-to-back games for Sugar Land against the Express. He finished 2-for-8 in the two games and had an RBI and a run scored in the Skeeters' 12-3 win on Saturday.

"I feel great, I feel ready," Bregman said. "The swing feels better just getting back and seeing some live pitching. My legs feel better now than they have all year. It's a good step in the right direction, so we'll see what's next."

Bregman has missed more than 40 games since straining his quad in June. He said he's had some tightness in his hamstring last week that set his progress back a bit.

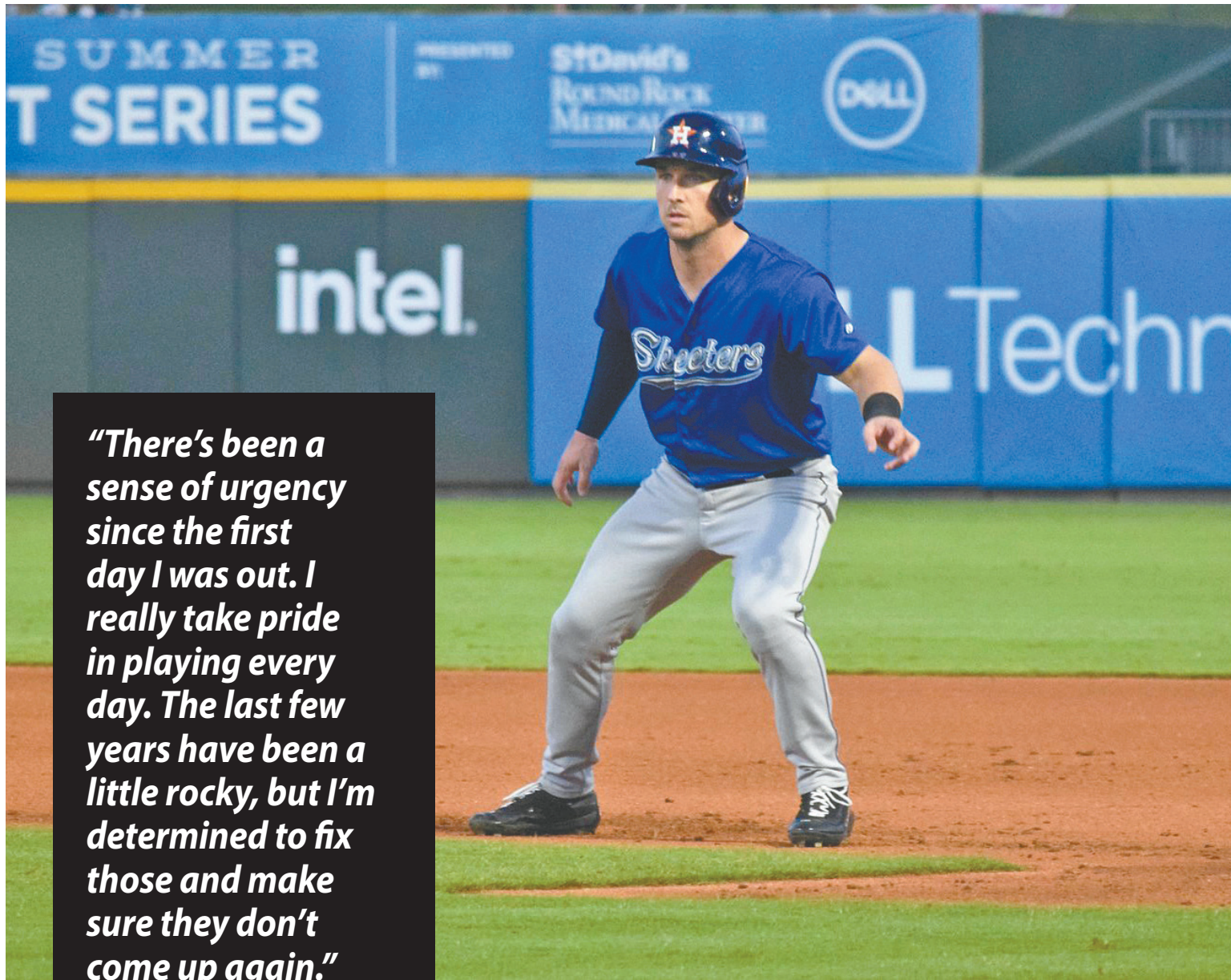
Houston had an off day on Monday, and Astros' manager Dusty Baker said they still needed to discuss when he'd return to the big-league lineup.

"There's been a sense of urgency since the first day I was out," Bregman said. "I really take pride in playing every day. The last few years have been a little rocky, but I'm determined to fix those and make sure they don't come up again."

Houston focused on strengthening its bullpen at the trade deadline last week.

In the biggest move, the Astros traded Abraham Toro and Joe Smith to Seattle for Kendall Graveman. They also acquired reliever Yimi Garcia from the Marlins and sent outfielder Myles Straw to Cleveland for reliever Phil Maton.

"I was sad to see some of my friends go, but I think they did a great job," Bregman said. "They're all in. They want to win, and so do the players. It's good to see. Excited is probably an understatement to rejoin the big club."



"There's been a sense of urgency since the first day I was out. I really take pride in playing every day. The last few years have been a little rocky, but I'm determined to fix those and make sure they don't come up again."

—ALEX BREGMAN, THIRD BASEMAN FOR THE HOUSTON ALL-STARS

PHOTOS BY ZACH SMITH
Houston All-Star third baseman Alex Bregman played two games for the Sugar Land Skeeters at Dell Diamond last week. He was 2-for-8 at the plate and drove in a run.

BUSINESS & SERVICE

DIRECTORY

WINDOW CLEANING

YOUR AD HERE

KTX Window Cleaning, LLC



SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE
www.ktxwindowcleaning.com

YOUR MESSAGE HERE FOR JUST \$40.00 per week

For more information, contact Debbie Prejean
281-391-3141 • debbie.prejean@katytimes.com

Katy Times



“Cross country is a sport classified by the UIL as an individual sport, but there is a much bigger team component to the sport.”

— SCOTT KENNEY, SEVEN LAKES BOYS CROSS COUNTRY COACH

CROSS COUNTRY

from page B1

seventh runners count as tie breakers, in the event that two or more teams have the same score. Whichever team has the highest score wins the race.

The freshman boys team competes in two-mile races, while the JV and the Varsity teams compete in 5k races. For the girls team, the JV team competes in both the two-mile and 5k races while the Varsity team competes in 5k races. In cross country, there are different divisions. Schools can have a varsity girls race and a JV race at one meet, along with an open race. Kenney said that the open race is for runners who are not able to participate in the freshman, JV, or Varsity races usually due to a limit on the number of runners in a team.

Kenney said the goal of the cross country teams is to reach and win the district championship. The Katy ISD district, District 19-6A, is one of the more competitive ones in the state of Texas, Kenney said, and has always have their eye on winning districts.

“Usually,” Kenney said, “it is a battle for the top three teams and Seven Lakes has always got their eye on trying to win the district championships.”

After the first round, held at Paul D. Rushing Park, the regional meet is held 12 days later, hosted by Sam Houston State University. After regionals, Kenney said, the state cross country championship will be hosted on November 6th, which is what the teams’ ultimate goal is.

Coach Pollack said that in order for the team to be successful, each athlete should have self-motivation and a good work ethic. Pollack said that each athlete should be committed to training year-round, and dedicating time towards cross country while managing with their school lives.

“This is a sport where even if you have talent,” Kenney said, “talent can only take you so far.”



The boys cross country team at practice, preparing to test their endurance on the track. Each member trains according to their strengths and weaknesses so that no member is left behind.

PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT KENNEY

The girls XC cross countryteam after a successful meet. The top 6 runners in the back all have medals to show their placement in the race.

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID POLLACK



Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.097661 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.102137 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.105303 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A **PUBLIC HEARING** ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m, at 26950 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494.

Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 shall take action on the proposed tax rate on August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the **Board of Commissioners of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR: **Daryl Brister, Robert Miller and Marti Thorne**
AGAINST: **None**
PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: **None**
ABSENT: **Tom Raia and Corey Zollinger**

The 86th 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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.100000	\$0.100000	increase of 0.000000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$379,797	\$388,649	increase of \$8,852, or 2.33%
Tax on average homestead	\$379.80	\$388.65	increase of \$8.85, or 2.33%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$7,290,861	\$7,495,290	increase of \$204,429, or 2.80%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@coveler.com or visit www.fbcisd2.org for more information.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.098796 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.098796 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.092678 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.096650 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.098796 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** exceeds the voter-approval rate for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A **PUBLIC HEARING** ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 23, 2021 at 7:00 a.m, at 40644 Hwy 290 Business, Waller, Texas 77484.

Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200 shall take action on the proposed tax rate on August 23, 2021 at 7:00 a.m., following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** adopts the proposed tax rate, the **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** is not required to hold an election so that voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** may not petition the **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR: **Gary Ferguson, Brenda Bundick, Rick Dalton and Tommy Albert**
AGAINST: **None**
PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: **None**
ABSENT: **Tommy Davis**

The 86th 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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.100000	\$0.098796	decrease of -\$0.001204, or -1.20%
Average homestead taxable value	\$221,896	\$238,074	increase of \$16,178, or 7.29%
Tax on average homestead	\$221.90	\$235.21	increase of \$13.31, or 6.00%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$7,746,968	\$9,123,626	increase of \$1,376,658, or 17.77%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@coveler.com or visit www.wallerharrisesd200.com for more information.

SCRIMMAGE

from page B1



TYLER TYRE

A Tompkins running back is tackled during a scrimmage against Cypress Ranch on Friday at Legacy Stadium.

“They we’re doing a great job up front,” Marshall said. “They did their job, most of the plays I had were wide open holes. I didn’t have to make a huge decision because I knew they were going to have it from the start, it’s been like that all week and we kept that going today.”

The Falcons used the scrimmage to get their experienced players sharp and to allow their unexperienced players to get valuable playing time against varsity level talent.

Tompkins defense played well in spots, but also gave up a few big plays. Yet Tompkins head coach Todd McVey was glad to get different players experience and to get film on both the good and bad plays.

“We pride ourselves on running to the football and I think we did that well at times, we just have to continue to ingrain in our kids is getting to the ball,” McVey said. “When we did that, good things happened and when we didn’t, bad things happened. Our secondary has some stuff to work on with getting their eyes right but they did some good things as well. Live speed gives you a great look and a lot of video to look at.”

Cole Francis, Tompkins senior quarterback, said he was happy to have the opportunity to compete.

“We’ve been going against ourselves for the past three weeks, so to have the chance to go up against a different team is great,” Francis said. “It gives you a different look, forces you out of your comfort zone and you can see the differences. It’s completely better, it just opens your eyes and lets you experience it all.”

Francis is taking the reins of the offense this year and did a good job of directing the offense



TYLER TYRE

A Tompkins player eludes defenders during a scrimmage against Cypress Ranch on Friday at Legacy Stadium.

and taking what the Mustangs defense left open.

“The way he took leadership and the way he managed the offense by taking them down the field, doing the little things, throwing the ball away when nothing was there and not forcing things was really good,” McVey said. “Obviously we’ll watch tape and figure out some things he can get better with, but I was very pleased overall.”

The teams ended the live 20-minute session tied at 14. Tompkins took the lead, but Cy-Ranch scored late on to tie things. The scrimmage was a learning lesson more than anything else and the biggest praise kept coming back to the work of the offensive line.

“The offensive line just blew

it out of the park today,” Francis said. “I think every single play today they took care of business. They took care of their four-star defensive end Ashton Porter, it was amazing. We had a slip up on the first play but from then on you couldn’t ask for anything more.”

Tompkins will continue to prepare for their season opening clash with Magnolia on Aug. 28.

“We have as much potential as we’ve ever had,” Marshal said. “We can be just as good as last year or any year, we have that bond. We just have to keep getting better even if it’s one percent each day and that’s what we did today. We have some good film to watch and get ready for everything.”

TAYLOR

from page B1

atmosphere again,” said senior running back Tyler Irving. “I was so tired of 7-on-7. Getting on those pads felt so good.”

Both Robinson and Irving know what it takes to succeed in this district and in the playoffs, having been a part of two runs in the past two years, and they think having that experience is key.

“It helps us a lot having gone through that and knowing what we need to do and what other teams are doing as well,” Irving said. “We’re going in there already knowing what to expect and the level of intensity that teams bring to the playoffs, so we’re trying to match that intensity from the first day of practice and bring that every day and raise that to a new level.”

Robinson Jr. is a three-year starter in the secondary and has brought stability to the position.

As one of the most experienced players on the team, Robinson Jr. has become a leader for the team and hopes to teach the younger players what the graduated seniors of the past two years have taught him.

“I knew most of those guys who have come through the program as a three-year starter,” Jefferson said. “I saw what they did to get to the Division I level and I try to be like that because that’s what I want too. Now I get to play with the guys I grew up with and it’s just right that I get to lead them as someone who has the experience at this level and win



TYLER TYRE

A Taylor player tackles a tackle wheel during Friday’s practice.

some games with them.”

As the team gets closer to the season, the main goal is to get younger and less experienced guys ready and continue to find ways to give the Mustangs a better chance at getting back to the playoffs once again.

“Every time we come out here it’s with a sharp focus and we know what we have to do,” Irving said. “We have a goal and we just want to get closer and closer to that everyday and be prepared for whatever the season throws at us.”



TYLER TYRE

Michael Whitaker reaches up to make a catch during Friday’s practice at Taylor High School.




APEX™
EXECUTIVE SUITES
25807 Westheimer Pkwy
Third Floor
Katy, TX 77494
Call us Today **281.505.1106**



Stop in on **FREE** Pass Friday!

Let **APEX Executive Suites** be your "suite" business escape.
#APEXExecutiveSuites



Private Furnished Offices, Virtual Business Suites, Co-Working Suites, Day Offices, Conference Room rentals & more! **APEX Executive Suites** allows you to choose the office solution that you works best for the work you do.



Seven Lakes Grace Lanier prepares for the ball to be served during a non district match against Fulshear at the Seven Lakes gym.

VOLLEYBALL
from page B1

on different things, tried different lineups and learned what works well and what doesn't. Because we went through that, bringing our A-game was easy.”

Fulshear took an early lead, but Seven Lakes responded, pulling away after the Chargers stayed with them for the first half of the first set and going up by as many as 10 on the way to a first set win.

The Spartans really started to find their groove in the second set; Seven Lakes took the lead early and comfortably took control of the match behind Batenhort's setting, clinical attacking and a strong defense.

The Chargers would not go away quietly though, and started the third set with three straight points, but Seven Lakes had the answer, again finding a way to pull away and seal the match.

“The biggest thing we've been working on in practice is just speeding up our offense and getting our connections with our middle blockers better,” Batenhorst



Seven Lakes huddles up before a non district match against Fulshear at the Seven lakes gym.

said. “We've been working on it in practice and we did it some tonight, but we have to keep building that chemistry.”

Batenhorst finished the match with 21 digs and 13 assists, while Schroder had 14 kills and seven blocks.

Seven Lakes has three weeks until the start of the district season, and they plan

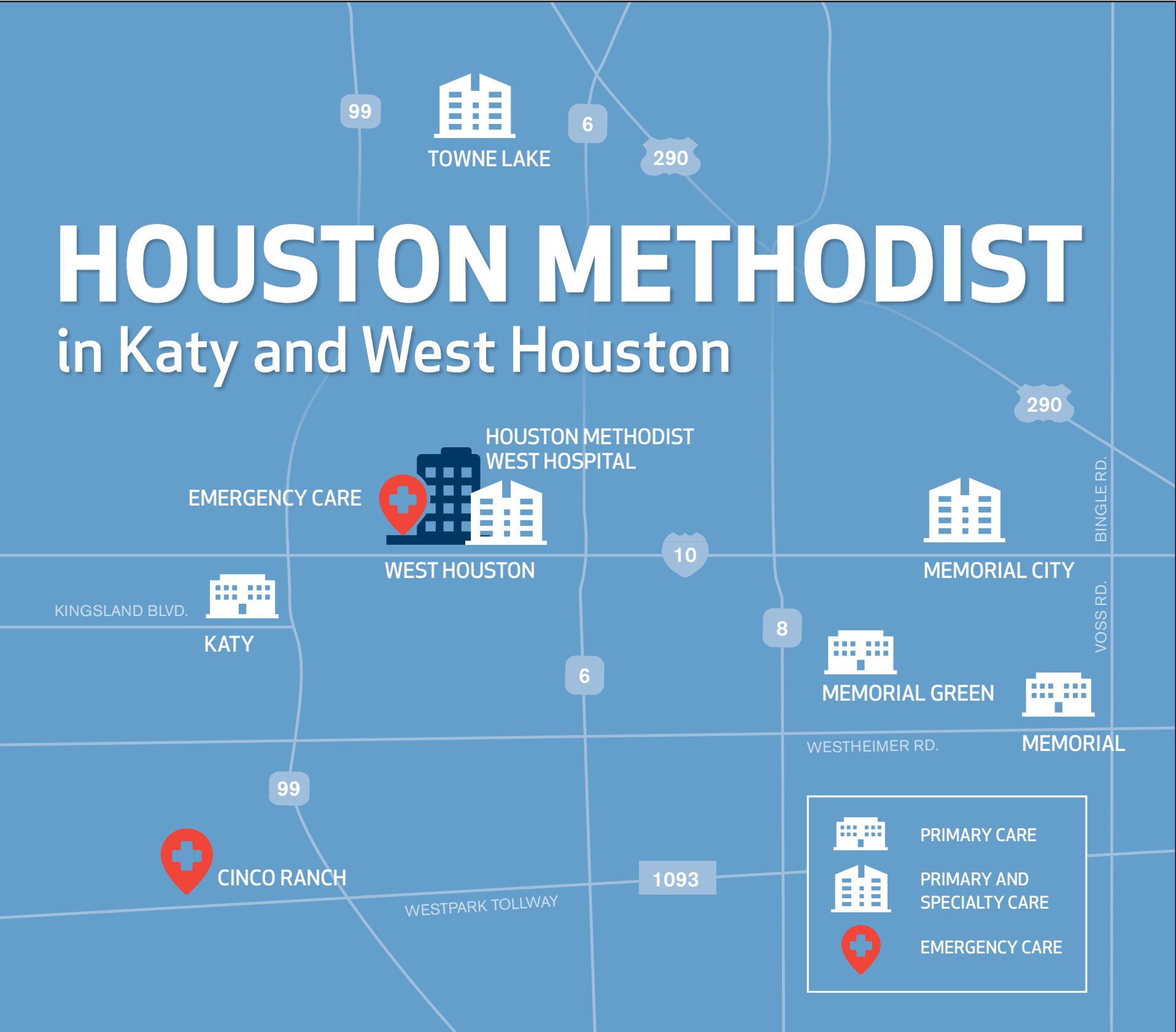
to make the most of it to make sure they are prepared.

“I really think we can go all the way again this year,” Schroder said. “If we keep working together and persevere, then I just believe that we can. This team can face any challenge.”

Seven Lakes 3, Fulshear 0

Seven Lakes: 25, 25, 25
Fulshear: 12, 15, 14
Highlights: (SL) Casey Batenhorst 5 kills, 2 aces, 21 digs, 13 assists; Emma Schroder 14 kills, 7 blocks, 2 digs; Mia Blum 8 kills, 10 digs; LeAnna Beaty 2 kills; Sydney Holdman 2 kills, Temitope Sam-Olibale 2 kills, 1 assist; Simone Romriell 2 aces, 4 digs, 5 assists; Sameena Burns 5 blocks; Isabella Deuel 1 block; Natalie Burton 1 block; Grace Lanier 17 digs, 7 assists; Andrea Urzua 5 digs, 4 assists;

Records: Seven Lakes 7-3; Fulshear 7-5.



Convenient Locations — Close to Home

Houston Methodist is growing to meet the needs of our community. We offer a full range of care across Katy and West Houston, including:

- Primary and specialty physician offices, imaging, labs and physical therapy
- Easy to access emergency care and transfer to Houston Methodist West Hospital, should you need it
- A team of experts using the newest technologies
- Personalized care tailored to your unique needs

And, with enhanced safety measures in place, you can rest assured your safety is our priority.



**Find a Location
NEAR YOU**



Visit houstonmethodist.org/katy-west to find a Houston Methodist doctor or location near you.

