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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Trustees defer decision to extend KVA

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees Monday deferred a decision on whether to extend the Katy Virtual Academy to the end of the fall semester.

Trustees will take up the issue again at a special workshop set for Monday afternoon.

The decision to defer came after an intense, hour-long discussion in which two trustees expressed concerns that there wasn't enough time for the board to get and assimilate all the necessary information to make a decision.

Trustee Dawn Champagne said she'd like to see the board return to its former practice of meeting twice a month.

"It would aid some of us in the decision-making process," Champagne said, adding that the next meeting is set for after Oct. 15, which is when the Katy Virtual Academy is slated to end.

Trustee Rebecca Fox agreed with Champagne about the two board meetings a month.

"This is long, it's intense, we've gotten a lot of information to assimilate and make a decision right now and I don't know that I'm there," Fox said.

Champagne said teachers have told her that Katy Virtual Academy students can be disruptive when they return to the in-person learning environment.

"If we vote to extend, then some of the teachers are going to leave and we already have a teacher

shortage," Champagne said.

The district reestablished virtual learning in August for kindergarten through sixth-grade students who preferred virtual learning to in-person learning with no vaccines available for students their age.

The district at that time set virtual learning to end by Oct.

See **KISD**, page A3



KATY ISD

Katy ISD trustees Rebecca Fox and Duke Keller review documents during the KISD Board of Trustees' meeting on Monday, Sept. 27. Student enrollment in the Katy Virtual Academy has dropped by 15% since its relaunch in August. As of Monday, enrollment is 3,555 students, deputy superintendent Leslie Haack said.

Katy Rice Festival planners set to put on 'one of the best ones we've had'

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The city of Katy is winding up for the annual Katy Rice Festival which begins with a parade on Oct. 2 and will follow with three days of festivities Oct. 8, 9 and 10. Organizers say this year's focus was on putting together a festival honoring Katy traditions and keeping a hometown, non-commercial feel.

"We received an overwhelming amount of people that wanted the event to continue," said Katy Assistant City Administrator Anas Garfaoui. "So, to cap it off, we just wanted to keep it traditional, not the commercial feel that you see at other events."

Garfaoui said the festival's planning committee focused on getting vendors that would focus on local crafts and products that weren't overly industrialized or had a salesy feel. As a result,



CITY OF KATY

The city of Katy is primed for the Katy Rice Festival starting Oct. 2 with a parade and the actual festival occurring Oct. 8, 9 and 10. Festival organizers say they have put a lot of effort into making the event fun for the whole family, including a Kids and Teens Zone with inflatables, actors portraying favorite children's characters and a DJ.

no insurance sales, political agendas or high-pressure sales vendors were brought in as vendors this year. Instead, he said, the focus remains on entertainment, family activities, live

music and supporting local.

The focus is also on fun and making sure there's something included

See **FESTIVAL**, page A2

Katy City Council approves budget, and tax rate

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

During their last regular meeting for September, Katy City Council members adopted a tax rate of \$0.447168 per \$100 of property value and approved the city's 2021-22 budget.

"I wanted to commend Mayor (Bill) Hastings, staff and my fellow council members on what we're doing tonight," said Council Member Dan Smith of Ward A. "With this vote, we're voting on a new balanced budget for next fiscal year and a tax rate that remains at the same rate (as last year)."

Both Smith and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said Katy is fortunate to be able to hold to the same property tax rate as the previous fiscal year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated financial challenges.

Smith pointed out that the budget increases expenditures for public safety by 12% with additional police officers being added to the Katy Police Department and makes the hiring of 16 Katy Fire Department staff permanent. Those staff had been hired about two years ago with funding through a \$2 million grant. Additional funding will go toward street improvements. It also adds about \$320,000 in investment into the city's permitting and inspection processes.

Permitting and inspections have long been a complaint of businesses and builders trying to work within city limits with inconsistencies between city inspectors topping the list of complaints. Earlier this year, con-

See **CITY**, page A3

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R. HANS MILLER

Crews are busy working on the Katy Boardwalk District, a public-private venture that will include a four-star hotel and about 90 acres of parkland just south of Katy Mills.

Boardwalk District brings on new partners

Group aims to focus on lakefront experience

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In a Thursday morning press release, Katy Boardwalk District representatives announced that the group is bringing Colliers

Retail Team and Method Architecture as partners in the project.

"As a public-private partnership, we're delighted to work with a team of professionals with the experience and vision needed to bring the boardwalk to life," said the Katy Development Authority President and former Katy Mayor Skip Conner.

Colliers Retail has been tasked with managing tenant leasing at the site and the firm's retail services team – Wade Greene, Kimberly Lenardson and Hannah Tosch – is already in

discussions with restaurants, bars and entertainment concept proposers, the press release said. An announcement of the Boardwalk's first tenants is expected sometime in early 2022.

"We've heard from a number of concepts both here in Houston and across the country," says Greene, who also manages Colliers' hospitality advisory teams. "We're certainly evaluating all of these opportunities to deter-

See **BOARDWALK**, page A3

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FESTIVAL
from page A1

in the annual carnival for the whole family to enjoy, Garfaoui said. This year's carnival includes the Kids & Teens Zone which will feature inflatables, carnival activities, a DJ with music for younger attendees to appreciate, actors depicting popular children's characters and food that is child-friendly.

"There'll be a whole entertainment side just for the kids and teens. There'll be some acts that come in that are specifically for children," Garfaoui said.

It isn't all about the tikes and teens though, said Tourism and Marketing Assistant Ashley Lipsman. This year's festival will include plenty of attractions for adults as well with food, beer and several live music acts including Katy's own Hayden Baker. Additional acts include Meagan Tubb and the Shady People, Louisiana-based fiddler Amanda Shaw and Houston's Moodafaruka, among others.

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings said he was proud of the way staff had come together to set up a great festival that includes musical acts. He's especially happy that the musical acts will be on two stages – one in front of City Hall facing Avenue C and one under the city's iconic water tower in the Katy Downtown Plaza.

"We have gone to great measures to utilize our plaza this year," Hastings said. "... I'm looking forward to it. I think it's going to be one of the best ones we've had."

Garfaoui also acknowledged the importance of the Katy Rice Festival for the antique stores and boutiques that line the plaza. The business owners in the area depend on the festival to bring an influx of visitors – and thus income – into downtown which helps them meet annual financial goals.

To maximize the support those Old Katy District businesses are looking for, Garfaoui said organizers have set up a scavenger hunt. Festival-goers can participate in



Each year, the Katy Rice Festival honors the city's roots by having a farmer's market-style craft fair with handcrafted and locally made items for attendees to purchase. Additional attractions will include 16 food trucks and an opportunity to shop in the stores that line the Katy Downtown Plaza.

the event and go to the different stores throughout the weekend and win gift cards for finding everything on the scavenger hunt list.

"So, people can go from store to store and win a gift card from one of the shops there," Garfaoui said. "So that will drive even more people into the shops."

City Administrator Byron Hebert said the city is glad the Rice Festival tradition can go on despite the challenges of past organizers stepping away and the pandemic. It's a community event that is needed, especially in hard times.

Garfaoui said the planning committee has kept a close eye on the pandemic to ensure the Katy Rice Festival is safe for attendees. They've kept an eye on festivals throughout Texas to see what safety precautions and concerns have arisen and how they were mitigated. As a result, the city feels confident that it is

safe to move forward with the festival. Handwashing stations and sanitizer stations will be set up throughout the downtown area to ensure safety and festival attendees are encouraged to take advantage of them.

Hastings also applauded the Rotary Club of Katy's involvement in the Katy Rice Festival. Proceeds from the festival are handed over to Rotarians to fund programs in the Katy area community such as scholarships for Katy ISD students.

"The Rotary Club has been very instrumental in helping us get to that point (of using the festival to support the community) because they're probably ... the only organization that gives back 100% of what they receive to the community itself," Hastings said. "They have no overhead – no salaries – and they're a great organization."

City management also praised Lindsay Kerr, Hebert's executive

assistant, for her work in raising more than \$85,000 in sponsorship funding for this year's event.

The Katy Rice Festival and its predecessor, the Katy Rice Harvest Festival, have been ongoing for more than 40 years.

"From the first one all the way through, I missed one, one year. So this one is going to be the best," Hastings said.

The Katy Rice Festival kicks off Saturday, Oct. 2 with the annual parade with the festival itself being held in downtown Katy near the intersection of Avenue C and Second Street the following weekend.

"I definitely love the parade and the actual festival itself," Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said. "I just enjoy being down there and walking around and saying hello to all of the visitors and residents. It's a fun time to be in Katy. Everybody's there, so I can't wait."

FESTIVAL
FACTOIDS...

Web: katyricefestival.com

WANT TO HELP?

Organizers are still looking for volunteers to help out with the Katy Rice Festival. For more information, visit the website above and click on the "volunteer" link.

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

The parade begins at 11 a.m. on Oct. 2 at the Katy Church of Christ then travels south on East Avenue, then west on Fifth Street, south on Avenue A, west again on Second Street then finally north on Avenue C to Parkway Fellowship Church.

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Ages 12 and under enter free
Noon – 6 p.m.
Craft fair
Food Trucks
Live Music
Kids and Teens Zone
Free shuttle to and from the Merrell Center




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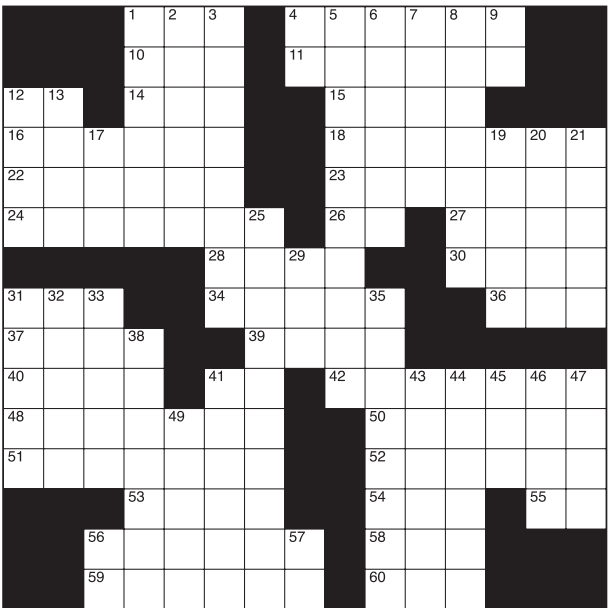
CLUES ACROSS

- Numbers cruncher
- Creator
- A type of center
- About spring
- Equal to 64 U.S. pints (abbr.)
- Precursor to the EU
- Something that can be cast
- Gold-colored alloy
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- A hard coating on a porous surface
- A type of detachment
- Filmmakers need them
- Promotional material
- ___ Blyton, children's author
- Short, sharp sound
- Feeling of intense anger
- Popular TV network
- Island entry point
- Disfigure
- College army
- One who's revered
- Long, winding ridge
- Football stat
- Stealing
- Hawaiian island

- More raw
- In one's normal state of mind
- Daniel LaRusso's sport
- Tropical American monkey
- Measures heart currents
- Midway between south and east
- Knotted again
- Born of
- Value
- Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

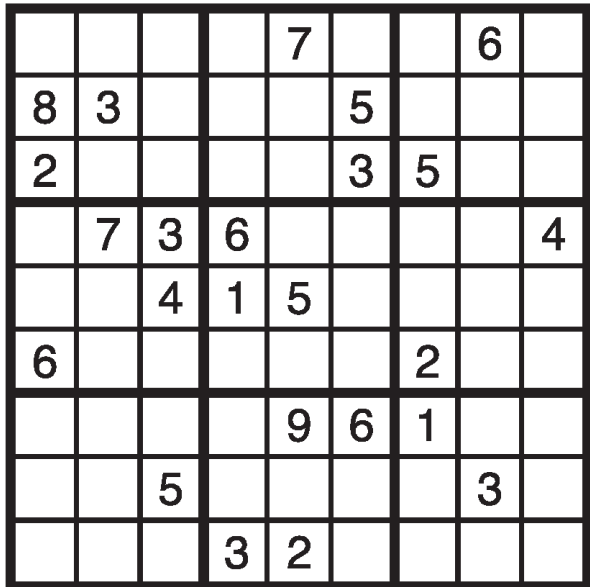
- Mother tongue
- Removes potato skins
- True
- Early multimedia
- The making of amends
- Discovered by investigation
- Small arm of the sea
- More seasoned
- Atomic #81
- Type of pear
- Chemical compound
- One's mother
- Vietnam's former name
- Snow forest



- Church officer
- Hardens
- Ancient
- Advertising gimmick
- Subatomic particle
- Not fresh
- Loosens
- Religious symbols
- Film
- Orthodontic devices
- Grilled beef sandwich
- Journalist Tarbell
- Brooklyn hoopsters
- Japanese social networking service
- Romantic poet
- Dorm worker
- Poor grades

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

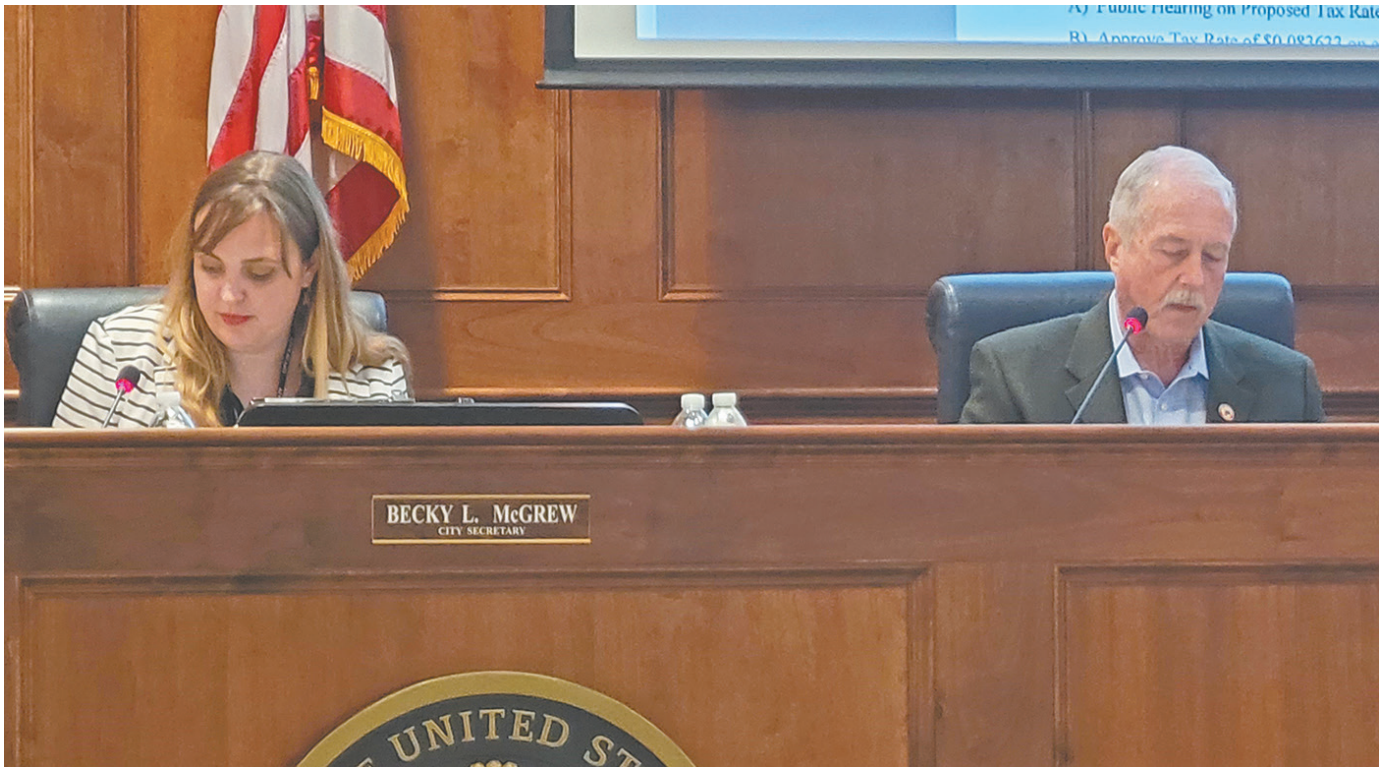
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in 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.



R. HANS MILLER

Katy City Secretary Becky McGrew and Mayor Bill Hastings take a roll call vote on the city's 2021-22 budget during Monday night's Katy City Council meeting. A roll call vote occurs when certain issues, such as the budget or a tax rate, are voted on during a council meeting. Each council member's vote is recorded individually rather than all members voting as a group.

CITY

from page A1

sultants advised the city to automate some processes in order to streamline permitting and inspections.

The roughly \$47.9 million budget includes about \$34.54 million in general revenue funds and expenditures, \$8.6 million in enterprise funds, \$1.4 million in Hotel Occupancy Tax income and spending and about \$3.4 million in debt service items.

Hastings said the city's budget was balanced again this year, just as it always has been.

Of the total tax rate of \$0.447168 per \$100 valuation, \$0.83633 is allotted to the

city's debt and the remaining \$0.363535 going toward the city's maintenance and operations expenses. That comes out to about \$447 per \$100,000 of property value.

At the meeting, council members also:

- Approved the payment of annual dues to the Katy Area Economic Development Council in the amount of \$15,000.
- Approved final plats for portions of Cane Island, Katy Keystone, Katy Mills Unrestricted Reserve B, Pederson Road Development and the Robertson subdivision.
- Awarded a bid for the delivery of fuel

to Colorado County Oil out of Columbus, Texas.

- Added more than \$26,000 to the contract to construct Water Plant No. 7 to clear trees from easements and make adjustments to sanitary sewer lines.
- Added about \$14,000 to fund work along Rexora Lane and Fortuna Drive drainage improvements, bringing the total cost for that contract with Huitt-Zollars, Inc. to about \$459,000.
- Approved the installation of a mailbox at Katy Heritage Park for use by the Katy Heritage Society.

R. HANS MILLER

A large pond with native vegetation and walking trails is part of the parkland in the Katy Boardwalk District. The inclusion of Method Architecture will help planners on the project ensure that lakefront views are optimized for visitors and for Katy residents who are expected to use the area as a city park.



BOARDWALK

from page A1

mine the best ones for the project."

Keith Dalton of KBH Venture, co-developer of the Katy Boardwalk District, said the pandemic's impacts allowed the development team to reevaluate the site plan for the project and focus more on its lakefront. As the 90-acre site is developed, Method's input will help add visibility for the lake while including more native flora and fauna at the site.

"The impact of COVID-19 gave us extra time to re-evaluate the site plan to ensure we're incorporating the lakefront experience into the entire project," Dalton said.

Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said he knew the pandemic had slowed progress on the overall Katy Boardwalk Project like many other developments in

the country. However, he said he feels like the Boardwalk is back on track and the announcement of the new partners provides motivation for the project to move forward.

"So, there's a little delay there, but having the two new partners, it feels like there's kind of a fresh spirit of progress to get it done," Harris said. "I know the city's happy to work with the developers to create a very, very nice facility for everybody in Katy to enjoy."

Harris said he feels the overall project is going to create a world-class facility that will be beneficial to the city, making Katy a destination for conferences and other events.

In addition to its surrounding parkland, the overall 169-acre district at Kingsland

Boulevard and Prairie Parkway near Katy Mills will include a full-service hotel and conference center with 304 guest rooms. The four-star property will offer a ballroom and event space to accommodate large meetings and social gatherings. The Boardwalk Lofts, now under construction, will offer a residential space in the form of luxury apartments when it opens later this fall.

City and Katy Development Authority representatives said they are excited about the two new partners in the project.

"They represent the best and brightest in design, development and leasing," said Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert. "We're looking forward to collaborating with the entire team."

KISD

from page A1

15, with everyone returning to in-person learning. Leslie Haack, deputy superintendent, said the substitute teachers hired to lead the classes were brought on with the hope and intention that a vaccine for younger children would be available, but that has not been the case.

The proposed extension would have enabled virtual students to continue virtual learning until the end of the fall semester on Dec. 17.

All students return to in-person learning on Jan. 4, following the year-end holiday break.

Haack said two factors influenced the district's recommendation to extend virtual learning. One was the Texas Legislature approving the necessary funding for online students. The second was vaccines for students ages 11 and under remain unavailable.

As of Monday, the district reported 500 active COVID-19 cases. Of these, 445 were students and 55 were staff. The district reported it had 3,980 cumulative cases since June 1.

To break these numbers down further, the district said there are 280 active COVID-19 cases in elementary schools, 251 of which are students, and 29 are staff.

The district said there are 117 active COVID-19 cases in junior high schools, 109 of which are students, and eight are staff.

The district said there are 96 active COVID-19 cases in high schools, 80 of which are students, and 11 are staff.

Haack said Katy Virtual Academy began with an enrollment of 4,191 in August. That enrollment has dropped 15% to 3,555 students as of Monday. She said the figure has dropped as parents request that their children be transferred back into in-person learning.

Asked by school board president Greg Schulte why students were returning to in-person learning, Haack cited several reasons. She said the Katy Virtual Academy was "not what it was last year," without all the "bells and whistles" as before. She also said the Katy Virtual Academy was not tied to a particular campus as it was last year. Additionally, parents wanted to make sure schools stayed open, and there were concerns about not having a mask mandate.

The district encourages, but does not require, students to wear masks on campus.

While the Katy Virtual Academy enrollment has dropped, Haack said the overall enrollment has increased. On August 18, she said, the district had 85,061 students enrolled. As of Monday, she said that number had increased 4% to 88,552. Haack said that figure was above projections.

Haack said a priority for the Katy Virtual Academy was to continue with a centralized online learning model to minimize the impact on campuses and in-person learning.

Upon request, Haack said, students can return to in-person learning at their home campus. Katy Virtual Academy seat capacity has been reduced as students return to in-person learning. This results in a smaller Katy Virtual Academy class size.

Haack said Katy Virtual Academy students who return to in-person learning may not return to Katy Virtual Academy before the end of the fall semester.

"When they make the commitment to return to in-person, they remain in person," Haack said.

Haack also said the Katy Virtual Academy administrative team continues to contact students at risk of academic success to return to in-person learning.

Fox praised the district's efforts to make things work in the online environment, but she felt the students learn best in a face-to-face environment.

"We want our families to bring the children back to school," Fox said.

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2022 general elections issues already evident

A year before Texans will vote in the general election race for governor and other statewide offices, the list of candidates remains incomplete.

The issues those candidates could be debating at this time next year is coming into view — a list topped by continuing practical and political tensions stemming from large numbers of migrants at the Texas-Mexico border and the state’s adoption of the most restrictive anti-abortion law in the U.S., a law to be tested in the real courts and in the courts of public opinion.

Those and other matters — such as the state’s COVID-19 responses and voting rights — are notable for sharp policy differences between Democrats and Republicans. Less clear, as current officeholders appear to their most ardent constituents for support in upcoming primary elections, are the differences within the parties on those major issues.

All of the state Legislature’s Republicans voted for the abortion law, while only two Democrats did. The law outlaws abortions after the first cardiac activity begins, usually around six weeks, a time when most women don’t yet know they’re pregnant. The vote on the contentious elections and voting bill was similarly split, with all Democrats in the Legislature voting no and all but one Republican voting yes. That legislation restricts how and when voters can cast ballots, including banning 24-hour voting, drive-thru voting and other practices used in Harris and other counties in the 2020 election.

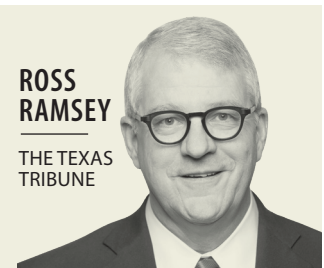
The governor and other Republican leaders are blaming immigration and border law enforcement problems on the Democrat in the White House.

They’ve even enlisted the Texas Department of Public Safety — the state police — to help with their political messaging: “DPS Troopers and @TexasGuard remain on the scene in Del Rio to monitor the #bordercrisis. Thanks to @GovAbbott’s leadership and support from the #txlege, #OperationLoneStar allows Texas to step up where the federal government has failed to #securetheborder,” the DPS tweeted on its official state agency account, along with pictures of troopers and their vehicles amid crowds of migrants.

The situation in Del Rio is a bona fide mess that deserves state and especially federal attention, but it’s also become fertile ground for photo ops for the state’s top elected officials.

The underlying partisan differences make that a solid general election issue, but it’s not a primary issue that separates one set of Republicans from another. It’s hard to differentiate conservatives on things like that.

The GOP’s intraparty squabbles are centered on job performance. The two Republicans aiming at Gov. Greg Abbott — former state Sen. Don Huffines and former GOP state chair Allen West — are trying to turn his COVID-19 responses against him, particularly actions he took in the



early part of the pandemic. They contend he isn’t conservative enough. Huffines has said Abbott should ignore the feds and enforce immigration laws himself, which isn’t within the legal powers of the state. He’s not disagreeing about the problem, just saying he’d do the job differently.

The Republicans running against Attorney General Ken Paxton — Land Commissioner George P. Bush, former Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman and state Rep. Matt Krause — are in the hunt because of Paxton’s still-pending six-year-old indictment on securities fraud charges and because several of his top aides — now former top aides — allege he has used his office for the private benefit of a political donor. None has said much about Paxton lawsuits they wouldn’t have filed and such; their beef is that the state needs an AG without his entanglements.

James White of Hillister, a state representative challenging Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, is also talking about the work and not the issues. “The combination of my proven conservative record, experience on agriculture issues, and commitment to integrity and ethics makes me the right candidate to steer this crucial agency back in the right direction,” he said as he announced his campaign.

Unless the March 1 primaries are delayed, candidates have just over five months to introduce themselves and their ideas to voters. Time is short, but for some statewide offices — notably governor — Texas Democrats still don’t have any candidates to consider.

That will change — Democratic officials and activists expect Beto O’Rourke to announce a challenge to Abbott as early as next week — but the minority party is late to the 2022 dance. The drumbeat of politics started months ago. Candidates who have already declared for office have been raising money for months and have a head start. Others are waiting to see what opportunities crop up in the new political maps being drawn during the special legislative session that started Monday.

Those new political maps don’t affect statewide candidates, whose district has the same borders as Texas itself. Their races have higher profiles, cost more and require more robust organization. At least they don’t have to reach far to figure out what the issues will be. Those are already in the headlines.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/09/23/texas-2022-election-issues/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org).



College football fan follies

Before a couple of weeks ago, it had been over twenty years since my wife and I attended a Texas A&M football game.

That’s partly because we’ve spent the past two decades or so raising three daughters, who’ve been more interested in spending our cash on hamsters, horses, dance recitals and any product manufactured by the Apple corporation than football tickets. To make our game attendance even more unlikely, watching my beloved alma mater play football makes me so nervous that my innards feel like I just ate a large family of live hedgehogs.

Now that our eldest and most expensive daughter is herself a Texas A&M Aggie, I’ve run out of excuses not to go watch the Aggies give me apocalyptic indigestion live. In fact, we broke our streak on a recent trip to College Station to bring our daughter a new debit card after hers finally vaporized.

After dining on some scrumptious cooking grease disguised as burgers and fries, we headed to my daughter’s townhome to park and then walk a mile to Kyle Field for the game. Although we wanted to park closer, parking spots at Texas A&M on game days are about as rare as a sighting of University of Texas superfan Matthew McConaughey playing a set of Aggie-themed bongos in the nude.

Luckily, it was early September in the Brazos Valley, which meant that our stroll was nice and crisp, in the sense that over-fried bacon is crisp, then steamed in an Instant



Pot – that catches fire. My youngest daughter, who has an aversion to most physical movement, was convinced that she would die of acute climate change at any moment, and she would only roll her eyes when I repeatedly asked her if she wanted to borrow some of my deodorant.

We were almost saved from the sidewalk lava by one of the convenient university shuttle busses, but by the time we ran up to board, it was stuffed to capacity with college students selfishly enjoying the air-conditioning and probably praying that the Griswold family wouldn’t try to squeeze in.

When we finally reached Kyle Field, our daughters rehydrated with some concession-stand burritos and giant pretzels, and we found our seats – along with about 100,000 other sweaty Aggies. It was like being in a massive open-air locker room after running laps in junior high P.E. – minus the jock straps and AXE body spray.

Once the game began, I felt like I was back in college – enthusiastically doing the Aggie yells, singing “The Aggie War Hymn,” and looking forward to that first Aggie score – when I could score a kiss from my best girl (if my youngest daughter and her

enormous pretzel hadn’t been in the way). In the part of the War Hymn where Aggies lock arms and sway back and forth to “Saw Varsity’s horn’s off,” I suddenly found myself in the burly, one-armed embrace of my neighboring fellow Aggie, who was roughly the size of André the Giant. (Needless to say, I didn’t ask him if he’d like to borrow my deodorant.)

True to form, the Aggies had me chewing my fingernails down to my elbows until they pulled away in the second half for an old-fashioned blowout, the only kind of Aggie game my guts can enjoy.

We finished our weekend in Aggieland the next day with a guided tour by our eldest daughter of the buildings where she attends her classes, a visit to the campus bookstore to break what was left of the bank on Aggie sweatshirts and stuffed animals, and a stop for some delicious drinks at the local Dutch Bros Coffee, which is kind of like Starbucks – only more Dutch.

It was a truly great weekend visiting with our daughter, enjoying the game, and reminiscing about our college days. And I’m actually kind of looking forward to attending another football game – if I can convince my stomach to come along with me.

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.



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COURTESY DON PINE/KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY

Restored wetlands on the Katy Prairie Conservancy's Indiangrass Preserve. The conservancy works to preserve and restore wetlands north of the city of Katy to ensure that the region's natural features are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Katy Prairie Conservancy receives grant

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Prairie Conservancy announced Sept. 24 that it has received a \$2 million grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The Katy Prairie Conservancy's Coastal Prairie Strategic Habitat Initiative II project funded by this grant involves the permanent preservation of a 2,433-acre ranch in Jackson County with a conservation easement.

"This project is an exceptional opportunity for coastal prairie conservation," said Mary Anne Piacentini, president and chief executive officer of the Katy Prairie Conservancy.

The ranch encompasses bottomland forest, native prairie, wetlands and agricultural lands and hosts abundant wildlife. The grant will also support the resto-

ration of 360 acres on the Texas mid-coast to increase acreage of suitable roosting and foraging habitat for upland, shorebird and waterbird species. The Katy Prairie Conservancy's Coastal Prairie Strategic Habitat Initiative II project also includes the donation of additional conservation easements on more than 900 acres of farm and ranch land in Jackson and Brazoria Counties.

According to the press release, these newly conserved and restored properties will have a positive impact on the region's natural resources and communities, including water quality enhancement through the protection of riparian corridors and adjacent lands, air quality improvements by returning carbon to the soil and ground water and rainfall infiltration and floodwater storage on grasslands and

wetlands. Conservation easements improve regional resiliency by ensuring strategic properties remain undeveloped through permanent protection while remaining in private ownership. Natural areas provide additional benefits to surrounding communities, including local agriculture, recreation, health benefits and improved quality of life.

Even with the rapid growth that Houston and the surrounding region are experiencing, the conservancy believes that there are still opportunities to protect coastal prairie, one of the most important and threatened ecosystems in North America. As the Katy Prairie Conservancy protects open and connected spaces, these lands help maintain the biodiversity of the coastal prairie habitat and serve as a refuge for wildlife.

The Katy Prairie Conservancy is grateful for past and current NAWCA funding, as it has and will continue to play a key role in ensuring that habitat is available for the many species of migratory and resident wildlife that rely on the coastal prairie and its wetlands, per the press release. These grants provide essential funding for landscape-level conservation, establishment of wetlands and continued protection of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding also provides the Katy Prairie Conservancy leverage and stimulus for other conservation and restoration funding sources.

The \$34 million in NAWCA grants that have been approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission will provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners the ability

to help conserve or restore 177,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other birds in 20 states.

NAWCA is the only federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds. Since 1989, funding has advanced the conservation of wetland habitats and wildlife in all 50 U.S. states, Canada and Mexico, while engaging more than 6,500 partners in over 3,100 projects. Through NAWCA, federal funds

are typically leveraged at twice the legally required dollar-for-dollar non-federal match-to-grant ratio.

Conservancy staff are excited to move forward with the Coastal Prairie Strategic Habitat Initiative II project, they said.

"It will increase connectivity along the Central Flyway, a major 'highway' for migratory wildlife and allow for the protection of priority lands in our strategic focus areas," said Piacentini.





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HCC offering aid to students during pandemic



COURTESY HCC

Houston Community College is working on completing the building depicted in concept art above. Located near Katy Asian Town and the University of Houston/University of Houston-Victoria campus, the new facility is intended to make higher education more accessible to Katy area college students.

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Houston Community College has received about \$59 million in federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds to help students who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, according to an HCC announcement.

Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be distributed until all money has been allocated. For more information and to begin their applications, students may visit hccs.edu/emergency-help. The deadline for the first round of awards is now past, but a second deadline is set for Oct. 4 for another round of assistance.

The community college, which is expecting to open its new Katy area campus in 2022, is also working to help

students obtain computers and internet access for remote classes, the announcement said.

Discounts for the purchase of computers from various manufacturers and free use software such as the Microsoft and Adobe suites are available through the district.

Wi-Fi continues to be available at all HCC campuses and outdoor venues, including parking lots at the college for those concerned about COVID-19. Phone support and more information about these programs are available by visiting hccs.edu/techhelp.

"While HCC is quickly scaling up traditional on-campus, in-person learning, plenty of online classes, and lab options remain. There are more ways to learn now than ever before – and enrolling is easy by visiting: hccs.edu/fall2021," said HCC Trustee Robert Glaser.



COURTESY KISD

Katy ISD's Community Education classes for the Fall 2021 includes guitar and dance lessons as well as opportunities to learn computer skills and several other courses. Registration is open to anyone regardless of their location.

KISD offers community education opportunities

Registration remains open for Katy ISD's Community Education Program courses for October courses, according to a KISD announcement. The courses are offered to those interested in learning a new hobby or improving skills.

According to the district's website, the Fall 2021 course catalog includes opportunities to improve computer skills, take dance lessons, obtain a GED, learn about real estate and several other educational opportunities. Courses vary in price and cost information is available through the district's course calendar at www.katyisd.org/dept/ce.

To register, those 18 years of age and older may create an account online at <https://katyisd.revtrak.net/> by providing a valid email address, password preference and payment method. Once logged in, select the Community Education tile on the website and select the desired courses. Contact the Community Education Department at CommunityEducation@katyisd.org or by calling 281-396-6365.

Registration is permitted up to the day of class, provided the class is not full; however, a \$10 late fee will be assessed for payments and registrations received three days prior to class or later.

KISD has offered the program for more than 30 years and has had more than 3,000 participants according to the district's website.

KISD ranked best district in Houston area

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Independent School District continues to earn high marks and impressive recognitions. Out of the 1,018 school districts ranked in Texas, Katy ISD was named the #1 school district in the Houston area and #13 in the state by Niche's 2022 Best Schools list.

"This recognition reflects the deep commitment of our staff and support of our local community to provide exceptional educational experiences to our more than 88,000 students," said KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski.

Niche also ranks 14 KISD elementary schools among the best schools in the Houston Metro area, along with eight junior highs and three

high schools — all topping the 25 list in their respective categories.

Each year, Niche, a ranking and review organization for K-12 schools, assesses school districts from across the country. The organization's rankings are based on rigorous analysis of key statistics, reviews from students and parents, and data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings, among other criteria.

"I am extremely proud of our educators and staff who work tirelessly to ensure our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school and beyond," Gregorski said.

Katy ISD Best Public Elementary Schools

- #1 Alexander Elementary
- #2 Hayes Elementary
- #3 Griffin Elementary
- #4 Kilpatrick Elementary
- #5 Stanley Elementary
- #6 WoodCreek Elementary
- #7 Wilson Elementary
- #8 Jenks Elementary
- #9 Pattison Elementary
- #12 Rylander Elementary
- #15 Katy Elementary
- #19 Williams Elementary
- #20 Exley Elementary
- #21 Davidson Elementary

Katy ISD Best Public Middle Schools

- #1 Tays Junior High
- #2 Seven Lakes Junior High
- #3 Beckendorff Junior High
- #4 Beck Junior High
- #7 WoodCreek Junior High
- #8 McMeans Junior High
- #9 Cinco Ranch Junior High
- #14 Memorial Parkway Junior High

Katy ISD Best Public High Schools

- #4 Seven Lakes High School
- #6 Tompkins High School
- #7 Cinco Ranch High School

Grants awarded at RISD ice cream social

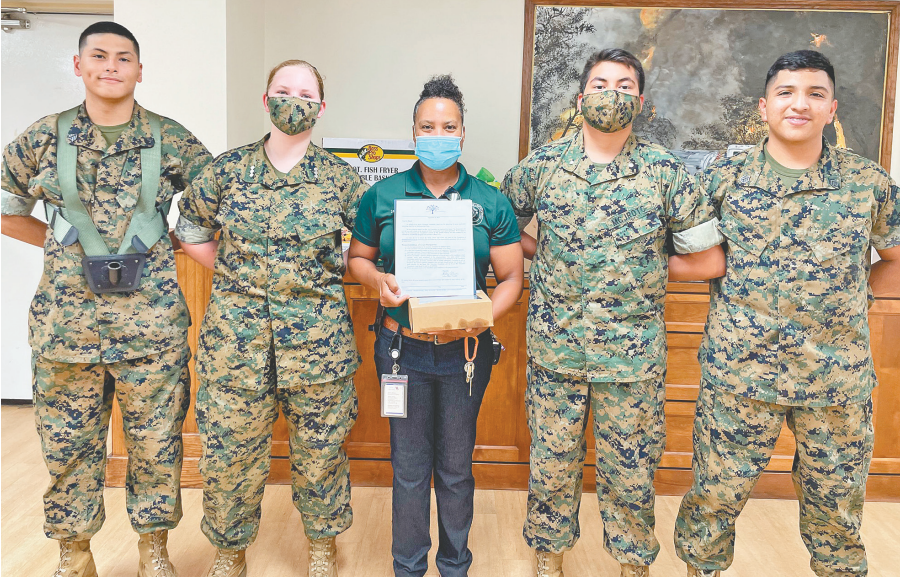
FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Royal ISD Education Foundation hosted its annual ice cream social on Sept. 21. The event served as a fundraiser and included a silent auction, entertainment and the announcement of the foundation's grant awardees for the year.

"After having to cancel last year's ice cream social due to the pandemic, we decided to tie our grant award notifications to the event this year. It was very exciting to see the joy and excitement in the teachers' faces as their names were called," said RISD Education Foundation President LaRay Odum. "We are lucky to have great support from the community."

The event raised money for the foundation by having its Celebrity Scoopers event get competitive, according to an RISD press release. Leaders from the community scooped ice cream and raised money by competing for tips from attendees. A silent auction also helped raise money to support the foundation's goal of providing resources to the district's educators and students.

This year's grant recipients were also announced during the event. The 14 grantees received more than \$41,500 in assistance for their classrooms. Grant awardees this year included Gary Miller, 1st Sgt LaShan Bland, Sherlyn Baxley, Paige Stanley, Jillian Pike, Amy Laxton, Andrea Villatoro, Raymond Callies, Brandon Hein, Roderick Davenport, Clare Morgan, Lilia Brents, Mabely Lituma-Rodas, and the first grade teachers from the



COURTESY RISD

The Royal Color Guard and Marksmanship cadets received a \$6,500 grant from the Royal ISD Education Foundation which will be used to purchase precision rifles and accessories. The team's hard work and competitive spirit has gained them exposure and popularity within the Royal community. The varsity color guard presented the colors at the 2021 RISD Education Foundation ice cream social.

RISD Early Childhood Center: Lilia Brents, Beatriz Rojas, Sara Sanches, Nasra Nofal, Heather Bozeman, Kelsey Nelson, Luz Diaz and Ashley Brandes.

Royal Junior High teacher and grant recipient Clare Morgan said, "The Foundation provides not only funds for classroom resources, like high interest and topical novels, but it also funds the purchase of tickets to see world class performances at

the Alley Theatre which is a first for many of our students. When I told my students they would be seeing a play at the Alley, the cheers of joy and excitement brought a huge smile to my face, all thanks to the generosity of donors and contributions to the Foundation. Overall, the Foundation is such a blessing to our community and provides for the 'extras' that make learning fun."



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BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Governor Greg Abbott last week added two agenda items to the special legislative session which began Sept. 20. Legislators will consider additional property tax relief, as well as a constitutional amendment that would allow courts to deny bail to people accused of violent or sexual crimes.

The bail bill has failed in previous sessions. Because it would call for a constitutional amendment election, the bill requires two-thirds approval from both chambers to go forward.

In the current special session, legislators already are considering redrawing the state's political maps as required every decade. Also under consideration is legislation restricting participation by transgender students in school athletics, plus legislation outlining how to spend \$16 billion in federal COVID-19 pandemic funding.

Additionally, legislators are considering a bill that protects dogs from being chained without adequate shelter or space. Abbott vetoed a similar bill during the regular session.

1 Search firm named for ERCOT board

The Public Utility Commission has hired Heidrick & Struggles to conduct a statewide search for eight new directors of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, whose board was decimated after the mid-February winter storm knocked out power across the state and nearly took down the electric grid, which ERCOT oversees. More than half of ERCOT's board, as well as its CEO, resigned after the storm.

The PUC oversees ERCOT. During the regular legislative session, Senate Bill 2 was passed. It established a selection committee to fill the vacant spots on ERCOT's board. The Legislature directed the committee to retain an outside consulting firm to select eight new directors "who are Texas residents with executive-level experience in any of the following

Abbott adds items to third special session, and 3 other Texas-sized issues

professions: finance, business, engineering (including electrical engineering), trading, risk management, law, or electric market design," according to the press release.

2 TPWD launches outdoors initiative

A new campaign by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department aims to attract more Texans into the outdoors.

Hunters and anglers fund the bulk of the state's wildlife management programs through buying hunting and fishing licenses and through sales taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment, boat fuel, firearms and ammunition.

The Texas Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Plan hopes to connect more Texans to outdoor recreation in order to continue funding of conservation programs and "create a better-informed public with more interest in conserving wild things and wild places in Texas and beyond."

3 COVID-19 cases drop in state, but deaths increase

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped again last week to 83,098, down 34% from the previous week. New deaths reported in the same time frame rose to 2,073, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, up 15% from the previous week. At 280 deaths a day, the state has one of the nation's worst COVID-19 death rates, the Houston Chronicle reported. In the past month, more than 5,000 Texans have died of the virus.

Hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients continue to drop, with 10,349 reported statewide by the Texas Department of State Health Services on Sunday. That's a decrease of 15.4% from the previous week. The number of staffed pediatric intensive-care unit beds continues to drop, however, with just 77 available statewide, according to DSHS.



GRIPAS YURI/ABACA VIA REUTERS AND THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

On Monday, state legislators proposed new maps that would affect the layout of multiple legislative districts including that of Joan Huffman of Texas Senate District 17.

Huffman's district impacted in first redistricting proposal

BY JAMES BARRAGÁN,
CARLA ASTUDILLO AND
ABBY LIVINGSTON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas lawmakers on Monday released their first draft of a new congressional map for the next decade that includes two new districts in Austin and Houston — metropolitan areas with diverse populations which fueled much of the state's population growth over the past 10 years.

Republicans constructed this map with incumbent protection in mind — a strategy that focused on bolstering Republican seats that Democrats targeted over the last two election cycles rather than aggressively adding new seats that could flip from blue to red. However, the map does in fact strengthen Republican positioning overall going from 22 to 25 districts that voted for Donald Trump in 2020. The number of districts that voted for Joe Biden would shrink by one, from 14 to 13.

Texas members of the House GOP delegation were closely involved in the drawing process and approved the map last week, according to two sources

close to the Texas delegation.

While many incumbents appear safe in these maps, others were drawn into districts that overlap with one another — for example the proposed map pits Houston Republican Rep. Dan Crenshaw against Democrat Rep. Sylvia Garcia. It also pits two Houston Democrats — Reps. Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee — against one another.

The maps were proposed by state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, who leads the chamber's redistricting committee.

Democrats, who have been out of power for decades, have attempted to make state elections more competitive but the redrawing of congressional maps gives the GOP an opportunity to lock in their advantage for another decade.

Texas' current 36-seat congressional delegation is made up of 23 Republicans and 13 Democrats. Under the new map, Texas will have 38 congressional seats, and 40 electoral votes in future presidential contests.

Huffman's first 38-district proposal would widen the gap between the parties, creating 25

districts that voted for Trump in 2020 and 13 that voted for Biden.

The racial make-up of the congressional maps is also expected to change as Texas added two new congressional seats based on last decade's population growth, which was mostly driven by people of color. The current map includes 22 districts with white majorities, eight with Hispanic majorities, one with a Black majority and five that have no majority.

The newly proposed map includes 23 districts with white majorities, seven with Hispanic majorities, none with a Black majority and eight that have no majority.

This is only the first draft of the map, which is likely to change before it's passed by the Texas Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/09/24/texas-congressional-redistricting/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org).

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Energy

SAFETY IN ALL SEASONS

When the temperatures drop and the heaters come on, it's especially important to know the signs of a gas leak. Here's a quick refresh from your energy partner, CenterPoint Energy.

Natural gas has the distinct odor of rotten eggs.
If you smell it, you should:

1

Leave immediately on foot! Do not use anything that could cause a spark like electric switches, a cell phone, or your car.

2

Go to a safe location where you can no longer smell gas and call CenterPoint Energy and 911. Never assume someone else has already reported the leak.

3

Never try to repair a gas leak yourself. Leave all repairs to a trained technician.

Always call 8-1-1 before any digging project, even if you're just planting trees or installing fences.

Visit **CenterPointEnergy.com/Safety** for more natural gas safety tips.

Officials call election audits a partisan move

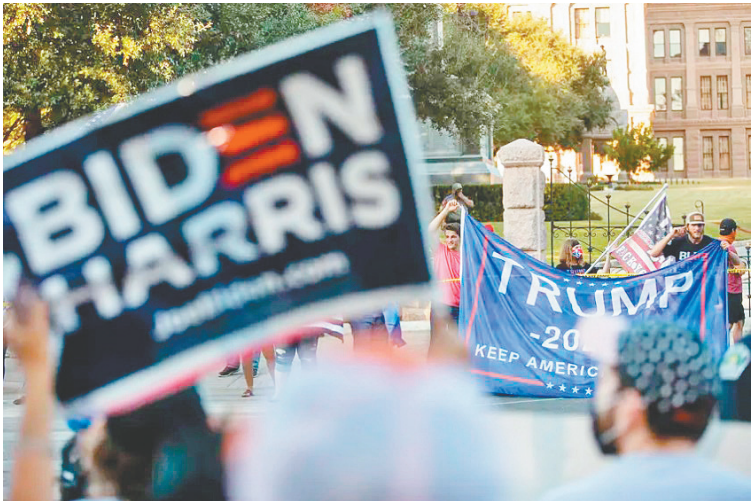
BY REESE OXNER
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas officials from three of the four counties whose 2020 elections are being audited by the secretary of state's office said Friday the development is an unnecessary partisan move aimed at sowing doubt in the results.

Harris, Dallas and Tarrant County officials maintain that their 2020 election results were accurate, echoing a state election official's assertion earlier this year that the election was "smooth and secure." Collin County officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The conspiracy theorists who want to come up with all these ways or reasons why this election wasn't right — they might very well find something else [to doubt]," said Republican Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley. "It's time to move on."

Whitley and officials in Harris also said they have not been told what the audits entail or what prompted them. They said they learned about them from a late Thursday press release sent by a spokesperson in the secretary of state's office.



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR./THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Supporters of Republican former President Trump gathered at the State Capitol in Austin on Nov. 7 to protest the electoral victory of Democrat Joe Biden. Officials in some counties targeted by audits accuse Republican Texas leaders of pandering to conspiracy theorists and undermining faith in elections. They also say the secretary of state's office hasn't provided details on what the audits entail.

The secretary of state announced the "full forensic audit" in the counties hours after former President Donald Trump requested Republican Gov. Greg Abbott to add an election audit bill to this year's third special session. Trump's request came despite winning the state's vote. Since his

reelection loss last year, Trump has pushed baseless claims of voting fraud, including at a rally with supporters that preceded the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Tarrant County has traditionally been Republican, but Democratic President Joe Biden narrowly beat

Trump there last year. Still, the secretary of state's office appeared to identify it as a Republican county on Thursday.

Abbott's office and the secretary of state's office have remained silent since the Thursday night press release announcing the audits. In Texas, the governor appoints the secretary of state, who serves as the top elections official. That position is currently vacant because Abbott has not named a replacement for Ruth Ruggiero Hughes, who resigned after the Texas Senate refused to confirm her appointment.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, a Democrat, blasted Texas leadership for ordering the audit and said she would do "everything in her power" to stop it, though she and other Harris officials expressed confidence in the results.

"Every time we engage in a conversation about these false allegations, we're lending credence to the lie," she said. "Through all the court challenges the former president filed, through the legislation that passed unnecessarily under the guise of supposed fraud in this past legislative session — there's always something new because this is entirely politically

motivated."

She called on lawmakers to oppose the audit, which she said is purely an attempt to appeal to Trump supporters.

"It's clear that this is part of a broader trend where state leaders around the nation are trying to compete on who can best curry favor from of President Trump, in order to control the extreme flank of their party," she said.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, a Democrat, echoed Hidalgo's remarks.

"This is a weak Governor openly and shamelessly taking his orders from a disgraced former President. Governor Abbott is wasting taxpayer funds to trample on Texans' freedom to vote, all in order to appease his puppeteer," Jenkins said over text message.

Neelam Bohra and James Pollard contributed to this story. This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/09/24/texas-election-audits-county-officials/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org).



CONTRIBUTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 4 which restricts abortion-inducing drugs in the state of Texas during the Texas Values' Faith, Family and Freedom policy forum in Austin on Sept. 24.

Abbott signs abortion medications bill

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 4 into law on Sept. 24. The new law bans mail-order abortion drugs and prevents physicians from providing abortion drugs to women who are more than seven weeks pregnant, according to a news release from the governor's office.

"Texas continues to lead the way in protecting unborn children and fostering a culture of life, which is why I am proud to join Texas Values, members of the legislature, and pro-life leaders to

sign Senate Bill 4 into law," Abbott said.

Pro-choice advocates have criticized the bill which was co-authored by Senator Eddi Lucio, D – Brownsville, and Representative Stephanie Klick, R – Fort Worth, because they say it effectively eliminates a woman's right to an abortion because most women are unaware that they are pregnant prior to seven weeks or even later.

SB 4 identifies mifepristone and misoprostol as specific drugs that are banned for mail order or use after seven weeks.

Violations of the law are con-

sidered a felony with penalties of up to two years in jail and a fine of \$10,000.

"This year, we have witnessed the Biden Administration temporarily lift restrictions on abortion-inducing drugs and heard from those who want to permanently rollback safety protocols in place to pregnant women. We will not allow this to happen in Texas, which is why Senate Bill 4 will not only ban abortion-inducing drugs in Texas but it also prevents a physician from providing these drugs to patients who are more than seven weeks along in their pregnancy," Abbott said.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Utility District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at the Jackrabbit Road Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant, 16720 Pine Forest Lane, Houston, TX 77084. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

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 \$ 0.1900 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.17790 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.012 /\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-6.3684%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$161,989</u>	<u>\$179,032</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>-\$32,398</u>	<u>-\$35,806</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$129,591</u>	<u>\$143,226</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$246.22</u>	<u>\$254.80</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	<u>\$8.58</u> <u>3.48%</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 FRY ROAD M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on October 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at Fry Road Municipal Utility District Administration Building, 20111 Saums Road, Katy, TX 77449. 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:	James Roadarmel, David Buxkamper, James Teal, Marcy Martinez, and Michael Kramm
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 \$.41750/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$.39100/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$.02650/\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-6.34%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$ 154,144</u>	<u>\$ 170,328</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$ 30,829</u>	<u>\$ 34,066</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$ 123,315</u>	<u>\$ 136,262</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 514.84</u>	<u>\$ 532.78</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	<u>\$ 17.94</u> <u>3.48%</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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Katy Area Community Calendar October

THROUGH NOV. 21 FALL ON THE FARM

Blessington Farms invites the public to come out for pumpkin season each Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pick your own fresh produce, participate in carnival activities and find a gem or two at the farm's family-friendly location at 510 Chisolm Trail in Wallis – a short hop west of Fulshear and Simonton. Admission for children and adults is \$24 per person and includes all activities on the farm except animal feedings and flower picking. Children under 2 enter free and senior citizens may enter for \$18. First responders, military and veterans enter free with ID.

SEPT. 26 TO NOV. 14 DEWBERRY FARM FALL FESTIVAL

Dewberry Farm starts its fall season at the end of September and carries it through early November with its annual Fall Festival. This enormous event occurs just south of Morrison Road on FM 362 north of Pattison. The carnival includes a barnyard, ferris wheel, carnival rides, pig races, a pumpkin patch and other family-friendly events. Please note that all attractions inside the park are now cashless though cash is accepted at the gate and can be used to purchase gift cards. Open Fridays 4-10 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Fall Season Pass: \$59.95. Dew it All Reservation: \$19.95. Friday Fun Days: \$19.95. Twilight Pass: \$22.95. Fire Pit Rental: Starts at \$100. For more information visit [Dewberryfarm.com](https://dewberryfarm.com).

OCT. 2 KATY RICE FESTIVAL PARADE

This annual Katy tradition takes place in the heart of Katy beginning at the Katy Church of Christ on East Avenue, then roaming west on Fifth Street, south on Avenue A, west again on Second Street, then traveling north on Avenue C to Parkway Fellowship Church. Related street closures start at 8 a.m. and go through 11 a.m. Parade begins at 9 a.m. For more information visit KatyRiceFestival.com/parade.

PAWS FEST PUP CRAWL

Take the pups out to LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch for Paws Fest 2021. The event features a variety of interactive booths, dog competitions, an obedience demo at Central Green Park and a doggie costume contest. The event also features a Pup Crawl – that's a pub crawl with your four-footed family member – sponsored by World of Beer. The event is free, though participation in the pup crawl is \$10. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2ZuZoLa> (Paws Fest) and <https://bit.ly/3F3aMOW> (Pup Crawl). Paws Fest runs from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Pup Crawl begins at 11:30 a.m.

OCT. 3 MKT BECOMES A 'THREENAGER'

MKT Distillery opened its doors three years ago in October and is celebrating its third year with a birthday party. The event will feature axe throwing from Epic Axe of Houston from 2-6 p.m., Ty Hymel's NASCAR race car, Coleton Black performing live music from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and other attractions. MKT keeps their events pet and child-friendly. The distillery is located under Katy's historic rice dryers at 5373 First Street in Katy. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2WiAmh5>.

OCT. 5 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT WITH KPD

Join the Katy Police Department for a fun night in the park on a Tuesday evening. The festivities start at 5 p.m. and runs until the movie (6:30 p.m. showtime) is done. The free event includes food hot dogs, beverages, giveaways, music, balloon animals, face painting and a chance to meet local first responders, including K-9 officers. This year's movie is Disney's "Onward." For more information, follow Katy PD on Facebook at bit.ly/KatyPDFB.

OCT. 8 BREAKFAST FOR A BLESSING

Have a great meal and support a good cause with Christ Clinic's annual Breakfast for a Blessing event at Crosspoint Community Church. The event will feature a keynote address by Julie Aftab, the survivor of an acid attack in Pakistan as she discusses her story of persecution, recovery and forgiveness through faith. This event is the nonprofit clinic's largest fundraiser and this year's goal is to raise \$100,000. Individual tickets are \$75 and sponsorships are available from \$500 to \$15,000. For more information, visit christclinic Katy.org/bfab2021.

KATY WINE FEST

Support The Brookwood Community, an area nonprofit that helps adults with various disabilities find jobs, find a sense of belonging and preserve their dignity, by stepping out to the Katy Wine Fest. The festival will be held at the Gallery Furniture store located at 7227 W. Grand Parkway S. in Richmond. Enjoy a wide variety of wines as well as a craft beer garden, food and wine sampling, a wine pull, live music and silent and live auctions. Designated drivers: \$25. Advanced General Admission: \$50. Day of Event: \$60. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit katywinefest.com.



OCT. 8-10 KATY RICE FESTIVAL

This annual festival runs for three days the second weekend in October in Katy's Harvest Plaza at 5701 Third Street in downtown Katy. Friday, Oct. 8 offers free admission for all with live music, food trucks and more. Saturday and Sunday offer more live music, food trucks, crafts and vendors, as well as a kids/teen zone with plenty of activities for attendees of all ages. Admission is \$10 for adults and children 12 and under receive free entry after Friday evening. Proceeds benefit The Rotary Club of Katy which uses the money for scholarships and other Katy-area programs. For more information visit katyricefestival.com.



OCT. 9 TAMARRON FARMERS MARKET

Not an early riser but still like fresh produce and fun? Head to the Tamarron Clubhouse at the intersection of Tamarron Trace and Tamarron Parkway for a farmers market. Enjoy farm-fresh produce, pasture-raised eggs, organic poultry, grass-fed beef and more at this event. Starts at 3:30 p.m. and runs through 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3UhYvkn>.

**OCT. 9 & 23
BROOKSHIRE FARMER'S & ARTISAN'S MARKET**
The second and fourth Saturday of each month, craft aficionados can enjoy this event at 505 Bains Street in Brookshire. Arts and crafts items come alongside baked goods, wine, spirits and even a touch of bling from jewelry vendors alongside traditional farmer's market items. Event begins at noon and runs through 4 p.m. Free admission. For more information visit facebook.com/BrookshireFarmersMarket.

**OCT. 12
BREAST CANCER PREVENTION SEMINAR**
The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the MD Anderson Cancer Center invite the public to this free online seminar. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, attendees can learn about how to mitigate their chances of getting breast cancer and how to obtain an early diagnosis for more successful treatment. M.D. Anderson's Dr. Laura De La Rosa will lead the online discussion. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3F215KQ>.

**OCT. 12 & 13
DRESS MY TABLE**
Join the staff at Carriage Inn Katy for Dress My Table 2021, a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. Participants may sponsor a table for 8 guests that they can decorate with a theme and then have guests join them for Wednesday's lunch and a silent auction. The Tuesday evening reception and dinner runs from 5-7 p.m. Table sponsorships are \$300. All silent auction items at the event start with a minimum \$25 bid. For more information, contact Carriage Inn Katy at 281-392-2800 or 713-705-3743 (ask for Rebecca Borrello).

**OCT. 14
BIRDIES AND BREW AT TOPGOLF**
Swing a club to support The Source Houston's mission to provide whole-person health care services to thousands of women in Katy and the rest of Greater Houston. The nonprofit clinic is hoping to raise \$100,000 to assist clients with their medical needs. The event begins at 5 p.m. Guest tickets for those wanting to socialize and enjoy entertainment are \$50. Individual Player \$125. Sponsorships available from \$500 through \$15,000. For more information visit bit.ly/TheSourceGolf.

FIREFLIES AND FOOD TRUCKS
Join the Katy ISD Education Foundation for a good time at No Label Brewery in downtown Katy under the rice dryers. This event features Hayden Baker performing live country music with a touch of rock inspiration. Proceeds support the foundation's Inspiring Imagination teacher grant program which has awarded more than \$2.3 million in grants for innovative classroom instruction since its founding. Gener-

al Admission is \$60 and an eight pack of tickets is \$440. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/39HBOqoh> or email foundation@katyisd.org.

OCT. 16 VINTAGE CARNIVAL

Join the Katy Heritage Society to support their efforts to preserve the Katy area's history at this festival at Katy Heritage Park at 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy. The event will feature classic carnival games, food and festivities in the shade of beautiful trees and Katy's historic homes. Food and drinks are available including hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy and other snacks. Event runs from 4-7 p.m. Admission is free, but each game will cost \$1 to play. Petting zoo: \$1. Cake walk: \$2. For more information visit katyheritagesociety.com/events or follow the society on Facebook at facebook.com/KatyHeritageSociety.

30TH ANNUAL PICK-A-DILLY CRAFT FAIR
St. Peter's United Methodist Church hosts this craft fair to support the church's various missions. The event features a wide selection of handmade items including jewelry, cards, candles, soaps, ornaments, knits and wood carvings. A variety of other holiday fare will be available as well. The fun begins at 9 a.m. and runs through 4 p.m. at 20775 Kingsland Blvd., Katy. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3IXmL7C> or email the church at pick-a-dilly-craftfair@gmail.com.

**OCT. 17
SANAMOS BENEFIT AT MKT DISTILLERY**
MKT Distillery is hosting a fundraiser to support cancer patient Kamryn Sanamos from noon to 6 p.m. Help Sanamos kick cancer's bum and deal with the medical bills associated with her treatment. The Bayou Boys will be providing lunch plates for \$10 at the event and donations to the cause are appreciated. For more information and to order a plate in advance, visit bit.ly/SupportSanamos.



**OCT. 21
POKER NIGHT WITH KBA**
Step out for a night of fun to help make sure breast cancer is the one to fold at the Katy Business Association's Poker Night. All proceeds

from the tournament will benefit Angels Surviving Cancer, Inc., a nonprofit helping women battle breast cancer. The fun includes door prizes and first, second and third place poker tournament prizes. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the poker tournament begins at 6 p.m. Entry is \$50. \$150 tournament buy-in at the event. For more information visit theKba.org.

OCT. 23 RELAY FOR LIFE KATY

Help the Katy community kick cancer's backside at this year's Relay for Life event at Katy City Park. The event features a carnival atmosphere that celebrates cancer survivors, their caregivers and others in the fight against the deadly disease. The walkathon includes fun activities in a festival-like setting and an opportunity to purchase luminarias in remembrance of cancer victims. Start your own team or join one at <https://bit.ly/3orGMGD>.

OCT. 25 HOPE IMPACTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

If you enjoy helping others and swinging a golf club, this event is the way to go. Hope Impacts will hold its Sixth Annual Golf Tournament & Auction on Monday, Oct. 25. Proceeds go to help the Katy area nonprofit help those facing homelessness find housing and stability while ensuring dignity. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$30 nonplayer dinner. \$175 per individual player. \$700 for a team of four. This event will be held at 32611 FM 1093 in Fulshear. For more information visit hopeimpacts.org.



OCT. 27 SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Head to Fulshear for the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Halloween bash. The event will be held in downtown Fulshear and offers family-friendly activities to help celebrate the ghoulish holiday. Chamber President Don McCoy said he and his team are working hard to set up an attraction for area children. The event will feature trunk-or-treating, Howdy Homemade Ice Cream, vendor booths, a pumpkin patch, a costume contest, petting zoo and a DJ providing music. The scary fun runs 4:30-7:30 p.m. Admission is free, though food and attractions may have a cost.

**OCT. 28
KCM'S SILENT WITNESS EVENT**
Katy Christian Ministries hosts this annual event at Westland Baptist Church – 1407 W. Grand Parkway S., Katy – to honor survivors of and raise awareness regarding domestic violence. This year's free event features keynote speaker Chad Bridges of the Fort Bend County Attorney's Office and speaker Denise Gruwell, a crime victims services liaison with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. Dinner is provided; an RSVP is required. For more information visit ktcm.org/silentwitness.

**OCT. 31
CROSSPOINT FALL FEST**
CrossPoint Community Church invites the community to visit them at 700 Westgreen Blvd. in Katy from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The family-friendly festival will feature a petting zoo, bounce house, root beer, axe throwing, live music, balloon animals and other activities for attendees to enjoy. A variety of sponsorships are available through Oct. 1 and costs at the festival will vary. For more information visit facebook.com/crosspointkaty.

Texas Renaissance Festival

Saturdays, Sundays,
and Thanksgiving Friday

Oct. 9th through Nov. 28th

Discounted Tickets available at
TexRenFest.com

Kids get in Free on Sundays!

SIMPLY AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT



Katy
RICE
festival

OCTOBER 8TH-10TH

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC KATY PLAZA

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WEEK SIX SCORES & SCHEDULES



FOOTBALL

Thursday, Sept. 23

District 19-6A

- Katy 45, Seven Lakes 3
- Tompkins 32, Cinco Ranch 28

Friday, Sept. 24

District 19-6A

- College Park 49, Mayde Creek 13
- Morton Ranch 28, Taylor 7

District 12-4A, Div. II

- Boling 30, Royal 27

Non-District

- San Antonio Davenport 35, Jordan 28

Thursday, Sept. 30

- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium
- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

District 10-5A

- Paetow at Milby, 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 1

District 19-6A

- Katy vs. Tompkins, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Non-District

- Jordan vs. Hitchcock, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium



VOLLEYBALL

Friday

- Seven Lakes at Cinco Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Jordan at Paetow, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Katy, 4:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.

Mavs best Taylor for first time in six years

R. HANS MILLER

Josh Johnson looks downfield during a game against Paetow at Legacy Stadium on Sept. 3.



BY TYLER TYRE

TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Morton Ranch may have come into its District 19-6A opener short-handed, but it didn't matter — the Mavericks were on a mission.

The Mavericks only suited 34 players but didn't make any excuses and had only one goal in mind — start district play with a win.

Morton Ranch (3-2, 1-0) never trailed, beating Taylor 28-7 on Friday at Rhodes Stadium to get a much needed win to open district.

It was the first time Morton Ranch beat Taylor since 2015. "This was a really important

win for us," said Morton Ranch junior running back Santana Scott. "On the varsity level it's been a minute since we've been able to beat Taylor; this is a huge step for us."

Scott rushed for 168 yards and scored on runs of 13, 23 and three to lead the Mavericks' offense while Josh Johnson went 11-19 for 136 yards and also had 50 yards rushing and a score.

"Offensively we knew they were going to try and play the run," Scott said. "The offensive line really did a good job and opened up holes and that was

See **MAVERICKS**, page B5

STRONG *start*



R. HANS MILLER

Tompkins' Cole Franis pump fakes before throwing the ball during a game against Cinco Ranch at Rhodes Stadium on Thursday.

SOPHOMORES STEP UP IN TOMPKINS DISTRICT OPENING WIN OVER CINCO RANCH

BY TYLER TYRE

TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins wanted to come out and make a statement in its first District 19-6A game.

The Falcons are the reigning district champs; they know it will be a tall task to defend the title, but

they expect to find a way to do it again and they knew the way they needed to open district play with a bang.

"It was very important for us to come out with a strong game," said senior defensive lineman Sean

See **TOMPKINS**, page B8

TYLER TYRE

The back line of Katy players prepares for a serve as head coach Karen Paxton tells the team instructions during a District 19-6A match between Katy and Taylor at the Taylor gym.



Katy tops Taylor, stays in second in tight district race

BY TYLER TYRE

TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Izzy Denton is well aware what each game in district means.

The senior has been through the grind of District 19-6A play and knows what it takes to be successful, along with her fellow seniors at Katy.

The Tigers won two straight to start District 19-6A play before dropping a match to Tompkins, but since then Katy bounced right back, winning three straight heading into Tuesdays match with Taylor.

"It's all preparation," Denton said.

"We had to go back to the scouting report, study and know what we are doing there and know every team's go to's. When you know what shots they like to take at different points or if they like to dump it that helps you a lot."

Katy (21-14, 4-1) continued their hot streak as they swept Taylor (9-23, 1-5) at the Taylor gym: 25-22, 25-13, 25-15.

"After that loss to Tompkins, we really started focusing on pushing and finishing sets faster than before," said senior outside hitter Chandler Lee. "That's one thing that we've been

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B10



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Scott stepping up for Morton Ranch

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Ron Counter remembers the first time he knew Santana Scott was going to be special.

“It was during an eighth-grade game when he was at McDonald Junior High,” Counter said. “I saw him make this play and I just shook my head and said wow.”

Scott worked his way up once he got to Morton Ranch and saw limited time with the varsity last season, playing in three games and carrying the ball 23 times for 93 yards and a touchdown in his sophomore campaign.

Coming into this year, Scott wanted to make a name for himself and has done just that in a breakout season.

Scott put up good numbers in his first three games of the season, but it was against Lake Creek where he truly broke out.

The junior accounted for 472 all-purpose yards, 239 yards rushing and five touchdowns in a narrow 41-40 loss for the Mavericks.

“My offensive line helped me a lot in that game,” Scott said. “They did their job and opened up holes and I was able to follow their blocks. Then my quarterback (Josh Johnson) was able to put the ball in the right spots and do good things at critical times and he really set me up to score. Even though we didn’t win, having a game like that for the offense was really big for us.”

That game helped garner Scott some big accolades, as he was named The Class 6A Ford Tough Player of the Week, the HTown High School Sports Exclusive Athlete of the week



PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER
Santana Scott breaks upfield during a game against Paetow at Legacy Stadium on Sept. 3. Scott was named the Class 6A Ford Tough Player of the Week.

“...HE’S ABOUT AS TOUGH OF A KID AS I’VE EVER COACHED. HE’S 5 FEET 5 INCHES AND 155 POUNDS, BUT HE HAS A BIG HEART, [AND] HE DOESN’T LIKE TO BE TACKLED. HE’S JUST A GREAT YOUNG MAN, AND HE HAS A 4.3 GPA AS WELL; HE’S A GREAT STUDENT ATHLETE.”

—RON COUNTER, MORTON RANCH HEAD COACH

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The INTERSTATE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLC, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Tx 77027. 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:	Barry Kaplan, James P. (“Rick”) Ellis, Michelle Shen, James Kennedy
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Joe Mattingly

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 \$0.39000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.37000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.02000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.13%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$172,086.00	\$183,859.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$34,417.00	\$36,772.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$137,669.00	\$147,087.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$536.91	\$544.22
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$7.31 1.36%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

and the Channel 26 Gallery Furniture player of the week.

“It was actually really amazing to get those awards,” Scott said. “I knew I had a big game, but I didn’t expect to get selected for awards and things like that, so when it happened, it was a shock.”

Scott didn’t let the big game get to him either, as he followed it up with 168 yards and three more touchdowns in a win over Taylor in Morton Ranch’s District 19-6A opener.

The win was huge for the Mavericks as it gives them a strong start to district play and moves them closer to a playoff spot.

“I’ve known that I’m able to play like this; I put in the work and I know what it takes,” Scott said. “It was just a matter of time until we were able to showcase it and come together as an offense.”

Scott believes that the success as an

offensive unit has helped motivate the entire team as they try to make a playoff run in an extremely tough district.

“It motivates everyone,” Scott said. “Everybody was able to contribute whether it was offense, defense or special teams. Everyone did their part and it was just a big step for the whole team.”

Counter always knew that Scott was capable of these types of games and is just happy to be his coach.

“He’s tiny, but you can’t underestimate him, he’s just phenomenal,” Counter said. “He’s been making plays like that, he’s just making more of them now and it’s because he’s about as tough of a kid as I’ve ever coached. He’s 5 feet 5 inches and 155 pounds, but he has a big heart, he doesn’t like to be tackled. He’s just a great young man and he has a 4.3 GPA as well; he’s a great student athlete.”

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Katy Times



COLE MCNANNA | FILE PHOTO

Katy's Jalen Davis runs down the sideline as he is chased by Tompkins' defenders during last year's District 19-6A game at Legacy Stadium.

WEEK SIX

KATY ISD

PREVIEWS

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Thursday
Taylor (1-4, 0-1) vs. Seven Lakes (3-2, 0-1)
6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

• Things have not gone the way the Taylor Mustangs thought they would this season. Taylor is in the midst of a four-game losing streak and badly needs a bounce back win against Seven Lakes on Thursday. The Mustangs come off a loss to Morton Ranch in which they found the endzone only once and only mustered 210 yards offensively. The defense wasn't there either for the Mustangs as Morton Ranch put up 43 points and ran for 235 yards on the ground. Things will not get easier for Taylor as it is dealing with injuries to both Joe Jefferson and Jackson Ingram at quarterback.

Seven Lakes was dealt a tough draw last week as the Spartans opened district against Katy. The team was unable to get over 200 yards of offense and only mustered three points on the night. One bright spot for the team was sophomore Barrett Hudson, who led the Spartans in both rushing and receiving. The Spartans defense couldn't contain Katy, allowing 169 yards through the air and 281 yards on the ground. This is an extremely important game for both teams as they look to stay in the playoff race. Taylor will try to fix the errors they've made in their past four games and Seven Lakes will try to regain the consistency it had on offense before its setback against Katy.

Cinco Ranch (3-2, 0-1) vs. Mayde Creek (2-2), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

• Cinco Ranch is now losers of two straight, but showed lots of fight against a strong Tompkins team. The defense was the biggest culprit for the Cougars, who allowed over 500 yards of offense to Tompkins, but did force two takeaways. The Cougars will also need to find a consistent running game, as they only had 23 yards on the ground on 24 carries against Tompkins. But Cinco Ranch showed promising signs as well. Gavin Rutherford did a good job of keeping plays alive and was smart with the football while Samuel McKnight and other complementary players were able to have good days in the passing game.

Mayde Creek comes off a bye week and hopes to keep developing their run game heading into district play. The Rams rushed for just 208 yards over their four non-district games but have found success in the passing game, especially with sophomore Jaylen Bragg under center. The Mayde Creek receiving core of Jordan Kelly and Leroy Turner have over 40 receptions and 450 yards on the season. The Mayde Creek defense has been good at times



COLE MCNANNA | FILE PHOTO

Tompkins' Marquis Shoulders leaps over a Katy defender during last year's District 19-6A game at Legacy Stadium.

and will need to be strong especially in the secondary against Cinco Ranch while the Cougars will need to find success on the ground and have a good day against the Mayde Creek passing attack.

DISTRICT 10-5A

Paetow (4-0, 2-0) at Milby (0-5, 0-3), 7 p.m.

• Paetow comes off its bye week to face Milby, a team which has mightily struggled this season. Paetow's rushing attack has accumulated over 1,100 yards on the ground and 17 touchdowns, including 636 yards and 12 touchdowns from Jacob Brown. The team has also had success in the air, as C.J. Dumas has 580 yards and six touchdowns on the year while Kole Wilson has 226 yards and three touchdowns on the season. The defense hasn't been slouches this season either, as the team held its last opponent to seven total yards and zero points. This game should serve as a nice preparation week for Paetow as they get ready for a tough schedule towards the end of the year.

Friday

DISTRICT 19-6A

Katy (5-0, 1-0) vs. Tompkins (5-0, 1-0), 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

• The big game is here, as Katy and Tompkins will meet for the first time since the Falcons beat the Tigers last season and won the District 19-6A crown. The two also come into the matchup as the only undefeated teams in the district. Katy comes off a drubbing of Seven Lakes in which Caleb Koger passed for 141 yards and three touch-

downs, but also threw two interceptions. The Tigers seem to have found a nice balance at running back, as Dallas Glass ran for 101 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries, while Seth Davis rushed for 76 yards on 11 carries in the game and at receiver Antonio Silva had a very strong game, as the senior caught five passes for 77 yards and two touchdowns.

Tompkins also had a very strong game in its district opener against Cinco Ranch. Cole Francis passed for 228 yards and two touchdowns, Josh McMillan had 98 yards receiving and Wyatt Young had a strong day catching the ball while Caleb Blocker and Collin Marshall had good days at running back. The defense stepped up as well, limiting Cinco Ranch to under 25 yards on the ground. Tompkins will need to continue their strong defensive performance and hope to create turnovers. Katy will hope to continue their dominance on both sides of the ball and protect the football as the Tigers seek to avenge last year's loss.

NON-DISTRICT

Jordan (1-4) vs. Hitchcock (2-2), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

• Jordan wasn't able to get back in the win column when it faced Lake Belton as the team lost a heartbreaking one possession game for the second straight week. The Warriors are now 1-4 in their inaugural varsity season and will continue to gain experience and learn how to win as their first season progresses. Hitchcock comes into the game at 2-2 and won its last matchup against Houston Christian 34-14 in a strong offensive performance. The Bulldogs also have a win over Van Vleck this season but have lost to East Bernard and La Marque.

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Katy, Tompkins, Paetow hold spots in Houston area rankings

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy, Tompkins and Paetow all held their spots in the week six Houston-area high school football rankings.

Katy remained No. 1 in Class 6A, receiving 12 of 13 first place votes, while No. 2 Spring received the other first place vote. Bridgeland, Atascocita and Westfield rounded out the top five while Tompkins was at No. 8 for the second straight week.

In Class 5A, Fort Bend Marshall remained No. 1 with 12 first place votes and Paetow was No. 2, receiving one first place vote. Hightower jumped to No. 5 after its win over Manvel while Manvel dropped from No. 3 to No. 6.

Huffman-Hargrave stayed at No. 1 in the small school poll followed by Bellville and El Campo and Second Baptist jumped up to No. 1 in the small school poll after its win over Port Lavaca while Kinkaid dropped to No. 2 after losing to Little Cypress-Mauriceville.



R. HANS MILLER

Cinco Ranch's Yextiel Perez-Gilbes returns a kickoff for a touchdown against Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium on Thursday.

- CLASS 6A**
- 1. Katy (12 first-place votes)**
Record: 5-0; Points: 258; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Beat Seven Lakes, 45-3.
- 2. Spring (1)**
Record: 4-0; Points: 240; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Beat Dekaney, 57-7.
- 3. Bridgeland**
Record: 4-0; Points: 228; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Beat Langham Creek, 48-16.
- 4. Atascocita**
Record: 4-1; Points: 219; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Humble, 52-0.
- 5. Westfield**
Record: 4-0; Points: 218; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat Aldine Davis, 56-0.
- 6. North Shore**
Record: 4-1; Points: 195; Previous rank: 6; Last week: Beat West Brook, 44-7.
- 7. C.E. King**
Record: 5-0; Points: 181; Previous rank: 7; Last week: Beat Kingwood, 55-6.
- 8. Tompkins**
Record: 5-0; Points: 158; Previous rank: 8; Last week: Beat Cinco Ranch, 32-28.
- 9. Cypress Park**
Record: 4-0; Points: 155; Previous rank: 9;

- Last week: idle.
- 10. Ridge Point**
Record: 4-1; Points: 142; Previous rank: 10; Last week: Beat Clements, 56-20.
- 11. Dickinson**
Record: 3-2; Points: 127; Previous rank: 11; Last week: Beat Clear Falls, 28-7.
- 12. Klein Cain**
Record: 4-1; Points: 102; Previous rank: 13; Last week: Beat Klein, 42-14.
- 13. Tomball**
Record: 5-0; Points: 93; Previous rank: 15; Last week: Beat Tomball Memorial, 48-35.
- 14. The Woodlands**
Record: 3-2; Points: 76; Previous rank: 14; Last week: Beat Aguilas Prep, 62-0.
- 15. Clear Falls**
Record: 4-1; Points: 63; Previous rank: 12; Last week: Lost to Dickinson, 28-7.
- 16. Summer Creek**
Record: 4-0; Points: 56; Previous rank: 17; Last week: idle.
- 17. Dobie**
Record: 4-1; Points: 54; Previous rank: 16; Last week: Beat Channelview, 55-49.
- 18. Shadow Creek**
Record: 2-2; Points: 52; Previous rank: 17;

- Last week: Beat Alief Taylor, 35-21.
- 19. Pearland Dawson**
Record: 3-1; Points: 38; Previous rank: 19; Last week: Beat Alief Hastings, 40-0.
- 20. Jersey Village**
Record: 4-0; Points: 33; Previous rank: 20; Last week: Beat Memorial, 24-7.
- Also receiving votes: Stratford 9, Cypress Ranch 8, College Park 1, George Ranch 1.*
- CLASS 5A**
- 1. Fort Bend Marshall (12 first-place votes)**
Record: 5-0; Points: 129; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Beat Waltrip, 59-0.
- 2. Paetow (1)**
Record: 4-0; Points: 116; Previous rank: 2; Last week: idle.
- 3. Montgomery**
Record: 4-0; Points: 90; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Oak Ridge, 62-32.
- 4. Magnolia West**
Record: 5-0; Points: 84; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat Caney Creek, 42-6.
- 5. Hightower**
Record: 3-1; Points: 78; Previous rank: 9; Last week: Beat Manvel, 16-12.
- 6. Manvel**

- Record: 3-2; Points: 65; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Lost to Hightower, 16-12.
- 7. Crosby**
Record: 2-2; Points: 43; Previous rank: 7; Last week: Beat Dayton, 52-21.
- 8. New Caney**
Record: 3-1; Points: 25; Previous rank: 7; Last week: Lost to College Station, 35-6.
- 9. Baytown Lee**
Record: 4-0; Points: 24; Previous rank: NR; Last week: Beat Friendswood, 19-14.
- 10. Angleton**
Record: 5-0; Points: 17; Previous rank: NR; Last week: Beat B.F. Terry, 48-13.
- Also receiving votes: Fulshear 16, Lake Creek 11, Magnolia 10, Huntsville 7.*
- CLASS 4A/3A**
- 1. Huffman-Hargrave (7 first-place votes)**
Record: 5-0; Points: 46; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Beat La Marque, 31-7.
- 2. Bellville (2)**
Record: 5-0; Points: 42; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Beat Columbia, 56-6.
- 3. El Campo (1)**
Record: 4-1; Points: 32; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Beat Boerne Champion, 55-10.

- 4. East Bernard**
Record: 4-1; Points: 20; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Ganado, 56-20.
- 5. Sealy**
Record: 3-2; Points: 6; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat Bay City, 38-14.
- Also receiving votes: Stafford 3, La Marque 1.*
- PRIVATE SCHOOLS**
- 1. Second Baptist (4 first-place votes)**
Record: 4-1; Points: 35; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Beat Port Lavaca Calhoun, 23-19.
- 2. Kinkaid (4)**
Record: 4-1; Points: 31; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Lost to Little Cypress-Mauriceville, 49-20.
- 3. St. Thomas**
Record: 4-1; Points: 23; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Beat St. John XXIII, 42-10.
- 4. The Woodlands Christian**
Record: 4-0; Points: 16; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Bay Area Christian, 37-14.
- 5. St. John's**
Record: 4-0; Points: 13; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat The Village School, 41-6.
- Also receiving votes: Fort Bend Christian 1.*

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON TAX RATE

The CIMARRON M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on October 20, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, TX. 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:	David F. Jones, John Linn, David Aitken, Gary Russell
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.36500/\$100 Adopted	\$.35000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.01500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.10%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 215,726	\$ 231,887
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 43,145	\$ 46,377
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 172,581	\$ 185,510
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 629.92	\$ 649.28
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 19.36 3.07%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON TAX RATE

The MASON CREEK U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on October 13, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. at Mason Creek Community Center, 20201 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX 77450. 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:	Len Forsyth, Brian Connolly, John H. Cameron, and Robert Wills
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	James G. Hamblet III

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)	\$.35100/\$100 Adopted	\$.33600/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.01500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.27%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 276,233	\$ 297,271
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 55,247	\$ 59,454
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 220,986	\$ 237,817
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 775.66	\$ 799.06
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 23.40 3.01%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Texans will open up playbook for Mills

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

David Culley knew they would need to give Davis Mills added protection in his first NFL start.

The Houston Texans head coach and coaching staff installed a simple gameplan to try and give the rookie success against the top ranked Panthers defense, and it worked, to an extent.

Mills threw for 168 yards and a touchdown while not throwing an interception, but the team’s run game was never able to get going in a loss.

“We didn’t really attack (the Panthers) the way we normally would have. I think a lot of that had to do with our gameplan,” Culley said. “We kind of cut down some things, we normally have a few checks in there but we didn’t want to put that on Davis to do too many of those kinds of things, but now that he’s had a game and a half under our belt, we’ll go back to doing what we normally do.”

It wasn’t just the offense that struggled against the Panthers, as the Texans defense allowed 407 yards of offense and let Sam Darnold pass for 304 yards, as the quarterback made a number of big plays in the process.

“I think what happened was that the pass rush was good, but Darnold was able to move around back there and got in a couple of situations where he scrambled and he hit about three big passes off of just scrambling, where he moved around, kept the play alive and you get those receivers moving around. Part of that happens simply because we did have a good rush but weren’t able to get him down.”

The Texans will try and bounce back from their two-game losing streak when they play the Bills noon Sunday at Highmark Stadium in Buffalo.

The Bills have started the season 2-1 and sit first place in the AFC East.

The offense has been a strong unit for the Bills but so has the defense, as the unit has only allowed 44 points through the first three games.

“That’s a very good football team, they’re a playoff caliber football team and they’re very good in



Houston Texans running back Mark Ingram (2) carries the ball during an NFL preseason game between the Houston Texans and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on August 28, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

all phases. Offensively, defensively and on special teams they’ve been very consistent. It’s a well-coached football team that has a lot of good football players on it.”

Offensively, the Bills are led by the runner up to MVP last season, Josh Allen. Culley coached Allen for a year in Buffalo and knows

how much of weapon the quarterback is.

“He’s become one of the top quarterbacks in this league. I know when I had him as a rookie, he just has everything you want in a quarterback and I’m not surprised where he’s at right now. He’s a heck of a player. There’s not a

throw that he can’t make, he’s athletic, he’s big and strong and can run. He’s the total package.”

Playing such a strong team, Culley knows that the Texans will have to open up the offense if they have a chance of winning. They plan on giving Mills more responsibility than last week in

hopes of rejuvenating both the passing and ground game against the Bills.

“He’s going to have a lot more put on him than he had put on him last week. I feel like he’ll be able to handle that. We’re just going to run our offense and let him handle it from there.”

MAVERICKS

from page B1

able to open up the passing game. That helped us a lot, especially on critical downs.”

Scott got Morton Ranch on the board late in the first quarter, but Taylor (1-4, 0-1) answered right back, as Joe Jefferson threw a screen pass to Alei Sabek, who went 60 yards for a touchdown to tie things.

Tyree Washington came away with an interception early in the second quarter and Morton Ranch took advantage of getting the ball back and Scott ran in his second score from 23-yards out on the ensuing drive, and Morton Ranch took a 14-7 lead into the half.

“It was such a good game from the defense,” Johnson said. “Them only putting up seven points in the whole game is really motivating for our offense because we get on the field more and it fuels that motivation for us. Their success is our success too.”

The Morton Ranch offense increased the lead quickly as Johnson made it a two score game early in the third quarter when he kept a

read-option and ran 40 yards for a touchdown.

“It makes it really difficult on a defense when we run that because you can’t guard the run from the running back, the run from the quarterback and the play action all at once,” Scott said. “We just have to keep running it, see that trial and error and see what they do and then take the open looks.”

Scott put the dagger in the game when he scored a touchdown in the fourth quarter, but it was the Morton Ranch defense that made the biggest impact in the game.

The Mavericks’ defense held the Mustangs to just 210 yards of total offense, including just 60 yards on the ground and did not allow Taylor to score after the 60-yard pass in the first quarter, and they did this despite missing key players on that side of the ball.

“We had three defensive lineman out and we had to move a kid up from JV,” said Morton Ranch head coach Ron Counter. “We’ve had a lot of injuries on defense this

year and they just did a great job.”

Counter was proud of his players’ performance and the way they battled despite being shorthanded.

“I told them ‘you can only put 11 on the field at a time,’ whether you have 40 or 60 on the sideline it doesn’t matter. Only 11 can go out and cross the big white lines at a time,” Counter said. “I told them ‘whoever those 11 are out there on the field, and it might be some of the same guys especially with defense and special teams, you just have to go out there and give it all that you’ve got.’ They were able to do that.”

Taylor, which is in the midst of a four-game losing streak, will face Seven Lakes next week.

Counter is thankful for the fact that Morton Ranch has a bye week next week and he expects most of his injured players to be back by the time the team faces Seven Lakes.

Counter believes the win might have been the biggest Morton Ranch has had since he was named head coach in 2017.

“Starting 1-0 was huge for us,” Counter said. “And the timing couldn’t be better, having an open week so that we can get some of our banged-up guys healthy. Every week is going to be tough in this district so we have to get ready for the next one.”

Morton Ranch 28, Taylor 7

Taylor	7	0	0	0	--	7
M. Ranch	7	7	7	7	--	28

First quarter
MR: Santana Scott 13 (Juan Arriaga kick), 2:50
T: Joe Jefferson 60 pass to Alei Sabek (Sabek kick), 0:35

Second quarter
MR: Santana Scott 23 run (Arriaga kick), 8:37

Third quarter
MR: Josh Johnson 40 run (Arriaga kick), 9:25

Fourth quarter
MR: Santana Scott 3 run (Arriaga kick), 9:25

Team stats		
	Taylor	M. Ranch
First downs	7	16
Yards rushing	20-60	46-235
Yards passing	150	136
Passes	8-19-0-1	11-19-0-0
Punts	7-45	4-34
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-0
Penalty-yards	6-45	8-59

Individual Statistics	
Rushing – Morton Ranch: Santana Scott 31-168-3; Josh Johnson, 7-50-1; Ryan Hall, 8-17; Taylor: Joe Jefferson, 6-40; Michael Whitaker, 8-34; Tyler Irving, 3-(-1) Jake Webster, 2-(-15)	
Passing – Morton Ranch: Josh Johnson, 11-19-136-0-0; Taylor: Joe Jefferson, 5-12-122-0-1; Jake Webster, 3-7-28-0-1	
Receiving – Morton Ranch: Josiah Mills, 3-62; Mike Gerald, 4-62; Cameron Hudson, 3-8; Marcus Jackson, 1-4; Taylor: Alei Sabek, 2-72-1; Michael Whitaker, 3-50; Wyatt Fahey, 3-28	

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Katy Times



Houston Texans defensive back Desmond King (25) wraps up Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. (10) during the second half of an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Jacksonville Jaguars on September 12, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

Texans' run game falters in loss to Panthers

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

The Houston Texans knew how important it would be to establish the run game with rookie quarterback Davis Mills making his first ever NFL start. The Texans tried to play a run first game, giving Mills safe opportunities to pass on play action and in the intermediate game, but never were able to get the offense going in a 24-9 loss to the Carolina Panthers on Thursday at NRG Stadium. "We have to be able to run the ball," said Texans head coach David Culley. "That's who we are, and I think offensively our biggest ill of the night was the fact we could not establish any consistency in our run game, and we've got to be able to do that to be successful and to be able to become better in the pass game and be consistent and stay on the field." The Texans only mustered 42 yards on the ground as Mark Ingram led the team with 21 yards on the ground. Mills was efficient, going 19-28 for 168 yards and a touchdown and found Brandin Cooks often, as Cooks finished with nine catches for 112 yards. "I thought he did very well," Culley said. "He didn't turn the ball over at all, which was a big thing going into the game. I thought he threw the ball very well." The Texans' defense was unable to hold off the Panthers' passing game as Sam Darnold went 23-34 for 304 yards and also ran for two touchdowns, and the Pan-

thers were able to put up 117 yards on the ground despite losing Christian McCaffrey to an injury in the first half. After trading punts to start the game, the Panthers went 88 yards on ten plays, and Darnold found the endzone on a 5-yard run. The Texans weren't able to get anything going on their first four drives, but finally got a score as they went hurry up late in the second quarter, and Anthony Miller caught a 1-yard touchdown pass from Mills. But that was the last bright spot for Houston. Carolina scored on each of their first three possessions to start the second half and then ran the clock out on their last possession while the Texans only could muster three points in the final two quarters. "We've got to finish," said linebacker Christian Kirksey. "When a quarterback is extending the play, we've got to make sure we finish to the ball and finish on the ball. A couple times we had strip sacks and we had to get the ball in those situations. So, it's just all about finishing." The Texans went without a turnover for the first time this season in the loss and know they need to be better on that side of the ball. Offensively, Culley was impressed with what Mills was able to do in his first start but knows the Texans will need to improve in the run game going forward. "Once we got going, Tim (Kelly) just called the game as if he was calling it if Tyrod (Taylor) was in there," Culley said.

"We just did not run the ball as well as we needed to run the ball because of mistakes we made."
Panthers 24, Texans 9
Panthers 7 0 7 10 -- 24
Texans 0 6 0 3 -- 9
First quarter
Car: Sam Darnold 5 run (Zane Gonzalez kick), 6:42
Second quarter
Hou: Davis Mills 1 pass to Anthony

Miller, 0:29
Third quarter
Car: Tommy Tremble 7 run (Gonzalez kick), 6:25
Fourth quarter
Car: Gonzalez 21 field goal, 12:44
Hou: Joey Slye 53 field goal, 9:09
Car: Darnold 1 run (Gonzalez kick), 4:12

Team stats
Panthers Texans
First downs 28 14
Yards rushing 33-117 17-42
Yards passing 290 168
Passes 23-34-0-0 19-28-1-0
Punts 3-37 6-44
Fumbles-lost 2-0 2-0
Penalty-yards 8-64 7-51

Individual Statistics
Rushing - Car: Chubba Hubbard, 11-52; Christian McCaffrey, 7-31; Royce Freeman, 5-17; Sam Darnold, 8-11; Tommy Tremble, 1-7; D.J. Moore, 1-(-1); Hou: Mark Ingram, 6-21; David Johnson, 2-11; Brandin Cooks, 1-5; Phillip Lindsay, 7-5;
Passing - Car: Darnold, 23-34-304-0-0; Hou: Davis Mills, 19-28-168-1-0
Receiving - Car: Moore, 8-126; Terrace Marshall Jr. 4-48; Hubbard, 3-27; Dan Arnold, 2-23; McCaffrey, 2-9; Tremble, 1-30; Alex Erickson, 1-25; Freeman, 1-8; Hou: Brandin Cooks, 9-112; Jordan Akins, 4-32; Anthony Miller, 4-20; Rex Burkhead, 1-5; Ingram, 1-(-1)



Left, Davis Mills tosses a pass during a preseason game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Far left, Houston Texans tight end Pharaoh Brown fights for extra yards during the second half of an NFL game between the Houston Texans and the Jacksonville Jaguars on September 12, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

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September 23 Puzzle Answers

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

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

Katy Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021 in the Education Support Complex Board Room 6301 S. Stadium Lane Katy, Texas

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

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Estate/Guns/Ammo – Oct. 9, 2021 at 10 a.m., Pioneer Hall @ Rodeo Grounds, Henrietta, Texas. Complete listing and photos at ChoateAuction.com. Bryan Choate TX License 12976.

Guns of Estate – Oct. 2, 2021 at 10 a.m., Wheeler Co. Agriflife Center, North Edge of Wheeler, Tx. 150+ guns – rifles, shotguns, handguns, ammo, knives, safes and marbles. Winchester, Colt, Savage, Browning, Remington, Fox, Drilling & more. Full listing, pictures and directions at www.loydsauktion.com. See Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers on Facebook. Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers 806-334-0407 (Lic. 7119), Cole Wilson 806-662-5796 (Lic. 17319).

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF KATY

The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct a Public Hearing To Be Held At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 11, 2021

The Hearing Is Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On The Annexation Of A Property Described As Tract 1, 14.5737 acres of land in the James Conner Survey, A-157, Fort Bend County, TX and Tract 2, 5.5452 acres of land in the James Conner Survey, A-157, Fort Bend County, TX In Accordance With Section 43.0671 Of The Texas Local Government Code.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF KATY

The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct a Public Hearing To Be Held At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 11, 2021

The Hearing Is Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On The Annexation Of A Property Described As Tract 7, 78.79 acres of land in the H.&T.C.R.R. CO. Survey, A-203 & A-396, Waller County, TX In Accordance With Section 43.0671 Of The Texas Local Government Code.

NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT MEETING PLACE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CINCO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 14

To the residents and taxpayers of Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 14 (the "District"), and to all the persons interested in the meetings of the Board of Directors of such District:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the District, at a meeting held on August 25, 2021, established an additional meeting place outside the boundaries of the District at BGE, Inc., 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd Suite A-250, Katy, TX 77494.

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

/s/ Patrick Carlson
 Secretary, Board of Directors

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TOMPKINS

from page B1

DuBose. “We knew we needed to keep that intimidation factor with our team going. We want to make every team fear our name and show that we are the strongest and hardest-working team out there.”

The Falcons faced a test in Cinco Ranch to start district, but rebounded after early struggles to come away with a 32-28 victory on Thursday at Rhodes Stadium.

Two sophomores made major impacts for the Falcons, as Caleb Blocker ran for 120 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries and Wyatt Young caught five passes for 119 yards and a score.

“I think it’s awesome the way they’ve stepped up” said senior quarterback Cole Francis. “Being sophomores up on the varsity is big and I think they’ve settled in really well and taken up their roles. It’s a great feeling to have weapons in the backfield.”

Tompkins forced a three-and-out to start the game, but on the Falcons first play from scrimmage, the team fumbled and lost the ball, giving the Cougars the ball inside the redzone.

Gavin Rutherford took advantage of the mistake, connecting with Seth Salverino on an 11-yard pass to give the Cougars the lead.

Tompkins answered back quickly, as they put together a drive culminating in a 42-yard pass from Francis to Young that tied things. Tompkins put together another scoring drive earlier in the second quarter and got a field goal, but Yextiel Perez-Gilbes took the ensuing kickoff 95-yards as the Cougars regained the lead.

“Wyatt has played quarterback, so he understands where everyone is better than a regular receiver. I think that help him and Cole does a great job of finding whoever’s open,” said Tomkins head coach Todd McVey. “That’s the best part about it is people can’t lock in on one guy. It’s a good combination to have those different weapons.”

Francis and Tompkins were unfazed, as the senior quarterback led the Falcons on another drive and connected with McMillan on a 21-yard touchdown to take back the lead, a lead which Tompkins



R. HANS MILLER

Tompkins’ Wyatt Young tries to break away from Cinco Ranch defenders during a District 19-6A game at Rhodes Stadium on Thursday.

"We want to make every team fear our name and show that we are the strongest and hardest-working team out there."

—SEAN DUBOSE, TOMPKINS SENIOR

wouldn’t relinquish for the rest of the game. After a Cinco Ranch three-and-out, Mario Garcia hit his second field goal of the night, a 31-yarder, as Tompkins went into the locker room with a 20-14 lead.

“We just had to calm down after the start and keep levelheaded,” DuBose said. “We had to make sure we kept going out there and not give anything up. That’s always our mentality that Coach McVey gives us.”

The run game took over in the second half for the Falcons as Blocker scored two touchdowns in the third quarter in a balanced approach from the Tompkins offense.

Blocker finished off a drive with a 3-yard touchdown plunge with six minutes remaining in the

quarter and then scored from eight yards out just two minutes later.

“Really I just tried to trust my offensive line,” Blocker said. “I knew they would block their man and every time I saw a hole or crease I tried to hit that hole and run downhill.”

Rutherford cut into the lead when he escaped the pocket and found Fischer Reed for a 32-yard score, but Tompkins did a good job with its defense and burning the clock in the fourth quarter to close things out.

Cinco Ranch got a final touchdown as time expired, but the game was already decided by that point.

“We had to respond to a lot of adversity,” McVey said. “I give

Cinco Ranch a lot of credit — they came out and played very hard with great energy. The coach has done a great job over there; they were 3-1 for a reason and we knew that. You’re always going to get everyone’s best in district play and they gave us theirs.”

Cinco Ranch will have a chance to bounce back against Mayde Creek next week while Tompkins will be in a battle with the only other undefeated team left in district, Katy, which comes off a 45-3 win over Seven Lakes.

“It’s the next game, that’s how you have to treat it,” McVey said. “We know that they are a very good football team just like everyone else. Everyone is going to get everyone’s best in 19-6A.”

Tompkins 32, Cinco Ranch 28

Cinco Ranch	7	7	7	7	--	28
Tompkins	7	13	12	0	--	32

First quarter

Cinco: Gavin Rutherford 11 pass to Seth Salverino (Santiago Taborda kick), 5:36

Tompkins: Cole Francis 42 pass to Wyatt Young (Mario Garcis kick), 10-7

Second quarter

Tompkins: Mario Garcia 21 field goal, 7:13

Cinco: Yextiel Perez-Gilbes 95 kickoff return (Taborda kick), 6:56

Tompkins: Francis 21 pass to Josh McMillan (Garcia kick), 2:35

Tompkins: Mario Garcia 31 field goal, 0:09

Third quarter

Tompkins: Caleb Blocker 3 run, 6:47

Tompkins: Blocker 8 run, 4:12

Cinco: Rutherford 32 pass to Fischer Reed (Taborda kick) 1:56

Fourth quarter

Rutherford 23 pass to Thomas Kangieser (Taborda kick), 0:00

Team stats

	C. Ranch	Tompkins
First downs	10	25
Yards rushing	24-23	46-230
Yards passing	193	228
Passes	13-21-3-0	12-18-2-0
Punts	6-29	1-34
Fumbles-lost	1-0	3-2
Penalty-yards	3-29	6-70

Individual Statistics

Rushing -- Tompkins: Caleb Blocker, 20-120-2; Collin Marshall, 13-65; Cole Francis, 11-49; Wyatt Young, 1-0; Julius Mourning, 1-(-4); Cinco: Samuel McKnight, 6-11; Gavin Rutherford, 16-7; Eric Eckstrom, 1-5; Seth Salverino, 1-0;

Passing -- Tompkins: Cole Francis, 12-18-228-2-0; Cinco: Gavin Rutherford, 13-21-193-3-0;

Receiving – Tompkins: Wyatt Young, 5-119-1; Josh McMillan, 5-98-1; Matthew Ogunrin, 1-8; Caleb Blocker, 1-3; Cinco: Seth Salverino, 4-59-1; Samuel McKnight, 4-44; Fischer Reed, 1-32-1; Thomas Kansieser, 2-26-1; Dylan Kriпки, 3-19; Dylan Crosby, 1-7; Zach Franco, 1-6;

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Brazos Conference Room, Houston, TX, or by teleconference at (877) 873-8017, Access Code: 1107286. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal:	R. Hudson, W. Skelton, V. Brown & A. Wiggins	
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)	
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)	
ABSENT:	D. Moon	

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 0.340</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$ 0.320</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.020</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-5.8824%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$433,134</u>	<u>\$457,743</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	\$433,134	\$457,743
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 1,472.66</u>	<u>\$ 464.78</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	<u>-\$7.88</u> <u>-0.5351%</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 Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 Administrative Building, 21437 Clay Road, Katy, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal:	P. Kerr, K. Thornhill, M Williams & J. Elms	
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)	
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)	
ABSENT:	M. DuBois	

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 0.790</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$ 0.790</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.000</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>0.0000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$193,577</u>	<u>\$208,921</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>\$193,577</u>	<u>\$208,921</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 1,529.26</u>	<u>\$1,650.48</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	<u>\$121.22</u> <u>7.9267%</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.



KATY ISD CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS GEAR UP FOR DISTRICT MEET

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

With the District 19-6A meet coming up on Oct. 13, we decided to have a Q&A with the boys and girls cross country teams as they prepare.

CINCO RANCH HIGH

Head coach: Dana Mathis

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Cinco Ranch High School fans can expect us to have a great season. The girls are going to be very competitive this year. Looking forward to continuing what we do each year on the field and in the community.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. I always tell the girl athletes to work hard for each other and take every race for what you can get out of it.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. The Cinco Ranch High School Girls Cross Country team goals are to win District and continue on our journey to the State Meet.

JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Kymberlee Trnka

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. The Jordan High School fans can expect a competitive team that will work hard and be successful at meets. We have an amazing group of girls who are supportive of one another and have the desire to win.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. I encourage my runners to always have a positive mindset at practices and meets. They must manage their time appropriately so they can be successful both academically and athletically. My athletes need take care of their bodies by getting proper sleep and nutrition and always give their best effort at each and every practice.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our main team goals this season is to make it to the State Cross Country Meet and to continue to grow as a team as we begin year 2.

KATY HIGH SCHOOL

Head coaches (boys & girls): Jim Pat Darcey/Jason Reed

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. We look forward to our student athletes having the opportunity to show their hard work and dedication and be competitive in our district, area, and state.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. A tip for our Katy High School Cross Country Teams is to give great effort everyday in their schoolwork and practices. We hope that our kids are competitive in everything they do and are great supportive teammates. We want them to be resilient when things don't go exactly how they would like and work hard to reach their goals.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our team goals are to: Be Responsible, Be Resilient, Be Reliable and Be the best family member, friend, student and athlete that you can be each day.

MORTON RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Katy Pfile

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. "This season Morton Ranch High School fans can expect to see some fast times being run. Fans can also expect to see a lot of improvement in each runner."

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. "One tip for our Morton Ranch High School runners is to keep on top of your school work and stay positive when running gets tough."

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. "One of the team goals for this year is to run faster times than last year. Another goal for this season is to build a bigger cross country program."

PAETOW HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach (boys & girls): Kenneth Decuir

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Paetow High School fans can expect to see a group of young men and women that goes out and gives their best effort at every competition.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip I would give the players is to make sure they maintain a good schedule to be successful in the classroom as well as athletically.

Q. What is the teams goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our team goals this season is to advance to the Regional and State meets.

SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: David Pollack

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Seven Lakes High school fans can expect a group of hard working and motivated young ladies that will compete hard and represent Seven Lakes High School at a high level.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip for our Seven Lake High School athletes is always work your hardest, don't worry about the other person and what they are doing. When it comes down to it, you are working to improve yourself incrementally each day. Any race that you see improvement is a success so treat it as that.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. The Seven Lakes High School team goals are to run a good race at District and qualify for post district competitions.

TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Juliet McRorey

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Our goal is to be competitive in District. We've been getting steadily better for the past three seasons so we want to continue that trend. We would like to get a couple of kids in the top 20 this year.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip for our Taylor High School Cross Country Girls Athletes is in order to become a good runner it requires discipline and consistency. It is an everyday endeavor.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our Taylor High School Cross Country Team goal is to make it as a Varsity team into the top 4.

TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach (boys & girls): Walter Yarrow

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Tompkins Boys Cross Country Team has worked all summer for the opportunity to race the best teams in Texas this November! The team is led by a strong group of seniors who want to return to the state meet and compete every week. This senior group realizes big goals require a big commitment and they have developed a culture of high standards, character, and integrity.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip I give to the Tompkins Cross Country Team is consistency and belief in the system. Also, being a great teammate!

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. The Tompkins Boys Cross Country Team's goal is to defend their district title and qualify for the State meet for the 6th year in a row!



PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT KENNEY

The Seven Lakes boys cross country team at a meet last season. courtesy Scott Kenney

BY TYLER TYRE
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

CINCO RANCH HIGH

Head coach: Brandon Beasley

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Cinco Ranch High School fan can expect a little more normalcy. We are excited to start the season on time this year.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip for our runners is that we need to work hard in our training and also push ourselves in the classroom at the same level we do on the course.

Q. What is the teams goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our Cinco Ranch High School team goals are to train together at a high level and achieve individual and team success.

JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Mabry Allen

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Jordan High School fans can expect a group of hard working young men that are going to challenge individuals and teams at every meet we attend.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip for our Jordan High School Boys Cross Country team is to work hard every day in everything that you do. Be competitive in the classroom, training with your teammates, while doing chores with your siblings, and at meets.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our Jordan High School Boys Cross Country team goals are to win a meet at each level this season, and for our varsity boys to place in the top 3 at the district meet.

MORTON RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Matthew Parmley

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Fans can expect a lot of new faces and a lot of kids trying their best.

We emphasize effort and giving your best effort constantly. When it comes to races we are looking for those personal victories each and every time. If everyone improves just a little bit more then the whole team improves greatly.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. This is always a tough answer because there is so much good advice to give. My philosophy and advice would be similar: always try your best. As long as you keep trying your best then you should be good, even when times are tough, keep trying your best.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. The Morton Ranch High School team goals are to have some kids

make the regional meet, if not the whole team. As well, we really want everyone to set a personal record (PR). If everyone improves then there's nothing more I can ask for.

MAYDE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Joseph Brillion

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. The Mayde Creek High School Boys Cross Country supporters need to know that we will improve. How much? We will see at the end.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip to the Mayde Creek High School Boys Cross Country team is to continue to work towards a goal..... be committed every day to training..... be disciplined to do the right things..... show toughness when it is needed.... and be resilient.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our team goal is to place individuals / team into a position in which they will get to the Regional and State Championship meet. We have an extremely tough district so it will be interesting to watch.

SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Scott Kenney

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. The Seven Lakes High School fans can expect a team that will compete as hard as we can at each meet. We will provide fans with a championship effort at each cross country race across all divisions.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. A tip for our players would be: take care of the nonrunning details. Every athlete should have a daily planner. We stress preventative measures by getting gold medal sleep, food, and hydration. We want them to go to the trainers to prevent injuries from happening.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our team goal is to win the District, Region, and qualify as a team to the State Championships!

TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

Head coach: Bryant Austin Brown

Q. What can fans expect from your season this year?

A. Taylor High School fans can expect our boys to run hard and run fast! Seriously, these guys are willing to put in the hard work and are determined to become better athletes and gentlemen.

Q. One tip for their players to help make it a good season.

A. One tip for the Taylor High School Boys Cross Country Team would be to ask them how they can be their own best coach so they will put in their best. As their coach, I will work hard to run with my them to help push them to go the extra mile.

Q. What are the team's goals for the 2021 season?

A. Our main goal is to overall beat our old personal records in the mile and other races. It may seem basic, but it envelops so much in our program!



COURTESY KATY ISD

Cinco Ranch's Sophie Atkinson runs during last year's District 19-6A cross country championship at Bear Creek Park.

VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

working on because we want to finish out sets and matches and that’s our main goal. Today it was just like ‘push to 25 guys,’ and it started off a bit slow but then we were able to push through.”

Taylor jumped out to a big early lead in the first set, as the Mustangs built a 15-8 lead, the Tigers had called a timeout earlier in the set and used their second at that point. They came out of that timeout settled and went on to win the set 25-22.

“I felt like we were playing timid at first,” Lee said. “But we realized, we can beat this team, then we started putting the puzzle pieces together and we started playing volleyball the way we knew we could.”

Katy head coach Karen Paxton used the timeout to move different players around and wanted to give

“I felt like we were playing timid at first. But we realized, we can beat this team, then we started putting the puzzle pieces together and we started playing volleyball the way we knew we could.”

—CHANDLER LEE

Taylor a different look offensive-ly. She was impressed with the way the Tigers bounced back and showed consistency.

“Anyone at any given time on our team can go in and elevate our level of play,” Paxton said. “I think that speaks volumes on how hard they’re working and how much they really have bought into the

system. I’m just proud of the fact that I can do that and that they believe in themselves and have the confidence to go in and do a good job.”

From there, Katy ran away with the match, easily winning the second set and holding off a late run from Taylor in the third set to complete the sweep.

“We did a really good job of getting out of serve receive quickly today,” Denton said. “That’s been a big goal since the beginning of preseason for us. I feel like also capitalized on certain rotations and even though we got caught a few times because of (Gracie Gibbens) great serves, we were able to capitalize on it and get points quickly.”

Katy currently sits second in district behind Tompkins, but only one game back of the Falcons for the top spot. The team knows it will need to continue its strong play if it wants to remain a top two seed and make a push for the district title.

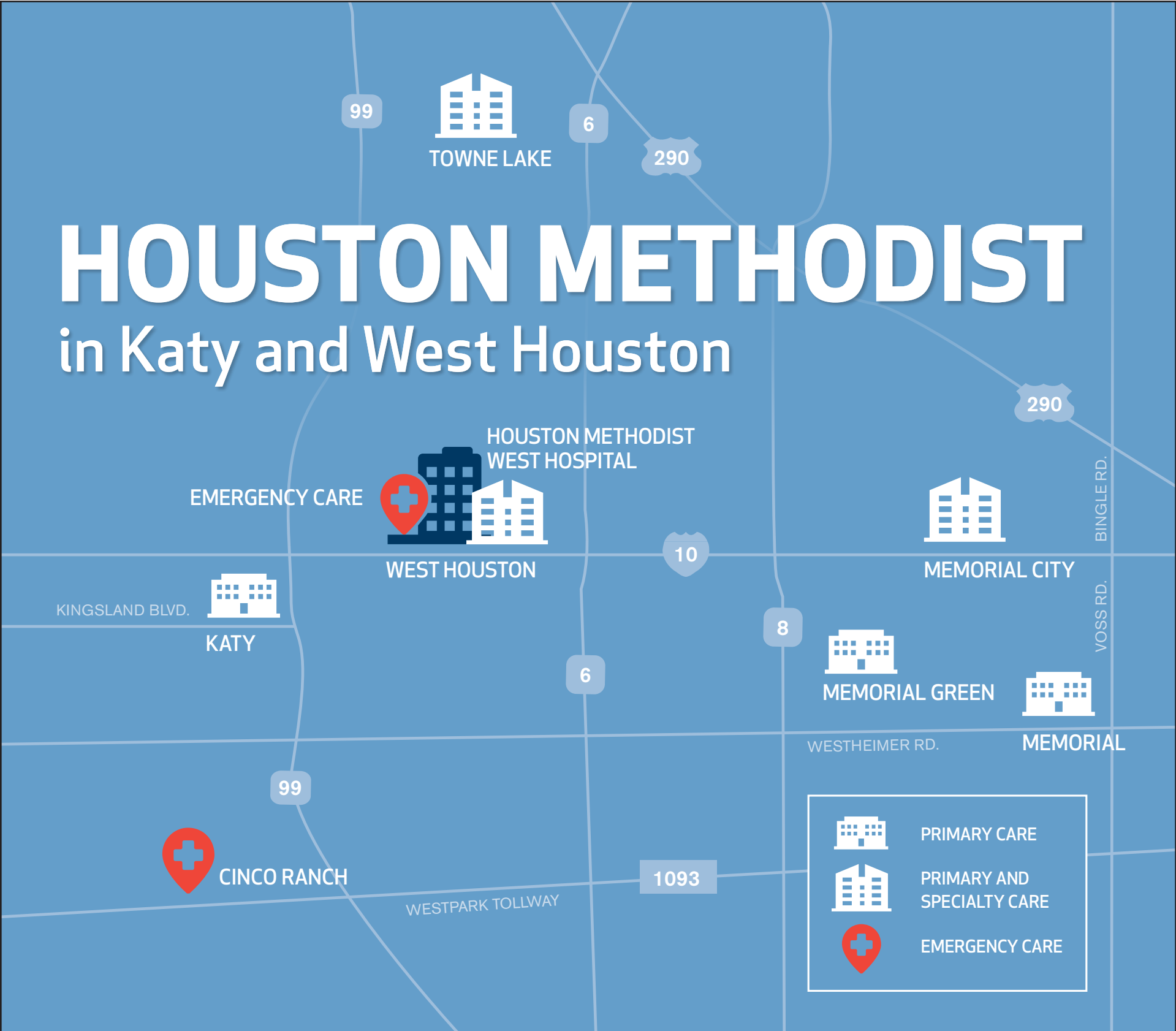
“This is a really special team,” Lee said. “We all have our own strengths and that’s what makes us so good is that we are all good things individually. Our biggest

strength is that no one person carries the whole team — we have different people who do different things and that’s what sets us apart.”

The Tigers will take on Morton Ranch Friday before beginning a tough stretch of their second half of district schedule, facing all four other teams that are in playoff contention back-to-back.

But the team knows they will be up to the challenge.

“We played some really tough tournaments and preseason and we lost several in a row and had to regroup,” Paxton said. “We’ve played some great defensive teams and some great offensive teams and there’s really a blending of that in our district. I think we’re going to have to put it all together at the right time but I know that we can.”



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