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THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022

Superintendents talk state of the schools

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

As students return to local schools this week, security, managing district growth and filling teacher and staff vacancies are on

the minds of many. Three local superintendents shared their perspectives at an Aug. 10 luncheon sponsored by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Royal ISD Superinten-

dent Rick Kershner and Lamar Consolidated Superintendent Roosevelt Nivens spoke in turn at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy.

Royal opened for classes Tuesday. Katy opened for classes Wednesday. Lamar Consolidated

will open for classes Monday.

The Texas School Safety Center, headquartered at Texas State University, issued guidance for school safety practices before the May 24 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Following

the shooting, the Texas Education Agency and the center issued an order requiring districts to review the list and report their compliance with it. Gregorski said Katy

See **SCHOOLS**, page A3



ROTARY CLUB OF KATY TRIATHLON SET FOR SEPT. 4

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Rotary Club of Katy Triathlon is set for Sept. 4 at 2100 Cane Island Pkwy. And, as in years past, the triathlon provides a chance for people to master a physical challenge, but also to raise money for scholarships benefiting Katy ISD students.

Paul Kurt, triathlon co-chair, said about 400 people have registered to participate. Registrations remain open and he expressed confidence that the event would have about 500 registrants, the capacity, by the time the starting gun gets fired between 6:45-7 a.m. He said this is the third year the triathlon has been in Cane Island.

The triathlon actually features three

events:

- A triathlon, consisting of a 500-meter open water swim, 13-mile bike ride, and three-mile run.
- A duathlon, consisting of a two-mile run, 13-mile bike ride and a three-mile run.
- Aqua bike, consisting of a 500-meter open water swim and 12-mile bike ride.

An after-the-event party is planned for after the race, featuring a DJ, food, beverages and awards to event winners.

Kurt said the triathlon expects to be upgraded to what he called "Olympic-caliber" next year. This means the swim would be lengthened to one meter, the bike ride would be lengthened to 45-50 miles, and

See **TRIATHLON**, page A3

ABOVE, FROM LEFT

A triathlete enjoys the thrill of participation in the Katy Triathlon.

A triathlete crosses the finish line at the Katy Triathlon. About 400 triathletes have registered to participate, with more expected.

While triathletes compete in the Katy Triathlon, they also have fun, as this triathlete shows.

KATY TRIATHLON PHOTOS

Frank Lombard remembered as leader, mentor and friend

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Friends and former Katy Area Economic Development Council colleagues remembered Frank Lombard, who died Aug. 10 at age 79, as a leader, mentor and friend.

Lombard joined the EDC in 2005 and served in various leadership roles. More recently, he was described as a staff emeritus and worked part-time for the EDC. In 2021, he received the coveted Stan Stanley Award, which was created to recognize those in the Katy area that have made contributions in leadership and economic development in the commu-



FRANK LOMBARD

See **LOMBARD**, page A3

Katy ISD earns "A" in 2022 TEA Accountability Rating System

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD earned an overall A rating (91) from the Texas Education Agency's A-F Accountability Rating System, the district said.

Katy ISD is one of 396 districts, and the second-largest district, out of more than 1,000 districts in Texas, to earn an A rating. Addi-

See **RATING**, page A3

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Thelma Williams served from 1943-47 in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 164

American Legion celebrates 103-year-old veteran from Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Thelma Williams, a 103-year-old World War II veteran from Katy, was honored by the American Legion at its annual three-day state convention, held last month in Austin. The convention featured policy discussions and breakout sessions for 453 posts that comprise the Department of Texas, representing 53,319 veteran members.

Bret Watson, state commander, said he met Williams last year at the Wreaths Across America ceremony in Katy. He said she was representative of the what has been called the Greatest Generation, which served during the World War II years.

"I was told that she was planning to attend the convention in Austin, and I was delighted to see that she was able to attend," Watson said. "It was my honor to present her and James Watson (Watson's 25-year-old son) with the oldest

and youngest delegate on the floor. It just shows you the range of ages of veterans that support our great organization."

Peter Batura, Katy American Legion Post 164 commander, said Williams exemplified the best characteristics of the U.S. military—duty, honor and fidelity.

"She represents an era when selfless acts were commonplace, not the exception," Batura said. "Reaching the milestone age of 103, Thelma remains active and is an encouragement to virtually everyone she comes in contact. Engaging conversation and great stories are your reward for spending time with her."

Williams served the U.S. Army Corps from 1943-47, serving in Europe and Japan.

"I was very fortunate to serve in the occupation forces in Germany and Japan and in all, I had a very good experience," Williams said. "I would do it all over again in a heartbeat if I were many, many years

See **VETERAN**, page A3



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TXU Energy, KCM team up to distribute fans

TXU Energy donated \$10,000 to provide more than 400 fans for Greater Katy area households in need. Volunteers distributed the fans Saturday as part of Katy Christian Ministries' Red Apple School Supplies Drive.

TXU said its donation is part of its Beat the Heat program, which partners with community service organizations across the state to promote heat safety awareness and energy conservation. Since it began more than 20 years ago, the program has reached thousands of Texans, encouraging them to keep cool and stay safe.

KCM Transforming Lives Gala set for Sept. 15

KCM has set its Transforming Lives Gala for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Safari Texas Ranch in Richmond.

The event enables guests to celebrate KCM's impact on the community by the power of collaboration.

The gala features a dinner, entertainment, and a silent and live auction with dozens of items up for bid.

KCM has hosted the gala as for the last 18 years as a fundraiser to support its work for local mission. The gala is KCM's largest fundraiser of the year and provides much-needed funding for year-round operations and program costs.

KCM Executive Director Deysi Crespo asked the community to continue its generous support of KCM as the need is greater than ever before.

"The current state of the community is putting more pressure on families who were already in crisis," Crespo said. "KCM, a long-standing nonprofit in our community, is not exempt from experiencing a decline in monetary gifts to support our mission. This is the time to be united and prayerfully consider supporting our annual gala anyway you can. We need you."

For more information on sponsorships, tickets, and silent auction items, visit the website at ktcm.org/gala.

Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center to honor long-time nurse

The Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center will honor long-time staffer Dorothy Newman with a recognition ceremony and party. The public is invited to the



KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

TXU Energy donated \$10,000 to provide more than 400 fans for Greater Katy area households in need Saturday. Pictured are, from left, state Rep. Mike Schofield, Mayor Dusty Thiele, KCM Executive Director Deysi Crespo, KCM Programs and Grants Director Carolyn Chandler, Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris, Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson, TXU Beat the Heat Program Jason Schultz, and KCM Director Don Flowers.

party, which is from 1-4 p.m. Thursday at the Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center 710 FM 359 Rd. S, in Brookshire.

Newman started her career as a certified nursing assistant in 1972, she was a young, married mother of two. She decided upon Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center because of its family atmosphere, and because the residents were people from



DOROTHY NEWMAN

her community.

From the start of her nursing career, Newman said she always put herself in the residents' place and kept that in mind while providing care. She said she adhered to the Golden Rule, of doing unto others as she would have them do unto her.

In addition to her career, Newman focused on her own family. She and her late husband, Elroy, raised three children: daughters Karen and Angela, and a son named John.

Newman said she has no plans to retire and will continue working to provide excellent, compassionate care for the center's residents.

Citizens for Animal Protection holding Clear the Shelters Month

Citizens for Animal Protection is holding Clear the Shelters Month, with 50% off adoptions fees through Aug. 31. The organization is holding a special fee-waived adoption event on Aug. 27, with adoption fees sponsored by West Houston Subaru.

To see pets available for adoption, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3QrU40D. To make a donation, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3JxjXD3.

— CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
- Swiss river
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Like coagulated milk
- Lima is its capital
- Lying down
- Jai ___, sport
- Egyptian statesman
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Renovated
- Chadic language
- 18-year period
- Beverage container
- Natural logarithm
- The "mecca" of basketball
- A way to darken
- Mackerels
- Actor Pitt
- Places to buy seafood
- True firs
- Neither
- Fencing sword
- Italian pastas
- Island nation close to the U.S.
- Begets
- Resembles a pouch
- ___ student, learns healing
- Sodium
- Indicates position
- The world has one
- Partner to pains
- Photographer
- Chew the fat

CLUES DOWN

- Mark left behind
- Cry weakly
- Ancient region in modern Syria
- Farewell
- Blue grass state
- Genus of mosquitoes
- S. Israeli city
- You can get stuck in one
- One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Tigers legend Fielder
- Make more attractive
- Horses
- Slight projection in typefaces
- Male parent
- Jack and Jill are two
- After B
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Missile with about 600-mile range
- Goddesses
- A day kids love

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TRIATHLON

from page A1

the run would become a half marathon of 13 miles.

Kurt said he's been involved with the triathlon for 29 years—since its beginning. One thing he has seen is that different people need different amounts of time to train to participate in the triathlon. His wife Christina participated in her first marathon three or four years ago. Paul said she trained for about a month. On the day before the triathlon, he said, she went to Lake Houston and ran and swam the distances. He said she wanted to know she could finish the event the next day.

She did. He said she finished second in her age category. But he's modest about his own athletic participation.

"I'm in good shape, but I couldn't do it right now," Kurt said, chuckling. "The running would kill me."

Athleticism aside, the nonprofit triathlon serves local students by raising scholarship money. Most recently, Kurt said, \$106,500 was distributed.

"There are lots of businesses in Katy area, large and small, that participate in the Katy Triathlon," Kurt said.

The triathlon welcomes additional sponsors, with different levels of sponsorship available. For more information, visit the katytriathlon.org website. Volunteers are also welcomed, and can sign up through the website.

"It's a great event for the family," Kurt said. "The beauty of it is you have the triathletes out there, and they bring their families to cheer them on. I've been involved with it for a long time. Our passion is scholarships for the kids and that's why we do it. It's easy to sell scholarships because it goes directly to the kids."

SCHOOLS

from page A1

already follows that guidance.

But Katy, he said, is making some changes this year. Volunteers are now being asked to register online through an online system called Raptor before reporting to a campus.

"We're little bit tighter on that," Gregorski said. "Everything is running through Raptor. We're getting you to pre-sign-up in advance. One more additional safety measure to ensure all of our volunteers have been screened before we get them around our kids in there. That's a big push this year. All the other stuff we've been doing."

Kershner said Royal's goal was to be a destination district that provided a safe learning environment for all students.

Nivens said he appreciated that safety is on everyone's mind right now.

"I hate that it takes tragedies," Nivens said. "If you have a child, you know how important that kid is to you. And no parent deserves to get a phone call that says, 'I know you sent John to school today, but John is not coming home.' No parent deserves to get that phone call."

Nivens said one problem with school safety measures is the pushback from critics, some of whom are lawmakers. Such critics feel the school officials are scaring students when conducting the safety drills.

"When school starts, and every day your kids go back to school and you go back to work and you get back into your routine, don't forget about the importance of school safety," Nivens said. "Don't forget about the importance of talking to your children, your nieces and nephews or whomever, your teachers, about safety protocol, about locking doors and not propping open doors and checking visitors' passes."

Safety becomes even more important in light of the growing school district populations. Gregorski said Katy expected to welcome back over 90,000 students, with 6,000 new students in the queue just recently.

"Okay, 6,000 still waiting to enroll that just jumped in the queue since July," Gregorski said. "We'll see. A few will exit out of



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Raise Your Hand Texas Senior Regional Advocacy Director Robert Long, Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner and Lamar Consolidated ISD Superintendent Roosevelt Nivens pose for a photo at the State of the Schools luncheon hosted Aug. 10 by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

there, but most will come and will open doors up to over 11,000 staff. Were one of the biggest employers, or about the biggest employer in the area."

Kershner said Royal was a small district, but is growing. This year, he said, Royal high school graduated 159 seniors.

"Our incoming freshmen are 238," Kershner said. "So, Royal is embarking on some growth."

Kershner said Royal ended its 2022 school year with 2,575 students. As of Aug. 9, he said, the district had 2,702 students.

"I know that doesn't sound like a lot based on the numbers you just saw from Katy, but that's quite a bit when you're talking about 2,500 kids," Kershner said.

More students in Royal are expected. Kershner said he knew of 10 different subdivisions that are happening or mapped out. One subdivision, he said, will have 7,000 homes, with 2,000 of those in the Royal ISD.

"The Katy side is blowing up," Kershner said. "Those roofs are going and they're just pushing a lot of dirt around on our side. It's fixing to happen on the Royal side, but the developer tells me there should be about 400 homes this time next year and that will be a huge increase for us."

Gregorski said educators know

that the pandemic has caused a disruption in education, and that disruption hasn't fully healed yet.

"For those of you who are interested and want to see a full accountability update and presentation, that will be at our August board meeting, where will be revealing some scores and how Katy ISD performed on our state assessments, but we're pretty proud of how we are doing so far and scores are going back up as they were," Gregorski said.

Finding the teachers to lead the way in improving student performance remains a challenge for school districts. Improving teacher pay is a key, and districts have been giving raises. But Nivens said changing attitudes towards teachers and their work is also important.

"The reason why we have a teacher shortage is because I'm talking to teachers and they are just tired," Nivens said. "Then you have Amazon down the street who says I will pay you just as much to stay home and work from home. I've had teachers in my office and I said, 'Listen, if you leave in the middle of the year your certificate will be flagged and you won't be able to teach again.' And their response to me is, 'I don't care. I'm not using it anymore. I'm done.'"

LOMBARD

from page A1

nity.

In introducing a video tribute to Lombard at the start of Wednesday's EDC meeting at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy., chairman Paul Kurt described Lombard as instrumental in the growth and success of the organization.

"In my opinion, Frank was irreplaceable," Kurt said.

Members of Lombard's family were also present at the start of the meeting, receiving a proclamation tribute from Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle.

Lance LeCour, now economic development director for the City of Granbury, served as the council's president when Lombard

joined in 2005. LeCour described Lombard as "silver-tongued" and said he had a way of talking to people.

"Frank was one of those people you could just pile on the work, and he'd say, 'Give me some more, give me some more,'" LaCour said. "He was always there when you needed him. He did so much for this organization and this area. We're all going to miss Frank."

Chuck Martinez, the current EDC president and CEO, said Lombard left big shoes to fill. At the same time, Martinez said, Lombard also understood the new direction the organization was going when Martinez joined

the EDC this year. Martinez said Lombard gave him a vote of confidence when Martinez joined the EDC.

State Rep. Mike Schofield, whose district includes much of Katy, said few people have the chance in their lives to impact a community as Lombard did Katy.

"If you were involved with anything that dealt with the growth of Katy, Frank was there," Schofield said. "I don't think I ever went to an EDC meeting, or any meeting where people were talking about how we're going to build the future, that Frank Lombard was in the room, helping to make it happen."

Schofield remembered meeting Lombard ten years ago while running for office.

"Everywhere I went, there was Frank," Schofield said, adding that he figured he needed to get to know Lombard because he had his fingers on the pulse of the community. Schofield said that Lombard always had time for people, a smile, and was always optimistic about the community.

"I don't think you can ask for anything more than that," Schofield said.

Lombard's funeral will be at 2 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community, 1530 Norwalk Dr.

VETERAN

from page A1

younger. At first, I joined the American Legion for the dinners that they had, but then later I came to enjoy the camaraderie and worked a lot with the American Legion Auxiliary."

The American Legion, founded in 1919 in Indianapolis, is a national service organization comprised of wartime veterans. It focuses on veterans and

rehabilitation, Americanism, national security, and children and youth. It has worked for many legislative changes to help solve veteran issues to meet their needs and concerns (most recently the PACT Act), the founding of other non-profits in support of its mission and addressing the security of the nation as seen by veterans.

The American Legion Post 164 meets every third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for a social mixer, then holds its business meeting at 7:30 p.m. at 22125 Kingsland Blvd. Meetings are open to current members and new prospective members.

For a schedule of American Legion Post 164 activities, visit the website LegionPost164KatyTX.org.

RATING

from page A1

tionally, Katy ISD campuses also received letter grades that include:

- 37 campuses earned an overall A
- 26 campuses earned an overall B
- 6 campuses earned an overall C

The TEA's A-F rating system is similar to the letter grades that students receive for their academic assignments. The agency uses the accountability system to evaluate the academic performance of Texas public schools. Its overall rating is based on three domains, which include:

- Student Achievement—evaluates performance across all subjects for students, on both general and alternate assessments; College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) indicators; and graduation rates. Katy ISD earned a 92 in this domain.

- School Progress—measures district and campus outcomes in two areas that include the number of students that grew at least one year academically (or are on track) as measured by the STAAR results and the achievement of all students relative to districts or campuses with similar economically disadvantaged percentages. Katy ISD earned a 92 in this domain.

- Closing the Gaps—uses disaggregated data to demonstrate differentials among racial/ethnic groups, socioeconomic backgrounds and other factors. Katy ISD earned a 96 in this domain.

Superintendent Ken Gregorski said the "A+" in the Katy ISD logo is a reminder of the education the district's teachers and staff deliver to students.

"The district's TEA accountability rating reflects the hard work of our educators, their dedication to all learners, and demonstrates our entire staff and community's commitment to educational excellence," Gregorski said.

Harmony earns A, Royal earns B

Harmony Public Schools Houston South and West Districts have earned an "A" in the Texas Education Agency's first accountability ratings since the COVID pandemic began.

All six schools in Harmony Public Schools Houston West District earned an A rating (95). Three out of six campuses in Harmony Public Schools Houston South District received an A rating (92) while the other three campuses earned a B rating.

"These results showcase the hard work and dedication of every educator in the Harmony Public Schools Houston South and West Districts. They uphold the quality of excellence our students receive every day," Ramazan Coskuner, superintendent, said.

Royal ISD earned a B rating (81).

TEA's 2022 accountability reports and resources are available on TXSchools.gov.



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If you can't beat the heat, join it

East Texas is hot, and not in the way you compliment your wife when she's mad at you for performing an epic cannonball while she's lounging by the pool with her laptop.

For the past few weeks, Texas (and much of the world) has been suffering through a distressing phenomenon known as summer—that time of year when we all remember what it's like being toddlers walking around with drenched undergarments.

I realize that my opinion may seem blasphemous to those who enjoy a good lower-body heat rash, but I've always preferred the fall and winter over summer. Yes, I get bushy-tailed at the first hint of pumpkin spice wafting through my ample nose hairs. Besides, when you're cold, you can always put on more clothes, but when you're hot, you can only take off so much without getting arrested or traumatizing your family members and pets. Just ask our cat.

This summer has been particularly brutal so far, with temperatures regularly reaching the triple digits and placing everyone's lawn in hospice care. Our home air conditioner has been running non-stop for approximately four weeks and is now demanding a significant raise, enhanced benefits and casual Fridays. Yet I still have to expose at least one whole leg and an elbow outside of the bed covers at night (and risk being attacked by monsters) in order to sleep.

When I asked my wife about our latest electric bill, she refused to show it to me, simply suggesting that I find a second job and develop a taste for bologna sandwiches—minus the bologna.

Some families take the opportunity this time of year to vacation in cooler climates where deodorant actually works and you don't have to wring out your briefs after waking to or from your car. But not our family. This summer, I took my wife and three teenage daughters on a road trip to sample the sweltering delights of New Orleans, Louisiana, where being outside during the summer is like walking around in a wet fur coat after wearing it in a hot tub full of gumbo. And we just returned from a short excursion southward to San Antonio, Texas, (named after the patron saint of scorching parking lots)—because it's always smart to get as close to

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



the equator as possible in early August.

Due to the extreme heat and the dangers associated with it, numerous media outlets are offering tips for surviving in navel-soaking temperatures. Here are a few of my own:

1. Stay hydrated, meaning you should drink as much fluid as possible so that you can spend lots of time enjoying the refreshing confines of an air-conditioned restroom. (The porcelain is delightfully cool.)

2. During the hottest part of the day, keep family pets indoors—where they can annoy you more effectively with their incessant noise, booty scooting, and staring at you when you snack. The same applies to children of any age.

3. Eat small meals, and eat more often. I'm not sure why this works, but I'm for it, especially the "more often" part.

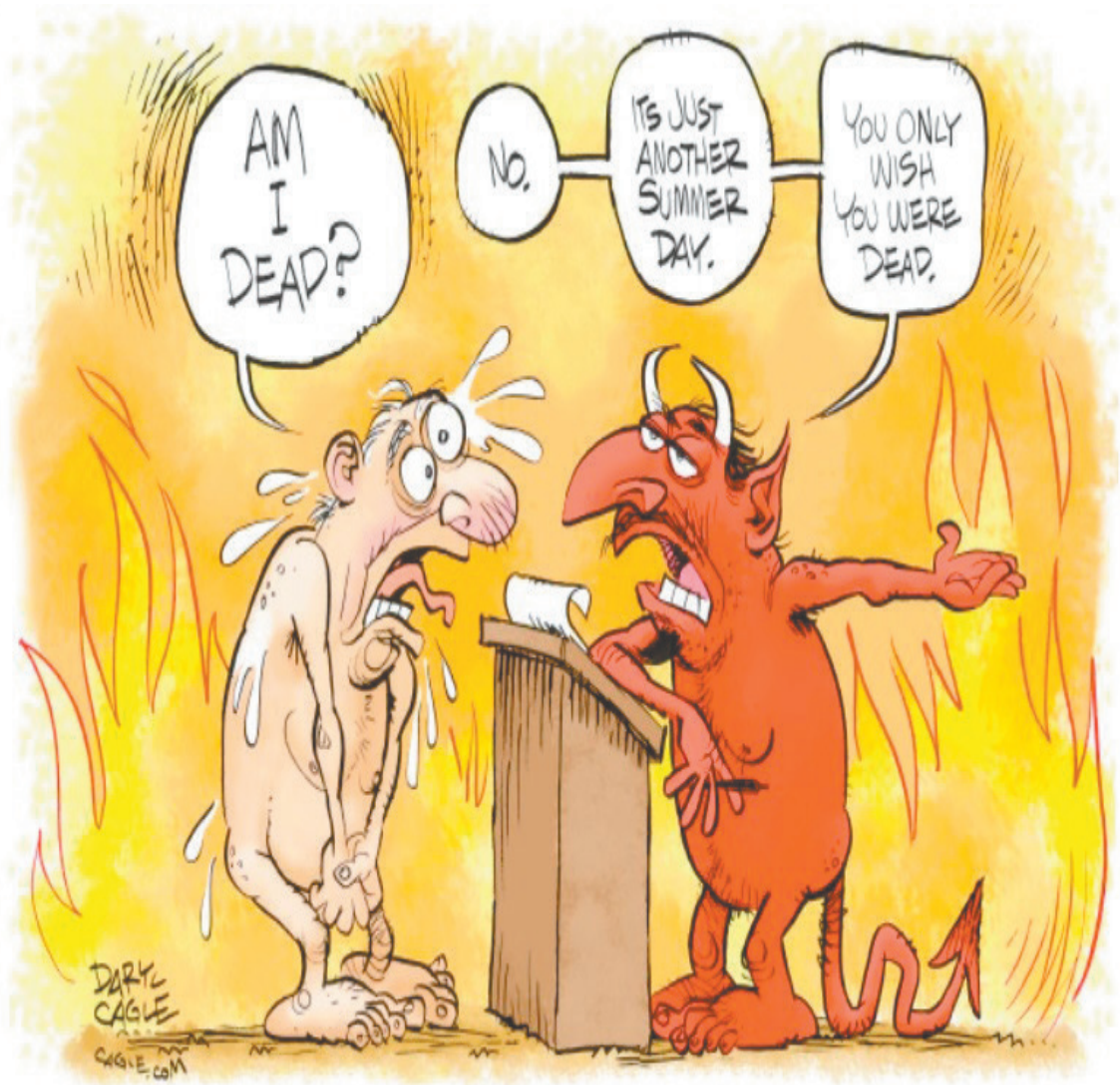
4. Check on the elderly (and ask them to prepare you a meal if possible — see No. 3).

5. Set the air conditioner to a low temperature, and keep it there. If you're worried about your electric bill, remember the bologna sandwiches (or see No. 4).

America experienced a previous heat wave in 1980 when I was ten years old, and my main concerns were catching the next episode of The Muppet Show and sorting out my strange new feelings for Brooke Shields. I don't remember much about the weather, other than it was summertime and people were walking around in t-shirts that read, "I survived the 1980 Texas Heat Wave." I guess I thought it was kind of cool, but not cool enough to distract me from Miss Piggy and Brooke in her Calvin Kleins.

These days, though, I take assaults on my sweat glands more seriously, and I hope you, too, will benefit from the tips I've offered as we all pray for cooler temperatures and sales on Wonder Bread and bologna.

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.



On winning the lottery

I bought my first lottery ticket recently.

It was a \$20 scratch-off that paid me a \$40 prize.

Winning produced a nice little thrill, so I bought another \$20 ticket right away. And lost.

I put out \$40 to win \$40 that day.

I've bought three \$20 scratch-offs since then and won nothing.

To date, I've paid out \$100 to win \$40.

The house always wins in the end.

Still, some people enjoy big paydays playing the state-sponsored lotteries.

I know a fellow who hit twice for over \$100,000 or so. That would be a nice little bump, to be sure.

Of course, winning \$100,000 offers a teachable moment for many who have no idea how high our taxes really are.

According to one lottery-tax-calculation website, I'd have to pay about \$33,000 in state and federal taxes right off the bat.

However, the feds take only 24% out of the initial lottery payment. I'd still owe more taxes, as that \$100,000 would put me into much higher tax bracket.

I'd probably get to keep about \$60,000 of that \$100,000 and the government would get \$40,000.

The house always wins in the end!

Then there is the dark side of government-sponsored gambling that isn't talked about enough. A



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

fair bit of the revenue generated by the lotto is generated by people with addiction issues, according to Florida Council of Compulsive Gambling.

When big payoffs hit the news, as has been the case in recent weeks, there is a surge of people spending money they don't have to buy lotto tickets.

And the lotto has announced some big winners in recent weeks.

One poor human being holds the winning ticket in Illinois for a \$1.28 billion payout.

I say "poor human being" because if that person has neighbors or relatives he's been trying to avoid, he'd better plan on spending lots of time with them, as they'll be pounding on his front door at all hours begging for a handout.

One had better be prepared to manage the massive burden all that money will soon visit on him—and better hire a skilled accountant and attorney for starters.

If he manages that massive payoff well, he can do a lot of good for the world—support a lot of legitimate charities—and maintain

a comfortable lifestyle for the rest of his days.

Or that money will be the root of all evil in his life, as no small number of past lottery winners have experienced.

Yahoo Finance tells the stories of 23 lottery winners whose lives spiraled out of control after winning big payouts, some of whom ended up broke or worse.

In any event, one thing that fascinates me about money is that we don't need so much of it as we think.

As I've written before, once a person has enough money to pay the bills and enjoy going out to dinner now and then, massive increases in wealth do not necessarily correspond with greater increases in happiness or life satisfaction.

The key to human happiness is spending time with people we love, who love us back — people who value our presence even though we're not million-dollar-lotto winners.

In my case, I suppose a few scratch-off tickets does no great harm every now and then—and funds some good programs for those in need.

Just so long as I remember that the house always wins in the end!

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at tom@tompurcell.com.

Katy Times

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DPS offers tips, resources as new school year begins

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As the new school year nears, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds drivers to use extra caution in and around school zones and neighborhoods. This includes knowing the Texas laws about driving near stopped school buses and not using cell phones when you're behind the wheel. It also means utilizing the many safety resources available to parents, school staff and students.

"Heading back to school is such an exciting time and we all need to work together to ensure everyone stays safe," DPS Director Steven McCraw said. "Please, be cautious and do your part by talking to your kids about safety, reporting suspicious activity and by following traffic laws in and around school zones."

DPS offers these tips for back to school safety:

- Give students extra room and don't assume they are paying attention to traffic.
- Don't block a crosswalk when stopped at a red light or stop sign.
- Follow the directions of school crossing guards.
- Watch for children on bikes.
- Reduce your speed when you spot a school bus and know children may unexpectedly step into the road without checking for oncoming traffic.
- Be careful around railroad crossings. School buses are legally required to stop at them.

- Know laws regarding school buses. According to Texas law, if a bus has alternating flashing red signals visible from the front or rear, drivers MUST stop before reaching the bus. Drivers can only proceed if the flashing lights are no longer activated, the driver signals you to proceed or the bus has resumed driving. Approaching drivers do NOT have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if the road is separated by a physical barrier or an intervening space. If a highway is only divided by a left-turn lane, it is not considered divided and drivers must stop for school buses.

- Drivers who illegally pass a school bus face fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense. For people convicted of the offense more than once, the law allows for the person's driver license to be suspended for up to six months. A ticket for this offense cannot be dismissed through defensive driving. Criminal charges are possible if a driver causes serious bodily injury.

- Always obey speed limits and traffic laws in school zones.
- Remember, texting while driving is illegal in Texas.

DPS would also like to remind students, parents, teachers and school administrators about other safety tools available.

The iWatchTexas, the website for which is iwatchtx.org/index.html, is a critical resource for reporting suspicious activity in schools and communities in

order to help prevent dangerous attacks. Everyone is urged to download the free iOS or Android mobile app prior to the start of the school year. Tips can be reported via the website, the mobile app or by calling 844-643-2251. All reports are confidential. For information on how to use iWatchTexas, you can view this how-to video.

The Texas School Safety Center, the website for which is txssc.txstate.edu, offers valuable resources on school safety for parents and members of the school community. It's designed to be a central location for research, training and technical information for all school districts, charter schools and community colleges in the state. The Texas School Safety Center has staff experienced in school safety and can provide technical assistance or training, conduct program evaluations or offer resources to schools. Classes are also available online for the community.

Finally, last Sept. 1, DPS implemented the Active Shooter Alert System, the abbreviated website for which is bit.ly/3JW-g2Xf. This is not school-specific but could be used in the event of a shooting at or near a school. The alert system is designed to notify people in close proximity to an active shooter through cell phones, local broadcast media and Texas Department of Transportation Dynamic Message Signs, to encourage people to avoid the area or shelter-in-place.

TRIBUTE

Justine Parzynski Stott, 75, passed away Wednesday, August 3, 2022. She was a resident of Katy, Texas for the last 24 years. Born and raised in Clifton Park, New York, Justine attended Shenendehowa High School. She was a homemaker and cherished being a mom to her three children. She loved staying busy with kid's activities, friends, day trips, church, and crafts. She loved music, nature, and animals, especially cute ones. Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey and a log cabin at Lake Minerva in the Adirondack Mountains were two of her favorite places to visit. Super friendly and caring, Justine made friends wherever she went. Later in life she attended classes for nursing school and worked at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. She loved to help people. Justine became a grandmother (Nana) in 1997 and that was one of the highlights of her life. She loved all three of her grandchildren dearly and enjoyed spending time with them and watching them grow.

Due to chronic illness, Justine retired early from her job as a medical office manager which she enjoyed and was very proud of. She spent 12+ years in an independent living community and enjoyed church, Bible study, crafts, shopping, and countless games of Rummikub. Her last two years were spent in a nursing home where she served as Resident Council, led bible study, and enjoyed weekly games of bingo, spending her bingo bucks at the



JUSTINE PARAZYNSKI STOTT
1947 - 2022

Country Store.

Justine was a born again Christian and had a mission to share Jesus with others. She was active in church and participated in various ministries, most notably prison ministry. Justine had a near death experience at age 21 that impacted her for the rest of her life. She shared it with many people and

eventually put it in writing for others to read about. For the last several years Pentecostals of West Houston (POWH) was her church home.

She is survived by her three children, Leigh Spencer of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, Leslie Adams of Katy, Texas, and Derek Stott of Houston, Texas; grandchildren Molly Adams, Jenna Adams, and Maxwell Stott; sisters Natalie Czerw of Orange City, Florida and Diana Guy and husband Bill of Deltona, Florida; nieces Dawn Rourke, Suzanne Bohrer, Debbie Jamro, and nephew Brian Edwards. She is predeceased by her parents, Jean Zadrozny and Stanley Parzynski, and nephew Jerry Maxwell.

A memorial service will be held at Pentecostals of West Houston (POWH) located at 6689 Barker Cypress Road, Houston, Texas 77084 on Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 5:00p.m. There will also be a ceremony in June 2023 in Minerva, New York to lay her to rest. All are invited. Please contact the family for details to attend.

A special thanks to Hospice Plus and Mason Creek Transitional Care for all the love and care these past two years.

The Katy Times

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Firefighters put out this house fire in the 4100 block of Murano Gardens Court in the Ventana Lakes subdivision Aug. 10. A lightning strike caused the blaze.

Firefighters get a breather during the Aug. 10 fire in the 4100 block of Murano Gardens Drive. Nobody was hurt in the fire.

Lightning strikes cause two house fires in Katy area



Lightning struck this house Aug. 10 in the 800 block of Mountain Meadows Drive in the Cimarron subdivision.

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Last Wednesday evening's thunderstorm and lightning activity caused two house fires in the Katy area, both of which were put out by firefighters from Harris County Emergency Service District 48 and other agencies.

Nobody was injured in either fire.

The first fire happened around 8 p.m. last Wednesday in a home in the 4100 block of Murano Gardens Drive, in the Ventana Lakes subdivision near the intersection of Clay and Peek Road. Firefighters from ESD 48 and Waller-Harris Emergency Services District 200 put out the fire.

The second fire hap-



The lightning strike caused a fire and a transformer explosion.

pened about half an hour later, an ESD 48 spokesman said, in a home in the 800 block of Mountain Meadows Drive in the Cimarron subdivision, near Peek Road.

The lightning strike caused a nearby transformer to explode, causing power outages in the neighborhood. By Thursday morning, a crew was replacing the transformer.

ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Aristoi Classical Academy announced its policy today for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on *August 8*, *Aristoi Classical Academy* will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at *5610 Morton Road, Katy, TX, 77493*.

Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income

- Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

Categorical or Automatic Eligibility

- Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Program Participant

- Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
- Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out free and reduced-price meal application and return it to *Rashonda Davis, Child Nutrition Coordinator, (281) 574-6152, rdavis@aristoi.classical.org*. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

- Names of all household members
- Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
- Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
- Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

Categorical or Program Eligibility

Aristoi Classical Academy is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. *Aristoi Classical Academy* will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact *Aristoi Classical, Rashonda Davis, Child Nutrition Coordinator at (281) 574-6152*.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact *Rashonda Davis, Child Nutrition Coordinator, (281) 574-6152, rdavis@aristoi.classical.org*.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, *Rashonda Davis, Child Nutrition Coordinator*, will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to *Brenda Davidson, Superintendent, bdauidson@aristoi.classical.org*.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Royal Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 PM, August 29, 2022 in the Royal ISD Administration Building boardroom at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, TX 77466. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

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

Maintenance Tax	\$0.942900 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)		
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.358817 / \$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)		
Approved by Local Voters			

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	1.98 % increase
Debt service	39.46 % increase
Total expenditures	7.80 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$2,647,444,942	\$3,405,521,763
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$438,865,960	\$211,500,520
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$2,160,922,547	\$2,834,449,789
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$399,019,134	\$183,099,134

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$52,579,944

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.960300	\$0.358817	\$1.319117	\$11.868	\$2.236
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.880670	\$0.358817	\$1.239487	\$13.271	\$1.576
Proposed Rate	\$0.942900	\$0.358817	\$1.301717	\$14.324	\$685

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$205,874	\$237,842
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$161,069	\$164,446
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.319117	\$1.301717
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$2,124.69	\$2,140.62
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$15.93

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.301717. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.301717.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$18,474,323
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$3,105,111

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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.

TIGERS WELCOMED BACK



PHOTOS BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

The Katy Athletic Booster Club unveiled a new line of Tiger swag at Monday's pep rally, including a t-shirt that pays tribute to coach Gary Joseph. The shirt proclaims, "In Joseph We Trust." Here, Tigers fan Arturo Medina purchases some swag from Booster Club volunteer Nichole Price.



Kara Gunderson is the mother of Katy basketball player Jay Rasmuson. She said the description on the shirt was accurate: her fridge was empty, her schedule was crazy and her heart was full.



Katy football coach Gary Joseph speaks to the crowd at the Katy pep rally.



Above: From left, Katherine Sand, Terence Gorton, and Isa Nass lead the Roarin' Band from Tigerland during the Katy pep rally Monday at Legacy Stadium. Nass is the head drum major. Sand is a drum major. Gorton is head band director. At right: Katy Bengal Brigade vice president Madeline Ritz performs while two future Brigade members look on.



Schools hold town pep rallies as school year begins

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

While Katy held its town pep rally Monday, the other Katy ISD high schools have in some cases already held their pep rallies, with others scheduled in upcoming weeks.

Tompkins held its town pep rally Aug. 10, and Jordan Aug. 11, on their respective campuses. Cinco Ranch was scheduled to hold its pep rally Wednesday evening at Cinco Ranch Cougar Stadium.

Here are the times, dates and locations

for the town pep rallies for the other Katy ISD high schools:

- Paetow: 7 p.m. Friday, Paetow Panther Stadium.
- Mayde Creek: 7 p.m. Monday at Mayde Creek Ram Stadium.
- Taylor: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Taylor Gym 2.
- Morton Ranch: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Aug. 24 at Morton Ranch Maverick Stadium.
- Seven Lakes will hold its town pep rally on Oct. 12 with its homecoming parade.

ROYAL WELCOME



Above: The Falcon mascot and cheerleaders welcomed Royal ISD teachers and staff to the district's Aug. 11 convocation at Royal High School. At left: Tania Hausmann and Alicia Garcia of the Royal Early Childhood Center show off their flowers at the Royal ISD convocation. The flowers had small electric lights that helped brighten the event.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER



Laura Rugless, left, a Royal Elementary School 4th grade teacher, visits with Natalie Cavazos, a Memorial Hermann senior marketing specialist.



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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy ISD ensembles
recognized at state
competition

Numerous Katy ISD music ensembles will be starting their new school year with a distinguished state recognition.

In July, the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) announced that two Katy ISD schools will be performing at the TMEA annual convention in February 2023, in San Antonio. Beckendorff Junior High Orchestra took the top spot in the Junior High/Middle School String Orchestra Division, and was chosen as an honor ensemble through a multi-level competitive evaluation and the Alexander Elementary Choir was selected as an invited group to represent the Elementary Division. Six additional Katy ISD music groups were ranked in the top 10 in Texas

in their respective divisions.

Each year TMEA holds a state-wide contest to recognize the highest performing ensembles across the state of Texas. To be considered, each group must submit a recording of their ensemble to a panel of judges for evaluation.

“This year Katy ISD had eight groups that advanced to finals, which was the most of any district in this state-level competition,” Damon Archer, Katy ISD fine arts department executive director, said. “Students were anxiously awaiting these results during the summer. To receive this prestigious recognition just weeks from the first day of school will surely contribute to a motivating school year.”

The results for each Katy ISD group, by division, are:

Elementary Division

- Alexander Elementary Choir –

Invited Group

Junior High/Middle School String Orchestra Division

- Beckendorff Junior High – 1st Place (Honor Ensemble)
- Tays Junior High – 4th Place

Junior High/Middle School Full Orchestra

- Cinco Ranch Junior High – 6th Place

High School Full Orchestra

- Seven Lakes High School – 2nd Place
- Tompkins High School – 4th Place

2C Junior High/Middle School Band

- Memorial Parkway Junior High – 10th Place

6A High School Band

• Tompkins High School – 9th Place

Robertson Elementary PTA seeking sponsors

The PTA at Robertson Elementary, the newest Katy ISD school, is looking for sponsors.

Multiple levels of sponsorship are available, with some including sponsor logos on the PTA webpage, social media, and school marquee.

For more information, visit the website robertsonelempta.membershiptoolkit.com/home.

Katy ISD volunteers asked to register through district's Raptor Volunteer Initiative

All Katy ISD volunteers, including all KEYS mentors, business & community partners, Junior Achievement, and anyone who gives their time to Katy ISD

campuses, are asked to register through the district's new Raptor Volunteer Initiative.

Beginning Oct. 1, the district will require all volunteers serving on campus during the instructional day to register in this way.

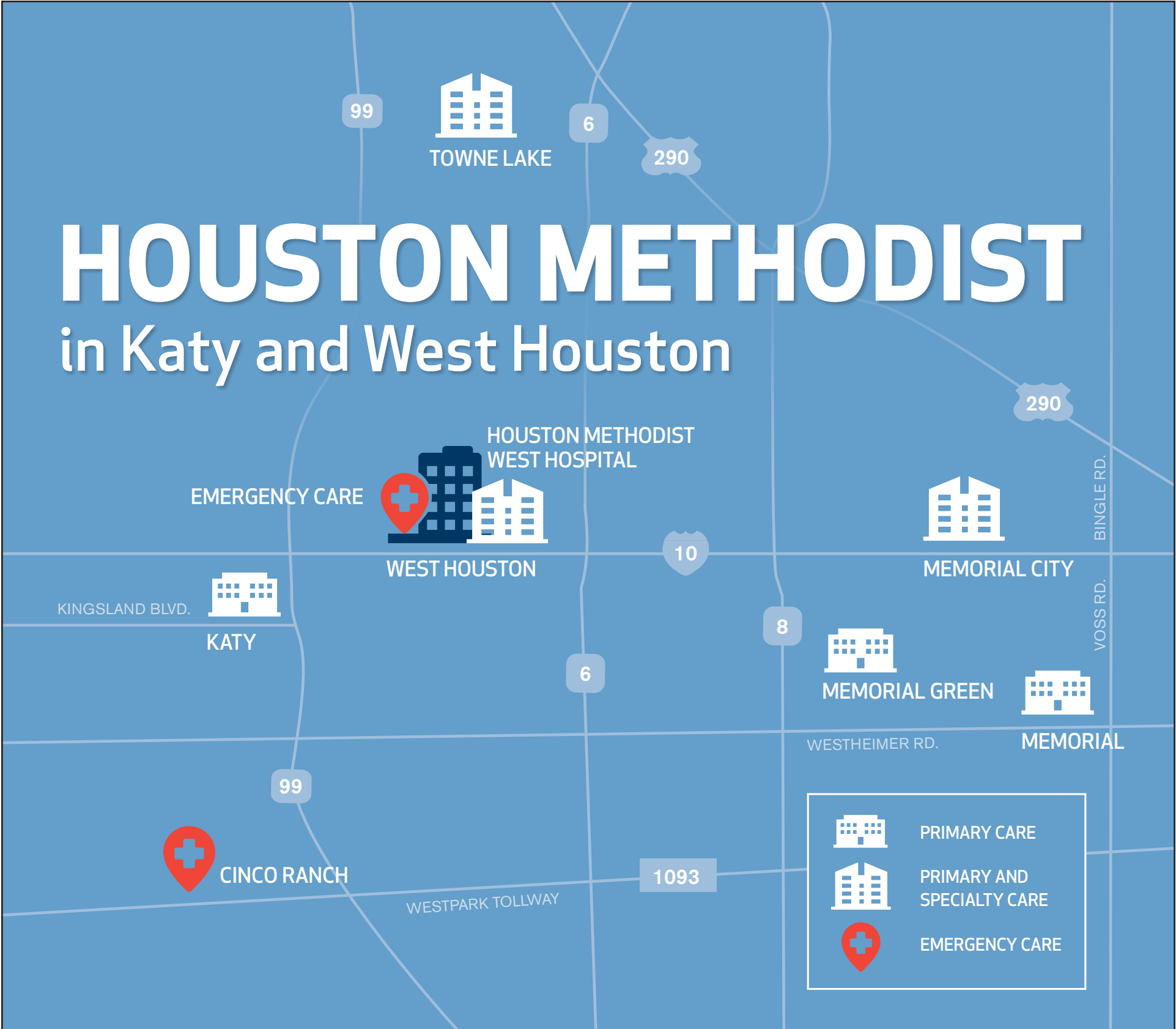
The volunteer registration requirement will extend to all volunteers serving on or off-campus, during or after the instructional day effective Jan. 4.

For a how-to guide on volunteering for Katy ISD, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3bQ7Z1L

For the English registration form, visit the website <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NzAxOmVuLVVT>.

For the Spanish registration form, visit the website <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NzAxOmVuLVVT>.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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Katy ISD looks strong as district play looms

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD volleyball teams have been on a roll early in the season. In the first week of the non-district season, Katy ISD sent a team to the gold, silver, bronze and fourth bracket of the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament and a number of Katy schools have gotten off to hot starts this season. Tompkins came into the year expected to be one the best in the Houston area, but has exceeded expectation, already beating three state tournament teams from last year, including a sweep of last year's state champion in San Antonio Brandeis and a three sets to two sets victory over last year's Class 6A Region III champ in Ridge Point in the Falcons' first ten games of the season. The Falcons have shown that they can compete with the best even before district has started, and they will be

See **DISTRICT**, page B3

WEEK OF AUGUST 19 SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

- Thursday**
- Cinco Ranch vs. George Ranch, 6 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium (Scrimmage)
 - Taylor at Ridge Point, 6 p.m. (Scrimmage)
 - Tompkins vs. Cy-Woods, 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium (Scrimmage)
 - Seven Lakes at Dickinson, 6:30 p.m. (Scrimmage)
- Friday**
- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Travis, 6 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium (Scrimmage)
 - Katy vs. Klein Collins, 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium (Scrimmage)
 - Paetow vs. Bridgeland, 7 p.m. at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium (Scrimmage)
 - Mayde Creek at Clear Falls, 7 p.m. (Scrimmage)
 - Morton Ranch at Alief Taylor (Scrimmage)

- ### VOLLEYBALL
- Friday**
- Cinco Ranch vs. Memorial, 5:30 p.m.
 - Seven Lakes at Bridgeland, 5:30 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Clear Springs, 5:30 p.m.
 - Tompkins vs. Dawson, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday**
- Tompkins vs. Katy, 5:30 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Cinco Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
 - Mayde Creek vs. Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
 - Morton Ranch vs. Paetow, 5:30 p.m.

- ### TENNIS
- Friday**
- Katy at Dulles, 8 a.m.
 - Jordan at Stratford, 8 a.m.
 - Seven Lakes vs. Lake Creek, 8 a.m.
 - Cinco Ranch at Clements, 2 p.m.
 - Tompkins at Bridgeland, 2:30 p.m.
 - Taylor vs. Clear Springs, 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Jordan vs. Clear Creek 8 a.m.
 - Seven Lakes vs. Kingwood, 8 a.m.
 - Taylor at Baytown Sterling, 3 p.m.

- ### CROSS COUNTRY
- Friday**
- Cinco Ranch, Katy and Paetow at Watermelon Relays, 8 a.m.
 - Jordan and Seven Lakes at Burroughs Park, 7:30 a.m.
 - Mayde Creek at Cy-Woods, 7:30 a.m.
 - Morton Ranch at Sealy Meet, 6 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Seven Lakes at Burroughs Park, 7 a.m.



Tompkins' Brooklynn Merrell sets a ball for a teammate during a match against Canyon in the finals match of gold bracket Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament at Bridgeland.

Tompkins sweeps Canyon TO WIN KATY ISD/CY-FAIR VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins wasn't sure what to expect out of themselves in this weekend's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic. With a young team early in the season, and with the Falcons missing multiple players early in the tournament, having to call up players from

JV and playing against some of the best teams in the state, it would have been understandable for Tompkins to have a good but not great tournament, or to have some strong performances but ultimately fall short against one of the four teams in the tournament that made last year's UIL State

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3



Tompkins players celebrate after winning the second set against Canyon in the finals match of gold bracket Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament at Bridgeland.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament

Cinco Ranch takes silver in silver bracket; Seven Lakes finishes fourth in bronze bracket

Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes finished off strong Katy ISD tournaments on Saturday by competing in the silver and bronze brackets of the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament. Cinco narrowly missed out on making the gold bracket, falling to Canyon, who made it to the gold bracket final, in three sets Friday before finishing second in the silver bracket on Saturday. The Cougars topped College Station Saturday morning in two sets before falling to Cy-Ranch in the finals of the silver bracket to finish their tournament. Overall, the Cougars went 6-2 over the course of the tournament, winning 13 sets



Taylor won five of its final six games in the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament.

COURTESY KATY ISD

while dropping only four sets to set themselves up in a good position heading into final week of non-district play. Seven Lakes was the third Katy ISD team to make it in the top three brackets and the Spartans finished fourth in the

bronze bracket to finish the tournament. Seven Lakes started strong on Thursday, winning two of three in its group stage and narrowly losing its third game to Cy-Ranch, and the Spartans went 1-1 on Friday to qualify

for the bronze bracket. But they were unable to carry momentum into Saturday, falling to College Park and Dawson. But the Spartans do take many positives from the

See **TOURNAMENT**, page B3

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PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD
Above: Katy's Dr. Eddie Smith was named the Athletic Trainer of the Year. At left: Seven Lakes' Jimmy Krueger, Jordan's Jason Meekins, Taylor's Tonya McKelvey-White and Mayde Creek's Mareon Lewis were named the Katy ISD high school head coaches of the year.



Above: Cinco Ranch won the Academic Excellence award. At left: Mayde Creek's Steve Reese, Jordan's Bobby Courtney, Seven Lakes David Tandy and Mayde Creek's Sedalia Ellis were named Assistant Coaches of the Year.



Tompkins won the Academic Improvement award.



Mayde Creek's softball team was awarded the Community Service Recognition award.

Katy ISD names coaches of the year

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD named its head coaches of the year last week, with coaches from all across the district being honored for their achievements last school year.

There were two head coaches of the year both on the girls and boys side, with Taylor's Tonya McKelvey-White and Mayde Creek's Mareon Lewis sharing the honors as girls head coaches.

Both are head track and field coaches and had great showings last, with Mayde Creek winning two gold medals at the state meet and Taylor sending a number of athletes past district and two area and regionals.

On the boys side, Seven Lakes Jimmy Krueger and Jordan's Jason Meekins were named the head coaches of the year. Both soccer coaches led their teams to the state semifinals last season.

Krueger guided Seven Lakes to a district title before going through a very tough region III, eventually falling in the state semifinals. Meekins guided a Jordan team with zero seniors through the Class 5A Region III playoffs to get to the state semifinals as well.

Katy head athletic trainer Dr. Eddie Smith was named the Katy ISD/Charlie Stevens athletic trainer of the year for his work with the Katy high school athletes and coaches this year.

For assistants, Mayde Creek's Steve Reese, Jordan's Bobby Courtney, Seven Lakes David Tandy and Mayde Creek's Sedalia Ellis were named the assistant coaches of the year. Mayde Creek had its best ever season in boys basketball last year, with Reese being a big part of the staff. Courtney was part of Jordan's state semifinal staff and Tandy was part of the staff that led the Spartans to a district championship last season. Ellis helped Mayde Creek through a season in which it saw success.

For junior high coaches, Adams Junior High's Brittney Thomas and Morton Ranch Junior High's Taqueta Braxton were named the girls coaches of the year while Adams Junior High's Kyle Mueller and West Memorial Junior High's were named the boys coaches of the year.

Mayde Creek's softball program was awarded with the community service recognition award after logging 896 hours of community service last year, and Tompkins earned the Academic Improvement award, which is given to the school which shows the largest gain of athletes making all A's and B's throughout the school year. And Cinco Ranch captured the Academic Excellence award for having the highest percentage of student-athletes with all A's and B's throughout the school year.

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Tompkins' Simi Elliott spikes a ball against Canyon in the finals match of gold bracket Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament at Bridgeland.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

TOMPKINS

from page B1

Tournament.

But Tompkins wasn't interested in anything less than proving anyone who doubted them this weekend wrong.

The Falcons went a perfect 8-0 over the weekend, capping things off with a three set sweep of Canyon (29-27, 25-23, 26-24) in the gold bracket finals to take home the winner's trophy from the entire tournament.

"We came into this tournament and we weren't really sure how we would look, but we knew we were going to give it everything and push to go as far as we could," said senior outside hitter Cindy Tchouanwa. "We didn't really put any expectations on ourselves because of that and having to call up a couple players from JV. But we won all of our games on Thursday and it just kind of proved to ourselves that we could compete no matter the roster we have. We really just worked hard and came together everyday and that ended with us winning the entire things."

The tournament wasn't without challenges from Tompkins. The Falcons faced a tough match against A&M Consolidated on Friday before beating last year's Class 6A state champions in San Antonio Brandeis in the gold bracket semifinals on Saturday morning.

But the Falcons' toughest matchup was in the final against Canyon, as each set was decided by just two points.

"We had to mix a lot of things up, but I think that's just going to make us better," said junior outside hitter Skylar Skrabanek. "We had some people playing front row that never really play front row and had some people playing back row that have never played there before. But we practice this stuff all the time and getting different people game time at these different positions is so important. Now we know if someone gets hurt or if we need someone to step into a different role that they can, because we've already done it against really good teams."

Every set was back and forth between Tompkins and Canyon. The Falcons took an early lead in



Tompkins' Cindy Tchouangwa tips the ball over the net against Canyon in the finals match of gold bracket Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament at Bridgeland.

the first set before Canyon made a storming comeback. The teams battled before Tompkins took the set 29-27. The second set was much of the same, with both teams grappling to try and get ahead before the Falcons came out on top.

But it was the third set where the Falcons showed their grit. They fell behind by as many as seven points before mounting a huge comeback to win the final set. And for Tompkins head coach Allison Merrell, that was the most important thing the team could have done.

"It was huge for us," Merrell said. "We faced some adversity against A&M Consolidated as well and I told them, you have to welcome this because this is how we learn and how we get better. Both yesterday and today we can put those moments in our back pocket and it will come in handy in the long run. The fight and the determination is exactly what we wanted to see."

The Falcons are happy with their run at the tournament, but they're far from satisfied, and they're hoping to prove themselves even further in district and beyond.

"Even in the offseason of last year, they've had really high expectations of what we want to do and accomplish," Merrell said. "They know that that's a lot of work but they're committed to getting better every day. This is unbelievable, but there's still so many areas of growth that we need to and will address, but this comes from them. They want us to push them and that's amazing as a coach."

DISTRICT

from page B1

tested early to see just how good they are, as they will face the other three playoff teams out of District 19-6A last year to begin district, playing Katy in their opener before facing Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes in their next two games.

Katy has lots to replace this season and has a very young team but has shown the ability to be a strong force as they were last year when they reached the Class 6A Region III final. The team has made strides early in the year, bouncing back from a season opening loss to Langham Creek by winning three straight at last week's tournament and making it to the fourth bracket on Saturday, competing with very strong teams.

The Tigers will open district against Tompkins, showing exactly how strong they look, before playing Morton Ranch, Mayde Creek, Jordan and Paetow early in district play.

Cinco Ranch is another team that has shown they will be a force to be reckoned with this year, as the Cougars bounced back from season opening losses to the Woodlands and Bridgeland by winning five straight and narrowly falling to Canyon and Cypress Ranch.

The Cougars have the pieces to compete with anyone in the district and area and they have chances early in district play to prove that, with an early matchup with Tompkins.

And Seven Lakes has also



TYLER TYRE

Tompkins' Presley Powell sets a ball during a match against Canyon in the finals match of gold bracket Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament at Bridgeland

shown they can be a strong team this year. The Spartans had a strong showing at the Katy ISD Tournament last weekend, making it to the bronze bracket, but did lose to Tompkins in two sets. They will look to get back to form as they begin district against a strong Taylor side.

And Taylor has shown it won't be an easy match for any team in District 19-6A, as they won five of their last six matches in the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament and have beaten teams like Cy-Ridge and Oak Ridge. And that tough schedule was needed as they face one of

the hardest district schedules early on, facing Cinco Ranch, Seven Lakes and Tompkins to open district play.

Jordan has had success early in the year and will have a chance to carry that into district, as has Paetow, and both will have a chance to prove themselves early in district, while Mayde Creek and Jordan will be out to prove that they belong in the conversation as contenders.

In all, there are a number of teams that can make noise as district begins in Katy, and it should be an exciting season to watch.

TOURNAMENT

from page B1

weekend and will look to shore up some things in the final week of non-district before heading into district play the following week. They finished the weekend 4-4, winning 11 sets while dropping eight.

Taylor finished off the weekend in strong fashion, winning five of its final six matches and winning their final three, including both on Saturday.

The Mustangs opened the tournament with two straight losses, but bounced back by winning their final game on Thursday and two of three games on Friday.

And the Mustangs saved their best performances for Saturday, as they beat Houston Heights in two sets and Oak Ridge in three sets to end its tournament on a strong note.

Taylor ended the tournament with a 5-3 record, winning 11 sets while dropping eight.

Katy started the tournament strong but couldn't carry that momentum into Saturday.

The Tigers were perfect on Thursday, going 3-0 without dropping a set, but suffered a setback on Friday, dropping two of their three games. Katy finished off the tournament with two losses on Saturday, although both were very close matches.

Katy finished the tournament 4-4 overall, winning nine sets while dropping eight sets.

Jordan also finished the tournament with a 4-4 record, bouncing back from a rough Friday with a very strong performance on Saturday.

The Warriors won two of three games Thursday, before dropping both of their games Friday. But they responded Saturday by both A&M Consolidated and Cibolo Steele in straight sets, showing a very strong version of their team.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Cinco Ranch finished second in the silver bracket of the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament.



Seven Lakes finished fourth in the bronze bracket of the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament.

Overall, Jordan won 10 sets while dropping nine.

And Paetow finished the tournament with an even 4-4 record as well, although the Panthers dropped two straight to end the tournament.

Paetow started slow on Thursday, losing two straight before winning its final game of the day and the Panthers had a strong day Friday, winning three straight. The Panthers put up a fight against

both Klein and Travis Saturday, but ultimately fell in three sets to both. Paetow finished the tournament with 10 sets won to nine sets lost.

Morton Ranch struggled in the tournament, going 2-6. The Mavericks dropped five straight to start the tournament, before beating Cy-Lakes on Friday and Cy-Falls on Saturday. The Mavericks ended the tournament with a loss to Cy-Springs. Morton Ranch won four sets while dropping 12 in the tournament.

And Mayde Creek finished the tournament with a 1-7 record, beating Cy-Falls on Friday for their team's lone win. Overall, Mayde Creek won three sets and lost 14.

Katy ISD is in the final week of non-district play this week before starting up district next week due to having nine teams now in District 19-6A. It looks to be a strong race across the board for the four top spots and for the district title and we will get an early look at some of the best teams as Tompkins opens district against Katy and the Falcons also play Cinco Ranch on Aug. 30.

Katy Times

2022 FALL FOOTBALL PREVIEW SECTION

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Houston ranked in preseason poll for first time in 6 years

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston Football program will begin the season ranked No. 25 in the USA Today AFCA Coaches Poll, marking the first time the Cougars have been ranked entering an upcoming season since 2016.

Houston received 257 points from the panel of coaches. Each coach submits a Top 25 with a first place vote worth 25 points, second place 24, and so on down to one point for 25th. The Cougars are joined in The American Athletic Conference by No. 22 Cincinnati. UCF also received 55 votes while SMU received two votes. The panel includes 66 coaches. Houston comes off a season in which they went 12-2 and has been picked to win the American Athletic Conference this season.

The Cougars rounded out the 2021 season at No. 17 in the poll following their 12-2 season and victory over Auburn in the Birmingham Bowl. Among in-state programs, Houston is joined in the 2022 poll by Texas A&M (No. 7), Baylor (No. 10) and Texas (No. 18).

Houston opens its season on Sept. 3 at UTSA. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. from the Alamodome and can be seen on CBS Sports Network. The in-state matchup is the lone FBS contest nationally on opening weekend featuring two 12-plus win teams from a season ago.

Alabama was picked at No. 1 in the poll, while Ohio State was ranked second, Ohio State was ranked second, Georgia was ranked third, Clemson was ranked fourth and Notre

Dame was ranked No. 5.

A&M came into the season ranked No. 7 while Baylor was ranked 10th and Texas was ranked 18th overall.

Following is the full preseason USA Today AFCA Coaches Poll.

Team	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (54)	1,634	2
2. Ohio State (5)	1,564	5
3. Georgia (6)	1,542	1
4. Clemson	1,356	16
5. Notre Dame	1,284	9
6. Michigan	1,232	3
7. Texas A&M	1,219	25
8. Utah	1,134	12
9. Oklahoma	1,027	10
10. Baylor	891	6
11. Oklahoma State	859	7
12. Oregon	734	21
13. NC State	726	19
14. Michigan State	711	8
15. South Carolina	602	NR
16. Pittsburgh	450	13
17. Miami	433	NR
18. Texas (1)	383	NR
19. Wake Forest	381	14
20. Wisconsin	369	NR
21. Kentucky	353	15
22. Cincinnati	339	4
23. Arkansas	334	20
24. Mississippi	327	11
25. Houston	257	17

Also receiving votes: Iowa 248; Penn State 246; Tennessee 163; Brigham Young 152; Louisiana State 143; Auburn 98; Central Florida 55; North Carolina 34; San Diego State 25; Fresno State 21; Mississippi State 19; Florida 17; Utah State 12; Air Force 12; UCLA 10; Boise State 10; Appalachian State 10; Minnesota 6; South Carolina 5; Kansas State 4; Iowa State 3; Army 3; UL Lafayette 2; Southern Methodist 2; Purdue 2; Oregon State 2; Coastal Carolina 2; Texas-San Antonio 1; Louisville 1; Florida State 1.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

The Houston Cougars take the field for the start of an NCAA football game between Houston and Texas Tech on September 4, 2021 in Houston.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Cougars quarterback Clayton Tune (3) escapes the grasp of Texas Tech Red Raiders linebacker Riko Jeffers (6) in the end zone to avoid a safety during an NCAA football game between Houston and Texas Tech on September 4, 2021 in Houston.

UH ready for new season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston had a tremendous year last season.

The Cougars come off a season in which they went 10-2, won a bowl game against Auburn and proved themselves to be one of the nation's elite, finishing the season ranked No. 17.

But, that hasn't satisfied this year's group. A year after coming close to the American Athletic Conference crown, they are looking to take it all a year before they join the Big 12 next year.

A big part of that confidence has been due to the amount of talent this team has on both offense and defense, and the team is especially excited about what they bring back at the offensive skill positions and quarterback.

"It's been great," said senior quarterback Clayton Tune. "Obviously having Tank (Nathaniel Dell) back is huge. Having Kesean (Carter) back and healthy is also really huge, he's a really good player. We just have playmakers at every position and at receiver. We're at least two deep at every one of those spots, so that's really nice for me and the receivers because they can rotate them and keep them fresh. It's really good to have those guys out there that are able to make plays. It makes my job easy."

It's not just the receivers who have come a long way and have given the Cougars something to look forward to though.

Tune is entering his fifth collegiate season and has made great strides towards becoming a savvy quarterback and a leader, something all of his teammates have noticed.

"Clayton (Tune) really has become a great leader," Dell said. "He holds himself accountable for



Houston Cougars wide receiver Nathaniel Dell (11) brings in a 23-yard touchdown pass during an NCAA football game between Houston and Texas Tech on September 4, 2021 in Houston.

everything. Anything that happens with the offense, even if it's not his fault, he always takes accountability for anything. He's just been a great leader and he really makes sure everyone is on the same page, from offensive line to receivers and running backs to really everywhere on the field."

The team expects Dell to be able to switch back to the slot receiver position this year, a place he excels at with his burst and route running ability while being a tad undersized.

"Dell is unguardable when he's in the slot," Tune said. "He's really unguardable anywhere on the field, but especially when you are able to put him in the slot. When you have to cover him deep out of the slot, these defensive backs really have no chance of covering him and if they double him or single him out on a zone, then it's going to leave someone else open. But he's really explosive and any

time you can put him in the slot in man coverage, he's going to get open and you better believe I'll be looking that way."

But mostly, this group is excited what they have in every position on the field. They're ready to compete and ready to prove themselves. And they feel like they have the chemistry to do it.

"This is one of the closest teams I've ever been a part of," Tune said. "It's those times that we're away from practice and working together that's the most important thing. When there's no coaches, that's really a time we get to bond and there's no pressure in those situations. It's really just being out there like were kids in the back yard throwing a ball around. We're getting work done, but it's really awesome because we enjoy each others' company and have fun with it. It's huge and plays a huge part in building the chemistry that we all want."

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Katy Times



Texans ready to go

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Texans are rearing and ready to go. Following an offseason of change, the second straight in the organization, the group is out to prove they belong and that they have what it takes to compete in the NFC South. And they’re doing everything it takes to get better every time they step on the field.

“These guys are showing up every day, and they’re getting better,” said Texans head coach Lovie Smith. “We come out here every day and they listen, have a great staff coaching them up and the entire team is coming out here and trying to make plays. As a coach that’s what you want to see, now we just have to keep improving as we head towards the season.”

That improvement is coming all around, from first year players to veterans, everyone seems to be taking to the Texans coaching staff and there is an energy that is going through the entire team when they step on to the practice field for training camp.

And that improvement is exactly what the organization has been looking for out of the players as they look to take the next step after a disappointing but promising 2021-2022 season. That was on full display as multiple players have stayed after practice to continue to get reps and better themselves.

“I think that’s really good, I love to see guys do that after practice but I like it even more in practice,” Smith said. “Derek (Stingley Jr.) and the rest of the group is getting all of the work we can give them. They’ll continue to get better ever day and every rep. Especially when they work like that.”

The improvement has come all around, including from second year quarterback Davis Mills, who will be looking to elevate his numbers this year and show that he can be a long term answer at the position for the Texans.

The coaching staff and front office has full faith in Mills and he has shown progress in his second training camp.

“I feel really good,” Mills said. “I think I have developed a lot since the end of last season. I felt that progression at the end of last year and I really have taken that momentum from last year into the offseason and into training camp. It’s allowed me to come out here and start playing really fast from the beginning. I’m just excited to keep



progressing and prove myself.”

Mills’ improvement has been noticed by the team as well. From the coaches to the front office to his teammates, they have noticed how he commands the huddle, knows more than last year and leads the offense. And the entire team is excited to see what he can do.

“I remember being a rookie and it can be rough,” said running back Rex Burkhead. “You’re trying to see what you need to do every single day and understand where things are coming from. You can definitely see that Davis is more comfortable and he’s getting better every single day. You can see how he’s getting to know his teammates, that comradery he’s developed is huge. He’s getting to know his teammates, it brings guys together and it allows everyone to go out there, perform and get better every day.”



Above: Houston Texans running back Rex Burkhead (28) brings in a pass for a first down during an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston. Left: Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) throws a touchdown pass to Danny Amendola in the fourth quarter of an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 220 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding, L.L.P., 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 1400, Houston, Texas 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	C. LeBouf, B. Dahl, & B. Colliander
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	K. Gehringer & G. Krejci

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 \$ <u>1.500</u> /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ <u>1.390</u> /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.110 /\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>0.0000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$267,660</u>	<u>\$310,138</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>\$267,660</u>	<u>\$310,138</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$4,014.90</u>	<u>\$4,310.92</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	<u>\$296.02</u> <u>7.3730%</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.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 35 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding LLP, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Ste. 1400, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	P. Battistini, S. Handal, T. Feng & S. Haleem
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 \$ <u>.410</u> /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ <u>.380</u> /\$100 Proposed
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.030/\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-7.3171%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$401,064</u>	<u>\$444,993</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>\$401,064</u>	<u>\$444,993</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 1,644.36</u>	<u>\$1,690.97</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>\$46.61</u> <u>2.8345%</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.

Astros carry large division lead into late August



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Astros once again have proven themselves to be among the MLB's best throughout the first half of the season.

The Astros have already built over a ten-game lead in the AL West divisional race and hold the third best record in the major leagues and the best record in the American League.

The Astros have gone on a strong run, trailing only the Yankees in wins in the American League, but they also have won five of six against the Yankees this season, showing that they still may be the biggest force to reckon with in the American League.

Houston has been on a tear to gain such a big lead in the division, and they have been led by Yordan Alvarez, who has had a scalding start to the year, hitting .309 with a .414 on base percentage and .674 slugging percentage to go with 29 home runs, 67 RBIs and 65 runs. Jose Altuve is right behind Alvarez, hitting .272 with a .509 slugging percentage with 19 home runs and 36 RBIs, while Kyle Tucker has driven in 64 with 15 home runs.

On the pitching side, Justin Verlander has returned to Cy-Young form, as he has a 13-3 record with a 1.86 ERA with over 100 innings pitched. Framber Valdez has also been especially strong for the Astros, with a 2.80 ERA and a 9-4 record while giving up just six home runs so far this season. Package that with Lance McCullers being expected to return from injury later this month and the Astros pitching is in a great spot.

But there are still improvements to be made though and the Astros know there are positions that need to be upgraded.

Yuli Gurriel has struggled mightily so far and does not look like the same player that won a batting title.

Gurriel is hitting just .240 so far this year with a .292 on base percentage and is only slugging .385, a very low rate. So far this year the 38-year old has hit seven home runs and driven in 27, leading the Astros to having questions as first base and at catcher Martin Maldonado continues to struggle. The 35-year-old catcher is hitting just .170 this season with a .339 slugging percentage with an on base percentage of just .235. He has 10 home runs and 30 RBIs but the other numbers are very much below league average, but he also is known as one of the best defensive catchers in the league and all of the Astros pitching staff enjoys throwing to him.

The Astros attempted to improve in both of those areas at the trade deadline, adding Trey Mancini from the Baltimore Orioles, who is hitting for a .268 average with a .346 on base percentage and .402 slugging percentage this season and he has looked very strong since getting to Houston.

Also joining Houston at the deadline was Christian Vazquez from the Boston Red Sox. He is hitting .281 with a .326 slugging percentage and .431 slugging percentage and plays plus defense behind the plate, giving the Astros a very good alternative to Maldonado as Houston goes into the back end of the regular season in a very strong spot.

But those are just small areas and overall, Houston is very much in the thick of it for the best record in the league and the No.1 record in the American League, which would give them home field advantage all the way through the AL playoffs to the World Series.

Key matchups down the stretch include series when they play the Braves in next week and play the Rays in two series in September. The Astros will close the regular season against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Justin Verlander has been back to his elite self this season, holding a 1.86 ERA thus far.

FILE PHOTO

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.083608 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.086889 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.086911 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** exceeds the voter-approval rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48**.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48**, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48**.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

The proposed tax rate is also greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** adopts the proposed tax rate, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** will be the voter-approval rate of the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48**.

A **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON** August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at 21201 Morton Road, Katy, Texas 77449.

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The election will be on November 8, 2022. You may contact the Harris County Clerk's Office – Election Department for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR:	Sam Henderson, Russell Solomon, Mike Fleming, Scott Strait and Pattie Creel
AGAINST:	None
PRESENT AND NOT VOTING:	None
ABSENT:	None

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** this year.

	2021	2022	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.095234	\$0.100000	increase of 0.004766, or 5.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$262,330	\$291,610	increase of \$29,280, or 11.16%
Tax on average homestead	\$249.83	\$291.61	increase of \$41.78, or 16.72%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$13,859,579	\$16,890,518	increase of \$3,030,939, or 21.87%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@coveler.com or visit www.hcesd48.org for more information.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.083654 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.097426 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.098827 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

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

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

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

The proposed tax rate is also greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** adopts the proposed tax rate, **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** will be the voter-approval rate of the **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**.

A **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON** August 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Administrative Office, 540 Ellen Powell, Prairie View, TX 77446.

Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200 may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., following the hearing to be held.

The election will be on November 8, 2022. You may contact the Waller County and Harris County Clerks' Offices – Election Department for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

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

	2021	2022	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.098796	\$0.100000	increase of \$0.001204, or 1.22%
Average homestead taxable value	\$231,493	\$251,872	increase of \$20,379, or 8.80%
Tax on average homestead	\$228.71	\$251.87	increase of \$23.16, or 10.13%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$9,040,465	\$11,494,580	increase of \$2,454,115, or 27.15%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@coveler.com or visit www.wallerharris200.com for more information.

Katy ISD athletes named to Touchdown Club of Houston preseason UIL honor team



Above: Katy's Johnathan Hall makes the stop on King Panthers D'koreion Hammond during the UIL regional playoff game between Katy Tigers and King Panthers at Legacy Stadium in Katy. Below: Katy's Damian Neveaux and Micah Sweats make the stop on Morton Ranch Santana Scott as Zach Session makes a block during a conference game between Katy and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

A number of Katy ISD players were named to the Touchdown Club of Houston's preseason UIL honor team for the 2022 season. The team features 38 football players from the Houston area — 20 on offense and 18 on defense.

The honorees were recognized Wednesday during the Touchdowner of the Year event, which featured Wade Phillips.

Katy running back Seth Davis was named to the team on offense along with Morton Ranch offensive linemen Zach Session, while Jordan's Jake Kilander was named to the team as the lone kicker and punter from the Houston area.

Defensively, Paetow's David Hicks Jr. was named to the team as a lineman while Katy's Johnathan Hall and Mayde Creek's Tay'Shawn Wilson were named to the team as defensive backs.

Following is the full Touchdown Club of Houston preseason UIL honor team:

- Offense
Quarterbacks — Ja'koby Banks, Fort Bend Marshall; Cyrin Myles, Crosby; Kenneth Rosenthal, Lamar.
Running backs — Seth Davis, Katy; Parker Jenkins, Klein Forest; Jahbari Kuykendall, Westside; Jeremy Payne, Hightower; Kedrick Reescano, New Caney.
Offensive linemen — Nick Fattig, Clear Springs; Reagan Gill, Jersey Village; Hudson Perroni, Stratford; Zachary Session, Morton Ranch.
Tight ends — Ethan "Chico" Holt, Strake Jesuit; Reid Mikeska, Bridgeland; Hawkins Polley, Stratford.
Wide receivers — Marques Neal, Channelview; Ryan Niblett, Eisenhower; Jaquaze Pettaway, Langham Creek; Jonah Wilson, Dekaney.
Utility/Athlete — Jake Kilander, Jordan (kicker/punter).
- Defense
Defensive linemen — Zachary Chapman, Fort Bend Marshall; Terrance Green, Cypress Woods; David Hicks Jr., Paetow; Ashton Porter, Cypress Ranch; Dylan Spencer, C.E. King; Samu Taumanupepe, Atascocita.
Linebackers — Christian Brathwaite, Cypress Ranch; David Nico, Heights; Corey Kelly, Clear Falls; Braylan Shelby, Friendswood.
Defensive backs — Jayven Anderson, North Shore; Taylor Davis, Ridge Point; Jacoby Davis, North Shore; Vernon Glover Jr., Dickinson; Johnathan Hall, Katy; Cory Huff Jr., Nimitz; Maurice Williams, Shadow Creek; Tay'Shawn Wilson, Mayde Creek.

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The GRAND LAKES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Table with 2 columns: Position (FOR, AGAINST, PRESENT, ABSENT) and Name (William Shutt, Nicole Whitman, Katherine Elofson, Anand Maru, etc.).

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.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Last Year, This Year. Rows include Total tax rate, Difference in rates, Percentage increase/decrease, Average appraised residence homestead value, General exemptions, Average residence homestead taxable value, Tax on average residence homestead, and Annual increase/decrease in taxes.

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. Mandatory election not required due to unused increment rate.

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.

Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Increase

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

Table with 2 columns: Tax Rate and Amount. Rows include PROPOSED TAX RATE, NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE, VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE, and DE MINIMIS RATE.

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

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

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

The proposed tax rate is also greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 adopts the proposed tax rate, Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 will be the voter-approval rate of the Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at Willowfork Fire Department, 26950 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494.

Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The election will be on November 8, 2022. You may contact the Fort Bend County Clerk's Office – Election Department for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Position (FOR, AGAINST, PRESENT, ABSENT) and Name (Robert Miller, Daryl Brister, Corey Zollinger, Wes Noonan and Steven Fein, etc.).

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

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

Table with 4 columns: Description, 2021, 2022, Change. Rows include Total tax rate, Average homestead taxable value, Tax on average homestead, and Total tax levy on all properties.

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