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Katy Times

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VOLUME 111, ISSUE 35

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

'Parental authority' and gender fluidity policy passes 4-3 after heated debate

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

By a margin of only one vote, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees passed a hotly-debated policy affirming "parental authority" and regulating matters of gender fluidity within the district. The vote took place on Monday, August 28th, at the board's regularly scheduled meeting.

The policy requires district employees to inform parents if a student requests to be

identified as transgender, or asks to be known by another name or to be recognized by different pronouns which do not correspond to their biological sex. The policy also requires that students use bathrooms designated for their sex as assigned at birth. Transgender athletes are also prohibited from sports competition, among other matters addressed in the policy.

Over 100 community

See **KISD**, page A3



An overflow crowd of parents, students and community members crowded the Board Room at Katy ISD on Monday, August 28th, resulting in some spectators being moved to an overflow room, which was also full. Over 100 people signed up to speak during the public comments portion of the meeting, which lasted about four hours.

SUSAN ROVEGNO

Chamber, Katy EDC present 'State of the Counties' update

Commissioners Morales and Briones and County Judge Duhon describe progress, discuss future projects

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A capacity crowd filled the ballroom at the Embassy Suites Energy Corridor on Thursday to hear an update from key elected officials serving the greater Katy area. The luncheon, which was co-sponsored by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Katy Area Economic Development Council, took place at the hotel at 11730 Katy Freeway, Houston. Keynote speakers were Vincent Morales, Commissioner for Fort Bend County Precinct 1; Lesley Briones, Commissioner for Harris



SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy officials get ready to hear from county officials at the State of the Counties luncheon.

County Precinct 4; and Judge Trey Duhon, county judge for Waller County.

Matthew Ferraro, president/CEO of the Katy Chamber, and Angie Thomason, president/CEO of the EDC, welcomed guests to the meeting. Also greeting the attendees was Dawn Buckingham, Land Commissioner of the General Land Office for the state of Texas.

"We love you and we are here to

help," she said.

Briones began her presentation by talking about partnerships among different governmental entities. "The bottom line is that we must approach everything as a partnership," she said. She spoke about upcoming changes to the Harris County Toll Road Authority and its forthcoming "barrier free" program and

See **COUNTIES**, page A3



COURTESY OF KATY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Rep. Mike Schofield delivered a legislative update to the August 23rd meeting of the Katy Business Association at the Club at Falcon Point. Pictured (left to right) are Chris Harris, Katy Mayor Pro Tem; Rep. Schofield; Olivia Martin, president of the Katy Business Association; and Dusty Thiele, mayor of Katy.

Schofield speaks at KBA

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Relief is coming for Texas property taxpayers, Katy-area State Rep. Mike Schofield told the Katy Business Association at its meeting last Thursday at The Club at Falcon Point. Schofield represents Texas-House District 132 which covers a large part of the Katy area.

Homeowners will benefit in two ways from the property tax relief bill recently passed by the Texas Legislature, Schofield said. First, the homestead exemption on each residence will rise from the current \$40,000 to \$100,000, meaning that the first \$100,000 of a home's value will not be subject to property tax. A home valued at \$250,000 will be taxed as if it were worth \$150,000, Schofield explained.

Second, school districts will be required to lower their tax rates, thereby lowering property tax bills, with the state making up the lost revenue so the district collects the same amount of money to pay for schools.

"It is fundamentally not the job of government to tax people out of their homes," Schofield said, noting that several retirees told him they were considering moving to north-

ern Arkansas, where the tax burden is lower.

Schofield also explained that for the first time, the new law provides a cap on appraisal increases for properties other than homesteads. The increase on small businesses, vacation homes or any other property worth \$5 million or less will be capped at twenty percent. He also pointed out that small business owners will benefit from a provision that raises the amount of gross revenue a business can earn without having to pay the state's "franchise tax" from \$1 million to \$2.47 million. This prevents many small business from having to pay the tax at all, he said.

Several provisions of the new law require voter approval. The November election will include "Proposition 4," which would permit the state to grant the property tax cuts.

Schofield also reported that many property owners were already taking advantage of a new state law allowing them to remove their property from the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of a city, and that several landowners had already approached the city of Katy about leaving Houston's ETJ and being annexed into Katy.

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CITY OF KATY

City council proposes reduced tax rate

Anniversary of HCC-Katy also recognized

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

During the August 28th meeting of Katy City Council, a proposed property tax rate reduction to 43 cents was approved via unanimous 5-0 vote. This is the fifth year of proposed reduction, said Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris on his Facebook page. A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held Monday, September 25th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Ave C in Katy.

Mayor Dusty Thiele also read a proclamation recog-

nizing the first anniversary of the Houston Community College-Katy Campus. Presenting the proclamation to HCC-Katy's President Zachary Hodges, Thiele called the campus "Katy's community college."

The council also considered a resolution authorizing an annual price adjustment with Texas Pride Disposal Solutions, LLC, to be effective September 1, 2023. The resolution carried on a 5-0 vote.

Harris also reported that the Public Comment portion of council meetings has been changed to allow more speakers on agenda and non-agenda city business. "Come see us the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 p.m.," he said.

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INAUGURAL KATY COMMUNITY EXPO

Left, bottom: The inaugural Katy Community Expo was held Saturday and Sunday at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Drive; over 7500 were expected to attend. Left: A variety of exhibitors, including Shottenkirk Nissan, filled the park-like setting inside the Merrell Center, handing out coupons, samples, free promotional items and more. A "donation station" collected items for area nonprofits. Left, top: Title sponsor Shottenkirk Nissan was set to award a car to an area teacher nominated by attendees. Attendees could nominate their favorite teacher by using the QR code displayed on the Nissan vehicles outside the venue.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cinco Ranch Library to hold book sale on September 9th

The Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library will host a Fall Book Sale on Saturday, September 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy. Most items are available for \$1.00 or less. Cash or checks are accepted. Donations of gently-used books (fiction and nonfiction adult, youth, and children's hardback and paperback books that are clean and not torn) are always welcome and may be taken to the library throughout the year during regular business hours. Textbooks are also accepted. Items that cannot be accepted include cassettes, VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, encyclopedias, medical/legal/computer books older than 2019, or books that are damp, moldy, dirty, or insect-ridden. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), or call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library at 281-395-1311.

Enjoy the Fall Festival at Dewberry Farm starting September 16th

This fall Dewberry Farm in Brookshire has it ALL. At Fall Festival enjoy more than 40 family-friendly fun attractions and activities, Dewberry Farm pumpkin patch, fall photo-ops galore, and get lost in the eight-acre Corn Maze. The Fall Festival begins September 16th and continues through November 12th. Dewberry Farm is located at FM 362 & Morrison Road, Brookshire 77423.

For more information call 281-934-3276 or visit the website at dewberryfarm.com.

John Paul Landing Park hosts special events in September

John Paul Landing Park will feature several special programs during September:

- "An Evening Under the Stars," hosted by the Houston Astronomical Society, Saturday, Sept. 16th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. See the night skies through a variety of telescopes, with views of the moon, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, star clusters and more! Viewing starts 30 minutes after sunset. Event will be cancelled if there is bad weather or overcast skies. Email johnpaullanding@hcp4.net or call 713-274-3131 to sign up.
- "Great Grow Out Workshop," Tuesday September 26th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join the Coastal Prairie Conservancy, as part of Houston Bird Week, to learn how you can get involved in native plant propagation efforts. These bird-friendly plant species provide valuable habitat throughout the local prairie ecosystem. Come learn more about conservation efforts and go home with some plants of your own. Best suited for adults; registration is required. Visit hcp4.net/events to sign up.
- Senior Birding Trip, Saturday, September 30th, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Join the group heading to the Smith Point Hawk Watch tower to view migrating raptors. Sign-up is on a first-come, first-served basis. Transportation is provided for individuals 50 and older through Harris County Precinct 4. The vans

will pick up and drop off participants at the Environmental Education Center. Email johnpaullanding@hcp4.net or call 713-274-3131 for more information or to sign up.

Autumn Acres fall craft show returns September 22-23rd

Shop local and support small businesses by doing your holiday shopping at the annual Autumn Acres craft show, now in its fifth year. The event, which features unique handcrafted items, returns to the Gerald D. Young Facility at the Robinson Pavilion, 5825 Katy Hockley Road, Katy, on September 22nd-23rd. Admission is \$5.00. For tickets or for more information, go to homefortheholidays-giftmarket.com/autumn-acres-katy-1.

Rose Therapeutic Farm re-opens for the season on September 30th

Missing your session of goat yoga? The wait is over - Rose Therapeutic Farm will have its annual Grand Opening on September 30th at 1324 Peach Ridge Rd in Brookshire. Pumpkin carving with goats, goat yoga, snuggles with baby goats, and Movie Night with Goats will start in October. For more information, go to goatyogakaty.com.

Annual "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on September 30th

The 2023 "Walk to End Alzheimer's" will take place on September 30th at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy. The two-mile walk raises funds for the

Alzheimer's Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, to further the care, support and research efforts of the organization.

The event starts at 8 a.m. with the Opening Ceremony at 8:45 a.m. and the Walk starting at 9 a.m. There is no registration fee for the Walk but every participant is asked to make a personal donation and commit to raising funds in the fight against Alzheimer's. All participants must be registered and sign a standard waiver, including children if they are walking. Strollers are permitted, but for safety, skateboards, bicycles, inline skates and wheeled footwear are discouraged.

Every registered participant who achieves the fundraising minimum of \$100 will receive an official Walk to End Alzheimer's T-shirt via USPS. To receive a shirt in time for Walk day, participants must raise the T-shirt minimum at least four weeks prior to the event. Donations can be made offline by submitting a check or money order by mail or hand-delivering to the local Alzheimer's Association office.

Each registered participant will also receive a Promise Garden flower in the color that best represents their connection to the disease.

The Walk is a rain or shine event; however, in the case of severe weather, it could be cancelled. If this is the case, the Walk homepage will be updated on or before the morning of the event. Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up, clean-up, registration, water stops, and the Promise Garden. For more information, please contact Fredy Bares at 713.314.1330 or alztxwalk@alz.org.

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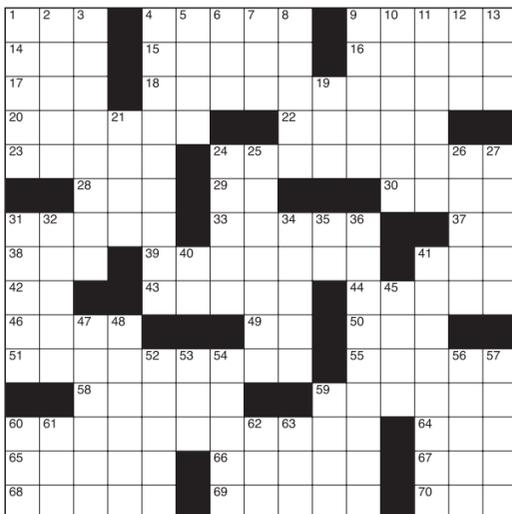
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between east and southeast
- At right angles to a ship's length
- William Penn's business partner
- de plume
- Accomplished soccer coach
- Bone cavities
- juris: independent
- Popular Philly sandwich
- Northern Ireland county
- Performing artist
- S S S
- Lacks flavor
- Commercials
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- Qatar's capital
- Indigenous peoples of Alberta
- Popular footwear
- Indicates position
- Anglican cathedral
- Aircraft part
- Before
- Blood group
- Secretory organ
- Fencing swords
- The small projection of a mammary gland
- Technological advancement
- Male parent
- Dissociable
- More cold
- Cape Verde Islands capital

CLUES DOWN

- Occur as a result of
- Spiritual essences
- Representative
- Entering
- Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- Midway between northeast and east
- Consumed
- Tablelands
- Kids' craft accessory
- Not known
- Sound directed through two or more speakers
- A major division of geological time
- Wild ox
- Shock treatment
- Turner and Lasso are two
- Genus of flowering plants
- Relating to ductless glands
- Stock certificate
- Satisfies
- Places to enjoy a rest
- Edward __, author and writer

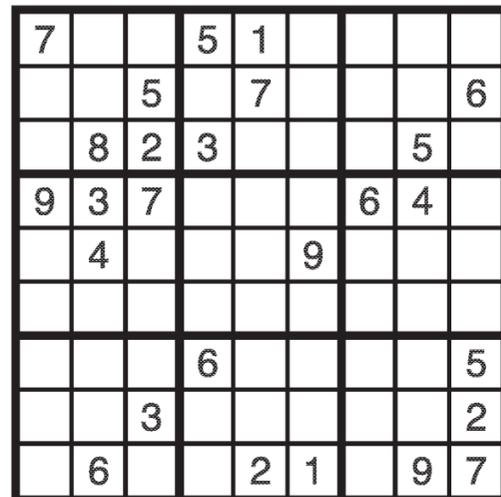


- but goodie"
- One hundredth of a liter
- Shabbiness
- TV personality Roker
- Triangular upper part of a building
- Speed at which you move
- Offend
- A reference point to shoot at
- Forays

- Biblical city
- Blatted
- Northern sea duck
- Shabby (slang)
- Allege
- Tax collector
- Whereabouts unknown
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Indicates equal

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



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.

COUNTIES

from page A1

about the expansion of the Westpark Tollway, which she said would soon add “multi-functional modes of transportation.” She mentioned the \$2.5 billion expansion of public health services through clinics which serve the county through the Harris Health system. Harris Health operates the Danny Jackson Health Center at 5503 N. Fry Road in Katy.

Briones also said that she received feedback from community leaders that Harris County was not as engaged in the Katy area as it should have been and that she was working to change that. According to Briones, her office has put out a call for partnership projects and the “winners” will be announced after Labor Day. Briones also gave an update on several mobility projects in the Katy area, such as the widening of Clay Road from Peek to Porter and installation of six traffic signals. She said that upcoming projects included the installation of signals at five high-traffic locations, the widening of the intersection of Clay Road and Katy Hockley Cutoff to accommodate larger commercial vehicles and the widening of Clay Road from Porter to Katy Hockley Cutoff.

Briones also spoke about Harris County Commissioners Court’s creation of an apprenticeship program, much of which will focus on the construction industry. In the area of public safety, Briones described the creation of a “retention incentive” for detention officers

and also outlined a program which provides mental health services to women inmates in jail. Briones said that the precinct would be hosting a breakfast in September to facilitate communication with area leaders, including the chamber, school districts and area officials. “We are here to ensure that we are driving the whole region forward,” she said.

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon then took the stage and thanked Buckingham and the GLO for the \$8.7 million check that Waller County received for three flood mitigation projects. Duhon focused his remarks on the growth in his area. “We’ve known for a long time that growth is coming; now it is here and it is exponential and explosive and beyond what anybody expected or could have imagined,” he said. Waller County currently has a population of around 65,000 residents – but at present, there are between 35,000 and 40,000 homes under varying stages of construction within the county, he said. He stated that earlier projections showed that the county would double in population by 2040; Duhon predicted that would happen before the end of this decade. Waller County has put together a strategic plan, Duhon said, which will add green spaces, trails and bike paths to serve these new residents. “That is now the challenge – ramping everything up

and streamlining processes,” he said. Duhon described how the county’s tax base had increased 22 per cent, with over \$1 billion in new value on the ground, including residential and commercial.

The county’s proposed budget, which will be voted on in the county commissioners court meeting on September 6, will add 19 new employees to the county payroll will provide a five percent salary increase for employees and will absorb the cost increases for county employees’ health insurance. Elected officials will also see a salary increase. If the budget passes, Duhon said, it will lower the tax rate another 2.5 cents.

Duhon also reported that Waller County is trying to build a new courthouse, and that in the interim, the county offices will temporarily move into a property that the county purchased on FM 1488.

The judge also discussed Waller County’s first-ever mobility bond, which will appear on the November ballot. The bond will address traffic capacity and safety issues, Duhon said, and “will allow us to address a lot of programs at once.” He said that \$108 million of the bond was tagged for projects in Waller County Precinct 4, which includes the Sunterra subdivision immediately north of old Katy. Duhon concluded his remarks by mentioning broadband development, which he described as a high

priority and he also acknowledged the need for continued commercial development in the area, through the Waller County EDC.

Fort Bend County Commissioner Vincent Morales, who serves the county’s Precinct 1 in the northern part of the county, highlighted the development of the county’s new multi-purpose center – The Epicenter, which opened in mid-August at 28505 Southwest Freeway in Rosenberg, adjacent to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. The 230,000 square-foot facility has an annex of 17,700 square feet; a 17,000-square foot conference center; and a 36,000-square foot pavilion which can be used for livestock, equestrian or agricultural events. The facility has 10,000 seats, Morales said – 8500 permanent seats and 1500 seats which can be added to the floor. “This is an asset to the county which will serve for many years to come,” Morales said. He said that a top-ranked ESPN boxing event will be broadcast live nationally and that the program would also feature a segment on Fort Bend County for the nation to see. He said wrestling was coming to the facility as well as a gun show and other events. Morales said that the Epicenter would also give a home to area school districts who need a place to hold their graduation ceremonies, and that Fort Bend ISD and Lamar CISD will be holding

their 2024 graduations there.

Morales also spoke on Fort Bend County’s upcoming mobility and parks bonds, which are on the November ballot. “This bond will create a more mobile and safe Fort Bend County,” he said. Morales gave a brief history of past mobility bond issues and stated that it is important to continue to have a mobility bond every two to three years in order to keep up with growth. It takes about three years to design a project, to acquire the right of way, and to relocate utilities before a shovel ever hits the ground, he said. The proposed bond package contains road maintenance and traffic safety projects in each of the Fort Bend County precincts, Morales said. The bond would also fund “smart signal” technology which would help to adjust the timing of traffic signals for optimum vehicle flow, he said.

The \$153 million parks bond would add new amenity programs and would improve existing park facilities throughout the county, including the addition of fields for soccer, football and pickleball. Morales described the “disc golf” course at Jones Creek Park which he said is attracting a lot of attention from the Houston area. Proposed park improvements include improved lighting, improved public restrooms, and improved parking facilities, as well as an assortment of additional trails.

KISD

from page A1

members signed up to speak during the public comments section of the meeting; in a session lasting over four hours, about 80 actually spoke on the parental authority/gender fluidity policy and another five spoke on other non-agenda items. About 15 of the speakers during the public comments session supported the measure while the remainder of the participants opposed it.

Pro-policy speakers included parents and community members who commended the board for their actions, as well as local physician Dr. Steven Hotze, who said that the policy would “put a stop to Katy schools promoting and propagandizing the trans philosophy.” Opponents speaking against the measure included former board trustee George Scott, who expressed his concerns on the legal ramifications of the policy; Texas State Representative John Rosenthal, who was also “deeply concerned” about its legality and the policy’s impact on schools; two clinical psychologists who described high rates of depression, suicide and homelessness among LGBTQ students; several current and former teachers who were concerned about the trust between teachers and students; and many present and former KISD students and other community members.

The board went into closed session for about an hour following the public comments but returned to vote on the consent agenda and then to discuss and vote on the “parental authority/gender fluidity” policy.

Voting for the measure

were board president Victor Perez, and trustees Morgan Calhoun, Amy Thieme and Mary Ellen Cuzela, all recently elected to the board; voting against the policy were veteran board members Rebecca Fox, Dawn Champagne and Lance Redmon.

Board president Victor Perez pulled the policy from the consent agenda so that board members could discuss the measure. He prefaced the discussion by saying he wanted to clarify some misunderstandings and mischaracterizations about the policy, stating that it does not “out” anyone. “We are here to educate,” he said. The biggest area of disagreement surrounding the policy, he said, was the role of parents. “We should not err on the side of concealing things from parents.”

Champagne said she had been contacted by many teachers and she had not heard one teacher who wants the burden of reporting this information to parents. While she said she supported the majority of the policy, she questioned how the process would work among all district staff personnel including bus drivers and other district employees. Perez responded that the details of the implementation are up to the district administration to define, not the school board. Champagne also talked about the possibility of child abuse as a result of this policy. She also described She also said that the legal citations in support of the policy “were not strong” and “none were about pronouns.” Gender fluidity should not be taught in schools, she added.

Thieme recommended solutions that could take the burden off teachers, including the hiring of district chaplains to perform the duties of school counselors. She said that she supported the policy because “the problem is here.”

Fox said she was concerned about putting an additional burden on teachers in the implementation of the program. She moved to table the policy until more information could be gathered, recommending a focus group to obtain the feedback of community stakeholders and requesting a comprehensive legal brief that could be reviewed by all seven board members. Fox was concerned with potential legal liability for the district.

Board member Lance Redmon stated that “Good policy takes time” and also recommended that the policy be tabled pending further study. Redmon reiterated concerns with the potential legal ramifications of the policy.

Cuzela said the district could be at legal risk if they did not enact the policy.

The motion to table the policy was defeated 4-3, with Perez, Cuzela, Calhoun and Thieme voting against and Redmon, Fox and Champagne voting for it.

After further discussion, including heated exchanges among Calhoun, Champagne and Fox, the policy was approved by the 4-3 vote.

Similar policies have been approved elsewhere in Texas by school boards in Keller ISD and Grapevine-Coffeyville ISD, both near Dallas. According to an article in the June 29,

2023 edition of the New York Post (<https://nypost.com/2023/06/29/keller-text-as-schools-ban-lgbtq-pronoun-bathroom-accommodations/>), Keller ISD’s policy, enacted in late June 2023, is already facing a legal challenge from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Grapevine-Colleyville’s policy was adopted in August 2022, according to the Dallas Express (<https://dallasexpress.com/education/local-school-board-adopts-new-gender-policies/>)

In other action, the consent agenda approved unanimously by the board included a resolution to declare a “good cause exception” for HB 3, which requires an armed security officer at each campus by September 1st. The “good cause” exception request would be based on two factors: the lack of staff to fill the security officer positions and the financial impact of the requirement. At the August 24th work

study meeting KISD General Counsel Justin Graham said that the district did not currently have these officer positions staffed – needing about 40 to 50 more officers -- and would not be able to meet the deadline. The district plans to use Level 3 security guards at some campuses in order to meet the state mandate.

The next meetings of the KISD board will be a work study meeting on September 18th and a regular board meeting on September 25th.

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

The Brookshire-Katy Drainage District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the year 2023-2024 on September 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM at 1111 Kenney Street, Brookshire, Texas 77423.

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/Property Taxes](https://www.texas.gov/Property-Taxes) 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:	ARNOLD ENGLAND, PAT KEELING, DAVID WELCH, BLAKE BECKENDORFF, JOHN CHISUM
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>0.065430</u> /\$100	<u>0.060420</u> /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ <u>-0.0050</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		<u>-7.66</u> %
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ <u>392,034</u>	\$ <u>458,428</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>329,034</u>	\$ <u>458,428</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ <u>256.51</u>	\$ <u>276.98</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted and percentage of decrease	\$ <u>20.47</u>	<u>7.98</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.

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2023

Highland Knolls Walmart reopens after remodel

Taylor High School Band, Blessed Hands Enrichment center among donation recipients

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On Friday, August 25, the Walmart Neighborhood Market at 20903 Highland Knolls Dr. welcomed the Katy community to its newly refurbished store. The celebratory morning included a ribbon cutting ceremony, remodel reveal and community activities. The JET Band from nearby Taylor High School and the choir from West Memorial Junior High School provided entertainment.

Other elements during the re-opening event included check presentations totaling to \$6,000.00 to local organizations, including \$1500.00 to the JET Band at Taylor High School, \$500.00 to Blessed Hands Enrichment Activities and Educational Center, a \$2,500.00 donation to Maud Smith Marks Branch Library and \$1,500.00 to



the Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community. Customers also enjoyed cupcakes and face painting during the celebration.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, customers were invited inside the store to see the transformation that includes innovations and improvements

designed to elevate the Walmart shopping experience, including:

- Added self-check-outs
- New digital signage
- Grab-and-go food and beverage section
- Upgraded restrooms and new family restroom
- Expanded pick-up area



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Walmart Neighborhood Market at 20903 Highland Knolls Dr. reopened after an extensive renovation. Below: The JET Band from Taylor High School revved up the crowd with their performance prior to the ribbon cutting for the Walmart Neighborhood Market on August 25th. The band also received a \$1500.00 donation from the store. Left: The choir from West Memorial Junior High School also performed at the special event.



Katy Mills announces addition of new retailers and openings

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Mills Mall announces the addition of Onyx, Slick City, Hey Dude, Doublju, and Sephora to its dynamic lineup of retailers. Katy Mills celebrated the opening of Stacks in July.

Established in 2019, Stacks is a locally known food joint, that provides a new and innovative way to serve food. Today, Stacks has more than four locations across the state, proudly serving thousands of Texans every day. Located near Bass Pro Shops.

Coming soon:

• **Slick City:** Slick City Action Park is the world's first indoor slide (with no water) and Sports Court designed for all ages. The new fun-filled, family action park features indoor slides, air courts, birthday parties, events and more.

Opening September 2023, near Tilt Studio.

• **Onyx:** Onyx is a buy, sell, and trade location for vintage shoes, sportswear, and apparel on a nonexclusive basis including items such as "Air Jordans", "Yeezys" and other highly sought out vintage branded sneakers from Nike, Supreme, Bape, and Anti-Social Club.

Opening September 2023, near Finish Line.

• **Hey Dude:** Hey Dude shoes are lightweight, comfortable, and affordable shoes that are made for both men and women. They are known for their versatility and easy slip-on styles.

Opening October 2023, near Off Broadway Shoes.

• **Doublju:** Doublju is committed to offering distinctive fashion products to customers all around the world. Doublju introduces over 1,000 new products weekly, ensuring shoppers can acquire the latest styles at budget-friendly prices.

Opening November 2023, near Burlington.

• **Sephora:** A part of the world's leading luxury goods group, LVMH, Sephora is a French multinational retailer of personal care and beauty products. The brand has locations in 36 markets with more than 3,000 points of sale and over 30 e-commerce sites.

Opening November 2023, near The Cheesecake Factory.

The mall is located at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy. For store hours and promotions, please visit the Katy Mills website at <https://www.simon.com/mall/katy-mills>.

Chipotle opens first Chipotlane in Cinco Ranch, second in Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Chipotle Mexican Grill opened a new location in Katy at 23660 Westheimer Pkwy, Ste 660A on August 16th. The restaurant will feature the brand's signature Chipotlane, a drive-thru pickup lane that allows guests to pick up digital orders without leaving their cars.

The new restaurant marks the first Chipotlane in Cinco Ranch, and the



second in Katy.

The restaurant is open every day from 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Chipotle is hiring at the Cinco Ranch location as well across the U.S. Competitive benefits include:

- A crew bonus with the opportunity to earn an extra month's worth of pay each year
- A debt-free college degree program; and English as a second language
- Access to mental healthcare for employees and their families.
- Find more at chipotle.com/careers.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The FORT BEND COUNTY M.U.D. #185 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on September 20, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77046. 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.

FOR the proposal: Allen Thomas, Scott Donahue, David Wells, Al Menconi and Terrell Berger

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.85000/\$100 Adopted	\$.81500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.03500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-4.11%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 398,713	\$ 440,776
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 39,871	\$ 66,116
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 358,842	\$ 374,660
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,050.15	\$ 3,053.47
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 3.32 .10%

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 election tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax 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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

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Kitzman hears citizens' concerns at town hall meeting



COURTESY OF STAN KITZMAN HOUSE DISTRICT 85

Stan Kitzman, state representative for Texas House District 85 which covers Waller County and a portion of the Katy area, held a town hall in Hempstead on August 22 to hear from residents in his district.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

HEMPSTEAD — State Representative Stan Kitzman invited his constituents to voice their concerns and to engage in constructive discussion on pressing matters that impacting the community and state in a town hall meeting held at the Hempstead Recreation Center on Tuesday, August 22.

During the meeting, a wide range of topics were discussed:

- The need for tax relief for homeowners and business owners. Rep. Kitzman said that he recognizes the impact of property taxes on families and businesses and that he is committed to con-

tinuing to support legislation that reduces this burden, ensures fair taxation, and promotes economic growth in the state of Texas.

- Securing the border. Kitzman said that he understands the importance of border security and that he will continue to collaborate with federal, state, and local authorities to develop comprehensive strategies that address border security challenges effectively.

- New grant opportunities available to rural sheriff's offices. Kitzman said that he will actively support efforts to secure grants that enhance the capabilities and resources of local law enforcement agencies, ensuring they are

well equipped to protect and serve our communities.

- Human trafficking prevention efforts were also a significant focus. Kitzman said he is fully committed to supporting legislation and initiatives aimed at preventing human trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting offenders and that he believes in working collaboratively with law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and advocacy groups to eradicate human trafficking.

The next town hall meeting with Rep. Kitzman is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, 220 2nd St., San Felipe 77473 at 5:30 p.m.

Texas Veterans Commission invites citizens to join FVA Advisory Committee

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

AUSTIN, TX — On August 21st, the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) announced an opportunity for citizens to actively participate in shaping the future of veteran support and services by joining the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee.

This committee provides grant

recommendations to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant program. By working with community stakeholders and veterans' organizations, committee members ensure that the Fund's resources are supporting veterans' needs. In accordance with established protocols, the Committee will make recommendations to TVC Commissioners regarding which veter-

an serving nonprofits and local government entities qualify for FVA grants.

The Texas Veterans Commission is committed to providing Texas Veterans and their families with high-quality programs, services, and benefits.

For more information, please visit the Texas Veterans Commission website: <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/about/advisory-committees/>

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KEYS mentorship program kickoff set for Sept. 15



BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

All current and future mentors of Katy ISD's KEYS mentorship program (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success) are invited to attend the annual kick-off at the Merrell Center on September 15th. The event will begin at 8 a.m. and will feature Dr. Elizabeth McIngvale as the keynote speaker.

Elizabeth McIngvale, Ph.D.,

has dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of those living with a mental illness through her career, community service and advocacy. Dr. McIngvale is the Director of the OCD Institute of Texas. She and her family founded the Peace of Mind Foundation; a non-profit dedicated to OCD. The Peace of Mind Foundation runs the OCDChallenge.org (a self-help website for OCD), both now within the International Obsessive Compulsive

Disorder Foundation (IOCDF). Elizabeth was the first-ever national spokesperson for the IOCDF where she now serves as a board member and national advocate. She was diagnosed with OCD at the age of 12 and engaged in inpatient and outpatient therapy. Dr. McIngvale engages in clinical work, research, and advocacy with the goal of improving access to care and treatment for those living with OCD.

The KEYS Mentoring program, a Katy ISD Partners in Education initiative, matches a caring adult with a student one hour, once a week during the school year to build a relationship, trust, confidence and more. KEYS mentors come from varied backgrounds,

experiences and age groups. Each has a heart for students and a willingness to volunteer. Each KEYS mentor must make a one school year commitment to the program, apply and pass the same criminal background check used for Katy ISD employees and attend a campus orientation. Mentors are placed with a student by the KEYS campus liaison who will support and supervise the relationship. Mentors and their mentees meet each week on campus in an open, monitored environment such as the library.

To learn more, visit Partners in Education at Partners in Education / KEYS Mentoring (schoolwires.net) or contact Cydney Wright, 281-396-2468, CydneyJWright@katyisd.org.

At the August 22nd meeting of the Katy Business Connection networking group, Kevin Drury of Reflective Energy encouraged fellow members to join Katy ISD's KEYS mentoring program, citing the sometimes unseen need for adult male role models in the area. Drury has been a KEYS mentor for over 13 years and is a former "mentor of the year." The KEYS kick off event will be at the Merrell Center on September 15th.

SUSAN ROVEGNO

Tompkins students create "hackathon" to promote tech to tackle world issues

Girls Who Code hopes to empower females to pursue computer science

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Crystal Yang and Prisha Singh, the presidents of an all-girls organization from Katy's Girls Who Code club, Girls Who Code Katy, hope to bring computer science to minorities. In general, the two Tompkins High School students say that they love promoting technology to solve major problems in the world -- which was a major inspiration for the creation of a "hackathon," which is an event where people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming.

From August 11th - 13th, the two students hosted a hackathon called KatyYouthHacks, where students from all around the world created technological websites, apps, robots, and other projects to help the world be a more sustainable place. Overall, the event accrued more than 425 participants from 38 countries and received 68 submissions. The pair was also able to obtain over \$70,000 in corporate sponsorships, and had judges from Google, Amazon, and VISA.

"We decided to make this hackathon because we noticed that many individuals from our community wanted to start coding, but had no clue where to even begin," said Yang. "We realized that if this is an issue in a developed country, where many individuals



CRYSTAL YANG



PRISHA SINGH

are taught programming in their schools yet are still afraid to code, this is probably a larger issue in many other countries where there are less resources to teach the youth about programming. Thus, we hosted the Katy Youth Hackathon 2023."

When determining the theme of the hackathon, Crystal and Prisha decided to pick environmental sustainability -- inspired in part by the extremely hot weather that the Katy area has recently experienced. Some of the hackathon's winning projects included an ecological simulation game to teach elementary school children about biodiversity, a carbon emissions calculator website to live more sustainably, and an Artificial Intelligence ChatBot to help people deal with wildlife.

"Overall, we are proud to have hosted an event that was able to inspire so many people to create technological projects that promote sustainability," said Yang.

Sarah Bauguss, computer science teacher at Tompkins, is the club's faculty sponsor.

For more information, please go to theKatyYouthHacks website: <https://katy-hacks.org/>

Katy ISD earns 2023 TAEA District of Distinction Award

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD Fine Arts Department is leading the way in visual arts after being honored by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) with the 2023 District of Distinction Award for the third time. The recognition places Katy ISD among the top 5.5% of visual arts programs in the state. Out of 1,200 school districts and learning institutions in Texas that were eligible to apply for the prestigious award, 68 met the high standards.

"Katy ISD continually provides a well-rounded education that incorporates a visual arts curriculum that inspires student creativity and connects learners to their community and beyond," said Susan Chibor



roski, Assistant Director of Fine Arts. "The Visual Art Administrators of Texas, which is a division of TAEA, also recognized Katy ISD for its outstanding leadership in promoting the arts in its

district as well as within the community," added Chibor

roski. Katy ISD will be honored at the TAEA Administration & Supervision Division meeting as part of the TAEA Conference on November 17, 2023. The district currently has approximately 52,548 students enrolled in art courses served by 147 certified visual arts teachers.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The WALLER COUNTY R.I.D. #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on September 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at 6363 Woodway, Suite #800, Houston, TX 77057. 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.

FOR the proposal: Kevin Staloch, Kristen Woods and Robert Spears
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Lilly Fredona and Robert Cortez

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 \$1.17000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.05000/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.17000/\$100 Adopted	\$1.05000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.12000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-10.25%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 217,872	\$ 281,515
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 217,872	\$ 281,515
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,549.10	\$ 2,955.90
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 406.80 15.95%

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 board of directors proposes to use the tax increase to pay for the District's debt service and operating needs while maintaining reserves in its Debt Service Fund and General Fund.

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

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Labor Day
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to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.
The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **September 9 edition** is **5 p.m. on Thursday, September 2.**
Have a safe and happy holiday from
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DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Connor Johnsey takes down a Clear Springs player during Saturday's game between Katy and Clear Springs at Rhodes Stadium.

Katy newcomers step up in win over Clear Springs

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday was the first day of the changing of the guard at Katy.

It was time for new players to step up at key positions, and there was no better way to show it than with the first game of the season.

It led to a big win for the Tigers, as they started the season on the right foot by beating Clear Springs 34-22 behind a strong performance from Katy's offense.

"It was a good win," said Katy head coach Gary Joseph. "We played well for about three quarters of it, but

we also had some dumb mistakes that can't happen against better teams. It's something they'll learn and grow up from. This is a talented group, and we just have to make sure we continue to improve and fix some of the mistakes we made tonight."

Two of the players that would have to step up into the biggest roles were Gunner Nelson and Romel Jordan, who took over at the quarterback and running back positions, and both had very strong games in their first varsity starts.

Jordan finished the night with 125 yards rushing on 25 carries, running in one touchdown and averaging

five yards per carry while displaying a power running style that suited Katy's stout offensive line. Nelson meanwhile, threw for 208 yards and a pair of touchdowns, completing nine of 11 passes and looking in control of Katy's offense, being accurate and executing what the coaches needed.

"Romel and Gunner both did well today, but that's what I expect of those two guys. We needed them to come in and play up to that standard," Joseph said. "I'm proud of the job our coaches did with the guys at those two positions in getting them

See **KATY**, page B5

Cinco Ranch wins opener in comeback effort over College Park

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch had everything in the book thrown at it in its season opener.

From self-inflicted wounds, to bad luck, to a strong team taking advantage of a slow start, the Cougars had to face tons of adversity, but in the end, the Cougars found a way to battle through it all and come away with a 49-42 win over College Park in the team's season opener.

"The way they handled those things and didn't let it overwhelm them really shows how they're bought into the culture of the program that we've built the past few years," said Cinco Ranch head coach Chris Dudley. "They know that we're a team and the philosophy is 'I am because of us.' It's not about individual stuff, it's about team. They banded together, trusted the coaches, trusted themselves and that's what it comes down to."

It was a crazy game that included eight fumbles, seven turnovers and



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco Ranch takes the field at Rhodes Stadium for a game against College Park.

a 16 point second half comeback by the Cougars, and it started with a wild first quarter. College Park took the lead off a long first drive that ate up clock, and then got the ball right back when Cinco fumbled deep in their own territory and gave College Park the ball back inside the Cinco Ranch 10-yard line.

College Park went on to make things 14-0 before Cinco gave the ball back on another fumble, this time on the ensuing kickoff, but the Cougars defense stepped up and forced a turnover on downs.

Cinco got back into the game from there, with Charlie Adamoli throwing a 66-yard touchdown to Gavin Beavers to make the score 14-7. College Park though had the answer and went back up by two scores heading into halftime.

Things changed for Cinco Ranch after half though. The Cougars again

made it a one score game when Adamoli linked up with Kellen LeCronier for a 40-yard touchdown to make it 21-13.

College Park scored another touchdown, but Adamoli responded again with another long touchdown pass, this time a 74-yard strike to Scott Eckel, but Cinco were unable to come up with the two point conversion and another College Park touchdown put Cinco Ranch down 16 points, 35-19, with four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

A flip switched for the Cougars after that though. Adamoli through his fourth touchdown pass of the day, a 33-yard pass to Preston Kubecka and Cinco converted on the two point conversion to make it a one score game. Cinco tied the game early in the fourth quarter when Marcus Gadlin

See **CINCO**, page B6

Seven Lakes wins OT thriller to open season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Last year Seven Lakes struggled to overcome adversity.

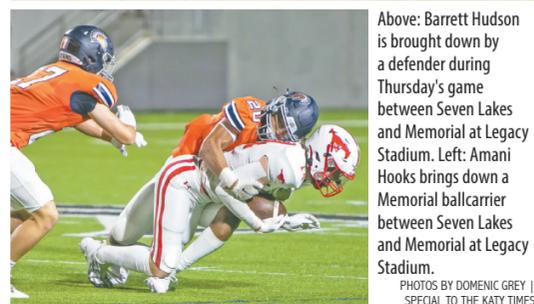
The Spartans were in a number of games last season, but were unable to put together a competitive season, with players having to learn how to respond to pressure and overcome the ups and downs of a varsity game.

But Thursday was the exact opposite for the Spartans. They went through every kind of adversity you could think of in their season opener both in game and with external factors,

and still, the Spartans came out on top, beating Memorial 35-28 in overtime to go to 1-0 on the year.

"There were so many things in this game that these guys had to overcome, and I'm just so proud of them," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Hamon. "Sometimes you go a whole year without playing an overtime game, sometimes you go a whole year without the huge swings in momentum we had right from the beginning and sometimes you go a whole year without having to stop the game and then come back and

See **SPARTANS**, page B2



Above: Barrett Hudson is brought down by a defender during Thursday's game between Seven Lakes and Memorial at Legacy Stadium. Left: Amani Hooks brings down a Memorial ballcarrier between Seven Lakes and Memorial at Legacy Stadium.
PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1

SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Scores

- Seven Lakes 35, Memorial 28
- Eisenhower 18, Morton Ranch 16
- Cinco Ranch 49, College Park 42
- Cy-Woods 49, Taylor 42
- Conroe 42, Paetow 7
- Jordan 39, Aldine Davis 21
- Mayde Creek 41, Westside 6
- Katy 34, Clear Springs 22
- Tompkins 31, Cy-Ranch 0

Thursday

- Taylor vs. George Ranch, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Morton Ranch vs. Kingwood Park, 7:30 p.m., Turner Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Klein, 7:30 p.m., Klein Memorial Stadium
- Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak, 7:30, Legacy Stadium

Friday

- Jordan vs. Kingwood, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Katy vs. Atascocita, 7:30 p.m., Turner Stadium
- Paetow vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:30 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Saturday

- Tompkins vs. Bridgeland, 7 p.m., Berry Center
- Mayde Creek vs. Waller, 7:30 p.m., Legacy Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Langham Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- Tompkins vs. Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Katy, 5:30 p.m.

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SPARTANS

from page B1

start right up 30 minutes later. We learned so much today and I'm proud of the way these guys fought."

It was a late start made even later by a weather delay, but the Spartans started the game off with a bang. On the first play from scrimmage, sophomore quarterback Shaan Patel sold a play action and then hit fellow sophomore Ryan Fowler for a 75-yard touchdown to give the Spartans the lead just nine seconds into the game.

But as soon as that happened, Memorial answered back, returning the ensuing kickoff or a touchdown to tie it. Seven Lakes came back to retake the lead late in the first quarter on a 3-yard Jake Farris run, but Memorial again answered back before the quarter ended with a touchdown of their own to tie it.

Seven Lakes came back went up 21-14 in the second quarter when Patel threw a 10-yard touchdown pass as the Spartans went into half-

time with the lead. Patel finished the night with 220 yards passing and three touchdowns, completing 15 of his 26 passes to help lead the Spartans to the win.

"I just had so much confidence from my guys," Patel said. "From the first play when we dialed that shot I knew that we were going to have a good game. I was a bit nervous but everyone picked me up and helped me. We got the job done and I couldn't be happier."

The two teams went back and forth without scoring in the third quarter, but Memorial found a way to tie things up again in the fourth. The Mustangs then took a 28-21 lead with five minutes left in the game, but it didn't faze the Spartans.

Seven Lakes came back and drove down the field and capped off a big drive with Patel throwing an 11-yard touchdown pass to tie the game with 2:46 remaining. Seven Lakes then forced a three and

SEVEN LAKES 35, MEMORIAL 28

Memorial	14	0	0	14	0	--	28
S. Lakes	14	7	0	7	7	--	35

First quarter
SL: Shaan Patel 75 pass to Ryan Fowler (Alex Farinez kick) 11:51
M: Isaac Richardson 67 kickoff return (Matthew Lewis kick) 11:40
SL: Jake Farris 3 run (Farinez kick) 1:07
M: Jackson Salters 81 pass to Cooper Gindorf (Lewis kick) 0:16

Second quarter
SL: Patel 10 pass to Peter Noonan (Farinez kick) 0:46

out before driving down the field again, only to miss a game winning field goal as time expired.

But when overtime came it was all Spartans. Jake Farris took the Spartans inside the 10 with some strong runs and Barrett Hudson put Seven Lakes ahead with a 5-yard touchdown run.

Keaton Fowler-Smith sealed the

Fourth quarter
M: Salters 52 pass to Carson Wall (Lewis kick) 7:07
M: Gindorf 29 run (Lewis kick) 5:05
SL: Patel 11 pass to Carter Hatten (Farinez kick) 2:46

Overtime
SL: Barrett Hudson 5 run (Farinez kick)

Team stats

	Memorial	S. Lakes
First downs	12	17
Yards rushing	19-104	44-239
Yards passing	207	220
Passes	11-20-2-2	15-26-3-0
Punts	3-30	2-36
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalty-yards	4-35	4-47

game with an interception on Memorial's next drive, the Spartans' second of the day after Justin Fowler had recorded an interception in the first quarter.

The Spartans will travel to play Klein next as they look to continue their winning ways.

"This win was amazing," Hudson said. "Our entire team came

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Seven Lakes: Barrett Hudson, 28-163-1; Jake Farris, 12-90-1; Shaan Patel, 1-(-5); Ryan Fowler, 1-(-5); Memorial: Cooper Gindorf, 9-57-1; Corbin Comiskey, 7-32; Jackson Salters, 3-15;

Passing – Seven Lakes: Shaan Patel, 15-26-220-3-0; Memorial: Chase Goodwin, Jackson Salters, 11-20-207-2-2;

Receiving – Seven Lakes: Ryan Fowler, 3-90-1; Carter Hatten, 3-66-1; Barrett Hudson, 2-16; Davis Yates, 2-16; Owen Wade, 3-15; Peter Noonan, 1-10-1; Kaiser Floyd, 1-7; Memorial: Cooper Gindorf, 3-113-1; Carson Wall, 1-52; William Fowler, 3-18; Will Van Wie, 2-13; Coe Tredennick, 1-6;

together and we played as one team. It's been since the Mayde Creek last year since we won a ball game and this just meant a lot. We went through so much last year, losing people, gaining people, new guys stepping up and it's all worked out. It's amazing to be a part of a team and for all of us to be unified."

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The FORT BEND COUNTY M.U.D. #34 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on September 26, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, 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 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: Billy Haehnel, James Marken, Jose Torres, Craig Hajovsky, and Sean Piper

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 Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.59000/\$100	\$.56500/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.02500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.23%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 408,389	\$ 460,046
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 408,389	\$ 460,046
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,409.49	\$ 2,599.25
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 189.76 7.87%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 58 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Fwy, STE 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: Ryan Vogler, Stephen Mount, Gina Cummings, Carlos Vieira

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: Chris Colihan

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 Adopted	This Year Proposed
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.82000 /\$100	\$0.82000 /\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$465,840.00	\$515,132.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$465,840.00	\$515,132.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,819.89	\$4,224.08
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$404.19 * 10.58%	

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. If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Fort Bend 58 Municipal Utility District Board of Directors proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of, the District issuing bonds and is required to levy a dent service tax rate to support the payment on such bonds. Further, the District has infrastructure that requires regular operations, maintenance, and repairs that necessitates the levy of an operations and maintenance tax in an amount to maintain the infrastructure in good and working condition. An election is not required if the adopted rate is less than or equal to the voter approval tax rate.

* The voter – approval tax rate is \$ 1.28492 and therefore, notwithstanding the above, no election is required.

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



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Week 2 Katy ISD Previews

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

ALL GAMES NON-DISTRICT
Thursday

**Taylor vs. George Ranch,
7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

Last year: Taylor 16, George Ranch 0
• Taylor comes off a hard fought game where they came up just short against Cy-Woods in a back and forth battle, and will be looking to bounce back when they play George Ranch.

The Mustangs' offense had a very strong day in the game, finding success both in the air and on the ground. Josh Higginbotham threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns, but was plagued by two interceptions. Dante Archie was Higginbotham's top target — he caught eight passes for 166 yards and a touchdown, while Cyrus Reyes had 38 yards receiving and Daniel Bruns had 25 yards in the air. Archie also added 80 yards on the ground on 19 carries, scoring three rushing touchdowns. But the Mustang defense struggled, allowing 320 yards rushing and allowing 28 third quarter points in the loss.

George Ranch comes off a similarly hard fought game, as they won a 38-37 overtime matchup against Foster to open the season.

Taylor's defense will look to improve against a team that had a balanced attack last week, with Garrett Barham throwing for 253 yards and two touchdowns and the rushing attack combining for 173 yards and three touchdowns. It will be a good matchup that will test the Mustangs' improvements this week and will help get Taylor ready for district play.

**Morton Ranch vs. Kingwood Park,
7:30 p.m. at Turner Stadium**

Last year: Morton Ranch 56, Kingwood Park 28

• Morton Ranch will also be looking for a bounce back win after narrowly falling to Eisenhower in week one of the season.

It was a defensive struggle for Morton Ranch in week one, as they battled Eisenhower throughout, losing 18-16 in a very close matchup. Offensively, the Mavericks found success on the ground. Ryan Hall was excellent for the Mavericks, rushing for 146 yards on 25 carries, averaging over five yards per carry on the day. The Mavericks will continue to work on the pass game — both Treylin Dixon and Mike Gerald got time last week and Morton will want to continue to improve through the air with district just a week away.

Kingwood Park found success last week in a win over MacArthur, with quarterback Jaxon Sims throwing for 108 yards and a touchdown and the Kingwood park defense keeping MacArthur in check offensively. The challenge this week for Morton Ranch will be to find a way to have a balanced offense against a defense that has found success early in the year. It will be a good final test before district for the Mavericks as they look to get into the win column.

**Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak,
7:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last year: Klein Oak 40, Cinco Ranch 35
• Cinco Ranch comes off an absolutely wild game in week one in which they made a huge second half comeback to beat College Park in which the Cougar offense thrived down the stretch and overcame a turnover ridden first half.

Charlie Adamoli was a huge part of the win, throwing for 378 yards and four touchdowns in the win, while the Cinco run game also thrived with Tessaiah Young and Marcus Gadlin making a nice one-two punch. There are things to work on, however, with the Cinco defense having allowed a number of big plays on third downs and through the air.

Klein Oak had a strong first week, beating Dekaney 24-7 — the Panthers had a huge day defensively, limiting Dekaney to under 160 yards of total offense and just one touchdown, while the offense was able to be effective as well. It will be a test for Cinco to slow down the Klein Oak offense after having trouble last week and for Cinco to continue to have a good offensive performance against a defense that has found success early in the season.

Last tune-ups before district begins



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Luis Trujillo cuts upfield after making a catch during Saturday's game between Katy and Clear Springs at Rhodes Stadium.

**Seven Lakes vs. Klein,
7:30 p.m. at Klein Memorial**

Last year: Klein 44, Seven Lakes 41

• Seven Lakes had a strong overall first game of the year against Memorial, where the team's offense and defense had very strong moments but where both can continue to improve, and they'll have a good chance to do that against Klein.

The Spartans' offense looked very strong in the game. A rushing attack of Barrett Hudson and Jake Farris combined for 253 yards and two touchdowns, while Shaan Patel had a tremendous first game at the varsity level, completing 15 of 26 passes for three touchdowns. Seven Lakes' defense also had strong moments, but struggled to defend the perimeter and that led to a number of big plays from the Memorial offense.

Klein dropped its first game of the year, 21-15 to Fort Bend Marshall and will be trying to come out and prove themselves after beating Seven Lakes last year. Seven Lakes will try to showcase improvement as they gear up for district.

Friday

**Jordan vs. Kingwood,
7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

Last year: Kingwood 17, Jordan 10

• Jordan had a strong showing against Aldine Davis last week for a season opening win. The offense was able to find success both in the air and on the ground in the win. Colin Willetts opened the season in strong fashion, completing 14 of 22 passes for 186 yards and a touchdown, while Chad Gasper and Tanner West both had strong days running the ball, with Gasper rushing for 70 yards and two touchdowns and West had 54 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Andrew Marsh opened his junior season with a huge day, catching eight passes for 105 yards and a score while Zechariah Sample had three catches for 51 yards. On the defensive side of things, Jordan forced an interception and a fumble while only allowing 21 points in the win.

The Warriors will look to keep that going against Kingwood, a team they lost to last season. The Mustangs had a struggle last week, falling 21-0 to Clear Creek and only garnering 48 yards of total offense in the game. Kingwood's defense didn't allow any second half points, but first half struggles kept them from ever being in the game.

Jordan will try to show defensive improvement in the game while keeping a strong offense in the last week of non-district play.

**Katy vs. Atascocita,
7:30 p.m. at Turner Stadium**

Last year: Katy 35, Atascocita 28

• Katy got what it needed out of players for an important week one victory last week, but knows this week will have to be improved as they go up against fellow top 10 in the state side Atascocita.

The Tigers got big games from two key players last week, with new starting running back Romel Jordan rushing for 125 yards and a score while junior quarterback Gunner Nelson passed for 208 yards and a TD, completing nine of 11 passes on the day, with Oliver Ginn catching two passes for 93 yards to lead the Tiger receivers.

The Katy defense was strong for three quarters but had a let down in the fourth, allowing three touchdowns in the final quarter as Clear Springs was able to make a game out of things.

Atascocita meanwhile rolled past Dickinson. The Eagles won 46-21 behind a strong performance from the offense. Zion Brown at quarterback and Tory Blaylock at running back are the teams two key players, while Cameron Glenn is a force at receiver. The Atascocita defense can make plays as well. The game between these two teams was one of the best games of the year last season and this one should be the same as both will test each other's strengths, weaknesses and depth.

**Paetow vs. Cy-Ranch,
7:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last year: Cy-Ranch 22, Paetow 7

• Paetow had a struggle last week against

Conroe in a loss, not being able to get things going on either side of the ball.

The Panthers ended the day with only seven points while Conroe's offense was able to have a very successful day against the Paetow defense, scoring 42 points.

The Panthers will be looking to bounce back when they play Cy-Ranch, but it will be no easy task against a strong team. Cy-Ranch may be down a big player though after Owen Cossette, the team's quarterback, suffered an injury last week. Carson Littlefield will be a key person for the Panthers to stop, as he can make plays in both the run and receiving game and Cy-Ranch will be hungry after last week.

The matchup will be a good final tune-up for Paetow, as the Panthers try to come out and prove they belong and can compete before the team heads into some big district matchups.

Saturday

**Tompkins vs. Bridgeland,
7 p.m. at Berry Center**

Last year: Tompkins 38, Bridgeland 14

• Tompkins started off the year with a huge win, shutting out Cy-Ranch in a 31-0 effort.

The Falcons were strong in every area, and overcame injuries to still put together a strong game. Wyatt Young ran for 88 yards and passed for 26 in the game while Justin Theirheimer came in after Young reaggravated a hamstring injury to throw for 84 yards and two touchdowns. Dylan Rodriguez ran for 60 yards to lead running backs while Jhase McMillan came in to run for 27 yards and a touchdown, also catching one pass for 43 yards and another score while Rhys Phillips had two catches for 41 yards.

Defensively the Falcons was even stronger, limiting Cy-Ranch to -28 yards rushing and 168 yards passing in the shutout and the Falcons will look to replicate that this week.

The Bears had an entertaining season opener which they won 31-30 over Cy-Fair.

Jett Lewis was huge for the team, throwing for 197 yards and three touchdowns, while also rushing for 21 yards. Tompkins will have its hands full keeping hold of Oscar Nnanna and Mason Simmons in the pass game, as both receivers went for over 100 yards. It will be another big test for Tompkins and a needed one, as they will go up against a second straight very strong team before facing Katy next week.

**Mayde Creek vs. Waller,
7:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last year: Mayde Creek 30, Westside 0

• Mayde Creek had a dominant win over Westside to opened he season last week and will try to keep things going against Waller on Saturday

The Rams got big games all over the offense. Junior quarterback Cole Jensen threw for 142 yards and two touchdowns while completing 13 of 24 passes, while Tevious Mitchell ran for 125 yards and a touchdown to lead the way rushing. Mayde Creek had five receivers all over 20 yards as Jensen spread the wealth around. Mayde Creek's defense was just as strong, only allowing one score in the win as the Rams rolled to victory.

Waller meanwhile comes off a 21-6 loss to Bryan, where they struggled to get things going on the offensive side of things. Jordan Duncan threw for 91 yards and where they had the most success was running the ball as Alex Barrs ran for 103 yards. The Mayde Creek defense will be in charge of solving that run attack as they hope to build on a strong week one and do the same on Saturday.

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NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: Laura Angela Frayre and Misael Frayre-Sierra, owner(s), are requesting to be allowed to revise Lot 5, Block 1, Shiloh Subdivision. The revision will subdivide 1 residential lot to create 3 residential lots. These newly configured lots would consist of 1.5773 acres of land. Shiloh Subdivision is situated in the S. P. Railroad Company Survey, Section 3, Abstract No. 262, Waller County, Texas recorded in Volume 297, Page 220, in the Deed Records of Waller County, Texas.

This replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicant's property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on September 20, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **2023 Morton Road Lift Station Rehabilitation project, until 3:00 pm Thursday, September 14, 2023.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the rehabilitation of the existing lift station located within the right of way of Morton Road in the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the City of Katy.
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Virtual Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 2:00 pm.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82239938485>
Meeting ID: 822 3993 8485
Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

First Publication: 8-24-2023
Second Publication: 8-31-2023

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit (BG) by "Last Bite Artisan Bistro" to be located at 9910 Gaston Road Unit #160 – Katy, Fort Bend, Texas. Officers of said corporation, or owners or partners are: Alejandro Tome, Member Manager, Valeria A. Tome, Member Manager.

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 will hold a meeting at 6:30 P.M., on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at Willow Fork Country Club, 21055 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77450, to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2023. The proposed tax rate is \$0.065977 per \$100.00 of value.

August 17 Puzzle Answers

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

B	A	K	S	T	S	S	T	L	U	B	A
I	L	E	A	C	D	A	C	E	O	R	A
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P	Y	A	S	S	I	M	O	N	I	Z	E
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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to City of Pattison for construction of the City Hall Renovations, LJA Job No. 1817-0001, will be received at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, September 21, 2023, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Scope of Work includes but is not limited to the demolition of existing walls, electrical, and plumbing and construction of new walls, flooring, electrical, and plumbing inside the existing City Hall

Bidding Documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://www.civcastusa.com/>.

City of Pattison will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 7, 2023. An additional non-mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at City of Pattison City Hall, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77423, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. No additional site visits to City Hall will be granted outside of the two pre-bids. City of Pattison reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Successful Bidder, if any, is the Bidder offering the best value for the Owner based on the published criteria provided in the bid documents and on its evaluation. (Texas Local Government Code 252.043 and 271.116)

Bid security in the form of bid bond or cashier's check payable to City of Pattison in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid submitted, must accompany each Bid.

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

Bidder/Contractor declares that it has not received from a governmental body a notice of noncompliance with a provision of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code, or, if such notice has been received, bidder/contractor has taken adequate steps to ensure future compliance with such subchapter and has provided or upon request will provide documentation of same.

Dates of Advertisement: 08/31/23; 09/07/23

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids, in duplicate will be received by RSG Engineering, 13501 Katy Freeway, Suite 3180, Houston, Texas 77079 until **11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 8, 2023.** All bids will be publicly opened and read, in person and via Zoom Conference Call, for the construction of the project.

Katy Hockley Business Park Drainage

Calling information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Monday, September 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., at the office of the, RSG Engineering, 13501 Katy Freeway, Suite 3180, Houston, Texas 77079. Bids submitted by parties not attending the Pre-Bid Conference will still be accepted.

The above described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be obtained at the CivCast USA Website (www.civcastusa.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to two percent (2%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to the Owner.

If the Contractor is not one of the three low bidders, he may pick up his Cashier's Check Bid Security the following business day after the bid opening. If the Contractor is the third low bidder, he may exchange his Cashier's Check Bid Security for a two percent (2%) Bid Bond after the seventh (7th) calendar day after the bid opening. If the Contractor is the second low bidder, he may exchange his Cashier's Check Bid Security for a two percent (2%) bid bond after the fourteenth (14th) calendar day after the bid opening. If the Contractor is the low bidder, the Cashier's Check Bid Security will be returned after the Contract Documents are executed by all parties.

The successful bidder must furnish within seven (7) calendar days from the date the Contractor is notified that the Contract Documents are available for pick up, a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond on the forms furnished with the Contract Documents, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract price. The Surety Company must be authorized to do business in Texas, which authorization must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The Surety Company must be authorized to issue Payment and Performance Bonds in the amount required for the particular contract, which authorization must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The Surety Company must have a rating of at least "A" in the current Best's Key Rating Guide, or if the Surety Company does not have such a rating due to the length of time it has existed, the Surety Company must be eligible to participate in the Surety Bond Guarantee Program of the Small Business Administration and must be an approved surety listed in the current U.S. Department of Treasury Circular 570, and must meet all of the related rules and regulations of the Treasury Department. The person executing the Payment and Performance Bonds must be a licensed Texas local recording agent and such licensing must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The person executing the Payment and Performance Bonds must be authorized by the Surety Company to execute Performance and Payment Bonds on behalf of the company in the amount required for the contract and such authorization must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The Contract shall not be in effect until such bonds have been provided by the Contractor and accepted by the Owner.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the above-designated closing time will be returned to the Contractor unopened.

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KATY

from page B1

ready. We got a lot of the kids in that we needed to. The biggest thing right now is continuing to grow and being conditioned the way we need to be. That's stuff we have to work on, but it was good to see those two step up tonight."

Katy allowed a field goal to the Chargers on the opening drive of the game, but that would be the only points Clear Springs scored in the first half. The Tiger offense answered back the next drive, with Jordan grinding to get the team down the field before Nelson hit Israel Olotu-Judah on a 35-yard touchdown pass to give Katy the lead.

Jordan helped the Tigers grow the lead in the second quarter with a 2-yard touchdown run, making it a 13-3 lead for Katy at halftime.

"Really it was the big play by our defensive line tonight, they were amazing," said senior linebacker Connor Johnsey. "They made it so easy for us at linebacker and for the defensive backs to make the plays. There are some things we need to work on, we have to get to the quarterback more and not bite on double moves, but I love the way our defensive line played."

KATY 34, CLEAR SPRINGS 22

Clear Springs 3 0 0 19 -- 22
Katy 6 7 14 7 -- 34

First quarter

CS: Xander Fraga 20 field goal, 8:05
K: Gunner Nelson 35 pass to Israel Olotu-Judah, 4:33

Second quarter

K: Romel Jordan 2 run (Hunter Ondrush kick) 2:45

Third quarter

K: Jackson Franklin 39 pass to Oliver Ginn (Ondrush kick) 3:46

Fourth quarter

CS: Raymond Xai'Shaun Edwards 8 run (Fraga kick) 10:57

K: Tadi Zombe 2 run (Ondrush kick) 10:02

CS: Edwards 5 run, 6:46
CS: Edwards 13 run, 6:16

Team stats

	Clear Springs	Katy
First downs	16	15
rushing	31-141	38-166
Yards passing	188	258
Passes	19-35-0-0	11-13-2-0
Punts	3-33	3-38
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalty-yards	4-40	5-90

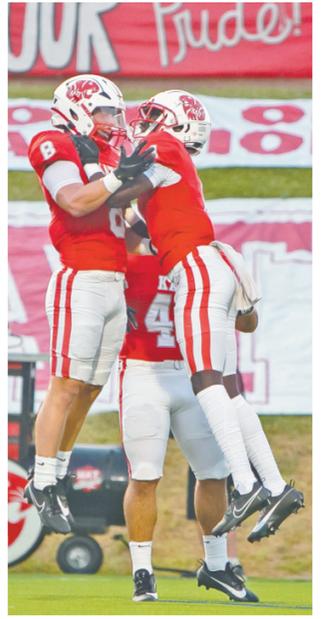
Individual Statistics

Rushing – Katy: Romel Jordan, 25-125-1; Tremayne Hill, 5-23; Chase

Johnsey, 5-19; Tadi Zambe, 2-3-1; Gunner Nelson, 1-(-4) Clear Springs: Raymond Xai'Shaun Edwards, 21-115-3; Kaleb Maryland, 3-18; Julian Salazar, 5-4; Adam Hawkins, 1-2;

Passing – Katy: Gunner Nelson, 9-11-208-1-0; Jackson Franklin, 2-2-50-1-0 Clear Springs: Julian Salazar, 18-29-181-0-0; Kaleb Maryland, 1-6-7-0-0;

Receiving – Katy: Oliver Ginn, 2-93-1; Colton Sanders, 2-48; Luke Carter, 3-43; Israel Olotu-Judah, 1-35-1; Chase Johnsey, 1-28; Luis Trujillo, 1-11; Clear Springs: Daz'John Taylor, 5-71; Elijah Jackson, 3-35; Jarius Williams, 5-24; Muizz Tonkura, 5-30; Raymond Xai'Shaun Edwards, 1-18;



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Chase Johnsey and Israel Olotu-Judah celebrate after a touchdown during Saturday's game between Katy and Clear Springs at Rhodes Stadium.

Sophomore quarterback Jackson Franklin came in for a couple drives in the second half and made an impact, throwing a 39-yard touchdown to Oliver Ginn, and backup running back Tadi Zambe got a touchdown in the fourth quarter to put the game to bed. But Katy did allow three fourth quarter touchdowns from Clear Springs, which is something they know they will need to clean up.

"Coming into this week we knew we'd have to work hard, we did that and it paid off," Nelson said. "The only reason I was able to make plays though was because of how great our offensive line was and how great my receivers were at getting open. I couldn't have done it without them, they really did their part."

Katy faces a very stern test next against Atascocita and the Tigers

know they will have to raise their level of play going forward. But they are also looking forward to that challenge.

"My part is to come out and just do the job to the best of my ability and that's the same for everybody," Nelson said. "We're going to work together and find a way to come out on top of every game. We just have to keep grinding, getting better and doing our jobs."

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

The Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 9 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on September 20, 2023 at 10:00 am at Prosperity Bank, 1515 Grand Parkway, Katy TX 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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: Lewis E Ernest, John Campbell, Harvey Nelson, Chris Forrest, Gregg Haan

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 \$0.370000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.346920/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.023080
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.24%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$332,181	\$366,694
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$332,181	\$366,694
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,229.06	\$1,272.13
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$43.07 3.50%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the governing body of Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 9 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of operations of the District.

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. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax 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.

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

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 124 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Friday, September 22, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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: Michelle O'Neil, John Bastawrous, Jarett Simpson, Luther J Moller

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Johannes Malherbe

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

	Last Year \$0.810000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.784000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.02600 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-3.21%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$329,040.00	\$364,560.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$329,040.00	\$364,560.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,665.22	\$2,858.15
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$192.93 7.24%

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 District proposes to use the tax levy increase for payment of debt service requirements.

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.

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CINCO

from page B1

ran in a 27-yard score and Cinco converted the two-point conversion. College Park went back up by a touchdown but Tessiah Young tied with a 32-yard touchdown run of his own and after Cinco Ranch forced a turnover on downs, the Cougars drove back down the field and Young put them ahead for the first time in the game, and for good, with a nine yard run with just four seconds left in the game.

“It was amazing,” Young said. “I don’t even remember anything, I just knew I had to get to the endzone, it was the only thing on my mind. I had to get there no matter what.”

Young ended the night with 106 yards on 16 carries, while Gadlin added 56 yards on the ground as well. Amandoli had a huge performance in his first varsity start, completing 21 of 31 passes for 378 yards and four touchdowns.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES
Kellen LeCronier catches a pass during Friday's game between Cinco Ranch and College Park at Rhodes Stadium.

“Charlie was great tonight,” Dudley said. “He had a short memory and he made all the plays. He put the previous play behind him every single time and he continued to make plays all night. It says a lot about his character and his fight. Four touchdowns and over 360

CINCO RANCH 49, COLLEGE PARK 42

College Park	14	7	14	7	--	42
Cinco Ranch	7	0	20	22	--	49

First quarter

CP: Kam Montgomery 10 pass to Connor Dunphy (Chuck Forte kick) 5:01
CP: Dunphy 6 run (Forte kick) 3:59
CR: Charlie Adamoli 66 pass to Gavin Beavers (Noah Machart kick) 1:27

Second quarter

CP: Montgomery 16 pass to Carter Deering (Forte kick) 9:31

Third quarter

CR: Adamoli 40 pass to Kellen LeCronier, 10:19
CP: Cole Snodgrass 80 kickoff return (Forte kick) 10:06
CR: Adamoli 74 pass to Scott Eckel, 6:31

CP: Montgomery 44 pass to Carter Deering (Machart kick) 4:00
CR: Adamoli 33 pass to Preston Kubecka (Adamoli pass to Drew Tureau) 0:53

Fourth quarter

CR: Marcus Gadlin 27 run (Adamoli pass to LeCronier) 10:35
CP: Montgomery 82 pass to Dunphy (Forte kick) 8:41
CR: Tessiah Young 32 run (Machart kick) 5:43
CR: Tessiah Young 9 run (Machart kick) 0:04

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Cinco Ranch: Tessiah Young, 16-106-2; Marcus Gadlin, 7-56-1; Charlie Adamoli, 8-23; College Park: Kam Montgomery, 6-10; Connor Dunphy, 2-8-1; Brayden Lee-Denton, 2-7; Eugene Burnett, 11-7;

Passing – Cinco Ranch: Charlie Adamoli, 21-31-378-4-0; College Park: Kam Montgomery, 17-33-320-4-0; Connor Dunphy, 0-1-0-0-0

Receiving – Cinco Ranch: Gavin Beavers, 4-94-1; Scott Eckel, 3-78-1; Drew Tureau, 3-54; Kellen LeCronier, 4-53; Preston Kubecka, 1-33; Tessiah Young, 3-30; Matthew Courtois, 2-20; College Park: Connor Dunphy, 7-180-2; Carter Deering, 3-66-2; Cole Snodgrass, 5-59; Jordan Styles, 1-9;

Team stats

	C. Park	C. Ranch
First downs	15	19
Yards rushing	22-37	31-185
Yards passing	320	378
Passes	17-34-4-0	21-31-4-0
Punts	2-45.5	1-34
Fumbles-lost	3-3	5-4
Penalty-yards	6-50	5-60

yards in his first start, you can't ask for more than that.”

The Cougars will play Klein Oak next week, as they look to continue

a strong start to the year.

“It’s just grit,” Adamoli said.

“We’ve been working all summer for this and this game just cement-

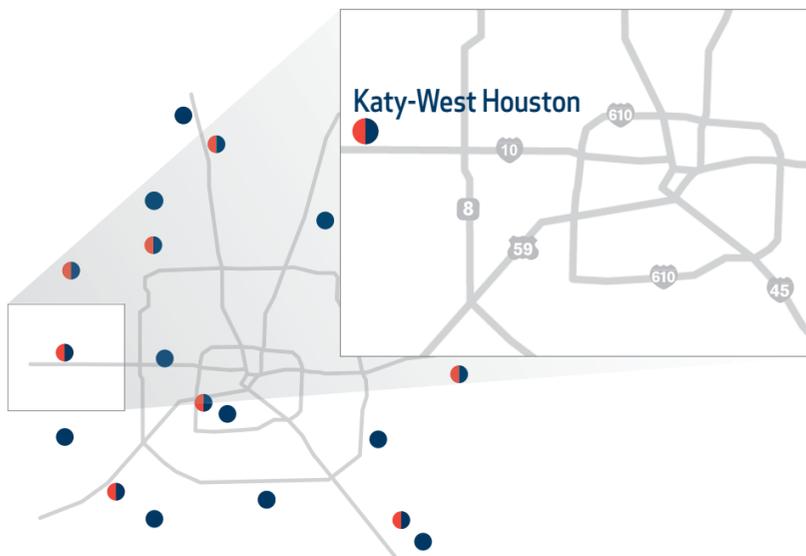
ed everything for us. This was our first time going through the fire as a team. We just came together and we’re going to keep doing that.”

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