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SPORTS | B1

Katy Times

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September 22-23
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VOLUME 111, ISSUE 38

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Katy ISD board tackles variety of topics at special meeting

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Katy ISD school board met Monday, September 18th, in a special work-study meeting to hear feedback on proposed attendance boundary modifications, to consider a proposed lower tax rate, to form a committee charged with naming the district's newest campuses and to consider a waiver application to the Texas Education Agency for elementary school campuses that exceed the allowable class size of 22 students to one teacher.

Unlike recent meetings, there were no speakers during the "public comments" portion of the meeting. The board began the meeting by convening in closed session for about an hour, to consult with the Board's attorney on undisclosed matters.

Andrea Grooms, chief communications officer for Katy ISD, presented a preview of the results of the ongoing community feedback survey on the attendance boundary modifications associated with Junior High #18, High School #10, Haskett Junior High, Stockdick Junior High, Katy High School and Paetow High School. All affected schools are located in the rapidly-growing northwest quadrant of the school district. Grooms said that the survey had been distributed to about 1800 people potentially impacted and about 426 had responded so far. The district is aiming for at least a 33% participation rate in the survey, she said. In regard to Junior High #18, preliminary data shows that 80% of the participants felt that the attendance boundary modifications (ABM) were either positive or that they had no impact on their student; 69% would support or somewhat support the

proposed ABM. For High School #10, 71% of respondents felt that the proposed ABM was either positive or had no impact on their student; 54% would support or somewhat support the proposed ABM. The survey will continue through October 11 and final results will be presented to the board at the an October meeting by COO Ted Vierling.

Trustee Dawn Champagne expressed concern about the high traffic count near some of the new schools, particularly Faldyn Elementary, along with the existing campus at Haskett Junior High. Chief Operations Officer Ted Vierling responded that the district is working with local and county officials for improvements to local roads and cited a recent meeting with Leslie Briones, Commissioner for Harris County Precinct 4. He said that the Clay Road area was a particular challenge but that the installation of a traffic light at Katy Hockley Cutoff and Clay would help ease congestion for the areas mentioned by Champagne. Vierling said that the traffic light was projected to be operational by next week; a Katy Times staffer found the light to be up and running on Tuesday, September 19th.

Chief Financial Officer Chris Smith explained the recommendations for the proposed school tax rate, which consists of two components: the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rate and the debt service tax rate (Interest and Sinking or I&S). The proposed rates would be an M&O rate of 72.94 cents per \$100.00 valuation and a debt service rate of 39 cents per \$100.00 valuation, totaling \$1.1194. Smith said that this new rate would be a reduction of 18.5 cents, due to the

See **KISD**, page A3



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Homecoming night presents additional challenges which can distract teen drivers.

This football season, empower teens to combat distracted driving

BY SHANE MCCLELLAND
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Homecoming mums and garters are on display, students are working on clever ways to ask a date to the festivities, and football teams are gearing up for the big game. Imagine a car full of teens after the game heading to their next destination, celebrating loudly, laughing, talking, texting, and posting on social media. It is a recipe for disaster in a car. As we approach the first major high

school celebration season and new drivers enjoy a bit of newfound independence, it's time to remind our teens that focusing on driving - and only driving - when they're behind the wheel, saves lives.

Distracted driving is one of the most common and most dangerous causes of car wrecks. Tragically, the CDC reports that among drivers age 15-20 involved in fatal crashes, 9% were distracted at the time of the crash. Despite the well-documented dangers of distracted driving, many drivers, and

perhaps especially teens, engage in behavior while driving that takes their eyes, hands, and attention from the road.

Distracted driving has emerged as one of the consistent causes of fatality-related wrecks across America. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration paint a grim reality - in 2021 (the most recent year for which data is available), distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,522 individuals.

See **DRIVING**, page A3

Fort Bend County increases property taxes and its budget for Fiscal 2023-24

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court on September 12th passed the budget for fiscal year 2024 in a 4-1 vote. The fiscal year 2024 budget is \$767,159,901, a 35% increase over the fiscal year 2023 budget.

The majority of this increase

is due to two items, said county officials in a press release. First, the release said, Employee Benefits and Other Self-Funded Insurance are managed in Internal Service funds as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB.) Historically, these funds have not been budgeted since they result in an allocation from the County's operat-

ing budget. As a control procedure improvement, these funds have been budgeted to ensure compliance with Local Government Code 111 at the account level rather than monitoring compliance at the appropriation level. This results in a \$57 million allocation for insurance benefits in

See **TAXES**, page A3

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEB

H-E-B opens company's largest fulfillment center in Katy

The facility provides more capacity, greater efficiency, added convenience to better serve digital and in-store customers

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

H-E-B has opened a new eCommerce fulfillment center (eFC) at 2102 Elrod Rd., in Katy, according to a September 6th press release. The project further expands the retailer's commitment to integrate innovative technologies that drive omnichannel

growth and provide a more convenient and better shopping experience for Texans. At more than 100,000 square feet in size, it is the largest eCommerce fulfillment center for the company, coming in at twice the size of previous facilities.

See **H-E-B**, page A3

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DRIVING

from page A1

Previous generations did a great job highlighting the dangers of driving while intoxicated. This generation must work towards solutions to prevent distracted driving.

Distracted driving encompasses any activity that diverts a driver's attention from the road. This includes texting, posting to social media, adjusting music or navigation settings, and talking on the phone. These activities are common and expected outside of a vehicle, but despite the belief in one's ability to multitask, the fact is that it only takes one second or two of split attention to cause a fatal accident.

To simplify things, there are three types of distracted driving. Visual distractions involve taking

one's eyes off the road.

Manual distractions include actions that require the driver to remove their hands from the steering wheel.

Cognitive distractions divert the driver's mental focus away from driving. Despite not involving physical actions, cognitive distractions can impair decision-making and reaction times.

One of the reasons using a cell phone while driving is so dangerous, is because it involves all three forms of distraction. Texting while driving, and other forms of cell phone use are illegal in the State of Texas but other forms of distraction are not prohibited. Drivers who are caught texting

while driving can be charged with a misdemeanor and face fines between \$25 and \$99. If the driver caused injury or death to another person, they could be fined up to \$4,000 and face jail time.

Teens can set the standard for responsible driving by consistently practicing focused, distraction-free behavior behind the wheel. In doing so, they become influential advocates for safe driving practices. Please take a few minutes to review these safe driving practices with your teen driver.

Shane McClelland is the founding partner of the Law Office of Shane McClelland, a personal injury law firm based in Katy. His website is hmtrial.com.

KISD

from page A1

actions of the state legislature putting money toward tax compression and tax relief, and the anticipated voter approval of the increased homestead exemption. Smith called the reduction "meaningful tax relief." These measures would save the average Katy homeowner about \$562.00 per year in school taxes, he said. Smith also pointed out that the total amount paid by the average homeowner would actually be about \$102.00 per year less than they paid in the 2015-2016 tax year. Smith said that the KISD tax rate was one of the lowest in the Houston area.

Grooms then asked the board to consider authorization for the superintendent to for naming advisory committees which would be tasked with proposing names for the district's two newest campuses (Junior High #18 and High School #10). She said that typically the committees consist of five to seven parents who have been recommended by principals from the existing feeder schools, along with two board members. The committees will each meet one time to consider all proposed name submissions and the nomination process begins the day after the board approves the formation of the committees. The district will send out the nomination process via email and nominations may also be made



SUSAN ROVEGNO

KISD COO Ted Vierling said that the district was working with local and county officials for road improvements in the area. He said that the installation of new traffic lights, like this one at the intersection of Clay Road and Katy Hockley Cutoff, would relieve traffic congestion near some of the district's newest campuses.

through the district website. The nomination process is typically open for two weeks, Grooms said. Persons who may have been nominated in the past must be re-nominated; previous applications/nominations do not carry over in this process.

Human resources representatives recommended board approval for the superintendent to prepare, sign and submit a waiver application with the Texas Education Agency for elemen-

tary school campuses that exceed the allowable class size of 22 students per one teacher. The district is asking for 56 such waivers, which is down from last year's request of 93 waivers. District officials noted that 53 of the proposed 56 waivers are for a ratio of 23 to one, and that 96% of the classes were sized at 22 students or fewer.

The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for September 25th.

TAXES

from page A1

the departmental budgets as well as a \$57 million expense budget in the Internal Service Funds 850 and 855. These two funds do not have a historical comparison and thus show an increase in this year's budget. This is the transition year, FY2024 will result in a comparative date.

Second, the release continued, the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust allocations (\$20 million in FY2023 and \$25 million in FY2024) are being funded with excess maintenance and operation rates over the value-added risk. This excess rate is moved to I&S (debt service) with the approval of the Commissioners Court in the adopted budget and tax rate. This produces a resource in the debt service fund balance to service a Tax Anticipation Note within nine months of issue. This is a fiscally prudent approach to addressing the County's OPEB liability, which is currently estimated at \$480 million.

These two items account for \$82 million of the \$176 million increase, leaving a \$94 million or 18% increase over the 2023 budget.

The General Fund budget increased by \$42 million, or 11.9%. Items contributing to this increase include:

- 155 new positions, 99 of which are currently ARPA and other grant-funded - \$17.1 million.
- Position Reclassifications - \$1.2 million
- 4% COLA for FBC Employees - \$10.9 million
- Total Salary & Personnel Costs Increases - \$29.2 million

Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers was the lone vote against a property tax increase at the County Commissioner's Court meeting.

On a 4 to 1 vote, the Commissioners Court set the tax rate at 42.56 cents per hundred-dollar valuation,

increasing property taxes by 4.89%.

"Property values are increasing, and when that happens, County Commissioners frequently reduce the tax rate to keep tax bills from rising," according to a press release from Meyers' office. "This year, that did not happen. Commissioners did reduce the tax rate slightly, but not nearly enough to keep the county portion of your property tax bill from increasing."

"During the State of the County address, we learned there are 17-thousand Fort Bend families in danger of losing their home and becoming homeless," Meyers said. "Increasing taxes on their homes is not going to help their situation."

Meyers says increasing taxes also makes it more difficult to attract large employers to locate in the county.

"Fort Bend has higher tax rates than at least three other nearby counties, which puts us at a giant disadvantage when attempting to attract industrial development, diversify our tax base, and ease the burden on residential taxpayers who currently pay more than 80% of the total taxes," Meyers said. "A 50-50 residential vs. non-residential split would better fund county services while reducing the tax rate for all."

Commissioner Meyers was also the lone Commissioner to vote against the \$767 million 2024 County Budget because it is a 20% increase over 2023.

The 2024 budget is 35% higher partly because of a change in accounting practices, but the actual real dollar increase is 20% over last year, said Meyers' office in a written statement.

"The court majority needs to stop its runaway spending," Meyers said.

H-E-B

from page A1

The Katy eFC is H-E-B's first stand-alone location, which will support H-E-B Curbside and Home Delivery orders across the Houston area. Building on the multi-format retailer's longstanding presence in the area, the move reinforces H-E-B's commitment to serve more customers in this growing part of the state.

Regularly recognized as a top employer in the nation, H-E-B is actively hiring for a range of full-time and part-time positions at the Katy eCommerce fulfillment center. These positions will interact with some of the most innovative technologies in the company to help fill customer orders. In addition to the tens of thousands of jobs already created by H-E-B in and around the Houston area, the Katy facility will employ more than 300 part-time and full-time H-E-B Partners as part of the retailer's eCommerce team. Applicants interested in joining a team that was

named the top-ranked U.S. online grocery retailer last year by consumer research firm dunnhumby, can apply at heb.com/careers.

To help support rising demand of online shopping, the eCommerce fulfillment centers stock goods found in stores, which are used to satisfy Curbside and Home Delivery orders. These facilities allow for more capacity, greater efficiency, less aisle congestion for the in-store shopper, and better product availability. To help streamline the process and boost productivity, the facilities use various forms of automation to help Partners throughout the order process. With these centers, H-E-B has grown its Curbside and Home Delivery services, which are available at more than 270 stores in Texas.

"We're excited to utilize this facility to support the Houston area, one of the largest markets for our company," said Kedar Patel, H-E-B Group Vice President

of eCommerce. "Across our business we are adopting innovative technologies that give our Partners the tools they need to provide great service and a top-quality shopping experience for our customers."

Through its Spirit of Giving philosophy, H-E-B is passionately dedicated to its customers beyond its stores. In this spirit, H-E-B celebrated the facility's grand opening by making a \$5,000 community gift to The Ballard House, which provides temporary housing at no cost for individuals and their families who are hospitalized or receiving treatment for a serious medical condition.

The Katy facility marks H-E-B's seventh eCommerce fulfillment center the company has opened since 2018. By the end of next year, H-E-B looks to open additional facilities across the state to help support the retailer's expansion throughout Texas.

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November 7



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PROP B
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PROP C
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Districtwide Natatorium (Competition Swimming Pools) Component Replacements



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Officer Hopps and Officer Chase will be returning to the Katy Police Department's National Night Out on October 3rd at Katy City Park.

Katy PD to host National Night Out on October 3

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Katy Police Department will host their "National Night Out" on October 3rd from 5 to 8 p.m. at Katy City Park, located at 5611 Gardenia, near the intersection of Franz and Avenue D.

The free event will showcase local officers and special divisions of the department, including the K-9 unit, 911 dispatchers and the Special Response

Team (SRT) – as well as Officers Hopps and Chase.

Facepainting and balloons will also be available, along with giveaways. Hot dogs, popcorn, sno-cones and beverages will be available, along with products and services from local vendors. Vendor applications are being accepted until September 29th; there is no cost to have a table at the event.

To become a vendor or for more information, email kpd@katypd.com.



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HOUSTON METHODIST WEST OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW MEDICAL BUILDING



Houston Methodist West Hospital officially opened its new Medical Building 3 at 18500 Katy Freeway, Katy, on Monday, September 18th, with a crowd of local dignitaries in attendance. The new medical office building is 150,000-square-foot, six-stories and part of a \$65 million hospital expansion project. The building will house orthopedics and sports medicine on the top two floors and physical therapy on the ground floor. A sports field for physical therapy is also attached to the building. Wayne Voss, CEO of Houston Methodist West (center), along with members of the hospital's board, cut the ribbon to officially open the facility. Voss also announced that the addition of a new patient tower is being planned as part of the hospital's expansion. The string quartet from Mayde Creek High School provided musical entertainment for the event.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office prepares for National Night Out

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

(FORT BEND COUNTY, TX) – Citizens, along with business and community leaders of unincorporated areas in Fort Bend County, are invited to join their neighbors and meet with Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputies during the 40th Annual Texas National Night Out, the nation's night out against crime.

This year, Fort Bend County citizens will celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, from 5 to 8 p.m., by joining neighbors at block parties all across the county.

To invite a Sheriff's Office deputy to attend your gathering or social event during National Night Out, please register by contacting Deputy Gerard Argao at socp@fortbendcountytx.gov.

National Night Out is an annual community-building event that promotes police community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Across the county, neighborhoods, homeowners' association, and citizens' groups will host block parties to encourage neighbors to get to know each other and local law enforcement officers to help make their community safer.

"Each year, we look forward to National Night Out because it is the perfect opportunity for residents to meet our deputies in a fun and engaging setting," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "Community safety has been, and will continue to be, a prominent focal point of this administration."

While some neighborhoods host outdoor gatherings, others join in by turning on their front porch

light in support of each other and law enforcement.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Establish and maintain positive relationships with neighbors and local law enforcement
- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts
- Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Please register by 5 p.m., September 30, to ensure an officer from the Sheriff's Office attends your event. Be sure to include the name and contact phone number of the block party coordinator, the name of the community, and the block party location address. To register and learn more, contact Deputy Gerard Argao at socp@fortbendcountytx.gov.

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Grants presented to 26 Gulf Coast area veteran service organizations

Katy Christian Ministries awarded \$200,000

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

AUSTIN, TX - On September 7 the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) presented 31 grants totaling \$6,990,000 in grants to 26 organizations for providing services to approximately 5,370 Gulf Coast area veterans and their families. The presentation was made by TVC Commissioner and Army veteran Kevin Barber at Houston - Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, 3303 Main St, Houston.

Local recipients included Katy Christian Ministries, which received \$200,000.00 in financial assistance; Fort Bend County, which received two grants totaling \$435,000.00; and Fort Bend Senior Citizen Meals On Wheels, which received \$180,000.00 in support services.

The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Commissioners approved these grant awards in May as part of an overall grant program providing grants, totaling over \$36.3 million to over 135 organizations across Texas and estimated to serve more than 81,770 veterans.

The grants support a range of services from emergency financial assistance to transportation, legal services to family support services and home modification to rental and mortgage assistance. The

Organization	Grant Amount	Service Provided
Brazoria County Veterans Court Program	\$75,000	Veterans Treatment Court
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.	\$300,000	Clinical Counseling
Family Service Center of Houston and Harris Counties	\$300,000	Financial Assistance
Fort Bend County	\$135,000	Clinical Counseling
Fort Bend County	\$300,000	Financial Assistance
Ft Bend Snr Citizens Meals On Wheels & Much More	\$180,000	Support Services
Galveston County	\$250,000	Veterans Treatment Court
Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity	\$200,000	Home Modification
Grace After Fire	\$100,000	Peer Support Services
Grace After Fire	\$150,000	Financial Assistance
Harris County	\$300,000	Financial Assistance
Houston Area Urban League	\$300,000	Financial Assistance
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.	\$150,000	Pro Bono Legal Services
Impact A Hero	\$145,000	Financial Assistance
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston	\$250,000	Supportive Services
Katy Christian Ministries	\$200,000	Financial Assistance
Liberty County	\$50,000	Financial Assistance
Liberty County	\$45,000	Veterans Treatment Court
Lone Star Legal Aid	\$300,000	Pro Bono Legal Services
Meals on Wheels Montgomery County	\$300,000	Supportive Services
Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity, Inc	\$180,000	Home Modification
Montgomery County Veterans Treatment Program	\$200,000	Veterans Treatment Court
Northwest Assistance Ministries	\$300,000	Financial Assistance
PRECINCT2GETHER INC	\$160,000	Support Services
PTSD Foundation of America	\$495,000	Peer Support Services
Rebuilding Together Houston	\$500,000	Home Modification
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.	\$75,000	Homeless Veteran Support
Spindletop Center	\$300,000	Clinical Counseling
Spindletop Center	\$300,000	Financial Assistance
United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)	\$150,000	Clinical Counseling
United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)	\$300,000	Homeless Veteran Support

TVC awards grants in five categories: General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, Veterans Mental Health Grants, Veterans Treatment Courts, and Veteran

County Service Officers.

Veterans can find the organizations providing help in their area at <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/grants/assistance/>



FILE PHOTO

KCM to honor local victims of domestic violence at annual 'Silent Witness' event

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy Christian Ministries will put on the annual Silent Witness event on October 26th at Westland Baptist Church, 1407 W. Grand Parkway South, Katy. The somber annual event begins at 6 p.m. and honors those who lost their lives to domestic violence and those who are fighting against the problem in the community. A moving part of the remembrance ceremony is the reading of the names of domestic violence victims from Harris, Fort Bend and Waller Counties; the 2021 ceremony is shown in the photo above. Dinner is included; free admission. Please RSVP to KCM by calling (281) 391-0005.

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Katy ISD high schools ranked among the top 17% nationally

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Eight Katy ISD high schools are among the best in the United States, according to the U.S. News & World Report, according to a September 11th press release from the district.

The U.S. News rankings include data on nearly 25,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. The following schools include:

"Our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to delivering state of the art educational experiences to

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS

School	Texas Ranking	National Ranking
Cinco Ranch High School	119	967 (Top 3.9%)
Katy High School	202	1,963 (Top 7.8%)
Mayde Creek High School	297	3,192 (Top 12.7%)
Morton Ranch High School	385	4,378 (Top 17.5%)
Paetow High School	289	3,143 (Top 12.5%)
Seven Lakes High School	46	356 (Top 1.4%)
Taylor High School	147	1,272 (Top 5.1%)
Tompkins High School	73	532 (Top 2.2%)

parents," said Ken Gregorski, superintendent of schools. "The collective work and support of our entire school community has allowed us to stand firm in our promise

lence," he added. This year's rankings showcase the schools whose students demonstrate outstanding outcomes, surpassing the anticipated

benchmarks, including college readiness, state assessment proficiency and performance and achieving high graduation rates.

The highest-ranked public schools in the 2023-2024 Best High Schools national rankings are those whose students achieved exceptional scores on state assessments for math, reading and science.

The data assessed by U.S. News Report is based on high schools that had a 12th grade enrollment of 15 students or greater during the 2020-2021 school year.

Area semifinalists in National Merit® Scholarship Program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On September 13th, officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, who will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are under-written

by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 320 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

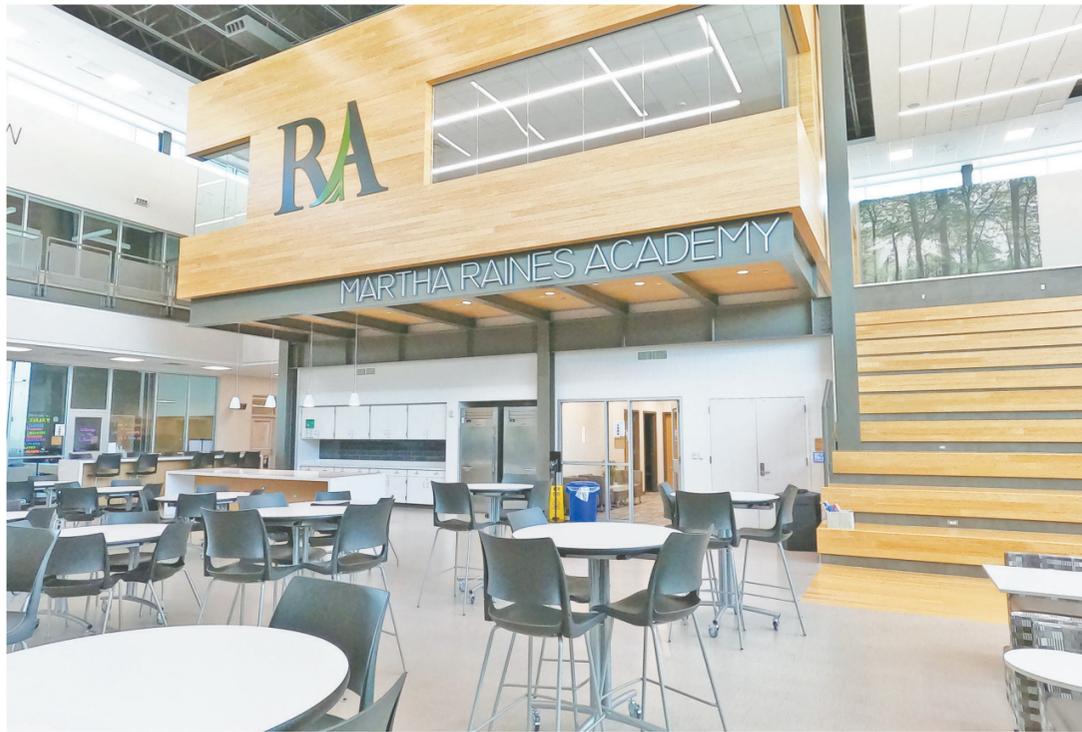


PHOTO COURTESY KATY ISD

TASA/TASB awards school architecture projects

Martha Raines Academy receives recognition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

AUSTIN - The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) announced on September 15th that 46 projects will be included in the 2023-24 Exhibit of School Architecture. This exhibit of new and renovated Texas school facilities includes projects from 38 school districts and three colleges that were submitted by 15 architectural firms. Eligible projects are newly constructed or renovated public education facilities completed in the past five years and not previously submitted in this annual exhibit.

Katy ISD's Martha Raines Academy received two Stars of Distinction for Excellence, one in the design category

and the other in the wellness category. The school will be part of the 2023-24 Exhibit of School Architecture, which celebrates excellence in planning and design of the learning environment. The project architect was Stantec which has an office in Houston.

The Exhibit of School Architecture awards are given at the discretion of a 12-member jury, which includes: four school board members, four school administrators, and four members from the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE) Southern Region. The juried exhibit awarded Stars of Distinction for Excellence to 23 projects in one or more of the following six areas: design, value, innovation, community, planning, and school transformation.

The TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture in collaboration with the A4LE - Southern Region Foundation will showcase 46 projects at txED-CON23, The TASA | TASB Convention,

in Dallas September 29-30. The projects will also soon be featured in the online exhibit at <https://texasschoolarchitecture.org/>.

TASA is the professional association for Texas school superintendents and other administrators. The mission of the organization, which focuses on professional learning, advocacy and member engagement, is to promote, provide and develop leaders who create and sustain student-centered schools and develop future-ready students.

TASB is an association established in 1949 to serve local public school boards. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve approximately 5.3 million students. TASB's mission is to promote educational excellence for Texas schoolchildren through advocacy, visionary leadership, and high-quality services to school district.

KATY AREA SEMIFINALISTS

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - HOUSTON
Maulana, Abdul Rehman

CINCO RANCH H. S.
Li, Jim
Mamtora, Sneha A.
Onianwa, Christine O.
Shen, Kathy
Shilk, Hannah E.
Zhou, Jerry X.
Zhou, Ryan

FULSHEAR H. S.
Bryant, Brooks R.

HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION
Mohabbat, Duran J.

KATY H. S.
Parikh, Krish V.

SEVEN LAKES H. S.
Ahn, Seung Bin
Chazhikat, Tomin J.
Chen, Kale S.
Chern, Charity Y.
Clarridge, Sarah J.
Dabbiru, Sanjana
Dong, Owen J.
Finol Inciarte, Osman A.
Godbole, Shruti P.
Gomola, Jeremi
Gu, Kason K.
Ishware, Aayush K.
Jain, Manas
Jang, Haseong
Ji, Brady
Jong, Samantha H.
Krishnan, Keerthana
Lahiri, Rohan
Lai, Aidan Zhong Han
Lawal, Fadhil E.
Le, Brad
Lee, Brandon T.

Li, Victor R.
Liao, Bo-Kai
Lin, Shawn
Liu, Antai A.
Malik, Sarah S.
Menon, Anagha K.
Mir, Irshad A.
Lew, Tristan
Park, Jongseo
Prabhugaonkar, Ojas V.
Prashanth, Sankalp
Ramadan, Omar O.
Shen, Jennifer
Srinivasan, Ramya S.
Teng, Andy C.
Veith, Davis M.
Xiang, Michael
Yaeger, Nicholas R.
Yamaashi, Yui
Yang, Ashley H.
Yang, Jonathan J.
Yu, Kathleen C.
Zhu, Aaron E.
Zhu, Jennifer

JAMES E. TAYLOR H. S.
Chung, Deborah G.
Jackson, Ella T.
Jackson, Tess T.
Jallorina, Jedrik R.
Lennon, Luke W.
Lim, Wonkyu
Liu, Henry X.
Pratama, Rizky A.

OBRA D. TOMPKINS H. S.
Cheng, Ray R.
Chockalingam, Saraswathy R.
Cole, Preston J.
Longe, Ohireime M.
Mohta, Akansha
Shahid, Aishah A.
Song, Peter H.
Tahkku, Mira K.
Yao, Kenneth J.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION**Proposition Number 1
(HJR 126)**

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2
(SJR 64)**

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3
(HJR 132)**

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

**Proposition Number 5
(HJR 3)**

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6
(SJR 75)**

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7
(SJR 93)**

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate money from

the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8
(HJR 125)**

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9
(HJR 2)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10
(SJR 87)**

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11
(SJR 32)**

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and

reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12
(HJR 134)**

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13
(HJR 107)**

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14
(SJR 74)**

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

Royal ECC celebrates Capturing Kids' Hearts banner installation

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On September 12th, the Royal Early Childhood Center team unveiled their National Showcase School banner, which is proudly displayed in the ECC gym. The ECC team was joined by all ECC students, district leadership, and the Royal Marching Sound Machine Drumline.

In May 2023, Royal ISD was proud to announce that Royal Early Childhood Center was named a Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) National Showcase School, a program that recognizes outstanding school administrators, teaching staff, and faculty for producing exemplary outcomes with the CKH process. Capturing Kids' Hearts celebrates campuses where educators are exceeding expectations and creating an environment where students feel safe, connected, and eager to learn.

Because of the rigor of the evaluation process, the Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools award is both a high aspiration and an exemplary recognition of excellence.

This honor is only available to



PHOTO BY CHRISTI GINN, ROYAL ISD
Pictured (L-R): Mrs. Holub, Mrs. Hausmann, Mrs. Oviedo, Mrs. Nguyen, Mrs. M. Maldonado, Mrs. Gungor, Ms. Miller, Ms. Garfield, Ms. Ozcan, Ms. Murray, Mrs. Moses, Assistant Superintendent Brashear, Superintendent Rick Kershner.

schools that have completed at least one year of the CKH program. Royal ECC is in its second year of the program, meaning that the campus received the award in its first year of eligibility. The 2022-2023 selection process began with

over 10,000 campuses and resulted in 468 awardees.

One of the hallmarks of CKH is hand signals to help students focus. The "Timeout" signal is used to let everyone in the group know that it's time to listen.

ECC students did a great job demonstrating this skill at the celebration.

"Our CKH process champions are the backbone of the initiative," said district spokesperson Christi Ginn. "The group attends regular



meetings and training sessions and put the vision and goals into practice."

The program was implemented by Royal Superintendent Rick Kershner, who in late May had this to say about the program: "I believe in being intentional about building connections and positive relationships. CKH promotes this through the processes they teach."

ARC OF KATY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



The Arc of Katy generously held a school supply drive for Royal ISD and delivered the supplies to the Royal Administration building on September 11th. "We were blessed to meet with members of their program," said the district on its website.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

KEYS MENTOR SPEAKER



Dr. Elizabeth McIngvale, director of the OCD Institute of Texas and founder of the Peace of Mind foundation and OCDChallenge.org (a self-help website for OCD), was the keynote speaker at the September 15th KEYS mentor program breakfast at the Merrell Center. Dr. McIngvale, who suffered from severe OCD herself as a child, credited her recovery to the presence of strong advocates in her life (her parents) and to the attention and care that she received after transferring from a private school to a public school in Spring, where she formed a bond with her teachers, who encouraged her and worked closely with her using specially designed materials. Dr. McIngvale urged attendees to help students who might be struggling with mental health issues by listening and by "normalizing these wonderful affirmations" and to help them get effective care. The KEYS Mentoring program, a Katy ISD Partners in Education program, matches a caring adult with a student one hour, once a week during the school year to build a relationship, trust, confidence and more.

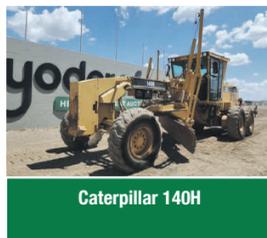
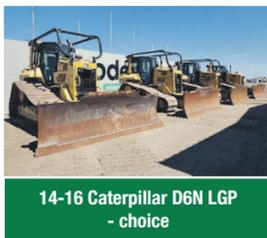
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SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Mayde Creek Rams head coach J. Jensen during a high school football game between Mayde Creek and Seven Lakes on October 29, 2021 in Katy, Texas. Seven Lakes won, 50-10.

Jensen earns first district win as Mayde Creek coach

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek earned its first district win under head coach J. Jensen on Saturday, beating Paetow 28-7 to move to 2-2 on the season and 1-1 in District 19-6A play.

The win comes in Jensen's third year at the helm and breaks an 18-game losing streak in district play for the Rams.

Mayde Creek took the lead in the first quarter and never trailed in the

See **JENSEN**, page B5

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Scores

- Taylor 31, Seven Lakes 10
- Cinco Ranch 38, Tompkins 28
- Katy 54, Morton Ranch 14
- Mayde Creek 28, Paetow 7

Thursday

- Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Saturday

- Paetow vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday

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

Tuesday

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

TENNIS

Thursday

- Katy vs. Lamar, 3 p.m.

Friday

- Jordan vs. Fort Bend Travis, 3 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at College Park, 3 p.m.
- Tompkins at Stratford, 3 p.m.

Tuesday

- Tompkins vs. Mayde Creek, 2:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Katy, 3 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Jordan, 3 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 3 p.m.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Duke Hammond and Josiah Rodriguez make a tackle during a game between Taylor and George Ranch at Rhodes Stadium. Below: Cyrus Reyes turns upfield during a game between Taylor and George Ranch at Rhodes Stadium.

Taylor stays perfect in district with big win over Seven Lakes

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Taylor Mustangs had a chance to be down on themselves two weeks ago. Coming off a loss to George Ranch, with important players hobbled by injuries, the Mustangs had every chance to mope, and not give full effort going into the district season.

But instead of that, the Mustangs did the opposite. Taylor came together, stepped things up in practice and made strides heading into the most important part of the year and it's paid dividends.

"These guys are just a tight knit group and they came together right away and decided they were going to learn and grow from those two games," said Taylor head coach Chad Simmons. "It's like a family and the guys have come to practice, been focused and held each other accountable. I think they get that this is a process. They knew that those two games didn't define them and they bought into everything and have really improved."

Taylor (2-2, 2-0) earned a big win over Cinco Ranch last week, and they kept it

See **TAYLOR**, page B8



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Oliver Ginn makes a catch during a game between Katy and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

Katy making strides early in district play

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has spent the early part of this season focusing on building up its team.

The Tigers came into the year with lots of pieces that had to get adjusted to varsity football, and it took some time for the team to be settled.

But as District 19-6A play has started, the Tigers (3-1, 2-0) have raised their level of play. The Tigers dominated Tompkins in their first district game and followed that up with another strong performance on Saturday, beating Morton Ranch (1-3, 1-1) 41-14.

"We've just grown a lot as a group from the start of the year to now," said senior safety Jed Olotu-Judah. "We've continued to get better and last week we came off a pretty big win but we weren't satisfied. The key if we want to do big things is to keep getting better every day and keep working and that's what we did this week."

Katy took the lead early in the game and never looked

back. The Tigers drove down the field on their opening drive and scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak by Gunner Nelson. Morton Ranch had a good gameplan early and came back on offense to score, capping off a drive with a 19-yard touchdown from Mike Gerald. But it was all Katy from the second quarter on.

Khalil Hargrove-Collins came away with an interception on the first play of the second quarter and Katy capitalized with Nelson throwing a 19-yard touchdown pass to Israel Olotu-Judah for a touchdown. Tremayne Hill added to the lead midway through the second quarter with a 29-yard touchdown run before Olotu-Judah caught another touchdown pass from Nelson from 51 yards out. Romel Jordan capped off the half with a half with a 28-yard touchdown as Katy went into the locker room leading 34-7.

"Israel is one of our best pass receivers and it's always

See **KATY**, page B7

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PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Above: Houston Cougars guard Britney Onyeje (10) moves the ball during an NCAA women's basketball game between Houston and Tulsa on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas. Right: Houston Cougars forward Tatyana Hill (30) shoots the ball during an NCAA women's basketball game between Houston and Tulsa on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.



UH announces women's basketball non-conference schedule



Houston Cougars guard Laila Blair (14) moves the ball around Tulsa Golden Hurricane guard Rebecca Lescay (21) during an NCAA women's basketball game between Houston and Tulsa on Jan. 8, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

STAFF REPORT

The Houston Women's Basketball team released its 2023-24 non-conference schedule, which includes six consecutive home games to open the season.

The six home games in Fertitta Center to start the season is the longest homestand at the beginning of the season in program history.

Houston opens the season with Air Force on Nov. 10, marking the first meeting between the Cougars and Falcons. The Cougars will play the Bearkats of Sam Houston for the first time since 2002 a few days later on Nov. 14. Houston's third game in nine days to open the season brings Grambling State to Houston for the first meeting between the two schools on Nov. 19.

New Orleans comes to Fertitta Center the Sunday after Thanksgiving on Nov. 26. It marks the second-ever meeting and the first in Houston between the two schools.

A rematch with Middle

Tennessee is set for Nov. 29 in Fertitta Center. The Cougars and Blue Raiders went down to the wire in Murfreesboro, Tenn., in 2022 with Middle Tennessee winning by seven after Houston outscored the hosts 19-6 in the fourth quarter.

The sixth and final game of the season-opening homestand to open the 2023-24 season bleeds into December as Florida A&M plays in Fertitta Center on Dec. 3.

Houston and Texas A&M Commerce continue their affair on Dec. 8 after Houston won the first meeting since 1976 last year in 2022 with this year's game in Commerce, Texas.

A Third Ward battle between Houston and Texas Southern is slated for Dec. 12 in Fertitta Center.

Two road games in three days takes Houston east to UTSA on Dec. 14 and then to Pullman, Wash., for a rematch with Washington State on Dec. 16.

The final non-conference game of the year has Rice coming to Fertitta Center on Dec. 20 for the first time in

facility history and the first game between the Cougars and Owls at Houston since 2014.

In July, Houston and the Big 12 Conference released the 2023-24 Conference Schedule Matrix. Opponents were selected based on a combination of geography, historical results and a poll of the coaches to best balance the schedule in terms of travel and competitive balance. A full Big 12 schedule will be released at a later date.

In the Cougars' inaugural season in the Big 12, Houston will host every Big 12 school in Texas, including hosting Texas for the first time since 1998.

Houston will play a home-and-away game against Baylor, BYU, TCU, Texas Tech and UCF. The Cougars will play home games only against Cincinnati, Iowa State, Oklahoma and Texas and road games only against Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma State and West Virginia.

Big 12 Conference game dates and times will be announced at a later date.

BIG 12 SCHEDULE SUPERLATIVES

- Houston and Texas will meet for the first time since 1999.
- The Cougars won the last meeting in Houston against Texas in 1998, 61-52 for their third-ever win against the Longhorns.
- The Cougars won the most recent meeting with Texas Tech, 79-75 in 2017.
- From 1984-92, Houston won 19 straight meetings against Baylor and is 33-14 all-time against the Bears with all but one meeting happening before the turn of the century.
- Houston's .702 winning percentage against Baylor is the best winning percentage against Big 12 teams with at least five all-time meetings.
- The Cougars' second-best winning percentage against Big 12 teams (minimum five meetings) is 29-14 (.674) against TCU which includes three consecutive wins over a ranked Horned Frogs squad in 2004 when both schools were in Conference USA.
- Kansas is 6-0 against Houston.
- Kansas State handed Houston its only loss by more than seven points in 2022-23 and is 2-0 all-time against the Cougars.
- Houston is 2-2 all-time against Oklahoma but is on a two-game winning streak under head coach Ronald Hughey winning the 2019 and 2020 meetings.
- The Cougars and Cowgirls have not played since 1993 and Oklahoma State is 2-0 all-time in the two meetings.
- Houston won both meetings against Cincinnati and UCF in 2022-23 topping UCF holding both under 40 points in each meeting.
- Hughey is 3-4 all-time against old Big 12 teams (not including BYU, Cincinnati and UCF).
- Houston is 2-0 all-time against BYU with both meetings happening before 1990.
- Houston and Iowa State have never played.
- Oklahoma (17), Texas (19) and Iowa State (25) were ranked in the final 2022-23 Coaches Poll.
- Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa State, Oklahoma State, West Virginia, Baylor and Kansas all finished with winning records in conference play in 2022-23.
- Kansas rattled off six-straight wins to win the WNIT.

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Week 5 Katy ISD Previews

Playoff picture starts to form

ALL GAMES DISTRICT 19-6A

Thursday

Seven Lakes (1-2, 0-1) vs. Tompkins (1-3, 0-2), 7:15 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Tompkins 49, Seven Lakes 14
• With both teams coming off losses and trying to get back on the right track, Thursday will be an important game for both Tompkins' and Seven Lakes' playoff chances.

Seven Lakes comes off a game where the Spartans started strong but weren't able to carry things across the finish line. They struggled offensively in the matchup and it led to Taylor being able to pull away in the end. Barrett Hudson led the teams in yards, with 80 rushing yards on 15 carries, while Donye Lake had 50 yards on the ground. Shaan Patel threw for 45 yards in the game as the Spartans could never get anything going in the air. Defensively, the Spartans allowed 206 yards on the ground and 152 through the air as Taylor's offense was able to move the ball effectively.

Tompkins meanwhile, built a 21 point lead, but weren't able to hold on against Cinco Ranch, losing 38-28. Caleb Blocker accounted for every score for Tompkins, rushing 27 times for 183 yards and four touchdowns, but it wasn't enough to earn the win. Justin Thierheimer completed 10 of 19 passes for 84 yards, while Bisi Bello led the way receiving with five catches for 40 yards. But the Falcons struggled defensively, allowing Cinco to get back into the game despite being shorthanded.

This game will be huge, as its still early, but both teams will be trying to get back on track and towards the playoff race. The Falcons will hope to get healthier over the week and have a better performance through the air and on defense. Seven Lakes meanwhile will also need to be better through the air and they will try to be better at stringing together long drives that lead to scores.

Friday

Cinco Ranch (2-2, 1-1) vs. Morton Ranch (1-3, 1-1), 6:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Morton Ranch 77, Cinco Ranch 63
• Morton Ranch and Cinco Ranch come into weeks game both hobbled, but both right in the mix of the early playoff race. Cinco comes off a giant win, where the Cougars overcame a 21-point deficit to Tompkins, while Morton comes off a loss to Katy where they weren't able to get much going on either side of the ball.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

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



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Daniel Bruns gets pushed towards the endzone during a game between Taylor and George Ranch at Rhodes Stadium.

DISTRICT 19-6A STANDINGS

	Team	W	L	District W	District L	District PF	District PA
1*	Katy	3	1	2	0	95	21
1*	Taylor	2	2	2	0	42	17
3	Jordan	3	0	1	0	42	7
4*	Cinco Ranch	2	2	1	1	45	39
4*	Mayde Creek	2	2	1	1	35	49
4*	Morton Ranch	1	3	1	1	36	75
7	Seven Lakes	1	2	0	1	10	31
8*	Paetow	0	4	0	2	28	50
8*	Tompkins	1	3	0	2	35	79

Cinco Ranch comes off a big win over Tompkins, their first this year in district and the Cougars needed it. Cinco did it as they were down to their fourth quarterback of the season, a sophomore Junior Varsity player that got called up the week of the game in Davis Roup. Roup threw for 247 yards in the first varsity action of his career and added three touchdowns to lead Cinco to the win. His favorite target in the game was Scott Eckel, who had a huge performance, catching 11 passes for 106 yards and two scores. Luke Mathiasmeier made a big impact on defense, recording 10 tackles and an interception, while Justin Hughes forced two fumbles and made five tackles to also help the Cinco defense.

Morton Ranch meanwhile struggled offensively against Katy. Mike Gerald managed a score through the air and on the ground, rushing for 36 yards and passing for 94 more to lead Morton Ranch, while Ryan Hall rushed for 61 yards on 14 carries. Markel McNeal led in the receiving category, catching four passes for 58 yards and a touchdown. The big struggle for the Mavericks was on the defensive end, where they allowed 292 rushing yards and 189 passing yards to Katy.

The game will come down to defense for both teams. Morton Ranch will need to find a way to slow down what was a very good Cinco Ranch passing attack last week while the Cougars will need to be strong against the run, which they struggled with at times last week as they allowed four rushing touchdowns. Both teams will also try to get back to being relatively healthy as they deal with a number of injuries.

Mayde Creek (2-2, 1-1) vs. Katy (3-1, 2-0), 7:15 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Katy 59, Mayde Creek 3
• Two teams coming off wins will face each other on Friday, as Mayde Creek and Katy will meet for their yearly battle. Mayde Creek comes off an impressive

week, with the Rams winning their first district game with J. Jensen as head coach. It was a huge win for the Rams and came from a strong performance on both sides of the ball. Cole Jensen led the way by completing 12 of 22 passes for 114 yards and four touchdowns, with JJ Graves being a big name on the receiving end, catching three passes for 66 yards, while Trey Williams and Chad Nelson both caught touchdown passes. Williams also led the team in rushing yards, carrying the ball nine times for 34 yards. On the defensive side of the ball, Elijah Fuller made a huge impact, intercepting two passes to help the Rams in the win.

Katy, meanwhile, continued to dominate in the team's win over Morton Ranch. It was a good day where the Tigers were able to spread the ball around, with Romel Jordan running for 163 yards and Tremayne Hill running for 72, while Gunner Nelson threw for 189 yards. The Tigers got backups in on both offense and defense early and were able to continue to build depth. Defensively, Katy only allowed 134 rushing yards and 94 passing yards while shutting down Morton Ranch's offense all day.

Katy will be expected to keep rolling and has talent in every area to win and be able to continue to build depth. Mayde Creek will be out to prove themselves though and make

it a game while looking for their second win in a row.

Saturday

Paetow (0-4, 0-2) vs. Jordan (3-0, 1-0), 7:15 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Jordan 41, Paetow 13
• Paetow and Jordan come into this weeks on different ends of district, with Jordan undefeated and rested coming off a bye week, while Paetow comes off of two tough losses and is still in search of the team's first win of the year.

Paetow comes off a hard loss to Mayde Creek, where the Panthers' defense fought, but the team's offense couldn't put up points. Paetow mustered only seven points in the matchup and couldn't get much going on the offensive side of the ball, struggled both running and passing. Defensively, Paetow did a solid job, allowing just 67 yards rushing and 140 yards passing to Mayde Creek, but did allow four touchdowns through the air.

Jordan meanwhile has been very strong this season and will have an extra week to prepare for the game. The Warriors are the only team left in Katy ISD to have no losses on their record so far this year and will look to keep that going in the game. The Warriors have huge weapons in the pass game with Andrew Marsh and Zechariah Sample and with Colin Willetts throwing the ball can hang around with anyone. Defensively, the Warriors haven't been shabby either, holding two of their three opponents to single digits.

Paetow will need to be on top of their game defensively and not allow Jordan to get into a rhythm in the air, while being stronger on offense. Jordan meanwhile will look to build on that early season form and continue to be strong with their pass game and defense.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.
Sale to be held ONLINE at storagetreasures.com
The facility is BEAR CREEK MINI STORAGE 17730 Kieth Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on September 25, 2023, and end at 12:00 pm on October 2, 2023. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Jesus Castillo, Cedric Tudmon, Rick Barker, Meagan Cooper, Diane Crane.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.
Sale to be held ONLINE at Storagetreasures.com
The facility is 8900 Emnora Lane Houston, Texas 77080. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on September 18th, 2023, and end at 12:00 pm on September 25th, 2023. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Glen Underwood, Juan Enrique, Jose Garcia, Daniel Rodriquez, Antonio Ruiz Gonzales, Selena Garza, Jose Naverrette, Jim Sands.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed BIDS, in duplicate, addressed to Quiddity Engineering, LLC, Attention Brian T. Geier PE, will be received until **2:00 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, September 28, 2023** and then publicly opened and read at 6330 West Loop South, Suite 150, Bellaire, Texas 77401 for "Construction of Drainage Improvements on Goya Road for Waller County".
In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Teams, the number for this call is: 1-832-3756. Enter access code 594-290-822# when prompted.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478, will be **electronically** received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, October 12, 2023, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for construction of Jubilee **Haven Blvd. II Landscape** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 478, Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: pavements, seatwalls, furnishings, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.
In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 969 9202 5648 and use Passcode: 440765 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/96992025648?pwd=OWM3ZUo0ZDJMNS9iS1BsaDVGUk1Zz09>
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete Trails, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.
Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on **Monday, September 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.** Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 992 3331 3434 and use Passcode: 951946 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/99233313434?pwd=OEw5K1ZWTWtiY05qaTJCS9xNE9odz09>
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.
Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.
Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.
By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.
The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478, will be **electronically** received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, October 17, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for construction of Jubilee **Phase 2 Detention and Model Home Park Landscape** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 478, Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete, pavements, furnishings, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.
In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 939 4808 9889 and use Passcode: 441407 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/93948089889?pwd=ZmJDNC8xRVVvUUVQyeHFQclRpYjB5Zz09>
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete Trails, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.
Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on **Monday, September 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.** Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 992 3331 3434 and use Passcode: 951946 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/99233313434?pwd=OEw5K1ZWTWtiY05qaTJCS9xNE9odz09>
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.
Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.
Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.
By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.
The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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Scope of work of the Contract includes the following: installation of 5'x3' RCB storm sewer, 48" HDPE storm sewer, outfall to the Willow Fork of Buffalo Bayou, and pavement restoration on Cardiff Road.
BIDS received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-3756. Enter access code 263-400-796# when prompted.
Each BID shall be accompanied by a bid security, in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashier's Check, in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within 10 days after the date CONTRACT DOCUMENTS are received by the CONTRACTOR. A certified check or bank draft payable to Waller County or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. Bid securities will be returned to all but the three most qualified, responsible bidders within 7 calendar days after opening of BIDS, and the latter's bid securities will be returned after complete execution of the contract.
This project is subject to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). All contractors and/or subcontractors who are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.
The Contractor is required to adhere to the prevailing David Bacon Related Acts (DBRA) wage rates specified in the Contract Documents. These rates are minimums to be paid during the life of the contract, therefore responsibility of the Bidder understand and meet these labor conditions.
Copies of the BIDDING DOCUMENTS may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications and plans for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.
A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website in order to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.
The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all BIDS and to waive technical defects in bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the BID, the OWNER reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the BID.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, October 5, 2023, and then publicly opened and read for "Pitts Road Boulevard Expansion Cane Island to Morton Road"** for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the construction of the additional lanes to complete the boulevard section of Pitts Road from Cane Island Parkway to Morton Road. The total roadway length is approximately 3,700 linear feet. The project involves completing the boulevard section by constructing the other two travel lanes, associated turn lanes, median cuts and installation of drainage inlets.
Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL** pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.
Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83181235143>
Meeting ID: 831 8123 5143
Dial In: +13462487799,,83181235143# US (Houston)
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.
Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.
The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Left: Mayde Creek beat Paetow 28-7 on Saturday to earn their first district win under head coach J. Jensen. Above: Johnaton Haywood celebrates during Saturday's game between Mayde Creek and Paetow.

JENSEN

from page B1

game. Cole Jensen threw a touchdown pass to Anthony Trey Williams in the first quarter and Jensen added a second touchdown throw in the second quarter to JJ Graves. Paetow trimmed the lead to seven points late in the first half. Jensen and Graves connected for another touchdown in the third quarter before Jensen threw his fourth touchdown of the day to seal it on a 2-yard score to Chad Nelson. Jensen led the offense on the day and Graves had two touchdown receptions. Defensively, Elijah Fuller made a huge impact, intercepting two passes to keep the Paetow offense in check.

Mayde Creek will play Katy next in what will be a very tough matchup as the Rams try to make it two wins in a row.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for BG by Em's Vietnamese Cuising LLC, to be located at 6420 FM 1463, Suite 800, Katy, Fort Bend, Texas 77494. Mai Le is the Owner.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a MB, FB, LH by Gunby Enterprises, LLC dba Crafted Kitchen and Taps, to be located at 1443 FM 1463, Suite 100, Katy, Fort Bend, Texas. Officers of said corporation Joseph Plant and Kevin Hough are Co-Owner Operator/Owner.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a New MB, and a New MB/ FB by Petronella Craig LLC dba Scholars and Scoundrels Bar and Grill, to be located at 25140 Kingsland Blvd. Suite 1000, Katy, Fort Bend, TX, 77494. Officers of said Corporation Petronella Craig LLC are Kalpesh Patel-member, Chad Craig-member, Anthony Petronella-member

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that First National Bank Texas d/b/a First Convenience Bank, 901 E. Central Texas Expressway, Killeen, Texas, 76541 has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on Monday, September 18, 2023 as specified in 12 C.F.R. § 5.3(I), for permission to establish and operate a full-service branch to be located inside the following Joe V's:
4107 Fry Road, Katy, Texas 77449
Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for District Licensing, Southern District Office, 500 North Akard, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75201, or by email at LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov within 30 days of the date of this publication. The public portions of the application are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Southern District Office.
September 18, 2023 First National Bank Texas d/b/a First Convenience Bank Killeen, Texas

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
WALLER COUNTY
Waller County (County) is seeking to contract with a qualified company to provide shredding services at the Courthouse. Please submit one (1) original, three (3) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Proposals shall be submitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Response shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm in a contract. Complete Proposal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, TX 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFP Project Number: 230920-24 for Courthouse Shredding Services. Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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NOTICE
The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.
CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 10, 2023
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, October 23, 2023
The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; By Amending Section 9B "OKD" Old Katy District; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists.

Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities
The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.
Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.
If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISD Department of Special Education at 281-396-2066. The Department of Special Education will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to obtain academic and non-academic benefit. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.
Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494
Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees, and its agents, officers, and staff members shall not discriminate based on gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478, will be **electronically** received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for construction of Jubilee **Jubilee Haven Blvd. I Landscape** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 478, Harris County, Texas.
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: light pole foundations, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.
In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 943 8467 6094 and use Passcode: 534793 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/94384676094?pwd=dFZaRlNKQl1Kd2RoQzlpZDZ2bGdFQT09>
Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete Trails, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.
Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on **Monday, September 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.** Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 992 3331 3434 and use Passcode: 951946 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/99233313434?pwd=OEw5K1ZWtWtiY05qaTJCS9xNE9odz09>
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.
Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.
Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.
By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.
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The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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

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Texans disappointing in loss to Colts as injuries pile up

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston took one step forward and two steps back on Sunday.

The Texans (0-2) came into the week after a strong defensive performance against Baltimore but with an offense that struggled. They hoped to build on the defense and fix some offensive problems going into a winnable game against the Colts in Houston's home opener.

Instead though, it was a reverse of what happened last week. The Texans offense took a step forward, but the team's defense struggled mightily, as the Texans faced an early deficit and were unable to turn things around in a 31-20 loss.

"I thought the guys on the offensive side of the ball got better today and showed improvements," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "But our defense wasn't good enough. We have to be better up front — we didn't stop the run and we didn't tackle well. If you want to win games in this league, you have to be better at that."

The Colts got out to a hot start in the game, scoring on their first possession, which spanned seven plays and 75 yards, which Anthony Richardson capped off with an 18-yard run. Then the Texans gave the ball right back on a fumble inside their own 20-yard line. Indianapolis took advantage as Richardson ran in another score from 15 yards out on the next play.

Houston came back with a strong drive of its own after that. CJ Stroud led an efficient drive that went 68 yards on 13 plays, which Stroud capped off with his first NFL touchdown, an eight-yard pass to Nico Collins as the Texans found their footing in the game.

Houston's defense held the Colts scoreless their next two drives, but couldn't keep things up all the way to halftime. The Colts strung together another long drive early in the second quarter which Zach Moss ended with an 11-yard touchdown,



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Above: Colts linebacker Zaire Franklin (44) tackles Texans running back Dameon Pierce (31) during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on September 17, 2023 in Houston. The Colts won, 31-20. Right: Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) looks to pass the ball during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on September 17, 2023 in Houston. The Colts won, 31-20.

putting the Texans down 14. Houston came back with a field goal drive to trim things but the Colts answered right back with a long touchdown drive right before halftime.

"We just have to keep getting better," Ryans said. "We have to get better throughout the game and better throughout the week of practice. There were too many self-inflicted wounds that hurt us today, whether it's on defense or offense. You have to control what you can control and not help the other team."

The Colts added a field goal midway through the third quarter. The Texans responded with a 36-yard field goal and then a touchdown pass from Stroud to Tank Dell, the first touchdown of Dell's career, but couldn't muster anything else to get closer.

Two bright spots for the team were Stroud and Collins. Stroud looked very solid despite playing with an offensive line missing four starters. He finished the game with 384 yards passing, completing 30 of 47 attempts with two touchdowns while looking in control of the offense. Collins meanwhile had seven receptions for 146 yards as the two players'

chemistry seemed to blossom. Tank Dell and Robert Woods both added over 70 yards receiving as the Texans' pass game showed improvements.

"We got better and took steps forward as an offense," Stroud said. "From getting in and out of the huddle to executing plays, you could see that improvement. But we have to keep taking steps and getting better. Our operation has to be clean — we have to get guys lined up right and we have to do better in the red zone. We're putting in that work to make it happen and we're going to try our best to continue to do that."

The Texans will play Jacksonville on the road next before heading back to NRG to play the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"I'm not happy right now of course, but there are definitely some things we can take from this," Stroud said. "We did a lot of good things both offensively and defensively. Once we get that together on both sides and play as a team, watch out because this team is ready to win. We just have to keep getting better and putting it together in all three phases. I'm excited to get to work on it."



Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The WILLOW FORK DRAINAGE DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the offices of LJA Engineering Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, STE 100, Katy, TX, 77449. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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: Gregg Nady, John Savage, Joseph S. Robinson, Sarah Hubbell

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: Alexander "Alec" Bray

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 \$0.17200/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.17000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.00200 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-1.16%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$380,406.00	\$420,560.00
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	\$380,406.00	\$420,560.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$654.30	\$714.95
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$60.65 9.27%

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 rate adopted by the board is less than the mandatory election rate then no election will be 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.

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

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KATY

from page B1

good when he's the one getting open and making plays like that," said Katy head coach Gary Joseph. "All of our receivers have been catching the ball well for us right now and that's really good when we can spread it out like that and it makes things easier for our quarterback."

Jordan and Hill added touchdown runs in the second half to add to the Tigers' lead before Tadi Zambe scored the game's final touchdown on a run of his own.

Jordan finished with a career high 163 yards and two touchdowns while Hill had a career high in yards as well, rushing seven times for 78 yards and two scores.

"Tremayne is going to be a very good football player and it's good for us to get him more touches and for him to keep growing," Joseph said. "Depth at running back and for our whole football team is important. You have to have different guys step up and he's one of those guys. We have to keep developing him and these other guys so they keep getting better."

Nelson had another strong game for Katy, throwing for 189 yards and completing seven of eight passes, while Olotu-Judah caught three passes for 81 yards and two scores. The Tigers' defense also made plays, limiting Morton Ranch to 134 yards on the ground and 94 yards through the air.

"Games like tonight are huge," said Jed Olotu-Judah. "We get confidence for guys and we get reps for our second teamers. We had a

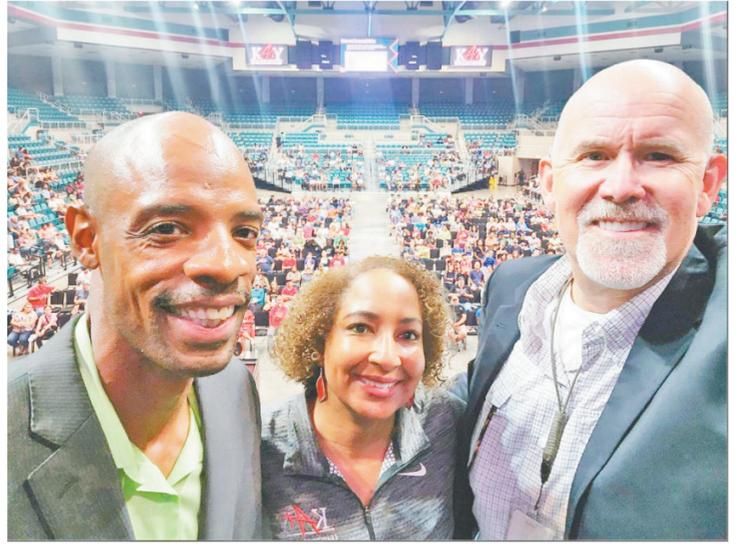


Oliver Ginn breaks an attempted tackle by Johnathan Morency during a game between Katy and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

lot of guys in our secondary who got playing time today and if we can keep doing that, then by playoff time they'll have grown and be even better players. Communion and trust is key in the secondary, so every snap you get extra is big."

Katy faces Mayde Creek next week as the Tigers attempt to stay perfect in district play.

"This is a good start for us but we aren't anywhere near our ceiling," Israel Olotu-Judah said. "We haven't arrived yet and we have to keep that mindset. You need to keep getting better every week to win a district championship and that's the goal right now. When that's done, then you turn to the next thing, but we can't get complacent."



Todd Kelly of Kelly College Recruiting, Katy ID Academic Counseling Coordinator Latrice Patton and Katy ISD Athletic Director Lance Carter pose for a photo during Katy ISD's College Recruiting Seminar last week. Left: Todd Kelly speaks to Katy ISD Student Athletes at the Merrell Center.

PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

KATY 54, MORTON RANCH 14

Morton Ranch	7	0	0	0	--	14
Katy	7	27	13	7	--	54

First quarter
K: Gunner Nelson 1 run (Hunter Ondrush kick) 8:00
MR: Mike Gerald 19 run (Kason Martinez kick) 3:50

Second quarter
K: Nelson 19 pass to Israel Olotu-Judah (Ondrush kick) 9:48
K: Tremayne Hill 29 run (Ondrush kick) 5:59
K: Nelson 51 pass to Olotu-Judah, 3:50
K: Romel Jordan 28 run (Ondrush kick) 0:20

Third quarter
K: Jordan 22 run, 10:40
K: Hill 34 run (Sebastian Perez kick) 5:22

Fourth quarter
K: Tadi Zambe 5 run (Perez kick) 9:40
MR: Mike Gerald 22 pass to Markel McNeal (Martinez kick)

Team stats

	MORTON RANCH	KATY
First downs	14	17
Yards rushing	29-134	30-292
Yards passing	94	189
Passes	8-18-1-1	10-13-2-0
Punts	2-40	1-40
Fumbles-lost	2-2	0-0
Penalty-yards	5-35	6-55

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Katy: Romel Jordan, 12-163-2; Tremayne Hill, 7-78-2; Tadi Zambe, 5-52-1; Chase Johnsey, 2-5; Gunner Nelson, 1-1; Morton Ranch: Ryan Hall, 14-61; Mike Gerald, 4-36-1; Tyler Gilmore, 6-23;

Passing – Katy: Gunner Nelson, 7-8-189-2-0; Jackson Franklin, 2-4-10-0-0; Connor Morales, 1-1-13-0-0; Morton Ranch: Mike Gerald, 8-18-94-1-1;

Receiving – Katy: Israel Olotu-Judah, 3-81-2; Oliver Ginn, 1-46; Cade McCall, 3-18; Colton Sanders, 1-16; Chase Johnsey, 1-15; Brody Worster, 1-13; Morton Ranch: Markel McNeal, 4-58-1; Tyler Williams, 3-37, Noah Lopez, 1-(-1)

Katy ISD hosts College Recruiting Seminar

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD hosted its first College Recruiting Seminar last week, with students from all nine high schools attending the event at the Merrell Center.

The event provided information to parents and athletes about the college recruiting process and went in depth on the difference between each level in play, from NAIA to Division and how

scholarships are different at the different levels.

Athletes also learned how to create their own athletic resumes and how parents play different roles in recruitment, along with the role of social media in coaching, how key it is to have good communication in coaching and more.

The event was hosted by Todd Kelly of Kelly College Recruiting, who also took time to answer students questions as they prepare for the next level.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 Administrative Building, 21437 Clay Road, Katy, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	P. Kerr, J. Elms, M. DuBois, K. Thornhill & J. Ruiz
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 \$ 0.770 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.750 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.770 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.750 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.020 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.5974%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$231,604	\$255,877
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$231,604	\$255,877
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,783.35	\$1,919.08
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$135.73 7.6110%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

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

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The WEST HARRIS COUNTY M.U.D. #17 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on October 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 260, Houston, TX 77024. 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:	Sharlene Rhea, TJ Covino, Bryant Gaudette, Ronald Perkins, and Karen Wilson
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 \$.86000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$.84000/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.86000/\$100 Adopted	\$.84000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.02000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.32%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 198,969	\$ 219,451
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 198,969	\$ 219,451
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,711.13	\$ 1,843.38
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 132.25 7.72%

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



PHOTO COURTESY SETH DAVIS

Katy graduates Dalton Johnson, Hunter Washington and Seth Davis pose for a photo after a game between Mississippi State and Arizona.

State champs reunite at Mississippi State vs. Arizona game

Three former Katy Tigers faced off against each other on Sept. 9., as Mississippi State took on Arizona in both teams' second game of the season.

Seth Davis, Hunter Washington and Dalton Johnson, all Katy graduates who were part of the Tigers 2020 state championship team, competed in the game — Davis and Washington for Mississippi State and Johnson on the Arizona side. The Bulldogs came out winners in the matchup, 31-24 to improve to 2-0 on the season.

Davis carried the ball five times for 34 yards in the win while Hunter Washington had one tackle. Dalton Johnson had three tackles for Arizona and also assisted on four tackles.

TAYLOR

from page B1

going in the second week of district, topping Seven Lakes (1-2, 0-1) 31-10.

"It's a really good feeling to start district the way we have," said senior running back Dante Archie. "We've been working hard all summer — everyone came together as a team and we all pushed through everything. We have a different mentality this year than last year and we want to go and get every win."

It was a tale of two halves for Taylor, as the first half was tight before the Mustangs pulled away in the second half.

Taylor took the first drive of the game down and scored. Daniel Bruns ran in a 1-yard touchdown, but Seven Lakes came right back with a score two plays later as Donye Lake took a jet sweep and ran it in from 28-yards out for a touchdown of his own. Seven Lakes added a field goal early in the second quarter, but Taylor came back with just seconds remaining in the second quarter on a 42-yard field goal of its own, tying the game going into halftime.

"Seven Lakes hit us early and we had to make some adjustments even before halftime to our alignments," Simmons said. "That helped us and one of the keys for us going in was slowing down their backs because their two guys are really good and they're not easy to tackle. We struggled with that in the first quarter but we picked things up and turned things around in the second half."

TAYLOR 31, SEVEN LAKES 10

Seven Lakes	7	3	0	0	--	10
Taylor	7	3	7	14	--	31

First quarter

T: Daniel Bruns 1 run (Jackson Waller kick) 8:02
SL: Donye Lake 38 run (Alex Farinez kick) 7:04

Second quarter

SL: Farinez 23 field goal, 8:58
T: Waller 42 field goal, 0:15

Third quarter

T: Dante Archie 45 run (Waller kick) 2:49

Fourth quarter

T: Daniel Bruns 16 pass to Jeremy McCullough (Waller kick) 10:39
T: Dante Archie 22 run (Waller kick) 1:58

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Taylor: Dante Archie, 12-97-2; Ethan Jacobson, 10-45; Josh Jacobson,

Ethan Jacobson runs downfield during a game between Taylor and George Ranch at Rhodes Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



The second half was all Taylor. The Mustangs took the lead off a 45-yard run from Archie in the third quarter, and then after an interception by Josiah Rodriguez, stretched the lead to 14 on a 16-yard touchdown pass from Daniel Bruns to Jeremy McCullough in the fourth. Seven Lakes tried to get back into things but Rodriguez kept making plays, picking off two more passes and setting a Taylor school record for interceptions in a game with three.

"I love the challenge and I love when teams come at me," Rodriguez said. "It builds my energy. I want to stop guys and hold it down on the team, so when I'm able to get a turnover and help these guys, it's just an amazing feeling. All my guys have been here cheering for me and supporting me to and it means the world."

Archie sealed things late in the fourth with a 22-yard touchdown run. He finished the game with 97 rushing yards and 63 receiving yards in his first game back from an ankle injury, while Taylor quarterback Daniel Bruns, who has had to transition to the position from receiver, threw for 152 yards in the win. Jeremy McCullough had two receptions for 29 yards and was another threat through the air for Taylor.

"I couldn't have done it without these other guys," Archie said. "The offensive line was amazing for me tonight and the rest of the team lifted me up and helped me not think about that ankle. I just wanted to go out there and play ball for my guys and I'm happy we came away with a win."

Taylor gets a much needed bye week after the win and hopes to use it to get guys rest and hopefully get players healthy and back to full strength.

"This proves that we can beat teams and can push to a different level than we've been at the past two years," Archie said. "We want to get back to those teams that went three or four or five rounds deep. We can be that kind of team, we just have to keep working and getting better."

Team stats

	TAYLOR	SEVEN LAKES
First downs	8	13
Yards rushing	27-136	37-206
Yards passing	45	152
Passes	7-19-0-3	9-20-1-0
Punts	5-32	4-46
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalty-yards	5-35	4-35



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