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SPORTS | B1

# KatyTimes

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# Diaz leaves Katy to become HPD chief

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy Police Chief Noe Diaz will become the chief of the Houston Police Department on August 14, Houston Mayor John Whitmire announced in an August 2 press conference. Diaz will now head a department of over 6000 employees in the nation's fourth largest city.

Katy Mayor William H. "Dusty" Thiele said in an August 2 press release that Diaz has been a remarkable public servant, dedicating his career to the safety and well-being of Katy. "Throughout his tenure, he has made significant improvements to the City of Katy Police Department, enhancing its efficiency, responsiveness, and community engagement," Thiele said.

"We are immensely proud of his accomplishments and confident in the continued success of the City of Katy Police Department. The city's loss is undoubtedly the City of Houston's gain and we wish Chief Diaz all the best in his new role as the City of Houston Police Chief." Thiele did not grant additional interview and did not share further

details about the department's transition while a search for a new chief is underway. "We are committed to finding a new Police Chief who will uphold the high standards and values that Chief Diaz has installed in our police force," his statement said. City councilmembers expressed



NOE DIAZ

See **DIAZ**, page A3

## Texas sales tax holiday is Aug. 9-11

The annual holiday marks its 25th year

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11, according to a news release posted on the State Comptrollers website on July 25. This will be the 25th year of Texas' oldest sales tax holiday, the release said.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

"For a quarter of a century, Texans have saved more than \$1.8 billion on everything from blue jeans to ball-point pens in preparation for the back-to-school bell," said Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar of the sales tax holiday weekend, an annual event since 1999. "As the father of three, I know firsthand how these expenses add up over the years, and this weekend

See **HOLIDAY**, page A3



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF KATY

## Work on water tower mural project starting to take shape

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The rumors are true — the eagerly awaited Historic Town Square water tower murals have finally arrived.

"After over a year of meticulous planning and hard work, we're thrilled to share this milestone with you,"

said Kaci Maris, Tourism and Marketing Events Coordinator, City of Katy. "While the murals are not yet fully complete, and there are still some touch-ups and finishing details to be added, the progress is already impressive. A huge thank you to Keep Katy Beautiful for their

dedication, countless hours, and unwavering commitment to bringing this project to life. We can't wait to reveal the finished masterpiece!"

In the meantime, Maris invites the public to come to Katy's historic downtown

See **MURAL**, page A3

## NEHLS SPEAKS AT FULSHEAR CHAMBER LUNCHEON



Memorial Hermann  
CONGRESSMAN TROY E. NEHLS  
PROUDLY SERVING TEXAS' 22ND  
Congressional Update



Congressman Troy Nehls, who represents the 22nd Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke at the quarterly luncheon of the Fulshear Regional Chamber for Commerce on August 6 at Gauchos do Sul, 910 W Grand Pkwy South in Katy. His Congressional district includes portions of Fort Bend, Brazoria, Harris, Wharton, and Matagorda counties. Nehls expressed his disappointment at the difficulties in getting his proposed legislation to the finish line in Washington, which he attributed to a divided Congress. Nehls, who is originally from Wisconsin, said that he would be spending the majority of August campaigning in that state for the Republican presidential ticket.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

## Pat Adams, KPD's first chief, passes away at 90

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Pat Owen Adams passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in Katy, the Katy Police Department announced on its Facebook page on July 31. On July 15, 1967, Adams started his 28 years with the City of Katy as its first Chief of Police.

"Today we celebrate his life as a procession will pass through the Katy Police Department in honor of his service to the City of Katy," said the department in the social media post. "Rest in Peace our dear friend!"

According to the obituary posted at [schmidtfuneralhome.net/obituary/pat-adams](http://schmidtfuneralhome.net/obituary/pat-adams), Adams was born on November 20, 1933, in Houston to Alton Bee Adams and Lacye Owen. He grew up in Houston, attending Jeff Davis High School and Sam Houston High School. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951-1954 during the Korean War. In 1958, Adams began his career in law enforcement, joining the Texas Department of Safety. He was stationed in Katy for nine years.

Adams served on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee with the Houston/Galveston Area Council, The Houston Area Chief of Police

See **ADAMS**, page A3

## PUCT seeks public feedback on local utility performance following storm

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Austin, Texas — The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) encourages consumers in the Greater Houston area to share their experiences with power outages and utility performance during the May 2024 derecho and Hurricane Beryl. To share their experiences, Texans can use a questionnaire linked on the PUCT's homepage at [puc.texas.gov](http://puc.texas.gov). The questionnaire is available in English and Spanish and only takes about five minutes to complete.

"The most important people in our investigation into the preparedness and response to these

See **OUTAGES**, page A3

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August 8, 2024  
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Libraries support job seekers with new online resource

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Whether you have recently graduated, are transitioning from military service, or simply making a career change, the thought of job hunting and interviewing can be intimidating.

Fort Bend County Libraries now offers access to “Big Interview” -- a new, interactive online resource designed to help job hunters improve their interview skills. By cultivating and improving key communication skills, job hunters are able to reduce nervousness and gain confidence before the “real” interview.

Demonstrations of this free online resource will take place at the following locations in August, but those who are interested may also inquire about this resource at any

time at any FBCL location. Registration is required at all locations.

- Wednesday, August 14, 11 a.m. – Fulshear Branch Library (6350 GM Library Rd.)
- Thursday, August 15, 10:30 a.m. – Cinco Ranch Branch Library (2620 Commercial Center Blvd, Katy)
- Wednesday, August 21, 6:00 p.m. – Mission Bend Branch Library (8421 Addicks Clodine Rd)
- Tuesday, August 27, 2:00 p.m. – Sienna Branch Library (8411 Sienna Springs Blvd, Missouri City)
- Wednesday, August 28, 6:00 p.m. – University Branch Library (14010 University Blvd in Sugar Land)

**About Big Interview**

This comprehensive interview-training platform provides

instruction based on real-world scenarios and hiring practices, offering immediate feedback and ways to improve.

Job hunters can practice online with mock interviews that are tailored to specific careers/industries, jobs, and experience levels. With a vast library of the most commonly asked questions from more than 100 industries and 1,000+ occupations, “Big Interview” simulates job-specific interviews and provides personalized practice with industry-specific questions. It then offers feedback on responses, suggestions for ways to improve them, and tips on how best to answer questions.

With more than 200 video lessons, expert insights, and interview hacks, “Big Interview’s” online interview-preparation tool

combines training and practice to help improve skills and build confidence.

The “Learning Area” offers robust instruction covering every step of the job-search and interview process with both video and written lessons for every type of learner.

In the “Practice” section, the mock interview practice and recording tool offers limitless opportunities to practice answering all types of interview questions, with immediate feedback.

In the “Resumés” section, job seekers can upload their resumé for immediate feedback, suggestions for improvement, and tips for getting past automated AI bots that do the initial screening of applications. Big Interview evaluates resumés for readability, credibility,

and format, as well as “ATS” (Applicant-Tracking Systems) fit.

Fort Bend County Libraries offers free access to Big Interview for library cardholders. Library cardholders can access “Big Interview” remotely through the Fort Bend County Libraries website, [www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us). Simply click on the “Research” tab, then “Digital Resources & Databases,” select the “Subject” option, and choose “Career & Job Help.”

The demonstrations are free and open to the public. To register for a demonstration, visit Fort Bend County Libraries’ website ([www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us)), click on “Classes & Events,” select the library, and find the program on the date indicated. For more information, call FBCL’s Communications Office (281-633-4734).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Bag of Donuts plays free concert at Central Green on August 9**

Popular band Bag of Donuts will play a free concert at Central Green Park in the LaCenterra Center, 2643 Commercial Center Blvd. in Katy on August 9 with the music starting at 8 p.m. Central Green Park is a project of the Willow Fork Drainage District.

**Katy AARP Chapter to meet August 13**

The featured speaker for the August 13 meeting of Katy’s AARP chapter will be Sheila Dolbow, with the Texas Hospital Association, who will be providing information on Directives to Physicians and Family or Surrogates (Living Will). Copies of the Advanced Directives will be available for attendees to pick up and a notary will also be present to

notarize them at the meeting. The gathering will also have a speaker from Suvida Healthcare, who will talk about other opportunities for assistance for seniors. The meeting at Midway BBQ, 6025 Highway Blvd. in Katy, is open to both AARP members and non-members and begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Katy Library events set for August 13 and 14**

The Katy Branch Library has announced two adult programs in August:

- Tuesday, August 13 at 6 to 7 p.m., the library will be hosting a computer class on Cyber Security for adults. Find more information and register at [hcpl.bibliocommons.com/events/669550c88639e476-db642960](http://hcpl.bibliocommons.com/events/669550c88639e476-db642960)
- Wednesday, August 14, the library will be hosting a Blood Drive Bus in the parking lot from 1:30 to 5 p.m. To learn more or to sign up, go

to [hcpl.bibliocommons.com/events/669550c88639e476-db642960](http://hcpl.bibliocommons.com/events/669550c88639e476-db642960)

The Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road in Katy, is part of the Harris County Public Library System. For more information, call 281-391-3509.

**View vintage glass and collectibles at the Vintage Glass & Antique Show in Rosenberg August 17 and 18**

The Vintage Glass & Antique Show will take place at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Highway 36 in Rosenberg, on August 17 and 18. Shop for depression glass, elegant glass, kitchenware, pottery, antiques, silver and other items at this sprawling exhibition. On Saturday the show is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday’s hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 (cash only please).

**Big Z’s Chicago Pizza & Brew holds free concert night on August 17 featuring three bands**

Come out and join Big Z’s for their third birthday celebration as they host a free concert on August 17 at the pizzeria at 2004 S. Mason in Katy. Doors open at 8 p.m. and music begins at 8:30 p.m. Enjoy performances from The Shroons, anacrusis, and Figure Below.

**Experience nature during August events at John Paul Landing Park**

- August 14 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. “Life in the Lake.” Minnows, crawfish, and dragonflies are just a few of the many local inhabitants living in our lakes. This program begins with a brief presentation followed by lakeside sampling and species identification. Register at [apps.hcp4.net/med/Event/Detail/27772](http://apps.hcp4.net/med/Event/Detail/27772).

- August 17 from 8 to 10:30 p.m. “An Evening Under the Stars.” Explore Harris County’s night sky, including a presentation inside the Environmental Education Center. Harris County Precinct 4 staff and members of the Houston Astronomical Society will provide telescopes and are available to answer questions.
- August 21 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. “Tiny Safari.” Antlions, tiger beetles, and woolly bears! Oh my! Often overlooked but no less exciting, invertebrates offer soothing summer serenades and are invaluable to the ecosystem. Join Harris County Park Naturalists in an exploration to find, collect and study the park’s smallest and most interesting inhabitants. Register at [apps.hcp4.net/med/Event/Detail/27776](http://apps.hcp4.net/med/Event/Detail/27776).

The park is located at 9055 Katy Hockley Road in Cypress. For more information, call 713-274-3131 or go to [cp4.harriscountytexas.gov/jpl](http://cp4.harriscountytexas.gov/jpl).



**Sid Miller**  
Texas  
Commissioner  
of Agriculture

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AUG.  
16  
2024**

**Networking Event!  
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**7 AM at Church on the Rock, 433 Barker Cypress Rd.  
Register at <https://katychristianchamber.com>**



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**Houston Glass Club**  
49th Annual  
**Vintage Glass & Antique Show & Sale**

**NEW SHOW  
HOURS!**

**Show Hours**

Saturday, August 17th 2024 9am - 5pm  
Sunday, August 18th 2024 10am - 4pm

**Fort Bend County Fairgrounds**  
US 59 to HWY 36, South 1/2 Mile  
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American Depression Era Glass - Elegant Glass - Kitchenware  
Dinnerware - Pottery - Antiques - Furniture - Linens - Silver  
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**Admission \$7 Saturday and Sunday  
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Information: [WWW.HOUSTONGLASSCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.HOUSTONGLASSCLUB.ORG)  
Nancy Norman, Chairman 281-240-0382  
Allison Holtkamp, Co-Chairman 713-598-2436

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

- College group
- Small morsels of food
- Actress Dunham
- Puts a limit on
- Used for baking or drying
- Commercial
- Zookeeper Bindi
- Walk in one's sleep
- The Great Lakes State
- Winter sport
- A thin layer on something
- Peacock network
- Give birth to a lamb or kid
- "Too Scared to Cry" author
- Nose
- Friend
- Country music legend
- Haggard
- Curved
- More deformed
- Bleated
- Set on its end
- An aspect of Ra
- Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- Harsh, grating noise
- Francisco
- Common Japanese surname
- Punish with an arbitrary penalty
- Football position (abbr.)
- Not in the know
- African antelope
- Popular tech (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

- Excessively showy
- Put an end to
- Blood disorder
- Ingredient in wine
- Shellfish
- Made smaller
- We
- The Treasure State
- Ekland, actress
- Male parent
- One hundredth of a watt (abbr.)
- Dish of minced meat
- Smothered laugh
- Article
- Atomic #12
- Small parrot
- Fictional "Star Wars" planet
- French wine grape
- Football stat (abbr.)
- Sound unit
- Where you sleep
- University of Dayton
- Miller beer offering
- Feel embarrassed
- Able to be estimated
- Commune in NW France

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

37. Adult female chicken  
38. Intergovernmental organization  
40. Archaic term for until  
41. That which is not sacred  
42. Sound made in speech  
44. Handgun (slang)  
45. Fill up again  
46. Evoke or awaken  
47. Beam Me Up, \_\_!

48. Spider wasp genus  
50. Headdress  
51. Exclamation of surprise  
52. Of I  
54. Figures  
55. Men's fashion accessories  
57. Indicates position  
61. Megabyte  
62. The Prairie State

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

# SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**Here's How It Works:**

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



## OUTAGES

from page A1

devastating storms are the Texans who experienced these storms firsthand,” said PUCT Executive Director Connie Corona. “We want to hear from you, whether you lost power during these storms or not. The information you provide will guide us in making changes to prevent a disaster of this scope in

the future.”

Nearly one million Texans lost power in May 2024 following the derecho. Hurricane Beryl stormed through the Greater Houston area as a Category 1 storm on Monday July 8, 2024, leaving more than 2.6 million Texans without power. At the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott,

the PUCT is investigating the preparedness and response by utilities in the Greater Houston area to these extreme weather events. The PUCT must submit its findings with recommendations by December 1, 2024.

The public can view Gov. Abbott’s directive and public doc-

uments related to the investigation through the PUCT’s Interchange website under Project No. 56822.

The questionnaire may be found at [forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wJbeBpBX-Fk22gzfEZ49h5XdklJiEG79MscFx-C8yeJ7xUNFk5OTEzUTVYMVZIO-ThQRkkwUVNCQIZJQi4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wJbeBpBX-Fk22gzfEZ49h5XdklJiEG79MscFx-C8yeJ7xUNFk5OTEzUTVYMVZIO-ThQRkkwUVNCQIZJQi4u)

## ADAMS

from page A1

Association, Texas Chief of Police Association, and the Board of Governors of the Harris County Organized Crime Task Force, according to the obituary.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn Adams; son, Jimmy Adams and his wife Denise of Mineral Wells; daughter, Carol Moore of Katy; grandchildren, Jennifer Nelson and husband Craig, Kristi Moore and Bret Moore all of Katy; and six great-grandchildren. Adams was preceded in death by his late wife, Joan Adams; parents, Alton and Layce Adams; and sons, Bret and Neil Adams.

A memorial service was held July 31 at Katy’s First Baptist Church, 600 Pin Oak in Katy, with Dr. Rob Lyerly and Dr. Charles Wisdom officiating.

## MURAL

from page A1

square at Second Street and Avenue C and see the progress on the project, but to please refrain from touching the murals or paneling as work continues.

“Our talented artist, Tyler, is often busy on a lift and scaffolding, so for her safety, we kindly ask that you give her space and avoid interrupting her while she works,” said Maris.

“We’ve been thrilled to witness the incredible progress Tyler has made and are truly amazed by how she captures the essence of Katy life in her murals,” said Maris. “Join us on August 24th for the Katy Champions on the Square event at the Katy Historic Town Square from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tyler will be there talking with community members about her artwork, so come out and meet her if you haven’t had the chance yet.”

Maris said that more updates would follow soon, including an announcement with the date and details of the official ribbon cutting.

## HOLIDAY

is the perfect time for folks to save some of their hard-earned cash on items they need.”

The Comptroller’s office estimates that shoppers will save \$143.4 million in state and local sales tax during this year’s sales tax holiday.

Apparel and school supplies that may be pur-

chased tax free are listed on the Comptroller’s website at [TexasTaxHoliday.org](https://www.texas.gov/tax-holiday).

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free in person or by any other means including over the internet, by telephone, or by mail. Purchases are exempt when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or

- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

## DIAZ

from page A1

their support for Diaz on Facebook.

“Thank you, Chief Diaz, for all you did to ensure the safety of our residents,” said councilmember Janet Corte. “Best of luck with your new position as Chief of Houston Police Dept. They are fortunate to have you.”

Councilmember Rory Robertson said, “It has truly been an honor working with Chief Diaz over the last several years. I am very proud of all the progress he has made with our department.”

According to the KPD website, Diaz was hired as the Chief of Police for the Katy Police Department in March 2019. Prior to that time, he served as a correctional officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice from 1987 to 1994.

Diaz completed the

University of Houston-Downtown Police Academy in 1994 and worked for the Harris County Precinct Five Constables Office, until 1996 when he was selected by the Texas Department of Public Safety to attend DPS Academy A-96. Upon completion of the DPS Academy, Diaz was assigned to the Katy Highway Patrol Office as Trooper.

In 2001, Diaz was promoted into the Narcotics Division of the State Police and was stationed in Houston. There Diaz was assigned to Harris County Organized Crime Task Force, HPD, ATF, DEA, and the FBI during his seven years as a Narcotics Sergeant.

In 2008, Diaz was appointed as a Texas Ranger and served in Rio Grande City, Texas briefly until returning to the Houston Office, where he was assigned as the

Public Corruption Ranger for Company A (Greater Houston Area) for over ten years, working various high profile public corruption investigations. Diaz was assigned to the FBI Public Corruption Border Task Force as a Task Force Officer and maintained top-secret clearance.

Diaz has over 6,800 Law Enforcement (TCOLE) training hours. He earned a bachelor’s of science in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston- Downtown, earning a scholarship from the 100 Club of Houston; Diaz also obtained a master’s of science in Criminology from Lamar University. He is a graduate of the 263rd FBI National Academy and FBI Texas Command College and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Texas Police Chief’s Association.

## TRIBUTE



JOANNE CLAIRE  
GREAVES DYER  
1937-2024





Joanne Claire Greaves Dyer, of Richmond, TX, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2024. Joanne was born in New Brighton, PA on May 28, 1937, and is preceded by her husband Robert Frank Dyer, PhD.; her parents, Theodore George Greaves and Mabel Claire Davies Greaves; and her brothers, Theodore Greaves and Todd Greaves. Joanne is survived by her three sons and six grandchildren: Rob and Simone Dyer, parents of Mitchell and Nathan; John and Tammi Dyer, parents of Allison and Catherine; Derek and Jennifer Dyer, parents of Kaylie and James. Joanne spent her entire career as an elementary school teacher in Metairie, LA. Her passion for teaching was also evident in the many Bible studies that she led in both New Orleans and Katy, TX. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to the International Treasure House Ministries, Inc., 27219 Boaters Crossing Drive, Katy, TX 77493. The memorial service will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at Grace Fellowship, 2655 S Mason Rd., Katy, TX 77450 beginning at 11 a.m.

FOR ADDITIONAL  
OBITUARIES, PLEASE  
SEE PAGE A5

MYSTERY  
OF THE

Mayan  
Medallion

Can you reveal the secrets of the Mayan tomb?



HOUSTON  
MUSEUM  
of NATURAL  
SCIENCE

Sugar Land

Follow clues to locate the precious artifact!

In this immersive exhibit, visitors are transported to Palenque, Mexico, where an archaeological team has mysteriously disappeared from a dig site while investigating rumors of a priceless jade medallion. They will follow the clues the team left behind to locate the precious medallion while avoiding the dangers lurking in the ruins.

For tickets, visit [sugarland.hmns.org](https://sugarland.hmns.org) or call 713-639-4629

Mystery of the Mayan Medallion is an exhibit by the Museum of Discovery, Little Rock, Arkansas



# Fourth ‘Women of Katy’ features a self-care soiree



## FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the busy Katy woman – with or without a marriage, with or without a career, with or without running a business, with or without children, with or without caring for parents, with or without worship and community causes – life can sometimes be a bit much. That’s why the Katy Business Association and the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to focus their fourth joint “Women of Katy” event on self-care.

Titled “Women of Katy Soiree: A Self-Care Event,” the two-hour soiree will feature presentations on both mental and physical health as well as three 15-minute mini-sessions offering practical tips and hands-on experiences designed to help attendees integrate self-care and mental wellness into their daily routines. Featured speakers are Dr. Jacinta Anya-oku of Hibiscus Aesthetics & Wellness, who will address physical health, and Carly Kirk, LCSW-S, who will cover mental health. Kirk

is the co-founder and clinical director of The Well Counseling in Katy. The soiree will take place August 29 at the offices of the Katy Area Chamber at 814 East Avenue in Katy. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the program starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$60.00 per person and include two drink tickets and all four mini-sessions. Seating is limited to 100 guests; please register at [womenofkaty.com](http://womenofkaty.com). For attire – organizers say that “Comfort is key – wear what makes you feel relaxed.”

# Katy Heritage Society scholarship open to both adult learners and students

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Attention: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE – YES, YOU!!! The Katy Heritage Society reminds learners – including adult learners as well as students pursuing the next step in their educational journey – that applications are still being accepted for the organization’s 2024 scholarship. “Katy was founded by hard-working visionaries who settled wild prairie, opened businesses, and created opportunity,” said the organization in a July 29 press release. “In the spirit

of our founders, this scholarship is open to anyone who is seeking education to provide for their family, advance their career, learn a trade or pursue higher education. Participants must be enrolled or be seeking enrollment at an accredited community college, college, university, business, vocational, continuing education program or technical school and must reside or work within the geographic boundaries of the Katy Independent School District. While this scholarship is open to any age, it was distinctly created to provide an opportunity for adults or

currently employed persons who wish to further their education, to advance their professional career or improve opportunities for those seeking to provide income to care for their families. To apply, go to [katyheritagesociety.com/\\_files/ugd/742c1e\\_2d-10f8e286874d38864bf291347d931f.pdf](http://katyheritagesociety.com/_files/ugd/742c1e_2d-10f8e286874d38864bf291347d931f.pdf). The application and essay are due via email by October 1, 2024. The scholarship will be awarded in person at the November meeting of the Katy Heritage Society on November 21. For more information, email [KatyHeritageSociety@outlook.com](mailto:KatyHeritageSociety@outlook.com) or call 281-377-5710.



# Brookshire company a finalist in H-E-B’s ‘Quest for Texas Best’

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the last eleven years, H-E-B has set out on a quest to find the best in Texas – the best local products made by Texans, according to the brand’s website. From the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley, from West Texas to Beaumont, the H-E-B “Quest for Texas Best” is an open call for locally owned, small food, beverage, and general merchandise suppliers to have their items considered for placement on H-E-B shelves and \$25,000 in their pocket. “Our brand Honestly Texas Rice has been selected as one of the top 10 finalists in H-E-B’s Quest for Texas Best,” said Pamela Wostarek-West, company principal of Texas Rice Milling/Brookshire Drying Co. “We are the only product for the Houston/Katy/Brookshire area to make to the finals.”

“Out of 470 entries Honestly Texas Rice was selected as one of the top 10 Texas best products!” said West on her LinkedIn page. “We are busy preparing for the finals to be held in August and are blessed to be included with nine other fantastic entries! Wish us luck and cheers to the Texas Rice Farmers.” The company is located at 1019 Bains, Brookshire, TX 77423. The product description on the contest website reads: “Honestly Texas proudly offers sustainably grown rice, nurtured by Texas farmers committed to conservation and quality. Grown in Texas using innovative water-saving techniques, Texas Rice Milling’s rice fields double as wildlife habitats during the off-season, supporting biodiversity. Dried, milled, and packaged locally, its farm-to-fork traceability ensures transparency from field to table. By choosing Honestly Texas Rice, customers support Texas-grown products that are safe, sustainable, and contribute to local ecosystems.” On August 9 at Fair Park in Dallas, the ten finalists will present their products and share their stories in front of a panel of judges selected by H-E-B. The judges will determine the four winning products and award \$25,000 to the Grand Prize winner, which will be named the “Texas Best,” and earn placement on store shelves. The first-place winner will be awarded \$20,000, \$15,000 will go to the second-place winner, and \$10,000 to the third-place winner. “Small businesses drive innovation and keep our communities vibrant, which is why we are dedicated to finding and supporting the best small businesses in Texas,” said James Harris, Sr. Director of Diversity & Inclusion and Supplier Diversity for H-E-B. “We are amazed year after year by the creative products submitted for the competition and look forward to making these inventive products available to our customers.” Since the launch of the competition in 2014, more than 1,000 food items, beverages, and general merchandise have made it to store shelves at H-E-B. H-E-B has awarded \$2.2 million in prize money along with marketing, mentoring, and supplemental support.

# Coastal Prairie Conservancy successfully conserves additional land in Matagorda County

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC) announced on June 22 the successful conservation of 298 acres in Matagorda County. Permanently protected through a conservation easement agreement with the landowners, this exceptional property is made up of globally rare coastal prairie (including several rare plants such as Bracted Grayfeather), coastal live oak forest, and restored grasslands and wetlands. The property is adjacent to other protected lands, expanding the contiguous habitat available to grassland and wetland birds, such as Mottled Duck, Northern Harrier, and Eastern Meadowlark. This property will add to the 31,000 acres of land already permanently conserved by the Coastal Prairie Conservancy. Mary Anne Piacentini, President and CEO of the Coastal Prairie Conservancy, said, “The Texas Coastal Prairie Ecosystem is challenged by

increasing land fragmentation and development. It is a privilege to collaborate with private landowners who are committed to conserving their lands and leaving a legacy for future generations of Texans.” The project was funded through a donation from the landowner, as well as philanthropic grants from a family foundation, the state’s land trust service organization, and a cooperating nonprofit organization. Additionally, this is the first conservation easement to be funded through the Texas Coastal Prairie Initiative, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This regional initiative was formed by the Coastal Prairie Conservancy and its partners to conserve the highly imperiled coastal prairie ecosystem. Under the initiative, private landowners may receive funding to permanently protect working cattle ranches, farmland, and natural areas. “CPC is extremely grateful for the

instrumental partnerships that make our conservation efforts possible,” Piacentini said. “We look forward to future collaborations as we continue working towards our goal of conserving thousands of additional acres in Southeast Texas. Working with partners is critical to secure the long-term conservation of important lands in Southeast Texas.” **About the Coastal Prairie Conservancy** The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is an accredited, nonprofit land trust working to sustain a resilient Texas by conserving coastal prairie, wetlands, farms, and ranches that benefit people and wildlife forever. These lands play an important role in flood control, clean air and water, outdoor recreation, and wildlife habitat. To learn more about the Coastal Prairie Conservancy’s conservation efforts, visit [coastalprairieconservancy.org](http://coastalprairieconservancy.org).



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The Katy Times will be closed on

**Labor Day  
Sept. 2, 2024**

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the  
**Sept. 5 edition is Noon on Thursday, Aug. 29.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

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TRIBUTES



SANDRA NAVARRE ROSS  
1955-2024

Mrs. Sandra Navarre Ross was born on September 9, 1955, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was the daughter of Reverend Arthur and Mrs. Rita Navarre, and sister to Arthur J. Navarre. Sandra was the devoted wife to Mr. Walter Ross for 34 wonderful years. She was the devoted mother of Iyanna Mitchell and Dana Wilson and bonus-mother to Shelantha Ross Sylva and LaJay Lee. She was the grandmother to Ernest Williams IV, Tyler Spencer, Gavin Oliver, Phillip Livas II, Wynton Joseph, Karmell Joseph, Ross Joseph, Devante Lee, Devin Lee, Jordan Lee and Cessileh Lee, and Godmother to Danielle Daniels and Erica Bickham. Sandra was a member of the Katy

Business Association, where she served as Vice-President. She was also a member of Angels Surviving Cancer, Inc., where she served as treasurer. She also served in the media ministry at the Church without Walls. Sandra was an amazing person and showed love to everyone she met. She will be greatly missed.

Sandra's funeral services convened on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at the Church Without Walls Ministries, 5725 Queenston Blvd., Houston, TX 77084, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. with the service following at 2 p.m. The family requested that all attendees wear the colors of pink and white, in honor of Mrs. Ross' favorite colors.

It is with heavy hearts that the West and Linn families announce the passing of our mother, Sondra Elaine West. Our loving "Ma" and "Granny" passed away on August 1, 2024, in Katy with family by her side. Sondra was born in Houston on December 2, 1946, to Raymond "Max" and Miriam "Jerry" Maxson.

Calling Katy home for the last 45 years, she was a huge fan of the Katy Tigers. Sondra was devout in her Catholic faith and was a member of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Katy, where she assisted with the RCIA program for several years. The center of her world though has always been her family. Her joy was having the family over for birthdays and holidays, especially Christmas. She loved Christmas! Any occasion to have the family around her brought her joy. She was room mother, team mom and #1 fan of whatever we were involved in. In keeping with her love of family, she was deeply interested in our family genealogy, building archives of information and shared her findings with many.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Robert "Bob" West; daughter and son-in law Dianna and Rick Linn; son and daughter-in-law Robert and Tarean West; and son and daughter-in-law Kenneth and Alexandra West, all of Katy; grandsons and



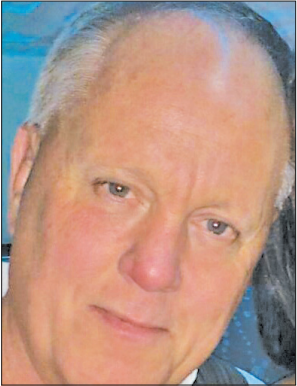
SONDRA ALAINE WEST  
1946-2024

their wives Matthew and Aiza Linn of Dumaguete Philippines, Michael and Laura Linn of Cypress, TX and Andrew and Gabriela Linn of Alto, GA.; and five great-granddaughters Kailey, Madison, Molly, Abigail and Paisley.

The family received friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy, where a rosary was recited at 7 p.m. Mass was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, in Katy. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Funeral services held under the direction of

**Schmidt Funeral Home, 1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424.**



TERRY LEE SCHAUB  
1962-2024

Terry Lee Schaub, 62, of Katy died on July 21, 2024, at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

Terry was born April 20, 1962, to Charles and Joyce Schaub of Lampasas. He attended school in Lampasas and graduated from Lampasas High School in the Class of 1980. He played Badger basketball and was a passionate Badger fan.

Terry was the sports editor at the Lampasas Dispatch Record for 17 years before he moved on to other newspaper positions, including advertising director and publisher, in Killeen, Round Rock, Smithville, Katy and Odessa. After leaving the Odessa American, he returned to Katy.

Terry loved the Houston Astros and celebrated their two recent

World Series championships. He also loved the Texas Longhorns and, although they continued to let him down, he followed the Dallas Cowboys and was becoming enthused about the Houston Texans. He was a member of Second Baptist Church in Houston, where he was baptized on June 24, 2018.

Terry was preceded in death by his parents, and by an aunt, Linda Gail Schaub.

He is survived by his brother, Randy Schaub and wife Pat; nephews, Will and Matt; cousin, David Hazelwood and wife Paula of Lampasas; and uncle, Brent Schaub of Lampasas.

Graveside services will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lampasas on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 10 a.m.

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# STEAM Center inspires young minds over the summer

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

School may have been out but the learning continued for hundreds of students this summer at Katy ISD’s Shaw STEAM Center at 1730 Katyland Dr. in Katy. Through fun, interactive camps, the Center remained a hub of activity for students, as the flame of discovery was lit, in many, for the first time.

The Center is led by Steve Adams and Liz Dethloff, each with decades of experience in public education. They are routinely contacted by school administrators from across the nation, wanting to learn more about the district’s unique STEAM Center space and how it benefits students, families and the wider community, Katy ISD said in a July 29 press release.

“Daily, we are able to see students of all ages excited about being in a school setting and engaging in STEAM learning,” Adams said. “It is genuinely what education should look like.”

Beginning next school year, every Katy ISD third-grade and seventh-grade student will visit the Shaw Center on a field trip. In addition, the Center also hosts family science nights and teacher



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Hundreds of students participated this summer in fun interactive camps at Katy ISD’s Shaw STEAM Center at 1730 Katyland Drive in Katy.

professional development, as well as serving as a headquarters for the district’s high school robotics teams.

Dethloff leads the instruction at the STEAM Center, and works with district leaders, teachers and parent volunteers to plan curriculum-based activities for students and families that visit the Center.

“I love seeing the excitement on our students’ faces as they come in our front doors,” Dethloff said. “I see the Shaw Center becoming

an entrenched tradition for the families of our growing Katy community.”

To her, STEAM education helps to equip students for their future careers, stimulating their curiosity and fostering a “lifelong love of learning.”

In addition to STEAM programming, the Shaw Center hosts a variety of student groups, including Girl Scouts, Destination Imagination teams, and GT activities.

Cindee Devlin, Business and Outreach Mentor for Tompkins High School’s robotics team, is a long-time volunteer and parent of three Tompkins’ graduates, all of whom were part of the robotics team. She and her husband Brian continue to support the team with their technical and business expertise.

She has seen how STEAM education has positively impacted her children and many others who have been part of the Tompkins team. Participation in STEAM programs, specifically in robotics, provides students with a variety of technical skills, but it also provides them with life skills. They learn how to work on a team, how to manage their time effectively and

how to lead others.

“Robotics gives students confidence in themselves, that they can learn or figure out anything,” Devlin said. “Parents all want the best for their kids and we expose them to technologies that may encourage them to further participate in junior high or high school robotics.”

Mae Chen, a rising senior at Jordan High School and the Strategy Officer for the school’s robotics team, was first introduced to robotics at nine years of age. When asked, she admits she wasn’t enthusiastic about it but quickly fell in love with the competitive environment. Her interest has only grown over the years, so much so, that she created her own camps to get younger students involved in robotics.

“We cover basic mechanical systems in the first week and go deeper into the season’s competition game in the second week,” Chen said. “From the promotional work to developing and teaching camp curriculum, pulling off Jordan’s first-ever robotics camp took the work of dozens of students.”

The team-led camps are a win-win for all District students.

Elementary and junior high school students gain interest in new topics from skilled mentors, and high school students gain experience teaching others and organizing events. The camps also provide critical fundraising for the robotics teams to compete each school year, and former Katy ISD robotics students have gone on to careers at NASA, Space X and other major corporations. Devlin’s son is now an engineer in the military.

This summer’s camps included instruction in robots and coding, animation, Legos, web development and more. The Center also partnered with Rice University’s Office of STEM Engagement to offer fun, age-specific camps for elementary students to learn more about electronics, physics and engineering.

“Every student will not pursue a STEAM career, but every student deserves to know about the opportunities in STEAM and how thoroughly engaging these can be,” Adams said. “Our goal is to give them exposure and a positive experience.”

Katy ISD’s fall semester begins Wednesday, August 14.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSMITA PASALA

From left to right, top row: Ayan Das, Gavin Zheng, Janice Zhang, Alyssa Jiang, Rebecca Jung, Grace Powell, Ella Ng, Susmita Pasala, Eddie Guo, Leo Seo. From left to right, bottom row: Kayla Eshelman, Heather Tan, Vivian Zhang, Erica Novosad, Tiffany Kim, Justin Silva

## Cinco Ranch FBLA students advance to National Leadership Conference

BY SUSMITA PASALA  
REPORTER AND SENIOR AT CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

On June 28, 2024, sixteen Cinco Ranch High School students ventured to Orlando, Florida for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference. These students underwent a rigorous state level competition and placed in the top four in their event to qualify for the national competition. Throughout the conference, the students competed in their specific events which ranged from taking a test to presenting a case study or displaying a project. While there, the students attended various business related workshops aimed to prepare and advise the students for their future endeavors.

“I felt that I learned a lot from listening to the guest speakers,” said Heather Tan, a sophomore.

The students were led by Cinco Ranch FBLA advisors John Bryan and Gilvaner Soares, in which all the students collectively agreed that they “couldn’t have done it without them.” Over the course of the week, the students had the chance to interact with various people from different states and made many connections along the way.

Leo Seo, a junior, said that he “got acquainted with members of the South Carolina chapter and it was a great experience to talk to people of all backgrounds.”

An activity that really sparked interest within the students was pin trading - when conference members are able to exchange

their state’s pins with others. Grace Powell, a junior, explained how “pin trading was my favorite activity and brought about a healthy competition among the members.”

The conference started and ended with a grand ceremony in which Susmita Pasala detailed was “very exciting and inspirational to see the National Leaders empowering students from all over the world.”

Alyssa Jiang, a sophomore, placed fourth in the “Introduction to Business Communication” event. Jiang had come to the conference in a rush after catching a late-night flight to Florida from Hawaii. “I had to pull an all-nighter in order to prepare for my test,” she explained.

Rebecca Jung, a junior, placed 9th in Client Service. Jung said that many “hectic efforts” were spent “preparing, studying, and practicing for her competition.”

Tiffany Kim, a junior, placed tenth in Website Coding & Development. Kim spent hours prepping her presentation to perfection making sure it was up to par for the national competition. “It was the most stressful and unforgettable experience” she said.

During the conference the students had the opportunity to go to Disney and Universal Studios and they all agreed that it was a “magical experience.” Ella Ng, a junior, said, “I overcame my fears of riding scary roller coasters, and I now have a newfound interest in them.”

Janice Zhang, a junior, said, “The highlight of my trip was experiencing Animal Kingdom and all the realistic animatronics.”

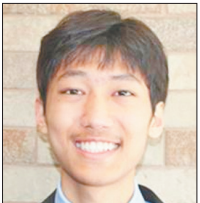
## Jordan student is silver in Biolympaid finals

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) announced July 31 the high school biology scholars who earned medals at the USA Biolympiad (USABO) National Finals held at Marymount University on its Arlington, Virginia main campus from May 25-June 8, 2024. Over 11,900 students from 690 schools, 44 states, and 25 international schools registered in the nationwide high school competition.

Haochen Wang from Jordan High School in Fulshear is a silver medalist.

During the 10 days of the USABO National Finals, students participated in intensive theoretical and practical tutorials. The high school students studied with leading U.S. biologists in the fields of cellular & molecular biology, plant anatomy & physiology, animal anatomy and physiology, genetics and evolution, ecology, ethology, and biosystematics.



HAOCHEN WANG

The young scholars were mentored by Kathy Frame, USABO Director. At the closing ceremony, Allen Lin, PhD (USABO ’05, ’06), Principal Scientist in Bioinformatics at Regeneron, presented the keynote address.

Wang has medaled multiple times at national-level tournaments, including second in cell biology at SONI and first in experimental design at Bird Science Olympiad (BirdSO), and has earned more than 70 medals competing in high school. He has cowritten/written 8 tests for Science Olympiad tournaments and CSE. Last summer, Wang contributed to research on oxalate catabolism in plants at the Nakata lab. This is his third year participating in the USABO; he qualified for the top 50 in 2022 and 2023. Wang won the academic achievement award at JHS. In his free time, Wang enjoys playing soccer with his friends and listening to instrumental music.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The *Katy Independent School District* will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., **August 19, 2024 in the Boardroom, Education Support Complex, 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy, Texas 77494.** The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

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

Maintenance Tax	\$0.72710 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)				
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.39000 / \$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)				
Approved by Local Voters					
<b><u>Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget</u></b>					
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:					
Maintenance and operations	4.3113 % increase or _____ % (decrease)				
Debt service	1.2382 % increase or _____ % (decrease)				
Total expenditures	3.7327 % increase or _____ % (decrease)				
<b><u>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</u></b> <b>(as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)</b>					
	<b>Preceding Tax Year</b>	<b>Current Tax Year</b>			
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 69,902,019,796	\$ 74,203,043,289			
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,416,823,819	\$ 2,718,412,263			
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 57,901,128,706	\$ 62,046,544,867			
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,918,277,615	\$ 2,036,491,685			
* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8). ** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012 (17). *** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).					
<b><u>Bonded Indebtedness</u></b>					
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$2,379,475,000					
*Outstanding principal.					
<b><u>Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates</u></b>					
	<b>Maintenance &amp; Operations</b>	<b>Interest &amp; Sinking Fund*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Local Revenue Per Student</b>	<b>State Revenue Per Student</b>
Last Year's Rate	\$0.72940	\$0.39000	\$1.11940	\$6,609	\$5,942
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.71790	\$0.42693	\$1.14483	\$7,204	\$5,712
Proposed Rate	\$0.72710	\$0.39000	\$1.11710	\$7,159	\$5,832
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					
<b><u>Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence</u></b>					
	<b>Last Year</b>		<b>This Year</b>		
Average Market Value of Residences	\$	429,122	\$	449,783	
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$	328,871	\$	360,009	
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$	1.11940	\$	1.11710	
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$	3,681	\$	4,022	
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes			\$	340	
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.					
<b>Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.13277. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.13277.</b>					
<b><u>Fund Balances</u></b>					
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.					
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)		\$ 344,808,601			
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)		\$ 64,750,778			
A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.					
Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.					
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.					





5

GAMES TO WATCH FOR

IN NON-DISTRICT FOOTBALL PLAY

**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Football season is heating up and before you know it the regular season will be here and with it come some exciting matchups from Katy ISD teams.

There will be tons of intriguing matchups once district begins but even before then there will be some high quality games between top teams that will show who will be among the contenders early in the schedule and there's lots to look forward to, including five games we should definitely be keeping our eyes on.

**5. SEVEN LAKES VS. MEMORIAL**  
7 p.m. Aug. 30 at Tully Stadium

The Spartans get a shout here in an under the radar game, but one that has become a big rivalry between Seven Lakes and Memorial. The two teams will open the season against each other for the seventh straight year and it has been a very close, with every game over the past six years being decided by one score.

The Spartans won last year's game that was a great one that went to over-time, 35-28, and Shaan Patel put together one of the best performances of his young high school career, throwing for 220 yards and three touchdowns, while Ryan Fowler had three receptions for 90 yards and a touchdown. It is looking to be another very good one again this year as the Spartans look to improve and get off to a hot start.

Shaan Patel throws a pass during a game between Seven Lakes and Memorial at Legacy Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

**4. MAYDE CREEK VS. FORT BEND AUSTIN**  
7:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at Rhodes Stadium

No. 4 on the list, Mayde Creek takes on Fort Bend Austin in the second week of the season in a very intriguing matchup for the Rams. Mayde Creek is looking to continue improving on a season where they showed some strong play and improved from their previous few seasons. As an added fun part of the game, Mayde Creek head coach Mike Arogbonlo was the head coach of Fort Bend Austin until he resigned to become the quarterback coach at Duncanville in the spring of 2023. Austin 5-5 last season and finished fifth in District 20-6A. Mayde Creek went 3-7 last year and finished seventh in district.

**3. CINCO RANCH VS. THE WOODLANDS**  
7:30 p.m. Aug. 31 at Rhodes Stadium

It will be a big one to start off the season between Cinco Ranch and the Woodlands, as the Cougars look to

See **FOOTBALL**, page B3

Top photo: Christian Bradford carries the ball during a game between Tompkins and Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium. Left: Ronnie Quinn runs downfield during a game between Katy and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Justin Thierheimer and Josh Davis at Monday's Tompkins practice.

# Tompkins excited and ready for new season

**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Todd McVey couldn't even get to sleep on Sunday night.

He was too excited. Excited for new possibilities, excited to get back out on the field, excited for a new season of football.

Tompkins got out on the field Monday for their first day of practice and it was full speed ahead for a team that is out to prove itself this year, and they got straight to work, stepping up in the first day of practice for a team that wants to fight for a top spot in district this year.

"I got in bed at nine to wake up early and I just kept checking the clock, I couldn't wait to get out here," McVey said. "I just love that I get to come out here and coach these kids, I get chills just talking about it. It never not excites me, coming out here and seeing these kids get one percent better. And it will continue to get better every day, that's why I love this."

Tompkins comes off a 7-4 season where they made the bi-district round and has new faces all around the field. The players that return have stepped up and helped the new faces acclimate and been those leaders, that was big on day one as it got the whole team in the right mindset and set the standard that they will need all season.

"Those seniors that have been here were tremendous with that today, we have a crimson line standard and they're the ones who came out and led the way to show everyone else what is expected," McVey said. "Our young guys were figuring out today things like, don't walk from drill to drill, don't ever give less than you would during the game and things like that. But they followed the example of the veterans because those guys were flying around and setting that standard."

Justin Thierheimer has become one of the big leaders of the offense heading into his senior year. Thierheimer started four games for Tompkins last year and earned valuable experience and has continued to step up his game throughout the offseason. He battled an injury over the summer but was able to be ready to go for the first day of practice and it meant everything for him to be back out there with his team.

"It's been a grind, but I'm just excited to be back," Thierheimer said. "I wanted to be out here for the first day of practice for the guys and it was just great to be back in this environment and be compet-

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

# Three from Katy ISD named to All-State Baseball Team

**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Three players from Katy ISD earned Class 6A Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association Baseball All-State honors on Friday for their efforts this spring in a strong year for Katy ISD baseball.

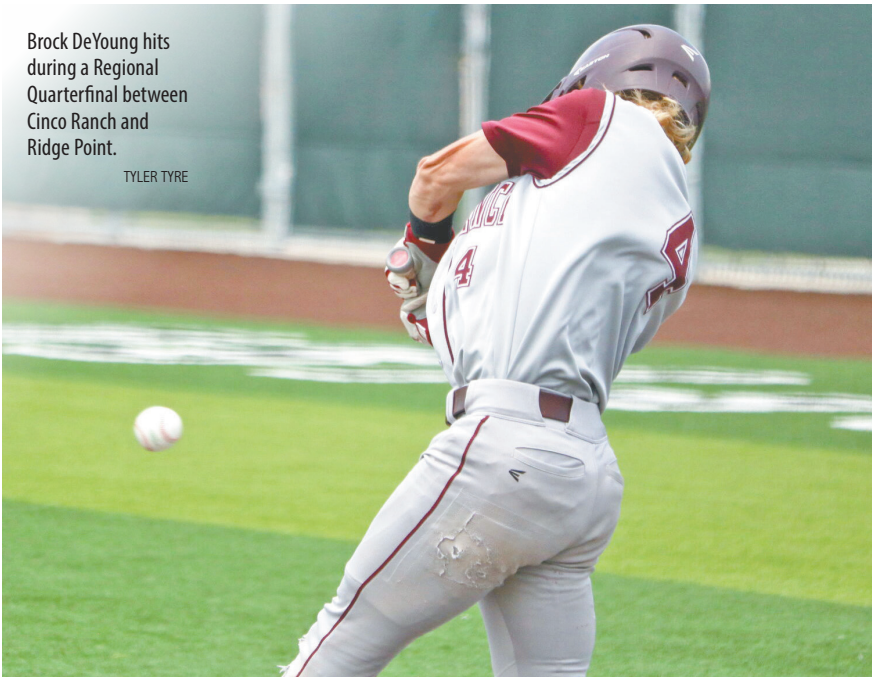
Cinco Ranch had two named to the team, with Lucas Franco earning a second team nod and Brock DeYoung being named honorable mention and Katy had one named to the team, as Connor Udland earned honorable mention honors on the team.

Franco and DeYoung were two of the biggest leaders in the clubhouse for a Cinco Ranch

team that won its second straight District 19-6A Championships and went three rounds in the playoffs. Cinco had a record of 27-8-4 and made it to the third round of the playoffs for the second straight year.

Udland was one of the biggest keys to Katy's success this year. The junior University of Houston commit had a breakout season and was named the district's MVP for his efforts. He cemented himself as the ace of the Tigers' staff throughout the year and helped Katy reach the third round of the playoffs for the third straight year, with Katy finishing with a record of 25-12 and second in District 19-6A.

See **BASEBALL**, page B3



Brock DeYoung hits during a Regional Quarterfinal between Cinco Ranch and Ridge Point.

TYLER TYRE





PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Student-athletes fill the tables at this summer's S.A.L.T. conference.



COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy ISD Athletic Director Lance Carter talks during this summer's S.A.L.T. conference.

# Katy ISD student-athletes learn, grow as leaders at S.A.L.T. conference

## STAFF REPORT

Last week, when they could have been anywhere but in a school building, nearly 300 Katy ISD student-athletes gathered to learn and grow as burgeoning leaders.

Every summer, the district holds its annual Student Athlete Leadership Team (S.A.L.T.) conference, which is dedicated to enhancing students' leadership skills and personal growth. The students represent all UIL sports played in Katy ISD and are nominated to participate by a member of their campus coaching staff for their leadership potential and commitment to excellence.

Lance Carter, Executive Director of Athletics for Katy ISD, welcomed the students and expressed gratitude for their commitment to self-improvement.

"I want to thank all of you for giving your time to grow today as leaders," he said.

He opened the day with a story shared by a district coach, who had been

inspired by the leadership of one of his students.

That student was Aidan Morrison, a recent Seven Lakes High School graduate and soccer standout. Aidan, a S.A.L.T. alumni, was named the 2023-24 Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year, for the second consecutive year, and was part of the team that won two consecutive 6A state titles in boys soccer.

But beyond his individual and team accomplishments, Carter shared that Aidan was an intentional campus leader, taking time to build relationships with other students and staff in the soccer program at Seven Lakes. He engaged in generational leadership, building a lasting legacy that continues to inspire others to grow.

"The impact you can have on someone can affect them forever," Carter said, reflecting on Aidan's influence.

Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD's Superintendent, opened the event by sharing that the district continues to invest in

athletics in large part because of the essential life skills sports participation imparts upon students and the positive impact it plays on academic performance.

"You're going to be leaders, help others, and make this a better community for everybody," he said. "Katy ISD students are the future, and we thank you for your continued efforts to grow and learn as student leaders."

Stephen Mackey, founder and CEO of the 2Words character development program, served as the day's keynote speaker and main facilitator. He challenged the students to reflect on what leadership meant to them, and through friendly competition and discussion, the students were able to learn from one another.

Approximately 15,000 students, or 16% of Katy ISD's total student population, participate in a district sport at the junior high and high school level. Visit the Katy ISD Athletic webpage to learn more.



COURTESY KATY ISD

Student-athletes and coaches talk during this summer's S.A.L.T. conference.





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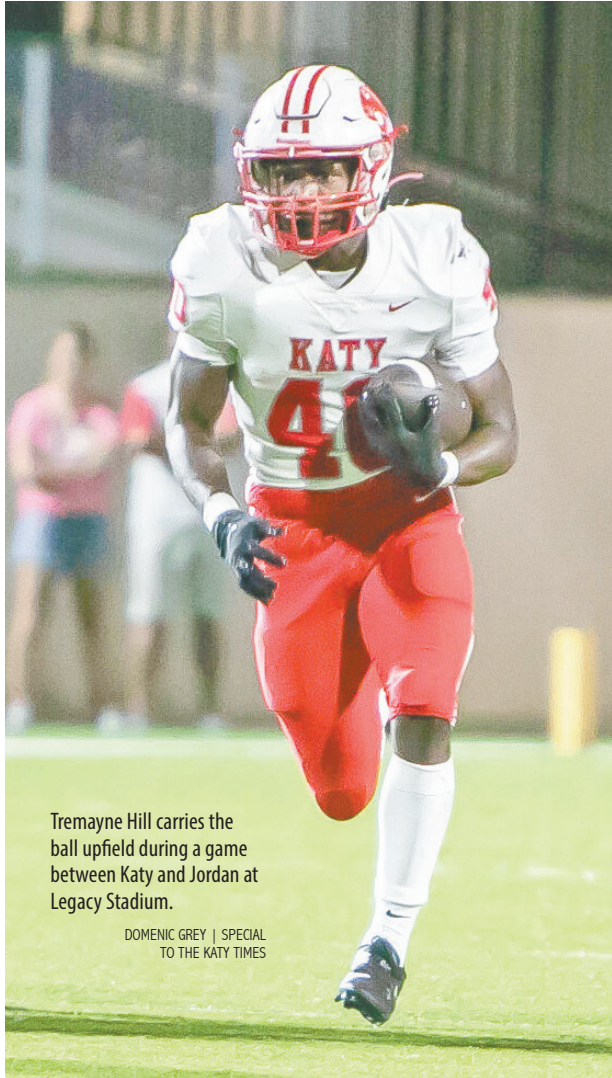
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Tremayne Hill carries the ball upfield during a game between Katy and Jordan at Legacy Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

## FOOTBALL

from page B1

prove they belong among the area and states best and will have that chance against a team that is always one of the powerhouses around Houston. Cinco looks to have a very high-powered offense and it will be exciting to see if they can keep up with the Highlanders and start the season off with a win. The Woodlands came off a 9-4 season where they went three rounds deep and lost to Duncanville in the third round. Cinco went 6-4 and only missed out on the playoffs in a tiebreaker last year.

### 2. TOMPKINS VS. BRIDGELAND,

7:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at Rhodes Stadium

Tompkins plays Bridgeland in non-district play for the third straight season and it is shaping up to be one of the best games in the early season as two teams who are very strong year in and year out battle in their final tune up before district. The two have split the series over the past two years, with Bridgeland taking it by just one score in a very exciting matchup where it wasn't decided until the final moments and both teams bring back some very strong pieces.

Tompkins comes off a 7-4 year where they finished second in district and lost in the bi-district round while Bridgeland went 9-2, also losing in the bi-district round.

### 1. KATY VS. ATASCOCITA

7 p.m. Sept. 6 at Legacy Stadium

This might not be the most anticipated non-district matchup in Houston, but around Texas in week two and it will be a great early show between two of the strongest teams around the state.

Katy leads the all-time series between the two 5-1, but suffered their first ever loss to the Eagles last year 42-35. It was a crazy game where the Tigers had chances, Gunner Nelson threw for 137 yards and two touchdowns, Tremayne Hill ran for 60 yards and two touchdowns and Israel Olotu-Judah had 24 yards receiving in the game, but Cardae Mack dominated the day for Atascocita with 192 yards rushing and three touchdowns.

Katy comes off a 10-2 season and an area round appearance while Atascocita went 11-3 and made the fourth round of the playoffs.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Marcus Gadlin runs the ball during a game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

## TOMPKINS

from page B1

ing again. I just can't wait for the season."

The defense is young as well, but the returners have been working to get people up to speed and ready to go for the season. While the defense is young it has playmakers and Tompkins believes they can be a very strong unit.

"We always preach about being a team led team and how the players need to lead," said senior safety Josh Davis. "This is the perfect example of that. The coaches lay it out for us but the players have to be those leaders on the field. The guys returning have all just taken it upon themselves to step up. We need to know everything from the first day. Every play call, know where everyone needs to be and hold people accountable."

Tompkins was the only District 19-6A team to not have spring practice and who is practicing this summer a week early. That means extra time for players to make a name for themselves, stake a claim at a starting spot and fight for playing time. It will be a fun start to the season for the Falcons and they can't wait to see what comes this year.

"We're going to see who gets those spots as we go, because that's what so fun about this time of year, we don't know who is going to be in a lot of spots," McVey said. "A lot of those guys were in the weight room every day and they look good. It's just about putting it together out on the field now."

## BASEBALL

from page B1

Tomball teammates C.J. Sampson and Cade Arrambide earned co-players of the year honors for the 6A after leading the Cougars to a state title and Tomball coach Doug Rush was named the classifications coach of the year. Sampson was 14-0 with a .75 ERA while Arrambide, who was named the Texas Gatorade Player of the Year.

Following is the Class 6A Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association All-State Team.

### BLUE BELL/TSWA CLASS 6A ALL-STATE BASEBALL

#### First team

Pitcher: C.J. Sampson, Tomball, soph.; Brady Coe, Allen, sr.; Jake Mader-Cooper, Pearland, sr.

Reliever: Gavin McCullough, Lake Travis, sr.

Catcher: Cade Arrambide, Tomball, sr.

First baseman: McClane Helton, Cypress Woods, sr.

Second baseman: Damian Landry, Pearland, sr.

Shortstop: Kayson Cunningham, San Antonio Johnson, jr.

Third baseman: Nano Mendoza, Frenship, sr.

Outfielders: JT Cienega, Weatherford, sr.; Braylon Payne, Fort Bend Elkins, sr.; Taylor Tracey, Dripping Springs, jr.

Designated hitter: Connor Digesualdo, Round Rock, sr.

Co-players of the year: Sampson, Tomball; Arrambide, Tomball

Coach of the year: Doug Rush, Tomball

#### Second team

Pitchers: Karson Reeder, Tomball, soph.; Josh Glaser, Flower Mound Marcus, sr.; (tie) David Ramirez, Clear Falls, jr.; Kaleb Rogers, San Antonio Reagan, jr.

Reliever: Ian Alper, Clear Creek, jr.

Catcher: (tie) Homer Munoz, La Joya, sr.; Masato Chilcutt, San Antonio Johnson, jr.

First baseman: Blake Beheler, George Ranch, jr.

Second baseman: (tie) Lane Wood, Round Rock Westwood, sr. Chad Pantuso, San Antonio Johnson, sr.

Shortstop: (tie) Theo Gillen, Austin Westlake, sr. Adrian Rodriguez, Flower Mound Marcus, sr.

Third baseman: Lucas Franco,



TYLER TYRE

Lucas Franco celebrates after hitting a 3-run double during a area round game between Cinco Ranch and Stratford at Cy-Lakes.

Katy Cinco Ranch, jr.

Outfielders: Christian Hallmark, San Antonio Brandeis, sr.; Jackson Gula, Round Rock Westwood, sr.; James Jorgensen, Dallas Jesuit, soph.

Designated hitter: Ryan Mason, San Antonio O'Connor, jr.

#### Third team

Pitchers: Joaquin Cavazos, Los Fresnos, jr.; Jaden Barfield, Pearland, sr.; Kolby McBee, Waco Midway, sr.

Reliever: David Womack, Lake Travis, jr.

Catcher: (tie) Chris Alsobrooks, Round Rock, jr.; Luke Billings, Prosper, jr.; Tristen Bird, Dallas Jesuit, sr.

First baseman: (tie) Caleb Hoover, Rockwall-Heath, sr.; Colin Mulcahy, Houston Bellaire, sr.

Second baseman: Jabin Moore, Rockwall-Heath, sr.

Shortstop: Nico Partida, Pearland, jr.

Third baseman: Hunter Bullin, Rockwall-Heath, soph.

Outfielders: Ed Small, Austin Anderson, jr.; Will Van Wie, Houston Memorial, jr.; (tie) Caden Crofts, San Antonio Reagan, sr. Sam Erickson, Flower Mound Marcus, sr.

Designated hitter: Randy Cardenas, Hutto, sr.

#### Honorable mention

Pitchers: Landon Ammerman, Rockwall-Heath, jr.; Mason Bell, FW Boswell, jr.; Dillon Brandt, Dallas Jesuit, jr.; Austin Gaskins, Willis, sr.;

Kadyn Leon, Lake Travis, sr.; Ridge Morgan, Round Rock Westwood, sr.; Marcos Paz, Hebron, jr.; John Reyna, Weslaco, fr.; AJ Ripley, Richardson Pearce, sr.; Cooper Rummel, Dripping Springs, jr.; Owen Skinner, Mansfield Legacy, jr.; Max Stammel, Highland Park, sr.; Santiago Tijerina, La Joya, sr.; Tyler Walton, San Antonio Johnson, sr.; Aiden White, Prosper, sr.; Connor Udland, Katy, jr.

Relief pitchers: Caleb Holifield, The Woodlands, jr.; Carson Reeves, Cedar Ridge, sr.

Catchers: Cody Cashion, Southlake Carroll, sr.; Jeffrey Claycomb, Rowlett, soph.; Peton Dulin, Cedar Ridge, sr.; Brandon Lang, Cypress Ranch, sr.; Jax Robinson, Waxahachie, soph.; Jett Vindiola, Weatherford, soph.; Juan JC Zepeda, Laredo Alexander, sr.

First basemen: Erich Daigle, The Woodlands, jr.; Ryan Everitt, Weslaco, sr.; Tristan Patterson, Deer Park, sr.; Issac Robles, Cy-Fair, soph.; Andre Wood, Vista Ridge, sr.

Second baseman: Jacob Ayala, South Grand Prairie, sr.; Dylan Goddard, Round Rock, sr.; Maddox Medrano, Lake Travis, sr.; Shane Parker, Dallas Jesuit, soph.; Caden Schindler, Clear Creek, jr.; Caden Wellman, Kingwood, sr.

Shortstops: Jacob Ayala, South Grand Prairie, sr.; Benjamin Barreira, Bridgeland, sr.; Jeter Battles, SA Reagan, sr.; Carlo Almandarez, Klein Cain, sr.; Bo Caraway, Cy-Fair, jr.; Brytton Clements, Laredo Alexander, sr.; Hudson Ellis, Round Rock, sr.; Sawyer Farr, Boswell, sr.; Jake Fuels, Dallas Jesuit, sr.; Derek Garcia, Los Fresnos, jr.; Daniel Lopez, El Paso Socorro, sr.; Coleman Ryan, Tomball, sr.; Lucas Zambrano, La Joya, sr.; Brock DeYoung, Katy Cinco Ranch, sr.; Kutter Gage Webb, San Marcos, sr.

Third basemen: Josh Arquette, Kingwood, sr.; Kaden McCoy, Humble Atascocita, sr.; Brody Mattox, Prosper, jr.; Logan Ramirez, Mansfield Lake Ridge, sr.; Isaac Robles, Cy-Fair, soph.; Jackson Salters, Houston Memorial, sr.

Outfielders: Josh Bandy, San Antonio Churchill, sr.; Mason Bell, FW Boswell, jr.; Tristan Bristow, SA Harlan, sr.; Chance Crawford, Bryan, sr.; Jackson Franks, Prosper, sr.; Luke Holt, New Braunfels, sr.; Matt Scott, Klein Oak, sr.; Myles Syptak, Bridgeland, sr.; Garrett Wallace, Flower Mound Marcus, sr.; Braxton Van Cleave, Mansfield, jr.

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August 1  
Puzzle Answers

7	6	8	5	1	3	2	4	9
2	5	9	6	4	7	8	1	3
4	3	1	8	9	2	6	5	7
9	2	4	7	3	6	5	8	1
6	8	3	1	5	4	9	7	2
1	7	5	9	2	8	4	3	6
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5	9	6	4	7	1	3	2	8
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Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **FY 2024 Water Line Replacement Project, until 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 27, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the installation of approximately 3,700 L.F. of 6” thru 8” water lines including valves, fire hydrants, services connections as well as all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **3:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 20, 2024.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83081483522>  
Meeting ID: 830 8148 3522  
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Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

First Publication: **Thursday, August 8, 2024**  
Second Publication: **Thursday, August 15, 2024**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE at [Storagetreasures.com](http://Storagetreasures.com)

The facility is Langham Creek Mini Storage 18619 FM 529 RD. Cypress, TX 77433 Bidding will open at 10:00 a.m. on August 9, 2024, and end at 10:00 a.m. on August 16, 2024. 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: Christopher Adams, Mohammed Raza, Hector J Silva, Michel Gonzalez, Amy Mari Schnettler, Bill and Linda Kuts-Cheraux, Ricardo D Castillo, Alejandro Jesus Ybarra, Johnathan W Wilson, Yaquelin Patino, Darrell Scranton, Leson Wilson, Bryan J Sumicek, Donta Polk/Horizon Works, Stephanie Latimore.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **3rd Street Drainage Improvements Project, until 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 27, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves drainage and paving improvements to 3rd Street between Airline Drive and Katyland Drive. Improvements include the installation of storm sewer pipe sizes ranging from 24” to 60”, 6'x4' reinforced concrete box culverts, asphalt overlay, concrete paving, and all labor, materials and equipment required to perform the work.

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

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
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Meeting ID: 874 5220 1298  
Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

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# Katy, Jordan ranked in preseason football poll



Katy fans cheer during a Class 6A-Division II Region III Final between Katy and C.E. King at NRG Stadium.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy and Jordan both earned a spot in Dave Campbell's Texas Football Class 6A Preseason Rankings, which came out in July, with Katy ending up just outside the top 10 and Jordan sneaking in as one of the final teams in the rankings.

Katy led the way for Katy ISD, coming in at No. 11 overall in the preseason rankings, one of the lower rankings the Tigers have been given in many years.

The Tigers come off a season where they went 10-2 and won district for the third year in the row, but were ousted in the second round of the playoffs by Cy-Fair, the Tigers' earliest playoff exit since 2001.

Katy returns five starters on offense and three on defense, but have plenty of talent coming back. Offensively, Tremayne Hill leads the way coming back stronger and faster at running back in his junior year and the duo of Israel Olotu-Judah and Cade McCall are playmakers at wide receiver. Gunner Nelson showed some strong flashes at quarterback as a junior and is back to lead things as well. Defensively Katy returns named like Jeremiah Smith, Jacob Hilton and Adam Carter and there will be high expectations for the unit.

Jordan came in at No. 40 in Class 6A, being ranked in the pre-season for the first time.

The Warriors come off the best season in their young history. The Warriors went 7-4 overall and 5-3 in district play, finishing fourth and clinching a playoff appearance for the first time in history, making the bi-district round before falling to Fort Bend Hightower, a team that went four rounds deep in the playoffs.

Jordan returns some big players, including six starters on offense and seven on defense. The Warriors should have one of the most high powered offenses in the area, led by Andrew Marsh, one of the best receivers in the state, along with a duo of Chad Gasper and Tanner West in the backfield and Domenic Cangolosi stepping in at quarterback. The team's defense has talent all around the field as well, including Brayden Coffie, Zion Jones, Jimmy Phrisco Phillips, and Zach Taylor.

Katy was the fourth highest ranked Houston area team, behind North Shore, Summer Creek and Atascocita. In total there were 17 Houston area teams ranked in the preseason top 50.

DeSoto earned top honors, followed by Duncanville, North Shore, Westlake and North Crowley to round out the top five.

Following is the top 10 of the Dave Campbell Texas Football Class 6A Preseason Rankings

1. DeSoto
2. Duncanville
3. North Shore
4. Austin Westlake
5. North Crowley
6. Summer Creek
7. Southlake Carroll
8. Lake Travis
9. Humble Atascocita
10. Cibolo Steele



Above: Zechariah Sample, Andrew Marsh and Tanner West celebrate after a touchdown during a game between Jordan and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium. Left, top: Cade McCall catches a pass during a game between Katy and Jordan at Legacy Stadium. Left, bottom: Andrew Marsh walks into the endzone during a game between Jordan and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

PHOTOS BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

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Houston Cougars guard Jamal Shead (1) moves the ball during an NCAA college basketball game between the Houston Cougars and the Montana Grizzlies on November 24, 2023 in Houston. Houston won, 79-44.

# UH to face Auburn in Toyota Center

STAFF REPORT

The University of Houston Men’s Basketball program will face Auburn during The Battleground 2k24 inside Toyota Center on Saturday, Nov. 9. Tipoff time, ticket information and broadcasting network will be announced at a later date. Fans should stay tuned to Houston Men’s Basketball social media sites @UHCougarMBK for the latest information.

The game will be part of a doubleheader with Rice facing Florida State in the first game.

It also will be the first game in a two-year series against Auburn. The Cougars meet the Tigers inside Legacy Arena in Birmingham, Ala.,

during the 2025-26 season.

“We are very excited about The Battleground 2k college hoops series and the opportunity that this premier sports platform presents to combine great competition with community in both Houston and Birmingham,” USE President Rhossi Carron says. “Both events will focus on empowering and improving the lives of kids in those communities and helping the participating student-athletes develop their passion for giving back in a genuine way. We look forward to utilizing The Battleground 2k basketball platform to impact the lives of children in these great cities.”

This marks the second straight season in which the Cougars – under

the leadership of 2024 National Coach of the Year Kelvin Sampson – will compete inside Toyota Center. A year ago, Houston enjoyed a 70-66 win over rv/rv Texas A&M during The Halal Guys Showcase on Dec. 16, 2023.

Guard Emanuel Sharp led the Cougars with 21 points and five 3-pointers and added six rebounds with a steal on the way to being named the game’s Most Valuable Player. With the shot clock winding down and the Cougars clinging to a 2-point lead, Sharp buried a 3-pointer with less than 30 seconds remaining to extend Houston’s advantage and later drained a pair of free throws with only five seconds left for the final margin of victory.

# Katy’s Adam Carter named Dave Campbell’s Player to Know list

STAFF REPORT

Katy senior defensive lineman and kicker/punter Adam Carter picked up a big accolade this preseason as he was named a need to know player in Class 6A by Dave Campbell’s Texas Football.

Carter was named to the team as a punter heading into his senior year. He was a huge part of Katy’s defense last year with his work on the defensive line and was one of the best punters in the state, being named to the Class 6A All-State and first team all district as a punter. Carter averaged 42.44 yards on punts last year with three going over 60 yards and five going over 50 yards. He added 30 tackles and six tackles for losses with two sacks, 10 quarterback hits and eight quarterback hurries as he was a very strong defensive player as well.

Carter will be right in the middle of things for Katy again this year and big things are expected from his final season in high school.

Following is the full Need to Know List for Class 6A



Jeremiah Smith and Adam Carter converge on Clear Springs Kaleb Maryland during Saturday’s game between Katy and Clear Springs at Rhodes Stadium.

Offense	
QB: Kaleb Bailey, Galena Park North Shore	DL: Sheldon Rice, Fulshear
RB: Deondrae Riden, DeSoto	LB: Elliott Schaper, Austin Westlake
RB: Javian Osborne, Forney	LB: Riley Pettijohn, McK-inney
WR: Kakorien Moore, Duncanville	LB: Ke’Breion Winston, Lancaster
WR: Jalen Cooper, Cibolo Steele	DB: Devin Sanchez, North Shore
TE: Jack Van Dorselaer, Southlake Carroll	DB: Dorian Brew, Conroe
OL: Jonte Newman, Bridgeland	DB: Cobey Sellers, Shadow Creek
OL: Connor Carty, Prosper	DB: Tyren Polley, Duncanville
OL Dramodd Odoms, Houston Lamar	UTIL: Cam’Ren-Chance Brooks, Lake Travis
OL: Michael Fasusi,	P: Adam Carter, Katy

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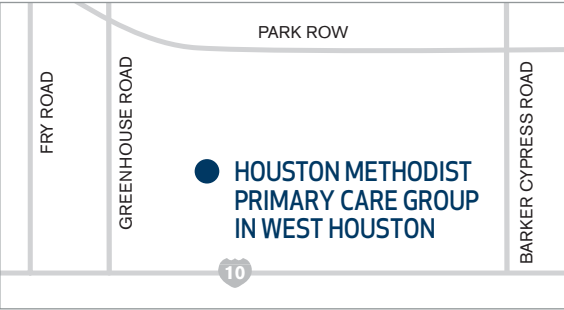
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