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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIAL HERMANN HEALTH SYSTEMS

Pictured at the September 10 ribbon cutting conducted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce for Memorial Hermann Katy's expansion at 23900 Katy Freeway are (left to right) Dr. David Hall, Dr. Joey Bluhm, Dr. John Harvin, Dr. Khalid Almoosa, Jerry Ashworth, Vivien Bond, Seleria Fletcher, Janie Mooneyhan, Joseph Casciotti, Dr. Randal Camarillo, Madison Banks and Kim Peikert.

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital hits another expansion milestone

Phase I of emergency center, surgical department expansion complete

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital celebrated the upcoming opening of its expanded Emergency Center and Surgical Department with a ribbon

cutting and open house on September 10 at the medical campus at 23900 Katy Freeway in Katy.

"Today we celebrate and recognize

See **HOSPITAL**, page A3

Briones to unveil 'All in 4' plan for East Katy

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones will unveil the recommendations for "All in 4 Katy East: A Precinct 4 Community Plan" at a family-friendly event to be held at the Steve Radack Community Center on September 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. The Radack Community Center is located at 18650 Clay Road in Houston.

The free festivities will include food trucks, face painting, lawn games, Bollywood dancers, kids' crafts, and a balloon artist. The Precinct 4 Planning department will reveal recommendations for education and economic opportunity, infrastructure and sustainability, justice and safety and health. During this workshop – the third in a series -- the Harris County Precinct



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones speaks on the launch of a mobility plan for East Katy during a "listening circle" event at Houston Community College, 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy on November 4, 2023.

See **PLAN**, page A3

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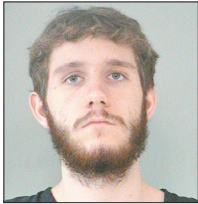
Man in custody following homicide investigation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

(FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS) — The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) placed Austin Mapes, 18, in custody for Criminally Negligent Homicide.

On August 22, 2024, at approximately 11:06 pm, FBCSO deputies were dispatched to the 3000 block of Bent Grass Drive in Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas, regarding a victim with a gunshot wound.

Upon arrival, deputies found an 18-year-old male deceased inside the residence. The investigation revealed the victim, James Wisniewski, was a guest at the residence.



AUSTIN
MAPES

See **ARREST**, page A3

Police seize drugs, cash from multiple Brookshire locations

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

With additional reporting by Brookshire correspondent Sherrel Rogers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Illegal drugs and U.S. currency were seized from several locations in Brookshire during the first week of September in a joint operation conducted by the Austin County Regional Special Response Team (SRT) and the Westside Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA). Seven suspects were arrested.

Over the past week, the Austin County Regional Special Response Team (SRT) executed multiple search and arrest warrants as a result of a long-term investigation led by the Westside Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA), the office of the task force said in a September 6 press release. The press release was also published on the Austin County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

The investigation began when Task Force Officers

See **DRUGS**, page A3



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‘Shakespeare-by-the-Book’ festival returns after 19 years

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

RICHMOND, TEXAS -- After a 19-year hiatus, Fort Bend County Libraries announces the return of the Shakespeare-by-the-Book Festival this fall. In conjunction with The Live Oak Playhouse, Fort Bend County Libraries will present live theatrical performances of William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night – an uproariously funny romantic comedy with a 1980s twist -- at George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview Dr. in Richmond on Saturdays and Sundays, October 5 and 6 and October 12 and 13, beginning at 1:30 p.m., in the library’s Jodie E. Stavinoha Amphitheater.

The festival will feature a very “1980s retro neon” version of “Twelfth Night,” directed by Joseph “Chepe” Lockett with The Live Oak

Playhouse. A thorough “Bardolater,” he has acted in or directed 25 of Shakespeare’s 38 plays. Artistic production is also provided by The Live Oak Playhouse.

A retro romp of mistaken identities and happy endings, “Twelfth Night” is packed with mix-ups, disguises, and romantic shenanigans. The play begins when a ferocious storm leaves twins, Viola and Sebastian, shipwrecked and separated for most of the play. Thinking Sebastian drowned in the storm, Viola must make her way on her own, disguises herself as a young man named Cesario, and enters the service of Duke Orsino. The duke is in love with Countess Olivia and instructs Cesario to plead his suit to the reluctant Olivia. Upon meeting Viola/Cesario, Olivia falls in love with her, think-

ing she is a man. Meanwhile, Viola has fallen in love with Orsino, creating a love triangle and a riotous disorder full of misunderstandings and mistaken identities.

“Taking a play written 400 years ago and pairing it with styles and music from the 1980s may seem odd at first, but it’s right in line with Shakespeare’s practice,” says director Joseph “Chepe” Lockett, who also compares the library’s outdoor amphitheater to the original Shakespeare experience for London audiences in the early 1600s. “In fact, Shakespeare’s own audiences sat outdoors for daytime performances, much as today’s audience does at the library.”

During its previous 18-year run from 1987 to 2005, Fort Bend County Libraries’ Shakespeare-by-the-Book Festival was a popular

family event drawing people from around the state, introducing many theatergoers of all ages to the literary work of William Shakespeare in a way that was understandable and entertaining.

“We are very excited to have the opportunity to bring the Shakespeare-by-the-Book Festival back to the library,” says Monique Franklin, Interim Library Director. “Many people received their first introduction to the works of William Shakespeare through the library’s original Shakespeare-by-the-Book performances so many years ago. We hope those same theatergoers will now return with their children and grandchildren for this new chapter of the festival.”

The Live Oak Playhouse is a non-profit community-theater group in Missouri City that is dedicated to en-

riching their audiences by presenting entertaining, thought-provoking experiences, first-hand involvement, and arts education.

Part of Fort Bend County Libraries’ “On Stage at the George” series, the live theatrical performances are presented free to the public.

Seating in the outdoor theater is concrete, so theatergoers are encouraged to bring stadium seats or cushions. Beach and lawn chairs will be allowed ONLY in two designated rows of the amphitheater, and space is available strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Glass bottles and alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (fortbend.lib.tx.us) or call the library system’s Communications Office at 281-633-4734.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Watch ‘The Greatest Showman’ in Katy’s historic town square on September 14

Welcome to the greatest show on earth! Join in on Saturday, September 14 for an unforgettable evening of music, dance, and pure spectacle as the City of Katy celebrates The Greatest Showman! The movie starts promptly at 6 p.m. in Katy’s historic town square at Avenue C and Second Street. Sing along to award-winning songs and dance along with the movie while enjoying fresh popcorn and cotton candy. Feeling hungry? Head over to the food trucks on Avenue C for a variety of delicious bites. Don’t forget to cool down with your favorite flavor of ice cream and test your skills with one of the carnival-themed games. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, and make yourself comfortable! This is a night you won’t want to miss. Gather your friends and family for this free event!



Join Jus Coz at Toddy Oaks on September 14 benefiting PugHearts Houston Pug Rescue

JusCoz Band performs Classic Rock from the 80s to the 2000s (Aerosmith to ZZ Top) and is donating all proceeds from the sale of tickets for their September 14 show to benefit and raise funds for a very special Pug Rescue of Houston (and one dear to the Toddy Oaks’ family) -- PugHearts of Houston Pug Rescue. PugHearts has over 200 pugs in foster care right now and many of their fosters will be there to meet you. Just note that you must be pre-approved by PugHearts before you can adopt. Dogs welcome on leashes! Reserved seating begins



at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is at 8 p.m. **Please note when purchasing a VIP table: you only need one ticket confirmation recipient for the entire table. The ticket includes admission for the number of seats at the table.** People under the age of 21 are not permitted on the property after 6 p.m. on concert nights and after dark on non-concert nights. Exceptions can be made for privately booked events with some stipulations as long as they are approved by management in writing prior to the event. Toddy Oaks is located at 20120 Franz Rd, Katy. For more information, go to toddyinc.net.

Amazing Place West to host inaugural dinner on September 17 at Beckendorff Farms

Amazing Place West, the area’s non-profit focused exclusively on helping families with the challenges of dementia and Alzheimer’s, which will soon open its new Katy location near S. Fry and Kingsland, will host its

inaugural dinner at Beckendorff Farms, 28533 Morton Road in Katy on September 17th at 6:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dan Buettner, Jr., of the Blue Zones Project. For tickets and more information, please visit amazingplacehouston.org.

Katy Cares’ annual fundraising gala is set for September 27

Break out your boots and bling for the eighth annual gala for Katy Cares starting at 6 p.m. on September 27 at Beckendorff Farms, 28533 Morton Road in Katy. Enjoy mouth-watering BBQ and other delicious cuisines, signature starters, desserts, wine and beer – a culinary experience you won’t want to miss! Dance to the upbeat vibe of Nowhere But Up, featuring top 40 songs, country, pop, rock, R&B, disco and Tejano. Katy Cares is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2016 as a solution-driven response to the community’s most vulnerable population – single-

parent families who are victims of trauma due to a life-altering event such as separation, divorce, abuse, intimidation, domestic violence, financial challenge caused by loss of employment, income, child support, and/or a natural disaster. For more information, go to katycares.org/gala.

2024 Walk to End Alzheimer’s will take place September 28

Sign up for a two-mile walk and fight against Alzheimer’s at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, on September 28. There is no cost to participate, but personal donations are encouraged. All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer’s further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer’s Association. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. with registration, followed by the opening ceremony at 8:15 a.m. and the walk at 8:30 a.m. For more information please contact Fredy Batres at 713-314-1330 or alztexwalk@alz.org.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Language group with Iranian influence
- No seats available
- Health insurance organization
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Defunct European economic organization
- Dutch word for “language”
- Hard to penetrate
- When you’ll get there
- Iranian city
- Small fishes
- Dry white wine drink
- Turkish city
- U.S.-born people
- Synthetic resin
- Major nerve in human body
- Type of recording
- Small drum
- Alters
- General’s assistant (abbr.)
- Venezuelan capital
- Free of deceit
- Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
- Competition
- Launch an attack on
- Cavalry sword
- Spiritual leader

CLUES DOWN

- Father
- Performed perfectly
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Thin, compact object
- One attempting to find something
- No longer working
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Book of Genesis character
- Volcanic craters
- Brand of American automobile (slang)
- Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___
- Bangladeshi monetary unit
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of genes
- Et ___ indicates further
- Pacific Standard Time
- S. American wood sorrel
- Women’s ___ movement
- Chinese hoopster Ming
- Layers of rock

1. One point east of due south

2. Afflicted

3. Database management system

4. Snakelike fish

5. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

6. Small drink

7. Not wet

8. Impudence

34. Patriotic women’s group

35. Solid water

36. Shade of brown

37. Very fast airplane

39. Put clothes on

40. Quality of one’s character

41. Time zone

42. Primates

44. Pleasantly

45. Metrical feet

46. Rogue

47. German river

48. Relieves from

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Those who resist authority

58. Criticize

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

In commemoration of the 237th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, members of the Katy Star of Destiny Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution receive the Proclamation for Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2024, read by Councilmember Rory Robertson and presented by Mayor Dusty Thiele at Monday's City Council meeting. Pictured (left to right) are Susan Stormer, Jan Vance, Thiele, Laurel Cull, Robertson and Claudia Stokes.

KATY

from page A1

square at Avenue C and Second Street would be held after that. She also said that a ceremony commemorating 9/11 would be held at City Hall at 8:30 a.m. on September 11.

• Councilmember Dan Smith noted that the Rice Harvest Festival, to be held October 12-13, is one month

away and that entries are still being accepted for the parade which will be October 5.

Special recognitions were presented to:

• The Katy Business Association, in honor of the organization's fortieth anniversary (see related story on A4).

• The Star of Destiny Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, affirming the week of September 17-23, 2024, as "Constitution Week."

The next meeting of city council will be September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy.

PLANS

from page A1

4 Planning team will also seek input on the draft recommendations from the community.

All in 4 Katy East: A Precinct 4 Community Plan is approximately a nine-month process which started in the Fall of 2023 to set a shared vision that strives to enhance the quality of life for all residents within the study area, according to the

To learn more about this Precinct 4 Community Plan and to see a study map of the area, go to cp4.harriscountytexas.gov/Infrastructure/Planning-Community-Development/Community-Plans/Katy-East-Community-Plan-and-Mobility-Study.

county website. The plan covers a portion of the east part of the greater Katy area, south of Clay Road, west of

Highway 6, east of Katy Fort Bend Road, and north of Cinco Ranch and the Barker Reservoir.

DRUGS

from page A1

received information indicating that narcotics were being distributed from several locations in the Brookshire area to include multiple residences and a business. SRT and Task Force Officers executed four search warrants and multiple arrest warrants during the operations. As a result, seven defendants were arrested and charged with multiple felonies to include Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance, with several more felony charges

on multiple defendants pending.

Cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and United States currency were seized during the operations.

Task Force Officers also recovered stolen items including a truck, skid steer, and firearms. The defendants were identified as the following, Ivan Barrura (37), Melesio Oviedo (42), Sonny Baker (53), Jonte Grant (47), Curte Bailey (37), Antoinette Stewart (46), and Glenn Evans (38). The defendants were booked into the Waller

County Jail without incident.

The Westside Narcotics Task Force covers four counties and is comprised of investigators from the Austin County Sheriff's Office, Bellville PD, Sealy PD, Hempstead PD, Waller County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Colorado County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The Waller County Sheriff's Office Patrol, K9, and Drone divisions assisted with the arrest / search warrant operation.

set at \$100,000.

"This is truly a tragic incident," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the victim's loved ones during this difficult time."

ARREST

from page A1

The Fort Bend County Medical Examiner's Office performed a postmortem examination and listed the manner of death as homicide.

A warrant for Criminally Negligent Homicide was

obtained by the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office. Subsequently, Austin Mapes turned himself in to the Fort Bend County Jail where he was booked on the charge. His bond has been

HOSPITAL

from page A1

the culmination of many months of planning and countless hours of preparation to make these units a reality," said Jerry Ashworth, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Katy and Memorial Hermann Cypress hospitals. "Across the Memorial Hermann Health System, we work every day to create healthier communities through personalized care. I cannot think of a better way to provide personalized care to the patients of the Katy area and beyond than through this much needed expansion."

In Phase I, the Emergency Center doubled in size to 40,000 square feet and added additional treatment rooms, including two state-of-the-art trauma rooms, an additional CT scanner, upgraded equipment and more. Additionally, the project added three operating rooms, with shell space to add up to three more. Phase II will include renovations to the existing Emergency Center and is expected to be finished in late summer 2025. HKS Architects, M Strategic Partners and Tellepsen are partners on the project.

"Memorial Hermann Katy is currently a Level III Trauma Center and will pursue a Level II Trauma Center designation in the near future due to increasing volumes and the need for a higher-level of trauma care in the community," said Vivien Bond, chief operating officer for Memorial Hermann Katy, who is managing the expansion project. "Our newly expanded units are key components of the journey to becoming a Level II Trauma Center."

These projects are part of the hospital's ongoing \$167 million expansion, which has added significant capacity and specialty services on the campus. Highlights of completed projects include:

• Katy's only Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit (IMU) and a 40-bed adult IMU, accommodating patients with more severe illnesses or injuries

• 40-bed medical/surgical acute care unit that serves a variety of patients including those who are recovering from surgery or have an acute illness

• A new parking garage that added almost 700 parking spaces on the west side of the campus

• Medical Plaza III that will house clinical office space for affiliated physicians, as well as enhanced pediatric services, including pediatric rehabilitation and pediatric imaging services. The building is complete and ready for tenant build-out.

• The relocation and expansion of the nursery, including the addition of four neonatal intensive care unit rooms

• Expansion of the cardiac catheterization lab

• Expansion of food services

Other projects in the works include an overhaul of Women's Services, including doubling the number of obstetrical emergency rooms and adding labor and delivery rooms and a cesarean section suite.

The expansion is also adding job opportunities, both clinical and administrative. Qualified candidates can learn more at memorialhermann.org/careers/. The hospital is also looking to bring on additional volunteers. Learn more at memorialhermann.org/locations/katy/volunteer.

For more information on Memorial Hermann Katy, call 713-222-CARE (2273) or visit memorialhermann.org.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND-WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	Justin Graham, Charles K Chapline, Michael Salinas, Wesley Frommel, Martha Blecher	
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.91000 /\$100	\$0.85000 /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$-0.06000 /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	-6.59%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$429,138.00	\$462,887.00
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	\$429,138.00	\$462,887.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,905.16	\$3,934.54
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$29.38 0.75%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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

About the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1837 and is the largest and most diverse law enforcement agency in Fort Bend County. The Sheriff's Office has over 900 employees, including 615 sworn peace officers and 22 reserve volunteer deputies dedicated to protecting and serving nearly 900,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.

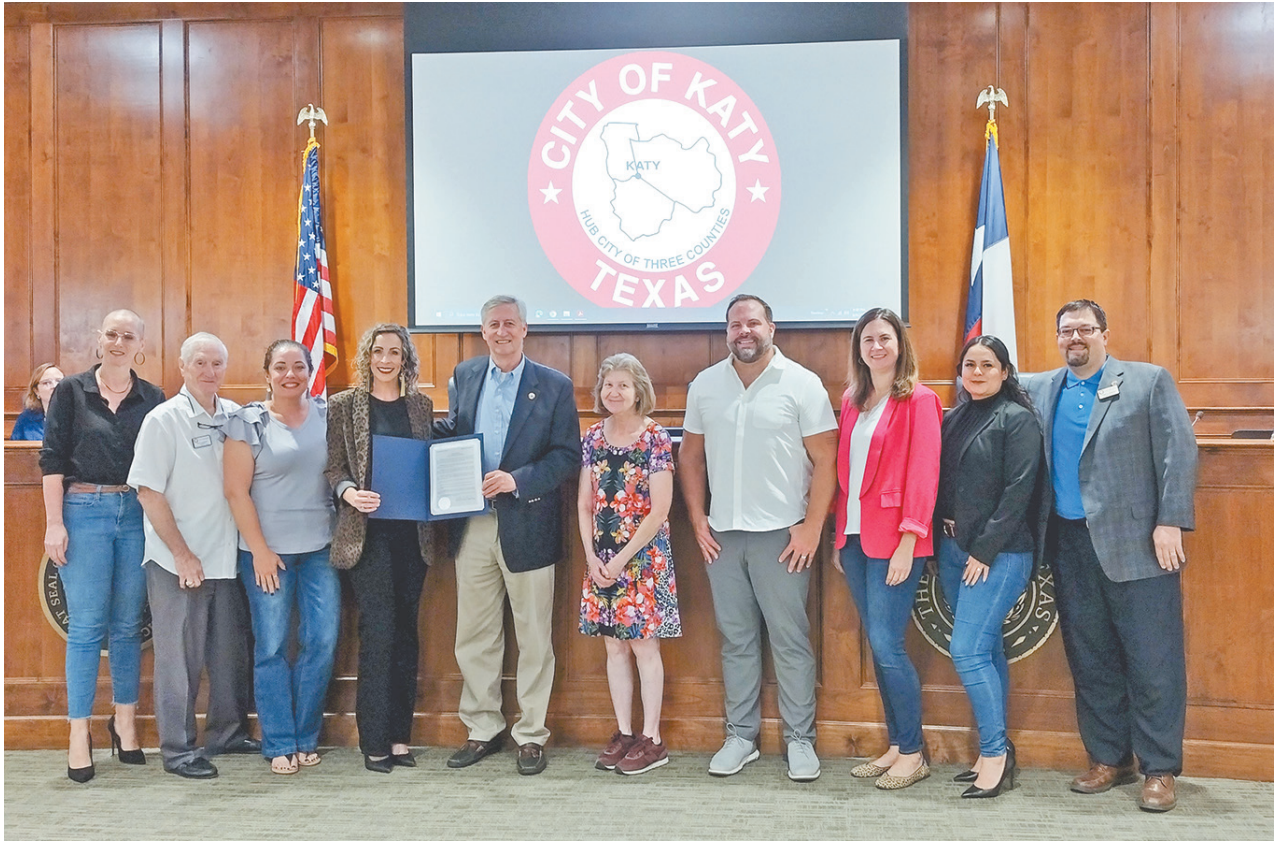


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
The Katy Business Association was recognized at Monday night's Katy City Council meeting with a special proclamation read by Mayor Dusty Thiele in honor of the organization's fortieth anniversary. From left to right: Amanda Friedman of Main Event, former Katy Mayor Skip Connor of Katy Insurance, Adrienne Davitz of the Katy Heritage Society, KBA President Olivia Martin of KTX Window Cleaning, Mayor Thiele, Donna Domingue of Ford Industrial Service Company, Thomas Westbrook of Westbrook Solutions, Maureen O'Shay of Maureen O'Shay Photography, Mildred Vergara of Spoken Learning and Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris.

Katy Business Association celebrates 40th year of serving the community

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Katy Business Association was saluted with a special proclamation at Monday night's meeting of the Katy City Council, in observance of the organization's fortieth year.

KBA President Olivia Martin and seven members were present at the meeting to receive the recognition from Mayor Dusty Thiele, which declared September 9th as a "day of celebration" honoring KBA's anniversary.

The organization was formed by Rosemary Nelson, the original owner of Cottage Door located in old Katy, and Patsy Jean Williams, a local Katy real estate broker, in 1984. Their vision was to create a small organization where local Katy businesses could meet monthly and support each other, said Martin. Another local Katy resident, Patty Raske, was also part of the beginning stages of the organization.

"The KBA has evolved from a very small group of business owners to including business owners, professionals, community leaders, and nonprofits," said Martin in an interview with the Katy Times. "We have a similar vision since the beginning but have recently updated the organization through marketing, new website, and new content."

The association - now at 106 members - represents a very diverse network of business owners, professionals, community leaders, and nonprofits. "We are not industry-exclusive, so everyone who serves the Katy community can join," Martin said. "This allows specific industries to learn from their peers -- it's amazing to see the community we have supporting each other."

The Katy Business Association is different from other networking groups, Martin said. "Our focus is to create meaningful relationships that expand your businesses network. Meetings are resource focused while spotlighting

members and their needs. We support 100% support our local Chambers and encourage businesses to join all of your local chambers."

In fact, KBA itself partners with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce in presenting a quarterly event called "Women of Katy." Martin and Stacy Jacobs, Vice President of Business Development at the chamber are co-creators of the program. "KBA serves as a marketing partner to the Chamber to help promote this incredible program," Martin said. "Women of Katy" is dedicated to providing resources to all women in Katy -- resources range from personal to business to better help their current roles or future plans. It's a really unique program that the KBA is proud to support."

Joining Martin, owner of KTX Window Cleaning, in leading the organization is a strong board of directors, including Secretary Patti Lacy of Coldwell Banker, Treasurer, John Kirk of The Well Counseling Katy, Membership Director Mildred Vergara of Spoken Learning, Marketing Director Thomas Westbrook of Westbrook Solutions, and Director of Events Amanda Friedman of Main Event. The position of vice president is currently being voted on, Martin said. Clara Jean Machann of Town & Country Realty, who has been KBA president three times, has been declared a lifetime KBA member and continues to advise the board. Along with former Katy mayor Skip Connor of Katy Insurance, Machann is one of the longest active KBA members.

Unlike other networking groups, KBA does not focus on outside speakers. "The best speakers we've featured are the members," said Martin. "We love to hear about local businesses, what they provide, and their passions. It's been an honor getting to know such amazing business and leaders in the community."

Like all networking groups, KBA

faced challenges during COVID but the group pivoted and started Zoom meetings, providing opportunities for business owners to continue their networking through such a difficult time.

A recent challenge for the organization was the death of the group's vice president, who passed away this summer. "Our Vice President, Sandra Ross, lost her battle with cancer just two months ago," Martin said. "Sandra was a light to the KBA Board of Directors and it was a huge loss. We appreciate the love and dedication she showed to this organization since 2019. She will be truly missed." Poignantly, Monday's mayoral proclamation came on what would have been Ross' birthday.

Helping local charities in the Katy area has been one of the organization's greatest accomplishments, Martin said. KBA has helped to raise over \$15,000 supporting local charities in the Katy Community since 2018, she said. However, that support is changing slightly, she added. "We are doing a fundraiser instead of grants moving forward due to some 501c6 regulations."

The organization also honors a "Business of the Year" each year, awarding the title to a KBA member who volunteered time and showed support of KBA during the year, and who is a valued member of the KBA community, Martin said.

"In the next 40 years, we hope the Katy Business Association continues to grow, evolve and support the community in meaningful ways," Martin said. "By providing resources to help all small businesses thrive and nurturing future leaders, we aim to be a hub for connection and support. We're committed to uplifting every small business, honoring our legacy of service, and making Katy a great place to live, work, and grow for generations to come."

For more information on the group, visit TheKBA.org.

Local student wins first in state VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Contest

Vaamika Saxena, a student at Robertson Elementary in Katy ISD, has won first place in the state of Texas VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Contest, according to an August announcement by local VFW Post 9182.

Illustrating America is one of the post's contests held yearly for K-8; artwork is submitted for consideration in the contest by March 31st. Then judging is conducted at the local post, followed by additional judging at the district, state and national levels.

Aside from this art contest for grades K-8, the post has two essay contests, deadlining October 31 for grades 6-8 and high school, and two art contests for high school students, in addition to an auxiliary 9182 scholarship for a Katy ISD senior.

Contact VFW 9182 Auxiliary or vfwauxiliarycontest.org for further information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VFW POST 9182

Library offers demonstration of online research collection

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Whether you are looking for information or answers for school, work, or simply out of curiosity, Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) offers robust online resources for all kinds of information seekers.

Throughout the month of September, FBCL will hold demonstrations of EBSCO's MasterFILE™ Complete - an online collection of journals, magazines, newspapers, and reference ebooks. A demonstration will take place at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library on Monday, Sept. 16, from 6 to 7 p.m., in the Computer Lab of the library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy.

This online research collection houses thousands of articles, periodicals, topic overviews, and more. Covering virtually every subject area of general interest, this resource contains full-text articles for nearly 1,000 reference books and more than 100,000 primary-source documents, as well as an image collection with more than 2 million photos, maps, and flags.

MasterFILE Complete also includes 75,000 videos from the Associated Press, as well as full-text encyclopedias and reference titles from highly regarded sources from the world's leading educational publishers and university presses.

The demonstration is free and open to the public. Registration is required. To register online at the library's website (fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on "Classes & Events," select "Cinco Ranch Branch Library," and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library (281-395-1311) or by visiting the library.

4-H AWARDS



Members of Fort Bend County 4-H program were honored for their accomplishments during the 2023-2024 year at the annual 4-H awards program held August 25 at Jones Creek Ranch Park in the Lodge, 7714 FM 359 in Richmond. The 4-H members were recognized for their participation in county, district, and state events, with the revelation of the top honors of Rising Star, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Danforth's "I Dare You" Award, and Gold Star as the highlight of the day. State Representative Stan Kitzman was the featured speaker. "Along with acknowledging accomplishments, this is a celebration of the character-building motto of the 4-H program: 'to make the best better,'" said organizers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY RESSLER, TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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KATY CARES
Where hope is at home

Carriage Inn to host ‘Coping with Loss’ support group on Sept. 26

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Carriage Inn senior living community will host a “Coping with Loss” support group for those experiencing grief from the loss of a family member or friend. The small group gathering will be held at the community’s Katy location at 1400 Katy-Flewellen Road and will provide support and encouragement in a safe and welcoming space where participants can talk, share, and listen together.

“We are so grateful to Schmidt Funeral Home for partnering with us on this important initiative,” said Rebecca Borrello, Director of Sales and Marketing at Carriage Inn. “We look forward to being a resource to individuals and families at Carriage Inn and in the local Katy community.”

Tonya Whaley, of Schmidt Funeral Home, has been a grief counselor and facilitator for six years after losing her husband, parents, and two brothers. She will be facilitating the group with support from Carriage Inn staff.

“I’m looking forward to meeting you in your stage of grief,” said Whaley.

“I’m looking forward to meeting you in your stage of grief. Together we will navigate with patience and understanding to acceptance of your loss, be it a loved one or a lifestyle.”

—TONYA WHALEY, Grief counselor

“Together we will navigate with patience and understanding to acceptance of your loss, be it a loved one or a lifestyle.”

Members of the local community who are coping with loss are invited to join Carriage Inn residents at the group’s first meeting on September 26 at 6 p.m. The group will also be open to those who are coping with a loved one’s diagnosis of dementia. Those interested in attending or learning more about the support group or Carriage Inn can RSVP to Debra Edwards at debra.edwards@cardinalbay.org or 281-392-2800. Light refreshments will

be provided.

Schmidt Funeral Home has had the honor and privilege of helping families in Katy, West Houston, and the surrounding area remember their loved ones in meaningful ways by offering personalized funerals and memorial services for all faiths, as well as cremation, burial, and advanced planning. For more information, call 281-391-2424 or visit www.schmidtfuneralhome.net.

Carriage Inn Katy offers independent living, assisted living, and memory care options for older adults to live life to the fullest in a manner that best suits their interests and desires. The community is located at 1400 Katy-Flewellen Road, Katy, TX. For more information about senior living options and life at Carriage Inn Katy, visit us at www.cardinalbay.org or contact Tony Rivas at 281-392-2800 or trivas@cardinalbay.org. Locally owned, Carriage Inn is a Cardinal Bay community managed by The Long Hill Company, a subsidiary of United Methodist Homes, a non-profit senior living provider organization with a 150-year history of caring.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

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Local Guinness Book of World Records holder
Nico Reyes returns to this year's Katy Triathlon

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

He's back - and better than ever.
Local junior high school student Nico Reyes returned to compete in the 2024 Katy Triathlon after realizing his dream in last year's event — being the first child in the world with Down Syndrome to complete a triathlon in the sprint category at just 11 years of age at that time - setting the world record as recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records. This year's event took place on September 1 at Cane Island on Cane Island Parkway in Katy.

The Haskett Junior High student completed this year's event in 1:50:25.8, said his father, Christian Reyes, in an interview with the Katy Times. "Nico managed to beat his personal record this year, achieving an incredible time," he said. "We are very happy and proud of Nico's performance. This reflects the discipline he maintained throughout the year, as being consistent in training is not easy. We all face mental battles that we must constantly fight."

In last year's event, the pressure was on, and Nico fell at one point. "We were breaking a world record that day, and the times had to be managed very carefully," said the boy's father. "Nico initially did not want to continue [after he fell], but with love, everything is possible. Of course, as a parent, I was internally in shock and suffering, but I knew how much Nico loves it. [He] is a huge fan of Chick-fil-A and the go-karts at Andretti, so I promised to take him there, and that was enough for him to get back on the bike and continue pedaling without a second thought, finishing the race."

He had two falls in his last two Sprint Triathlons, the most recent one being at the Cypress Triathlon a month ago, where a traffic cone was positioned too far in and a cyclist passing Nico couldn't avoid it in time, his father said. "It's not easy when you face setbacks like these because you already have a plan and an objective in mind, but things happen for a reason, and you just have to find a way to turn things around and give your best to come out victorious," Christian Reyes said. "You are not defined by what you achieve but by what you overcome!"

Since last year's event in Katy, Nico has been actively participating in several triathlon competitions. He qualified for the National Youth Triathlon held in Des Moines, Iowa, this past July, competing over two

days; on the first day, he raced in the 13-16 age category where he was the only athlete with a disability, competing under unequal conditions, yet demonstrating incredible strength and an indomitable spirit, his father said. On the second day, he competed in his ADT2 category and proudly brought home second place in the National Youth Triathlon Championship for Texas.

"We have many plans in the works," said Christian Reyes. "We've been approached by several coaches who are interested in having Nico explore other sports like cross-country and open water swimming. Nico has great endurance, and while he may not be as fast as other kids, his resilience is outstanding. As Nico's parents, we are very mindful of his health, constantly monitoring him during training and competitions, keeping track of his heart rate, stress peaks, and focusing on recovery exercises so that he can continue his activities. This has likely helped Nico advance in his athletic journey. One of our goals is for Nico to compete at the National Triathlon Championships again next year, and also the Youth Nationals. We're also working on a new world record in the Olympic category— whatever happens, happens, we don't want to push or overwhelm him. He's still a child, and we want him to enjoy this stage of life."

"Our ultimate aim is the Special Olympics USA Games in 2026, where Nico currently participates in swimming, athletics, and field events," Christian Reyes continued. "He is also part of the USA Down Syndrome Swimming Team. Support is greatly needed; maintaining participation in these competitions is not easy, as the entry fees are costly and a strong budget is required for each event, each of which necessitates its own plan and objectives. It is thanks to these competitions that we can maintain constant training, helping us reach where we are now. We would love to seek sponsors, but securing them is no easy task."

"We would like to thank the Katy Rotary Club and Katy Triathlon for always being so generous with us," said Christian Reyes. "We will soon be opening a coffee shop in Old Katy called 'Active Coffee Shop,' and we would love to have our entire community visit us. It will be a beautiful project, and in the future, we hope to employ individuals with disabilities. I have many friends from Special Olympics who are amazing athletes from the Katy Wolf Pack, and it would be wonderful to work with them."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN REYES
Clockwise from top: Nico Reyes returns to complete the 2024 Katy Triathlon at Cane Island on September 1, despite a fall during the bike competition in last year's event. Nico Reyes runs in the 2024 Katy Triathlon at Cane Island Parkway on September 1, after last year's achievement of being the first child in the world with Down Syndrome to complete a triathlon in the sprint category at just 11 years of age — setting the world record as recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records. Nico is coached by his father, Christian Reyes, before the swimming portion of the 2024 Katy Triathlon at Cane Island on September 1.

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 199 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Monday, September 30, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Sabine Conference Room, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

Table with 2 columns: Proposal Status and Names/Details. Rows include FOR the proposal (M. Wilson, W. Stewart, J. Glazer, M. Junell & P. Huinker), AGAINST the proposal (none), PRESENT and not voting (none), and 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.

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

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.

* There were NO residential homesteads for comparison purposes.

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.

EMMA DRURY WINS SCHOLARSHIP



Emma Drury, a 2021 graduate of Cinco Ranch High School and currently a student at the University of Arkansas, was one of the recipients of the Houston Alumnae Panhellenic Association scholarships this year. Drury serves as the 2024 Panhellenic Vice President of Recruitment at the university. Drury said via a Facebook post that it was a privilege to serve in this role and sees much growth in herself since taking this assignment. She has had the opportunity to speak on the local news as well as before a large crowd on bid day and is honored to serve her Panhellenic community and to help them find their homes on campus. While living in Katy, Drury volunteered at the food pantry for Katy Christian Ministries, volunteered for Red Cross blood drives and was a member of the National Charity League.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN DRURY

Advertisement for 'Breakfast for a Blessing' event. Includes details: Friday, October 11th 2024 | Embassy Suites - Houston West, The Thirteenth Annual, presented by Houston Methodist West Hospital, featuring guest speaker Frank Danna, 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, and the Christ Clinic logo with website URL.

TEA awards straight A's to Harmony Public Schools for financial accountability

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

All seven Harmony Public Schools districts received “Superior” A+ scores from the Texas Educational Agency on the agency’s annual FIRST financial accountability ratings, the TEA announced. The information was shared in a September 4 press release from the charter school system.

Created by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001, the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) is designed to encourage public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.

The FIRST ratings are calculated using 15 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures; the accuracy of a district or charter’s financial information submitted to TEA; and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses in internal controls as determined by an external auditor.

Harmony’s district-by-district scores are:

- Harmony Public Schools-Central Texas (Austin, Pflugerville, Cedar Park): 100
- Harmony Public Schools-Houston North (Houston, Bryan, Cypress, North Katy): 100
- Harmony Public Schools-Houston South (Houston): 96
- Harmony Public Schools-Houston West (Houston, South Katy, Sugar Land, Beaumont): 100
- Harmony Public Schools-North Texas Greater DFW, Waco): 96
- Harmony Public Schools-South Texas (San Antonio, Laredo, Brownsville): 96
- Harmony Public Schools-West Texas (El Paso, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa): 100

To ensure effective, efficient and ethical use of all public funds entrusted to it, Harmony practices a number of financial safeguards as part of its regular operations. Among these are regular independent financial audits from third-party accounting firms and regular participation in its purchasing process from the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO).

In January 2024, Harmony became the first Texas charter school to earn TASBO’s prestigious Award of Excellence in Financial Management. Harmony was also the first public charter to win TASBO’s Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations.

Harmony Public Schools is a Texas-born, Texas-wide public charter school system with more than 60 campuses serving PreK-Grade 12 students in 23 cities across the state, including Greater Houston, DFW, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Waco, Lubbock, Midland-Odessa, Bryan, Beaumont, and the Rio Grande Valley. Harmony’s curriculum places a heavy focus on STEM skills, Character Education, project-based learning, and college readiness.

Harmony Public Schools is currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year for both students and team members. To learn more, please visit: harmonytx.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN WEST COMMUNICATIONS

Katy ISD students (left to right) Omar King, Rodrigo Cartagena, Mariana Rubio, Christopher Lewis, Alexander Gulludag, Juan Palacios, and Adriana Zambrano attended camps hosted by The Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity in Education at Rice University this summer. Lewis, King, Palacios and Rubio were each awarded a scholarship from ExxonMobil to attend the camp.

Students attend award-winning Tapia Camps at Rice University

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Local students are kicking off the school year with newfound skills and confidence in the classroom thanks to a summer of learning and growth at Rice University’s camps hosted by The Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity in Education.

Sponsored by ExxonMobil, the Tapia Camps for rising 8th-12th graders feature a five-night, six-day residential experience with a challenging STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum that emphasizes real world problems. This summer, campers completed a project developed by the Tapia Center and ExxonMobil that challenged campers to build models of an underground reservoir using household items to demonstrate the concept of carbon capture and storage (CCS). During camp, students also enhance their communication and team building skills by learning how to simplify complicated STEM ideas through completion of an end-of-camp oral presentation – all while experienc-

ing life on a college campus.

“The Tapia Camps were designed to encourage students of all backgrounds to explore careers in STEM and empower them with the tools to feel confident pursuing STEM classes and careers,” said Paul Hand, director of the Tapia Camps at Rice University. “It is a privilege to support these young individuals as they grow and consider new possibilities throughout their time at camp. It is also rewarding to equip educators from across the state with the tools and skills to improve student engagement and hear their success stories after they implement the methodology in their classrooms.”

The professional development camp for educators of all subjects and levels provides participants the tools to implement project-based learning—a set of techniques that encourage hands-on, engaging experiences—in their classrooms. Teachers who complete the program earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours.

Registration for 2025 programming will open November 1. Indi-

viduals or school districts looking for more information can reach out to The Tapia Center at tapiacenter@rice.edu or 713-348-5182. Corporations and charitable foundations interested in sponsorship opportunities may also reach out to The Tapia Center for more information.

About the Tapia Center

The Richard Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity in Education at Rice University was founded in 1995 to promote greater participation of underrepresented minorities and women in the sciences and engineering and empower them to be future leaders. The Center’s founder, Dr. Richard Tapia, is internationally known for his research in the computational and mathematical sciences and is a national leader in education and outreach.

Since inception, the Tapia Center has provided direct training and guidance to more than 6,000 students and 2,500 teachers and educated nearly 250,000 students and professionals about the importance of diversity and representation.

ConocoPhillips, UH partner to inspire next-generation STEM leaders

STEM zone program utilizes sports to provide engaging experiences for K-12 students

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

HOUSTON — The University of Houston, Cougars Athletics and ConocoPhillips are launching a new K-12 educational program that leverages sports to inspire the next generation of STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — students and leaders.

As “The Official STEM Partner of UH Athletics,” ConocoPhillips has committed to a five-year partnership supporting the UH STEM Center’s ConocoPhillips STEM Zone, an interactive program for elementary, middle and high school students across Greater Houston, including Third Ward and underserved communities. The program, which kicks off this fall, is expected to engage thousands of students during the 2024-25 academic year.

“Houston is our hometown, and we are focused on making a difference in our community, particularly in the areas of student enrichment and math education. As the first-ever official STEM partner of UH Athletics, ConocoPhillips is excited to work with the University of Houston to help students connect their passion for sports to STEM studies and careers,” said Heather Hrap, Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Real Estate and Facilities Services for ConocoPhillips. “Our goal is to strengthen our city’s workforce and expand the pipeline of talent into our industry and others.”

“This partnership with ConocoPhillips enables the University of Houston to make a lasting impact on students in our community,” said Eddie Nunez, vice president of UH intercollegiate athletics. “It provides

us with a unique opportunity to use their enthusiasm for UH Athletics as a gateway to inspire academic curiosity and exploration. Our goal is for the students attending our athletic events to leave with not only a love for the Houston Cougars, but also a passion for shaping their own futures.”

The ConocoPhillips STEM Zone will offer interactive, hands-on activities on the UH campus throughout the year at weekend and game-day events tied to football, soccer, volleyball, baseball, basketball, golf and track and field. Students will dive into subjects like data science and statistics by analyzing clock management or player performance metrics. Concepts in gravity and geometry will come through explorations of ball launch angles, trajectories and the parabolic arches that define sports like basketball and golf. UH STEM faculty will mentor students near the university and across Houston.

“At the University of Houston, we’re committed to transforming how students engage with STEM by linking it to their passions—like sports, robotics, gaming, music or art,” said Ramanan Krishnamoorti, UH vice president of energy and innovation. “This opportunity to coordinate STEM learning with the excitement of UH Athletics will help us reach a broader cross-section of students and inspire future leaders to tackle the pressing challenges of tomorrow.”

Students who attend all the ConocoPhillips STEM Zone events will be invited to participate in the ConocoPhillips STEM Zone Day at the end of the year, along with special guests from UH Athletics and ConocoPhillips.

About ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips is one of the world’s leading exploration and production companies based on both production and reserves, with a globally diversified asset portfolio. Headquartered in Houston near the Katy area at 925 N. Eldridge Parkway, ConocoPhillips has operations and activities in 13 countries,

\$96 billion of total assets, and approximately 10,200 employees as of June 30, 2024..

For more information, go to conocophillips.com.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for excellence in undergraduate ed-

ucation. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation’s fourth-largest city and one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions in the country, UH is a federally designated Hispanic, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution with enrollment of more than 46,000 students.

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KISD sets ‘College and Career Night’ for October 9

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD and the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO) will host “College & Career Night” on Wednesday, October 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Leonard E. Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy. “College & Career Night” is designed for high school

students to explore college and career possibilities by meeting and engaging with representatives, gathering scholarship information, and discovering financial aid opportunities. Families will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of college and career paths students can take after graduation. Over 200 representatives from community

colleges, universities, institutes, military academies, and many more will be present to showcase their programs. To register, download the flyer from katyisd.org/cms/lib/TX50010808/Centricity/Domain/3789/0905%20College%20and%20Career%20Fair.pdf and scan the QR code. The “clear bag” policy is in effect for this event.

Referral window open for kindergarten students for gifted and talented screening

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Parents of kindergarten students interested in having them screened for the District’s Challenge (Gifted and Talented, GT) program have until September 19 to complete the referral. The referral checklist may be accessed on My Katy at launchpad.classlink.com. Katy ISD uses the Challenge program for elementary GT services, the district said in a September 6 press release. Kindergarten students receive 60 minutes per week of targeted instruction aimed at building students’ creativity and productive thinking skills. “Katy ISD is a community of learners, and our GT program offers the necessary support for our students who require tailored instruction,” said Danielle Sanchez, Director of Gifted & Talented and Advanced Academics in Katy ISD. “By referring kindergarten students for screening, parents can ensure that their students receive this support early in their education.” To be identified for GT services,



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Parents of kindergarten students interested in having them screened for the District’s Challenge Gifted and Talented program have until September 19 to complete the referral. multiple indicators are collected, including information from parents and teachers, and standardized test scores. Students will be screened from October through February, and services will begin in March 2025 for identified students. Parents can contact their student’s counselor if they have any questions. Visit Katy ISD’s Elementary Screening Process FAQs at katyisd.org/Page/4406 for more information.

Legacy Parent Academy holds first informational session on September 11

Presentation covered mental health and suicide prevention

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Legacy Parent Academy invited parents and guardians, as well as concerned community members, to join Katy ISD and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for a webinar, “It’s Real: Teens and Mental Health” on Wednesday, September 11. The presentation covered what mental health is, noticing signs of someone needing help and tips for having a caring conversation with someone you might be worried about. This presentation was to be recorded and available on the Katy ISD website under Legacy Parent Academy at katyisd.org/Page/10257 following the live webinar. The Katy ISD Legacy Parent Academy is a series of informational sessions designed to assist parents by raising awareness on various social-emotional and academic topics that impact the district’s students and campuses district-wide, according to the district’s website. Academy participants will gain factual knowledge pertinent to each topic while also learning strategies and proven techniques to assist in supporting students. “We continue to provide our families with information on social-emotional topics because we know that these things can impact students’ learning and performance in school,” said Anne McHale Miller, LCSW-S, Coordinator for School Leadership and Support in Katy ISD. “This year’s offerings will be a hybrid of in-person and online opportunities.” Visit the Legacy Parent Academy web page at katyisd.org/Page/10257 to learn more.



Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 161 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	C. Kight, J. Schubert, J. Kaiser & M. Harris
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	K. Scully

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 0.8000</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$ 0.7800</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.020</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-2.5000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$757,879</u>	<u>\$819,676</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	<u>-\$75,788</u>	<u>-\$122,951</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$682,091</u>	<u>\$696,725</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$5,456.73</u>	<u>\$5,434.45</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>-\$22.28</u> <u>-0.4083%</u>

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 163 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, 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 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:	R. Patrick, J. Hundl, J. Ring, O. Cabello & A. Zepeda
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 0.740</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$ 0.7025</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.038</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-5.0676%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$740,547</u>	<u>\$807,199</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$740,547</u>	<u>\$807,199</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 5,480.05</u>	<u>\$5,670.57</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>\$190.52</u> <u>3.4766%</u>

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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



Fowler trio sparks Seven Lakes to win over Foster

Spartans off to best start in a decade

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Football is in the Fowler family's blood. Justin, Ryan and Matt Fowler's father Paul, now an assistant principal at Haskett Junior High, played high level college football at Jackson State. The trio have grown up around the game and have pushed each other their whole lives to get better and always succeeded together as a family.

The three brothers — Justin is a year older and Ryan and Matt are twins — have grown into a fearsome trio on the field and three huge playmakers for Seven Lakes heading into this season. The three had some of the biggest performances of their varsity careers on Thursday, with Justin, Matt and Ryan all making key plays that led the Spartans (2-0) to a 14-10 win over Richmond Foster (0-2) on Thursday to stay unbeaten on the season.

"We've been playing sports together our whole lives," Matt said. "We're always around each other, always finding ways to make each other better and that's why you see stuff like tonight. It's easy when we are together on the field, because we match each other's energy and all three of us are going to do whatever it takes to help the team win."

See **SPARTANS**, page B5



FILE PHOTO

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

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13

SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Scores

- Seven Lakes 14, Foster 10
- Paetow 18, Dekaney 12
- Jordan 41, Travis 0
- Taylor 26, Bush 3
- Mayde Creek 14, Austin 12
- Atascocita 41, Katy 24
- Bridgeland 41, Tompkins 24
- Tomball 31, Cinco Ranch 25
- Magnolia West 24, Morton Ranch 21

Friday

- Tompkins vs. Jordan, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Mayde Creek vs. Taylor, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Saturday

- Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Friday

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

Tuesday

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



PHOTOS COURTESY MARCUS GUTIERREZ

Tremayne Hill cuts between defenders during Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium.

Katy takes learning moments from 41-24 loss to Atascocita

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

There were bright spots for Katy on Friday.

The Tigers jumped out to an early lead against one of the top teams in the state — they battled and for a half held a rushing attack in check that can normally carve up any team, they battled back from adversity to stay in a game for nearly four quarters and they learned how to be successful going up against tough teams.

But at the end of the day, No. 9-ranked Atascocita made more plays when it counted than Katy. The Eagles stepped up in the second half and erased a deficit before pulling away in the fourth quarter — they forced Katy into turnovers and wore down the Tiger defense in what ended in a 41-24 Katy loss.

"Our kids, regardless of the score, they grew up tonight," said Katy head coach Gary Joseph. "I think they realized we can play with really good teams and if we do well enough, we might well see these guys again down the line. They're a talented team — our kids are going to learn from this and be ok."

Katy came out strong on both sides of the ball, stopping Atascocita on its first drive before rolling down the field and scoring on a 17-yard Tremayne Hill run on their opening drive. After another stop, Katy went down the field again and took a two-possession lead when Gunner Nelson found Cade McCall wide open off a play action and threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to the junior.

"We came out so intense on both sides and everyone was lifting each other up," said junior linebacker Jeremiah Smith. "We were making sure we were



COURTESY MARCUS GUTIERREZ

Gunner Nelson gets ready for a snap during Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium.

in the game. First half on defense we played so well and didn't let them rip off any big gains, but second half all of that kind of died down. We just have to learn from it, remember this next week and the rest of the season that we have to keep our energy up."

But Atascocita answered back from there. Cardae Mack capped off the Eagles' next drive with a 22-yard pass to Christopher Toney for a touchdown and on the next Atascocita drive Mack tied it on a 33-yard pass to Toney. Katy had the answer though, driving down the field late in the half before Giovanni Moreno nailed a 25-yard field goal that made it 17-14 Katy heading into halftime.

"I think maybe some of the guys thought we had it won after a half and you can't ever believe that," said Katy senior quarterback Gunner Nelson. "We played well that first half — we went into halftime up and it just wasn't that same intensity in the second half, while they came out even harder. They came out of the half, took all the momentum and just kept carrying it. We have to make sure we don't let that happen again."

Mack threw for a third touchdown just two minutes into the third quarter when on the Eagles' first play from

See **KATY**, page B3

Mayde Creek tops Fort Bend Austin to stay unbeaten



TYLER TYRE

Christian Bradford carries the ball during Friday's game between Tompkins and Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium.

Rams' defense stepping up early in the season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek's defense has been exceptional to start this year.

The Rams' defense didn't allow anything in week one, helping the team earn a win over Fort Bend Travis (1-1), generating 10 points in the win, and in week two they were nearly just as good, forcing a turnover three fumbles and three turnovers on the night to help lead Mayde Creek (2-0) to a 14-12 win over Travis in the team's final non-district matchup of the regular season.

"I think the biggest thing has just been our effort on defense early this year," said junior linebacker Kosi Okpara. "Especially coming into this game, we knew we were facing a running quarterback and it would be a challenge, so we really embraced it. The

See **RAMS**, page B7



Chad Gasper runs upfield during a game between Jordan and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium last year.

PHOTO BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

KATY ISD FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

Week 3: District play begins with great matchups

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

*All Games District 19-6A

FRIDAY

Tompkins (1-1) vs. Jordan (2-0), 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Tompkins 49, Jordan 24

- Tompkins and Jordan start district against each other, as two teams vying to make it back to the playoffs try to start district off with a win in an important game.

Jordan comes into the matchup on fire from non-district play. The Warriors followed up a week one win with a dominant performance in week two, beating Fort Bend Travis 41-0. It was a big day for the offense in the win, especially through the air. Dominic Cangolosi threw for 134 yards and two touchdowns while completing 11 of 15 passes, while Beau Bryant had 72 yards through the air and two touchdowns, completing five of 10 passes while also throwing an interception. Bryant also added 30 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Andrew Marsh had 107 yards on six receptions, while catching two touchdown passes, while Tanner West had 47 yards receiving and two touchdowns and Zion Jones had 40 yards receiving while adding 55 yards and a touchdown on the ground, while the defense didn't allow a single point from Travis all game.



Ronnie Quinn celebrates with Michael Anderson and Erben Birkhoff after scoring a touchdown during a game between Tompkins and Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium last year.

PHOTO BY DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Tompkins meanwhile comes off a 41-24 loss to Bridgeland in the second game of the season. The Falcons found success on offense but also made mistakes on the loss. Justin Thierheimer had 147 yards passing and two touchdowns, completing 14 of 27 while also throwing two interceptions in the game. KJ Madison was huge in the game with 80 yards receiving on seven receptions, while Carter Young and Fabio Aguirre both had touchdown receptions. Ethan Meadows led the way on the ground with 41 yards on 13 carries while Robert Bernard had 39 yards on six carries while also running in a touchdown. The Falcons' defense struggled

though, allowing 185 yards and four touchdowns on the ground and 169 yards and two touchdowns through the air.

For Jordan, the Warriors will try to do more of the same as they head into district play. They hope to get star running back Chad Gasper back this week and that will help the team's running game, but the pass game and defense has been excellent in his absence. Tompkins will need to clean up the turnovers and some of the defensive miscues if they have a chance to start off district with a win.

Mayde Creek (2-0) vs. Taylor (1-1), 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Taylor 31, Mayde Creek 7

- Taylor and Mayde Creek both come off big wins in week two and head into district on a positive note after some strong signs in week two of the season.

After struggling in week one, Taylor turned things around with a big week two, beating Fort Bend Travis 26-3 in a dominant performance. The Mustangs' defense was on full display in the win, getting a safety and shutting down the Bush offense all game in the win, while Connor Chnupa and Scott Lewis both had good days at quarterback for the Mustangs as Taylor heads into district play feeling good after the win.

Mayde Creek comes into the matchup after showing improvement both in weeks one and two. The Rams defense has been at the forefront of their success this season, almost singlehandedly winning the game for them week one and following it up with another big game in week two, where they allowed just 12 points in a 14-12 win. The Rams looked better through the air, throwing for 111 yards in the game and had big plays on the ground, including an 80-yard run by Christian Bradford in the third quarter to give the Rams what would be the deciding touchdown in the game. Mayde Creek's defense forced three turnovers in the game and were exceptional.

It will be a strength on strength game between the two sides as they try and start district with a win. Both teams take pride in their defense and setting their offenses up for success and both teams will do everything they can to out physical each other while trying to earn a big win.

SATURDAY

Morton Ranch (0-2) vs. Katy (1-1), 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Katy 54, Morton Ranch 14

- Katy and Morton Ranch face off in week one with both teams coming off losses and both wanting to bounce back.

Katy comes off a loss to Atascocita, where the Tigers had strong moments and led for the majority of the game, but weren't able

to hold up for four quarters, falling to the Eagles after a tough fourth quarter where they lost the lead and gave up 20 points. Katy's rushing attack struggled and they lost their top two running backs in the game with knocks, Tremayne Hill ended the game with 99 yards on the ground and a touchdown, while Aqualis Jordan came in in the fourth quarter and had a few strong runs in limited action at running back. Gunner Nelson had 86 yards and two touchdowns while Israel Olotu-Judah had 50 yards receiving on three catches. Katy's defense did well in the first half, but faltered down the stretch and allowed 255 yards through the air, while doing a better job against the run, allowing 177 yards.

Morton Ranch was locked in a back and forth affair last week and narrowly fell, 24-21, to Magnolia West. The Mavericks had over 300 yards of offense in the loss which was a step up from the season opener and both of the players in the backfield, as Jayceon Jenkins and Tyler Gilmore had strong performances in the loss, but the team struggled defensively in the second half after only allowing three points in the first half, allowing 21 in the second half of the loss.

Katy will be out for revenge and angry after its loss last week as they look to start their district title defense with a win as they hope to get some players with knocks back and healthy. Morton Ranch will be trying to build off of a better week and find ways to compete in the team's first district game of the year.

Cinco Ranch (0-2) vs. Seven Lakes (2-0), 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Cinco Ranch 40, Seven Lakes 36

- Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes come into district on opposite ends of the spectrum, but with both having shown promise in their first two games of the season.

Cinco Ranch suffered a 31-25 loss in what was a huge comeback from Tomball last week, but the Cougars' offense continued to show strong signs in the loss. Tessiah Young had a huge game, rushing for 116 yards and a touchdown, while Marcus Gadlin added 39 yards on the ground and a TD. Charlie Adamoli completed 10 of 23 passes for 140 yards and a touchdown, but also added an interception and Davis Roup completed seven of 11 passes for 65 yards and a touchdown. Drew Tureau led the team with 66 yards and a touchdown on five catches, while Scott Eckel added 51 yards on five catches and Gadlin had 43 yards from one catch. The struggles for Cinco came on the defensive end, where they allowed 221 yards through the air and 177 yards on the ground.

Seven Lakes for the second straight week found themselves in a fight for every yard and came out on top, beating Foster behind a last-minute touchdown drive. Shaan Patel had a strong game, throwing for 167 yards and two touchdowns while completing 16 of 24 passes, while Kaiser Floyd and Ryan Fowler went over 50 yards receiving and Apollo Lea had 62 yards rushing. Seven Lakes shined defensively, holding Foster to under 180 yards rushing and under 20 yards passing with only two completions all game.

This is an important one in a number of ways for both teams. They know a win would be a huge one to start district as they try to push for playoff contention and it's also a big rivalry for all of the players. The two teams are well suited to battle it out and it could be a very fun one.

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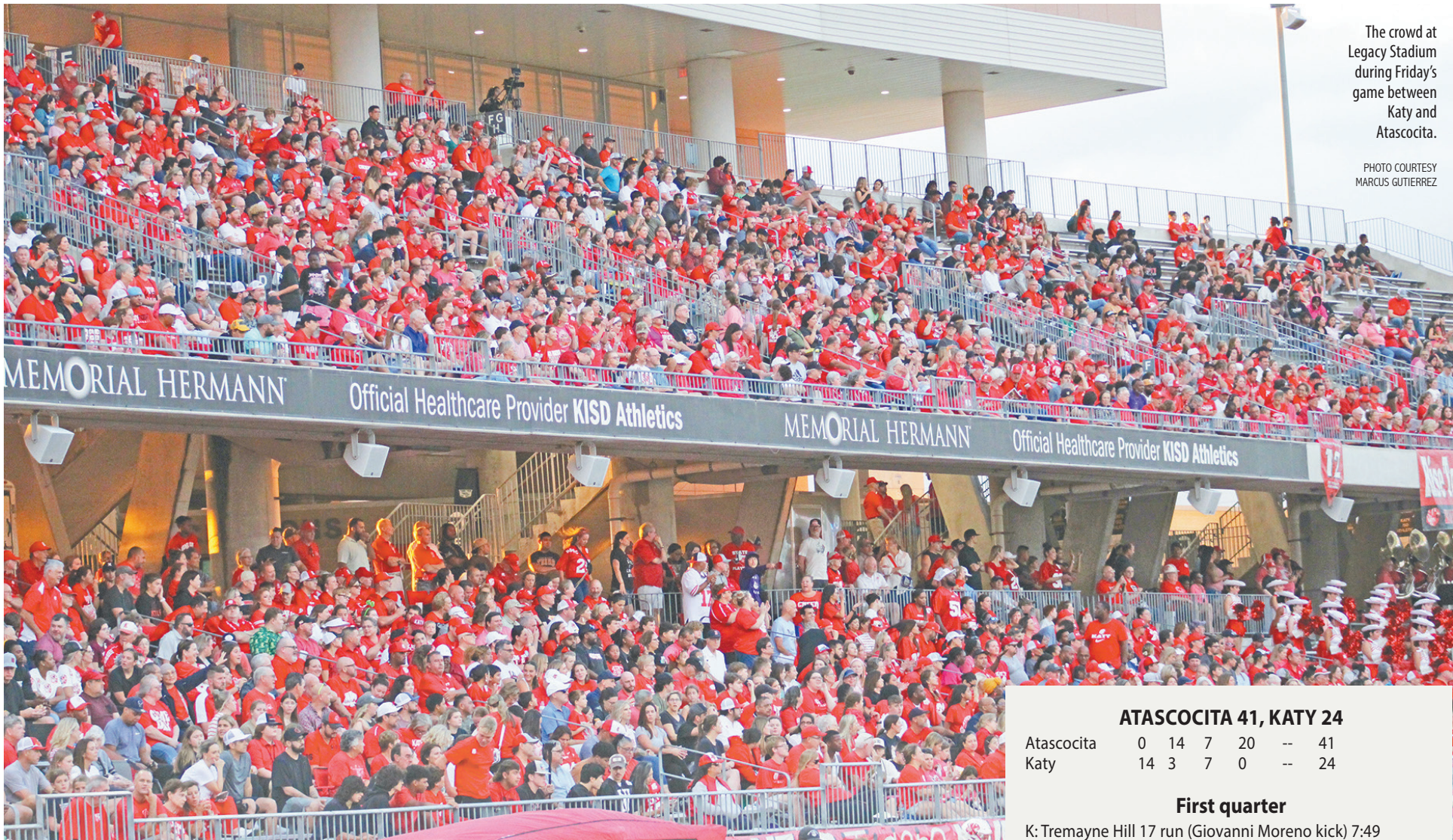
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The crowd at Legacy Stadium during Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita.

PHOTO COURTESY MARCUS GUTIERREZ

KATY

from page B1

scrimmage in the half, he hit Broderick Malone for an 80-yard score. Katy retook the lead on its next drive when Nelson found McCall again off a play action or a 19-yard touchdown and Katy led heading into the fourth quarter, but miscues doomed the Tigers down the stretch.

A bad snap on a punt set Atascocita up in prime field position early in the fourth and Mack scored again, this time on a 6-yard run and after the next Katy attempt stalled, Atascocita drove the length of the field before scoring on a 6-yard Tory Blaylock run. The Tigers threw an interception as they tried to climb back into it and Atascocita added a 5-yard touchdown run from Blaylock late on to seal the win.

"We just can't have turnovers like that, snapping the ball over the punter's head and giving the ball away like that can decide games," Joseph said. "But we'll get back to practice and fix that. That's what it all comes back to is what you do to respond after a loss like this in practice. This type of stuff will get corrected and I know we will be a better team for it."

It didn't help the Tigers that they were down their top three running backs late in the game, Hill picked up a knock in the second half and London Pilbeam also picked up an injury in



Tremayne Hill cuts upfield during Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium.

the game. Katy was already without MJ Benas heading into the week and were forced to use Aqualis Jordan, who is normally a defensive back for the

team, at running back late in the fourth quarter. Jordan did a fine job as well, carrying the ball three times for over 30 yards, but it is a tough situation to be in for an offense that wants to start with the run and build the pass game off of it.

"We just have to get Aqualis some more reps there — he doesn't have many yet and it's going to take a bit of time," Joseph said. "He's been playing some defensive back for us — he did a good job today and made some good tackles. We just have to get him ready at running back two and he'll have to play both ways for right now."

The Tigers head into district and will have Morton Ranch up next as they try to bounce back. It's something that the whole team is sure they will grow from and they know that in the long term, this game and this experience will help them achieve their goals.

"It was important to test ourselves against a team like this and know how we can raise our level," Nelson said. "Now we have to worry about district. Our goal is to win it and make sure we are in a good spot for playoffs and to do that, we have to bring it every week and have our minds and bodies right. This helps us because we know there's more work to be done if we want to accomplish all of our goals."

ATASCOCITA 41, KATY 24

Atascocita	0	14	7	20	--	41
Katy	14	3	7	0	--	24

First quarter

K: Tremayne Hill 17 run (Giovanni Moreno kick) 7:49
K: Gunner Nelson 32 pass to Cade McCall (Moreno kick) 3:34

Second quarter

A: Cardae Mack 22 pass to Christopher Toney (Parker Cushing kick) 10:06
A: Mack 33 pass to Toney (Cushing kick) 4:25
K: Moreno 25 field goal, 1:08

Third quarter

A: Mack 80 pass to Broderick Malone, 10:00
K: Gunner Nelson 19 pass to McCall 4:45

Fourth quarter

A: Mack 6 run (Cushing kick) 11:54
A: Tory Blaylock 6 run (Cushing kick) 7:20
A: Blaylock 3 run (Cushing kick) 5:00

Team stats

	ATASCOCITA	KATY
First downs	19	18
Yards rushing	31-177	35-158
Yards passing	255	156
Passes	11-18-3-1	11-21-2-1
Punts	2-43	3-44.6
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-1
Penalty-yards	5-50	2-15

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Katy: Tremayne Hill, 22-99-1; Aqualis Jordan, 3-31; Joshua Smith, 4-11; London Pilbeam, 4-10; Gunner Nelson, 1-10 Atascocita: Cardae Mack, 17-109-1; Tory Blaylock, 13-62-2; Christopher Toney, 1-6; Passing – Katy: Gunner Nelson, 11-21-156-2-1; Atascocita: Cardae Mack, 11-18-245-3-1; Receiving – Katy: Cade McCall, 5-86-2; Israel Olotu-Judah, 3-50; Ryan Carbone, 2-15; Matthew Saulsberry, 1-5; Atascocita: Christopher Toney, 7-130-2; Broderick Malone, 1-80-1; Kyran Pate, 3-35; Tory Blaylock, 1-10;



PHOTO COURTESY MARCUS GUTIERREZ

Above: Katy players stand for the national anthem before Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium. Right: Jeremiah Smith stands for the national anthem before Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium.



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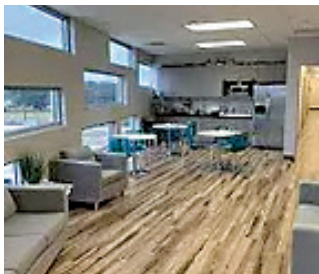
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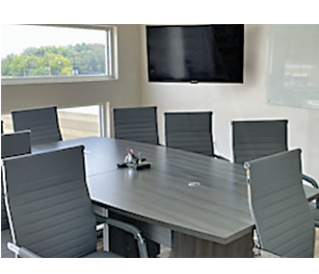
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SPARTANS

from page B1

The three biggest plays of the game came from the hands of the three Fowlers. Justin gave Seven Lakes the lead and its first score of the game when he caught a 20-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter, Matt caught the game winning score late in the fourth when Seven Lakes was trailing, bringing in an 11-yard touchdown pass. Justin then sealed the game, intercepting a Foster pass with under a minute to go when the Falcons were trying to drive down the field.

“It’s great — you all want to make plays going into the game and for us three to all come up big like we did was just a really cool thing,” Justin said. “We’ve all been so close our whole lives and always pushed each other. You could see that tonight. One of us makes a play and it just makes the rest of us want to make a play even more. You don’t want to be outdone by a sibling so we all just go out there and fight and make plays everywhere we can.”

Seven Lakes’ defense was huge all day. They made three straight stops to start the game and on the third possession, Foster fumbled a snap in its own end. Amani Hooks came crashing in to beat two players to the ball, recovering the fumble that set the Spartans’ offense up inside Foster territory.

That was exactly the spark that Seven Lakes’ offense needed as well — they drove down to the redzone and then Shaan Patel made a beautiful throw off a broken play, escaping the pocket before finding Ryan on the run in the back of the endzone for a 20-yard touchdown. Seven Lakes had another chance at a score late in the half, driving into the redzone a second time, but a drop and a missed field goal kept things 7-0 heading into the locker room at half.

“We have a lot of experience coming back on defense and it’s made a difference,” said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Hamon. “They understand

the gameplans we put in and they understand how to make adjustments when we need to, whether that be at half or on the fly during the game. They really learn what we teach and that’s a blessing.”

The Spartans’ offense struggled to take advantage of any short fields in the second half and had to punt it away every possession in the third quarter. Foster put drives together late in the third where the Falcons tied the game and then another midway through the fourth when they took the lead on a field goal.

But for the second straight week, going down late in the game sparked the Seven Lakes offense. The Spartans drove down the field, chewed time off the clock and on a third and goal from the 11, Patel rolled out and found Matt on a corner route in the back of the endzone to take the lead with under three minutes left. Foster tried to drive down the field and answer back, but Justin sealed the game when he intercepted a pass with under a minute remaining.

“In practice we always talk about how to close out games and we repeat it, how to do a two-minute drill, how to close out a game defensively, so we aren’t ever pressed in game,” Ryan said. “We know what to do in these situations and I think just that experience has really helped us these first two weeks when we have needed to make plays down the stretch to win games.”

Ryan ended the game with three receptions for 50 yards while Matt had two receptions for 17 yards. Kaiser Floyd led the Spartans in receiving yards with three catches for 55 yards while Patel ended the night with 167 yards through the air and Apollo Lema had 62 yards rushing.

The Spartans start the gauntlet of District 19-6A next with Cinco Ranch up first. Seven Lakes knows there are things to clean up and get better with



PHOTO COURTESY BEN SIMSKEY

From left to right, Ryan, Matt and Justin Fowler pose with their parents, Paul and Rosalyn Fowler, after Seven Lakes won its game against Richmond Foster on Thursday.

going forward if they are to accomplish their goals, but they are also going to celebrate this — the program’s first 2-0 start since 2014 — and having a trio of Fowler’s who can light a spark for the team and make a big play at any time.

“I have three sons also — an older son and twins,” Hamon said. “I told Justin, Ryan and Matt the other day, I hope my

three boys are like you three when they are your age. Those three are just the epitome of what you want brothers to be like and what you want teammates to be like. When you have that in a locker room, it just rubs off on everyone that they are around. I couldn’t be prouder of those guys and I’m so happy to have the privilege of coaching them.”

SEVEN LAKES 14, FOSTER 10						
Seven Lakes	0	7	0	7	--	14
Foster	0	0	7	3	--	10

Second quarter

SL: Shaan Patel 20 pass to Ryan Fowler (Alex Farinez kick) 10:19

Third quarter

F: Addison Ojaku 5 run (Nick Lopez kick) 0:58

Fourth quarter

F: Lope 23 field goal, 7:45
SL: Patel 11 pass to Matt Fowler (Farinez kick) 2:56

Team stats

	S. LAKES	FOSTER
First downs	14	9
Yards rushing	27-65	36-179
Yards passing	167	18
Passes	16-24-2-0	2-12-0-1
Punts	5-25.6	3-37.6
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1
Penalty-yards	2-25	4-40

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Seven Lakes: Apollo Lema, 19-62; Braylon Hayes, 5-26; Shaan Patel, 2-(-4); Team: 1-(-19); Foster: Oscar Bargas, 20-134; Addison Ojaku, 10-43; Garrett Barham, 2-5; AJ Akinbile, 1-2; Kaleb Lawson, 2-(-5); Passing – Seven Lakes: Shaan Patel, 16-24-167-2-0; Foster: Kaleb Lawson, 1-7-8-0-0; Garrett Barham, 1-5-10-0-1; Receiving – Seven Lakes: Kaiser Floyd, 3-55; Ryan Fowler, 3-50-1; Matt Fowler, 2-17-1; Peter Noonan, 2-14; Apollo Lema, 1-13; Carter Hatten, 3-12; Braylon Hayes, 1-6; Foster: Riley Blanton, 2-18;



FILE PHOTO

Seven Lakes' sideline celebrates after Keaton Fowler-Smith intercepted a pass in overtime during a game between Seven Lakes and Memorial at Legacy Stadium last season.

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Above: Andrew Marsh tries to get past Katy's Jacob Hilton during Friday's game between Katy and Jordan at Legacy Stadium. Right: Andrew Marsh catches a pass during a game between Jordan and Cinco Ranch at Rhodes Stadium last year.

FILE PHOTOS



Jordan's Marsh named Ford Tough Player of the Week

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Jordan wide receiver Andrew Marsh was named the Built Ford Tough Texas High School Football Player of the Week for Class 6A in the first week of the regular season for Class 6A after a big performance in the Warrior's win over Cy-Creek.

After committing to The University of Michigan the week prior, Marsh came out on fire in the Warriors' season opener, catching four passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns while adding a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in Jordan's 66-20 win over Cy-Creek.

"He's just a complete wide receiver," said Jordan head coach Mike Rabe. "He blocks well, runs well, returns kicks — he's the complete package. He has also lifted his teammates along with him and now he has set his sights on a successful senior season before joining the Wolverines."

It's the second time Marsh has been named the Ford Tough Player of the Week. He also earned the honors last year in the last week of the regular season after catching eight passes for 240 yards and five touchdowns in a win over Morton Ranch that clinched Jordan's first ever playoff berth. He finished his junior year with 65 catches for 1,158 yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging over 105 yards per game.

"This offense gives me so many opportunities because we have a lot of weapons," Marsh said after the win over Cy-Creek. "I get put in man-on-man because they can't



FILE PHOTO

Andrew Marsh catches a pass during Saturday's game between Jordan and Paetow at Legacy Stadium.

focus on one guy and when that happens, I don't think anyone can guard me one-on-one. With all the pieces we have on the team and the way we spread the ball around it's a big help. It gets me the matchups that I want, and I feel like I can win every time, it doesn't matter who is across from me."

Marsh worked well with both of Jordan's quarterbacks in the game, as Jordan played both Dominic Cangolosi and Beau Bryant and he is excited for the Warriors' team to continue to learn and grow as the season progresses.

"This was huge for us to start the season this way," Marsh said. "We came out and we took care of business — that is what we should expect to do after the team. Now we have to keep focusing on getting better and carry it over into next week and district, because that is the most important thing."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 151 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., at Inframark Water & Infrastructure Services, 2002 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 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:	K. Gier, N. Shipley, L. James, J. Ciarella & C. McFarland	
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 \$ 0.820 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.780 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.040 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.8780%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$471,727	\$510,978
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$471,727	\$510,978
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,868.16	\$ 3,985.63
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$117.47 3.0368%	

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 Woodcreek Reserve Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., at the Katy Civic Center, 910 Ave. C, Katy, Texas 77493. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	C. Foster, C. Caruthers, D. Cresap, M. Sheahan & J. Perkins	
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 \$ 0.450 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.420 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.030 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.6667%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$556,592	\$611,429
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	-\$83,489	-\$122,286
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$473,103	\$489,143
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,128.96	\$ 2,054.40
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	-\$74.56 -3.5022%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Kosi Okpala poses for a photo after Mayde Creek's win over Fort Bend Austin on Saturday.



Cole Jensen poses for a photo after Mayde Creek's win over Fort Bend Austin on Saturday.

RAMS

from page B1

strength of this defense is all of us can adapt and play how we need to against any team. No matter what the offense throws at us, we feel like we are a step ahead. We just have to keep getting better as well."

The defense's impact not only helped keep Austin off the board, but it allowed the offense to grow into the game after a slow start. After Austin scored on its first drive on a 44-yard run by David Bishop to go up 6-0, the Mayde Creek defense forced a fumble that the Rams recovered and then a turnover on downs on the next two drives and the Rams' offense finally found its footing late in the half, going on a 74-yard drive and scoring on a 13-yard pass from Cole Jensen to Trey Williams that gave Mayde Creek a one-point lead going into the half.

The Rams forced a turnover on downs on Austin to start the second half and on Mayde Creek's first play from scrimmage in the half Christian Bradford took a handoff and scored what would end up being the winning touchdown, racing 80 yards past the defense and putting Mayde Creek up by eight points.

"We had talked at halftime how we need to embrace the physicality at halftime and how we were the faster more physical team if we just chose to be," said senior quarterback Cole Jensen. "We knew that is how we could win this game was by being physical, so it was huge because it set the tone for the rest of the half and after that it just lifted the whole team up. We knew that we were going to fight and find a way to come out with the win."

Austin answered back on its next drive, going 60 yards on its

"We know how tough Taylor is and we have to match that. We're going to come out here and lock in every day in practice and keep working. We want to start out district hot and we have to be locked in if we want to do that."

— KOSI OKPALA

drive and scoring on a 14-yard run from Koen Herrmann, but the Rams' defense came up big again and stopped the two-point conversion, keeping Mayde Creek up 14-12 in what would end up being the final score.

Mayde Creek had chances to extend its lead and dropped two passes in the endzone in the game on drives that ended up with no points, but the defense came up huge again down the stretch, causing a turnover on downs with just over two minutes left in the game, also stopping Austin's final drive of the game in the final seconds to seal the win.

"It's been huge to see the way these guys are learning how to win games," said Mayde Creek head coach Mike Arogbonlo. "They're finding ways to win, however that is. Last week we didn't score a touchdown on offense, but we found a way to win. This week, we score two touchdowns on offense and you can see these guys starting to get it and grow together and pick things up. If we can get all three phases clicking the way I believe we can, this can be a really special group."

The offense for Mayde Creek

took a step forward in the game. They had 170 rushing yards and 110 passing yards and finished two drives while moving the ball well, but the team knows there is still a ways to go to reach their full potential.

"It's a process and it can take a while on offense for a team to get down those intricacies, especially since I only got here in June," Arogbonlo said. "You can see these guys though — they're all getting on the same page and learning how things should run and what we can do. We executed a lot better tonight and I'm proud of those guys for that, but we still have some work to do. We're driving the ball but once we get into district, we have to finish drives a bit better."

It was a special moment for Arogbonlo as he went up against the team he coached for four years before leaving to become the quarterbacks coach at Duncanville last year. Austin players and coaches went up to him after the game and he shared moments with them and his family after.

But Arogbonlo's focus is on the Creek. The Rams get Taylor next week in the first week of District 19-6A action in what might be a matchup of sheer strength and will between the teams. The one thing that the Rams know is that they will be ready for the challenge.

"We have to be even more physical than we have been," Okpala said. "We know how tough Taylor is and we have to match that. We're going to come out here and lock in every day in practice and keep working. We want to start out district hot and we have to be locked in if we want to do that."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 57 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Monday, September 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at Pine Mill Ranch Community Center, 26810 Pine Mill Ranch Drive, 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:	Bill Lyle, Randy Rodriguez, Chris Tolle, Gina Babineaux, Steve McConnell
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.76800 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.72600 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -0.04200 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.47%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$472,334.00	\$516,682.00
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	\$472,334.00	\$516,682.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,627.53	\$3,751.11
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$123.59 3.41%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The BROOKSHIRE - KATY DRAINAGE DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 – 2025 on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 AT 8:30A.M. at 1111 KENNEY STREET, BROOKSHIRE, TEXAS 77423. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>0.060420</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>0.057898</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ - 0.0025 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		<u>-4.17 %</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ <u>392,390</u>	\$ <u>442,158</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ <u>392,390</u>	\$ <u>442,158</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ <u>237.08</u>	\$ <u>256.00</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted and percentage of decrease	\$ <u>18.92</u> <u>-7.98 %</u>	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

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Katy falls to 16th place in Dave Campbell Rankings



BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy fell in this week's Dave Campbell Texas Football Rankings in week three, dropping to No. 16 after the team's loss to Atascocita in week two. The Tigers were ranked No. 11 last week and dropped five spots after the loss. The Tigers

Gunner Nelson throws the ball during a game last year between Katy and Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

FILE PHOTO

lost 41-24 in the game but played well for three quarters against a team ranked ninth overall in the state. Duncanville moved to the top spot in Class 6A in the state, while North Shore was second, North Crowley was third, Westlake was fourth and DeSoto dropped from first to fifth after a loss. Atascocita remained at No. 9, while other Houston area schools included Summer Creek at six, The Woodlands at 13, Bridgeland at 14 and Fulshear at 15.

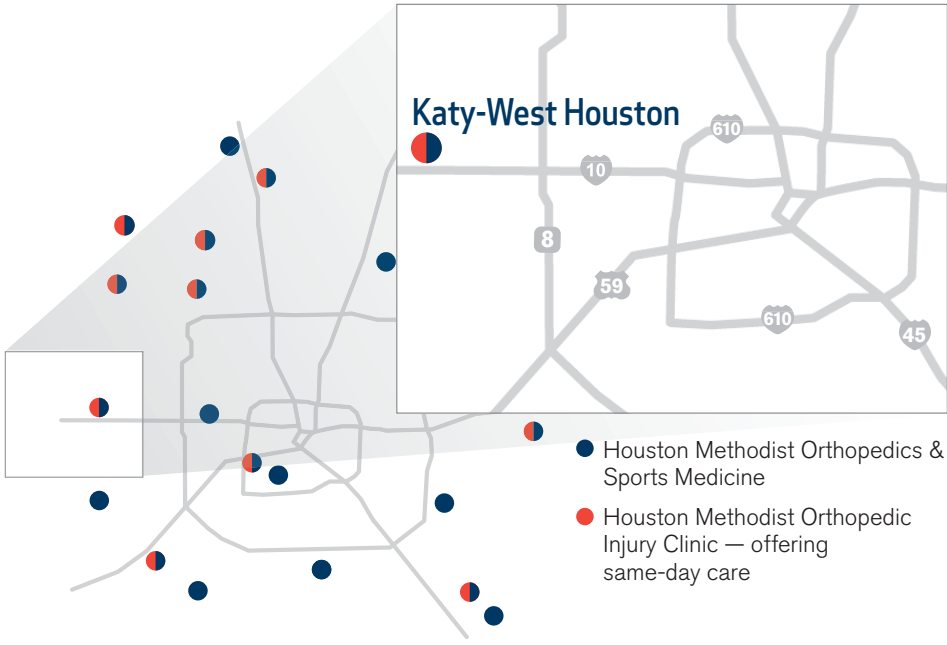
CLASS 6A				
Rank	School	(Record)	Week 2	Prv rank
1	Duncanville	(1-0)	W: Dallas South Oak Cliff, 34-12	2
2	Galena Park N. Shore	(2-0)	W: Crowley, 28-13	3
3	North Crowley	(2-0)	W: DeSoto, 57-51	5
4	Austin Westlake	(2-0)	W: San Benito, 63-7	4
5	DeSoto	(1-1)	L: North Crowley, 57-51	1
6	Humble Summer Creek	(2-0)	W: Houston Lamar, 52-0	6
7	Southlake Carroll	(2-0)	W: Lewisville Hebron, 59-16	7
8	Lake Travis	(2-0)	W: Rockwall, 45-42	8
9	Humble Atascocita	(2-0)	W: Katy, 41-24	9
10	Cibolo Steele	(2-0)	W: SA Reagan, 62-34	10
11	Allen	(2-0)	W: Cedar Hill, 42-14	15
12	Coppell	(2-0)	W: Waxahachie, 28-27 OT	13
13	The Woodlands	(2-0)	W: Deer Park, 52-24	16
14	Bridgeland	(2-0)	W: 41-24, Katy Tompkins	17
15	Lamar Fulshear	(2-0)	W: Fort Bend Ridge Point, 49-41	20
16	Katy	(1-1)	L: Humble Atascocita, 41-24	11
17	Denton Guyer	(2-0)	W: 38-19, Arlington Martin	21
18	Rockwall	(1-1)	L: Lake Travis, 45-42	18
19	Fort Bend Ridge Point	(1-1)	L: Lamar Fulshear, 49-41	14
20	Prosper	(1-1)	W: Rockwall-Heath, 49-18	25
21	Klein Cain	(2-0)	W: The Woodlands College Park, 40-17	NR
22	Northwest Nelson	(2-0)	W: Lewisville, 32-28	NR
23	Fort Bend Hightower	(2-0)	W: Spring Westfield, 14-7	NR
24	Spring Westfield	(1-1)	L: Fort Bend Hightower, 14-7	12
25	Willis	(2-0)	W: Klein Collins, 40-7	NR

Dropped out: No. 19 Austin Vandegrift, No. 22 Cedar Hill, No. 23 SA Reagan, No. 24 Dickinson

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