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KatyTimes



VOLUME 112, ISSUE 39 THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
This historic vehicle sponsored by the Katy Heritage Society and Katy Beer Garden was just one of the many sights along Avenue C in Katy during the 2023 Rice Harvest Festival parade.

Rice Harvest Festival Parade set for October 5

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Rice Harvest Festival officially kicks off with its parade on October 5, starting at 9 a.m., with a flurry of floats and participants representing Katy's rice farming heritage and everything Katy.

The parade route will start at East Avenue and Fifth Street, then turn south at Avenue A, heading west on Second Street, then north on Avenue C to Tenth Street.

About 40 entries are expected, according to City of Katy Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Browne. While no high school bands have signed up to march in this year's event, cheer squads from many area schools will participate. There are no grand marshals for the parade.

See **PARADE**, page A3



School board approves new tax rate

Trustees also approve naming Cinco Ranch High track facility for Gary Derks

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

In its regular meeting at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy on September 23, the Katy ISD board of trustees approved the adoption of the proposed 2024-2025 tax rate, which will be \$1.1171. Chief Financial officer Chris Smith said that the rate breaks down to \$0.7271 for maintenance and operations and \$0.39 for debt service and represents a \$0.0023-cent reduction in the rate over the prior year.

The board also approved the naming of a portion of the track facility at Cinco Ranch High School after the late track and field coach Gary Derks. Derks' daughter Brittany Coker accepted the honor on behalf of the family. Derks, who passed away in 2016, coached in the Houston area for over 30 years, according to his obituary.

Via consent agenda, the board approved items discussed during the prior week's work study meeting:

- Approval for the superintendent to form naming committees to name the two new elementary schools.
- Design approvals for renovations and expansions at several campuses, including the Show Center, Bear

See **KISD**, page A3



SUSAN ROVEGNO
Katy ISD school board president Victor Perez (right) thanks the members of the trumpet quintet at Seven Lake High School for their performance of the national anthem at Monday's regular meeting of the board.

Council hears zoning request for proposed plant but delays approval

Tax rate for 2024, budget for 2024-2025 approved

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A zoning request for a special use permit

for a battery energy storage system (BESS), to be located at 27051 Highway Blvd, in Katy, was presented by officials of Ochoa Energy and its parent company, Vesper Energy, at Katy's meeting of city council on September 23. The 24-acre facility would house up to 200 modules similar to shipping containers holding lithium-ion batteries, which company officials said would store excess energy

and then release it back onto ERCOT's power grid when demand is high. When completed, the 500 MW system will provide enough to power about 60,000 homes for two hours, according to the company's presentation.

The purpose of the project is to enhance electric grid reliability and to help reduce the cost of electricity for consumers, ac-

cording to the presentation. The enterprise is also projected to bring in \$3,784,187.00 tax revenue to the City of Katy and over \$11,221,834.00 in tax revenue to Katy ISD in its first ten years of operation. If approved, the project would be commissioned in 2026.

Vesper officials said they chose the

See **CITY**, page A3

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SEPTEMBER IS 'PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS' MONTH

Myths vs. facts: What you need to know about prostate cancer

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As Prostate Cancer Awareness Month unfolds, it's a great time to separate fact from fiction when it comes to this disease. Experts at Houston Methodist West Hospital are dedicated to clarifying some of the most prevalent myths about prostate cancer, ensuring that men are well-informed about their health, and the staff provided some tips to the Katy Times. Wesley Ekeruo, M.D., a leading



DR. WESLEY
EKERUO

urologist at Houston Methodist West, shares his expertise to help clear up some of these misconceptions.

Myth 1: Prostate cancer affects only older men

Many people believe that prostate cancer only affects older men, but that's not the whole story. "While the risk increases with age, we're seeing more cases in men in their 50's and even 40's," Dr. Ekeruo said. "It is crucial for men to start discussing prostate health with their doctors around age 50, or earlier if there's a family history of the disease." Prostate cancer doesn't discriminate by

See **CANCER**, page A3

Fort Bend County Fair announces parade marshal

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Fair announced on September 21 that the 2024 Parade Grand Marshal would be three-time American Olympian Simone Manuel. The competitive swimmer and multi-medalist is from Sugar Land and graduated from Austin High School, beginning her gold medal journey in Fort Bend County.

Manuel is a seven-time Olympic medalist (two gold, four silver, one bronze). Most recently, in August at the Paris Olympics, she won silver in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay and women's 4x200m freestyle relay.

"We are proud to be able to celebrate Simone's accomplishments as an athlete and as a person who represents Fort Bend County at an international level. We are so

See **MARSHAL**, page A3

CHAMPIONS KIDS CAMP

27th Annual Golf Classic
MONDAY, OCT 21, 2024

SHOTGUN START 12 PM | CHECK IN 10 AM
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1214 DULLES AVE., SUGAR LAND 77478

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Register at championskidscamp.org/golf

Grammy Winning Songwriters & CKC Founders Bill and Kim Nash

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brookshire Youth Sports League to hold first community fundraiser on September 28

The Brookshire Youth Sports League invites the community to its first annual community barbecue fundraiser, to be held September 28 at 4 p.m. at Brookshire Methodist Church at 707 Cooper Street in Brookshire. The \$15.00 plate includes two meats (choice of chicken, sausage or ribs), sides, a dessert and a drink.

First Christian Church to open Pumpkin Patch on October 1 for the 12th year

Come check out the Pumpkin Patch as First Christian Church of Katy celebrates its 12th season! Get ready to come see what the buzz is all about. More photo ops, more games, more fun, and more pumpkins! Admission is always free. Open daily from noon to 7 p.m. beginning October 1 at 22101 Morton Ranch Road in Katy.

Acorn Art Festival comes to Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church on October 5

The Acorn Art Festival – an exciting art and jewelry show with craft vendors, food trucks, gem mining, music, face painting, and more – comes to Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church in Katy on October 5. Join in from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a fun day connecting with the Grand Lakes/Cinco/Katy community at 6035 S. Fry Road in Katy. FREE ADMISSION! For more information, please email acornartfest@gmail.com.

Third annual car show returns to Holy Covenant United Methodist Church on October 5

On Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., come out to this family-friendly event featuring an amazing display of classic cars, muscle cars, bikes, unfinished models and more, all from different eras. Hosted by the Men’s Ministry of the Holy Covenant United Methodist Church at 22111 Morton

Ranch Road in Katy, the event will feature food and refreshments in addition to dozens of models on display. Admission is free. Awards will be presented in categories including “Top 15,” “Best of Unrestored,” “People’s Choice,” and “Best in Show,” among others. Proceeds benefit graduating seniors.

Katy’s First United Methodist Church welcomes you to the Pumpkin Patch beginning October 6

Pumpkins – and reading – return to Katy’s First United Church again this fall, at 5601 Fifth Street in Katy. Local personalities scheduled to read from children’s favorites include Katy’s Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris. The fun begins on Sunday, October 6 and continues every day until Halloween from noon to 6 p.m. daily. For more information, go to the church’s website at katyfirst.org.

A ‘fun fall full of music’ begins with the Lone Star Symphonic Band’s first concert of the season on October 6

A concert full of fun, light, amusing music selections will begin the 2024-25 Concert Season for the Lone Star Symphonic Band on October 6 at 4 p.m. The program will feature several musical compositions that feature compilations from various popular artists of the past that are sure to evoke memories in the minds of all audience members. All concerts will be held at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church at 22111 Morton Ranch Road in Katy. For tickets and more information, go to lssb.org.

Harris County Precinct 4 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month with free events at Radack Center

Commissioner Lesley Briones invites the public to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month through a series of free, family-friendly performances, workshops, panels, and festivals across Harris County Precinct 4. Events scheduled at the Radack Center at 18650 Clay Road in Houston include:

- A Taste of Latin American Heritage Series, begins October 7 at 11 a.m. Join a Prairie View A&M nutrition education associate for a two-part class on preparing Latin cuisine. Registration is required; call the Radack Center at 832-927-3000
- The Aztec Princess, October 14 at 1:30 p.m. Children of all ages and accompanying adults are invited to see The Aztec Princess. This colorful time traveler will tell two classic Mexican fables about anti-bullying while teaching English and Spanish vocabulary.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris is slated to once again don his pumpkin costume and read children’s favorite stories at Katy’s First United Methodist Church’s annual pumpkin patch beginning in October.

Hope Chest to cook up a bake sale on October 12

The Hope Chest Resale Market, benefiting Cy-Hope, will be hosting a bake sale at both of its store locations in October. The Katy-area event will be held October 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the resale store at 6545 Stockdick School Road in Katy in the Elyson area. All proceeds will be donated to The United Way.

Brookshire-Pattison Lions Craft Show takes place on October 12

The Brookshire-Pattison Lions Club will hold its annual community craft fair on Saturday, October 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brookshire-Pattison Volunteer Fire Department at 2950 FM 359 in Pattison. For more information, please contact Heather A. McConnell, Brookshire-Pattison Lions Club Treasurer at hamcconnell@gmail.com.

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3rd Annual Spaghetti Lunch and Community Craft Fair
October 12, 2024
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Presale tickets \$10 per plate
Plate includes:
Spaghetti with meat sauce, Salad, Bread, Dessert, Drink
Tickets at the door: \$15 per plate
R.S.V.P.: hmcconnell@brookshirepattisonlions.org
cell: 713-594-9297
(presale tickets encouraged in order to know how many are coming)
All Proceeds to Benefit the Brookshire-Pattison Lions Club Charities and Local Community
Drawing for Rifle to be held at 2:30 p.m.
Messberg Patriot Rifle 243 Win
Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department
2950 FM 359, Pattison, TX 77423

LOOKING FOR A PET, A HOME OR A JOB?
DON'T MISS OUR CLASSIFIEDS!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Calls balls and strikes
4. Turkish officer
9. Repaired shoe
14. Grass genus
15. Small, sealed vial
16. Primp
17. Immoral act
18. A tool to communicate
20. Crumbles away
22. Egg-like
23. Districts (abbr.)
24. Dressed
28. Small island (British)
29. Dialect of Chinese
30. Force unit
31. Borderlines
33. Norse gods
37. Morning
38. Fiddler crabs
39. Tell a story
41. Consumed
42. Atomic #58
43. About old Norse poems
44. Fencing swords
46. One-time Tigers third baseman
49. Southpaw (abbr.)
50. Neither
51. Conversations
55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation
58. Cyprinids
59. Appropriate to a festival

CLUES DOWN

1. Unhappy
2. Silk fabric
3. Unbroken view of a region
4. Middle Eastern territory
5. ___ and Andy, TV show
6. Central processing unit
7. Department of Housing and Urban Development
8. Midcentury newspaper columnist
9. Weapon
10. Delivered a speech
11. Probably going to happen
12. Midway between northeast and east
13. Danish krone
19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)
21. Fall slowly in drops
24. Bestow an honor upon
25. Childishly silly
26. Related on the mother’s side
27. Populations of related plants
31. Coherent

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

CANCER

from page A1

age, so early conversations and screenings are crucial, he added.

Myth 2: If you have prostate cancer, you'll definitely notice symptoms

It's a common misconception that prostate cancer will always present with noticeable symptoms like pain or urinary issues. "In reality, many men with early-stage prostate cancer have no symptoms at all," Dr. Ekeruo said. "This is why routine screenings are so important—they help detect the disease before it causes noticeable problems."

Myth 3: PSA screening is dangerous or ineffective

The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test is often misunderstood and sometimes avoided due to fears or misconceptions, he said. "The PSA test isn't perfect, but it's a valuable tool for early detection of prostate cancer," Dr. Ekeruo said. "Higher PSA levels don't automatically mean cancer, but they do signal that further investigation is needed. Skipping screening based on myths can lead to missed opportunities for early treatment."

Myth 4: Treatment for prostate cancer always leads to severe side effects

Concerns about side effects from prostate cancer treatments are valid, but advancements have made significant strides, said the physician. "Newer treatment methods, such as robotic-assisted surgery and targeted radiation, have greatly improved outcomes and reduced side effects," Dr. Ekeruo noted. "Early detection means we have more treatment options, many of which allow patients to maintain a good quality of life."

Myth 5: A prostate cancer diagnosis means immediate, aggressive treatment

Not every case of prostate cancer requires immediate treatment. "For some slow-growing cancers, active surveillance is the best approach," Dr. Ekeruo said. "We monitor the cancer closely with regular tests and proceed with treatment only if necessary. This strategy helps many men avoid unnecessary procedures and remain healthy."

Dr. Ekeruo underscores the importance of staying informed and proactive about prostate health. Debunking these myths is essential to encouraging more men to get screened and stay on top of their health. Understanding the facts can make a significant difference in managing prostate cancer effectively.

For more information on prostate cancer or to schedule an appointment at Houston Methodist West, visit the hospital website at houstonmethodist.org/spg/urology/katy/or call 832.522.8300.

KISD

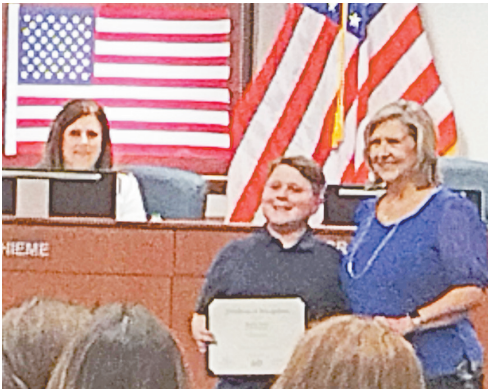
from page A1

Creek Elementary School, Pattison Elementary School, Hutsell Elementary School and the Behavioral Learning Center at Merchant Way which will house special education students.

Students from Seven Lakes High School were recognized during the evening for various accomplishments:

- The Seven Lakes High School trumpet quintet performed the national anthem.
- Seven Lakes High School student Allan Xu was recognized for winning the 6A singles state championship in tennis.
- Seven Lakes High School UIL Academic Team was honored for winning a State Championship, which district officials said was only the second such win since 2007.

Of the seven speakers who spoke during the public comments session on non-agenda items, three spoke against the transgender book ban previously enacted by the board, one spoke on proposed rezoning in the northwest quadrant of the district, one spoke on behalf of teachers and their paperwork workload, among other



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Parker Levin (center), a fifth grader at Jenks Elementary, is thanked by trustee Rebecca Fox (right) for leading the pledges of allegiance at the school board meeting on September 23.

topics.

The next meetings of the board are scheduled as follows:

- October 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. – Team building (location to be announced)
- October 21, work study meeting
- October 28, regular board meeting

CITY

from page A1

Katy site because it is strategically located directly adjacent to an existing major transmission line corridor serving the Katy area, is on undeveloped land already zoned for industrial use, and that improvement and grading needs make the property undesirable for manufacturing or other industrial-type businesses.

Vesper Energy is an experienced developer, owner, and operator of utility -scale renewable energy and energy storage assets across the US with experience in solar projects. The Katy project would be their first BESS project, company officials said. The facility would release no pollution during normal operation and the facility would be quiet and inconspicuous, they said.

Safety measures for the project include a separate cooling system for each container and 24/7/365 monitoring of batteries, which can be taken offline remotely. Batteries are compartmentalized and tested to prevent a "thermal runaway" event in which a battery may overheat, causing a chain reaction of overheating leading to a possible fire.

Six speakers, including Katy Area Economic Development Council President Angie Thomason, spoke in favor of the project during public comments.

Following the company's presentation, Councilmember Rory Robertson moved to hear recommendations from city staff on the project. Katy Fire Chief Kenneth Parker said that there has not been a lot of regulation of the battery storage industry, although it has gotten better. He said that standard practice for a fire at such a facility is to let it burn out, reducing danger to firefighters and preventing chemical run-off into the watershed if water is used to extinguish the fire. The fire department has given its approval to the project, Parker said.

Council members Dan Smith and Janet Corte raised concerns about the proposed project, which included its proximity to an existing gas pipeline. Additionally, the facility is close to "a lot of things we care deeply about" within a one-mile radius of the facility, including schools and neighborhoods. Smith said. After lengthy questioning of



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS

Ochoa Energy, a division of Vesper Energy, is seeking a special use permit for a battery energy storage system (BESS), to be located at 27051 Highway Blvd, in Katy, between Cane Island Parkway and FM 1463.

the presenters, Corte summarized her concerns as: bringing a new unproven unregulated industry to Katy, Vesper's lack of experience in battery storage, fire concerns, the location near schools and neighborhoods, and the origin of the lithium used and its effect on the environment. Corte then "tagged" the agenda item, an action that will automatically move the discussion to the council's meeting agenda for October 14.

The council, in roll call votes, also unanimously approved the city's budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The new budget provides for changes to the personnel budget, including amendments to classifications for fire and police departments and changes to the salary grades. Council member Dan Smith and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said that the changes would make the city more compet-

itive with other area municipalities. The new budget also includes a hotel occupancy fund budget.

Also in a roll call vote, council unanimously approved the proposed 2024 tax rate of \$0.425, of which \$0.3708 will fund maintenance and operations and \$0.0542 will fund debt service. Harris said the new rate was lower than past years.

In other action, council approved ordinances appointing Justin Pruitt of Olson & Olson, LLP as city attorney and David Kasper of ARKK Engineers, LLC as city engineer for the City of Katy. City Secretary Becky McGrew was to administer the oaths of office to each appointee following the council meeting.

The next meeting of the city council will be held October 14 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

MARSHAL

from page A1

proud to have her be part of our big day and give her the honor of leading our parade. We cheered for her as she competed in Paris and now, we cheer for her along our parade route" said 2024 Fort Bend County Fair President Alicia Casias.

The parade will kick off the Fort Bend County Fair's 10-day run on September 27 at 9 a.m. Parade-goers will get to salute Manuel and enjoy 200 other parade entries as they make their way from the Historic Court House in Richmond and proceed west down Hwy—90-A to Jennetta Street in Rosenberg. "Defying Challenges, Raising Champions" is this year's parade theme.

The fair runs from Sept 27 to October 6 at the Fort Bend County fairgrounds. For more information on the Fair's schedule or to purchase tickets, visit fortbendcountyfair.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FORT BEND FAIR ASSOCIATION

Three-time Olympian Simone Manuel will serve as the 2024 Fort Bend County Fair grand marshal.

The Fair's mission is "Benefiting Youth, Promoting Agriculture, Supporting Education." As an association, the fair has been providing scholarships for decades. Over \$250,000 in scholarships were awarded this year to deserving Fort Bend County students through the Fair's scholarship program. Over 1.5 million dollars have been generated through the multiple auctions the fair hosts.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The INTERSTATE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 11:30 A.M. at the office of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Freeway, STE 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| FOR the proposal: | James P Ellis, Joe Mattingly, Kevin Atkinson, Michelle Shen |
| AGAINST the proposal: | NONE |
| PRESENT and not voting: | NONE |
| ABSENT: | James Kennedy |

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) | \$0.32000 /\$100 Adopted | \$0.32000 /\$100 Proposed |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | \$0.00000 /\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | 0.00% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$227,143.23 | \$244,709.00 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$45,429.00 | \$48,941.00 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$181,714.23 | \$195,768.00 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$581.49 | \$626.46 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | | \$44.97 ** 7.73% |

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

** The District has issued bonds and is required to levy a debt service tax rate to support the payment on such bonds. The election is moot because the District is levying a Maintenance tax under the highest rate allowed by law.

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.

Friday, October 11th 2024 | Embassy Suites - Houston West

—The Thirteenth Annual—

Breakfast for a Blessing

presented by

HOUSTON Methodist WEST HOSPITAL

—Featuring Guest Speaker—

Frank Danna

7:30 AM
9:00 AM

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Local farmer turned entrepreneur celebrates 60th year in rice farming

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Des Woods is a vibrant man who is one of a vanishing breed of rice farmers. Woods is one of only four remaining farmers in the area still involved in rice production – the others are Clayton Pederson, Johnny Colvin and David Welch, he said.

Although Woods has been involved in rice farming himself for 60 years, his family’s involvement started even earlier – in 1931, when his father J. D. Woods and uncles Ray and Richard planted their first crop off what is now Woods Road after moving from Louisiana in 1929. The family was drawn to the Brookshire area by the region’s soil texture, which Woods called “the best rice land in Texas,” noting that the area is at the highest point above sea level between Houston and the Brazos River, which signaled good drainage. The four branches of the family – including brother-in-law Chester Jordan -- all farmed next to each other.

That’s 93 years of continuous farming. “The Good Lord had a lot to do with where my dad and my uncle Ray settled, which is right where our headquarters is today. That is the best rice land in Katy.” Woods began working with his father following his military service in the early 1960’s, in a sharecropper arrangement in which he got a third of the crop and shared in the expenses. His father projected a profit of \$10,000.00 per year, at a time when Woods and his wife were living on a salary of about \$300.00 per month. He planted his first crop in which he had a 200-acre share in 1965. “That first year, we made a whole lot more money than \$10,000.00.”

“It’s hard work,” said Woods. “We did everything by hand – it was pretty much me and two other hands, and we just started trying to grow a crop.” That first year his parent went on a month-long trip to New Zealand, but Woods was able consult with his uncles in their absence.

Wood said that he quickly figured out that most of the work on a rice farm has to do with irrigation and levees. In those early days they had no backhoes. A farmer in Sealy – a Mr. Bollinger – was “water leveling,” putting a levee around a piece of rice land and pumping water around it. “The water would show you where the high ground was, and the low ground was so you could go out there with a tractor in the water with a blade and level the land,” he said. “But on the dry prairie you can get stuck a lot and the tractors that you could buy weren’t designed to run in that muddy water with sand in it.”

So, Woods decided to build a 4WD tractor that wouldn’t get stuck, meeting up with a “very good engineer” named Jones Cope-land. In1969, they started Woods-Cope-land Manufacturing on the farm on Woods



Local rice farmer and entrepreneur Des Woods will celebrate his sixtieth year in rice farming in 2024.

Road. Caterpillar got wind of what they were doing and came out at looked at what they wanted to do, eventually setting them up as a manufacturer so that Woods could buy all Caterpillar components, including engines and transmissions. Woods said that his neighboring farmers wanted no part of water leveling themselves but offered him a year’s crop if he would come and level their properties. By 1973, Woods formed Katy Land Leveling Company, which leveled land all over the country, using the Woods-Copeland tractors. That same year, Woods had 2250 acres of rice that was all his own crop. “You can give those tractors the credit for that,” he said. Those tractors are still all over the country, Woods added, with five even being shipped to Brazil.

In the 1970’s Woods says that he realized that development was coming and that “we’re going to lose this land.” So, he invest- ed some of his money in land south of El Campo, but says the land wasn’t any good, so he looked at a cousin’s farm in Arkansas where the land was fertile, and the water was cheap. He ended up with 7000 acres in Lou- isiana near Monroe and built a seed plant. At his peak he was farming and planting 6400 acres of rice in two states. He managed his multiple enterprises by becoming a pilot so that he could fly from Brookshire to South Texas and to Louisiana, often taking his little Yorkie dog, Gus. He flew his Cessna for 35 years and also became a helicopter pilot in 1974 as well, learning to fly the machine from his brother-in-law. “Our management of the water went to a much higher level,” he said, but he also ended up saving on herbi- cides through spotting specific areas which needed to be sprayed rather than spraying the whole crop.

In addition, Woods had a ranch in West Texas between Rock Springs and Del Rio where he was managing deer and would take the helicopter out there every year with a Parks & Wildlife biologist to count the deer. Woods now has places in East Texas and



Brookshire Drying Company Inc., located at 1019 Bains in Brookshire, is a rice dryer dedicated to providing quality drying and storage as well as crop marketing to area farmers. The facility exports rice to Mexico via rail and also sells a variety of rice in house, including Texas-grown Jasmine Rice. The facility is managed by Pam West, whom Des Woods worked to hire in 1993 as one of the first women in a leadership role in the industry.

Pennsylvania where he still manages deer. Woods says that he has “been on every rice board that ever was,” including being a founder of the Texas Rice Research Founda- tion, “just trying to help farmers with research” so that they could make more pounds per acre. But when that happens, farmers just cut the price.

“That’s why we are building the mill,” said Woods. “Finally, we have something here that will be for the Texas farmer.” In 1993, 29-year-old Pam West showed up at his office – they had friends in common in the Mississippi delta. Brookshire Drying Company was “a mess” at the time, Woods said, and Woods, who was on the company’s board at the time, convinced the other board members to hire her to manage the facility. “At the time in 1993, the idea of a woman running a rice dryer was unheard of,” he said. Things started to change then, with the stock prices increasing and offering farmers the lowest drying rate in the state.

Besides growing rice on his land, Woods has a new crop: warehouses. Beginning about ten years ago, people started mov- ing to Katy when they started building all the warehouses, Woods said. Amazon was the first warehouse company to locate on Woods’ land, “and then everybody came,” he said including Goya Foods, Costco, H-E-B and others.

The value of a place goes back to location, Woods said, noting that Brookshire Drying Company, founded in 1944, is now within two miles of “all these people that buy milled

rice.” The proximity represents millions in savings on transportation costs to and from the mill. The mill is buying rice from all over the state and is shipping it to Mexico via rail, West said, and she has partnered with TRC Trading to ship rice on ocean-going vessels out of the Port of Houston. “We plan to pay farmers a premium where their farms will become profitable,” Woods said. “At the end of the day is about sustaining Brookshire Drying but it’s about sustaining the Texas rice farmer – that’s it in a nutshell,” West said.

Wood likes being a rice farmer because it is his heritage and because he had worked with this father and his family all those years ago. “Back in those days, Katy was a rice town,” he said. His high school class of 1956 numbered about 50 and the town popula- tion was about 1500. “Having that heritage is what meant the most to me and still to this day does.” He has four children and 11 grandchildren, and his daughter Christiana works with him at the office.

“I still feel very sentimental about what time I got with my dad out there. People ask me, ‘what are you doing working out there in the heat,’ ‘you don’t have to do that now’ ‘you’re old,’ and everything else,” Woods said. “When I’m out on that farm – I used to hunt with my dad and now when I’m out there, I’m hunting for him. Sometimes I find him, and that’s the tie to rice farming that I have. I am very thankful and blessed that I have been given the opportunity to grow rice here.”

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The WEST HARRIS COUNTY M.U.D. #17 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 260, Houston, TX 77024. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| FOR the proposal: | Sharlene Rhea, TJ Covino, Karen Wilson, and Ronald Perkins |
| AGAINST the proposal: | Bryant Gaudette |
| 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) | \$.84000/\$100 Adopted | \$.82000/\$100 Proposed |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | \$.02000/\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | -2.38% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$ 221,377 | \$ 242,035 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions) | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$ 221,377 | \$ 242,035 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$ 1,859.56 | \$ 1,984.68 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | | \$ 125.12 6.72% |

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

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Eagle Scout builds symbols of hope for Camp Hope

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

David Bryson isn't just another junior at Tompkins High School. In addition to being on the football team and the wrestling time – and in FFA – he is an Eagle Scout as well.

“My dad is an Eagle Scout,” said David in an email to the Katy Times. “He got me started as a cub scout back in 2014. I was a Tiger in Den 4, Pack 1836 in Katy. I remember the fun cool games and campouts...I got to hold a 10-foot python! I wanted to keep going in Scouts and joined Troop 584 in 2019. Since then, I got to backpack at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, live on a sailboat in St. Thomas at Sea Base, and canoe the boundary waters near Canada at Northern Tier.”

David wanted to become an Eagle Scout like his father, too. But a big decision had to be made – what to do for his Eagle Scout project? Those projects are carefully chosen. “Service to other people is what Scouting is all about,” says the Boy Scouts’ organization’s website, scouting.org.. “In many ways, your service project reflects who you are as a youth leader.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEL BRYSON

Your result should be of significant impact in your community to be special, and should represent your very best effort.”

In the process of considering options, David learned about Camp Hope from his father, Joel Bryson. In 2012, the PTSD Foundation of America established Camp Hope, a five-acre facility in Houston providing interim and transitional housing to veterans working to heal their “invisible wounds,” according to the organization’s website.

“My dad told me about Camp Hope,” said David. “We drove out there and I met [volunteer coordinator] Spensor Cones. He gave me a tour and introduced me to some of the veterans and told me what they needed. I liked what



their program was about, helping combat veterans.”

David decided to build a couple of large benches for Camp Hope – but these are no ordinary benches. “Camp Hope will refer to them as ‘cross benches,’” said David’s father, Joel Bryson. “They will be used by the combat veterans going through Camp Hope to sit and pray in front of a large cross at the end of the property. These benches will be incorporated into their

program. They will tell the vets working through personal issues to ‘...take it to the cross.”

That saying – “take it to the cross” -- and the Camp Hope shield logo are carved into each bench.

Camp Hope wanted heavy, sturdy benches. The lumber is pine and was donated at cost from Scholl lumber in Houston. David used treated and kiln dried lumber, with the plans calling for 4x4x8s, 2x12x8s, 2x10x8s, 2x8x8s, and 2x4s

along with galvanized carriage bolts, washers, and nuts.

“Once we had the lumber, it took about four weeks with various workdays to router the backrests, cut/assemble, and then apply the stain and final clear coats,” said David. “A couple of my troop buddies volunteered to help on different workdays. This project would have taken longer without them. Some of these guys I’ve been friends with since our cub scout days in Den 4!”

“I couldn’t have done this without Don Abrahamson,” David said. “He is a master wood worker and a big supporter of scouting in Katy. He helped me create the router template from the PTSD Foundation of America logo that we used to router the shields into the backrests.”

David wrapped up the construction in early September and the Brysons will bring the benches to Camp Hope on September 29 for installation following the Camp Hope church service.

“My grandfather is a Vietnam war veteran and has dealt with PTSD,” David said. “He is very proud of my project and wants to come and pray on the benches one day.”

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Sorority's Katy Chapter to host
'International Day of the Girl' event

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host an event celebrating the United Nations International Day of the Girl. The festivities will be held on October 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mark A Chapman YMCA, 1350 Main Street in Katy and will feature corporate and education leaders who plan to bring STEM programs (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) to life for attendees. Registration is now open at bit.ly/4chfi5e for girls of all ages and more than 65 are expected to attend. The event is free to attend, and includes lunch, but pre-registration is required as space is limited. The inaugural celebration of the Girl Child was first held on October 11, 2012, by the Civil Society of the United Nations. The day was established to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and fulfillment of their human rights and is observed annually "to accelerate progress toward a future in which every girl can fulfill her potential," organizers said. Delta Sigma Theta So-

About Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 young women studying at Howard University. They sought to create an organization rooted in sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action. Today, the group has over 350,000 initiated women and over 1,000 chapters located worldwide. The Katy Area Alumnae Chapter was chartered on June 14, 2020, by 57 dedicated members. Motivated to make a difference in the communities in which they work and live throughout the Katy area, members came together to charter KAAC in the midst of a global pandemic. Undeterred by the obstacles presented by the pandemic, the chapter embraced the theme "Planting deep roots, cultivating Katy Area connections, growing in Service and Sisterhood" to launch award-winning programs which align with the Sorority's "5 Point Programmatic Thrust" which include: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, political awareness and involvement.

rority Inc.'s local International Awareness and Involvement committee has elected to build on the program and feedback from prior events to include an in-person STEM-related program this year. This year's theme is "Girls' Vision for the Future" and the group plans to support that with fun activities for girls to engage in that help them envision great opportunities and possibilities, organizers said. The opening speaker

who works with NASA will share her interests as a young girl and how eventually her career path led to now working with the science of weather. Other presenters will demonstrate tools or activities from cyber security to physics to healthcare. The event is sponsored by H-E-B and Chick-fil-A, who will be providing lunches for the girls and by The YMCA Katy West, who donated the space for the event.



Jose Murillo

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

From healthcare career to owning a small business: A change inspired by a Chihuahua

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

After spending over a decade as a hospital CEO, José Morillo was ready for a change. Fueled by his search for reliable pet care for his Chihuahua, Taco, Morillo stumbled across Camp Bow Wow. Inspired by his experience, he took the leap into small business ownership and opened his first Camp Bow Wow in Katy in 2015. Camp Bow Wow is located at 1515 Vander Wilt Land in Katy. Following the success of his Katy location, Morillo expanded with a second Camp Bow Wow in Kemah in 2018 and a third in Cypress in 2020. Morillo credits the success of his camps to the leadership skills he gained in healthcare administration. His expertise in managing resources and teams was key to navigating the financial and operational challenges of the pandemic. Earlier this year, Morillo was honored at the IFA Annual Convention as a

2023 Franchisee of the Year for his achievements with Camp Bow Wow. As a small business owner, Morillo takes pride in mentoring his staff, especially his daughter-in-law Jazmine, who now serves as director of operations and marketing. In the past nine years, he's built a dedicated team of camp counselors, leads, and managers, providing the same level of care that attracted him as a customer. "It's incredibly fulfilling to see them work together to create a positive experience for our campers and their pet parents," he says. Morillo is grateful for his small business ownership journey, a career that allows him to reclaim his time with his family while building a lasting legacy and supporting the causes he's passionate about. Despite the challenges, Morillo loves what he does: "I get to work with dogs, provide a much-needed service to our community, and do so with incredible pride."

About Camp Bow Wow®
Camp Bow Wow® is a leading franchise brand in the rapidly growing pet care industry with over 200 franchise locations in 41 states and Canada. Since 2000, the Camp concept has provided the highest levels of fun, safety and service for its Campers and peace of mind for their parents. Dogs romp together in an open-play environment and snooze the night away in a spacious individual cabin. In addition to day care and overnight boarding, the company offers personalized enrichment opportunities, grooming services and a rewards-based dog training program. The Camp Bow Wow brand family also includes the Bow Wow Buddies Foundation®, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing urgent medical care funds to dogs who are homeless or whose parents cannot afford to pay their veterinary bills. For more information or to learn about opportunities, visit www.campbowwow.com/franchising/

Fort Bend Junior Service League opens scholarship applications



Fort Bend Junior Service League scholarship recipients who received awards in spring 2024 are shown.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJSL) announced on Sept. 21 that the application period for its annual scholarship awards is now open. These scholarships will be awarded in spring 2025 and are to be used towards tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year. Female high school seniors or adult residents of Fort Bend County with higher education aspi-

rations may be eligible for assistance through the FBJSJL scholarship program. FBJSJL is offering up to six \$1,000 Volunteer Scholarships and one \$2,000 New Beginnings Scholarship. The Volunteer Scholarships are available to female high school seniors, who are residents of Fort Bend County, who aspire to higher education. Recipients must have exhibited exceptional dedication to volunteerism and

community service. High school seniors must have completed a minimum of 100 hours of community service, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5, and plan to enroll in an accredited college or university. The New Beginnings Scholarship is designed to empower adult women, who are residents of Fort Bend County, by enhancing their career opportunities through continued education. Eligible candidates should have been accepted into an accredited college, university, or vocational school after a break in their education and demonstrate a financial need. For further details and to access application forms, please visit fbjsl.org/scholarship-programs/. The application deadline is Feb. 1, 2025. The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJSJL) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and to improving the Fort Bend County community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Proceeds from various events and fundraisers have made it possible for FBJSJL to donate more than \$5.75 million to non-profit agencies in the Fort Bend community since its inception in 2001. To learn more about FBJSJL visit fbjsl.org or contact publicrelations@fbjsl.com.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE
The FRY ROAD M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 15, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at Fry Road M.U.D. District Administration Building, 20111 Saums Road, 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 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: James Roadarmel, David Buxkamper, James Teal, Marcy Martinez and Michael Kramm
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.
Table with 3 columns: Description, Last Year, This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) \$.32782/\$100 Adopted \$.32661/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value \$.00121/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) -.36%
Average appraised residence homestead value \$ 210,732 \$ 228,228
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) \$ 42,146 \$ 45,646
Average residence homestead taxable value \$ 168,586 \$ 182,582
Tax on average residence homestead \$ 552.65 \$ 596.33
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) \$ 43.68 7.90%
NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate. The voter-approval tax rate is \$.32661, which includes \$.01334 of unused increment.
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.
Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints establishes Mandarin-speaking congregation serving the Katy area

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced on September 9 the creation of a new congregation for Mandarin speakers in Katy and the surrounding areas. The ecclesiastical leader of the newly formed congregation, Fred Ong, said, "Two years ago we started a small Sunday school with two families from California and one family from Oregon that moved to the Katy area. When our Sunday School attendance numbers grew to over thirty members, we knew the Lord's time had come to form a branch [congregation]." The congregation meets

About The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a global religious organization headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. With missions of members worldwide, the Church is dedicated to promoting the teachings of Jesus Christ and providing opportunities for spiritual growth and community service.

at 9100 Heritage Bluff Drive, Richmond, every Sunday at 1 p.m., offering a place for worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Katy Stake President Shad Hanis, said, "This amazing group of members and friends has steadily increased in numbers each week and we invite any Mandarin speak-

ing community members to come join us each Sunday." For more information about the Mandarin-speaking congregation and its activities, please contact the Mandarin-speaking missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at (832) 578-0312 or (281)903-4844.

Youngblood's Dunlap named to prestigious math program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Youngblood Elementary fifth-grade student Holden Dunlap has been named to the inaugural cohort of the National Math Stars, a program designed for young exceptionally gifted math students, Katy ISD announced in a September 16 press release. The program provides a decade of intensive support and enrichment, including advanced coursework, mentorship, summer experiences, and family advising. Only 61 students were chosen

from the more than 1,300 applications received from across the state. Holden has participated in math competitions since he was in first grade, and last year, he ranked in the top 20 nationally in his grade level, the district said in the release. “He loves math because it touches nearly every part of life, and he appreciates how those parts fit together,” said a district spokesperson. “We look forward to watching Holden’s passion for learning and enthusiasm for math continue to

grow, and we are excited to be part of a supportive community that will help him explore, engage and be challenged,” said Maria and Larry Dunlap, Holden’s parents. Holden is a GT student at Youngblood Elementary, 25600 Longenbaugh Road in Katy, and he enjoys singing, acting, writing, drawing, swimming, robotics and graphic novels. He hopes to be an astronaut because of his passionate love for space. National Math Stars was founded in 2023, and the 2024 cohort is exclusively comprised of



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Texas students. The program was established by two philanthropic organizations - Carina Initiative and Polynera Fund - to better sup-

port students needing additional support in math and science. Visit nationalmathstars.org/ to learn more.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HOUSTON

Left to right -- Lesley Watson, British International School of Houston Apple Learning Coach and Apple Distinguished Educator) and senior student leaders (Grade 12 Avilash, Amelie, Chloe, Eloise) display their award designating the school as an Apple Distinguished School.

BIS Houston designated an Apple Distinguished School

FROM STAFF REPORTS

British International School of Houston is pleased to announce it has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2024–2027 program term, a school spokesperson said on September 14. Schools apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous Innovation in education and using Apple products to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning. Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence, with a clear vision for how technology rich environments support learning goals. In Apple Distinguished Schools, forward-thinking leaders and their communities work to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning, and they have documented results of academic accomplishments. Schools all over the world are using iPad and Mac to transform learning. As teachers

incorporate technology into their lessons, they empower students to lead, learn, and thrive, to discover new opportunities, and to make their world a better place. “This prestigious designation highlights BIS Houston’s ongoing commitment to innovation, creativity, and excellence in teaching and learning,” said the school’s communication manager, Jo Turner, in an email to the Katy Times. “Apple Distinguished Schools are recognized as centers of leadership and educational excellence, where technology enhances learning and helps achieve our academic goals. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of BIS Houston’s Apple trained teachers, led by their Apple Learning Coach and Apple Distinguished Educator, Mrs. Watson. BIS Houston continues to be one of only 889 schools across the world to be awarded this elite status.” The British International School Houston is located on a 33-acre campus at 2203 N. Westgreen Blvd. in Katy.

Taylor High School teacher earns award from American Chemical Society

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Taylor High School teacher Heather Burgess has been named the 2024 awardee of the Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching award by the Greater Houston Section of the American Chemical Society, Katy ISD announced in a September 19 press release. Honorees are chosen for their quality of teaching, ability to challenge and inspire students, extra-curricular work in chemistry, pursuit of professional development, and service to the education field, the district said. “It is an honor to receive this award from the American Chemical Society because there are so many talented chemistry educators in the greater Houston area,” Burgess



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Taylor High School teacher Heather Burgess works with her students on an experiment during science class at the campus at 20700 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy.

said. “I hope to continue inspiring my students and my fellow educators.” Burgess was chosen for the award based on a nomination letter, her resume and letters of support. She will join other honorees at the organization’s award

banquet, scheduled for October 12 at The Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston. Visit the Greater Houston Section of the American Chemical Society online at acsghs.wildapricot.org to learn more.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The MASON CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 16, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at 847 Dominion Drive, Katy, TX 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes 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: | Brian Connolly, John H. Cameron, James K. Nordhaus, Frederick Castellano, and Len Forsyth | |
| 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) | \$.30530/\$100 Adopted | \$.30137/\$100 Proposed |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | \$ -.00393/\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | -1.29% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$ 361,163 | \$ 393,504 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$ 72,233 | \$ 78,701 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$ 288,930 | \$ 314,803 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$ 882.10 | \$ 948.72 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | | \$ +66.62 +7.55% |

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.

Miller Career & Technology Center to host informational events for families

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Did you know there's a hidden gem in Katy ISD where you can get your car serviced, pamper your pet, and treat yourself to a haircut or manicure? Discover these incredible programs and so much more at Katy ISD's Miller Career & Technology Center, located at 1734 Katyl-and Drive in Katy. The facility will host several events this fall, inviting students and families to learn more about the district's programs. The Miller Career & Technology Center serves as a central site for the district's career and technical education (CTE) courses not offered at students' home campuses, designed for juniors and seniors. Courses are offered in the following areas:

- Architectural Design
- Automotive Technology
- Cisco Network Engineering
- Clinical Rotations
- Computer Technician
- Construction Trades
- Cosmetology

- Culinary Arts
- Cyber Security
- Dental Assisting
- Digital Audio
- Education & Training
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Film
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Studies
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Pharmacy Tech
- Practicum in STEM
- Veterinary Medicine

Students in grades 7-11 and their parents will be able to tour the Center and learn about the District's CTE programs over the dates below. Families can sign up for a tour date at signupdate-nius.com/go/8050F44ABAB29A7F49-50990714-miller?useFullSite=true#/.

Family Tour Days

- Saturday, September 28 – 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 8 – 5-6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 9 – 6-7:30 p.m.

- Saturday, October 12 – 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 12 – 6-7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 13 – 5-6:30 p.m.

Also this fall, the Center's Enterprise Businesses will be open to the community.

- The Garage provides auto services, including oil changes, brake service and more. To schedule an appointment, call (281) 237-7574 or email MCTCAuto-shop@katyisd.org. Learn more about The Garage at katyisd.org/domain/6124.
- The Dog Wash offers pet grooming services including bathing and drying, and nail trimming. Learn more at katyisd.org/domain/6123, and schedule an appointment by email at MCTC-Grooming@katyisd.org.
- The Salon offers an array of hair, nail and skin services, and more details can be found online at katyisd.org/domain/6122. Appointments can be scheduled at mctcsalon@katyisd.org.



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Katy improves two spots, Jordan enters Dave Campbell rankings in week five



Katy quarterback Gunner Nelson (15) rolls out looking to pass during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas. SCOTT W. COLEMAN

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy moved up two spots in this week's Dave Campbell's Texas Football Rankings in week five, improving to No. 13 after a dominant win over Cinco Ranch, while Jordan entered the rankings for the first time this season at No. 24 after an unbeaten start to the year.

Katy put together its second straight dominating performance in the second week of District 19-6A play. The Tigers' defense was exceptional in the win and they had a balanced run and pass offense with a number of different players making an impact on the offensive side of the ball. The Tigers improved to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in district play.

Jordan entered the rankings for the first time this season after a 24-7 win over Mayde Creek in the second week of district play. The Warriors jumped to the No. 24 spot after they had a very strong defensive showing and did well on the ground as well in the game against a very good Rams defense. Jordan stayed unbeaten both in district and on the year, improving to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in district play.

It's the second straight week the Tigers have moved up the rankings and they are the fifth highest ranked Houston area school in the poll, behind North Shore, Summer Creek, Atascocita and Fulshear. The Warriors are the 11th highest ranked

| CLASS 6A | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|----|--|
| Rank | School (Record) | Week 4 | LW | |
| 1 | Duncanville (3-0) | W | 1 | |
| 2 | Galena Park N. Shore (3-0) | Idle | 2 | |
| 3 | North Crowley (4-0) | W | 3 | |
| 4 | DeSoto (3-1) | W | 4 | |
| 5 | Humble Summer Creek (3-0) | Idle | 5 | |
| 6 | Southlake Carroll (4-0) | W | 6 | |
| 7 | Lake Travis (4-0) | W | 7 | |
| 8 | Humble Atascocita (3-0) | Idle | 8 | |
| 9 | Allen (4-0) | W | 10 | |
| 10 | Coppell (3-0) | Idle | 11 | |
| 11 | Fulshear (4-0) | W | 13 | |
| 12 | Austin Westlake (3-1) | W | 14 | |
| 13 | Katy (3-1) | W | 15 | |
| 14 | Fort Bend Ridge Point (3-1) | W | 17 | |
| 15 | Prosper (2-1) | W | 18 | |
| 16 | Willis (4-0) | W | 21 | |
| 17 | The Woodlands (3-1) | L | 12 | |
| 18 | Fort Bend Hightower (4-0) | W | 20 | |
| 19 | Bridgeland (2-1) | Idle | 23 | |
| 20 | Denton Guyer (2-1) | Idle | 24 | |
| 21 | Trophy Club Nelson (2-1) | Idle | 25 | |
| 22 | Cibolo Steele (3-1) | L | 9 | |
| 23 | Cypress Springs (4-0) | W | NR | |
| 24 | Katy Jordan (4-0) | W | NR | |
| 25 | San Antonio Brennan (3-1) | W | NR | |
| Dropped out: No. 16 Rockwall, No. 19 Klein Cain, No. 22 Waxahachie | | | | |

Houston area team as they enter the rankings for the second time in the school's history and the first time since last season.

The Tigers continue district play on Thursday against Seven Lakes, while the Warriors play Morton Ranch on Friday.

Above is the full Class 6A Dave Campbell's Texas Football Week 5 Rankings.

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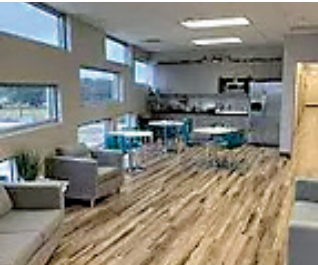
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Week 5 Katy ISD Football Previews

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

All Games District 19-6A

THURSDAY

Seven Lakes (2-1, 0-1) vs. Katy (3-1, 2-0), 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Katy 66, Seven Lakes 7
• Katy looks to keep a two-game win streak going when they take on Seven Lakes to start the third week of district with the Spartans coming off their bye week.

The Tigers come off a dominating win over Cinco Ranch in the fourth week of the season to stay perfect in district, as the Tigers looked strong on both sides of the ball. Katy's defense allowed just over 250 yards of total offense and forced two turnovers while only allowing 36 yards on the ground. Offensively, Gunner Nelson led the way with 158 yards passing and three touchdowns, with Israel Olotu-Judah catching four passes for 107 yards and two touchdowns. Tremayne Hill and Aqualis Jordan both went over 100 yards on the ground. Hill carried the ball 15 times for 115 yards and two touchdowns, while Jordan ran it 12 times for 112 yards as Katy never allowed Cinco to get into the game.

Seven Lakes had a bye last week following its district opening loss to Cinco Ranch and will have an even tougher test this week taking on Katy as the Tigers come off two games where they kept improving and looked like a top team.

Seven Lakes had a hard time moving the ball offensively against Cinco Ranch but Shaan Patel had a decent day through the air, completing 14 of 27 passes for 103 yards and a touchdown, but also threw an interception. Kaiser Floyd led the way on the receiving end with five catches for 47 yards and a touchdown while Braylon Hayes had a good day on the ground with nine carries for 83 yards. Defensively, Cinco allowed 217 yards rushing but did a good job limiting Cinco Ranch through the air, only allowing 171 yards to a potent Cinco Ranch offense that is very high flying.

Seven Lakes will hope that the extra week of preparation will have them ready and prepared for one of their biggest tests of the season, while Katy will try to do more of the same and continue improving with another week down in district play.

Cinco Ranch (1-3, 1-1) vs. Taylor (2-2, 1-1), 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Taylor 11, Cinco Ranch 7

• Cinco Ranch and Taylor both come into this week knowing this game will be an important one in the race for a playoff place and both are coming into the matchup highly motivated in a rivalry clash.

Cinco comes off a loss to Katy last week and the Cougars will be hoping to bounce back quickly against Taylor. The Cougars struggled in the game, but were able to



Katy wide receiver Israel Olotu-Judah (1) brings in a pass against Cinco Ranch cornerback Jaylon Poledore (22) during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas.



Robert Bernard cuts past a defender during Thursday's game between Paetow and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

find success through the air. Charlie Adamoli completed 22 of 39 passes for 238 yards and a touchdown, moving the ball well but being unable to get Cinco into the endzone. Scott Eckel had 72 yards receiving on six catches and Drew Tureau had 69 yards and a touchdown on five catches. Where Cinco struggled the most was running the ball. As a team, the Cougars had just 36 yards rushing. Marcus Gadlin did his best in the run game with 52 yards on 16 attempts, but they could never get anything going. Defensively, Cinco couldn't handle the Katy offense, allowing 306 yards on the ground and 213 through the air, but they

battled all game and will be able to take lessons from it to improve this week.

Taylor on the other hand had a good bounce back game against Morton Ranch last week, improving after being shut out against Mayde Creek and beating the Rams 17-14 in a tightly contested battle.

The Mustangs fell behind 14-10 in the first half of the game against Morton Ranch but did a great job battling back in the second half, not allowing a single point defensively and finding a way to battle back and win. It was an all-around effort for the team as well. They got their first points from a field goal

in the first half and Owen Brock had a huge interception which he returned for a touchdown from 72-yards out. Jack Sarubbi gave Taylor the lead in the second half on an 18-yard touchdown pass to Josh Jacobson and the Mustangs never looked back, not allowing the Mavericks to get back into it and sealing the game with under two minutes left when Colin Forester recovered a fumble while Morton Ranch was driving.

Taylor made some positive progress in the game, especially with passing the ball and will try to keep that going, while Cinco will be determined to bounce back after its loss. It'll be a clash of styles, a high flying Cinco offense against a stout Taylor defense as both look for an important win.

FRIDAY

Mayde Creek (3-1, 1-1) vs. Paetow (2-1, 1-0), 6:30 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Last year: Mayde Creek 28, Paetow 7

• Mayde Creek and Paetow face off early in district play in a matchup that could have effects on the playoff race later on in the season as two hard-nosed football teams meet in the third week of district.

The Rams' offense struggled in a 24-7 loss to Jordan last week but the defense held up admirably against a high flying offensive group. The Rams only mustered 44 yards through the air in the game, Cole Jensen went five for 12 passing for 35 yards and Trey Williams completed his lone pass for five yards and a touchdown to Stone Bankston. The team had better luck on the ground, rushing for 111 yards and being led by Kosi Okpala, who ran for 47 yards on three carries, and Daylin Robinson, who ran for 31 yards on 12 carries. On defense they held a strong Jordan

pass offense to 152 yards through the air, but did allow 182 yards on the ground in the loss.

They'll be up against a Paetow team that started off district last week with a huge bang behind a huge performance from Terrence Johnson, who ran for 315 yards on 22 carries with three touchdowns in the win while accounting 319 of the Panthers' 361 yards of total offense. Curtis Zeno added 30 yards and two touchdowns on three carries while Jackson Farrar threw for 12 yards on six of 12 passing. Defensively the Panthers were terrific and only allowed 177 yards on the ground and 92 yards through the air to Tompkins.

It'll be a battle between two teams whose defenses have been huge bright spots early in the season as Paetow tries to stay unbeaten in district and Mayde Creek tries to bounce back and it should be a very fun one.

Morton Ranch (0-4, 0-2) vs. Jordan (4-0, 2-0) 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Jordan 52, Morton Ranch 49

• Morton Ranch and Jordan round out the final game of the week as the only undefeated team on the season in the district in Jordan goes up against Morton Ranch, which is still in search of its first win on the year.

Jordan comes off a very strong defensive effort against Mayde Creek to stay unbeaten on the season and year, shutting down the Rams' offense and allowing just 44 yards through the air and 111 yards on the ground and only allowing one score. Offensively, Dominic Cangolosi and Beau Bryant continued to trade snaps at quarterback and Cangolosi threw for 98 yards and a touchdown while Bryant threw for 54 yards and ran for 56 yards in the win. Zion Jones added 44 yards and two scores on the ground while Tanner West ran for 63 yards, West added 75 yards receiving on four catches while Andrew Marsh had 80 yards and a touchdowns on three catches.

Morton Ranch had some very positive signs in its game against Taylor but were unable to get a win despite a fighting effort. The Mavericks had a good game defensively and only allowed two touchdowns, but weren't able to make plays when they had to in order to get the win. Morton scored 14 points in the first half of the game, as Jay'ceon Jenkins-Hamilton threw a touchdown pass to Tyler Williams and Tyler Gilmore ran in a 19-yard score to go up 14-10 at halftime. But Taylor came back with a score in the second half of the game to win it, as Morton fumbled and lost the ball as they were driving late in the fourth quarter.

Jordan will try to keep doing exactly what it has been over the first few week of the season while the Mavericks are in for a tough test but coming off some positive signs against Taylor will be trying to put a complete performance together.

DISTRICT 19-6A STANDINGS

| | Team | W | L | District W | District L | District PF | District PA |
|---|--------------|---|---|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Katy | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 99 | 14 |
| 1 | Jordan | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 48 | 21 |
| 3 | Paetow | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 34 | 21 |
| 4 | Taylor | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 21 |
| 4 | Mayde Creek | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 24 |
| 4 | Cinco Ranch | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 66 |
| 7 | Seven Lakes | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 37 |
| 8 | Tompkins | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 35 | 58 |
| 8 | Morton Ranch | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 64 |

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation at Water Plant Number 3 Project, until 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 1, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the rehabilitation of an existing 1-million-gallon ground storage tank, including recoating, various mechanical repairs, and the replacement of the tank roof. The project includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **3:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 24, 2024.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88323259594>
Meeting ID: 883 2325 9594
Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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

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

First Publication: **Thursday, September 12, 2024**
Second Publication: **Thursday, September 19, 2024**



NOTICE TO CREDITORS
No. 24-CPR-041177

Notice to All Persons Having Claims Against the
Estate of EDWARD ALBERT MASSEY, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EDWARD ALBERT MASSEY were issued on August 26, 2024 in Cause 24-CPR-041177 pending in County Court at Law No. 5 of FORT BEND County, Texas, to: CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM MASSEY as Independent Administrator whose mailing address is: Estate of EDWARD ALBERT MASSEY, c/o Brooke M. LaJaunie-Bacuetes, Esq., 4621 Nina Lee Lane, Houston, TX 77092. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 20 day of September, 2024. (s) BROOKE MARY LAJAUNIE-BACUETES, State Bar No. 24094784, 4621 Nina Lee Lane, Houston, TX 77092, Tel. (504) 610-9275, TBN: 24094784.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until **2 p.m. Local Time, October 10, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **“Elyson Basin E Trail Landscape”** Harris County, Texas” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=99204469313>.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: concrete trail, irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held remotely on **September 27, 2024, at 10 a.m. Local Time**, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=98224048578>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt209**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478, will be **electronically** received, until **10:30 a.m. Local Time, Friday, October 18, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for construction of **Jubilee Phase 1 Betka Road Landscape** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 478, Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Concrete, pavements, furnishings, lighting, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 985 3407 7358 and use Passcode: 043606 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/98534077358?pwd=fGHVfIcc9bf2N7fatZlH52STHh81eG.1>

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on **Friday, October 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 954 5282 5702 and use Passcode: 150908 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/95452825702?pwd=moLE2PYLgx834DpZPNRf7QzM5xxsvf.1>

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

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

Notice of Application for Permit to Drill and
Produce Groundwater in Waller County

The City of Katy, whose address is 910 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, filed an application with the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") seeking permits to drill a well in Waller County to produce a maximum amount of two hundred and sixty three million gallons annually (approximately 807.2 acre-feet per annum). The Applicant intends to apply the produced water to beneficial, non-wasteful use for municipal purposes within the District. The well would be 10 inches in diameter and drilled to depths of approximately 1,000 feet below the surface, with 24 inch diameter casing to at least 750 feet from the surface down hole. The wells would be completed in the Evangeline aquifer. Production from the wells would be managed in a manner designed to minimize any interference with any neighboring wells completed in the same aquifer. The wells will be located on property in Waller County. The proposed Waller County wells are generally located approximately 660 feet northeast of the intersection of Pitts Road and Morton Road, in Katy, TX 77493. The coordinates for proposed location of the well is as follows:

| Well No. | Latitude | Longitude | Formation/ Aquifer | County |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------|
| BWLL-0011E City of Katy Well 11 | 29°49.10445' | -95°50.35639' | Evangeline | Waller |

The Board of Directors of the District may grant a contested case hearing on the applications if a written hearing request is filed within 20 days after the publication date of this notice. To request a contested case hearing, you must submit the following in writing: (1) your name (or for a group or association, a representative), mailing address, daytime telephone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be affected by the application in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the proposed activity; and, (6) for a party desiring for the hearing to be conducted by the State.

Office of Administrative Hearings the request must include the statement: "[I/we] request that the State Office of Administrative Hearings conduct the hearing." Note that a party requesting that the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) conduct the hearing shall pay all costs associated with the contract for a SOAH hearing and will be required to deposit with the District an amount determined by the District to pay the SOAH contract amount.

You may also file written comments within 20 days after the publication date of this notice without requesting a contested case hearing.

Comments or requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing and mailed to Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District, P.O. Box 269 Navasota Texas 77868-0269, or faxed to 936-825-7331, or emailed to BGCD@bluebonnetgroundwater.org.

The applications are available for review at the District Offices, 1903 Dove Crossing Lane, Suite A, Navasota, Texas 77868 or on the District's website at www.bluebonnetgroundwater.org, under "Applications - Proposed Well Application Submittals".

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Katy quarterback Jakson Franklin (7) passes the ball during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas.

KATY 52, CINCO RANCH 7

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| Cinco Ranch | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | -- | 7 |
| Katy | 14 | 17 | 14 | 7 | -- | 52 |

First quarter

K: Gunner Nelson 47 pass to Israel Olotu-Judah (Giovanni Moreno kick) 9:34
K: Nelson 73 pass to Cade McCall (Moreno kick) 3:13

Second quarter

K: Tremayne Hill 1 run (Moreno kick) 8:14
K: Jackson Franklin 41 pass to Israel Olotu-Judah (6:00)
K: Moreno 22 field goal, 0:16

Third quarter

K: Nelson 19 pass to Jon Stephens (Moreno kick) 11:47
K: Tremayne Hill 16 run (Moreno kick) 6:45
CR: Charlie Adamoli 23 pass to Drew Tureau (Andrew Reagan kick) 1:16

Fourth quarter

K: Fayo George 3 run (Declan Morris kick) 3:40

Team stats

| | CINCO RANCH | KATY |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| First downs | 15 | 19 |
| Yards rushing | 23-36 | 36-306 |
| Yards passing | 238 | 213 |
| Passes | 23-39-1-0 | 7-16-4-0 |
| Punts | 1-37 | 2-34.5 |
| Fumbles-lost | 2-2 | 2-1 |
| Penalty-yards | 0-0 | 4-40 |

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Katy: Tremayne Hill, 15-115-2; Aqualis Jordan, 12-112; Tim Ogunbanjo, 3-51; Joshua Smith, 2-13; Fayo George, 3-11-1; Nathaniel Gayhart, 1-4; Cinco Ranch: Marcus Gadlin, 16-52; Brayden Gonzalez, 3-6; Charlie Adamoli, 3-(-14);

Passing – Katy: Gunner Nelson, 5-7-158-3-0; Jackson Franklin, 2-9-55-1-0; Cinco Ranch: Charlie Adamoli, 22-39-238-1-0;

Receiving – Katy: Israel Olotu-Judah, 4-107-2; Cade McCall, 1-73; Jon Stephens, 1-19-1; Ryan Carbone, 1-14; Cinco Ranch: Scott Eckel, 6-72; Drew Tureau, 5-69-1; Matthew Courtios, 3-46; Kellen LeCronier, 3-21; Jacob Chevez, 1-9;



Katy running back Tremayne Hill (2) carries the ball during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas.

KATY

from page B1

because my guy is open and all of their eyes are on the run. It’s all credit to the offensive line cause those guys did a phenomenal job.”

Katy added a third score early in the second quarter, when Hill capped off a 1-yard run and that was enough for Katy to bring in its backup quarterback, Jackson Franklin, whose first pass of the game turned into a 41-yard touchdown to Olotu-Judah and a field goal with seconds left in the half made it 31-0 as the teams headed into the locker room.

“Israel is a really good football player and we’re lucky to have him,” Joseph said. “It’s his third year on the varsity — he’s one of our captains and he takes everything he does seriously. He’s quiet but he always steps up on the field and does everything he can for his teammates. That’s the kind of player you love to coach and it’s great to see him have success.”

The Tigers added three more scores in the second half, a pass from Nelson to Jon Stephens, another Hill touchown run and a George score late in the fourth quarter. It took until late in the third for Cinco to put its first and only points on the board when Charlie Ada-



Cinco Ranch running back Marcus Gadlin (3) is tackled for loss after a catch during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas.

moli threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Drew Tureau as Katy’s defense had the Cougars’ number all day, allowing barely over 250 yards of offense in the game, even after sending backups in in the second half.

“We got to the quarterback a lot tonight, but a lot of that had to do with our defensive backs as well,” said senior defensive lineman Adam Carter. “Guys like Jacob Hilton and the guys back there did a great job in cover-

age and it gave us time to get to the quarterback. A big part of our defense is playing complementary like that and playing together and we did a really good job of that tonight.”

Nelson ended the night with 158 yards and three touchdowns on five of seven passing, while Olotu-Judah had 107 yards receiving on four catches with two touchdowns and Cade McCall had 73 yards receiving and a touchdown. One interesting note on the Tigers, is through four games, they have more passing touchdowns than rushing touchdowns, something which has not happened in recent memory with the program.

The Tigers get Seven Lakes left and the goal remains the same as the group strives to get better every day and continue to grow towards their best the later in the season it gets.

“Every single day our coaches just tell us the biggest goal is to just get better,” Carter said. “They want to see us progress through the season and they want to make sure we don’t slack off. Coach Joseph holds us to a standard and it’s up to us to meet that. That’s our goal every day.”

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 Administration Building, 21437 Clay Road, Katy, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| FOR the proposal: | P. Kerr, J. Elms, M. DuBois, K. Thornhill & J. Ruiz |
| AGAINST the proposal: | (none) |
| PRESENT and not voting: | (none) |
| ABSENT: | (none) |

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

| | Last Year \$.75000 /\$100 Adopted | This Year \$.74500 /\$100 Proposed |
|---|--|---|
| Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) | | |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | -\$0.005 /\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | -0.6667% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$258,047 | \$279,770 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$258,047 | \$279,770 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$ 1,935.35 | \$ 2,084.29 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | \$148.94 7.6958% | |

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 Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 449 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| FOR the proposal: | J. Beavers, M. Willett, C. Gabriel, H. Tolleson & A. Qureshi |
| 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 \$ 1.03000 /\$100 Adopted | This Year \$.99000 /\$100 Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) | | |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | -\$0.040 /\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | -3.8835% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$340,366 | \$354,214 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$340,366 | \$354,214 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$3,505.77 | \$3,506.72 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | \$0.95 0.0271% | |

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.

PAETOW 34, TOMPKINS 21

Tompkins 0777--21

Paetow 77614--34

First quarter

P: Terrence Johnson 75 run (Omar Yaghi kick) 11:44

Second quarter

P: Johnson 79 run (Yaghi kick) 9:29

T: Ethan Meadows 45 run (Camilo Ronderous kick) 6:46

Third quarter

P: Curtis Zeno 19 run, 5:58

T: Meadows 1 run (Ronderous kick) 2:36

Fourth quarter

P: Zeno 10 run (Yaghi kick) 10:17

T: Justin Thierheimer 8 run (Ronderous kick) 6:33

P: Johnson 12 run (Yaghi kick) 3:23

Team stats

| | TOMPKINS | PAETOW |
|---------------|-----------|----------|
| First downs | 18 | 12 |
| Yards rushing | 43-177 | 26-361 |
| Yards passing | 92 | 13 |
| Passes | 13-22-0-0 | 6-12-0-0 |
| Punts | 3-29 | 2-38.5 |
| Fumbles-lost | 1-1 | 1-0 |
| Penalty-yards | 6-60 | 5-45 |

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Paetow: Terrence Johnson, 20-315-3; Curtis Zeno, 3-30-2; Jackson Farrar, 3-16; Tompkins: Ethan Meadows, 26-109-2; Justin Thierheimer, 10-56-1; Robert Bernard, 6-16; Carter Young, 1-(-4)

Passing – Paetow: Jackson Farrar, 6-12-12-0-0; Tompkins: Justin Thierheimer, 13-22-112-0-0

Receiving – Paetow: Joshua Scott, 4-11; Terrence Johnson, 1-4; Daqualyn Lott, 1-(-3); Tompkins: Bisi Bello, 3-23; KJ Madison, 5-32; Carter Young, 3-19; Cade Bauer, 1-9; Etoro Bassey;



Curtis Zeno breaks free on a run during Thursday's game between Paetow and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

PAETOW

from page B1

scoring on a 10-yard run after a long drive. Justin Thierheimer trimmed it to six points with 6:33 remaining in the game with an 8-yard touchdown run but Paetow had the final answer on a long drive that Johnson finished off with a 12-yard touchdown run.

“We had a bye week first week of district and we just went in and we completely focused on these guys for two weeks,” said senior defensive lineman Carmello Brooks. “Our whole goal was to come out and make a statement from the start of district and that’s what we were able to do tonight. It was a huge first step, but we have to keep building and keep pushing to be better.”

Johnson had nearly all of Paetow’s offensive stats from the game. The senior accounted for 319 of the Panthers 361 yards and put the team in position to succeed on the offensive side of things with two runs of over 50 yards and four runs of over 30 yards, but he was also put in a great position by his offensive line. The “Trench Mob” as the lineman call themselves, were



month that you have to be physical and those guys embody that. They’re going to keep progressing because they go up against in my opinion the best defensive line in the state every day. They have no choice but to get better because that’s who they go against. On both sides our lines played fast and physical and they were so huge for us tonight.”

The Panthers will go up against another strong defense and physical team next week when they take on Mayde Creek (3-1, 1-1). Paetow is confident though — they’re out to continue to make a name for themselves as they try to climb the district standings.

“Our whole goal for this year was to establish what Paetow is in this district and prove we can compete,” Johnson said. “This was just the first step. We’re a family, we are a great program, we strive to be our best. People like to talk about Paetow and say things, but that’s not us. Coach Hicks and these coaches have done such a great job of building this culture and we want to take that next step.”

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON TAX RATE

The CIMARRON M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 16, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, 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](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:

David F. Jones, Gary Russell, David Aitken IV, Mia Hull

AGAINST the proposal:

None

PRESENT and not voting:

None

ABSENT:

John Linn

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) | \$.30000/\$100 Adopted | \$.28500/\$100 Proposed |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | \$ -.01500/\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | -5.00% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$ 285,762 | \$ 310,184 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$ 57,152 | \$ 62,037 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$ 228,610 | \$ 248,147 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$ 685.83 | \$ 707.21 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | \$ 21.38 3.11% | |

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON TAX RATE

The CORNERSTONES M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 805 Hidden Canyon Road, Katy, TX 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:

Morgan Stagg, Michael D. Chittwood, Lionel A. Garza and Stephen A. Talecki

AGAINST the proposal:

None

PRESENT and not voting:

None

ABSENT:

Virginia Lester

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) | \$.25750/\$100 Adopted | \$.24250/\$100 Proposed |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | \$.01500/\$100 |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | -5.82% |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$ 385,400 | \$ 420,331 |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$ 77,080 | \$ 84,066 |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$ 308,320 | \$ 336,265 |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$ 793.92 | \$ 815.44 |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) | \$ 21.52 2.71% | |

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011



Katy defensive back and running back Aqualis Jordan (9) carries the ball during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas.

LINEMEN

from page B1

Against Cinco Ranch in particular, the Tigers lived in the Cougars backfield. Senior defensive lineman Adam Carter had multiple tackles for loss and hurried the quarterback all night, while Cinco Ranch had just 36 yards on the ground as Katy completely shut down the run game.

Carter has been the leader on a young defensive line that features two sophomores along with Carter and he has taken Isaac Cougran, Terry Brister and Liam Leonard under his wing and both have started to blossom, making plays all across the field.

“It’s different because last year I was playing with two seniors on the line and this year I’m the only one,” Carter said. “It’s good to play with someone young because they’re new to this and they push you in a different way. It’s been fun because of that. I get to teach these guys what I know, they come to me asking questions and it makes me think about the game differently. We all build together, and I think we’re just going to keep getting better.”

But while both sides have gotten better, they also know there is work to do to reach their ultimate goal. The lines still have plenty of room to grow and if Katy



Katy linebacker Reid Garrelts (45) stops Cinco Ranch quarterback Charlie Adamoli (1) in the backfield for a sack during a high school football game between Katy and Cinco Ranch on September 20, 2024 in Katy, Texas.

wants to win district and make another deep run then everyone will be counting on the big men up front to continue raising their game.

“The earmark of our team over the years has always been as the year goes on we continue to get better,” Joseph said. “I’m looking forward to continue doing that this year.”

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