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KatyTimes



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

School board convenes Sept. 14 for work study meeting

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy ISD's board of trustees discussed board adoption of the 2026-2027 maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.7271 and 2026-2027 debt service tax rate of \$0.39 for a total of \$1.1171 per \$100 valuation during its September 14 work study meeting. The rate will raise more money for maintenance and operations than last year due to a slight increase in appraised property values, said Chris Smith, KISD chief financial officer, but it does not represent an increase

in the tax rate.

The board also heard from KISD Executive Director for School Improvement Natalie Martinez on the district's performance objectives, which were developed through a three-step process that included central office review of data and resources; community feedback on processes and programs, demographics student learning and perception; and departmental review alongside their own assessment data. The objectives are aligned to the

See **KISD**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

Keep Katy Beautiful, a volunteer board which works to beautify the city, was recognized at the September 14 meeting of the City of Katy's city council for winning the President's Circle Recognition Award from Keep America Beautiful. KKB has won the award six times, officials said. The presentation took place at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

Council holds public hearing on proposed 2026-2027 budget, announces Sept. 28 hearing for proposed tax rate

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Members of the City of Katy's city council met in regular session on September 14, with City Administrator Byron Hebert absent.

A public hearing was held on the proposed 2026-2027 budget. Council members voted unanimously to postpone the meeting to adopt the proposed budget until the next regular meeting of city council which will be held on September 28.

Mayor Dusty Thiele announced that the public hearing and meeting to adopt the 2026-2027 proposed tax rate of \$0.420 will also be held at the September 28 session. Councilmember for Ward A Johnston Dietz read a prepared statement in response to recent feedback that he has received from constituents. Dietz said that the city is discussing lowering the tax rate to \$0.420 from its current level of \$0.425, and is not increasing it. The language is confusing, Dietz said, because, while the rate is going down, the overall total city property tax revenue is increasing over the prior year because the city is growing and

many properties have increased in value.

In other action, Mayor Thiele read a proclamation affirming the week of September 17-21 as Constitution Week and extending special recognition to the Star of Destiny Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Three speakers participated in public comments. Former Katy ISD school board trustee Morgan Calhoun spoke against the city's current use of Flock cameras, noting that there are over 40 cameras in a ten-square mile area that were never approved by the citizens of Katy. Calhoun said that 99 percent of the residents are surveilled in order to catch the one percent who are criminals and urged councilmembers to reverse their decision on the current contract with Flock. "When you see that you have made a mistake, you make it right," Calhoun said.

The next meeting of Katy's city council will be on September 28 at 6:30 p.m. at 901 Avenue C in Katy. A special sign ordinance workshop was scheduled for September 23, after the Katy Times went to press for this issue.

Burn ban approved for unincorporated Harris County

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

According to a September 17 statement from ReadyHarris and its partners at the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, Harris County Commissioners' Court approved a burn ban that went into effect immediately on September 17, and which will remain in place for 90 days, unless extended or suspended by the court.

The burn ban, requested by the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office (HCFMO), is in response to prolonged dry conditions in parts of unincorporated Harris County.

"The county has received a significant amount of rainfall in the last couple of weeks, but it has not reached all areas of the county equally," said Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "Harris County stretches more than 1,700 square miles, so while conditions in some areas may have improved, the threat of a fire spreading quickly remains in parts of the county, creating additional challenges for our first responders."

Despite dry conditions, HCFMO have not seen a significant increase in outdoor fires.

See **BURN BAN**, page 7

Harris County Precinct 4 sets next town hall

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Join Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones for a community Town Hall at on October 3. The meeting will take place at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Come hear updates on key projects happening in the area and share your ideas and feedback directly with the Commissioner.

RSVP at https://airtable.com/appylMQAgBQitCPwip/pag-9M5Zhl1jg5X8bDi/form?utm_campaign=2026_10_3+Town+Hall&utm_medium=bitly&utm_source=Website.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Precinct 4 will hold its next town hall with Commissioner Lesley Briones on Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress.

MIKESKA BENCH DEDICATION



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The family of the late Linda Mikeska – (front row, left to right) husband Larry Mikeska, daughter Devon Mikeska and grandson Layne Mikeska-Lepage – listen as City of Katy Heritage Park Board President Marilyn Frishman (far right) leads the dedication of a park bench placed in Katy Heritage Park in Linda Mikeska's honor. The ceremony took place on September 15 at Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy, with about 40 in attendance.



"Linda Mikeska was a part of Katy Heritage Park from its inception," said current Katy Heritage Park Board President Marilyn Frishman at the September 15 dedication of a bench in Mikeska's honor. The bench is located next to the Humble Oil Mess Hall at the park at 5990 George Bush Drive in Katy. The restoration of the mess hall was a cause dear to Mikeska's heart, onlookers said.

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Ahoy, matey! New children’s attractions opening soon at The Dryer

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy families can look forward to a safe, secure, and exciting place where kids can play, explore, and make memories, while parents can still enjoy everything The Dryer has to offer.

The Dryer, located at 5339 E. Third Street in Katy, is constructing two different attractions as part of its new children’s playground area. This playground is made for kids from 2 to 18 years old, honestly young adults can play on it too, owners said.

“We’ve always envisioned The Dryer and Katy Beer Garden as places where the entire community can come together, especially families,” said Andrew Nurcahya Jr. in an email to the Katy Times. “Katy is a family-focused community, and we believe our spaces should reflect that. With that comes the responsibility of creating an environment where parents

can relax and enjoy themselves while their children have a safe, fun place to play.”

When the Nurcahya family — owners and developers of The Dryer — started planning for the playground, they were stumped and really stressed out about what attractions to choose from, Nurcahya Jr. said. “Instead, we figured that we shouldn’t be the ones deciding what the community will use,” he said. “We narrowed down the options to three (train, pirate ship, and barn and silo) and held a social media vote to choose one. However, after the vote concluded, we realized that many of the people who voted on Facebook were mostly adults, so we decided to hold another vote for kids in person at the farmers’ market. The kids ended up tying two of the options (pirate ship, and barn and silo) so we decided to build both.”

Construction started on the \$25,000 project on August 27, 2026, and is expected to be completed by



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW NURCAHYA SR.

A new children’s playground — featuring a pirate ship as well as a barn and silo — is under construction at the Dryer at 5339 E. Third Street in Katy. The attraction is expected to open by early October.

early October, Nurcahya said. The Dryer team did the layout of the playground, shades and themes and then purchased plans from “Paul’s Playhouses,” and did some modifications to them to make it

work with their specific needs.

The playground will be accessible from The Dryer and from Katy Beer Garden, so the hours will match both businesses and the weekend farmers’ market. Access from the Beer Gardens will be Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Friday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. Access from The Dryers will be Friday and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

“At the end of the day, The Dryer is being built for the entire community — whether you’re coming with your kids, meeting friends, enjoying a meal, listening to music, or simply spending an afternoon together, we want everyone to feel welcome and have a place here,” Nurcahya Jr. said. “We’re not just building another venue; we’re working to create a place that families, friends, and the Katy community can enjoy for years to come.”

October conference to promote growing fruit trees

BY FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS

Want to grow fruit trees in your backyard or to start a small farm?

You may better reach your goals by attending an Oct. 15-16 Texas New Fruit Growers Conference in Rosenberg. Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the conference will offer expert training for new and prospective fruit growers at the Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825 Texas 36.

The conference will include a four-hour “Intro to Fruit Growing” class with handouts and a “Tree-to-Plate” networking session for shared experiences and ideas. Topics will include how to plant fruit trees, irrigation needs and how to keep trees healthy and growing. Conference participants will

visit Blessington Farms on Oct. 16. The farm grows blueberries, blackberries and strawberries. Attendees also will visit a hydroponics farm.

Registration is \$130 per person. Register by visiting tx.ag/2026fruitconference.

A \$250 sponsorship includes a table, meals and recognition.

For more information, contact Monte Nesbitt at monte.nesbitt@ag.tamu.edu or Joseph (Jody) Taylor at jody.taylor@ag.tamu.edu.

Nesbitt is an assistant professor and Extension Specialist at Texas A&M University. He specializes in pecan, citrus and general fruit production.

Taylor is Fort Bend County Extension Agent-Horticultural. The Rosenberg resident has a background in small farm management and horticulture.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KISD to hold operations job fair on Sept. 26

Ready for a new career opportunity? Meet with Katy ISD departments and explore full- and part-time positions during the district’s Operations Job Fair on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road in Katy. Openings include bus drivers, custodians, grounds crews, general maintenance workers, food service staff and security guards. Katy ISD offers competitive pay, health insurance options and flexible schedules. View current openings and apply: <https://www.katyisd.org/careers>.

Enjoy ‘Casino Night’ with Society Prosper on Sept. 26

Join Society Prosper for their fifth annual Casino Night on September 26 at Hotel ZaZa Memorial, 9787 Katy Freeway in Houston, for an unforgettable evening of Cirque Royale. Try your luck at craps, blackjack, poker and roulette, all while making a difference. Every dollar raised provides therapeutic resources for children overcoming abuse. Each guest will enjoy a seated dinner, drinks, a program in our mission, live and silent auction, dj, photobooth and the casino after party. Tickets are available at <https://www.society-prosper.org/events>.

Citizens for Animal Protection to offer free rabies vaccines on Sept. 28 in observance of World Rabies Day

Does your furry friend need their rabies vaccine? Now you can get it for free during World Rabies Day

at Citizens for Animal Protection, which is offering free rabies vaccines on Monday, September 28 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Visit The Cornelius Clinic at CAP at 17555 Katy Freeway, Houston, to receive a free one-year rabies vaccines for all dogs and cats. Questions? Contact CAP at 281-600-8500 or corneliusclinic@cap4pets.org.

Recycle your electronics at Frost Bank Mason on Oct. 2

Come to Frost Bank’s Katy Financial Center at 21875 Katy Freeway in Katy on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. and bring all those old electronics taking up space in your home. The free event will accept your old small appliances, printers, computers, laptops, VCRs, miscellaneous wires, metal items and anything with a plug. Old-style TVs and paper items are NOT accepted.

Don’t forget the Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade on Oct. 3

The Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade – the prelude to the City of Katy’s legendary Katy Rice Harvest Festival – will be held October 3 beginning at 9 a.m. The parade is the Saturday before the Festival; the festival runs October 10-11 in Katy’s historic downtown square. The parade will start on East Avenue just north of Fifth Street in Katy, then turn west on Fifth to Avenue A, where it will proceed to Second Street. The parade continues on Second Street to Avenue C, turning north at Katy’s City Hall and ending just before Tenth street.

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HARRIS CO. PRECINCT 4 OBSERVES ‘PATRIOT DAY’ IN SOLEMN SEPT. 18 CEREMONY



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Above: Following a moment of silence, Cy-Fair Fire Department Chief Amy Ramon rings the firefighters’ bell six times, commemorating specific moments that happened on the morning of September 11, 2001, from the multiple aircraft crashes in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, to the fall of each of the Twin Towers in New York City. A seventh ringing of the bell was added as a “call to serve.” The ceremony was part of the Patriot Day memorial service hosted by Harris County Precinct 4 on Sept. 18 at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress. The observance also included video interviews with area first responders who related their memories of 9/11. At right: Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones (center) watches the posting of the colors by the Marine Corps Color Guard of the Marine Corp. League Detachment 1485 at the Patriot Day observance hosted by her team on September 18 at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress. The keynote address at the event was delivered by Daniel Rodriguez, Chief of Operations for the precinct, who issued a “call to serve” in the spirit of 911.



KISD

from page 1

district’s nine strategic goals, Martinez said. Six of the objectives are from legally required statutes, 14 are yearly action items from the strategic design process and eight were created from the needs assessment process.

During public comments, City of Fulshear City Council Member Omar Pena, whose wife teaches at Stanley Elementary where his children also attend school, spoke about his concerns about a proposed cell phone tower which may go up at a Katy ISD high school. The City of Fulshear is facing this same issue, Pena said, and there is strong opposition to the tower. Pena invited members of the board to attend the City of Fulshear’s public hearings on their cell tower, scheduled for September 15, and cautioned trustees not to count on potential revenue from a cell tower lease.

The board went into closed session twice during the evening – first to discuss unspecified safety and security issues, which could include implementation of new security personnel or devices, and to review the district 2023-2-26 safety and security audit. The board also ended the meeting with a closed session to consider a Level Three FNG grievance.

The next meeting of the board was scheduled for September 21, after the Katy Times went to press for this issue.

CONFERENCE

from page 1

harvest medical isotopes for cancer treatment as well.

Appointed by Governor Rick Perry as chair of the state’s Energy Supply Committee in the early 2000’s at a time when 70 percent of power generation came from coal, Robison first studied wind-generated power.

“Our finding was if, hypothetically, if you were to remove hydrocarbons from the grid, the only technology that could replace that form of power from a sustainability standpoint was nuclear,” Robison said. “I wasn’t liking nuclear...we were doing fracking in the Permian.”

Robison started up Natura Resources and deployed \$30 million in funding into four universities: University of Texas, Texas A&M, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Abilene Christian University, which agreed to host the demonstration reactor. Texas Tech has since been added as a fifth university partner, Robison said.

In 2015 Robison started funding a research project at Abilene Christian University focusing on nuclear energy. Encouraged by Rick Perry – by then a member of President Donald Trump’s cabinet – Robison applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Agency for permits and tackled other hurdles including construction of the reactor.

Natura opened the \$25 million Science Engineering Research Center in Abilene in 2023. That same year, Texas

passed the Texas Energy Fund, investing \$5 billion to get more dispatchable power to the grid. “The need for more power, the exponential growth of the grid we saw coming before data centers and AI came onto the horizon.”

Then in 2024 Microsoft, Google and Nucor presented their needs for a hundred gigawatts of non-carbon power. A data center can only be without power for six minutes a year, Robison said. “The only thing that fits that definition is nuclear,” he said.

“We need more dispatchable power, more reliable power on the grid,” Robison said. “And we want to capture this industry from Texas from an economic development standpoint.” Abilene has become the center of the world on a lot of these issues, he said. Tennessee is competing with Texas to lead the nuclear energy industry, Robison said.

Natura hopes to deploy its first commercial reactor by 2032, Robison said. The company is working on scalability, he said.

Gabriela von zur Muehlen of the Texas Association of Business, led a discussion on “Data Center Power: Myths, Facts, and the Fine Print,” along with panelists Jess Heck of the Data Center Coalition and Chris Tomlinson, columnist for the Houston Chronicle. Panelists called for state regulations to help govern data centers, noting that only local governments are currently able to govern

noise, light pollution and other issues.

Two panels addressed water issues – one led by Jeff Haley of SI Environmental discussed opportunities and challenges for water infrastructure for a growing population and the second, moderated by Russ Poppe of the Fort Bend County Drainage District, looked at “Fort Bend Region’s One Water Strategy.” The One Water approach is an integrated, holistic water management framework that treats all water—drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, and surface water—as a single, valuable resource to be managed collaboratively and sustainably. It emphasizes breaking down traditional silos, coordinating across sectors, and ensuring equitable, resilient water systems. Obstacles to the approach include ownership of water rights, the panelists said, as well as strong leadership on the issue and development of incentives. Panelist Marcus Stuckett of the Harris County Flood Control District said there needs to be agreement among participants as to exactly what the “One Water” approach is for the region.

The program also featured a panel on transportation and mobility moderated by David Gornet of the Fort Bend Toll Road Authority, including Shane Pirtle of the 36A Coalition, Phyllis Saathaff of Port Freeport and Ike Akinwande of Fort Bend County Engineering.

TRIBUTE

Richard David Adair, 76, passed away on September 12, 2026, due to esophageal cancer. Richard was born in Detroit, MI on October 26, 1949, to Deroy and Vida Adair as the fourth of five children. In 1968, he attended Western Carolina University to study Industrial Technology. That fall, he met his future wife, Nancy Joan Edden, while playing ping pong at the student union with a buddy. Nancy challenged the guys to play the winner. They wed on September 17, 1970, and both graduated in 1972.

Richard was drafted into the military and chose to join the Marines, serving as a communications officer for four years. Nancy resided in Jacksonville, FL, while he served in Okinawa, Japan, for one year. Then he was transferred to Camp Pendleton, CA. They had two children, Andrea and Brian. When he was discharged from the Marines, they moved to Jacksonville, FL.

He worked for a restaurant that transferred the family to Texas in 1980. Once in Texas, Richard took a drafting course to refresh his skills and applied for positions at local oil and gas firms. He worked as a draftsman for Marathon Oil and later as a GIS Specialist for Hess Corporation until he retired in 2013. Over the years, he has enjoyed many hobbies such as racquetball, golf, fishing, card games,



RICHARD DAVID ADAIR
1949 – 2026

traveling and following various sports on TV.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Deroy Hartman Adair; mother, Vida Hammit Adair; older brothers, Kenneth Adair and Robin Adair and his granddaughter, Grayce Adair. He is survived by his sisters, Irene Halog of Bay City, MI, and Janice Medford of Raleigh, NC; wife, Nancy Edden Adair; children, Andrea Saldana (Jesse) of Humble, TX and Brian Adair (Laury) of Rosharon, TX; and grandchildren, Joshua Saldana, Easton Adair and Colbie Adair.

Visitation will be held at Katy Funeral Home, 23350 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, on October 3 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at Katy Funeral Home, 23350 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, on October 3 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

BKDD sets town hall meeting for Oct. 1 to kick off discussion of proposed 2026 bond program

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Brookshire-Katy Drainage District has announced a town hall meeting on October 1 at 4:30 p.m. at the BKDD office at 1105 Kenney Street in Brookshire.

The meeting will kick off the community conversation surrounding the proposed 2027 bond program, organizers said.

“This meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the proposed projects, including critical drainage and infrastructure improvements designed to address current needs and prepare our growing community for the future,” the announcement said. “We encourage residents, community leaders, business owners, and other stakeholders to attend, learn more about the proposed program, and participate in the discussion.”

BKDD controls about 70 miles of channels and waterways in the greater Katy area, according to previous reporting by the Katy Times.

For additional information, contact friends@bkdd@gmail.com or visit <https://www.bkdd.dst.tx.us>.

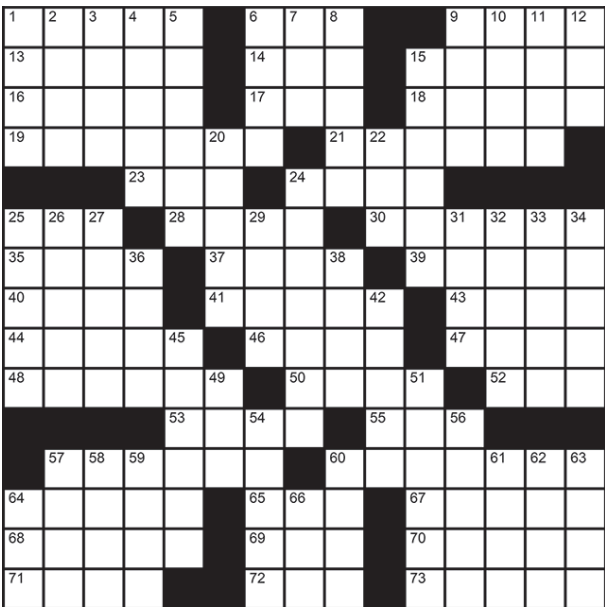
THEME: PHYSICS 101

CLUES ACROSS

- Mediterranean island country
- Not Miss or Ms
- Contributions to the poor
- *Physicist of apple-related revelation fame
- Bottle top
- Be of use
- Wilt “The ____” Chamberlain
- Sailor’s assent
- Nincompoop
- *Electric current path
- *Like magnifying glass lens
- Unhappy
- Southern stew staple
- ____ Beta Kappa
- Harper and Bruce, e.g.
- Type of jacket
- Nevada city
- “The Road Runner” corporation
- Solemnly promised
- One twelfth of a foot
- What blacksmith did to a horse
- Ice dancer’s jump
- Phishing and such
- Nobel Peace Prize home
- Either right or left
- Good guy
- Same as island
- Tierra ____ Fuego
- Third-person possessive pronoun
- Yoko’s last name
- *Electric current unit
- *It pulls things down
- Doom’s companion
- Thomas Paine’s “The ____ of Reason”
- 10 percent to charity, e.g.
- Prevention measure

CLUES DOWN

- Catchall abbr.
- ____ spumante
- Bear’s den, e.g.
- Same as talcums
- Opposite of potential
- Med. sch. requirement
- *Path of light
- Heard by Horton
- Tel ____ city
- Bowling ball path
- Seductive one
- Like a fox
- Historical records
- Some are bright
- Ball-shaped object
- *Reverse one, in the kitchen
- *Rainbow-producing device
- From this time on
- Relating to Quechuan people
- *Sound reverberation
- Hole-punching tools
- Coral polyp, e.g.
- Eat away
- *What similar magnetic poles do
- *Electrical resistance units
- Mature elvers
- Sorrow
- “In the grand ____ of things”
- Having Everything Revealed singer-songwriter
- Related on mother’s side
- Plunder
- Sheep-like
- Grad



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58. a.k.a. kissing disease

59. Pox mark

60. Gentleman, informally

61. It will
62. Not this

63. Certain coniferous trees

64. India’s smallest state

66. *Not liquid or solid

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

ROTARY CLUB OF KATY FOCUSES ON KATY ISD DURING SEPT. 3 MEETING



Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski was the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of Katy's September 3 meeting at the Club at Falcon Point, 24526 Falcon Point Drive in Katy. Gregorski spoke about the challenges the district faces in funding and in meeting the changing needs of students and families. During the meeting the club presented grants to four KISD-affiliated organizations, awarded funds raised through its events such as the recent Katy Triathlon, Wild West Brewfest and the Katy Rice Harvest Festival.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Rotary Club of Katy awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Katy ISD Education Foundation during its September 3 meeting.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy ISD FFA programs received a \$10,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Katy during its quarterly grant awards on September 3 at the Club at Falcon Point.

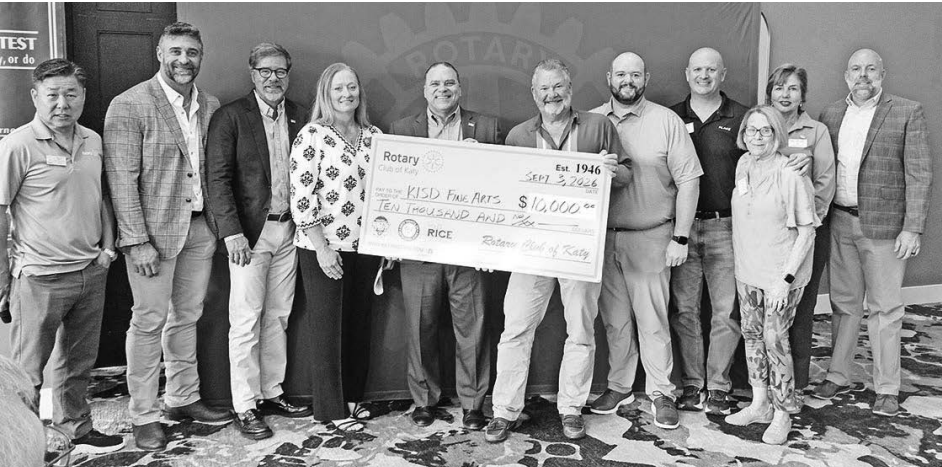


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy ISD's Fine Arts programs received \$10,000 in funding from the Rotary Club of Katy during the service organization's September 3 meeting.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The "Take Me Fishing" program at Hutsell Elementary was awarded \$2,000 by the Rotary Club of Katy during their September 3 grant presentations.

Houston Methodist encourages men to get screened during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Know your risks, know your options

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and Houston Methodist West Hospital is encouraging men of all ages to learn the risk factors, understand the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and have informed conversations with their doctors about screening.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men and remains the second leading cause of cancer death among American men, according to the American Cancer Society.

- About one in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetime
- While six in ten cases occur in men 65 years or older, an increasing number are being diagnosed at younger ages
- African American men have a higher diagnosis risk and mortality rate compared to other racial groups
- Having a family history like a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles a man's risk of developing the disease

While prostate cancer can be serious, early detection and advances in treatment continue to improve patient outcomes. More than 3.5 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer are alive today.

"Many men don't realize that early prostate cancer often causes no symptoms at all," said Dr. Michael Brooks, a urologic oncologist at Houston Methodist West Hospital. "That's why understanding your personal risk factors and screenings are so important because early detection in prostate

cancer provide more treatment options and better outcomes."

FIVE TIPS FOR PROSTATE HEALTH

1. Know your risk factors: Age, family history, race, diet and lifestyle all play a role.
 2. Prioritize screenings: A simple PSA blood test is all it takes. PSA tests are safe and critical for early detection.
 3. Adopt a healthy lifestyle: Maintaining a healthy weight, staying physically active and eating a balanced, nutritious diet by limiting red meat and high-fat dairy consumption can help reduce overall cancer risk.
 4. Know the symptoms: Possible red flags include difficulty urinating, a weak urine stream, blood in urine or semen, erectile dysfunction, unexplained weight loss, unusual fatigue, and/or persistent pain in the hips, back and/or chest
 5. Spread awareness: Encourage loved ones to stay informed and proactive. Early education and conversation can save lives.
- "Prostate cancer is not a one-size-fits-all, and neither is screening or treatment," Brooks said. "The best approach is one that takes into consideration each individual patient's risk factors and overall health. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is an excellent reminder for us all to initiate these conversations and get screened early."

TAKE ACTION THIS SEPTEMBER

Houston Methodist West encourages men and their families to use Prostate Cancer Awareness Month as a reminder to schedule screenings and talk to their healthcare providers.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist West urologist, visit houstonmethodist.org/spg/urology/katy or call 832-522-8300.

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 2026 on Monday, October 12, 2026 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 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	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$ 0.72500</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$ 0.74510</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.020</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>2.7724%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$290,320</u>	<u>\$282,451</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$290,320</u>	<u>\$282,451</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$2,104.82</u>	<u>\$2,104.54</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>-\$0.28</u> <u>-0.0133%</u>

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

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

Katy Times

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Fort Bend Teen Service League celebrates 20 years of empowering young women through service and leadership

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Teen Service League (FBTSL), a mentoring program of the Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJSL), is celebrating 20 years of inspiring young women to serve their communities, develop leadership skills and make a meaningful difference throughout Fort Bend County.

For two decades, FBTSL has provided young women with opportunities to grow through hands-on service, philanthropy, educational programming and cultural experiences. Members have contributed thousands of dollars and countless volunteer hours to nonprofit organizations and community initiatives throughout the county, while building lasting friendships and connections along the way.

"As a long-standing member of the Fort Bend Junior Service League and current board liaison to the Fort Bend Teen Service League, I am uplifted by the future generations of leaders who are serving as we celebrate 20 years," said Charlyn Harris, who also has two daughters in the Teen League. "I wholeheartedly believe in its mission and the impact it has on young women and our community."

FBTSL's purpose is exclusively educational and charitable, provid-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT BEND TEEN LEAGUE

Fort Bend Teen League members at their 2026-2027 kickoff event on September 13.

ing an environment of friendship, goodwill and camaraderie while encouraging members to become engaged citizens and responsible community leaders. The program is designed to give young women meaningful experiences that build confidence, leadership skills and a commitment to service.

As FBTSL marks this milestone year, it looks forward to an exciting 2026-2027 year of service, connec-

tion and leadership development. Following another successful membership season, the Teen League welcomes its newest members, bringing together young women in seventh through twelfth grade who reside in Fort Bend County and share an interest in volunteering, serving others and developing their leadership potential.

The official 20th anniversary

kickoff took place Sunday, September 13 at Long Acres Ranch, 2335 Richmond Parkway in Richmond, under the theme "Celebrating 20 Years of FBTSL: Where It All Began." The celebration honored the generations of young women who have shaped the organization's legacy, reflected on its impact and looked ahead to the next generation of community leaders.

FBTSL is supported by the

Fort Bend Junior Service League through organizational guidance and mentorship from a FBJS Board Liaison, Adult Advisory Committee and adult mentors who are FBJS members. This partnership provides members with opportunities to learn from experienced community leaders while developing their own skills through service.

For 20 years, FBTSL has empowered young women to lead with purpose, compassion and a commitment to service. As the organization celebrates its history, it continues to invest in the young women who will help shape the future of Fort Bend County.

About the Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJS)

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJS) 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 FBJS to donate more than \$6.4 million to non-profit agencies in the Fort Bend community since its inception in 2001.



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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Bids for **Synova Ph. 2 – Bid Packages 5** will be received digitally through CivCast until **2:00 p.m. Thursday, October 8th, 2026**, at which time unofficial results will be posted to CivCast for the furnishing of material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the Construction of Synova Ph. 2 – Bid Packages 5. Proposals tendered after closing will not be opened. Scope of Project: 1. Concrete Flatwork, 2. Landscaping, 3. Irrigation, 4. Minor Site Grading and Preparation, 5. SWPPP coordination & removal, 6. Clearing and Grubbing. Bid documents in digital format will be available through CivCast. A pre-bid conference will NOT be held for this project. Bidders are to submit any questions to Civcast. Bidder questions will be received until 5:00 PM Thursday, October 1st. Questions submitted after 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 1st may not be addressed. Online bidding will be available starting at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, October 6th. This project is being privately bid and the owner reserves the right to disregard a bid at any time for any reason.

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NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **ORDINANCE NO. 3207** BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, AMENDING ARTICLE 3.04 “FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION” OF CHAPTER 3 “BUILDING REGULATIONS” OF THE KATY CODE OF ORDINANCES; INCORPORATING REQUIRED PROVISIONS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA); PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$2,000.00; AUTHORIZING THE CITY SECRETARY TO PUBLISH ONLY THE CAPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY.

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NOTICE

The City Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of Katy, Texas, will Conduct Public Hearings at Their Regular Meetings to be held at City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2026

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, November 9, 2026

The Hearings are Being Conducted to Receive Comments from the Public on a Proposed Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Katy, Texas, Amending the Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; and Amending Ordinance No. 3043 “West Ten Business Park” Planned Development District; Amending Certain Requirements and Restrictions for Development Within the “West Ten Business Park” Planned Development District; Repealing all Ordinances and Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing for a Fine not to Exceed \$2,000 for each day a Violation of this Ordinance Exists.

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Public Notice

Skyway Towers, LLC proposes to build a 170-foot monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 20804 1/2 Hempstead Highway, Cypress, Harris County, TX 77429 [Lat: 29-55-18.07, Long: -95-37-44.09]. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: *Trileaf Corp.*, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahimi@trileaf.com, 7700 W. Hwy 71, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78735, 512-537-3091.

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS BY BROOKSHIRE-KATY DRAINAGE DISTRICT

The Brookshire-Katy Drainag District (“District”) hereby gives notice of the adoption of proposed amended rules and regulations concerning drainage criteria. The complete text of these proposed rules and regulations is available for public review at the District’s principal office and on its website at <https://www.bkdd.dst.tx.us/page/BKDD.RulesRegulations>. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the District may result in criminal and civil fines and penalties of up to \$10,000.00 per day per violation in addition to any other penalties allowed under state law, each day a violation persists is considered a separate violation. The proposed amended rules and regulations shall go into effect on October 2, 2026, or as soon as statutorily allowed after such date.

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September 17

Puzzle Answers

2	6	8	5	3	9	4	7	1
7	3	5	8	1	4	2	6	9
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- RESULTS:** Consistent newspaper campaigns have been very effective in building Brand recognition, delivering Merchandising messages and motivating customers with attractive “Call-to-Action” limited opportunities.

Image 360 Katy nets awards for growth and performance

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Image360 Katy was recognized by Alliance Franchise Brands, the parent company of Image360, with three awards honoring the company's growth and performance within the international Image360 network, the company announced on September 16. Image 360 Katy earned two Systemwide Growth Awards, placing it among the Top 10 Image360 Centers in the country within their respective categories.

Owned by David and Jennifer LaFleur, Image360 Katy provides custom signage, vehicle wraps,

wall murals and visual communication solutions for businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations and community groups throughout Katy and the Greater West Houston area. The company is located at 21733 Provincial in Katy.

While national recognition is an exciting achievement, the LaFleurs say their greatest source of pride remains the relationships they have built throughout the Katy community.

Image360 Katy has been named Best in Katy by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce for the second consecutive year, an honor determined entirely through

community nominations and voting.

"Being voted Best in Katy by our community for the second year in a row means more to us than any other recognition we could receive," said David and Jennifer LaFleur. "Katy is home for our family. Jennifer grew up here and graduated from Taylor High School, our children attend Katy ISD schools, and we've built both our lives and our business in this community. Knowing that our neighbors took the time to nominate and vote for us is incredibly humbling, and we're grateful for the opportunity to serve the people and organiza-

tions that make Katy such a special place."

"Any success we've experienced is a direct reflection of the support we've received from our customers, partners, and neighbors," said David and Jennifer LaFleur. "We are honored to be part of this community and grateful for the trust people place in us every day."

About Image360

The company prides itself on being an industry leader, offering creative and effective sign and graphics solutions with a focus on collaboration and consultation from project initiation to instal-

lation. Image360 is a full-service partner, delivering high-quality graphics and aims to establish long-term relationships that provide brands with comprehensive exposure.

About Image360 Katy

Image360 Katy is a family-owned and locally operated sign and graphics company serving businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations, and community groups throughout Greater Katy and West Houston. The company specializes in custom signs, vehicle wraps, wall murals, graphics, and visual communication solutions.

YMCA of Greater Houston hosts 'Be a Kid Again' day trips to YMCA Camp Cullen

Adults 55 and better will experience adventure, relaxation and connection along Lake Livingston on Sept. 29, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The YMCA of Greater Houston will offer adults 55 and better an opportunity to step outside their everyday routines and rediscover the joy of camp during three "Be a Kid Again" day trips to YMCA Camp Cullen in Trinity, Texas, on Sept. 29, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. During this time, older adults will make new friends, explore camp activities and spend time in nature along the shores of Lake Livingston.

The day trips are part of ForeverWell, a YMCA program that helps adults 55 and better stay active and engaged through social, recreational and wellness opportunities. At YMCA Camp Cullen, individuals can choose how to spend their day based on their interests and activity level.

"Play, discovery and meaningful connection are important at every stage of life," said Stephen Ives, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Houston. "YMCA Camp Cullen gives our ForeverWell members a chance to try something new, spend time with friends and enjoy what makes camp special. We're creating spaces for older adults to stay engaged, build relationships

and discover what brings them joy."

Throughout the day, guests can enjoy the natural beauty of YMCA Camp Cullen's 500-acre property nestled among the East Texas pines. The camp's well-maintained facilities, bathrooms, shaded areas and accessible spaces make guests feel comfortable throughout the day.

For those looking for adventure, activities include ziplining, archery, water activities, and horseback riding, with options available for a range of abilities. Guests who prefer a relaxed experience can unwind in a rocking chair on a cabin porch, read a book by the lake, explore nature trails or catch up with friends over coffee. Arts and crafts and team games will provide attendees with time to get creative with fellow campers.

More than just a day away from the daily routine, "Be A Kid Again" will leave campers with a sense of wonder and possibility. Through ForeverWell, the YMCA of Greater Houston continues to create moments for older adults to stay active and connect with others in their community.

To learn more about the YMCA of Greater Houston and register for fall programs, visit YMCAhouston.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BROOKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Members of the Brookshire Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the organization's relaunch. Left to right: Jay Donnell (community volunteer), Jose Quijano (Our Town Network), Paul McConnell (Key Insurance), Tony McAnelly (Three International), Becah Butler (Brookwood Community), Pastor Sue Lyle (Brookshire Methodist Church), Jackie Craver (Three International), Victoria Short(G-Tech), Tom Graham (Sunrise Fasteners), and Sheri Gillespie (Frost Bank).

Rising stronger: Brookshire Chamber celebrates first anniversary of relaunch

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Brookshire Chamber of Commerce is celebrating a milestone year, marking a successful first anniversary since its official relaunch in September 2025. Rising from the challenges that faced the previous West I-10 Chamber of Commerce, the revitalized organization has quickly re-established itself as a vital hub for local commerce and community development.

The journey began just over a year ago with four visionary founding members who saw the need for a dedicated business organization in Brookshire: Sue Lyle of Brookshire Methodist Church, Paul McConnell with Key Insurance, Vic Morrisback of Morrisback Construction, and local entrepreneur Tony McAnelly. From that small but determined group, the chamber has grown to a thriving membership of 25 organizations and continues to expand.

Significantly, the chamber's membership reflects the diverse fabric of the Brookshire area. While many members are traditional small businesses, the roster also includes

key nonprofit organizations such as the Lions Club and Boy Scouts, as well as the local school district and organizations like HerWell. This broad coalition underscores the chamber's mission to connect not just businesses, but the entire community, officials said.

The anniversary was recently marked with a celebratory gathering of members and leaders, who enjoyed a custom cake commemorating the occasion.

Building on this momentum, the chamber is looking to double its membership by the end of the year. To launch this ambitious drive, an exciting kickoff event and after-work mixer is set for October 13 at 4:30 p.m. at Brookshire Hyundai, 34656 Katy Freeway in Brookshire.

The mixer is open to current members, their invitees, and any local business or organization interested in learning more about joining the chamber. No RSVP is required—interested parties are encouraged to simply show up and connect with other community leaders.

To further incentivize new members during this drive, the chamber

is offering a special promotional opportunity: new sign-ups will receive two months free, with their membership renewal extended into January of 2028.

A cornerstone of the chamber's first year has been its strategic focus on education and small business support. A major accomplishment has been re-engaging with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Prairie View A&M University.

This partnership will launch a new educational forum in the coming year, providing quarterly classes specifically designed for small business entrepreneurs in Brookshire. In addition to these upcoming programs, the chamber has remained active in supporting the local business landscape by hosting multiple ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new businesses throughout the city.

For more information on the Brookshire Chamber of Commerce, membership benefits, or the upcoming October 13 kickoff event, please visit their website at Brookshire-chamber.org.

BURN BAN

from page 1

"While call volumes have not increased, the HCFMO did reach out to the local fire chiefs, who supported the request for a burn ban," Christensen said. "The request was made based on current conditions and in coordination with the Texas A&M Forest Service."

The burn ban prohibits all outdoor burning unless the burning occurs within an enclosure that contains all flames and sparks.

What is allowed:

- Outdoor burning authorized by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Approved ceremonial fires
- Non-commercial cooking like backyard cookouts and barbecues
- Additionally, welding and other "hot work" can be carried out as long as they comply with county fire code regulations

Violation of the ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes damage to property without the owner's consent may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class C misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

During dry conditions, certain outdoor activities can increase the risk of wildfires. Always use caution when working with anything that produces heat or sparks and take extra precautions during periods of particularly dry or windy weather.

Smoking material safety:

- Never walk away and leave a cigarette burning.
- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Never throw a lit cigarette or cigarette butts out the window of a vehicle. It could land on dry grass or be blown into dry vegetation and start a fire.

Vehicle and lawn maintenance:

- Avoid driving through tall grass and never park your vehicle on dry grass or leaves. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires.
- Adjust the safety chains on your trailers to ensure they don't drag and create sparks that can cause roadside fires.
- Lawnmowers are designed to mow lawns, not weeds or dry grass. Metal blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires.

Outdoor cooking:

- Avoid placing the grill on dry grass. A stray spark could easily start a fire.
- Only use lighter fluid that is designed for grilling, not gasoline or other flammable liquids. If using a charcoal starter fluid, never add it after the grill has started. The liquid could spark a flare-up and cause an injury.
- When finished with charcoal grilling, let the coals completely cool and dispose of them in a metal container and soak with water.

If you see an unattended fire, call 9-1-1 and notify your local fire department immediately. Even a small fire can spread quickly and threaten people and property.

THE GIFTED NEST OPENS NEXT TO SOUTHERN DOUGH



The Gifted Nest is now open at 908 Avenue B Suite 102 in Katy, on the historic downtown square next to Southern Dough. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m.

The Gifted Nest offers a curated selection of home goods, candles, apparel for women and babies, monogram and more.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



RELAY FOR LIFE OF KATY HOSTS ‘PIE A POLITICIAN’ TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

On September 19, fans and former foes gathered at The Dryer, 5339 E. Third Street in Katy, to toss whipped cream pies at their favorite current and former politicians. The event was hosted by Relay for Life of Katy as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and as a prelude to the actual Relay event scheduled for October 24 from 4 to 9 p.m. at VFW Park at 6202 George Bush Drive in Katy. The pie-throwing contest raised over \$2,200.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



Political activist and former council candidate Michael Payne (left) admires his first shot at former City of Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris (right) as City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele (center) looks on.



Becca Follis (left) fires a whipped cream pie at husband Paul Follis, City of Katy Councilmember at Large.



Relay for Life of Katy volunteer Lyn Hunter Sullivan (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to City of Katy Ward B Councilmember Michael Meihls. Sullivan ran against Meihls in the last election.



City of Katy Councilmember At Large Paul Follis (left) serves “just desserts” to his fellow council member Johnston Dietz, who represents Katy’s Ward A.



Fort Bend residents Patsy McGirl (left) and Ida Franklin (center) take aim at Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 1 Chad Norvell.



Waller County Judge-elect Justin Beckendorff takes a breath after being pelted by an entire team of attendees.



Former school board candidate David Greene (left) scores a direct hit on current Katy ISD trustee Dawn Champagne.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS-WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 12 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 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:	Justin Klump, Geneva van Zijll, Joan Leiber Ryman, Donald Hayter, Matthew O’Neill
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.99000/\$100 Adopted	\$0.99000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$361,795.00	\$357,432.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$361,795.00	\$357,432.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,581.77	\$3,538.58
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-43.19 -1.21%

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 8 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.

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 175 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Thursday October 1, 2026 At 12:00 PM at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 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:	Alexa Cox, Lee Russell, Bertha Fair, Susan Wang, Michael Moyer
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)	\$1.15000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.15000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$491,982.00	\$510,207.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$15,233.00	\$17,547.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$476,749.00	\$492,660.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$5,482.61	\$5,665.59
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$182.98 3.34%

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 8 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.

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Willow Fork Drainage District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 8, 2026 at 11:30 am at Offices of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 100, 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:	Alexander Bray, Assistant Vice President; Gregg Nady, Vice President; Sarah Hubbell, Secretary; John Savage, President
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Joseph Robinson, Assistant Secretary

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)	\$0.145000/\$100 Adopted	\$0.145000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$448,026	\$462,679
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$448,026	\$462,679
Tax on average residence homestead	\$649.64	\$670.88
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$21.24 3.27%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

Children’s Lighthouse Early Learning School® opens in Fulshear

New early learning school expands access to values-based education, trusted care for families in growing Cross Creek West community

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Children’s Lighthouse Early Learning Schools®, the nation’s leading provider of values-based early childhood education, opened a new school in Fulshear, one of the nation’s fastest-growing cities, on August 20. Located at 31631 Fulshear Bend Drive, just minutes from Highway 359 and I-10, Children’s Lighthouse of Cross Creek West is officially opening its doors to families in Fort Bend County.

Behind the new school is Emily Fernando, an award-winning multi-unit franchise owner who has been with Children’s Lighthouse for more than a decade. The opening builds on her longstanding commitment to early childhood education and to the Fort Bend County community, where she currently owns two other Children’s Lighthouse schools. With the Cross Creek West location, Fernando will continue serving families across the area with high-quality early education and care in a safe, nurturing environment.

“Watching children grow in confidence, discover new interests and reach important milestones is what makes this work so meaningful,” said Fernando. “One of our goals is to instill a love for lifelong learning in every child who walks through our doors. We’re grateful for the opportunity to welcome families to Children’s Lighthouse of Cross Creek West and create an environment where every child feels supported, encouraged and inspired every day.”

As the area continues to grow and attract young families, many residents in Fulshear are seeking high-quality early education programs that

combine strong academics with a caring, supportive environment. Children’s Lighthouse of Cross Creek meets that need through the brand’s proprietary Lighthouse Pathways® curriculum, designed to support the academic, social and emotional development of every child.

Infants and toddlers benefit from a nurturing environment that focuses on early developmental milestones and trust-building relationships with caregivers. As children progress into preschool and Pre-K programs, the curriculum expands to include hands-on learning, early literacy development, problem-solving, and social collaboration. The school also offers before and after-school care for school-age children, providing homework support and enrichment opportunities.

Across every stage of development, Lighthouse Pathways® incorporates age-appropriate academics rooted in Bloom’s Taxonomy while reinforcing monthly character values such as responsibility, respect and citizenship. Small class sizes allow children to build friendships, develop confidence and actively engage in their learning journey.

“As more families choose to call Fulshear home, access to high-quality early childhood education becomes increasingly important,” said Michael Brown, President of Children’s Lighthouse. “The Lighthouse Pathways” curriculum helps children develop academically, socially and emotionally. With Emily’s leadership experience and commitment to serving families, we’re confident she and her team will ensure children have the support they need to learn, grow and thrive.”

The mission of Children’s Lighthouse is to give franchisees the tools, guidance and opportunity to operate a profitable business that is designed to give children a safe, loving place to learn, make friends, and build confidence. Children’s Lighthouse does this by partnering with parents to develop children through three age-appropriate curricula designed with specific needs of children in mind. Additionally, franchisees across the network are actively involved with their local communities and regularly give back through volunteering, donations and more.

To learn more about Children’s Lighthouse of Cross Creek West, please visit <https://childrenslighthouse.com/crosscreekwest>.

About Children’s Lighthouse Franchise Company

The Children’s Lighthouse brand was established in Ft. Worth in 1997. Children’s Lighthouse Early Learning Schools® are the nation’s leading values-based early learning schools. Currently, Children’s Lighthouse Franchise Company has over 70 franchised schools in operation and 25 additional franchised locations in the development pipeline. Children’s Lighthouse Early Learning Schools™ promise to create a safe, fun, and happy place that gives children confidence, a sense of comfort today, and a lifelong love of learning, friendship, and community. Its proprietary curriculum helps children of all ages develop healthy brains, bodies and best behaviors. To learn more about Children’s Lighthouse, visit <https://childrenslighthouse.com/>.

KATY EDUCATION FOUNDATION LAUNCHES FALL ‘DINE OUT TO DONATE’ FUNDRAISER



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Starting off their day of “dining out for good” on September 16 are members of the Katy ISD Education Foundation, ready to have lunch at Southern Dough, 908 Avenue B in Katy. A portion of the proceeds from food sales from restaurants participating in “Dine Out to Donate” will be donated to the foundation, which awards grants to KISD teachers for imaginative and innovative classroom projects and after-school programs. Front row (left to right): Patti Lacy, Cheryl Glasser, Martha Aki, Marilyn Frishman, Marsha Smith, Jamie Wolman, Patti Shafer. Middle row: Roseanne Lopez, Cindy Haskett, Karen Thornton, Cindy Shaw (hidden), Rebecca Fox, Gigi Bethke, Ann Boudny, Janet Theis, Terri Youngblood, Laura Beth Jackson. Third row: City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Bill Haskett, Mitzi Cross, Juli Noeldner, Al Boudny.

Tompkins senior drum major conducts and serves his way to top

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Practical. Calculated. Driven. It’s easy to spot those traits within minutes of talking to Tompkins senior drum major Alex Lebsack. Digging deeper reveals another side, the ‘why’ behind the painstaking hours of music practice, his countless tennis swings and all the pages he turns for his courses.

Performances – he lives to put on a show and wants to be great at it. The adrenaline high during, and the payoff once the show is over, make it worth the effort.

“If it weren’t for the performances, practicing would start to feel sort

of dry,” Lebsack said. “Whenever you know that there is a performance coming up, practices don’t feel boring or like practice. They feel like you’re just getting in the right mindset. Whenever you do get to that performance, you’re not worried. You’re not scared. You’re not anxious. You’re just there enjoying the moment, and you can enjoy the performance because you know that all the practice you’ve done has helped you get there.”

Whether playing his euphonium, serving on the tennis court or directing the band, Lebsack’s work ethic

See **TOMPKINS**, page 10

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 2026 on October 12, 2026, 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, Ronald Perkins, and Bryant Gaudette
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.81500/\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.81500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 252,372	\$ 255,193
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 252,372	\$ 255,193
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,056.83	\$ 2,079.82
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 22.99 1.11%	

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.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT #569 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 12, 2026, at 1:00 P.M. at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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:	Jason Schultz, Blakely Norris, Julia Pecina and Benjamin Boehm
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Nicholas Luton

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)	\$1.50000/\$100 Adopted	\$1.50000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 329,854	\$ 340,685
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 329,854	\$ 340,685
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 4,947.81	\$ 5,110.27
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 162.46 3.28%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

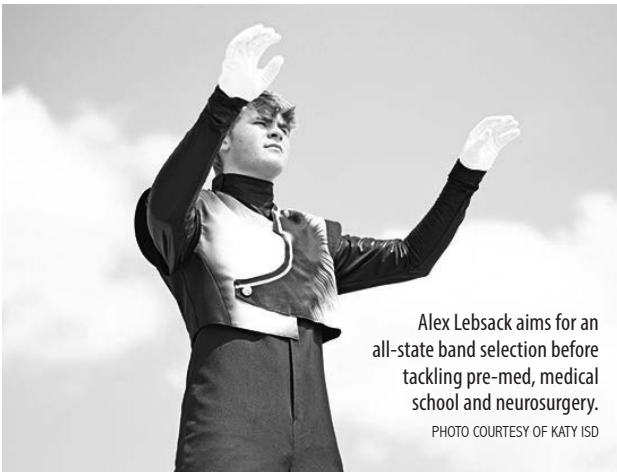
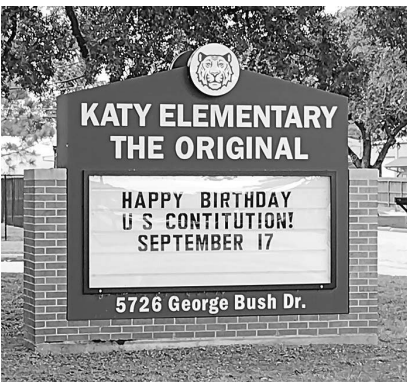
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine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

KATY ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION WEEK



Fifth graders at Katy Elementary, 5726 George Bush Drive in Katy, listen attentively on Sept. 17 as Brenda Hunter Martin (left) of the Star of Destiny Chapter of the NSDAR speaks about Constitution Week, celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Also assisting in the program were City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele (center) and Katy ISD Board of Trustees secretary James Cross (right). The NSDAR presented a bookmark to each student with a bell, which students rang for one minute precisely at 3 p.m., commemorating the signing of the Constitution at 4 p.m. in Philadelphia on Sept. 17, 1787. Top right: Katy Elementary Principal Beth Grimet displays the set of three books that the Star of Destiny chapter of the NSDAR presented to fifth grade teachers at the school on September 17, Constitution Day. Bottom right: Katy Elementary, at 5726 George Bush Drive in Katy, was one of two Katy ISD elementary schools to participate in Constitution Day on Sept. 17 in partnership with the Star of Destiny chapter of the NSDAR. The other was Creech Elementary at 5905 S. Mason, Katy.



TOMPKINS

from page 9

and charismatic personality have made him a natural-born leader. Teachers, coaches and directors took note of those traits early when he entered Tompkins as a freshman. When he and his family moved from out of state to Texas in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lebsack overcame the isolation by contacting his junior high school band director and taking virtual band classes. The classes introduced him to band and he met friends, some of whom he has the chance to lead as a drum major this year.

“There are formal auditions for leadership positions, but we start observing, seeing how kids are in class and rehearsal and around the rest of the band,” Tompkins Band Director Stephen Bond said. “Alex was on our radar pretty early as a freshman. His junior year, he was a brass captain, so he was already serving as a student leader.”

On the court, he’s a letterman and leader for the tennis team. Lebsack’s approach to his sport has made him an integral part of the team and an example to other student-athletes.

“He’s able to balance intensity and focus while being personable and approachable,” Tompkins tennis coach Renee Richardson said. “Alex is fearless about emptying his tank. He will give a task his all regardless of how much energy it’s going to consume.”

He approaches every task, including schoolwork, with the same focus and intensity.

Lebsack entered his senior year with a GPA of more than 4.6 on a weighted scale. As a tennis athlete and a drum major, his athletic period and band period only allow for four points. He is an all-A student taking AP classes with his eyes set on becoming a neurosurgeon. He said that he’s always been fascinated with how the mind functions, and that his interest in biology will keep him driven to succeed.

He thinks his involvement in band, especially the responsibilities of being a Tompkins drum major, will help him on his journey. Though he doesn’t plan on playing for a marching band in college, he is aiming for an all-state position this year at euphonium and leading the marching band to a state marching contest appearance as a drum major. These goals are in reach, and he knows it will take discipline to get there. He’s keenly aware his commitment to fine arts will help prepare him for the next level of life.

“This position gives you the foundation of being able to handle adversity, being able to make it through stressful and anxious situations,” Lebsack said. “That’s the number one thing for band — it’s not just the musicianship. I feel like I can go into life and do anything I want because I’m mentally prepared to overcome each challenge.”

A&M student from Katy advances in Mays’ AI challenge

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas A&M University’s Mays Business School has named 12 finalists in its AI Venture Velocity Challenge, narrowed from the 531 teams that initially entered the competition’s inaugural year and the 27 semifinalists announced in July.

Among the finalists is Matthew Schaefer, who is from Katy. Schaefer, a graduate of James E. Taylor High School Class of 2020, recently moved back to Katy and lives in the Morton Ranch area. His parents also live in the Katy area. He is currently pursuing his Master of Business Administration at Mays Business School with certifications in business intelligence analytics, marketing, and supply chain management.

The 12 finalists will compete Sept. 26 at Mays Business School for \$175,000 in non-dilutive funding, including a \$100,000 top prize, in a

live final open to the public.

The challenge, organized by Mays’ Center for Applied Entrepreneurship and Innovation, was built to reward a different kind of founder. Rather than scoring teams on stage presence or product demos, judges evaluate finalists against a published rubric weighing problem significance, learning velocity and experimentation rigor, how effectively teams leveraged AI, evidence of real venture progress, responsible and ethical design, and how well founders adapted when the evidence told them to.

The finalists’ ventures span industries from agriculture to healthcare to assistive technology, including a team using AI to help prevent livestock mortality on farms and another working to match cancer patients with the right clinical trials. Several finalists already have paying customers, signed letters of intent or pilot commitments, demonstrating how disciplined experimentation can lead

to tangible market validation.

Schaefer’s project is related to the company he founded and for which he now works. OsageMD is building a HIPAA-compliant case-management platform for medical lien financing workflows. The team advanced by combining held-out technical testing with direct workflow research, economic-buyer interviews, and meaningful interest in paid pilots.

At the Sept. 26 finals, each team will walk a panel of industry-leading judges, and spectators, through the assumptions they tested, the evidence they gathered, and the pivots that evidence forced.

After the finals, Mays will release a full report drawing on the public dashboard of experimentation patterns, pivot rates, and AI use across all 531 teams that entered this year, one of the most detailed public datasets to date on how student founders are actually using AI to build companies, not just talk about it.

WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX RATE

The WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT #37 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 8, 2026, at 12:00 P.M. at 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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:	Johnathan Smith, Joseph Fields, Brian Welch, Leigh Ellis III and David Moriniere
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)	\$1.50000/\$100 Adopted	\$1.50000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 381,639	\$ 377,592
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 381,639	\$ 377,592
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 5,724.58	\$ 5,663.88
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ -60.70 -1.06%	

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.

WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX RATE

The WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT #35 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 12, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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:	Victoria A. Battistini, Jaclyn Day and Tiffani S. Walker
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Ryan C. Ward and Daniel C. Feiler

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)	\$1.50000/\$100 Adopted	\$1.50000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 250,031	\$ 301,604
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 250,031	\$ 301,604
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,750.46	\$ 4,524.06
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 773.60 20.62%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

The board of directors proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of increased debt service requirements.

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

National Merit Scholarship semifinalists announced

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On September 9 officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$24 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

About 95 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by about 260 business organizations, higher education institutions, and individual donors that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Over 1.2 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2025 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

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

Semifinalists from the greater Katy area include:

FULSHEAR	Hefny, Shahd A. James, Nevin J. Jiang, Nengzhi M. Jones Anicio, Vitor Katole, Advik A. Kumar, Amrita L. Kumar, Mansa Lee, Jonathan K. Li, Alvin Li, Audrey M. Li, Justin C. Lin, Feliks Y. Long, Claire MacGregor, Jackson N. Maini, Tavish Pham, Audrey V. Sanampuri, Nayaneshwar Sankaran, Sai P. Sarkar, Aditya Stone, Christopher M. Tran, Ngoc K. Trinh, Aidan B. Wang, Karen Z. Wei, Justin Z. Xie, Grace J. Xie, Hannah J. Xie, Samuel J. Yu, Austin T. Yu, Alan Zhu, Andrew E. Zoeller-McCarthy, Elisabeth
FULSHEAR H. S. Nguyen, Kira T. Nowotny, Grant W. Wang, Dawei	JAMES E. TAYLOR H. S. Chi, Eileen Dhafer, Abdullah Genoux-Lubain, Milan A. Pu, Sunny S. Yang, Phillip J.
KATY	OBRA D. TOMPKINS H. S. Cen Chang, Fernando J. Cho, Yujin Gargya, Guhan S. Hynds, Hunter K. Khan, Asad R. Kidwai, Muhammad Shaheer Kar Kim, Taegyeom Kondaskar, Saanvi P. Lebsack, Alexander P. Nemmara, Sachith H. Ni, Sophia X. Rana, Ojas Schubert, Isabelle G. Sivasubramaniam, Nishan Yan, Nathan Yu, Maxwell B. Zimmerman, Adam N.
CINCO RANCH H. S. Chen, LuChuan Deshpande, Lakshya Di Lascio, Juan A. Lee, Nathan W. Park, Dain Shen, Allen Shin, Jacob H. Tian, Sophia L. Zhang, Valentina Zhou, Sean Z.	PRIVATE SCHOOLS
JORDAN H. S. Arunchander, Aaryan Chakrabarti, Theia Chen, Helen Chirasani, Vibhav R. Cooper, Aubrey R. Deshpande, Mohini S. Gangwar, Naisha Gijoy, Noel Hu, Jason Jhaver, Ram Kabra, Stuti Krom, Brennan A. Marquez, Brianna L. Mohammed, Sameeha Rajagopalan, Vikranth Sarkar, Rajat Siripurapu, Vishnu Tang, Maxwell I. Wu, Jessica Y. Xu, Lydia Y. Yu, Huanran Zhou, Brandon	ST. JOHN XXIII COLLEGE PREPARATORY Hoang, Giovanni Phalen, Sophia
KATY H. S. Gobar, Ethan T. Matteson, Braden R.	
PATRICIA E. PAETOW H. S. Mahad, Syed	
SEVEN LAKES H. S. Akella, Aarush N. Akella, Ainesh G. Ambike, Aditya A. Asif, Samin K. Borkar, Aditi P. Chen, Andy Damdar, Grace V. Desai, Riva S. Dong, Eric Z. Fang, Anchee Gao, Grace L. Georghiou, Melissa E. Guo, Kelvin Y. Gupta, Ananya	



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JORDAN THEATRE COMPANY

The Jordan Theatre Company will present "Anything Goes" in October at the campus's performing arts center at 27500 Fulshear Bend Drive in Fulshear.

Set sail with Jordan Theatre Company this October

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Jordan Théâtre Company at Katy ISD's Jordan High School will present "Anything Goes" during a multi-performance run in October. With an incredible score by Cole Porter and book by PG Wodehouse, Harold Lindsay, Russell Crouse and Guy Bolton, "Anything Goes" is one of Broadway's funniest and most beloved classics.

This 2022 revision, (produced in accordance with Concord Theatricals), is a funny and fast-paced romp aboard the SS American cruise liner. Mistaken identities, a love triangle, showgirls, gangsters, a wall street tycoon and a missing Pomeranian named "Cheeky" create an energetic ensemble where hilarity ensues. "Anything Goes" is Delightful, Delicious, and De-lovely!

After selecting the show for its challenging design elements, an ambitious dance requirement, and amazing music to challenge and grow the department, The Jordan Theatre Company began rehearsals with a week-long tap intensive. The show was cast a few days before school started, and they have been prepping for opening night.

The cast is led by a powerhouse of upperclassmen-seniors Kendall Smith (Reno Sweeney), Julian Rosario (Bill Crocker), Jaylin Weittenhiller (Hope Harcourt), Alex Griffith (Lord Evelyn Oakleigh), Cheyenne Sande

(Erma Latour), and junior Samuel Paz (Moonface Martin). Supporting cast includes a barbershop quartet of sailors (Shaan Syed (12th), Ian Price (8th-AJH), Rob Bechtelheimer (9th), and Micah Flood (11th) as well as Reno's showgirls "The Angels" Camila Delgado (12th), Emelie Franco (11th), Julia Amaral (11th), and Kate Bryan (10th). Jordan's "Anything Goes" features a cast and crew of 78 talented performers and technicians.

Performances at the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center, 27500 Fulshear Bend Drive in Fulshear are as follows:

- October 2 at 7 p.m.
- October 3 at 2 p.m.
- October 3 at 7 p.m.
- October 16 at 7 p.m.
- October 17 at 2 p.m.
- October 17 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Reserved seating sold online only. General admission tickets will be sold at the door.

Doors open 20 minutes prior to curtain time. Run time is approximately two hours and will feature a 15-minute intermission.

Fort tickets, scheduling, and more information please visit: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=358727>.

Later this season the JTC will bring "Spookley The Square Pumpkin The Musical," "Suite Surrender," "Shakespeare In Love," "Eurydice," and "The Importance of Being Earnest."

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The FRY ROAD MUNICIPAL UTILTIY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Fry Road Municipal Utility 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.

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FOR the proposal:	Marcy M. Martinez, James H. Roadarmel, James R. Teal and Michael L. Kramm
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	David R. Buxkamper

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)	\$ 0.32825/\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.34800/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ 0.01975/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		6.01%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 234,303	\$ 228,631
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 46,861	\$ 45,726
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 187,442	\$ 182,905
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 615.27	\$ 636.50
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 21.23 3.45%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The INTERSTATE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 11:30A.M. at the office of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Freeway, STE 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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:	James Kennedy, James P Ellis, Michelle Shen
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Joe Mattingly, Kevin Atkinson

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)	\$0.30500 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.30500 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$261,683.00	\$259,137.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$52,336.00	\$51,827.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$209,347.00	\$207,310.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$638.51	\$632.30
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-6.21 -0.97%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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

HCC to receive 2026 Genesys Works Houston Bridge Award

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston City College (HCC) has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Bridge Award, presented by Genesys Works Houston, the college system announced on August 31. The honor will be formally awarded on Oct. 2 during the annual Genesys Works Houston Ambassador's Luncheon.

The Bridge Award recognizes HCC's Coleman College for Health Sciences for demonstrating outstanding collaboration between education and industry, helping

create opportunities for students to enter high-demand fields.

"We play a vital role in strengthening Houston's healthcare workforce pipeline," said Lutricia Harrison, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, president of HCC Coleman. "Through partnerships with organizations like Genesys Works, we're helping students envision future career possibilities while providing the education, training and support needed to achieve their goals."

Genesys Works equips high school students from underserved

communities with the skills, work experience and professional relationships needed to succeed in college, career and life. HCC Coleman was selected for the award because of its commitment to workforce development and its success in preparing students for careers in healthcare through innovative partnerships, hands-on learning and strong industry engagement.

"Our goal is a future where every young person can build a successful career through workforce transformation," said Daphane Carter, executive director

of Genesys Works Houston. "HCC Coleman College is a true bridge to opportunity, giving youth the education and hands-on experience for upward mobility."

Located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center, HCC Coleman offers associate degrees and certificates in more than 20 health science fields, as well as a Bachelor of Applied Science in Healthcare Management. Visit hccs.edu/Coleman to learn more and apply.

To learn more about Genesys Works Houston and its efforts to empower students through work-

force training, career readiness and paid internship opportunities, visit genesysworks.org.

About Houston City College

Houston City College serves more than 100,000 students annually across 20 campuses throughout the region and partners with leading employers to align workforce education with industry needs, preparing students for careers that strengthen the region's economy. To learn more, visit www.hccs.edu.

HCC student mariachi ensemble debuts at Houston Mariachi Festival

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The sounds of violin, trumpets, guitarróns and audience applause filled the Wortham Theater on Aug. 28 as Houston City College's (HCC's) newly formed student mariachi ensemble, Mariachi Águilas de Oro (Golden Eagles), made its public debut at the annual Houston Mariachi Festival.

"Mariachi is more than music. It's a bridge between heritage and hope," said HCC Chancellor Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D. "Through this new ensemble, our students are finding their voice, strengthening their connection to HCC and carrying forward a tradition that reminds us that belonging is at the heart of student success."

For the musicians who took the stage alongside the University of Houston's (UH's) Mariachi Pumas, the performance was an opportunity to share culture, connect and showcase their music.

"I love to be able to express my feelings through my instrument, the violin, and being able to sing to people," said Isaías Luis Torres, lead singer and HCC mariachi group president. "I love how much the music impacts their lives. Sometimes people cry. Sometimes people laugh."

The student performance capped months of work that began with a simple idea: create



HCC Golden Eagles Mariachi Band

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE

a mariachi program to celebrate heritage and foster student engagement.

"I see this inaugural

ensemble and performance as a powerful expression of what student success can look like when culture, community and

opportunity come together," said HCC Southeast President Frances Villagran-Glover, D.A.

The club has a dozen

participants and is open to all HCC students. The ensemble is open to students regardless of major or musical experience. Current members are pursuing studies in engineering, business and other majors.

Student Josué Ramirez has performed mariachi music since he was 10 years old.

"When you are up there playing and doing something you enjoy, something magical happens that brings forth emotion and lets you release emotions as well," Ramirez said. "The audience feels that. You see it in their smiles. You see their faces in awe. You see them feel all these different emotions, and it's great to share that sort of energy."

The group's first public appearance is only the beginning. Houston City College leaders envision growing the ensemble into a formal program modeled after mariachi programs like those at local UH campuses.

Key to the launch of the group was support from the HCC Foundation. It provided funds for uniforms to ensure students perform with professionalism and pride.

"We are not just representing HCC; we are representing a culture," Luis-Torres added. "All the performers who have done it way before us have played all those beautiful notes before us. We want to continue preserving those beautiful notes."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS-FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 5 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 10:30 AM at 1300 Post Oak Blvd Suite 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	Jack R. Wells Jr, Patrice Castillo, Pat Tyson, Elizabeth Preciado
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Ron Boatman Jr

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)	\$0.31000 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.31000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$411,982.00	\$410,704.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$44,803.00	\$44,821.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$367,179.00	\$365,883.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,138.25	\$1,134.24
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-4.02 -0.35%

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 8 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.

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 465 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 12:30 PM at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston, TX 77046. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	Kimberly Lewis, Cynthia Hill, Darren O'Connor, Christopher Charboneau
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Leslie Richardson

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)	\$1.45000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.45000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$283,793.00	\$267,082.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$283,793.00	\$267,082.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$4,115.00	\$3,872.69
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-242.31 -5.89%

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 8 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.

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

TIGERS TRIUMPHANT OVER JORDAN IN HOMECOMING VICTORY



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

Homecoming was all the sweeter for Katy High School on September 18 as the Tigers defeated the Jordan Warriors 56-20.

Tompkins moves up to 22nd in TGCA state volleyball poll

FROM STAFF REPORTS

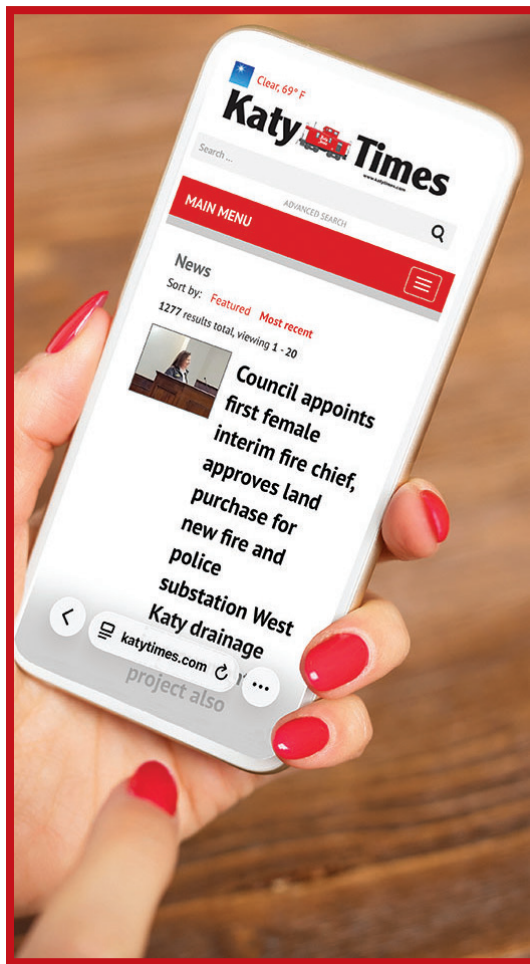
In the latest statewide volleyball poll from the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA), released on September 15, Tompkins High School moved to number 22, up from number 23 in the prior week's poll, and up from 24th out of the top 25 teams in the September 1 poll.

Here are the complete rankings for TGCA's top 25 teams in Class 6A according to the latest poll:

Class 6A

1. Lewisville Hebron 24-6
2. Duncanville 27-4
3. Allen 26-2
4. Byron Nelson 21-3
5. Klein Oak 32-3
6. Houston Memorial 25-3

7. Round Rock 23-9
8. Austin Westlake 27-7
9. Wylie 23-4
10. Tomball 22-4
11. Austin Lake Travis 28-5
12. Los Fresnos 29-2
13. McKinney Boyd 19-5
14. Tyler Legacy 19-3
15. Flower Mound 16-6
16. Plano 23-6
17. Brennan 25-6
18. Alexander 18-5
19. Churchill 25-60
20. Mansfield 26-4
21. Plano West 17-4
22. Katy Tompkins 19-5
23. North Forney 21-11
24. Cypress Ranch 22-7
25. Plano East 19-8



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AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES			
TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	SCORE
Seven Lakes	28	Morton Ranch	43
Katy	56	Jordan	20
Tompkins	29	Taylor	12
Cinco Ranch	28	Paetow	20
Mayde Creek	BYE		
Freeman	16	Iowa Colony	31
Fort Bend Willowridge	19	Royal	13

Source: Dave Campbell's Texas Football, MaxPreps

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 586 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 1:00 P.M. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 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:	Kameron Raisi, Amelia Cardona, Paula Bays, Tim Morrow, Mary Carol O'Neill	
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 \$1.50000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.50000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$0.00	\$270,474.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$0.00	\$270,474.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$0.00	\$4,057.11
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$4,057.11 0.00%

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 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

** There were no residential homesteads on either January 1, 2025 or January 1, 2026, therefore the tax that would have been imposed on a residential homestead is \$0.00. Due to this the tax election rate is not applicable for 2026 tax year.

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

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

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Damien Larson

512-797-9785 damien@bentarrow.net

THSCA announces new partnership with Teachers of Tomorrow to provide alternative teaching certification benefit

New partnership will provide THSCA members with discounted pathway to earning an alternative teaching certificate in Texas

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On September 8, the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) announced a new partnership with Teachers of Tomorrow, providing THSCA members with exclusive savings on an alternative pathway to earning a Texas teaching certificate. The partnership adds a new professional benefit to THSCA membership, giving coaches and other education professionals an affordable opportunity to pursue teacher

certification while also receiving discounted exam preparation through The Learning Liaisons (TLL). Through the partnership, current THSCA members will receive the following exclusive benefits from Teachers of Tomorrow:

- \$500 off the Teachers of Tomorrow certification program fee
- 50% off The Learning Liaisons (TLL), reducing the cost from \$50 per month to just \$25 per month
- An additional 20% off standard tuition when a school or district sponsors or provides a scholarship for the member and pays the member's tuition in full before the program begins; this discount can be combined with the \$500 THSCA member discount

The new benefit reflects THSCA's continued commitment to supporting coaches both on and off the field and providing members with resources that support them throughout their careers, the organization

said in the announcement. "Supporting coaches throughout their careers is an important part of THSCA's mission, and we're always looking for ways to provide our members with meaningful resources and opportunities," said Joe Martin, THSCA executive director. "Our partnership with Teachers of Tomorrow gives coaches another pathway to grow professionally and make an even greater impact on the students they serve. We're excited to add this opportunity to the many benefits available through THSCA membership." Teachers of Tomorrow is an alternative certification program designed to help individuals earn their Texas teaching certification while gaining experience in the classroom. Through the program, participants can pursue certification without following the traditional university-based teacher preparation route. "Teachers of Tomorrow is thrilled to

partner with the Texas High School Coaches Association to provide teacher certification pathways in support of coaches committed to serving students and athletes across Texas," said Heath Morrison, Teachers of Tomorrow CEO. "As the exclusive alternative teacher certification sponsor of the UIL, and the nation's largest alternative certification provider, Teachers of Tomorrow sees its partnership with the THSCA as the perfect fit to further our shared commitment to ensure that every student and athlete in Texas has an excellent teacher and coach. Together we will support students, coaches, and schools in achieving their academic and athletic goals at the highest level." The exclusive benefits are available to current THSCA members. More information about the Teachers of Tomorrow program and how THSCA members can access their discounts will be available in the THSCA membership portal and in member emails.

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