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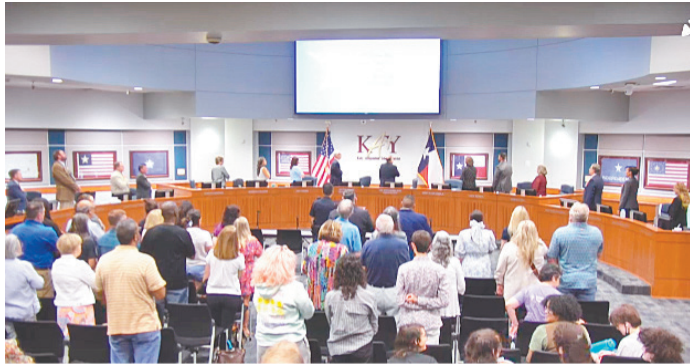
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

School board approves expansion of book policy, prohibiting 'gender fluidity' in library books

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

At its August 26 meeting, the Katy Independent School District's board of trustees voted 5 to 0, with two abstentions, to approve a proposed policy update that will eliminate library books with content related to "gender fluidity." The policy revision also requires all vendors, including those who conduct book fairs at the district, to comply with the new standard.

See **BOOKS**, page A3



FROM KATY ISD BOARD MEETING VIDEO

The boardroom at Monday night's meeting of the Katy ISD board of trustees was filled with many who wished to speak on the board's ban of library books that refer to gender fluidity issues.

Katy Pride responds to book ban

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a press release sent to the Katy Times on August 23, Katy Pride, a local nonprofit supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Katy, invited the community to join in strongly opposing the proposed EFB Policy Revision discussed and considered by the Katy ISD School Board of Trustees at the August 26th Regular

Katy ISD Board Meeting.

"This proposed change to Katy ISD's library book policy comes nearly one year to the day since the school board enacted its cruel anti-trans policy that outs trans students to their parents without their consent and allows teachers to deadname and misgender trans and

See **RESPONSE**, page A3

Waller Co. commissioners court proposes 'no new revenue' tax rate for 2025

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Hempstead, Texas — On August 21, 2022, the Waller County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to propose a 2025 county tax rate at the "no new revenue" rate. The Texas Comptroller's office defines a "no new revenue" rate as a tax rate that would produce the same amount of tax revenue in the current year as was generated from the same existing properties in the prior year. According to Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, adopting a "no new revenue rate," especially "in a year with sky-high appraisals, this should result in a significantly lower rate to offset the increased revenue caused by inflated home appraisals."

The proposed rate of \$.496021 per \$100 represents a 5.14% decrease from the 2024 county rate which was \$.522943, a reduction of \$.026922. This was made possible by budget cuts made during the 2025 county budget process, said county officials.

"I think this extremely important to highlight that if adopted, this is the third 'no new revenue' budget and tax rate passed by the County in the last five years, which shows that we are committed to reducing the property tax burden on our citizens as

much as possible while continuing to deal with inflation and growth to the greatest extent possible by effectively using new revenue from newly added properties to help meet the increasing demand for county services," said County Judge Trey Duhon.

Duhon added, "When I began as County Judge in 2015, our prior tax rate was \$.68 per \$100. With this latest tax rate cut, we have cut the county tax rate over 27% over the last 10 years, especially considering that Waller County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Texas, which places a huge strain on the county to provide services."

The 2025 County Budget that Duhon has proposed includes an additional \$1.28 million for 16 new county employees, most of which will be administrative, but also includes four new patrol deputies and two investigators in the Sheriff's Department, an additional juvenile probation officer, a new permit manager at Road & Bridge, and a procurement position.

The proposed budget also includes an additional \$1.34 million for implementation of the second

See **WALLER**, page A3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

U. S. Congressman Troy Nehls (R-T-22) (left) and State Representative Mike Schofield (center) who represents state district 132 in the Texas house, listen attentively to a question posed by moderator Charles Stein of AT&T during the panel discussion at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's annual "Congressional Update" luncheon held at Pearl & Vine, 26151 Nelson Way, Katy on August 21. Schofield stepped in to replace U. S. Congressman Morgan Luttrell (R-T-8), who was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Katy chamber hears congressional update from Nehls and Schofield

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Members of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce came together on Wednesday, August 21, at Pearl & Vine, 26151 Nelson Way in Katy, to hear a "Congressional update" from elected officials.

Congressman Troy Nehls, a Republican who represents Texas's district 22 in the U.S. Congress, was one of the featured speakers. From 2013 to 2021, he served as the sheriff for Fort Bend County before winning his seat in Congress.

Congressman Morgan Luttrell, a Republican who represents Texas's District 8 in the U.S. Congress, was scheduled to speak but had to cancel due to scheduling conflicts, chamber officials said. Standing in for Luttrell was Texas State Representative Mike Schofield, a Republican whose state district 132 covers much of the Katy area. Luttrell will be at the chamber's offices on October 17 for "Coffee and Conversation," chamber officials said.

Each speaker began with

"Drones are very useful to law enforcement, and I filed a bill to have more research done on drones for the use of law enforcement."

— U.S. CONGRESSMAN
TROY NEHLS, R-T-22

an opening statement, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Charles Stein, Corporate External Affairs Manager at AT&T, who serves on the chamber's board and chairs the organization's government affairs committee.

Nehls, who serves on the transportation and infrastructure committee in Congress, overseeing railroads and pipelines and hazardous materials, and who also sits on the Judiciary Committee, said that he is working on a lot of legislation but that nothing moves quickly in Washington. He said that he is working on a rail safety bill that "hopefully

will get a vote in the House." Schofield talked about his initiative which enables residents and companies to exit a city's extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Stein directed the conversation to three topics: public safety and education, infrastructure and healthcare and encouraged questions from the audience.

Local school districts prepare students for the workforce through career technical education (CTE), said Stein, and the use of technologies such as drones and robotics by law enforcement and first responders is on the rise, asking how Congress and the state of Texas were making it easier to train and recruit a tech-savvy generation into public safety. "Drones are very useful to law enforcement, and I filed a bill to have more research done on drones for the use of law enforcement," said Nehls. "Law enforcement is under attack, and we are losing more law enforcement officers than ever before." He recommended putting a Taser on the drones

See **UPDATE**, page A3

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City Council talks tax rate, price increase for trash pickup

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The City of Katy city council unanimously approved the proposed 2024 tax rate of \$0.425 at the August 26 city council meeting at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy. A public hearing on the rate will be held during the council's September 23 meeting.

The council also authorized an annual price adjustment with Texas Pride Disposal Solutions, LLC, to be effective September 1, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said that the new rate of \$16.69 is less than the previous \$17.87 rate under Repub-

See **CITY**, page A3

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Above: Future Tigers pose with the Katy High School mascot. Left: The national anthem was performed by the Katy High School choir.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

X-Golf tees up a back-to-school scramble on August 31 to benefit McElwain Elementary

X-Golf, located at 3329 W Grand Parkway N, Suite 100, in Katy, is hosting a back-to-school golf scramble on August 31 from 5 to 10 p.m. to benefit McElwain Elementary. Portions of the proceeds from entry fees and sponsorships will go directly to the school (which is at 6631 Greenwood Orchard in Katy, 77493) to help support their needs during the 2024-2025 school year. Along with the scramble, X-Golf will be hosting donations for school supplies, with every donor to be entered into a raffle to win a new Taylor Made Wedge club. For additional details, please contact Joe Chaisson at joe.chaisson@xgolfkaty.com.



The Bible Seminary launches 'Just Show Up' book club

The new "Just Show Up" Book Club, launched Monday, August 26 at The Bible Seminary in Katy. Join in person or online each Monday at 10:30 a.m. as the group explores and discusses books together—no homework required. Just come, listen, and share your thoughts. After the book club session, stay for a free lunch and The Public Reading of Scripture at noon at the campus at 2655 S. Mason in Katy. The first book is N.T. Wright's "Surprised by Hope" which may be purchased on Amazon. Learn more at TheBibleSeminary.edu/jsu.

Nottingham Country Elementary to host blood drive on September 9

A fall blood drive will take place at Nottingham Country Elementary School, 20500 Kingsland in Katy, on September 9 from 8 to 11:30 a.m. The donor coach, provided by the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, will be in the back NCE staff parking lot. Free socks – and a voucher for IHOP – will be provided to donors. To sign up for a slot, please visit commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo – the donor code is N237. For more information, please contact Amanda Kleinman at amandajkleinman@katyisd.org.

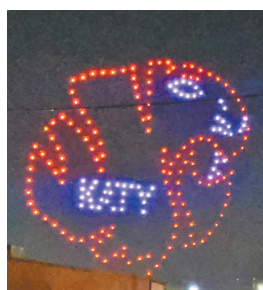


City of Katy kicks off football season with 'Champions on the Square'

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It's fall in Katy and school has started – and that means only one thing: IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON!

The City of Katy kicked off the season with its inaugural "Champions on the Square" event, held Saturday, August 24 in the historic downtown square at Second Street and Avenue C. The free celebration of Katy High School and its storied championships, emceed by special guest Carder of KSBJ's morning show, included performances by That Roarin' Band from Tigerland, the Bengal Brigade and Cheer teams, and the Katy High School Choir, as well as remarks from Coach Gary Joseph. The school's many championship trophies were on display in the Katy Civic Center in the square, and Tiger alumni as well as current athletes attended. The evening culminated in a spectacular lighted drone show sponsored and created by SkyWonder Drones.



A spectacular lighted drone show, staged by Sky Wonder Drones, was the highlight of the evening.

Below: Katy High School's championship trophies were on display inside the Katy Civic Center.



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CLUES ACROSS

- Sr. enlisted Army member
- Payroll firm
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Cooking vessel
- Cow sound
- Hairpiece
- Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
- Mother
- Remove from record
- Foolish
- Mailman
- Unit of data size
- Stirred
- Deceptive movement
- We all have one
- Direct from pasture beef animal
- A person's own self
- Helps little firms
- Deep, red-brown sea bream
- Tumbler
- A short section of a musical composition
- Young woman (French)
- Wings
- Wine bottles
- Thin layer of rock
- Opposite to
- American state
- Uncertainty about something

CLUES DOWN

- Small stem bearing leaves
- Female Bacchanalians
- Mediterranean city
- Measures electric current
- Arrived extinct
- Edible butterfish
- Causing wonder or astonishment
- Behaviors showing high moral standards
- Ancient Irish alphabets
- Footballer Newton
- Utilize
- Sum of absolute errors
- Opposite of the beginning
- Shoe company
- Algerian port city
- Girls organization (abbr.)
- Type of cell (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- When you hope to get there
- Fall behind

- Expresses distaste, disapproval
- Volume containing several novels
- Less sharp
- Food for the poor
- Having made a valid will
- Royal estates
- Relating to wings

- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Taking something through force
- Angry
- Before the present
- Showy ornaments
- Norway
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Consume
- Founder of Babism

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

UPDATE

from page A1

and using cameras and microphones on drones to communicate with suspects -- moves which could save the life of both the suspect and the officer, he said. "It has the attention at the federal level."

He added that while he was county sheriff, he had a program in the county jail, using resources from Wharton County Junior College to teach welding and "giving people a chance to succeed." Nehls also wants to expand opportunities in the railroad industry in cooperation with local community colleges and technical colleges.

Schofield said that a lot of the CTE activity in the Texas legislature is being done by his fellow representative, Gary Gates, who also represents a portion of the Katy area. Schofield stressed the importance of vocational education, stating that "we need to ensure that these folks have the pathway they need," recommending use of things like drones to get people interested in a law enforcement career.

Questions from the audience included questions about high-speed rail in Texas between Houston and Dallas. Nehls, who supports high-speed rail, said that the project had issues with eminent domain but that the U.S. was running behind other countries in the use of high-speed rail.

Stein posed a question about the declining use of rail transportation and the aging infrastructure to and from the Port of

Houston, which he said shifts the demand to trucks and impacts roadways. Stein then asked what proposals or legislation is in the works to maintain the interstate transportation system. Nehls described the dilemma faced by the highway trust fund which is funded by a tax on fuel, but which does not apply to electric vehicles. Much of the efforts at the federal level are devoted to public transit systems rather than the highway system, Nehls said. "I believe rail is the safest way to move goods," he said.

Schofield said that one of the proposed solutions to this issue is the Highway 36A initiative which would come up from Port Freeport rather than the Port of Houston. Schofield noted that "we have to continue to get out ahead of the curve" in matters such as water and electricity as well as transportation "so that people continue to come here" and attract economic growth. Along the 36A corridor, which is still being studied and being planned, "there will be traffic for you," said Schofield. "It's part of economic development."

Moving to healthcare, Stein said that national health expenditures accounted for 17 percent of the GDP in 2022, asking how baby boomers approaching retirement would be supported and how health care spending could be kept on track. "Congress isn't going to touch Social Security," said Nehls. As it related to Medicare, he

said that he didn't foresee either party coming up with a plan to "address the issues we have." Schofield said that in the coming years, the portion of the GDP devoted to health care would continue to grow. In Texas, over 80 percent of the state budget is dedicated to public education and Medicaid, and that to add additional spending on health care would have to result in spending less on education. Unlike the federal government, he said, the state cannot run at a deficit. "We have to find a way to get health care expenses under control."

On public safety, Stein asked what special measures were available to address the special challenges of the border. Schofield praised efforts by Texas Governor Greg Abbott -- an expenditure of over \$600 million -- to control the border and to slow down the amount of fentanyl entering the country as well as to reduce sex trafficking. Nehls said the borders "absolute chaos" and that he had filed a bill with Senator Ted Cruz called "Justice for Jocelyn," which seeks to improve the detention and tracking of illegal aliens entering the United States.

Stein closed the program with a reminder about the chamber's National Civics Bee program, which encourages local junior high students to understand how laws are made and who their lawmakers are.

"The addition of the new County Court-at-Law No. 2 last year has also made a significant dent in backlogged cases -- having resolved the backlog of civil cases by 79% and will now be focused on reducing the backlog of felony criminal cases in 2025."

—TREY DUHON, Waller County Judge

WALLER

from page A1

phase of the county salary study and a 3% cost of living adjustment for county employees, and a \$1 million increase in capital outlay for projects slated to be completed in 2025, including a maintenance facility for sheriff vehicles, design work on new Precinct 2 and Precinct 3 buildings, a new county fuel depot, and the addition of new buildings at the Justice Center for expansion of county departments such as environmental, the District Attorney, the District Clerk's office and County Court at Law No. 2.

This proposed budget also absorbs the remaining costs (\$930,000.00) of the employees the County added with American Rescue Plan Funds, mostly in court-related staff to deal with the backlog of cases from COVID.

"The addition of the new County Court-at-Law No. 2 last year has also made a significant dent in backlogged cases -- having resolved the backlog of civil cases by 79% and will now be focused on reducing the backlog of felony

criminal cases in 2025," said Duhon.

This budget also allocates an additional \$275,000.00 for additional indigent defense attorneys as well, which Duhon called "an ongoing unfunded mandate" since the state does not provide all of the funding needed to provide defense attorneys to the roughly 74% of defendants who are charged with a felony that request court-appointed attorneys.

The 2025 proposed budget also contains an additional \$1 million for Waller County Road & Bridge, with an increase of \$250,000.00 for bridge replacements, \$500,000.00 for professional consulting, and \$250,000.00 for additional road contract work.

A public hearing will be held on the 2025 County Budget on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the Joe Kuciemba Annex at 425 FM 1488 in Hempstead during the regularly scheduled meeting of Waller County Commissioners Court.

CITY

from page A1

lic in 2020. Councilmember Gina Hicks said that trash pickup service from the vendor had greatly improved over the past year.

In other actions, council:

- Authorized the mayor to sign a no-cost change order for a 2024 asphalt street improvement project, which will install a sidewalk on Rexora Lane between Fortuna Drive and Patna Drive.

- Authorized the mayor to sign a community development block grant for a contract for the water and sewer improvements to the City of Katy's Danover area. City engineer David Kaspar said that the environmental study is almost completed, and that construction would start in January 2025.
- Approved the creation of a

The next meeting of the city council will take place on Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

job description and salary scale for an IT director to be added to city staff, a position that will be filled after October 1, 2024. Councilmember Hicks said, "I'm excited that this is finally happening -- we've been working on it for a few years."

Via consent agenda, the council approved hotel occupancy tax grant applications from the Convention and Tourism Bureau:

- FOUND TEXAS requested a \$70,000.00 grant for full-service marketing services to enhance Katy's historic downtown square, located at Second Street

at Avenue C, for tourism-related advertising.

- Wild West Brewfest requested \$120,000.00 for tourism-related advertising and promotion of its March 27-29, 2025, event at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy.
- Major League Table Tennis, LLC, requested \$31,755.00 for a table tennis tournament to be held March 7-9, 2025, at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy.

Special recognitions were also presented:

- The Public Works Department Monster Smokers BBQ Team was recognized by Public Works director Jason Rivera for their achievement in bringing home a grand championship trophy for the second consecu-

tive year. The team was awarded first in protein, second in brisket, third in chicken, third in ribs and the overall Traveling Grand Champion Trophy at the May 22 in Alvin at the American Public Works Association Southeast Texas chapter annual BBQ cook-off where they competed against 25 other teams from area cities and municipal utility districts.

- The City Secretary's office was awarded the 2024-2025 Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Clerk Association. Becky L. McGrew presented the award to Mayor Dusty Thiele and her staff. The team qualified in all 12 award categories, meeting or exceeding the standards set by the association.

RESPONSE

from page A1

non-binary students even if their parents request their children be called by their chosen name and pronouns," said Katy Pride president Amanda Rose. "This book policy revision restricting and removing access to 'gender fluid' library books is yet another example of policies designed to target and marginalize trans and non-binary students."

The Katy ISD Policy EFB Local, states no "library material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein." Prohibiting books that "promote gender fluidity" will result in the removal of library books based solely because of the ideas expressed therein, said Rose.

"School libraries provide students with access to a wide variety of professionally curated, age-relevant, diverse, and inclusive stories that represent a range of ideas, beliefs, and perspectives," said Rose. "Parents can restrict and limit their own children's access to books, but those rights should never extend to anyone else's children. Students also hold First Amendment freedoms of their own, which school districts must be mindful of respecting. Restricting and prohibiting one specific idea, perspective, and experience, like 'gender fluidity' is wrong."

About Katy Pride LGBTQ Inc.

Katy Pride LGBTQ Inc. is a 501(c)(3) volunteer-run nonprofit organization established in 2023, with a vision of creating a community where all LGBTQ+ individuals can live authentically and safely, without persecution, judgment, hate, or fear. As an organization, its mission is to be committed to empowering the LGBTQ+ community in Katy and the surrounding areas by creating inclusive events, advocating for equality, and fostering a supportive community of acceptance and diversity.

BOOKS

from page A1

Board policy FA local already prohibits "gender fluidity" content in classrooms and instructional materials.

The change to board policy EFB local, which governs school libraries, is the addition of this text: "No materials in elementary and junior high libraries shall contain material adopting, promoting or supporting gender fluidity as defined in Local Policy FA. Material in any high school library collection that adopts, supports or promotes gender fluidity requires parental opt-in for student access." A second new section of the policy -- dealing with on-campus book fairs -- is: "All vendors selected by the District shall adhere to the District's library guidelines and Board Policy. This includes vendors and fundraisers selected for book fairs or the distribution of literature."

The current board policy FA defines "gender fluidity" as follows:

Gender Fluidity -- Any belief, theory, or ideology that:

1. Espouses the view that gender is merely a social construct;
2. Espouses the view that it is possible for a person to be any gender or no gender (i.e., non-binary);
3. Espouses the view that an individual's biological sex should be changed to "match" a gender different from that person's biological sex; and
4. Supports hormone therapy or other medical treatments or procedures to temporarily or permanently alter a person's body so that it "matches" a gender different from that person's biological sex.

During the public comment period, approximately 23 speakers voiced their opinions on the change, with 13 in favor of the revision and 19 opposed. Four other speakers focused on other topics including the proposed revisions to federal Title IX policies, the district budget, the district's new use of Chromebooks and water usage by the district.

The agenda item for the change to EFB local, originally part of the consent agenda, was pulled from the consent agenda by board president Victor Perez for further discussion. Perez began with an overview of the need for the policy, saying, "The focus and rationale for the proposed policy amendments is that gender fluidity materials are complex, potentially confusing and should be addressed with parental guidance and are therefore not educationally suited for the lower grades. The material is difficult to understand and potentially invades the sphere of parents." Perez also questioned the "age appropriateness" of the materials.

Trustee Dawn Champagne opened the discussion by saying that she didn't believe in teaching "gender fluidity" but that she was worried that the policy change would potentially bring lawsuits against the district, and that the policy was so broad that it was unclear and subject to individual interpretation.

"Is Winnie the Pooh a boy or girl?" she asked. At her request, Perez read the board policy definition of "gender fluidity" as stated in board documents. Champagne also said that it was unclear how the policy update would be implemented, and Perez responded that he trusted KISD staff to adhere to the policy.

Trustee Rebecca Fox said that the board room was crowded during the night's meeting with people on both sides concerned about the change and that the subject had received lots of media attention since the work-study meeting on August 19. "The discussion creates headlines and paints Katy ISD in a negative way," she said. "I am done talking about library books," she said, calling for the board to return its attention to other matters such as CTE education, the teacher retention bonus program and other priorities. She said that the policy was redundant and not needed.

Both Fox and Champagne abstained from the vote, with trustees Perez, Amy Thieme, Morgan Calhoun, Mary Ellen Cuzela and Lance Redmon voting in favor of the updated policy.

Via consent agenda, the board approved previously discussed design changes to the campuses at Katy High School, Nottingham Country Elementary and Cimarron Elementary. The official budget for KISD for the 2024-2025 school year was also approved, among other items.

The next meetings of the KISD board of trustees are scheduled as follows:

- Work study meeting, September 16 at 5 p.m.
- Regular board meeting, September 23 at 5 p.m.
- Special board meeting (team building), October 8 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Encounter Church of Katy
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Image of Mark Chapman, Teckids representative.

As Katy's F3 "The Station" celebrates third anniversary, impact is profound

BY DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

When Jim Davidson first attended an F3 workout with "The Station" group in Old Town Katy, he did so only to placate a buddy's persistent pestering.

"I'm going to come out just so I can check this box and I showed up," recalled Davidson, 45. "I had these pre-existing thoughts that this would be something I wouldn't enjoy. The way he described it, it sounded extreme, a very macho environment. It sounded like CrossFit."

What was reaped was more than could have been imagined.

"What I've gotten from it over time is the satisfaction of being able to serve others," Davidson said. "Being able to witness change in men's lives."

Before Rocky Blair, 46, attended his first session late last summer, he'd been invited multiple times by Chris Garcia over the previous 18 months. Blair always offered an excuse or reason



Members of "The Station" F3 group in Old Town Katy pose for a photo after a morning workout.

not to go.

A desire to improve his physical fitness was enough for Blair to finally show up at Katy City Park on a humid morning August 24, 2023, marking the group's two-year anniversary. But, like

Davidson, Blair found more. "It just let you know there was something for everyone," Blair said. "I didn't feel out of place."

Stories like Davidson and Blair's are common. It's why "The Station" is one of

the fastest growing regional groups for F3, a national network of workouts led by peers, open to men over the age of 18.

The network started in North Carolina and continues to grow all over the country. Involvement for F3, which is predicated upon fitness, fellowship and faith, is on a volunteer basis and free of charge.

On Saturday, Aug. 24, "The Station," which has a steady membership of 25-30 men, celebrated its three-year anniversary. More than 100 men, including most from surrounding Katy groups, were expected to show up at Katy City Park at 6:30 a.m. for exercise, coffee, doughnuts, breakfast tacos and bonding.

"What I ended up getting was so much more," Garcia said of his decision to join in December 2021. "It brought the fellowship part that maybe you get in high school in the locker room or in college with buddies, but as you become an adult, you've got your life, family and work, and you can lose some of that (fellowship). This really brought it back and filled a hole that I didn't know that I had."

Garcia, a Katy native who graduated from Katy High, is now group leader of "The Station." Davidson, also a Katy native who attended the inaugural workout of "The Station" in August 2021, preceded him.

"The Station" group meets four times a week. Sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday begin at 5:15 a.m. and last 45 minutes. Saturday's sessions begin at 6:30 a.m. and last an hour.

Since its inception three years ago, "The Station" has spawned multiple groups in the Katy area, including Cane Island, Firethorne, Elyson, Christ the King and Kingsland Baptist north.

"At an individual level,



COURTESY OF F3 "THE STATION" FACEBOOK PAGE

Members of "The Station" F3 group in Old Town Katy help repair a fellow member's fence following a hurricane earlier this year.

it's immeasurable," said Davidson, now a regional leader for the F3 network. "You better a man's life, and that's hard to quantify."

There are leadership positions within every F3 group, such as a fellowship leader and a fitness leader. The men serving those roles rotate every 8-12 months.

"The development and progression through the whole program is about volunteering to lead," Blair said. "The confidence-builder is you show up to work out and get in shape, and the next thing you know you're volunteering for an opportunity to lead a group of men for an exercise workout, and that transpires into your family life and your professional life."

The peer-led workouts are a mix of calisthenics, body weight exercises and high-intensity training with cardio, focusing on different movements promoting cardiorespiratory endurance and muscle strength.

The youngest member of "The Station" is an 18-year-old recent high school graduate. The oldest is 70 years old.

Blair, who grew up in Humble and recently moved to Katy but has served the community the last eight years as part of Rotary Club of Katy, said his overall physical fitness has "improved tremendously."

"When I started, it was embarrassing for a former athlete and a veteran," said Blair, who served in the military for 10 years. "It was hard for me to keep up with all the repetitions or all the movements. My cardiovascular and respiratory fitness were really low. So, now, yeah, I'm definitely not at the front of the pack, but I'm certainly at the middle of the pack."

The group's influence goes well beyond getting in shape.

When it recently visited Camp Hope, a housing rehabilitation program for

veterans struggling with addiction, veterans expressed how much it meant that the group invested in them with workouts, doughnuts and conversation.

There are multiple testimonies from members of how the group saved marriages.

Earlier this year, when asked how F3 has impacted their lives, some members said they were not sure they'd still be alive if it weren't for the group.

"Yes, we work out, and the workouts are hard and it's early," Davidson said. "But it is a men's group masquerading as a workout group."

Garcia said it is a brotherhood.

When some of the members lost fences during the hurricane earlier this year, others did not hesitate to help rebuild them.

"It's a sense of community that you don't get, especially in this day and age where everything is so fast-paced and all you see are snippets on social media," he said. "It's real, true, raw relationships that are being built."

When Blair moved to Katy in January, he reached out to fellow members of the group for help. Twelve showed up, and in a two-hour window Blair and his wife were moved from their old house nine miles away to their new one.

"We can call on one another in times of hardship," Blair said. "Physical fitness can lead to a lot more mental and emotional confidence, but what really drives it here is you've got a very mixed group of men from different backgrounds, occupations and age levels that do these workouts, and it's the challenge of getting through it together."

"Organically, over time, you start to build camaraderie, strong friendships and a sincere interest in one another," he said. "It's very profound."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 5 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 10, 2024 at 4:30 pm at Willow Fork Country Club, 21055 Westheimer Parkway, 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:	Bruce C. Thornton, Kenneth Earl Jackson, William R. Fleming, and Kevin L. Wagner
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	H. Russell "Russ" Van Brunt

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)	\$0.3550/\$100 Adopted	\$0.3100/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.04500
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-12.68%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$486,496	\$532,924
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$97,299	\$106,585
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$389,197	\$426,339
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,381.65	\$1,321.65
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		-\$60.00 -4.34%

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.

Katy Times

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Temporary injunction granted against massage establishments suspected of human trafficking

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has obtained a temporary injunction prohibiting nine massage establishments located in the Houston and Beaumont areas and owned by Hsin Wei Chen, aka Andy Chen, or Andrew Chen, from continuing to operate, the agency said in an August 19 press release. The temporary injunction also prevents Chen from operating or owning any other massage establishment in the state.

The temporary injunction was issued on August 14 by visiting Judge Donnie Burgess, sitting in the 345th District Court in Austin. TDLR sought the temporary injunction after Chen failed to comply with an emergency order issued by the Department on May 30, 2024, which required immediate closure of establishments licensed under his name. A hearing for a permanent injunction is scheduled for September 30.

TDLR, with the assistance of the Texas Office of the Attorney General, also sought the temporary injunction because Chen has continued to operate massage establishments instead of permanently leaving the massage industry as he'd agreed to in a June order entered into after

the emergency closure order was issued. The temporary injunction keeps Chen from owning, operating, managing, engaging in, working in, or being employed by massage establishments in Texas. If Chen continues to operate massage establishments or work in the massage industry, he could be held in contempt of court and face fines and/or jail time.

"We appreciate the assistance of the Texas Office of the Attorney General in this matter," said Courtney Arbour, TDLR executive director. "Massage establishment owners who are suspected of human trafficking should know that TDLR will pursue other enforcement actions when an owner continues to operate after agreeing to a permanent license revocation or receipt of an emergency closure order."

TDLR issued the May 30 emergency closure order against one of Chen's establishments, Foot Reflexology Star, 10801 Spring Cypress Rd., Ste. 12, Houston, when TDLR inspectors found reasonable cause that human trafficking could be happening at the establishment. Chen has had a previous enforcement case with TDLR involving similar conduct.

In a June 2024 agreed order, Chen agreed to close all massage establishments licensed in his name and to per-

manently leave the massage industry. The nine massage establishments licensed under his name include these locations in or near the Katy area:

- L&P Massage LLC, 2808 Hwy 6 S., Ste. IA, Houston
- Ly Massage, 17802 W. Little York Rd., Ste. D, Houston

The emergency closure order issued in May 2024 was the first emergency closure ordered by TDLR under authority granted by House Bill 3579, authored by Rep. Ben Bumgarner and sponsored by Sen. Phil King, and passed by the 88th Texas Legislature. Under the law, which went into effect on Sept. 1, 2023, TDLR's executive director can issue an emergency order halting the operation of any massage establishment if law enforcement or TDLR believes human trafficking is occurring at the establishment.

Anyone who suspects human trafficking is occurring can contact the National Hotline for Human Trafficking at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733). If the situation is an emergency or you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911 and alert the authorities.

You can also file a complaint on a TDLR-regulated business that you suspect may be participating in human trafficking at tdlr.texas.gov/complaints/.

Katy Responds announces addition of new board member

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy Responds, a local nonprofit whose mission is to repair homes for the most vulnerable in the Katy community, announced its most recent addition to the Board of Directors on August 22.

Scott Denton is the Global Pastor at Newlands Church (formerly Gateway Church Houston) and joined the Katy Responds Board of Directors in August 2024.

Denton has served in educational, non-profit and pastoral leadership positions for the past 27 years. He and wife Amy have four children and they reside in Sugar Land. He is also a licensed real estate agent and has served with Katy Responds in various projects over the past two years.

Katy Responds began operations in 2018 following Hurricane Harvey and the mission is to repair homes and restore hope in the community for those families who are the most vulnerable. Katy Responds has restored homes for 300+ families and continues to assist homeowners with much needed home repairs. To learn more, visit katyresponds.org or contact the group at 281-305-8545 or email info@katyresponds.org.



SCOTT DENTON

The Katy Times Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

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Hope Impacts celebrates 10 years of impact on Katy-area homelessness at first-ever gala

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

“We are all just one life event away from being homeless.”

“No one ever thinks it is going to happen to them.”

“It can happen to anyone.”

It happened to Tina Hatcher and her husband Scott and their four children – even though they were homeowners with good jobs, after Scott was laid off from a company where he had worked for 25 years. Hatcher told her personal story of their family’s multi-year struggle with homelessness on Thursday, August 22, at the first-ever gala for Hope Impacts, an organization she founded in 2014 to help the homeless in the Katy area.

Since its inception, the nonprofit has helped over 250 individuals go from homeless to housed, ranging from an 18-year old exiting the Child Protective Services system to an 83-year-old man. Hope Impacts regularly renders services to over 210 other individuals who are currently homeless.

“A majority of the people we serve don’t want to be homeless,” said Hatcher. “We do not enable someone who doesn’t want help.”

Hope Impacts is not a shelter or a rehab program. Through its partnerships and resources, including working with the Harris County Sheriff’s office, the organization provides services and connections for the homeless who are desiring changes in their lives, include referrals to medical and dental care, mentoring programs, housing



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Executive Director Tina Hatcher, who founded Hope Impacts in 2014 in order to help the homeless population in Katy, speaks at the organization’s first-ever gala on August 22 at Palacio Maria, 21728 Highland Knolls in Katy. Hatcher described the history of the nonprofit and outlined its plans for future expansion.

assessments, personal ID and documentation, job training and other classes, and more. Direct services include some transportation services, client advocacy, a mailing address, computer use, limited use of onsite laundry facilities, food packs, showers, clothes and shoes, sleeping bags and backpacks.

“Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect,” said Hatcher in her gala address. “We love people where they are, but too much to leave them there.” Hatcher said the organization takes a holistic approach with each client, treating the mind, body, and soul and spirit.

Keynote speaker Aaron Groff, former mayor of Fulshear and a consultant who guided the Hope Impacts board of directors in their strategic planning, said in his address that estimates of homelessness are under-re-

ported, noting that in Fort Bend County, over 6,500 children “don’t have a bed to call their own.” He focused on the rising costs of housing, noting that home ownership is becoming less affordable.

Hope Impacts has weathered Hurricane Harvey, COVID, the 2021 freeze, Hurricane Beryl, resistance from area residents living in the neighborhood near the nonprofit’s offices and other significant disruptions but has continued to deliver services throughout those challenges. Hatcher said that the need continued to grow in the Katy area, and Hope Impacts is now in need of more office space, more staff, more volunteers and more resources in order to meet that need. Hatcher’s dream is to have “sustainable solutions,” including a permanent housing community, such as a “tiny house” community or other form of housing.

The nonprofit receives no state or federal funding but is dependent on private donations and partnerships. In addition to monetary donations, Hope Impacts is always in need of men’s medium and large Tshirts, men’s pants sizes 30-34, baseball caps, new socks, bottled water and Gatorade. Donated items may be dropped off at 802 Dominion Suite 900 in Katy Monday through Thursday by appointment (call 713-705-7884 before going to the office). Meal donations for the weekly “Supper and Showers” held each Thursday at Crossroad Church are also needed.

For more information, go to hopeimpacts.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMBER'S DESIGNS

Amber’s Designs, which has served the jewelry needs of the Katy community since 2001, broke ground on May 29 for a new two-story building which is scheduled for completion in 2025.

Amber’s Designs and Fine Jewelry breaks ground for new building

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Amber Gustafson, the owner of Amber’s Designs and Fine Jewelry in Katy, announced on August 12 the official groundbreaking for the store’s new building to be located at 5510 Roberts Road in Old Town Katy. The actual groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 29.

The new 5,200 square foot two story structure will feature an expanded jewelry showroom on the first floor with a large glass window showcasing master bench jewelers at work. The second floor will be dedicated to an additional jewelry studio workspace and corporate offices. The new facility will feature state of the art jewelry technology, as well as security features. Construction completion is scheduled for mid-year 2025.

Amber’s Designs, currently located at 722 Pin Oak, has been a well-respected business in Katy since 2001,

known for its involvement and dedication to the community., Amber’s offers exceptional service with an emphasis on customer satisfaction, said a company representative in a press release. As a Master Jeweler, Ms. Gustafson’s and her team of 15 have won many jewelry design awards and her loyal customers have come to appreciate her high level of professional expertise. Amber’s is Katy’s hometown jewelry store, offering custom design work, a wide range of fine jewelry, jewelry and watch repair and appraisals, all performed in house, on location.

Gustafson has been a Bench Jeweler since 1979, is an active member of multiple state and national jewelry trade organizations and is presently serving as the President of The Texas Jeweler’s Association.

For further information, please visit ambersdesigns.com or contact the store at 281-391-6333 or amber@ambersdesigns.com.

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Roosevelt Alexander Elementary teacher named ATPE Elementary Teacher of the Year



NICOLE NEEDHAM

Texas' largest educator association honors Nicole Needham

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nicole Needham, a kindergarten teacher at Katy ISD's Roosevelt Alexander Elementary, was recently named

the 2024 Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), the organization announced in an August 20 press release. Needham was presented with the award July 10 during the 2024 ATPE Summit at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel at 400 Olive Street in Dallas.

"This award is an extreme honor and a testament to all the amazing students and educators whom I encounter daily," Needham said. "I am fortunate

to be surrounded by an outstanding team within my district, as well as within my own family. Over the course of my 25 years as a kindergarten teacher, my mother, father, sister, and husband—all educators themselves—have been a continual source of inspiration, support, and encouragement."

Needham recently celebrated 25 years of dedicated service teaching kindergarten, which she said is her true passion. For the past 18 years,

she has taught at Roosevelt Alexander Elementary at 6161 S. Fry Rd. in Katy. Her teaching career began in 1999 at Outley Elementary in Alief ISD under the guidance of her former elementary school principal.

"We are proud and excited to be able to recognize outstanding educators who have shown their commitment to furthering public education," ATPE Executive Director Shannon Holmes said.

Katy ISD students earn honors at national business conference

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

More than a dozen future entrepreneurs and leaders from Katy ISD earned awards at this year's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference, held this summer in Orlando, Florida, the district announced in an August 23 press release.

Among the honors earned by district students, Seven Lakes High School students Archana Arangil, Siri Ramineni and Akshitha Varre earned first place in Business Plan, and Tompkins High School student Keerthana Thatikonda earned first place in Word Processing.

"It is great to have so many of our students honored at the national conference, which is attended by thousands of students each year," said Jeannie Knierim, Career and Technical Education Director for Katy ISD. "Congratulations to our CTE teachers as well for supporting these young leaders."

Other awards earned by Katy ISD students include:

Cinco Ranch High School

- Rebecca Jung – 9th Place in Client

Service

- Tiffany Kim – 10th Place in Website Coding and Development

Jordan High School

- Jeffrey Au – 7th Place in Advertising
- Jaiden Suh – 7th Place in Introduction to Business Communication
- Mateo Nigrinis – 8th Place in Supply Chain Management

Seven Lakes High School

- Nikhil Bharadwaj – 6th Place in Personal Finance
- Shiva Uppaladinni – 6th Place in Supply Chain Management

Tompkins High School

- Chimamanda Agbaroji – 7th Place in Accounting II
- Madison Huang – 8th Place in Business Communication
- Emily Powell – 9th Place in Introduction to FBLA

FBLA is the largest business organization for junior high and high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, boasting more than 200,000 members.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

The JROTC program at Royal High School has been nominated as a Naval Honor School for its fourth consecutive year.

RHS Marine Corps Junior ROTC designated as a 'Naval Honor School' for fourth consecutive year

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The JROTC program at Royal High School has been nominated as a Naval Honor School for its fourth consecutive year, Royal ISD announced in an August 19 press release.

The selection is based on several criteria, including the number of cadets active in school activities and clubs, the number of community service hours for the unit as a whole and per cadet, the number of organizations assisted by the unit, and scholastic achievements. The programs are measured by participation in public affairs events, community service, drill/color guard team competitions, marksmanship competitions, academic competitions, leadership camps, physical fitness team competitions, field trips, and enlistment in service. Programs are also evaluated on the professionalism of cadets, JROTC Instructors, classroom management, and the leadership development of our cadets.

Lastly, compliance evaluation is a critical element in the selection process.

Because of this prestigious status, cadets will have the opportunity to send nominations to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Military Academy at West Point. The award also provides students who have a desire to join a service academy with the significant advantage of earning recommendation letters from their Senior Marine JROTC instructor, which carries just as much weight as a letter from a U.S. Representative or Senator, the district said.

"This recognition means that our Royal ISD has one of the best Marine Corps JROTC programs in the country, an honor that was achieved by the hard work of Falcon cadets and leadership by Royal JROTC Instructors," said a spokesperson for the district. "Gunnery Sergeant McGill and First Sergeant Bland would like to extend many thanks to everyone who supports the Royal MJROTC program and cadets."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 2 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 10, 2024 at 9:00 am at The Fellowship, 22765 Westheimer Parkway, 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: Bruce Thomas, Rebecca Butler, Dan Barth

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Gary Winkler, Julie Haddix

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)	\$0.2700/\$100 Adopted	\$0.2500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.02000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.41%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$492,863	\$539,684
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$492,863	\$539,684
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,330.73	\$1,349.21
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$18.48 1.39%

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.

Registration now open for Katy ISD's fall community education classes

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Ready to embrace a new challenge or pick up a new hobby this fall? Registration is now open for Katy ISD's Community Education classes, offering a wide array of opportunities for personal growth and enrichment, the district said in an August 19 press release.

Classes kick off on September 9 and, for the first time, all classes will be offered virtually. This new format provides greater flexibility and convenience, allowing participants to join from anywhere. Enrollment is open to adults 18 and older.

Discover the extensive selection in the Fall 2024 Online Course Catalog, featur-

ing multi-week classes in drawing, dance, health and wellness, and culinary arts that help participants build new skills. The district also provides single-night courses focused on specific interests, such as business and finance and retirement and long-term planning. Most classes offer certificates of completion, highlighting participants' commitment and accomplishments. The catalog of courses may be viewed at katyisd.org/site/default.aspx?DomainID=3827.

Registration is now available online through the Katy ISD Pay N' Go system. For more information or assistance, please contact the Community Education Department at 281-396-6365.

The Katy Times will be closed on

Labor Day Sept. 2, 2024

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

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

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

Katy Times

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KISD 'Partners in Education' announces opportunities for community connection

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD's Partners in Education division (PIE) has announced its annual calendar of events for the 2024-2025 school year. The department works to build relationships between the school district and local businesses in the area, as well as with community members.

Partnership programs scheduled for the 2024-2025 school year include:

- Open House, Thursday, October 10, 8:30 to 10 a.m. (check in starts at 7 a.m.) Community Rooms at Legacy Stadium, 1830 Katyland Drive in Katy. Come learn, network and connect with community and business liaisons from each Katy ISD campus.

- Promise to Read, November 4-15. Location TBA. This program ignites imagination, connects generations, and models both leadership and service. Location TBA.

- VIP BCP Showcase, February 19, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Location TBA. Join Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) campus liaisons and district volunteer leaders to learn how you can support the needs of specific KISD campuses.

- Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5 - 9. The PIE department is compiling a list of deals, treats and goodies to share with teachers in order to show them how much they are loved.

For information on these programs, please contact Lauren Slovisky at laurenslovisky@katyisd.org or 281-396-2428.

Harris Co Precinct 4 partners with Boys & Girls Club to offer free after school programs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones has partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Houston to offer free after-school programming for students in the Katy, Sharpstown, and Cypress areas, her office announced in an August 22 email.

Locations where the program will be available include:

- Radack Community Center (18650 Clay Rd, Houston 77084)
- Weekley Community Center

(8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress 77433)

- Bayland Community Center (6400 Bissonnet St, Houston 77074)

The program will start on September 3, and registration is required.

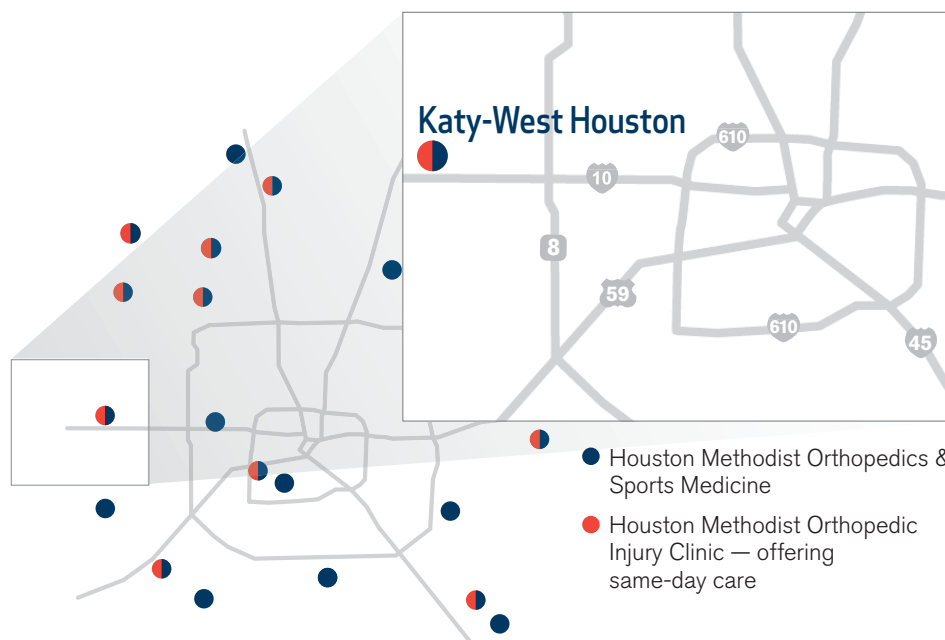
"This is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in fun and educational activities after school," the precinct office said in the email. "However, spots are limited, so we encourage you to act quickly."

Register for the program at bgcgreaterhouston.my.site.com/portal/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fportal%2Fs%2F.



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Jordan's Marsh commits to Michigan in ceremony honoring dad

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Andrew Marsh didn't pick just any random day for his commitment ceremony.

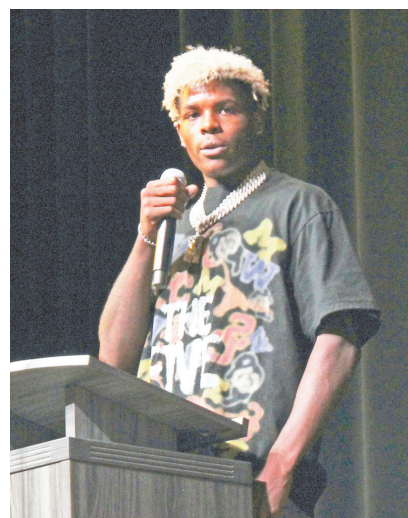
For Marsh, Aug. 20 was much more than a day for him to announce where he will attend college. Marsh chose the 20th because it is his father's birthday and he wanted to honor the man who had helped get him to this point.

Marsh's father passed away 10 years ago from cancer, but the lives he affected were all across the room at the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center on Tuesday. That room erupted in cheers when Marsh told them he was committing to the University of Michigan to continue his academic and athletic career.

"It meant so much to me to do this today," Marsh said. "He's a big part of my life and a big reason why I do what I do. To be able to honor him today and let people know what he means to me means everything."

Marsh chose Michigan over the University of Texas, University of Washington, University of Southern California and the University of Colorado. Even with the coaching staff changes the four star wide receiver who is ranked as one of the top 10

See **MARSH**, page B8



TYLER TYRE

Andrew Marsh talks to the crowd at the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center before announcing his commitment to Michigan.

WEEK OF AUGUST 30

SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Thursday

• Jordan at Cy-Creek, 6:30 p.m. at Pridgeon Stadium

Friday

• Paetow vs. Langham Creek, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
• Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, 7 p.m. at Tully Stadium
• Tompkins at Cy-Ranch, 7 p.m. at Berry Center
• Katy at Dickinson, 7 p.m. at Sam Vitanza Stadium
• Morton Ranch at Aldine Nimitz, 7 p.m. at Thorn Stadium
• Mayde Creek vs. Fort Bend Travis, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Saturday

• Taylor vs. Cy-Woods, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
• Cinco Ranch vs. The Woodlands, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday-Saturday

• Cinco Ranch, Jordan, Seven Lakes at Volleypalooza Tournament
• Katy at Fraulein Fest Tournament
• Morton Ranch at Sweeny Tournament

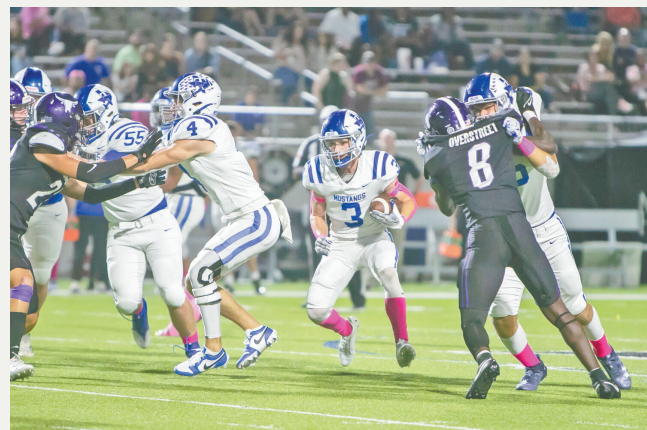
Friday

• Taylor vs. Langham Creek, 5:30 p.m.
• Mayde Creek at Cy-Ridge, 5:30 p.m.
• Paetow at Sterling, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Katy ISD Week One Previews



Fun matchups kick off season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

**All games non-district*

THURSDAY

Jordan at Cy-Creek, 6:30 p.m. at Pridgeon Stadium

Last year: Did not play
• Jordan starts off the year with a good matchup that will showcase the Warriors' new group after losing their first big senior class to graduation.

The Warriors have a strong returning group on both sides of the ball, with a strong defense and some huge skill at

running back and wide receiver. The Warriors have had a quarterback battle through the start of fall camp and both Domenic Cangolosi and Beau Bryant will try to stake a claim for that starting spot in the game, while it will show how the other parts of the team have improved.

Cy-Creek comes off a 3-7 season, where the Cougars finished fifth in district. They have a new coach this year in Deveon McKinney, who comes over from North Shore and they have some pieces to be competitive this year that may make it a good game. Garland Wilburn rushed for over 1000 yards last year and returns for his junior

season and Ethan Wright is a weapon at receiver that will test the Jordan secondary. The defense has a good line that is led by Marlon Cook. Overall it looks like a very exciting game to start the year for a Warriors side that is determined to compete for a playoff spot for the second straight season.

FRIDAY

Paetow vs. Langham Creek, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Did not play
• Paetow thinks they have a real shot to improve this year

Clockwise from top: Gunner Nelson gets ready for the snap during a game between Katy and Clear Springs at Rhodes Stadium. Zechariah Sample jumps to make a catch during a game between Jordan and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium. Ethan Jacobson looks for a hole to run through during a game between Taylor and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium. The Tompkins Falcons take the field for a high school football game between Morton Ranch and Tompkins on October 13, 2023, in Katy.

FILE PHOTOS

See **PREVIEW**, page B3

Katy ISD adopts Texas Way Sportsmanship Initiative to encourage positive sports play

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD joined a large group of school districts throughout the state to participate in the Texas Way Sportsmanship Initiative, urging competitors, coaches and spectators to provide sportsmanship and positivity during athletic contests this school year.

"With Katy ISD Fall Sports in full swing, we want to applaud our athletes, parents and spectators for an excellent start to the season," a Katy ISD Department of Athletics Statement said. "It has always been the Katy ISD Athletic Department's expectation that spectators, at any athletic contest, promote sportsmanship and provide positive verbal support for their team. We will always seek to provide a great experience for all athletes, spectators and officials through a safe and positive environment for competition."

The goal of the Texas Way is to provide good sportsmanship and a positive competitive envi-



PHOTO BY TYLER TYRE

Cinco Ranch players celebrate with Lucas Franco after an area round game between Cinco Ranch and Stratford at Cy-Lakes.

See **TEXAS WAY**, page B6



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

A fan takes a cell-phone photo as Houston offensive lineman Shamar Hobby-Lee (58) reacts after a game-winning 'Hail Mary' pass seals a victory for Houston and fans storm the field following an NCAA college football game between the Houston Cougars and the West Virginia Mountaineers on October 12, 2023. Houston won, 41-39.

UH hires Eddie Nuñez as new Athletic Director

STAFF REPORT

Eddie Nuñez has been named Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Houston, joining the Cougars after successfully holding leadership positions at the University of New Mexico and LSU. Nuñez most recently served as Vice President/Director of Athletics at UNM. He emerged as the leading candidate after an extensive national search that prioritized finding an innovative leader capable of building a nationally competitive, financially strong program during a transformative time.

Nuñez was formally introduced as Athletics Director by UH President Renu Khator and Board of Regents Chairman Tilman Fertitta at a press conference on Aug. 21, at noon in the TDECU Stadium Club.

"Eddie Nuñez brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success during a time of great transformation in college athletics," said President Renu Khator. "His leadership will be critical as we continue to elevate our athletics programs, enhance the student-athlete experience and build on the tremendous momentum at the University of Houston."

"Eddie has demonstrated incredible tenacity and leadership during his many years at LSU and as AD at New Mexico. He knows how to manage complex issues and solve problems," said Fertitta. "He joins a strong Cougars program with great head coaches already in place which will allow him to focus on raising revenue and planning for the future of UH Athletics."

During his tenure at UNM, Nuñez oversaw significant success both on and off the field. Under his leadership, the Lobos secured 53 NCAA Tournament appearances, 22 Mountain West Conference titles, and numerous academic accolades, including leading the Mountain West in academic honors. He also spearheaded the development of the New Mexico Mutual Champions Training Center and restructured key partnerships to ensure the long-term financial success of UNM Athletics.

"I am incredibly honored to join the University of Houston and lead the Cougars during this exciting time," said Nuñez. "I look forward to building on UH's strong foundation of athletic and academic excellence, and I am committed to providing our student-athletes with the resources and support they need to succeed both on the field and in the classroom. I want to personally thank President Khator and Chairman Fertitta for their trust and the incredible opportunity."

Nuñez also brings Power 5 experience from his 14 years at LSU, where he oversaw



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston fans cheer during a Big 12 Conference football game between the Houston Cougars and the Texas Longhorns on October 21, 2023 in Houston, Texas won, 31-24.

"I look forward to building on UH's strong foundation of athletic and academic excellence, and I am committed to providing our student-athletes with the resources and support they need to succeed both on the field and in the classroom."

—**EDDIE NUÑEZ**,
Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Houston

\$400 million in facility renovations and construction and led the renegotiation of a 10-year multimedia rights agreement.

"Eddie has spent much of his career living just few hours away in Baton Rouge, so he knows Houston and has many connections to the city. I know he will hit the ground running," added Fertitta.

A former college athlete, Nuñez played basketball at the University of Florida and served as a graduate assistant at Florida before beginning his administrative career at Vanderbilt University. He holds degrees from Miami-Dade Community College and the University of Florida and is married to Jane Hess, with whom he has two daughters, Elizabeth and Anna.

"I am incredibly excited for Eddie, whom I have known for close to 30 years, and University of Houston. This is an outstanding hire in my opinion. Eddie is an incredibly talented administrator with a wealth of experience," said University of Florida Director of Athletics Jeremy Foley. "He is an even better person, and he will do an excellent job leading the Houston program."



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

A general view of a sold-out TDECU Stadium during a Big 12 Conference football game between the Houston Cougars and the Texas Longhorns on October 21, 2023 in Houston, Texas won, 31-24.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.496021 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the Commissioners Court of Waller County.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.496021 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.492082 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.511316 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Waller County from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Waller County may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Waller County is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 18, 2024 at 9:00 AM at the Waller County Joe Kuciemba Annex located at 425 FM 1488 in Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Waller County is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Commissioners Court of Waller County at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:
AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

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.

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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Waller County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Waller County, Texas this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.522943	\$0.496021	decrease of -0.026922 per \$100 or -5.15%
Average homestead taxable value	\$243,850	\$275,614	increase of 13.03%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,275.20	\$1,367.10	increase of 91.90, or 7.21%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$58,000,498	\$62,676,286	increase of 4,675,788, or 8.06%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures

The Waller County spent \$205,573 from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 on indigent health care compensation expenditures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$55,606. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.000475/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the Tax Assessor for Waller County at 730 9th Street in Hempstead Texas 77445, phone 979-826-7620, email: e.shelburne-tax@wallercounty.us or visit <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/TAC.Main> for more information.



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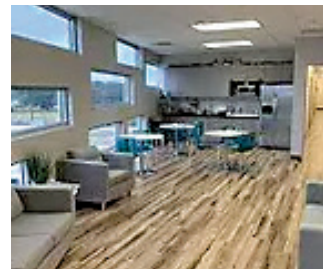
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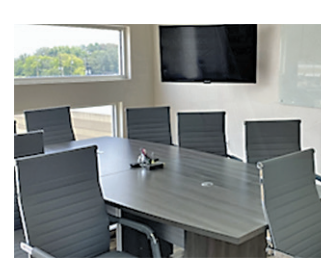
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PREVIEW

from page B1

and it will start on Friday against a competitive Langham Creek team.

The Panthers have the pieces to have one of the best defenses in the state this year. Deyjhon Pettaway is one of the state's top defensive backs and Carmelo Brooks and Nicholas Elko both are studs on the defensive line, with plenty of depth throughout the team on defense as well. Offensively with another year in the system, a quarterback the whole team is behind a veteran offensive line and some real skill at wide receiver.

Paetow will look to make an early statement against Langham, but the Lobos have a good team that they return in their own right. Langham Creek has a very strong offensive line that they return and Daymond Ruiz is a playmaker at running back. On defense there are pieces but Paetow should have chances to attack them, with only four returners coming back on the defensive side for Langham and with Paetow having another offseason to get things right offensively and some very strong incoming additions on the offensive side.

It will be a good opening test for the Panthers, who are trying to make a push to get back in the playoffs this year, something they haven't achieved in their first two years in Class 6A.

Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, 7 p.m. at Tully Stadium

Last year: Seven Lakes 35, Memorial 28 (OT)

- For the seventh straight year, Seven Lakes and Memorial meet to open the season and just like each of the previous six years, it should be a good one that has a chance to come down to the wire.

Last year's game went to overtime and Seven Lakes came out on top in a very fun matchup. Shaan Patel had maybe his best performance of the season as he completed 14 of 26 passes for 220 yards and three touchdowns without an interception with Ryan Fowler catching three passes for 90 yards and a touchdown and Carter Hatten catching three passes for 66 yards and a touchdown. Amani Hooks was huge in the game with six tackles and a sack and Justin Fowler came away with a game sealing interception.

All of those players are back for Seven Lakes and will be trying to repeat that success, but Memorial has some strong talent back as well. The Mustangs return a pair of strong receivers in Will Van Wie and Carson Wall which will be good pieces for their new quarterback Austin Alpe. Defensively they have a strong linebacking core and secondary that will make life hard

for the Seven Lakes offense and provide a good test.

Each of the previous six meetings between the two to start the season have been decided by one score and this game might well be as well. The Spartans will be looking to start the season on a good note with a strong group of returners.

Tompkins at Cy-Ranch, 7 p.m. at Berry Center

Last year: Tompkins 31, Cy-Ranch 0
 • In a rematch of last years season opener between these two teams, Tompkins will take on Cy-Ranch in a battle that will test two playoff hopefuls as they det ready for district.

The Falcons have played Cy-Ranch in the season opener each of the past two years and it has been a victory each time, with the Falcons earning a shutout in last seasons game. Justin Thierheimer came off the bench and threw for 84 yards and two touchdowns and Ronnie Quinn rushed for 29 yards in the game while Bisi Bello had 17 yards receiving, while defensively Ryan Machado had a sack. Those three will be back to lead the charge this year for Tompkins as they try to earn another season opening win.

That will be no easy task though. Cy-Ranch may have a new coach in Will Blaylock but he had success at Lubbock Estacado and the Mustangs bring back a strong team. Owen Cossette is a weapon at quarterback and Peyton Thomas is a formidable running back, Ranch also has a strong receiver in Brendan Sadler and the team's defense should also be very strong, led by Nik Fisher on the defensive line.

It will be a very good test for Tompkins early as the Falcons try to work out the kinks before district and overall this should be one of the best games of the week in the entire Houston area, with two teams with strong quarterback play and good defenses go up against each other.

Katy at Dickinson, 7 p.m. at Sam Vitanza Stadium

Last year: Did not play
 • Katy will start its campaign against Dickinson as the Tigers try to start the year off with a win.

The Tigers didn't play Dickinson last year but it will be a good opener against a traditionally strong opponent to get a young Katy team ready for the rest of the way. Katy has some returners in key positions on offense, Gunner Nelson is back at quarterback, Tremayne Hill will lead the running attack and Israel Olotu-Judah

returns to lead the Tiger wide receiving core. Defensively, The Tigers also have plenty of talent. Adam Carter will lead the defensive line, Jeremiah Smith is a force at linebacker and Jacob Hilton will be tasked as the leader of the secondary, but they will be up against it against a strong Dickinson returning team.

The Gators have two big play targets in the pass game with Mason Peterson and Jeremiah Scoby. Jamal Mason will have an impact in the run game. On defense, Jacyn Mason and Camryn Jones will lead the way and make it a test for the Tigers' offense that will try and assert itself early and often.

Overall it will be a good game for a young Katy team to gain experience and learn its strengths and what it needs to work on against a team that has made the playoffs each of the past 11 seasons.

Morton Ranch vs. Aldine Nimitz, 7 p.m. at Thorn Stadium

Last year: Did not play
 • A new generation of Mustangs and a new coach will kick off its season against Aldine Nimitz on Friday against Aldine Nimitz, a team that comes off a playoff appearance and is expected to compete for a playoff spot gain this year in its district.

The Mustangs have talent around the field and will have the chance to test that against Nimitz. The Mavericks have a quarterback battle between Edward Vasquez and Jayceon Jenkins and the two of them will be vying to prove they should have the starting spot and they have the talent around them to be successful, with players like Tyler Williams and Jerome Ryans on offense. Ryans will also be a big part of the team defensively and Charles Fleming is a force on the defensive line.

Nimitz will be a tough team though. They come off an eight-win season and have lots of experience all over the field. Javar Thomas leads the way for them defensively and Jeyhon Hicks will be a strong cornerback for the team as well. Offensively Nimitz has plenty of talent. Albert Brown is a very good quarterback and has two big weapons in the pass game with Malachi Augustus and Le'Lyn Washom.

The Mavericks will give themselves a good challenge to open the season that will show the teams strengths and weaknesses and will hope to start off the new season on a strong note.

Mayde Creek vs. Fort Bend Travis, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Did not play
 • Mayde Creek starts off its 2024 season against a strong team that made it to last years playoffs. It will be a good test for the Rams, who will be testing out a new offense under a new coach but do have a very strong cast of returning players.

The Rams will have a fast paced offense led by Cole Jensen, who is entering his senior year at quarterback and will have the opportunity to throw the ball around the year. He has weapons to throw to as well, Chad Nelson and Trey Williams are both multi-dimensional players that can get things done when given the ball and that is what the Rams' plan is. Defensively, Mayde Creek has some good players at all three levels and will hope to get things down before they get to district play.

Travis returns a very experienced and strong defense. The Tigers have seven starters back from last year's defense and will make things hard on Mayde Creek and offensively, Travis has strong players in David Brewer at wide receiver and Deji

Akinrinmade at running back that will test the Rams' defense.

This could be a game that comes down to the wire and should be a fun one as we kick off the season.

SATURDAY

Taylor vs. Cy-Woods, 7 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Cy Woods 49, Taylor 42
 • Taylor will open its campaign against Cy-Woods for the third straight season in what has been a matchup between two playoff hopefuls each year.

Taylor has lost the season opener to Cy-Woods each of the previous two years and will be trying to get a different result this year with a good mix of returners and newcomers coming into the team.

Taylor will have a new quarterback in Connor Chnupa and have pieces around him that will make his life easier and help Taylor have a good offense this season. Chnupa will be a very strong and willing runner and be joined in the backfield by Josh Jacobson and Javion Garrett who both can be very impactful at running back and Taylor will have a good athletic offensive line to go with it. Defensively, the Mustangs will have an even stronger group. Alexander McMoore and Landon Saurage will lead a big and very good front seven and the secondary for Taylor has talent as well.

Cy-Woods will provide a test for that Taylor defense though. The Wildcats have a pair of strong wide receivers in Kyle Singletary and Ty Codgill and Cy-Woods will not be afraid to throw the ball around the yard. On defense, the Wildcats return eight starters and make it hard on a Taylor offense that will rely on toughness and the run game to be successful.

It's a big one for the Mustangs, who will try to get a season opening win for the first time in three seasons and it should be a fun one where we learn a lot about both teams.

Cinco Ranch vs. The Woodlands, 7:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Did not play
 • In maybe the most exciting first game of the season for Katy ISD, Cinco Ranch will go up against area power The Woodlands in a game that will strongly test the Cougars as they try to get the season started in a positive manner.

Cinco has two great options at quarterback in Charlie Adamoli and Davis Roup and whichever gets the start will have weapons around them in Scott Eckel, Kellen LeCronier, Marcus Gadlin and Tessaiah Young. Defensively, the Cougars are led by Luke Mathiasmeier and while Cinco only returns three starters on that side of the ball, the Cougars still have pieces that can make a successful defense.

The Woodlands comes off a nine win season where they went three rounds deep in the playoffs and they return some strong players as well. Offensively, Shane Walker and Jackson Bolender are a great wide receiver duo and no matter who is at quarterback, The Woodlands looks to have a good group on that end. Defensively, the Highlanders have six returning starters and have a good group that will test the strong Cinco Ranch offense.

Cinco feels they can be contenders again this year after missing out on the playoffs last year and a huge first step for the team would be being competitive or winning the season opener against The Woodlands. It will give a chance to learn how both teams look early in the season and should be a very fun season opener.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 9 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 18, 2024 at 10:00am at Prosperity Bank 1515 Grand Parkway Katy Texas 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Rosa Seymour John Campbell
 Gregg Haan Harvey Nelson

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Lewis E Ernest

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)	\$0.321800/\$100 Adopted	\$0.304164/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.017636
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.48%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$368,331	\$403,321
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$368,331	\$403,321
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,185.28	\$1,226.76
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$41.48 3.50%

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.

Texas Renaissance Festival
50TH Anniversary
 Saturdays, Sundays, and Thanksgiving Friday
October 12th - December 1st
 To purchase tickets and for more information, scan the QR code.
[TexRenFest.com](https://www.texrenfest.com)

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850 HELP WANTED	850 HELP WANTED	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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BILINGUAL GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Seeking Bi-lingual Graphic Designer with proficiency in English and Yoruba Language.
Requirements:
High school diploma.
Minimum of five (5) years' experience as a graphic designer.
English and Yoruba work orders.
Interested applicants should send their application and resume to tx245@postnet.com.
Abicel Holdings Corp (dba PostNet ParkWest)
24600 Katy Fwy, Suite 834, Katy TX 77494

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2024-05, The Application Of **3525 Hockley Holdings LLC**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **3525 Katy Hockley RD**, In The "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: TRS 2A & 2B, Abstract 1427, H&TCRR Sec 80 Block 2, Harris County, Texas.

A Request For A Variance To The Lot Width Requirement of Seventy-Five (75) feet for the development of a Residential Subdivision.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until **2 p.m. Local Time, September 26, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "**Elyson Basin F Trail Landscape**" Harris County, Texas" In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=92316886421>.

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

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on **September 12, 2024, at 2 p.m. Local Time**, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=93851830041>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWC1208**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by **Katy Pizza Co DBA Katy Pizza Kitchen** to be located at **19355 Katy Freeway Unit 500, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77094**. Officer of Corporation is **Jeremy Shotton - President**.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET FOR WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that, on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held on the Proposed 2025 Budget for Waller County, Texas, as prepared by the County Judge, to be considered by the Waller County Commissioners Court. This budget hearing will be held at the Waller County Joe Kuciamba Annex, 425 FM 1488, Hempstead, Texas 77445. A copy of the proposed budget for adoption is available for inspection in the Office of Debbie Hollan, County Clerk of Waller County, Texas. The public is invited to attend this Budget Hearing.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by \$6,371,828.00 which is a 10.98% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$4,636,843.00.

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

August 22
Puzzle Answers

C	O	L	E	U	S	C	H	I	S	E	L		
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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Friendswood Development Company o.b.o. Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 465, Attention Cynthia Hill, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 11:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, September 19, 2024, and then publicly opened and read via Teleconference meeting for "Construction of Storm Lift Station for Winward Cove for Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 465, Harris County, Texas."

Call-In Information: Phone Number: (469) 965-2602, Phone Conference ID: 784 265 103#

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, September 19, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read for "**Pederson Road Reconstruction Project**" for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the reconstruction and widening of Pederson Road from I-10 Frontage Road to Highway 90. The distance of the street reconstructions is approximately 2,500 linear feet. The roadway reconstruction involves improvements to widen the existing two-lane asphalt roadway to an extra wide three lane reinforced concrete roadway. Drainage improvements include re-shaping and re-grading existing roadside ditches, and the installation of underground storm sewers.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL** pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. local time via Zoom.us**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86392162936>
Meeting ID: 863 9216 2936
Dial In: +13462487799,,86392162936# US (Houston)

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

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

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

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

For breaking news and updates, check out our website at katytimes.com or follow us on

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Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: **Sanitary pump station to include concrete wet well, 2-10hp submersible pumps, natural gas generator, control panels, electrical system, and concrete driveway.**

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference. The conference call number is (469) 965-2602. The access code is 409 799 132#

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than Five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

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

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

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

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

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

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until **2 p.m. Local Time, September 26, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **“Elyson Basin F Trail Landscape”** Harris County, Texas” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=92316886421>.

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

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely on September 12, 2024, at 2 p.m. Local Time**, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=93851830041>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt208**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until **2 p.m. Local Time, September 25, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for **“Elyson Section 59 Landscape”** Harris County, Texas” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=94566561261>.

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

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely on September 12, 2024, at 2 p.m. Local Time**, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/8408644870?omn=93851830041>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt402**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WALLER COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS INCREASES IN SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 152.013 of the Texas Local Government Code, that the Waller County Commissioners Court will set the salary and allowances of elected County or Precinct Officers at 9:00 A.M., on the 18th day of September, 2024 in Commissioners Court, located at the Joe Kuciamba Annex, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the general public of the following proposed salary and allowance increases for Elected Officials and Precinct Officers.

OFFICE	2024	2025	INCREASE/(DECREASE)
Criminal District Attorney			
Salary Supplement	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$
506th District Judge			
Salary Supplement	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Court at Law #1			
Salary	\$ 193,400.00	\$ 193,400.00	\$
Longevity	\$ 312.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
County Court at Law #2			
Salary	\$ 193,400.00	\$ 193,400.00	\$
Longevity	\$	\$ 104.00	\$ 104.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Sheriff			
Salary	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 113,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
Longevity	\$ 208.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 52.00
County Judge			
Salary	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$
Longevity	\$ 520.00	\$ 572.00	\$ 52.00
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Clerk			
Salary	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 2,721.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
District Clerk			
Salary	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 2,721.00
Longevity	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$
Treasurer			
Salary	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 2,721.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
Tax Assessor Collector			
Salary	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 2,721.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$	\$ (3,000.00)
Travel Allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$	\$ (960.00)
County Commissioner, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 2,640.00
Longevity	\$ 624.00	\$ 676.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 2,640.00
Longevity	\$ 312.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 2,640.00
Longevity	\$ 208.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 2,640.00
Longevity	\$ 520.00	\$ 572.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 3,900.00	\$	\$ (3,900.00)
County Constable, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 1,860.00
Longevity	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 364.00	\$ (1,064.00)
County Constable, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 1,860.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$	\$ (3,000.00)
County Constable, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 1,860.00
Longevity	\$ 624.00	\$ 676.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
County Constable, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 1,860.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 2,551.00
Longevity	\$ 2,828.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 172.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 2,551.00
Longevity	\$ 312.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 2,500.00	\$	\$ (2,500.00)
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 2,551.00
Longevity	\$ 728.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 100.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
Justice of Peace, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 2,551.00
Longevity	\$ 1,628.00	\$ 1,828.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

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PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Tillman Jaramillo and Brett Norton celebrate after Jaramillo hit the game winning shot during Tuesday's game between Seven Lakes and Clements at Wheeler Fieldhouse. Right: Katy players celebrate Ashtyn Reichardt's home run during Friday's Region III-6A Final between Katy and Kingwood at the Katy softball field.



PHOTO BY TYLER TYRE

TEXAS WAY

from page B1

ronment while reducing ejections and foster a positive relationship between coaches, athletes officials and spectators. There are three pillars to make this happen that Katy ISD asks all coaches players and spectators to honor to make this happen. Those three pillars are to have respect for others and honor all participants involved, to have control of self and control one's anger in the face of competition and adversity and to commit to the spirit of the competition and give everything to be the absolute best you can, but not to sacrifice integrity to do so.

"At the end of the day, we want all athletes to have the opportunity to compete and we want to provide spectators a first class experience at our events," the Katy ISD Department of Athletics statement said. "We appreciate your support!"

The Texas way is a collaborative campaign between the Texas High School Coaches Association, Texas High School Athletic Directors Association and 2Words Character Development.

Tompkins players celebrate after winning a set during Tuesday's match between Seven Lakes and Tompkins at the Merrell Center.

**WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX RATE**

The FORT BEND COUNTY M.U.D. #185 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 18, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 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: Allen Thomas, David Wells, Al Menconi and Terrell Berger
- AGAINST** the proposal: None
- PRESENT** and not voting: None
- ABSENT:** Scott Donahue

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)	\$.81500/\$100 Adopted	\$.81500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 442,313	\$ 482,345
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 66,347	\$ 96,469
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 375,966	\$ 385,876
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,064.12	\$ 3,144.88
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 80.76 2.63%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

**WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX RATE**

The WALLER COUNTY R.I.D. #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at 6363 Woodway, Suite 800, Houston, TX 77057. 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: Kevin E. Staloch, Robert Cortez, Kristen Woods, Gary Griffith and A'Shunte J. Cashaw
- 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)	\$1.05000/\$100 Adopted	\$1.00000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.05000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.76%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 281,098	\$ 287,809
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 281,098	\$ 287,809
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,951.52	\$ 2,878.09
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ -73.43 -2.48%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Texans running back Cam Akers (22) carries the ball during an NFL preseason game between the Texans and the Rams on August 24, 2024 in Houston. Right: Texans running back Cam Akers (22) outpaces Rams linebacker Brennan Jackson (44) during an NFL preseason game between the Texans and the Rams on August 24, 2024 in Houston.



Akers, Hutchinson, Metchie likely lock up roster spots in Texans' final preseason test

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It took some time, but the Texans' offense looked sharp on Saturday. In the final tuneup before the regular season, Houston came out with backups from the start as players looked to prove they deserve a roster spot and some of them shined in their last chance to make a lasting impression before roster cuts in a 17-15 win for Houston.

Cam Akers virtually guaranteed a roster spot and continued to show why he may be the main backup running back to Joe Mixon, even over Dameon Pierce. Even coming off an Achilles injury last year, Akers showed plenty of pop, patience and an understanding of Texans offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik's run scheme and shined when he played, carrying the ball seven times for 53 yards and averaging over seven yards per carry.

"Cam has done a really nice job ever since he got here," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "He didn't get here until late in training camp but he's stepped in and done a really nice job. When he gets the ball in his hands, he just makes plays, make defenders miss and most importantly he makes the right plays. It's exciting."

Case Keenum had a decent showing as he tried to lock down the third quarterback spot on the Texans roster and Xavier Hutchinson and John Metchie had good moments when they played in the first half, which was needed from both if they wanted to make the roster with a loaded receiver room.

"It's tough, especially at running back and wide receiver this year because there's so much competition," Ryans said. "But it's also exciting, that's what you want is guys pushing each other but it makes our job so tough with these decisions because all of those guys deserve it — we just only have so many spots."

The Texans managed only three points in the first quarter of the game as the offense struggled and the defense



was put in a bad spot early when Desmond King muffed a punt after the Rams' opening possession. But Houston got the ball moving late in the quarter, getting a field goal and getting their first touchdown early in the second on a 5-yard pass from Tim Boyle to Troy Hariston. The Rams came back and trimmed the lead to one-point when Zach Evans, one of the best players in North Shore's history, ran in a touchdown midway through the second quarter. The Rams missed the extra point that would have tied it.

The Texans offense continued to struggle, but the defense and special teams kept the Rams pinned deep throughout the first half. The Texans added a touchdown early in the fourth quarter on a 10-yard pass from Boyle to Johnny Johnson II and Boyle finished the day with a strong day, throwing for 142 yards with two touchdowns while completing 19 of 28 passes.

The Rams cut the lead to two points late in the fourth quarter on a 3-yard Zach Evans touchdown, but weren't able to tie it on the two point conversion

as Houston came away with the 17-15 win.

Defensively, Myles Bryant helped his case for making the roster a lot in the game, making seven tackles, six of which were solo, while Desmond King may be on the borderline of the roster cuts after his muffed punt.

The Texans will open the season at Indianapolis against the Colts on Sept. 8 before returning home to play the Bears on Sept. 15. There are big expectations in Houston this year and the team can't wait to get things going, especially with an offense that looks to be strong in both the pass and run game.

"Our biggest thing this year is we have to find balance this year," Ryans said. "Week to week things are going to be different based on the hot hand and how defenses play us, but we can't only rely on throwing the ball. But we also have a great core group of receivers and we are going to get guys involved so they can make plays. We feel like we can throw and run whenever we need to and a great group of coaches that can set guys up for success."



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Above: Texans wide receiver Xavier Hutchinson (19) gestures after picking up a first down during an NFL preseason game between the Texans and the Rams on August 24, 2024 in Houston. Left: Texans quarterback Tim Boyle (16) prepares for a snap during an NFL preseason game between the Texans and the Rams on August 24, 2024 in Houston.

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NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2024-06, The Application Of **Sanjay Ahuja and Ashish Gupta**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **25819 Kinsland Blvd**, In The "C-2" General Business District. Property Description: Unrestricted Reserve B, Katy Fire Station No 2, Fort Bend County, Texas.

A Request For A Variance To The Platted Building Setback Of Twenty-Five (25) Feet For A Storm Detention Structure.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

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Andrew Marsh announced his commitment to the University of Michigan on Tuesday in the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center.



TYLER TYRE

Elanor Marsh talks to the crowd at the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center before Andrew Marsh announced his commitment.



TYLER TYRE

Jordan head coach Mike Rabe talks to the crowd at the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center before Andrew Marsh announced his commitment.

MARSH

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receivers in the nation and 13th best player in the state of Texas loved what he felt from the Michigan staff, what he saw on campus and everything to do with the school.

"I loved everything about the school," Marsh said. "From the coaches, to the players, the facilities the campus all of the people and other recruits. Even the history that you see there, really everything there drew me in and I'm really excited."

For the past 10 years, it's been Marsh and his mother, Elanor, as Andrew has continued to grow and become one of the best receivers and high school players across the country. She has donned many hats for him — mother, confidant and manager just to name a few, and to see it all come full circle, for Andrew to take this next step on a day that has meant so much to them both was not just for him, but for his mother as well. She knew it as Andrew's way to show how much it meant to him that his dad used to throw the ball with him in the backyard, used to work out with him and used to beam with pride watching his son play.



TYLER TYRE

Andrew Marsh while surrounded by family after announcing his commitment to the University of Michigan on Tuesday in the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center.

"She's done more than anyone will ever know — she's done so much to me and means the whole world to me," Andrew said. "She has sacrificed so much to get me to this point, she's been there every step of the way and been at every game and really

just dropped her whole world just to help me. I appreciate and love her so much, it's hard to put into words."

That feeling goes both ways in his family. Elanor could not be prouder of the young man that Andrew has grown into and in the past few years was shocked how he has picked up some of his father's mannerisms. To see her late husband come out in her son and him continue to grow, becoming more mature and more determined has been a wonderful adventure for her.

"It's everything to me to see what he has become," Elanor said. "He was only seven when his dad passed, so to see these mannerisms of his dad in him — it's just like there's this part of his dad in there and it's amazing. It's so crazy to see."

Marsh comes off a dominant junior year, where he caught 65 passes for 1,158 yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging over 100 yards per game.

He has the chance to do even bigger things this year and his goals go beyond just Friday and Saturday football. But no matter what happens, he and his family are

excited to see where that journey takes him.

"I'm just so proud of him," Elanor said. "I'm so excited to see what he does and to support him in every way. Andrew has put in so much hard work and he's continuing that. It's been such a blessing seeing him grow and I know there are big things in store for him."

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