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SPORTS | PG 15

Katy Times

Autumn Acres
Gerald D. Young Facility
September 13-14
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VOLUME 113, ISSUE 37

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025



Members of Indivisible Katy came out to the intersection of I-10 and Westgreen Blvd. on Labor Day to demonstrate for "workers over billionaires." About 60 protesters lined a block of Westgreen and stretched west along the I-10 feeder road.
PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Labor Day protest in Katy draws over 60 participants

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Indivisible Katy held a "Labor Day: Workers Over Billionaires" community rally on September 1 at I-10 Frontage Rd. at Westgreen Blvd. in Katy, with over 60 local protesters brandishing homemade signs at the intersection, despite being doused by sprinklers half-way through the one-hour demonstration.

Launched by the May Day Strong Coalition, the "Labor Day: Workers Over Billionaires" initiative was designed to be a national day of action in support

of America's labor force and working families. Over 1,000 rallies were scheduled nationwide on September 1, including several in the Greater Houston and Katy areas.

"Building on the success of national community mobilizations in 2025 - Hands Off, May Day, No Kings, and Good Trouble - working people will come together on Labor Day to demand more investment in our communities: healthcare for all, affordable housing, fully funded public schools, and to stand up for the rights of America's work-

ers, seniors, children, persons with disabilities, immigrants, and BIPOC communities," a spokesperson for the coalition told the Katy Times in an email prior to the event. "In 2025, federal and state leaders have made massive cutbacks to vital healthcare, education and food programs -- all to give \$1 TRILLION to the richest 1% of Americans and add more than \$5 trillion in federal debt. Millions of workers and industries are facing job layoffs and financial

See **PROTEST**, page 3

Request a sidewalk in Harris Co. Precinct 4 by taking survey by Sept. 12

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sidewalks 4 Precinct 4, a project of Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones, has delivered more than 22 miles of sidewalks in the area served by Katy ISD since the project began in 2024.

In a commitment to continued walkability, accessibility, and neighborhood safety, Briones and the Precinct 4 team have announced Phase 2 of the program. Phase 1 of the program added 50 miles of new sidewalks throughout Precinct 4 in just one year.

With a \$20 million investment in 2024-2025 and \$16 million

See **SIDEWALKS**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones has announced phase two of Sidewalks 4 Precinct 4, a project designed to connect area families to schools, parks, hospitals, transit stops, places of worship, and shopping centers, such as the work done near Legacy Stadium on Katy Fort Bend Road south of Franz. Precinct residents may request locations for new sidewalks by completing the precinct's survey at <https://ow.ly/B4YL50WJ0n1> by September 12.

Fort Bend sheriff pleads for pay raises for law enforcement

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sheriff Eric Fagan, joined by Fort Bend County Constables, held a media conference on September 3 at the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, 1840 Richmond Parkway, Richmond to address the importance of pay increases for county law enforcement. Additional attendees included the Fort Bend County Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Foundation.

With surrounding agencies recently approving significant raises, Fagan said that Fort Bend County faces growing challenges in retaining skilled deputies and recruiting new ones. Sheriff Fagan said that he and other county leaders will stand together to urge action that ensures competitive pay and safeguards public safety.

"Fort Bend County law enforcement officers

See **SHERIFF**, page 3

Submit comments on Hwy 36A expansion by Sept. 12



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Houston-Galveston Area Council Chief Transportation Officer Ron Papsdorf addresses attendees of the Highway 36A Coalition luncheon on September 4 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston Energy Corridor, 11730 Katy Freeway in Houston. Papsdorf, who has been with H-GAC for ten weeks, explained how the 36A project fits into H-GAC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

There is still time for the public to voice their opinions on the proposed Highway 36A transportation project - but comments must be received by email or postmarked by Friday, September 12, TxDOT official Sue Theiss told attendees of the Highway 36A Coalition's luncheon last week. Theiss is TxDOT's director for advanced project development for TxDOT's Houston District.

Comments may be submitted by either:

- Sending your written comment via U.S. mail, postmarked by September 12, 2025, to Advanced Project Development Director, TxDOT Houston District, PO Box 1386, Houston, TX 77251-1386
- Emailing your comments to HOU-PIOWebmail@TxDOT.gov Please reference CSJ: 0912-00-544 in all communications.

The 36A South project is a pro-

posed new north-south highway from FM 1994 near Needville to Interstate 10 west of Katy, to be built in order to bring freight north from Port Freeport. The project is in the early stages of development and a route has not yet been selected. The study area is about 35 miles long and 23 miles wide, with the western boundary generally following the San Bernard River and the northern portion including Interstate 10. The eastern boundary generally coincides with State Highway 99 (Grand Parkway) with the southern portion along the proposed State Highway 99.

TxDOT has developed eight preliminary build alternatives, based on known study area constraints, information obtained from previous planning studies and ongoing analyses of current traffic conditions and needs, according to materials provided by TxDOT at the meeting. All eight alternatives would be built

See **COMMENTS**, page 3

Local business leader Herman Meyer passes away

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy business icon Herman Meyer has died, his family announced in a September 4 post on Facebook. According to the obituary posted on the Schmidt Funeral Home website, Meyer passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family.

Meyer was the owner and operator of Meyer Foods, which includes Midway Meat Market, Midway Deer Processing, and Midway BBQ, all located along Highway Blvd. north of Katy's historic town

square. Despite a catastrophic fire in 2021 that nearly destroyed Midway BBQ, Meyer rebuilt the facility, which has long served as the principal gathering place for virtually every kind of significant event in Katy - from meetings of the Katy Business Association (now the Katy Business Alliance) and the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce to Scouts dinners to retirement parties to political rallies to book signings for Katy's fledgling authors.

Born in Needville in 1935,

See **MEYER**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The marquee sign outside Midway BBQ at 6191 Highway Blvd. in Katy commemorates the passing of owner and local businessman Herman Meyer, who passed away September 4.

SEAT joins in filing lawsuit challenging SB 12

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, Transgender Law Center, and Baker McKenzie filed a lawsuit in federal court on August 28, challenging key aspects of Senate Bill 12 on behalf of the Gender & Sexualities Alliance (GSA) Network, Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT), a teacher, and an individual student and her parent.

The plaintiffs also filed a motion for preliminary injunction seeking to block the enforcement of unconstitutional aspects of the law while the case makes its way through the courts. The plaintiffs

are challenging S.B. 12's restrictions as unconstitutional in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments and as violating the federal Equal Access Act.

S.B. 12 bans programs and discussions relating to race, gender identity, and sexual orientation in all public and charter schools in Texas from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. It eliminates a wide range of activities that foster inclusion and promote equal opportunity, including events celebrating Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous history; trainings on cultural awareness and inclu-

See **SEAT**, page 3

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cha! Cha! And meet Dora the Explorer on Sept. 13

Get ready for an epic morning of fun at Rainforest Cafe! On Saturday, September 13, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., families can join Cha! Cha! and everyone's favorite explorer, Dora, for a special "Meet & Greet Breakfast" filled with adventure, delicious food, and unforgettable memories. Tickets include breakfast, meet and greets, and photo ops with Cha! Cha! and Dora, along with kid-friendly activities such as raffles, prizes, and goodie bags for all children. Guests will also receive an exclusive discount for \$5 off a retail purchase of \$25 made the same day of the event. This event is part of a nationwide partnership between Rainforest Cafe and Paramount Location-Based Entertainment & Experiences where guests can find Cha! Cha!, and

Dora and her friends, at select Rainforest Cafe Retail Villages across the country. The Katy location is at Katy Mills Mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy. Visit rainforestcafe.com or call (281) 644-6200 for more information.

Enjoy chicken fried steak with Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Dept. on Sept. 13

Come support the Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Dept. on Sept. 13 at their annual dinner on September 13 at the firehouse at 2950 FM 359 in Pattison. Enjoy your choice of chicken fried steak, chicken fried chicken or a grilled chicken dinner for just \$15.00 per plate, including drink and dessert. Kids 5 and under eat free. To-go pick-up begins at 4:30 p.m. The silent auction starts at 5 p.m. and the live auction begins at 6 p.m. The event also features activities for kids.

Find out how to fight respiratory diseases at free lecture on Sept. 18

Fall is the beginning of respiratory illness season. School children are particularly affected. Come learn about the six most common types of respiratory illnesses, their treatments, and when each becomes an emergency. The course will be presented by James Bauman RN, BSN, MSN, CEN, CLM with the Health Ministry at Katy First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall at 5th Street and Avenue A in Katy. Free and open to the public, on Thursday, September 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 281-391-2121 for information or to register.

Give blood during Katy Elementary's blood drive on Sept. 19

Help those in need by donating blood on September 19 during Katy Elementary School's blood drive. The donor coach will be at the campus at 5726 George Bush Drive in Katy starting at 9 a.m. To sign up or for more information, please contact Kim Roberson at kimberlydroberson@katyisd.org or call 281-237-6575.

The Bible Seminary to host 'Legacy Planning' seminar on Sept. 20

You've planned your grocery list, your vacation, even your Netflix queue... But have you planned your legacy? Join The Bible Seminary for Legacy Planning 101, a practical and faith-filled seminar designed to help you think beyond the day-to-day and start planning for what really matters—your family's future and Kingdom impact. Led by estate planning professionals Bobby and Julia Dean, who bring over 30 years of experience, this seminar dives into the foundational principles of biblical stewardship. You'll learn how to make wise, intentional decisions whether you're just starting to think about estate

planning or you're ready to put a plan in motion, this is your opportunity to gain clarity, confidence, and a Christ-centered approach to your legacy. The event will take place on September 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the seminary at 2655 S. Mason Road in Katy. Lunch is provided. For more information, go to www.thebibleseminary.edu.

Katy Connection hosts mixer on Sept. 23

Ready to connect with other entrepreneurs, business owners, and start new collaborations and friendships? Join the members of the Katy Connection networking group (formerly known as the Katy Business Connection) on Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Brass Tap - Katy/Richmond, 7109 Katy-Gaston Rd. Suite 1100, Richmond. Free to attend; food and drink available for purchase.

'Senior Citizens Day Out' set for Sept. 25 in Brookshire

On the fourth Thursday of every month, meet with other senior citizens at the Brookshire Convention Center at 4027 Fifth Street in Brookshire from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You'll experience a health and wellness fair, workshops and seminars and social time. Crafts and hobbies, as well as live entertainment and food/refreshment, are available. Free to attend. Volunteers, please call 346-257-7495.

Bless others at Christ Clinic's 'Breakfast for a Blessing' on Sept. 26

Christ Clinic's fourteenth annual "Breakfast for a Blessing" will take place on September 26 at the charity clinic's offices at the Katy Gardens, 1040 Schlipf Road in Katy. Choose from two time slots available: either 7:30 to 9 a.m. or from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information or to register, go to christclinic Katy.org.

Save the date! Houston Polish Harvest Festival set for Sept. 19-21

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Get ready to polka, pierogi, and party! The beloved Houston Polish Harvest Festival - Dozynki returns this September with three full days of music, food, dancing, and rich cultural celebration that will transport you straight to the heart of Poland.

This vibrant fall tradition offers something for everyone - from authentic Polish cuisine to dazzling folk performances, a lively marketplace, and family-friendly fun.

Whether you're Polish, Polish-at-heart, or simply looking for an unforgettable weekend, this is one event you won't want to miss!

Festivities will take place September 19-21 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church, 1731 Blalock Rd, Houston. Admission and parking are free. Credit cards will be accepted at food stands and for the silent auction.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUSTON POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL

Traditional folk dances - in addition to yummy food - will be featured at the Houston Polish Harvest Festival on September 19-21 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church, 1731 Blalock Rd, Houston.

Festival highlights:

- Live Polish music and folk dance shows: Enjoy the electrifying energy of Dance Group Wawel, Mini Wawel, and Babcia Wawel in stunning traditional costumes. Tap your feet to the rhythm of Polish folk music - and yes, there will be polka!

and Babcia Wawel in stunning traditional costumes. Tap your feet to the rhythm of Polish folk music - and yes, there will be polka!

- Mouthwatering Polish cuisine: Indulge in a culinary tour of Poland with pierogi, kielbasa, gołabki, potato pancakes, and more. Servers in traditional dress will dish up hearty, homemade favorites - and don't leave without trying the incredible desserts.

- Polish Beer Garden: Sit back and relax with an ice-cold Polish brew in hand as you soak in the festive atmosphere.

- Vendor Street: Check out the street of vendors with great Polish folk art, costumes, amber jewelry, Polish Pottery, dolls, great creative art, lanterns, wreaths, jewelry, gifts for the holidays, and much more.

- Epic Silent Auction: Bid on unique treasures like handcrafted Polish pottery, artwork, crystal, jewelry, books, and other must-have items. Or skip the bidding and buy on the spot.

- Family fun for all ages: From kid-friendly zones to cultural exhibits and vendors, there's something to delight every member of the family.

- Traditional Polish Mass: Start your Sunday at the festival with a beautiful Polish Mass honoring Polish Constitution Day - a meaningful and spiritual capstone to the weekend, followed by great performances, fun, and entertainment.

- Festival schedule:
- Friday, Sept. 19: 4 - 8 p.m.
 - Saturday, Sept. 20: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 - Sunday, Sept. 21: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- More info: <https://www.houstonpolishfestival.com/>.

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Gerald D. Young Facility
September 13-14

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Gerald D. Young Facility | September 13-14
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Heart of Katy Market

Over 100 vendors with clothing, food, treats, arts, and so much more!
Have lunch from the concession stand to support KBBC!

FREE ADMISSION
Location: Katy High School
September 20 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
September 21 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION EMAIL: HEARTOFKATYCRAFTSHOW@GMAIL.COM

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September 27, 2025 | 4-6:30pm

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SEAT

from page 1

sion; and clubs and critical conversations between students, parents, and educators about topics relating to race, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

“This law isn’t about improving education — it’s about weaponizing it,” said Cameron Samuels (they/them), executive director at SEAT. Samuels, who founded SEAT, is a Katy ISD graduate who has challenged book bans within the district and also championed students’ access to LGBTQ+ websites.

“S.B. 12 seeks to erase students’ identities and make it impossible for teachers, parents, and volunteers to tell the truth about the history and diversity of our state,” Samuels said. “The law also guts vital support systems for Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian, and LGBTQIA+ students and educators. We’re suing on behalf of students across Texas to ensure that our schools remain places where all students are safe, supported, and given the best opportunity to thrive.”

Other components of S.B. 12 threaten the safety and privacy of transgender and nonbinary students in Texas schools by making it much more difficult for educators to support them, SEAT said in an August 29 press release. The law entirely bans clubs such as Genders & Sexualities Alliances (formerly known as Gay-Straight Alliances, GSAs), which foster a safe, welcoming, and accepting on-campus school environment for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“Across races, backgrounds, and genders, we all share the same hope: that our kids can learn freely, be themselves, and grow up healthy and safe. Yet some politicians are trying to further their careers by silencing teachers and depriving students of educational opportunities,” said Shawn Thomas Meerkamper (they/them), managing attorney at Transgender Law Center. “Schools must be welcoming spaces for all students — places where every young person has an equal chance to learn, form friendships, and thrive in clubs, activities, and events that affirm who they are.”

Additionally, S.B. 12 stops students from receiving information about gender identity or sexual orientation in every grade level. The law’s restrictions apply not just to classroom learning, but to after-school programs, field trips, and informal guidance provided by parents, volunteers, and school employees.

S.B. 12 was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott in June.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan (center, at podium) stands with Fort Bend County Constables, members of Fort Bend County Deputy Sheriff’s Association and members of the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Foundation at a media conference on September 3 at the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office, 1840 Richmond Parkway, Richmond. Fagan called the press conference to address the importance of pay increases for county law enforcement, saying that the county’s compensation is no longer competitive.

SHERIFF

from page 1

deserve competitive pay that reflects their service, protects our community and keeps our county strong,” said Fagan in a statement sent to media attendees following the event. Fagan said that the City of Houston just approved a 36.5% raise over five years, bring a new officer’s starting salary to \$81,600 and that Harris County brought their deputies to that same pay level the next day. He added that Montgomery County unanimously approved annual raises for deputies that will bring new officers to nearly \$71,000 by 2026.

“The message is clear: surrounding agencies are investing in their law enforcement officers,” Fagan said. Without competitive pay, Fagan said that Fort Bend County risks losing current officers while struggling to recruit new ones.

“I stand united with our Fort Bend County Deputy Sheriff’s Association and Constables from various precincts in urging Commissioner’s Court to approve pay increases for all county law enforcement. Competitive pay is not a want — it is a necessity.”

The specific funding amount requested by Sheriff Fagan during the news conference to address his stated needs was not disclosed, as he did not state an exact amount that he was seeking.

Other county officials disputed Fagan’s version of the situation. Andy Meyers, Fort Bend County

Commissioner for Precinct 3, said in a statement to the Katy Times and ABC13 that law enforcement officers in Fort Bend County have had recent raises.

“The safety and security of Fort Bend County residents is a top priority for me and members of Commissioners Court,” Meyers said. “Therefore I requested that a salary study of law enforcement officers be conducted last year, which led to over \$10.2 million in raises in 2024-25, averaging 20% salary increases. This is in addition to consecutive cost-of-living adjustments that were made in 2022 and 2023. I’ve also consistently asked the County’s HR Department to work with the Sheriff and Constables to conduct annual salary reviews to ensure that salaries remain competitive.”

“Our law enforcement officers as well as taxpayers deserve a thoughtful and disciplined budgeting process that leads to sustainable, competitive compensation,” Meyers added.

In a video posted to Facebook, Fort Bend County Judge also disputed Fagan’s claim, made during the press conference, that officers had not had a raise in the 12 years prior to Fagan becoming sheriff. George said that he believed that officers had gotten raises in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Fagan became sheriff of Fort Bend County on January 1, 2021, after being elected on November 3, 2020.

MEYER

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Meyer began learning the grocery business in the fourth grade, working at a local store owned by Bill Dube, according to the obituary. He graduated from Katy High School in 1954 before attending the University of Texas, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Management in 1958. Meyer also volunteered for the U.S. Army and served two years on active duty at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1961, he returned to Katy and again worked at Dube’s Super Market. By 1967, with the support of his father, he fulfilled his dream of running his own store, founding Midway Meat Market. He expanded the business to include wild game processing, making Midway Deer Processing a destination for hunters across the region. In the mid 90’s, Meyer realized his grocery store and deer processor customers had nowhere to go for good BBQ in Katy, so he opened a shack in front of Midway Grocery Store and called it Midway BBQ.

Meyer is survived by his wife Patricia Ann Simpson, daughter Patricia Cummins, granddaughter Yanna Karvounis, and grandson George Karvounis, and his sisters Shirley Meyer Hilliard and Betty Meyer McMahan.

Visitation and viewing were scheduled at Katy Community Fellowship, 24102 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, on September 8, with funeral services held at the church the following day. A reception followed at Midway BBQ, 6191 Hwy Blvd, Katy, where family gathered for a celebration of life. All events took place after the Katy Times went to press for this issue.

Donations in Meyer’s memory may be made to Katy Community Fellowship or Brookshire Masonic Lodge 1066.

“We are forever proud to call you the husband, father, and grandfather you were,” said the family in the Facebook post. “Your example will guide us for the rest of our lives, and your legacy lives on in each of us. You were, and always will be, our greatest inspiration.”

SIDEWALKS

from page 1

in 2025-2026, the program is connecting families to schools, parks, hospitals, transit stops, places of worship, and shopping centers.

Sidewalks 4 Precinct 4 utilizes data-driven analysis to identify sidewalk gaps and prioritize areas with the greatest need, ensuring that investments directly improve residents’ daily lives.

Construction is rolled out in phases, with each sidewalk segment taking approximately four to eight weeks to complete. Multiple crews work across the precinct to accelerate progress. For 2025-26 projects, design will begin in Fall 2025, with construction scheduled to start between Winter 2025 and Fall 2026.

Residents of Harris County Precinct 4 may request a sidewalk in their area by taking the precinct’s survey at <https://ow.ly/B4YL50WJ0n1>. The survey closes on September 12.

Many projects are suggested by constituents during town halls, through interactions with the precinct’s Community Assistance Department, or submitted through the “Call for Projects” program. The requests are evaluated alongside all other possible projects.

The precinct has also completed an analysis examining the feasibility of sidewalk projects across the Precinct and is recommending projects that could be done in the short term. Short-term projects are identified as projects that do not require additional rights-of-way, utility relocation, or compound drainage issues. Consideration will be given to projects that connect highly used bus stops, parks, hospitals, healthcare providers, high pedestrian areas/shopping centers, and other key locations.

The Precinct 4 team is committed to keeping residents informed through regular community outreach and engagement at every stage of the process, according to its website.

COMMENTS

from page 1

on new locations and would require right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. Based on public input, the alternatives will be refined as part of the Environmental Impact Study process, officials said.

As part of the process of gathering public input, TxDOT conducted two public scoping meetings in late August on the project — one in Katy, which drew 80 attendees and another at the Fort Bend Epicenter in Rosenberg attended by 162 residents.

The luncheon, held September 4 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston Energy Corridor at 11730 Katy Freeway in Houston, also featured speaker Ron Papsdorf, chief transportation officer of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Papsdorf spoke on H-GAC’s regional transportation plan and how it aligns with the Highway 36A project.



Labor Day protestors display their “Workers Over Billionaires” messages to passers-by traveling the I-10 access road heading west from Westgreen Blvd.

PROTEST

from page 1

hardship, including farming, transportation, manufacturing, healthcare, and public education. Millions of children and families will lose access to critical services through Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, SNAP, public education, the Veterans Administration, and numerous federal and state programs.”

“Indivisible Katy stands with community organizations including 50501, Common Cause, Public Citizen and Texas AFL-CIO to support the ‘Labor Day: Workers Over Billionaires’ initiative and stand up for our workers and our communities,” the statement said.

About Indivisible Katy

Indivisible Katy is a volunteer community engagement group affiliated with The Indivisible Project (Indivisible), a registered 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. Indivisible cultivates and develops its national grassroots movement with the mission to support and uphold democracy for all, elect progressive leaders, and build bold progressive policies, the group said in a statement to the Katy Times. Visit www.indivisible.org to learn more.



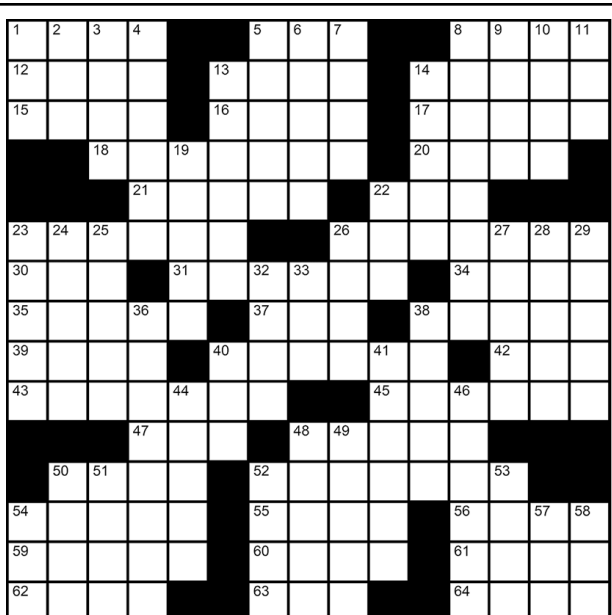
CROSSWORD THEME: FICTIONAL CANINES

CLUES ACROSS

- “Call of the Wild” dog
- Lightning McQueen, e.g.
- Island near Java
- Popular hairdo in the 1960s and ‘70s
- Governmental space agency, acr.
- Meat in a casing
- Larry Bird’s target
- Narrative poem
- Richard Bachman to Stephen King
- “Sherman’s Mr. _____
- Fence plank
- Small jar
- FedEx competitor
- “Tabaqui of ‘The Jungle Book’
- Most vital part
- a.k.a. Home of the Brave
- Bewilder
- Y’all
- Phonograph media
- Williams sister’s return
- “Two mints in one” classic mints
- Celt
- Red carpet suit
- Pirate’s turf
- Flag on a ship, pl.
- Solar system model
- Like a fiddle
- Sweating room
- Chesterfield, e.g.
- “National Crime Prevention Council’s mascot
- “The Martian” (2015) actor Matt _____
- Verbal exam
- Half-man, half-goat
- Deflect
- Charge a tax

CLUES DOWN

- Scrooge’s exclamation
- E.T. transporter, e.g.
- Photo editing option
- 1/100th of a ruble
- Mafia’s top dogs
- “All joking _____”
- Risque
- Target’s mascot
- “Si, mi chiamò Mimi” in La Boheme, e.g.
- Law school test acronym
- “_____ a Wonderful Life”
- Interstellar cloud
- Flying stingers
- Omani and Yemeni
- Consume
- TV Judy’s title
- Of the Orient
- Lawyer’s loads
- Major European river
- Relating to Scandinavia
- Like a button, but more so
- English homework
- Swine and avian diseases
- “Maid Marian of Disney’s ‘Robin Hood’ movie (1973)
- “The Big Red Dog _____”
- _____copia
- Blast maker, acr.
- Sullenly
- James Dean’s last movie (1956)
- Basket-making fiber
- Nut holder
- Tequila source
- “_____ me a seat”
- Damien’s prediction



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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COCA COLA CLASSIC CHRISTMAS

Santa will bring his magic to Katy Mills Mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy when the Coca-Cola Classic Christmas event returns to the Houston area from November 21 through December 28.

Coca-Cola's Classic Christmas returns with alpine adventure

Beloved immersive holiday experience coming to Katy Mills Mall

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The countdown to holiday magic begins! Coca-Cola's Classic Christmas, the wildly popular immersive holiday light and adventure experience, is returning to the Houston area this November — this time with a brand-new Alpine Adventure theme and a new location. Presented by Coca-Cola and produced by Social House Entertainment, Classic Christmas will transport guests to Santa and Mrs. Claus's cozy mountain hideaway, where holiday traditions meet dazzling new surprises.

Classic Christmas lights up Katy Mills Mall, Houston's only indoor outlet shopping destination, located at 5000 Katy Mills Circle in Katy, from November 21 through December 28, 2025. With over 90,000 square feet of immersive magic, the event promises millions of twinkling lights, falling snow, thrilling snow slides, outdoor ice skating, themed treats, and unforgettable visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Tickets went on sale to the public September 9. Early access is now open for holiday party reservations and group ticket packages of

26+. Learn more at ClassicChristmas.com.

"The response from families last year was nothing short of magical," said Jayson Babel, Senior Vice President of Social House Holidays, the holiday division of Social House Entertainment. "This year, we've dialed up the whimsy, the interactivity, and the nostalgia. From expanded snow slides to the return of our movie screenings, Coca-Cola's Classic Christmas is where new memories are made."

The experience delivers holiday joy for all ages with a nostalgic twist and plenty of new surprises, including:

- Larger-than-life light display: Explore 90,000 square feet of dazzling sculptures and immersive scenes designed to dazzle and delight.
- Alpine ice skating: Skate under twinkling lights on real outdoor ice with your loved ones.
- Slip N Slide Summit: Grab an inner tube and race down the exhilarating snow slide—crafted with real ice and built for both thrill-seekers and little adventurers. Daredevils can take on the Black Diamond lanes, while the Beginner Lanes offer a

gentler ride for young kiddos and the young-at-heart. Just watch out for avalanches.

• Santa and Mrs. Claus visits: Catch Santa on vacation in his ski gondola! It's a one-of-a-kind holiday photo opportunity you won't want to miss. Then, cozy up for heartwarming story time with Mrs. Claus.

• Cinemark Christmas classics: Settle in for beloved holiday movie screenings from Cinemark—perfect for cozy family moments.

• Après ski dance party: Cap off the night on the light-up dance floor. The 'Après Ski' party invites you to dance the night away under the stars.

• Live music and holiday programming: From Christmas karaoke and ugly sweater contests to festive bands and carolers, there's something for everyone.

• Trailside treats and sips: Coca-Cola products, hot cocoa, holiday cocktails, themed snacks and more will keep you fueled for festive fun.

• Instagrammable moments galore: Bring your sparkle—photo ops are everywhere, with enhanced photo packages available for keepsake holiday memories.

"We're proud to partner with Social House to help bring the REAL magic of Christmas to life," said Derek Alexander, Vice President

of Commercial & Digital at Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages. "The overwhelming response from families last year proved there's a deep love for classic traditions with a fresh twist. We're honored to be part of this unforgettable celebration."

Get involved with Coca-Cola's Classic Christmas

Coca-Cola's Classic Christmas welcomes the local community to help spread the cheer. Whether you're a holiday performer, content creator, seasonal staffer, or brand sponsor, there's a place for you at Classic Christmas.

- Food vendors
 - Holiday, art, or music performers
 - Content creators, influencers, and social storytellers
 - Brand sponsors and promotional partners
- Visit ClassicChristmas.com for more information.

Fort Bend County libraries hold activities to celebrate network relaunch

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Libraries has announced the launch of a new, state-of-the-art online network, catalog, and computer/Internet access for library users starting September 2.

Library users will once again have access to computers, Internet, and printing, as well as digital collections and traditional services and materials they have come to enjoy over the years — and much more.

Special activities and giveaways celebrating the re-launch of the new network were held at the branch libraries throughout the week, starting on September 3, culminating with a big Re-Launch Party on Saturday, September 6 at George Memorial Library at 1001 Golfview, Richmond.

Library visitors may also choose to get a limited-edition library card, recently designed by winners of the Library-Card Design Contest for Library Card Sign-Up Month.

"We thank you for your patience and appreciate your continued support," said Library Director Roosevelt Weeks. "We look forward to introducing everyone to our new, enhanced system."

For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbendlibraries.gov) or call the library system's Communications Office (281-633-4734).

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

PowerSecure, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Renewal of Permit 135310.

This application would authorize continued operation of a Non-emergency Diesel Engine Generator located at 17350 Pattiglen Drive, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77084. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Brookshire-Katy Drainage District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 - 2026 on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 8:30am, at the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District Office located at 1111 Kenney St., Brookshire, TX 77423. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	ARNOLD ENGLAND; DAVID WELCH; JOHN CHISUM; BLAKE BECKENDORFF
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	PAT KEELING

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)	\$0.057898 /\$100	\$0.057850 /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.000048/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-0.08%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$425,814.00	\$460,194.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$425,814.00	\$460,194.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$246.53	\$266.22
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted and percentage of decrease	\$19.68	7.98%

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.

Local businessman encourages selfies to benefit Dream Rydes charity

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

It was a very different and creative way to connect with trade show attendees — and to raise money for a local charity.

Wilson Orr, owner of ProLift Garage Doors, wanted to do something different at his booth at the recent Katy Home & Outdoor Living Show at the Merrell Center on August 23-24. Not only did he want to find a way to stand out to the attendees of the home show, but he wanted to raise money for a local nonprofit.

He asked attendees to pose for a selfie with him at his booth — and then made a donation to Dream Rydes for every one of the selfies posted to Facebook.

"For the past few years I've been trying to find new ways to give to local charities, but being a small local business, I don't have a lot of funds to do so," Orr told the Katy Times. "I volunteer my time when I can, but I know that what these non-profits really need is fundraising. So, I figured if I could ask the community to post a picture with me in my big ProLift hat, and by doing so I would make a donation to a local charity."

Wilson said that about a dozen people



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILSON ORR

Wilson Orr (far right), owner of ProLift Garage Doors, poses for a selfie with Jayme and Harold Spiro of Spiro Insurance at the Katy Home & Outdoor Living Show at Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy on August 23. Wilson encouraged attendees to pose for selfies with him and made a donation to local charity Dream Rydes for every photo posted to Facebook.

took advantage of the offer, resulting in a donation of \$230.00 to the group. "I never had one person turn me down," he said.

Dream Rydes helps kids with cancer get transportation to their radiation and chemo treatments free of charge. To learn more, visit www.dreamrydes.org.

Katy Times

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday. Subscriptions are available for \$48 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend counties and \$72 elsewhere. Subscribe at www.katytimes.com or by mailing payment and delivery information to Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

TRIBUTE

Billy Dean Bishop, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on June 11, 2025, at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He was born on September 15, 1957, to Margaret Carolyn (Thompson) and Ernest Charles Bishop in Houston, Texas.



BILLY DEAN BISHOP
1957-2025

Bill was a fourth generation of the Thompson family to live in Katy, where he developed a passion for life and a love for family that would guide him throughout his years. He graduated from Katy High School in 1976 and continued his education at Sam Houston State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a minor in Economics in 1982. Bill played many sports while in high school and continued that passion at college, participating in intramural sports.

On January 21, 1984, Bill married the love of his life, Susan Joy Cranek, in El Campo, Texas. Their union was marked by a deep, abiding love that only grew stronger with time. Together, they created a home filled with laughter, warmth, and countless cherished memories. Bill was a proud father of his daughter, Kaylynn Binford (Blake) of League City, Texas, and his

son, Ashton Bishop (Molly) of Muncie, Indiana, and the loving grandfather (PopPop) to Darcy and Winnie Bishop and Levi and Vivian Binford. Bill's family was everything to him, and he cherished every moment spent with them.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife, Susan Bishop; daughter Kaylynn Binford and husband Blake Binford, and Levi and Vivian; son Ashton Bishop and wife

Molly Bishop, and Darcy Dean and Windsor Jo. He is also survived by a sister, Kathy Hodges and husband Jim; sister-in-law, Sandra Cranek; brother-in-law, Jeff Cranek and wife Laura. Bill also leaves behind his dear nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will miss his kind spirit, lighthearted humor, and his story telling. (Bill, land the plane.)

Bill was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Margaret and Robert Stager; father and stepmother, Ernest and Evelyn Bishop; and in-laws, Leon H. and Lorraine Cranek.

Funeral services will be held at Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel on September 13, 2025, at 2 p.m. Friends and family are invited to join in celebrating a life well-lived. Bill's complete obituary can be found on Schmidt Funeral Home's website.

St. Faustina Church in Fulshear begins construction on new facility

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

From humble beginnings in the cafeteria of Hubenak Elementary School in 2014, St. Faustina Church, located off FM 1093 in Fulshear, continues to be one of the fastest-growing parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Today, the parish is home to thousands of diversified families and offers a wide array of ministries, including grief support, healing prayer, counseling services, youth and family programs, and faith formation for all ages. The congregation is now embarking on a journey to build a new church.

The new sanctuary, which broke ground in June 2025, is a bold and beautiful expression of the parish's mission to build a community where the deep love and mercy of God is lived, experienced and shared, a spokesperson said in an email to the Katy Times.

"St. Faustina's mission is inspired by its patron saint's devotion to Divine Mercy," the statement said.

That spirit is reflected in every aspect of parish life—from Eucharistic Adoration, to outreach programs and feast



RENDERING COURTESY OF ST. FAUSTINA CHURCH

St. Faustina Church, one of the fastest-growing congregations in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, has broken ground for a new building which is expected to be completed in 2027. The church is located at 28102 FM 1093 in Fulshear.

day celebrations. According to their pastor, Father Dat Hoang, the new church will be "a reverent dwelling place for God, a meeting point between heaven and earth, a Center of Divine Mercy and a refuge for wounded souls."

Designed in a traditional cruciform style by Jackson & Ryan architects, the new church will increase capacity from 1,300 seats in their current church building to 2,000 seats. It will also include a 49-seat perpetual adoration chapel, bell tower, plaza for community gathering, and

expanded parking.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-2027. It will be a sacred space where families can gather, celebrate, and grow together in faith.

As construction progresses, St. Faustina continues to welcome new families with open arms. "Whether you're new to the area or seeking a deeper connection to your faith, the parish offers a spiritual home where you can grow, serve, and belong," the spokesperson said.

To learn more, visit saintfaustinachurch.org/buildingourchurch.

The Katy Times Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

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KTX Window Cleaning LLC named finalist in U.S. Chamber of Commerce CO—100 Awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

KTX Window Cleaning LLC, a locally owned business founded by Kyle and Olivia Martin, has been recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 10 Finalists in the “Customer Champions” category of the national CO—100 Awards. The duo made the announcement in a September 3 press release.

Selected from thousands of applicants, KTX Window Cleaning was honored for its outstanding customer service and community impact. The CO—100 celebrates the top 100 small businesses across the country, with winners to be announced at the CO—100 gala in Washington, D.C., this October.

The CO—100 honorees were chosen out of more than 12,500 applicants by a panel of judges for impressive growth, innovative strategies, and commitment to building strong workplace cultures. Over a quarter of

the competitors (26%) generated \$2.5 million or more in revenue last year, while 73% of honorees generated over \$250k. The list includes tech innovators, customer champions, growth accelerators, disruptors, and global stars located in 35 states and Washington, D.C.

“Small businesses are the heartbeat of our economy, and their stories are nothing short of extraordinary,” said Jeanette Mulvey, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of CO—100 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “The CO—100 honorees exemplify what it means to lead with purpose, adapt with agility, and build with vision. These entrepreneurs and teams are not only shaping their local communities—they’re setting new standards for what’s possible in business.”

“This recognition is humbling and almost hard to believe,” said Olivia Martin, co-owner. “Our mission has always been simple — treat people well, deliver exceptional service, and care deeply for our community. To see those

values recognized on a national stage is beyond exciting.”

Beyond KTX Window Cleaning, the Martins also lead KTX Blue Towel Mission, a nonprofit that repurposes recycled surgical towels into resale products to fund free home upkeep services for elderly Texans. They are also working to provide OSHA safety training seminars to individuals desiring to enter the force. Olivia Martin is also a co-founder of “Women of Katy,” which provides scholarships, resources, and educational events that connect and support women across the Katy area. She is also a past president of the Katy Business Association (now the Katy Business Alliance).

Founded in 2018, KTX Window Cleaning has grown into a trusted name for window cleaning, gutter cleaning, pressure washing, and screen repair services across Katy, Fulshear, and surrounding communities. The company employs 12 at its location at 5150 Franz Road in Katy.



Olivia and Kyle Martin

“This honor is not just ours,” Olivia Martin added. “It belongs to our incredible team, our loyal customers, and our community. We are proud to represent Katy, Texas, on the national stage.”

Kyle Martin is originally from Old Katy while Olivia Martin hails from East Texas.

Local teen all-female band Garbage Girlfriend releases first single



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARBAGE GIRLFRIEND

Katy-based alternative/garage rock band Garbage Girlfriend just recorded their debut EP and will release their first single, “Lies,” on September 12. Band members are (left to right) Evelyn Moreno, Christy Ferra, Liv Teixeira (standing), and Ciona Casino.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Garbage Girlfriend, the all-female teen alternative/garage rock band from Katy, is releasing their first single, “Lies,” on all streaming platforms on September 12.

Fans can pre-save the track now to be notified when it goes live at midnight. Produced by Grammy Award-winning, multi-platinum producer Malcolm Springer out of Nashville, “Lies” is the first in a series of releases that will culminate in the band’s debut album. An official music video for “Lies” will premiere on YouTube on Thursday, September 11 at 6 p.m. CT.

On release day, Garbage Girlfriend

will open for national touring act Liliac at Warehouse Live Midtown 2600 Travis in Houston starting at 7 p.m. Garbage Girlfriend’s July appearance at the venue drew more than 600 attendees.

“We can’t believe a song all four of us wrote together is about to be heard around the world—it’s a teenage dream come true,” said Evelyn Moreno, 17, drummer and founder of Garbage Girlfriend. “Please pre-save ‘Lies’ on your favorite platform and come celebrate with us Friday night at Warehouse Live.”

Garbage Girlfriend consists of lead vocalist Liv Teixeira, 15; guitarist Christy Ferra, 15; drummer Evelyn Moreno, 17; and bassist Ciona Casino, 18. Moreno attends

Katy’s Taylor High School while Ferra is at Mayde Creek. Teixeira attends Bridgeland High School in Cypress-Fairbanks, ISD. Casino is a Seven Lakes High School grad and now a freshman at the University of Houston. The band is managed by Paul Crosby Management.

Moreno founded the band in July 2022 shortly after she broke up with her first-ever boyfriend, who called her a garbage girlfriend in a text message. She had been wanting to start a band; that text gave Moreno the push and partly fueled her decision to make the members all-female. The girls met when they were students at School of Rock. For more info, visit www.garbagegirlfriendband.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 59)

SJR 59 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish two special funds in the state treasury to provide a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. The proposed amendment requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to manage the funds, including managing any investment activities related to the funds and making the funds available for use by the TSTC System. The proposed amendment authorizes the TSTC System Board of Regents to use amounts distributed by the Comptroller to the available fund to acquire land, construct and equip buildings and other permanent improvements, make major repairs and rehabilitations of buildings or other permanent improvements, acquire capital equipment, acquire library books and materials, make payment of the principal and interest due on any bonds or notes used to finance permanent improvements, or for any other purpose authorized by law. Under the proposed amendment, the TSTC System could not use the appropriated funds to construct, equip, repair, or rehabilitate buildings or other permanent improvements that are to be used for intercollegiate athletics or auxiliary enterprises.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.”**

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 18)

SJR 18 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust. This prohibition would include a tax on the sale or transfer of a capital asset that is payable by an individual, family, estate, or trust selling or transferring the asset. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate of an ad valorem tax on property; a sales tax on the sale of goods or services; or a use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of goods or services.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The**

constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.”

Proposition Number 3 (SJR 5)

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the denial of bail pending trial for persons accused of certain criminal offenses. The proposed amendment would apply only to a person accused of committing one or more of the following offenses: murder; capital murder; aggravated assault if the person caused serious bodily injury to another, as defined by law, or the person used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by law, during the commission of the assault; aggravated kidnapping; aggravated robbery; aggravated sexual assault; indecency with a child; trafficking of persons; or continuous trafficking of persons. Under the proposed amendment, a person accused of one or more of these offenses must be denied bail pending trial if the attorney representing the state demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably prevent the person’s willful nonappearance in court; or the attorney representing the state demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. A judge or magistrate who grants bail to a person accused of one or more of these offenses under the proposed amendment must set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably prevent the person’s willful nonappearance in court and ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. The judge or magistrate must also prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the justification for the grant of bail. The proposed amendment specifies that it may not be construed to limit any right a person has under other law to contest a denial of bail or to contest the amount of bail set by a judge or magistrate or to require any testimonial evidence before a judge or magistrate makes a bail decision with respect to a person to whom the amendment applies. A judge or magistrate who determines whether a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence exists under the proposed amendment shall consider the likelihood of the person’s willful nonappearance in court; the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense; the safety of the community,

law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense; and the criminal history of the person. A person is entitled to be represented by counsel at a hearing described by the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.”**

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 7)

HJR 7 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to allocate and transfer funds to accounts administered by the Texas Water Development Board. The proposed amendment also allows the legislature to suspend allocations of funds to these accounts during a state of disaster declared under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.”**

Proposition Number 5 (HJR 99)

HJR 99 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt animal feed held by the owner for retail sale from ad valorem taxation. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.”**

Proposition Number 6 (HJR 4)

HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from enacting a law that imposes an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on a securities transaction conducted by a registered

securities market operator. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition of a general business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on insurance premiums, a sales and use tax on tangible personal property or services, or a fee based on the cost of processing or creating documents. The proposed amendment would also not prohibit a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2026.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions.”**

Proposition Number 7 (HJR 133)

HJR 133 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to give surviving spouses of United States armed services veterans a property tax exemption on their residence homestead. The proposed amendment would exempt all or part of the property tax on the spouse’s residence homestead if the veteran died from a condition or disease presumed under federal law to be service-related. The exemption would apply only to a surviving spouse who has not remarried since the veteran’s death. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected.”**

Proposition Number 8 (HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on a deceased individual’s estate because of the individual’s death, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax. The proposed amendment would prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust, including generation-skipping transfers, if the tax was not in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the legislature from

(CONTINUED)

TRIBUTE

Roger Lee Armstrong, a cherished husband, father, and grandfather residing in Katy, Texas, passed away peacefully at his home on September 1, 2025, at the age of 77.

Roger was born in Port Arthur, Texas and raised in Bridge City, Texas where he enjoyed his childhood in the sun and where his love for nature developed. Roger attended Bridge City High School; he was on the track team and received awards for his excellent skills in engineering class. Soon after graduating high school, he met his beautiful bride, Ellen Blackwell. They were married on May 1, 1967, in Henderson, NC. He was drafted for the Vietnam War and would serve his country for two years in the Army.

Roger was a proud and devoted worker in all aspects of his life, especially when it came to his career. He was an employee of the City of Houston, Walter P. Moore, and lastly Traffic Engineers Inc. — where his dream of becoming president came true. Roger was a firm believer in giving others the opportunity to grow and better themselves, pushing them to reach their goals, and helping them truly succeed in life.

Roger was a devoted follower of Jesus with unwavering faith. He and his family were members of Hibbard Baptist Church, First Baptist Galena Park (where he became an ordained deacon), South Main Baptist, and lastly his home church Kingsland Baptist. He greatly enjoyed his time at Kingsland Baptist, where he warmly greeted every guest, celebrated his 50th Anniversary with Ellen, and faithfully worshiped Jesus from his favorite seat every Sunday. Roger always found ways to show the love of Jesus: through prayers, sharing the gospel, the way he loved others well, or running a



ROGER LEE ARMSTRONG
2025

Sunday school class every Christmas Eve for 55 years filled with four generations of close friends.

Roger was a funny, joyful, sometimes grumpy, sarcastic, stubborn man. A good “Har-Har” was his favorite — he’d even make you the punchline, but always in a way that brought everyone together. His silly sayings always caused one of two reactions: shocked bugged-eyes or lots and lots of laughter. He

enjoyed gardening, sitting on the back porch reading his Bible and drinking coffee, and watching College football: Hook ‘em! Roger enjoyed vacationing in Concan, Texas, and Galveston, Texas with his family, where he enjoyed long walks along the Frio River and the beach, playing and counting cards during family card games, and taking his grandkids on adventures. Roger also loved cooking for his family and loved ones, especially his famous gumbo.

Roger is preceded in death by his parents Wilfred and Rosalie Armstrong, and by his brothers Michael Armstrong and Don Armstrong.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ellen Blackwell; his daughters Robin Armstrong and Rhonda A. Trevino; favorite son-in-law Mario Trevino; godson Kelvin L. Graves Jr.; grandchildren Abigail Armstrong, Micah Trevino, and Noah Trevino; sister Martha Hammond; and sister-in-law Judy Kaiser, as well as all his nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life was held Monday, September 8, 2025, at Kingsland Baptist Church. Burial immediately followed at Katy Magnolia Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Missions Ministry at Kingsland Baptist Church.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month: Understanding risks and symptoms

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

September marks Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and Houston Methodist West Hospital is urging men of all ages to learn the risk factors, take proactive steps for screenings, and prioritize important conversations about prostate health.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among American men.
 - An estimated 1 in 8 men will face a prostate cancer diagnosis in their lifetime.
 - African American men have a higher diagnosis risk and mortality rate compared to other racial groups.
 - Although 60% of cases occur in men 65 years or older, an increasing number are being diagnosed in their 40s and 50s.
 - Early prostate cancer stages often have no symptoms, which is why routine screenings are essential.
 - Not all cases require immediate treatment. Active monitoring can sometimes be the best option.
- “Detecting the disease early gives patients the best chance and reduces the chance of the cancer spreading,” said Dr. David Mobley, urologist at Houston Methodist West. “Early detection also opens the door to utilize many noninvasive care options like HIFU, high-intensity focused ultrasound, which can effectively eliminate cancer cells without radiation or incisions. The treatment also has minimal side effects, allowing patients to recover more quickly and resume their normal lives.”

FIVE TIPS FOR PROSTATE HEALTH

1. Understand your risk factors: Age, family history, race, diet and lifestyle all

play a factor.

2. Prioritize screenings: PSA tests are safe and critical for early detection.
3. Adopt a healthy lifestyle: Maintain a balanced diet and exercise routine. Reduce red meat and high-fat dairy consumption.
4. Know the symptoms: Urinary changes, blood in urine or semen, or persistent pelvic or back pain requires immediate medical attention.
5. Spread awareness: Encourage loved ones to stay informed and proactive.

TAKE ACTION THIS SEPTEMBER

Houston Methodist West encourages men and their families to use Prostate Cancer Awareness Month as a reminder to schedule screenings and talk to their healthcare providers. For more information or to schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist West urologist, visit houstonmethodist.org/spg/urology/katy/ or call 832-522-8300.

ABOUT HOUSTON METHODIST WEST HOSPITAL

Houston Methodist West Hospital is committed to leading medicine in the Katy and West Houston communities by delivering the Houston Methodist standard of unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation. The growing campus offers 271 beds and access to the most innovative medical and surgical care available, including robotic and minimally invasive surgery, full-spectrum heart care, state-of-the-art imaging, comprehensive cancer care, childbirth center with a level III NICU, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, outpatient rehabilitation and 24/7 emergency services. For more information, visit houstonmethodist.org/west.

PUBLIC NOTICE (CONTINUED)

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

(CONTINUED)

increasing the tax rate or expanding the applicability to new parties of a transfer tax that was in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate or applicability of a general business tax measured by business activity; a tax on the production of minerals; a tax on the issuance of title insurance; a tax in existence on January 1, 2016; a tax on the transfer of a motor vehicle by gift; or an ad valorem tax on property.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent’s property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift.**”

Proposition Number 9 (HJR 1)

HJR 1 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the amount of tangible personal property held or used for the production of income that the legislature could exempt from property taxes to \$125,000 rather than the minimum amount sufficient to recover the costs of property tax administration.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income.**”

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 84)

SJR 84 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to create a temporary property tax exemption for the appraised value of an improvement to a person’s residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire. The proposed amendment authorizes the legislature to prescribe the duration of the exemption and to establish additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely**

destroyed by a fire.”

Proposition Number 11 (SJR 85)

SJR 85 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from property taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is 65 years of age or older or a person who is disabled from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled.**”

Proposition Number 12 (SJR 27)

SJR 27 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the membership and procedures of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC). The proposed amendment would: (1) change the membership of the SCJC so that it is composed of six judges appointed by the Texas Supreme Court and seven citizens appointed by the Governor who are at least 35 years old, with both groups of appointees requiring the consent of the Texas Senate to be confirmed; (2) restrict the SCJC’s power to issue a private reprimand (or impose a requirement that the person obtain additional training or education) to a person who has not previously been issued a private reprimand and in response to a complaint that does not allege criminal behavior; (3) require the SCJC to find that a person engaged in willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge’s duties, or determine that there is other good cause, before issuing a public admonition or punishment; (4) expand the SCJC’s power to order suspension without pay as punishment; (5) give the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court the power to select the appellate-court justices to serve on a tribunal to review the SCJC’s recommendation for the removal or retirement of a person from office, without any requirement that each court of appeals designate one of its members for consideration by the chief justice; and (6) direct the Texas Supreme Court and Governor to appoint SCJC members to initial terms of two, four, and six years starting on January 1, 2026, with the succeeding terms to be

six years, so that upon completion of the initial terms, the SCJC will be composed of members serving staggered six-year terms.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission’s recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct.**”

Proposition Number 13 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory homestead exemption from property taxation for general elementary and secondary public school purposes from \$100,000 to \$140,000 of the market value of the residence.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000.**”

Proposition Number 14 (SJR 3)

SJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to establish a new state agency, the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT). The proposed amendment would create the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to be administered by DPRIT. Under the proposed amendment, DPRIT would be responsible for awarding financial grants for research on and the prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders. The proposed amendment would also authorize the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to transfer \$3 billion from the state general revenue fund to the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and**

prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue.”

Proposition Number 15 (SJR 34)

SJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to affirm that a parent has the responsibility to nurture and protect the parent’s child and the corresponding fundamental right to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent’s child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child’s upbringing.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children.**”

Proposition Number 16 (SJR 37)

SJR 37 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that only United States citizens are allowed to vote in Texas elections.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.**”

Proposition Number 17 (HJR 34)

HJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation, in counties that border the United Mexican States, the portion of a real property’s assessed value that arose from the installation or construction of border security infrastructure and related improvements. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to define “border security infrastructure” and prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “**The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements.**”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS GIFT MARKET

Get your home ready for the fall holiday season with décor and more at the Autumn Acres Market September 13-14 at the Gerald D. Young Facility/L.D. Robinson Pavilion, 5825 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd, Katy.

Local fall market returns: Autumn Acres kicks off seasonal shopping in Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Home for the Holidays Gift Market announces the return of Autumn Acres Market to Katy on September 13-14, bringing a curated selection of unique, handcrafted gifts, seasonal décor, and boutique finds to kick off fall and early Christmas shopping. The festive event features dozens of vendors with handcrafted goods, home décor, apparel, jewelry, gourmet treats, and early holiday gifts.

The two-day market will be held at the Gerald D. Young Facility/L.D. Robinson Pavilion, 5825 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd, Katy, with \$5.00 general admission and free parking.

Kids 12 and under free. Wristbands allow re-admission all weekend.

The market will be open Saturday, September 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food trucks on site for lunch and quick bites.

"Autumn Acres is where Katy families and shoppers discover one-of-a-kind pieces you simply won't find in big-box stores," said Stacie Bowles, founder and show producer. "Every purchase directly supports a small business, and that makes a real difference for our makers, merchants, and the local economy."

Tickets are available online or at the door. Interested merchants can

apply via the event website. Media consent applies to attendees.

For more information: <https://homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com/autumn-acres-katy-1>.

About Home for the Holidays Gift Market

Since 2008, Home for the Holidays Gift Market has produced beloved seasonal markets across Texas, showcasing local artisans and small businesses while creating memorable shopping experiences for families and friends. Home for the Holidays Gift Market™ is a registered trademark of HENRY-BOWLES INC.

Fort Bend County announces Ana Martinez as new Director of Community Development

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Following formal action by the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court during its meeting on Tuesday, July 22, Fort Bend County announced the appointment of Ana Martinez as the new Director of Community Development in an August 18 press release.



ANA MARTINEZ

Martinez brings over 15 years of leadership experience in project management, grant administration, and strategic development, the release said. She has held key public sector roles including grant manager, development manager (Harris County), and deputy assistant director (City of Houston), where she successfully led disaster recovery programs, managed multimillion-dollar budgets, and spearheaded affordable housing and economic development initiatives.

"Ana Martinez is a results-driven leader with a passion for equitable community growth," said Fort Bend County Judge KP George. "Her experience, commitment, and collaborative approach will help us deliver meaningful impact across Fort Bend County."

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Houston. Her background combines hands-on operational leadership with policy insight and a deep understanding of the needs of diverse communities.

As director, she will lead Fort Bend County's efforts to expand access to affordable housing, support neighborhood revitalization, and implement community development strategies that improve quality of life for all residents.

For more information about the Community Development Department and its programs, visit www.fortbendcountytx.gov.

Grange invites families to sip, see and snack Sept. 20

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Families are invited to sip, see, snack and explore at Grange, a new master planned community in Katy, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept 20, at Front Porch Park, 405 Dove Meadow Lane in Katy.

Guests can indulge in complimentary coffee from Citizens

Coffee and mini pancakes from Local Cart (while supplies last) while enjoying activities such as face painting, sidewalk chalk fun and a kid-friendly scavenger hunt. While the kids are playing, grown-ups can explore eight professionally decorated model homes. Alyssa Brewer, Grange Lifestyle Director, will be on hand to meet potential

homeowners. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the event, visit <https://www.livein-grange.com/community-events/sip--see-detail-s-5-1758344400>.

Information about the new 1,130-acre Grange community by Johnson Development is available at www.livein-grange.com.



Master-planned community Grange is hosting a free community event on September 20 where families may sip, snack and shop the new development west of Katy while enjoying kid-friendly activities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHNSON DEVELOPMENT

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 151 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., at Inframark Water & Infrastructure Services, 2002 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 100, Katy, TX 77449. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	K. Gier, N. Shipley, L. James, J. Ciarella & C. McFarland
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

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

	Last Year \$.780 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$.720 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.780 /\$100 Adopted	\$.720 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.060 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.6923%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$511,734	\$543,602
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$511,734	\$543,602
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,991.53	\$ 3,913.93
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		-\$77.60 -1.9441%

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.

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 163 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	R. Patrick, J. Hundl, J. Ring & O. Cabello
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	A. Zepeda

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

	Last Year \$ 0.663 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.650 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.663 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.650 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.013 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-1.8868%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$815,110	\$858,716
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$815,110	\$858,716
Tax on average residence homestead	\$5,400.10	\$5,581.65
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$181.55 3.3620%

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.

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

Royal ISD surpasses 3,000 students as enrollment soars

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal ISD announced on August 25 that more than 3,000 students are now enrolled across its six campuses. "This milestone highlights the district's continued growth and the community's trust in Royal ISD as the place for families to learn, connect, and thrive," said a spokesperson for the district in a press release.

"Royal is more than a school district—it's a family," said RISD Superintendent Megan Pape. "Every new student represents a story, a dream, and a future. Reaching 3,000 students is a testament to the strength of our community and the bright opportunities ahead. We are so excited to reach this historical marker in our school district—the first time we have ever had an enrollment of 3,000 students."

"As Royal ISD celebrates this achievement, the district remains committed to blending strong traditions with innovation, ensuring that every learner has the tools to soar," the district spokesperson said.

Prepared for next chapter: Katy ISD celebrates summer grads

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Family members and friends cheered, clapped, laughed and gave celebratory waves for their Katy Independent School District graduates from the stands of the Merrell Center at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy on Wednesday, August 27. The 2025 summer commencement ceremony was a night of celebration for 68 students and their guests, as the graduates took the next step towards higher education, careers, technical school or military service.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Elated students from across the Katy ISD received cheers as they walked across the stage at the 2025 summer commencement ceremony held at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, on August 27.

In addition to honoring graduates, district leaders recognized the people who played important roles in supporting and preparing these future leaders for the big day.

"Tonight's graduates are officially a part of the Katy ISD legacy," Katy ISD Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership and Support Emily Craig said. "We recognize and celebrate their dedication and hard work. The district honors them and the parents, guardians, educators, coaches and siblings who helped make this day possible."

These students exemplify Katy ISD's mission to, together with family and community, provide unparalleled learning experiences designed to prepare and inspire each student to live an honorable, fulfilling life – to create the future, the district said in an August 27 press release.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Olivia Watson (second from right, next to H-E-B mascot), a teacher at Roosevelt Alexander Elementary School at 6161 S. Fry Road in Katy, displays the mock check depicting the \$1,000.00 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award presented to her on February 6 by store representatives. Nominations for the 2026 Excellence in Education Awards are now open.

H-E-B's statewide search for top educators could again bring cash to local schools

Nominations for 2026 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards open until September 30

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nominations are now open for the 2026 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards, one of the state's largest monetary awards programs for public school professionals. Texas teachers, counselors and principals are eligible to win cash prizes for themselves and their schools, while early childhood centers, school boards and school districts can receive cash awards in recognition of their exceptional contributions. From now until September 30, 2025, anyone can nominate their favorite Texas educator at HEBLovesTeachers.com/nominate.

Last year Olivia Watson, a teacher at Katy ISD's Roosevelt Alexander Elementary at 6161 S. Fry Road in Katy, was a finalist in the Leadership Elementary category. One of only five statewide finalists considered for The Leadership Award in the elementary category, Watson's category included

outstanding teachers with 10-to-20 years in the classroom. As a finalist, Watson and her school each received a \$1,000 cash prize.

Since 2002, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program, which recognizes educators who go the extra mile to serve their students and their communities, has awarded almost \$15 million in funding to finalists, winners and their schools.

"The H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards celebrate the transformative impact of Texas educators who pour their hearts into empowering students and uplifting communities," Jill Reynolds, H-E-B Public Affairs Manager, said. "A nomination is more than recognition—it's an invitation to unlock resources and elevate the work of exceptional educators, schools and the neighborhoods they serve."

All state-certified public school educators currently teaching in Texas are eligible for the awards program, as well as Texas early childhood education centers/schools. Eligibility is not dependent on proximity to H-E-B store locations.

Nomination categories include:

- Teacher
- School counselor
- Principal

- Early Childhood facility
- School board
- School district

Educators who are nominated will receive an invitation to apply before November 2, 2025. While a nomination is not required to apply for an award, a nomination lets an educator know they are appreciated and should apply for the awards program.

Finalists and winners will be selected by a panel of judges composed of educators, administrators and community leaders throughout the state. Ten winners—six teachers, two counselors and two principals—along with an early childhood facility, public school board and two school districts, will be announced at an awards ceremony in Houston in Spring 2026. Each award recipient's school will also receive a matching grant.

In 2025, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program distributed \$782,000 in cash and grants to educators and schools. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators who go the extra mile each day to serve their students and communities and who inspire others to do the same. To nominate an educator, visit hebllovesteachers.com/nominate/.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 57 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 9:00 A.M., at Pine Mill Ranch Community Center, 26810 Pine Mill Ranch Drive, Katy, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes 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:	Randy Rodriguez, Chris Tolle, Gina Babineaux, Freddy Calderon
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Bill Lyle

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)	\$0.72600 /\$100	\$0.68800 /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.03800 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.23%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$519,050.00	\$566,305.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$519,050.00	\$566,305.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,768.30	\$3,896.18
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$127.88 3.39%

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.

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

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 003 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 12:00 P.M., at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Ste 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes 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:	Charles K. Chapline, Michael Salinas, Martha Blecher
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Justin Graham, Wesley Frommel

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)	\$0.85000 /\$100	\$0.84500 /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.00500 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-0.59%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$464,358.00	\$481,451.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$464,358.00	\$481,451.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,947.04	\$4,068.26
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$121.22 3.07%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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

Cinco Ranch's Adriana Zambrano-Moreno places 8th in national STEM competition

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Adriana Zambrano-Moreno has been fascinated with technology and its applications for as long as she can remember. In July, her passion and planning led the Cinco Ranch High School student to national recognition and an eighth-place finish at the Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference and Competition in Nashville, Tenn., the district announced in an August 27 press release.

Zambrano-Moreno competed in the Future Technology & Engineering Teacher event and stood out among 10,000 students in attendance from across the United States and around the world, finishing in the Top 10 out of 200 category entries with her project on Artificial Intelligence.

To qualify, she had to create a lesson plan and present it to the judges as if she were the teacher of the course. This involved researching trends in technology, creating an original interactive lesson and aligning the lesson to national science, math and technology standards. It was a lengthy process, but the work paid dividends.

"I would have never imagined that I would make it all the way to nationals when I first started brainstorming my lesson plan back in November of 2024," Zambrano-Moreno said. "Becoming a finalist at the national level gave me an immense sense of satisfaction in the work I did, and being recognized was an incredible honor, but I think the journey itself and the growth I experienced along the way meant just as much."

To reach the national Top 10, Zambrano-Moreno advanced through the first



Adriana Zambrano-Moreno (middle) represents Cinco Ranch High School and Katy ISD at Technology Student Association National Competition in Nashville this summer. She placed eighth in the competition.

round with outstanding written and video submissions, then impressed judges in a live interview by sharing her process and expertise. She credits her advisors for helping on her journey. The team of Cinco Ranch teachers, Raf Villarreal, Shane Lalumandier, Kristin Rausch, Emily Gresham and Rachelle Ferguson, shared a collective statement of enthusiasm for her accomplishment.

"Adriana represented Cinco Ranch High School and Katy ISD with excellence at the National TSA Convention," they said. "She explored what it takes to succeed as a future technology teacher and demonstrated her ability to deliver STEM skills and concepts.

We are incredibly proud of her dedication, perseverance and Cougar Pride!"

Zambrano-Moreno's passion for tech will continue after she graduates. She plans to pursue a double major in computer science and music to fuel her goal of having a successful career in software development.

"I have always been fascinated by technology and how it can be used to make a positive impact, but at the same time, music has always been a big part of my life," Zambrano-Moreno said. "I hope to combine these two areas in ways that can help people and make the world a little better."

VFW scholarships deadline Oct. 31

FROM STAFF REPORTS

If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$30,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, scholarships from the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 (VFW) may be for you.

But don't delay - applications for both scholarships deadline on October 31.

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 64,500 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

Local post winners will receive cash awards for first, second and third place. Winning entries will be forwarded to District 17 with those winners sent on to the VFW Department of Texas and those winners on to National. Cash or scholarship awards are made at each level.

To apply, read the rules and eligibility requirements, download and complete the entry form at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships and submit to VFW Post 9182, Attn: Voice of Democracy, P.O. Box 37, Katy, TX 77492 by midnight, October 31, 2025.

Each year more than 165,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

Local post winners will receive cash awards for first, second and third place. Winning entries are sent to district with those winners sent on to the state level and those winners on to the national level. Cash or scholarship awards are made at each level.

To apply, read the rules and eligibility requirements, download and complete the entry form at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships and submit to VFW Post 9182, Attn: Patriots Pen, P.O. Box 37, Katy, TX 77492 by midnight, October 31, 2025.

WGU offers 'back to school' scholarships

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Going back to school is your chance to pursue the degree you've been thinking about.

Western Governor's University (WGU) says that it is committed to making students' next steps more affordable and more accessible and the school offers scholarships as one of the many ways that WGU makes the path to a degree easier.

On top of WGU's already-low tuition, a \$3,000 Back to School Scholarship is

available to help students graduate on a budget that works for them. WGU charges per six-month term, rather than per credit hour, and the competency-based courses allow students to prove their knowledge and advance through their program faster.

"This helps students to control the cost of their degree," says a statement on the school's website. "So, the faster you complete your program, the less you could pay for your degree.

The "Back to School" scholarship is valued up to \$3,000 and will be credited to

the student's account at the rate of \$750 per term, renewable up to four terms. The first step in obtaining the scholarship is to apply for admission, and the second step is to apply for the scholarship.

Deadline for application is December 15, 2025.

The institution also offers more than 80 additional kinds of scholarships.

Western Governors University (WGU), a private online nonprofit university based in Millcreek, Utah. For more information, go to wgu.edu.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Woodcreek Reserve Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., at the Katy Civic Center, 910 Ave. C, Katy, Texas 77493. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	C. Foster, C. Caruthers, D. Cresap, M. Sheahan & J. Perkins
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ <u>0.400</u> /\$100 Adopted	\$ <u>0.380</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.020 /\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-5.0000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ <u>612,391</u>	\$ <u>633,635</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>-\$122,478</u>	<u>-\$126,727</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ <u>489,913</u>	\$ <u>506,908</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ <u>1,959.65</u>	\$ <u>1,926.25</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>-\$33.40</u> <u>-1.7044%</u>

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 199 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	M. Wilson, W. Stewart, J. Glazer, M. Junell & P. Huinker
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

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

	Last Year*	This Year*
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ <u>0.700</u> /\$100 Adopted	\$ <u>0.750</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>\$0.050 /\$100</u>
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>0.0000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>\$0.00</u> <u>0.0000%</u>

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

* There were NO residential homesteads for comparison purposes.

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

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

HCC Katy seeks community help for campus expansion

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Houston City College Katy – formerly known as Houston Community College Katy – is running out of space.

That was the clear message from HCC Northwest President Zachary Hodges at a steering committee meeting with community leaders at the campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy on September 2.

HCC's enrollment across all its campuses is soaring — up more than 15 percent in fall 2025 compared to fall 2024 — and normally that is a good problem to have. But not so much for the Katy campus which now stands at 4,636 students for fall, up 7.76 percent over the prior fall. The local campus, now across from Katy Asian Town, opened in June 2022 to replace the aging Foxlake facility near N. Fry Road and Park Row in Katy. The current campus was initially projected to serve only 5000 students by 2030, according to the school's website. And it's almost there, five years early.

To accommodate the growth, two additional buildings are needed, Hodges said, one for HCC and one for UH.

But there is a catch. In Katy, Houston Community College falls outside of the taxing district, which means that local residents do not pay into the taxing district and would have to vote to approve becoming a part of the taxing district which levies a tax per property valuation. It also means that the college system cannot use tax dollars or HCC system funds to build more buildings at the Katy campus. The current building was not built with tax dollars; instead, it was funded by a \$55 million short-term finance loan from Regions Bank. Additionally the project has been supported by long-term revenue bonds, which Hodges said the HCC board is unwilling to do again. The Katy campus did not receive any funding to increase classroom space or improve laboratory facilities and continues to be funded by tuition and state reimbursement, the college's website says.

HCC has asked the state legislature for help in funding additional facilities but did not receive its "ask" during the recently-completed legislative session, Hodges said.

That means that the campus has no alternative but to turn to the community for help in funding new construction – whether it is a partnership with an institution that receives naming rights for a new building or a local fund-raising initiative or use of state or federal funds, Hodges said. Hodges added that the HCC board wants to know how the community can help fund the expansion. HCC is already working with companies like Google, FoxConn and NVista to develop programs in high tech, engineering, AI



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

UH's Jay Neal listens as Kathleen Anzivino, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at Houston City College, gives an update on the UH-HCC partnership during an HCC steering committee meeting with area business leaders at the HCC Katy campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy on September 2. Neal is the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and COO of the University of Houston at Sugar Land and University of Houston at Katy.

and digital. Hodges said that the community needs to be creative in exploring the possibilities for new funding mechanisms. "What will this look like 25 years from now?" Hodges asked.

In the meantime, enrollment continues to rise in Katy, driven in part by a strong uptick in dual-credit enrollment at Katy ISD high school campuses. Here is a snapshot of that growth:

KISD Campus	2024	2025	Increase
Katy HS	198	379	91.41
Taylor HS	290	425	46.55
Mayde Creek HS	192	313	63.02
Morton Ranch HS	230	392	70.43
Seven Lakes HS	333	512	53.75
Tompkins HS	216	280	29.63
Raines HS	23	74	222%
Paetow HS	159	192	20.75
Jordan HS	377	509	35.01
Freeman HS	7	97	1286%
Cinco Ranch HS	406	489	20.44
Total Dual Credit	2431	3662	51%

Dual enrollment is up in Katy ISD partly due to a shift in direction in KISD's strategic plan as well as additional support for CTE programs, Sane Bell, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning at KISD, told the Katy Times at the meeting. The district is committed to finding pathways for all students, she said, not just those who are bound for college at a traditional four-year university.

Hodges also said that KISD students on free and reduced lunch can qualify for free



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Katy campus of Houston City College (formerly Houston Community College) at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy needs help from the community in order to expand its facilities to meet growing enrollment, President Zachary Hodges told local business leaders on September 2.

tuition, which is also driving enrollment. He also credits innovative new programs at the school for drawing new students. HCC was the first college to offer an associate's degree in artificial intelligence, and now offers a bachelor's degree in AI as well.

Kathleen Anzivino, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at Houston City College, described two new degree programs rolling out this year in partnership with UH: a bachelor of science in technology leadership and innovation management and a bachelor of science in construction management. Anzivino also described the "career accelerator" program which enables students to complete a degree in three years. There are over 90,000 residents in the area who have some college but no degree and Anzivino said that this program "is designed to get them across the finish line." She said that the college is out looking for site for a new program it wants to add; although the school has a grant to fund three classes, there is just no more space at the school.

Jay Neal, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and COO of the University of Houston at Sugar Land and University of Houston at Katy, also gave an update on UH's presence in Katy. UH is now the sole owner of the Katy campus, following the departure of the University of Houston-Victoria at Katy from the property. UH's enrollment at the Katy campus is about 1000 students, Neal said, but his institution is running out of space as well.

However, UH is in a slightly better position; Neal said that the legislature granted their "legislative ask." Some of those funds will be used to help bring classes from the UH Bauer School of Business to the Katy campus, he said. UH is also trying to bring health sciences to this side of town, utilizing small cohorts and expanding labs. Neal said that the university is working with a real estate firm to identify and use property near Greenhouse and Fry for a lab for the LVN to ADN program and to accommodate increased enrollment in the pharmacy tech program.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Zachary Hodges, president of Houston City College's Northwest district, speaks to attendees at the Katy campus "Meet the Chancellor" event on August 25. On September 2, Hodges met with area business leaders at the facility at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy to ask for their help in funding expansion at the Katy campus, where enrollment growth is straining the existing facilities.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

PowerSecure, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 135034, which would authorize continued operation of a Non Emergency Diesel Engine Generator facility located at 16720 Pine Forest Ln, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77084. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

ROYAL PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY OFF TO A COOL START WITH ICE CREAM SOCIAL



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

Royal Prairie Elementary School Secretary Ana Plaisance (left) enjoys ice cream with daughter Ma Kayla Plaisance, who is a kindergarten student at the school during the campus' ice cream social on September 7. Royal Prairie Elementary is located in the Sunterra neighborhood at 7560 Barlett Rd. in Katy and is Royal ISD's newest school, which opened in August 2025.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The GRAND LAKES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 12:00 pm at Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	Anand Maru, William Shutt, Dennis Shumard, Katherine Elofson
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Nicole Whitman

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)	\$0.45287 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.43106 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.02181 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.82%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$467,628.00	\$508,482.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$467,628.00	\$508,482.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,117.75	\$2,191.86
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$74.12 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.

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

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



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's Off-Premises Permit by Katy Hockley C Store LLC, doing business as (DBA) Brake Time, to be located at 4002 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd, Katy, Harris County, Texas, 77493. The officer of said corporation is Omair Bashir, Manager.

KATY TIMES CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 281-391-3141

PUBLIC NOTICE
CellCo Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 49.6-foot Stealth pole at the approx. vicinity of 18415 2/3 Hughlett Drive, Cypress, Harris County, TX 77433. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Daniel Mathura, d.mathura@trileaf.com, 7700 W. Hwy 71, Suite 200 Austin, TX 78735 - 512.519.9388.*

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET FOR WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that, on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held on the Proposed 2026 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 Kuciemba 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 \$14,160,356 which is a 22.51% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$5,988,440.

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

Notice to Bidders
The City of Katy requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for selective demolition and interior office renovation to the third (3rd) floor of the Katy City Hall building located on a block bounded by Avenue C, 2nd Street, Avenue D, and 3rd Street in downtown in the incorporated limits of the City of Katy, Texas.

Bid Due Date:
Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 10:00AM (Bids submitted after 10:00am will not be accepted). Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time. Interested parties may attend.

Bid will be received at the following Location:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Pre-Bid Conference:
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 10:00AM at:
Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Scope of Work:
The Project consists of construction of the following:

Interior office build-out of six (6) offices and conference, work, and storage areas (total of 1,673 S.F.) on the third (3rd) floor and interior wall partition repair (total of 40 L.F.) on the first (1st) floor of the City Hall building. The scope of work includes selective demolition and renovation to accommodate the build-out. The work is interior only.

Evaluation Criteria:
The contract will be awarded to the most qualified General Contractor based on the bidder who provides the best value for the City. In determining the best value for the City, the municipality may consider the following weighted criteria:
(1) the purchase price (30%);
(2) the reputation of the bidder (10%);
(3) the quality of the bidder's goods or services (5%);
(4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the City's needs (10%);
(5) the bidder's past relationship with the City (15%);
(6) the impact on the ability of the City to comply with laws and rules relating to contracting with historically under-utilized businesses and non-profit organizations employing persons with disabilities (5%);
(7) the total long-term cost to the municipality to acquire the bidder's goods or services (5%); and
(8) the completeness of the bid (20%).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid.

Bid and Bond Requirements:
Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

The bid is to be submitted as one (1) original hardcopy of all documents and one (1) thumb drive / USB of all documents, and all in a sealed envelope. Include acknowledgement of an Addenda if applicable. A completed Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties must accompany the bid. A Certificate of Liability Insurance must accompany the bid. An AIA A305 - 2020 Exhibit or equivalent information for evaluation purposes based on the Evaluation Criteria listed above.

Bid Documents:
Plans and specifications will be available on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL
PERMIT NUMBER 135034

APPLICATION. PowerSecure, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 135034, which would authorize continued operation of a Non Emergency Diesel Engine Generator facility located at 16720 Pine Forest Lane, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77084. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.656666,29.831111&level=13>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 31, 2025. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Katherine Tyra Branch Library, 16719 Clay Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices>

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.

Further information may also be obtained from PowerSecure, Inc., 4068 Stirrup Creek Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27703-9000 or by calling Mr. Caleb Vickery, Air Permitting Specialist at (919) 420-9359.

Notice Issuance Date: August 12, 2025

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **Water Well No. 11, until 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, 2025.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the construction of a new water well and related water treatment site improvements in the City of Katy, Texas. The work includes all labor, materials, and equipment required.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **2:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, 2025.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 298 096 328 355 2
Passcode: XN9Nc6pQ

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

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

First Publication: **Thursday, September 4, 2025**
Second Publication: **Thursday, September 11, 2025**

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the Village Green West Drainage Improvements Project, until 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, 2025. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves drainage improvements to the Village Green West Subdivision in the City of Katy. Improvements include the installation of storm sewer pipe and boxes, junction boxes, concrete pane replacement, and all labor, materials and equipment required to perform the work.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **2:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, 2025.**

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 244 059 942 342 3
Passcode: c5jc9pu3

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

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

First Publication: **Thursday, September 4, 2025**
Second Publication: **Thursday, September 11, 2025**

950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 135310

APPLICATION. PowerSecure, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 135310, which would authorize continued operation of a Non-emergency Diesel Engine Generator located at 17350 Pattiglen Drive, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77084. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.672222,29.868888&level=13>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 31, 2025. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Katherine Tyra Branch Library, 16719 Clay Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices>

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.

Further information may also be obtained from PowerSecure, Inc., 4068 Stirrup Creek Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27703-9000 or by calling Mrs. Andrea Davis, Air Compliance Specialist at (336) 942-7544.

Notice Issuance Date: August 12, 2025

September 4 Puzzle Answers

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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 10 a.m. Local Time, October 2nd, 2025, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for "Elyson Crescent Park Playground, 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/gdietrichswa?omn=96209461475>.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: concrete trail, playground, site furnishings, sprinkler 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 18th, 2025, at 10 a.m. Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/gdietrichswa?omn=93289637392>. 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 **NWC019**. 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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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 17th day of September, 2025 in Commissioners Court, located at the Joe Kuciemba 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	2025	2026	INCREASE/(DECREASE)
Criminal District Attorney			
Salary Supplement	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$
506th District Judge			
Salary Supplement	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Court at Law #1			
Salary	\$ 234,000.00	\$ 234,000.00	\$
Longevity	\$ 364.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
County Court at Law #2			
Salary	\$ 234,000.00	\$ 234,000.00	\$
Longevity	\$ 104.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 52.00
Sheriff			
Salary	\$ 113,300.00	\$ 116,699.00	\$ 3,399.00
Longevity	\$ 260.00	\$ 310.00	\$ 52.00
County Judge			
Salary	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 133,900.00	\$ 3,900.00
Longevity	\$ 572.00	\$ 624.00	\$ 52.00
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Clerk			
Salary	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 96,229.00	\$ 2,803.00
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	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 96,229.00	\$ 2,803.00
Longevity	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 2,528.00	\$ 300.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$
Treasurer			
Salary	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 96,229.00	\$ 2,803.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
Tax Assessor Collector			
Salary	\$ 93,426.00	\$ 96,229.00	\$ 2,803.00
Longevity	\$ -	\$ 104.00	\$ 104.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 760.00
County Commissioner, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 93,360.00	\$ 2,720.00
Longevity	\$ 676.00	\$ 728.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 93,360.00	\$ 2,720.00
Longevity	\$ 364.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 93,360.00	\$ 2,720.00
Longevity	\$ 260.00	\$ 312.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
County Commissioner, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 90,640.00	\$ 93,360.00	\$ 2,720.00
Longevity	\$ 572.00	\$ 624.00	\$ 52.00
County Constable, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 65,765.00	\$ 1,916.00
Longevity	\$ 364.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 52.00
County Constable, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 65,765.00	\$ 1,916.00
Longevity	\$ -	\$ 104.00	\$ 104.00
County Constable, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 65,765.00	\$ 1,916.00
Longevity	\$ 676.00	\$ 728.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
County Constable, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 63,849.00	\$ 65,765.00	\$ 1,916.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
Justice of Peace, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 90,219.00	\$ 2,628.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
Justice of Peace, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 90,219.00	\$ 2,628.00
Longevity	\$ 364.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
Justice of Peace, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 90,219.00	\$ 2,628.00
Longevity	\$ 828.00	\$ 928.00	\$ 100.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
Justice of Peace, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 87,591.00	\$ 90,219.00	\$ 2,628.00
Longevity	\$ 1,828.00	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge



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VISITOR	SCORE	HOME	SCORE	VISITOR	SCORE	HOME	SCORE
Tomball	24	Cinco Ranch	14	Foster	0	Seven Lakes	7
Fort Bend Travis	27	Jordan	16	Fort Bend Bush	34	Taylor	31
Katy	33	Atascocita	52	Tompkins	14	Bridgeland	42
Fort Bend Austin	28	Mayde Creek	63	Royal	0*	Almeta Crawford	55*
Morton Ranch	44	Magnolia West	37	Ridge Point	34	Fulshear	10
Paetow	21	Langham Creek	22				

The Katy Tigers fell to the Atascocita Eagles 52-33 at Turner Stadium in Humble on September 5. Katy will play Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium on September 12. | PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

Katy Triathlon excels in new location at Katy Boardwalk

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Triathlon, a project of the Rotary Club of Katy, staged its 2025 event at The Katy Boardwalk, 24566 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy on August 31. It was the first time that the 32-year-old competition has been held in this location.

The competition featured:

- Triathlon: 500-meter open water swim, with 12-mile bike race and a three-mile run
- Duathlon: two-mile run, 12-mile bike ride and a three-mile run
- Aquabike: 500-meter open water swim and 12-mile bike ride

Results may be viewed at <https://www.trisignup.com/Race/Results/10728#resultSetId-577307;perpage:100>.

Katy Triathlon Chairman Paul Kurt, who co-chairs the event with daughter Christina Kurt told the Katy Times that this year's event drew more than 400 participants. The race has a capacity of 800 participants, according to its website.

"We have already received good feedback," Kurt said. He said that the event will take place at The Boardwalk from now on.

Cane Island, home to the triathlon for the last five years, notified Kurt and the Rotary Club this summer that it would not allow the event to be held there this year. Kurt worked with City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele and the



A cyclist competes during the Katy Triathlon on August 31 at The Katy Boardwalk, 24566 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy.

City of Katy to secure the Boardwalk location in time for this year's event.

Proceeds from the Katy Triathlon benefit the Rotary Club of Katy's scholarship fund, which provides need-based grants to graduating seniors of Katy ISD each year. Kurt said on September 2 that preliminary estimates indicate that this year's race will contribute between \$90,000.00 and \$100,000.00 to the fund. Since its founding, the Katy Triathlon has awarded over 222 scholarships in excess of \$771,500 to graduating seniors and established a \$175,000 endowment fund.

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	\$0.556187 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.488194 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.556187 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Waller County from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 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 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 17, 2025 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.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.496021	\$0.556187	increase of 0.060166 per \$100 or 12.13%
Average homestead taxable value	\$271,404	\$299,933	increase of 10.51%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,346.22	\$1,668.19	increase of 321.97, or 23.92%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$62,913,341	\$77,073,697	increase of 14,160,356, or 22.51%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures

The Waller County spent \$700,740 from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 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 \$175,462. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.000205/\$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: c_miedke-tax@wallercounty.us or visit <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/TAC.Main> for more information.



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Damien Larson
512-797-9785 damien@bentarrow.net

Tompkins ranked tenth in 6A in TGCA poll

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) released its latest volleyball poll on September 1, and ranked the team from Katy ISD's Tompkins High School as tenth in the state in division 6A. No other teams from Katy ISD made the list. Here is the complete list of TGCA's top 20 volleyball teams in the division:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. Byron Nelson | 22-0 |
| 2. Mansfield | 29-1 |
| 3. Allen | 23-2 |
| 4. Southlake Carroll | 15-3 |
| 5. El Paso Eastlake | 22-3 |
| 6. Keller | 18-3 |
| 7. Austin Lake Travis | 21-5 |
| 8. San Antonio O'Connor | 22-4 |
| 9. Pearland Dawson | 17-3 |
| 10. Katy Tompkins | 20-5 |
| 11. San Antonio Harlan | 17-4 |
| 12. Austin High | 22-3 |
| 13. Tomball | 23-5 |
| 14. Cy Woods | 20-5 |
| 15. North Forney | 18-5 |
| 16. Buda Johnson | 20-6 |
| 17. Clear Springs | 16-5 |
| 18. Cy Ranch | 16-5 |
| 19. Laredo Alexander | 17-5 |
| 20. Round Rock | 22-8 |



Tompkins players celebrate after a point during a 2024 bi-district match between Tompkins and George Ranch at Tompkins high school.

Prairie View A&M to end tennis programs

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On August 4, Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) announced the conclusion of its men's and women's tennis programs, effective immediately, as part of a realignment within Panther Athletics.

This decision follows a comprehensive evaluation of the University's athletic portfolio and is rooted in a commitment to long-term operational excellence, fiscal sustainability, and student-centered planning, the press release said. The school said that the decision was "difficult but necessary."

PVAMU is committed to supporting every affected student-athlete during this transition:

- Scholarships honored: Athletic scholarships will remain in place for eligible student-athletes through graduation, provided they stay in good academic standing and do not enter the transfer portal.
- Transfer support: Those wishing to pursue tennis elsewhere will receive full assistance.
- Well-being services: Dedicated advisors and counselors are available to ensure student-athletes continue to thrive personally and academically.

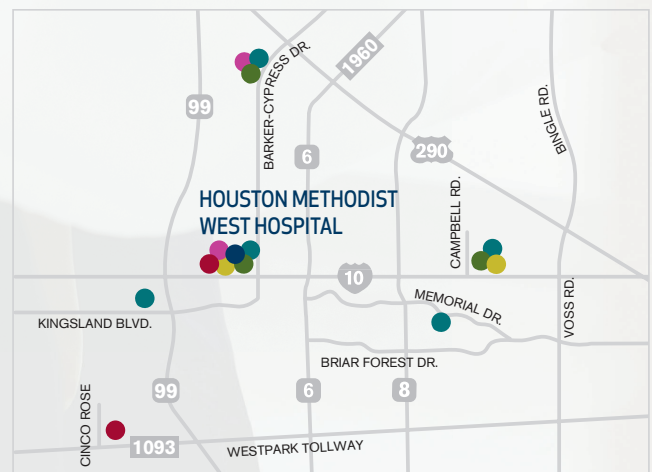
For additional information or support resources, contact the PVAMU Department of Athletics at athletics@pvamu.edu or 936-261-9100, or visit the website at pvpanthers.com.



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