

AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES

SPORTS | PG 14

Katy Times



VOLUME 113, ISSUE 41

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Seven Lakes High School is ranked among the best schools in the nation, along with McMeans Junior High School and Griffin Elementary, according to Niche.com.

Nation's, Texas', Houston's best schools reside in Katy ISD - Niche.com rankings show

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The school ranking experts have spoken for 2026, and according to Niche.com Katy ISD boasts some of the nation's top-rated public schools, the school district announced in an October 2 press release. The district has long established itself as a leader in educational excellence, ranking as the number

one district in Houston and the number one large district in Texas, the press release said.

"Katy ISD educators and staff are consistently providing innovative and unparalleled learning experiences across our campuses," Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski said. "They are the best of the best, and that is reflected every day in our student performance, CTE certifica-

tions, college and military readiness, athletics, fine arts and more."

Multiple campuses led the way in the Houston area, Texas and the United States according to the Niche rankings:

- Seven Lakes High School is ranked No. 2 in the Houston area, No. 9 in Texas and in the Top 1

See **SCHOOLS**, page 3

Fort Bend County redistricting maps selected for presentation to commissioners court

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Following public presentations and public meetings, the Citizens Redistricting Advisory Committee for Fort Bend County has identified top choices for proposed redistricting maps, Chairman Jacob Lee said in a September 29 press release.

"On behalf of the Fort

Bend County Citizens Redistricting Advisory Committee (CRAC), I am submitting the committee's recommendations to the Fort Bend county commissioners court based on our recorded votes," he said in the news release.

A quorum/majority of the committee (≥six votes) supported the following two

See **REDISTRICTING**, page 3

Rosenthal won't seek reelection to Texas House, will run for Railroad Commissioner in 2026

FROM STAFF REPORTS

State Representative Jon Rosenthal announced on September 29 that he will not seek reelection to the Texas House of Representatives as he will run for Railroad Commissioner in 2026.

First elected in 2019, Rosenthal represented Texas District 135, which covers a portion of the Katy area north of Morton

See **ROSENTHAL**, page 3



JON ROSENTHAL
Texas District 135 Representative



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Former City of Katy mayor Don Elder (left) and former city councilman and school board member David Frishman (center) look on as local Katy resident Brenda Hunter Martin is interviewed for "Goodtaste with Tanji" by Mike Hubberd and cameraman Michael Saulmon. The filming took place on October 1 at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd. in Katy.

City, chamber partner with 'Goodtaste with Tanji' to highlight local businesses

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The eyes of Texas may soon be on locations within the City of Katy, as local businesses receive exposure on the syndicated TV series, "Goodtaste with Tanji."

Filming is underway at selected locations for a 30-minute episode of the Emmy-winning show, focusing on the City of Katy as a premier weekend destination in Texas. Segments are being filmed at each location, woven together

with interviews, food demos, and local storytelling. When completed, the episode will be broadcast in 16 Texas markets and Nashville, plus streaming via YouTube and Goodtaste.tv.

"The partnership with 'Goodtaste with Tanji' originated through the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's subsidiary the Katy Foundation (a 501 c3) as part of our effort to highlight Katy's culinary and cultural landscape," said Adrienne Davitz, VP, Membership & Community Relations for the chamber. "The project

also aligns with the City of Katy's Convention & Tourism Bureau goals, so it's truly a collaborative effort between the Chamber and the City."

Davitz said that the goals of the project are to drive tourism by attracting visitors from outside Katy who are planning trips around food and cultural experiences. The project will boost economic development by bringing traffic to locally owned businesses while celebrating

See **TANJI**, page 3

Harris Co. Pct. 4 sets next town hall for Oct. 18

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones will hold her next town hall meeting on Saturday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Legacy Stadium Community Room at 1830 Katyland Drive in Katy. County residents can meet the commissioner, ask questions, share their concerns and learn more about disaster preparedness resources. The event will also feature student performances, a high-water vehicle, arts and crafts, a balloon artist and face painting.

Vietnamese, Spanish and Chinese interpretation will be available. There is no cost to attend the town hall, but pre-registration is requested at hcp4.info/katyth25flyer.

"Commissioner Briones values community input and is committed to keeping residents informed and prepared," her office said in a September Facebook post.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Harris County Precinct 4's next town hall will be October 18 at 1830 Katyland Drive in Katy.

Fort Bend County presents EpiCenter Hotel and Convention Center to Rosenberg City Council

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

At the Rosenberg City Council Workshop Meeting on September 23, Fort Bend County officials presented plans for the Fort Bend County EpiCenter Hotel and Convention Center Project, according to a September 25 press release from the City of Rosenberg.

The project will include a full-service hotel with 254 rooms, including a connected 70,000-square-foot conven-

tion center, and two parking garages with a combined total of more than 2,600 spaces. The west garage will provide 1,527 spaces, and the east garage will include 1,087 spaces.

Funding for the project will be shared between Fort Bend County and a private developer. The County will fund the parking garages and convention center at approximately \$160 million, while the

See **EPICENTER**, page 3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

news@katytimes.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

281-391-3141



October 9, 2025
14 pages | \$1



SATURDAY
NOV 1
6:00-9:00 PM

THE ARK by Norris
21402 Merchants Way

ALL INCLUSIVE
TICKETS



SipAndStroll.com
must be 21+ to attend

Fulshear PD hosting Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 25

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fulshear Police Department, in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will host National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fulshear Police Department, 6639 West Cross Creek Bend Lane. The event gives residents a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused, or expired prescription medications.

Community members are encouraged to bring tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs for safe disposal. Removing unneeded medications from homes helps prevent misuse, addiction, and overdose.

For more than a decade, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day has offered free and anonymous drop-off services at thousands of sites nationwide. Since its inception, the program—powered by partnerships with local law enforcement—has removed more than 9,200 tons of medications from circulation.

What to bring / what not to bring:

- Accepted: tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription medications
- Liquids (e.g., cough syrup) must remain in original, tightly sealed containers
- Not accepted: syringes, sharps, or illicit drugs

For additional information—or to find other nearby collection sites—visit www.DEATakeBack.com, or contact Dalia Campos at 281-346-8888.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

British International School hosts Tex-Indie Author Book Fair Oct. 11

Join the BIS for another year at the largest book event for self-published authors in Texas. The Tex-Indie Author Book Fair (formerly Author Indie Book Fair) hosts 100+ indie authors from across the state in all genres, including sci-fi, fantasy, self-help, poetry and short story collections, history, historical fiction, mystery, children's, romance, comics/graphic novels and so forth). This is a free family-friendly event where you can meet authors and hear them discuss their work. The fair is set for October 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the British International School of Houston, 21003 Franz Road in Katy.

Come out to Fulshear's Folly on Oct. 11

The City of Fulshear has reignited a celebration that brings back a beloved tradition – Fulshear's Folly, which will be held at 6611 W. Cross Creek Bend Lane in Fulshear from 4 to 8 p.m. on October 11. The event will feature live music, food and drinks and an assortment of vendors.

Smash a Rotarian in the face with a pie on October 16 – and it's all to raise money to fight polio

Come out to (gently) put a "Pie for Polio" in the face of your favorite Rotarian at The Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Dr, Katy. The event will take place poolside on Thursday, October 16, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., just prior to the regular meeting for the Ro-

tary Club of Katy. Proceeds benefit the service organization's decades-long battle to end polio worldwide. \$25.00 per pie.

Fussell Senior Center's Senior Health and Wellness Fair returns on Oct. 16

The fourth annual Senior Health and Wellness Fair, presented by the Fussell Senior Citizen Center, will take place at the Katy VFW Hall at 6206 George Bush Drive on October 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature a variety of vendors who offer services to seniors. Free entry and a plate lunch is available for \$10.00 (cash only).

Hear free health lecture on respiratory illnesses on Oct. 16

Fall is the beginning of respiratory illness season and schoolchildren 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 Fifth Street and Avenue A in Katy. Free and open to the public, on Thursday, October 16 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 281-391-2121 for information or to register.

Enjoy Purse Bingo at the Elks Lodge on Oct. 16 to raise funds for Christmas family programs

Join the Katy Elks for a night of fun at Purse Bingo Night on October 16,

where you'll have the opportunity to play for designer bags from Michael Kors, Coach and Kate Spade. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at the lodge at 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road in Katy. A 10-3 game pack is \$50.00 per person and extra single game cards may be purchased for \$20.00 each. Proceeds benefit the lodge's Christmas family programs.

Find a new career with Katy ISD at Oct. 18 Operations Job Fair

Looking for a rewarding new career with Katy ISD? Come to the district's Operations Job Fair on October 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road in Katy. Available positions include maintenance, nutrition and food service, bus drivers, grounds, custodial, security guards, and more. Benefits include competitive salaries, health insurance options, and flexible/part-time hours. Full and part-time positions available.

Honor and celebrate breast cancer survivors at Precinct 4's Oct. 18 tea, walk and wellness event

Honor the strength of survivors and learn how to protect your health at a Tea, Walk and Wellness event on October 18 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress. Hear inspiring speakers, explore preventative care methods, and enjoy demonstrations to promote wellness. Free to attend.

From windows to wagging tails, KTX Window Cleaning CARES!

EVERY DOG DESERVES A HOME!

 25839 I-10 East Katy, TX 77494 281-391-4740

MEET MOOSE!

Looking for a big dog with an even bigger personality? Say hello to Moose. This 78lbs Mastiff/Boxer mix has never met a person he didn't immediately adore. This happy boy is full of playful energy and loves playing with his toys. With his bubbly personality, sweet nature, and hilarious expressions, Moose is guaranteed to bring joy, laughter, and a bit of drool to your days.

This ad is brought to you by:

Book a Free Estimate at KTXWINDOWCLEANING.COM

Katy Pride announces grand marshals, kick-off party and 2025 event lineup

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On September 29, Katy Pride LGBTQ Inc. announced its 2025 Grand Marshals who will lead the 3rd Annual Katy Pride Celebration on Saturday, October 18 at Typhoon Texas Waterpark, as follows: Grand Marshal Servando Arellano-Torres, President of SOMOS Loud Houston (he/him); Ally Grand Marshal Jon Rosenthal, Texas State Representative District 135 (he/him); Youth Grand Marshal Cameron Samuels, Executive Director of Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (they/them).

This year's Pride weekend kicks off with a lively Piano Bar Speakeasy Party on Thursday, October 16, followed by the community-wide festival on Saturday, October 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Piano Bar Speakeasy Kick-off Party (Ages 18+) will take place Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Red

River Grill Room at Typhoon Texas, 555 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy. Tickets: Advance purchase required at katypride.org. Guests will enjoy an evening of entertainment, cocktails, and community connection in an intimate setting, sponsored by The Alley Theatre. The bar is sponsored by The Woodlands Pride, and attendees who bring a book donation for their Banned Book Library will receive one complimentary drink (limit one person, regardless of how many books are donated). Sweet treats are sponsored by Sugar Mami Sweetz. Space is limited, and advance tickets are required.

The Katy Pride Celebration will be held Saturday, October 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Typhoon Texas Waterpark. Parking is free (All water attractions will be closed for the season). The celebration will begin with the official recognition of the 2025 Grand Marshals, followed by the Parade around the park to kick off the event. Festival highlights

include Main Stage Entertainment featuring DJ CrazyV, Drag Queen Serena Spellman, Drag King Kian Kismet, and Fierce & Free: A Transparent Closet Runway show. A Kids Zone with activities for families and children will include inflatables, yard games, crafts, and more. An Education & Advocacy Alley will feature panel discussions hosted by Trans Truth Podcast and Community Advocate, Meghan Fairbanks, The Houston Banner Project on display, voter education information and more. Reading Under the Rainbow: Pride Story Time, sponsored by Katy Budget Books, will have readings by Drag Queen Serena Spellman and Drag King Kian Kismet.

There will be over 60 vendors, multiple food trucks, and an adult bar. This free event welcomes all ages and provides a safe, joyful space to celebrate diversity, authenticity, and community, organizers said.

KATY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5601 5TH ST • KATYFIRST.ORG/PUMPKINPATCH

JOIN THE FUN IN OUR PUMPKIN PATCH!
NO ADMISSION COST AT ANY EVENT

Pumpkin Patch **Playtime in the Patch**
OCT. 5-31 NOON - 6 PM **OCT. 18** 10AM - NOON

Trunk or Treat
OCTOBER 26, 5-7 PM



Home for the Holidays

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
4310 TX-36, Rosenberg, TX 77471
October 24-26, 2025

Join us for three days of fun, holiday shopping!

Shop with 130+ vendors in TWO indoor buildings to find lots of new, unique, and One-of-A-Kind gifts for all your festive events!

Grab your girlfriends, mom, or daughter, and come enjoy the fun, while shopping and supporting some of the cutest shops at Home for the Holidays Market of Rosenberg!

Get tickets at homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com/tickets

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$6
Includes admission and re-entry during GA hours. Children 12 and under are free, ticket required for entry.

General Admission Hours
Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm | Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Tickets valid for re-admission with wristband email confirmation!




TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Fort Bend County

Lettuce help you with your garden!

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners
2025 Fall Vegetable-Herb Plant Sale
Saturday, October 11
9 a.m. - Noon or until sold out
Bud O'Shieles Community Center in Rosenberg, TX

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



SCHOOLS

from page 1

percent nationwide.

McMeans Junior High School is ranked No. 2 in the Houston area, No. 25 in Texas and in the Top 1 percent nationwide.

Griffin Elementary School is ranked No. 3 in the Houston area, No. 36 in Texas and in the Top 1 percent nationwide.

Elementary schools

Katy ISD has six schools ranked inside the Top 10 (60 percent) and 13 schools ranked in the Top 25 in the Houston area:

- No. 3 Griffin
- No. 4 WoodCreek
- No. 5 Kilpatrick
- No. 7 Randolph
- No. 8 Davidson
- No. 9 Stanley
- No. 11 Wilson
- No. 13 Shafer
- No. 16 Alexander
- No. 17 Pattison
- No. 18 Jenks
- No. 22 Holland
- No. 24 Hayes

Additional rankings include No. 27 Fielder, No. 32 Creech, No. 33 Exley, No. 38 Rylander, No. 46 Nottingham Country, No. 48 Katy and No. 49 Williams.

Middle schools

District middle schools comprise 70 percent of the Top 10 Best Middle Schools in the Houston area:

- No. 2 McMeans
- No. 4 Seven Lakes
- No. 5 Cinco Ranch
- No. 6 Beckendorff
- No. 7 Tays
- No. 8 Beck
- No. 10 WoodCreek
- No. 45 Stockdick
- No. 57 Katy

High schools

Katy ISD has two high schools ranked in the Top 5 and five ranked in the Top 35 in the Houston area:

- No. 2 Seven Lakes
- No. 5 Tompkins
- No. 11 Cinco Ranch
- No. 25 Taylor
- No. 34 Katy

Niche, a national organization that reviews and ranks K-12 schools and districts, evaluates institutions across the country using parent and student reviews, statistics and U.S. Department of Education data. This includes state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates and SAT/ACT scores. For more information and to see the full list of Katy ISD rankings, visit Niche.com.

ROSENTHAL

from page 1

Road, east of the Grand Parkway, south of West Road and west of State Highway 6.

"I am humbled and grateful for the constituents of House District 135 who elected me in 2018 to do the people's work. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the People of District 135 in the Texas House of Representatives," Rosenthal said in the press release. "During my tenure, I passed legislation that I take great pride in like Riley's Rule excusing public school students with serious or life-threatening diseases to receive treatment. I'm also proud of the progress made towards finally ending child marriage in Texas and look forward to that becoming the law in Texas and in the United States. I am also proud to have stood up for Texan's most basic rights, resisting voter suppression laws and fighting against the push to redistrict Texas' congressional districts."

"The work is not done, and I will continue to stand committed to serving the people of Texas," said Representative Rosenthal.

TANJI

from page 1

Katy's unique mix of restaurants, retail, and historic venues.

The project came about after feedback from a chamber member, Davitz said. "Southern Dough contacted us after having a positive experience with their three-minute program highlight a few months ago," she said. "They have had a lot of traffic after 'Goodtaste with Tanji' covered their restaurant which sits in Historic Town Square of Old Katy. Tanji had expressed interest in having a full feature similar to her Marfa, Texas, episode [to] focus on the incredible charm of Katy."

Producers were drawn by Katy's range of family-owned, multi-generational restaurants like Midway BBQ and Texas Tradition and the mix of culinary and retail establishments, all within the city limits, Davitz said. They saw strong community identity and storytelling opportunities as well as the ability to showcase multiple diverse venues in a single market, she said.

Discussions with the show began earlier this year, and after several months of planning, a Convention & Tourism Bureau grant proposal for \$28,000.00 was approved by the City of Katy



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Mike Hubberd (left) and cameraman Michael Saulmon (center) of "Goodtaste with Tanji" interview former educator and Katy ISD school namesake Jamie Wolman during filming of a Katy-themed episode of the show at Midway BBQ, 6191 Highway Blvd. in Katy on October 1.

in May, using hotel occupancy tax funds. Filming commenced in late September and early October.

"Midway BBQ was chosen as a longtime, iconic Katy establishment with strong community ties and multi-generational history — emblematic of the story the episode seeks to tell," said Davitz. The filming on October 1 at the restaurant at 6191 Highway Blvd. in Katy drew strong attendance from community members, school board members, chamber business owners, chamber real estate

agents, former mayors, Chamber representatives, and local media. Several Katy ISD school namesakes were also present. The interview questions asked of local residents focused on Midway's history, signature dishes, and its role in Katy's culture.

Filming continues at the remaining locations through early October and could include other businesses located on the city's historic square, The Dryer, Typhoon Texas, Katy Mills Mall and Katy Heritage Park, and others. Post-production and editing will follow.

ABOUT "GOODTASTE WITH TANJI"

Tanji Patton has worked as an investigative reporter, news anchor, producer and host and is now an Emmy award winning journalist pursuing her passion for wine and food, exploring the worlds of chefs, wine makers and culinary newsmakers. Patton is the Executive Producer and host of "Goodtaste with Tanji," a television series that showcases chefs and restaurants from all over the state. The show airs in 17 Texas markets and in Oklahoma and Nashville. According to her website, millions view her Goodtaste.tv content via a wide range of media.

The Katy episode will air in the next broadcast cycle of "Goodtaste with Tanji" (exact air date to be determined), Davitz said. "It will likely run on KPRC Houston and other partner stations statewide, plus online on Goodtaste.tv and YouTube to the best of our knowledge."

The production company has also agreed to allow the City of Katy to use snippets of the episode to use on their social media and Travel Katy website, Davitz said.

EPICENTER

from page 1

developer will build and own the hotel at an estimated \$75 million investment.

As part of the proposal, Fort Bend County requested that the City of Rosenberg contribute its 7% hotel occupancy tax (HOT) generated solely from this hotel back to the County for a period of 30 years. This would be the City's only investment in the project, and importantly, any future HOT funds from potential additional hotels built as a result of this development would be retained by the City and would not be subject to this

agreement.

The EpiCenter Hotel and Convention Center Project is expected to enhance the existing Fort Bend EpiCenter facility, spur further development opportunities in the area, and assist in positioning Rosenberg as a regional destination for tourism, conferences and entertainment.

Following the presentation, the consensus of Rosenberg City Council was in favor of moving forward with the project and placing the item on a future agenda for official vote.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Wendy Duncan (left), member of the Citizens Redistricting Advisory Committee for Fort Bend County, listens as Chairman Jacob Lee speaks at a public hearing at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. in Katy on September 21.

REDISTRICTING

from page 1

maps, which will be advanced for consideration:

- How_People_Vote_Map_D_JL_Amendment — seven votes
- Mike_Gibson_JL_Amendment_1 — six votes

A minority of the committee (four votes each) supported the following three maps, which are slated for possible consideration by Commissioners Court:

- How_People_Vote_Map_E — four votes
- WD_RY_MAP — four votes
- WD_RY_Amendment_1 — four votes

To view the maps or for more information, go to the Fort Bend County redistricting page on the county's website, <https://gis.fbctx.gov/pages/redistricting-2025-44f40a2ea99047d0a5ae-9462da604cbb>.

RSVP Appreciated

ART

ON THE PARKWAY

Join us for Art on the Parkway, a vibrant celebration of creativity and community. This special art show will showcase an inspiring collection of works by talented local artists, including:

- Giles Debenport
- Dawid Pieterse
- Trey Schmidt
- Shanda Kearns
- Distinguished Art Students from Royal ISD

Browse and enjoy the art or purchase directly from the artists. **Live music** will fill the space as guests enjoy **hors d'oeuvres** and **spritzers** in our inviting Reception Suite.

Whether you're an art enthusiast or simply looking for a relaxed and uplifting afternoon, this event is open to all and designed to highlight Katy's cultural heart in a setting that's as warm and welcoming as the people who walk through our doors.

Sunday, October 12 • 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Schmidt Funeral Home
1344 W Grand Parkway S • Katy, TX 77493

Schmidt
Funeral Home
Serving Katy & West Houston Since 1945

CROSSWORD THEME: KIDS' BOOKS

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. "The Big Bad Wolf: 'Til ____ your house down"
 5. Edgar Rice Burroughs' Kerchak or Kala
 8. Cosine's buddy
 12. Target of grand theft
 13. Influencer's journal
 14. Food-grinding tooth
 15. Bear's hang-out
 16. Like a maxi skirt
 17. Get up
 18. "Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for ____"
 20. March Madness org.
 21. Expenditure, in the olden days
 22. "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a ____"
 23. Turn pale
 26. Lachrymatory agent (2 words)
 30. Swimmer's distance
 31. Rinse and ____
 34. Consequently
 35. Join forces
 37. Bruin legend Bobby
 38. Jury duty event
 39. Per person
 40. Hockey player, e.g.
 42. Approximated landing time
 43. What naughty children do
 45. Fortification made of wagons
 47. Preceding month
 48. Unnecessary embellishment
 50. Customs document
 52. "He had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day"
 56. Popular pie nut
 57. Not final
 58. Just a little
 59. Choice dish
 60. ____-do-well
 61. Sudden and brilliant success
 62. Doofus
 63. Is, in France
 64. Fail to mention

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Like a certain eagle
 2. Oahu shindig
 3. Related to car
 4. Exert persuasive powers (2 words)
 5. Jennifer Aniston's movie "____ Came Polly"
 6. "Canine father in Dodie Smith's "The Hundred and One Dalmatians"
 7. "Dr. Seuss: "I do not like green ____ and ham"
 8. "Philosopher in American edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"
 9. Hipbone
 10. U.S. space agency, acr.
 11. "I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas..."
 13. Not serious
 14. Bipolar disorder phase
 19. Filthy cabbage
 22. Favorite student
 23. Protected steel from rust with coating
 24. Hawaiian veranda
 25. Long stories
 26. "The Queen of Hearts baked more than one of these"
 27. "In the Hall of the Mountain King" composer Edvard ____
 28. Popular gemstone
 29. Type of renewable energy
 32. "Janette Sebring Lowrey's "The ____ Little Puppy"
 33. Pitcher's stat
 36. "One ____ and One Nights"
 38. ____-la refrain
 40. Group of exercise reps
 41. a.k.a. philosopher's stone
 44. Flavorless
 46. Aluminum+nickel+cobalt, magnetic alloy
 48. What time does
 49. Button on electrical outlet
 50. Bride's cover
 51. International Civil Aviation Organization
 52. "Green Gables resident ____ Shirley
 53. Gloom's partner
 54. Evening purse
 55. Wholly engrossed
 56. Pipe material, acr.

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: G2590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLR 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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

© StatePoint Media

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.

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

FALL-THEMED COMMUNITY EVENTS

See pumpkins now through Nov. 7 at First Christian Church of Katy...and experience a whole lot more

The annual pumpkin patch at First Christian Church of Katy has been open since September 29 and will remain open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through November 7. Free entry and plenty of photo opportunities at 22101 Morton Ranch Road in Katy. The patch will feature special activities this year, including a "Work-out in the Patch" at 9 a.m. on October 11. Bring your furry friends to "Pets in the Patch" on October 19 from noon to 2 p.m. and enjoy a bounce house and rainbow frisbee fun, following by a blessing of the animals at 12:30 p.m. First 100 pets receive a free bandanna. "Rocky Horror Movie Night" is October 24 at 8 p.m., celebrating the 50th anniversary of the iconic film. "Coco Movie Night" takes place November 1 at 7:30 p.m. The popular "pumpkin smashing" is set for November 1-2 at noon to 3 p.m. each day, while pumpkin supply lasts.



COURTESY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Katy's First UMC pumpkin patch is now open, with "Playtime in the Patch" and "Trunk or Treat" coming soon

Katy's First United Methodist Church has opened up its pumpkin patch at the church at 5601 Fifth Street in Katy (between Fourth and Fifth Streets) which will be open from noon to 6 p.m. until October 31. "Playtime in the Patch" will happen on October 18 from 10 a.m. to noon, while the "Trunk or Treat" event is scheduled for October 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. No admission cost at any event.

St. Peter's UMC pumpkin patch open through October 31

More than 1000 people visit the popular pumpkin patch every year at St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 20775 Kingsland Blvd, Katy. This year the patch is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 7 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free but pumpkin prices vary. Proceeds from the pumpkin patch go to the church's Community Assistance Fund, which exists to provide help and hope to neighbors in need. Through this ministry, financial support is provided for essential items such as food, utilities, rent, and other urgent needs.

Blessington Farms pumpkin patch continues through November 23

Located at 510 Chisholm Trail in Simonton, Blessington Farms hosts a pumpkin patch every weekend through November 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$25.00 for ages three and up and \$20.00 for seniors. Discounts available for military, veterans, police, and firefighters. Enjoy more than 35 exciting activities, explore 20 fall photo ops, and pick the perfect pumpkin (sold per pound) to take home. Outside food and drinks are allowed, but no glass and no alcohol, or open fires. Pets not permitted.

Enjoy a maze and more at Dewberry Farms

Join Dewberry Farms for its Fall Festival, now through November 9. Explore an eight-acre corn maze and Texas-sized pumpkin patch and then enjoy fall photo ops, barnyard animals and over 40 rides & attractions. Stay late for BOOrific Nights, featuring three spooky haunts, jack-o'-lanterns more. Dewberry Farms is at 7705 FM 362, Brookshire.

It's pumpkin carving with goats at Rose Therapeutic Farm

This fall, carve pumpkins with the most playful of companions - goats! Bring the whole family for a day of laughter, fall vibes and furry fun. Spots are limited so reserve yours today at goatyogakaty.com. Visit Rose Therapeutic Farm & Goat Yoga at 1324 Peach Ridge Rd. in Brookshire.

Enjoy Chick-fil-A's Fall Festival in Elyson on Oct. 16

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on October 16, come to the Chick-fil-A location at 22159 FM 529 in Katy and treat your family to a pumpkin patch, corn maze, trunk or treat, crafts and more. Free to attend.

Pick-A-Dilly Market returns to St. Peter's UMC on Oct. 18

Come out to St. Peter's United Methodist Church campus at 20775 Kingsland Blvd, Katy on October 18 for the annual Pick-A-Dilly Market, featuring crafts, food, live music and a pumpkin patch. Activities will happen from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and you can visit

with more than 100 vendors indoors and outdoors. First 200 shoppers receive a free tote bag.

Humble Grounds Katy to hold BOOth Bash on Oct. 18

Join the Old Katy location of Humble Grounds Coffeehouse for BOOth Bash from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 18 and enjoy visiting with vendors and sampling treats. Face painting, games and more will also take place. The event is at 1512 Avenue C in Katy.

Great Southwest Equestrian Center to host 'Monster Mash' on Oct. 18

Enjoy free family fun from 5 to 7 p.m. on October 18 as the Great Southwest Equestrian Center hosts "Monster Mash." The event, held at 2501 S. Mason Rd. behind Grace Fellowship Church, will feature trick-or-treating, inflatables, games and a costumed horse show.

Lightbridge Academy offers 'Story Book Halloween' on Oct. 24

Join Lightbridge Academy on October 24 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for a range of spooky activities - including a costume contest, haunted bus, trunk or treat, face painting, balloon animals, hay dig, cake walk, games and more. There will also be local vendors and a raffle, along with food trucks, live music and a photo booth. Free admission with a donated story book for Texas Children's Hospital Library. Lightbridge Academy is located at 1711 Spring Green, Katy.

Katy YMCAs to hold Fall Festival on Oct. 24

From 6 to 8 p.m. on October 24, come to the Monty Ballard YMCA at Cinco Ranch, 22807 Westheimer Parkway in Katy, and enjoy trick-or-treating.

City of Katy invites you and your pup to 'Howl-o-ween' on Oct. 25

Howl-o-ween, an event from the City of Katy's Parks and Recreation Department, returns to the Katy Dog Park at 5414 Franz in Katy from 9 to 11 a.m. on October 25. The family-friendly event will feature a dog costume contest with awards and prizes in the following categories: Best Group Costume - for family and friends to all get involved with your pooch! (eligible for groups of two or more people/dogs); Funniest Costume; and Most Creative Costume. Entry fee in the form of a small monetary or pet food donation for local shelters is required to participate in the costume contest and raffles.

Harris Co. Precinct 4 hosts Fall Festival on Oct. 25

Come in costume for the costume contest at Precinct 4 Fall Festival at the Weekly Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress, on October 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy hay rides, a pumpkin patch, crafts and games. The event also features



food trucks and live music from the CC Rider Band. Free and family-friendly.

Come out to Fulshear to the Scarecrow Festival on Oct. 25

Get ready for a spook-tacular time at the Fulshear Regional Chamber of Commerce's Scarecrow Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 25 at Fulshear High School, 9302 Charger Way in Fulshear. This family-friendly event is the perfect way to celebrate the fall season and enjoy a day of fun with your loved ones. Stroll through the park and discover a variety of local vendors, showcasing unique goods and handcrafted treasures. Satisfy your cravings with delicious offerings from a selection of food trucks, serving up tasty fall treats and savory bites. Get creative and explore the arts and crafts area, where you can find one-of-a-kind handmade items perfect for gifts or personal treasures. The Kid's Zone will be packed with exciting activities and entertainment to keep the little ones entertained all day long. From games to interactive fun - there's something for everyone in the family to enjoy!

Enjoy 'Trunk or Treat' with the American Legion on Oct. 25

Show up spooky and ready to celebrate! The American Legion Post 164 is hosting a "Trunk or Treat" on October 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the post at 22125 Kingsland Drive in Katy. Wear your best Halloween costume and enjoy candy, games, prizes and fun as you visit with local vendors.

And it's DOGTOBERFEST at Fulbrook Ale Works on Oct. 25

From 4 to 8 p.m. on October 25, the Fulbrook Ale Works brewery will turn into a candy-filled wonderland, featuring costume contests for kids and adults - and pets of course. The trick-or-treat trail for Dogtoberfest is located at 1125 FM 359, Richmond.

HorrorLand TV brings Halloween HorrorFest to Wildcatter on Oct. 25

Join the crew at Wildcatter Saloon in Katy on October 25 to celebrate their favorite holiday with the Halloween HorrorFest brought to you by HorrorLand Television and the Wildcatter Saloon. Enjoy live music, celebrity meet-and-greets, tons of spooky vendors and costume contests for adults and kids. There will be food trucks available. It all takes place from 12 to 7 p.m. at the venue at 26913 Katy Freeway.

But wait! There's MORE 'Howl-O-Ween' on Oct. 26 from CAP

It's officially spooky season, so bring your fur baby for a day of festive fun at Citizens for Animal Protection's "Howl-O-Ween" at No Label Brewing Company - and don't forget to sign up for the pet costume contest with special celebrity judges. Enjoy food and brews as you shop with local vendors and listen to live music from special musical guest, The Ons. There will be games and pets can receive free microchips. It all happens at 5351 First Street from 1 to 4 p.m. on October 26. Free to attend; entry fee for the pet costume contest is \$25.00 online and \$30.00 at the door.

Extension service: Consistent summer rains spur this year's pumpkin harvest

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Texas pumpkin producers are experiencing a strong harvest thanks to consistent rainfall and a dry July. While quantity is on par with last season's harvest, producers say overall pumpkin quality is better compared to last year, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Mark Carroll, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Floyd County, said consumers can expect a significant improvement when purchasing their Texas-grown pumpkins this year.

Floyd County, east of Lubbock in the Texas High Plains, is where the bulk of Texas pumpkins are grown.

"Overall, producers in Floyd County saw early, consistent rainfall early in the growing season, which is needed for pumpkin producers," Carroll said. "This was followed by a dry period during the second week of July, providing the ideal dry climate for pumpkin growers."

Pumpkin prices are expected to remain consistent, with some variability as Halloween approaches. For the best prices, consumers are encouraged to purchase their pumpkins early.

Carroll said consumers can prolong the life of fresh, Texas pumpkins by keeping the bottom dry to prevent wet rot and decay. He also recommends carving your jack-o-lanterns no earlier than Oct. 20 to prolong the quality of a pumpkin for Halloween decor.

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Economic Research Service reported Texas as the national leader in pumpkin revenue. While states like Illinois, Indiana and Michigan lead in production quantity; most of their product is used for pie filling and processed foods, receiving a lower price per pound than Texas' ornamental jack-o-lantern-style pumpkin.

Carroll encouraged consumers to purchase pumpkins from bins containing a Texas pumpkin logo to ensure support of Texas producers.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Halloween.com shares what kind of decor is trending this spooky season

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Shoppers aren't just celebrating Halloween this year... they're super-sizing it, according to a spokesperson for Halloween.com.

Spooky stat of the season: September 2025 décor sales are up 29.5% year-over-year compared to September 2024, proving that Americans are decorating bigger and bolder than ever before, the company said in a September 30 press release.

Curious about what's trending for Halloween 2025? The company pulled its top-selling décor items for August and September and found that animatronics, skeletons and inflatables are the most popular. The results show what fans are most excited about this season:

- Lock, shock and barrel animatronic - Disney fans are obsessed! This completes the "Nightmare Before Christmas" collection (Jack, Sally, Oogie Boogie, Dr. Frankelstein). The missing piece has arrived.
- Electronic eyes poseable skeleton - A TikTok Shop sensation in August. Skeletons continue to dominate the shop, including the trending 74" Poseable Frankenstein Skeleton.
- 11.5-ft. Mothman animatronic- Giant décor is here to stay! This spooky item generated massive buzz during the site's July animatronic launch and throughout August.
- Peekaboo Penny animatronic - Fans were thrilled to see this classic scare prop return to the market.
- 15-ft. giant pumpkin inflatable - With 17 new inflatables added this year, this oversized pumpkin is stealing the spotlight.

It's shaping up to be a spook-tacular season already.

Katy community 'packathon' set for Oct. 16 at Redeemer Community Church

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy fall community Packathon, a project of Feed the Hunger, has been set for October 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Redeemer Community Church, 24201 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy.

A packathon is a two-hour hands-on service opportunity for anyone ages five

to 105, organizers told the Katy Times. The project work will go toward providing 50,000 Feed the Hunger meals for the local community as well as at-risk children nationally and internationally. At a previous packathon in Katy, more than 650,000 meals were packed, prayed over, and sent on their way to Bangladesh and the Mexican border, according to the organization's website.

Individual donations are \$69.00 per person, or \$830.00 for a half station of 12 or \$1,675.00 for a full station of 24 people.

To sign up, go to <https://www.feedthehunger.org/KATYPAT>.

For more information on the organization or the event, please contact Regina Alexander at regina@feedthehunger.org or Bec Blakemore at bec@feedthehunger.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIN OAK CHARITY HORSE SHOW

The Pin Oak Charity Horse Show has donated \$280,930.00 to Texas Children's Hospital.

Pin Oak Charity Horse Show donates \$280,930 to Texas Children's Hospital

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Pin Oak Charity Horse Show has presented a check for \$280,930.00 to Texas Children's Hospital, the organization announced on September 13. The horse show is continuing its mission to bring healing and hope to sick children and their families through funding, outreach and volunteer support, the organization said.

Over the years, Pin Oak has contributed more than \$7.8 million to Texas Children's, funding renovation in the radiology department, establishing the breathing and exercise lab at the TCH West Campus, supporting the Legacy Tower in the Medical Center, and funding the cancer and hematology center at the West Campus. Pin Oak has also created an endowed fund in sports medicine, supporting a dedicated Fellow, and contributed to campaigns that funded construction of both the TCH West Campus and Woodlands hospitals.

The 80th Pin Oak Charity Horse Show will take place March 18-April 12, 2026, at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center, 2501 S. Mason Road, Katy.

Christ Clinic partnering with Innovative Wellness to provide primary medical care

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Christ Clinic, a charity health care clinic at 1040 Schlipf Road in Katy, has entered into a joint venture to provide functional medicine in greater Houston in partnership with Innovative Wellness, according to an email from a clinic spokesperson. Funds received by Christ Clinic from the joint venture will be used toward funding the clinic's nonprofit charity medical care for uninsured and

underinsured patients. The 501(c)(3) charity medical clinic serves over 5,000 patients annually in the greater Houston community.

Innovative Wellness, based in Wauke, Iowa, uses an approach to functional medicine that goes beyond symptom management, focusing on the root causes of health concerns through personalized, science-driven care, according to its website. By considering factors like genetics, lifestyle, and environment, Innovative Wellness

concentrates on lifelong wellness and creates individualized treatment plans that support optimal health and vitality.

The Houston office of law firm Kirkland & Ellis advised Christ Clinic in the transaction, with the Kirkland team including corporate lawyers Michael Cline, Christian Mahre and Peter Hillary; healthcare lawyers Dennis Williams, Micah Desaire and Jessica Stoltz; and tax lawyers Mark Dundon and Dylan White.

The Katy Times Directory of Local Churches & Houses of Worship

Schmidt FUNERAL HOME
Serving Katy and West Houston since 1945
(281) 391-2424
1508 East Avenue • Katy, Texas 77493
Mailing Address: 1415 East Avenue, Suite B • Katy, Texas 77493

Katy Hardware
Kay & Mickey Powers, Owners
559 Pin Oak Rd.
Katy, TX 77494
281-391-3437 • Fax 281-391-6922
www.katyhardware.com

Katy Veterinary Clinic
Serving the Greater Katy Area Since 1964
Kari Cleavinger, D.V.M. • Lori Smith, D.V.M.
Hillary Barra, D.V.M. • Catherine Berry, DVM
Jessica Machala, DVM
27227 Hwy. Blvd., Katy
Open M-F 7-8 • Sat 8-12 281-391-3169 • www.katyvetclinic.com

TRUE FIX A/C & Heating
Quality Service for over 42 Years
Living in KATY. Working in KATY & KATY Proud
281-392-9334
www.truefix.com

When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalms 94:19

Your Ad Here!
Call Debbie for more information
281-391-3141

KCM KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
Help our ministry transform lives. Give now by scanning the QR Code.

ktcm.org
KEVIN DRURY
Your Electricity Guy
281-630-5895
kevin@power2price.com
POWER 2 PRICE
Residential * Commercial

Sharing the Gospel

Your Ad Here!
Call Debbie for more information
281-391-3141

ASSEMBLY OF GOD EL SHADDAI ASAMBLEA DE DIOS
5610 LILAC STREET • 281-391-8339
PASTORS, PETER & ESTELA PINON
FAMILY LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
24911 ROESNER ROAD • 281-392-0637
ALBERT CORTEZ, PASTOR • WWW.FLAG.CHURCH
RIVERS OF OIL CHURCH
541 PIN OAK ROAD, KATY • 832-782-7370
LEAD PASTOR: MR. HERNAN CASTANO
WWW.RIOSDEACEITE.COM • SUNDAY SERVICE 9 A.M.

BAPTIST ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
655 DANOVER • 281-391-2263
TYRONE FREEMAN, PASTOR
BRIDGEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH
FRANZ ELEMENTARY • 2751 WESTGREEN BLVD. • 281-578-0970
MICHAEL THOMPSON, PASTOR
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH MAYDE CREEK
2855 GREENHOUSE ROAD • 281-492-2689
LARRY MADDOX, PASTOR
KATY'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
600 PIN OAK • 281-391-1100 • KATYSFIRST.ORG
DR. ROB LIVERLY, PASTOR
GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOUSTON
2502 KATY HOCKLEY CUT-OFF • 281-391-9199
VIRGIL YEHNERT, PASTOR
KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
20555 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-0785
PASTOR RYAN RUSH
KINGSLAND BAPTIST NORTH CAMPUS
24111 STOCKDICK SCHOOL ROAD, KATY
281-675-7801

PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP
27043 FM 1093 • 281-391-6673 • WWW.PARKWAYFELLOWSHIP.COM
PASTOR: MIKE MCGOWN
PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP
5819 10TH ST. • KATY, TX 77493 • 832-222-9282
REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH
24201 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • 281-371-2156
MITCH MAHER, PASTOR
RIVER BEND BAPTIST CHURCH
26700 FM 1093 • 281-346-2279 • WWW.RIVERBENDC.ORG
JOHN C. CROWE, PASTOR
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, West Campus
19449 KATY FREEWAY • 713-465-3408
DR. ED YOUNG, PASTOR
TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST
5715 PEEK ROAD • 281-371-3900
RICK SHRADER, PASTOR
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
10000 SPRING GREEN BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494
281-579-6724 • TRINITY-KATY.ORG
PASTOR JOSH GUJARDO
WESTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1407 GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-5099
ROY MEADOWS, PASTOR
WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH & ACADEMY
3883 LAKES OF BRIDGEWATER DR • 281-492-3448
REV. RICHARD D. BUTTS, PASTOR

ANGELICAN THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHIAS DIOCESE OF MID AMERICA
4142 DAYFLOWER • 281-463-2304
GRACE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY
24968 KATY RANCH ROAD, KATY, TEXAS 77494
281-769-5544 • WWW.GRACEANGLICANKATY.COM
RECTOR: ROBERT HENSON
CATHOLIC EPIPHANY OF THE LORD CATHOLIC
1530 NORWALK DR. (NOTTINGHAM) • 281-578-0707
FR. TOM LAM
ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH
5356 ELEVENTH ST. • 281-391-4758
FR. CHRISTOPHER PLANT, PASTOR
ST. EDITH STEIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
3311 N. FRY ROAD • 281-492-7500
REV. RYSZARD KULMA, PASTOR
ST. FAUSTINA CATHOLIC CHURCH
28102 FM 1093, FULSHEAR
346-773-3500 • WWW.SAINTFAUSTINACHURCH.ORG

CHRISTIAN CURRENT-A CHRISTIAN CHURCH
26600 WESTHEIMER PKWY • 281-395-4722
DARREN WALTER, MINISTER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
22101 MORTON ROAD • 281-492-2693
REV. HEATHER TOLLESON, MINISTER

CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX ST. PAUL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH Western Rite
1717 KATY GAP RD. • KATY, TX 77494 • 281-201-6439
FATHER SYMEON KEES • ADMIN@STPAULKATY.COM/CASTBIZ.NET
CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST - KATY
5438 E. 5TH STREET • 281-391-7606
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BRIDGEWATER
21650 CRESTBROOK COVE DR. KATY, TX 77449
CINCO RANCH CHURCH OF CHRIST
6655 S. MASON ROAD • 281-579-3100
AARON WALLING, MINISTER
FULSHEAR CHURCH OF CHRIST
6920 KATY-FULSHEAR RD., FULSHEAR
281-712-1492 • FULSHEARCOC.ORG
FRY ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
2510 FRY ROAD AT FRANZ • 281-578-1897
DAVID FLATT
NORTH FORT BEND CHURCH OF CHRIST
TOM WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
5200 FALCON LANDING BLVD. KATY, TX 77494
EMAIL: INFO@NFBCCO.ORG • TELEPHONE: (281)698-0132
PREACHER-VINCENT MCKINNEY
ROBERT LUTTRELL (832) 247-2680

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
1225 W. GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-3310
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
1936 DREXEL, KATY • 281-391-2785
REV. MARK WILKINSON

LUTHERAN CROSSROAD CHURCH
700 S. WESTGREEN • 281-398-6464 • CROSSROADKATY.ORG
MIKE WEIDER, LEAD PASTOR • GEORGE HOLLEWAY, EXEC PASTOR
LIVING WORD
3700 SOUTH MASON ROAD • 281-392-2300
MEMORIAL LUTHERAN MISSOURI-SYNOD
3RD ST. & AVE. D, KATY • 281-391-0171
JOHN DAVIS
VICTORY OF THE LAMB - WISCONSIN SYNOD
23051 CINCO RANCH BLVD. @ PEEK RD.
281-395-0544 • NATHAN BUEGE, PASTOR

METHODIST KATY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5601 FIFTH STREET • 281-391-2121 • KATYFIRST.ORG
GRACE FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2655 S. MASON ROAD (NEXT TO GREAT S.W. EQUESTRIAN CENTER)
281-646-1903 • JIM LEGGETT, PASTOR
GRACE FELLOWSHIP NORTH CAMPUS
25133 LAKECREST MANOR DRIVE, KATY
281-646-1903
HOLY COVENANT UNITED METHODIST
22111 MORTON ROAD (AT MASON) • 281-579-1200
FRED WILLIS, SENIOR PASTOR
RESURRECTION METHODIST CHURCH A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
KATY HIGH SCHOOL 6331 HWY. BLVD., KATY
281-407-8716 • RESURRECTIONKATY.ORG
SENIOR PASTOR: HOWARD HUHN
ST. PETER'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
20775 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-8031
SENIOR PASTOR, PRESTON GREENWALDT
WEST CAMPUS: 4700 FM 1463, KATY, TEXAS 77494
SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR, CARL CHAPMAN

MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1928 DREXEL • 281-391-0687 • 281-391-5439
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1603 Norwalk • 281-578-8934
BISHOP SCOTT BAUER
NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY WARD
281-578-8930
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
9950 SOUTH MASON
281-398-7796

NAZARENE WESTSIDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
3434 FRY ROAD • 281-492-0234
REV. KENT SCHWAMBERGER, PASTOR
NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH OF THE KING
1507 KATY FLEWELLEN RD, KATY, TX • 281-769-4090
[HTTP://WWW.COTK.ORG/](http://WWW.COTK.ORG/)

CHURCH ON THE ROCK
433 S. BARKER CYPRESS • 281-599-9777
JORGE H. CARDENAS, PASTOR
CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
MEETING @ WOODCREEK J.H.S. • 713-705-4878
CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH
26100 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494
WWW.CROSSINGSCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG
MEETS AT 10:40 AM AT KILPATRICK ELEMENTARY
THE DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1837 N. MASON RD. • 713-325-3061
THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER
20910 PARK ROW • 281-578-3535
DAVID ROBERSON, PASTOR
THE ENCOUNTER CHURCH OF KATY
MARK A. CHAPMAN - YMCA
1350 MAIN ST. • KATY, TX 77494
WWW.TECKATY.ORG • 713-228-4331
ANTHONY WILCOTS, PASTOR
FAITH MANGER CHURCH
20701 KINGSLAND BLVD. @ DOMINION • 281-578-2550
DAVID L. BROWN, PASTOR
FAITH WEST CHURCH
2225 PORTER ROAD • 281-391-9191
GARY KERR, PASTOR
THE FELLOWSHIP
22765 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-3950
WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG • JERRY EDMONSON, PASTOR
GREENHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH
2425 N. GREENHOUSE
SUN 9:30 & 11 AM • GREENHOUSECMA.ORG
HIGHER DIMENSION CHURCH
1350 N. MASON, KATY
SUNDAY SERVICES 10 A.M.
HOSANNA!
17700 CLAY RD. • 281-345-1182 • JAMES P. BELL, PASTOR
IGLESIA CRISTIANA EN KATY FUENTE DE DIOS
906 AVENUE A, KATY • 281-222-4404
KATY BIBLE CHURCH
2500 AVENUE D • 281-391-7284 • 281-391-6855
MATT MANCINI, PASTOR
KATY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
24102 KINGSLAND BOULEVARD • 281-391-0099
TIM BARKER, PASTOR
LIFE CHURCH
26189 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-5433
SAM RUDD, PASTOR
LIVING STONES CHURCH
MEETING AT TOMKINS HIGH SCHOOL, 4400 FALCON LANDING
346-704-1542
NEWLANDS CHURCH
25024 KATY MILLS DRIVE KATY, TX 77494
MEETS EVERY SUNDAY • 9 AND 11 A.M.
(713) 280 - 3636 • ETHAN FISHER, SR. PASTOR
POWERHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER
1818 KATYLAND ROAD • 281-391-0095
G. F. WATKINS, PASTOR
REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD/THE KING'S PALACE
5371 E 5TH ST, KATY • 281-391-7224
[HTTPS://RCCGTHEKINGSPALACE.ORG/](https://RCCGTHEKINGSPALACE.ORG/)
VENTURE CHURCH
5425 MORTON ROAD, KATY
(346) 327-6362 • VENTUREKATY.COM
THE VINEYARD CHURCH
SUNDAYS 10:00 AM • THE ARK EVENT CENTER
21402 MERCHANTS WAY, KATY • 832-276-0600 • KATYVINEYARD.ORG
THE WATERS CHURCH
2210 KATY FORT BEND ROAD
(281) 398-4030 • IAMTHEWATERS.COM

PENTECOSTAL HERITAGE FAMILY CHURCH
2120 KATY HOCKLEY CUTOFF • 281-391-1010
MICHAEL FULLMER, PASTOR
WWW.HERITAGEFAMILYKATY.ORG
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 11 AM • SUNDAY SERVICE @ 12 PM
TUESDAY PRAYER @ 6 PM • THURSDAY BIBLE @ 7:30 PM
THE PENTECOSTALS OF KATY
1941 WESTBOROUGH • 281-829-1175
ROB MCKEE, PASTOR
TRINITY FAITH CHURCH
10TH & AVE. D • 281-391-3310
HAL HALTOM, PASTOR
PRESBYTERIAN CHRIST CHURCH PCA
10818 GASTON ROAD
281-392-0002
REV. FRED GRECO, SENIOR PASTOR
CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL-PRESBYTERIAN
1351 S. MASON RD. • 281-579-1080
REV. CARTER SANGER, PASTOR
GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN
6035 S. FRY RD.
TYLER HENDERSON, PASTOR
281-646-7500
YE DARM PRESBYTERIAN
19946 SAUMS RD • 713-461-0709
YDPCH.ORG
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1913 EAST AVENUE • 281-398-1301
PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIAL MUD

Memorial MUD has named its water plant on Park Timbers Lane in Katy after the late B. E. Lane, a long-time consultant to the district.

Memorial MUD names water plant after B. E. "Dusty" Lane

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Memorial Municipal Utility District has named one of its water plants in honor of B. E. "Dusty" Lane, the MUD announced in a September 29 email to the Katy Times. The MUD provides water and sewer services to an area generally bounded by Mason Road, Highland Knolls Drive, and Westgreen Boulevard. The plant named for Lane is located on Park Timbers Lane in Katy.

Lane was a long-time consultant to the district as an employee of Si Environmental, the district's operator. He was not only an asset to the district but spent extra time on resident problems, said a MUD spokesperson. Lane was also a consultant to numerous other municipal utility districts in the area. He lived in Rosenberg before retiring and spent his retirement years in Canyon Lake, Texas. Lane passed away in February 2025.

QuikTrip expanding metro Houston presence with three new locations, including two in Katy

Two new stores now open in Katy and one in Houston, 10 more area locations planned for 2026

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

QuikTrip (QT), one of the nation's leading convenience and gasoline retailers, is celebrating continued growth in metro Houston with three new locations now open, the company announced in a September 29 press release.

Two Katy locations recently opened at 23169 Morton Ranch Rd. and 27820 Kingsland Blvd., joining the store at 10957 Jones Rd. in Houston that opened its doors in late August.

QuikTrip recently opened its 300th location in Texas, and 10 more Houston-area locations are being developed and scheduled to open by the end of 2026.

"Houston has embraced QuikTrip as more than just a convenience store, and we're proud to grow alongside this welcoming community," said QuikTrip Corporate Communications Manager Aisha Jefferson. "As we expand across the Houston metro, we continue to show how our presence brings jobs, efficient service, and reliable support to neighborhoods. We look forward to being a trusted resource in every community we serve."

QT's new locations feature signature full-service QT Kitchens, offering quick grab-and-go meals and snacks. Popular items include The Big Q fountain drink, hot dogs topped your way, and a variety of hot, fresh, made-to-order food. Customers at these locations can also enjoy QuikTrip's industry-leading new coffee system, which offers 12 different options on tap, including



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

Mayor of Katy Dusty Thiele (center, with scissors) and Quik Trip officials officially cut the ribbon to open the convenience store chain's new location at 27820 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy in a recent ceremony.

hot and iced lattes made with real milk and freshly ground coffee beans.

Each store will create approximately two dozen new local jobs. Interested applicants can learn more and apply online at www.quiktrip.com/store-jobs.

Beyond the store experience, QT is known for its strong culture of employee care, offering competitive pay, tuition reimbursement, medical coverage, and outstanding 401(k) benefits. The company continues to receive national recognition as a top place to work.

QuikTrip also maintains a deep commitment to local communities by donating 5% of its annual net profits to charitable organizations. In Houston, QuikTrip is investing in SEARCH Homeless Services and Harmony House to support their efforts to

end homelessness, as well as the Houston Police Foundation to purchase life-saving equipment and provide advanced training for officers.

"QuikTrip's generous donation to provide the Houston Police Department with vital gear, training, and technology will enhance the safety of our brave officers and help us foster stronger ties within the community," said Houston Police Foundation Associate Director Kelly Wallace. "QT's commitment to our community is a tremendous asset for our officers, improving morale and providing valuable support as we work together to make Houston a safer and more connected place."

Over the last 66 years, QT has expanded to more than 1,100 stores across 21 states, employing over 31,000 people.

Coco Crepes & Coffee heating Katy up with new location

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Coco Crepes & Coffee, a fast-casual favorite boasting unique culinary fusions, will host a grand opening of its new location in Katy on Thursday, October 16, the company announced in an October 1 press release. Guests can enjoy signature offerings like its made-to-order sweet and savory crepes and

waffles in an inviting neighborhood cafe setting, available for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. The tenth location for this Houston-based eatery, Coco Crepes & Coffee will be located at 24818 Morton Ranch Road, Ste. 800, at The Market at Katy Park.

In celebration of the grand opening on October 16, Coco Crepes & Coffee will offer the first 100 patrons through the door

free, small drip coffee for 100 days, in addition to free t-shirts and hats while supplies last. Patrons can also enjoy a free Duffin, Nutella Crepe or Berry Berry Smoothie 7 to 11 a.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.

Coco Crepes & Coffee will be open Sunday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 540 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Shawn Pachlhofer, Jennifer Coleman, Sonia Soto, Monica Aizpurua, Joshua D. Board

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.50000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.50000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$306,897.00	\$323,683.00
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	\$306,897.00	\$323,683.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$4,603.46	\$4,855.25
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$251.79 5.47%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Katy Management District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the 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: D. Cox, J. Corona, T. Yager & D. Callender

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: P. Redmon

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)	\$0.800 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.800 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$0	\$0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$0	\$0
Tax on average residence homestead	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$0.00 0.0000%

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.



Vera Jones is the latest "cartpreneur" for King of Pops and will be based in North Katy. Her business will provide special ice pops to community and private events.
PHOTO COURTESY OF KING OF POPS

King of Pops expands to north Katy with new 'Cartpreneur,' Vera Jones

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

King of Pops, the Atlanta-based popsicle company known for creating "Unexpected Moments of Happiness," is officially rolling into North Katy, the company said in an October 1 press release. Local resident Vera Jones has joined the King of Pops family as the newest Cartpreneur, bringing handcrafted, all-natural pops to schools, parks, workplaces, festivals, and community events.

For Jones, this launch is the beginning of an exciting new chapter, one inspired by a career filled with connection and joy.

"I was blessed to serve as a flight attendant for 25 years, a career filled with laughter, adventure, and meeting people from all walks of life," said Jones. "Later, I spent 13 years as an occupational therapist, helping people regain independence. Both careers were rewarding, but when I discovered King of Pops, something clicked. That first bite took me back to childhood, chasing the popsicle truck with pure excitement. I knew I wanted to share that same joy with my community here in Katy."

Since starting with a single pushcart in Atlanta in 2010, King of Pops has grown into a beloved Southern brand, popping up at events

and catering celebrations across the region. With Vera at the helm in North Katy, families and businesses can now look forward to enjoying favorite flavors like chocolate sea salt, raspberry lime, and cookies and cream, right in their neighborhood.

"You can't talk to Vera and not get excited about what she's going to build in Katy," said Steve Carse, CEO of King of Pops. "She's going about things the right way and leaning into the community at every opportunity. We're proud to have her on the team."

King of Pops carts are available for event catering, private parties, school celebrations, and community gatherings. To book pops or bring a cart to your event, visit kingofpops.com/book-a-cart.

About King of Pops

King of Pops started in 2010 with a single pushcart in Atlanta, Georgia, and has since grown into a regional brand known for its mission to create Unexpected Moments of Happiness. Through handcrafted pops, joyful community events, and a growing franchise network, King of Pops is spreading good vibes and delicious pops across the Southeast and beyond.

Katy-based Brite Touch Cleaners launches 24/7 garment care kiosk

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Brite Touch Cleaners recently unveiled Katy's newest 24-hour garment care kiosk, powered by advanced Metalprogetti technology, the company announced in a September 29 press release. Named "Battista," this innovative kiosk delivers unmatched convenience and service to the Katy community, marking a first in Fort Bend County and the greater Houston area. The 24-hour kiosk is located at the Katy store at 9550 Spring Green Blvd., Katy.

"Battista brings 24/7 garment care to Katy, blending innovation with convenience for our busy community," said Leonardo D'Ambrosio, team leader and owner, Brite Touch Cleaners. "This investment enhances customer experience and supports the fast-paced lifestyle of our neighbors."

Unlike kiosks used by some other dry cleaners, the Metalprogetti "Battista" system is fully automated and truly self-service, a company official said. Customers do not need to rely on an employee, special badge, or device to use it.

The Battista kiosk offers a simple, secure, and contactless process, the spokesperson said. Customers can create or log into their accounts, select "Drop off," and place bagged items into a secure chute. A text notification alerts them when their order is ready. To retrieve items, customers log in, pay, and collect their cleaning. Key features include:

- 24/7 accessibility for maximum flexibility
- Contactless service for convenience and safety
- Quick turnaround and automated retrieval
- User-friendly interface for seamless transactions
- State-of-the-art garment tracking for accuracy

"This kiosk is a game-changer," said Sarah Thompson, a local resident and early user. "I dropped off my clothes after hours and picked them up the next day—fast, easy, and stress-free."

Founded in 2009, Brite Touch Cleaners operates 18 locations in

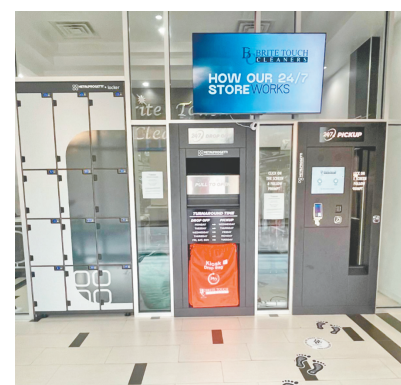


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITE TOUCH CLEANERS

Katy-based Brite Touch Cleaners has introduced its 24-hour fully automated kiosk at its location at 9550 Spring Green Blvd. in Katy.

Greater Houston, with seven of those in the Katy area and with its main plant at 10605 Spring Green Blvd., #100, Katy. Brite Touch Cleaners is owned by Leonardo D'Ambrosio and Horacio Erminy. D'Ambrosio has lived here for seven years with his family, he said.

"We chose Katy as our headquarters because of its vibrant growth, strong community values, and ideal location for serving both Houston and the surrounding areas," said D'Ambrosio. "Katy has always been a hub of progress and innovation, and we are proud to contribute to that."

The company is actively engaged with local schools, including Seven Lakes High School, Cinco Ranch High School, and Paetow High School, where it provides choir and band uniforms cleaning at reduced rates. Additionally, the company has been contributing to the Fort Bend ISD's Community Vocational Program since 2022, helping students with special needs acquire the skills necessary to secure their first job.

"We believe that serving the community means more than just providing garment care—it means supporting the organizations and families that make Katy such a great place to live and work," said D'Ambrosio.

Visit www.britetouchcleaners.com or call (281) 980-5462 to experience Battista today or to schedule free pick-up and delivery.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The **HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT #105** will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on **October 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at **777 North Eldridge, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77079** or by video conference: <https://tinyurl.com/MUD105-Oct25>. 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 LaConti, Kathy Cones, Ginger Furlong and Carol Diller
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Clay Brandenburg

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)	\$0.61000/\$100	\$0.61000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.00000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 269,167	\$ 276,908
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 53,833	\$ 55,382
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 215,334	\$ 221,526
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,313.53	\$ 1,351.30
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 37.77	2.87%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The **MAYDE CREEK MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT** will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on **October 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at **Mayde Creek Event Center, 19600 Misty Cove, 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:	Cyrus Dumas, Betty Alvarenga, Jessica Graham, Lee Crenshaw and Erwin Sanchez
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.68000/\$100	\$0.67000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	-\$0.01000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	-1.47%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 258,157	\$ 269,685
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 258,157	\$ 269,685
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,755.46	\$ 1,806.88
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 51.42	2.92%

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.

KRHF Parade: Big and small, we loved them all



On a perfect autumn day on October 4, the Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade wound through the heart of Old Katy, from East Avenue to Second Street around the historic downtown square to Avenue C and North. There were over forty entries, including politicians, school groups, service organizations and youth organizations. The event is sponsored by the City of Katy in partnership with the Rotary Club of Katy. The Katy Rice Harvest Festival is October 11-12 in Katy's downtown square at Second Street and Avenue C.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 538 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 11:00A.M. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Freeway, STE 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: William Jordan, Matt Bennett, Katherine Carmichael
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: RC Simmons, Michael Autenreith Sr.

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

	Last Year \$1.33000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.30000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.33000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.30000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.03000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.26%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$417,128.00	\$413,191.00
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	\$417,128.00	\$413,191.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$5,547.80	\$5,371.48
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-176.32 -3.18%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

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

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at 805 Hidden Canyon, Katy, Texas 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Timothy C. Miller, Miguel G. Hull, W.F. Trotter, Jr., Crystal Sampson, Thomas H. Williams
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

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

	Last Year \$0.30000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.28000/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.30000/\$100 Adopted	\$0.28000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.02000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.66%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 333,649	\$ 356,703
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 333,649	\$ 356,703
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,000.94	\$ 998.76
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ -2.18 -.21%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

Katy Times CLASSIFIEDS

Your Classified Ad Source In Print & Online!

Call 281-391-3141
or visit www.katytimes.com
to place your ad today!



WORD AD RATE
\$14.70 per week for 15 words. Each additional word 57¢.

DEADLINES
Display Ads Friday noon Word Ads Monday 10 a.m.

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

One Spot. Lots of Possibilities!

CARS, TRUCKS, MOTORCYCLES & MORE

HOUSES FOR SALE & FOR RENT

LOCAL & REGIONAL JOBS

PETS FOR ADOPTION

GARAGE SALES

BARGAINS GALORE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

Reach potential buyers when you advertise in the Classifieds!

Call 281-391-3141
or visit www.katytimes.com
to place your ad today!

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 165, will be electronically received, until **2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, November 4, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for Construction of **“Avalon at Cypress Section 4 Landscape”** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, Harris County, Texas”

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: concrete trails, furnishings, sprinkler irrigation, grading, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 983 7467 7355 and use Passcode: 669341 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/98374677355?pwd=Yqvd5ipyn8ZWN6Y6HNAO2tlzXX3aA.1>

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 915 4726 7296 and use Passcode: 697727 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/91547267296?pwd=BS7WMxRb7HAc0CNxtuPvr56DffBYr2.1>

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

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

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

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

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

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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, October 23, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read for **“Traffic Signal Construction Project - Franz Road at Scott Ranch Road”** for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the construction of a new traffic signal system at the intersection of Franz Road at Scott Ranch Road, including all labor, equipment, material, and incidentals required for the project.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Microsoft Teams**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the Microsoft Teams meeting is given below:
Meeting ID: 279 336 969 900 3
Passcode: Vp6z7MV9

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Katy Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2025, in the Education Support Complex Board Room 6301 S. Stadium Lane Katy, Texas 77494

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Katy Independent School District's rating on the State's Financial Accountability System.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, October 23, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read for **“Nelson Way Roadway Extension and Bridge Construction Project”** for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes roadway extension and bridge construction of Nelson Way between FM 1463 to Pin Oak Road. The distance of the extension is approximately 1,000 linear feet. The extension involves constructing a four-lane concrete curb and gutter roadway with concrete sidewalks along both sides of the roadway. In addition to the roadway extension, the project includes the construction of a new four-lane bridge over Cane Island Branch of Buffalo Bayou, the construction of storm sewers, and all labor, materials and equipment required to perform the work.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. local time via Microsoft Teams**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the Microsoft Teams meeting is given below:
Meeting ID: 229 462 635 419 5
Passcode: 37Bo9nh2

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

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

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

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

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 **Katy City Park - Artificial Turf Field and Pickleball Courts** project, until **Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 2:00pm**. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy City Hall. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project consists of the installation of storm connections, drainage and detention for a multipurpose synthetic turf field retrofit, retrofit of existing tennis courts to Six (6) pickleball courts, lighting upgrades concrete sidewalks, site amenities. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- 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 acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Virtual Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 11:00am**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 222 647 313 019 7
Passcode: Ap7Xv7SB

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.

Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISD Department of Special Education at 281-396-2066. The Department of Special Education will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to obtain academic and non-academic benefit. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees, and its agents, officers, and staff members shall not discriminate based on gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WATERFRONT LAND SALE

Texas' Newest Waterfront Community
Off of Matagorda Bay
October 11th One Day Sale

1+ Acre Waterfront Starting at \$99,900
Terms to fit your budget

830-310-6195

October 2 Puzzle Answers

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

GANGS H I M B L O W
S L U R P E R A W A I V E
A S T I R L A C A L E U T
O S M I U M H E L I U M
M T V S O A R
N A B Z U L U R U D D E R
O L L A L O C H S A U N A
B L O G A U R U M C R U D
L I N E D D O L E E U R O
E N D S U P S A R I M E N
M E T A L S F E R R U M
T A R O T I R E O A S I S
T K O N S G O T A N E N T
N O S Y N B A D A D D Y

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. 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.

Katy businessman returns to the city and business he loves

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

It is fall and the season of “homecomings” – and local entrepreneur Will Smith is celebrating a homecoming of sorts himself – coming back to Katy and opening Katy Car Care.

Smith has been in the automotive industry for 52 years. He had his first business in Katy in the 1990’s, founding Smith’s Car Care at Fifth Street and Katy Fort Bend Road in 1996. Smith had been operating Firestone stores for nine years but decided that he wanted to run his own shop. He coached at Faith West Academy for three years and his wife Jeanette taught at Katy High School. “We were always huge supporters of not just the Katy athletics but KHS as a whole,” he said. They gave back to the community in a number of ways, helping struggling single parent families and “doing anything and everything we could” for Katy High

School.

In 2015, Smith gave the Smith’s Car Care business to his son, Brian, because “that’s what parents do,” he said. He also divested himself of other businesses that he owned at the time, including a muffler shop, a bar and an icehouse in Brookshire. Smith then moved into the consulting business, relocating to Orange to be near other grandchildren. He eventually went to work for Christian Brothers in Beaumont.

But then opportunity knocked, and Smith saw a way to go back to what he loves doing – fixing people’s car problems in Katy. So, in July 2025, he opened Katy Car Care at 630 Katy Fort Bend Road, near Kingsland Drive with four employees, specializing in full automotive repair.

But Smith does not feel that his new shop is competing with son Brian’s business. “My only competition is me,” he said. “Other than the size of the

shops, there is no difference between Brian’s shop and mine. We both believe that honesty and integrity are what makes you successful. We both do it the right way by not overcharging customers and by developing relationships, not business transactions.”

But one thing does stand out about Katy Car Care – and it is the delicious cookies at the counter, baked fresh and beautifully decorated by Smith’s wife Jeanette. How did that idea come about? “Because she told me to,” Smith said. “Jeanette has always tried to provide homemade goods for the customers.”

Smith looks forward to the future of his new enterprise. “We take a lot of pride in our work,” he said. “We try to put out the best product possible. The main objective is our family service.”

What else should readers of the Katy Times know, we asked. “GOOOO TIGERS!!!” he replied.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Katy Car Care owner Will Smith (left) and technician Amer Maswadi check out a customer’s vehicle at the shop on Katy Fort Bend Road near Kingsland. The company opened in July, marking Smith’s return to the industry and to Katy after a multi-year hiatus.

Amazing Place expert contributes to book about Bruce Willis’ dementia journey

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

When Arlene Schollaert, LCSW, the Family Services Director at Amazing Place, led a session at The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration national conference a couple of years ago, she didn’t realize that the wife of actor Bruce Willis was in the audience. Emma Heming Willis visited with Schollaert afterwards and the two conversed openly about her challenges with Bruce’s diagnosis and her role as a dementia caregiver. The two have stayed in touch ever since.

When Willis decided to author a book to help other caregivers navigate a loved one’s dementia, she asked Schollaert to contribute to “The Unexpected Journey,” now a New York

Times bestseller. The book is a roadmap for dementia caregivers, told through Willis’ story of navigating the challenges of her husband’s diagnosis, and offers the expertise of many dementia experts, including Schollaert.

“This is a remarkable guide for anyone who needs to find strength, hope and understanding as a dementia caregiver,” said Schollaert. “Knowledge is power when it comes to caregiving because it helps reframe your situation so you can become more proactive and prepared. That’s why the advice in this book from Emma and the national dementia experts she enlisted is so helpful.”

Schollaert’s words of wisdom can be found in the book’s section, “Bringing in

Help.” An important thread found throughout the book is that you don’t have to take this journey by yourself. Schollaert stresses that building a community and having people in your corner is a key to self-care, finding hope and smart decisions.

Assessing when it’s time to get help is tricky, according to Schollaert, but in “The Unexpected Journey” she points to some questions caregivers should ask themselves. These include “if the person was in the house alone and there was a fire, would they know how to get out?” and “can you get seven to eight hours of sleep a night?” and “have you lost connections with family and friends?”

Schollaert’s contribution to “The Unexpected

Journey” reflects the caliber of expertise at Amazing Place. With two locations in Houston — including a new campus in Katy at 621 Circle deMatel to serve the fast-growing west Houston population -- Schollaert and all of the organization’s brain health experts offer unparalleled care, comfort and support.

For information on Amazing Place’s Caregiver Education and Support offerings email Sharon Cantrell, Amazing Place Caregiver Education Director at scantrell@amazingplacehouston.org. For information on the Day Program at Amazing Place West, email Carol Cooper, Amazing Place West Day Program Director ccooper@amazingplacehouston.org.

Katy Times
CLASSIFIEDS
Your Classified Ad Source In Print & Online!

Call 281-391-3141
or visit www.katytimes.com
to place your ad today!



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
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA (“CivCast”) website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 58 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

**WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 58
LAKES OF CANE ISLAND DRIVE
PROJECT NO. RVIAD24-014-005**

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, planting space and irrigation infrastructure zoning.

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier’s Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier’s Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to: PHHOU - Cane Island 178, LLC.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA (“CivCast”) website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 58 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

**WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 58
LAKES OF CANE ISLAND PHASE-1- SECTION 3 & LIFT STATION
PROJECT NO. RVIAD24-014-007**

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, entry monument, planting space and irrigation infrastructure zoning.

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier’s Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier’s Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to: PHHOU - Cane Island 178, LLC.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA (“CivCast”) website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 58 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

**WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 58
LAKES OF CANE ISLAND PHASE-1- PRIMARY ENTRY MONUMENT
PROJECT NO. RVIAD24-014-006**

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, entry monument, planting space and irrigation infrastructure zoning.

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier’s Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier’s Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to: PHHOU - Cane Island 178, LLC.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA (“CivCast”) website (www.civcastusa.com), or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received by Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 58 at the office of the Engineer for the District, EHRA, 10011 Meadowglen Lane, Houston, Texas 77042, and electronic bids delivered via the CivCast website, until 3:30 p.m., Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the construction of the project:

**WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 58
LAKES OF CANE ISLAND PHASE-1- DETENTION BASINS D, E
& SECTION 4
PROJECT NO. RVIAD24-014-004**

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call. Zoom Conference Call information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

The combined areas of the streetscape scope consist of sidewalk, entry monument, planting space and irrigation infrastructure zoning.

The above-described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge or the option to purchase hard copies on the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer or Houston area plan rooms.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier’s Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier’s Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to: PHHOU - Cane Island 178, LLC.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid deemed advantageous to it and waive informalities in bidding. All bids received after the closing time above designated will be returned unopened.

YOUR
NEWS.
YOUR
WAY.

Find out
what
all your
friends
are talking
about

Katy Times

Follow us on
Facebook for
easy access to
**THE KATY
TIMES**

THEKATYTIMES

3 Harmony Public Schools named Lone Star Ribbon Schools

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently announced that three Harmony Public Schools were among the list of 28 Texas schools named 2025 Lone Star Ribbon Schools in recognition of their outstanding academic performance and progress in closing achievement gaps, according to a press release from the charter school system.

The three Harmony schools recognized as 2025 Texas Lone Star Schools include one location in

Katy, Harmony Science Academy-Katy. The elementary campus is located at 22400 Grand Corner Drive in Katy, near the intersection of the Grand Parkway and FM 1093.

The other two Harmony schools were Harmony Science Academy-Sugar Land and Harmony Science Academy-Eules.

"We are incredibly proud that three Harmony campuses have been recognized among only 28 schools across the entire state as 2025 Lone Star Ribbon Schools," said Harmony Public Schools CEO

Fatih Ay. "This honor reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and families, and it highlights the high standards of excellence that define Harmony Public Schools. To be included in such a selective group is both humbling and motivating as we continue to provide a world-class education to every child we serve."

The previously named National Blue Ribbon Schools program transitioned to state leadership as part of the U.S. Department of Education's efforts to return

control of education back to the states.

"Texas is on the pathway to become No. 1 in educating our children," said Governor Abbott. "And Texas will continue to invest in our schools to improve performance and better prepare Texans for the workforce."

"With Texas overseeing the new Lone Star Ribbon program, this recognition will better reflect the priorities and values of local schools and communities," the Harmony press release said. "This change ensures that decisions

about honoring excellence in Texas education are made by those who know Texas schools best."

Harmony's curriculum places a heavy focus on STEM skills, character education, project-based learning and college readiness. The system has a 98 percent graduation rate for its high school seniors, and 100 percent college acceptance rate among its graduating seniors, the press release said.

Harmony Public Schools is currently accepting applications for the 2025-26 school year for students and team members.



FILE PHOTO

Royal Elementary School at 7560 Bartlett Road in Katy will be dedicated in an official ceremony on October 12.

Royal Prairie to hold campus dedication Oct. 12

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Royal ISD will dedicate its new elementary school – Royal Prairie Elementary – at a special ceremony

from 2 to 3 p.m. on October 12.

The event will include a special dedication and ribbon cutting as well as tours of the new campus. Refreshments will be served. The school is

located at 7560 Bartlett Road in Katy, in the Sunterra neighborhood.

All community members are invited to attend; please RSVP to gospinoza@royal-isd.net.

Royal Falcon receives prestigious Legion of Valor Bronze Cross

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Royal High School's Cadet Jacob Pistor has been awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross, Royal ISD announced on its Facebook page on September 30.

The Legion of Valor Bronze Cross was established in 1951, it is the highest honor a cadet can receive and is presented by the Legion of Valor of the United States of America Inc, a fraternal organization of Medal of Honor and Service Cross recipients, according to the post.

Each year, Senior Marine Instructors may nominate Junior Cadets for this prestigious award. The nomination process involves submitting a comprehensive nomination package, which is forwarded through Regional Director to Headquarters.

"Being chosen for this esteemed award is a testament to the cadet's remarkable accomplishments and the high standards they have set for themselves," said the post. "As recipients of the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross, they become part of a distinguished group of young leaders who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and capability. Please join [us] in congratulating Cadet Jacob Pistor for earning this prestigious honor."

Texas-sized service: Katy ISD Trustee Rebecca Fox reelected to TASB board

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees Vice President Rebecca Fox was reelected to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors for a three-year term, representing Region 4, Position E, the district announced in an October 1 press release.

"Our district is fortunate to have Trustee Fox representing our community at the state level," Katy ISD Board President Lance Redmon said. "Her longstanding commitment to public education and unwavering dedication to students and families will continue



REBECCA FOX
Katy ISD Board
Vice President

to benefit not only Katy ISD, but school districts across Texas."

Fox served on the Katy ISD Board of Trustees from 2004–2019 and returned to the board in 2021. During her time as trustee, she helped establish the vision for the Katy ISD Education Foundation and was among its first investors. She is also a graduate of Leadership TASB, earning the designation of Master Trustee, and is an active member of the

School Board Advocacy Network. She currently serves more than 95,000 Katy ISD students and their families.

Beyond her service as a trustee, Fox has a long history of

volunteering for Katy ISD and her community. She has served on multiple PTA boards, district committees and the Executive Board of Volunteers in Public Schools. She continues to give her time to Keep Encouraging Youth towards Success (KEYS) mentoring, Junior Achievement, Promise-to-Read and other campus programs. Her community involvement includes the National Charity League-Star Chapter, Pregnancy Help Center and RaiseUp Families.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school boards. Today, school board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state, representing districts that serve more than 5.5 million public school students.

KISD's Partners in Education seeks monetary donations for 'Food for Families'

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Every year Katy ISD school counselors identify students who, along with their families, are in need and arrange for support for them through the district's "Food for Families" program. Food for Families rallies community support for Katy ISD families in need through the funding of grocery gift cards.

In an October 1 email blast, the district's Partners in Education department asked for monetary donations as the holidays approach. Through the Food for Families program, students don't just receive groceries – the feel seen, supported, and valued by their community, the eblast said.

"Each gift card reminds them that they belong and that people care about their well-being, giving them the hope to thrive in school and in life," the eblast said. A donation of \$75.00 feeds one family, according to the email message, but any donated amount is accepted and appreciated.

Checks, made payable to Katy ISD Food for Families, may be mailed to KISD Partners in Education, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy, TX 77494. Or donate online at katyisd.revtrak.net/departments/partners-in-education/#/f/pie-food-for-families-donation.

For more information, contact Susi Jackson at 281-396-2645 or susannemjackson@katyisd.org.

Royal FFA brings home awards from Washington County Fair

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On September 20, the Royal High School FFA members earned high honors at the Washington County Fair Livestock judging contest, Royal ISD announced in a Facebook post that day. There were 25 members from Royal FFA who participated.

Honors include:

- Third Place Intermediate Division Team: Crisslyn Curtis, Shelby Woods, Sasha Torres, Ava Pape
- Seventh Place Senior Division Team: Maria Gomez, Raelee Hacke, Jaycee Estep, Eduardo Acosta
- Eighth Place Junior Division Team: Kynslee Hein, Emery Woods, Emery Pape
- Individual Honors: Maria Gomez, sixth High Senior Individual



Connect More With Community...
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Katy Times

Stay engaged, informed and active with a subscription to your community newspaper!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR JUST \$48.00 per YEAR!

- Go to KatyTimes.com and click the SUBSCRIBE button in the top-right corner
- OR
- Call 281-391-3141
- OR
- Mail your name, address and payment to Katy Times, PO Box 678, Katy, Tx 77492-0678

ARE YOU ADVERTISING?

Your business is open. Your lights are on.

INVITE PEOPLE IN.

To advertise, call us at

281-391-3141

Katy Times

Enroll in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund® before Nov. 1 and save

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock reminds families that it's not too late to save on enrollment in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund®, the state's prepaid college tuition plan.

The \$25 application fee to enroll in the plan will be waived for September and October enrollments. (Enrollments by mail must be postmarked by Oct. 31, 2025.) Enrollment began Sept. 1 and runs through Feb. 28, 2026.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund offers parents and loved ones the chance to prepay a child's future undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental schools, at today's prices.*

"As parents, we all want to give our kids every opportunity to succeed, and that starts with education," Hancock said. "Enrolling in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund can help families plan ahead today as we keep Texas strong for generations to come."

Participants in the plan purchase "tuition units" that can be used later toward undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental schools. Prices are based on 2025-26 academic year costs for the state's public colleges and universities.

- Type I tuition units, priced for undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at the most expensive Texas public four-year university or college, cost \$165.11 per unit.

- Type II tuition units, based on the weighted average cost of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees across Texas public four-year universities and colleges, cost \$115.89 per unit.

- Type III tuition units, based on the weighted average cost of in-district tuition and schoolwide required fees across Texas public two-year community colleges, cost \$32.15 per unit.

Under the plan, 100 tuition units equal roughly one academic year consisting of 30 semester hours of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at the Texas public school that most closely matches the tuition unit's pricing base. Participants can purchase up to 600 Type I tuition units — approximately six academic years — or the dollar equivalent of Type II or III tuition units.

The plan has flexible payment options with each contract, including lump-sum payments, installment payments that include a 6 percent interest charge, or pay-as-you-go payments. The pay-as-you-go payment option enables participants to gradually add more tuition units as the family budget allows based on tuition unit prices at the time of purchase. Enrollment in a pay-as-you-go contract requires purchase of at least one tuition unit of any type; future payments can be as low as \$15. An online calculator at <https://www.texas tuition promise fund.com/calculator/> provides pricing estimates on the type and number of tuition units currently needed for any two- or four-year Texas public college or university.

For more information about this prepaid college tuition plan, including Texas residency requirements and how the plan's Transfer Value** can be used at medical and dental schools, private and out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools and registered apprenticeship programs, go to [TuitionPromise.org](https://www.tuitionpromise.org) or call 800-445-GRAD (4723), option 5. The plan's outreach team

offers free webinars to provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as provide information about unique Texas Match the Promise Foundation scholarship opportunities.*** Go to the Texas Tuition Promise Fund website to register to attend upcoming webinars.

* Residency restrictions apply.

** Transfer Value is limited to the lesser of (1) the costs the tuition units would cover at a Texas public college or university, or (2) the original purchase price of the tuition units plus or minus the plan's net investment earnings or losses on that amount.

*** Residency restrictions, age requirements, eligibility criteria, household income restrictions, and contribution requirements apply. Match the Promise Foundation scholarships can only be used at Texas public colleges and universities, and Transfer Value cannot be utilized.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund® ("Plan") is administered by the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board ("Board"). Orion Advisor Solutions, Inc. is the manager of the Plan, which is maintained by Catalis Regulatory and Compliance, LLC, who is not affiliated with Orion. The Plan and the Board do not provide legal, financial, or tax advice and you should consult a legal, financial, or tax advisor before participating.

Non-residents of Texas should consider whether their home state, or the beneficiary's home state, offers its residents any tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for participants in that state's plan.

Participation in the Plan does not guarantee admission to or graduation from any college or university. Only the purchaser may direct redemptions, withdrawals, changes in beneficiary, or other contract changes.

You may lose money by participating in the Plan. No part of a contract is a deposit or obligation of, or is guaranteed or insured by, the Board, the state of Texas, or any agency or agent thereof. The contracts have not been registered with or approved by the SEC or any state. Purchasers should carefully consider the risks, fees, charges, and expenses associated with contracts, including Plan termination and reduced Transfer or Refund Value. Transfer Value applies to redemptions at Texas private colleges and universities, out-of-state colleges and universities, medical and dental schools, career schools, and registered apprenticeship programs and is the lesser of: (1) the costs the units would cover at a Texas public college or university; or (2) the original purchase price of the units plus or minus the Plan's net investment earnings or losses on that amount. Texas Match the Promise Foundation scholarships can only be used at Texas public colleges and universities, and any Transfer Value of a Match the Promise Foundation scholarship account cannot be utilized. The Plan Description and Master Agreement (PDF) contain this and other information about the Plan and may be obtained by visiting [TuitionPromise.org](https://www.tuitionpromise.org) or calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), option 5. Purchasers should read the Plan Description and Master Agreement, and all other Plan documents carefully before purchasing a contract.

© 2025 Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board. "Texas Tuition Promise Fund" is a registered mark of the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board. All rights reserved.

UH'S KATY CAMPUS TO BENEFIT FROM FUNDS RAISED AT GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING'S ANNIVERSARY DINNER



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The University of Houston Gessner College of Nursing raised more than \$289,000 at its recent dinner that also celebrated its tenth anniversary. The money will be used for scholarships, simulation centers, nurse managed clinic and other college and student needs at its Katy, Sugar Land and main campus locations. Celebrating are (left to right) UH Cougar mascot Shasta, UH President Renu Khator and UH professor Suresh Khator.

University of Houston awarded \$1M to study teacher certification pathways and outcomes

CREATE researchers aim to strengthen Texas' teacher pipeline with support from Houston Endowment

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As Texas faces a shortage of certified teachers, University of Houston researchers are at the forefront of developing a strong, sustainable teacher workforce — backed by a \$1 million grant from the Houston Endowment, the university announced in a September 22 press release.

The funding, awarded this fall, supports the work of UH's Center for Research, Evaluation, and Advancement of Teacher Education, or CREATE, which will study how school districts are using different teacher certification pathways — such as residency and grow-your-own programs — to improve student outcomes and teacher recruitment and retention.

The project aims to provide new statewide data, research and policy analysis to reduce the number of uncertified teachers in Texas classrooms — with research showing this group accounted for 52% of new hires in 2023-24.

"Being in collaborative, data-centered work with districts and other key partners allows us to be better stewards of our responsibility — to infuse extraordinary teachers into public schools," said Cathy Horn, dean of the UH College of Education. "Every student deserves to have an amazing teacher; this grant helps us do our part in making that happen."

CREATE will leverage data from UH's Education Research Center (ERC), which houses K-12 data from the Texas Education Agency as well as higher education and workforce data from multiple state agencies.

Why it matters

The percentage of uncertified teachers in traditional public school classrooms in Texas nearly doubled from 7.8% in 2012-13 to 14.5% in 2022-23, according to ERC data.

Uncertified teachers are more likely to leave the profession early,

and students taught by uncertified teachers can lose up to six months of academic progress, according to a study from The UTeach Institute.

Over the two-year grant period, CREATE will:

- Provide actionable, localized data and research to school districts and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs)
- Understand the ways in which school districts are planning to meet new teacher certification requirements passed by the Legislature and suggest ways policy could support more certified teachers in classrooms

A statewide advisory committee composed of education leaders and stakeholders will also help guide the project to ensure it meets the field's evolving needs. "This investment will expand CREATE's efforts to strengthen the teacher workforce and support the state's 5 million public school children," said August Hamilton, education program director for the Houston Endowment. "CREATE will equip state leaders and districts with the evidence they need to increase the number of certified teachers in Texas classrooms."

Aligning with statewide reforms

This project supports state efforts to increase teacher certification. A portion of House Bill 2, passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, limits the use of uncertified teachers in core subjects and introduces incentives like providing districts \$1,000 for each new, uncertified teacher who gains certification by the end of 2026-27.

While the state had previously reduced the barrier to entry into the teaching profession to assist school districts reporting teacher shortages, the changes lacked long-term sustainability, according to Toni Templeton, principal investigator on the grant, CREATE researcher and senior research scientist at the ERC.

"While reducing the barrier to entry for teaching allowed for a greater pool of candidates, it didn't solve the underlying issues diminishing interest in the teaching field, such as comparably low pay," Templeton said. "The

guardrails put back into place by the Legislature are a first step in the right direction of supporting a thriving teacher workforce."

Although CREATE researchers applied for the grant before HB 2 passed, the team has since adapted its scope to evaluate how school districts will respond to the new policies. The group will produce data reports, policy briefs, and academic publications to inform both lawmakers and education leaders.

"There's this whole cafeteria list of options to become certified, and what we're interested in understanding is which of these are working and for whom," Templeton said. "What teachers are thriving under each of these programs? How are those programs related to student outcomes for different groups of students?"

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for excellence in undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth largest city and one of the most culturally rich regions in the country, UH enrolls more than 47,000 students.

About the Houston Endowment

Houston Endowment is a private foundation established in 1937 by Jesse H. Jones and his wife, Mary Gibbs Jones, to improve the quality of life for everyone in Greater Houston. Today, it has more than \$2 billion in assets and invests about \$100 million a year in strengthening public education, increasing civic engagement, enhancing the arts and cultural sector, and growing Houston's green spaces—as well as addressing emerging opportunities in the region. Working with fellow Houstonians, Houston Endowment pursues bold goals, builds partnerships, and invests in innovative solutions to create a vibrant region where all have the opportunity to thrive.

Wayland Baptist launches fast-track certification pathways for future teachers

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Wayland Baptist University's Don A. Williams School of Education, located in the Panhandle town of Plainview, is opening new doors for individuals who want to enter the teaching profession through innovative fast-track pathways, the college said in an October 1 press release.

Responding to a statewide shortage of certified teachers, the university is offering both an Alternative Certification Teacher Program (ACP) and flexible degree-based pathways designed to help future educators quickly move into classrooms, the release said.

"These programs give people who may never have considered teaching a clear path to certification," said James Anderson,

Interim Dean of the School of Education. "Whether you're a recent graduate or someone with a degree in another field, Wayland has an option that can help you become a fully certified teacher."

The ACP program provides a one-year route to teacher certification. Candidates complete 50 hours of classroom observation, online coursework, and supervised teaching experiences while working under an intern certificate. The program is structured in modules and can be completed entirely online, making it accessible across the state.

Wayland also offers a master's degree pathway, which combines certification requirements with graduate coursework. Students complete 19 hours of education classes in the first year—more than halfway to a Master of Education degree—while earning certification. By continuing for

a second year, participants finish the full master's degree.

"This option has been especially popular," Anderson said. "Instead of just paying for certification, students are investing in a graduate degree that qualifies for financial aid and even TEACH grants. It's a tremendous value."

The School of Education also provides fast-track undergraduate programs that allow paraprofessionals, transfer students, and others to earn bachelor's degrees in education while working full-time. Flexible online and evening classes make these programs accessible to a wide range of students.

"Many of our students are paraprofessionals already serving in schools or athletes planning to coach," Anderson said. "These pathways let them complete the require-

ments for certification without putting their careers on hold."

All programs are designed to be completed online, with Wayland faculty and certified mentors providing statewide support. Candidates are observed in their own classrooms, receive feedback from university supervisors, and take the required state exams. Upon completion, they become fully certified teachers ready to meet the demand across Texas.

"Our goal is simple," Anderson said. "We want to equip more certified teachers for classrooms across Texas, and we want to do it in a way that works for people's lives and careers."

Interested candidates can learn more about Wayland's teacher pathways by visiting [wbu.edu](https://www.wbu.edu), or contacting the School of Education directly.



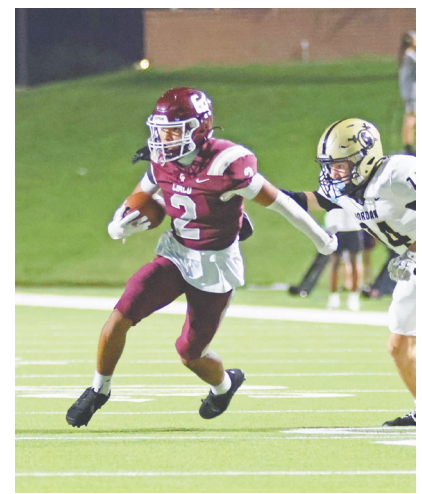
ROYAL FALCONS FLY OVER SWEENEY, 19-13



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

The Royal High School Falcons defeated the Sweeney Bulldogs 19-13 in an away game on Oct. 3. Royal (2-2 for the season) faces Columbia next on October 10.

CINCO SINKS JORDAN 24-21 IN FINAL SECONDS



Sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cheves of Cinco Ranch makes a move and takes a screen pass 20 yards for a touchdown in an Oct. 2 game against Jordan High School. Cinco Ranch won 24-21, with two seconds remaining on the clock.

PHOTO BY LIVE IN THE MOMENT

AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES, OCT. 2-4

TEAM	SCORE	VS TEAM	SCORE
Taylor	28	Seven Lakes	34
Tompkins	31	Mayde Creek	22
Jordan	21	Cinco Ranch	24
Paetow	60	Morton Ranch	37
Freeman	0	Hitchcock	46
Katy		Bye	
Royal	19	Sweeney	13

Source: si.com

SPARTANS DEFEAT MUSTANGS 34-27



PHOTO BY LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Seven Lakes senior running back Edgar Varela finds a hole and runs for a 22-yard gain against Taylor on October 2. Seven Lakes won 34-27.

TOMPKINS OVERCOMES MAYDE CREEK 31-22



PHOTO BY LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Tompkins junior quarterback J.P. Vaclavik connects with senior wide receiver Blake Hamilton as senior offensive lineman David Bryson makes a key block during Tompkins' 31-22 victory over Mayde Creek on October 3.

PAETOW PUMMELS MORTON RANCH 60-37



PHOTO BY LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Paetow junior quarterback Jaiden Noel drops back and finds junior wide receiver Tyler Washington for a touchdown on October 3 in the Panthers' 60-37 win over Morton Ranch.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

BUSINESS SERVICES

I can save you money on your credit card processing

We enable our customers to process credit cards anytime, anywhere, at the office or on the go.

★★★★ Customer Service

Trudy King
Global Payments
Trudy@TrudyKing.com
832-724-7440

HANDYMAN

SERVICES:

- Pool Cleaning & Repairs
- Handyman Services
- Home Office Cleaning
- TV Mounting on Walls
- Plumbing
- Power Washing
- Windows
- Drywall & Painting
- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
- Tree Services
- Heavy Duty Cleaning top to bottom

\$20 off

QUEST REPAIR PROS

TYSON OSHODIN
Tel: (832) 674-8840
Cell: (978) 652-8383
Email: info@questrepairpro.net

Scan to visit our website

REAL ESTATE

TEXAS LAND & COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

EXCLUSIVE LAND & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Sold +/- 42 Acres Kingsland Blvd.

Paul King, Broker/Owner
832-498-3731, PaulKing@TexasLACP.com

ELECTRICITY BROKER

ELECTRICITY PRICE COMPARISON

Save money and reduce your carbon footprint with our innovative solutions

We help customers with **Shopping the Energy Market** for the best **Electricity Contract** that fits their specific needs and situation.

KEVIN DRURY
Your Electricity Guy
281-630-5895
kevind@power2price.com

POWER 2 PRICE
Residential * Commercial

TAX CONSULTANTS

Bent Arrow CONSULTING, LLC

At Bent Arrow Consulting, we combine our deep knowledge of property tax law with a personalized approach to each client's unique needs. Our team is committed to delivering:

- Property Tax Compliance & Filings
- Negotiations & Tax Appeals
- Accruals & Budgets
- Tax Bill Audits
- Appraisals and Valuations
- Estate Planning
- SEC Reserves

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

YOUR AD HERE

YOUR MESSAGE HERE FOR JUST \$40.00 per week

For more information, contact **Debbie Prejean**
281-391-3141
debbie.prejean@katytimes.com

Katy Times

In-game video technology reshaping high school football

BY TUNCH AKKAYA
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

When the University Interscholastic League (UIL) began allowing in-game video technology on Texas high school football sidelines in 2024, it marked a turning point for how teams approach game day. Across the state, programs are experimenting with real-time replay systems to adjust strategy, develop players and stay competitive.

Katy ISD's Tompkins High School, one of the top programs in the Houston area, has embraced the change. Coaches now integrate in-game film review into their game day routine, something that was impossible just a season ago.

A new layer of insight

Instead of waiting until Saturday morning to break down game film, Tompkins staff can now review key plays seconds after they

happen. In the locker room at halftime or in the press box between drives, coaches and players analyze blown coverages, new formations or missed opportunities and adjust before the final whistle. This immediate feedback can influence the outcome of a game in real time.

Keeping things efficient

For coaching staffs with limited personnel, systems that are simple to operate are critical. Tompkins chose a setup that can be run by a single staff member or even a student volunteer. Quick access to footage means adjustments are not delayed, and halftime discussions become more productive.

Experience matters

Reliability under Friday night pressure also matters. Tompkins uses a system called GameStrat, which has been adopted by hun-

dreds of high school and college programs nationwide. The decision was driven by a need for a proven platform that can handle the fast pace of Texas high school football.

"Being able to see the film seconds after each play with GameStrat is a game changer," said Todd McVey, Tompkins High School head football coach. "It gives us the whole picture in real time and helps us make adjustments more efficiently."

With limited windows for feedback, especially at halftime, having a system that has been tested in chaotic environments helps reduce the chance of technical issues that could cost valuable time.

Looking ahead

As more Texas programs explore in-game video, schools like Tompkins are demonstrating how to integrate technology into coaching without sacrificing the human element. The technology does not replace

coaching, but it provides an additional tool to help staff make smarter decisions more quickly. For programs looking to stay competitive in a state known for football, that extra insight can go a long way.

About the author

Tunch Akkaya is the CEO and founder of GameStrat, a leading provider of real-time sideline replay technology for football teams. With a background in software engineering and experience playing football throughout university, Akkaya combines technical expertise with firsthand knowledge of the game. Through building GameStrat, he has become an expert in the football technology landscape, understanding the workflows and pain points that coaches face on a daily basis. His deep industry insight and entrepreneurial drive have positioned GameStrat as a game changer in the sports technology sector.

THSCA announces Walmart as presenting sponsor of 2025-2026 THSCA Academic All-State Teams

Partnership reinforces THSCA's commitment to recognizing academic excellence among Texas high school athletes.

20,000+ deserving students across Texas each year, emphasizing that classroom excellence is just as vital as athletic achievement.

The partnership between Walmart and THSCA underscores a shared commitment to education, leadership, and the lifelong impact of high school athletics, the press release said.

Find more information about the THSCA Academic All-State Teams here: <https://www.thsca.com/academic-all-state/>.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) announced on October 1 that it has formed a new partnership with Walmart as the official sponsor of the THSCA Academic All-State Teams.

"We recognize that balancing academics with athletics can be a challenge for student-athletes," said the press release. "The Academic All-State Award honors senior student-athletes who demonstrate exceptional commitment both in the classroom and in competition. As one of THSCA's most prestigious honors, this award recognizes students from fourteen different U.I.L. sports, who excel in three categories: GPA, class rank, and ACT/SAT performance. These honorees embody the hard work, discipline, and dedication that both THSCA and Walmart strive to inspire in young people across Texas."

"Having Walmart join as the Academic All-State Award sponsor reinforces our commitment to supporting athletes' academic success and celebrating their hard work," said Joe Martin, Executive Director of the THSCA. "We are excited to kick off this partnership with Walmart as we work together to help our Texas athletes thrive in the classroom."

"Walmart is honored to support the THSCA Academic All-State Award and the outstanding student-athletes who are shaping the future of Texas," said Erik Hingst, Senior Manager - Walmart Community Relations. "These students represent the best of their schools and communities, and we're proud to join THSCA in recognizing their accomplishments."

With Walmart's support, the Academic All-State Award will continue to honor

About the Texas High School Coaches Association

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) is the principal advocate and leadership organization for Texas high school coaches. Dedicated to "Helping Coaches Help Kids," THSCA provides high-quality representation, education, and services to Texas coaches and their affiliate members. Learn more at www.thsca.com.

About Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation

The Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation develops resources from a broad range of donors to fund professional education programs that strengthen and enhance the professionalism of high school and middle school coaches in Texas. These programs positively impact the lives of more than 1.5 million student-athletes annually.

About Walmart in Texas

Walmart Inc. (NYSE: WMT) in Texas serves customers at 592 retail units and online through Walmart Online Grocery and Walmart.com. The company's employ over 176,000 associates in Texas. Walmart supports local businesses, spending \$106.8 billion with Texas suppliers in fiscal year 2025 and supporting over 219,404 Texas supplier jobs. Walmart continues to be a leader in employment opportunity, sustainability, and corporate philanthropy. In fiscal year 2024, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation contributed more than \$159 million in cash and in-kind donations to local nonprofits in Texas.

Tompkins volleyball moves to 11th place state TGCA poll

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) released its latest volleyball poll on October 5 and ranked the team from Katy ISD's Tompkins High School as 11th in the state in division 6A. The team was previously ranked twelfth in the state in division 6A.

No other teams from Katy ISD made the list.

Here is the complete list of TGCA's top 25 volleyball teams in the division:

Class 6A

1. Byron Nelson 31-0
2. Mansfield 39-1
3. Austin High 32-4
4. El Paso Eastlake 30-3
5. Pearland Dawson 29-4
6. Keller 26-4
7. San Antonio O'Connor 32-5
8. Tomball 32-5
9. Laredo Alexander 24-4
10. Allen 30-5
11. Katy Tompkins 32-5
12. Flower Mound 28-7
13. Austin Lake Travis 29-9
14. Round Rock 32-8
15. Southlake Carroll 22-5
16. New Braunfels Canyon 25-13
17. Plano West 22-4
18. Cy Ranch 29-7
19. San Antonio Harlan 29-6
20. Duncanville 30-6
21. El Paso Eastwood 29-6
22. Edinburg Vela 29-6
23. Cy Woods 29-6
24. Richmond Foster 22-6
25. Clear Springs 29-8



Wellness for Everybody in Katy

Partner with Us to Build a Healthier Katy!

The Be Healthy Katy Wellness & Health Expo is a free, public event featuring over 60 vendor booths showcasing local wellness resources, products, and services. Guests can enjoy a Youth Zone with interactive stations, live expert panels on the main stage, and hands-on seminars in three classroom-style spaces. The event will also offer health screenings, blood donations, and activities for all ages to promote a healthier Katy community.



1.17.2026
10:00am - 2:00pm
MERRELL CENTER

SECURING WATER FOR THE FUTURE ONE PROJECT AT A TIME



Central Pump Station - July 2025

WHCRWA is building more than pipelines—we're building a future that ensures reliable, sustainable water for generations to come. From major infrastructure projects like the Surface Water Supply Project to local connections and distribution lines, each milestone supports our region's shift away from groundwater to protect against subsidence and meet long-term water needs.

Surface Water Supply Project



WHCRWA Distribution Lines



NE Water Purification Plant Expansion



You can rely on WHCRWA to supply water for today, tomorrow, and generations to come

www.whcrwa.com/projects



SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP TODAY!

CONTACT:

Stacy Jacobs

Email: stacy@katychamber.com



Title Sponsors:



YOUR NEWS. YOUR WAY.

Find out what all your friends are talking about

Katy Times TheKatyTimes

Follow us on Facebook for easy access to KATY TIMES