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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022



Jennifer Edozie, Henry Ebben, Anne Russey and Logan McLean are among those advocating changes to Katy ISD's process for reviewing books in school libraries.  
GEORGE SLAUGHTER

## Advocates promote student inclusion on Katy ISD book review committee

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

As Katy school trustees consider how, or whether, to change district policy for reviewing and possibly removing books from school libraries, advocates are calling for including students on the review committee. They are also calling for keeping a book under challenge available to students during the review process.

Jennifer Edozie, Henry Ebben and Logan McLean are seniors at Cinco Ranch High School. Anne Russey is a parent and counselor. They spoke in an interview Monday at the Cinco Ranch Public Library.

Presently, McLean said, the policy provides for including students on the review committee. But trustees are expected to review the policy at their Sept. 26 meeting amidst ongoing debate about books being pulled from school library shelves, and the policy guiding those actions. The policy is on the district website at [katyisd.org/Page/4310](http://katyisd.org/Page/4310). More information is at the abbreviated URL [bit.ly/3AVzNvi](http://bit.ly/3AVzNvi).

McLean said trustees Rebecca Fox and Victor Perez have expressed opposition to the idea. Trustee Dawn Champagne also expressed opposition at the

**"If you're going be making policies about the students themselves, at least they [should] get the right to represent themselves through someone else being elected to represent them."**

— Jennifer Edozie,  
Cinco Ranch High School senior

last trustees' meeting.

Edozie said having students on the committee gives students the chance to ensure that student perspectives are being taken into account. She said she and others wanted to ensure that students selected for the committee are at least 18 years of age and have a mature perspective.

"To be fair, there are students and high schoolers who really don't have that adult and mature perspective," Edozie said. "So, at least trying to attain students who can give their point of

view to these things and can offer their opinions would be fair. Also, there is just a generational gap which, to be fair, just adults and parents can't fulfill and can't really enter into the mind of young students, just like I can't enter into the mind of a grown adult. So, if you're going be making policies about the students themselves, at least they get the right to represent themselves through someone else being elected to represent them."

Ebben said there are ways that district officials could find such students.

"They could ask for students to nominate someone to represent them," Ebben said. "I think there are issues to that and I don't think that's the best idea, but I do think the idea of having the adults find someone that they feel is mature enough to make these decisions, that's probably best."

Russey said she has reviewed book review policies for other districts.

"Our district is unique in that we have not historically had secondary-level students serve on book review committees," Russey said. "So, we don't have to re-create the wheel. There are best practices already at comparable school districts throughout the state of

See **BOOKS**, page A3

## Tennis, anyone?

Donation pays for courts at Katy City Park

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy tennis enthusiasts can now enjoy playing their sport on improved tennis courts at Katy City Park. The improvements happened thanks to an \$8,000 donation from Aileen Rios and her company, Harvest Midstream of Houston.

Kevin Browne, the city's parks director, said Rios reached out to the city about making a donation. She mentioned renovating the tennis courts at the park, 5720 Franz Road. The city was already planning to make those renovations, Browne said. The city took Rios, who is a GIS (for geographical information system) technician, and her company, a privately-held midstream company services provider, up on the gift.

"It was good timing, a good opportunity," Browne said.

Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said when Rios made the donation, she invited him and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson to play a match against her and her husband, Arturo. It would be one of the first matches—if not the first—on the renovated court.

Harris and Robertson were up to the challenge. But they also warned her that they weren't that good at tennis.

"She kind of introduced us to the sport," Harris said. "We've had kids that have played before. We knew a little bit, but not enough to play her. It was a lot of fun."

Robertson, a former Katy Tigers football player, described the experience as a blast.

"We were destroyed score-wise, but we got a lot of lessons on how to play," Robertson said. "I'd like to thank them for

See **TENNIS**, page A3

## Harris County Sheriff's Office unveils SafeCam database

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Harris County Sheriff's Office has been working with a database that enables deputies to save time when investigating cases.

SafeCam is a free camera registration database that the public can use to register their outdoor security cameras. If a crime happens in a given neighborhood, deputies access the database, enter the crime address, and learn what cameras are in the area. The database also tells how a camera owner wants to be contacted, such as by a phone call or text message. Armed with this knowledge, deputies approach the camera owner and ask for permission to see the requested videos.

Nick Hoschar of the Harris County Sheriff's Office said reviewing these videos can help investigators save time when pursuing an investigation. Yet he said the camera owner has no obligation to share such videos.

"They can say no," Hoschar said.

The technology is new to the Harris County Sheriff's office, which has been using it for about a month. However, he said, several agencies across the country have used this technology.

"We're in the process of trying to bring in more agencies," he said, adding that

See **SAFECAM**, page A3

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KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The new Seniors Helping Seniors franchise in Katy celebrated its membership in the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Monday with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. The ceremony was staged at the City of Katy Fussell Senior Center.

## Seniors Helping Seniors, Fussell Senior Center partner up for Camp Hope

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Seniors Helping Seniors, a national organization with a new Katy franchise, has partnered with the City of Katy Fussell Senior

Center, 5370 E. 5th St., to provide goods for Camp Hope, which provides treatments for veterans suffering from combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

See **CAMP**, page A3

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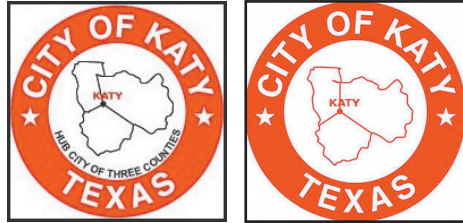
## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Katy updates its city seal

The Katy City Council has updated the city seal to reflect a more accurate representation of the Waller County line with Harris County.

City officials said the move was made in response to public requests. The change was made official at the Aug. 22 council meeting.

The city will be replacing the old seal as it can. The seal can be found on everything from city vehicles to stationery to documentation,



The City of Katy expects to replace renditions of its old seal, pictured above right, with the new, slightly tweaked seal. The new Katy city seal, above left, reflects a more accurate representation of the Waller County line with Harris County.

### Katy Area Economic Development Council to host networking night

The Katy Area Economic Development Council is teaming with the National Women's Soccer League Houston Dash as Dash races to its first league championship playoff appearance.

To be recognized as the "Non-Profit of the Match" on Sept. 24, Katy Area EDC is raising awareness of this community-wide networking opportunity with its peer Katy-area business support groups. MET-RO is serving as a transportation partner to offer ticketholders a convenient roundtrip experience from Katy to PNC Stadium in Downtown Houston.

To purchase tickets in the second block reserved for the Katy Area EDC, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [bit.ly/3TIVJqq](http://bit.ly/3TIVJqq). For more information, contact the Katy Area EDC at 281-396-2200.

### Fort Bend Junior Service League announces new directors

The Fort Bend Junior Service League announced its 2022-2023 Board of Directors. The incoming board members began their term on June 1 and have a combined 69 years of league service.

"It is with great honor and humility that I step into the role of FBJSJL president," Tanesha Mosley said. "It is a privilege to follow in the footsteps of the many wonderful women that have led this great organization. The members of the board are committed to bridging the gap between our members and our community and are fully dedicated to service. FBJSJL will continue to observe our mission of service and provide trained volunteers to our community partners while promoting leadership and philanthropy through our members."

The league's annual membership drive is underway. For more information, visit the

league's Facebook page at [facebook.com/FortBendJuniorServiceLeague/](https://facebook.com/FortBendJuniorServiceLeague/) or its website at [fbjsj.org](http://fbjsj.org).

### Fort Bend County Libraries children's programs

Fort Bend County Libraries' Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Boulevard in Katy, will present a variety of free children's programs—Family Story Time, Pajama Night Story Time, and After-School Breaks—throughout the month of September.

Family Story Time takes place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning at 10:15 and 11:30 a.m. in the Meeting Room. Families with children of all ages will enjoy stories, songs, and action rhymes. Craft packets will be given out at the end of each program, so that children may take them home to enjoy.

The schedule of Family Story Time activities is as follows:

- September 7-8: Things That Go
- September 14-15: Favorites
- September 21-22: Fall
- September 28-29: Dance Party

Pajama Night Story Time is an evening alternative for families unable to attend during the day. It happens on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, beginning at 6 p.m. The themes will be "Things That Go" and "Fall."

"Kinder Korner: Back-to-School Activities" happens at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 14. Kinder Korner is a time for kindergartners to enjoy stories, movies, crafts and other activities.

"After-School Break: Perler Bead Backpack Clips" happens at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 7 in Meeting Room 2. This activity is for students in grades 1-3.

These programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the website [fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://fortbend.lib.tx.us).



FORT BEND JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE

The 2022-23 Fort Bend Junior Service League Board of Directors. Front row: Jessica Gregory, president-elect; Tanesha Mosley, president, and Heather Allen, past president. Middle row: Elizabeth Keshani-Fisher, public relations director; Kelly Evans, treasurer; Karen Dulyunan, technology director, and Brandy Edwards, vice president. Back row: Theresa Shmerling, Sugar Plum Market liaison; Sarah Kuehl, membership director; Jamila Carroll, new member director, and Michelle Cano, community service director. Not pictured: Laura Kagy, secretary.

### Katy AARP chapter meeting set for Sept. 13

The Katy chapter of AARP will meet at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E 5th St.

The meeting will start with a short

meeting and announcements. Afterwards, Officer Robert Hughes from the Katy Police Department will discuss how to respond to various active shooter scenarios, including how to respond in a walker or wheelchair. Visitors are welcome.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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**Katy Times**

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Taxi
- Cattle disease (abbr.)
- Before the present
- They burn in a grill
- Enough (archaic)
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Long loop of cloth worn around the waist
- Napoleonic Wars battle
- Chinese surname
- Fragrant essential oil
- Follows sigma
- Model
- A place with many dining options
- BBQ dish
- Corn comes on it
- A sheep in its second year
- Triad
- They \_\_\_\_\_
- Actor DiCaprio
- TV's "Edith Bunker"
- Surname
- Man who behaves dishonorably
- Cause a loud, harsh sound
- A way to take in liquids
- Gene type

**CLUES DOWN**

- Conqueror
- Kin relation
- Increases the value of
- Pack
- Popular nut
- Dogs' enemies
- Former OSS
- Unpleasant person
- Come again?
- Beverage container
- Rock formation
- Dorm official
- The bill in a restaurant
- Type of jug
- Importance requiring swift action
- Outfit

24. Small Eurasian deer  
27. Weight used in China  
28. A major division of geological time  
29. Popular beverage  
31. Confined condition (abbr.)  
32. Practical joking  
33. Pouchlike structure  
34. Pound

35. Lilly and Manning are two  
36. Stopped discussing  
37. Baltimore ballplayer  
38. Candy maker  
39. One thousandth of a second (abbr.)  
40. Northern sea duck  
44. Partner to cheese  
47. Cannot be found

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## TENNIS

from page A1

their patience and kindness for teaching us to play tennis. Both Chris and I were sore for several days afterward. We really enjoyed the day. Maybe I'll play them again a lot later if I get in better shape."

Robertson and Harris expressed thanks to Rios and Harvest Midstream for the gift.

Browne said while he played tennis in high school, he hasn't played the game in some time.

"I'll have to go out there and check it out," Browne said.

Browne said the city has made other improvements around the tennis courts, including renovating the wooden benches, which were rotting underneath.

The city is also developing a fitness court on the north side of the park near the basketball court and Play Station Playground. The court will have areas for performing a variety of exercises. The city accepted a \$50,000 National Fitness Campaign 2022 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas for the creation of the fitness court.

The court needed additional money for installation of the concrete



CHRIS HARRIS

Council Member-at-Large Chris Harris, Aileen Rios of Harvest Midstream, and Ward B Council Member Rory Robertson take the court for a friendly game of tennis.

slab and surfacing where it would go, along with equipment and any customized artwork. The council authorized an additional \$92,350 in parks bond money for those things.

Robertson, who is a teacher, said he has students who go to the park to play after school. Having an improved

set of tennis courts helps.

"There's more participation in tennis because we have the best facilities now," Robertson said. "I see that every day. I really think Katy City Park is going to be one of the top facilities in the area."

Browne said the department is preparing to receive design and construction documentation for a parks and maintenance, authorized as part of a bond package approved by Katy city voters.

"I've seen some initial documents," Browne said. "We're just waiting for the full package."

Harris said Browne has done a good job serving the community. "I see more people out in our parks, more than I even used to imagine," Harris said. "I think they're doing a great job, and I can't wait to see what's going on in future with the parks master plan."

Robertson said he hoped the improved courts will encourage others to take up tennis.

"It's a really great gift," Robertson said. "Parks are a reason why a lot of families move to Katy. It's one of our highlights."

## BOOKS

from page A1

Texas. As far as the logistics go, the librarians and the staff members involved are the most qualified to consult with peers, consult with TASB (Texas Association of School Boards), consult with whomever to help us get a process into place."

The district keeps a list of books it has removed from shelves on its website, the URL for which is [katyisd.org/Page/4311](http://katyisd.org/Page/4311). Presently, district officials have deemed 10 books for removal, all due to "pervasive vulgarity." The latest book to be pulled, in February, is *A Court of Mist and Fury*, by Sarah J. Maas.

Ebben said most of the books that have been pulled or challenged are about minorities or those who are LGBTQ.

"We read *1984* (by George Orwell) and there's straight sex in that book,

but they take out *All Boys Aren't Blue* (by George M. Johnson) because it's gay sex or gay influences in it," Ebben said.

Russey said despite claims to the contrary, the books being challenged involve LBGQTQ issues and people.

"They're trying to pull the wool over all our eyes by just gaslighting that we didn't all just watch them fight New Kid and Class Act a few months ago," Russey said. "They came after those books because they had CRT (critical race theory), which I guess they think is vulgar in some way, too."

Russey expressed concerns about the policy as now written, as parents outnumber educators and administrators.

"And as a parent, I think that's a bad idea because I'm not as qualified as a librarian

who has a master's degree and studies book challenges and censorship extensively as part of their master's degree," Russey said. "I don't want a bunch of these book burning, censoring parents making decisions for my kid, and that's the way it feels like it's being set up right now. I have concerns for our students who are so brave and willing to volunteer their time to do this. But I don't want them to get run over by these parents."

Ebben said it was important to know what books were challenged and why.

"Whenever people in power don't want you to read something there's a reason, and I think searching out those books when you know that they're going to be taken away is really important," Ebben said. "Because otherwise, you won't have access to that

later."

Edozie agreed.

"I didn't read all the books that were being taken off the shelves or were banned, necessarily, but I did digging and research into a good majority of them just to understand whether it was a thing of there's something highly disturbing and crazy about these books, or whether it was something about them taking away our rights for reading this book for their own biased reasoning," Edozie said.

Russey expressed a concern that trustees might want to countermand a review committee decision on a given book. She said if trustees chose to go that route, they would be undermining the committee they created.

## TRIBUTE

### NOLA VAN AMBURG

100 years old, passed peacefully on August 27, 2022. Funeral service will be held September 10, 2022, at 3:00 pm, at AS Turner Funeral Home, Decatur, Georgia. Nola will be missed by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family and friends.

## CAMP

from page A1

Marvin Mendez-Wright leads the local franchise. On Monday, workers from both her group and Fussell Senior Center loaded up a truck with non-perishable goods for Camp Hope. Suzanne's Band, led by Mia Suzanne Walker, provided the music.

"We're just getting started here in Katy," Mendez-Wright said. "We are hiring people."

Seniors Helping Seniors is headquartered in Pennsylvania. It provides in-home services and includes hundreds of locations across the United States and internationally, according to its website, [shskaty.org](http://shskaty.org). Their caregivers are seniors themselves.

Among its services, Mendez-Wright said, is companionship care.

"We remind you take your medications, because we are not a medical group," Mendez-Wright said. "We can help with grooming and dementia care. If they need to go out of town for the weekend (thus leaving

a senior unattended), we can provide overnight care. We specialize in personal care and assistance for daily living. We supply as little or as much care as they need."

While donations were due Aug. 25 for Monday's shipment from the Fussell Senior Center, Mendez-Wright said Camp Hope is still accepting donations.

Needed items include bottled water, paper towels and toilet paper, twin sheets, alarm clocks, clear tape, postage stamps, fish oil and glucosamine.

"We are looking for things that people can store and that will not perish quickly," Mendez-Wright said.

Those interested in making donations are invited to do so in one of two ways. They can shop on Amazon and make their donations through Amazon's Smile program. Or, they are welcome to bring their donations to the Houston-area Camp Hope headquarters, 9724 Darrington Rd., in Houston.

## SAFECAM

from page A1

more data in the system is better for investigators.

Hoschar said the system is based on having outdoor security cameras, regardless of what brand.

"It's whatever brand you have," Hoschar said. "The only stipulation is that you

have to be able to operate it. If you have cameras, what kind are they are where do they point?"

For more information on SafeCam, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is [harriscountytso.org/services/safecam](http://harriscountytso.org/services/safecam).



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# When it comes to boys, schools are flunking

I trekked to St. Germaine School every morning in my sturdy Buster Brown shoes.

Designed for rough-and-tumble boys, these heavy-duty shoes could take a scuffing and, with a good polishing, keep on shining—pretty much the way rambunctious kids like me were able to do in our elementary school years.

The good sisters who ran St. Germaine in the 1970s weren't especially sensitive to boys like me who spent more time fidgeting and looking out the window daydreaming than following their lessons.

In those days, most restless, indifferent boys like me somehow made it through school without dropping out, but today study after study shows that increasing numbers of boys are doing just that.

In USA Today Christopher Brueningsen, head of the Kiski School, explores why boys are failing to graduate from high school on time at higher rates than girls (82% vs. 88%).

He notes that whereas 60% of girls go on to college today, only 40% of boys do, according to statistics from the National Student Clearinghouse.

"College enrollment in the United States has declined by 1.5 million students over the past five years, with men accounting for 71% of that drop," he writes.

According to Yahoo News, the covid pandemic made things even worse for boys.

School closings set back the educational achievements of Chicago's black and Latino boys significantly—as measured by grading and attendance—whereas girls held their own.

So why are boys doing so much worse in school than girls?

Brueningsen points to the lack of male role models in schools. As of 2018, only 24% of all K-12 teachers were men, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

He says data from a major 2015 study shows that the typical school environment may be "more attuned to feminine-typed personalities, making it generally easier for girls to achieve better grades in school."

He cites a 2016 report from the American Sociological Association that found that boys are punished for their



**TOM PURCELL**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

rough-and-tumble tendencies and the punishment makes for a negative learning experience.

Boys are much more likely to hear common teacher criticisms, as I did, that include: "Stop fidgeting! Pay attention! Put that down! Clean that off! Your desk is a mess, Tommy!"

Sister Mary "Brass Knuckles" whacked my knuckles with a metal ruler many times, but I was eventually able to overcome this negative experience and become a professional writer (which would shock her if she weren't in Heaven).

We need every boy and girl in school today to overcome their challenges.

Our modern economy needs every single school in America to produce well-rounded students who can go on to trade schools or college or can be trained directly by companies in desperate need of skilled workers.

Yet some 1.2 million kids drop out of high school every year, reports DoSomething.org—and most of those drop-outs are boys.

This is a real crisis our country faces today that requires real changes in classrooms across America, but it is not new.

Author and Education Reformer Richard Whitmire has been writing for more than a decade that key forces in our entrenched educational system—including teachers unions and school administrators—have little interest or incentive in addressing the problem with boys.

He says that the problem has long been well known, yet still little changes.

What is needed are some swift kicks to the shins—by a couple of Buster Brown shoes—of the people holding change back.

Anyone know where I can find a pair in size 11½?

*Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbursTail.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.*



# And then there was one teenage daughter left at home

In recent days, the hormonal distribution in my household has become slightly more balanced as two of my three teenage daughters and several lines of credit are now off attending college. This means that when I'm at home, I only receive the contemptuous side-eye from my wife, my youngest daughter, two female dogs and a female cat anytime I produce even the most innocent of bodily noises.

Yes, my happy-go-lucky middle daughter has left the nest—with a trail of glitter, jewelry beads and other expensive craft supplies in her wake. Things around here will be a lot quieter without her, and probably a heck of a lot less fun.

I've often said that my middle daughter is the marshmallow center of the sibling Moon Pie, and we'll definitely miss her infectious silliness, which has occasionally involved wearing a pair of underwear or one of our pets as a hat.

Now that she's gone to college, I'll be missing the daughter I can't sit beside (or even look at) during church services, weddings, nice dinners or any other polite company without risking an eruption of giggle snorts or beverages spewing out of our nostrils.

This is the daughter who once aspired to be a professional shopper, and when we asked for whom she planned to shop, she exclaimed that she would be shopping for herself—of course. Over the years, she has become an



**JASE GRAVES**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

expert in this line of work.

This is also the daughter whose insides, by now, have probably mutated into a viscous mass of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. In fact, whenever we ran out of the candy, she could be found at any given hour of the day or night lurking in our kitchen pantry—committing culinary atrocities against a large jar of creamy Jif and a jumbo bag of Nestle Tollhouse Milk Chocolate Morsels.

This is the daughter who, over the years, has attempted to transform our home into an unlicensed exotic petting zoo. Incidentally, by housing numerous hedgehogs, fancy mice, hermit crabs, hamsters, dogs and cats, I've developed well-honed skills in the field of droppings-management. (If I could only find some way to turn it into a side gig.)

When she wasn't trying to convince me to blow a couple of C-notes on another pet whose poop I would get to scoop, this is the daughter who had a habit of going to the ophthalmologist to have a variety of foreign objects plucked out of her eyeballs. I don't think she ever got a hedgehog lodged in there, but I'm sure she

considered it.

And speaking of pet droppings, since puberty hit and ruined everything, this is the daughter who has taken every possible opportunity to invite various hairy-legged species of teenage boys (usually in desperate need of a haircut) for awkward meetings with me so that I could evaluate them and offer to show them my collection of Bibles and body bags. Fortunately, when she left for college, she managed to avoid packing a take-along boyfriend in her laundry hamper—I think.

I desperately love all three of my daughters. They are all delightfully different, and I've learned to annoy each of them according to their own unique personalities.

With my eldest and most expensive daughter entering her sophomore year of spending my life savings, and my middle daughter spreading her sunshine as a college freshman, my youngest teenage daughter will now be our honorary "only child." And although she tends to be stoic and quiet, she does have a silly streak, so we'll do our best to commemorate her middle sister from time to time by spewing beverages out of our nostrils and wearing our underwear as a hat.

*Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.*

## Katy Times

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# Arc of Katy announces founders award honoree

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Arc of Katy board of directors said it will honor Marie Tsakiris with its 2022 Ann Davis Founders Award and Judy Colabella and Walt Palen as The Arc of Katy 2022 Volunteers of the Year.

The awardees will be recognized at The Arc of Katy 2022 Achieve with Us Gala Sept. 23 at Beckendorff Farms in Katy. The annual benefit with dinner and entertainment will raise funds for day programs for teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families residing in the tri-county Katy area.

Commenting on the honorees, The Arc of Katy President Cherie Duddridge said, "We are pleased to honor Marie Tsakiris along with Judy Colabella and Walt Palen as they have helped to make a reality The Arc of Katy's vision of establishing a permanent facility. Their contributions and sweat equity are helping us to sustainably deliver high quality, affordable pro-



**MARIE TSAKIRIS**

grams that provide learning, skills development, social enrichment, recreation and community service opportunities for teens and adults with IDD in Fort Bend, Harris, and Waller counties."

Tsakiris, a registered nurse, community volunteer and property manager, made possible the donation of The Arc of Katy's new facility, Duddridge said.

"We are pleased to present Marie with the Ann Davis Founder's Award for her generous contribution to our organization, and for her ongoing work to provide opportunities for people with special needs to be engaged and active members of our community," Duddridge said.

A Michigan native, Tsakiris relocated to Texas in 2004 and lives in Katy with her husband Louis and son Alec. She began working with youth with medical and special needs and their families as a volunteer for Friday Night Friends at St. Peter's United Methodist Church. When the H2O program for teens and adults with special needs began with St. Peter's UMC as its meeting place, Tsakiris began working as its registered nurse. She now serves as the registered nurse for the church's recently established Special Needs Ministry.

Tsakiris said through her work

at the church she learned about other programs available to youth and adults with special needs in the Katy area, including The Arc of Katy. After hearing that The Arc of Katy had lost use of its original program location following Hurricane Harvey, Tsakiris and her family decided to support the organization in securing a permanent home.

Tsakiris and her family through efforts of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees Chairperson Marie Flickinger also are donors to that college's Neurodiversity Program.

"My family and I are very pleased to help The Arc of Katy and are proud to see how happy the participants and staff are in their new building," Tsakiris said.

Said Duddridge: "As a nonprofit organization, we greatly appreciate the generosity of Marie and her family as the facility they built and donated to us will help us sustainably deliver high quality, accessible and affordable opportunities for more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

Colabella, a semi-retired healthcare professional, and Palen, who recently retired after 47 years with the energy industry, have been engaged with The Arc of Katy since 2009 when their now-31-year-old son Ben enrolled

as a summer participant while attending the program for students with special needs at Taylor High School.

Palen has carried out several different volunteer roles with The Arc of Katy, most recently taking the lead in planning, design and set up of the organization's new program facility located at 934 Jordan Ranch Blvd. in Brookshire. In recent months he often has been seen working with other volunteers to install equipment and furnishings and build a new storage and work shed and garden area there.

Meanwhile, Colabella has been supporting The Arc of Katy's online program started in 2020 to keep participants engaged who were unable to join in person because of COVID-19 health precautions and has helped to establish the day program's new butterfly raising project. She also has volunteered in The Arc's Be Strong aquatics program.

In addition, Colabella and Palen support The Arc of Katy's monthly social programs including leading movie nights for teens and adults with IDD and have helped deliver the day program's recent woodcraft projects and pup craft sales.

Colabella and Palen have volunteered in the Katy area since

moving here almost 25 years ago with Ben and his older brother Jeffrey. In addition to The Arc of Katy, they supported the Taylor High School performing arts programs, the Katy Wolf Pack Special Olympics team, H2O at St. Peter's UMC and YMCA Camp Cinco.

Palen said he is pleased to volunteer because, "If it were not for programs like this, people like Judy and I would not have been able to work and carry on our careers. The Arc of Katy provides fun, safe and healthy day programs and social events that are important to our children and to our families."

Noting that their family settled and stayed in Katy because of the excellent school system, Colabella said, "Now, we stay in Katy, because of The Arc of Katy. The participants are all Ben's buddies. Our involvement keeps us young and engaged. Volunteering with The Arc of Katy is fun for us and is good for Ben and the other participants. The Arc of Katy has become our community and family."

For more information on The Arc of Katy programs, including volunteer and donor opportunities, visit the website [thearcofkaty.org](http://thearcofkaty.org). For gala sponsor and attendance registration, visit the website [events.readysetauction.com/arc-katy/2022gala](http://events.readysetauction.com/arc-katy/2022gala).

# Katy school-based law enforcement member graduates from master training

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Donald Meisenheimer, a former Katy ISD police officer and current substitute teacher, was among the graduates of the inaugural Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) #41505 School-Based Law Enforcement Master Training Class.

The graduation was Aug. 12 in San Antonio. Meisenheimer is also a reserve deputy for the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office in addition to his Katy-area activities.

The Master Training is the capstone of the TxSSC's school-based law enforcement training series. TCOLE accredits the 32-hour training. Participants must complete the Introductory, Intermediary, and Advanced training before attending the Master Training. The training prepares participants to be leaders in the field of Texas school-based law enforcement, studying best practices and evidence-based models of policing to improve safety and security for the schools and communities they serve.

Throughout the training series, participants study a wide variety of topics including mental health issues of today's youth, the development of the adolescent brain, suicide prevention, restorative justice, bullying and cyberbullying, gang awareness, social media investigations, and strategic planning.

Joe Munoz, TxSSC School Based Law Enforcement Training Manager said, "We are so excited for this four-part series to come to fruition. Having



Donald Meisenheimer, left, graduated from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement School-Based Law Enforcement Training Class.

an individual dedicate approximately 128 hours of their time toward this goal is remarkable. What an honor."

Meisenheimer said with the increased need for school safety, this training is the most comprehensive and complete training program for officers that serve schools.

"The Texas School Safety Center has developed the gold standard for training for increasing the safety of our schools and I am proud to count myself among this group of professionals,"

Meisenheimer said. The inaugural class included 50 individuals affiliated with school-based law enforcement from around the State of Texas, including five individuals who completed all four courses this summer. Meisenheimer was one of these five individuals.

The TxSSC is an official university-level research center at Texas State University tasked in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code with key school safety initiatives and mandates. The TxSSC serves as a

clearinghouse for the dissemination of safety and security information through research, training, and technical assistance for K-12 schools and junior colleges throughout the state of Texas. For more information, visit the website [training.txssc.edu](http://training.txssc.edu) and resources the TxSSC offers, visit [txssc.edu](http://txssc.edu).

## TRIBUTE

We want to honor the life of Elaine Tucker, who went to be with our Lord Friday, August 26, 2022 at 88 years.

Dorothy Elaine Avera Tucker was born on January 15, 1934 to V.D. Avera and Hattie Alline Roberts Avera in Katy, Texas. She had two sisters and a brother; Lawrence, Lavern, and Cleo. She was preceded in death by her parents, V.D. Avera and Alline Avera, brother Lawrence and sister Lavern.

She grew up with the gift of music. That music gift has also gone to the next two generations. She attended Katy Elementary, Katy Junior High, and Katy High School, graduating in 1952. While at Katy High School, she excelled at many things. She was the Valedictorian of the Class of 1952, a two time Queen of the Rodeo, Drum Major, and voted Best Female Athlete in School. She received a scholarship to The University of Texas. Elaine met Frank Tucker in 1953 and married him nine months later. She was the secretary to the Katy ISD Superintendent from 1961 to 1970. She played piano for Katy Methodist Church for 8 to 10 years. She raised three children; Debra, David, and Daniel.

Elaine is survived by her loving husband of 68 years, Frank Tucker; daughter, Debra Clapp and her husband David; sons, David Tucker and his wife Laurie, Daniel Tucker and his wife Clara; grandchildren, Lynnette Cen and her husband Eduardo, Dennis Clapp, Gable Tucker, Logan Tucker, Madelyn Tucker, Jessica Tucker, Charli Tucker, Jack Tucker, Thomas Tucker; and great grandchildren, Emiliano Cen and Armando Cen; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 2, 2022 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 3, 2022 at Katy First United Methodist Church, in Katy with Rev. Jason Smith officiating. Internment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation may do so to the Sanctuary Ringers at First United Methodist Church in Katy.

Services under the direction of:

**Schmidt Funeral Home**

1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424



**ELAINE TUCKER**  
1934-2022

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The Katy Times will be closed on

# Labor Day

# Sept. 6, 2021

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **September 9 edition** is **5 p.m. on Thursday, September 2.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from  
The Katy Times staff

# Katy Times

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# New phase of Katy Boardwalk Project construction begins

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Construction has started on the second phase of Katy Boardwalk District's 2.3-mile outer loop trail, one of the project's four trail experiences, while work nears completion on the first of three roadways into the property with the second starting in September.

The phase-two trail project includes the build out of a 1.15-mile path consisting of paved trails lined with native trees and landscape, wood-type boardwalk paths and a steel pedestrian bridge. Educational signs also will be installed along the trail to help visitors identify native trees, flora and wildlife.

Spanning nine feet in width, the new trail will connect with the first phase of a 2.3-mile loop circling the Boardwalk's 90-acre lake and nature preserve. Completion of the trail is expected by early summer 2023.

Katy Boardwalk District's four trail loops will range from one-half mile to the 2.3-mile loop now in its second phase.

"We expect the trail loops, with their varying distances, to become a popular feature for those in Katy



BERNARD KAPLAN

The Katy Boardwalk Project, still in development, features trail loops for pedestrians.

looking for a lakefront walking or jogging experience as well as residents of the Boardwalk Lofts and guests of the conference center hotel," Byron Hebert, Katy city administrator, said. "The entire Boardwalk will benefit from the

trail loops."

As work begins on the completion of Katy Boardwalk District's trail system, crews are readying for the extension of Katy Fort Bend Road from Kingsland Boulevard directly to the project's main

entrance and its primary thoroughfare, Boardwalk Drive. The extension includes a bridge over a drainage channel and a new traffic signal at the intersection of Kingsland Boulevard and Katy Fort Bend Road/Boardwalk Drive.

"Direct access from I-10 will be a big selling point for the project," Keith Dalton of KBH Venture, co-developer of Katy Boardwalk District, said.

Work also is nearing completion on the extension of Prairie Parkway from Kingsland Boulevard into the District to Boardwalk Drive. Completion of the Prairie Parkway extension is expected by the end of September.

The 169-acre setting at Kingsland Boulevard and Prairie Parkway, just south of I-10, is a public/private partnership to create a walkable, mixed-use setting including a full-service hotel and conference center, experiential restaurants, Class A office space, luxury loft-style residences and single-family homes.

"Our partnership with the city has led to the development of the trail system and the 90-acre nature preserve that will make Katy Boardwalk District a unique lakefront destination for entertainment, community and culture," Dalton said.

For more information, visit the website [katyboardwalkdistrict.com](http://katyboardwalkdistrict.com).

## ROYAL ISD CAMPUS CONDITIONS TOUR

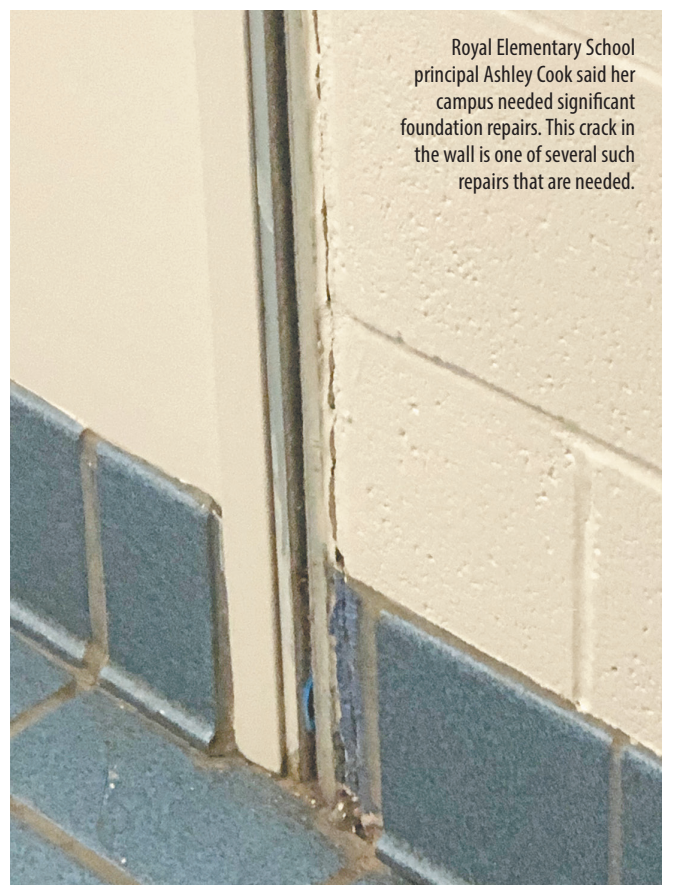


Royal STEM Academy principal Kaetlyn Miksch said her campus needed a fire sprinkler system similar to ones at the other four campuses. The campus does not presently have such a system. She said replacing the doors at the school's rear entrance is also a necessity to control access.



Royal Junior High principal Marcus McLemore said his campus needed infrastructure repairs. He said his school, like all the others in the district, needed security upgrades to control access.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER



Royal Elementary School principal Ashley Cook said her campus needed significant foundation repairs. This crack in the wall is one of several such repairs that are needed.

Royal ISD bond committee members toured the five district campuses Aug. 25. Campuses included Royal High School, Royal Junior High School, Royal Elementary School, Royal STEM Academy, and Royal Early Childhood Center.

At each stop, the campus principal gave a brief tour, highlighting issues that could be covered on an expected bond election for May 2023. Foremost among the issues were security upgrades to include remodeled school doorways to control access and updating the security alert system to work across all the campuses. Schools are also in need of technology upgrades, and in some cases, foundational work and repairs.

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Dean Fuchs accepts his Hall of Fame plaque.



The family of the late John Ford accepts his Hall of Fame plaque.



Michael Schroeder accepts his Hall of Fame plaque.



Barbie Schmidt accepts her Hall of Fame plaque.

# Ryan to headline Katy ISD KEYS kickoff event on Sept. 16

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston's own Reid Ryan will headline Katy ISD's KEYS kickoff event, an annual salute to those who mentor Katy ISD students through the district's KEYS Mentoring Program.

The event is set for 8-9 a.m. Sept. 16 at the Merrell Center.

Honored guests include the district's KEYS mentors who dedicate one hour per week to a Katy ISD student on the brink of success. Doors open and check in begins at 7:45 a.m. The Morton Ranch Junior High Jazz Band will provide entertainment.



Reid Ryan will headline Katy ISD's KEYS kickoff event Sept. 16.

Reid Ryan is a sports executive who has worked in professional baseball for over 20 years. He serves as the CEO of Ryan Sanders Baseball after rejoining the organization that he founded following a successful seven-year tenure as president of business operations for the Houston Astros. He enjoys giving back and has served on numerous nonprofit boards and has helped raise more than \$1 million for charity. Ryan and his wife, Nicole, are proud parents of one son, Jackson, and two daughters, Victoria and Ella.

The community is welcome to attend and join the KEYS mentor family for a morning of networking and encouragement. RSVP at bit.ly/KEYSKICKOFF22RSVP by Sept. 12 or by visiting the Partners in Education webpage under the "Community" tab at katyisd.org. For more information about this event or the KEYS Mentoring program please contact cydneywright@katyisd.org.

The KEYS Mentoring program, a Katy ISD Partners in Education program, matches a caring adult with a student one hour, once a week during the school year to build a relationship, trust, confidence and more.

# Katy ISD agriculture science teachers inducted into Texas Hall of Fame

## CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Four Katy ISD agricultural science teachers have recently been inducted into the Texas Ag Teacher Hall of Fame.

These former educators have dedicated countless years to teaching the art and science of agriculture. Now, the names of the following honorees are etched into the Class of 2022 Ag Teacher Hall of Fame:

- John Ford, Cinco Ranch FFA 2004-2020

- Dean Fuchs, Cinco Ranch FFA 2002-2019
- Michael Schroeder, Taylor FFA 1979-2004
- Barbie Schmidt, Taylor FFA 2006-2016

David Laird, the district's FFA events coordinator, said the examples of these teachers created a legacy that is admired by FFA students and staff.

"In Katy ISD, we are blessed with

amazing teachers who have a passion for teaching the importance of agriculture in our lives," Laird said. "It is a huge honor to see Katy ISD educators recognized at the state level."

Ford was recognized with the award posthumously and his family was present during the honorary recognition.

Honorees now join Gerald Young and Gary Vos, who were inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 130 for Defined Area No. 1, will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	D. Smith, J. Mann, L. Hitchcock, A. Clark & J. Jordan
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	(none)
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	(none)
<b>ABSENT:</b>	(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.

	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ <u>0.870</u> /\$100 Adopted	\$ <u>0.730</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.140 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-16.09%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$488,386	\$584,050
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$488,386	\$584,050
Tax on average residence homestead	\$4,248.96	\$4,263.57
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$14.61 0.3438%

### 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.

**Property that is located inside Defined Area No. 1 of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 130 is also subject to the tax rate levied on all property within the district. A separate Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate is being published for such tax rate in the amount of \$.46 per \$100 of taxable value, resulting in a total tax rate of \$1.19 per \$100 of taxable value on property located inside Defined Area No. 1.**

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

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

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 130, will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 12:00 noon, at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	D. Smith, J. Mann, L. Hitchcock, A. Clark & J. Jordan
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	(none)
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	(none)
<b>ABSENT:</b>	(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.

	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ <u>0.520</u> /\$100 Adopted	\$ <u>0.460</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.060 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-11.5385%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$430,008	\$491,790
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$430,008	\$491,790
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,236.04	\$ 2,262.23
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$26.19 1.1713%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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





## Paetow's dominant defense steps up

### Teagle earns first win as head coach

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

That vaunted Paetow defense, it's as good as advertised. The Panthers had talked a lot about what their defense could be and the potential on that side of the ball coming into the season. That potential and that work was put into action on Friday, and the Panthers looked dominant on that side of the ball. Behind nine sacks and an incredible performance from the Panthers' front

seven, the Panthers came away with a 14-3 victory over Conroe on Friday night, with some of the defense's biggest names also making an impact on the offensive side of the ball. "This defense is special," said senior linebacker Alex Kilgore. "It comes from everyone, not just one player and everyone steps up. And it works because all of us are unselfish — we let different players make plays and we know every single guy is going to get their shot to do that. We just have a huge amount of talent and we're just going to keep getting better." Paetow completely shut down any semblance of a run game from Conroe throughout the night, holding the Tigers to -14 yards, and the pass defense was almost



KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

See **PAETOW**, page B7

Paetow's Derrick Johnson evades a defender during Friday's game against Conroe at Legacy Stadium.

### WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2

## SCORES & SCHEDULES

### FOOTBALL

#### Scores

- Katy 49, Clear Springs 16
- Cinco Ranch 41, College Park 14
- Tompkins 31, Cy-Ranch 23
- Jordan 64, Aldine Davis 14
- Morton Ranch 21, Eisenhower 19
- Mayde Creek 30, Westside 0
- Paetow 14, Conroe 3
- Cy-Woods 38, Taylor 17
- Memorial 17, Seven Lakes 13

#### Thursday

- Taylor at George Ranch, 7 p.m. at Traylor Stadium
- Cinco Ranch at Klein Oak, 7 p.m. at Klein Memorial

#### Friday

- Katy vs. Atascocita, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Tompkins vs. Bridgeland, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium
- Mayde Creek at Waller, 7 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium

#### Saturday

- Morton Ranch vs. Kingwood Park, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Jordan at Kingwood, 6 p.m. at Turner Stadium
- Paetow vs. Cy-Ranch, 6 p.m. at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Klein, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

### VOLLEYBALL

#### Friday

- Morton Ranch vs. Cinco Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Paetow, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Crosby Tournament

#### Saturday

- Taylor at Clear Creek Tournament

#### Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Iowa Colony, 5:30 p.m.

### TENNIS

#### Friday

- Jordan at Richmond Foster, 3:30 p.m.
- Katy at Cy-Woods, 3 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia, 3 p.m.

#### Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 3 p.m.
- Katy vs. Jordan, 3:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Jordan, 3 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 3 p.m.

### CROSS COUNTRY

#### Saturday

- Seven Lakes, Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Morton Ranch, Paetow and Tompkins at Seven Lakes meet



COURTESY JOHN GLASER

Seven Lakes Spartans running back Barrett Hudson (5) runs in the first quarter during the game between the Seven Lakes Spartans and Memorial Mustangs on August 25, 2022 in Houston.

## Seven Lakes suffers season opening loss

### Spartans fall to Memorial 17-13

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes learned a tough lesson on Thursday night. The Spartans learned that any number of

small mistakes can pile up and lead to a loss, no matter how well you play outside of those mistakes. With a team full of players who haven't started much on the varsity level, it was an important lesson to learn, but that's exactly what it is. A lesson they all can learn from. The Spartans suffered a season opening 17-13 loss to Memorial as they faced off at Tully Stadium, in a game that wasn't decided until the final minutes and went back and forth all night.

"We just have to learn, we have to learn from everything that happened tonight," said senior defensive back Bryce Turner. "There's lots of things we can take from this — we know we have to get better with our conditioning, we know we have to prepare more and we have to take our opponent seriously. We can't let our foot off the gas even for one play at any point." It was only a few plays that made the difference in the game, but that's the growing pains

See **SPARTANS**, page B6

## Jordan blows out Aldine Davis in season opener

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan wanted to come out and make a statement in its season opener. The Warriors are making the jump from being unclassified all the way to Class 6A, and they have their first real varsity schedule ever — they wanted to prove a point to the rest of Katy and the rest of the area that they aren't someone teams can just roll over this season. Well, it's fair to say that point was made on Saturday night. Jordan came out and scored 49 first half points en route to a 64-14 shellacking of Al-

dine Davis in the Warriors season opener at Rhodes Stadium. The Warriors came out and dominated on both sides of the ball from the start of the game, and showed exactly what they were out to prove to start the season. "That was out goal this week," said sophomore wide receiver Andrew Marsh. "We wanted to come out here and show people what we can do and prove to everyone that we can play. We want everyone to know that we're coming and we aren't scared of anybody." Marsh was part of a huge offensive performance for Jordan, but the biggest day came from Zechariah Sample, who made a huge statement on both sides of the ball, with huge plays and touchdowns both on offense and

defense. Sample totaled four touchdowns on the night, three on offense and one on defense, while also making two interceptions and playing lockdown corner. And it was Sample who started off the scoring two minutes into the game, taking a jet sweep and scampering in for a 3-yard score. Then on a botched play where Aldine Davis' quarterback Josh Williams had a ball snapped over his head into the endzone, Williams tried to sling the ball out of the endzone and it went right to Sample, who walked in for his second score of the game.

See **JORDAN**, page B6



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**KATY ISD WEEK TWO PREVIEWS**

**Intriguing matchups in last week of non-district play**

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

\*All games non-district

**THURSDAY**

**Cinco Ranch (1-0) at Klein Oak (1-0),  
7 p.m. at Klein Memorial Stadium**

**Last Year: Did not play**

Cinco Ranch continues non-district Thursday by taking on a fellow 1-0 team in Klein Oak.

It will be the second straight road game for the Cougars as they prepare for District 19-6A play next week and it will come against a good opponent.

Cinco comes off a dominating win over College Park as the Cougars' offense steam-rolled its way to 41 points while allowing just 13 in a dismantling of College Park.

Gavin Rutherford got his senior year off to a huge start, throwing for 391 yards and five touchdowns, while Noah Abboud was open all night, catching 12 passes for 213 yards and three touchdowns while Seth Salverino caught four passes for 95 yards and a score. And the Cinco run game was efficient, averaging over five yards per carry and rushing for 127 yards. Cinco's defense was all over the field in the win as well, forcing one turnover and keeping College Park from getting anything going in either the pass or run game.

Klein Oak comes off a 32-25 win over Dekaney in the team's season opener and the team's offense will be a good challenge for the Cinco defense. Quarterback P.J. Hatter is a weapon to both run and pass the ball, while Kaleb Black can blow the lid off of defensive backs and make deep plays. But Cinco should be able to take advantage of a defense with question marks and it could be another huge day for Rutherford and Co.

**Taylor (0-1) at George Ranch (0-1),  
7 p.m. at Traylor Stadium**

**Last year: George Ranch 48, Taylor 13**

Taylor will finish its non-district schedule with a game against George Ranch as both teams go into Thursday in search of their first win.

Taylor comes off a 38-17 loss to Cy-Woods in which the Mustangs took a lead in the first quarter but were unable to keep up with the Cy-Woods offense down the stretch.

It was a struggle for the Taylor defense, as Cy-Woods threw for 162 yards and rushed for 173 yards, but in a bright spot the Mustangs forced two turnovers on the day.

Offensively, Taylor allowed three sacks and threw interceptions while also turning the ball over on a fumble, as they struggled to get things going offensively.

George Ranch had a brutal offensive game against Foster, only gaining 85 yards through the air and 112 yards on the ground. George Ranch also had two turnovers in the game.

Taylor might be able to exploit the George Ranch defense and attack it on the ground, but will have to contend with Deion Drinkard at quarterback and Gregor Jones at receiver, which will give the Mustangs' defense a test in their final non-district game.

**FRIDAY**

**Katy (1-0) vs. Atascocita (1-0),  
6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**

In one of the biggest non-district games in the entire area, Katy and Atascocita will play as both teams come off big wins in week one.

Katy was as dominating as ever in the first week of the year, dismantling Clear Springs 49-16 and rushing for over 400 yards on offense.

Seth Davis picked up right where he left off last season, carrying the ball 21 times for 270 yards and three scores, while Ramarian Tillman showed impressive skill carrying the ball nine times for 67 yards. Dallas Glass and Chase Johnsey both ran in touchdowns as well.

Caleb Koger threw for 64 yards and a touchdown, which went to JR Ceyanes, and Katy's return game was in midseason form as well with Micah Koenig returning a punt 74 yards for a score. And Katy's defense was



KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Jordan quarterback Colin Willetts and wide receiver Andrew Marsh celebrate after scoring a touchdown during Saturday's game between Jordan and Aldine Davis.

its dominant self.

Atascocita comes off just as dominant a win over Dickinson, trouncing Dickinson 37-0 in a game in which the Eagles also dominated both offensively and defensively.

Zion Brown was everywhere for the Eagles, completing 13 of 22 passes for 203 yards and three touchdowns and carrying the ball six times for 72 yards, while Tory Blaylock rushed 24 times for 104 yards and Atascocita's defense held Dickinson to just 120 yards of offense.

This will be a huge test for both teams and will show how both look early in the season. Atascocita may be able to key in on Katy's run game but the Tigers may also be able to take advantage of Brown's turnovers, as he threw two interceptions against Dickinson.

Katy is 4-0 against Atascocita in previous matchups.

**Tompkins (1-0) vs. Bridgeland (1-0),  
7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**

Tompkins and Bridgeland play in a huge matchup with both teams entering the game at 1-0 and wanting to prove they are among the best in the Houston area, and it will be an intriguing matchup to see how both teams stack up early in the year.

It was a good first start for Chris Gilbert Jr., who threw for two touchdowns against Cy-Ranch, while Caleb Blocker was big in the running game, running in two touchdowns. And Tompkins' defense came up huge as well, with Cody Chapman coming away with an interception, while Wyatt Young continued to do his thing offensively in both the run and pass game.

Bridgeland comes off a hard fought, 24-21 win over Cy-Fair, where Jonathan Nelson had a strong performance on the ground. The Bears have some dynamic players on offense and a solid defense so it will present Tompkins with a good challenge before they open district play against Katy next week.

**Mayde Creek (1-0) at Waller (0-1),  
7 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**

Mayde Creek put on a dominant showing in the team's season opener by shutting out Westside 30-0.

For the Rams, it was their first shutout since a 34-0 win over Alvin in 2019 and it moved the team in the right direction starting the year. Carl Dell Beard had an efficient day throwing the ball, going 12 for 15 for 105 yards and a score while Jerimiah Hill was great in the running game, rushing for 117 yards and two touchdowns and Reggie McNeal Jr. also ran in a score. Beau Bankston was a force in the pass game, and Hill tallied a score off a reception as well, but the biggest story of the day was the Rams' defense.

Mayde Creek held Westside to 12 yards passing and 23 yards rushing and they also forced one turnover and blocked a field goal to move to 1-0.

Waller comes out a blowout loss to Bryan, but did show some things in the pass game. Mayde Creek should again have a big day on offense while the Waller offense will provide the Mayde Creek secondary with some tests that they will need to answer.

**SATURDAY**

**Jordan (1-0) at Kingwood (1-0),  
6 p.m. at Turner Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**

Jordan put on a show in its first game of the season and will look to continue that against Kingwood on Saturday in the team's first road game of the year.

Jordan could do no wrong offensively last week, scoring in every way you could draw up and punishing Aldine Davis both in the air and on the ground.

Zechariah Sample was at the middle of everything for the Warriors, scoring three times offensively while also intercepting two passes and bringing one of those back for a touchdown on defense.

Now, it's about how the Warriors can follow that up, and if they can stay focused after a big win.

Kingwood is coming off a strong showing as well, beating Clear Creek 28-6 and showing a strong pass attack in the game.

Senior quarterback Trey Reese threw for 117 yards and three touchdowns while also

throwing an interception in the win and Adam Graham was the top ballcarrier for Kingwood. Drew Harrington will be a handful for the Jordan secondary, as he made two big plays for touchdowns in their win.

The game will show how Jordan responds as well as showing how the Warriors' defense deals with a strong pass game.

**Morton Ranch (1-0) vs. Kingwood Park (1-0), 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**

It was hairy for a bit, but Morton Ranch's big players showed up when needed to get them off to a 1-0 start with a 21-19 win over Eisenhower.

Just as it was last year, it was Santana Scott and Josh Johnson who made a huge difference offensively, while Mike Gerald also had a big day.

Johnson completed eight of 17 passes for 133 yards and two touchdowns while also rushing for 59 yards and another score. Meanwhile, Scott had 108 yards on 11 carries, nearly averaging 10 yards per carry, and Ryan Hall rushed for 70 yards. Scott also had 41 receiving yards while Gerald caught three passes for 78 yards and two touchdowns.

The Morton Ranch also made a difference, sacking Eisenhower three times and causing two fumbles while blocking a field goal.

Kingwood Park comes off a 45-7 win over MacArthur and will test Morton Ranch with a strong quarterback in Jaxon Sims, a good running back in Isaiah Perez and a good wide receiver in Hayden Bender. Defensively, the Panthers have a good secondary and it will be interesting to see how Morton Ranch is able to attack it.

**Paetow (1-0) at Cy-Ranch (0-1),  
6 p.m. at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**

Paetow struggled offensively against Conroe last week, but the Panthers' defense was wildly good, holding Conroe to just a field goal in a 14-3 win. And now they get to go up against a very good Cy-Ranch squad that put up a very strong fight against Tompkins in week one.

The Panthers' defense might be able to carry them against anyone, but they will also be looking for more offensively, especially in the pass game against Cy-Park after failing to eclipse 50 yards in the first game of the season.

Koby Truehill threw for 41 yards and a touchdown, but also tossed two interceptions, and the Paetow run game wasn't quite as strong as it normally is, with Damyron Phillips leading the way with 69 yards rushing.

Cy-Ranch was able to put up resistance against Tompkins and looks like a very strong team this year. The Mustangs have an experienced squad and have a weapon at quarterback in Blake Baker and at receiver in Jarred Sample and Carson Littlefield.

The defense looks strong too and it will be a good test for both Paetow's offense and defense.

**Seven Lakes (0-1) vs. Klein (0-1),  
7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

**Last year: Klein 30, Seven Lakes 0**

Seven Lakes had a decent day defensively in its season opener against Memorial last week but were unable to turn that into a win. The offense struggled all night and despite a relatively good day running the ball, the Spartans could never get anything going passing the ball.

It was untimely mistakes that ultimately cost the Spartans and they'll look to remedy that when they play Klein this Saturday, as both teams search for their first win of the season.

Klein comes off a 14-7 loss to Fort Bend Marshall, as the Bearkats also had a poor day offensively to start the season.

Klein has a strong run defense, which is Seven Lakes' strength, and offensively they have weapons in Myles Arterberry at running back as well as at receiver. It will be a good look at how Seven Lakes will also handle district foes who are strong against the run.



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SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans cornerback Desmond King II (25) returns an interception during an NFL preseason game between the Texans and the 49ers in Houston, Texas, on August 25, 2022.

# Texans show offensive, defensive improvement against the 49ers

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Texans knew that they needed to show more offense in their final preseason game.

Houston had struggled on that side of the ball throughout the preseason, having troubles moving the ball and getting the run game going.

But the team seemed to find a solution to that on Thursday, as they showed flashes on offense and strong run game in a 17-0 win over the 49ers close an undefeated preseason for the team.

"Offensively, our line played really well even with us sitting a few guys," said head coach Lovie Smith. "But Davis Mills did some good things in the half he played and running back wise, Dameon Pierce has shown us things every time we give him the ball. He's a good football player. We protected the ball well too and that's always important."

Pierce continued his excellent preseason, rushing six times for 37 yards and a touchdown, averaging over six yards per carry and continuing to show why he earned the starting running back job.

Mills had his ups and downs at quarterback and finished the day going six for 10 with 58 yards and both a touchdown and an interception. But he made improvements throughout the first half.

"Dameon is running the ball really well, and when you have that and an offensive line blocking well for them and you're

able to consistently run the ball downhill, it opens up a lot in the pass game," Mills said. "When you do that, it really keeps the defense guessing. Obviously we want to be a run first football team, and with Pierce back there we are really confident in being able to do that this season."

But the offense wasn't the biggest story of the night, as that went to the defense and their huge performance, shutting out the 49ers and holding Trey Lance to 49 yards on his 11 first half pass attempts.

And the Texans were just as strong against the run, holding Trey Sermon to 20 yards and the 49ers to under 75 rushing yards for the entire game.

"Defensively anytime you can get a shutout, that's really big," Smith said. "There were a lot of good things we did tonight. They did exceptional and made the right plays and it was good to see the way they competed tonight."

Now the Texans turn their attention to the regular season. They are excited to get things started but also know they need to make adjustments and improve so they are ready to go for week one.

"We improved on some things and that's important," Smith said. "We had 11 penalties in one preseason game and we've continued to improve on that. We talked about the turnover ratio and they've done really well since then and made some plays tonight, and we protected the ball well. Now the key is to take that and keep improving on it and be ready for the season. But I like a lot of what we did."



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) passes the ball during an NFL preseason game between the Texans and the 49ers in Houston, Texas, on August 25, 2022.

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# Longhorns ready to push for National Championship



Texas Longhorns senior outside hitter Logan Eggleston (33) during an NCAA volleyball match between Texas and Texas State on September 7, 2021 in Austin, Texas.

BY ZACH SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Texas senior Logan Eggleston has received just about every individual award possible in her collegiate volleyball career.

Her fifth year with the Longhorns is all about the team, and they have one goal on their mind and one thing that would cap off a truly legendary career for Eggleston: a National Championship.

"I came back for a fifth year to win a National Championship," Eggleston said. "I want to leave the program better than I started it, and I think winning a National Championship and helping these girls grow when I'm not here next year is really the main goal."

High expectations are nothing new to Texas, which is ranked No. 2 in this season's preseason AVCA coaches' poll.

Texas has won five straight conference titles, made the NCAA Tournament 18 years in a row, finished as the NCAA runner-up in 2020 and finished the regular season as the top-ranked team before losing in the regional final.

"It's National Championship or bust for every team at Texas," head coach Jerritt Elliott said. "It's what makes it special and challenging. Our players grow up being respectful of everyone they play and getting every team's best shot. It's not easy winning, but it's not easy being Texas."

Eggleston's accolades include four All-American selections and two Big 12 Player of the Year awards. She led the Longhorns with 387 kills and 3.91 kills per set last season, hitting .308 on the year.

Elliott expects her to be even better this season.

"Her level of play, because our defensive specialists and the threat of her being taken

out of that court, has rally increased her game," Elliott said. "She's making moves that we've been trying to get her to make the last three years and we're seeing big growth there."

This offseason was a little different for the Longhorns since they added 11 new players to the roster between freshmen and transfers.

Elliott said this is the deepest team he's ever had at Texas since taking over the program in 2001. He said freshmen like libero Emma Halter, setter Marina Crowover and outside hitter Devin Kahahawai are pushing for larger roles on the team.

The team did a few bonding activities to get to know each other during the offseason, including a day at the rowing center with the National Championship-winning rowing team.

Eggleston said she was very underwhelming as a rower, but it helped create more of a bond with so many new teammates.

"A lot of us are pretty used to being good at what do, and that was a totally new experience," she said. "We really had to work together and figure it out. Being put into uncomfortable situations and finding ways to be successful really translates to the court."

Texas has a difficult start to the season, traveling to Columbus, Ohio, for matches against No. 7 Ohio State on Friday and Saturday.

The Longhorns host No. 4 Minnesota in the first game at Gregory Gym next Wednesday before traveling to face No. 14 Stanford on Sept. 4.

"I would like to see our composure and how we handle stress," Elliott said. "The thing that we don't know with so many new players is how they're going to handle that stress and how they behave next to one another."

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**Owner's Office:** 847 Dominion Dr., Katy, TX 77450  
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**Project location:** 821 Rennie Dr., Katy, TX 77450

**Owner proposes to let a contract** for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owner's Office by September 16, 2022 at 2:00 PM, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on [civcastusa.com](http://civcastusa.com). A pre-bid conference (non-mandatory) is set for September 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Owner's Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
September 14, 2022, 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,  
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the Authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment and the installation of "No Thru Trucks" signs at the following roads:

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Notice is hereby given that, on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held on the Proposed 2023 Budget for Waller County, Texas, as prepared by the County Judge, to be considered by the Waller County Commissioners Court. This budget hearing will be held at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445. A copy of the proposed budget for adoption is available for inspection in the Office of Debbie Hollan, County Clerk of Waller County, Texas. The public is invited to attend this Budget Hearing.

This budget will raise more total property tax than last year's budget by \$ 4,979,706 a 11.74 % increase, and all of that amount, \$ 2,805,361 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III  
Waller County Judge

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**Katy Times**







Paetow's cross country team.



Jordan finished first in the Kevin Napier Fall's Invitational.

# Jordan, Seven Lakes runners have good week

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan and Seven Lakes had strong weekends in cross country at the Kingwood Classic Challenge and the Kevin Napier Fall's Invitational.

For the Seven Lakes boys seniors, Reese Sullivan was the top finisher at the meet, taking second place with a time of nine minutes, 45.5 seconds. That was followed by Jason Chivala, who finished 10th with a time of 10 minutes, 21.84 seconds. Trey Pierson finished 41st for the Spartans and Sahil Handhi finished 77th overall.

Katy's seniors also had a good day at the meet. Caden Reed finished 13th overall with 10 minutes, 26.79 seconds, Robert Ghigliotto finished 43rd overall with a time of 12 minutes, 4.56 seconds. Grayson Mattingly took home 47th place with a time of 12 minutes, 10.14



Seven Lakes runners pose for a picture after the Kingwood Classic Challenge.

seconds and Anthony Yaklin finished 49th with a time of 12 minutes, 12.23 seconds.

Seven Lakes girls also had a good meet. Laine Heiser finished eighth overall with a time of 12 minutes, 20.61 seconds and Grace Havern finished 18th with a time of 13 minutes, 11.01 seconds. Victoria D'Ascola

had a 31st place finish with a time of 14 minutes, 49.12 seconds, Paige Belleville finished 44th with a time of 15 minutes, 58.28 seconds, Sarah Lowe finished 50th with a time of 16 minutes, 36.44 seconds and Katelyn LaMothe finished 52nd with a time of 19 minutes, 42.44 seconds.

Katy's senior girls finished just behind Seven Lakes. Isabella Mixon finished 22nd overall with a time of 13 minutes, 44.35 seconds, Maddie Cullen finished 25th with a time of 13 minutes, 59.58 seconds and Avi Morsbach finished with a time of 14 minutes, 2.19 seconds. Marren Silva finished 30th overall and Nia Allison finished 39th overall to cap off Katy's performance.

Seven Lakes finished fourth overall at the meet and Katy finished fifth at the meet.

## Kevin Napier Falls Invitational

The Jordan girls continued a strong start to the year,

winning the Kevin Napier Falls Invitational and having three top five finishers at the meet.

Ximena Lopez finished second overall with a time of 18 minutes, 41.37 seconds, Addison Sutton finished third with a time of 19 minutes, 41.69 seconds and Beatriz Leapple finished fourth with a time of 19 minutes, 47.31 seconds. Isabella Castillo also finished in the top 10 with a ninth place finish, with a time of 19 minutes, 56.26 seconds. Lilah Katz came in 17th, Keira Kaunisto came in 20th and Isabela Ramose came in 21st at the meet. And the Jordan Varsity girls B team also won the B team meet. Paetow's Omotayo Obrimah finished 31st at

the meet with a time of 22 minutes, 9.09 seconds, Hailey Beier finished 63rd overall with a time of 25 minutes, 28.29 seconds and Emily Orellano finished 74th with a time of 27 minutes, 23.69 seconds.

Paetow's boys finished fourth overall at the meet with a good performance.

Elijah Emerson finished fifth overall with a time of 16 minutes, 17.31 seconds, Nicolas Valadez finished 11th overall with a time of 16 minutes, 40.76 seconds. William Zamora finished 26th overall with a time of 17 minutes, 47.73 seconds, Jeremiah came in 43rd place, Michael Chavez finished in 63rd place and Kaeden Fairfax finished in 77th place for the Panthers.

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No 37 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM at 1301 Misty Bend, Katy, Texas 77494. 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 schedule public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

**FOR** the proposal: Larry W. Davis Stephen Berckenhoff  
Kenneth L. Comeaux Jeff Gilliland  
Gregory Murray

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

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 \$0.5098 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.4805 /\$100 Proposed
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.0293 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.75%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$343,105	\$376,773
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$68,621	\$75,355
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$274,484	\$301,418
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,399.32	\$1,448.31
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$48.99 3.50%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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



### Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Harmony Public Schools announced its policy today for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on August 1st, 2022, Harmony Public Schools will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/harmonypshoustonwest> or at:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Harmony Science Academy - Beaumont</b><br>4055 Calder Ave Beaumont, Texas 77706<br><a href="https://hsabeaumont.harmonytexas.org/">https://hsabeaumont.harmonytexas.org/</a>              | <b>Harmony School of Innovation - Sugar Land</b><br>13738 Old Richmond Rd Sugar Land, Texas 77498<br><a href="https://hsisl.harmonytexas.org/">https://hsisl.harmonytexas.org/</a>  |
| <b>Harmony Science Academy - Sugar Land</b><br>13415 W Bellfort Sugar Land, Texas 77478<br><a href="https://hsasl.harmonytexas.org/">https://hsasl.harmonytexas.org/</a>                     | <b>Harmony Science Academy - Katy Elementary</b><br>22400 Grand Corner Drive Katy, Texas 77494<br><a href="https://hsakaty.harmonytexas.org/">https://hsakaty.harmonytexas.org/</a> |
| <b>Harmony School of Excellence - Sugar Land Elementary</b><br>1428 Eldridge Rd Sugar Land, Texas 77478<br><a href="https://hseesl.harmonytexas.org/">https://hseesl.harmonytexas.org/</a>   | <b>Harmony Science Academy - Katy Middle</b><br>22400 C Grand Corner Drive Katy, Texas 77494<br><a href="https://hsamkaty.harmonytexas.org/">https://hsamkaty.harmonytexas.org/</a> |
| <b>Harmony School of Excellence - Sugar Land Middle</b><br>13522 W. Airport Blvd. Sugar Land, Texas 77478<br><a href="https://hseesl.harmonytexas.org/">https://hseesl.harmonytexas.org/</a> | <b>Harmony School of Innovation - Katy</b><br>21650 Bellaire Blvd. Richmond, Texas 77407<br><a href="https://hsikaty.harmonytexas.org/">https://hsikaty.harmonytexas.org/</a>       |

### Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

- Income**
  1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels
- Categorical or Automatic Eligibility**
  2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Program Participant**
  3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
  4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

### Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out a free and reduced-price meal application and return it to the school Child Nutrition Assistant. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members
2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

### Categorical or Program Eligibility

Harmony Public Schools is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Harmony Public Schools will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Mrs. Morales, District Child Nutrition Coordinator, [childnutrition.houstonwest@harmonytexas.org](mailto:childnutrition.houstonwest@harmonytexas.org), 832-831-9174.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact their school Child Nutrition Assistant or your District Child Nutrition Coordinator, [childnutrition.houstonwest@harmonytexas.org](mailto:childnutrition.houstonwest@harmonytexas.org).

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

### Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the school Child Nutrition Assistant will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Chief of Operations Officer, 9321 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S, Houston, TX 77099 or by email [childnutrition@harmonytexas.org](mailto:childnutrition@harmonytexas.org).

### Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.