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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

City adopts \$54.8 million budget for 2022-23

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council Monday adopted a \$54.8 million budget for 2022-23, and a \$0.44 per \$100 property valuation to pay for it.

City officials said 84% of the city's revenue comes from three sources. These are property tax (40%), sales tax (38%) and services (5%).

The property tax rate is a decrease from the \$0.447168 per \$100 property evaluation

from last year. However, property tax revenue will increase by about \$1.1 million, a 7% increase from the 2022 fiscal year. Officials said this increase is based on increased taxable property, and higher property valuations.

City Administrator Byron Hebert said sales taxes for 2022 outperformed the projected budget amount. But when unveiling the budget earlier this month, he said opportunities to develop more sales tax revenue are becoming more limited.

"The current projection of sales tax for fiscal year 2023, at \$14,905,586 remains conservative under the looming economic recession and consequences of instability in Europe due to war," Hebert wrote.

The budget calls for \$40 million in general fund revenues, \$9.9 million in enterprise fund revenues, \$3.4 million in debt service revenues and \$1.5 million and hotel occupancy revenues.

The overall budget is a \$2.9 million, or 5.68% increase, from last year's \$52 million

budget. Officials said they anticipated a 4% salary adjustment starting next month. Public safety comprises 54% of the total general fund budget, which is an increase from previous years. These changes, as the city competes with other cities to hire and retain public safety employees such as police officers, paramedics and firefighters.

The budget calls for the addition of six full-time employees. These positions include

See **BUDGET**, page A3

Trustees: Students banned from book committee

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy school trustees voted Monday to remove students from a book review committee tasked with deciding whether a particular book or books should remain in school libraries.

The vote was an amendment to the policy that trustees approved at their regularly scheduled board meeting.

Proponents of having students on the committee argued that such an arrangement gives students a chance to ensure that student perspectives were being heard and considered. But when the matter came up for discussion late in the meeting, one trustee, Leah Wilson, said young adults deserved a seat at the table when it came to young adult materials.

Some other trustees remained firm in their opposition.

"I absolutely oppose students being on the committee," trustee Rebecca Fox said, adding that while students are 18 years of age and adults in some ways, they remain students and, while students, they are also children.

"In Katy ISD, we teach children, not adults," Fox said. "I

See **BOOKS**, page A6

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Julian and Jaylan Gray share their story of perseverance. They are sitting at their mother's table, which was restored, along with their house, after flood and winter storm damage.

Starting anew

Katy brothers return home after restoration

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

August marked the beginning of school, but for one Katy family, it also marked a new beginning in a refurbished house.

Jaylan Gray, 22, and his younger brother Julian, 11, returned to their home in the Village Green West subdivision after Katy Responds, a local nonprofit that provides disaster relief, restored the house.

Facing a series of tragedies

By the time Katy Responds began working on the house in May, the brothers had been through a series of a tragedies over the past few years. Both they and their house had endured much.

In 2014, the brothers lost their father figure—he was Jaylan's stepfather and Julian's father—to a heart attack.

"It was pretty bad," Jaylan said. "It happened at the park next to Brookshire Brothers (Malcolm E. Beckendorff Park, 1815 Katyland Dr.), actually."

Jaylan attended Katy High School, where he was an outside linebacker on the football team. He and his teammates were looking forward to the 2017 season. Then came Hurricane Harvey.

"Harvey, I thought it would be a regular hurricane," Jaylan said. "I had no idea it would just park over Houston for I forget however long it did. It was insane. Water was at the front door. We got some water coming in from that door's disclosure to the street. I had an interesting time spending my birthday just trapped in the house, essentially."

Jaylan and his teammates spent time gutting houses, including those of some of their coaches.

"That's how Harvey went for me," Jaylan said.

Julian said he was six or seven years old when Harvey hit. He said he doesn't remember much about that time. He said his family kept a lot from him due to his young age.

"All I remember is that there was a lot of water, and at some point, we were stepping through water through the house, and it was really bad," Julian said.

The family persevered, and Jaylan graduated in 2018. He began attending Blinn College.

"My dream is to be a park ranger, and if not, work at a zoo, work with animals," Jaylan said.

But more tragedy was in store. In 2020, Jaylan and Julian's mother died of a blood disorder.

See **BROTHERS**, page A3

LGBTQ drag bingo event draws protestors

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

An organizer of an LGBTQ drag bingo event held Saturday said she and others worked for weeks with the Harris County Sheriff's office to ensure both the event, and the demonstrations over it, were safe.

Rev. Heather Tolleson is lead pastor at First Christian Church, 22101 Morton Ranch Road. The church, according to its website, welcomes all, regardless of sexuality, gender, gender identity and expression.

At Saturday's event, protestors—some pro-LGBTQ, others against—stood on opposite sides of Morton Ranch Road.

"It was a very tense afternoon with numerous people in attendance masked and armed," Jason Spencer, chief of staff at the Harris County Sheriff's office said. "Fortunately, we had plenty of peace officers on scene who worked to keep the protestors separated and confrontations to a minimum. In the end, there were no significant injuries and no arrests were made."

Tolleson said the purpose of the event was a fundraiser

See **PROTEST**, page A3

Houston man arrested for alleged threat on Fort Bend County Fair

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County Sheriff's deputies Friday arrested a Houston man who allegedly threatened the Fort Bend County Fair on social media.

The sheriff's office said its emergency communications center received a 911 test message, saying that an unknown person made an Instagram post appearing to threaten the fair. The post received wide exposure on Instagram.

Deputies identified the Instagram account user as Javon Otis Jackson, who admitted to making the post. Sheriff's dep-

See **ARREST**, page A6

Waller County investigating allegedly fraudulent ESD 200 financial reports

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Waller County Sheriff Troy Guidry said Monday his office is investigating allegedly fraudulent financial reports from the Waller Harris County Emergency Services District No. 200.

In a statement, the district said it submitted the results of an internal investigation for criminal examination. It said it would support the sheriff's office through the investigation and what actions it

decides to take.

The district said it received information in June that showed several district credit card statements had been altered before being submitted for review, and that district financial reports were fraudulent.

A consequence of this, the district said, was that the district's board of commissioners and command staff received false financial information at regular public meetings.

See **INVESTIGATION**, page A3

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Community Calendar

October

OCT. 1

KATY RICE FESTIVAL PARADE

Katy's Rice Festival kicks off with the Katy Rice Festival Parade. The lineup starts at 7:30 a.m. in the Katy Church of Christ parking lot, 5458 E. 5th St. The parade begins by heading east on 5th Street, then turns south on Avenue A, then east on 2nd Street, then north on Avenue C.

OCT. 2

FEROCIOUS FOURS AT MKT DISTILLERY

MKT is celebrating its "ferocious four birthday" with a bit of fun, food, a bounce house, and music while it celebrates four years in business. The singer Coleton Black will perform.

The anniversary party is from 2-10 p.m. at MKT Distillery, 5373 1st St. For more information, call 833-658-1870.

OCT. 4

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Texas communities celebrate National Night Out in October, instead of August everywhere else, to avoid the summer heat. The event is a community-building campaign to promote police-community partnerships and encourage neighborhood camaraderie. Specific activities vary by community. For more information, contact your local police department.

OCT. 6

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Dr. Jessica Suarez-Cole of the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center will be the featured speaker at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The meeting is set for 7:30 a.m. at the chamber headquarters, 814 East Ave., Ste. G. For more information and to RSVP, call 281-391-7423.



OCT. 7

17TH ANNUAL KATY WINE FEST

Join the Cinco Ranch Rotary for wine tasting, live musical entertainment and live and silent auctions at the Katy Wine Fest. The event is from 7-10 p.m. at the Palacio Maria

Banquet Hall, 21718 Highland Knolls Dr. Proceeds benefit the Brookwood Community and other select Katy-area charities.

The event, now in its 17th year, will highlight a wide variety of Italian wines as well as one from across the Lone Star State, including local wineries in and around the Katy area.

Tickets start at \$30. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website katywinefest.com.

OCT. 7-9

KATY RICE FESTIVAL

The annual Katy Rice Festival takes place between 1st Street and 4th Street and Avenue A and Avenue D. Tickets are \$10, with free admission for children 12 years of age and under.

Free parking is available at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Dr. A free shuttle service will take people from the Merrell Center to and from the festival.

Festivities are from 6-10 p.m. Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 8, and 12-6 p.m. Oct. 9. For more information, visit the website katyricefestival.com.



OCT. 11

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Voters will elect Texas state officials, as well as elect various local officials and decide ballot issues. To register to vote, visit the Secretary of State website, votetexas.org.

OCT. 12

KATY HOMECOMING JESSE PEYTON AND FRIENDS

Former Taylor High School's very own Jesse Peyton performs with friends at MKT Distillery. Peyton has been performing on stages all over

the South. He has headlined shows at top clubs all over Texas. He's also featured nationally, opening up for Donnell Rawlings and Steve Trevino. He's appeared on Sirius XM Radio's Shade 45, performing live at Caroline's on Broadway as a national finalist for the Sway in the Morning Show's Comedy Search in 2020.

Joining Jesse are Barry Laminack and Rich Williams. Laminack has opened for George Wallace, Gilbert Gottfried, the late great John Witherspoon, Damon Wayans, Big Jay Oakerson, Chris Porter, and Erik Griffin (among others). Williams has opened for Arsenio Hall, Snoop Dogg, Lady A (Formerly Lady Antebellum), Hannibal Buress, and Rob Schneider.

The show is at 7 p.m. at MKT Distillery, 5373 1st St. Tickets are \$20. For more information, call 833-658-1870.

OCT. 19

NETWORKING VIBES

A networking event sponsored by the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and Katy Business Association. One does not have to be a member to attend. The event is from 5-7 p.m. at Katy Vibes, 24757 Katy Fwy.

OCT. 22

KATY MARKET DAY

The monthly Katy Market Day features vendors, a food truck, beer garden, entertainment, and inflatable attractions for children's entertainment. The event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy. For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.

OCT. 24

FIRST DAY OF EARLY VOTING

Texas voters will make their choices in several statewide races, such as governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general, among others. In addition to these races, Katy ISD voters will either ratify or reject a property tax rate. Royal ISD voters will choose trustees to serve on that school board.

OCT. 25

MONSTER MASH

The Katy ISD Miller Career and Technology Cen-

ter is hosting Miller's Monster Mash. Take a campus tour and see the center's labs while hunting for Halloween candy.

The event is from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Miller Career and Technology Center, 1734 Katyland Dr. Parking is at Rhodes Stadium. Enter through the east doors. Admission is free. All children must be accompanied by parents.

OCT. 27

SILENT WITNESS/A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Each year, the Crisis Center team at Katy Christian Ministries provides a program to remember those lost to domestic violence. The event is at 6 p.m. at Westland Baptist Church, 1407 West Grand Parkway South. Dinner is provided and RSVPs are required. For more information, contact KCM at 281-391-5261.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at this "ghoulish" networking party, which is set for 5-7 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Dignity Memorial/Katy Funeral Home, 23350 Kingsland Blvd. Admission is free.

For more information, contact the chamber at 281-391-7423.

OCT. 29

HOWL-O-WEEN

Families and their pets can expect a boo-tiful morning at Katy Dog Park.

The event features a dog costume contest, with awards and prizes for best group costume, yummiest costume, and most creative costume. Small monetary or pet food donations are being sought for local shelters.

The event is from 9-11 a.m. at the Katy Dog Park, 5414 Franz Road. For more information, contact the Katy Parks Department at 281-391-4840.

HOUSTON FAMILY FUN FEST

Activity and food vendors, arts and crafts, door prizes, face painting, live music, and a rock wall are among the attractions at the Houston Family Fun Fest.

The event is free and is from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 29 in Heritage Square at LaCenterra in Cinco Ranch. For more information about Houston Family Magazine, visit the website houstonfamilymagazine.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Fall down
- Gas usage measurement
- Golf score
- A superior grade of black tea
- Wrath
- Eating house
- Delay leaving a place
- People now inhabiting Myanmar
- Canadian flyers
- Walks back and forth
- Frequently
- Humans have two
- Surrounds with armed forces
- Made proper
- Medical buildings
- Patty Hearst's captors
- Hits with a drop shot
- Italy's PM 1919-20
- Promotions
- En __: incidentally
- Queens baseball team
- Commoner
- Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
- Payroll firm
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Skipper butterflies
- Hint
- Daniel __, French composer
- English children's author Blyton
- Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- Jump
- Eaten as a vegetable
- Residual paresis after anesthesia
- Brunchtime staple
- Makes money off of
- Refined
- Nocturnal S. American rodents
- From a distance
- Officials
- It helps you see
- Central Canadian indigenous person
- Invests in little enterprises
- They help in tough situations
- Industrial port in Poland
- Type of screen
- Peyton's little brother
- Alcoholic beverage
- Newspapers need it
- Herbal tea
- Distinctive practice
- Exercise system __-bo
- Explosive
- Belonging to a thing
- Presidential candidates engage in them
- Of the Swedes
- Meadow-grass
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Hooray!
- Greek city
- One way to do it by example
- Imitated
- "Game of Thrones" actress Heady
- Swiss river
- Drought-resistant plant
- A French abbot
- One point east of northeast
- Get free of

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

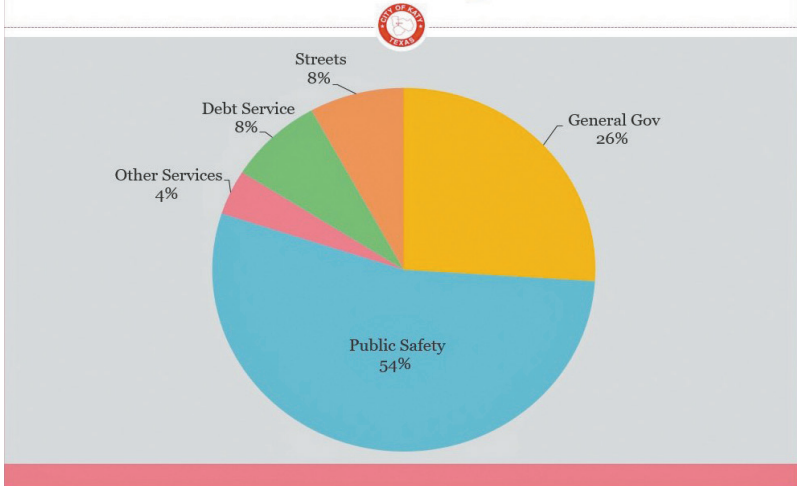
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

General Fund Expenditures



This pie chart illustrates a spending breakout for the 2022-23 Katy city budget.

BUDGET

from page A1

a patrol officer, a paramedic/firefighter, street maintenance worker, permit clerk, museum coordinator and fleet mechanic.

This year's budget is notable from those of recent years in that the city is not responding to natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey in 2017 or winter storm Uri in 2021, or the pandemic. But Hebert earlier this month said city staff is prepared for what he called a "proactive response" to several catastrophic scenarios.

Council Member-at-Large and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said the budget makes investments in drainage, street repairs,

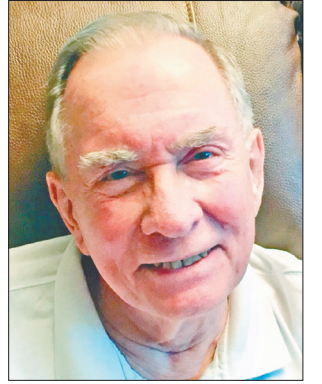
public safety and parks, among other items.

"I know our finance department and city administrator have worked long on this budget," Harris said.

City revenues, Hebert said, have not been impacted near projected worst-case scenarios, but the city is restoring the budget slowly to pre-COVID conditions as possible. He said the goal was not to deplete services while preserving a balanced budget and raising taxes only as a last resort.

The budget and tax rate were adopted following public hearings in which nobody spoke.

TRIBUTE



JAMES LYLE LEMEROND
1930-2022

James Lyle Lemerond, 91, of Katy, was born Friday, October 17, 1930, in Green Bay, Wisconsin and passed away Saturday, September 17, 2022. On September 2, 1955, he married Mary Ann Gager, in Houston Texas. James has lived in the Katy area for 13 years, where he was a member of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann Lemerond. Surviving him are children, Mary Catherine Williams, Michael James Lemerond, Patricia Anne Donna, Teresa Louise Lemerond, and John Howard Lemerond; grandchildren, Maggie Anne Ball, Charles Theodore Donna, Jr., Brent James Williams, Rachel Renee Lemerond, Olivia Beatrice Horton-Gregg, Michelle Elizabeth Skinkle, Andrew James Lemerond, and Greta Paige Lemerond; as well as other loving family members and friends.

The family held a private viewing from 6:00-8:00 PM on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at Katy Funeral Home, in the Brazos Chapel. Mass was celebrated at 11:00 AM on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 5356 11th Street, Katy, Texas 77493.

**FOR ADDITIONAL
OBITUARIES,
PLEASE SEE PAGE A5**

BROTHERS

from page A1

"I still have to get tested to make sure it's not hereditary, because it really came out of nowhere," Jaylan said. "She thought was menopause or whatever. It was not."

By this time, the brothers knew that the house is unlivable. They moved in with their maternal grandparents, who live in the Katy area, until a decision could be made about what to do with the house. Jaylan took a job that kept him nearby.

"There was too much mold in the house," Jaylan said. "You can't be breathing that in 24/7, so we had to leave."

In February 2021, winter storm Uri came.

"Before the freeze, I was already contemplating giving up because I really had no idea when I was doing," Jaylan said. "We were still figuring out the whole life insurance thing with my mother. My grandfather was telling me not to put that money towards the house. He told me we should probably just sell it and just keep the money and put it towards our savings and just keep rolling."

"I came back to the house, and I was like, wow, there's holes in the ceiling now from burst pipes and all that," Jaylan said. "This is horrible."

Jaylan and Julian stayed with their grandparents for what Jaylan said was the better part of almost a year. During this time, the family hired a contractor to make repairs to the house. But things didn't work out and the workmanship was poor.

The brothers were at rock bottom. Jaylan said he was pretty sure they lost the house.

A restored house in about three months

Ron Peters, Katy Responds executive director, got word of the brothers' plight. He reached out to them, and his team went to work. They began working on the house in late April with an Aug. 1 deadline—about three months. They needed a few more days, and the brothers returned Aug. 11.

Julian said when he returned, it didn't look like too much work had been done on the outside.

"When I came in, I was very confused because I remember the other guy, the other contractor, he didn't do a very good job at all," Julian said. "When I walked into the house, I just remembered all the memories. Me running around the house, watching TV, eating on the table. And I was speechless. I

didn't really think it would happen, especially not like this fast. It was so sudden. I was trying to keep it in a lot, and we went to the laundry room right there and I just started breaking down. I saw everything and everything was perfect."

Jaylan said he was also a little nervous about returning to the house.

"I didn't know what you really expect," Jaylan said. "As soon as we get into the door, I was just flooded with memories of us living here in the good old days. He (Julian) broke down in the pantry/washroom. The room that hit me the hardest was my mother's room, which is now my room. As soon as I walked in there, I couldn't keep it in anymore. I couldn't be the tough guy. I just let the tears flow. It was great. They did awesome."

Neighbors brought food and grocery store gift cards. The restored house also included new furniture throughout, with one important exception.

"The only thing I really wanted to keep was this table because it's my mother's table," Jaylan said. "They fixed it up for me. It wasn't in the best shape when they came in."

A need that still exists

NBC and CBS broadcast Jaylan

and Julian's story. And as hopeful as the story is, it brought light to others in the Katy area who still need help following Harvey and Uri.

Peters said when the NBC broadcast the story, Katy Responds started receiving calls from others needing help. The list now has about 80 names, he said.

"We have folks that are dealing with these both, like these guys," Peters said. "So, 80 to us is a lifetime. I don't know how we're going to do it unless we have some significant funding that we are not used to getting. So, we're having to figure out a new way to ask for support because we can't let these 80 people sit. We can't and I don't want them to wait three years to get fixed."

Even Jaylan and Julian still need help. The roof was patched together but needs replacement, and they are trying to pay back taxes on the property.

Peters said those wishing to contribute are asked to visit the website katyresponds.org and click the "Donate Now" button. Donors can specify a particular family, such as Jaylan and Julian, or a particular need, such as a grocery store gift card, when donating.

CORRECTIONS

In the "Fort Bend County benefactor Dr. Harold Daily dies" story in its Sept. 22 print edition, the Times incorrectly identified Fort Bend Pct. 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales in the cutline.

In the "Gregorski talks TRE at Katy Area EDC meeting" story in the same print edition, The Times incorrectly cited a property valuation figure in its example. The correct figure for the example is \$383,366. The Times regrets the errors.

PROTEST

from page A1

for a transparent closet. Such a clothing closet, Tolleson said, is a "closet for everyone. We never turn anyone away from it."

She said the closet serves people that are transitioning and exploring, and who need access to clothes they might need.

"The clothes make you feel more confident," Tolleson said.

Tolleson said about 200 people showed up to play bingo, while about 50-60 people volunteered at the event. She said she and others were aware of protests going on outside.

"We had a great event," Tolleson said. "At no point in time was the environment unsafe for anyone."

INVESTIGATION

from page A1

District management confronted a suspected employee with initial evidence, but he was unwilling to cooperate with an investigation and resigned.

District management continued its investigation and decided there was enough documentation to justify bringing in an outside auditing team. This team began reviewing transactions from the fall of 2020 to summer of 2022, the district said.

The district said the auditing team's results claimed that there were at least \$30,000 of goods and services misappropriated using the district's accounts over the two-year period reviewed.

The sheriff's office has the materials and is continuing its investigation.

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Friday, October 14th • 7 pm (Doors open at 6:30 pm)

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Couples: \$300 • Individuals: \$175 • Please purchase tickets by October 10, 2022

MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS: CAAPUSA.ORG



VATRE

KATY ISD VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION
PROPOSITION A



**Sustaining
quality teachers
and staff**

**If voters approve
the TRE,
Katy ISD teachers and staff
would see an immediate
pay raise.**

Last Day to Register to Vote

Oct. 11

Early Voting

Oct. 24 - Nov. 4

Election Day

Nov. 8

SUSTAINING THE TAX RATE

**TAX RATE
BEFORE ELECTION
\$1.35**

**\$1.35
TAX RATE
AFTER ELECTION**

SENIORS 65+

**are exempt from any increase
in school taxes on their homestead.**

Those age 65 and older will not see an increase in their taxes, even if the appraised value of their home increases.



Dogs vs. daughters

My adult life has been full of transitions—from single to married, from childlessness to fatherhood, and from virile coolness to cringey blobfish. I now find myself in the midst of a change from occupying a nest literally bursting with hatchlings frantically pecking at my wallet to now watching one last teenage fledgling perched on the edge of a limb and hoping I don't do anything embarrassing.

Since two of my daughters are off at college and my youngest daughter would rather watch a video on YouTube about vegetables that resemble Harry Potter than hang out with me, I recently became aware that I have been unconsciously satisfying my need to be needed by devoting an unhealthy amount of time and attention to my daughters' pet dogs, who might be mistaken for two large tufts of mutant fuzz from under our couch cushions.

Yes, I fear that I'm turning into the "crazy cat lady" of the household, or, in my case, the "annoying doglet dude in his 50s who bears a passing resemblance to Herman Munster."

(We do also have a cat, by the way, which is a lot like having another aloof teenager—only less messy.)

One result of this closer relationship I've developed with our grandmongrels is that I speak to them more. I've always communicated with our dogs in a sort of Scooby-Doo baby-talk, usually asking them if they would prefer to go outside and kill our grass or stay inside and stain the carpet. But now I find myself carrying on extended conversations with them, asking them about their day, if they've sniffed anything (or anyone) interesting lately, and why they still haven't eaten the expensive veterinarian-approved dry kibble from Petco and are, instead, begging at the table for a bite of my taco.

They don't ever reply, but at least they maintain eye contact, look interested, and sometimes drool, which is more response than I usually get from our daughters.

I've also taken a much greater interest grooming—the dogs, I mean. In the past, maintaining our dogs' hygiene primarily involved tossing them into the bathtub once I could smell them without seeing them. Nowadays, though, I not only brush their coats daily (usually not with my wife's hairbrush), but I've also started brushing their teeth (usually not with my

JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Yes, I fear that I'm turning into the "crazy cat lady" of the household, or, in my case, the "annoying doglet dude in his 50s who bears a passing resemblance to Herman Munster."

wife's toothbrush).

I don't know if you've ever brushed your dogs' teeth against their will, but imagine trying to wipe pizza sauce off of an impatient toddler's face while she's frantically trying to run to the gift shop at Chuck E Cheese. It's almost as relaxing.

And speaking of toddlers, I've recently been known to chase the dogs around the house with a baby wipe when they come in from decorating our lawn—in a preemptive attempt to avert the dreaded living-room booty scoot. (Luckily, they usually only do that when we have visitors.)

Watching our daughters grow up, become more independent (except financially) and begin to leave home has been hard for me, but the companionship provided by their pets has been a comfort, even if the dogs don't respect bathroom boundaries.

These days, when I'm in the recliner at home and I've got a lap full of dogs licking my face, I often reflect happily on all the sweet times in the past when I had a lap full of girls kissing my cheeks—only, back then, I didn't have to worry about what they'd been licking beforehand.

Yes, dogs and daughters are different, but until I get the chance someday to chase grandkids around with a baby wipe, the dogs will have to do.

Jase 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.



"I miss the lockdown."

An extension of tax grief

I used to love the first weekend of autumn. Now I loathe it.

Maybe I better explain. I used to wait until the nicest week in spring to organize my taxes, but now I wait until the nicest week in autumn.

Autumn officially began Friday, Sept. 23, which is when I will begin the agonizing process of digging through my big box of income statements and expense receipts from 2021.

I organized the mess of paper somewhat in the spring, so that my CPA could file an extension.

But the only thing that did was extend the ordeal of sorting through the box to find every tax deduction that is due me.

I still had to pay any 2021 income taxes I owed by April 18 or face penalties "that can reach up to 25% of the total unpaid taxes, with some exceptions," says the Wall Street Journal.

Now my tax return for 2021 must be filed by Oct. 17 or steep penalties could kick in.

The Journal says 19 million taxpayers asked the IRS for more time to file this year—a record number.

"A variety of factors is to blame beyond just procrastination, tax preparers say: shifting due dates, COVID-related tax law changes, late forms, the IRS backlog and taxpayer burnout," reports the Journal.



TOM PURCELL

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Taxpayer burnout? I've been suffering that since I filed my first adult return.

Now that I have more than one source of income—writer, communications work, rental properties, real estate sales, etc.—I have to provide detailed reports to my CPA on what revenue comes in and what goes out for expenses.

The resulting return is many pages long. There would be fewer felons if they knew their punishment would be to read it.

I wonder whatever happened to all those brave reform ideas to make income taxes fairer or flatter or so simple to file you could complete them in minutes with a single piece of paper and an unsharpened pencil.

2017 was the last time the IRS changed its laws to allegedly help businesses with things like deductions, depreciation, expensing and tax credits.

You might be able to understand the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—if you're an accountant—but not me.

To make filing my taxes easier

for me my CPA set up a Quicken account so I can record in real time every check that comes in and every expense that goes out.

But I don't use that convenient tool as I should.

That's why late this Friday afternoon I'll get out my big box of receipts, organize them into expense folders, load the details into the Quicken app and then pray I don't owe more tax than I already paid in April.

The weather will be beautiful. Autumn will have arrived in all its glory. Friends will be sitting around bonfires and sipping hot apple cider during the crisp gorgeous evenings.

But I cannot join them. I cannot talk on the phone, watch television or even listen to lively music.

All I'll be able to do is focus intensely on my receipts, so my CPA can file my tax return by Oct. 17.

So enjoy your hot toddies, my friends who didn't file an extension this year.

But if you don't hear from me by next Wednesday, please make sure I wasn't crushed to death under my big box of receipts.

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

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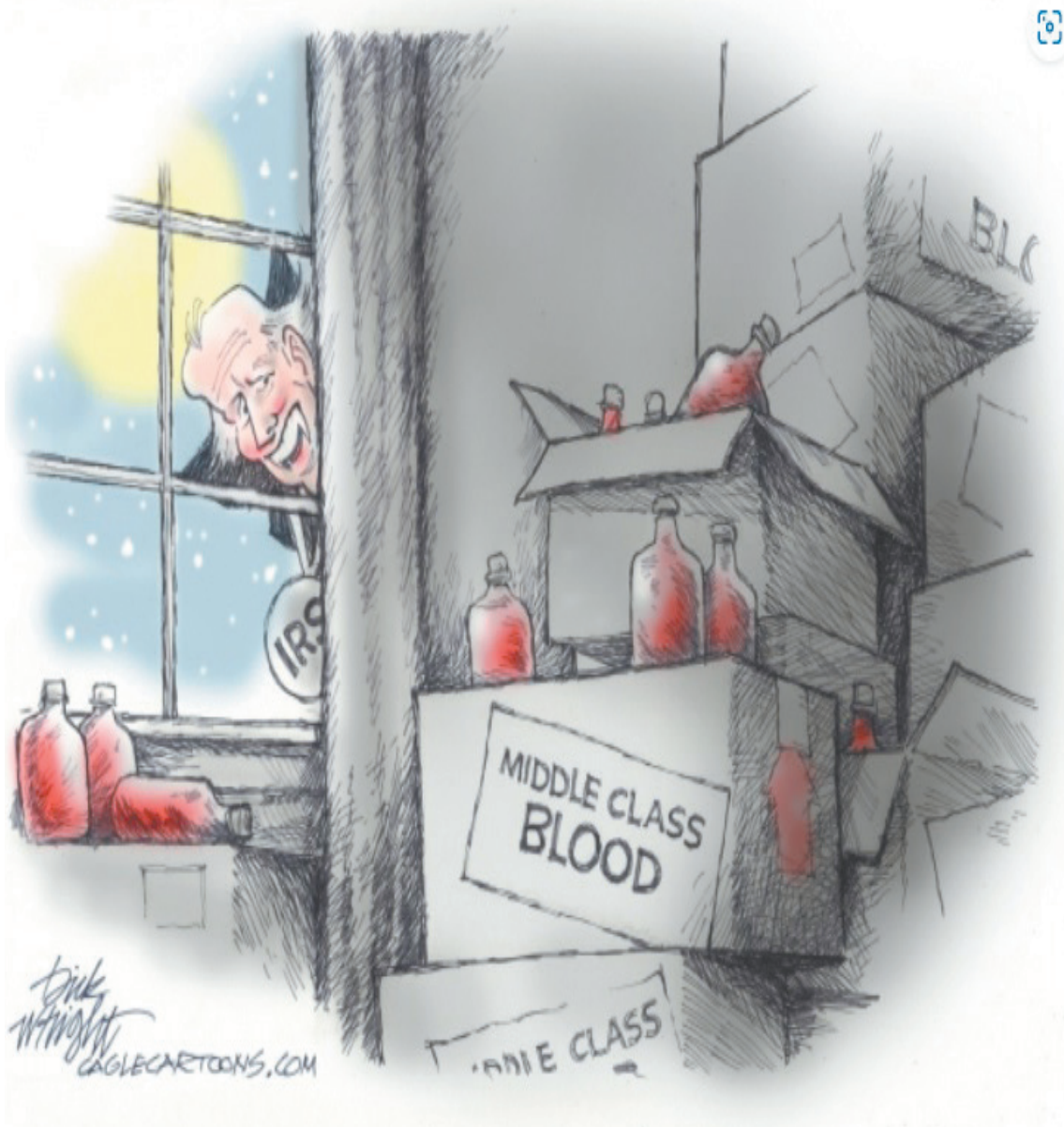
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TRIBUTES

Sharron Kay Purbaugh Janota was born December 7, 1940, in Lincoln, Nebraska, the second of four children to parents Maurice and Mable Purbaugh. She died peacefully in her sleep in Katy, Texas at the home she shared with Ed, her husband of 58 years, on September 7, 2022, at the age of 81.

A beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Sharron was a resident of Katy for 47 years, and is perhaps best known in the Katy community as the owner and operator of Janota Art and Frame, a picture framing shop that served the Katy area for 20 years.

During her life, Sharron was an actress, a singer, an accordion player, a high school English teacher, a painter, an entrepreneur, a successful small business owner, and a voracious reader and lifelong learner, always pursuing one new thread of interest after another, and always looking to deepen her understanding of the world and, especially, the people in it.

Sharron lived her early life in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating from University High School in 1959 where she was a baton-twirling majorette, an award-winning writer on the school newspaper and a member of the Dramatics Club, she attended The University of Nebraska and majored in Speech and English. There, she acted in numerous roles, including as Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

During college, Sharron spent two summers in Estes Park, Colorado participating in the summer stock theatre program at the Dark Horse Theatre. After graduating, she began teaching high school English at East High School in Denver.



SHARRON KAY PURBAUGH JANOTA
1940-2022

Sharron met Eddie Janota, the love of her life, in 1963 after flirting with him from her little white Austin Healy Sprite on the freeway between Lincoln and Denver. She followed him when he pulled off for gas and waved him over from the side of the freeway. They were married SIX WEEKS later in Denver on December 3, 1963. They remained in love and devoted for life, "laughing with and at each other" (Ed's words) for 58 years.

In 1975, Sharron and Ed and their three young daughters settled permanently in Katy. Sharron started several successful businesses: one as a cake decorator, and one cleaning new-construction homes. It was around this time that she took an oil painting class and discovered a latent talent. She eventually transitioned to watercolors and began selling her trademark iris paintings all over the Katy area and at art shows around the country.

Painting eventually led to an interest in picture framing, and in 1989, when the crafts store she had been managing shut its doors, Sharron jumped on the opportu-

nity to purchase all of the picture framing equipment and opened Janota Art and Frame, which she operated until her retirement in 2009.

Sharron could talk to anyone, anywhere, anytime. She was a laid-back and accepting person, and she gravitated toward interesting and unusual people and ideas: other artists like herself, actors, painters, performers. She was a phenomenal listener, full of wise advice, delivered with warmth and generosity. Sharron will be remembered by all who knew and loved her as intelligent, funny, supportive, gentle, encouraging, cute as a button, and a little bit sassy. And, in her children's totally unbiased opinion, **THE BEST MOM IN THE UNIVERSE.**

Sharron is preceded in death by her mother Mable Dappen Purbaugh, father Maurice Purbaugh, and nephew Scott Pierce.

She is survived by her husband Ed Janota Jr., daughter Christine Janota, daughter Cathy Sheridan and her husband Tony Sheridan, daughter Amy Janota and her husband Gary Ennis; grandchildren Lucas Sheridan, Samantha Sheridan and her fiancé Raymond Silva, Allison Taube and her fiancé Michael Falsone, Austin Merritt, Milo Ennis, and Finn Ennis; great-grandchildren Mia Silva and Cruz Silva; sister Nadine Pierce and her husband Dick Pierce, sister Linda Wilson and her husband Jack Tarr, brother Tom Purbaugh and his wife Karen; former sons-in-law Chad Merritt and Gary Taube, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The celebration of Sharron's life is ongoing among those who loved her, with arrangements for an official gathering in the planning stages.

Dorothy Geneva Calhoun passed away on September 18, 2022, at the age of 98 years. She was born on July 20, 1924, in Ennis, Texas, to James Jackson Baker and Viola Hulcy Baker. On June 28, 1944, she married Philo "Shorty" Calhoun, Jr., and had three children from this union, Terry, Toni, and Vicki. Dorothy lived in several cities throughout Texas including Elliott, Dallas, Waco, and Hearne, before settling in Katy in 1966. She resided in Katy for the next 47 years where she was employed for many years at Heine's Custom Draperies. She spent her last 10 years living with her daughter Toni in Kingwood. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother who treasured the time spent with her family and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her daughters, Toni Heidler and Vicki Shackelford; grandchildren, Brian (Traci) Calhoun, Tracy (Will) Wilson, Aron Crumpler and Evan (Myra) Shackelford; great grandchildren, Klaire and Kade Calhoun, Charles Wilson, Kelsey and Corie Heidler, and Mackenzie, Kellen and Khari Shackelford. She is preceded in death by her husband, Philo "Shorty"



DOROTHY CALHOUN
1924-2022

Calhoun, Jr.; son, Terry Calhoun; grandson, Cory Heidler; brother, James Baker, Jr.; and sister, Janyce Singletary.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy, where funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Adam Jungeblut officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Funeral services held under the direction of **Schmidt Funeral Home**
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FOR ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES, PLEASE SEE PAGE A3

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wendy Duncan stepping down as Willow Fork Drainage District director

Wendy Duncan, who has served as president and director at the Willow Fork Drainage District, has resigned her post to join Inframark, the district's water operator. To hold both roles, she said, would be a conflict of interest.



WENDY DUNCAN

Duncan has been active with the district since 2017, according to her LinkedIn profile.

District directors appointed Sarah Marple Hubbell to succeed Duncan.

Katy Heritage Society reelects officers, seeks sponsors for vintage carnival

Katy Heritage Society members renominated its slate of officers, who faced no opposition for reelection. Officers include Adrienne Davitz, president; Linda Mikeska, vice president; Marilyn Frishman, secretary; Myra Jones, treasurer, and Diane Walker, parliamentarian.

Their terms of office end at the end of 2022. Their new terms, which begin at the start of 2023, are for two years.

The society announced it has space for five more companies or families to provide a fun carnival game and has three more sponsorship opportunities available for its Oct. 22 vintage carnival. For more information, contact the society at KatyHeritageSociety@outlook.com.

Cinco Ranch Branch Library to present programs to help prepare for the holidays

The Fort Bend County Libraries' Cinco Ranch Branch Library will present two programs in October to start off the fall and winter holidays.

"Professional Holiday Portraits on a Budget" will take place on from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Oct. 1 in the meeting room of the library.

Learn how to take professional-looking holiday portraits with lighting equipment commonly found around one's house or garage. Hands-on demonstrations will be provided during the presentation, using both a digital SLR camera and an iPhone camera. Professional photographer Bryan Bankston, who specializes in creative-lighting techniques, will be the presenter.

"Harvest-Themed Watercolor Greeting Cards" will take place on from 2-3 p.m. in the conference room of the library.

Get tips on how to make beautiful, personalized greeting cards with watercolor paint. Materials for this class are provided courtesy of the Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library. Reservations are required.

The programs are free and open to the public. For more information, or to register for the Watercolor Greeting Card class, visit the website fortbend.lib.tx.us, click on "Classes & Events," select "Cinco Ranch Branch Library," and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-395-1311, or by visiting the library.

Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce presents Battle of the Businesses bowling tournament Oct. 3

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce presents its sixth annual Battle of the Businesses Bowling Tournament, which



State Rep. Mike Schofield, whose district includes the Harris County portion of Katy, opened his new district office Thursday at 22910 Colonial Parkway, which is on the ground floor of the new Houston Community College building. Here he poses with Shelby Day, a Special Olympics athlete and advocate.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER



FORT BEND JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE

Members of the Fort Bend Junior Service League, pictured, will be staging the league's annual Sugar Plum Market, which features a preview night Nov. 2.



FORT BEND JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE

From left, Maddy Xiong, Kathryn Reynolds, Leeah Chang, Anshumi Jhaveri, Arshia Verma and Urva Patel were recipients of the 2021-2022 Volunteer Scholarships awarded by the Fort Bend Junior Service League.

serves as a chance not only to show off one's bowling skills, but a chance to network with fellow professionals in the Fulshear Katy area.

The tournament is from 12-4 p.m. Oct. 3 at Main Event, 24401 Katy Fwy.

For more information, contact the chamber at 832-600-3221. To purchase tickets, visit the website mms.fulshearkaty.com/members/evr/reg_event.php.

Fort Bend Junior Service League accepting scholarship applications

The Fort Bend Junior Service League said it is accepting applications for its annual Scholarship Awards for the 2022-2023 academic year. Each year, the league may award up to six \$1,000 Volunteer Scholarships and one \$2,000 New Beginnings Scholarship.

The Volunteer Scholarships are awarded to female high school seniors in Fort Bend County who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in volunteerism and community service and plan to attend an accredited college or university.

The New Beginnings Scholarship is of-

fered to assist Fort Bend County women with established financial needs who have been accepted into an accredited college, university, or vocational school after taking a break in their education.

For more information and to apply, visit the league website at fbjsl.org. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 1, 2023.

Sugar Plum Market "Jingle's All the Way" to an exclusive preview night

The 2022 Sugar Plum Market, hosted by the Fort Bend Junior Service League and presented by Memorial Hermann Sugar Land, will kick off the holiday season this year at the Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Center with an exclusive preview night Nov. 2.

Patrons to this exclusive VIP event garner early access to 100+ curated vendors before doors open to the general public. Preview night attendees will enjoy hearty bites of comforting cuisine from Behind the Bash Catering, Sweet Treats, Friendly Bar Service, and an exclusive Jewelry Pull and Pop-Up

Shop from Kendra Scott First Colony Mall. Preview night tickets are available at sugarplummarket.com for \$75 and include one complimentary drink ticket and a unique shopping bag.

The Sugar Plum Market opens its doors to the public from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Nov. 4 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 5.

Pre-sale general admission tickets are available online for \$12. General admission tickets will also be available at the box office starting Nov. 3 for \$15. Valet parking is available for \$15, as well as free general parking.

New this year, Sugar Plum Market will have stroller hours on regular market days from 1 p.m. to close.

The Sugar Plum Market benefit local charities serving Fort Bend County. Over the past 21 years, the Sugar Plum Market has donated over \$3.6 million.

For more information, including sponsorship and ticket information, visit the website sugarplummarket.com.

—CONTRIBUTED AND STAFF REPORTS

BOOKS

from page A1

don't believe children should be making decisions of this magnitude for other children."

Fox said she spoke with four area school districts — Cy-Fair, Fort Bend, Lamar CISD and Spring Branch — and was told they do not use students on such committees.

"It's a dealbreaker for me if students are on the committee," Fox said.

Trustee Victor Perez also opposed having students on the challenge committee.

"To me, this is about parental rights," Perez said. "It dilutes the voice of the parents."

Perez said that he, like Fox, has spoken informally with other school districts about

the policy.

"It's not even on the radar," Perez said.

Fox and Perez, along with trustees Dawn Champagne and Lance Redmon voted against student representation on the panel. Wilson, along with trustees Greg Schulte and Ashley Vann, voted for keeping student representation.

A district spokesman said the policy is expected to be posted on the district website in the next few days.

The district keeps a list of books it has removed from shelves on its website, the URL for which is katyisd.org/Page/4311.

ARREST

from page A1

uties arrested Jackson and charged him with Terrorist Threat—a Class B misdemeanor.

Jackson is in custody at the Fort Bend County Jail on a \$5,000 bond.

"We have zero tolerance when it comes to the safety of our citizens and visitors," Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said. "If anyone has any suspicions concerning someone making a threat of any kind, report it to local law enforcement immediately."

The arrest came after the sheriff's office said, earlier in the week, that it would be patrolling the fairground every day of the fair, which runs through Oct. 2.

Common occurrences at the fair are



JAVON OTIS JACKSON

theft, a lost child, or a fight. Fagan said everyone must do their part to make this year's fair a safe, fun, and secure one.

"It's easy for children to get separated from their parents, so keep an eye on your children. Have a designated checkpoint in case you get separated and know where the "lost child" center is located," Fagan said. "The fair midway can get crowded and become a haven for pickpocketing thieves, so be aware of your surroundings. And remember, if you see anything that's suspicious, say something. If it's an emergency, call 911. Our deputies will be there to help you."

Sheriff's deputies have helped with traffic control and will be available to anyone who needs assistance.

"Our deputies will peruse the fairground throughout each day of the fair," Fagan said. "We will be here for our citizens and visitors as always."

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cell 914-522-4612 or susan.rovegno@katytimes.com

Katy Times

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Royal ISD hosts its Invitational Cross Country meet

Royal ISD hosted its Invitational Cross Country Meet Sept. 9. Royal ISD student athletes placed as follows:

Overall

- Miguel Hernandez—3rd
- Kevin Martinez—4th
- Eric Hernandez—6th

Girls' JV Division

- Monica Hernandez—1st overall
- Angie Cisneros—3rd overall
- Kimberly Arriaga—10th overall
- Arely Reyes—12th overall

IV Boys' Division

- Jake Pistor—3rd overall

Royal ISD Falcon Stadium to get new scoreboard and stadium lights

Four local businesses—Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, Grundfos, HDH Instruments and Hemi Hideout—have teamed up to purchase a new scoreboard for Royal ISD's Falcon Stadium. The new scoreboard is expected to be installed and operational by Sept. 30.

Royal ISD FFA members participating in Waller County Fair

Royal ISD FFA members are participating in the 77th Annual Waller County Fair, which began last Friday.

Students begin acquiring projects for the fair last spring and have been preparing their animals for success. Royal ISD exhibitors for the Waller County Fair include:

Steer

- Porter Jacob
- Elyssa Pruner
- Kinleigh Guidry

Heifer

- Raelee Hacke
- Callie Hacke
- Rory Melton (2 Head)
- Averi Ronzey (2 Head)

- Porter Jacob
- Presley Jacob (2 Head)
- Litzie Gonzalez
- Kaelyn Hein
- Cynthia Rivera
- Jaycee Estep
- Ava Seward
- Kiara Jones
- Danielle Jones
- Tessa Clingenpeel
- Kevin Weatherford
- Brianna Diezi
- Kaylee Meader (2 Head)
- Kaylie Marmolejo

Swine

- Lauren Hillsman
- Victoria Miller
- Tania Ramirez
- Angie Ramirez
- Bryce Archer
- Noe Arriaga
- Anthony Aranda
- Leonardo Ruedas
- Rory Melton
- Kinleigh Guidry
- Shelby Woods
- Kinleigh Guidry
- Ekon Ferro
- Briana Diezi
- Rafael Marmolejo
- Deysi Rivera
- Oscar Rivera

Goats

- Jeremy Danz
- Jaylyn Danz
- Elizabeth Ibarra
- Jovanni Ibarra
- Karl Vahalik
- Evelyn Vahalik
- Maddie Meader
- Kaylee Meader
- Maria Gomez
- Ekon Ferro
- Helena Ferro
- Ramiro Ferro

Rabbits

- Shelby Woods

Lamb

- Vanessa Garcia

Commercial Heifers

- Rory Melton

Creative Living

- Raelee Hacke
- Daniel Sanchez
- Georgia Vahalik

— CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



Royal ISD hosted its Invitational Cross Country Meet Sept. 9.



PHOTOS BY ROYAL ISD

Royal ISD welcomed former and current students and community members to their 2022 Homecoming game on Sept. 16, where the Falcons posted a 34-28 win over Fort Bend Willowridge. The team enters district play with a 4-0 record. Other Homecoming festivities included spirit week, a pep rally, parade, tailgating, and a dance. Congratulations to Falcon Homecoming King Aldo Celestino and Queen Lizbeth Diaz.



Above: A rendering of the new scoreboard for Royal ISD's Falcon Stadium. Four local companies joined together to provide the funding. Left: Royal Falcon Jeremiah Robinson received a football scholarship offer from Texas Southern University.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 287 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 12:00 noon, at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 7702 Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: F. Sheehy, C. Pacioni, A. Juarez & A. Secor

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: (none)

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

	Last Year \$ 1.090 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 1.000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.090 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-8.2569%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$227,428	\$252,281
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$227,428	\$252,281
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,478.97	\$2,522.81
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$43.84 1.7685%

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.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Utility District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Jackrabbit Road Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant, 16720 Pine Forest Lane, Houston, TX 77084. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: R. L. Watkins, J. J. Sugg, D. Durgin, A. Grzanka & R. W. Schmitz

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: (none)

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

	Last Year \$ 0.1779 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.23500 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.057 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		32.0967%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$178,388	\$198,958
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	-\$35,678	-\$39,792
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$142,710	\$159,166
Tax on average residence homestead	\$253.88	\$374.04
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$120.16 47.33%

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 purpose for the tax increase is to pay debt service requirements and operations and maintenance of the utility district.

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.



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WEEK OF SEPT. 30

SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Scores

- Morton Ranch 77, Cinco Ranch 63
- Katy 59, Mayde Creek 3
- Jordan 41, Paetow 13
- Tompkins 49, Seven Lakes 14

Thursday

- Tompkins vs. Taylor, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Katy vs. Jordan, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch, 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Friday

- Tompkins vs. Cinco Ranch, 4:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Paetow, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

TENNIS

Friday

- Morton Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 2 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Katy, 3 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Jordan, 3:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Paetow, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

CROSS COUNTRY

Thursday

- Seven Lakes at Montgomery meet, 6 p.m.

Friday

- Katy at Lone Star College meet, 8 a.m.

Saturday

- Cinco Ranch, Jordan, Mayde Creek, Morton Ranch, Paetow and Tompkins at Bear Branch meet, 7 a.m.

Paetow's Hicks to announce commitment Wednesday

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

DJ Hicks has spent a lot of time figuring out his next steps.

The defensive lineman has been a prized recruit for years, becoming one of the top players in the class of 2023 in the nation and garnering offers from some of the nation's best schools.

The Paetow senior has accumulated 39 offers, but has remained patient over the course of his high school career and dwindled down the list to find his collegiate home.

Now on Wednesday, Hicks will make his commitment, choosing from his list of top seven schools to decide where he will spend his collegiate career.

"It's pretty exciting," Hicks said. "I'm just excited for it to be here, to commit early and decide my future and let people know where I'm going to go."

See **HICKS**, page B3



Jordan's Andrew Marsh takes a reception for a touchdown during Friday's game between Jordan and Paetow at Rhodes Stadium.

Jordan continues to prove itself with huge victory over Paetow

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan knew they belonged among the big dogs in District 19-6A.

Even if others didn't believe, they did, and the Warriors knew that they have what it takes to compete with teams for a playoff spot.

The Warriors (3-1, 2-0) started the season with impressive performances and have shown that they are a talented team, but they took things up a notch on Friday with their biggest win of the season, beating Paetow (3-2, 2-1), the reigning Class 5A-Division I champions 41-13 and staying unbeaten in district in the process.

"We knew what people thought of us — they wanted us to be underdogs," said junior quarterback Colin Willetts. "We had a bye week heading into this and we just spent every day getting ready and preparing. We had a great gameplan tonight and we came out and executed it. It was a great performance and exactly what we expected out of ourselves."

Jordan did it just as they have all season, with a strong defense and a smart, efficient offense that took advantage of every opportunity they were given.

See **JORDAN**, page B3



PHOTOS BY LAURA MCCULLOUGH | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Jordan's Chad Gasper breaks a tackle during Friday's game between Jordan and Paetow at Rhodes Stadium.



MARK GOODMAN

Morton Ranch Santana Scott carries the ball during a conference game between Katy and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium in Katy last year.

Mavericks outlast Cinco in offensive slugfest

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Morton Ranch came into this week with a sense of determination.

The Mavericks had competed with Paetow and they had competed with Katy to open district play, but ultimately fell short in both matchups. People had told them they played well, to be proud of competing and being able to keep with two good teams like Katy and Paetow, but for the Mavericks, that fact was not enough.

See **RANCH**, page B5



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WEEK 6 KATY ISD PREVIEWS

Undefeated Katy, Jordan prepare to face off

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

*All Games District 19-6A

THURSDAY

Taylor (2-2, 1-1) vs. Tompkins (3-2, 1-2), 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Tompkins 52, Taylor 7

Taylor and Tompkins kick off the week for District 19-6A on Thursday in a game where both teams are in need of wins as they continue to push to stay in the playoff race.

Tompkins had a huge week, bouncing back after two straight losses with a re-sounding 49-14 win over Seven Lakes for the Falcons' first district win of the year.

It was much needed for the Falcons and they did it behind a huge performance from Wyatt Young and a dominant defense that took the team's loss to Cinco Ranch personally the previous week.

The Tompkins defense completely shut down Seven Lakes all night, limiting the Spartans to barely over 150 yards in the game and keeping Seven Lakes from ever having momentum in the game, while also coming away with an interception, forcing turnovers and stopping Seven Lakes even when they didn't.

Offensively, Wyatt Young had a very strong day passing and running the ball, while the Tompkins run game kept was very strong behind Young, Caleb Blocker and Caleb Komolafe. That combo will be key the rest of the way as they look to lead the Tompkins offense and push towards the playoffs.

Taylor comes off a bye week, but got its biggest win of the season in the previous week as the Mustangs also played Seven Lakes and came away with a win.

Joe Jefferson was everywhere for Taylor on the day. The senior quarterback passed for 208 yards while also leading the way on the ground with 123 yards rushing. Dante Archie was also huge for Taylor, rushing for 51 yards and having 77 yards receiving to go with three touchdowns, as the Mustangs overcame a 21 point deficit to beat Seven Lakes for their first district win.

The Mustangs defense was great in the second half comeback but did struggle at times, giving up 270 yards through the air and over 300 yards overall.

Taylor's defense will have to have a great game for four quarters and shut down Tompkins run game if they are to compete in the matchup while the offense will need to control the clock and keep the Tompkins offense off the field. For Tompkins, the Falcons will look to build off what they were able to do last week, dominating on defense and on the ground offensively and using the pass game off of that.

Katy (5-0, 3-0) vs. Jordan (3-1, 2-0) 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Did not play

The last two undefeated teams in district meet this week with the winner coming out as the leader in the district pack the rest of the way, with Katy, the district power and the Jordan, the newcomer, facing off.

Katy comes off its biggest game of the season against Mayde Creek and seems to be finding that second gear as we near the midpoint of the district schedule.

Katy came away 59-3 winners over the Rams, behind a huge defensive performance from the Tigers and another balanced game on the ground.

Seth Davis and Dallas Glass were both huge in the run game and Davis became the fourth Katy Tiger to reach the 5,000 yard mark in rushing for his career in the win. Davis now only trails Aundre Dean, Deondrick Glass and Rodney Anderson in career rushing yards at Katy.

The Katy defense was fantastic in the win, allowing just three points in the game and 12 yards on the round for the night and only 101 yards in the air also forcing a turnover, with Mayde Creek's longest play being only 39 yards on the night. The Tigers are now the last remaining team to be unbeaten for the entire season in District 19-6A after five



Katy's Chase Johnsey catches a pass during Saturday's game between Katy and Tompkins at Legacy Stadium.

RAMS REYNA | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

DISTRICT 19-6A STANDINGS

	Team	W	L	District W	District L	District PF	District PA
1	Katy	5	0	3	0	114	36
2	Jordan	3	1	2	0	83	28
3*	Cinco Ranch	3	2	2	1	154	119
3*	Paetow	3	2	2	1	89	87
5	Taylor	2	2	1	1	63	77
6*	Tompkins	3	2	1	2	76	70
6*	Morton Ranch	3	2	1	2	126	138
8	Seven Lakes	0	4	0	2	42	84
9	Mayde Creek	2	3	0	3	35	114

Jordan comes into the matchup after winning the biggest game in the program's history, dispatching Paetow last week to move to 2-0 in district play.

It was the defense that led the way for Jordan, limiting Paetow all night and not allowing the Panthers to get into a rhythm at any point, holding Paetow to 50 yards on the ground and 159 through the air, with most of those air yards coming once the game was out of reach.

The Jordan offense, as it has been all season, was efficient and led by junior quarterback Colin Willetts, who threw for 176 yards and three touchdowns. The Warriors' skill position players - Andrew Marsh at Zechariah Sample at receiver and Chad Gasper at running back - provide plenty of weapons for the Jordan offense. The run game had a good balance for Jordan as well, as Gasper ran for 93 yards and the Warriors had 115 yards on the ground in total.

But as everyone knows, Katy is a different beast, especially for a program like Jordan that hasn't had the experience of playing against the Tigers. Jordan will have to keep its composure and play its toughest, most hard nosed game for the year if they are to have a chance. While Katy will need to continue what has given it success all year, pounding the ball offensively and limiting big plays on defense, as Jordan has a tendency to rip off long plays, especially in the pass game.

FRIDAY

Cinco Ranch (3-2, 2-1) vs. Mayde Creek (2-3, 0-3), 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Last year: Cinco Ranch 45, Mayde Creek 14

Cinco Ranch comes off a shock loss to Morton Ranch and will be angry heading

The Cougars did everything they could offensively in the game, but couldn't put together any stops defensively to come away with the win, as the game ended with over 1,200 yards of total offense.

Gavin Rutherford was his usual excellent self, passing for 464 yards and five scores while also running in two touchdowns and Seth Salverino and Noah Abboud were also excellent, going for 228 yards receiving and 131 yards receiving. But the run game struggled for Cinco all night, gaining just 96 yards, and the defense was unable to put together any stops, as Morton Ranch dominated on the ground and was efficient and strong in the pass game as well without turning the ball over once throughout the entire night.

The offense has been there for Cinco the entire season, but the defense has only shown up in spurts. Just the week before, the defense put together a terrific performance against Tompkins, as Cinco looked like a challenger in district, but it did not look like the same defense in the game against Morton Ranch, and Cinco will need to find a way to get them to play at a high level again.

Mayde Creek meanwhile has continued to struggle through district play, falling to 0-3 against District 19-6A opponents last week with a loss to Katy.

The Rams only mustered three points facing a team that was determined to stay unbeaten on the year. Reggie McNeal Jr. completed seven out of 16 passes for the Rams but also threw an interception, while Cardell Beard went two of six through the air.

The Rams also only rushed for 12 yards in the game, with Jerimiah Hill leading the team with 19 yards on the game.

The Rams' offense and defense will need

to be at a higher level to compete against Cinco and they will try to be better especially against the run game.

Cinco meanwhile will be hoping to clean some things up defensively and come away with a win after last week's loss while using the run game more than they did in the loss where they fell behind to Morton Ranch.

Seven Lakes (0-4, 0-2) vs. Morton Ranch (3-2, 1-2), 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Seven Lakes 21, Morton Ranch 18

Morton Ranch and Seven Lakes clash with each other in a game where the teams are on opposite ends of the spectrum heading into the week.

Morton Ranch comes off its biggest win of the year after an offensive explosion against Cinco Ranch where they came away with a victory.

Josh Johnson and Santana Scott again starred for the team. Scott rushed for 219 yards and had 86 receiving yards while coming away with five touchdowns. Meanwhile Johnson threw for 243 yards, rushed for 53 yards and made a number of clutch plays to help lead the Mavericks to an extremely important win after they had started district play 0-2 against two very tough opponents.

Seven Lakes, on the other hand, continues to falter and is still in search of its first win this year.

The Spartans come off a very tough loss to Tompkins in which they scored only 14 points and struggled to move the ball both on the ground and the air.

Tanner Perez passed for just 83 yards and threw an interception, while Jake Farris couldn't get anything going, finishing with 42 yards on the ground. Marcel Davis did finish with 44 yards receiving and also threw a touchdown pass to Evan Tomalty.

But the defense for Seven Lakes struggled mightily, giving up 49 points and not being able to slow down the Falcons in either the run or pass game.

That challenge will not get any easier this week either with Morton Ranch's high powered offense and the Spartans will have to try to hone in on the Mavericks run game while also pounding the ball on the ground themselves, while Morton Ranch will try to continue its offensive success and build to another district win.

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HICKS

from page B1

A five star recruit and ranked as the top defensive lineman recruit in the nation, Hicks will choose from a list that includes the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Alabama, the University of Oregon, the University of Miami, and Michigan State University as he makes his final decision.

The commitment will be broadcast live on ESPN at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The senior has already had a huge start to his senior year and will look to keep that going, but he is excited to get to this point and finally enjoy a moment after all of his hard work.

"It feels really good to be able to do this," Hicks said. It's like a pressure release for me. It's been a hectic recruiting process but it's been a fun process at the same time, I've just been trying to have fun with it and enjoy it."

Paetow's DJ Hicks closes in on a Conroe ball-carrier to make a tackle.

KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Jordan's Colin Willetts runs the ball upfield during Friday's game between Jordan and Paetow at Rhodes Stadium.

LAURA MCCULLOUGH | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

JORDAN

from page B1

The Warriors may be the new kids on the block, but they showed no fear in the game.

"I didn't sense one bit of nerves this week, and it honestly surprised me a bit," said Jordan head coach Mike Rabe. "You would think that as a young football team, an inexperienced team, that there would be some jitters, but these guys just prepare so well and there was none of that. They were ready and it showed."

Jordan came out and immediately made a statement, marching down the field on the games opening drive and scored on a 25-yard pass from Colin Willetts to Andrew Marsh.

Jordan got the ball back but Paetow's defense made a huge play, forcing a fumble and recovering in Jordan territory, setting up Paetow for its only score of the night, as Koby Truehill tied the game on a 17-yard touchdown pass to Jabari Bush. But Jordan came right back and scored a touchdown early in the second quarter on a 2-yard run from Kanaan Ibarra and took a 14-7 lead into the half.

"We knew this was our game going into halftime," Willetts said. "We went into halftime up seven and got the ball to start the second half and we knew, we just have to take care of business from here on out to get the win."

And take care of business is exactly what the Warriors did. They came out and scored on their opening drive of the second half with a 64-yard touchdown pass from Willetts to Zechariah Sample before Nicholas Olinger got a defensive score on an interception return for a touchdown, to bring things to a three score lead.

Willetts added another touchdown in the fourth quarter on an 18-yard pass to Connor Babin before Chad Gasper sealed things on a 34-yard run.

Paetow got one score back but it came on the last play of the game, as Brock Nichols threw the first touchdown pass of his varsity career on the last play of the game.

Jordan's defense was huge on the night, holding Paetow to just over 200 yards of offense and only 50 yards rushing, and they shut down the Warriors shut down everything Paetow attempted on the night.

"We understood that they have a lot of good offensive players — the quarterback has a strong arm, their running back is good and they have a really big offensive line," said senior defensive lineman Tosin Odulate. "We knew that we had to shut down the run and keep them in the pass game and that's what we were able to do. We were able to stop the run and keep them off their game all night."

Jordan is now one of only two teams in District 19-6A to be unbeaten against district

JORDAN 41, PAETOW 13

Paetow	7	0	0	6	--	13
Jordan	7	7	13	14	--	41

First quarter

J: Colin Willetts 25 pass to Andrew Marsh (Jake Kilander kick) 8:23
P: Koby Truehill 17 pass to Jabari Bush (Gabriel Schaeffer kick) 0:44

Second quarter

J: Kanaan Ibarra 2 run (Kilander kick) 11:19

Third quarter

J: Willetts 64 pass to Zechariah Sample (Kilander kick) 10:19
J: Nicholas Olinger 26 interception return, 8:30

Fourth quarter

J: Willetts 18 pass to Connor Babin (Kilander kick) 11:11
J: Chad Gasper 34 run (Kilander kick) 6:02
P: Brock Nichols 11 pass to Jamarius Bates, 0:00

Team stats

	PAETOW	JORDAN
First downs	11	10
Yards rushing	26-50	25-115
Yards passing	159	176
Passes	16-47-2-1	11-18-3-0
Punts	5-32	4-36
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Penalty-yards	2-7	5-30

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Jordan: Chad Gasper, 16-93-1; Kanaan Ibarra, 5-12-1; Colin Willetts, 1-9; Zechariah Sample, 1-(-2); Paetow: Jamarius Bates, 4-22; Damyron Phillips, 8-17; Brock Nichols, 4-8; Koby Truehill, 7-5; Alex Kilgore, 1-1; VanKeith Brown, 1-1; Derrick Johnson, 1-(-4)

Passing – Jordan: Colin Willetts, 11-18-3-0; Paetow: Brock Nichols, 7-31-95-1-0; Koby Truehill, 8-15-59-1-1; Jabari Bush, 1-1-5-0-0;

Receiving – Jordan: Zechariah Sample, 4-95-1; Andrew Marsh, 3-44-1; Connor Babin, 2-27-1; Chad Gasper, 1-9; Deacon Stanfield, 1-1; Paetow: Jason Blue, 4-49; Jabari Bush, 4-45-1; VanKeith Brown, 3-30; Saymon Taylor, 2-19; Jamarius Bates, 1-11-1; Koby Truehill, 1-5; Damyron Phillips, 1-0;

opponents, along with Katy, and after next week that number will trim to just one school, as the Tigers and Warriors are set to face off with first place in district on the line.

"These kids have taken football seriously since the day they stepped foot on campus," Rabe said. "They wanted to be good and prove they could compete in this district once they got here. Now they're doing it and that's just awesome as a coach."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 11:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Brazos Conference Room, Houston, TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: R. Hudson, V. Brown, A. Wiggins, W. Skelton & D. Moon

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: (none)

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.300 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.275 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.025 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-8.3333%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$452,268	\$509,161
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$452,268	\$509,161
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,356.80	\$ 1,400.19
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$43.39 3.1980%

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.

LOOKING FOR A PET, A HOME OR A JOB?
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RANCH

from page B1

The Mavericks had one thing on their mind heading into this week — beat Cinco Ranch.

That message permeated throughout the entire program. Morton Ranch knows they have a roster that can compete for and potentially make the playoffs, they know that they have what it takes to beat good teams, and they knew that a win against Cinco Ranch would be huge in boosting those playoff chances.

And the Mavericks (3-2, 1-2) came out and did everything in their power to get that win and succeeded, outlasting Cinco (3-2, 2-1) in a crazy shootout, 77-63, and notching their first district win of the year.

"I only told those guys on offense one thing before the game," said Morton Ranch head coach Ron Counter. "I told them 'plus one,' we needed to end the night plus one in points. Whatever Cinco ended at, we didn't care, we just needed plus one what they had. They did even better than that, they did better than plus one and it got us the win."

It was an offensive explosion for Morton Ranch. Senior quarterback Josh Johnson had six touchdowns while passing for 243 yards and rushing for 53 more yards. And Johnson wasn't the only one that led the Morton Ranch offense, as senior running back Santana Scott ran for 219 yards while having 86 yards receiving and also scoring six touchdowns in the win.

"At the beginning of the game, we had a gameplan that we knew we had to execute flawlessly the whole night and we were able to do that," Scott said. "We knew that we needed one more point than them just like coach said and every time we had the ball we just took that approach. We knew we had to score every time we had the ball and keep Cinco behind."

Scott opened the scoring in the first quarter before Cinco Ranch quarterback Gavin Rutherford answered back

"He's a fantastic player. Cinco have had some really good ones, but he's definitely in the top two or three ever at Cinco."

—Morton Ranch head coach Ron Counter on Cinco Ranch's Gavin Rutherford

with a touchdown of his own.

The Mavericks and Cougars traded scores back and forth until eventually Morton Ranch led 21-13 at the end of the first quarter.

Rutherford though quickly tied things up in the second quarter though with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Noah Abboud, and the teams traded scores twice more before Rutherford tied the game at the end of the half on a 5-yard pass to Sam McKnight.

"I had confidence in all my guys," Johnson said. "My lineman, my receivers — I know I'll get enough time back there and when I throw the ball, it's going to be caught and they are going to go score. We just did that every single time tonight. Having that confidence coming out there and knowing that we were going to score, it really led us to our success."

The third quarter was the turning point of the game for Morton Ranch. After trading scores to start the half, Johnson put the Mavericks ahead on a 3-yard run and then the Mavericks forced a Cinco fumble defensively. And Morton came down and took a two score lead on a 19-yard pass from Johnson to Scott, making things 56-42.

Cinco tried to get back into it, and scored twice more in the third quarter sandwiched around a 41-yard touchdown pass from Johnson to Scott, but Morton Ranch was not going to be denied in the fourth quarter.

Scott ran in a 20-yard touchdown

early in the fourth quarter and Cinco answered back with just 1:41 left in the game on a Rutherford 1-yard run.

But in the end it was Johnson and Scott once again to seal things, as the seniors connected on a 26-yard touchdown pass play on a fourth down with just 27 seconds left to put the game beyond a doubt.

"Santana and I, we've been playing since second grade, and everything is just second nature to us — we know each other so well," Johnson said. "Having that chemistry is so awesome — we know what we're going to do and how we're going to do. When you have that, not a lot of people can stop you."

The win was a huge one for Morton Ranch, as it got them in the win column in district and gave them a win during the gauntlet the team faced early in district play of Paetow, Katy and Cinco Ranch back to back to back.

But the work isn't done for the Mavericks, as they know how tough it is every week in District 19-6A and they still have lots to do if they want to end a six-year playoff drought.

"We played three teams right off that bat that made playoff runs last year and we didn't get the luck of the draw, but it doesn't matter with this district," Counter said. "You have to go out there every week and be ready to play or whoever you're playing is going to beat you."

***NOTE:** Gavin Rutherford broke his own school record for single game passing yards and total touchdowns on Friday, throwing for 464 yards and scoring seven total touchdowns in the Cinco Ranch loss. Counter heaped praise on the senior signal caller after the game.

"He'll play on Sundays, I really believe that," Counter said. "He's a great kid and they have some great receivers and coaches. I'm just glad I won't ever have to play him again. He's a fantastic player. Cinco has had some really good ones, but he's definitely in the top two or three ever at Cinco."

MORTON RANCH 77, CINCO RANCH 63

C. Ranch 13 22 21 7 -- 63
M. Ranch 21 14 28 14 -- 77

First quarter

MR: Santana Scott 3 run (Angel Rincon kick) 9:48
CR: Gavin Rutherford 11 run, 8:43
MR: Ryan Hall 4 run (Rincon kick) 5:15
CR: Rutherford 43 pass to Seth Salverino (Santiago Taborda kick)
MR: Scott 9 run (Rincon kick) 0:52

Second quarter

CR: Rutherford 5 pass to Noah Abboud (Taborda kick) 11:02
MR: Johnson 36 pass to Mike Gerald (Rincon kick) 8:51
CR: Rutherford 36 pass to Abboud (Taborda kick) 4:33
MR: Johnson 15 run (Rincon kick) 0:47
CR: Rutherford 5 pass to Sam McKnight (Jack McCall run) 0:08

Third quarter

MR: Hall 66 run (Rincon kick) 10:01
McKnight 1 run (Taborda kick) 7:33
MR: Johnson 3 run (Rincon kick) 6:15
MR: Johnson 19 pass to Santana Scott (Rincon kick)
CR: McKnight 7 run (Taborda kick) 1:23
MR: Johnson 41 pass to Scott (Rincon kick) 0:39
CR: Rutherford 39 to Salverino (Taborda kick) 0:00

Fourth quarter

MR: Scott 20 run (Rincon kick) 10:05
CR: Rutherford 1 run (Taborda kick) 1:41
MR: Johnson 26 pass to Scott (Rincon kick) 0:27

Team stats

	C. RANCH	M. RANCH
First downs	19	24
Yards rushing	26-96	51-425
Yards passing	464	243
Passes	25-28-5-1	10-14-4-0
Punts	1-30	0-0
Fumbles-lost	2-2	0-0
Penalty-yards	7-45	3-23

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Morton Ranch: Santana Scott, 29-219-3; Ryan Hall, 16-153-2; Josh Johnson, 6-53-2; Cinco Ranch: Sam McKnight, 7-33-2; Eric Eckstrom, 5-24; Gavin Rutherford 11-21-2; Noah Abboud, 1-(-3)

Passing — Morton Ranch: Josh Johnson, 10-14—243-4; Cinco Ranch: Gavin Rutherford, 25-28-464-5-1;

Receiving — Morton Ranch: Santana Scott, 3-86-3; Mike Gerald, 2-85-1; Cameron Hudson, 4-67; Jairon Davis, 1-5; Cinco Ranch: Seth Salverino, 9-228-2; Noah Abboud, 8-131-2; Sam McKnight, 6-59-1; Fischer Reed, 2-46;



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Katy Times

Texas volleyball coming together with Big 12 play to begin

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Despite 11 new faces on the roster, it hasn't taken Texas volleyball very long to mesh together.

The top-ranked Longhorns closed out non-conference play with a perfect 8-0 record thanks to a 3-1 win over Houston on Thursday and a 3-0 win against High Point on Friday at Gregory Gymnasium.

"The captains did a great job getting everybody to connect in the summer," head coach Jerritt Elliott said. "They made a concerted effort to make sure the freshmen were a part of that. They've all got unique personalities that make people around them better."

Texas started the year with four straight wins over ranked teams, beating No. 7 Ohio State twice on the road, winning its first home match against No. 4 Minnesota and sweeping No. 12 Stanford in California.

The Longhorns have lost just three sets all season and have yet to drop two sets in a single match.

"I'm looking to keep this team united, keep them growing and help them get better today in practice," Elliott said. "We have an immense amount of statistical information to help identify what our best lineups may be."

Elliott has been able to rotate the starting lineups the last couple of games. Back-to-back conference Player of the Year Logan Eggleston didn't play in the win over Denver to allow for more players to see the court.

He said freshman defensive specialist Emma Halter has come in with a fearless attitude, while Bella Bergmark, a transfer from California, has stood out with her blocking ability in the middle of the court.

Senior libero Zoe Fleck, who transferred from UCLA, was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week last week after finishing with 19 digs and tying her season high with seven assists against UC Davis. She finished off the weekend with 16 digs and one service ace in the sweep of Denver.

"Zoe is a connector," Elliott said. "When you have someone that controls the backcourt, not just from a volleyball standpoint but as a communicator, she brings so much trust. She brings an aura that everything is going to be ok."

Texas begins the Big 12 campaign Wednesday at Kansas in a game that was flexed to ESPN2. The first conference game at Gregory Gym is Saturday against Oklahoma, which will feature a reunion of the 2012 National Champion team.

"The Big 12 has had a really good pre-season," Elliott said. "We're excited about it. It's a challenging conference for us. Kansas is a strong team (to start against), and it's a tough gym to play in."



Above: Texas middle blocker Bella Bergmark (5) and Texas opposite side hitter Molly Phillips (15) wait for a serve. Left: The Texas Longhorns celebrate a point during an NCAA volleyball match on September 15, 2022 in Austin, Texas. Texas won, 3-1.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The INTERSTATE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 11:30AM at the office of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Freeway, STE 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal:	James P Ellis, Joe Mattingly, Kevin Atkinson, Michelle Shen
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	James Kennedy

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.37000 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.34250 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.02750 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.43%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$183,913.00	\$204,976.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$36,782.60	\$40,995.20
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$147,130.40	\$163,980.80
Tax on average residence homestead	\$544.38	\$561.63
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$17.25 3.17%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

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

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

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The FRY ROAD M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on October 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the Fry Road M.U.D. District Administration Building, 20111 Saums Road, Katy, TX 77449. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: James Roadarmel, David Buxkamper, James Teal, Marcy Martinez and Michael Kramm

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.39100/\$100 Adopted	\$.36300/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$.02800/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.16%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 169,579	\$ 188,802
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 33,916	\$ 37,760
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 135,663	\$ 151,042
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 530.44	\$ 548.28
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 17.84 3.36%

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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Texans blow third straight second-half lead

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Texans are having a fourth quarter problem.

In all three games the Texans have played this year, they have held a second half lead and have either led or been tied with their opponent in the fourth quarter.

Yet, the Texans hold an 0-2-1 record, and have scored just a grand total of zero points through three fourth quarters and an overtime so far this year.

It's a disturbing trend for Houston, as the team could easily have a 3-0 record and be atop the AFC South through three weeks, but instead sit without a win and in last place in the division.

"It's hard to win football games when you can't finish," said Houston Texans head coach Lovie Smith. "That's the core of it and we have to fix that. Defensively we can't stop the run, we're giving up big plays, and offensively we're turning the ball over and turning it over in the endzone. That kind of stuff really hurts us. We have to sustain drives, we've had our opportunities, we just can't finish."

The biggest problem for the Texans in the fourth quarter has been the offense. Through three games, the Texans are averaging just 3 yards per play in the fourth, and things got to their lowest point on Sunday, when Davis Mills threw an interception with under two minutes left in the game while the Texans and Bears were tied, giving the Bears the ball in the shadow of the Texans endzone and all but handing Chicago the win.

"We have to execute at a higher level," Mills said. "At this point, I don't think we are a team where we can come back from a lot of mistakes if we make them. We just have to execute at a high level from the start. We have to start fast and we have to finish. Winning is learned and we have to feel that as a locker room. We have to play a full game and start building momentum. There's a long season ahead of us and we're ready for it, we just have to take it one week at a time."

Mills has struggled this year but the Texans have been in every game because of a strong running attack and a defense that has held its own against every opponent thus far. But if the Texans are to make strides and improve upon last year, the fourth quarter issues must be fixed, and Davis Mills has to be better in late game situations.

"We've lost three winnable games, three games where we had fourth quarter leads, we could easily be 3-0," Smith said. "Glass



Houston Texans quarterback Davis Mills (10) calls signals before a snap during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on September 11, 2022 in Houston. The game ended in a 20-20 tie after a scoreless overtime period.

half full, is we are close, but the reality is that we still could be far away because these issues have happened three weeks in a row and you can't win that way. Our special teams was good yesterday, but offensively we need more. We didn't convert on four third-and-ones, we had two critical interceptions and if you defensively we have to

be able to stop the run."

The Texans will have a chance to bounce back this week as they face a beaten up Chargers team that comes off a loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars, where the team struggled mightily on both offense and defense. Now the Texans have to do what they did last year and hand the Chargers a loss at NRG

Stadium.

"We're going to keep doing the things we believe in, but we're going to do them better," Smith said. "We believe in things and we're not going to tear that down and start from scratch, but we have to get better at it. We're three games into this 17 game regular season, we just have to keep improving."

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The CORNERSTONES M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on October 17, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at 805 Hidden Canyon Road, Katy, TX 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Morgan Stagg, Michael D. Chittwood and Stephen A. Talecki

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Virginia P. Lester and Lionel A. Garza

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 Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.30000/\$100	\$.27750/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -.02250/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.50%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 313,613	\$ 349,830
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 62,723	\$ 69,966
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 250,890	\$ 279,864
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 752.67	\$ 776.62
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 23.95 3.18%	

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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The MASON CREEK U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on October 12, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mason Creek Community Center, 20201 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX 77450. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Len Forsyth, James G. Hamblet III, Brian C. Connolly, John H. Cameron, and James K. Nordhaus

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.33600/\$100	\$.31200/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -.02400/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.14%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 295,335	\$ 328,787
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 59,067	\$ 65,757
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 236,268	\$ 263,030
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 793.86	\$ 820.65
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 26.79 3.37%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Katy remains lone Katy ISD team in Class 6A rankings

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy remained at No. 5 in the Dave Campbell's Texas Football state rankings for week Six, staying in the same spot after a huge win over Mayde Creek last week.

No other Katy ISD team was ranked this week after another tumultuous week that saw the District 19-6A standings shuffled.

The biggest statewide news in the rankings came with North Shore taking over the top spot in the rankings, usurping Austin Westlake after a 62-0 win over Beaumont United, Westlake fell to No. 2 after a 35-20 win over Lake Travis. Southlake Carroll and Duncanville rounded out the top four.

Rank	School	(Record)	Week 5	Prv
1	Galena Park N. Shore	(4-0)	W	2
2	Austin Westlake	(4-0)	W	1
3	Southlake Carroll	(5-0)	W	3
4	Duncanville	(4-0)	W	4
5	Katy	(5-0)	W	5
6	Denton Guyer	(5-0)	W	6
7	Humble Atascocita	(3-1)	W	7
8	Cibolo Steele	(5-0)	W	8
9	Allen	(4-1)	W	9
10	Dallas Highland Park	(4-0)	Idle	10
11	Arlington Martin	(4-1)	W	11
12	DeSoto	(4-1)	W	12
13	SA Northside Brennan	(3-1)	Idle	13
14	Spring Westfield	(3-1)	W	14
15	Alvin Shadow Creek	(4-0)	W	15
16	Dripping Springs	(4-0)	W	16
17	Austin Vandegriff	(3-1)	Idle	17
18	Prosper	(4-1)	W	18
19	Round Rock	(4-0)	Idle	19
20	Rockwall	(4-1)	W	20
21	Klein Cain	(4-0)	W	21
22	Jersey Village	(4-0)	W	22
23	Klein Collins	(4-0)	W	24
24	Trophy Club Nelson	(5-0)	W	25
25	North Crowley	(5-0)	W	NR

Dropped out: No. 23 Waxahachie



Katy's Adam Jackson celebrates with his teammates after catching a touchdown pass during Friday's game between Katy and Atascocita at Legacy Stadium.

KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Early Detection Starts With Your ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM

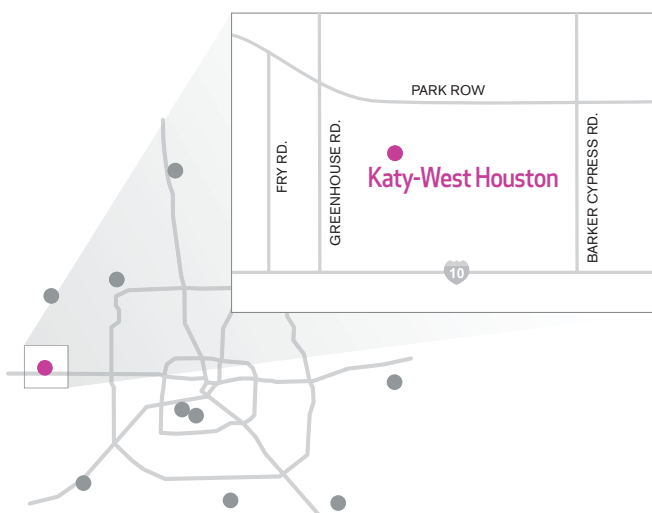
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