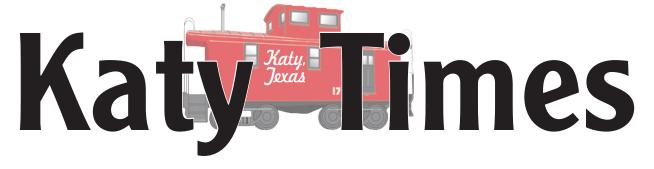
**KATY ISD SCHOOLS RETURN TO GRIDIRON FOR PRACTICE** 

SPORTS | B1



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**VOLUME 111, ISSUE 32** 

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

#### **FORT BEND COUNTY**

# 'Festival of One' celebrates unity and diversity

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Fort Bend County Judge KP George and the Expose Excellence Youth Foundation, led by Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton, announced the inaugural Fort Bend County Festival of One. The free community event will occur on Saturday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the new Fort Bend County Epicenter, located at 28505 Southwest Freeway in Rosenberg. The Festival of One embraces the slogan "Better Together," emphasizing the unity and strength of Fort Bend County.

"We are thrilled for our first 'Festival of One,' a celebration of diversity and unity in Fort Bend County," said Judge KP George. "This event embodies the spirit of 'Better Together,' showcasing our vibrant community's strength and togetherness. I invite everyone to join us on this momentous occasion as we celebrate our rich cultural tapestry and continue to build a promising future for Fort Bend County."

The Festival of One offers an immersive and diverse experience for families and individuals, live entertainment, face painting, bounce houses, cultural henna hand-painting, a youth talent show, and a gaming truck. Additionally, attendees can explore various vendors, including Fort Bend County departments, non-profits, and small businesses. In addition to the festivities, the event provides services such as back-to-school immunizations, eye exams, haircuts, and braiding services, ensuring the community is prepared for the school year.

At its core, the Festival of One empowers Fort Bend County's youth through performing and visual arts and volunteer opportunities, fostering community involvement and responsibility. It unites residents through culturally diverse entertainment, food, and fun-filled activities, celebrating the collective heritage that enriches our community.

#### **HAVE A NEWS TIP?**

news@katytimes.com

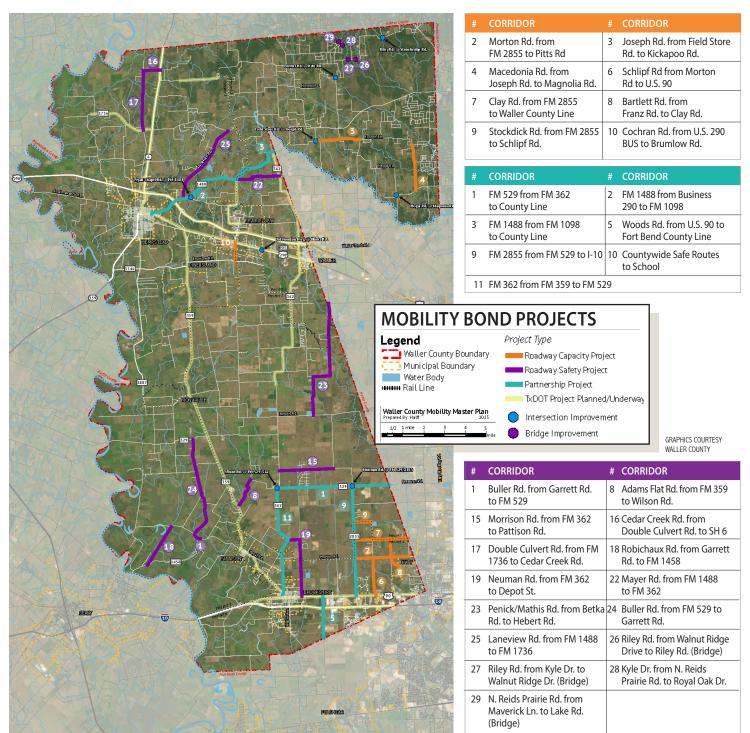
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August 10, 2023 12 pages | \$1

# **Waller County Commissioners**

consider mobility bond projects



### MOBILITY BOND PROJECTS

- Roadway projects categorized by type:
  - Capacity
  - Safety/Maintenance
  - Partnership
- **37** proposed projects
- \$258,285,000

	Precinct	Project	Cost
	Precinct 1	9	\$ 41,713,000.00
	Precinct 2	13	\$ 67,513,000.00
•	Precinct 3	9	\$ 61,213,000.00
	Precinct 4	6	\$ 87,846,000.00
	Total	37	\$ 258.285.000.00

Project Type	Number of Projects	Total Amount
Capacity	8	\$ 183,637,000.00
Safety/Maintenance	22	\$ 40,231,000.00
Partnership-City	1	\$ 2,000,000.00
Partnership-TxDOT	6	\$ 32,417,000.00
Total	37	\$ 258,285,000.00

#### BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

In a July 19 commissioners court budget meeting, the Waller County Commissioners Court heard a presentation from Halff Associates Inc. recommending mobility improvements in the county through the implementation of 37 projects

totaling \$258 million. Halff Associates Inc., an engineering firm, was tasked with identifying mobility projects for a bond opportunity. The firm compiled previous studies done in the area by the county and by individual cities and also studied projected growth in county population, including known plats under development. Safety records over the last five years,

See MOBILITY, page A3

HARRIS COUNTY

# Women's Commission presents its first report

The nine-member commission was created to improve outcomes for women in Harris County

During their July 18 meeting, Harris County commissioners discussed a report from the Harris County Women's Commission outlining its future goals and issued new directives for the nine-member group.

The Court identified three key initiatives for the Women's Commission to focus on that will improve health, economic opportunity, and safety for Harris County women.

"We must attain true equality for all women in Harris County," said Commissioner Lesley Briones. "I am energized by the diverse perspectives and expertise of the Commission's members and am confident they will bring recommendations to address critical issues, including lowering the maternal mortality rate, eliminating pay disparities, and preventing domestic violence."

Despite being home to the largest medical complex in the world, the maternal mortality rate in Harris County is higher than the rate in Texas and the United States. The mortality rate for Black mothers is three times higher than the rate for any other group in Harris County.

According to a 2021 study from

the University of Houston, women in Harris County earned 80 cents for every dollar earned by men. The wage gap was even greater for women of color. Relative to non-Hispanic white men-Asian, Black, and Hispanic women made 62.5 cents, 45 cents, and 37.5 cents on the dollar, respectively.

In its presentation, the Commission said its initial plans include exploring activities related to Black Women's and Hispanic

See WOMEN, page A3



#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

#### **Houston Sustainability Hub to** hold Katy's first ever Clothing **Swap Event on August 12th at Ambriza**

Refresh your wardrobe and make a positive impact on the environment by reducing clothing waste at the Houston Sustainability Hub's inaugural Clothing Swap. The event will be held August 12th from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ambriza Restaurant in LaCenterra, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Katy. The exchange will have a special focus on children's and women's clothes, aiming to promote sustainable fashion and conscious consumption. The Houston Sustainability Hub is a collective of eco-conscious businesses, working together to foster sustainability practices and promote ethical and eco-friendly fashion choices. Through the Clothing Swap Event, the group aims to create a community-driven platform for individuals and businesses to collaborate, educate, and inspire positive change toward a greener and more sustainable future.

#### Help Mesa-Outreach "Stuff the Bus" on August 13-14

Mesa-Outreach, a 501c3 nonprofit group which serves the community through its food pantry, "Books to Kids" program and scholarships, is supplying over 1000 students at six elementary schools in Katy ISD and CyFair ISD with school supply packets. Sponsors, donations and volunteers are needed. A \$25.00 sponsorship will cover the cost of one student's school supply packet. In-kind donations of tissues, individually wrapped snacks (excluding those with nuts or peanut butter) and new or gently used backpacks for pre-K through fifth grade are requested. Monetary donations are accepted online at mesa-outreach.org or checks may be mailed to Mesa-Outreach Inc., P. O. Box 841075, Houston, TX 77284-1075. Donations may be delivered to Bear Creek UMC, 16000 Rippling Water Drive. Houston, TX, 77084, on August 13th from 1 to 3 p.m. Helpers are needed on Monday,



#### **Retro Rewind returns on September 9th** in historic downtown Katy

The City of Katy Parks and Recreation Department is bringing "Retro Rewind" back to Katy Town Square, 910 Avenue C, on September 9th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Enjoy live entertainment, arcade games, a light-up dance floor and more! Admission is free.

August 14th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to sort, count, load and deliver supplies to each campus. To sign up or for more information, please contact lisa@mesa-outreach.org.

#### Learn MS Word, 3D printing and "Yoga for Gardeners" at **Cinco Ranch Library**

Fort Bend County Libraries' Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy, will present introductory computer classes this month on the use of Microsoft Word and 3D printing. The classes will consist of a handson introduction to basic skills for people who would like to learn more about using these computer programs.

The computer classes will take place in the Computer Lab of the

library.

• "MS Word 2016 Survival Basics" will take place on Tuesday, August 15, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn the basics of using this word-processing software program to create letters, resumés, forms, and other types of documents.

 "Introduction to 3D Printing" will take place on Tuesday, August 29, from  $\hat{2}$ :00 to 3:30 p.m. Library staff will introduce the 3D printer and explain how library patrons can print their own designs. Those attending the session will also learn about free websites that can be used to find 3D files or to create their own 3D designs. Attendees are encouraged to create an account with Tinkercad at https://www. tinkercad.com prior to the class.

The classes are free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register online (www.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

The library will also present a program on "Yoga for Gardeners," on Saturday, August 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in

In this interactive exercise class, Fort Bend County Master Gardener and certified yoga instructor Suma Mudan will talk about the ways that yoga can help in stretching and strengthening the muscles and joints that are most involved in gardening.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us.

#### **Katy Business Connection** hosts cigar social and networking event August 15th

Connect, collaborate, and grow your business with like-minded professionals from the Katy Business Connection group during an

evening of business networking and a cigar social. The function will take place August 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Cigars International, 25407 Bell Patna Drive in Katy, at Katy Mills Mall.

#### **Relay for Life of Katy presents** "Party with a Purpose" on **August 18th**

Relay for Life of Katy kicks off its 2023-2024 fundraising campaign with a "Party with a Purpose," to be held at Midway Barbeque, 6025 Highway Blvd., on Friday, August 18th at 6 p.m. The kickoff fundraiser will feature Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski Jewelry. All proceeds from your purchase will go towards The Relay For Life and will benefit the American Cancer Society. For more information, please call Brenda Hunter Martin at 832-455-4500.

#### **Animal Adoption Day on August 19th at Katy Mills Mall**

Via Facebook, City of Katy Council Member Rory Robertson announced Animal Adoption Day to be held at Katy Mills Mall on August 19th beginning at 10 a.m. The event is a collaboration of the City of Katy Animal Control Department, Katy Mills Mall, and volunteers. In the post, Robertson stated that local shelters are full and that fosters and adoptions are needed now to help animals find homes.

#### Dog Walking Clinic on Sunday, August 27th hosted by Patsy's **Pet Market**

Patsy's Pet Market is taking it on the road because it is too hot to walk outside. The store will host a dog walking clinic on August 27th and will meet at Lowe's on S. Fry and I-10 at 9 a.m. The group will walk together around the store, practicing leadership skills and ensuring that other shoppers are not disturbed as owners and dogs enjoy walking together. Friendly dogs and non-leg lifters are best for this event. For more information, contact Patsy's Pet Market at patsy@patsyspetmarket.com or call (832) 437-0401.





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# Host an Exchange Student Today! (for 3, 5 or 10 months)



Hanna from Germany, 17 yrs. Plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.

## Make a lifelong friend from abroad

Enrich your family with another culture. Select an exchange student from over 70 different countries. All families are welcome to apply!



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves baseball, spending time with his dogs, & playing the guitar.

### Call Audra at (830) 570-0187 or

Karen at 1-800-473-0696 host.asse.com or email info@asse.com

///dsse \subseteq

ASSE International Student Exchange Program is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Organization.

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. A way to pick up
- 5. Presents 10. Type of guitar
- 14. Actor Idris 15. A citizen of Iran 16. Creative
- 17. Harness 18. Weight unit
- 19. You better call him 20. Utterly devoted 22. Male cat
- 23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 24. Risk-taker
- 27. A team's best pitcher 30. Cool!
- 31. Women's \_\_ movement
- 32. Georgia rockers
- 35. Step-shaped recess
- 38. Type of truck
- 40. Angry people see it
- sewn together
- 43. Carpet
- 44. Traveled all over
- 46. Body art (slang)
- 48. No seats available
- 49. Breaks apart 52. Arabic name

55. Ballplayer's tool

- 37. The princess could detect its
- presence

- 39. Butterhead lettuces
- 41. Lines where two fabrics are
- 42. Soviet city
- 45. Thin, straight bar

- 47. Congressman (abbr.)

Get Started!

For privacy reasons, photos above are not photos of actual students

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- 56. Type of sword 60. Baseball team 61. Upper bract of grass floret
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Ancient Syrian city 65. Shoelace tube
- 66. The Miami mascot is one 67. South American nation
- 68. Popular video game "Max \_\_" 69. Body part

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. German courtesy title
- 2. Ancient Greek City 3. Ancient Hebrew calendar
- 4. Long-legged frog family
- 5. Photo
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Lute in classical Indian music
- 8. Decorated
- 9. Take a seat 10. Belonging to a bottom layer
- 11. Member of a Semitic people 12. Part of a ticket 13. Defunct Guinean money
- 21. Challenges 23. Popular BBQ food
- 25. Subway dweller
- 26. By way of 27. Shady garden alcove
- 28. Egyptian city 29. Partner to "flowed"
- 32. Widens
- 34. Act incorrectly
- 36. European pipeline 37. Al Bundy's wife
- 33. Old Eurasian wheat
- 38. Ocean 40. Root eaten as a vegetable 41. Sound units 43. Style of music

44. A way to drench

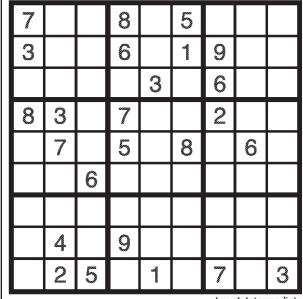
46. Hot beverage

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

finish 49. Rumanian city 50. Urge to action

47. A cotton fabric with a satiny

- 36
  - 51. Vaccine developer 52. Canadian law enforcers
  - 53. Wings 54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
  - 57. Small fry 58. \_\_ Clapton, musician 59. Take a chance
  - 61. Bland food
  - 62. Consumed



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.



# Katy resident celebrates 100th birthday

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO **PUBLISHER** 

Along with members of the Krenek family, the staff and residents of Veranda House, 5129 Fifth Street in Katy, surprised Edna Krenek with a birthday party on Thursday, August 3rd, in advance of the big day on August 5th.

Edna turned 100 on Saturday; she was born in Ammesville, Texas, on August 5, 1923 to Henry and Mary Marek – the middle child of five siblings. Edna was married for more than fifty years to the late Louis Krenek and they lived on a cotton farm in El Campo. She is the mother of three children (Delores, Ted and Patrick); she has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Edna is a member of St. Bartholemew Catholic Church in

Katy where she is a member of the Catholic Daughters. She is known for her cakes and kolaches which she baked every weekend.

'She can tell you how to make them to this day," said Jean Machann, activities director for Veranda House. "She feels that she has lived so long because she always had a spring and fall garden with organic fresh vegetables."

#### MOBILITY

from page A1

including a history of crashes along country roadways and TxDOTmaintained roadways, were also reviewed, with growth projections for possible increases in congestion as development in the area continues. Halff then created an overview of the recommended projects with a total cost as well as an individual cost for each of the four county precincts.

The firm also engaged with other entities in formulating the study, reaching out to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), TxDOT and the cities of Pattison, Prairie View, Hempstead and Waller. The spokesperson for Halff said that their firm had also reached out to the City of Katy but did not receive a response back. He said that the City of Katy had recently updated its comprehensive plan, including transportation issues, and that was taken into consideration.

The projects listed consist of roadway capacity projects (which can include the addition of more lanes to existing roadways), safety and maintenance projects (including improvement of pavement conditions and adjustment of intersection alignments) and partnership projects (with other government entities such as TxDOT). County Judge Trey Duhon explained that by contributing to partnership projects, the county can accelerate projects planned by TxDOT.

The recommended projects were broken down by precinct:

• Precinct 1 (northwest portion of county): Nine projects -- one capacity ects and one partnership project

• Precinct 2 (southwest portion of county): 13 projects - two capacity projects, 10 safety projects (including intersection and bridge expansions), and one partnership project with TxDOT

• Precinct 3 (east central portion of county, including portions of the greater Katy area): Nine projects -- two capacity projects, four safety projects and three

partnership projects with TxDOT

 Precinct 4 (southeast portion of county, including portions of the greater Katy area): Six projects -- three capacity projects, a safety project, one partnership project with TxDOT and one other partnership city project with the City of Katy involving Morton Road.

Following the presentation, Duhon said that Waller County would soon be ranked as one of the fastest growing counties in Texas "because of where we are and the development that is coming."

"This is the next big step," he said.

Duhon said that the mobility bonds would not be issued all at once but would be phased in over time, allowing projects to be prioritized as well as avoiding "too much of a burden on the tax rate." Like Fort Bend County, Duhon said, Waller County could end up doing a mobility bond every other year.

Commissioners raised questions about additional costs, such as the potential need to add a project manager or project management team to drive the projects and to keep the initiatives on schedule. Other concerns included the impact on drainage and flood mitigation from the conversion of asphalt roadways with open ditches to concrete roads with dividers and "curb and gutter" and storm sewer, a solution which was said to increase

In order to place the bond package on the November ballot for voters to consider, the commissionby an August 21st deadline. Otherwise, said Duhon, the measure cannot go on the ballot until November 2024; due to recent changes in state law, the mobility bond could not go on the ballot for a May 2024 vote. A second mobility bond workshop was scheduled for August 9th following the regularly-scheduled commissioners court meeting. Those meetings took place after press deadline for this story.

#### PRECINCT 3

Project Type	Number of Projects	Total Amount
Capacity	2	\$ 41,723,000.00
Safety/Maintenance	4	\$ 1,880,000.00
Partnership-City	-	-
Partnership-TxDOT	3	\$ 17,610,000.00
Total	9	\$ 61.213.000.00

#### Capacity

**iii** halff

7. Clay Road - FM 2855 to HC Line 9. Stockdick Road - Fm 2855 to Schlipf Rd

#### Safety/Maintenance 8. Adams Flat Road - FM 359 to Wilson Rd

- 15. Morrison Road FM 362 to Pattison Rd
- Wilson Road at FM 529/362 Morrison Road at FM 529/2855

#### Partnership

1. FM 529 - FM 362 to HC Line 9 FM 2855 - FM 529 to I-10

11. FM 362 - FM 359 to FM 529



Waller County Mobility Planning and Project Prioritization Study | 12

ID	Precinct	Corridor	From	То	Length (mi)	Project Type	Description	Cost Estimate*
				Waller County			Widen from 2 to 4 lane with median and sidewalks;	
RC7	3&4	Clay Road	FM 2855	Line	3	Capacity	intersection improvements	\$ 29,223,000.00
		Stockdick					Widen from 2 to 4 lane with median; intersection	
RC9	3	Road	FM 2855	Schlipf Road	1	Capacity	improvements	\$ 12,500,000.00
		Adams Flat					Mill and overlay existing 2 lane roadway	
RS8	3	Road	FM 359	Wilson Road	1.72	Maintenance	(PCI - Poor - 53)	\$ 651,000.00
							Add LED flashing chevrons, relocate stop sign and	
		Wilson Road at	FM 529/362			Intersection	signal cabinets, and install guardrail. If warranted,	
RS12	3					Improvement	consider traffic signal.	\$ 21,000.00
							Install overhead flashing beacon, additional signage,	
		Morrison Road at FM 529/2855					striping, and pavement markings. Widen shoulder on	
		IVIOTTISOTI TROUG	ut 1 W 020/200	,0		Intersection	W leg of intersection or construct EB right-turn	
RS13	3					Improvement	deceleration lane	\$ 192,000.00
							Mill and overlay existing 2 lane roadway	
RS15	3	Morrison Road	FM 362	Pattison Road	3	Maintenance	(PCI - Very Poor - 28)	\$ 1,016,000.00
		FM 529-		Harris County				
P1	3		FM 362	Line	6.1	Roadway Capacity		\$7,810,000.0
		FM 2855-					Widen from 2 to 4 lanes with median and intersection	
P9	3&4		FM 529	I-10	6.1	Roadway Capacity	improvements	\$3,500,000.0
		FM 362-	L			L	Widen from 2 to 4 lanes with median and intersection	/
P11	3&4	TxDOT	FM 359	FM 529	6.3	Roadway Capacity		\$6,300,000.0
							Total	\$ 61,213,000.00

#### PRECINCT 4

Project Type	Number of Projects	1	Total Amount
Capacity	3	\$	81,298,000.00
Safety/Maintenance	1	\$	1,370,000.00
Partnership-City	1	\$	2,000,000.00
Partnership-TxDOT	1	\$	3,178,000.00
Total	6	\$	87.846.000.00

#### Capacity

2 Morton Road - FM 2855 to HC Line 6. Schlipf Road - Morton Rd to US 90

8. Bartlett Road - Franz Rd to Clay Rd

### 19. Neuman Road - FM 362 to Depot St

5. Woods Road - US 90 to FB Line Countywide Safe Routes to School Program



ID	Precinct	Corridor	From	То	Length (mi)	Project Type	Description	Cost Estimate*
							Widen from 2 to 4 lane with median and sidewalks;	
RC2	4	Morton Road	FM 2855	Pitts Road	3	Capacity	intersection improvements	\$ 33,961,000.00
RC6	4	Schlipf Road	Morton Road	US 90	2.1	Capacity	New roadway to 4 lane with median	\$ 24,929,000.00
RC8	4	Bartlett Road	Franz Road	Clay Road	1.7	Capacity	New roadway to 4 lane with median and sidewalks; intersection improvements	\$ 22,408,000.00
RS19	3&4	Neuman Road	FM 362	Depot Street	3.8	Maintenance	Mill and overlay existing 2 lane roadway (PCI - Poor - 34)	\$ 1,370,000.00
P5	4	Woods Road- TxDOT	US 90	Fort Bend County	2.2	Roadway Capacity	Widen from 2 to 4 lanes	\$3,178,000.0
P10	Countywide	Safe Routes to School				Roadways Adjacent to ISD Schools	Signage, striping, wayfinding, and sidewalk improvements along roadways adjacent to Isd schools in Waller County	\$ 2,000,000.00
							Total	\$ 87,846,000.00

GRAPHICS COURTESY WALLER COUNTY

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Find out what all your friends are talking about **Katy Martimes** 

#### WOMEN

from page A1

"We must do better for the women in our County. As a proud Latina and mother of three young daughtersmaking sure we are doing everything possible to increase opportunities and decrease risks and injustices for women is a top priority of mine," said Commissioner Briones, who is the first woman to serve as commissioner for Precinct 4 and is the first mother elected in her own right to serve on Commissioners Court in the County's

Women's Equal Pay Days.

Commissioner Rodney Ellis championed the creation of the Harris County Women's Commission in March 2022, as part of his decades-long work to improve equity for all.

over 145-year history.

"I take great pride in having spearheaded the creation of the Harris County Women's Commission, recognizing the urgency of addressing gender and racial disparities in economic opportunity, healthcare outcomes, and beyond. This esteemed group comprises individuals with vast knowledge, rich experience, and diverse backgrounds. I firmly believe

that their collective expertise

will pave the way for effective

solutions to tackle these pressing challenges head-

on," said Commissioner Ellis. The Commission is charged with conducting research, producing reports, engaging with the community, and making actionable policy recommendations to Commissioners Court.

The Women's Commission is led by chair Ellen Cohen, Cohen, a lifelong advocate for gender equality, served on Houston City Council from 2012-2019 and was Mayor Pro Tem for three years. She was elected to two terms as a state representative in the Texas Legislature. She spent nearly two decades as CEO of the Houston Area Women's Center.

Cohen said she and the Commission were eager to tackle the three priority areas outlined by Commissioner Briones.

"Thank you to Commissioners Court for empowering us to take on these important issues for women in Harris County," said Cohen. "I am proud of the work we are doing to effect change in our communities, especially for historically underserved women that bear these burdens more heavily than others.

Precinct 4's appointee to the Commission, Jacquie Baly, serves as Vice Chair. Baly is President of BalyProjects. She has been a leader in the Houston region's business and policy communities for more than two decades. Baly began her career as a city and regional planner, then served as Vice President of the Greater Houston Partnership. She is a former Mayor Pro Tem and Councilmember At Large for the City of Sugar Land.

Baly said the Commission's members will form working groups to focus on the three key areas of concern. "I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. Knowing the dedication and commitment of each member of this commission, I'm confident we'll be able to zero in on each of these critical issues and carve out a path forward to advise the Court," said Baly. The Commission plans

to host town halls to get feedback from community members across Harris County. They will release an annual report at the end of this year detailing progress and will report back to the Court periodically with recommendations.

# Dig World to Host 811 Day to increase safe digging knowledge

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Dig World is excited to announce its most recent partnership with Texas 811 for National Safe Digging Day on Friday, August 11th. National Safe Digging Day, also known as 811 Day, serves as an important reminder to emphasize calling 811, the national call-before-you-dig phone number, before any digging project. Dig World is inviting families to enjoy the park and learn safe digging practices from the safety experts at Texas 811 for only \$8.11 per ticket.

811 Day is a national effort to raise awareness of the importance of notifying 811 before starting any digging project, in order to prevent damage to underground utility lines. The local initiative of 811 Day at Dig World will raise awareness of safe digging while educating the public through fun and engaging construction activities.

Located in the Katy Mills Mall parking lot, Dig World

"811 protects individuals and the community. Whether you're using a hand shovel or a Caterpillar excavator, you need to know what's below."

-JACOB ROBINSON, Dig World CEO

is a construction-themed park built to provide families with a memorable handson experience with heavy equipment while educating kids (and kids at heart) on construction safety. Families that attend can receive giveaways such as construction hats and other promotional items while supplies last.

"We are excited to partner with 811 for a great day of education and fun at Dig World! We believe that a memorable, handson experience is one of the best ways to learn," said Dig World CEO Jacob Robinson. "811 protects individuals and the community. Whether you're using a hand shovel or a Caterpillar excavator, you need to know what's below."

"On August 11 and

throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 811 services before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line," said Energy Transfer Senior Public Awareness Manager Gina Greenslate, "We are proud to partner with Dig World to create an educational partnership."

Reservations can be made by purchasing tickets online at DigWorldTX. com or by visiting the box office at Dig World on Friday, August 11, subject to availability. The park will be open Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information about Dig World, please visit digworldtx.com.

For information about 811 please visit call811.com.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Katy Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., August 21, 2023 in the Boardroom, Education Support Complex, 6301 South Stadium Lane, Katy, Texas 77494. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

**Maintenance Tax** 

\$0.72940 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters \$0.39000 / \$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

#### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories

or the ronowing empenditure entrege	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Maintenance and operations	<u>7.9531 %</u> (increase) or	% (decrease)
Debt service	<u>17.9539</u> % (increase) or	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	9.7570 % (increase) or	% (decrease)

#### **Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value**

(as calculated under Ta	ax Code Section 26.04)	
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year

Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 61,584,383,084	\$	69,902,019,796
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,087,370,537	\$	2,416,823,819
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 54,583,212,624	\$	57,901,128,706
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,578,871,008	\$	1,918,277,615
* "A	 11 4 4-£ 4 1 T 4	C- 1- C4	1.04(0)

Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8). "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012 (17).

\*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

#### **Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$2,267,301,460 \*Outstanding principal

#### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	<u>Total</u>	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.91480	\$0.39000	\$1.30480	\$7,982	\$4,325
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue &					
Pay Debt Service	\$0.68593	\$0.38787	\$1.07380	\$6,979	\$5,444
Proposed Rate	\$0.72940	\$0.39000	\$1.11940	\$7,149	\$5,654

\*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

#### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	La	st Year	Th	is Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$	383,264	\$	430,224
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$	325,080	\$	328,719
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$	1.30480	\$	1.11940
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$	4,242	\$	3,680
Increase (Decrease) in Toyes			\$	(562)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.15507. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.15507.

#### **Fund Balances**

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first

> Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$ 324,538,697

> Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s) \$ 60,342,815

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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

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

# Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office hosts community "Meet and Greet" events

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

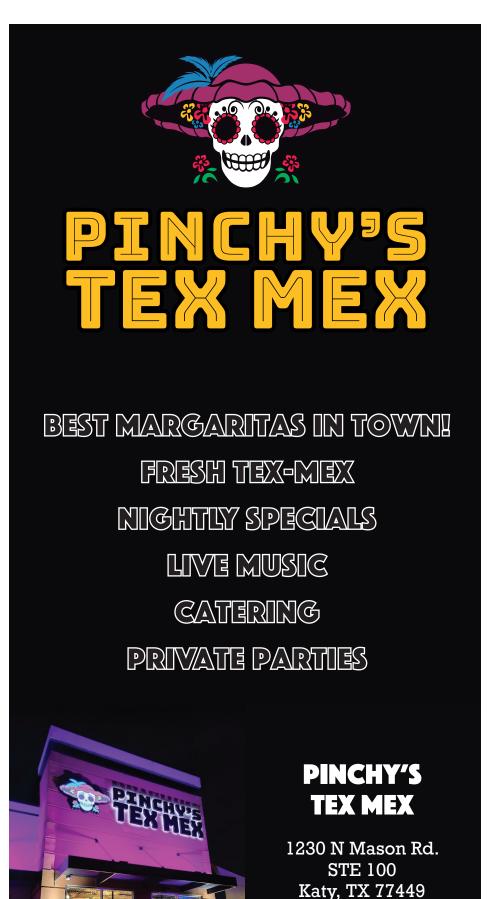
The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office will host eight community "Meet and Greet" events throughout Fort Bend county through September 7th.

Safety Awareness For Everyone (S.A.F.E.) is a community event showcasing the numerous services offered by the Sheriff's Office. The public is invited to meet local law enforcement officers while learning more about the extensive range of safety programs and services as well as to hear from Sheriff Eric Fagan about the importance of community safety and the many resources available.

The Katy event will be held August 10th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Justice of the Peace office at 22333 Grand

Parkway. For a complete other event locations and dates, go to fbcsheriff.org.

"Community safety and engagement is important to this organization," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "The S.A.F.E. events will be an excellent opportunity for our community members to interact with law enforcement officers and gain a better understanding of the many programs available.'



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# NFL youth program held Saturday at Central Green Park in Canterra

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

The National Football League's youth health and wellness initiative, NFL Play 60, returned to Willow Fork Drainage District's Central Green Park in Katy on Saturday, August 5.

NFL Play 60 is a national effort to fight childhood obesity by encouraging kids to be physically active for at least 60 minutes daily.

Organized by the Amobi Okoye Foundation, kids participated in various workout routines like jumping jacks, pushups, and air squats at Central Green. Okoye is a retired NFL player, best known locally for his four years with the Houston Texans.

"We want kids to step away from their devices, get outside, and get active," Okoye said. "We're encouraging



Aspiring football players were able to participate in drills, including a yoga "cool down", in the NFL 360 event held at Central Green Park in LaCenterra on Saturday.

physical activity every day for every child."

Since PLAY 60 launched in 2007, the NFL has committed more than \$352

million to youth health and fitness through PLAY 60 programming, grants, and media time for public service announcements.



Frost Bank, at 23701 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, helped to cool down Katy's hot weather by treating their customers to free ice cream on Friday, August 4th. Maria Valdez is enjoying one of the selections provided by the Sweet Ride Houston food truck

# Congressional Youth Academy applications now open

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The office of Troy Nehls invites all high school students in the 22nd District of Texas to apply for the 2023 Congressional Youth Academy, according to his emailed newsletter. Nehls is the congressman serving in the U.S. House of Representatives for Texas District 22.

This academy will have guest speakers from various levels of government

to avail students of the pivotal role of lawmakers, experts, and citizens in a representative democracy. The top 50 applicants will receive an intimate and in-depth understanding of the role of the nation's lawmakers and be asked to provide fresh ideas from the council's mock Congress. This program is a oneday event intended to bolster student

date to submit a completed application has been moved to September 23, 2023. The Congressional Youth Academy will now be held on October 21, 2023. More details will be released upon acceptance to the program.

The checklist and application can be found at nehls.house.gov/services/ congressional-youth-academy. For additional information, please call Nehl's



#### experience and enhance resumes. RSVP to crhsalumni.org To allow more students to apply, the district office at (346) 762-6600. The Katy Times

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# **CAAP** seeking donations for backpacks for Royal JHS

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Mission: Education, an outreach program of the Katy-based Coalition of Americans for Action and Principles (formerly known as the Coalition of African American Pastors), receives dozens of requests for help from all over the country each year, as students start back to school in the fall many without the supplies they need.

'One request in particular caught my attention - a plea for clear backpacks for the students at Royal Junior High, a small district here in Texas," said Dr. Deborah Owens, executive director of CAAP. "Last year, we gave a grant to an elementary school that allowed that school to purchase clear backpacks for their students. The students and teachers were so grateful to receive safe, functional backpacks and supplies! Until you see it with your own eyes, you have no idea how many students are forced to attend schools with inadequate materials."

"I was especially moved by this request for assistance because it came from a small school district -- one that is often overlooked," Owens said. "Larger schools tend to attract the attention of local charities, but the small schools often have to plead for basic necessities. We started Mission: Education because we wanted to help schools in need, especially the schools that serve high-risk, high-poverty communities. We've already secured \$250 from a local supporter to purchase backpacks for the school. But we need more funding if we want to ensure that every student at Royal Junior High receives the supplies he or she needs."

To help Mission: Education in their efforts to help at-risk children and needy schools, go to secure.anedot.com/coalition-of-african-american-pastors-usa/ mission-education.



Nutrition and



Katy Independent School District announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. A copy of the policy may be viewed at www.squaremeals.com.

Children living in households whose income are at or below the federally approved levels, based on household size, may be eligible for meal benefits. Transfer students approved for the program from another school district may either complete a Katy ISD application or provide documentation of their eligibility status for that same school year. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside, an application must be submitted. Households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are also eligible. Children with status as homeless, runaway, migrant or displaced by a declared disaster also qualify for meals.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) school nutrition program known as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enables all students at CEP eligible campuses to receive FREE breakfast and lunch meals throughout the 2023-24 school year. Students attending a CEP eligible school do not have to pay a fee or submit a Meals Benefits/Free and Reduced Meals application in order to receive free meals.

Katy ISD campuses that have met USDA eligibility for the CEP free meals program for the 2023-2024 school year include:

Bear Creek Elementary Golbow Elementary Leonard Elementary Memorial Parkway Elementary Schmalz Elementary West Memorial Elementary Cardiff Junior High Mayde Creek Junior High West Memorial Junior High School Opportunity Awareness Center

Cimarron Elementary Hutsell Elementary Mayde Creek Elementary Morton Ranch Elementary Stephens Elementary Winborn Elementary Haskett Junior High McDonald Junior High Mayde Creek High School Franz Elementary King Elementary McRoberts Elementary Rhoads Elementary Sundown Elementary Wolfe Elementary Katy Junior High Morton Ranch Junior High Morton Ranch High School

The Nutrition and Food Service Department encourages families with students who do not attend a CEP Campus listed above to complete a meal benefits online application prior to the start of school to determine eligibility for free/reduced meals. The new online application can be submitted through www.SchoolCafe.com/KatyISD and will be available the first week of August for the 2023-2024 school year. Katy ISD Nutrition and Food Service Department is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. \*If your student receives a notification of approval the first days of school then, you do not need to complete a new application for the 2023-2024school year. Any household that does not receive a notification and feels it should have or are missing any students on the notification you received, please contact the Nutrition and Food Service Department at 281-396-6240. Additional information regarding the Nutrition and Food Service department can be found at the district website www.KatyISDFoodServices.com.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact the Nutrition and Food Service Department

Paper applications will NOT be distributed this upcoming school year, all applications must be submitted online. If the online application is unavailable, paper applications are available at any district school and at the food service office. If your children were on the program at the end of the previous school year, they are eligible for the same benefit for the first 30 operating days of the new school year or until a new application is processed. A new application per household is required each school year.

The Nutrition and Food Service Department is located at 5364 Franz Rd, Katy, TX 77493. Staff is available Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 2:30pm to assist parents/guardians in completing the application, starting the second week of August. Bring names of all members of the household and their Gross Monthly Income. For any questions, call the Katy ISD Nutrition and Food Service Department office at 281-396-6240.

Applications are accepted any time during the school year; the 2023-2024 online application will be available 2 weeks before school starts. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining meal eligibility. Application information may be verified by school officials at any time during the school year.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the reviewing official will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the reviewing official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to the hearing official, contact us at 281-396-6240.

#### **Unexpected Circumstances**

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

#### **Charge Policy:**

District charge policy allows students without meal money to receive the menu choice with the expectation that the parent will reimburse all meals charged. The elementary charge policy allows for the value of 10 breakfast meals and 10 lunch meals to be charged. When the charge limit is reached, the elementary student will receive a milk for breakfast or a milk and cereal for lunch. The secondary charge policy allows for the value of 5 breakfast meals and 5 lunch meals to be charged. When the charge limit is reached, the secondary student will be declined. Parents will be alerted when their child charges a meal by receiving a courtesy call and/or email through the district automated call out system, if the district parent information is correct and up-to-date. Parents are responsible for monitoring the amount of money in their child's account and paying back any borrowed money in a timely manner. If a student owes money on his/her account, he/she will be allowed to purchase snacks and/or a la carte only with cash in hand for that purchase, or once the student's negative account is paid in full and funds are available to cover additional purchases.

#### **2023-2024 School Year**

Income Eligibility Guidelines for Determining Free and Reduced-Price Benefits Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Family	Annu	nally	ly Monthly		Twice per Month		Every Two Weeks		Weekly	
Size	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$18,954	\$26,973	\$1,580	\$2,248	\$790	\$1,124	\$729	\$1,038	\$365	\$519
2	\$25,636	\$36,482	\$2,137	\$3,041	\$1,069	\$1,521	\$986	\$1,404	\$493	\$702
3	\$32,318	\$45,991	\$2,694	\$3,833	\$1,347	\$1,917	\$1,243	\$1,769	\$622	\$885
4	\$39,000	\$55,500	\$3,250	\$4,625	\$1,625	\$2,313	\$1,500	\$2,135	\$750	\$1,068
5	\$45,682	\$65,009	\$3,807	\$5,418	\$1,904	\$2,709	\$1,757	\$2,501	\$879	\$1,251
6	\$52,364	\$74.518	\$4,364	\$6,210	\$2,182	\$3,105	\$2,014	\$2,867	\$1,007	\$1,434
7	\$59,046	\$84,027	\$4,921	\$7,003	\$2,461	\$3,502	\$2,271	\$3,232	\$1,136	\$1,616
8	\$65,728	\$93,536	\$5,478	\$7,795	\$2,739	\$3,898	\$2,528	\$3,598	\$1,264	\$1,799
For each add	ditional family	member add:								
	\$6,682	\$9,509	\$557	\$793	\$279	\$397	\$257	\$366	\$129	\$183

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#### **ROYAL ISD BOND COMMITTEE MEETS**



The Royal ISD bond oversight committee held its first meeting on Monday July 31st at 6 p.m. at the Royal Administration Building. Pictured (left to right) are bond committee members. First row: Jeff Hurd, Duana Brashear, Rick Kershner, Nick Gonzales, Myron MoHam. Second row: Sherrel Rogers, Johnna Rhodes, Gerald Gassner, Nicole Pope, Debbie Roesler, Ron Roesler. Third row: Frank Cobio, Diana Hernandez, Tonya Gage-Woods, Penny Strange, Victor Grohman. Fourth row L-R: Ronnie Melton, Philip Fairchild, Lisa Inniss, Diane Holub, Mike Nicholas.

# Kickin It, a Back to School Fun Fest, launches shoe and backpack drive

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Your Total Foot Care Specialist is partnering with Toyota of Katy to present Kickin It, Back to School Fun Fest benefitting children who need a pair of shoes or a backpack for the start of school. "New shoes or a backpack can provide the foundation for success in numerous areas of school, whether it be with increased physical activity or self confidence in the classroom." said Dr. James Jacobs, Medical Director of Your Total Foot Care Specialist. The Kickin It, Back to School Fun Fest will be held August 19, 2023, from 9AM-12PM at Toyota of Katy.

The community is invited to come out, celebrate, have fun, donate and enjoy:

- DJ music / snow cones • games/prizes
- spin the wheel prizes
- omelet/pancake station raffles every hour
- bounce houses and so much more!

Every \$20 donated will provide 1 pair of shoes or a backpack to a child in need. In lieu of cash, donations of new shoes or backpacks can be brought to the event.

- \$20 (or 1 pair of shoes or backpack) - 1 FREE omelet or pancake and 1 raffle
- \$60 (or 3 pairs of shoes or backpacks) - 2 FREE omelets or pancakes and 4 raffle tickets

• \$100 (or 5 pairs of shoes or backpacks) - 3 FREE omelets or pancakes and 6 raffle tickets

Toyota of Katy and Your Total Foot Care Specialist's goal is to be a resource in the community. "We understand the negative effects associated when children don't have access to shoes or a backpack for back to school. Our goal is to provide a Back To School closet with shoes and backpacks to each of the 18 Katy ISD Title 1 schools, said Clariona Randolph, Director of Philanthropy at Toyota of

For more information and make donations visit our website at www.Katv-FootCare.com/donation

### Holland Elementary ensemble to perform for TMEA

#### **CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

The Holland Harmony choir from Holland Elementary has been invited to perform at the 2024 clinic/convention of the Texas Music **Educators Association** in San Antonio February 7-10.

The ensemble is under the direction of Holland's music teacher, Melissa Talton.

Two other choirs and three instrumental ensembles from around the state were also invited to participate.



### Katy ISD announces immunization clinic dates

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD announced the dates for August immunizations on its Facebook page on August 4th. According to the post, the district follows the Texas Department of State Health Services recommendation for immunization compliance in order for a student to attend school. For a list of local immunization clinics and opportunities, as well as additional information on vaccinations, visit the district website: https://bit. ly/440dcZI

#### **Katy ISD Immunization Clinic**

August 9, 10, 11, 15 & 16 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Monthly clinics will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on these upcoming Thursday

- September 7
- October 5 • November 2

- December 7
- January 11 • February 1
- March 7
- April 4 • May 2

All clinics are held at the Annex, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy. Please enter using the Pavilion Annex doors. No appointment necessary.

Costs are:

- For one vaccine -- \$15 • For two vaccines -- \$25
- Three vaccines or more

Cash, credit cards and debit cards are accepted. Optional vaccines are also

available while supplies last:

• Pfizer COVID-19 (no

• Quadrivalent influenza vaccine (\$15.00)

Please bring the "Parent Notification of Immunizations Due" form from the campus nurse, along with the student's personal immunization record and insurance card (if insured).

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For more information or to select your own exchange student please call:



Julie from Denmark, 16 yrs. Enjoys gymnastics, swimming and photography. She's positive, fun loving and easy to get along with.

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# KATY ISD TEAMS GET BACK TO PRACTICE

# **Cinco Ranch players** excited to get to work

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

It's a totally new look at Cinco Ranch.

There are new faces all around the varsity squad, with starting positions up for grabs and it has shown with the intensity level over the first week of practice for the Cougars.

The entire team has been flying around, determined to go out and prove themselves and battle for those spots. It's made for an exciting time for the Cinco coaching staff. They are taking advantage of working with a new, young group and taking the opportunity to mold them.

"As coaches it's an exciting time because we get to work so much with these kids," said Cinco Ranch head coach Chris Dudley. "It can be challenging because there's some unknowns there, but we feel good about a number of these guys stepping up. There's a good mix of returners off a really good team last year and then guys who have had a lot of success on the JV level



School.

who know how to win. It's just exciting to get a fresh set of names in here and see what they can do."

The team has grinded through the entire offseason, continuing to up the standard set by the classes before them. They have continued to improve and find ways to get better day after day.

"We all know what the expectation is and we're striving to make another run," said Cinco Ranch senior cornerback Taytum Johnson. "We've gotten

See CINCO, page B5









# Tompkins hits ground running with first practice

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS FDITOR

Tompkins wasted no time in bringing full intensity to practice.

The Falcons took the field for fall practice for the first time this year on Monday, and from the start, the Falcons were at full speed. They went at it and pushing themselves even in the first practice of the year.

A huge part of that came from the tone set by Tompkins' senior captains, who came out, set the tone from even before practice started and made sure they held themselves and their teammates accountable.

"It was so important for us to do that," said

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

Above, from left: Caleb Blocker runs downfield during Monday's practice at the Tompkins practice field. Eduwa Okundaye gets past a blocker during Monday's practice. Rhys Phillips catches a pass during Tompkins' first fall practice of the year.

#### **WEEK OF AUGUST 10**

## **SCORES** & **SCHEDULES**

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

**Thursday-Saturday** 

• All Katy ISD teams at KISD/CFISD Volleyball Classic

- Tuesday • Cinco Ranch at Cy-Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- · Jordan vs. Cy-Ridge, 5:30 p.m. • Katy at Stratford, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Stafford, 5:30 p.m. • Paetow vs. Fort Bend Clements, 5:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes vs. Fulshear, 5:30 p.m. • Taylor vs. Fort Bend Austin, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Clear Springs, 5:30 p.m.

#### **FOOTBALL**

All games are scrimmages

#### **Thursday**

• Tompkins vs. Tomball, 7 p.m.

#### **Friday**

- Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:30 a.m. at Legacy Stadium
- · Paetow vs. Aldine Davis, 11 a.m. at Legacy Stadium

# Paetow growing with season on horizon BY TYLER TYRE

SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow has experienced a lot of growth this year. The Panthers have made their

focus on keeping consistent and it has paid off. The players have stepped up and the team has looked crisp through the first week of practice. Overall, it's exactly what the Paetow coaching staff was building towards.

"It's built into the culture," said Paetow head coach David Hicks Sr. "The leadership here knows what they have to do and the tone has been set from the bottom to the top. The kids have bought in and they are really responding well. I think they know that they have to bring it and they control everything this year, how far we got and how far we don't go is up to them and they have embraced the challenge."

It's been a new experience for Hicks, who for the first time is leading a varsity program



Jabari Bush runs past a defender during Thursday's practice at the Paetow practice field.

through two-a-days, but he has loved every second of it and the entire coaching staff has hit the ground running this fall.

"It's been very busy, but

15 Years

rewarding," Hicks said. "I've got some great coaches here and the main thing is just leaning on the people that I have around me. We truly have an all star staff and I know I can depend on their knowledge. We're all taking it a day at a time and learning. It's been really fun."

The players have embraced the challenge of competing for spots and quickly getting ready for the year. The Panthers came close to a playoff spot last year but ultimately came up just short and that has also added extra fuel to the first for the seniors returning, who feel they have a point to prove.

"it feels great, as a team we have a lot to prove," said senior linebacker Abe Ledet. "Throughout the winter and spring there was a lot of talk about our district and certain teams, but we felt counted out by it. We know that we have to go out and show we're one of the big dogs again and we're working to do that. Coach Hicks has been so good and he's pushed us to be great, now he have to go out and prove it on the field."

See **PAETOW**, page B3

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# Katy ranked No. 4, Tompkins 17 in Fizz rankings



Tompkins' Caleb Blocker rushes with the ball during a game between Katy and Tompkins at Legacy Stadium.

RAMS REYA | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



Katy quarterback Caleb Koger (10) prepares for a snap during the Class 6A-DII state semifinal football game between Katy and Vandegrift on Dec. 10, 2022 in San



Katy head coach Gary Joseph talks to his team after a practice.

BY TYLER TYRE

Katy was ranked No. 4 in this year's Fizz Rankings for Class 6A 5-year dynasties.

Fizz rankings researches and ranks schools throughout the entire 103 year history of the University Interscholastic League. Every year they rank the top football programs over the previous five seasons, ranking the schools based on their success over the previous five years, the 25-year tradition of the program, head coach, academics of the school as well as the school's facilities.

Katy earned five stars for the 5-year program, 25-year tradition, head coach and facilities while also earning five stars for academics.

Ovet the previous five seasons Katy has garnered 64 wins, winning one state championship to earn their top five spot. Along with that the Tigers were named the Fizz Rankings Kings of Tradition and Kings of Coaching.

The Kings of Tradition came from the Fizz Rankings accumulation of playoff stats. Over the previous 25 years Katy has averaged 4.92 games in the playoffs per year, an insane statistic that ranks among the top of any school at in classification in the nation.

Gary Joseph was named the King of Coaching in the rankings. Over the course of 19 seasons, Joseph has garnered 255 wins, five state championships in nine state final appearances along with 91 gold balls and 17 district championships.

The Tigers come off a 14 win year and a third straight season in which they reached at least the state semifinals. They will look to continue that this season with a strong returning class as well as newcomers around the field that can contribute to a strong team.

Tompkins also made the top 25 of the Fizz Rankings for Class 6A, coming in at No. 17 in the classification.

The Falcons earned five stars in academics and facilities, while earning four stars for the 5-year program and head coach. The Falcons' lone low ranking was two stars in 25-year traditions, where they earned two stars.

Tompkins has averaged exactly 10 wins over the past five years, making the playoffs each season and making it to the third round of the playoffs in four years. Todd McVey has helped build the Falcons into a yearly playoff contender and has built a strong tradition in the program that they continue to build on. Tompkins shot up 10 spots in the rankings this season after having another successful year.

North Shore took home the No. 1 spot in the rankings while Westlake was second and Duncanville was third.

# Katy youth soccer team brings home US National Cup

#### STAFF REPORT

The SG1 2009G ECRL team from Katy, led by coach Lydia Taft, won the ECRL U14 USC TX league Bracket this year. The team went on to be crowned the National Champions this summer at the US Club Soccer National Cup in Commerce City, Colorado. More than 2,500 teams participated in this series and 240 U13 - U19 boys and girls teams qualified for the National Cup Finals. The team played teams from Minnesota, North Carolina, California, Ohio, Virginia and won the 2009G U14 bracket.

SG1 Soccer Club, a full service competitive club founded in 2012 in Katy, TX, offers programs for Boys and Girls starting at 4-18 years old. This is the club's second consecutive National Championship (2006 Boys- season '21-'22).

Pictured top left to to right: Coach Lydia Taft, Sophia Jordan, Avery Ellis, Olivia Peters, Halle Castillo, Natalia Villarreal, Jayce Arnold, Ella Bizzell, Reiley Brown, Alyssa Harris, and Assistant Coach Christian Mendoza; Pictured bottom left to right: Marley Perez, Hailey Petrino, Valeria Rodriguez Chavarriaga, Letizia Martinez, Keely Gorman, Summer Bruno, Sophia Alanzo, and Juliana Molinas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOT







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#### TOMPKINS

from page B1

senior defensive lineman Eduwa Okundaye. "It's the first day of practice and that sets the tone for the entire rest of the year. It's up to us as leaders to come out here and let everyone know how we do things and the intensity that's expected. It's really important to have that from the start."

Tompkins went through a hard three hour practice, locking down the fundamentals and fousing on doing things right from day one. They went through tons of different things and ended with a two-minute drill where the goal was for the offense to drive the entire field with a running clock and end with a touchdown without making mistakes.

"It's a great drill because it makes those guys quit worrying about what is going on and just do their jobs," said Tompkins head coach Todd McVey. "I like two minutes a lot, because you don't have time to think about the intangibles. They did a good job with it. There's little things we can work on with being on the line of scrimmage and things but that's exactly why you do this early and to continue that conditioning."

It was an early morning

and it's something that everyone in the program is greatly appreciative of.

"They are the unsung heroes out here," McVey said. "They do such a great job. They make sure everyone is well and they're constantly watching out for all of the athletes and the coaches. We can't thank them enough for how they come out here in the Texas heat and do what they do. All the kids here respect every single one of them and really appreciate them, you can't say enough about our athletic trainers."

While the work is hard and grueling, it's something that both the coaching staff and the players couldn't wait for. Players got to practice early and had the energy flowing and even after practice the entire team sprinted off and were joking around, happy and excited to be there.

While the Falcons will continue their mantra of getting one percent better every day and working as hard as they can, they aren't going to forget to have fun with it either.

"It was amazing being back out here," said senior offensive tackle Ashton Funk. "I think almost every senior has been thinking about this day since that didn't disappoint. It was so



Hunter Boudreaux and Jonathan Morency battle for a ball during Monday's practice at the Tompkins practice field.

A Paetow player turns upfield during Thursday's practice at the Paetow practice field.

Above: A Paetow player lines up during Thursday's practice at the Paetow practice field. Left: David Hicks Sr. talks to the Paetow football team after Thursday's practice at the Paetow practice field.

#### **PAETOW**

Offensively, the Panthers have used the spring and summer to gain lots of chemistry. Last year there were lots of new pieces, but the returners have gotten to work and set out to have a powerful offense this year. Jabari Bush will be a big target for the team and he has gained a rapport with starting quarterback Brock Nichols that will cause opposing defenses troubles throughout the year.

"We have bought into each other and we have been working for months to make sure we're all on the same page as an offense," Bush said. "Ever since boot camp we've just kept getting closer and closer as a unit and we've grinded.

It's turned into a family and we're all ready to go out and

fight for our guys." The Panthers are focused with how quick the season will go. They will take on Aldine Davis next week in their first scrimmage before facing Bridgeland on Aug. 18 as they continue to gear up for the regular season.

"It's built in a great excitement because we're so close to everything," Hicks said. "Everything hits you so fast and I tell them the intersquad scrimmage is the first test of where we

are and we have to be ready because every week because from here on out we're going to be playing a different opponent every week. It's great and they're ready for it, everyone is excited because they know that the time is finally here."

### **Notice of Public Hearing** on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48.

> PROPOSED TAX RATE \$0.100000 per \$100 NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$0.077965 per \$100 VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$0.080880 per \$100 DE MINIMIS RATE \$0.080758 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is proposing to increase property taxes for the

The proposed tax rate is also greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 adopts the proposed tax rate, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 will be the voter-approval rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48.

A **PUBLIC HEARING** ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m, at 21201 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77449.

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The election will be on November 7, 2023. You may contact the Harris County Clerk's Office – Election Department for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR: Sam Henderson, Russell Solomon, Mike Fleming,

Patti Creel and Scott Strait AGAINST: None

PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: None ABSENT: None

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 this year.

	2022	2023	Change				
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.086911	\$0.100000	Increase of \$0.013089, or 15.06%				
Average homestead taxable value	\$291,810	\$322,919	Increase of \$31,109, or 10.66%				
Tax on average homestead	\$253.61	\$322.92	Increase of \$69.31, or 27.33%				
Total tax levy on all properties	\$14,663,178	\$19,128,781	Increase of \$4,465,603, or 30.45%				

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@coveler.com or visit www.hcesd48.org for more information.

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Katy Pony Baseball features a graduated system in 2-year increments for pitching and base distance to accommodate the physical development of players.



### Fall 2023

Registration League Ages - 4 to 18 (as of April 30, 2024)

if age 4 by

4/30/2024

(T-Ball)

Register at Walk-Ins (see below) or online at www.katyponybaseball.org

Season Starts - Week of September 25th- Ends Late November Fall Sportsfest - Baseball, games, food, fun, prizes and team pictures! Saturday, September 30th

Walk-In Registration will take place at :

Paid Certified Umpires - Ages 6 to 18

Dicks Sporting Goods, Saturday August 12th (10am - 2pm) (Katy Freeway) or register online thru 11:59 PM on August 16th at katyponybaseball.org

▶ Tryouts, at Four Seasons Park, (Ages 6-14) Saturday, August 19th (times assigned) No Tryouts Shetland 4/5

▶ No Tryouts Colt (Ages 15-18) : Colt Players will be placed on teams by High School ▶ Player Drafts / Teams Formed : Sunday, August 20th

Registration Info

\$235 per player Pinto (7-8) through Colt (15-18) 🥡 \$225 per player Shetland 6 🕡 \$205 per player Shetland 4/5 🕢 Multi-player discount (\$10) for each additional player in same family. 🕡 Players receive a team jersey and baseball cap.

Each player gets \$120 in raffle tickets to sell • keep the money to help offset your cost• or submit in your name if you choose not to sell.

4 All sign-ups after Aug. 16th will be charged a \$25 late fee . Please register early to avoid waiting list.

Late registration will be available at our facilities (Four Seasons Park) During Tryouts, Saturday August 19th After Tryoutscall (281) 371-0887 to schedule registration appointment

To expedite the in-person registration process, forms are on our website Players are assigned to a division/team based on their age as of 4/30/2024

New players please provide a copy or original Birth Certificate with your Registration Form and payment. Cash and checks ONLY when registering in person. Major Credit/Debit cards ONLY when registering on line ■ Katy PONY Baseball

Paid Concessions Personnel Paid Professional Groundskeepers Ur Open Bases (Lead-off's, Steals, Balks) just like the Pro's! beginning at age 9 Our Parents watch and enjoy the game. They do not have to rake fields, umpire or sell food items. Experience the difference Ages 9-10 Ages 11-12 Ages 13-14 Ages 4-6 Ages 7-8 Ages 15-18

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For more information or details visit www.katyponybaseball.org or call the facility at 281-371-0887 Start and end dates are subject to change based on weather and other conditions beyond our control. Field usage and Batting cages are determined by a set schedule THIS ORGANIZATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES ARE NOT RELATED TO OR SPONSORED BY THE KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT,

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#### August 3 **Puzzle Answers**

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Day shift: M-T-W-F **GOSS COMMUNITY - COMPETITIVE SALARY** The Mexia News

**Contact Richard Nelson** publisher@themexianews.com

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#### **AUCTION**

Estate Sale - Lifetime Antique Collection, Aug.. 10-12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 6170 CR 332, Jourdanton. Top Hat Emporium, 830-251-3288. Visit Top Hat on Facebook for photos! Market Day Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. DAY

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#### **NOTICE**

THE MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

> By Order Of Mayor And City Council City Of Katy, Texas July 24, 2023



#### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS **City of Pattison**

The City of Pattison is soliciting engineering/architectural firm(s) to assist the City of Pattison with one or more Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance. Accordingly, the City of Pattison seeks to contract with a qualified engineering/architectural firm(s). Please electronically submit your SOQ in .pdf format via email to citysecretary@pattison.texas.gov and submit 3 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: Attn: City Secretary, Lorene Hartfiel, P.O. Box 223 Pattison, TX 77466. Statements of Qualifications must be received by the The City of Pattison no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2023, to be considered. The City of Pattison reserves the right to negotiate with any and all proposers, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Pattison is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.



#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS City of Pattison**

The City of Pattison is soliciting service providers for one or more Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance, Accordingly, the City of Pattison seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for management services. Please electronically submit your proposals in .pdf format via email to citysecretary@pattison.texas and submit 3 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: Attn: City Secretary, Lorene Hartfiel, Mail to P.O. Box 223, Pattison, TX 77466. Proposals must be received by The City of Pattison no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2023, to be considered. The City of Pattison reserves the right to negotiate with any and all proposers, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Pattison is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

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#### **INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed bids, in duplicate will be received by RSG Engineering, 13501 Katy Freeway, Suite 3180, Houston, Texas 77079 until 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 25, 2023. All bids will be publicly opened and read, in person and via Zoom Conference Call, for the construction of the project.

Katy Hockley Business Park Water and Wastewater

Calling information will be provided at www.civcastusa.com.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., at the office of the, RSG Engineering, 13501 Katy Freeway, Suite 3180, Houston, Texas 77079. Bids submitted by parties not attending the Pre-Bid Conference will still be accepted.

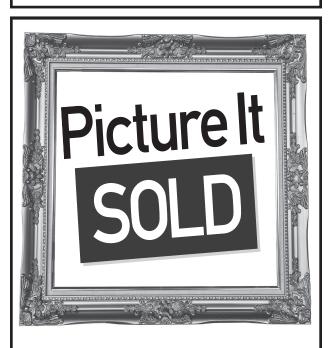
The above described construction will be performed in accordance with plans and specifications and any addenda thereto which may be issued prior to the opening of bids. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be obtained at the CivCast USA Website (www.civcastusa.com). Documents are also available for review at the office of the Engineer.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, from a responsible bank in the State of Texas, or a Bid Bond, issued by a surety legally authorized to do business in the State of Texas, equal to two percent (2%) of the total bid amount. Make the Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Bid Bond payable to the Owner.

If the Contractor is not one of the three low bidders, he may pick up his Cashier's Check Bid Security the following business day after the bid opening. If the Contractor is the third low bidder, he may exchange his Cashier's Check Bid Security for a two percent (2%) Bid Bond after the seventh (7th) calendar day after the bid opening. If the Contractor is the second low bidder, he may exchange his Cashier's Check Bid Security for a two percent (2%) bid bond after the fourteenth (14th) calendar day after the bid opening. If the Contractor is the low bidder, the Cashier's Check Bid Security will be returned after the Contract Documents are executed by all parties.

The successful bidder must furnish within seven (7) calendar days from the date the Contractor is notified that the Contract Documents are available for pick up, a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond on the forms furnished with the Contract Documents, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract price. The Surety Company must be authorized to do business in Texas, which authorization must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The Surety Company must be authorized to issue Payment and Performance Bonds in the amount required for the particular contract, which authorization must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The Surety Company must have a rating of at least "A" in the current Best's Key Rating Guide, or if the Surety Company does not have such a rating due to the length of time it has existed, the Surety Company must be eligible to participate in the Surety Bond Guarantee Program of the Small Business Administration and must be an approved surety listed in the current U.S. Department of Treasury Circular 570, and must meet all of the related rules and regulations of the Treasury Department. The person executing the Payment and Performance Bonds must be a licensed Texas local recording agent and such licensing must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The person executing the Payment and Performance Bonds must be authorized by the Surety Company to execute Performance and Payment Bonds on behalf of the company in the amount required for the contract and such authorization must be recorded in the files of the State Board of Insurance. The Contract shall not be in effect until such bonds have been provided by the Contractor and accepted by the Owner.

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



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Katy Times

# **UH** baseball will compete in 2024 **Astros College Classic**

**STAFF REPORT** 

The University of Houston Baseball team will participate in the 2024 **Astros Foundation College** Classic tournament set to take place at Minute Maid Park, the iconic home of the Houston Astros, from March 1-3, 2024.

The tournament, previously known as Shriners Children's College Classic, has earned a reputation as one of the most prominent collegiate baseball tournaments in the nation, attracting top-tier teams from across the country.

The 2024 tournament will feature a highly competitive field including the 2023 NCAA Champions, LSU, as well as Texas, Vanderbilt, Texas State and Louisiana. The Cougars last participated in the tournament in 2019 where they faced No.

16 TCU, Texas State and No. 23 Texas A&M.

The current 2024 Astros Foundation College Classic schedule is as follows:

#### Friday, March 1

- · Houston vs. Texas
- State, 11:05 a.m.
- Louisiana vs. Vanderbilt, 3:05 p.m.
- LSU vs. Texas, 7:05 p.m.

#### Saturday, March 2

• Vanderbilt vs. Houston, 11:05 a.m

- Texas State vs. Texas, 3:05 p.m.
- Louisiana vs. LSU, 7:05 p.m.

#### Sunday, March 3

- Texas vs. Vanderbilt,
- · Texas State vs. LSU. 3:05 p.m.
- Houston vs. Louisiana, 7:05 p.m.

each have shown good other.

"They do very well together and they understand it's a competition but they're also teammates," Dudley they continue to make each other better. That's why competition is great no matter the position."

Now, the key for the Cougars is to continue to get better every day as they inch towards scrimmages and the regular season. The team is confident, but know how important it is to keep improving.

Wednesday's practice at Cinco Ranch High School.

Charlie Adamoli passes the ball during

"Every day we have to come to work and be serious about it," said senior offensive lineman Alan Ramirez. "It's all about not taking a day off and making sure that we continue to get better and help all of our teammates get better



A Cinco Ranch running back takes a handoff during Wednesday's practice at Cinco Ranch High School.

#### CINCO

from page B1

beat in the third round each of the past two years and for us it's about getting past that point. We can't have any let up and we have to work every single day if we want to make that happen."

On offense the Cougars have a quarterback battle brewing.

Both Connor Brock and Charlie Adamoli have split snaps with a the first team and the two juniors

promise and embraced the competition against each

said. "Connor and Charlie have a friendly rivalry and



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#### ROYAL HOSTS REAGINS-ROYAL YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP





Royal ISD hosted a youth football camp on July 29th at Royal High School Stadium with Royal head football coach Theadis Reagins heading up the event. The event was the first in what the district plans to make an annual event and was made possible by help and volunteers from several community partners. Attendees heard from professional athletes, community leaders and more.



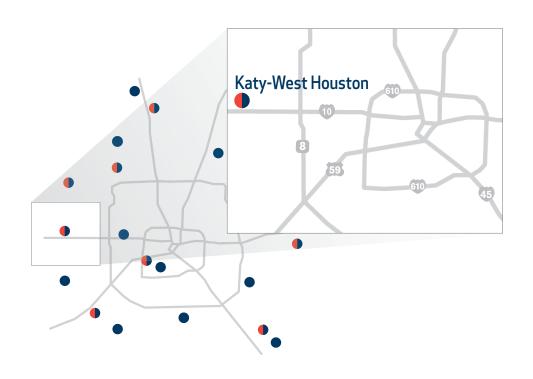


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