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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023

KISD talks "parental authority," gender policies



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Monday's school board meeting was covered in person by multiple major media outlets from the Houston area, including ABC-13, Fox 26, Houston Public Media and the nonprofit news digital platform Houston Landing, in addition to the Katy Times. ABC 13 reporter Daniella Hurtado is shown seated at the media desk in the KISD boardroom; she later did a live remote report for the station.

Board also discusses possible request for "good cause" exception for HB 3 requirement for armed officers at each campus

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Amid media attention from major broadcast news outlets across the city, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees discussed potential policy changes for district personnel, including "Parental Authority and Gender Fluidity Matters," possible changes to the evaluation criteria for the superintendent and possible changes to the board's own code of ethics.

Board president Victor Perez opened the discussion on "Parental Authority and Gender Fluidity" with an overview,

stating that the "parental authority" policy was needed to give guidance to teachers that would require employees to inform parents if a student asks to be identified as transgender, use different pronouns or change their name.

A written copy of the proposed policy was not made available to the media; district personnel responded that the policy could not be released since it was only in draft form.

Perez said in his opening remarks that the topic of gender was being

See **KISD**, page A3

Waller Co. to place mobility bond on Nov. 7 ballot

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

By a unanimous vote in its August 16th meeting, the Waller County Commissioners Court voted to place a \$280 million bond package on the November 7th ballot for voters to consider.

County Judge Trey Duhon encouraged residents who are seeking more information about the bond package to review the workshops and presentations previously made to commissioners court, which are available online at www.co.waller.tx.us.

Duhon also announced that the county would hold a series of town halls - including meetings in each of the county's four precincts - between now and the November election. He also said that there would probably be another workshop in commissioners court on the mobility bond, which will also be recorded and made available online on the county's website.

"Now, it is up to the voters," said Duhon.

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Katy ISD welcomes more than 94,000 students back on first day of school

District opens two new elementary schools

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD embarked on a new academic year on Wednesday, August 16th as students teachers and staff returned to school. When

the morning bell ran across the district, more than 94,000 students were welcomed back to their designated campuses.

The district also opened two brand-new campuses, Faldyn Elementary and Youngblood Elementary, located in the growing northwest quadrant. Faldyn Elementary is at 25615 Clay Road, Katy, while Young-

See **SCHOOL**, page A3



PHOTOS COURTESY KATY ISD

Top: Superintendent Ken Gregorski welcomes second grader Eden Johnson to the first day of school at Youngblood Elementary, while her mother Andrea Liner, who is a KISD instructional coordinator, looks on. Above: School board member Rebecca Fox high-fives students coming to the new Faldyn Elementary campus.

Phone scammers targeting Fort Bend County residents with scam involving jury service

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Identity thieves have been calling and threatening Fort Bend County residents for failing to report to jury service and demanding that they pay a fine or a warrant will be issued for their arrest, according to a press release from the office of Beverly

McGrew Walker, district clerk.

According to the release, thieves asked for confidential information and claimed to be from either the district clerk's office or the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office WILL NEVER call any resident of Fort Bend County and request their social security

number, credit card numbers or any other sensitive information. DO NOT give out any sensitive information to anyone claiming to be from the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office.

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office, The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, or any other law enforcement agency

WILL NEVER call any resident of Fort Bend County and instruct them to pay a fine over the phone in order to avoid a warrant being issued for their arrest.

If you receive one of these calls and or have been a victim, please contact the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office at (281) 341-4686 to file a report.

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Federally insured by NCUA.

Community Calendar

September



CONTRIBUTED

KTX Oktoberfest will be held at Typhoon Texas, 555 S. Katy Fort Bend Rd., from 5 to 10 p.m. on September 30.

ENJOY BREAKFAST WITH A VETERAN SEPTEMBER 2 AT THE KATY ELKS LODGE
Join Katy's veterans at the Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road, Katy, on the first Saturday of each month from 7 to 10 a.m. for an all-you-can-eat breakfast. The event, hosted by American Legion Post 164, benefits area veterans.

ART NIGHT AND SMALL BITES BENEFITS THE BALLARD HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 8TH

The Seven Lakes National Art Honor Society is hosting an art gallery night and silent auction at the Ballard House, 21421 Cinco Park Road, Katy on September 8th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All proceeds to the Ballard House, whose mission is to provide temporary housing for patients and their caregivers coming to the Katy/West Houston area medical facilities for treatment of life threatening illnesses. The silent auction will be check or cash only but the gallery is open for all ticket holders to enjoy. Small bites will be provided. For tickets, go to <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing/33855?embed&id=33855&fbclid=IwAR2QRueX-Gi8Yo7ZmF-D15Dz00aaYabsTFRVUsU-6jO7XuzlfiKwZa8IRP6fFQ>

SUPPORT YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND BRING YOUR PET TO KATY FAMILY MARKET DAY AT MKT ON SEPTEMBER 9TH

Come out and support young entrepreneurs who are just starting their businesses – kids and adults alike – at Katy Family Market Day at MKT Distillery, 5373 First Street, Katy. The outdoor event is from 5 to 9 p.m. and will feature pet nail trims as a fundraiser for Cuddle Buddies Rescue and Mutts and Meows Rescue – pets welcome! For information, contact katyfamilymarket@gmail.com.

IGY6VETERANSBENEFIT CONCERT AT WILDCATTER SEPTEMBER 9TH

Join Aaron Ray Vaughn in concert with Rayne Johnson, Charlie Kingery, & The Band Steele, on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 2023 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Freeway, Katy. This event is to raise money and awareness for veterans and to help with their financial needs. Veterans organizations

Soldier Solutions, Vetlife4life, What Makes Us Fire and Vets4childrescue will also speak. For more information go to <http://igy6veteransbenefit.com>

LACENTERRA AT CINCO RANCH BRINGS BACK THE CAR CULTURE SHOW ON SEPTEMBER 10TH

Calling all car enthusiasts! The Car Culture Show is back at The Alamo Theatre parking lot at LaCenterra, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Katy from 9 to 11 a.m. on September 10th. There will be over 50 exotic and muscle cars on display, along with a DJ spinning tunes and other exciting events. See more details at thecarculture.org. Free admission.

FULSHEAR KATY CHAMBER WELCOMES TAMU VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AS SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Jr., USA (Ret.) as the guest speaker for the September 13th meeting Parkway Fellowship Church, 27043 FM 1093, Richmond. A Houston native, Brigadier General Ramirez



JOE E. RAMIREZ JR.

is the Texas A&M Vice President for Student Affairs, with an illustrious 31-year military career and a distinguished tenure as the 45th Commandant of Cadets at Texas A&M University. During his time as the Commandant, General Ramirez oversaw significant growth, increasing the Corps of Cadets in size and diversity, and enhancing their overall academic performance. In addition to his military and academic contributions, General Ramirez is an active community member, serving on boards for organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of Brazos Valley and the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Attendees of the meeting can look forward to insights from General Ramirez's vast experience and leadership. The event will begin with a meet

and greet at 7:30 a.m., followed by the main meeting starting promptly at 8 a.m. This is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.FulshearKaty.com/Events or contact the Chamber directly at 832-600-3221.

KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO HOLD 19TH ANNUAL GALA ON SEPT. 14TH

Katy Christian Ministries will host its 19th annual gala on September 14th from 6 to 9 p.m. at Safari Texas Ranch, 11627 FM 1464 Rd., Richmond. The event features dinner and dancing with music from the Earl Sanders Jr. Band, as well as live and silent auctions. The "Wranglers and Rhinestones" gala has a fund-raising goal of \$135,000.00, which will further the organization's efforts to provide services in the Katy area, including the food pantry, crisis intervention services and voucher program providing basic necessities for those in need. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to ktcm.org/gala.

SAFETY FEST 2023 FEATURES FIREHOUSE COMBAT CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 16TH

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? Katy Area Safety Fest will host the Firehouse Combat Challenge on Saturday, Sept. 16th at Katy Mills Mall. Competition is open to male and female competitors from ALL agencies (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Military, etc.). For additional information contact Ryan LeBlanc (937) 367-3417.

CAMP SHIELD HOST "HOPS & VINES" FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT WOMEN VETERANS

The first annual "Hops & Vines" fall fundraiser benefitting Camp SHIELD will be held September 23rd at The Ark by Norris, 21402 Merchants Way, Katy, from 4 to 9 p.m. The evening, which is presented by the West Houston Leadership Institute Class of 2023 and which will benefit women veterans, will feature children's events, a silent auction, a color guard, speaker, live entertainment, dinner and drinks. Camp SHIELD is a division of After Military Service (AMS), a 501(c)3 organization founded in July 2017 to support the personal and professional success of Veterans and their families, After military service. AMS

increases resiliency, life satisfaction and empowers our nation's military families.. For more information, please contact Tina Eldridge at teldridge@campshield.org or call 830-305-6645.

KATY'S FIRST UMC CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Katy First United Methodist Church will celebrate 125 years of serving the Katy community, with a special service on September 24th at 11 a.m. Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey will officiate and a banquet will follow at noon where a special proclamation will be read. The church is located at 5601 5th St, Katy. For more information, please go to katyfirst.org.

INAUGURAL "WOMEN OF KATY" LUNCHEON TO BE PRESENTED BY KBA AND KACC ON SEPTEMBER 26TH

The Katy Business Association and Katy Area Chamber of Commerce will present the very first "Women of Katy" luncheon, a collaborative event featuring a dynamic panel discussion. Distinguished panelists will engage in thought-provoking conversations, exploring topics such as professional growth, leadership, work-life balance, overcoming challenges, giving insight into resources available to women and the importance of community involvement.

In addition to the enriching panel discussion, the Women of Katy Luncheon provides a unique opportunity to network with like-minded individuals who share a passion for personal and professional growth.

This event is open to everyone who seeks inspiration, knowledge, and empowerment, according to the KBA Facebook page. The luncheon is scheduled at Perry's Steakhouse at 11 a.m. on September 26th with limited seating. For more information, please go to WomenofKaty.com.

"SHE BUILDS IT" WOMEN'S PEER GROUP TO HOLD HAPPY HOUR AT HOME RUN DUGOUT SEPT. 28TH

Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston will sponsor the September 28th happy hour for She Builds It! from 3 to 5 p.m. at Home Run Dugout, 1220 Grand W Blvd, Katy. She Builds It! is an American Subcontractors Association-Houston Chapter women's only peer group developed to be a resource, build relationships and support women involved in the construction industry. To register, go to <https://asahouston.org/calendar-events/#event/2023/9/28/she-builds-it-home-run-dugout-happy-hour>.

KTX OKTOBERFEST AT TYPHOON TEXAS ON SEPTEMBER 30TH

Looking for a fun-filled day of food and Drink? Then head to KTX Oktoberfest at Typhoon Texas, 555 S. Katy Fort Bend Rd in Katy on September 30th from 5 to 10 p.m. This festive event features a variety of German-themed food and drink, making it the perfect place to celebrate Oktoberfest. For more information and ticket details, visit the event website at ktxoktoberfest.com.

MESA OUTREACH HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT SEPTEMBER 30TH AT BLACKHORSE GOLF CLUB

Join Mesa Outreach for an evening of gaming, delicious food and drinks and great company. Try your luck at the poker table, roll the dice at the craps table, or spin the wheel at the roulette table. And of course, blackjack tables will be open too! Casino Night will take place on September 30th from 7 to 10 p.m. at Blackhorse Golf Club, 12205 Fry Road, Cypress. Tickets can be purchased at www.mesa-outreach.org. Proceeds support Mesa-Outreach's programs and services which include its food pantry, "Books to Kids" program and scholarships.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Russian painter
- Very fast jet
- Philippine municipality
- Intestinal
- Small freshwater fish
- Algerian coastal city
- Vomit
- Famed astronomer
- Ghanaian currency
- Improved the condition of
- Int'l association of interpreters
- Infections
- Dish made with lentils
- Thou
- Former CIA
- Unit used to compare power levels
- Members of Pueblo people
- Myanmar monetary units
- Polished
- Signed a contract
- Nothing
- Once-ubiquitous department store
- Neural structures
- Thick piece of something
- Slang for trucks with trailers
- Longing
- Senior officer
- Levels of frequency
- Bird's beak
- Move rapidly downwards
- Koran chapters
- Stretches out
- Top of the human body

CLUES DOWN

- "Iron Man" actress Leslie
- Wings
- Adjust the spacing
- They're usually locked
- Atomic #43
- Wise individuals
- Horse mackerel
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Confines
- Colorless crystalline compound
- Unsatisfactorily
- Plant of the parsley family
- Determines time
- Causes the birth of
- Small ornament on a watch chain
- Richly decorated cloth tapestry
- Vito Corleone was one
- Igbo musical instrument
- Put in harmony
- Japanese alcoholic drinks
- Tinseltown
- Closes tightly

32. Songs sung to one's lover
34. One thousandth of an inch
35. Small drink of whiskey
37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
40. Helps little firms
42. Baby's eating accessory
43. Very long periods of time
47. Small block of wood
49. Town in Surrey, England

50. Enquiry
52. Murdered
53. Bura-_: Chadic language
55. Crater on Mars
56. Mammal genus
57. Sock
58. Make
59. Stony waste matter
61. Partner to cheese
65. Pound

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: intermediate

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

KISD

from page A1

discussed nationally and while there were no local issues currently prompting the creation of such a policy, it was necessary for the protection of girls sports from competition from biological males, the protection of bathroom safety and for the management of the use of pronouns inconsistent with the biological sex of the child.

He said that the board also wanted to address that schools are not teaching or providing instructional materials which teach gender fluidity. He said that the policy would provide future guidelines to give guidance to district teachers and staff, to protect children and to ensure that the parental role was "paramount."

"Parents need to have full knowledge at all times about what is going on with their child," said Perez. Perez said that the policy emphasized communication and collaboration.

Two trustees – board veterans Rebecca Fox and Dawn Champagne – expressed their concerns about the policy, stating that the requirement for teachers to report conversations about gender identification issues to the parents of students would erode the trust between teachers and students. Champagne also said that disclosure of such information to parents could lead to safety issues for the student in some cases. Additionally, Champagne said that the burden of implementing the policy would fall on teachers, who already have enough to handle. Each of the two trustees further stated that she had not received any complaints from parents or teacher about the district's current policy, or lack thereof, to handle these issues.

"This is a solution in search of a problem," said Fox, who has served on the board for over 18 years. "What is the problem we are trying to solve?"

Board member Mary Ellen Cuzela responded that "This is called leadership" and that Katy ISD needed to "get ahead of the problem" in order to prevent situation like those which she said were occurring in states like Michigan where there were incidences of multiple rapes of young girls by transgender students who were using the girls' bathrooms. She did not cite the source of her data.

Board president Victor Perez thanked the board members for the "robust" discussion.

Other potential policy changes discussed during the work study meeting included:

- A possible change to the board's code

of ethics which would drop the requirement that the board's decisions be "fact based" rather than based on opinion

- Possible changes to the criteria used to evaluate the performance of the superintendent

Trustee Lance Redmon challenged the "red-lining" of these items, stating the board members should use facts to make decisions rather than relying on personal opinion; Perez responded that opinions of board members always influence their decisions, in addition to the facts under consideration. Redmon also questioned the changes to the criteria for the superintendent, stating that any employee needs to know in advance what criteria will be used to grade their performance during an evaluation period.

At the meeting, district general counsel Justin Graham also presented an option for trustees to consider in regard to the district's compliance with HB 3, which, in the wake of the gun violence at Uvalde and other campuses, requires an armed security officer at each campus by September 1st. Graham said that the district did not currently have these officer positions staffed – needing about 40 to 50 more officers -- and would not be able to meet the deadline.

The "good cause" exception request would be based on two factors: the lack of staff to fill the security officer positions and the financial impact of the requirement. Graham said that the district received a slight increase in the state allotment as well as \$15,000 per campus from the state for security upgrades but those funds must cover all security upgrades (such as the addition of entry vestibules to campus buildings) in addition to the hiring and equipping of peace officers. The best plan moving forward, said Graham, would be to hire Level 3 guards who would be trained and armed and stationed at each campus. A spokesperson for the Katy ISD police department said that this could be done by September 15th, although acquiring the necessary equipment for the officers could take up to 90 days. The board did not vote on this resolution but may consider it at their next regular meeting.

The meeting was covered in person by multiple major media outlets from the Houston area, including ABC-13, Fox 26, Houston Public Media and the nonprofit news digital platform Houston Landing, in addition to the Katy Times.

The next meeting of the school board – which is a regular meeting as opposed to a work study meeting -- is scheduled for Monday, August 28th.

The next meeting of the school board – which is a regular meeting as opposed to a work study meeting – is scheduled for Monday, August 28th.



PHOTO COURTESY KISD

Above: Namesakes David and Terri Youngblood attended the opening day of the campus named in their honor. Youngblood Elementary (left) is located at 25600 Longenbaugh Road, Katy, north of FM 529, near the intersection of Longenbaugh and Katy Hockley Road.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

SCHOOL

from page A1

Youngblood Elementary is located at 25600 Longenbaugh Road, Katy. Three existing campuses -- Katy Elementary at 5726 George Bush Avenue in Katy, Winborn Elementary at 22555 Prince George Lane in Katy and Schmalz Elementary at 18605 Green Land Way, Houston -- underwent renovations this summer, making the start of the school year even more exciting for some students.

"We've been growing significantly in Katy ISD for many years. We are currently at about 94,000 students and by about 2030 we should have about 100,000 students. When the district is fully built out, we will have about 118,000 students," said Ken Gregorski, superintendent of schools at Katy ISD. "Families are coming to Katy and it's because of the schools," added Gregorski.

The two new state-of-the-art campuses, are each designed to serve over 1,000 students and include leading-edge technology, collaborative spaces for learning, energy-efficient components, learning stairs



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



FILE PHOTO

Above: Faldyn Elementary is located at 25615 Clay Road near the intersection of Clay and Katy Hockley Road. Left: Namesakes Cindie and Russell Faldyn have a combined history of 66 years in public education.

and other features to support academic excellence. As with all Katy ISD campuses, these two new schools also include the latest safety and security mechanisms and features recommended by the Texas School Safety Center.

The Faldyns have been a fixture in the Katy ISD school community for as

long as most can remember. They have contributed a combined 66 years of service to support public education. The Youngbloods have been dedicated to the field of education for decades and have demonstrated a passion for students, staff and the community of Katy ISD through a collective 77 years of service.



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The Katy Times will be closed on

Labor Day

Sept. 4, 2023

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **Sept. 7 edition** is **3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff



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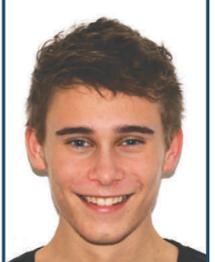


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PARTY WITH A PURPOSE



Above: Relay for Life of Katy organizer Brenda Hunter Martin kicked off the 2023-2024 fundraising campaign with a "Party with a Purpose" held at Midway Barbeque, 6025 Highway Blvd., Friday, August 18th. The kickoff fundraiser featured Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski Jewelry and all proceeds 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. Right: Vicki Wiggins shops the Touchstone Crystal catalog at Friday's "Party with a Purpose" benefitting Relay for Life of Katy.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



Wan Bridge opens Enclave at Mason Creek in Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Wan Bridge, a Texas-based builder and operator of build-to-rent (BTR) communities, officially opened the doors to its latest development Enclave at Mason Creek at 21455 Merchants Way, Katy, with a grand opening ribbon-cutting event on Thursday, August 17.

The Enclave community is the builder's first rental development in Katy and features 192 three-to-four-bedroom townhomes designed for luxury and elegance, ranging from 1,406 to 2,066 square feet.

"We are excited to bring this latest community to market, especially for potential residents who are looking for a more modern place to live in the area," said Ting Qiao, CEO of Wan Bridge. "The launch of Enclave at Mason Creek will provide residents relaxed suburban living in Katy with easy access to the many city thrills one can find in Houston."

Wan Bridge welcomed the Katy Chamber of Commerce, local elected officials and other community partners to celebrate the launch of its newest BTR neighborhood.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At their August 17th ribbon cutting with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, staffers from the Enclave at Mason Creek community by Wan Bridge presented a check for \$1000.00 to local nonprofit Sunshine Through the Rain, which is dedicated to helping children that have lost one or both of their parents by providing a safe environment for them to express and share their experiences and make new memories.

During the ceremony, The Wan Bridge Foundation presented a check to Sunshine Thru the Rain to recognize the organization's contribution to the local community.

The homes of Enclave at Mason Creek were designed with residents' wants and needs in mind and feature open floor plans, designer upgrades, and flexible layouts that fit the needs of families of all different stages, providing welcoming, versatile spaces that are

stylish and functional.

The community offers all residents a hassle-free lifestyle complete with quality on-site maintenance, which includes lawncare, air filter and bulb replacement, and pest control services.

For further information on Enclave at Mason Creek, please visit www.enclaveatmasoncreek.com. To learn more about Wan Bridge and its impact on the build-to-rent industry in Texas, visit www.wanbridge.com.

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!



Pablo from Spain, 17 yrs.
Loves soccer and would like to learn to play baseball. Pablo is a boy scout and enjoys the outdoors.

(for 3, 5 or 10 months)

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from Belgium, Italy, France, Ukraine, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Germany or Thailand as part of your family for a school year (or less) and make an overseas friend for life.

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.

Please call Jayne at 817-851-8711 or e-mail me at jayne@world-heritage.org

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



www.whhosts.com

World Heritage is a public benefit, non-profit organization based in Laguna Beach, CA.

Friends of Willow Fork Park to offer tips for creating a pollinator garden

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On Saturday August 26, from 9 to 10 a.m. the Friends of Willow Fork Park will host Master Naturalist, Diane Russell, when she will present "Six Steps to Creating a Backyard Pollinator

Garden."

The Master Naturalist will cover the six key steps to planning a backyard butterfly garden. The discussion will include planning, preparing, choosing the types of pollinator plants, and planting and maintenance.

The one-hour program starts at 9 a.m. at the pavilion at Willow Fork Park, located at the northwest corner of 99/Grand Parkway and Cinco Ranch Blvd., north of Cinco Ranch High School. This is a free family-friendly activity for all ages.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.522943 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the Commissioners Court of Waller County.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.522943 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.493156 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.522943 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 Waller County 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 Waller County may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Waller County is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 6, 2023 at 9:00AM at the Waller County Courthouse Room 201 located at 836 Austin Street in Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Waller County is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Commissioners Court of Waller County at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:

- Carbett Trey J. Duhon III
- John A. Amsler, Commissioner Prct. 1
- Walter E. Smith, Commissioner, Prct. 2
- Kendric D. Jones, Commissioner, Prct. 3
- Justin Beckendroff, Commissioner, Prct. 4

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

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 growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Waller County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Waller County, Texas this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.548445	\$0.5229435	decrease of -0.025502 or -4.65%
Average homestead taxable value	\$214,049	\$243,642	increase of \$29,593 or 13.83%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,173.94	\$1,274.11	increase of \$100.17 or 8.53%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$48,844,794	\$56,527,467	increase of \$7,704,673 or 15.78%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures

The Waller County spent \$179,967 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 on indigent health care compensation expenditures in the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$24,680. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.000251/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Waller County at 730 9th Street in Hempstead Texas 77445, phone 979-826-7620, email: e.shelburne-tax@wallercounty.us or visit <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/TAC.Main> for more information.

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NASH SHARES HIS FAITH



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Grammy award winner and country music legend Bill Nash shared his personal journey from the cotton fields outside Pharr, Texas, to the bright lights of Nashville, as the featured speaker at the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce breakfast on August 18th at the Church on the Rock, 433 S. Barker Cypress Road, Houston. "The love of Jesus Christ is my theme," he said. Nash attended the University of Houston and returned to the Houston area to devote his time to Champions Kids Camp, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that is dedicated to the nurturing of children who have survived a traumatic injury, illness or personal loss, such as the loss of a parent or sibling. Champions Kids Camp was founded in 2001 by Nash and his wife Kim, in honor of their oldest son, Billy, who survived childhood leukemia. Through a week-long camp, children between the ages of 8 and 12 are able to heal from the "emotional scarring" they have experienced in their young lives.

TRIBUTE

John "Boogie" Stevens departed his earthy home to his heavenly home, to be with Jesus and his loving wife Ruth, on August 14, 2023 at 11:56 a.m. His life was one of devotion to his faith, family, and friends.

John was born on February 10, 1933 in Bay City, TX to Ben and Maud Lee Stevens. He was the second of four boys. He is survived by daughters Mitzi Marie Wiggin and husband Les, and Patti Vee Drachenberg and husband Ron; grandchildren Dorcas and Steven Bentley, Michael and Heidi Wiggin, John and Shannon Drachenberg, Chandra and Clayton Goodman, Paul and Leah Drachenberg, Steven and Leslie Wiggin, and Keith Wiggin; great-grandchildren Hazel, Lily Ve, Cedric Drachenberg,



JOHN STEVENS
1933-2023

Sasha and Nadya Golovine, Allison Goodman, Wyatt and Nolan Drachenberg, Genevieve Wiggin, and a host of nieces, nephews,

family and friends.

Visitation began at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 20, 2023, at Northside Chapel in Bay City, TX. Funeral services followed at 3:00 p.m. with Pastors David Rose and Tommy Griffin officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Park in Van Vleck, TX. Pallbearers were Michael Wiggin, John Drachenberg, Paul Drachenberg, Steven Wiggin, Keith Wiggin and Michael Pittman.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Northside Chapel or Coastal Plains Gideons in John's memory.

Online condolences may be shared with the family by visiting www.taylorbros.net. Arrangements are with Taylor Bros. Funeral Home Bay City. 979-245-4613.

'ON EAGLES' WINGS'



Vocalist Karen Kurt inspires attendees at the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce's August 18th breakfast with her rendition of "On Eagles' Wings."

SUSAN ROVEGNO

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EDUCATION



TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

TWC robotics grants inspire students to pursue STEM occupations

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

AUSTIN - Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) awarded more than \$2.3 million in grants for Youth Robotics programs, allowing more than 10,000 Texas high school students to participate in various events that lead to the world championship. This year, four applicants received awards: FIRST in Texas, Urban STEM, Collegiate Education, and BEST of Texas Robotics.

"Learning by doing is a tried-and-true educational strategy. These grants provide experiential learning opportunities for thousands of Texas students," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "The STEM skills students can gain from youth robotics competitions will provide them a great entry point into the Texas workforce."

The Youth Robotics Initiative encourages interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by expanding participation in robotics programs for high school students by developing new teams for robotics education competitions and supporting existing competitive teams. Additionally, this program removes barriers to participation for students from schools in underserved urban and rural communities. Each grantee also has teams comprised of students with disabilities.

"Texas employers are seeking the skills gained in youth robotics programs—from engineering and programming to soft skills like ingenuity and teamwork," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. "This is another example of how TWC provides early opportunities for youth to explore STEM and high-demand occupations sought by Texas employers."

The four grants total \$2,335,830 and will enable 10,634 students to participate in youth robotics this

upcoming year. The grantees include:

- Foundation For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology in Texas (FIRST in Texas) received \$700,000 to serve 5,800 high school students in more than 350 teams—30 of those teams will be comprised of students with disabilities.

- Urban Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (Urban STEM) was awarded \$277,440 to serve 575 students in 25 teams—two of those teams will be comprised of students with disabilities.

- Collegiate Education was awarded \$699,290 for 140 students to participate in 36 teams—one team will be comprised of students with disabilities.

- BEST of Texas Robotics received \$659,100 to allow 4,119 students on 80 teams in their program—20 of those teams will be comprised of students with disabilities.

"Youth Robotics programs prepare high school students for a rewarding career in STEM-related industries across Texas," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "These grants create pathways by removing barriers for future Texans as we continue to focus on highly specialized training that will prepare the workforce for the future."

Teams that advance to the State Championship for each program will have the opportunity to move on to the World Championship arena. Robotics competitions bring together the excitement of sports, science, and technology.

Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers, and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and its services in coordination with its local workforce development boards network, call 800-628-5115 or visit <https://twc.texas.gov/>

Digital Communications degree, certificate offered at Katy this fall

Program can unlock opportunities within in-demand field

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston Community College (HCC) students will now be able to earn a degree in Digital Communication at the Katy campus at 22910 Colonial Pkwy, Katy, starting Fall 2023. The Katy campus will offer a Level 1 certificate in the innovative field of digital media.

The program allows students to

gain experience using design software and techniques, said Andre Hermann, HCC Faculty Division Chair of Digital Communication.

"The industry needs skilled illustrators, photographers and technical communicators to design, photograph, write, edit and produce a wide variety of advertising and technical materials in print and electronic media," Hermann added. "This program helps students develop and present a portfolio of work that demonstrates the skills they'll need to get those jobs."

More than 4,000 graphic designers are employed across the Greater Houston area. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for graphic

designers is expected to increase 1.4 percent in the next four years.

From managing social media platforms to driving employee engagement initiatives, Digital Communications is a rapidly expanding sector that offers a multitude of exciting career opportunities across various industries.

"Demand for skilled professionals who can effectively navigate the digital landscape will continue to grow," Hermann said.

To learn more about the Digital Communication program, visit <https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/digital-communication>.

Parent heads back to school alongside kids

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

HOUSTON — Children are not the only ones heading back to school this August. Many parents are also packing their backpacks and lunch bags and heading to campus.

One parent at Houston Community College-Coleman College for Health Sciences shares a common reason to complete their education.

Four weeks after graduating from the Dental Assisting program at HCC Coleman College, a mother of three is already heading back to campus.

"Even though I'm now a certified dental assistant, I was accepted into the Dental Hygiene program. Now I'm starting my first year of the program," said Maren Jensen of Katy, Texas.

The 35-year-old will once again begin her hour-long commute to the Texas Medical Center five days a week for the next two years. She will also continue working weekends and occasional weeknights as a barista until she graduates in May 2025.

Balancing work, study and family life can be exhausting and stressful at times, but Jensen is ready to be uncomfortable.

"I have to wake up at 5:45 just so I



"There's a lot of sacrifice upfront, but I'll have so many opportunities that weren't there before because of the education and skills I gain as a dental hygienist."

—MAREN JENSEN, HCC student

can get on the highway at 6:15," Jensen said. "It takes me about an hour to get to school in the morning, and, depending when I get out, it can take an hour or hour-and-a-half before I get home, but it's all just part of the price you pay when you pursue a degree."

"There's a lot of sacrifice upfront," Jensen added, "but I'll have so many opportunities that weren't there before because of the education and skills I gain as a dental hygienist."

Everyone in Jensen's circle helps her while she attends college.

Jensen's fiancé drops off her 13-year-old daughter, 8-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son at school every weekday. Her friends and co-workers provide carpool support for her children after school. Her family also shares household responsibilities.

"A lot of household stuff, like

the cooking, cleaning and laundry, gets divided up by kids and fiancé," Jensen said. "I'm very grateful for the support system I have. This is how I'm able to find time to study. I shut myself in my bedroom, and that's become my study area at home."

Jensen's children do not divert her from her education. They, in fact, keep her on course.

"My kids are my biggest cheerleaders and my main motivation for going back to school," Jensen said. "What motivates me is knowing all my hard work will pay off one day, and I'll be able to share it with them."

Jensen, who overcame a difficult divorce five years ago, believes her college journey is teaching her children a life lesson.

"I really want my kids to see that whatever happens in life, you can always start over. You can always rebuild," she said.

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WEEK OF AUGUST 26

SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Thursday

- Morton Ranch vs. Aldine Eisenhower, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. College Park, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Mayde Creek vs. Westside, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium
- Taylor vs. Cy-Woods, 7 p.m., Berry Center
- Paetow vs. Conroe, 7 p.m., Moorhead Stadium
- Jordan vs. Aldine Davis, 7 p.m., Spring George Stadium

Saturday

- Katy vs. Clear Springs, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium
- Tompkins vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday

- Jordan vs. Northbrook, 10 a.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Fort Bend Clements, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Sam Rayburn, 4:20 p.m.

Friday

- Tompkins vs. Cedar Creek, 8 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Anderson, 1 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Sterling, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

District 19-6A

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

Non-District

- Jordan vs. Spring, 5:30 p.m.

TENNIS

- Tompkins vs. Cinco Ranch, 3 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 3 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Paetow, 3 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 3 p.m.



JOHN GLASER | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

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



LAURA MCCULLOUGH | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



KELLY RICHMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Week One Katy ISD Previews

ALL GAMES NON-DISTRICT

Thursday

Morton Ranch vs. Aldine Eisenhower, 6:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium

Last year: Morton Ranch 21, Eisenhower 19

• It's a week of rematches all across the board for Katy ISD and it kicks off with a game between Morton Ranch and Aldine Eisenhower.

The Mavericks came out of last year's matchup as 21-19 winners and will be trying to have a strong start to the season.

Morton Ranch has some big playmakers back. Mike Gerald will be a big impact player both offensively and defensively. Ryan Hall will be a workhorse in the running game while Dean Ford and Jerome Ryans will lead the defensive side of things. The Mavericks will lean heavily on the

run in the game as they try to ground and pound offensively to create an advantage and help the defense out as well.

Eisenhower comes off a playoff season like Morton Ranch does and will have a strong defense that they bring back. Jacorey Carter and Jeremiah Swain are players to watch on the defensive side of things, while

See **PREVIEW**, page B2

Above, from left Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek's lineman take off at the snap of the ball during a game last season. Paetow takes the field for its game against Conroe at Legacy Stadium on Friday.

Katy ranked 5th in Dave Campbell preseason rankings

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy brought in another preseason honor.

The Tigers were named in the top five of the Class 6A Dave Campbell Texas Football preseason rankings, as Katy came in at No. 5 in the first rankings of the year.

The Tigers came in as one of the top teams in the state after finishing last season as a Class 6A-Division II state semifinalist and returning five starters on offense and four on defense.

Katy was only topped in the rankings by Duncanville, which took the No. 1 spot as well as North Shore, DeSoto and Westlake.

Katy was the only Katy ISD team to make the list and the second highest team from the Hosuton area to make it, North Shore was the first as they came in at No. 2 team in the state, Westfield was ranked sixth while Atascocita was ranked 10th, The Woodlands was

See **RANKING**, page B3



COURTESY KATY ISD

Paetow co-offensive coordinator Clyde Edwards (middle left) poses for a photo with fellow Grambling State alumni's David Hicks Sr. (right), Raynard Mills and Nicholas Powell.

Paetow co-offensive coordinator Edwards seizes on opportunity at Ravens training

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Clyde Edwards has learned a lot over the past month.

Over the course of late July and early August, Edwards, Paetow's co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach, got a chance to do something which he never thought he'd be able to — spending time with the Baltimore Ravens training camp as part of the NFL's Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship.

"It was an amazing experience," Edwards said.

"I had been on the player side of it before, but being in an NFL environment as a coach was awesome. I really got a chance to see everything that goes into it from a coaching and management standpoint. There's an incredible amount of detail that goes into it and it really opened my eyes."

The Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship gives chances every year for talented coaches around the nation to participate as a coach in OTAs, minicamp or Training Camp and encour-

See **PAETOW**, page B3

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PREVIEW

from page B1

Eisenhower's biggest offensive threat is wide receiver Zaccary Harris. Overall it will be a good early look to see how the Mavericks stack up this year as they look to build off last season's playoff appearance.

**Seven Lakes vs. Memorial,
7:15 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last year: Memorial 17, Seven Lakes 13
• For the sixth straight year, Seven Lakes will open the season by playing Memorial, in what has become a friendly rivalry between the two schools where they both test each other early in the season.

Last year's game was a very good one, where Seven Lakes went ahead early but were unable to hold on in the second half in a close 17-13 loss.

The Spartans will lean on the run game offensively. Seven Lakes returns both of their leading rushers from last year in Barrett Hudson and Jake Farris and those two have a lot expected of them. There will be a new quarterback for the Spartans this year and they will have a chance to prove themselves in the season opener. Defensively, Amani Hooks and Austin Easterling will lead the linebacker unit and will be in charge of slowing down a good Memorial offense.

The Spartans will have their work cut out for them. Memorial brings back a good quarterback in Jackson Salters and an explosive running back in Cooper Gindorf. Defensively they bring back only two starters, and that is where the Spartans can take advantage of inexperience.

Overall it will give a great opening look at both teams and give Seven Lakes an idea of their strengths and weaknesses after one week of the season.

Friday

**Cinco Ranch vs. College Park,
6:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

Last year: Cinco Ranch 41, College Park 13
• Cinco will figure out a lot about where they are with their first game of the season against College Park.

The Cougars will have new starters all over the field and it will be a chance for players to prove themselves and cement playing time this season. Offensively there will be new players at nearly every position, but the Cougars have talent and will be able to lean on running backs Domenic Ramirez, Tessiah Young and Kevin Bello to help lead the offense. Connor Brock and Charlie Adamoli might both get reps at the quarterback position while they both try to cement themselves as the starter and it will offer an opportunity for Cinco to learn more about lots of players.

Defensively, Cinco will expect big performances from their two big time corners in Taytum Johnson and Superior Hill and others will need to step up around them.

College Park will provide a test for Cinco, especially the Cougars' defense. They bring back quarterback Kam Montgomery and

wide receiver Connor Dunphy along with other weapons in the pass game and it will be up to the Cinco defense to shut that down. The Cinco defense should be able to find success against the College Park offense but overall it should be a very good matchup between the two teams.

**Taylor vs. Cy-Woods,
7 p.m. at Berry Center**

Last year: Cy-Woods 38, Taylor 17
• It will be a tough matchup for Taylor to start the season as they face a strong Cy-Woods team on Friday at the Berry Center.

Taylor faced off against Cy-Woods last year as well and came short, but with an improved roster and experience it will be a good first game for Taylor to learn from.

Taylor has lots of returners this year, with Dante Archie and Ian Flynt chief among them on the offense and Josh Higginbotham stepping in at quarterback. That trio will have a great chance to prove themselves against Cy-Woods while the Taylor defense, led by Ashton Coker and Cyrus Reyes will be tested as well.

Cy-Woods has talent all over the offensive side of the ball, being led by quarterback Aiden Horton, who threw for 1,330 yards last year to go with 12 touchdowns. They also have strong players at receiver, running back and on the line, which will be a test for a good Taylor defense. Defensively is where Woods has some question marks. The team has a strong secondary but up front they lost some big-time talent and the offensive line of Taylor could take advantage of that.

Overall, the game should make for an intriguing one that could go either way.

**Paetow vs. Conroe,
7 p.m. at Moorehead Stadium**

Last year: Paetow 14, Conroe 3
• Paetow got last year started on the right foot when they took down Conroe 14-3 and the Panthers will try to start this season by doing the same thing.

Last year's game was a good one where two strong defenses went back and forth and there wasn't much scoring. The Panthers will want to come out and show their new offense and what it can offer. Brock Nichols has had a full offseason working as the No. 1 quarterback and will have some weapons to work with. Jabari Bush is a huge target and quarterback's best friend, and there are also options to spread the ball around in the run and the pass game.

Defensively, the Panthers have talent all around the ball. They bring back some of their most important players and should have a strong unit all around. But they will be tested by Conroe.

The Tigers return a very strong defense, especially on the back end with Devondre McGee, Isaiah Pruitt and Tice Williams being a formidable trio in the secondary. On offense, Conroe could be trying to sort out their starting quarterback and the Panthers could be able to take advantage of that.

The matchup will give a good look at how sharp Paetow is early on as they have a goal of reaching the playoffs this year.

**Jordan vs. Aldine Davis,
7 p.m. at Leonard George Stadium**

Last year: Jordan 64, Davis 14
• Jordan has big goals this year and it starts with their opener against Aldine Davis.

The two met last year in the first game of the season as well, with Jordan dominating from start to finish in a huge win. The Warriors should be able to put another early stamp on the season this year, as they return a huge number of players on both sides of the ball and look to be a clear favorite in the game.

Jordan's offense is filled with difference makers. Colin Willetts should have taken another jump heading into his senior year — he is helped out by Andrew Marsh and Zechariah Sample at receiver and Chad Gasper at running back to go along with even more weapons.

Defensively, Sample and Zion Jones are two of the most important players they have, while they also have strong players on the line which will help incorporate newcomers.

Davis will have a good defense this year, with starters returning at the linebacker and defensive line level. Offensively, Davis might have trouble against Jordan and it should be a chance for the Warriors to get plenty of players playing time early in the year.

**Mayde Creek vs. Westside,
7:15 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last year: Mayde Creek 30, Westside 0
• Mayde Creek will start the year against Westside for the second straight season and it will be a chance for the Rams' returners to show their improvement against a team they should have an advantage over.

Mayde Creek came out 30-0 winners in last year's matchup, which they dominated from start to finish. This year will be about how far players have come from last year. Cole Jensen will have a full offseason under his belt as the starting quarterback for the Rams, and Eric Nelson joins him as a real threat in the backfield — both running and receiving. Trey Williams will be the team's No. 1 wideout in what could be a good unit. Defensively, Trevin Lucius and Torian Collier will be the biggest returners.

Westside will bring back some experience on offense, with Josh Robinson returning at quarterback and both Bryce Harris and Brayden Anderson leading the backfield. The defensive side of the ball has some questions for Westside that Mayde Creek should be able to take advantage of in what should be a strong first game for the Rams.

Saturday

**Katy vs. Clear Springs,
6:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

Last year: Katy 49, Clear Springs 16
• Katy's yearly matchup with Clear

Springs comes again in the first week of the season, in what should again give Katy a chance to test out different things against an opponent.

The Tigers will have a number of players stepping up into bigger roles this season. Gunner Nelson will take over at quarterback and Romel Jordan will take over as the team's primary running back and it will be the first chance fans have to take a look at both. Returners are plentiful on the offensive line but not at the skill positions. Chase Johnsey, Luke Carter and Oliver Ginn are the only players back who have had meaningful playing time at the skill positions, but the Tigers should still be able to work well offensively.

Defensively, the Tigers should be very strong with good players spread across the field. Dakus Brinkley is a stud on the defensive line while Jed Olotu-Judah is a steady presence in the secondary, and Nathan Hall will lead the linebacking unit.

But that defense will be tested by a veteran offensive group from Clear Springs. The team returns eight starters. Raymond Edwards is the biggest returner for them at running back and can be a force against any defense, while Julian Salazar is a returner at quarterback and Clear Springs has a strong offensive line.

Defensively, Michael Sylvalie is the team's top returner and overall it should provide a good test both talent wise and with being able to try out different players and get them playing time.

**Tompkins vs. Cy-Ranch,
7:15 p.m. at Legacy Stadium**

Last year: Tompkins 31, Cy-Ranch 23
• Tompkins wants to play the best in their non-district schedule and they will start out with a matchup that is just that against Cy-Ranch.

Last year's season opener between the two teams was a great game that Tompkins ended up winning by one score, and the follow up should be just as good. Both teams in the matchup are expected to be top contenders in their districts and some of the best teams in the area.

Tompkins' backfield duo of Wyatt Young and Caleb Blocker will lead the way offensively along with a good offensive line unit that returns. Defensively, the Falcons again have a good unit that should be able to compete with any team.

On the side of Cy-Ranch, they return a strong team that includes Kyle McCray at running back, who ran for 714 yards and 11 touchdowns last year and Carson Littlefield, who had over 1000 yards receiving last season. The pass attack of Cy-Ranch will test the Falcons. Defensively, the Mustangs return six starters on that side of the ball and the team's defensive line is packed with talent. It will be a great strength on strength matchup where both teams will identify things they need to work on before they get to district play.



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Above: Katy players wrap up a C.E. King ballcarrier during a Class 6A-Division II Region III Final between Katy and C.E. King at NRG Stadium. Below: Katy's Johnathan Hall makes a tackle during Friday's Class 6A-Division II Region III Final between Katy and C.E. King at NRG Stadium.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

The Katy Tigers take the field for the Class 6A-DII state semifinal football game between Katy and Vandegrift on Dec. 10, 2022 in San Antonio.

RANKING

from page B1

ranked 12th, Cy-Fair was ranked 18th, Summer Creek was ranked 21st and Ridge Point was ranked 25th.

The Tigers have big pieces to replace this offseason but bring back a wealth of talent. The offensive line will be one of the strongest units in the area and the defensive line should be the same. The Tigers are set up for another year where they can make a run through district and the playoffs.

Katy will only play one team ranked in the top 25 during this regular season, as there will be a battle of top 10 teams on Sept. 1 when the Tigers travel to Humble to take on Atascocita in the team's final district game of the season.

Following is the full Class 6A Dave Campbell Texas Football Pre-season Texas High School Football Rankings.

CLASS 6A DAVE CAMPBELL TEXAS FOOTBALL PRESEASON RANKINGS

Rank	Team	Returning Starters	O/D	2022 Result
1	Duncanville	6/4	15-0	DI state champion
2	Galena Park North Shore	6/5	15-1	DI state finalist
3	DeSoto	6/6	14-2	DII state champion
4	Austin Westlake	5/3	14-1	DI state semifinalist
5	Katy	5/4	14-1	DII state semifinalist
6	Spring Westfield	5/6	12-2	DI regional finalist
7	Austin Vandegrift	5/5	14-2	DII state finalist
8	Southlake Carroll	6/4	13-1	DII regional finalist
9	Denton Guyer	3/4	14-1	DII state semifinalist
10	Humble Atascocita	6/3	11-3	DI regional finalist
11	Lake Travis	8/7	7-5	DI regional semifinalist
12	The Woodlands	8/4	10-3	DI regional semifinalist
13	Cibolo Steele	5/5	11-1	DI area finalist
14	Prosper	6/5	13-2	DI state semifinalist
15	Lewisville	7/3	12-2	DI regional finalist
16	San Antonio Brennan	3/5	12-2	DI regional finalist
17	North Crowley	6/6	12-1	DI regional semifinalist
18	Cypress-Fairbanks	8/5	10-2	DI area finalist
19	Klein Collins	7/7	10-2	DI area finalist
20	Rockwall	4/5	10-2	DI area finalist
21	Humble Summer Creek	4/4	8-5	DII regional semifinalist
22	McKinney	6/8	8-5	DII regional semifinalist
23	Dripping Springs	5/5	12-2	DII regional finalist
24	Byron Nelson	4/11	11-2	DII regional semifinalist
25	Fort Bend Ridge Point	6/2	10-3	DI regional semifinalist

PAETOW

from page B1

ages more hiring of minority coaches around the league.

Edwards got the chance for multiple weeks in training camp and on top of that got chosen to participate with the Ravens, an organization he was ecstatic to work under — especially with a well run staff all the way from the general managers office to the position coaches.

“As an offensive coach, being able to sit in those rooms, listen to those conversations and see how they teach and go about things from a schematic standpoint, it was everything I could have ever asked for.” Edwards said. “Being able to implement some of those things they did and bring it down and help the kids at Paetow just makes

me a better coach, and will hopefully lead to our offense being even better. What I’m so excited about it.”

But the most important thing he took from his time with the Ravens came from watching longtime head coach John Harbaugh.

“The way he goes about his job and the way he manages things was the most insightful thing for me,” Edwards said. “He surrounds himself and hires good people — you can see how confident he is in them and that allows him to just manage everything. Those guys focus in and really work hard with the dudes and Harbaugh oversees the practice but trusts his coaches to do the job they were hired to do. Structurally and

organizationally I was just so impressed with everything there with the Ravens.”

The biggest thing for Edwards was taking what he learned and applying it to his current position, helping the Panthers be the best they can be. He has been working on that since he has gotten back and Edwards can’t wait for the team to show their progress when they get to the regular season.

“I’m so excited about it,” Edwards said. “We got talent here all over the place, both up front and at the skill positions and we have some really good pieces. We think this can be a really good offense we just have to keep at it and keep improving every day. That’s what it’s all about.”

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 220 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding, L.L.P., 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, Texas 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: C. LeBouf, B. Dahl, & B. Colliander

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: K. Gehringer & G. Krejci

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 1.390 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 1.390 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$293,619	\$343,800
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$293,619	\$343,800
Tax on average residence homestead	\$4,081.30	\$4,778.82
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$697.52 17.0906%

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.

If the proposed combined debt service and operation and maintenance tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the District proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of establishing an operating reserve.

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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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit (BG) by "Last Bite Artisan Bistro" to be located at 9910 Gaston Road Unit #160 - Katy, Fort Bend, Texas. Officers of said corporation, or owners or partners are: Alejandro Tome, Member Manager, Valeria A. Tome, Member Manager.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: *Laura Angela Frayre and Misael Frayre-Sierra, owner(s), are requesting to be allowed to revise Lot 5, Block 1, Shiloh Subdivision.* The revision will subdivide 1 residential lot to create 3 residential lots. These newly configured lots would consist of 1.5773 acres of land. Shiloh Subdivision is situated in the S. P. Railroad Company Survey, Section 3, Abstract No. 262, Waller County, Texas recorded in Volume 297, Page 220, in the Deed Records of Waller County, Texas.

This replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicant's property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on September 20, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin St., Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2023

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 4.7 Acres Of Land In The H&TCRR CO Survey Section 43, Abstract 1711, Tracts: 5D, 5F-2, 5G, 5J, 5J-1 & 5J-2, and W.A. Stanberry Subdivision, Block 1, Lot 1, In Harris County From "C-1" Commercial District to "R-1" Single-Family District.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET FOR WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that, on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held on the Proposed 2024 Budget for Waller County, Texas, as prepared by the County Judge, to be considered by the Waller County Commissioners Court. This budget hearing will be held at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445. A copy of the proposed budget for adoption is available for inspection in the Office of Debbie Hollan, County Clerk of Waller County, Texas. The public is invited to attend this Budget Hearing.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by \$ 7,704,673 which is a 15.87% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$5,167,448.

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2023

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 4.7 Acres Of Land In The H&TCRR CO Survey Section 43, Abstract 1711, Tracts: 5D, 5F-2, 5G, 5J, 5J-1 & 5J-2, and W.A. Stanberry Subdivision, Block 1, Lot 1, In Harris County From "C-1" Commercial District to "R-1" Single-Family District.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2023

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 1.1477 Acres Of Land In The E.P. Everett Survey, Abstract 385 And Approximately 1.6294 Acres Of Land Being A Portion Of FM 1463 Right-of-Way, Fort Bend County, From "R-1" Single-Family District to "C-2" General Business District.

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SECTION 00200 - INVITATION FOR TRADE CONTRACTOR PROPOSALS

Trade Contractor and Supplier Proposals for the construction of the Waller County Courthouse at 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, TX 77445 will be received by the Design/Build Contractor, SEDALCO INC, via e-mail until 5:00 p.m. local time on September 13, 2023.

Proposals should clearly indicate the project name, scope of work, and any pertinent inclusions/exclusions. Further, proposals must be accompanied by the SEDALCO Bid Form (if provided). Please send proposals to bids@sedalco.com.

Bid Documents will be distributed by SEDALCO, Inc. through iSqFt and will be available for viewing and download at iSqFt.com. Please contact Dave Ritz at SEDALCO, Inc. if other methods of document distribution or viewing are necessary.

Plans and specifications will be available for distribution to trade contractors and suppliers on or about August 14, 2023.

All questions regarding the proposal request and access to the bidding documents must be directed to the Design/Build Contractor as follows:

SEDALCO INC
9400 Grogans Mill Road, Suite 320
The Woodlands, TX 77380-3636
281-907-5650
bids@sedalco.com

Waller County and SEDALCO, Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any formalities or irregularities and to make the award of the contract in the best interest of Waller County. By submitting a proposal, each proposer agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the Owner, the Architect/Engineer, Design/Build Contractor and their respective employees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation, or recommendation of any proposal; waiver of any requirements under the proposal documents; or the contract documents; acceptance or rejection of any proposals; and award of the Contract.

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August 17 Puzzle Answers

A	C	L	U	S	E	P	P	Y	A					
T	H	A	R	A	L	L	P	A	U	L				
P	A	V	I	A	M	I	A	E	D	N	A			
P	A	C	H	A	A	C	T	R	R	N	A			
				M	A	R	I	T	I	M	E	S		
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G	N	O	L	O	N	E	S	R	O					
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				C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	N
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6	8	3	7	5	1	9	2	4
1	2	7	9	3	4	6	8	5
9	5	4	2	8	6	7	1	3
7	1	5	3	4	2	8	9	6
4	3	6	8	1	9	5	7	2
8	9	2	5	6	7	3	4	1
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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, September 8, 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 Drainage

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

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Monday, September 4, 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.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Katy will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the 2023 Morton Road Lift Station Rehabilitation project, until 3:00 pm Thursday, September 14, 2023. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the rehabilitation of the existing lift station located within the right of way of Morton Road in the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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

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

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

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

A Virtual Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82239938485>

Meeting ID: 822 3993 8485

Dial In: 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

First Publication: 8-24-2023

Second Publication: 8-31-2023

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WALLER COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS INCREASES IN SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 152.013 of the Texas Local Government Code, that the Waller County Commissioners Court will set the salary and allowances of elected County or Precinct Officers at 9:00 A.M., on the 6th day of September, 2023 in Commissioners Court, located at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the general public of the following proposed salary and allowance increases for Elected Officials and Precinct Officers.

OFFICE	2023	2024	INCREASE/(DECREASE)
Criminal District Attorney			
Salary Supplement	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$
506th District Judge			
Salary Supplement	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
County Court at Law #1			
Salary	\$ 169,800.00	\$ 169,800.00	\$
CPS Stipend	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$
Longevity	\$ 260.00	\$ 312.00	\$ 52.00
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Court at Law #2			
Salary	\$	\$ 193,400.00	\$ 193,400.00
Longevity	\$	\$	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
Sheriff			
Salary	\$ 85,455.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 24,545.00
Longevity	\$ 156.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 52.00
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Judge			
Salary	\$ 92,277.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 37,723.00
Longevity	\$ 468.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 52.00
Juvenile Board Salary	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Clerk			
Salary	\$ 75,705.00	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
District Clerk			
Salary	\$ 75,705.00	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 1,828.00	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
Treasurer			
Salary	\$ 75,705.00	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
Tax Assessor Collector			
Salary	\$ 75,705.00	\$ 90,705.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Travel Allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Commissioner, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 71,828.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 16,172.00
Longevity	\$ 572.00	\$ 624.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Commissioner, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 71,828.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 16,172.00
Longevity	\$ 260.00	\$ 312.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Commissioner, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 71,828.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 16,172.00
Longevity	\$ 156.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Commissioner, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 71,828.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 16,172.00
Longevity	\$ 468.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 3,900.00	\$ (3,900.00)
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Constable, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 56,989.00	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 5,000.00
Longevity	\$ 1,228.00	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 200.00
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Constable, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 56,989.00	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 5,000.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Constable, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 56,989.00	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 5,000.00
Longevity	\$ 572.00	\$ 624.00	\$ 52.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
County Constable, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 56,989.00	\$ 61,989.00	\$ 5,000.00
Longevity	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
Justice of Peace, Pct. 1			
Salary	\$ 70,040.00	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 2,528.00	\$ 2,828.00	\$ 300.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
Justice of Peace, Pct. 2			
Salary	\$ 70,040.00	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 260.00	\$ 312.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
Justice of Peace, Pct. 3			
Salary	\$ 70,040.00	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 676.00	\$ 728.00	\$ 52.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)
Justice of Peace, Pct. 4			
Salary	\$ 70,040.00	\$ 85,040.00	\$ 15,000.00
Longevity	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 1,628.00	\$ 200.00
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$
COLA Stipend	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$ (2,000.00)

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

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VOLLEYBALL

UH earns highest preseason rank in its history

STAFF REPORT

The University of Houston Volleyball team starts its season ranked at No. 19 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association/Taraflex Poll, the organization announced. The placement is Houston's highest preseason ranking in program history, with its other ranking being at No. 25 in 1993.

Head Coach David Rehr's squad will be tested early, starting its season in the Fertitta Center with a ranked matchup against No. 22 USC at 8 p.m., Aug. 25. The team's schedule also includes meetings against other currently ranked foes, including No.1 Texas

(Oct. 14, Oct. 15 in the Fertitta Center), No. 10 Kentucky (Sept. 8 in West Lafayette, Ind.), No. 15 Baylor (Nov. 22 in Waco, Texas) and No. 17 BYU (Sept. 20 in Provo, Utah), and four teams that are receiving votes (Kansas, UCF, TCU and Iowa State). The Cougars also have the potential to face off against No. 16 Purdue on Sept. 9. Houston visits #23 Rice for an exhibition match on Saturday at 5 p.m.

The Cougars are one of four Big 12 Conference teams to be ranked in the preseason poll and one of two conference newcomers. In total, eight Big 12 teams received votes in the poll. Houston was selected to finish sixth in the con-

ference by the league's coaches.

Houston returns both of its All-Americans from last season in senior libero Kate Georgiades, who also received preseason All-Big 12 honors, and graduate outside hitter Abbie Jackson. The pair are complemented by returning starters Rachel Tullos, Kellen Morin and Morgan Janda, as well as incoming transfers Katie Corelli (Ole Miss), Nena Mbonu (Louisville) and preseason All-Big 12 honoree Kenna Sauer (Texas Tech).

The Cougars finished last season at No. 17 in the AVCA poll, their highest final ranking in team history, joining another No. 17 placement in 1994.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

The University of Houston volleyball team celebrates after a match last season.

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