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Katy Times



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Left to right: Texas Association of School Boards Division Director Robert Long III, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Matthew Ferraro, Lamar CISD Superintendent Roosevelt Nivens, Royal ISD Superintendent Megan Pape and Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski pose for a photo at the August 8 "State of the Schools" program presented by the Katy chamber. Long served as moderator for program which took place at the Legacy Field House Community Rooms at 1830 Katyland Drive.

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

Area school districts' growth, innovation and opportunity take center stage at Katy chamber's 'State of the Schools' event

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski joined area education leaders as a presenter at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's annual "State of the Schools" luncheon on August 8. His remarks highlighted student achievement, strategic growth and the power of community partnerships.

Held at Legacy Stadium's Field House at 1830 Katyland Drive in Katy, "State of the Schools" gathered local businesses, civic leaders and education officials to

discuss public education's role in workforce development and regional prosperity. Gregorski was joined by Roosevelt Nivens, superintendent of Lamar CISD; and Megan C. Pape, new superintendent of Royal ISD.

In his remarks, Gregorski reflected on the accomplishments of the 2024-2025 school year and highlighted the growth of the district, now with 97,000 students. Katy ISD is the second-fastest growing school district in the

See **SCHOOLS**, page 3

Boudny Elementary School opens to serve growing Elyson area

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

Katy ISD's 47th elementary school - Alfred and Ann Boudny Elementary - has opened at 7402 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road in the Elyson area in Katy, at the corner of Katy Hockley Cut off and FM 529. The new campus is under the direction of veteran KISD principal Felicia A. Ashabanner, who comes to the school from Mayde Creek Elementary.

The home of the Bucks, the new campus has the capacity to serve 1,280 students. After completing Boudny Elementary,

students will proceed to Nelson Junior High and then to Freeman High School.

A courtyard near the school entrance will feature a family of deer, gifted to the school by namesakes Alfred and Ann Boudny. In the main hallway a trophy case will contain photos and memorabilia honoring the namesakes and their family.

The two-story structure houses first and second grades on the first floor with the upper grades on the second floor. Each grade level has its own planning area,

See **BOUDNY**, page 4

Cross Elementary opens in Sunterra

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO PUBLISHER

Built to help address explosive growth in Katy ISD's northwest quadrant, James and Mitzi Cross Elementary has opened its doors at 900 Sunterra Shores in Katy, near the intersection of Clay Road and Barlett Road. The 48th elementary school to be completed by the district, it was built at an estimated cost of \$58,356,952.00, funded by Proposition A of the 2023 bond.

School principal Tamika Holdman said that initial enrollment will be 1,100, although the school has a capacity of 1,386 students. The school's mascot will be the

Cavaliers. The pup is named "Charlie" which also happens to be the name of James Cross' father.

A display case near the school's entry will hold items commemorating the namesakes, James and Mitzi Cross. The first floor features a spacious library which Holdman said is very dear to the heart of namesake Mitzi Cross, a former KISD librarian. An "LGI room" for large group instruction and will be used for professional development, Holdman said during an August 8 tour of the facility. Hallways are painted with bright accents of orange and yellow, the school

See **CROSS**, page 3

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The City of Katy has announced that construction has begun at Katy Corner, the final piece of the historic town square's renovation, which was approved by city council on May 19.

The Katy Corner, located at the southwest corner of the square directly across from City Hall at the corner of Second Street and Avenue C, is expected to be completed before Rice

Harvest Festival which will take place in the square on October 11-12. The centerpiece of Katy Corner will be Katy's beloved geese sculpture, which had to be relocated from its former home along Interstate 10 due to a freeway expansion project initiated by the Texas Department of Transportation. The D. L. Mecham Corporation won a \$325,000.00 bid to relocate the statue.

"Cement has been poured, and construction is officially underway on Katy Corner — the latest addition to the renovations bringing new life to our beloved downtown," said a spokesperson for the city on its City of Kay Historic Town Square Facebook page on July 31. "As progress continues, please mind the fencing and equipment in the area. We appreciate your patience as we work to enhance the Historic Town Square and create even more spaces for our community to gather and enjoy."

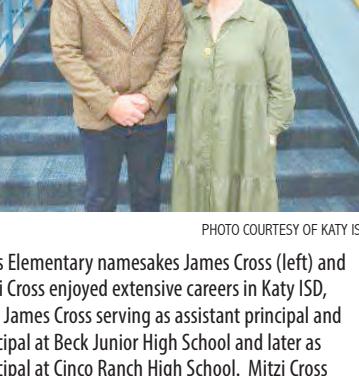


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Cross Elementary namesakes James Cross (left) and Mitzi Cross enjoyed extensive careers in Katy ISD, with James Cross serving as assistant principal and principal at Beck Junior High School and later as principal at Cinco Ranch High School. Mitzi Cross taught at Alexander Elementary and served as librarian at Winborn and Griffin Elementary Schools. James Cross now serves on the KISD board of trustees.

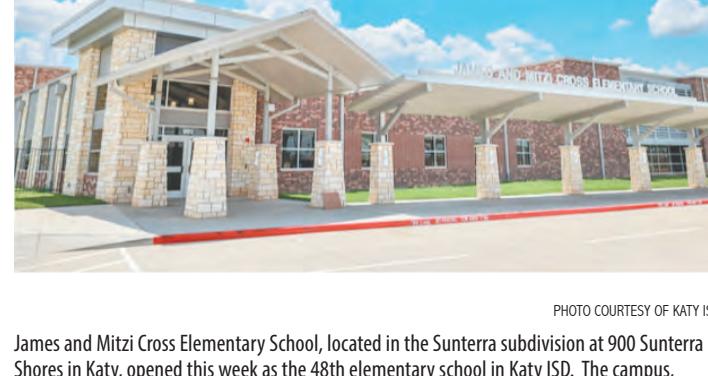


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

James and Mitzi Cross Elementary School, located in the Sunterra subdivision at 900 Sunterra Shores in Katy, opened this week as the 48th elementary school in Katy ISD. The campus, led by principal Tamika Holdman, will initially serve about 1100 students but has a capacity of 1386 students. It is the only KISD elementary school to utilize solar panels. The school's mascot is the Cavaliers.

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Enjoy fresh melons and berries at the Energy Corridor's Melon & Berry Festival – Farmers & Artisan Market on August 16

Over 5,000 lbs. of mouthwatering melons, berries, and Hill Country farm-fresh peaches will be waiting for you at the Energy Corridor Farmers Market on August 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located at the Kroger store parking lot at 1520 Eldridge Pkwy. in Houston at the corner of Briar Forest and Eldridge,

this market will feature in-season choices on-site, including strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, watermelon (seedless & seeded, yellow, black diamond, Jubilee and crimson), cantaloupe, honeydew, and Hill Country peaches. Enjoy it all in the form of homemade fresh jams and jellies, fresh-pressed berry and melon juices, grass-fed meats and farm fresh eggs, and warm berry baked goods. Plus, you'll find handcrafted arts and crafts and locally made goods from artisan vendors. The free and family-friendly/pet-friendly event is wheelchair accessible and offers music, kids' activities and treats for your furry friends (leashes are required).



Shop for antique glass and collectibles at the Vintage Glass Antique Show & Sale August 16-17

Journey to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on August 16 and 17, where you can view American Depression era glass, elegant glass, kitchenware, dinnerware, and pottery, in addition to antiques, silver, linens, primitives, quilts and jewelry in air-conditioned comfort. It's all at the Houston Glass Club's 50th annual Vintage Glass Antique Show & Sale, taking place on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fairgrounds at 4310 Highway 36 South in Rosenberg. Admission is \$7.00 per person (cash only), and food and drinks are available for purchase on site.

Receive free school immunizations at Radack Community Center on August 19

Get your back-to-school vaccines—free—with Christus Health, available for ages two months to 18 years who are without health insurance, are on Medicaid, or are Native American or Alaskan Native. Children 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Please bring the student's original printed shot record. The services are available at Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road in Houston from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 19.

Book sale scheduled at Maud Marks Library on August 23

The Friends of the Maud Marks Library



will hold their August book sale on Saturday, August 23 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the library at 1815 Westgreen Blvd. in Katy. There is a large selection of hardback fiction and nonfiction, as well as children's books and paperbacks and other hidden gems. There will also be a "Friends Members-Only" preview on Friday, August 22 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. All items sell for rock bottom prices.

Tailgate with other Longhorns at DICK'S House of Sport on August 23

On August 23 from 1 to 5 p.m., DICK'S House of Sport will host an outdoor tailgate event for University of Texas Longhorns at the store at 24600 Katy Freeway in Katy. In addition to featuring food, swag items, photo ops and more, the event will feature a special station for UT Alumni.



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Katy's First UMC offers free lecture on Christian meditation practices

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The last of four free public health lectures will be presented at the Fellowship Hall of Katy First United Methodist Church on Thursday, August 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The church is located at 5601 Fifth Street in Katy.

James Bauman, RN, CEN and Certified Lay Minister, will present this session that offers a peaceful introduction to Christian meditation practices that foster spiritual calm and connection. Learn how silence, breath, and scripture can help slow down, release distractions, and deepen your relationship with God in everyday life.

To register or for more information, call 281-391-2121 or go to www.katyfirst.org/studies/.



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SCHOOLS

from page 1

state, he said. He also discussed the district's legislative priorities and school finance, noting that the state legislature had given a small increase to the basic per-student allotment and funded raises for teachers and non-instructional/non-administrative positions in public school districts. He said that legislative action helped with teacher recruitment and retention through the teacher pay increases, free preK for classroom teachers and greater flexibility with student discipline. Gregorski also discussed Katy ISD's strong academic performance, sharing that the district exceeds the "meets" levels by 18 points in math, 17 points in reading/English, 19 points in science and 20 points in social studies. Gregorski outlined the district's ongoing strategic plan which will focus on academics beyond test scores, AI integration, physical and mental safety and well-being, and community engagement. The district is taking a look at "organized excellence" from the front desk to the classroom, and new initiatives, including a planned virtual high school with innovative virtual learning programming expansion planned for Fall 2026 and CTE licensing and certification in water management and real estate. The superintendent said that the district's theme for the year is "United in Purpose" and he said that the district would continue to provide a student-focused world class education, provide for teacher recruitment and retention and to keep up with growth.

Gregorski said the district is introducing lighter Chromebooks (2.5 pounds) over a five-year cycle and will be piloting a program to allow students to bring their own laptops to use at school.

"The progress we've achieved and the vision we're creating for the future are fueled by our teachers' and staff's unwavering commitment to our mission: providing exceptional learning experiences that prepare and inspire every student to lead an honorable and fulfilling life," Gregorski said. "As our district continues to grow, we stay focused on expanding opportunities for students, strengthening partnerships and ensuring every learner is equipped to thrive in a changing world."

New Royal ISD Superintendent Megan Pape – celebrating her twentieth day in her new position – noted that the district is a national showcase district for the Capturing Kids Hearts® program and said that the initiative helped with school culture – "what it looks like and feels like in the hallways every day." Pape said that the district is planning for a bond election in the fall, focusing on the need for a new high school. "It's not a want – it's a need" she said. Royal ISD now has an enrollment of about 3000 students, but with 12,126 single family homes coming online in the next eight years, she said that she anticipates that the district will have an enrollment of over 11,000 students by the time those homes are completed. Pape said that this year is a "historical" year for the district; in addition to facing unprecedented growth, Pape is the first female superintendent ever to serve in Royal ISD. The district will open its new Ag Expo Center in February, which Pape said would not only house shows but which will serve as a center for the community. The expansion was funded by the 2023 bond.

Lamar CISD's superintendent, Roosevelt Nivens, who was named Region 4's "Superintendent of the Year," said that his district is also a fast-growth district, adding 2,000 new students this past school year to bring enrollment to 49,000 students. He projected that the district will be at 60,000 students in five years and that 11 more new campuses will be needed by 2031, on top of the five campuses slated to open in the next two years. LCISD is rolling out its "Innovative School Day" to the entire district this year, after piloting the program last year. "Traditional school structures are not keeping up with the evolving needs of our classrooms," Nivens said. "We are taking a bold approach – one that reimagines the school day to better support our educators, empower students and deliver stronger outcomes."

The "Innovative School Day" aims to provide teachers with more planning time while giving students engaging lessons in career and technical education, financial literacy, character development and more. The "Innovative School Day" is structured as a four-day instructional week, with teachers using the fifth day as a planning day and students experiencing "life skills" lessons – even exploring subjects such as credit cards and other financial matters. The superintendent said that the outcomes have had "impact," citing improved teacher retention, improved instructional quality, improved student outcomes and stronger campus culture with improved morale, trust and engagement. Nivens said the project was inspired by a TikTok video which lamented schools' emphasis on academics rather than life skills.

The district leaders who spoke at the event joined Texas Association of School Boards Division Director Robert Long III for a panel discussion, covering a range of contemporary topics in K-12 public education.

Hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, the State of the Schools invites superintendents each year to provide updates to the business community to help foster and strengthen the connection between education and economic development.

CROSSWORD THEME: IN THE KITCHEN**CLUES ACROSS**

- Basilica feature
- Cameron, to friends
8. ____ and flow
- One of the Bridges
- Have the blues
- Op-ed piece
- Blondie's hit "____ Me"
- Certain something
- Granny Smith
- *Broth-making container
- Big name in mapmaking
- Inexperienced
- *Group of dishes or pots
- Deprived of ovaries
- Medusae
- Got an Oscar, e.g.
- Kind of license
- Crescent
- Description for twins
- "____ the season!"
- Orthodox Judaism adherent
- Class roster item
- Between lights and action
- Source of pork
- *Shredding devices
- Bear-like
- Florida key
- French farewell
- Physicist Niels ____
- Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
- Holey confection
- Track event
- ____ of the trade, sing.
- 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Charlie Parker's nickname
- Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
- Word of compliance
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- Inexperienced
- *Group of dishes or pots
- Deprived of ovaries
- Medusae
- Got an Oscar, e.g.
- Kind of license
- Crescent
- Description for twins
- "____ the season!"
- Orthodox Judaism adherent
- Class roster item
- Between lights and action
- Source of pork
- *Shredding devices
- Bear-like
- Florida key
- French farewell
- Physicist Niels ____
- Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
- Holey confection
- Track event
- ____ of the trade, sing.
- 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Charlie Parker's nickname
- Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
- Word of compliance
- Actor Stallone
- Holy confection
- Track event
- ____ of the trade, sing.
- 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Charlie Parker's nickname
- Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
- Word of compliance
- Actor Stallone
- Basilica feature
- Cameron, to friends
8. ____ and flow
- One of the Bridges
- Have the blues
- Op-ed piece
- Blondie's hit "____ Me"
- Certain something
- Granny Smith
- *Broth-making container
- Big name in mapmaking
- Inexperienced
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COMMUNITY

Three Katy Scouts achieve Eagle Scout rank in Court of Honor

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

It was a ceremony almost a lifetime in the making, celebrating the end of a long and sometimes arduous journey to become an Eagle Scout.

On August 3 Scout Troop 584 held the Eagle Scout Court of Honor to recognize the rare achievement of three of their members who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout – an honor earned by only four percent of all Scouts, organizers said. The ceremony, attended by family, friends and fellow Scouts, was held at the Katy VFW Hall at 6206 George Bush Drive in Katy.

Honorees were John Paul (JP) Culotta, Jace Nistane and David Bryson.

Each Scout described his journey along the trail to becoming an Eagle Scout and thanked their parents and family members, as well as Scout leaders and other mentors who helped them along the way, presenting special pins to each.

A major part of the process of becoming an Eagle Scout is each Scout's own unique Eagle Scout project, which is chosen with a great deal of thought and consideration. "Service to other people is what Scouting



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Eagle Scouts David Bryson (left), Jace Nistane and John Paul Culotta listen as Don Abrahamson (right) delivers the Eagle Charge during the Troop 584 Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The ceremony, which took place on August 3 at the Katy VFW Post at 6206 George Bush Drive in Katy, officially recognized the trio as new Eagle Scouts.

is all about," says the Boy Scouts' organization's website, scouting.org. "In many ways, your service project reflects who you are as a youth leader. Your result should be of significant impact in your community to be special and should represent your very best effort."

Tompkins High School student John Paul Culotta, son of Vito and Jen Culotta, became a Scout in 2016. Since then, he has earned

23 merit badges and invested 47 hours in service hours. For his Eagle Project, Culotta built four picnic tables for St. Faustina Catholic Church's Community and Education Center lawn, creating a place for classes, groups or employees to gather outdoors. The project took 84 hours and cost \$1048.00 and involved 15 volunteers including fellow Scouts, family and friends.

Jace Nistane attends Strake Jesuit College Preparatory and is the son of Ravikant and Shilpa Nistane. For his Eagle Project, Nistane raised supplies for the homeless in Katy, in partnership with nonprofit Hope Impacts, which needed bug spray, men's underwear, gently used clothes and hygiene products. Nistane managed 13 volunteers who invested 29 hours and raised \$150.00 in cash, along with collecting multiple bags of donations and prompting donations via the Amazon wish list. Nistane has been a Scout since 2019, earning 29 merit badges and serving 71 service hours.

Son of Joe and Stephanie Bryson, David Bryson attends Tompkins High School and has been a Scout since first grade in 2019. As previously featured in the Katy Times, Bryson built two custom outdoor benches for Camp Hope, which houses combat veterans who are battling PTSD and substance abuse. Bryson supervised 10 volunteers including family, friends and members of his patrol, spending 102 hours and \$633.00 on the project.

"We look forward to watching these young leaders grow and continue to serve the community," said VFW Post 9182 Commander Ruben Arriaga at the ceremony.

From books to broader change

Local team of brothers deepen their impact in rural Bihar

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Building on their celebrated initiative of launching two libraries in rural Bihar – a state in eastern India — Rohan and Rishabh Jha of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy ISD have not only sustained but significantly expanded their educational mission. These libraries now serve over 400 students and hold 1,000+ books across subjects like literature, science, motivation, and health—becoming vital learning centers in one of India's most underserved regions, according to information that the brothers provided to the Katy Times on July 28.

Within three months of the libraries' opening, over 40% of local students in Bihar became active users—far exceeding expectations. The libraries have grown into inclusive spaces for both children and adults. To keep engagement high, the duo introduced monthly awards for regular readers and continue to supply new books to meet demand.

A recent survey of students highlighted the libraries' academic impact: nearly 70% of students visit multiple times a week, and all respondents reported academic and motivational benefits. Many students gravitate toward inspirational stories, science, and exam preparation. There's a clear trend of multi-subject interest, with students exploring combinations like literature and science or health and motivation. "Reading habit and ability both are improving for students," said Nikhil Kumar Jha, the librarian in charge and senior math teacher.

Equally powerful are emotional community reactions. A mother shared, "My



PHOTO COURTESY OF BALRAM SUMAN

Students in Bihar in eastern India enjoy improved access to books, thanks to the two libraries created by Cinco Ranch students, Rohan Jha and Rishabh Jha.

daughter now wants to study every day—this library has changed her." Another parent called it a blessing, while students credited the books with giving them hope. "I want to be a teacher now. These books have shown me the way," said one.

The vision doesn't stop here. Rohan is partnering with Pratham USA to expand the model and working with local education officials to assess and scale its impact. Their work is also catching the attention of policymakers, who are recognizing grassroots solutions as viable drivers of systemic reform. Beyond libraries, the duo is researching Bihar's state-funded bicycle program for girls—evaluating its broader impact and proposing ways to strengthen its effectiveness along with improving educational performance, which the cycle program lacked.

What began as a library project has grown into a movement—anchored in data, empathy, and community voice. Rohan and Rishabh are not only empowering children through education but also working to improve the very policies meant to serve them. Their journey is a testament to what visionary youth can achieve—and it's only just beginning.

BOUDNY

from page 1

used for team meetings, and its own activity center, which is used for group meetings, pep talks and information from the administration. Each classroom has its own built-in storage for teachers. The kindergarten area features a "wet" area with its own sink.

Hallways – in a dark blue and green color scheme representing the school colors – have white boards and "self-healing" walls where flyers can be posted without damage from staples or adhesives. There are also workbenches with charging stations for individual activities. Restrooms are located at the end of the hallways.

Safety and security features are prevalent throughout the campus, from the hallway windows into the classrooms to the new locks on classroom doors. A

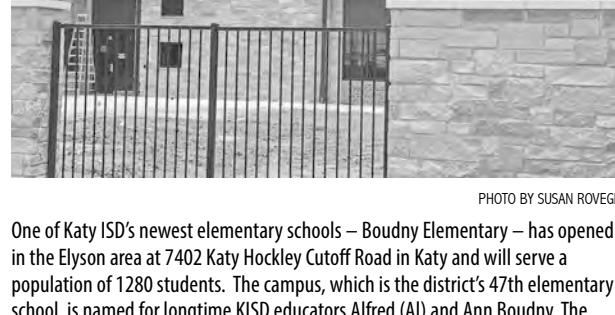


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

One of Katy ISD's newest elementary schools – Boudny Elementary – has opened in the Elyson area at 7402 Katy Hockley Cutoff Road in Katy and will serve a population of 1280 students. The campus, which is the district's 47th elementary school, is named for longtime KISD educators Alfred (Al) and Ann Boudny. The school's mascot is the Bucks.

rolling gate can close down a portion of the building and can be used to block off parts of the building when public events are held at the facility.

Stairs lead to the second level but an elevator is also available for students

requiring additional assistance. An administration suite housed on the second floor is home to an assistant principal and counselor, with sufficient space to add another AP and counselor as

See BOUDNY, page 8

Katy Times

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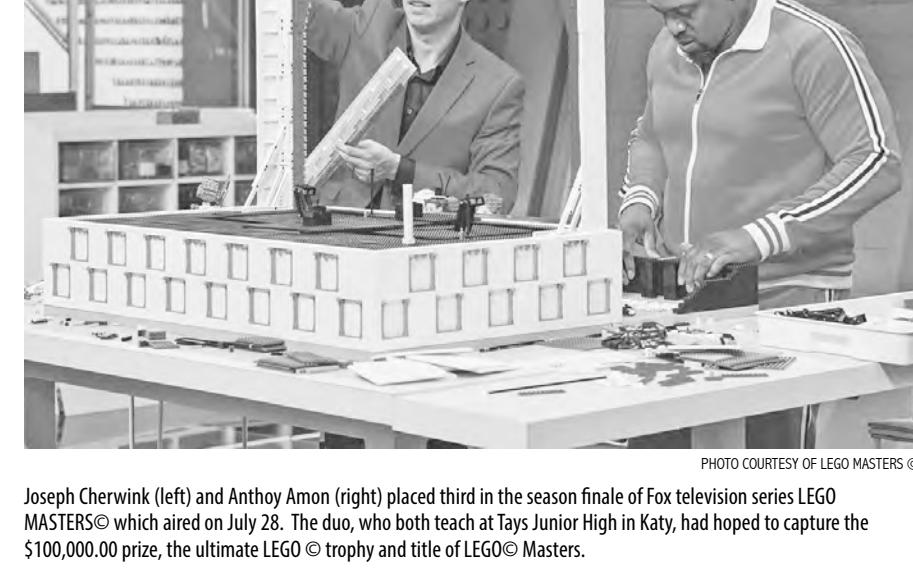
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LOCAL TEACHERS PLACE THIRD IN LEGO MASTERS© FINALE



Joseph Cherwink (left) and Anthoy Amon (right) placed third in the season finale of Fox television series LEGO MASTERS© which aired on July 28. The duo, who both teach at Tays Junior High in Katy, had hoped to capture the \$100,000.00 prize, the ultimate LEGO© trophy and title of LEGO© Masters.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.100000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.065659 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.074447 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.142027 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 25, 2025 AT 6:30 PM AT 21201 MORTON ROAD, KATY, TX 77449.

FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON AUGUST 25, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M., FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 may petition Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 will be the voter-approval tax rate of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1.

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: Dean McBride Michael Odom

Philip Dickinson None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Paul Lambert

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 Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Fort Bend Emergency Service District #1 this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.062913	\$0.100000	increase of 0.037087 per \$100, or 58.95%
Average homestead taxable value	\$483,173	\$511,574	Increase of 5.88%
Tax on average homestead	\$303.98	\$511.57	Increase of 207.59, or 68.29%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$430,232	\$654,964	Increase of 224,732, or 52.24%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 at 281-341-3710 or FBCTaxInfo@fortbendcountytexas.gov, or visit www.fbtexas.gov for more information.

Venture Christian Church opens new building on Morton Road, hosts 'Kids Fest' August 17

PUBLISHER

What

"It's called a 'parachute plant' where we come into Katy, not knowing

anyone, and no one knows us," said the church's Lead Minister Nathan Boldt in an email to the Katy Times. "In other words, we didn't have a mothership church send us money and people."

Since that first grand opening Sunday and through the COVID shutdown, the church has had five different

down, the church has had five different locations, according to its website. On August 8, 2021, the church entered its first permanent facility after renting for over two years, with the congregation tripling in size in the first year in the new building.

Lakecrest Manor Drive in Katy to a much larger facility at 5425 Morton Road in Katy. The church began meeting at the new building in mid-July and will begin offering two services (9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.) in August. The old building has been sold, Boldt said.

The new building sits on a 10-acre plot and is just shy of 30,000 square feet, Boldt said. It offers a 640-seat auditorium and a children's space that

auditorium and a children's space that is large and friendly – holding lots of children while at the same time making



Church is now in their new building at 5425 Morton Road. In celebration of its grand opening the church will hold a "Kids' Fest" on August 17 following the 11 a.m. service.

CHURCH

A coffee cafe will run on Sunday mornings and will serve donuts and coffee to parents dropping their kids off.

come to parents dropping their kids off during the weekdays at the Christian preschool and daycare which is scheduled to open in January.

The church will also eventually offer co-working space but is still working out final details, along with finalizing

necessary approvals from the City of Katy, and solidifying security issues to keep everyone safe.

On August 17, the church will host a huge "Kids Fest" day, offering a free lunch, bounce houses, kids' activities, face-painting, games and more for kids and teens. Services that day are

kids and teens. Services that day are 9:30 and 11 a.m., with all the activities starting immediately after the second

The church is also expanding its programs, Boldt said. "During the preaching time, we have Spanish trans-

lulation available in real time. We have a growing special needs population, due to our sensory room and special education ministry for kids that happens during church services."

local nonprofit Hope Impacts and with another mission called Tethering Hope that connects resources including money, beds, clothes, and transportation with people who are down and out.

The Katy Times

Katy Mills Mall sponsors school supply drive

Katy Mills is enco

Local stores in Newnan through a Backpack & School Supply Drive running now through August 31. Guests are invited to purchase a backpack from any of the following participating retailers to donate along with new school supplies:

- BoxLunch
- Burlington
- Puma
- Claire's

- Five Below
 - Nike Factory Store
 - Zumiez
 - Adidas
 - Under Armour
 - Marshalls
 - Ross Dress for Less,
 - Sun & Ski Sports
 - Bass Pro Shops

in Katy.

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JORGE H. CARDE

CREEKSIDE COMM
MEETING @ WOODCROSS

This image is a collage of various local business advertisements from a newspaper. It includes:

- Katy Hardware**: Kay & Mickey Powers, Owners, 559 Pin Oak Rd., Katy, TX 77494. Phone: 281-391-3437. Fax: 281-391-6922. Website: www.katyhardware.com.
- Katy Veterinary Clinic**: Serving the Greater Katy Area Since 1964. Kari Cleavinger, D.V.M. • Lori Smith, D.V.M. Hillary Barra, D.V.M. • Catherine Berry, DVM. Jessica Machala, DVM. 27227 Hwy. Blvd., Katy. Open M-F 7-6 • Sat 8-12. Phone: 281-391-3169. Website: www.katyvetclinic.com.
- TRUE FIX A/C & Heating**: Quality Service for over 42 Years. Living in KATY, Working in KATY & KATY Proud. "We're in Your Neighborhood and We'll Be Here When You Need Us". Phone: 281-392-9334. Website: www.truefix.com.
- Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce**: Networking, Upcoming Events, & More Info. Where Christian Businesses Meet. QR code available.
- KCM (Katy Christian Ministries)**: Help our ministry transform lives. Give now by scanning the QR Code. Website: ktcm.org.
- KEVIN DRURY Your Electricity Guy**: 281-630-5895. Email: kevind@power2price.com.
- POWER 2 PRICE Residential * Commercial**: Logo featuring a lightning bolt.
- Sharing the Gospel**: A decorative graphic with a book and scrollwork.
- Your Ad Here!**: Call Debbie for more information. Phone: 281-391-3141.
- FAMILY LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**: 24911 ROESNER ROAD • 281-392-0637. ALBERT CORTEZ, PASTOR • WWW.FLAG.CHURCH
- RIVERS OF OIL CHURCH**: 541 PIN OAK ROAD, KATY • 832-782-7370. LEAD PASTOR: MR. HERNAN CASTANO. WWW.RIOSDEACEITE.COM • SUNDAY SERVICE 9 A.M.
- BAPTIST**
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- BRIDGEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH**: FRANZ ELEMENTARY • 2751 WESTGREEN BLVD. • 281-578-0970. MICHAEL THOMPSON, PASTOR
- CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
- MAYDE CREEK**: 2855 GREENHOUSE ROAD • 281-492-2689. LARRY MADDOX, PASTOR
- KATY'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**: 600 PIN OAK • 281-391-1100 • KATYSFIRST.ORG. DR. ROB LYERL, PASTOR
- GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOUSTON**: 2502 KATY HOCKLEY CUT-OFF • 281-391-9199. VIRGIL YEHNERT, PASTOR
- KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**: 20555 KINGSLAND BLVD. • 281-492-0785. PASTOR RYAN RUSH
- PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP**: 27043 FM 1093 • 281-391-6673 • WWW.PARKWAYFELLOWSHIP.COM. PASTOR: MIKE MCGOWAN
- PARKWAY FELLOWSHIP**: 5819 10TH ST. • KATY, TX 77493 • 832-222-9282
- REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH**: 24201 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • 281-371-21-56. MITCH MAHER, PASTOR
- RIVER BEND BAPTIST CHURCH**: 26700 FM 1093. • 281-346-2279 • WWW.RIVERBENDC.ORG. JOHN C. CROWE, PASTOR
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- TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH**: 10000 SPRING GREEN BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494. 281-579-6724 • TRINITY-KATY.ORG. PASTOR JOSH GUARDADO
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- WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH & ACADEMY**: 3883 LAKES OF BRIDGEWATER DR • 281-492-3448. REV. RICHARD D. BUTTS, PASTOR
- ANGLICAN**
- THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHIAS DIOCESE OF MID AMERICA**: 4142 DAYFLOWER • 281-463-2304
- GRACE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY**: 24968 KATY RANCH ROAD, KATY, TEXAS 77494. 281-769-5544 • WWW.GRACEANGLICKATY.COM. RECTOR: ROBERT HENSON
- CATHOLIC**
- EPHANY OF THE LORD CATHOLIC**: 1530 NORWALK DR. (NOTTINGHAM) • 281-578-0707. FR. TOM LAM
- ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH**: 5356 ELEVENTH ST. • 281-391-4758. FR. CHRISTOPHER PLANT, PASTOR
- ST. EDITH STEIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**: 3311 N. FRY ROAD • 281-492-7500. REV. RYSZARD KULMA, PASTOR
- ST. FAUSTINA CATHOLIC CHURCH**: 28102 FM 1093, FULSHEAR. 346-773-3500 • WWW.SAINFTAUSTINACHURCH.ORG
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- CURRENT-A CHRISTIAN CHURCH**: 26600 WESTHEIMER PKWY • 281-395-4722. DARREN WALTER, MINISTER
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**: 22101 MORTON ROAD • 281-492-2693. REV. HEATHER TOLLESON, MINISTER
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- CHURCH OF CHRIST - KATY**: 5438 E. 5TH STREET • 281-391-7606
- CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BRIDGEWATER**: 21650 CRESTBROOK COVE DR. KATY, TX 77449
- CINCO RANCH CHURCH OF CHRIST**: 6655 S. MASON ROAD • 281-579-3100. AARON WALLING, MINISTER
- FULSHEAR CHURCH OF CHRIST**: 6920 KATY-FULSHEAR RD., FULSHEAR. 281-712-1492 • FULSHEARCOC.ORG
- FRY ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**: 2510 FRY ROAD AT FRANZ • 281-578-1897. DAVID FLATT
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- EPISCOPAL**
- CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES**: 1225 W. GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • 281-392-3310. ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
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- WEST CAMPUS**: 4700 FM 1463, KATY, TEXAS 77494. SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR, CARL CHAPMAN
- MORMON**
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**: 1928 DREXEL • 281-391-0687 • 281-391-5439
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**: 1603 Norwalk • 281-578-8934. BISHOP SCOTT BAUER
- NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY WARD**: 281-578-8930
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**: 9950 SOUTH MASON 281-398-7796
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- WESTSIDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**: 3434 FRY ROAD • 281-492-0234. REV. KENT SCHWAMBERGER, PASTOR
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- CHURCH OF THE KING**: 1507 KATY FLEWELLEN RD, KATY, TX • 281-769-4090. HTTP://WWW.COTK.ORG/
- CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH**: 2610 CINCO RANCH BLVD. • KATY, TX 77494. WWW.CROSSINGSCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG
- THE DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH**: 1837 N. MASON RD. • 713-325-3061
- THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER**: 20910 PARK ROW • 281-578-3535. DAVID ROBERSON, PASTOR
- THE ENCOUNTER CHURCH OF KATY**: MARK A. CHAPMAN - YMCA 1350 MAIN ST. • KATY, TX. 77494. WWW.TECKATY.ORG • 713-228-4331
- FAITH MANGER CHURCH**: 20701 KINGSLAND BLVD. @ DOMINION • 281-578-2550. DAVID L. BROWN, PASTOR
- FAITH WEST CHURCH**: 2225 PORTER ROAD • 281-391-LIFE GARY KERR, PASTOR
- THE FELLOWSHIP**: 22765 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-3950. WWW.THEFELLOWSHIP.ORG • JERRY EDMONSON, PASTOR
- GREENHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH**: 2425 N. GREENHOUSE SUN 9:30 & 11 AM • GREENHOUSECM.ORG
- HIGHER DIMENSION CHURCH**: 1350 N. MASON, KATY SUNDAY SERVICES 10 A.M. HOSANNA!
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- KATY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP**: 24102 KINGSLAND BOULEVARD • 281-391-0099. TIM BARKER, PASTOR
- LIFE CHURCH**: 26189 WESTHEIMER PARKWAY • 281-395-5433. SAM RUDD, PASTOR
- LIVING STONES CHURCH**: MEETING AT TOMKINS HIGH SCHOOL, 4400 FALCON LANDING 346-704-1542
- NEWLANDS CHURCH**: 25024 KATY MILLS DRIVE KATY, TX 77494 MEETS EVERY SUNDAY • 9 AM AND 11 A.M. (713) 280-3636 • ETHAN FISHER, SR. PASTOR
- POWERHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER**: 1818 KATYLAND ROAD • 281-391-0095. G. F. WATKINS, PASTOR
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- VENTURE CHURCH**: 25133 LAKECREST MANOR DR, KATY (346) 327-6362 • VENTUREKATY.COM
- THE VINEYARD CHURCH**: SUNDAYS 10:00 AM • THE ARK EVENT CENTER
- THE WATERS CHURCH**: 2210 KATY FORT BEND ROAD (281) 398-4030 • IAMTHEWATERS.COM
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- TRINITY FAITH CHURCH**: 10TH & AVE. D • 281-391-3310. HAL HALTON, PASTOR
- PRESBYTERIAN CHRIST CHURCH PCA**: 10818 GASTON ROAD 281-392-0002
- REV. FRED GRECO, SENIOR PASTOR**
- CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL-PRESBYTERIAN**: 1351 S. MASON RD. • 281-579-1080. REV. CARTER SANGER, PASTOR
- GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN**: 6035 S. FRY RD. TYLER HENDERSON, PASTOR 281-646-7500
- YE DARM PRESBYTERIAN**: 19946 SAUMS RD • 713-461-0709. YDPCH.ORG
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FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 151

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES AND PENALTIES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 151 (the "District"), at a meeting held on July 28, 2025, adopted:

1. an Amended Rate Order and Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections ("Rate Order") providing rules and regulations for connection to the District's water, sewer and drainage system as well as charges for these services, and the Park Rules including penalties and fines for violation of these rules; and
2. an Order Establishing Rules and Regulations Governing Use of District Parks and Recreational Facilities ("Park Rules").

Violation of any of the rules contained in the District's Rate Order or the Park Rules will subject the violator to penalties, including but not limited to a fine of up to \$10,000 per breach and/or day, disconnection of water and sewer service, payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation, and/or civil and criminal legal action.

Copies of the Rate Order and the Park Rules are on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where they may be read in full.

/s/ Keith Gier
President, Board of Directors

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Attention: Mr. Doug Bergen, President, Board of Directors, will be received electronically or at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:30 a.m. Local Time, Friday, August 22, 2025, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Discovery Hills Parkway Paving and Appurtenances to Serve Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18 for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 18, Waller County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Teams, the Meeting ID is 215 396 786 394 9, and the Passcode is 2W96xm7J. You may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 353 487 379#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construction of paving and appurtenances.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held remotely on Friday, August 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Local Time. To attend the non-mandatory pre-bid conference via Microsoft Teams, the Meeting ID is 268 720 169 945 4, and the Passcode is NX9zg6y5. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 436 465 926#.

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

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of \$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Checks should be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. No cash will be accepted.

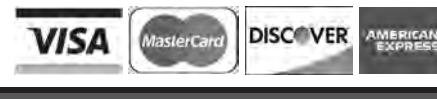
A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SQF, LLC is proposing to construct a 195-foot overall height monopole telecommunications structure located near 18623 Kuykendahl Road, Spring, Harris County, Texas (30° 2' 30.3" N, 95° 29' 22.1" W). The proposed tower is anticipated to utilize FAA Style E (medium intensity, dual red/white strobes) lighting.

Any interested party may request further environmental review of the proposed action under the FCC's National Environmental Policy Act rules, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This request must only raise environmental concerns and can be filed online using the FCC pleadings system at www.fcc.gov or mailed to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days of the date that notice of this proposed action is published on the FCC's website. Refer to File No. A1319437 when submitting the request and to view the specific information about the proposed action. 25-001226 HJJF

950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at selfstorageauction.com beginning 08/25/25 at 12:00 am and will conclude 08/25/25 at 1:00 pm. All sales to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on website. Facility address: 4125 Schlipf Rd, Katy, TX 77493. Tenant name: Joseph I Bernardez. General description of property: Unit includes a beige sofa, chairs, a stool and boxes.

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

APPLICATION: R & L SOLUTIONS INC are requesting to be allowed to amend lots 5-27, block 1, Frontier Farms Section Two. The amendment will create ten (10) lots and one (1) block.

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 3rd 9:00 a.m. at the Joe Kuciembra Annex, 425 FM 1488, Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

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281-391-3141



Notice Virtual Public Scoping Meeting with In-Person Open House 36A South Project FM 1994 to I 10 Control Section Job (CSJ): 0912-00-544 Austin, Fort Bend, Harris, and Waller Counties, Texas



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is proposing a new north-south highway from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1994 south of Needville, Texas, to Interstate (I) 10 west of Katy, Texas. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve north-south mobility and connectivity in the study area.

This notice advises the public that the project team will be conducting an online virtual public scoping meeting on the proposed project with an in-person open house. The virtual public scoping meeting will be available starting on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, by 5 p.m. The virtual public scoping meeting will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. To view the virtual public scoping meeting presentation and view project information, visit: www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.

Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call 713-802-5199 between the hours of 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process. Formal comments may be provided by mail or email as explained below.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing in-person open house options for individuals who would like to participate in person. In-person attendees will be able to view the same pre-recorded presentation as posted online, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions, and submit written comments in any language. The in-person open house public scoping meetings will be held at the Leonard E. Merrell Center: 6301 S. Stadium Ln. Katy, Texas 77494 on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, and at the Fort Bend Epicenter: 28505 Southwest Fwy. Rosenberg, Texas 77471 on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The project is in the early stages of development, and an alignment has not been selected. At this public scoping meeting, members of the public will view eight (8) preliminary alignments within a study area that is approximately 35 miles in length and 23 miles in width from Needville to I 10. All eight (8) preliminary alignments would be built on new location and would require right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. The study area boundaries generally coincide with major highways and natural features in Austin, Fort Bend, Harris, and Waller counties. The project team seeks input on any potential environmental constraints, anticipated permits or other authorizations, and any significant issues that should be analyzed in depth in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The public scoping meeting will also provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on draft procedural documents that will provide the foundation for the EIS, such as the Draft Coordination Plan, Schedule, Purpose and Need, Methodology and Level of Detail for Alternatives Analysis and Range of Alternatives.

The project team seeks feedback on any resources that may occur within the study area that are protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. The project team will avoid and minimize impacts to these properties as much as possible.

The proposed project could involve construction in wetlands and actions in a floodplain. Potential impacts will be determined as the project development process progresses.

Any environmental documentation or studies, maps, and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for review by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact Gabriel Adame, TxDOT Public Engagement Coordinator, at 713-802-5199 or Gabriel.Adame@TxDOT.gov. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.

The public scoping meetings will be conducted in English and Spanish. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English or Spanish is not your primary language or have difficulty communicating effectively in English or Spanish, one will be provided to you free of charge. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the public scoping meetings, please contact Gabriel Adame, Public Engagement Coordinator, at 713-802-5199 or Gabriel.Adame@TxDOT.gov, no later than 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 22, 2025. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the project team to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted in any language by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, Advanced Project Development Director, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. All comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Sept. 12, 2025.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the public scoping meeting, please contact Gabriel Adame at 713-802-5199 or Gabriel.Adame@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

English: Please call 713-802-5199 to request special accommodations or if you have need for interpretation/translation.

Español: Llame al 713-802-5199 para solicitar adaptaciones especiales o si necesita interpretación /traducción.

Mandarin: Mandarin (traditional Chinese): 如出席和参与会议需要特殊照顾或需要口译/笔译, 請撥打 713-802-5199

Mandarin (simplified Chinese): 如出席和参与会议需要特殊照顾或需要口译/翻译, 请拨打 713-802-5199

Swahili: Tafadhalii piga simu namba 713-802-5199 ili kuomba malazi maalum au ikiwa unahitaji ukalimani au tafsiri

Vietnamese: Xin hãy gọi 713-802-5199 nếu bạn cần sự hỗ trợ đặc biệt hoặc người phiên dịch.

Creole: Tanpri rele 713-802-5199 pou mande aranjman espesyal oubyen si ou bezwen entèprèt oubyen tradiktè.

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EDUCATION

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners announced, including 4 from Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On July 14 National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced nearly 800 additional winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by colleges and universities. These Merit Scholar designees join more than 2,900 other college-sponsored award recipients who were announced in June.

Four of those winners are from Katy:

- Mae J. Chen, Jordan High School, National Merit Harvey Mudd College Scholarship. Probable career field: engineering
- Aidan M. Henderson, James E. Taylor High School, National Merit Northeastern University Scholarship. Probable career field: law
- Eric X. Li, Obra D. Tompkins High School, National Merit Texas A&M University Scholarship. Probable career field: mechanical engineering
- Akhil Vasudevan, Seven Lakes High School, National Merit Emory University Scholarship. Probable career field: surgical medicine

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program who will attend their institution. College-sponsored awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

This year, 146 colleges and universities are sponsoring more than 3,700 Merit Scholarship awards. Sponsor colleges include 74 private and 72 public institutions located in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

This final group of winners brings the number of 2025 National Merit Scholars to more than 7,100. These high school graduates will receive scholarships for undergraduate study worth a total of nearly \$26 million. In addition to college-sponsored awards, two other types of National Merit Scholarships were offered—2,500 National Merit \$2500 Scholarships, for which all Finalists competed, and about 830 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who met criteria specified by their grantor organizations.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. Over the past 70 years, approximately 389,000 outstanding young individuals have won National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$1.4 billion. The majority of awards offered each year are underwritten by approximately 280 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to recognize scholastically talented youth and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

HCC introduces 'Reconnect' scholarship program to help former students return for degree completion

FROM STAFF REPORTS

At the July 31 Houston City College Southwest College community partnership meeting held at HCC's Missouri City complex, school officials described a new initiative – "Houston Reconnect" – which is designed to give adults a second chance to complete a certificate or a degree.

"We want you back," said HCC Chancellor Margaret Ford Fisher at the meeting.

Fisher outlined the program in her "State of the College" address at the campus at 1600 Texas Parkway in Missouri City. She said that the "Houston Reconnect" plan is scholarship devised to support students financially, who are close to completion of a workforce

certificate or an associate's degree. It is designed for former HCC students who are 25 years of age or older and who have finished college short of completing a certificate or associate's degree, and who have been out of college between one and five years, with no outstanding debt with HCC.

Additionally, candidates for the program must have earned a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 while at HCC and have earned 15 credit hours toward a credential of value or earned 45 credit hours toward a workforce associate's degree.

Priority will be given to students seeking short-term funding that can be completed in one year or less or workforce associate's degree that can be completed in less than one year.

According to the program

materials provided at the meeting, applicants will receive a recruitment letter via email, with hyperlinks to an intake form, and an informational video. Applicants will attend an onboarding session either virtually or in person and will meet a Recruitment Navigator who will guide them through the enrollment process. Follow-up calls will be made every four months to offer additional assistance.

Eligible individuals who have not yet been contacted by email may call 713-718-5324 or 713-718-5409 for more information or may consult the program website at hcc.reconnect@hcc.edu.

HCC officially changed its name this summer from "Houston Community College" to "Houston City College."

Katy resident wins National Merit \$2500 Scholarship

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Daniel H. Guo of Katy, who attends Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston, was announced as a winner of a National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship in a July 28 press release from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Nearly all National Merit \$2500 Scholarship recipients of 2025 were announced publicly by the corporation in May; however, the award this student was chosen to receive became available after that announcement.

Guo's probable career field is listed as economics.

By the conclusion of the 2025 National Merit® Scholarship Program, about 6,930 Merit Scholarship® awards, worth a total of approximately \$26 million, will have been offered to distinguished high school seniors for college undergraduate study. Two thousand five hundred of the awards, such as the one this student has won, are National Merit \$2500 Scholarships for which all of the more than 15,000

Finalists were considered.

Winners of these single-payment awards were named in every state, in numbers based on the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Recipients of National Merit \$2500 Scholarships were selected by a committee of college admission officers and high school counselors who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by Finalists and their schools. Evaluated were each Finalist's academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned, contributions and leadership in school and community activities, an essay written by the Finalist, and the recommendation written by a high school official.

This year's competition for National Merit Scholarships began in October 2023 when high school juniors took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring

participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the state's seniors, were named Semifinalists on a state representational basis. More than 16,000 Semifinalists had an opportunity to continue in the competition.

Approximately 95 percent of the Semifinalists met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the Finalist level. By the conclusion of the 2025 competition, about half of the 15,000 Finalists will be Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

Two other types of National Merit Scholarships were offered in this year's competition. Approximately 830 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were provided to Finalists who met their scholarship sponsors' criteria, and approximately 3,600 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were offered to Finalists who will attend one of the 146 colleges and universities financing them.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Royal Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM on August 25, 2025 in the Board Room of the Royal ISD Administration Building at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas 77466. 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	\$0.711100/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
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School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.358817/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
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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:

Maintenance and operations	4.4 % increase
Debt service	5.38 % (decrease)
Total expenditures	1.59 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$4,994,237,504	\$5,584,535,427
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$305,010,564	\$324,372,360
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$4,084,901,140	\$4,617,723,184
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$289,379,994	\$227,992,021

* "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* \$161,789,994

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.755200	\$0.358817 *	\$1.114000	\$19,096
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.642900	\$0.358817 *	\$1.001717	\$17,864
Proposed Rate	\$0.711100	\$0.358817 *	\$1.069917	\$19,063

*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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$282,029	\$299,667
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$145,810	\$135,198
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.114000	\$1.069917
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,624	\$1,447
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		(\$178)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or 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 \$1.069917. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.069917.

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 state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$9,060,370

Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s) \$8,338,106

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 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.095749 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.095749 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.090869 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.094503 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.095749 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 20, 2025, AT 6:00 PM AT 2700 SPRING GREEN BLVD., KATY, TX 77494.

FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON AUGUST 20, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M., FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 adopts the proposed tax rate, the Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is not required to hold an election so that voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 may not petition the Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal:	Robert Miller	Daryl Brister

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BOUDNY

from page 4

the school grows.

The campus also has a "learning stairs" area where students may go to study. The cafeteria area - with durable vinyl flooring - has walls that may be opened and closed to allow more flexibility in hosting events, and basketball goals may be raised and lowered as needed. The flexible space also has a stage for performances, which is directly adjacent to the music room where instruments are conveniently stored. The room also has a rock wall for climbing activities.

According to information provided by Katy ISD, Alfred (Al) Boudny always aspired to teach, starting his career in 1975 at Eagle

Lake Middle School where he met his wife Ann. He joined Katy ISD at West Memorial Elementary and in 1981 opened Nottingham Country Elementary with Richard Bruce as the fifth grade team lead. In 1983 he and Ann Boudny helped open Memorial Parkway Junior High, where Al served as the department chair and contributed to the district realignment committee for fifth and sixth grade centers. In 1991 he helped open McDonald Junior High where he was the social studies department chair for 15 years and was named Teacher of the Year in 2000. His final role before retiring after 34 years of service to KISD was at West Memorial Junior High. Al Boudny

received many recognitions and awards throughout his career. He remains active as a tutor at Katy Elementary, a KEYS mentor and in the Katy Area Retired Educators (KARE), supporting scholarships and community projects.

Ann Boudny also began her career in Eagle Lake, and then from 1979 to 1982 she taught in Sealy. Ann joined Katy ISD with the opening of Memorial Parkway Junior High, where she served as department chair for 30 years, retiring after 39 years at the school. Ann is also an active member of KARE.

The campus was built at an estimated cost of \$58,356,952.00, funded through Proposition A of the 2023 bond.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Boudny Elementary Principal Felicia A. Ashabanner (center) poses with school namesakes Alfred (Al) Boudny (left) and Ann Boudny (right) during a June media tour of the new facility. Ashabanner is moving to the new campus after previously serving as principal at Mayde Creek Elementary in Katy ISD.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Bids for Scotts Bend - Sec. 6 & 7 Landscape Improvements will be received digitally through CivCast until 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 4, 2024, at which time unofficial results will be posted to CivCast for the furnishing of material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the Construction of Scotts Bend - Sec. 6 & 7 Landscape Improvements. Proposals tendered after closing will not be opened. Scope of Project: 1. Concrete Flatwork, 2. Landscaping, 3. Irrigation, 4. Minor Site Grading and Preparation, 5. SWPPP coordination & removal. Bid documents in digital format will be available through CivCast. A pre-bid conference will NOT be held for this project. Bidders are to submit any questions to Civcast. Bidder questions will be received until 5:00 PM Thursday, August 28th. Questions submitted after 5:00 PM on August 28th may not be addressed. Online bidding will be available starting at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, September 2nd. The successful bidder may be required to provide a performance bond, payment bond, and a maintenance bond as provided for in the bid documents, for the full amount of the contract. This project is being privately bid and the owner reserves the right to disregard a bid at any time for any reason.

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9

Dave Campbell names Katy game as a Top 10 non-district 6A game in 2025

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In a July 25 post to its website, "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" listed a forthcoming Katy High School game as a Top 10 non-district 6A game in 2025. The game which was chosen is the August 29 match-up between the Tigers and Dickinson.

Last year's match-up between the two teams, which Katy won 41-37, was named a

Game of the Year contender by the publication. "This year's kickoff has all the ingredients for the same experience with Katy head coach Gary Joseph's famed 'Weak Eagle' defense facing Dickinson's power run game," the article said. The article mentioned Katy senior linebacker Jeremiah Smith, a two-time First Team All-District honoree, Team Captain Isaiah McMillan and all-district nickelback Cooper Knott.

KISD coaches gear up for success at annual leadership academy

District athletics leaders sharpen skills, build culture, and prepare for school year

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

More than 200 athletic coaches from across the district packed the auditorium this July for the 6th Annual Katy ISD Athletic Coaches Leadership Academy, an immersive event designed to prepare and inspire leaders ahead of the

upcoming school year.

Superintendent Ken Gregorski kicked off the conference before a full house, sharing uplifting words about Katy ISD's investment in athletics and school leadership that support student success

See LEADERSHIP, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski speaks to the district's athletic directors and staff during a leadership conference at the district in July.

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Cougars move into new home, open camp

Building still under construction, Cougars move into new home ahead of Fall Camp kickoff

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Despite ongoing construction, the Houston Football team moved into its new home on July 28, one day ahead of the first day of Fall Camp.

The 2025 Cougars were shown a few of the areas that are complete including the locker room and weight room. Coach Willie Fritz, the athletes and staff are super appreciative of every donor that made the Memorial Hermann Operations Center possible, according to a press release from University of Houston Athletics.

Houston's season opener against Stephen F. Austin is 16 days away on August 28 at 7 p.m. inside TDECU Stadium.

LEADERSHIP

from page 9

both on the field and in the classroom. Gregorski emphasized the importance of coaching as a leadership role and how athletics in Katy ISD contribute to the district's reputation for excellence — citing strong academic performance, operational ratings, and a high standard of student experience.

"At Katy ISD, we believe athletics is an extension of the classrooms, where life lessons are taught, character is built, and leadership is developed," he said. "Our coaches play a pivotal role in shaping students' academic and personal success, and this Leadership Academy ensures they are supported, empowered, and prepared to lead with integrity and purpose."

Throughout the conference, interactive discussions and exercises empowered coaches to build positive team cultures, foster player growth, and elevate wellbeing among coaching staff through proven leadership strategies. Coaches also explored analytics tools and performance tracking systems to fine-tune training plans, reduce injuries, and elevate player development across all athletic programs.

"The Leadership Academy is more than a professional development event; it's a launchpad for the year ahead," said Executive Director of Katy ISD Athletics, Lance Carter. "It equips our coaches with the tools, mindset, and support they need to lead with purpose, build strong team cultures, and make a lasting impact on student-athletes. We're proud to invest in our coaches so they can continue to elevate the standard of excellence that defines Katy ISD athletics."

Finally, district athletic leaders provided critical guidance on Title IX policies, safety protocols, and championship-level standards, ensuring every program offers access and meets compliance standards.

The Athletic Coaches Leadership Academy is part of Katy ISD's Athletic Department's summer professional development lineup and the S.A.L.T. Conference for student-athletes. Together, these conferences unify district-wide goals: fostering strong leaders, reinforcing athletic culture, and preparing for success in academics and sports. This year's conference left coaches energized and equipped to lead meaningful, high-impact athletic programs for the nearly 97,000 students and 15,000 student-athletes served throughout the district.

'DAVE CAMPBELL'S TEXAS FOOTBALL' KICKS OFF KATY-AREA FOOTBALL SEASON WITH ON-SITE INTERVIEWS AT DICK'S HOUSE OF SPORT IN KATY



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Greg Tepper, executive editor-in-chief for "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" (left) speaks with new Fulshear High Coach Stephen Hill during the August 4 season "Katy Kick-off" event at DICK'S House of Sport, 24600 Katy Freeway in Katy. Hill, who coached with great success at Randle High School, said "Things are going to change" with Fulshear's program this year, including a new defensive coordinator and a change from the team's traditional running game. Many of the Fulshear Chargers came out to support their new coach.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Greg Tepper, executive editor-in-chief for "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" (left) interviews Katy mayor Dusty Thiele during the August 4 football season "Katy Kick-off" event at DICK'S House of Sport, 24600 Katy Freeway in Katy. "Friday Night Lights brings our community together," Thiele said in the interview.

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