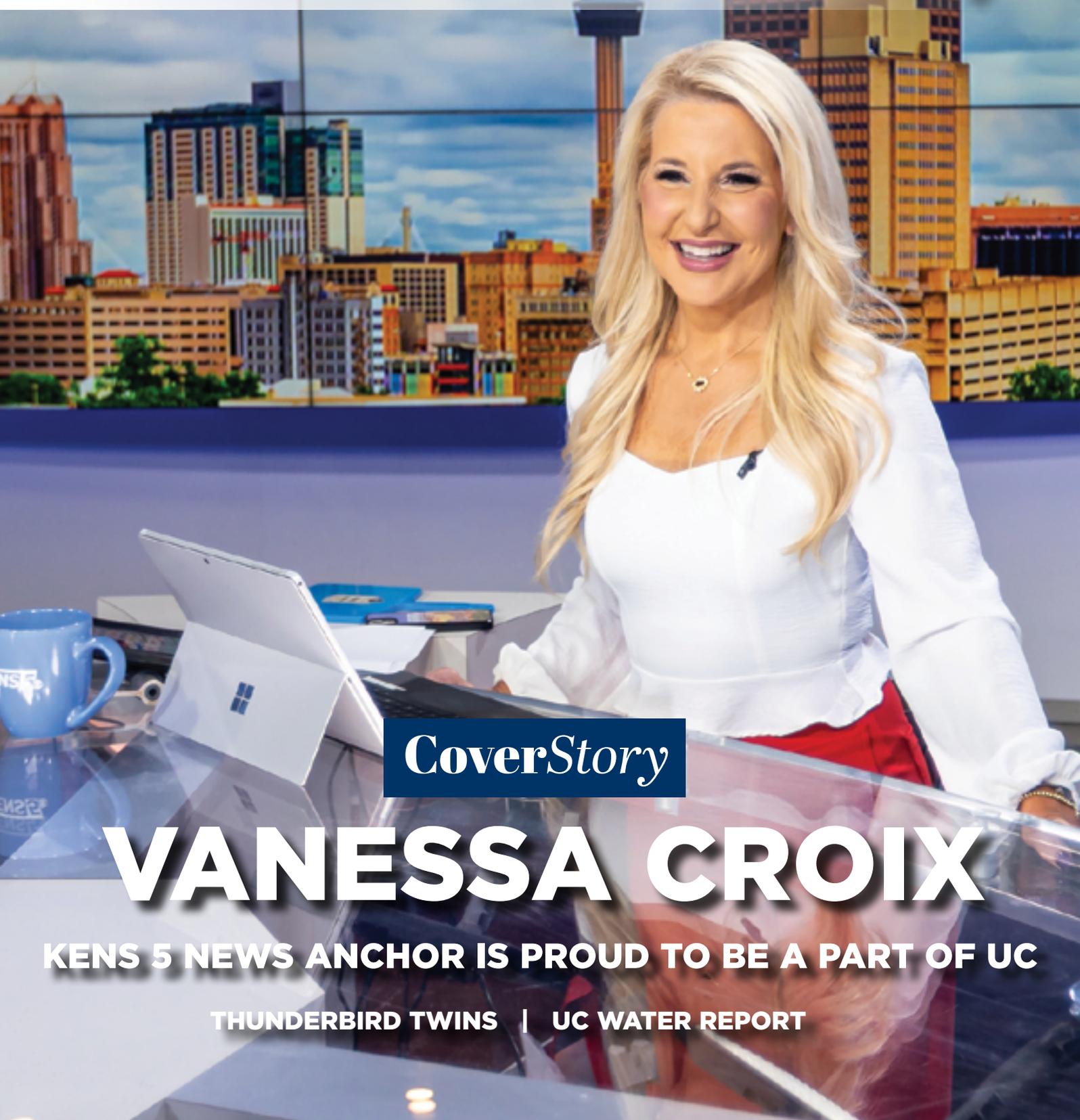


AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

The Gateway

UNIVERSAL CITY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

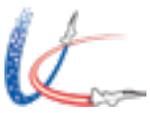


CoverStory

VANESSA CROIX

KENS 5 NEWS ANCHOR IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF UC

THUNDERBIRD TWINS | UC WATER REPORT



Universal City Municipal Directory

2150 Universal City Blvd. Universal City, TX 78148

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION 210-659-0333

City Clerk	Maribel Garcia.....	7 4 8
City Manager	Kim Turner	7 0 5
Code Compliance Officer		7 2 5
Communications.....	Kathy Williams.....	7 0 1
Court Administrator	Brenda Watkins.....	7 1 5
Development Services/EDC	Michael Cassata.....	7 2 0
Finance.....	Christine Green.....	7 0 8
Fire Chief.....	Todd Perna.....	7 8 6
Health Official.....	Anabell Maldonado.....	7 2 7
Permit/Zoning.....	Linda Iglehart.....	7 2 3
Police Chief.....	Johnny Siemens.....	7 5 5
Community Events.....	Brianne Brandenburg.....	7 2 1
Water Billing.....		7 1 0

Departments

Animal Care & Control	210-659-0333	EXT. 700
Fire Department	210-659-0333	EXT. 250
Golf Course	210-659-0333	EXT. 653
Library.....	210-659-0333	EXT. 048
Parks/Pavilion Rental.....	210-659-0333	EXT. 364
Police Department.....	210-659-0333	EXT. 353
Public Works.....	210-659-0333	EXT. 364

Mark Your Calendar

Tax Rates presented to council

05 Aug 2025

Budget Hearing & Record Vote on Tax Rate

19 Aug 2025

**Council Meeting to adopt FY 2026 Budget,
Public Hearing and Adoption of 25 Tax Rate**

02 Sept 2025

**Join us! All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.
2150 Universal City Blvd Universal City 78148**



**For EMS, Police
and Fire Emergencies
Call 911**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 25

MEETINGS



ARE YOU READY?

- **August 4, 2025..... 6 p.m.**
Planning & Zoning Meeting
- **August 5, 2025.....6:30 p.m.**
City Council Regular Meeting
- **August 14, 2025 5 p.m.**
Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- **August 19, 2025.....6:30 p.m.**
City Council Regular Meeting
- **August 25, 2025 6 p.m.**
Board of Adjustment Meeting
- **August 26, 2025 6 p.m.**
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

September 1, 2025

CLOSED Labor Day

- **September 2, 20256:30 p.m.**
City Council Regular Meeting
- **September 8, 2025..... 6 p.m.**
Planning & Zoning Meeting
- **September 11, 2025 5 p.m.**
Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- **September 16, 2025.....6:30 p.m.**
City Council Regular Meeting
- **September 17, 20255:30 p.m.**
Library Advisory Commission Meeting
- **September 22, 2025..... 6 p.m.**
Board of Adjustment Meeting
- **September 23, 2025..... 6 p.m.**
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting



LEADERSHIP



TOM MAXWELL
MAYOR



PHIL VAUGHN
COUNCILMEMBER



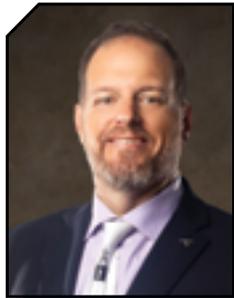
BEAR GOOLSBY
COUNCILMEMBER



LORI PUTT
COUNCILMEMBER



BERNARD RUBAL
COUNCILMEMBER



WILLIAM SHELBY
COUNCILMEMBER



CHRISTINA FITZPATRICK
MAYOR PRO TEM



KIM TURNER
CITY MANAGER

Ask Your Commissioner!

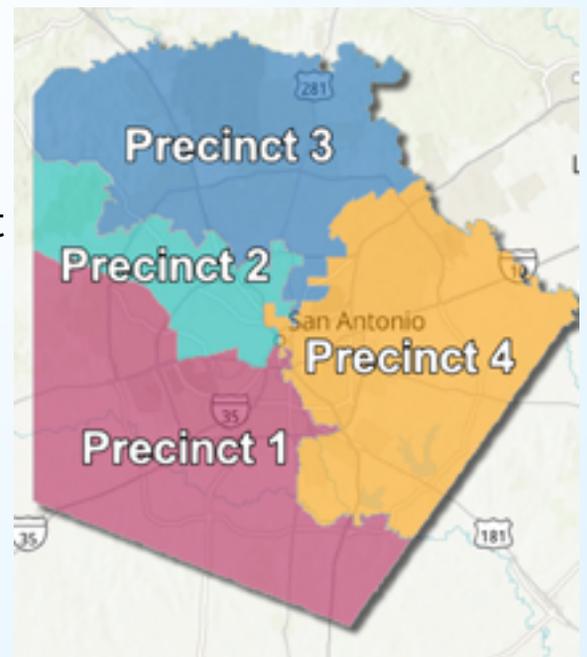


Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert wants to answer your questions!

City Manager Kim Turner recently sat down with Calvert who shared some valuable information about housing, economic growth, and even some personal history that includes him as a dating show host! Calvert has been representing precinct 4 which includes Universal City and Selma and extends all the way to Elmendorf-since 2014.

He's agreed to answer your questions. Just send them to **stories@uctx**.

We'll have answers in the October/November Gateway.



2024 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The City of Universal City Water Department is pleased to report that testing in accordance with EPA and TCEQ guidelines has shown that our drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

The City of Universal City will no longer mail printed copies of the report to all of our customers. If, however, you would like a hard copy of the report, copies will be available at the Public Works Building and City Hall, Monday to Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Scan the code to view the report

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CoverStory



Vanessa Croix

Proud to be Part of UC

KENS5 anchor and multi-media journalist Vanessa Croix is known for her compassion, thoroughness and exceptional storytelling. All factors that have played a role in her becoming one of the most popular and highly regarded news talent in the region.

She's also a proud resident of Universal City.

Croix's path to her successful tenure at KENS5 wasn't a traditional one. But once she had the desire to pursue a career in broadcasting, nothing could stop her.

She was born in Austin, but spent years growing up in Tomball, just outside of Houston. She shared her love of coming from a closeknit family and community where her parents volunteered.

She stayed local, becoming a teacher and school counselor. To this day, former students and colleagues sing her praises for her positivity and inspiration.

"She never gave up on encouraging all of us, and she never let us give up on ourselves," shared one former student.

Most people in the broadcasting industry enter the field right after college in their early twenties. Vanessa was still an educator when she decided to take the advice about pursuing dreams that she often gave to others. It's almost unheard of, but she was in her mid-30's when she accepted an internship at KPRC TV in Houston.

Colleagues who remember her say she's earned the success she's



"I love it (here) because I love the people. I love the small community that is small and surrounded by so many big communities."

— Vanessa Croix, KENS 5 Anchor

achieved noting she came in early, stayed late and asked for feedback. That work ethic paid off when she got a full-time job as evening anchor and reporter at NBC affiliate KAGS in Bryan/College Station. Two years later, she got the job at KENS5. Now she's proud to hail from "the UC." She was so impressed when her partner told her UC is a cool place to live. She says he was right!

"I love it (here) because I love the people. I love the small community that is small and surrounded by so many big communities. I love going to the HEB and people stopping me and talking to me. And we have great neighbors. It might take two hours to do my shopping, but I appreciate that."

Croix doesn't just speak well of Universal City. She delivers. Croix and colleagues have made multiple trips to UC to spread the word about the great things happening here. When she came to City Hall to meet the Marketing team, she took the time to meet City leaders who were in the building at the time, then visited with members of the fire department.



CoverStory



When her colleague Earl Stoudemire came to UC to cover the 2025 Snowfest, she was at the anchor desk and made a point to let KENS5 viewers know Universal City is a point of pride for her. She invited our City Manager Kim Turner into the studio to spread the word about the City starting a public service channel.

“Vanessa has been a great supporter and cheerleader for Universal City, and we don’t take that for granted,” said City Manager Kim Turner. “She is a consummate professional and we’re thrilled to let everyone know she is our neighbor.”

That professionalism earned Croix a Lone Star Emmy for her reporting on the tragic Uvalde school shooting.

She says her job at KENS5 is the best of both worlds. Meeting amazing people with incredible stories. She says you must leave your self-esteem at home, something she learned when she taught high school.

Her advice, if you’re ever frustrated? “Channel that energy into your passion. That made me work harder to get where I wanted to be. I might have been the oldest intern in Houston news, but I also had that professional maturity that allowed me to navigate different areas. I feel I’m so fortunate to do what I’m doing.”

Editor’s Note: You can see Vanessa’s interview in the 9 a.m. and p.m. hours on UC TV Spectrum channel 1306 starting August 4th. You’ll also be able to access it through the On Demand feature: <https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/uctx/?page=HOME>

JUNE 1- NOVEMBER 30

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Hurricane Preparedness
Information





THE THUNDERBIRDS ARE COMING!



May 2 - 3
2026

JBSA Randolph

Legacy of Twin Brothers



PHOTO: U.S. AIR FORCE



PHOTO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ORIGINAL THUNDERBIRDS PILOTS: CAPTAIN ROBERT KANAGA, CAPTAIN CHARLES "BUCK" PATTILLO, MAJOR RICHARD CATLEDGE, CAPTAIN ROBERT MCCORMICK, AND CAPTAIN CUTHBERT "BILL" PATTILLO

The Thunderbirds Return to JBSA

Organizers of the world famous Thunderbirds have released a preliminary 2026 performance schedule and JBSA Randolph will once again perform in the Great Texas Air Show.

The event is a source of pride for the United States Air Force, showcasing the abilities of the fighter jet, the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The air ships and flyovers have never strayed from its mission—to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Air Force.

The Thunderbirds were officially activated June 1st 1953 as part of the 3600th Air Demonstration Team at Luke Air Force base in Arizona. Its first jet was a straight-winged F-84G Thunderjet, a combat fighter-bomber that had seen action in Korea. Early in 1955 the team transitioned to the swept-winged F-84F Thunderstreak.

For local families, attending Thunderbird performances at

Randolph Air Force Base was, and is, a big event and some have never missed a performance.

"It's gone from something we took our kids to to something we can now share with the grandkids," said one retiree.

Many fans around the world know the basic history of the elite performance team, but not the history of twin brothers credited for being founders.

Pilots Buck and Bill Pattillo were part of the inaugural class. Serving in World War II, Bill had a near-death experience.

The brothers were born in June of 1924 in Atlanta, graduated in 1942 and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces. They earned their wings in the aviation cadet academy and were commissioned as second lieutenants in 1944, and flew with the 352nd Fighter Group.

Air Force history notes that Bill's P-51 was shot down by anti-aircraft

fire. Bill was able to bail out of his plane in time, but he was captured by German forces and held as a POW the rest of the war.

Then in 1949, the brothers played a key role in creating the performance group that would become the Thunderbirds, the Skywalkers.

The Pattillo twins created aerial moves that remain as staples in the group today, one of which is the "Bomb Burst" formation.

When they passed away, the Pattillo brothers were the last surviving members of the original Thunderbirds. Bill was 89 when he died in 2014. Buck was 94 when he died five years later. In 2022, the brothers were moved and buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

The skies over Arlington that day featured an air show dedicated to the twins whose legacy is part of military history.

Bringing Neighbors Together



It was an event that drew not only local residents and vendors, but those from surrounding communities as well.

June's East Aviation District Market was a huge success. With nearly one hundred vendors in attendance, shoppers had a broad range of options from grass fed meats to highly coveted fresh produce, jewelry, fresh honey and even handmade bows.

Vendors like UJeong K-Mex BBQ came from neighboring

communities like Converse, Schertz, New Braunfels and even Boerne.

The UJeong story is about lifelong friends Alfonso, Danny and Elias who share a passion for food.

"We love coming to Universal City," Elias said. "People here are so welcoming and friendly and we appreciate that they love our food."

The City of Universal City is partnering with Gather Brewing for the next market 10 a.m.-2 p.m. September 6th.

A large advertisement for the East Aviation District Market. The background is a mural of a landscape with mountains and a river. In the foreground, there are various food items: jars of pickles, bread in a basket, strawberries, and cheese. The text 'EAST AVIATION DISTRICT MARKET' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. To the right, there are logos for 'GATHER BREWING CO' and 'UNIVERSAL CITY TX'. A green banner at the bottom right says 'NEXT MARKET September 6'. At the bottom, the address '210 E. Aviation Universal City, TX 78148' is written in white text on a green background.

EAST AVIATION DISTRICT MARKET

GATHER BREWING CO

UNIVERSAL CITY TX

**NEXT MARKET
September 6**

210 E. Aviation Universal City, TX 78148

UCCommunity





“I can come here for a quick lunch, or bring my family and take more time. The food is delicious, the service great, and we can afford it,”

— Thai O' Cha patron



Universal City’s Thai O’ Cha restaurant has become one of the most popular destinations in the City’s East Aviation District.

Its website features extensive photos of its Thai cuisine and invites guests to come and enjoy the liveliness of its exhibition kitchen, or order online.

Family-owned, owners take great pride in making sure guests enjoy the family-friendly environment and very popular buffet.

The restaurant is located in the midst of the East Aviation District which had its master

plan approved by Universal City City Council in August of 2020.

The ongoing 10-15 year effort led by the Economic Development Corporation is strategically planned for mixed use and consistent economic growth.

Having successful existing businesses in place as the area grows is a bonus. It has regular customers that give it high praise.

“I can come here for a quick lunch, or bring my family and take more time. The food is delicious, the service great, and we can afford it,” one said.

Thai O’ Cha is located at 220 East Aviation Blvd. In addition to parking in front of the restaurant, free parking is available at the municipal parking lot across the street. thaiochauc.com.



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Events & Programs

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All Texas residents are eligible for a free card, which gives you access to books, movies, digital resources including computer time and more.

Signing up is easy

Just bring a valid photo ID and proof of Texas residency (utility bill, personal check, voter registration, or auto insurance). Kids under 18 will need a parent or guardian to sign up with them.

Stop by during regular business hours and start exploring everything your local library has to offer!

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Explore the world of digital reading with Boundless, a free app available to all Universal City Public Library cardholders.

Boundless gives you instant access to a wide range of ebooks, audiobooks, and digital media. Whether you prefer turning pages or turning up the speed on your audiobooks, there's something for everyone.

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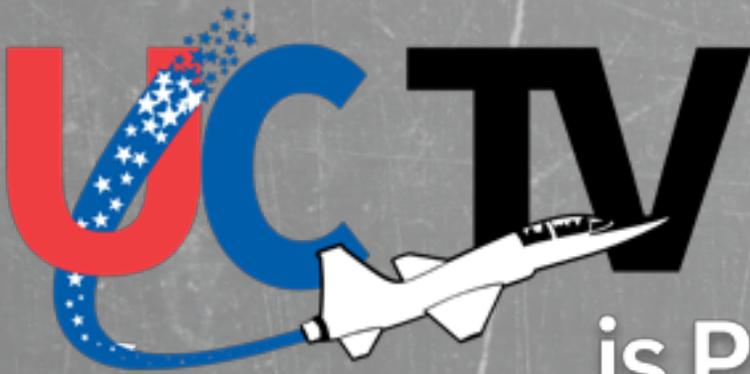
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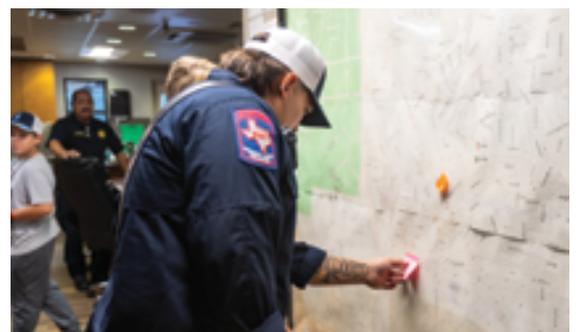
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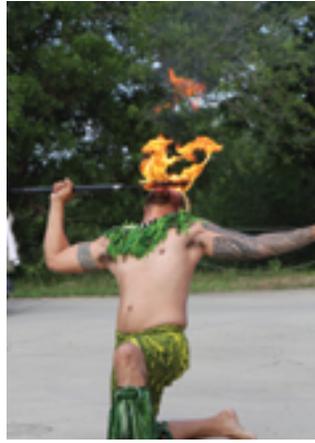
Congratulations 2025 Jr. Cadets! All CPR Trained



UCCommunity

A Fantastic Evening

2025 Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center Luau



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City of Universal City
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Universal City, Texas 78148

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