

Star Trek's Capt. Kirk rocketing into space next week

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Captain Kirk is rocketing into space next week — boldly going where no other sci-fi actors have gone.

Jeff Bezos' space travel company, Blue Origin, announced Monday that "Star Trek" actor William Shatner will blast off from West Texas on Oct. 12.

"Yes, it's true; I'm going to be a 'rocket man!'" the 90-year-old tweeted.

Bezos, the founder of Amazon, is a huge fan of the sci-fi series and even had a cameo as a high-ranking alien in the 2016 film "Star Trek Beyond." His rocket company invited Shatner to fly as its guest.

Shatner will become the oldest person to go to space. He'll join three others — two of them paying customers — aboard a Blue Origin capsule.

Shatner's flight will last just 10 minutes and reach no

higher than about 66 miles. The capsule will parachute back to the desert floor, not far from where it took off.

Shatner played the role of the USS Starship Enterprise's commander for three seasons, from 1966 to 1969. He also portrayed Captain Kirk in seven movies, directing one of them.

He's currently the host and executive producer of a History Channel show, "The UnXplained."



Chambers County Public Hospital District board members with Chambers Health CEO William Kiefer and Chief Financial and Operating Officers Jay Hodges and Paul Aslin after the board approved the 31% tax rate reduction.

Chambers Health cuts tax rate by 31%

ANAHUAC — Chambers Health has reached a milestone by announcing the biggest single tax reduction in the history of the hospital district.

After a unanimous vote by the board of the Chambers County Public Hospital District, the entity will enact a decrease by 15 cents per \$100 of value — which is a 31% tax reduction. On a property valued at \$100,000, the savings would be \$150 annually.

"Chambers County is the only rural Texas hospital district I'm aware of that is actively working to reduce their tax rate in the midst of the pandemic," said John Henderson, President & CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals. "It is a strong testament to the financial stewardship by the new executive leadership to be able to bring this type of reduction during one of healthcare's most challenging global situations in decades."

The accomplishment comes just 10 months after the hospital board unanimously voted to hire William Kiefer as the new CEO of the health system after conducting a nationwide search for the right fit for the community.

"During the interview process, we were frank with William on the high expectations we had for him to transform the reputation of our health system by improving quality of care and services as well as generating new revenue streams to be able to bring tax reductions to our community," said Theresa Greco,

hospital board chair. "William has delivered on this and more in less than a year of taking the helm with open communication, transparency and integrity."

As part of Kiefer's focus to change the image of health system, the company has deployed a number improvement projects to revamp the patient experience. From scheduling to new health services, the health system is working toward fulfilling the new mission, vision and values commissioned by new leadership and the board to bring residents high-quality care with a personal, hometown touch.

"Since I arrived in November, our workforce quickened its pace and are setting a new standard of excellence when it comes to rural healthcare in the region and across the state," Kiefer said.

"While other areas are closing hospitals or raising taxes, we are thriving thanks to key partnerships, innovative solutions and transformation of many internal practices that make our health system more efficient and financially prosperous," he continued. "This is just the beginning — we will continue to improve our services and impact to the bottom line, while providing world-class treatment with the same service we give to our own families."

Voting in favor of the tax rate were Greco; Marcia Smith, Vice Chair; Leslie Turner, Secretary; and Directors Mike Emmons and Geraldine Brown.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 27 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on October 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM at 5313 Golden Road, Baytown, Texas 77521. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

- For the proposal:
- Tom Hard
 - Robert Mungle
 - Lynda Jack Pennington
 - Enderli
 - Ruben Garcia
- Against the proposal:
- Present and not voting:
- Absent:

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

	Last Year \$0.590000/\$100	This Year \$0.590000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$63,894	\$65,277
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$58,894	\$60,277
Tax on average residence homestead	\$347.47	\$355.63
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$8.16
and percentage of increase (+/-)		2.35%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 27 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of maintenance and improvements.

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

Money&Markets

Local Stocks

NAME	DIV	PE	LAST	CHG
AT&T Inc	2.08	...	27.25	+0.9
Allstate	3.24	11	126.61	-1.11
AEP	2.96	18	83.04	+1.66
Ashland	1.20	30	90.16	-1.01
BkofAm	.84	19	43.34	+2.6
Boeing	...	...	223.79	-2.21
CampSp	1.48	16	42.11	+5.8
CenterPnt	.64	19	25.49	+5.9
Chevron	5.36	56	104.72	+3.9
Cisco	1.45	22	54.23	-5.4
Citigroup	2.04	10	71.29	+1.1
CocaCola	1.68	28	52.99	-0.3
ConAgra	1.25	14	34.02	+3.2
ConocoPhil	1.84	...	71.49	+1.39
ConEd	3.10	22	73.22	+1.62
CrownHold	.80	19	100.46	+3.8
Disney	...	...	173.46	-2.55
DuPont	1.20	16	70.18	+1.05
DukeEngy	3.94	57	100.76	+2.30
EnPro	1.04	...	88.75	-5.1
EntProdPt	1.80	13	22.63	+8.3
ExxonMbl	3.48	...	61.72	+7.9
FordM	...	...	14.35	+1.9
GenElec rs	.32	...	104.90	-9.2
HP Inc	.78	10	28.08	+0.1
Halliburtn	.18	...	23.02	+7.4
HomeDp	6.60	23	326.47	-3.39
HonWllnt	3.92	30	214.21	-1.44
Intel	1.39	10	53.47	-3.9
IBM	6.56	24	144.11	+7.9
JohnJn	4.24	24	159.22	-1.25
Kroger	.84	27	39.63	+4.9
McDnlds	5.16	26	243.08	+1.5
Merck	2.60	38	83.10	+1.70
Microsoft	2.48	39	283.11	-5.99
MorgStan	2.80	13	97.15	-1.90
NRC Egt	1.30	32	40.33	-3.3
OCI Pet	.04	...	31.81	+6.6
Oracle	1.28	92	89.26	-4.8
PepsiCo	4.30	28	150.20	-7.5
Pfizer	1.56	18	42.42	-4.7
ProctGam	3.48	25	138.79	-5.9
Qualcom	2.72	18	126.68	-2.03
Schlimbrg	.50	43	30.88	+5.2
SouthCo	2.64	21	62.43	+6.8
SwstAirl	.72	...	55.06	+7.1
Tenneco	...	...	15.12	+1.2
3M Co	5.92	17	176.04	-6.4
UPS B	4.08	26	178.42	-3.07
USSteel	.04	6	21.90	+1.8
VerizonCm	2.56	11	54.50	+2.0
WalMart	2.20	38	135.73	-1.32
WalGBoors	1.91	18	46.69	-1.1
WellsFargo	.80	32	47.02	...

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 34,002.92
Change: -323.54 (-0.9%)

Nasdaq Composite

Close: 14,255.48
Change: -311.21 (-2.1%)

Stocks Recap

	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
DOW	34,410.28	33,821.58	34,002.92	-323.54	-0.94%	▼	▼	▼	+11.10%
DOW Trans.	14,395.71	14,164.98	14,210.00	-40.71	-0.29%	▼	▼	▼	+13.62%
DOW Util.	888.56	872.22	885.70	+12.88	+1.48%	▲	▲	▲	+2.44%
NYSE Comp.	16,362.43	16,130.23	16,198.56	-125.19	-0.77%	▼	▼	▼	+11.52%
NASDAQ	14,499.74	14,181.69	14,255.48	-311.21	-2.14%	▼	▼	▼	+10.61%
S&P 500	4,355.51	4,278.94	4,300.46	-56.58	-1.30%	▼	▼	▼	+14.49%
S&P 400	2,695.92	2,659.04	2,667.23	-16.41	-0.61%	▼	▼	▼	+15.63%
Wilshire 5000	45,362.75	44,538.32	44,737.20	-625.55	-1.38%	▼	▼	▼	+13.38%
Russell 2000	2,240.85	2,210.61	2,217.47	-24.16	-1.08%	▼	▼	▼	+12.29%

Interest Rates

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.48% Monday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

TREASURIES	LAST	PVS	NET CHG	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	.04	.04	...	.09
6-month T-bill	.06	.05	+0.01	.11
52-wk T-bill	.09	.08	+0.01	.23
2-year T-note	.27	.27	...	.13
5-year T-note	.95	.93	+0.02	.28
7-year T-note	1.27	1.26	+0.01	.48
10-year T-note	1.48	1.47	+0.01	.70
30-year T-bond	2.05	2.05	...	1.48

CONSUMER RATES	NAT'L AVG	WK AGO	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
48 month new car loan	3.58 ▼	3.72	3.72	4.04
Money market account	0.07 =	0.07	0.08	0.10
1 year CD	0.29 =	0.29	0.29	0.33
\$30K Home equity loan	6.46 ▲	6.45	6.45	4.71
30 year fixed mortgage	3.11 ▼	3.13	3.03	3.28
15 year fixed mortgage	2.37 ▼	2.40	2.33	2.53

Wanted: data privacy

TikTok's recent run-in with European regulators is another reminder that not a day seems to pass without a report of personal data collected online being sold, stolen or abused. It's so bad that more than three in five Americans don't trust tech companies to keep their social media activity or locations private. Half don't even believe their private text conversations are secure.

So says a poll of 1,004 adults done in June by The Associated Press with the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The vast majority want federal intervention. The poll found nearly three-quarters of Americans favor national standards for how companies can collect, process and share personal data — and see data collection and force businesses to delete their personal information. But advocates say these laws are no substitute for comprehensive federal privacy legislation, as the European Union has. It recently opened investigations into TikTok's handling of children's personal data and data transfers to China.

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