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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

CPR fraud investigation leads to arrest

Erica Washington, the owner of Genesis Education and Training, speaks at a Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office press conference. Washington said a Cinco Ranch man, Ubadi Sampson Anosike, had used her certification as a CPR instructor to produce fake CPR certifications which he sold to people who had received no training. Anosike is currently out on bond pending his court case.

FACEBOOK/FORT BEND COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

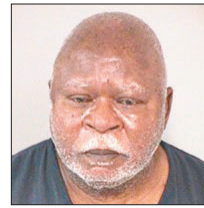


BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Ubadi Sampson Anosike, a resident of the Cinco Ranch area of Fort Bend County, was arrested Sept. 30 for issuing falsified CPR certification cards.

"The people that were buying these cards are people that are employees of employers that require this card to administer CPR or life-saving techniques," FBCSO Lieutenant Rodney Glendening said during a Sept. 14 press conference. "These cards were bought from a person without any training, without any instructions and merely by the mere presence of showing up."

Anosike has been released on \$1,000 bond but faces charges of Fraudulent Use or



**UBADIRE
SAMPSON ANOSIKE**

Possession of Identification Information, a felony punishable by up to two years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000, according to an FBCSO press release that followed the conference.

Glendening said investigators had been alerted to the crime

by Erica Washington, a nurse and owner of Genesis Education and Training out of Wharton, Texas. Washington had reported to the FBCSO that her information had been

See **FRAUD**, page A3

George delivers state of the county address

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County Judge KP George delivered a State of the County address on Oct. 14 at Safari Texas Ranch focusing on the county's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to develop the county's economy.

"The challenges we face are real, but so are the opportunities to overcome them and to grow as a community in the process," George said in his speech.

During the presentation, which was hosted by the Fort Bend and Central Fort Bend chambers of commerce, George said most eligible county residents have been at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19 with 85% of eligible residents having received at least one dose and 76% of residents being fully vaccinated. The county continues to provide free testing for the disease and is coordinating access to the vaccines which are also provided at no charge to those 12 and older. George said the county is



FORT BEND COUNTY

Fort Bend County Judge KP George delivered his State of the County address on Oct. 14 at Safari Texas Ranch. George said the county is working to help residents and businesses recover from the pandemic and is focused on drawing technology firms to bolster the economy for his constituents.

still encouraging social distancing and masks.

"These are the things we must do to move our community forward, including reaching communities that have historically shown vaccine hesitancy," George said.

George praised his fellow

See **COUNTY**, page A3



FILE PHOTO BY R. HANS MILLER

Royal ISD Operations Director Derrick Dabney explains plumbing infrastructure issues at Royal Junior High during an April 28 tour of the facility. The building is aging and needs serious infrastructure improvements to remain safely usable by students, faculty and staff. The urinals in the boys' restroom have not been replaced due to plumbing problems under the building's foundation that need to be addressed, Dabney said. RISD officials are hoping a \$99.5 million bond will address these issues and allow the district to build two additional campuses to face upcoming growth of the student body.

Voting begins for RISD's \$99.5M bond package

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Voting began Oct. 18 on Royal ISD's proposed \$99.5 million bond package which RISD's administration says is necessary for the district to face oncoming rapid growth in the area to the west of Katy. Planning for the bond package was done by a community

group that reached a unanimous decision to move forward with the bond, RISD Superintendent Rick Kershner said during an Oct. 14 community luncheon.

"(They went on) some facility tours – most of that's at the junior high, looking at some of our aging facilities there," Kershner said. "You know, the bones of that building are real-

ly good – the structure. It's just some of the infrastructure that (needs refurbishment)."

Kershner said a new junior high campus and an additional Pre-K through elementary campus would be built if the bonds – which are projected not to increase the district's property tax rates – are ap-

See **BOND**, page A3

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SUSAN ROVEGNO/KATY TIMES PUBLISHER

The Katy Tiger cheer squad jazes up the crowd at the ribbon cutting for Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom on Oct. 11. The ceremony was just one part of SPB Hospitality's big news for the Katy area after it opted to move its corporate office from Denver, Colo. to Texas which will bring hundreds of jobs to the community.

New Old Chicago

Chain opens Katy eatery as parent company settles in

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom held a ribbon cutting at their reopened location at 24515 Katy Freeway on Oct. 11 – but that isn't the only big news for SPB Hospitality, the company that owns the pizza franchise. SPB has also moved its corporate office to 19219 I-10 near Greenhouse Road.

"We selected Katy and Houston for the reasons most companies would love to come to Texas," said SPB President and CEO Jim Mazany. "It's a great place – great schools obviously to start with – a really exciting, fun food scene and social scene."

Mazany said the environment in Greater

See **RESTAURANT**, page A5

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A clown entertains children at the Katy Elks Lodge's fortieth anniversary celebration at the lodge on Katy Fort Bend Road. The event also featured outdoor games, a bounce house, a DJ playing music and multiple food vendors.

R. HANS MILLER

40 years of the Elks

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Elks Lodge located at 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road celebrated the organization's fortieth anniversary serving the Katy area with a festival on Saturday, Oct. 16. The nonprofit serves the community in a variety of ways and continues to welcome new members, representatives said.

"It's always a good idea to come in, get to know somebody and learn about us," said Elks Trustee Kevin Iund. "Look at the charities we do. For all the things that we do, I'm pretty sure most anybody with a charitable heart would find interest."

The local nonprofit seeks to support disabled children, veterans and others in need, said current Exalted Ruler Carla Clark. That work includes a food pantry, fundraisers to provide scholarships for local students, hosting a dance for students with learning disabilities and their mentors, clothing drives for homeless veterans and a program to help young people with developmental and intellectual challenges go to sleep-away camps.

"It's at a cost of about \$750 per child that is fully funded by the

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Texas State Elks," Iund said. "This year, we have \$17,000 in grants coming back from that camp that we can spend here in our Katy community, and we're looking for anything that we can do to help better the life of a special needs child."

Honoring first responders and veterans is a priority for the Elks as well, Clark said. Dinners and breakfasts with first responders and veterans are regular occurrences at the lodge.

Clark said the Elks also have a food pantry for those facing food insecurity for any reason. To request assistance, anyone in need may call the lodge and coordinate a time to stop by and pick up groceries.

Offering opportunities for community members to contribute is key to the Katy Elks Lodge's success, Clark and Iund said. Not only do they support students who

mentor their peers with special needs, a dozen Katy ISD students were on-hand volunteering to make Saturday's carnival a success. Additionally, anyone interested in becoming an Elks Lodge member and supporting the work they do in the community is welcome to come by in the evenings when the lodge is open to visit and find out more about the programs and opportunities offered by the Katy Elks Lodge.

To become a member, Iund said, applicants must believe in God, be American citizens, pass a background check and be sponsored by an existing member. As they are sworn into their memberships, witnesses must be present as part of the tradition of the Elks Lodge organization.

Saturday's carnival included a bounce house, clowns, activities for children, food vendors and a live DJ playing music of several different genres. Mostly, it was about being part of the community and celebrating the successes that 40 years has brought to the Katy Elks, Clark said.

"Today is just a celebration day, and we do a lot of things for the community so we wanted to share our celebration with them," Clark said.

NEWS BITS

4 Katy area issues

FROM STAFF REPORTS

KISD State of the District set for Oct. 22

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski will present the State of the District at the Leonard Merrell Center at 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 22. Anyone interested in attending should visit <https://bit.ly/StateOfTheDistrict> to RSVP.

'New Kid' returns to KISD shelves

After temporarily removing the book "New Kid" by Jerry Craft from district libraries in early October, Katy ISD announced last week that the book had been returned to campuses.

The book had drawn criticism from some parents because they felt it promoted critical race theory, a graduate-level concept taught in law schools and graduate programs that views racism as a social construct that has infiltrated into public policy. Other parents supported keeping the book on district shelves.

A statement from the district said collections of literature in KISD libraries are carefully reviewed and selected. When a parent challenges the selection of a book, the item is temporarily pulled from shelves to be reviewed by a committee.

"Earlier this week, the review committee met and determined the appropriateness of the book, 'New Kid.' The reading material is already back on District library shelves and the virtual author visit is scheduled to take place on October 25 as part of the instructional day," the district's statement said.

According to Craft's website, the book is about the experiences of a young Black student who attends a new school where he faces racism and other challenges.

Harris County redistricting

Harris County will be hosting a public hearing regarding the redistricting process on Oct. 21 at 4 p.m. on the ninth floor at 1001 Preston Street in downtown Houston. The Harris County Commissioners Court will be in attendance.

According to a release from Harris County Commissioner Tom Ramsey, the proposed redistricting would move about 500,000 Harris residents from Precinct 3 to Precinct 2. Road maintenance, drainage programs, roads, bridges and parks will be affected by the redistricting process, Ramsey said. Additionally, county employees could be displaced or let go as a result of the changes.

OSU scholarships awarded

Oklahoma State University's Ferguson College of Agriculture awarded more than \$1.8 million in academic scholarships to students, according to an OSU press release. Two of those students are Katy's Danielle Jawad and Logan Tumino.

Jawad, who graduated from Tompkins High School, is an Agribusiness major while Tumino, a Seven Lakes alum, studies biochemistry and molecular biology.

The exact amounts of the individual scholarships were not disclosed, but the press release indicated the money came from alumni and other donors to the university.

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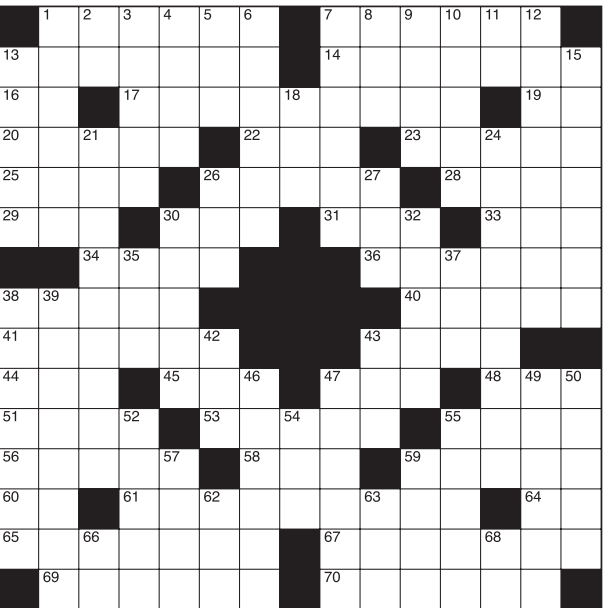
CLUES ACROSS

- Break
- Ruled Russia
- Having several lobes
- Walked around proudly
- Atomic #77
- Largest living land animals
- The Great Lakes State
- A type of toast
- Partner to feather
- Bristlelike
- Bowfin
- Distributes
- Hairlike structure
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Where wrestlers work
- Blood relation
- A great deal
- Round Dutch cheese
- Move further away from
- Type of wrap
- Furies
- Removes from the record
- Young salmon
- Feline
- Skin decor
- Disfigure
- They —
- Formal term for "on"
- Weight of precious stones
- Traveled rapidly
- Long-winged aquatic bird
- Prickly husk

- Expressed pleasure
- Exclamation of surprise
- Most irritable
- Virginia
- Optimistic
- Humorous works
- Arranged systematically
- Emerges

CLUES DOWN

- Wives of a polygamous man
- Where hurt ballplayers land
- Single-celled animal
- Rhythmic pattern
- One from Utah
- A group of seven
- Refrains from inflicting
- Light brown
- Humanistic discipline
- Emits coherent radiation
- It says who you are
- Roundworm
- Group of Native Americans
- Makes wider
- Headgear
- One who sets others free
- Form of communication
- A Brit's mother
- Title of respect
- Famed modernist painter
- One-time province of British India
- Prosecutors

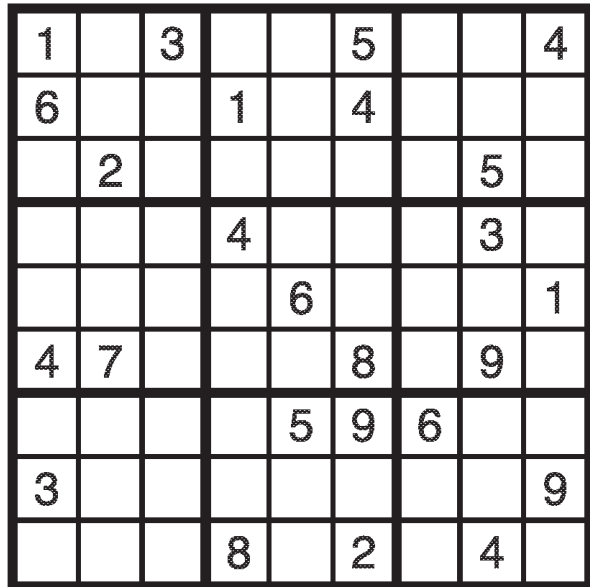


- Motor vehicle
- Non-religious
- Native Americans of Colorado and Wyoming
- Pouch
- Touch gently
- Chose
- Actress Tomei
- Former Broncos coach Dan
- Icelandic poems

- More decent
- Grillmasters use it
- Self-immolation by fire rituals
- Expression of annoyance
- Spumante (Italian wine)
- Consumed
- Body part
- Thus
- Rupee

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

COUNTY

from page A1

members of the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court – commissioners Andy Meyers, Ken DeMerchant, Grady Prestage and Vincent Morales – for their efforts to help the county mitigate the impact of the pandemic on residents.

George said economic recovery from the pandemic remains a priority and building the future of the county’s economic foundation is important. As such, he said, the county now has one of the lowest tax rates in more than 15 years at \$0.4383 per \$100 of property value, down from about \$0.66 15-20 years ago.

To assist residents hit by the

pandemic, the county is using federal relief funds to provide programs to those living in Fort Bend County. Those programs include rent, mortgage and utility assistance for residents as well as grant and mentorship programs for small businesses. The We All Eat Texas program also provides access to free to-go meals from local restaurants for those facing food insecurity. Child care vouchers are available to help parents get back into the workforce and the Get Hired incentive program offers subsidies to local businesses that are having difficulty finding staff by providing funding for hiring bonuses to incentivize people to

return to the workforce, George said.

The programs have used \$75 million in funds set aside for small businesses to help 2,717 businesses with offerings of \$46.1 million in grants as of Oct. 14, George said.

George said establishing better infrastructure throughout the county will help the county as it continues to grow. He highlighted the Texas Heritage Parkway’s recent opening, upcoming county facility improvements such as the Emergency Operations Center which is expected to open in March of 2022 and parks and library improvements throughout

the county.

George’s administration and county commissioners have been working to attract technology firms to the county as well, George said. The court recently passed a proposal for a comprehensive broadband study to ensure high-speed internet is available to county residents and to identify challenges in drawing tech firms to Fort Bend as part of the county’s overall efforts to increase its involvement in the technology sector.

“For the past two years, we have been working to increase the concentration of small technology firms and small businesses. We have attracted THE Cannon,

a hub for innovators, entrepreneurs, and small businesses of all backgrounds connect to the resources they need to succeed,” George said.

Overall, George said, the county is working to build a better economic future for its residents and future residents.

“We are already doing great things to improve the lives of our families and our economy in ways that will benefit our children and grandchildren. I have full confidence that we are moving Fort Bend forward and making Fort Bend County even a better place for our children and generations to come,” George said.

BOND

from page A1

proved by voters in the election. Additionally, renovations would be funded for the Royal STEM Academy, current elementary and junior high, the Royal Early Childhood Center and the RISD Transportation Center. While the basic structure of those facilities is intact, Kershner said the HVAC, plumbing and other utility items throughout all of the district’s campuses, except Royal High School, require repair or refurbishment. Additionally, the expansion with two additional campuses is necessary to meet anticipated growth coming to the district.

According to documentation provided by RISD, the district has new students coming in from at least 10 new housing developments in and around Brookshire and Pattison. Examples of that include part of Freeman Ranch and Crystal Lakes. Additionally, Kershner said, about 4,000 acres of land are expected to be developed between Katy and Brookshire which will provide both workplaces and homes to draw additional population to the district.

In a recent presentation, Kershner said that the district has already grown this school year by 12% in comparison to the 2020-21 school year. Overall, thousands of new homes are expected to bring more than

thousands of new students to the district in the next few years as Brookshire, Pattison and unincorporated portions of Waller County are developed.

Financially, Kershner said the district is in a good position to pay back any bond financing authorized by voters. Additional taxpayers such as warehouse businesses on Old Highway 90 and in subdivisions throughout the district will allow the district to lower the tax rate slightly for area residents, he said.

Before the bond, the district charged a total tax rate of \$1.32 per \$100 in property value; however, given increased property values and debt the district has paid off early, district documents said, the rate will be lowered by a penny to \$1.31 per \$100 valuation whether the bond passes or not. Additionally, homeowners 65 and older are eligible for a homestead exemption which will reduce their tax bills. Those interested in the exemption can contact the Waller County Appraisal District at 979-921-0060 or visit www.waller-cad.org.

Early voting runs through Oct. 29 and Election Day is Nov. 2. Additional information on the bond is available at www.royal-isd.net/page/bond.

FRAUD

from page A1

found on falsified cards using her instructor identifier. As a result, the company reviewing the document contacted her and she reached out to law enforcement for assistance. During the resulting investigation, an undercover officer went to Anosike’s Cinco Ranch home and was able to purchase a falsified CPR card within 10 minutes and with no instruction or CPR-related documentation provided to him. At that time, Glendening said, Anosike was arrested without incident.

“This gentleman – I have no idea who he is,” Washington, who also spoke at the press conference, said. “I don’t know how he got my information.”

Employers presented with a paper CPR certification should verify its validity because her company no longer issues paper documents and only provides digital certificates, Washington said. The backs of the fraudulent documents also have information for a company called Flex Medical Services on the back, she added.

A search for businesses named Flex Medical Ser-

vices showed multiple companies in Greater Houston with that name or similar names.

Anyone who suspects they may have been presented with a fake CPR certification associated with Anosike’s operation should contact Detective Jason Bell at 281-341-4633 or via email at jason.bell@fortbendcountytexas.gov, the press release advised.

Glendening said Anosike had a full home office set up with a computer, printer, laminating machine and records of hundreds of faked CPR certifications. He added that FBCSO investigators suspect there may be about 1,000 more which Anosike issued since he began selling them in 2014.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan said anyone who had purchased a falsified CPR document from Anosike should come forward and investigators would work with the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office; however, if those people did not come forward, investigators would seek to charge them for the offense without any legal reprieve.

Washington said she has been in business since 2010 and has worked hard to establish a good reputation for Genesis Education and Training. Her time as a health care professional who understands the importance of quality training and the dangers of hiring someone who isn’t properly trained left her shocked, she said.

“I would like to thank Sheriff Eric Fagan and his team for caring about Fort Bend County the way that I do, to stop some of this, because people are going to get hurt and die,” Washington said. “And Mr. Anosike, shame on you. Shame on you, sir.”

Fagan said anyone looking for certified staff should verify certifications and use caution to ensure properly skilled personnel are hired.

“In the age of health care fraud, this type of crime can happen anywhere including Fort Bend,” Fagan said. “We urge the public to protect themselves from being a victim and be aware of health care-related certification and insurance fraud. It could save countless lives and businesses.”



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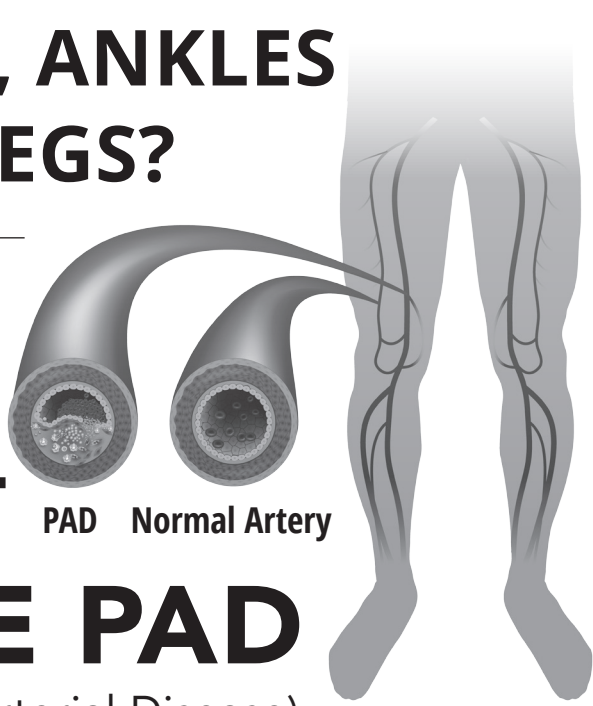
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Who would ever believe that the Justice Department would authorize the FBI, and other government agencies, to monitor school board meetings and possibly declare parents who speak out as domestic terrorists? This is unconscionable!

Such an action is an intimidation tactic designed to silence freedom of speech.

The National School Board Association (NSBA) made the recommendation to take action against those parents who speak out at meetings and online. They claim a complaining parent could be a domestic terrorist. NSBA is a taxpayers funded organization whose President, is Viola Garcia.

Garcia has been a member of the Aldine, Texas, School District since 1992, and served as trustee President. U.S. News and World Reports, published, that Aldine High School is ranked 13,394 of 17,857 in national rankings by U.S. News and World Report. (<https://bit.ly/SchoolRanks>) Public School Review found that AISD is ranked 957 of 1199 in Texas. (<https://bit.ly/AldineStats>)

Reigning over a low-performing school district should not merit her leadership in the national organization; moreover, it would appear Aldine students would be better served by efforts to improve student outcomes and listen to parents. YET... Garcia heads the NSBA and is working to institutionalize silencing parents.

Local school districts send money to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) which sends delegates to the NSBA. That group then lobbies for issues at the national level that parents might find revolting and may not support.

The NSBA successfully got Merrick Garland, the Attorney General of the United States to state that "While the spirited debate about policy matters is protected under our Constitution, that protection does not extend to threats of violence or efforts to intimidate individuals based on their views," **

The Federal Government trying to assume the right to usurp individual rights, and if they do, our blogs, emails, and other social media post will soon be controlled by the Federal Government.

This initiative is meant to silence those who may disagree with the teachings of the Far Left's agenda which currently centered on establishing Socialism, pushing critical race theory, and eliminating free speech.

These radicals want to cancel your thoughts and beliefs. Some want to take away our right to be involved with our own child's education!

School district patrons throughout the country are pushing back, and citizens should not be intimidated by the Far Left and must get involved with their local school district. Tell Katy ISD to defund TASB and NSBA. Wouldn't it be great if our elected trustees would take a stand and write back to the Attorney General and say, "We don't need you here! Back off!"

**Public School Review <https://www.publicschool-review.com/texas/aldine-independent-school-district/4807710-school-district>

***Of note is the fact that AG Merrick Garland's son-in-law sells Critical Race Theory material to school districts! Kind of a big conflict of interest!

A.D. Muller
Katy, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In his letter to the editor, Mr. Muller is referring to a Sept. 29 letter from the NSBA to President Joe Biden regarding an increase in threats and attacks against educators, school staff and school board members relating to school districts' management of COVID-19 mitigation and critical race theory.

According to that letter, increases in attacks and threats against school employees and board members have occurred and are cause for concern among professional educators. Additionally, the letter indicates that Critical Race Theory is not taught at the K-12 level but is a collegiate-level theory taught mostly in law school and other graduate programs. According to Education Weekly, critical race theory – or CRT – is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old that theorizes that race is a social construct, and that racism is not just individual prejudice but also something that has become embedded in legal systems and public policies.

To review the full NSBA letter, visit <https://bit.ly/NSBAletter>.

Dear Editor,

My name is Bill Thomas. I served my country for four years and am ashamed of the perpetuation of the big lie. The politicians in this country need to fight for the people and not big brother. There is no need for a filibuster in a country where our elected officials should be working for the constituents who elected them and not the companies who gave them money to run their campaigns.

Voting rights should be just that, a "RIGHT." There has been no evidence of mass voter fraud in any election and the laws the Republicans are passing are almost criminal to keep voters from voting. The poor sports are changing the rules to basically cheat their way into power. (Election Day) should be a holiday so everyone can get out to vote.

Sincerely,

Bill Thomas
Katy Times Reader



School project management

Raising three daughters has come with many delights, challenges, prayers and moments standing in that certain aisle at Target trying to figure out the differences between "ultra," "Infinity FlexFoam," "overnight," "sport," "wings," "Radiant," and "Just ask your wife, you goober."

One ordeal that all parents are destined to endure at some point is the dreaded school project – specifically designed by educators to exact revenge upon parents who actually believe that their child is "a joy to teach."

When our daughters first started school, I made an arrangement with my wife that I would assist with all of the projects if she would handle anything related to the evils of mathematics. After helping with enough school projects to qualify for a concealed glue gun license, I've found that what should be an opportunity for some father-daughter bonding usually ends up with someone getting their feelings hurt and crying – and it's not always me.

Another challenge I face is trying to determine how much "help" to offer on a school project versus how much to risk having one of my daughters injure herself or, more importantly, the sheetrock.

One of the first school projects I remember our girls being assigned was the infamous leaf collection, which often involved committing third-degree trespassing and assault upon innocent foliage. Inevitably, the final specimen that we needed to complete the project required that I jump around in the dark like a drunk baboon trying to reach the perfect bundle of loblolly pine



needles –because my eldest and most expensive daughter insisted that the ones all over the ground weren't "pretty anymore."

Another foray into school projects involved creating a shoebox diorama of a scene from E.B. White's traumatic children's novel "Charlotte's Web." This project required that we artistically design Wilbur's barnyard from a shoebox once containing a pair of Gianni Bini pumps that never quite fit me right. As my daughters and I worked, we powered through tears brought on by molten strands of hot glue and that chapter where the beloved Charlotte dies after becoming the only arachnid in history we didn't want to squash with a flip-flop.

I also remember helping my eldest and middle daughters bake and decorate cakes meant to represent cross sections of human skin for science class. Yes, that's right, skin cakes – fully furnished with a pale-pink epidermis frosting, melted Tootsie Roll hair shafts, Sour Punch Straw sweat glands, and subcutaneous tissue made from Hickory Farms Mini Meltaway Mints. I don't know about you, but I have a hard time getting excited about sweat glands for dessert, which is probably why I only had

four servings.

Most recently, my youngest daughter was tasked with assembling a three-dimensional model of a phosphorus atom. Prior to helping with this project, I didn't know much about phosphorus – other than I've eaten lots of it, according to the Honey Nut Cheerios box.

Apparently, though, making a model of phosphorus requires at least \$50, about five trips to Michael's and one full weekend down the tubes. The trick was finding a way to assemble three outer rings that would hold the electron thingies without teaching my daughter any new curse words. The teacher's instructions recommended using household objects, but my daughter just rolled her eyes when I suggested an old toilet seat.

We eventually figured it out, and the model was so "phosphorusy" that the teacher asked to keep it as an example. (I wonder if she has received my bill yet.)

Despite all of the hot glue injuries, spray paint fumes, and general arts and crafts trauma, I still think I got the better end of the deal I made with my wife all those years ago. And I'll bet if you ask any of our girls, they'll tell you that through it all, I've been "a joy to teach."

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

Katy Times

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The Katy Times (ISSN 067-180) is published on Thursday. Subscriptions are available for \$35 per year in Harris, Waller and Fort Bend counties and \$45 elsewhere. Subscribe at www.katytimes.com or by mailing payment and delivery information to Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678. Periodical-rate postage paid at Katy, Texas 77494.

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CIRCULATION:
Address billing inquiries at 281-391-3141.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Katy Times, P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678.

ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER:
The Katy Times is a member of the Texas Press Association. The weekly newspaper is published every Thursday. Visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.katytimes.com for more news and information.



KATYTIMES.COM

RESTAURANT

from page A1

Houston, especially in the Katy area, would help the company draw staff to its 175-employee corporate office which has opportunities for professionals in a variety of disciplines, including information technology, human resources and administration, among others. That's in addition to the people hired to work at the new restaurant.

"We've hired 125 people in the Old Chicago restaurant," Mazany said. "So, at this time, we're adding a lot of jobs to the workforce."

Mazany said anyone interested in applying for those jobs can search for them on Indeed or visit the SPB Hospitality website. (see sidebar) While staffing up during recovery from the pandemic has been a challenge, Mazany said the company's training programs and competitive pay have helped mitigate that problem.

In addition to Old Chicago, SPB Hospitality also owns Logan's Roadhouse, Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant, ChopHouse & Brewery, A1A Ale Works Restaurant & Taproom, Twisted Tenders and Roadies Sliders, according to the SPB website.

Mazany said another draw for moving the corporate office to the Katy area is the growth in the area. With an increasing population, there are both more consumers and more possible employees with extensive experience in corporate environments, he said.

He added that the company has competitive benefits, even in an environment such as Greater Houston and he's proud of the environment employees are given at SPB. The company offers a full benefits package that includes health insurance, paid time off and other perks.

"We're a really good employer with good benefits that we offer, and some exciting meal benefits as well," Mazany said. "You get to eat at any one of our restaurants and it's a really good corporate culture."

SPB wants to be involved in the community, Mazany said. Their community programs include sponsoring extracurricular activities for students, fundraisers to help local charities and the company founded the Hope Foundation - its own charitable venture that helps nonprofits in the communities SPB operates restaurants in.

"Most recently we ... raised \$180,000 for No Kid Hungry and Share Our Strength for the elimination of child hunger in America, connecting children with food programs. It's really important to us and we've done a lot of work (for people with special needs)," Mazany said.

Mazany said SPB Hospitality intends to add two to three more restaurants in Greater Houston in the next couple of years and would like to add about 10 restaurants across the state in total during that same timeframe.

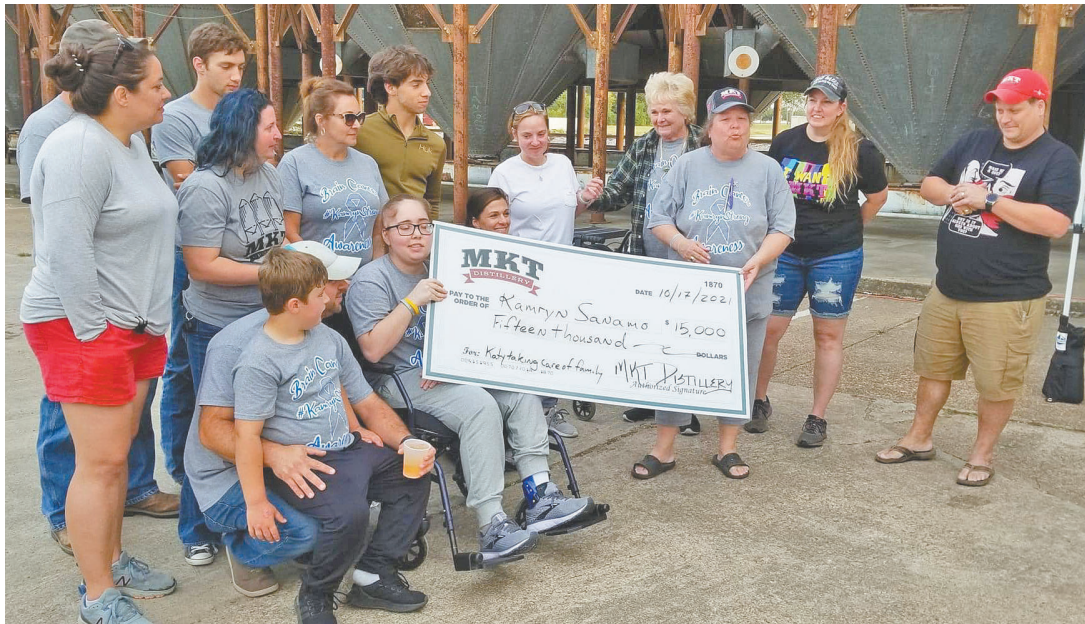
Right now though, Mazany said he hopes the Katy area will give the new Old Chicago location a try. He said the restaurant not only offers pizza, but a full line of pub grub and pastas to accommodate any guest's preference. Additionally, he said, the restaurant offers locally sourced beer, wine and spirits to support the community it operates in.

"On our current beer list, we have over nine or 10 different beers that are local beers, whether it's Galveston or whether it's from Katy itself," Mazany said.

The most important thing Mazany wants the Katy community to know is that SPB Hospitality is looking to be involved in the Katy area.

"It's really important for us to be a part of the Katy community and the fiber of the community and I would love for everybody to kind of come out and give us a try," Mazany said. "... You know, we look to have a very long-term relationship in Katy and obviously we've made a very big commitment here as an organization, moving the entire company here."

COMMUNITY RAISES FUNDS FOR CANCER CARE



COURTESY BRENDA MARTIN

Katy area residents rallied around brain cancer patient Kamryn Sanamo at MKT Distillery over the weekend to raise more than \$15,000 for her medical care. Sanamo has been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, though she is receiving other treatment in the hopes of beating the disease. Lunches were provided at the event for \$10 by Bayou Boys and many silent auction items were donated by the community. Katy-based NASCAR driver Ty Hymel made an appearance along with musicians Lola, Keeley Bell and Darrell Supercinski.

CEMETERY RESTORATION



COURTESY DAN SMITH

The Katy Heritage Society and members of the Antioch Baptist Church of Katy teamed up to help restore the Antioch Katy Community Cemetery. The historically Black cemetery went without maintenance until the church and volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution's Star of Destiny chapter stepped in. As a result, some headstones went missing, including that of World War I veteran Adam Harris. With information provided by the Katy Heritage Society, Harris's resting place was found over the weekend of Oct. 16 and was cleaned up to honor his memory.

The Katy Times

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BOUNCE BACK

RESILIENT TAYLOR TOPS MAYDE CREEK

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor has faced its fair share of adversity this season. From big turnovers to start the season with lots of players stepping into varsity for the first time, to the major injuries the team has faced and going on a six-game losing streak, there were plenty of times when the Mustangs could have given up, but the team has remained positive and motivated throughout it all.

“A big thing that the coaching staff and the team leaders have been talking to them and our team leaders have been talking to them about is how you face that adversity,” said Taylor head coach Chad Simmons. “Things haven’t gone the way they thought they would want so far this year, and it’s kind of dominoed with everything they’ve faced, but it comes down to, what other choice do you have? They’ve put their nose to the grindstone and gone to work everyday and worked to stay positive.”

Taylor came into this week needing a win to get back on track and facing Mayde Creek on Taylor’s homecoming and the positivity and motivation from the Mustangs paid off. Taylor came out 39-22 winners on Friday at Rhodes Stadium, as the Mustangs rattled off 29 straight points to start the game and easily rolled to their first district win of the season.

The Taylor players never had any doubt they would get back on track.

See **TAYLOR**, page B2



Taylor's Jase Forester intercepts the pass intended for Mayde Creek's Jordan Kelly #5 during a conference game between Mayde Creek and Taylor at Rhodes Stadium on Friday.
MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



TYLER TYRE

Jordan's Carrie Young hits a forehand during regional quarterfinal match against Lake Creek on Tuesday.

Jordan moves on to regional semifinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Aneesh Melachuri knows Jordan is still a new high school. So, he and his teammates are working as hard as they can to create a lasting legacy of success when it comes to the school's tennis program.

That started this year when in the school's second year the tennis program won a District 19-5A championship and went on a playoff run.

“We know this is a new school and we realize that we’re setting the tone for the rest of Jordan Athletics in Katy ISD,” Melachuri said. “We just want to set a good example with the Jordan tennis program and then we can continue the legacy.”

Jordan rolled through their first two rounds of the playoff, getting to the regional quarterfi-

See **TENNIS**, page B6

Katy runs past Cinco Ranch as Davis enjoys a career day

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seth Davis has come into his own this year. Through eight games, the Katy running back has rushed for 1,345 yards and 15 touchdowns.

But when you ask Davis what has given him success, he is the first to praise his offensive line

“They’re just physical,” Davis said. “They have to be physical and that’s what my line does, they help me all the time.”

Davis has taken the reins as the lead back in the Katy offense this season and hasn’t looked back. The junior has surpassed the 100-yard mark in seven of

the Tigers’ games so far and continued to get stronger as the season has gone along.

“It’s awesome to block for him,” said senior offensive lineman Dylan Erickson. “He can make cuts and make plays. When you have a running back that can do that, it makes the offensive line look good too.”

Davis continued to torment District 19-6A opponents on Saturday, as he rushed for 188 yards and four touchdowns on 19 carries against Cinco Ranch (4-3, 1-2) at Legacy Stadium as Katy (8-0, 4-0) rolled to a 49-3 win.

The four touchdowns were the most in a game in Davis’ career.

See **KATY**, page B3



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy's Seth Davis carries the ball from midfield scoring a touchdown during a game between Katy's Tigers and Tompkins' Falcons at Legacy Stadium on Saturday.

WEEK EIGHT SCORES & SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Friday, Oct. 15

District 19-6A
• Tompkins 47, Morton Ranch 0
• Taylor 39, Mayde Creek 22

District 10-5A, Div. I
• Paetow 74, Terry 0

District 12-4A, Div. II
• La Marque 17, Royal 16

Saturday, Oct. 16

District 19-6A
• Katy 49, Cinco Ranch 3

Non-District
• Lake Belton 21, Jordan 17

Thursday, Oct. 21

District 19-6A
• Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

District 10-5A, Div. I
• Paetow vs. Hightower, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Friday, Oct. 22

• Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium
• Tompkins vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

District 12-4A, Div. II
• Royal vs. Bellville, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Friday

Non-District
• Tompkins vs. Fulshear, 5:30 p.m.
• Katy vs. Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
• Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
• Seven Lakes at Mayde Creek, 5:30 p.m.

District 19-5A
• Jordan at Brenham, 6 p.m.
• Paetow at A&M Consolidated, 6 p.m.

District 24-4A
• Royal vs. Bellville, 5 p.m.



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Young Rockets show promise in preseason

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Rockets showed what type of team they could be in their preseason-opening 125-119 win over the Wizards.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored from inside and out, finishing with 25 points, while going 5-10 from three-point land. The deep shot was a very encouraging sign for the 21-year old as he is just a 32 percent three-point shooter for his career.

The Rockets came back from a deficit to earn the win. Josh Christopher had a very strong fourth quarter, but Jaylen Green showed nerves in his first preseason game, only scoring 12 points on 4-14 shooting while going 0-6 from deep. Daniel Theis was the only other double-digit scorer for the Rockets, with 12 points on five of nine shooting.

The Rockets' defense wasn't at its best as it allowed five Wizards players to score in double figures, but the team showed signs of development in the game.

"Everybody got the chance to play and play well," said Rockets head coach Stephen Silas. "We definitely got the ball up the floor and got it moving. The defensive side, we have some cleaning up to do. What I really wanted to see was a competitive group. We had that."

The Rockets' second game of the preseason came against the Heat. Houston dropped the game 113-106 in which Miami outscored the Rockets in each of the first three quarters before Houston mounted a comeback to make it close in the fourth.

Jalen Green got settled and had a much better outing than his first preseason game, going 6-15 from the field and connecting on 4 of 9 three-point attempts while scoring 20 points. Porter Jr., Christopher, Theis and Christian Wood also had over 10 points. The Rockets allowed Tyler Herro and Duncan Robinson each to score over 20 points, however, and the Heat nearly shot 50% as a team as the defense struggled for the second straight game.

The young Rockets saw this as a good learning experience from a veteran Heat team.

"We got to see a physical, hard-playing veteran team that knows how to play basketball," Silas said. "Yeah, we got a good test and we're going to learn from it. We're going to learn and grow from it."

Things didn't go much better for the Rockets against the Raptors. Houston allowed five players to score in double figures, including Precious Achiuwa, who scored 17, and OG Anunoby, who scored 17. Malachi Flynn also scored 15. The Rockets also had five players score in double digits, including Armoni Brooks, who scored 15. The Rockets never held a lead in the game as Toronto ran away with things from the start. And it was more of the same against the Spurs where the Rockets fell 126-98 in a game where Derrick White and Dejounte Murray both scored more than 20 points.

But Alperen Sengun continued to impress, as the rookie scored 15 points on 5-11 shooting and also notched 12 rebounds.

It was announced days after the game that Brooks, who is known for his 3-point shooting, had signed a four-year contract with the Rockets.

Cougars picked to win American; Sasser named preseason first team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

For the third consecutive season, the University of Houston Men's Basketball program was tabbed as the preseason favorite in the American Athletic Conference Coaches' Preseason Poll, released during the league's annual Media Day.

Junior guard Marcus Sasser earned a place on the Preseason All-Conference Team.

The Cougars received eight first-place votes from the league's head coaches, totaling 98 points. Houston finished six points ahead of Memphis, which received the remaining three first-place votes.

Following Memphis, SMU (77), Wichita State (76), UCF (66), Cincinnati (52), Tulsa (43), Temple (37), South Florida (25), Tulane (25) and East Carolina (14) rounded out the rest of the poll.

Sasser was joined on the Preseason First Team by Jalen Duren (Memphis), Landers Nolley II (Memphis), Kendrick Davis (SMU) and Tyson Etienne (Wichita State).

Brandon Mahan (UCF), Emoni Bates (Memphis), Deandre Williams (Memphis), Jeremiah Davenport (Cincinnati) and Jaylen Forbes (Tulane) made up the Preseason Second Team.

Etienne was named the Preseason Player of the Year, while Memphis freshman Jalen Duren was selected as the league's Rookie of the Year.

Houston tied with Memphis as the No. 1 team in Preseason Poll a year ago. With a 23-8 overall record and 13-5 mark in American Athletic Conference play, the Cougars captured their second straight regular-season title for only the second time in school history.

Sasser helped the Cougars' 2020-21 team to a 28-4 overall record, they also captured the American Athletic Conference Tournament title and advanced to the NCAA Final Four for the sixth time in school history and



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

The University of Houston was picked to win the American Athletic Conference, and totaled 98 points in the preseason poll.

The first time in nearly 40 years.

The Dallas native enters 2021-22 as the Cougars' leading returning scorer with 13.7 points per game and drained 78 3-pointers a year ago. He posted five 20-point games, including a season-high 28 points against Tulane inside the Fertitta Center in January and added back-to-back efforts late in the NCAA Tournament against Oregon State and Baylor.

Sasser stood among The American's Top-15 leaders in both 3-point field goals per game and 3-point field goal percentage and was named to the United States Basketball Writers Association District 24 First Team.

He also was a two-time American Athletic Conference Player of the Week selection.

UH women picked to finish third in American preseason poll

The Houston women's basketball team has been selected to finish third in the annual AAC Preseason Poll voted on by the league's head coaches.

The Cougars received 77 votes in the poll behind South Florida who was picked to finish first with 100 points and UCF who took the second spot with 91 points. Four starters and seven letterwinners return for the Cougars, who posted a 17-8 record, finished third in the American Athletic Conference with a 12-5 mark and advanced to the WNIT First Round in 2020-21. It was the program's third straight postseason appearance.

Sophomore guard Laila Blair was also tabbed on the Preseason All-Conference Second Team after a standout freshman season with the Cougars. The team also comprised of Sydney Harvy (South Florida), Elisa Pinzan (South Florida), Krystal Freeman (Tulane) and Maya Mayberry (Tulsa). The Houston native led the Cougars with 10.5 points per game on the way to being named to the American Athletic Conference All-Freshman Team.

Tatyana Hill led the Cougars with 6.2 rebounds per contest, while Dymond Gladney paced the team with 3.2 assists per game.

TAYLOR

from page B1

"No matter what the record is and nobody what anyone says we all go out there and play," said senior safety Hollis Jefferson Jr. "We all work until it's time to go home every single day, that's what it's about and we're going to do it again on Monday."

Taylor got the lead with five minutes left in the first quarter as Mayde Creek snapped a ball out of the endzone on a punt attempt when the team was backed up near its own goal line.

The Mustangs would never relinquish that lead.

Michael Whitaker III returned the ensuing kickoff to the Mayde Creek 9-yard line before rushing in a 9-yard score on the next play. Two minutes later, after the Taylor defense had given the team a short field, Chase Cobbin threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Wyatt Fahey to increase the lead.

Cobbin, a sophomore who was called up from the junior varsity earlier this month because of injuries at the quarterback position, rushed for 28 yards and threw for 33, while Taylor's running backs pounded away at the defense.

"As a young quarterback he (Cobbin) has really stepped up a lot," Whitaker said. "He's come up from JV and taken a major role and kept getting better. He's just done a lot for us."

Taylor got an interception late in the first quarter from Jase Forester in another big play from the defense.

Tyler Irving scored on an 11-yard run up the middle later in the second quarter and Taylor pounced the next kickoff which they ended up recovering. Whitaker capped off a dominant first half with a 25-yard touchdown run before Jaylen Bragg got Mayde Creek on the board in the final seconds of

the half on a 6-yard pass to Leroy Turner.

"I'm just really proud of the guys tonight," Simmons said. "They played a heck of a ballgame and they deserved it. They've kept their heads up and kept working and competing."

Mayde Creek's defense made a play to start the third quarter as they stripped the ball and Greg Meeks Jr. returned it 25 yards for a touchdown, but Mayde Creek put things out of reach with an Alei Sabek field goal in the third quarter and a Dante Archie touchdown run in the fourth quarter, before Carldell Beard threw a 57-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Kelly in the final seconds to trim the Taylor lead.

"We really were able to pound the ball down the field tonight," Whitaker said. "We really focused on the run game and we did really well with that tonight."

Mayde Creek will face Morton Ranch next week while Taylor will be in for a battle against Cinco Ranch.

"It was extremely important to get this win," Jefferson said. "As a senior, as a captain and someone who feels they are in a leadership position, I really felt like we needed this win. I really wanted this for my team and wanted to see the young guys get one. It was a packed crowd for homecoming too. This win is just the sugar on top."

Taylor 39, Mayde Creek 22

Mayde Creek	0	7	7	8	--	22
Taylor	15	14	3	7	--	39

First quarter

Taylor: Safety, snap out of endzone, 5:57
Taylor: Michael Whitaker 9 run, 5:30
Taylor: Chase Cobbin 18 pass to Wyatt Fahey (Jackson Waller kick) 3:27

Second quarter

Taylor: Tyler Irving 11 run (Alei Sabek kick) 5:25
Taylor: Michael Whitaker 25 run (Sabek kick) 3:20
MC: Jaylen Bragg 6 pass to Leroy Turner (Jacob Campos kick) 0:05

Third quarter

MC: Greg Meeks Jr 25 fumble recover, 11:00
Taylor: Alei Sabek 33 field goal, 3:42

Fourth quarter

Taylor: Dante Archie 3 run (Sabek kick) 7:00
MC: Carldell Beard 57 pass to Jordan Kelly (Beard 2 pass to Kelly) 0:19

Team stats		
	Mayde Creek	Taylor
First downs	7	15
Yards rushing	16-44	51-275
Yards passing	171	33
Passes	14-33-2-1	3-10-1-0
Punts	4-20	2-2
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-2
Penalty-yards	7-50	8-70

Individual Statistics

Rushing -- Taylor: Tyler Irving, 15-87-1; Michael Whitaker, 12-86-2; Dante Archie, 16-71-1; Andrew Meza, 2-15; Alei Sabek, 1-(-12); Mayde Creek: Tay'Shawn Wilson, 10-34; Jaylen Bragg, 3-8; Marvin Bodden, 2-1; Leroy Turner, 1-1

Passing -- Taylor: Chase Cobbin, 3-10-33-1-0; Mayde Creek: Jaylen Bragg, 10-25-59-1-1; Carldell Beard, 4-8-112-1-0

Receiving -- Taylor: Wyatt Fahey, 1-18-1; Dante Archie, 1-11; Michael Whitaker, 1-4; Mayde Creek: Jordan Kelly, 4-119-1; Marvin Bodden, 4-35; Leroy Turner, 4-12; Tay'Shawn Wilson, 1-6; Jaylen Bateast, 1-(-1)



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KATY

from page B1

“He’s just stronger this year,” said Katy head coach Gary Joseph. “You can tell he’s stronger with stuff. That’s not all of it though, he’s more mature too. He works at it and he has a great attitude. Anytime he gets hit or it doesn’t go his way, he gets up and goes to the next play. He’s a great kid.”

Davis opened the scoring on a 1-yard run with five minutes left in the first quarter and then doubled Katy’s lead in the second quarter on a 48-yard run.

Cinco Ranch’s defense tried to slow the Katy offense, but with Cinco Ranch’s offense not creating anything in the first half, it made it a tough task for the Cougars as the Tigers repeatedly had short fields.

Katy’s offensive line wore down the Cougars’ defense and Dallas Glass ran in Katy’s third score from one yard out midway through the second quarter. The Katy defense forced a three and out and on Katy’s first play of the next drive, and Davis broke free on a run up the middle, running 51 yards into the endzone.

“We’re not the biggest o-line, so we try to be the most physical o-line,” Erickson said. “We think that’s one of our highlights, how physical we are, and we also try to be the best we can with our footwork, we practice on that every day.”

Katy took a 28-0 lead into half time, but the Tigers weren’t done.

Micah Sweats got an interception early in the third quarter and Davis capitalized, running in a 6-yard touchdown on the ensuing drive.

The Tigers’ defense won the turnover battle by recovering two fumbles while also forcing Cinco into Sweats’ interception, while Katy only lost the ball once. The Katy defense also limited a dangerous Cinco Ranch passing attack to just 109 yards through the air and no touchdowns.

“It was a real team effort,” Joseph said. “We got some pressure on their quarterback and got a couple hits on him. It was a combination of some really good coverage downfield and that rush. The secondary has really gotten better and that’s a big thing, they have to continue to get better if we have a chance to advance in the playoffs.”

Backups came in in the fourth quarter and Elijah Bowman threw a two-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah Smith before Nathan Wilson ran in a two-yard touchdown late in the quarter.

Cinco Ranch avoided the shutout by hitting a 44-yard field goal with 31 seconds remaining in the game.

Glass also had a strong game for the Tigers, as the junior rushed for 127 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries, while Isaiah Smith

nearly broke the century mark, rushing for 91 yards on four carries, showing just how dominant the Katy offensive line was in the win.

“The offensive line is doing much better with being physical and understand what they are doing every play,” Joseph said. “It’s the little things that the offensive line coaches are teaching them in practice, the guys are finally understanding why they’re teaching them these things. Their knowledge has continued to grow and it’s always important for us to be physical because of the type of offense that we are, and those kids are doing their best to do that.”

Katy will have a bye week next week while Cinco Ranch will take on Taylor.

“I really like how this team has been doing,” Davis said. “We’ve had adversity, but we’ve bounced back and we’re still fighting. We had a lot of good players graduate but other guys have stepped up this year and we’re 8-0. That’s the most important thing.

Katy, Cinco Ranch

C. Ranch	0	0	0	3	--	44
Katy	7	21	7	14	--	20

First quarter

Katy: Seth Davis 1 run (Axel Robertson kick) 5:07

Second quarter

Katy: Seth Davis 48 run (Robertson kick) 10:30

Third quarter

Katy: Davis 6 run (Robertson kick) 9:27

Fourth quarter

Katy: Elijah Bowman 2 pass to Isaiah Smith (Robertson kick) 8:30

Katy: Nathan Wilson 2 run (Robertson kick)

Cinco: Santiago Taborda 44 field goal, 0:31

Team stats

	Cinco Ranch	Katy
First downs	9	19
Yards rushing	22-71	46-416
Yards passing	109	85
Passes	9-18-0-1	8-13-1-0
Punts	5-29	N/A
Fumbles-lost	3-2	1-1
Penalty-yards	2-10	5-55

Individual Statistics

Rushing – Katy: Seth Davis, 19-188-4; Dallas Glass, 17-127-1; Isaiah Smith, 4-91; Nathan Wilson, 3-9-1; Dominic Reisner, 1-5; Josh Mardis, 1-3; Ty Kana, 1-(-7); Cinco Ranch: Eric Eckstrom, 4-39; Seth McCall, 5-32; Gavin Rutherford, 8-1; Sam McKnight, 4-0

Passing – Katy: Caleb Koger, 7-12-83-0-0; Elijah Bowman, 1-1-2-1-0; Cinco Ranch: Gavin Rutherford, 7-15-105-0-1; Jack McCall, 2-3-4-0-0

Receiving – Katy: JR Ceyanes, 4-46; Luke Carter, 1-19; Dominic Reisner, 1-11; Isaiah Smith, 2-9; Cinco Ranch: Grayson Williams, 5-45; Seth Salverino, 3-34; Noah Abboud, 1-12; Sam McKnight, 2-10; Colten Michalec, 1-8

WEEK NINE

KATY ISD

PREVIEWS



Paetow quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. prepares to throw a pass during a non-district game against Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium.
R. HANS MILLER

Paetow faces most important game of season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Thursday

District 19-6A

Mayde Creek (2-5, 0-3) vs. Morton Ranch (3-4, 1-2), 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

• Mayde Creek and Morton Ranch are both in need of wins, but for different reasons.

Mayde Creek is likely out of the playoff race after starting district with losses to Cinco Ranch, Katy and Taylor but is playing for pride. The Rams are figuring out how to be a winning team and had bright spots against Taylor last week but also made mistakes that come with being a young team. The Rams are learning and working to get better on both sides of the ball while creating consistency within the program.

For Morton Ranch, this is a must win game. The Mavericks got a big win over Taylor to open district play, but since then have lost to Seven Lakes in a heart-breaker and were blown out by Tompkins last week. Morton Ranch was unable to muster a point against the Falcons while Tompkins rattled off 33 points in just the second and third quarters.

The Mavericks need a win to have any shot of making the playoffs, and even then, it will be an uphill battle.

District 10-5A, Div. I

Paetow (7-0, 5-0) vs. Hightower 6-1, 5-0), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

• This week is the big one for Paetow, as the top two teams in District 10-5A, Division I will face off with first place on the line. Paetow comes off a 74-0 trouncing of Terry, in which the Panthers put up double digit points in every quarter. Damyrrion Phillips rushed for 134 yards and two touchdowns and Paetow had seven rushing touchdowns in total while C.J. Dumas had 94 yards passing and two touchdowns, completing 8 of 13 attempts. Hightower comes off a 61-0 win over Kemp-



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy Taylor’s Michael Whitaker III celebrates a TD during a conference game between Mayde Creek and Katy Taylor at Rhodes Stadium on Friday.

ner and has boasted a strong defense all season, as the team has given up under seven points on average through their seven games this season. Sophomore quarterback Kendron Penson Jr. has been a revelation for the team, he is averaging over 200 yards through the air per game and 25 yards on the ground. Fellow sophomore Jeremy Payne is averaging 93 yards on the ground while the team has two big threats in the passing game in Kaleb Johnson and Caleb Douglas.

Paetow will have their hands full, and will need to rely on its steady ground game and strong defense to make the difference against a very tough Hightower team.

Friday

District 19-6A

Cinco Ranch (4-3, 1-2) vs. Taylor (2-6, 1-3), 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

• Cinco Ranch is through with the hardest parts of its district schedule and now is the time where we learn if they can be a playoff team and a team that can compete if they get there. The Cougars were unable to muster much against Katy last weekend, and were unable to stop the Katy ground game as the Tigers pounded the rock all game. The Cougars finally have receiver Noah Abboud back and expect big things in the coming weeks now that all of its receiving corps is healthy for the first time this season. That will start against Taylor, a team that comes off arguably its best performance of the season in a win over Mayde Creek. This is a must win game for both teams as they try to stay in playoff contention. Taylor will look for Chase Cobbin to continue to improve at the quarterback position while Cinco Ranch will look for its passing game and defense to get back on track against a Taylor team that seems to have found its groove.

Tompkins (7-1, 3-1) vs. Seven Lakes (5-2, 2-1), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

• Tompkins kept rolling as the team topped Morton Ranch 47-0 last week. Cole Francis once again was very solid, completing 10 of 16 passes with one touchdown. But it was the run game, and two sophomores leading it that bodes well for Tompkins. Wyatt Young rushed seven times for a whopping 131 yards and four touchdowns, averaging over 18 yards per carry, and Caleb Blocker had 13 rushes for 50 yards and a score. Young and Blocker also did damage in the pass game, as the two combined for five catches for 78 yards and a touchdown as six different players recorded catches.

Tompkins will look to keep improving as they face Seven Lakes, which comes off a bye. Seven Lakes will be liking its chances at making the playoffs regardless of what happens in this game, but also want to make a push to get out of the fourth spot in district and a win over Tompkins would go a long way towards that. Seven Lakes has leaned heavily on its run game and will do that again, but it will be no easy task against a very stingy Tompkins defense. Seven Lakes defense has looked strong at times but also been inconsistent in different spots and will need to put together a complete game for the Spartans to have a chance.

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Katy tops Houston area rankings for eighth straight week

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy remained in first in the Class 6A Houston Area high school football media rankings, getting all 12 first place votes from voters. Tompkins remained at No. 10 for the second straight week.

Westfield moved up to No. 2 in the poll, Atascocita, North Shore and C.E. King rounded out the top five.

In Class 5A, Paetow remained No. 2 behind Fort Bend Marshall, while Montgomery, Hightower and Magnolia top were also ranked in the top five.

Bellville moved up to No. 2 in the small school rankings, with El Campo moving to No. 2 and Huffman-Hargrave dropping to No. 3, Second Baptist moved up to No. 1 in the small school rankings after Kinkaid suffered its second loss of the season.

Following are the full rankings

These rankings were conducted before week 8 games.

CLASS 6A

- 1. Katy (12 first-place votes)**
Record: 7-0; Points: 240; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Beat Mayde Creek, 65-7.
- 2. Westfield**
Record: 6-0; Points: 226; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Beat Nimitz, 54-6.
- 3. Atascocita**
Record: 6-1; Points: 206; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Summer Creek, 30-24 (OT).
- 4. North Shore**
Record: 6-1; Points: 201; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat Kingwood, 56-0.
- 5. C.E. King**
Record: 6-0; Points: 182; Previous rank: 6; Last week: idle.
- 6. Spring**
Record: 5-1; Points: 179; Previous rank: 7; Last week: Beat Eisenhower, 48-0.
- 7. Bridgeland**
Record: 5-1; Points: 167; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Lost to Cypress Ranch, 38-28.

- 8. Cypress Park**
Record: 6-0; Points: 163; Previous rank: 8; Last week: Beat Cypress Falls, 51-7.
- 9. Ridge Point**
Record: 5-1; Points: 141; Previous rank: 9; Last week: Beat Dulles, 44-0.
- 10. Tompkins**
Record: 6-1; Points: 132; Previous rank: 10; Last week: Beat Katy Taylor, 52-7.
- 11. Dickinson**
Record: 5-2; Points: 121; Previous rank: 11; Last week: Beat Brazoswood, 35-7.
- 12. Klein Cain**
Record: 6-1; Points: 113; Previous rank: 12; Last week: Beat Klein Forest, 63-24.
- 13. The Woodlands**
Record: 4-2; Points: 76; Previous rank: 14; Last week: Beat Willis, 43-10.
- 14. Shadow Creek**
Record: 4-2; Points: 69; Previous rank: 16; Last week: Beat Strake Jesuit, 35-20.

- 15. Jersey Village**
Record: 6-0; Points: 67; Previous rank: 18; Last week: Beat Cy-Fair, 39-30.
- 16. Clear Falls**
Record: 6-1; Points: 62; Previous rank: 15; Last week: Beat Clear Springs, 48-35.
- 17. Cypress Ranch**
Record: 4-1; Points: 58; Previous rank: NR; Last week: Beat Bridgeland, 38-28.
- 18. Dobie**
Record: 5-1; Points: 42; Previous rank: 17; Last week: Beat Pasadena, 70-0.
- 19. Stratford**
Record: 6-0; Points: 32; Previous rank: 19; Last week: Beat Spring Woods, 52-0.
- 20. Tomball**
Record: 6-1; Points: 22; Previous rank: 13; Last week: Lost to Klein Collins, 31-8.
- Also receiving votes: Dawson 13, College Park 5, Summer Creek 3.*

CLASS 5A

- 1. Fort Bend Marshall (11**

- first-place votes)**
Record: 7-0; Points: 119; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Beat Austin, 61-0.
- 2. Paetow (1)**
Record: 6-0; Points: 108; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Beat Wisdom, 77-0.
- 3. Montgomery**
Record: 6-0; Points: 91; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Beat Rudder, 38-13.
- 4. Hightower**
Record: 5-1; Points: 76; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat Foster, 34-7.
- 5. Magnolia West**
Record: 6-0; Points: 74; Previous rank: 4; Last week: idle.
- 6. Manvel**
Record: 4-2; Points: 59; Previous rank: 6; Beat Angleton, 49-10.
- 7. Crosby**
Record: 4-2; Points: 49; Previous rank: 7; Last week: Beat Kingwood Park, 67-13.
- 8. Baytown Lee**
Record: 6-0; Points: 28; Previous rank: 9; Last week: Beat Goose Creek

- Memorial, 35-0.
- 9. New Caney**
Record: 5-1; Points: 27; Previous rank: 8; Last week: Beat Cleveland, 63-12.
- 10. Magnolia**
Record: 5-2; Points: 15; Previous rank: 10; Last week: Beat Waller, 42-6.
- Also receiving votes: Texas City 7.*
- CLASS 4A/3A**
- 1. Bellville (7 first-place votes)**
Record: 6-0; Points: 47; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Beat Wharton, 72-0.
- 2. El Campo (3)**
Record: 5-1; Points: 43; Previous rank: 3; Last week: Beat Stafford, 49-7.
- 3. Huffman-Hargrave**
Record: 5-1; Points: 26; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Lost to Little Cypress-Mauriceville, 39-31.
- 4. East Bernard**
Record: 5-1; Points: 22; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Brazos, 42-6.
- 5. Sealy**
Record: 4-2; Points: 8; Previous rank: 5; Last

- week: Beat Brookshire Royal 26-0.
- Also receiving votes: Stafford 3, La Marque 1.*
- PRIVATE SCHOOLS**
- 1. Second Baptist (4 first-place votes)**
Record: 5-1; Points: 34; Previous rank: 2; Last week: Beat Victoria St. Joseph, 44-0.
- 2. Kinkaid (3)**
Record: 5-2; Points: 29; Previous rank: 1; Last week: Lost to Episcopal School of Dallas, 31-19.
- 3. St. John's (1)**
Record: 6-0; Points: 28; Previous rank: 4; Last week: Beat Episcopal, 24-20.
- 4. St. Thomas**
Record: 5-2; Points: 21; Previous rank: 5; Last week: Beat San Antonio Christian, 35-0.
- 5. Fort Bend Christian**
Record: 3-3; Points: 3; Previous rank: NR; Last week: Beat The Woodlands Christian, 53-14.
- Also receiving votes: John Cooper 2, Bay Area Christian 1, Lutheran South 1, The Woodlands Christian 1.*



PHOTO BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans head coach David Culley stands on the sidelines during a preseason game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Reeling Texans face difficult test in undefeated Cardinals

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

To say that the Texans didn't play well last Sunday would be an understatement.

Houston's run game has all but disappeared since the team's season opening win against the Jacksonville Jaguars and it continued to be subpar against the Indianapolis Colts. The team rushed for 124 yards in total with Mark Ingram leading the team with 73 yards on 18 carries.

This again meant that Davis Mills had to be the focal point of the offense, and against Indianapolis it did not go well for the rookie quarterback.

Mills finished the day 29-43 for 243 yards, averaging just 5.7 yards per completion while also

throwing two interceptions to zero touchdowns in a 31-3 loss.

Mills wasn't the only Texan who had a bad day, and head coach David Culley said the team has not made enough progress throughout the season.

"We're still inconsistent with things. Our penalties in this last game were down but two of those penalties were critical. We got better there but they are coming at the wrong time," Culley said. "I think our inconsistencies from that point see to be getting, especially on the road, at critical times that are hurting us, both sides of the ball, in continuing drives and stopping drives."

The Texans turned the ball over three times and the defense had multiple lapses resulting in

huge plays for the Colts in the loss, another area the Texans know they need to improve on.

"Well, how we are undisciplined starts with me, and that starts with what I just said. We've got to do a better job as coaches in practice of making sure that we're focusing more, that our concentration is at a higher level," Culley said. "It's not at that level that it needs to be right now. In practice, we haven't seen a whole bunch of those kind of things happening. It has happened, but we're going to emphasize it more as a staff. We're going to make sure they understand it more, we're going to put them in those situations again and make sure that they understand how critical it is. And again, to change things, you've got to

change. We have to do that moving forward in practice and making sure that we're addressing that even more so than what we have been addressing it. Just emphasize it and let the process take care of itself."

The Texans (1-5) have no room to be undisciplined this week as they will travel to Arizona to take on the undefeated Cardinals (6-0).

The Kyler Murray led offense of the Cardinals is averaging 290 yards through the air per game and 131 on the ground during their undefeated start and will be adding veteran tight end Zach Ertz to make an already strong offense ever stronger.

The Texans offense and defense will both have their hands full in the matchup, but the Texans know

they need to find some way to make things a tough game for the Cardinals.

"There has been a continuation of, especially on the road, these things coming," Culley said. "But what we do in practices, we come in and focus on that, put ourselves in situations where these things that are happening, we redo those things again, go over those things to make them aware of that, how critical it is to be able to do the right things in those situations. We just keep coaching and teaching that and it's just on and on and on. It's a process, and right now that process is not going as quickly and consistently as we want, and we got to get that better. We're just going to keep working on that in practice every day."

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Katy Times

TENNIS

from page B1

nals where they faced a match against Lake Creek, a rematch from earlier in the season which Jordan won as a team. But the Warriors knew this would be a tougher test in the playoffs.

“We knew that we couldn’t underestimate them” Melachuri said. “We may have beat them before, but we can’t let that effect how we play. We had to go out today and keep fighting and keep trying until the end. We knew we couldn’t give them anything because if we gave an inch they’d take a mile.”

Jordan came out on top Tuesday at the Jordan tennis courts, beating the Lions 10-6 to advance to the Region III Tournament.

“I think it’s crazy how far we’ve come, being such a young school,” said Avery McKay. “Some of the other teams get surprised

by how good we play and I think that’s to our advantage. Being able to come out on top like this and make it to the regional tournament, it feels really good.”

Jordan was able to take a slim lead coming out of doubles, as the Warriors were up 4-3. That slight lead would be enough as Jordan won six matches to Lake Creek’s three in singles to take the victory.

Doubles is something Jordan has been working on all year and setting the tone by taking the lead early was a key for the team.

“We knew coming out that they would mix things up from the last time we saw them. That’s exactly what they did and it got us off our rhythm,” said Jordan head coach Tyler Esterline. “We had to fight back in a lot of those doubles matches as well but knew that doubles is what’s won it for us all

year long and we had to come out winning at least 4-3. That’s what they were able to do. The kids have been something special this year.”

McKay lost her doubles match but bounced back to win a big ninth point for the Warriors in her singles match before Melachuri’s tenth point secured the teams victory.

“It’s two different games,” McKay said. “With doubles you have your partner and when you mess up it’s a team effort. If you lose you just have to find it in yourself to win singles. You just have to go out there thinking you can do it.”

Making to the regional tournament is a goal achieved for the team and shows the type of culture that Esterline has built with the program.

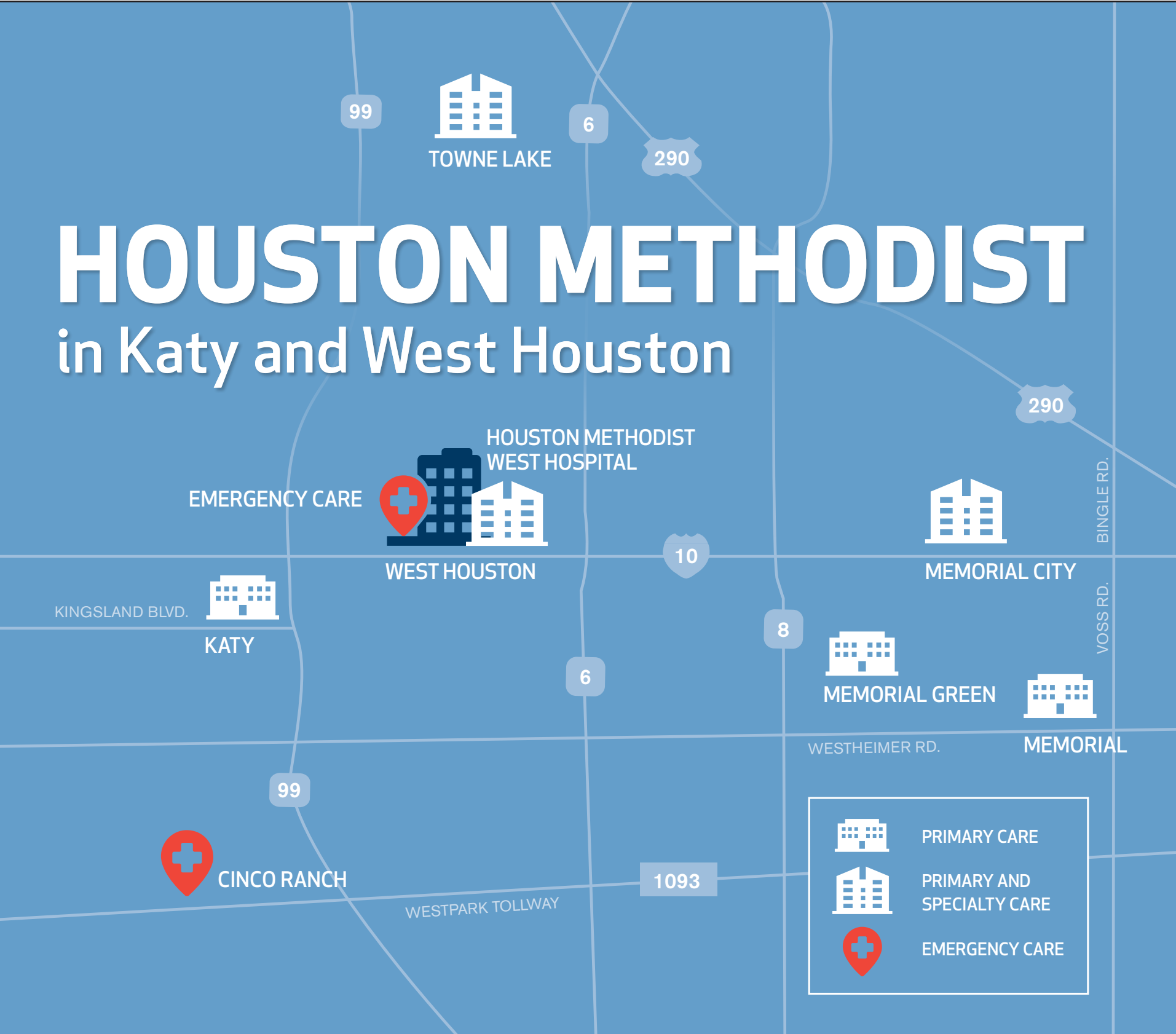
“We’ve been trying to build

that from the ground up and it’s really fun because not many coaches get to start a school,” Esterline said. “We have a rule that in a team match, no one can leave until everyone is done with their match. The kids have really bought into it and they go and they pick each other up when they aren’t playing and it’s just been really good.”

Jordan will take on the winner of Richmond Foster and Baytown Sterling in the regional semifinal round, and the Warriors don’t feel like they’re done yet.

“We have practice tomorrow and were going to take it day by day,” Melachuri said. “We want to win a state championship, but we have to make it there so we just have to stay focused and deal with whatever team is on the other side of the bracket.

Jordan 10, Lake Creek 6
BOYS DOUBLES
• Melachuri/ Rivas def. Ramirez/ Koesters 6-4, 6-4
• Rajagopalan/Vierling def. Pugh/Bell 6-1, 6-2
• Galloway/Velderrain def. Street/Randall 3-6, 6-2, 10-6
GIRLS DOUBLES
• Pugh/Pugh def. Hari/Ashton 7-5, 6-0
• Yang/Shandilya def. Silver/Mulis, 7-6, 6-0
• Englishbee/Lyness def. McKay/Antelo 6-3, 6-3
MIXED DOUBLES
• Freund/Kennett def. Guzman/Boinpalli 6-4, 6-2
BOYS SINGLES
• Freund def. Rivas 2-6, 6-2, 10-7
• Rajagopalan def. Ramirez 6-3, 7-5
• Koesters def. Vierling 6-4, 7-6
• Galloway def. Street 6-X, 6-3
• Melachuri def. Bell 6-1, 6-2
GIRLS SINGLES
• S. Pugh def. K Hari 3-6, 6-1, 10-8
• R Hari def. M. Pugh 6-4, 6-7, 10-6
• Yang def. Silver 6-4, 6-1
• McKay def. Mullis 7-5, 6-3



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