SIX KATY ISD SCHOOLS WILL STAGE PERFORMANCES THIS MONTH

ENTERTAINMENT | A6

DEFENSE, BALANCED OFFENSE LEAD TOMPKINS PAST MAYDE CREEK SPORTS | B1



VOLUME 110, ISSUE 3

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

City revising plan for managing growth

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

Katy city officials described efforts to update the plan used to manage the city's growth at a Jan. 13 State of the City presentation.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event, which took place at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Freeway. Council Member-at-Large Chris Harris and City Administrator Byron Hebert gave the presentation. Harris served as a stand-in for Mayor Bill Hastings. Hebert said Hastings had COVID-19 and is recovering at home.

The city is growing. Hebert said in 2021, the total taxable value

within the city increased by \$409 million. The tax revenue raised from new property added to the tax role increased by 12.5%.

With strong commercial and residential growth over the past 20 years, city leaders knew it was time to rethink future plans. The last comprehensive plan came out in 2001 and is meant to guide the city's growth over a period of decades.

Last October, the city signed an agreement with Kendig Keast Collaborative for urban planning services and a comprehensive plan for the city's growth. The organization has coordinated data with city staff, met with council members and staged town hall meetings to gather needed information for a revised plan. The plan is expected to receive council review and approval this spring.

Enhancing parks and recreation opportunities will be a key part of that vision. The city last March provided for hiring a new parks and

See GROWTH, page A3



Katy Prairie Conservancy adds approximately 965 acres

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Prairie Conservancy has acquired about 965 acres that will be protected grasslands provide habitat for an plenty of grassland bird species. Sandhill cranes and long-billed curlew also use the grasslands. The second acquisition was a donation of about 805 acres in Matagorda County. "Protected lands, such as the newly protected properties on the Katy Prairie Preserve and in Matagorda County, serve our community by keeping land in agriculture, linking current generations to natural heritage, and connecting people to nature."

Proposed Highway 36A segments to be part of H-GAC plan

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

Two segments of a proposed Highway 36A are being added to the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government Regional Transportation Plan.

Craig Raborn, H-GAC transportation director, said the plan will be updated by mid-2022 to reflect these additions.

He made his comments at a recent breakfast sponsored by the Highway 36A Coalition. According to its website, the coalition is a group of local governments, elected officials, private businesses, and individuals working to develop a regional transportation infrastructure from the Brazosport area to Hempstead.

The website said the group's goals are to improve evacuation routes, facilitate domestic and international trade, enhance economic opportunity and provide more efficient mobility

from any future commercial development.

The new acreage came in two separate acquisitions. The first was for about 160 acres on the Katy Prairie Preserve in Waller County. This acreage is next to other protected lands. It falls within a nine-square mile area designated for many conservation projects.

The Waller County property has about 90 acres of agricultural wetlands used for rice farming. The rest is grassland. The conservancy said the tract provides wetland habitat when rice is being farmed. Meanwhile, the The conservancy said the Matagorda County conservation easement is a working farm and ranch. During the fall, winter and spring, the shallow freshwater provides a habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl hunting.

In the winter, the wetlands provide foraging and roosting areas for wetland-dependent wildlife and birds. The conservancy said the property is near other conservation

See **CONSERVATION**, page A3

-Mary Anne Piacentini, Katy Prairie Conservancy president and CEO

Omicron impacts area economy, but jobs plentiful

mercin mobility.

Raborn said some minor final steps were needed before the segments could be formally included in the transportation plan.

"They are not technically in the plan yet due to some air quality requirements we have to go through," Raborn said in a news release. "But we think that will be wrapped up end of spring, early summer, and then they will be formally in the plan."

H-GAC estimates both projects together will cost about \$2.4 billion.

See HIGHWAY, page A3

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

NEWS EDITOR

The Omicron variant is not expected to precipitously impact the local economy despite health concerns, a Greater Houston Partnership official said Tuesday.

Patrick Jankowski is the partnership's senior vice president of research. He spoke at a Katy Area Economic Development Council meeting at the Embassy Suites.

U.S. hospitals are receiving over 800,000 COVID cases per day, Jankowski said. This is more than triple the number of daily cases from a year ago. In February 2021, Jankowski said, hospitals received about 250,000 COVID cases per day. The patients reporting to the hospitals for COVID treatments are primarily unvaccinated.

Jankowski said over 70% of Americans has had at least one shot. He said the vaccinations should help cut the impact of the Omicron variant.

See **ECONOMY**, page A3





COMMUNITY

KATYTIMES.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

THE KATY TIMES

Teen Wins District Round of Constitution Oratorical Contest

Two Katy-area students participated in the 22nd District Department of Texas American Legion Annual Oratorical Program.

Daniel Rupawalla, from Tompkins High School, and Tyler Crivella, from Seven Lakes, both competed. American Legion Post 164 in Katy submitted both contestants. Judges declared Rupawalla the winner. He will receive a \$500 scholarship and move forward to the division level.

The legion said the contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of the nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The legion said the program has featured prominent individuals such as former Vice President Mike Pence, former presidential candidate Alan Keyes and television commentator and talk radio host Lou Dobbs.

The legion said \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner receives a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place receives \$22,500, and third place receives \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some



Beck Junior High School honored Kelsi Cornish, center, as its 2021-22 teacher of the year.

emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

The 22nd District Department of Texas American Legion is comprised of 12 posts serving approximately 4,400 members and communities from Katy and South Houston to Pasadena. For more information, visit the website at LegionDist22.com.

Beck Junior High honors teacher, rookie teacher of the year

Beck Junior High School has named Kelsi Cornish its 2021-22 teacher of the year and Rendi Yanez its 2021-22 rookie teacher of the vear.

Cornish is a JCAP teacher. Yanez is a math teacher.

Katy Virtual School Registration Opens Soon

Registration for Katy Virtual School begins Feb. 1.

Katy Virtual School is a paid, supplemental online course program that provides 9th-11th grade students an option for earning graduation credits and expanding their learning opportunities.

"This paid, supplemental virtual model of e-learning is in high demand with our high school students because it supports graduation plans and delivers quality instruction to

BECK ILINIOR HIGH SCHOOL BECK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL Beck Junior High School honored Rendi Yanez,

third from left, as its 2021-22 rookie teacher of the year.

Katy ISD learners, outside of normal school hours," Susan Richards, Katy ISD Instruc-

Katy Virtual School offers a wide range of opportunities being added each year.

For more information, students can visit with their campus counselor, email the virtual school at katyvirtualschool@katyisd.org or visit the website at bit.ly/3IczVYa.

The Maud Marks Library is offering free tax assistance. It runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 4 and continues every Monday and

The library is also offering an orientation session about 3D printing services.

The session is set for 4 p.m. Feb. 7 and will introduce participants to 3D printing services in the library. Those completing the class will then be able to schedule time to use the 3D printers at Harris County

Public Library branches and MakerCentral, at which time they will complete a short Machine-specific orientation at the location of their choice.

Attendees will also receive a badge for the Dremel DigiLab 3D45 printer at the Maud Marks Library. Registration is required and can be done by visiting https://hcpl.beanstack.org/reader365.

Katy Lions Club hosting blood drive

The Katy Lions Club is hosting a blood drive this month.

The blood drive is set for 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 29 at Brookshire Brothers, 5249 Franz. A donor bus will be in the parking lot.

Donors will receive t-shirts. For more information, call Nancy Chesbro at 843-270-6979.

The Village School to host annual career fair

The Village School, a private pre-kindergarten through 12th grade school located in the Energy Corridor, is hosting its annual career fair.

The fair is set for 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Jan. 22 at the school, 13051 Whittington Drive in Houston.

The goal of the event is to recruit candidates to join The Village School team of teachers and staff. Attendees will meet with representatives from The Village School's early childhood through high school divisions, summer camp and before/after school events. In addition, several vendors will be present recruiting to fill various vacancies in food services, facilities, and security.

Those interested in attending should email their resumes to careers@thevillageschool.com and register in advance by visiting the website bit.ly/33ICe64.

Masks are required. Participants are asked to bring copies of their resumes and be prepared to meet directly with hiring managers.

For more information about The Village School, a Nord Anglia Education School, visit the website thevillageschool.com.

-CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA **NO. 2 DE FORT BEND**

6

ESTADO DE TEXAS	

CONDADO DE FORT BEND

SE NOTIFICA que la Junta Directiva de Comisionados de Servicios de Emergencia del Distrito de Servicios de Emergencia No. 2 de Fort Bend (el "Distrito") se reunirá a las 6:00 p.m. el 8 de febrero de 2022 en 26950 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494, dentro de los límites del distrito, con el propósito de actuar para escuchar y considerar una petición de la anexión del territorio del distrito se describe a continuación (y en este documento se refiere como la "zona de anexión").

Se ha presentado la petición al Distrito con los fines previstos en la Sección 775.051 del Código de Salud y Seguridad. La incorporación por parte del Distrito del zona de anexión es requerida por los solicitantes, quienes son no menos de cincuenta (50) votantes calificados que poseen propiedad inmueble propia sujeta a impuestos dentro del zona de anexión. El Distrito ha sido creado previamente de conformidad con las disposiciones de la Sección 48-e del Artículo III de la Constitución del Estado y el Capítulo 775 del Código de Salud y Seguridad.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES **DISTRICT NO. 2**

6

\$

6

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF FORT BEND

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 (the "District") will meet at 6:00 PM on February 8, 2022 at 26950 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494 inside the boundaries of the District, for the purpose of acting to hear and consider a petition for the annexation by the District of the territory described below (and herein referred to as the "Annexation Area").

The petition has been filed with the District pursuant to \$775.051 of the Health & Safety Code. The annexation by the District of the Annexation Area is requested by the petitioners, being not fewer than fifty (50) qualified voters who own taxable real property in the Annexation Area. The District has previously been created under the provisions of Section 48-e of tional Technology e-learning manager, said.

courses, including Creative Writing, English III, World Geography and more. There are over 45 Advanced Placement (AP), Katy Advanced Program (KAP) and academic level courses available to students with additional

Most Katy Virtual School courses are \$200 per semester.

Maud Marks Library offers free tax assistance, 3D printer orientation

Friday through April 15.

Article III of the State Constitution, and Chapter 775 of the H&S Code.

That the designated boundaries of the Annexation Area are set out in the attached Exhibit "A".

Each person who has an interest in the annexation by the District of the Annexation Area may attend the public hearing and present grounds for or against such annexation.

ISSUED this the 10th day of January, 2022.

FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY **SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2**

By: /s/ TOM RAIA, JR., President

ATTEST: By: /s/ DARYL BRISTER, Secretary

Exhibit A **Boundary Description of Proposed Annexation into** Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2

Generally Described as Falcon Point Subdivision and Falcon Landing Subdivision

**EXCLUDING ANY PORTIONS OF THOSE SUBDIVISIONS THAT ARE LOCATED INSIDE OF HARRIS COUNTY AS WELL AS ANY PORTIONS OF THE SUBDIVISIONS THAT ARE LOCATED INSIDE OF ANOTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT. **

Que los límites de la zona de anexión designados figuran en la exposición adjunta "A".

Cada persona que tenga interés en la anexión por el Distrito de la zona de anexión puede asistir a la audiencia pública y presentes motivos o en contra de dicha anexión.

ISSUED this the 10th day of January, 2022.

FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY **SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2**

By: /s/ TOM RAIA, JR., President

ATTEST: By: /s/ DARYL BRISTER, Secretary

Anexo A Descripción de límites de la anexión propuesta al Distrito de Servicios de Emergencia Nro. 2 del Condado de Fort Bend

Descrito generalmente como Subdivisión de Falcon Point y Subdivisión de Falcon Landing

**EXCLUYENDO CUALQUIER PORCIÓN DE ESAS SUBDIVISIONES QUE ESTÉ UBICADA DENTRO DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS, ASÍ COMO CUALQUIER PORCIÓN DE LAS SUBDIVISIONES QUE ESTÉ UBICADA DENTRO DE OTRO DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA. **

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Breathe noisily
- 5. __ Nui, Easter Island
- 9. Reddish browns
- 11. Simple shoes
- 13. Produce alcohol illegally 15. Home to famed golf
- tournament 16. Tax collector
- 17. Famous people
- 19. Urban area
- 21. Units of syllable weight 22. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 23. Dismounted
- 25. Actor Damon
- 26. Vietnamese offensive 27. Retail term
- 29. Netted
- 31. Partner to carrots
- 33. Witnesses
- 34. Caulked
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. R&B performer ___ Lo
- 39. Monetary units of Macao
- 41. Give advice, explain
- 43. Possesses
- 44. Turn back
- 46. Gentlemen
- 48. One who fertilizes
- 52. Italian monk title (prefix)

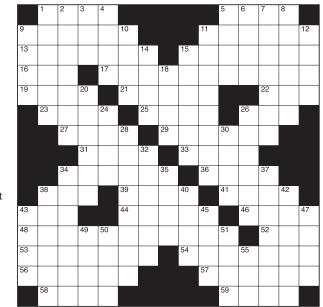
- 53. Parties
- 54. Type of horse
- 56. Cuts in half
- 57. Raises
- 58. Expresses contempt or disgust
- 59. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Illinois city
- 2. One of the original
- disciples chosen by Christ
- 3. Young form of a louse
- 4. Type of powder
- - 5. Finger millet 6. Share a common
 - boundary
 - 7. Assumed as a fact
 - 8. Provide clear evidence of
 - 9. Invests in little enterprises
 - 10. A way to be
 - 11. Monies given in support
 - 12. Fashion accessory
 - 14. Steal

 - 15. Becomes less intense 18. Geological times
 - 20. Hooray!

 - 24. Monetary unit



26. Male reproductive organ 28. Earnings 30. Close by 32. Small integers 34. Fixed in place 35. Used to treat Parkinson's disease 37. Large, imposing building 38. A rooflike shelter

s	40. Stiff, 1	hair	like	struc	cture	è
	42. Print	erro	ors			
	43. To sh	ow	disaj	opro	val	
	45. Body	of t	radit	ions		
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					4	9	6	

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.



A map showing location of road projects intended to improve transportation in Katy.

GROWTH from page A1

recreation director. The city had been without a full-time director since 2017.

Last May, Katy voters approved a \$4.2 million bond for city park improvements. These improvements include a hike and bike trail system. Last July, Kevin Browne became parks and recreation director.

Last November, the city bought the Old Fussell House, 5402 Franz Road, and a tractor and trailer that came with it. The house is on a 1.24-acre plot near the Katy Library.

The house will serve as both parks and recreation department headquarters and as a parks learning center. Hebert unveiled a logo for the city's learning center at the State of the City event. Learning activities will be on what was the back porch of the house.

Leyendecker Landing will be a key part of the city's plans for its parks. The landing is a water detention facility north of Morton Road and east of Pitts Road.

Harris said after the presentation that a formal dedication for Leyendecker Landing is planned after adoption of the strategic plan.

Harris and Hebert gave a brief overview of the Katy Boardwalk Project, for which the first Boardwalk Lofts complex is now open. Con-



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert speaks at the Jan. 13 State of the City event.

struction is expected to begin on the second complex this summer. Meanwhile, the hotel and convention center are in the planning and design phase, they said.

The boardwalk will include a nature preserve. Phase 1 of the nature trail is open and phase 2 of the trail system is under design, Harris and Hebert said.

Mobility is another issue the city is working to address. At the Jan. 10 council meeting, council members authorized \$33.5 million through METRO from Katy Development Authority bonds and cash for various street projects around the city.

The city will be addressing these and other issues with a new mayor. Hastings announced last month he would not seek another term, choosing to retire and focus on his family. The only announced candidate for mayor is Dusty Thiele, who works in insurance and is a former council member. Filing deadline is Feb. 18. The election is May 7.

HIGHWAY

from page A1

"The southern leg will be in the plan as to be funded in 2037; and the north segment would be in by 2040, but that may change," Raborn said. "That timing will be a little more precise as we move forward."

Raborn said the project continues to be committed to avoiding any impacts to the Katy Prairie Conservancy.

"There was a condition relating to the 36A North piece that as the Texas Department of Transportation developed the project it should avoid impacts to the Katy Prairie Conservancy." Raborn said, adding that the condition has continued with the project.

Raborn said the 36A projects were among many amendments that the transportation committee considered. The body gathered about 75 comments from the public on those projects. A third of the comments supported 36A.

Highway 36A Coalition Chairman Robert Pechukas welcomed Raborn's update.

"We are excited about the inclusion of our projects in the transportation plan;" Pechukas said. "Our inclusion in the transportation plan, along with our ongoing Texas Department of Transportation study, shows that we are on the right track when it comes to solving our region's mobility and freight movement needs."

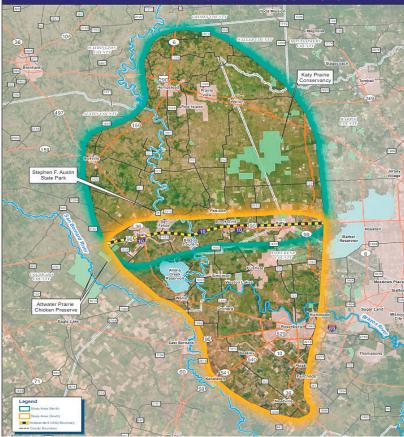
H-GAC Executive Director Chuck Wemple said the organization will work to identify projects that align with current and future government funding priorities.

"So when you think about technology, moving freight and goods, and improving safety, that will help position this project and others for improved chances of funding, because those are incredibly important priorities," Wemple said.

The event also featured updates on Port Freeport's ongoing projects by Port Commissioner Shane Pirtle.

The coalition said work continues on a transportation study that will analyze potential routes for a 36A mobility/ freight corridor. Texas Department of Transportation staff are meeting with stakeholders and gathering feedback.

36A NORTH AND SOUTH STUDY AREA



HIGHWAY 36A COALITION

A map of the Highway 36A study area. The north area has a green outline. The south area has a yellow outline.

CONSERVATION from page A1

properties. It said the property location helps it meet its goal of protecting large, contiguous areas of land for current and future generations. The conservancy said in a news release it now manages 30,127 acres. The conservancy said its goal is to add about 5,000 acres to the southwestern part of the preserve. These lands will include open areas for public access, research and recreation. The conservancy said the managed areas will have a special habitat for wildlife. It will have properties protected with flood plain easements to help with regional flood control. It will also have lands that ensure local farming, grazing, and food production. Mary Anne Piacentini, conservancy president and CEO, said a need exists to conserve land in the Greater Houston area.

"The loss of these lands threatens the well-being of people and wildlife,"

ECONOMY from page A1

"The death rate isn't as high as the infection rate is," Jankowski said. "It is much more easily spread, but not quite as deadly. The concern in the U.S. is that the number of cases is overwhelming hospitals."

Jankowski said the Omicron variant will have less impact because people are better managing possible COVID-19 exposure situations.

People are wearing masks, getting vaccinated, working from behind plastic barriers, and practicing social distancing. All these activities have lowered the disruptive nature of the pandemic, Jankowski said.

"Each new variant that comes out has less and less impact on the economy," Jankowski said.

Jankowski said the pandemic caused the worst local job market in recent memory. Jankowski said the three worst metropolitan Houston recessions were COVID-19 recession, with 361,000 jobs lost; the 1980s oil bust (226,100); and the 2008-09 Great Recession (120,500). The market lost more jobs in the pandemic than the other two events combined, Jankowski said.

But the jobs are returning as the economy recovers. Since May 2020, Jankowski said, 297,500 jobs have come back. About 63,900 of those jobs returned during the first 11 months of 2021. The final statistics for 2021 are expected later this month, Jankowski said.

Jankowski said some industries have come back faster than others. Administrative support, educational services, and finance and insurance are among those that have recovered the fastest. Health care, professional, scientific, and trade services, retail, transportation and warehousing are other areas that have recovered, he said.

Arts, entertainment, recreational industries, including restaurants and bars, have made significant progress toward recovery, Jankowski said. The energy industry—both in exploration and services—has also made progress, he said.

Industry sectors that are struggling include construction, government and hotels. Jankowski said. Other sectors include manufacturing, real estate, and wholesale trade.

Companies are working hard to keep their workers. Jankowski cited a National Federation of Independent Business study that said 49% of those businesses surveyed have unfilled positions. About 10.5 million jobs are open right now, he said.

"Layoffs are unlikely because businesses are having labor retention issues right now," Jankowski said. Piacentini said. "Protected lands, such as the newly protected properties on the Katy Prairie Preserve and in Matagorda County, serve our community by keeping land in agriculture, linking current generations to natural heritage, and connecting people to nature."

Piacentini said the protected lands also provide critical habitat for wildlife. This includes birds traveling through the Central Flyway.

The conservancy invites the public to visit the Katy Prairie, which is about 16 miles north of the City of Katy. For more information, visit the website katyprairie.org.

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OPINION

Reshaping America's Battle of the Bulge

A n anti-diet movement is afoot? Where can I sign up! According to the Wall Street Journal, more people are taking a more reasonable approach to dieting that lets them be

THE KATY TIMES

KATYTIMES.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

healthy while staying at their non-skinny weight. The WSJ article features people who tried a variety of different diets over the years only to put back any weight they lost

once the diet was ended. Rather than diets that focus primarily on weight loss and the pursuit of skinniness, a growing number of nutritionists are helping people live healthier lives at heavier weights—weights that may be more natural to them.

More nutritionists are focusing on "intuitive eating," which allows people to, within reason, eat the foods they enjoy and stop obsessing over body size—so long as other health indicators are good.

For most of us the primary ways to stay thin are good genetics or a rigorous focus on diet and exercise.

That's fairly easy to do when you're young. But as we know, our metabolism changes as we age and by our 40s many of us take on rounder proportions.

It doesn't help us in the fight against fat that the American diet is saturated with processed foods that correlate directly to America's obesity epidemic an epidemic made worse as COVID-19 kept us indoors and way too close to goodies in the refrigerator.

This endless weight-loss struggle is a subject I know well.

It's a war I've not been winning since my thyroid, a key regulator of metabolism, had to be removed 20-plus years ago.

Prior to that I had always



It features a lot of super healthy foods, including mounds of vegetables, endless salads and low-fat meats.

I weigh in every Saturday morning and consult with the diet's practitioner. It is hard to get this diet going, but when I do, Saturday mornings are glorious.

I am generally able to shed 4 or 5 pounds per week for several weeks.

The first time I followed this diet, I lost nearly 40 pounds. I felt great. While not as super sleek as I had been in my 20s, I looked better than I had in years.

Soon I began lifting weights and going for long brisk walks. I slept well. I felt great. It was glorious.

And then I had a slice of cherry pie and vanilla ice cream that had been denied me for several weeks.

Good God! It was the single most memorable—and pleasurable—gastronomic experience I ever had.

Still, I managed to keep fairly trim for the next year, but in time the pounds slowly slipped back on and, faster than you can say "yo-yo diet," I was back to where I had started.

I did the low-carb diet all over again and initially lost weight but a year later it had returned, and that's where I am yet again at the beginning of 2022.

Like many adult Americans, I suffer from a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde dieting syndrome. I am either really fit and healthy or larger and really eating poorly. But this new anti-diet movement is a kinder, gentler and smarter one I'll happily sign up for.



A lifetime case of the Girl Crazies

was recently invited to speak at a local women's organization meeting in my hometown. Apparently, I was pretty much their last option, right behind the autowarranty telemarketer and the tax auditor.

Since I couldn't imagine what I would discuss that might interest a women's group, I went for the obvious–my lifelong, chronic case of the girl crazies.

In my younger years, it had always been my dream—even my goal—to be surrounded by women, and now I live in a house with four of them, I work in a department with twenty of them, and there I stood in front of a room full of them—all looking at me. I call that a win!

I've always thought that one of God's greatest creations was women (and Mexican food). In fact, in the book of Genesis, when God looked on his creation and recognized how good it was, I'm pretty sure he was mainly thinking about women. Even better, he made the first woman out of a rib and ribs are absolutely delicious!



for my taste, but her hand lotion smelled like Twinkies.

In elementary school, I had a fairly steady girlfriend upon whom I could usually rely to accompany me to the latest Disney movie. Apparently, she wasn't bothered by my geek-chic ensemble consisting of Toughskins Jeans, Bionic Man prescription glasses, and Chewbacca necklace with swiveling arms. (How could she resist?) One time on Valentine's Day, she even presented me with a value-size bottle of Jovan Musk cologne, which I'm pretty sure I emptied with one application.

By junior high, the nerd gene had really started to kick in, so finding a girlfriend at that age was a bit more challenging, especially since I only used deodorant sporadically and spent most of my time making rude noises with my armpits. In those days, I had to settle for staring wistfully at the heavily Aqua-Netted hair of the girl sitting in front of me in math class, fantasizing about holding her hand while strolling through the local shopping mall to the rhythmic "swish-swish" of my nylon parachute pants. In high school, I finally learned to use deodorant properly, started working out, lost my love

handles (briefly), and got a used Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais (aka "The Love Machine"). Suddenly, I noticed that girls were smiling at me—and not because my fly was open. It was the greatest thing ever, at least I thought it was at the time.

A few months after high school graduation, I met my gorgeous wife in Sunday school. That day, it was definitely good to be in the house of the Lord! She was so far out of my league that I knew I had to act fast before she figured me out, so two years later, I convinced her to settle for me permanently.

I sometimes think that when God created Eve, she must have opened her eyes, taken her first look at Adam standing there naked, looked up to God and said, "You're kidding, right?"

Because let's face it. Women are superior to men in so many ways. Their brains develop faster than men, they live longer than men, they have far less back hair than men, as children, they're less likely to eat dirt than men and regardless

been a trim 178-pounder who exercised daily and ran a half dozen 10K races every year.

In my quest to return to a slightly larger vestige of my younger, thinner self, I have just begun, yet again, a low-carb diet that has been successful for me in the past.

Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

Katy **...** Times

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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. Even as a young dorkling in kindergarten, I managed to land a five-year-old girlfriend who sported the cutest purple polyester pantsuit I had ever seen. I don't know if it was her sparkling personality, her bright smile or her keen wit that attracted me—but I'm pretty sure it was the pantsuit. (Don't judge! It was the 1970s!)

I never had the heart to tell my girlfriend that I was also secretly in love with my kindergarten teacher. She didn't wear enough purple of how much Jovan Musk cologne men wear, women invariably smell better than men.

So, thank you, God, for creating women—especially that one who settled for a guy like me 31 years ago. I call that a win!

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.



COMMUNITY & FAITH

Harris County Pct. 3 Commissioner Ramsey launches crime task force

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

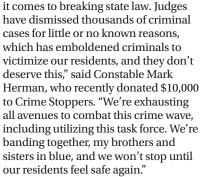
Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey recently led a meeting with nearly a dozen law enforcement agencies to discuss crime reduction tactics.

"Just the other day, criminals barged into a home, murdered a grandmother, and injured her son," Ramsey said. "A couple of weeks ago, a father was killed walking into Chuck E. Cheese to celebrate his daughter's birthday. Those are just two of more than 600 homicides we've seen over the last year. This has to stop. It's completely unacceptable. We've all seen that crime knows no boundaries. That's why I've called a meeting with these law enforcement agencies. The goal is to collaborate and come up with solutions that actually work.

The task force is currently comprised of law enforcement agencies that span from far northwest Harris County all the way to its eastern border, Crosby. During the meeting, the attendees shared successful tactics, talked about their needs, and discussed ways they can work together.

"Harris County has become a county of little to no consequences when

"We've all seen that crime knows no boundaries. That's why I've called a meeting with these law enforcement agencies. The goal is to collaborate and come up with solutions that actually work."



Although Harris County and cities have their own jurisdictions, various police departments were also in attendance to offer up ideas.

"We are looking forward to working with area agencies and sharing



TOM RAMSEY Harris County Pct. 3 Commissioner

our resources with each jurisdictional boundaries," said Ray Schultz, Memorial Villages Police chief. "The law enforcement agencies that encompass Precinct 3 are unified and committed to keeping our communities safe and free from crime."

Ramsey plans to expand this task force and host the meeting regularly, as well as use the information to bring solutions to Commissioners Court.

"Harris County has become synonymous with Gotham City, and it's sad," Ramsey said. "I and the brave law enforcement leaders here with me are ready to get our cities and county back from the dangerous individuals who are overrunning them. There's a lot of great minds coming together here, and I'm excited to see all that will come of this."

ChildProof America to host presentation on protecting families from sex trafficking

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Aristoi Classical Academy invites the Katy, Cypress, and Greater Houston Area to join in a 90-minute high-energy presentation by Child-Proof America and learn how to safeguard their homes against sex trafficking.

The presentation is set for 6 p.m.

Jan. 27 at the Griffin Center on the Upper Campus of Aristoi Classical Academy, 5610 Morton Road Local Katy residents and mother-

daughter team, Kelly and Courtney Litvak, present their powerful, heart-wrenching story about how sex trafficking has affected them and how creating ChildProof America was their answer to this horrific event in their

lives.

The academy said it is hosting this event to educate parents and to protect families from sex trafficking, The academy said it believes creating awareness and providing possible solutions will help our families and protect children and students.

To register, visit the website at bit. ly/33pcBaW.

TRIBUTE

Evelyn G. (Horne) Walters, age 90, of Katy, TX, formerly of Castle Shannon, PA, passed away on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Robert A. Walters; loving mother of Robert J. Walters (Karen) of Katy, TX, David Walters of Bethel Park, PA and Karen Borland of Harpers Ferry, WV; proud grandmother of Dylan Borland of Harpers Ferry, WV, Lisa Bobak (Mike) of Castle



EVELYN G. (HORNE) WALTERS DIED JAN. 11, 2022

Shannon, PA and Kendall Barrientos (Anthony) of Katy, TX; great-grandmother of Kenlee Barrientos and Hartlee Barrientos of Katy, TX, and Heath Bobak and Sabrina Bobak of Castle Shannon, PA. She was preceded in death by her husband and her brother, Roy Horne. Evelyn graduated from Michigan State University and had a long career as an elementary teacher. She taught in the Panama Canal Zone, Lake Forest, IL and Pittsburgh Keystone Oaks. She enjoyed reading, Caribbean cruises, collecting seashells, and jigsaw puzzles. She was an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and West Virginia University Mountaineers. Some of her most treasured memories were the decades of summer vacations at Atlantic Beach, N.C. Family and friends will be received on Thursday, January 20 from 6-8 PM at Paul Henney Cremation & Funeral Tributes, 5570 Library Rd. Bethel Park, PA. Interment will take place in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org

www.henneyfuneralhome.com





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ENTERTAINMENT

Maud Marks Library to host used book sale

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER

NEWS EDITOR

THE KATY TIMES

KATYTIMES.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

A Katy-area tradition resumes later this month as the Friends of the Maud Marks Library will hold its used book sale.

The sale is set for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 29 at the library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Proceeds support library programs offered to the public.

About half of the room features tables with novels in hardback, trade paperback, and mass market paperback. Titles by well-known novelists such as Sandra Brown, Harlan Coben, and Michael Connelly, among others, can easily be found.

Nonfiction titles such as biography, history and memoir are also available for purchase. Specialty and reference books on art, business, foreign language and travel are placed against the wall.

The selection isn't limited to books, however. The sale features magazines, movie DVDs, music CDs, and even vinyl records. This month's indoor

sale is a return to

tradition at the library. In the past, the library held its sales monthly and indoors. But the pandemic forced a change of plans and things were shut down.

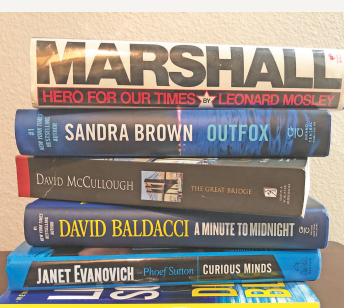
"We had an outdoor book sale in October," Akhila Bhat, library branch manager, said. "We brought back indoor book sales in December."

Bhat said masks are not required but highly recommended.

Donors drop off books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and other media in two bins in the library foyer. Volunteers examine the materials to ensure suitability for sale.

On the Friday before the sale, volunteers set up tables both against the wall and in the middle of the room and place the material

"Book sales support the library in many ways," Bhat said. "Please come out and the support the library."



"Book sales support the library in many ways. Please come out and support the

 Akhila Bhat, Maud Marks Library branch manager

Mayde Creek High School

The Mayde Creek High School Fine Arts Department presents "The Addams Family," a musical comedy about an eccentric, macabre family.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, at the Mayde Creek High School Performing Arts Center, 19202 Groeschke Road.

For more information and tickets, visit the website maydecreekplayer.weebly.org.

Taylor High School

The Taylor High School Fine Arts Theatre presents "Seussical," a musical based on the many characters created by the author Dr. Seuss.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Jan. 20-22 at the Taylor High School Performing Arts Center, 20700 Kingsland Blvd.

For more information and tickets, visit the website taylorplaymakers.org.

Tompkins High School

The Tompkins High School Fine Arts Theatre presents "Seussical," a musical based on the many characters created by the author Dr. Seuss.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Jan. 20-21, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 22, at the Tompkins High School Performing Arts Center, 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd.

For more information and tickets, visit the website tompkinstheatre.com.

Jordan High School

The Jordan Theatre Company presents Monty Python's 'Spamalot," a musical comedy based on the 1975 film Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Jan. 27-28, and 2 p.m. Jan. 29, at the Jordan High School Performing Arts Center, 27500 Fulshear Bend Dr.

For more information and tickets, visit the website jtctheatre.org.

Paetow High School

The Paetow Theatre Company presents "Anastasia," a musical that adapts the legend of Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia, who could have escaped the execution of her family.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Jan. 27-28, and at both 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 29, at the Paetow High School School Performing Arts Center, 23111 Stockdick School Road. The theatre also presents Breakfast with Anastasia, which is set for 10 a.m. Jan. 29 in the Paetow High School Small Café

For more information and tickets, visit the website paetowtheatre. org.

Seven Lakes High School

The Studio VII Theatre Company presents "Almost, Maine!," a play that explores love and loss in a mythical New England town.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Jan. 27-28, and 2 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Seven Lakes High School Performing Arts Center, 9251 S. Fry Road.

For more information and tickets, visit the website sevenvii.org.



BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER NEWS EDITOR

Performing arts activities are are staging plays this month. Here's an overview.

underway in the Katy Independent School District, as six high schools



library."

Seussical Thursday-Saturday at the Taylor **High School** Performing Arts Center. Tickets start at \$12. JOANA AGNESE

Helen Goeke, Aidan

Orsagos, Kaila Doishi, and Eduardo

Agnese will perform in

LISA SCOTTOLINE DIRTY BLONDE

GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Used books such as these are available for purchase at the Friends of the Maud Marks Library Used Book Sale, set for Jan. 29 at the library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd.





Staffers from the office of U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Richmond, visit with a citizen Jan. 13 at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. The mobile office setup enables the congressman's staff to meet with constituents through the 22nd Congressional District. Pictured are Hannah Nehad, intern; Bailee Higgins, district office manager; and Alex Chadwell, field representative.





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WEEK OF JAN. 20 **SCORES & SCHEDULES**

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Katy vs. Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Rudder, 6:30 p.m.

Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

- Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Jordan at Magnolia West, 6:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Katy, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Rudder, 6:30 p.m.Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday

• Tompkins vs. Chavez, 2:40 p.m. at Deer Park

Friday

- Cinco Ranch vs. North Shore, 7:30 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Magnolia, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Aldine, 7:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Spring Woods, 7:30 p.m.
 Tompking at Deer Park, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Deer Park, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

 Tompkins vs. Dobie, 4:10 p.m. at Deer Park

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

- Jordan at Magnolia, 7 p.m.
- Katy vs. Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.Paetow at Magnolia West, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes,
- 7:30 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Thursday—Saturday

District 19-6A meet at Jordan

Katy loses Tiger final, making progress early in the season

FALCONS DOMINATE

SPORTS

DEFENSE, BALANCED OFFENSE LEADS TOMPKINS PAST MAYDE CREEK

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

ompkins knew how important Friday night's game was.

A win and the Falcons had the chance to move into a tie for second place in district, with a chance to take sole possession of that second spot next week against Cinco Ranch.

But a loss, and the team would drop down the fourth and final playoff spot in District 19-6A, with a tough bracket to climb back to the top of the standings.

"Our mindset coming into tonight was just win," said senior forward Jason Clark. "That's all there was to it. We knew we had to win and that's all we were focused on."

Win the Falcons did, and in emphatic fashion, as

See **TOMPKINS**, page B5

Tompkins Luke Coughran #5 drives up to the basket during the Tompkins vs Mayde Creek game. MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has steadily improved to start the 2021 season.

The Tigers entered the season wanting to compete in every game ad have done just that to start the season, finding their way in every match and finding ways to improve.

"The growth has been tremendous," said Katy head coach Dianne Loftin. "We've started to gel, we have a lot of seniors, but not all of them played a lot last year. We also have brought three freshman in and had the COVID-19 issues and injuries to deal with. We really haven't had a full roster to play with yet, but everyone is improving and starting to get to know one another. Hopefully before district starts we'll have everyone healthy and ready to go."

Katy advanced to the final of the Tiger bracket in the I-10 shootout over the weekend, beating Heights 2-1 and Oak Ridge 3-1 in the opening rounds of the

See **TIGERS**, page B6





Kennedy Reed dribbles the ball during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Lake Travis at Legacy Stadium.

Seven Lakes wastes no time working toward lofty goals

THE KATY TIMES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022 KATYTIMES.COM

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes put together the toughest non-district schedule they could find.

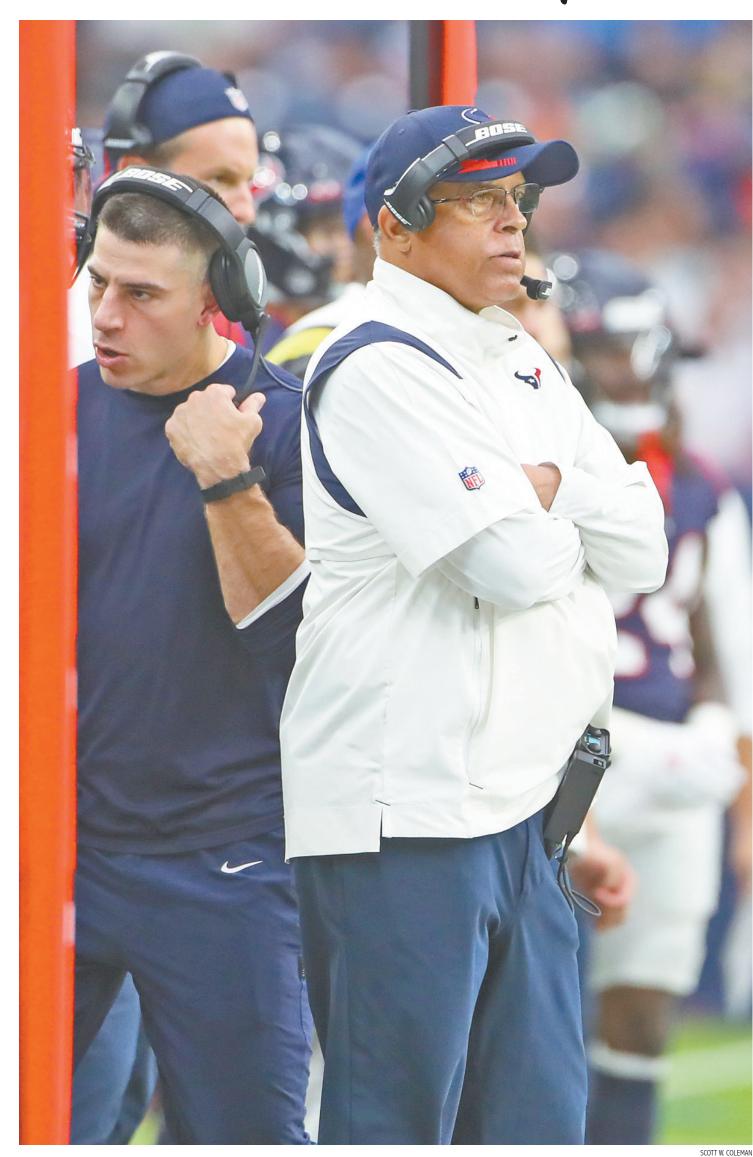
The Spartans have big goals this year and they know that to get where they want to go, they need to face the best.

The Spartans took that into the I-10 shootout, where they played one of the hardest brackets a team could go through, first playing Bellaire, then Seven Lakes, before following it up against Lake Travis in the Spartan bracket final.

See **SPARTANS**, page B5



Texans fire David Culley after one season



BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Just four days after the end of the NFL regular season, the Houston Texans fired David Culley.

Culley, who went 4-13 in his only season as a head coach, became the first one-year head coaching hire in the Texans' history.

These decisions are always difficult," said Texans general manager Nick Caserio. "Any time you are put in a position of leadership, there are times that you have to make decisions that difficult and it's never personal. Ultimately, that's the position that I have been placed in by the McNair family to do the right thing for the organization."

Culley went 2-2 to finish the season and the team showed progress with rookie quarterback Davis Mills at the helm.

Caserio called the firing one the hardest decisions he has had to make in his life, and praised Culley for the culture he built in Houston in his one year at the helm.

"He was very consistent day to day," Caserio said. "I think the players and the way we played and the effort and toughness they had — the consistency, the competitive spirit we played with, a lot of that should be attributed to David and his attitude and his mindset. That hadn't changed from the day he walked through the door to the minute I met with him."

Culley was the fourth head coach in Texans history, following Dom Capers, Gary Kubiak and Bill O'Brien.

Philosophically, there were some things that we saw a bit differently," Caserio said. "That was really the impetus for the decision that was made."

The move was not a surprise but also shows how far the Texans have to go to catch the top organizations in the National Football League, which don't have much turnover at the head coach position.

"We're trying to put ourselves on a similar level to some of those top organizations in sports," said Caserio. "Are we there yet? Not even close. Do we have a lot of work to get to that point? Absolutely. There has to be an expectation and specific standard of performance from everyone on a day to day basis. From the football, to scouting, to data technology and data science to sports performance and nutrition."

Caserio is expected to conduct the new coaching search; it is expected that he could look for a replacement that comes from his old organization, the New England Patriots.

"Our situation right now is a lot better than it was last year," Caserio said. "From an asset allocation point of view, to salary structure, to resources or players in the building, to externally with the opportunities that might be

Former Houston Texans head coach David Culley during an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The Titans won, 28-25.

available for us in free agency, to our third overall pick. I think there's some really good things in place."

There is no set time limit on the coaching search, and Caserio said he will be very deliberate and take his time examining every option for the Texans' next head coach.

"I wouldn't say there's a timeline," Caserio said. "I'd say we'll be patient and however long it takes it takes. When we have a solution that we feel comfortable with, we will move forward."

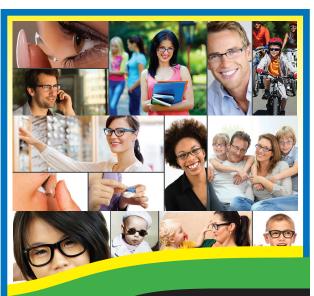
I wouldn't say there's a timeline. I'd say we'll be patient and however long it takes it takes. When we have a solution that we feel comfortable with, we will move forward."

-Nick Caserio, Texans general manager

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Jordan building off first their district win

BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

This is a season of firsts for Jordan.

Last Tuesday the Warriors got their first district win over Paetow, it's the team's first varsity season and they are hoping to compete for their first payoff berth this year.

But Jordan head coach Rennie Rebe wants to move past those firsts as quickly as possible.

"Firsts are cool to celebrate, but we want to be perennially good," Rebe said. "We want to get those firsts out of the way so everything isn't a first. We don't want to be the one hit wonder. Our goal is to continually, every year, be a force. So once we can get those out of the way and celebrate those things, then we can just roll like normal and we can get into a regular rhythm where nothing is new."

Jordan has started off the year with a 2-4 record but has faced stiff competition in their two tournaments they have played so far. They hold wins over Paetow and Brazoswood and have started to gain confidence heading into the third week of the season.

"It's definitely nice to win," said Peri Olmo, a sophomore forward. "It feels good and gives the team a lot of confidence, especially the incoming freshman. You can see how it's just helped them settle in on the team and it's just given all of us a lot of confidence."

The Jordan team is going through growing pains in their first varsity season, but has showed lots of progress from the first time Rebe took them through a practice last year.

"It's been a tremendous amount of growth," Rebe said. "We play our way and we're tough, but we don't come with the confidence and if the other team is in your face coming at you, our kids are still assessing and trying to figure



Peri Olmo passes the ball during a game between Jordan and Ridge Point at Jordan on Friday.

out how to play with these teams. We look a little bit dough eyed at times, but that is improving. They realize, oh wow, I can play with these players and we are seeing that progress from them, and it's exciting.

That progress is coming at a good time, as Jordan has just ended tournament season and will face strictly district foes from here on out.

The next step for the team is to

put a complete game together. "You can't play the same way,

you have to adapt and adjust. The key for us, and it's hard with a young team, is you need to play your style no matter who you play, but there's a tendency to start playing the way the other team is playing. If you do that and you play to the other teams strengths, you aren't going to be successful,' Rebe said. "We've had some really good quality moments, but we

haven't put that together for 80 minutes, so the key for us is the timing and figure out how to put it together when it matters the most."

Jordan is young and it will be a year of learning, but the team expects to compete and hopefully make a run at a playoff spot.

'We're starting to play more together, and that's really important," Rebe said. "Individually, one player won't beat you, but

when you start playing 11 strong, that can beat anybody. So even if you come up against really good players, she herself won't beat you if you put 11 together. It's all about that and retraining them because when they're in club, it's about showcasing yourself. But here, it all counts the same and it's all for Jordan, we just have to play together and they've started to do that and realize they're stronger as 11.'

Carlton, Blair Named The American Players of the Week

STAFF REPORT

After leading the Cougars to a pair of wins while averaging a double-double, University of Houston graduate forward Josh Carlton was honored

sive rebounds per game.

UP NEXT

• The Cougars will take a week-long break from competition before meeting Tulsa at 7 p.m., Saturday inside the Reynolds Center in Tulsa, Okla. That game will air on ESPN2. • The Cougars then return to the Fertitta Center to play two straight home games, starting 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 18, vs. South Florida and continuing at 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 22, vs. East Carolina.



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as the American Athletic Conference Player of the Week.

It was the first weekly award for Carlton during his collegiate career; he shared the award with Temple's Damian Dunn.

In a road win at South Florida and a home win over Wichita State inside the Fertitta Center, Carlton averaged 26.0 points, 11.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game. The Winterville, N.C. native also connected on 67.9 percent of his shots from the field (19-of-28) and made 70.0 percent (14-of-20) from the free throw line.

Starting the week in the Cougars' second road game in four days, Carlton led all players with 30 points and 11 rebounds at South Florida on Wednesday. The UConn transfer connected on 11-of-16 shots from the field and became the first Cougar with a 30-point double-double since Tashawn Thomas finished with 31 points and 15 rebounds at Tulsa on Feb. 16, 2013.

Carlton posted career highs in points (30), field goals (11), field goal attempts (16) and free throws (8) against the Bulls.

He followed that with a 22-point, 12 rebound performance against Wichita State on Saturday inside the Fertitta Center. Carlton led all players in both of those categories as well as four blocked shots to tie his personal best. He also snared a career-best 10 offensive rebounds. and became the first Cougar since forward Justin Gorham in 2020-21 to post consecutive double-doubles.

This season, Carlton is averaging 11.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per game to rank third among the Cougars in both categories. He leads Houston and The American with 3.5 offen-

• All Houston Men's Basketball games can be heard on 950 AM KPRC.

Blair Wins American Women's Basketball **Player of the Week**

Houston sophomore guard Laila Blair was named American Athletic Conference Player of the Week, announced the conference on Monday.

Blair's standout performance against American opponents Wichita State and Tulsa tabbed her first conference Player of the Week award. Her combined 34 points, 15 rebounds, and eight assists in the last two games helped the Cougars improve to 9-5, remaining undefeated in conference play thus far this season.

As a freshman, Blair appeared in 24 games and tallied 12 starts. She closed out the season with 2021 WNIT Fort Worth Region All-Tournament team honors and a selection to the 2021 American Athletic Conference All-Freshman team. Blair was also named conference Freshman of the Week twice during her first season with the Cougars.

UP NEXT

The Cougars hit the road first for two away games starting with a matchup against conference foe UCF on Tuesday, January 11 at 5 p.m. CT before taking on Temple in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 15 at noon CT.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING** 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2022

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone 17.067 Acres Of Land In The H&TCRR CO Survey, A-1348, Tracts: 7, 7A, 7B, 7E, 7E-1 7E-1A, 7E-2, 7F, 7G, 7J, 7K, & 7L, In Harris County As "C-1" Commercial District. Amending The City Of Katy's Comprehensive Plan To Conform To The Zoning Classifications Set Forth In This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists. Applicants And Agents Are Raymond And Shari Boothe, Roger Sury, Lorna Benton, Keith And Christina Henson, Christopher And Rachael Dahl, Stockdick Family Living Trust, David H Shumpert Jr **Exempt Lifetime Trust, Margaret Matzinger Shumpert** Trust, James G Jones, And Jane Tays.

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF **RULES AND PENALTIES**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 37 (the "District"), at a meeting held on January 13, 2022, adopted:

- 1. Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections, which provides rules and regulations for connection to the District's sewer system; and
- 2. a Rate Order providing rules and regulations for connection to the District's water, sewer and drainage system as well as charges for these services.

Violation of any of the rules contained in the District's Rate Order and Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections will subject the violator to penalties, which includes a fine of up to \$5,000 per breach and/or day, disconnection of water and sewer service, payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation, and civil and criminal legal action.

Copies of the Rate Order and Regulations Governing Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines and Connections are on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where they may be read in full.

> /s/ Jeth Jones Vice President, Board of Directors



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of 21602 Cimarron Pkwy., Katy, TX 77450 Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owner's Office by February 10, 2022 at 10:00 AM, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference (non-mandatory) is set for February 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Owner's Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Owner: Mason Creek Utility District

- Owner's Office: 847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450
- **Project (the Work):** Recoating the interior and exterior of a 620,000-gallon ground storage tank and all tank-related
- piping and appurtenances at Dominion Drive Water Plant Project location: 847 Dominion Dr. (rear area), Katy, TX
- 77450
- **Owner proposes to let a contract** for the Project and seeks

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Boat auction on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 12:00 pm at 19936 Saums Road, Katy, Tx 77449. Our facility is auctioning off a 1988 22ft Larson DC-204 boat with an outboard Johnson 150HP motor. The boat does come with a trailer. Buyer assumes all responsibility with the titling of the boat and trailer. Boat sells as is with no refunds and all payments must be made in cash the day of the auction. Bidding price will begin at \$500.00. For all questions please call our office at 832-321-4889.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING** 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2022

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: Private School (Mirus Academy) In A "C-1" Commercial District At 5506 Third Street; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists. Applicant And Property Owner Is Mary Kaye Hafner, Agent Is Scott Hogan Of Mirus Academy.

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

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING** 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2022

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 14, 2022

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone 78.79 Acres Of Land In The H&TCRR CO Survey, Abstracts 203 & 396, In Waller County As Cane Island Master Planned Community. Amending The City Of Katv's Comprehensive Plan To Conform To The Zoning Classifications Set Forth In This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists. Applicant And Agent Is EHRA, Inc.

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bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owner's Office by February 10, 2022 at 10:30 AM, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference (non-mandatory) is set for February 1, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Owner's Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention: Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, February 10, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for "Prairie Parkway Extension" for Katy Development Authority, Fort Bend County, Texas"

Scope of Work of the Contract includes a new roadway connection from the Katy Boardwalk District to Kingsland Boulevard. The distance of the new roadway is approximately 710 linear feet from Kingsland Boulevard to Boardwalk Drive. The roadway design is a two-lane concrete roadway with parking areas adjacent to the roadway. In addition to the roadway improvements, the project includes a water line extension and a wastewater line extension to serve the future development in the area.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Local Time, at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, TX 77493. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is NOT MANDATORY.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search Katy Development Authority Prairie Parkway Extension. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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

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

January 13 Puzzle Answers 5 3 9 6 7 1 2 8 4 2 5 8 6 1 4 3 9 3 2 9 8 5 6 5 8 3 6 9 4 8 2 9 5 6 1 4 9 3 5 2 4 6 8 6 3 9 8 7 2 4 5 3 2 8 4 9 5 6 2 5 4 6 1 8 3







Haydan Erck takes a free kick during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Lake Travis at Legacy Stadium.

SPARTANS from page B1

"I'm proud of these girls for the whole weekend and everything they accomplished," said Seven Lakes head coach Kaitlyn Edison. "It's hard to play three good teams in a row when it's back to back to back, but we did that. We wanted the toughest bracket and we wanted hard games. It taught us a lot to go through that."

The Spartans 2-0 and 2-1 in their first two games of the tournament, leading to them taking on one of the best teams in the state in Lake Travis. The two teams battled and ended up scoreless through full time, leading to a penalty shootout. The Cavaliers came away victorious through penalties, winning 5-3 to take home the Spartan bracket crown.

The players and coaches at Seven Lakes came away feeling more confident in their team than ever following the loss, knowing they held a high-powered offense at bay for 80 minutes and were able to execute the gameplan.

"It gives us so much confidence," said junior goalkeeper Maddie Rich. "This is a really good team and we were very fortunate to be able to play against them, especially before we get to district. It's good competition to be able to play against a great team and making it to PK's and playing the way we did. It was



Katie Lennon shoots a pentaly kick during Saturday's game between Seven Lakes and Lake Travis at Legacy Stadium.

executed the gameplan and did what they needed to do. Lake Travis is a great team but we showed some good things today that we can definitely build on."

The Spartans opened things up in the second half and were able to make good

a wider field and everything. You just have to adjust to the game and progress. It's going to help us play with more speed and help with adjusting whenever we need to."

The Spartans expect to compete for a district championship and know they will

TOMPKINS

from page B1

they took down Mayde Creek 73-41 at the Tompkins gym, improving to 2-1 in district and moving into a tie for second place with Cinco Ranch.

"Energy is everything, so when we came out with a good start, it got everyone going," said sophomore Luke Coughran. "We took that and carried it and everyone was feeding off it."

Tompkins came out with strong defense in the first quarter and limited Mayde Creek to just ten points, taking a 15-10 lead. That defense ramped up even harder in the second quarter, as the Falcons only allowed six points and took off on offense, taking a 31-16 lead.

"Our goal was to not let No. 3 (Christian Jones) get good looks," said Tompkins head coach Bobby Sanders. "He struggled to get shot off tonight, Nick Lancit was the biggest part of that and Owen Craig did a tremendous job on defense too. Both of our point guards did a great job of guarding him."

Coughran and Clark were tied for the team lead in points as both had 14, Clark hit three 3-pointers from the corner and that shooting not only makes the defense focus on him, but opens up opportunities for others.

'It gives everyone else space," Sanders said. "Guys like Carmelo (Yakubu) can back into the basket and others can drive because he is out there splashing threes in the corner and forcing his man to stay at home."

Tompkins turned the game into a rout in the third quarter. The Falcons scored 21 points, while again holding Mayde Creek to six points.

We got a lot of size and strength on this team and it disrupts teams a lot because they can't go into the paint," Clark said. "We have great

post guys who take care of everything in the paint and then we lock up outside the three-point line."

Tompkins' win sets up a matchup Tuesday with Cinco Ranch, where the winner will take sole possession of second in district.

Tompkins has had to have a number of different players step up since B.B. Knight went down with an injury, and they are finally seeing the team regain chemistry and figure out how to share the scoring load. Sanders believes the team is starting to surge at the right time.

"It took a little while, once we lost him it took a bit to figure out who would fill that spot," Sanders said. "It wasn't bad having everyone trying to score B.B's points, we just were waiting to see who would step up. But Sean Dubose has helped us a lot, having Joel Oluokun back is a huge plus and then the way Jason and Luke shoot is a very nice luxury for us, to have two shooters on each side of the court is huge."

District 19-6A Tompkins 73, Mayde Creek 41

Points: (T) Luke Coughran 14. Jason Clark 14, Sean DuBose 8, Joel Olukan 8, Nick Lancit 6, Owen Craig 5, Carmelo Yakubu 4, Omar Elchazli 4, Greg Ilagan 3, Isaiah King 2, Tyler Smith 2: (MC) Larison Lamette 8. Julian Onezine 8, Caleb Davis 5, Jamal Chretien II 5, Jay Franklin 5, Christian Jones 2

Halftime: Tompkins 31-16; 3-Pointers: (T) Clark 3, Coughran 2, Craig; (MC) Onezine, Davis, Chretien; Records: Tompkins 15-8, 2-1; Mayde Creek 18-8, 3-2



a fun experience for me and for all of us."

Seven Lakes had to play strong defense in the first half, as they battled both Lake Travis and a strong wind. The team played good team defense and the back four held strong, with Rich making a couple of huge saves to keep things level as well.

"I'm so proud of the whole group and the way they trusted themselves and the process," Edison said. "They

things happen both in possession and when they broke free on the counterattack, but ultimately, the team was unable to come away with a goal. From there, Lake Travis won it on penalties.

'Today really just helped to teach us how to keep our composure throughout the game and overcoming adversity, whether that be the wind conditions or other things," Rich said. "All the factors that went into today, playing on

have to bring their best everyday, especially in such a tough district, and are preparing for every teams best.

"It's one of the best districts is the state, everyone in Katy is strong and competitive. We just really learned what we needed to improve on throughout non-district and we learned our strengths. If we know our strengths and continue to improve on our weaknesses, we will have a great year."

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Mayde Creek's Jamal Chretien II #15 drives to the basket as Tompkins' Jason Clark #24 gets the block during the Tompkins vs Mayde Creek game.



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TIGERS

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tournament.

The Tigers put up a fight, but ultimately ended up losing the final 3-0 to Dripping Springs on Saturday at Legacy Stadium.

Dripping Springs, which is undefeated on the year, came into the game having won its two tournament games by a combined score of 14-1 and looks to be one of the better teams in the entire state of Texas.

"This is a great team that we played today and there was a couple of things that we wanted to accomplish coming in and I thought we did those things," Loftin said. "They've beaten teams seven to nothing and they have some really good players. We struggled on the first goal just trying to clear the ball and with how windy it was it made us struggle in that first half, but I think the defense handled it really well and I feel good about it."

Dripping Springs' first goal came in the tenth minute, off a ball that jumbled around the box after a failed clearance. Dripping Springs added a second just two minutes later and took a 2-0 lead into halftime. Dripping Springs added a third shortly after halftime to put the game away.

"Playing teams like this, really good teams is just really good practice for us," said Katy goalkeeper Jessica Rico. "We can look back at this and take some good things but also improve a lot and figure out what we need to work on more. Playing in these types of tournaments just helps make us a better team."

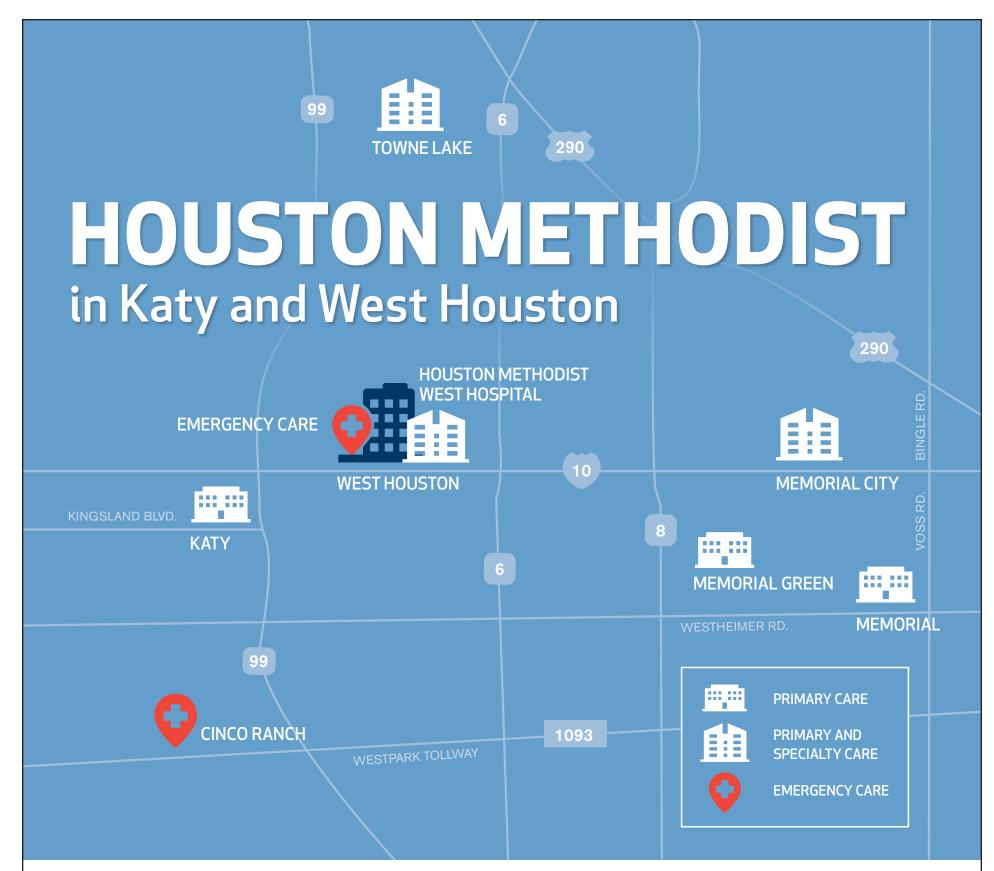
In District 19-6A, there are no

games off, and the Tigers know they will have to be at their best every week. With district play coming up in the teams next matchup, the Tigers know they have to take every day seriously.

"They have to know they can't take a team lightly in our district and it's something we just talked about and you have to bring it every game," Loftin said. "We've been working on and talking about how serious we have to take our prep. It becomes a grind, it's a long season and we have to make sure we treat everyday like that. One of the problems we've had in the past is we beat a good team but then come out flat against a team we should beat. One of the biggest goals this year is to not have those type of games."



Olyvia Witham makes a tackle during a game between Katy and Dripping Springs at Legacy Stadium on Saturday.



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