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VOLUME 110, ISSUE 31

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022



CITY OF KATY

Katy Public Works Director Elaine Luttringer addresses the Katy City Council at a special meeting July 28.

City council updates drought ordinances

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy City Council updated the city's drought contingency ordinances at a specially called meeting July 28 at City Hall.

The city remains in stage 2 drought conditions. Under the new ordinance, the city asks residents and businesses to do their landscape watering between 12-8 a.m., or from 8-11:59 p.m., no more than three days a week, depending on the last digit of their address.

Addresses with even numbers may water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Addresses with odd numbers may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Communities and HOAs may water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Under the previous stage 2 ordinance, the city asked residents and businesses to water between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. no more than three days per week.

The first two of the four city drought contingencies are voluntary. The second two are mandatory. The council updated each of the four contingencies at the meeting.

Stage 1 calls for voluntary landscape watering between 12-8 a.m. and 8-11:59 p.m. Under the previous stage 1 ordinance, the city asked residents to water between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Stage 3 permits landscape watering between 12-8 a.m. and 8-11:59 p.m. no more than twice a week. Addresses ending in even numbers may

See DROUGHT, page A3

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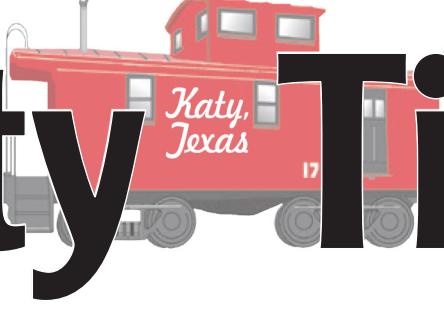
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Katy Times



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022

Katy-area shoppers preparing for sales tax holiday weekend

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

The state comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$112 million in state and local sales tax over the upcoming sales tax holiday, set for Friday-Sunday.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items priced below \$100. These items include clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks. Shoppers can save about \$8 on every \$100 they spend, according to the comptroller's office.

For Katy-area families with students preparing to return

See SHOPPING, page A3



The state comptroller's office estimates that shoppers can save about \$8 on every \$100 they spend this weekend during the sales tax holiday weekend.



"Most Texans won't hear the back-to-school bell for another month, but it's never too early to take advantage of the opportunity to save money on everything from book bags to ballpoint pens."

—Glenn Hegar, Texas state comptroller



Backpacks such as these are among the items being gathered and distributed in time for the start of school next week.

PEXELS

Local groups gather, distribute backpacks and school supplies

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER
NEWS EDITOR

Local nonprofits and charities are gathering and distributing school supplies as Katy-area students prepare to return to school next week.

One 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Compassion Katy, is in its sixth year of donating backpacks and school supplies to students at Title 1 schools in the Katy Independent School District. Its program, called Operation Back 2 School, began in 2017 with one elementary school and today covers all 18 Title 1 elementary schools.

Those schools are Bear Creek Elementary, Cimarron Elementary, Franz Elementary,

Golbow Elementary, Hutsell Elementary, King Elementary, Leonard Elementary, Mayde Creek Elementary, McRoberts Elementary, Memorial Parkway Elementary, Morton Ranch Elementary, Rhoads Elementary, Schmalz Elementary, Stephens Elementary, Sundown Elementary, West Memorial Elementary, Winborn Elementary and Wolfe Elementary.

Students registered with their respective schools during the previous school year to get on the distribution list. Regina Alexander, the organization's public relations director, said the program would serve over 2,000 students who needed the supplies.

See SCHOOL, page A3

Katy Area Community Band marks 30th season

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Lone Star Symphonic Band is celebrating its 30th season beginning with an October performance.

All performances will be held at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, 22111 Morton Road. All performances begin at 4 p.m.

Season tickets are \$32 each and include all five performances for this year's concert season. Individual concert tickets are \$7 each.

Oct. 9 marks the band's first performance date of its 30th anniversary season. The title of the concert will be "30." This concert will begin the band's celebratory season. The audience will be given a musical insight into the many different types of music featured throughout the upcoming season. The band will premiere a commissioned piece of music by William Owens at this performance as well.

The Dec. 11 show is "Peace." The celebrations of the winter holidays mean different things to different people, but all agree that they are special. At this time of year, one often thinks of family, loved ones, hope, faith and peace. Come prepared to enjoy the sounds of the season and sing along, joining with family, friends and community share the spirit of the holidays.

As spring approaches, the Lone Star Symphonic Band will perform the first of two spring concerts. The first is "All That Jazz" on Feb. 26, 2023. This concert will feature this American musical art form with selections everyone is sure to enjoy. The Lone Star Symphonic Band Big Band will join in the celebration as it performs some numbers as well.

The second of the two springtime performances will be May 7, 2023. Titled "Celebrate!" this performance will feature the band's second musical commission, composed by Gabe Musella. The Lone Star Symphonic Band is honored to have Colonel (Ret.) Lowell Graham, former commander and conductor of the U.S. Air Force's premiere musical organization based in Washington, D.C., as its featured guest conductor for

See BAND, page A3

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Cane Island End of Summer Bash on Aug. 13

Katy's Cane Island will host its End of Summer Bash from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 13 at its Cane Quarter.

The event will feature children's activities, gourmet food trucks, shopping finds from local vendors and spirited performances by the Katy Junior High and Katy High School cheer squads.

Cane Quarter is located at 2100 Cane Island Parkway, just past the community's main entrance and signature Living Arches. The event is open to the public. Admission is free with ample onsite parking available.

Families will enjoy bounce houses and face painting, food trucks, Chick-fil-A and the Tiff's Treats cookie truck. Plus, several local vendors will join Kendra Scott in presenting a variety of fun shopping finds. The community's showcase model homes, each fully furnished and expertly decorated, also will be open for public tours.

Cane Island's Welcome Center, located in Cane Quarter, and its model homes are open daily.

Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo talent contest entries open

The 2022 Fort Bend County Fair is seeking entries for its talent contest.

Entries of all kinds are being accepted. The competition is open to anyone who has musical, vocal, dance, or any other skill set. Musical instrument or an accompanist is allowed. Contestants can be from all over, including surrounding counties. Winners can earn from \$100 to \$500 in first place earnings. Dancers, singers, comedians, jugglers, and other performers are welcomed to enter.

All acts are limited to five minutes, and will be judged based on talent, showmanship, audience rapport and stage presence. The decision of the judges is final.

Talent divisions are divided into five groups: Elementary, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Adult. Entry fees range from \$20-\$30 dollars depending on the division. Cash awards will be given out to first, second, and third place. The Talent Contest will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 14 on the Texas Stage.

Deadline for entries by Aug. 24. Entry forms may be picked up at the Fort Bend County Fair Office or fortbendcountyfair.com.

Fort Bend County Fair winners now qualify for RodeoHouston

The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo is now a qualifier for RodeoHouston, officials



The Katy Junior High cheer squad will perform at the Cane Island End of Summer Bash.

BERNARD KAPLAN



FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO

The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo is seeking applicants for its talent show.

said.

"We look forward to this partnership and are excited for the athletes who have been coming to our rodeo and for the fans as well. It is a great way to get the best in rodeo action and enjoy all the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo has to offer," Chase Raska, 2022 rodeo president, said.

The RodeoHouston competition is a 10-day tournament-style competition that crowns an event champion in bareback riding, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, tie-down roping, team rop-

ing, women's barrel racing, and women's breakaway roping. All the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo champions in each of the approved eight events will be extended an invitation to compete in 2023 at RodeoHouston.

"We are committed to making Rodeo-Houston the best it can be, for our fans and athletes alike, and as we look at our presentation and the growth across the sport of rodeo, we continue to evolve RodeoHouston's offerings, as well as our presentation," Chris Boleman, RodeoHouston president and CEO, said. "We're also excited to welcome Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo and Waller County Fair and Rodeo as our two new local qualifiers."

The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo is from Sept. 23-Oct. 2 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. For more information, visit the website fortbendcountyfair.com.

Mary Jo Peckham Aquatic & Fitness Center offering American Red Cross/CPR/AED class

The American Red Cross is offering a CPR/AED class at the Mary Jo Peckham Aquatic & Fitness Center. The class is from 1-5 p.m. Sept. 16 at the center, 5597 Gardinia Lane.

Sign-up for Harris County residents began Monday. Sign-up for non-Harris County

residents began Tuesday.

Cost is \$35. Make checks payable to the American Red Cross. For more information, contact the center at 832-927-8890.

Cinco Ranch Branch Library presents Intro to Google Docs class

Fort Bend County Libraries' Adult Services staff at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library will present a free, introductory computer class, "Introduction to Google Docs," from 2-3 p.m. Aug. 10 in the computer lab of the library, 2600 Commercial Center Blvd.

Learn how to create, access, edit, and store documents online using the Google Docs free application. While similar to other word processing applications, Google Docs also enables users to collaborate on the same document in real time with other users and access their cloud-based documents from any computer.

Attendees are encouraged to set up a Google account prior to attending the class.

The class is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register online at the library's website, fortbend.lib.tx.us, click "Classes & Events," select "Cinco Ranch Branch Library," and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-395-1311, or by visiting the library.

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

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Katy Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Female parent
- 5. NY city
- 10. Israeli diplomat Abba
- 14. Surrounded by
- 15. Car part
- 16. Simple aquatic plant
- 17. Tough skin of fruit
- 18. Finnish lake
- 19. Composition
- 20. Very willing
- 22. One and only
- 23. Cluster cups
- 24. Famed Hollywood director
- 27. Score perfectly
- 30. Important lawyers
- 31. Undivided
- 32. Part of the foot
- 35. Spun by spiders
- 37. Married woman
- 38. Reagan's Secretary of State
- 39. Instruments
- 40. The A-Team drove one
- 41. Short-tailed marten
- 42. Oil organization
- 43. Predecessor to the EU
- 44. "Hotel California" rockers
- 45. Color at the end of the spectrum
- 46. Actress Ryan
- 47. Digital audiotape
- 48. Expression of creative skill
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Dog ___: marked for later
- 55. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Turkish title
- 61. Wise individuals

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Female of a horse
- 2. Bowfin
- 3. Chinese dynasty
- 4. Small venomous snake
- 5. Global news agency
- 6. Common fractions
- 7. American state
- 8. Tired
- 9. Boxing's GOAT
- 10. Made less severe
- 11. A group of countries in special alliance
- 12. God of fire (Hindu)
- 13. Northeast Indian ethnic group
- 21. Anchor ropes
- 23. They ___
- 25. Apprehend
- 26. Autonomic nervous system
- 27. A theatrical performer
- 28. 2-door car
- 29. Partner to flowered
- 32. Pair of small hand drums
- 33. Former Houston footballer
- 34. Discharge
- 36. Former women's branch of the military
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. Witch
- 40. Live in a dull way
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Consume
- 46. Type of student
- 47. Erase
- 49. Instruct
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 52. Every one of two or more things
- 53. Indian city
- 54. Greek letters
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Geological times
- 59. Cycle in physics
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

8			3		1									
6	3	5												7
			6										9	
				3	1									
7	2													9
7												4	9	2
3											2	6	7	
											5			

Level: Intermediate

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.

BAND

from page A1

this concert. Graham has selected, and will be conducting, several amazing musical selections on this concert providing an exceptional evening of musical enjoyment.

This year's 30th Anniversary Concert Season concludes July 2, 2023. The band's annual patriotic concert is titled "We Hold These Truths." So much comes to mind with the mention of this one word, America. From various beginnings, backgrounds, cultures, and countries each of us matter; each of us is important. The Lone Star Symphonic Band Community Chorus will join the band for this celebration.

The Lone Star Symphonic Band is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to bringing performances of artistic merit to the Houston metropolitan area. Founded in 1993 as the West Houston Concert Band, the band is comprised of musicians from all walks of life and instills the value that music is a life-long event, continuing well beyond high school and college.

In the summer of 2016, the band began rehearsing and performing



The Lone Star Symphonic Band will perform at a number of concerts this season.

LONE STAR SYMPHONIC BAND

concerts at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church in Katy.

Bob Bryant serves as the band's director.

For season tickets, or to purchase tickets for an individual show, visit the website, the abbreviated URL for which is bit.ly/3POd8Ga.

SCHOOL

from page A1

Alexander said the organization worked with sponsors, such as Chick-fil-A, along with organizations and churches, to purchase the supplies.

Families received their supplies through a drive-thru system that took place Tuesday. Before the pandemic, students arrived at the designated time and date at the Leonard E. Merrill Center, 6301 S. Stadium Dr., to get their supplies.

Katy Christian Ministries is another local organization helping with gathering and distributing school supplies, though its focus is larger than just the local Title 1 schools. Through its Red Apple School Supplies and Happy Feet Program, KCM provides supplies, and a pair of new shoes, to Katy ISD students.

KCM partnered with Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux, 23212 Grand Circle Blvd., to gather supplies for the program.

In its appeal for this year, KCM said last year the program served 795 students and expects the need will be greater this year. Towards that end, KCM said it has set a budget for \$60,000.

Katy ISD students return to school Aug. 17.

For more information about participating in Operation Back 2 School, visit the Compassion Katy website at compassionkaty.org.

For more information about participating in the Katy Christian Ministries' Red Apple School Supplies and Happy Feet Program, visit the website ktcm.org/red.apple.

SHOPPING

from page A1

to school, the savings will surely be helpful. Royal ISD students return to school Aug. 16. Katy ISD students return Aug. 17.

"Most Texans won't hear the back-to-school bell for another month, but it's never too early to take advantage of the opportunity to save money on everything from book bags to ballpoint pens," Hegar said. "With inflation driving prices higher on just about everything, this sales tax holiday provides Texas families some small relief managing the costs associated with kids heading back to the classroom. As the father of three school-aged children myself, I know how these expenses can add up."

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax

free online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or,
- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

The Texas Legislature sets both the dates of the sales tax holiday and the list of tax-exempt items. The sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

For a complete list of what may be purchased tax-free, see the website TexasTaxHoliday.org.

Katy Mills hosts Back-to-School denim drive events

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Mills is hosting its back-to-school denim drive, "Do Good with Denim," to support sustainability and positively impact the community.

In collaboration with Clothed By Faith, Katy Mills invites shoppers to drop off their denim-exclusive clothing at Guest Services near Entrance 2, next to Books-A-Million, to be recycled. All donated denim products will be sent to Clothed by Faith helping local children and teens prepare for the new school year.

Every Saturday in August, Katy Mills invites the community to donate their denim for a good cause and enjoy Back-To-School shopping and family fun.

At 10 a.m. Aug. 6, Katy Mills kicks off the month-long festivities with Denim & Donuts where area residents can bring any type of denim apparel, such as jeans, jackets, shirts, skirts and more, to Guest Services and receive a free donut while supplies last.

On Aug. 13, Katy ISD employees can celebrate Denim Apple Power by dropping off their denim products to receive a candy apple while supplies last. Participants must show current KISD employment ID.

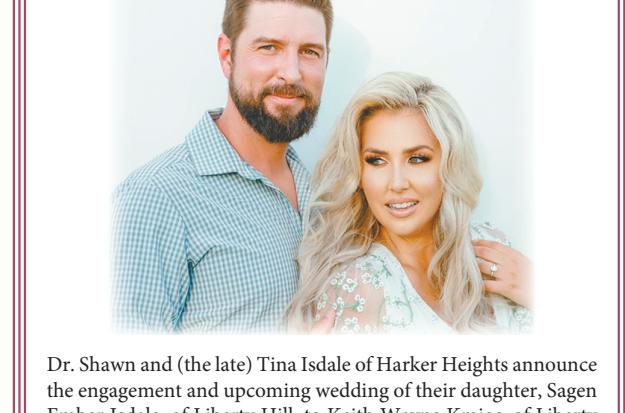
On Aug. 20, college students are encouraged to swing by Guest Services with their denim items for College Denim Day and receive a free \$20 gift card to their favorite Katy Mills store while supplies last. Participants must show a current college ID.

On Aug. 27, celebrating the Denim Awards, shoppers who drop off denim clothing and show their same-day receipts totaling \$300 or more will receive a free \$30 gift card to their favorite Katy Mills store while supplies last.

From Aug. 22-28, Katy Mills is celebrating all things Back-To-School with a fun, Bus Stop Selfie Station located across from American Eagle Outfitters. Step into the attraction and make your best bus stop selfie pose to share on social media.

CORRECTION

The printed version of the "Katy woman competing in Miss Arab USA Pageant" (July 21) incorrectly spelled Mirage Hamdy's name. The Times regrets the error.



Dr. Shawn and (the late) Tina Isdale of Harker Heights announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their daughter, Sagen Ember Isdale, of Liberty Hill, to Keith Wayne Kmiec, of Liberty Hill, son of Mark Kmiec of Rockport and Elizabeth Aiken of Katy. The bride-elect is a 2006 graduate of Harker Heights High School. She then went on to Kilgore College where she was a world famous Kilgore College Rangerette from 2006-2008. Sagen then pursued her degree with a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion and Retail Management and a minor in interior design from The Art Institute of Dallas in 2010. She currently works at Realty Austin and is the owner and operator of 'Simplify with Sage' based in central Texas, established in January 2020.

The bridegroom-elect is a 2001 graduate of Mayde Creek High School. Keith received a Bachelor of Arts in Business with a focus in finance from Texas State University in 2005. He was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity from 2001-2005. He is currently a financial advisor with an FSCP designation.

The couple plans a January 21, 2023 wedding at The Preserve at Canyon Lake in Canyon Lake, Texas.

DROUGHT

from page A1

water on Sunday and Thursday. Addresses ending in odd numbers may water on Saturday and Wednesday. Communities and HOAs may water on Tuesdays and Fridays. Watering is not permitted on Mondays to enable water storage recovery. Under the previous stage 3 ordinance, watering was permitted twice a week and according to the last digit of a city address.

Stage 4 permits landscape watering between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. only once per week, depending on the last digit in a city address.

Tuesdays are for addresses ending in 1 and 3. Wednesdays are for addresses ending in 0 and 2. Thursdays are for addresses ending in 5 and 7. Fridays are for addresses ending in 4 and 6. Saturdays are for addresses ending in 9. Sundays are for addresses ending in 8. Watering is not permitted on Mondays to enable water storage recovery. Under the previous stage 4 ordinance, all landscape watering was prohibited.

The council also updated enforcement policies for stages 3 and 4.

For stage 3 violations,

the city first issues a written warning. Second and subsequent violations will bring citations with fines ranging from \$100-2,000 per incident. The city may also disconnect water service, subject to appeal.

For stage 4 violations, the city first issues a written warning. Second and subsequent violations will bring citations with fines ranging from \$200-2,000 per incident. The city may also disconnect water service, subject to appeal.

Under the previous ordinance, both stage 3 and stage 4 violations provided for the city to install a water flow restrictor after two violations, and to disconnect service after three violations.

The ordinances, proposed by the city's Public Works Department, come as rainfall in Katy has decreased. City Administrator Byron Hebert said the city received 2.63 inches of rain in May, but only 0.23 inches in June and 0.20 inches in July.

Meanwhile, the city's water usage has increased. Hebert said the city used 147 million gallons of water between April 15-May 15,

185 million gallons between May 15-June 15, and 230 million gallons between June 15-July 15.

"We're definitely trending up," Hebert said.

In a related action, the council voted to send a letter to the West Harris County Water Authority to bring in treated surface water from Houston's Northeast Water Purification Facility.

Hebert said city officials have had many meetings with authority officials. Mayor Dusty Thiele said the line was expected to be ready by 2030. The letter expresses the city's desire to expedite the process.

Madhu Kilambi, a principal at ARKK Engineers, the city's engineering firm, said the line extension would be completed by early 2026 at the earliest due to the necessary engineering, planning, easements, permits and construction tasks.

Presently, the city gets its water from seven wells, four of which are in Waller County, two of which are in Harris County, and one of which is in Fort Bend County. Kilambi said the line would give the city another water source, but it

would also slow down the subsidence, or sinking, of the land near the wells.

Hebert said the city would modify its wells to ensure that the groundwater is consistent with the surface water, which must be treated before use.

Drought conditions in Katy are expected to continue for the near future. The National Weather Service predicts continued hot daytime temperatures with only a slight chance of rain through the weekend.

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One night in the Big Easy-as pie

It's time for another installment of "Places You Should Visit While You Can Still Bend Down to Tie Your Shoes without Making Involuntary Bodily Noises!"

This summer, my family decided to forgo our traditional swimsuit-rash beach trip in favor of a long weekend in New Orleans, Louisiana—also known as The Big Easy, The Crescent City, and the Birthplace of Indigestion. My wife and I figured that our three teenage daughters were finally old enough to appreciate the history and culture of an iconic American city best known for public nudity and unbridled debauchery.

Seriously, though, this was my second visit to New Orleans. The first was a business trip that resulted in a column prompting one unimpressed New Orleanian reader to describe me as a "poor man's Dave Barry." Of course, I thanked him for the compliment.

During our six-hour road trip through the bowels of the Bayou State, our desperation for snacks led us to share a large bag of Wavy Migos "Bar-B-Quin' with My Honey" Rap Snacks potato chips my middle daughter purchased from a gas station convenience store in Lecompte, Louisiana. (I'm now considering the addition of Rap Snacks shares to my stock portfolio.)

When we finally checked in at the charming and historical St. James Hotel just outside the French Quarter, we all needed to use the historical bathroom, and when my eldest and most expensive daughter finished her turn, the historical door handle fell off of the historical bathroom door, trapping her inside. I eventually got the door open in an act of fatherly heroism, but only after I made her promise to limit her souvenir purchases to items that didn't require long-term financing.

We then headed out for our first evening on the town, and, naturally, we were starving, so we stopped by the famous French Quarter Gumbo Shop for several scrumptious Creole dishes we couldn't pronounce. We were also served appetizers of gumbo and desserts of pecan pie à la mode, which I'm pretty sure is a New Orleans city ordinance.

To prove to ourselves that we were still semi-mobile, we decided to waddle up to the riverfront across Decatur Street

JASE GRAVES
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



from Jackson Square where we encountered a street performer singing an anthem of my teenage years, "Don't Stop Believin'" by the 1980's rock powerhouse Journey. Although I was thoroughly enjoying the show, my wife and daughters finally convinced me to leave when the performer offered me a dollar if I'd stop trying to sing along.

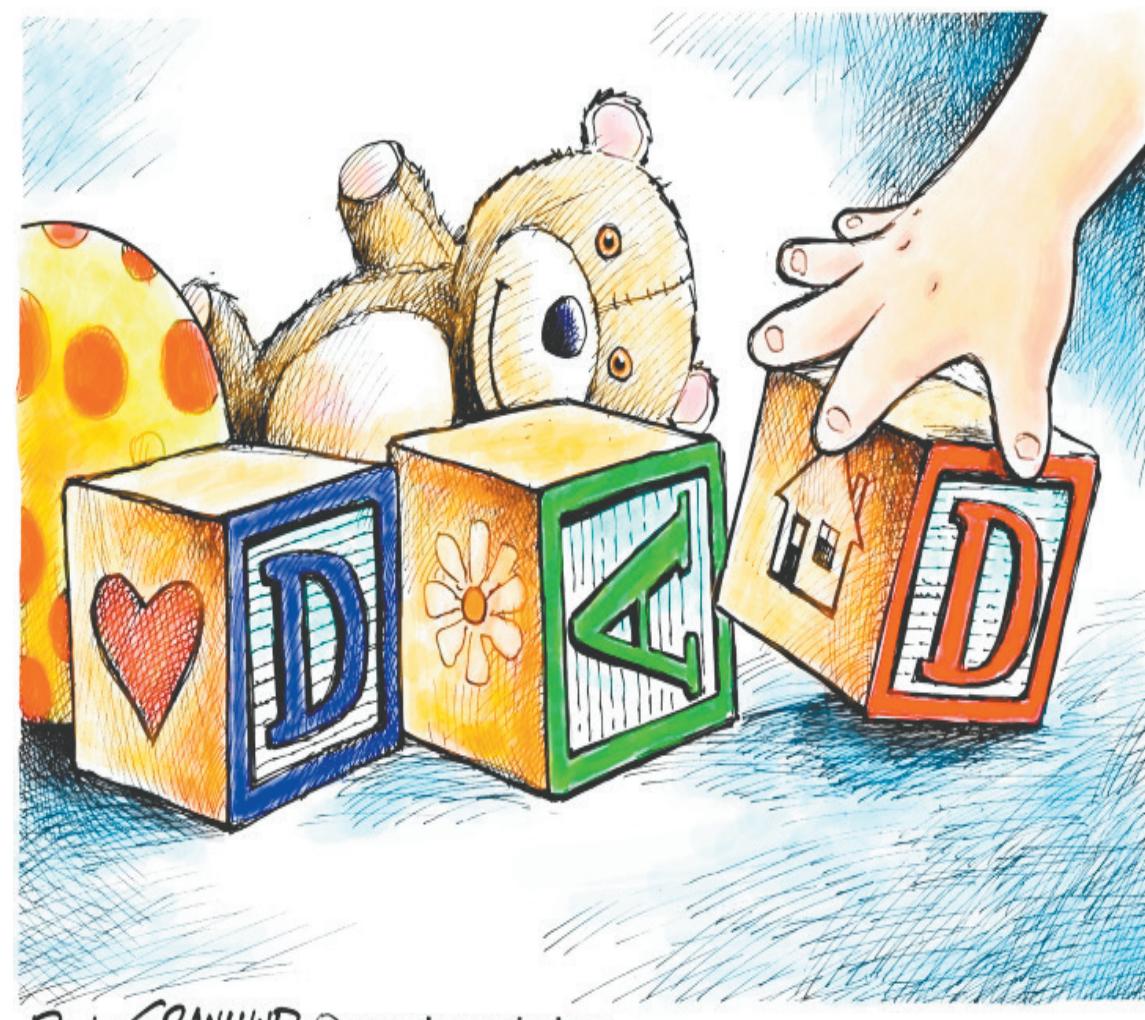
We caught a magnificent sunset view of Jackson Square and St. Louis Cathedral from the river, and took turns taking photos with a couple of passersby—my daughters making sure to position me so that my enormous melon could be easily cropped out of their Snapchat pics.

Our next adventure involved a harrowing stroll through boisterous Bourbon Street so that our daughters could see what all of the hubbub was about and understand what happens when girl children don't follow their dad's advice about drinking, drugs, dressing modestly and snoozing in public walkways. I'm ashamed to admit that I was almost tempted to visit one of the plentiful strip clubs along the fragrant boulevard, but I thought better of it since they probably wouldn't hire me, anyway.

We topped off the evening with a glucose smack down at legendary Café Du Monde for some golden fried beignets buried in a tsunami of powdered sugar. Since we were still a little hung over from the gumbo and pie, we shared the beignets—meaning I basically ate all but one of them.

Our first night in vibrant New Orleans was only the beginning of a terrific vacation full of excitement for our family and digestive systems. Most of all, it gave us a chance to share some fun and laughter together, especially when I bent down to tie my shoes.

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.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

The value of overbearing dads

My father is turning 89 this week and he's getting especially sentimental of late.

The other day, from his hospital bed, he said he hoped he'd been a good father. He said these words with a hint of doubt in his voice.

But he got the question backwards. The question he should be asking is: "Could his only boy have been a better son?"

The answer to that is a big, hearty "yes."

His dad died at the age of 34 in 1937. So he never knew what it was like to have a big, stubborn fellow like him so heavily involved in your daily young life—someone who'd stop you from doing the many very stupid things inquisitive boys are prone to do.

I know now he was often unsure how to manage my stupidity, because his mother was often at work and he had always been free to do stupid things without a cranky parent correcting him.

When he was about 12, he and his juvenile delinquent pals nearly derailed a trolley car by setting a large stone on the tracks—just to see what would happen.

I just turned 60, but I admit that that is something I'd really like to see, too. Jail time and public humiliation are the only two things stopping me.

Boys by nature can be really reckless and the best system we've ever invented as human beings is to have burly, overbearing dads — dads who had been really reckless when they were boys — to protect them from themselves.



TOM PURCELL
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Boys by nature can be really reckless and the best system we've ever invented as human beings is to have burly, overbearing dads — dads who had been really reckless when they were boys — to protect them from themselves.

dads who had been really reckless when they were boys—to protect them from themselves.

My dad sure had his hands full with me.

I never did jail time, but in my early years I clogged a toilet with an apple core, shattered a picture window with a baseball and hit a golf ball through a neighbor's window.

As a teen I destroyed more expensive items, such as automotive transmissions, and while speeding through the church parking lot to avoid a red light, I nearly hit our parish priest head-on.

But it wasn't entirely my fault for driving so fast all the time. It was my father's fault for buying

a 1979 Ford Pinto that had a powerful six-cylinder motor—a motor that allowed me to burn rubber at will.

At least I was smart enough not to ask him to help me pay for my many speeding tickets, as my driving privileges would have been taken away.

In the modern world, many boys are being raised well by their single moms.

But there are also many boys who suffer the consequences of not having a dad around to stop them from acting on their worst impulses—or worse, becoming gang members who gun each other down for no reason.

When boys don't have fathers to agitate or drive them crazy—and when fathers aren't around to discipline or inflict unpleasantness on their sons—the result can be tragic.

But when good dads are around things usually work out in the end. My dad had the satisfaction of seeing me turn out all right (for the most part!)—and I did so because, ultimately, I didn't want to let him down.

And I still don't.

Happy 89th birthday, Dad.

I promise to fight every boyish urge to put a rock on the trolley tracks just to see how it turns out.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site Thurber's Tail.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

Katy Times

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Fort Bend County Libraries seek memories for anniversary collection

CONTRIBUTED REPORT



FORT BEND COUNTY LIBRARY

The Fort Bend County Library system began with this bookmobile.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Fort Bend County library system, and preparations have begun for a county-wide celebration to mark the historic occasion.

Special events and activities are being planned in salute to the advances achieved by the library system, and to the communities that made it all possible, over the past 75 years.

The public library system for Fort Bend County began in 1947 with 12 women who wanted to share their love of reading with all people across the county. Their goal was to make books accessible to everyone.

From a humble beginning of 1,000 books and a bookmobile, the library system's collection has grown to more than 1.1-million books, audiovisual materials, and digital selections. There are now more than 375,000 cardholders who frequent the 11 library locations throughout the county. The library system has averaged about three million checkouts annual over recent years.

In preparation for a 75th anniversary celebration in October, Fort Bend County Libraries is interested in gathering memories that members of the community have of any and all of the library branches in the Fort Bend County library system.

The libraries are seeking old photos of events, people, and places

significant to the library system over the past 75 years. Written and video memories are also encouraged and welcomed.

Donors have three ways in which to submit photos, stories and videos:

- Submit materials through the website fortbend.lib.tx.us. From the website, click the "Celebrating 75 Years" button, complete the form, and upload the materials.

- Email the materials to the library at celebrating@fortbend.lib.tx.us.

- Visiting any Fort Bend County Library location. Library staff will be happy to scan or assist with submitting the materials.

When submitting the items,

please include any relevant information, such as date, place, a description of the item, names of people, and permission by the creator to share the piece.

The library will compile the memories and share them with the public during the celebration in October. The photos and testimonials will be added to the library system's archives in the Genealogy and Local History Department as an online album for all to enjoy for years to come.

For more information, or to make special arrangements for assistance videotaping an oral history, call Fort Bend County Libraries' Communications Office at 281-633-4734.

TRIBUTE

Jeanie McAloon (nee Faust) died peacefully at her home in Cypress, TX on Friday, July 29th 2022, surrounded by her family. Born in Chicago, IL, in 1947, Jeanie grew up in Wheaton, IL. She graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1969 with a BA in Education. She taught Physical Education for 7 years in the Chicago area and later for 22 years in the Houston Independent School System. She was active in the Girl Scouts for many years, first as a young girl in Wheaton, and later in life as a Troop Leader or volunteer for each of her five daughters. She will be fondly remembered by many, many friends and colleagues as well as her large extended family.

She is survived by her husband Jack, daughters Carrie (Andy) Locke, Christie (Drew) Dawson,

JEANIE MCALOON
1947-2022

Colleen (Kevin) Murphy, Courtney (Cesar) Cuevas, Caitlin (Nick) Noren and her 11 grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Harriet Cordeiro, brother Blake Faust, cousin Helen (Ray) Marzec,

her 15 nieces and nephews and 25 grand nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Jean Faust, brother in law Gary Cordeiro and many aunts and uncles.

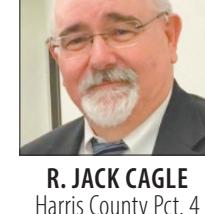
The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2022 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway, in Katy. The family will also hold a Celebration of Life in Chicago, IL, details to be provided at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to http://act.alz.org/goto/Jeanie_McAloon.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home
1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~
Katy, Texas 77494 ~
(281) 391-2424

Commissioner Cagle tests positive for COVID-19

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

R. JACK CAGLE
Harris County Pct. 4
Commissioner

Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle has tested positive for COVID-19 and will attend to his normal duties virtually, including attending Tuesday's Harris County Commissioners Court meeting.

Cagle began experiencing mild, cold-like symptoms on Saturday morning. Because he was visiting his elderly mother, Cagle took an at-home COVID test. The results were positive. His staff said that Cagle, out of an abundance of caution, is restricting his public appearances.

Cagle's mother has tested negative, his staff said.

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EDUCATION



HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Houston Community College Chancellor Cesar Maldonado and Texas Southern University President Lesia L. Crumpton-Young.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce to host State of the Schools luncheon Aug. 10

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Lamar Consolidated ISD Superintendent Roosevelt Nivens and Royal ISD Superintendent Rick Kershner will be the featured speakers in a State of the Schools luncheon hosted by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event is set for 12-1 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Embassy Suites, 16435 Katy Fwy.

Tickets are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, contact the chamber at its website, katychamber.com.



KEN GREGORSKI
Katy ISD
Superintendent

gift)—Provide door prize gifts for attendees. Door prizes will be during the event.

To become a partner, complete the form at <https://forms.gle/f31P4stccUK3EtKM8>. For more information, contact Christi Ginn in the district's communication's department at 979-221-4080 or cgin@royal-isd.net.

Katy teachers, staff members looking for adopters

Adopt a Katy ISD Teacher 2022-23, a Facebook volunteer group not affiliated with the district, is encouraging people to adopt a teacher or staff member for the upcoming school year.

According to the group, there are no requirements for how much encouragement given throughout the school year. Encouragement can include notes, gifts and supplies.

For more information, or to adopt a teacher or staff member, complete the form at <https://bit.ly/3zmTDNU>.

Virtual school option offered for Houston-area K-12 students by Harmony Public Schools

Harmony Public Schools will offer a full virtual learning option to Houston-area students in kindergarten through Grade 12 when the 2022-23 school year begins in August.

Harmony will also continue to offer in-person learning at each of its 23 Houston-area campuses, including Katy. The virtual school, however—known as Harmony Virtual Academy—is intended for those families who either still need or prefer to learn online.

"We've learned during the pandemic that most students still learn best in the

traditional classroom setting surrounded by their peers," Harmony Public Schools CEO Fatih Ay said. "But that's not necessarily true for every scholar. For students who need to continue studying from home or who simply just learn better that way, we're excited to continue offering a virtual school choice for Fall 2022."

To learn more or apply, visit the website HarmonyTX.org/virtual.

Harmony Virtual Academy is approved by the TEA for roughly 572 students for Fall 2022. About 400 students attended virtual classes with Harmony in 2021-22.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled at Harmony for the upcoming year, maintain at least a 90 percent attendance rate, have passed their most recent STAAR test, and be passing in all their core subjects.

Beginning this August, the academy's team of teachers will be housed in the building currently occupied by the Harmony School of Science-Houston.

From there, Harmony educators will connect with scholars from across Texas in both real-time synchronous learning and student-led asynchronous lessons. Students also will have access to Harmony's full range of support services, as well as an array of extracurricular activities.

"Parents deserve to have a choice in their child's education," Ay said. "And so many families have told us that a virtual option is a choice they still need. At Harmony, we listen to our families and we're committed to providing those who choose virtual learning the most comprehensive online education possible."

HCC-TSU agreement enables seamless student transfers

Houston Community College (HCC)

and Texas Southern University (TSU) have signed a memorandum of understanding that will help graduates from HCC's Drafting and Design program transfer seamlessly into TSU's College of Science, Engineering and Technology to obtain a bachelor's degree in industrial technology.

The agreement aims to provide a seamless transfer for students who enroll at TSU following the completion of their two-year degree at HCC. The agreement also provides an uncomplicated path for graduates from HCC's English program to transfer into TSU's College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences. All credits earned by HCC graduates will automatically transfer to TSU.

Leaders of both colleges signed the agreement at HCC's Central College July 26.

"It's a priority for HCC students to transfer to other higher educational institutions, especially those fine universities in Texas like TSU," HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado said. "With that said, this agreement offers HCC Design and Drafting graduates access to an excellent opportunity to achieve their educational goals. We continue to hear reports of our students excelling beyond HCC. I am certain our students will continue that tradition at TSU."

Said TSU President Lesia L. Crumpton-Young: "This agreement allows Texas Southern to continue transforming lives of students interested in pursuing careers in critical STEM fields such as industrial technology, and areas of education that are important in our nation. Our cooperative effort with Houston Community College provides an accelerated pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree and ultimately serve the Houston region and the nation with the knowledge and experience they've gained."

—CONTRIBUTED REPORTS



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SPORTS

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B1

Paetow starts fall practice with big aspirations

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow knows how difficult the jump is from Class 5A to 6A.

They've heard all about how much more difficult it will be this year, how they haven't faced this level of competition before, how their accomplishments were somehow lessened by not being in Class 6A last year.

The Panthers are ready to quiet those critics.

"That's the motivation," said senior linebacker Daymion Sanford. "It hyped me up when I hear people say that we can't play in 6A or that we wouldn't have won anything if we were in 6A last year. It gets me fired up and it gets the team fired up. We all want to come out and prove ourselves again this year."

The Panthers have been excited to get

back to football for months now. Waiting for the moment they could step back on the field and kickstart their year towards the end of August and football season.

That moment finally came for them on Monday, as the Panthers took the field for their first official practice under new head coach Lonnie Teagle, as they prepare for the start of the season.

"It was just super exciting to get out here," Teagle said. "I've just been waiting for this for a long time. It was just great to see all our guys out here, see them in helmets running around. Getting out and actually practicing feels really good."

The energy was evident all through practice, as Paetow sprinted through drills and competed despite the early morning practice time.

See PAETOW, page B2



TYLER TYRE

Head coach Lonnie Teagle talks to his team after Paetow's practice on Monday morning.



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Taytum Johnson lines up to defend a receiver during Monday's Cinco Ranch practice.

Cougars determined to build on success

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch's success last season did more than affect the players on that team.

That success may have been at the top, but it was felt all the way down the program. It showed what the coaching staff was trying to do, it allowed for an extra month of practice from non-varsity players. It made an impact on the entire program that the Cougars have been trying to build.

But that was a different team, a different group of players and a year ago. The Cougars may have had success, but this year is about not just replicating it, but building on it.

Step one in that process came on Monday, as the Cougars started up fall practice and got one step closer to the season.

"It was great," said senior quarterback Gavin Rutherford. "There was a lot of excitement to get back out here and compete again, especially for me and a lot of the other guys with it being our senior year. Everyone around here was just so ready and we wanted to get going. This is the first step to that."

The Cougars had a strong first

practice, competing every step of the way and having fun while they went through drills and conditioning. Expectations are high for this group, and they showed how seriously they are taking things as they went through one-on-ones, 7-on-7 drills and more as every player on both sides of the ball tried to make plays and prove themselves.

"These kids were just chomping at the bit," said Cinco Ranch head coach Chris Dudley. "All the different phases of offseason that they've done and all that work they've put in, it's for this. We're in the moment now and everyone is ready to roll. Varsity on down it's really a great time to be at Cinco Ranch right now and we're looking forward to it."

The Cinco Ranch defense has been gearing up for this all spring and summer, and they couldn't wait to go out and show what they could do Monday, flying around and making plays while proving they could compete with the Cougars' high-powered offense.

"We've been working towards this," said junior cornerback Taytum Johnson. "Everybody has been



Gavin Rutherford throws a pass during Monday's Cinco Ranch practice.

See CINCO, page B2

Katy named to top five in Class 6A 5-year dynasties

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Everyone recognizes that Katy is among the most historic programs when it comes to the state of Texas.

Winners of nine state titles and a plethora of district titles, playoff wins and records, the Tigers have been one of the standard bearers when it comes to football across the state.

Katy was recognized for not just their past success, but recently as well, when the Tigers were named to the top five in five-year dynasties in Class 6A by Fizz Rankings, which researches and ranks teams from throughout the 102 years of UIL Texas football.

Katy was ranked No. 4 overall, earning five stars each in its five-year program success, 25-year tradition and head coaching.

The Tigers were ranked only behind Westlake, North Shore and Duncanville in Class 6A programs, with Westlake earning a 99 grade, North Shore earning a 98 grade and Duncanville earning a 94.

The Tigers earned their ranking through winning the 2020 state championship and repeatedly making deep playoff runs over the last five years.

The Tigers made a run in 2017 to the state semifinals, taking down Atascocita and North Shore before falling to eventual state champion Allen in the state finals.

In 2018, Katy made it three rounds deep before again falling to the eventual state champion in North Shore in a tightly contested game. In 2019, it was almost a repeat of 2018, as Katy again fell in the third round to North Shore before North Shore went on to win a state title.

The Tigers won it all in 2020 in a dominant playoff run, where they beat every playoff opponent they faced by 20 points which was capped off by a 51-14 win in the state title game over Cedar Hill.

Katy then made it back to the state semifinals this past season before falling to eventual state champion Austin Westlake.

See DYNASTY, page B2

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CINCO

from page B1

showing up and learning how to build that chemistry, communicate and play together. At the beginning of offseason, we weren't really communicating that well. But we worked on it, improved and have gotten so much better. There's still room to improve though and we're going to keep getting better as we get to the season."

The task now for Cinco Ranch is to keep building on what they have been doing throughout the offseason into the rest of the fall practice leading into the year. The entire team knows how important it is to keep the same level of intensity and preparation every day so that they are ready for the grind of the season.

"It's a process," Dudley said. "Everyone has a vision of where you want to end up, everyone wants to win that district championship, to hoist that state cham-



TYLER TYRE

Yetxil Perez-Gilbes knocks a pass away from a receiver during Monday's Cinco Ranch practice.

pionship trophy, but to be a really good team, you have to understand all the little things that lead up to that. It's not month by month, or even day by day. It's rep by rep, and that's what we're trying to do and how we are going to be ready."



Katy Independent School District

Katy Independent School District announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. A copy of the policy may be viewed at www.squaremeals.com.

Children living in households whose income are at or below the federally approved levels, based on household size, may be eligible for meal benefits. Transfer students approved for the program from another school district may either complete a Katy ISD application or provide documentation of their eligibility status for that same school year. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside, an application must be submitted. Households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are also eligible. Children with status as homeless, runaway, migrant or displaced by a declared disaster also qualify for meals.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) school nutrition program known as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enables all students at CEP eligible campuses to receive FREE breakfast and lunch meals throughout the 2022-23 school year. Students attending a CEP eligible school do not have to pay a fee or submit a Meals Benefits/Free and Reduced Meals application in order to receive free meals.

Katy ISD campuses that have met USDA eligibility for the CEP free meals program for the 2022-2023 school year include:

Bear Creek Elementary	Cimarron Elementary	Franz Elementary
Golbow Elementary	Hutts Elementary	King Elementary
Leonard Elementary	Mayde Creek Elementary	McRoberts Elementary
Morton Ranch Elementary	Rhoads Elementary	Schmalz Elementary
Stephens Elementary	Sundown Elementary	West Memorial Elementary
Winborn Elementary	Wolfe Elementary	Cardiff Junior High
Mayde Creek Junior High	McDonald Junior High	Morton Ranch Junior High
Mayde Creek High School	Morton Ranch High School	

The Nutrition and Food Service Department encourages families with students who do not attend a CEP Campus listed above to complete a meal benefits online application prior to the start of school to determine eligibility for free/reduced meals. The new online application can be submitted through www.SchoolCafe.com/KatyISD and will be available the first week of August for the 2022-2023 school year. Katy ISD Nutrition and Food Service Department is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. *If your student receives a notification of approval the first days of school then, you do not need to complete a new application for the 2022-2023 school year. Any household that does not receive a notification and feels it should have or are missing any students on the notification you received, please contact the Nutrition and Food Service Department at 281-396-6240. Additional information regarding the Nutrition and Food Service department can be found at the district website www.KatyISDFoodServices.com.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact the Nutrition and Food Service Department at 281-396-6240.

Paper applications will NOT be distributed this upcoming school year, all applications must be submitted online. If the online application is unavailable, paper applications are available at any district school and at the food service office. If your children were on the program at the end of the previous school year, they are eligible for the same benefit for the first 30 operating days of the new school year or until a new application is processed. A new application per household is required each school year.

The Nutrition and Food Service Department is located at 5364 Franz Rd, Katy, TX 77493. Staff is available Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 2:30pm to assist parents/guardians in completing the application, starting the second week of August. Bring names of all members of the household and their Gross Monthly Income. For any questions, call the Katy ISD Nutrition and Food Service Department office at 281-396-6240.

Applications are accepted any time during the school year; the 2022-2023 online application will be available 2 weeks before school starts. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining meal eligibility. Application information may be verified by school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the reviewing official will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the reviewing official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to the hearing official, contact us at 281-396-6240.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the food service office. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

Charge Policy:

District charge policy allows students without meal money to receive the menu choice with the expectation that the parent will reimburse all meals charged. The elementary charge policy allows for the value of 10 breakfast meals and 10 lunch meals to be charged. When the charge limit is reached, the elementary student will receive a milk for breakfast or a milk and cereal for lunch. The secondary charge policy allows for the value of 5 breakfast meals and 5 lunch meals to be charged. When the charge limit is reached, the secondary student will be declined. Parents will be alerted when their child charges a meal by receiving a courtesy call and/or email through the district automated call out system, if the district parent information is correct and up-to-date. Parents are responsible for monitoring the amount of money in their child's account and paying back any borrowed money in a timely manner. If a student owes money on his/her account, he/she will be allowed to purchase snacks and/or a la carte only with cash in hand for that purchase, or once the student's negative account is paid in full and funds are available to cover additional purchases.

2022-2023 School Year**Income Eligibility Guidelines for Determining Free and Reduced-Price Benefits**

Effective from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Family Size	Annually		Monthly		Twice per Month		Every Two Weeks		Weekly	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$17,667	\$25,142	\$1,473	\$2,096	\$737	\$1,048	\$680	\$967	\$340	\$484
2	\$23,803	\$33,874	\$1,984	\$2,823	\$992	\$1,412	\$916	\$1,303	\$458	\$652
3	\$29,939	\$42,606	\$2,495	\$3,551	\$1,248	\$1,776	\$1,152	\$1,639	\$576	\$820
4	\$36,075	\$51,338	\$3,007	\$4,279	\$1,504	\$2,140	\$1,388	\$1,975	\$694	\$988
5	\$42,211	\$60,070	\$3,518	\$5,006	\$1,759	\$2,503	\$1,624	\$2,311	\$812	\$1,156
6	\$48,347	\$68,802	\$4,029	\$5,734	\$2,015	\$2,867	\$1,860	\$2,647	\$930	\$1,324
7	\$54,483	\$77,534	\$4,541	\$6,462	\$2,271	\$3,231	\$2,096	\$2,983	\$1,048	\$1,492
8	\$60,619	\$86,266	\$5,052	\$7,189	\$2,526	\$3,595	\$2,332	\$3,318	\$1,166	\$1,659
For each additional family member add:										
	\$+6,136	\$+8,732	\$+512	\$+728	\$+256	\$+364	\$+236	\$+336	\$+118	\$+168

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCRR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Jason Blue makes a jumping catch over a defensive back during Paetow's practice on Monday morning.
TYLER TYRE

PAETOW

from page B1

From lineman, to skill positions to everywhere else on the field, the entire squad wanted to prove themselves as they continue to adjust to a new offense and defense being installed.

"Everything's been changing, from coaches to scheme and other things," Sanford said. "We just have to keep building that chemistry. We have to build it with the players that were already here and with the new players and coaches. As long as we do that we're headed in the right direction."

That has been a prevailing topic amongst everyone at Paetow. Teagle thinks the players have done a fantastic job adjusting to the different things asked of them and buying into what the coaching staff wants them to do. And he knows it will be important for that to continue and for the team to keep building momentum towards the season.

"These guys just love football and they prove that to us every minute they're out here," Teagle said. "They're just ready to go, the entire group is bought in and they want to win. They're doing whatever we ask them to do and that's the only thing you can ask for as a coach."

The Panthers continue to push to reach new heights and not lose their edge. That's what has been preached to the program and what their focus is on as they head towards the season.

"When a team comes off a state championship, it can be human nature to just feel content with what you've accomplished," Teagle said. "But these guys understand, this is a new year, with new players and a whole new team. They have that same hunger and maybe even more now that what drove them to last year's success."

DYNASTY

from page B1

Overall in the past five seasons, the Tigers have either won the state championship or lost to the eventual state champion in every season.

The Tigers were also ranked in the top 15 of any program in the state of Texas, coming in at No. 14

in the five-year dynasties of all Texas High School Football's top 100 programs, regardless of classification.

And the Tigers are confident they can put together another strong season and another strong run this year as they head into fall practice next week.

**FIZZ RANKINGS
TOP 10 CLASS 6A
5-YEAR DYNASTIES**

- Austin Westlake
- North Shore
- Duncanville
- Katy
- Highland Park
- Carroll
- Allen
- Lake Travis
- Westfield
- Denton Guyer

KATY AREA CHAMBER

UPCOMING EVENT

A PROGRAM OF THE KATY AREA CHAMBER

business

expo

DISCOVERING NEW OPPORTUNITIES BY CONNECTING BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

8:30 AM

Registration
Visit Business Booths

9:00 AM

Importance of Business Advocacy
Aaron Cox, Executive Director
American Cancer Society

10:00 AM

Visit Business Booths

10:30 AM

Session A: Disruptive Innovation in Business
Session B: Cybersecurity
Session C: How Women are Leveraging the Dynamics of Connection & Collaborating with Clients

11:15 AM

Visit Business Booths

12:00 PM

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Jay Neal, Associate Vice President
University of Houston

1:00 PM

Visit Business Booths

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Katy ISD Athletic Director Decker recognized for leadership

STAFF REPORT

Debbie Decker, Katy ISD's Executive Director of Athletics, was recognized with the 2022 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) State Award of Merit during the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association (THSADA) state conference in June. This recognition is awarded to an athletic administrator from each state for their outstanding leadership, meritorious dedication to high school and junior high athletics, as well as their achievement in the vocation of interscholastic administration.



PHOTO COURTESY KATY ISD

Katy ISD Executive Director of Athletics Debbie Decker was recognized with an NIAAA State Award of Merit.

Katy ISD through this prestigious award," added Decker.

Decker has been part of the Katy ISD family since 2005 and is known among students and staff for demonstrating a passion and dedication toward student excellence, both athletically and academically. She is also an advocate for community involvement and promotes service projects to her 750 coaches and 15,000 student-athletes. In 2021, Decker and the assistant athletic directors inaugurated a Student Athletic Leadership Team at Katy ISD composed of 20-30 student-athletes from each high school campus to provide leadership training. Additionally, she was instrumental in the creation of Katy ISD's Coaches Athletic Leadership Academy, which provides training for aspiring athletic administrators and head coaches.

Texans' John Metchie III diagnosed with Leukemia

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston Texans wide receiver John Metchie III announced on Sunday that he has been diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia, a rare blood cancer.

It is expected that Metchie will miss the 2022 season as he recovers.

Around 30,800 cases of acute leukemia are diagnosed yearly in the United States, with about 1000 of those being diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia.

"This is the most curable form of Leukemia," Metchie said in his statement. "I am currently receiving great medical care, am in good spirits and I expect to make a recovery at a later point in time."

The Texans drafted Metchie in the second round of the NFL draft, as they saw him as a great pairing to go with Brandin Cooks. Metchie had been working back from an ACL tear that he suffered in the SEC championship game last season before being diagnosed.

"As a result of this diagnosis, I will likely not be playing football this season," Metchie said.

Metchie had a huge season in his final year at Alabama, catching 96 passes for 1,146 yards and hauling in eight touchdowns.

While everyone looks forward to getting such a talented player back on the field, the Texans know the most important thing is to give Metchie time to battle and recover from such a serious diagnosis.

"My main focus will be on my health and recovery," Metchie said. "Thank you in advance for your support and well-wishes. I cannot wait to come back stronger than ever. God bless."



JOHN METCHIE III



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Texans wide receiver Danny Amendola (89) brings in a 26-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter of an NFL game between the Texans and the Titans on Jan. 9, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

Amendola retires from NFL

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Woodlands native and former Texans wide receiver announced his retirement from the NFL on Monday.

The wide receiver spent 13 years in the NFL, playing for the Rams, New England Patriots, Miami Dolphins, Detroit Lions and Houston Texans.

Over the course of his career, Amendola caught 617 passes for

6212 yards and 24 touchdowns.

"It was better than I could have ever imagined," Amendola said to ESPN's Adam Schefter.

Amendola played his final season with the Texans, catching 24 passes for three touchdowns, with his best performance for the Texans coming in his final game, as he caught seven passes for 113 yards and two touchdowns.

Amendola won two Super Bowl titles with the Patriots in 2014 and

2016, and he was named to the All-Decade Team for New England as well.

"Love Danny, he was a very good player for us -- very smart, tough, dependable, great hands, concentration," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Tuesday. "Glad we had him here, and he certainly was a big contributor for us. We've been very fortunate to have some good players at that [inside receiver] position [and] Danny ranks high in that group."

KATY PONY BASEBALL - WHERE PLAYERS START PLAYING BASEBALL JUST LIKE THE PROS AT AGE 9 - WHERE OPEN LEAGUE BASEBALL IS PLAYED JUST LIKE THE PROS.

Katy Pony Baseball registration is open to all players from Katy ISD, Brookshire, Sealy, Cy-Fair and Waller.

Katy Pony Baseball features a graduated system in 2-year increments for pitching and base distance to accommodate the physical development of players.



Fall 2022

**Registration
League Ages - 4 to 18
(as of August 31, 2023)**

Register at Walk-Ins (see below) or online at www.katyponybaseball.org

Season Starts - Week of September 19th- Ends Late November
Fall Sportsfest - Baseball, games, food, fun, prizes and team pictures! Saturday, October 1st

Walk-In Registrations will take place at :

- Four Seasons Park, Saturday August 6th (10am - 12pm) (Katy Hockley Cut-Off Rd)
- Four Seasons Park, Saturday August 13th (10am - 12pm) (Katy Hockley Cut-Off Rd) or register online thru 11:59 PM on August 17th at katyponybaseball.org
- Tryouts, at Four Seasons Park, (Ages 6-14) Saturday, August 20th (times assigned)
- No Tryouts Shetland 4/5
- No Tryouts Colt (Ages 15-18) : Colt Players will be placed on teams by High School
- Player Drafts / Teams Formed : Sunday, August 21st

**Sunday League
Baseball**

Katy PONY also offers Sunday league for established tournament teams.

Visit our website and click on "Open League" for more info.

Registration Info

\$230 per player Pinto (7-8) through Colt (15-18) \$220 per player Shetland 6 \$200 per player Shetland 4/5

- Multi-player discount (\$10) for each additional player in same family. • Players receive a team jersey and baseball cap.
- Each player gets \$120 in raffle tickets to sell • keep the money to help offset your cost* or submit in your name if you choose not to sell.
- All sign-ups after Aug. 17th will be charged a \$25 late fee . Please register early to avoid waiting list.
- Late registration will be available at our facilities (Four Seasons Park) During Tryouts, Saturday August 20th After Tryouts call (281) 371-0887 to schedule registration appointment
- To expedite the in-person registration process, forms are on our website
- Players are assigned to a division/team based on their age as of 8/31/2023
- New players please provide a copy or original Birth Certificate with your Registration Form and payment. Cash and checks ONLY when registering in person. Major Credit/Debit cards ONLY when registering on line.

Eligible to play if age 4 by 8/31/2023 in Shetland (T-Ball) division

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- Paid Concessions Personnel
- Paid Professional Groundskeepers

- Professional Playing Fields
- Graduated Pitching & Base Path Distances
- Open Bases (Lead-off's, Steals, Balks) just like the Pro's beginning at age 9

Our Parents watch and enjoy the game. They do not have to rake fields, umpire or sell food items. Experience the difference.

Ages 4-6 50 ft. Bases T-Ball	Ages 7-8 60 ft. Bases Coach/Dad Pitch	Ages 9-10 60 ft. Bases Kid Pitch (46 ft.)	Ages 11-12 70 ft. Bases Kid Pitch (50 ft.)	Ages 13-14 80 ft. Bases Kid Pitch (54 ft.)	Ages 15-18 90 ft. Bases Kid Pitch (60 ft.)
SHETLAND	PINTO	MUSTANG	BRONCO	PONY	COLT

All games will be played at Four Seasons Park, 4702 Katy-Hockey Cut-Off Road (Just North of Clay Road)

Katy PONY Baseball is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to provide the best youth baseball experience possible.

For more information or details visit www.katyponybaseball.org or call the facility at 281-371-0887

*Season Start and end dates are subject to change based on weather and other conditions beyond our control. Field usage and Batting cages are determined by a set schedule.

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SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Houston Cougars linebacker Donavan Mutin (3) celebrates after a game-winning defensive play to knock down an attempt Hail Mary pass by SMU during an NCAA football game between Houston and SMU on October 30, 2021 in Houston, Texas. Houston won 44-37.

Trio of University of Houston captains earn preseason praise

STAFF REPORT

Three University of Houston Football athletes picked up preseason honors including senior Donavan Mutin who was named to the Butkus Award Watch List and senior Gervarrius Owens who earned a spot on the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Watch List, announced Monday.

Fellow senior Christian Trahan was recognized Friday on the John Mackey Award Watch List, honoring the nation's top tight end. The Butkus Award is presented each year to the nation's top linebacker while the Thorpe Award goes to the country's top defensive back.

Mutin, a three-time team captain, has been among The American's defensive standouts during his career. The second-team all-conference honoree led the Cougars with 77 tackles while adding three forced fumbles a season ago after registering 22 in just three games during 2020.

Owens was named to the All-American Athletic Conference First Team and Dave Campbell All-State First Team a season ago. The Moore, Okla., product finished tied for second on the team in interceptions with two, including a 45-yard pick six against Tulsa, and logged 52 tackles in 2021.

Trahan started in 11 games as the team's every day tight end appeared in all 14 games a season ago. The Sulphur, La., native recorded single-season career highs in receptions (37) and receiving yards (398) highlighted by touchdowns in back-to-back games against Tulane and East Carolina.

Houston opens its season on Sept. 3 at UTSA. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. from the Alamodome and can be seen on CBS Sports Network. The in-state matchup is the lone FBS contest nationally on opening weekend featuring two 12-plus win teams from a season ago.

UH Athletics receives \$10 million pledge for new Football Development Center

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Houston Athletics Department has received an anonymous \$10 million pledge to support its planned state-of-the-art Football Development Center (FDC). The gift is part of Houston Rise, the newly launched \$150 million fundraising campaign centered on competing in the Big 12 Conference.

Considered the cornerstone of a new era in the Big 12 for Houston Football, the FDC will represent a transformational resource to instantly impact recruiting, student-athlete development and competitiveness. With UH set to officially join the Big 12 in July, 2023, the gift provides a boost at a critical time in the program's history.

"An eight-figure gift is rare. To have someone who believes in us, our mission, and the direction we're going while entrusting us with a significant gift is humbling," said Chris Pezman,

vice president for athletics. "I cannot express our true appreciation. It's incredibly impactful and it makes a very definitive statement about where we're going and what we're doing."

"This incredibly generous gift brings us one step closer to a new home for Houston Football as we continue to invest in and strengthen all of our athletics programs," said Renu Khator, University of Houston president. "I'm thrilled by the outpouring of support from our alumni, fans and supporters. Investing in our student athletes and facilities is essential to success on the national level and we are committed to doing just that in the Big 12."

Estimated to stand at 100,000 square feet, the Football Development Center will reflect the Athletic Department's drive to compete for championships in the Big 12. The FDC will feature cutting-edge amenities and service Houston Football student-athletes and coaches in an

unprecedented manner. Perhaps most importantly, it will instantly impact Houston's recruiting efforts, with the competition for talent across the country at an all-time high.

"The Football Development Center is the missing piece for us at the moment," Head Football Coach Dana Holgorsen said. "Our infrastructure is relatively sound but without the FDC, we are well behind our peers. This brings us up to standard and gives us a resource that will allow us to compete for the talent we need to win in the Big 12. Thank you to those who have and will come forward in support. This project is paramount to our goals for Houston Football."

Houston Athletics and its fund-raising division, Cougar Pride, hopes the \$10 million gift will motivate other major gift donors to come forward and invest. To date, the results are promising with the department expected to announce additional significant contributions in the coming weeks.

Sports Programs Kids Love!



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23910 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77493

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Deadline: August 31st
K-8th Grades

Fall 2022 Season starts on September 24th – November 12th

Contact Info:
281-640-0510, katy@uaflag.com

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Paul named to Outland watch list

STAFF REPORT

University of Houston sophomore Patrick Paul has been named to the Outland Trophy Watch List, awarded annually to the nation's top interior lineman, the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) announced Tuesday.

Paul is one of six student-athletes from The American Athletic Conference on the 89-member list. The honor is the latest for Paul who has also been named Preseason All-American Athletic Conference First Team by Athlon Sports and Phil Steele as well as First Team All-Texas College by Dave Campbell's Texas Football.

The Houston native started all 14 games at left tackle as a freshman a season ago en route to being named All-American Athletic Conference First Team. Offensively, the Cougars led The American in first downs offense (314) and red zone offense (.891).

Houston opens its season on Sept. 3 at

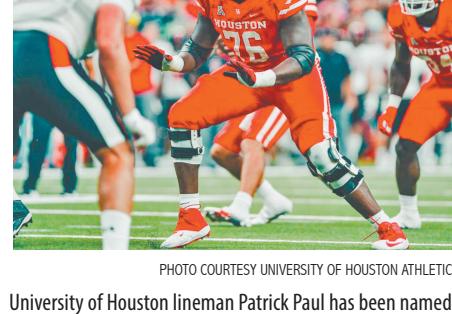


PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ATHLETICS

University of Houston lineman Patrick Paul has been named to the Outland Trophy watch list.

UTSA. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. from the Alamodome and can be seen on CBS Sports Network. The in-state matchup is the lone FBS contest nationally during Week 1 featuring two 12-plus win teams from a season ago.

Free and Reduced-Price Meals Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Royal Independent School District announced today a change to its policy for serving meals to children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2022-2023 school year. Schools qualifying to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provide breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This new approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact the following person:

Royal ISD
Attention: Joshua Wojciechowski
Director of Food and Nutrition
3714 FM 359
Pattison, TX 77466
jwojciechowski@royal-isd.net

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Katy was ranked No. 8 in the preseason TGCA Class 6A poll.

Katy ranked No. 8 in preseason volleyball poll

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy debuted in the top 10 of the preseason state volleyball poll released Tuesday by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

The Tigers came into the year ranked at No. 8 overall in Class 6A, as they bring back a strong squad that is expected to make noise this year.

The Tigers went 31-17 last year and 10-2 in District 19-6A, coming in second place in district behind Tompkins.

But there will be talent that the

Tigers need to replace for this season after graduating seven seniors, including Chandler Lee, Izzy Denton, Jordan Gamble and Maddie Waak.

The Tigers though still bring back a very strong team, including Maddy Chaapel, Addison Chapman, Kennedy Pike, Nyla Wold and Jessie Leach. They will open the season against Langham Creek in a tournament on Aug. 9 and open district play Aug. 30 against Morton Ranch.

Ridge Point, The Woodlands and Bridgeland were the other Houston area teams that were named to the preseason top ten.

CLASS 6A TGCA PRESEASON POLL

- 1 San Antonio Brandeis
- 2 Dripping Springs
- 3 Plano West
- 4 Fort Bend Ridge Point
- 5 The Woodlands
- 6 Northwest Eaton
- 7 Houston Bridgeland
- 8 Katy
- 9 San Antonio Reagan
- 10 Keller

The map shows the following locations:

- HOUSTON METHODIST WEST HOSPITAL:** Located in West Houston, near KINGSLAND BLVD. and CINCO RANCH. It includes **EMERGENCY CARE**.
- KATY:** Located in the southwest, near KINGSLAND BLVD.
- TOWNE LAKE:** Located in the northwest, near HIGHWAY 99.
- MEMORIAL CITY:** Located in the northeast, near HIGHWAY 290 and BINGLE RD.
- MEMORIAL GREEN:** Located in the southeast, near WESTHEIMER RD. and VOSS RD.
- MEMORIAL:** Located in the far southeast, near WESTHEIMER RD. and VOSS RD.
- CINCO RANCH:** Located in the southwest, near HIGHWAY 99.

Major roads shown include HIGHWAY 99, HIGHWAY 6, HIGHWAY 290, HIGHWAY 10, HIGHWAY 8, HIGHWAY 6, HIGHWAY 1093, and the WESTPARK TOLLWAY.

A callout box for the Memorial Green location lists:
PRIMARY CARE
PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE
EMERGENCY CARE

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