

Katy Times



KATY'S DEFENSE
STARRING
AS PLAYOFFS
ARRIVE
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Ex-Katy ISD staff member arrested

*Sedlar charged with injury
to a disabled individual*

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

A former Katy ISD paraprofessional with Taylor High School, Crystal Sedlar, was arrested Nov. 6 and charged with injury to a disabled individual. The arrest follows an Oct. 22 incident in which Sedlar allegedly got into a confrontation with an autistic student.



CRYSTAL
SEDLAR

Paraprofessionals are teachers' aids that work in classrooms with students that have special needs, said Katy ISD Director of Communications Renie Deanda.

"While [Sedlar] resigned during that inquiry, the investigation led to a Third-Degree Felony- Injury to a Child or Disabled Individual charge being recommended to, and accepted by, the District Attorney," Katy ISD's Communications Department said in an emailed statement.

Sedlar, a 48-year-old Katy area resident, was arrested Nov. 6 after charges were filed Nov. 4. According to the case filing, the incident occurred when an autistic student became disruptive in the classroom. The student's special education teacher was dealing with the situation when witnesses say Sedlar physically interjected herself, upsetting the student further. The situation then escalated physically and another staff member separated Sedlar and the student. The student was about two steps away, being escorted out by another staff member when Sedlar struck the child with her mobile phone on the back of the head.

The statement said an investigation into the incident between Sedlar and the student began the day that it occurred.

Katy ISD takes the safety of students very seriously and this incident is not indicative of the quality of care provided to special needs students in the District, Deanda said.

Sedlar is currently out on bond while the case is pending in Harris County courts.

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\$83M drainage bond passes

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

Voters in Fort Bend County approved an \$83 million drainage bond proposition on Nov. 5. Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers said bond funds will allow the county to meet matching fund requirements for state and federal grants to move forward with drainage projects.

"This gives us the opportunity to secure about \$264 million worth of additional funds from the feds and the state," Meyers said.

Bond funding will allow the county to reimburse its general fund for drainage projects that have already begun, Meyers said. Those projects will improve the flow of the Cane Island and Willow Fork branches of Buffalo Bayou, near the city of Katy and the Cinco Ranch area.

One project that the county funded in anticipation of the bond proposal's passage along the Cane Island Branch of the Buffalo Bayou has just completed in Katy between I-10 and Kingsland Boulevard said Mark Vogler, general manager and



R. HANS MILLER

Fort Bend Drainage District crews have completed repairs to the Cane Island Branch of the Buffalo Bayou near the City of Katy water treatment plant. Repairs included removing silt and shoring up the bank where it is most susceptible to erosion, bringing the channel back to original specifications.

See **BOND**, page A7

PUTTING IN THE WORK



COURTESY KATY ISD

The Con Brio Show Choir stops for a picture after their performance at the Texas Renaissance Festival Nov. 6. The ensemble of students from Beck Junior High School took first place in the Festival's annual School Days choir competition.

Con Brio Show Choir takes first place at music competition

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

Beck Junior High School's Con Brio Show Choir earned first place in the Texas Renaissance Festival's annual Early Music Festival competition. The singing challenge is part of the festival's annual School Days event which was held Nov. 6 in Todd Mission, Texas.

"I'm very proud," Beck's Choir Director

Mark Palombo said. "The timeline of learning two songs was very quick and [the students] were up to the challenge. They had to do a lot of work outside of rehearsals, which are outside normal class, and they did the work."

Palombo said more than a dozen choirs participated in the junior high mixed category which includes junior high choral students of both genders. Con Brio won the junior high mixed com-

petition with their performances of the sixteenth-century a cappella pieces "Non Nobis Domine" by an unknown songwriter and "Sing We and Chant It" by Thomas Morley. Junior high students don't ordinarily get to perform a cappella songs like these two titles, Palombo said.

According to the Texas Renaissance Festival, more than 41,000 students and

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Rob Miller joins Katy Times as senior reporter

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

Community news. It's an important part of living in a small town like Katy. A local newspaper can foster a sense of community and keep readers connected with one another. Not just as subscribers - but as neighbors.

That's why I do what I do as a journalist. I previously worked at another newspaper here in the Katy area. I learned a great deal and met amazing people every day. After a short hiatus to take care of some family matters, I realized that I simply wasn't

meant to just sit at a desk - I need to be out and engaged with people.

In this edition of the Katy Times, I tell the story of a group of Katy ISD students who have grabbed ahold of their passion for singing and let it lead them to success. Their choir's name is Con Brio - a musical term that their choir director tells me means, "with passion and vigor." Those two ingredients are what led



R. HANS
MILLER

them to success, and I keep seeing things that constantly remind me that passion and vigor are what drive us towards success and happiness. Examples include Felicia Day's new book, "Embrace Your Weird" and my younger sister's newly adopted daughter telling me having a desk job is, "Disgusting!"

So - I'm back to doing what I'm passionate about - writing stories that help keep the community informed. Telling the stories of this community is a privilege and one I take very seriously. I am committed

See **MILLER**, page A7

HHS official to run FDA on temporary basis

By LAURIE MCGINLEY
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Donald Trump announced his intention Friday to nominate Stephen Hahn, the chief medical officer of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, as the next commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

But in a surprise move, acting FDA Commissioner Norman "Ned" Sharpless, will immediately return to his previous position as the director of the National Cancer Institute, and Brett Giroir, a top official at the Department of Health

and Human Services, will oversee the FDA until Hahn is confirmed, according to individuals who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues.

Sharpless has been acting commissioner since April, when the previous commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, stepped down. However, Sharpless' term as acting agency head expires Friday. His time at FDA could be extended only if the White House officially nominated a successor, which it cannot do because Hahn's paperwork isn't finished, according to people familiar with the situation.

Hahn, a radiation and medical oncologist, oversees clinical care at the cancer center. Previously, he served as chief operating officer of the hospital, and he has been praised for helping engineer its financial turnaround.

Hahn's nomination is occurring at a critical time for the agency, which is at the center of a debate about banning almost all flavors of e-cigarettes, a step designed to stem sharp increases in youth vaping. Trump announced plans for the ban in September, but the agency has not yet issued its final policy.

In September, officials said the ban would include mint and menthol, but recently two people familiar with the discussions said the White House is considering excluding menthol and possibly mint from the ban because of concerns about political backlash.

A medical and radiation oncologist, Hahn is described by friends and colleagues as an energetic consensus-builder with a disarming, folksy manner.

Hahn, after a stint at NCI, joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1996, serving as chair of radiation oncology from 2005

to 2014. He then moved to MD Anderson to become division head of radiation oncology. He has conducted an array of clinical trials, including trials of treating prostate cancer with proton therapy and new ways to combine immunotherapy and radiation.

Sharpless, an oncologist who also was a contender for the FDA job on a permanent basis, had strong support from medical and other groups. In September, the groups and several previous FDA commissioners released letters endorsing him for the position.



R. HANS MILLER



BOND

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chief engineer of the Fort Bend Drainage District. With that project completed, funding will be directed toward other projects, he said.

"[We're] also looking at the erosion along Willow Fork from where the Cane Island [branch] hits it all the way down to the Grand Parkway," Vogler said. "All of those are eroded areas and [the Natural Resource Conservation Service] is putting up about \$42 million in those projects, and so we at the county have to put in about \$4.2 million to cover our share of it, and that's what this bond money was for with that."

Additional funding may be possible through federal and state dollars under the control of the

Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Meyers said. TDEM is processing Fort Bend County's grant applications in a competitive process, and Meyers said he was unsure if the amount of funding available would be sufficient for all of the grant applications across the state to receive funding.

"We're anxiously awaiting a decision from the Texas Department of Emergency Management which is reviewing our [flood mitigation grant] applications to get back with their evaluation of whether our applications are going to qualify for funding," Meyers said.

If TDEM funding is not approved, Meyers said the county will examine other sources of supplemental funding such as special districts whose roles include drainage and flood mitigation.

Voters approved the measure with 69.14 percent of the 65,260 county voters who went to the polls voting in favor.

The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court had considered mobility and facilities bonds but settled on a flood mitigation-oriented bond after receiving public feedback, Meyers said. Feedback indicated to the commissioners that county residents saw flood mitigation as the top priority for Fort Bend County.

"The community really deserves credit for that," Meyers said. "[The county] sent surveys asking the community what their priorities were between facilities, flood mitigation and mobility. It was based on our community input that we were then able to change from facilities bonds to flood mitigation bonds."

MILLER

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to giving this community my best effort and acting with integrity as I work with an amazing team to make this paper the community paper that residents rallied behind when it was announced the Times might stop the presses. We're here to stay. We're here to keep you in-the-know. We're here to make sure the community served by this paper is knowledgeable and thriving.

You can generally find me out in the community reporting, playing games at local hobby shops in the heart of downtown, eating pho at Katy Asian Dune, watching movies or playing Dungeons and Dragons or board games with friends at home. I also enjoy catching heavy metal or classic rock concerts whenever I can.

I am a veteran of the United States Army, having served in a variety of posts between 1994 and 2000. I am a husband of an amazing wife, Brandee Miller, and one brilliant 17-year-old son, William Lowery. I graduated with honors from Texas State University with a degree in Journalism

and a minor in History. I minored in History because I feel that a journalist should know the background of the things he or she reports on, and that love of history shows me that the heritage of a community like Katy - with its more-than-a-century-old newspaper - is important. I'm here to help the community preserve that legacy and move into the future in a well-informed way.

I can't do it without your help though. Tell me what's going on in your piece of the Katy community. Shoot an email to news@katytimes.com and let me know what's happening. I'm here for you.



R. HANS MILLER

CHOIR

from page A1

accompanying adults attended the School Days event this year. Festival representatives said 162 choirs representing elementary, junior high and high schools participated in the competition.

"I thought it was going to be smaller," said eighth-grade Con Brio member Massimo Brocchini. "I saw so many choirs before us and I thought they were doing amazing. I just thought it was a great competition to be in."

Palombo and Associate Choir Director Kody Pisney said they were proud of students' efforts to master the two pieces prior to the competition. The choir normally rehearses just twice a week, and the a cappella songs were complicated. The group had a short turnaround time to learn the material, just a few weeks.

"Usually we call for two rehearsals a week," Pisney said. "As we got closer to the actual day of the performance, we started calling for a couple more rehearsals at the end of the day during our advisory period and additional rehearsals in the mornings throughout the week."

The competition was scored on overall quality, presentation, posture and accuracy of the notes sung, Palombo said. Students were asked to put in extra work, including a tour of the school, singing for different teachers in order to get extra practice. Students were ecstatic that their extra effort paid off.

"I was really happy and grateful that we won. I think there were so many choirs that were good and deserved it but it all just came together and we did better," said seventh-grade Con Brio member John Kaluza.

Students had to fit a wide variety of activities into their schedules in addition to added

rehearsals. Sports schedules including cross country and football had to be maneuvered around, students said. Palombo, Pisney and the students all expressed their appreciation for the Athletics Department's support for Con Brio's expanded rehearsal schedule.

Beck Junior High School Principal Carra Daniels said the faculty and staff were happy to be able to support the arts at the school. Coaches volunteered to drive the bus to the event, teachers chaperoned and parents volunteered to join the students on their trip to Todd Mission, she said. Daniels said the entirety of Katy ISD is extremely supportive of fine arts in classrooms, including when Palombo asked to form Con Brio about 5 years ago.

"[Mr. Palombo] came to me with the idea of Con Brio and I didn't know they had honor choirs at the junior high level," Daniels said. "There are honor choirs at the high school level, and I said, 'Yes. Let's try it. Let's do it. Let's go for it.'"

That support has helped children at Beck explore their passion for music, Palombo and Pisney said. Con Brio is a musical term that means "with passion and vigor" and the students, some of whom plan to continue with some form of honors choir when they go to Cinco Ranch High School over the next couple of years, were rewarded for their passion and vigor for music with a first-place award and a continuing love for music.

"In a way, singing kind of provides a relief for me in the same way someone can be relieved by a book. You can go anywhere kind of," said Ella Hill, an eighth-grade Con Brio singer. "There's just so many things you can do. There's so many different tones of music. You can't say you don't like music. It's like saying you don't like to eat."

"In a way, singing kind of provides a relief for me in the same way someone can be relieved by a book. You can go anywhere kind of. There's just so many things you can do. There's so many different tones of music. You can't say you don't like music. It's like saying you don't like to eat."

— ELLA HILL, AN EIGHTH-GRADE CON BRIO SINGER

katytimes.com

Jonathan Dylan Rupard was born on May 16, 2003 in Katy, Texas to Tracy Anne Rupard and Jared Lee Behan. Dylan grew up in his beloved hometown, Katy, where he proudly attended Katy Elementary School, Katy Junior High School, and was looking forward to one day completing high school and then starting his own successful business like his family before him. In his short life, he displayed many natural talents in sports like basketball and football, and was a piano prodigy, teaching himself in mere hours what most pianists require months to master. He loved all kinds of music, designer fashions and was very passionate about cars, specifically his beloved Mercedes Benz. His greatest love was for his family, especially his two brothers Jordan and Phoenix and he was excited to learn that he had a new sibling on the way for him to look after and protect. He had a guardian's heart and was instinctively protective over anyone who he felt was at a disadvantage. Jonathan was



JONATHAN DYLAN RUPARD
2003-2019

dearly loved by his friends and family and he reciprocated that love loudly and shamelessly. His witty personality and kind heart will be always be remembered by all those who knew him, and those who did not know personally him will hear his name whispered in the corridors of their lives for many years to come.
Jonathan Dylan Rupard passed away in the comfort of his family

home in Katy on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at the young age of only 16 years.

He is survived by his mother and stepdad, Tracy Rupard & Kenneth Nyakunhuwa; his father, Jared Lee Behan; the brothers he adored, Jordan Behan and Phoenix Nyakunhuwa (and another sibling on the way); grandparents, Robin Rupard, Sherice Dausey, and Jerry Behan; aunts and uncles, Kristina Rupard, Chris Wood, and Tricia Perry; great uncle and great aunt, Scott & Leslie Rupard; cousins, Blake Rupard, Madi Wood, Jackson Wood, Jason Pyle and Trinity Brown; his godmother, Kathleen Coleman Glazran; the love of his life and girlfriend, Kaitlyn LoDuca; and, of course his beloved Rhodesian Ridgeback and closest confidant, Louie.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Jonathan Rupard; by his great grandparents, Denver W. and Lillian Ruth Rupard, James Ray "Jim" & Judith Pyle and his uncle Lester Pyle.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on

Friday, November 8, 2019 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, where funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019 with Chaplain Daniel Schramm officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

In memory of Jonathan Rupard, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Lillian Ruth Rupard Memorial Scholarship Fund, make checks payable to North Carolina State Foundation, and mail to North Carolina State University, Office of University Development, Campus Box 7501, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695. Please specify your gift is designated for the Lillian Ruth Rupard Memorial Scholarship Fund.

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home
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LISA ANN WILDER

Lisa Ann Wilder was welcomed into this world on January 26, 1961 in San Antonio, Texas to Richard E. and Cynthia Wilder. She was a graduate of Katy High School and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree from Sam Houston State University. She spent her earlier years studying music and piano. Her modeling career ended when she received a diagnosis of Progressive Multiple Sclerosis. She lost this battle and went to be with the Lord on Saturday, October 19, 2019.

She is survived by her parents, Richard and Cynthia Wilder; her brother Craig Wilder and wife Catherine; nephews Carson Wilder and wife Danielle, Collin Wilder; niece Camryn Wilder and numerous cousins.

A graveside service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

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*When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.*
Psalms 94:19

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3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Sharing the Gospel

When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalms 94:19

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PLAY IT FORWARD

Five Katy ISD football teams qualified for the playoffs this year: District 19-6A champ Katy, Tompkins, Mayde Creek and Taylor will represent the city in Class 6A, while upstart Paetow will be a formidable team in Class 5A.

The Tigers completed a perfect district season for the 26th time, and it's their 30th undefeated regular season. Tompkins is making back-to-back postseason appearances. Mayde Creek is in the playoffs for the first time since 2008 and enjoying its best season since 1997. Taylor is making its fifth playoff appearance in six years. Paetow finished third in a rough and rugged District 10-5A, Division II, closing the regular season with eight wins in the program's second year of varsity ball.

Pictured are Katy High's Jordan Patrick and Bryan Massey, Mayde Creek's JaCoby Wilson and Julius Loughridge, Paetow's Jonathan Jolly and Channing Dumas Jr., Taylor's Casey Shorter and J. Jensen III, and Tompkins' Jalen Milroe, R.J. Smith and Tunmise Adeleye.



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SPORTS

Katy ISD runners shine at state meet

By **STEPHEN GREENWELL**
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

It was a stellar day of racing for Katy ISD area athletes at the UIL Class 6A state cross country championships on Saturday, Nov. 9, at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

Tompkins junior Gavin Saacke was the top Katy ISD runner with a sixth-place finish in the boys 6A race. Tompkins junior Addison Stevenson was the top Katy ISD girls finisher with a 12th-place finish.

Seven Lakes' boys and girls teams, and Tompkins' girls also all finished in the top 10 in their respective divisions. The Spartans boys finished ninth and the Spartans girls finished 10th. Tompkins' girls finished ninth.

Saacke ran a time of 14:57.57, more than 40 seconds faster than his previous race at the regional meet last month. Tompkins boys coach Walt Yarrow said it was the culmination of a strong junior year for Saacke.

"It's a super impressive time and it was a phenomenal race," Yarrow said. "He's been showing signs of it because he was second in district and had a great regional meet."

Joining Saacke in earning all-state status was Tompkins senior Cole Lindhorst, who finished in 13th place with a personal record of 15:10.05. It was an improvement of about 20 seconds for Lindhorst, who will run for the Air Force Academy next fall.

Yarrow said it was an impressive finish for Lindhorst, given that he started the season late because of the college recruitment process.

"He struggled a little at the regional meet, but it was still a PR and he was still all-state," Yarrow said. "I think he's pretty happy with it. Obviously, he'd like to be on the podium, but he's trending in the right direction as the track season comes up."

Yarrow said Saacke was still evaluating his college options, since he's only a junior.

"Obviously this is going to open it all up for him," Yarrow said. "He's exceptional on the academic side as well, so he's going to have good opportunities."

Overall, the Falcons boys finished in 11th place, just off the podium. However, Yarrow stressed that they were still young, and it was a strong showing.

"I knew it was going to be a re-build-and-reload, even though we have those load sticks up front, it's a team sport," Yarrow said. "I think you always want to strive to be a little bit better, but I think we're the youngest team on average at the state meet. We ran four sophomores, two juniors and a senior."

Seven Lakes was the top boys team from Katy ISD, finishing just ahead of Tompkins in ninth place, good for a podium spot.

The Spartans were led by senior Spencer Seale, who ran a 15:32.16 for 36th place. Also placing for Seven Lakes were senior Corbin Brescher (39th, 15:32.79), senior Carson Slater (60th, 15:46.06), sophomore Ruben Rojas (93rd, 16:04.04) and junior Fernando Hernandez (103rd, 16:16.70).

"That is (our) best finish since 2014," Spartans boys coach Scott Kenney said. "It's definitely the first top 10 finish we've had in the past five years. I'm proud of the gentlemen as a whole, and some of our seniors definitely stepped up."

Going forward, Kenney pointed to Rojas as someone the program would hopefully build up, as the Spartans try to make state for a fourth straight year in 2020.

"He's in the building stages of what I hope is a really strong career going ahead," Kenney said of Rojas. "He'll be crucial in carrying the torch of what's going to happen in the future."

Kenney said he's been happy and proud to see how Seale, Brescher, Slater and fellow senior Juan Royo have developed.

"As a high school coach, especially those freshmen and sophomore years, you hope to shape and guide them, and give them the basic tools and foundation for their junior and especially that senior year," he said. "That athlete and coach relationship changes, to one of mutual respect, versus the coach saying, 'This is what you need to do.'"

Tompkins' girls finished ninth with 250 points, and Seven Lakes' girls were right behind in 10th place, with 261 points.

Tompkins junior Addison Stevenson also earned all-state recognition. Stevenson was the top girls finisher among Katy ISD athletes. She finished 12th with a time of 18:06.58.



Tompkins girls cross country team.



Seven Lakes girls: From left to right, Sofia Chazaro, Ana Velazquez, Giana Mannone, Sarah Zdansky, Rosie Campbell-Watt, Grace Havern, Katie Fitzpatrick, Molly Humes, Luann Drake and Julie Almaguer.



Tompkins junior Gavin Saacke.



Seven Lakes boys: Front row: Juan Royo and Jad Wardeh. Middle row: Javier Pineros, Corbin Brescher and Spencer Seale. Back row: Michael Huff, Carson Slater, head coach Scott Kenney, Peyton Hannah, Ryan Caffrey, Ruben Rojas and Fernando Hernandez.



Tompkins junior Addison Stevenson.



Tompkins senior Cole Lindhorst.

Tompkins' Keys picks Nebraska

By **DENNIS SILVA II**
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

During his seventh grade year at WoodCreek Junior High, Clayton Keys' first day of track and field practice consisted of him trying out every event.

"I had never jumped before, but the coach told me all I had to do was run as fast as I could down the runway, hit the white board and jump as far as I can," said Keys, now a senior at Tompkins High. "That day, I realized that not only was I fast, but I could also jump much farther than the kids at my school."

Three years later, Keys realized the long jump event could do "a lot more for me in the long run."

"I received my first college track and field recruiting letter," he said. "This only made me work harder and pursue my dreams of one day running in the Olympics."

Keys, who competes in the long jump, 110 hurdles, 300 hurdles, and 4x4 relay at Tompkins, is on the right track.

Just a handful of months after setting a school record in the long jump with a mark of 24-feet, 9-inches at the Region III track and field meet last spring that booked his trip to state, Keys pledged on Nov. 5 to continue his athletic career at Nebraska, where he will compete in the long jump, hurdles and relays.

Keys, who holds personal records of 24.9 in the long jump, 14.2 seconds in 110 hurdles, 36.8 seconds in 300 hurdles, and 47.4 seconds in 4x4, recently talked with The Katy Times about his college choice and expectations for the upcoming season.

Q: What was it about Nebraska that made it the right choice for you?

A: Nebraska had everything that I could ask for. Head coach Gary Pepin not only is one



Tompkins senior Clayton Keys, right, is pictured with Nebraska assistant coach Dusty Jonas during a visit earlier this year.

of the best coaches in the nation, but he has coached multiple Olympians and world champions. Coach Dusty Jonas, a Texas native, competed at the highest level and achieved what many people can't. To top it all off, Nebraska has a degree in forensic science crime scene investigation, and that is exactly what I wanted to major in.

Q: What other schools did you seriously consider?

A: I went on official visits to Northern Arizona University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Iowa and Texas Christian University. All these schools have great coaches and great programs.

Q: How would you describe your recruiting process?

A: My journey to finding the right school was hard because of all the great coaches I got to meet and the schools learned about. After a lot of prayer, I asked God to give me guidance to find the right school. There was one school that stood

out to me the most. At the University Of Nebraska, I felt at home the moment I stepped on campus.

Q: What did Nebraska coaches say they had in mind for you?

A: The coaches recruited me to not only long jump and hurdle, but also gave me the opportunity to run on relays. I wanted to find a school that allowed me to do multiple events, as I have done throughout my track career. They see me helping them winning conference and ultimately another national championship.

Q: After last season, what are you working on this offseason to be even better going into your senior season of track and field?

A: I've worked harder than ever before to achieve the goals I have set for this upcoming year. My ultimate goal this year is to be a multi-event state champion. The only way to get there is to put the work in now and see the results later.

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11AM ALDINE DAVIS vs SAM HOUSTON

12:30 LANGHAM CREEK vs SUMMER CREEK

2PM WESTBURY CHR. vs PORT ARTHUR MEMORIAL

3:30 DICKINSON vs BEAUMONT UNITED

5PM MORTON RANCH vs JACK YATES

6:30 HIGHTOWER vs CYPRESS CREEK

8PM SHADOW CREEK vs EPISCOPAL

MORE INFO: RcsSports.com

FINAL H.S. FOOTBALL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

DISTRICT 19-6A

| TEAM OFFENSE | GP | Rushing | Passing | Total | Average |
|--------------|----|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Katy | 10 | 2876 | 1560 | 4436 | 443.6 |
| Tompkins | 10 | 2315 | 2039 | 4354 | 435.4 |
| Mayde Creek | 10 | 2846 | 1144 | 3990 | 399.0 |
| Taylor | 10 | 1829 | 1706 | 3535 | 353.5 |
| Seven Lakes | 10 | 1503 | 1470 | 2973 | 297.3 |
| Morton Ranch | 10 | 1711 | 934 | 2645 | 264.5 |
| Cinco Ranch | 10 | 775 | 788 | 1563 | 156.3 |

| TEAM DEFENSE | GP | Rushing | Passing | Total | Average |
|--------------|----|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Katy | 10 | 406 | 1273 | 1679 | 167.9 |
| Tompkins | 10 | 1371 | 909 | 2280 | 228.0 |
| Mayde Creek | 10 | 1227 | 1462 | 2689 | 268.9 |
| Morton Ranch | 10 | 1303 | 1514 | 2817 | 281.7 |
| Taylor | 10 | 1842 | 1388 | 3230 | 323.0 |
| Seven Lakes | 10 | 1770 | 1609 | 3379 | 337.9 |
| Cinco Ranch | 10 | 2668 | 2002 | 4670 | 467.0 |

| INDIVIDUAL RUSHING | Carries | Yards | Avg. | TD | Long |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|------|----|------|
| R. Hoff, Katy | 218 | 1440 | 6.6 | 16 | 64 |
| J. Loughridge, Mayde Cr. | 173 | 1331 | 7.7 | 13 | 68 |
| R. Smith, Tompkins | 153 | 1041 | 6.8 | 21 | 70 |
| C. Shorter, Taylor | 162 | 968 | 6.0 | 11 | 53 |
| M. Jones, Seven Lakes | 129 | 891 | 6.9 | 13 | 60 |
| M. Shoulders, Tompkins | 69 | 824 | 11.9 | 11 | 67 |

| INDIVIDUAL PASSING | P-A-Int | Yards | Pct. | Long | TDs |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|------|------|-----|
| J. Milroe, Tompkins | 94-141-2 | 1991 | 66.7 | 82 | 23 |
| C. Beltran, Seven Lakes | 99-176-7 | 1403 | 56.3 | 78 | 8 |
| J. Jensen III, Taylor | 104-198-10 | 1358 | 52.5 | 75 | 10 |
| B. McClelland, Katy | 68-120-4 | 1212 | 56.7 | 77 | 14 |
| J. Zalocha, Mayde Creek | 48-91-3 | 780 | 52.8 | 51 | 5 |
| J. Wilson, Morton Ranch | 47-84-4 | 684 | 56.0 | 45 | 6 |

| INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING | Catches | Yards | Avg. | TD | LR |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------|----|----|
| E. Johnson, Seven Lakes | 46 | 769 | 16.7 | 3 | 78 |
| G. Dougherty, Taylor | 37 | 562 | 15.2 | 3 | 75 |
| J. Gatton, Morton Ranch | 35 | 564 | 16.1 | 7 | 62 |
| J. Patrick, Katy | 32 | 641 | 20.0 | 6 | 77 |
| S. Stiles, Katy | 28 | 417 | 14.9 | 7 | 37 |
| G. Atkin, Tompkins | 23 | 652 | 28.4 | 5 | 73 |

DISTRICT 10-5A, DII

| TEAM OFFENSE | GP | Rushing | Passing | Total | Average |
|--------------------|----|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| A&M Consolidated | 10 | 1833 | 2332 | 4165 | 416.5 |
| Paetow | 10 | 2915 | 1195 | 4110 | 411.0 |
| Lamar Consolidated | 10 | 2452 | 1375 | 3827 | 382.7 |
| Rudder | 9 | 1697 | 1505 | 3202 | 355.8 |
| Montgomery | 9 | 1166 | 1940 | 3106 | 345.1 |
| Lake Creek | 10 | 1968 | 1362 | 3330 | 333.0 |
| Huntsville | 9 | 849 | 1761 | 2610 | 290.0 |
| Cleveland | 10 | 1362 | 383 | 1745 | 174.5 |

| TEAM DEFENSE | GP | Rushing | Passing | Total | Average |
|--------------------|----|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Paetow | 10 | 1062 | 1363 | 2425 | 242.5 |
| A&M Consolidated | 10 | 1331 | 1136 | 2467 | 246.7 |
| Huntsville | 9 | 918 | 1387 | 2305 | 256.1 |
| Lamar Consolidated | 10 | 1914 | 1277 | 3191 | 319.1 |
| Rudder | 9 | 1814 | 1113 | 2927 | 325.2 |
| Lake Creek | 10 | 1833 | 1518 | 3351 | 335.1 |
| Montgomery | 9 | 2210 | 1704 | 3914 | 434.9 |
| Cleveland | 10 | 2922 | 1508 | 4430 | 443.0 |

| INDIVIDUAL RUSHING | Carries | Yards | Avg. | TD | Long |
|----------------------|---------|-------|------|----|------|
| J. Jolly, Paetow | 159 | 1386 | 8.7 | 13 | 75 |
| McWilliams, Lamar C. | 133 | 1343 | 10.1 | 16 | 94 |
| D. Bankston, Paetow | 117 | 1030 | 8.8 | 9 | 78 |
| A. Johnson, Mont. | 129 | 919 | 7.1 | 10 | 75 |
| J. Ayers, Rudder | 138 | 724 | 5.3 | 8 | 55 |
| Blackmore, Lamar C. | 84 | 667 | 7.9 | 10 | 67 |

| INDIVIDUAL PASSING | P-A-Int | Yards | Pct. | Long | TDs |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|------|------|-----|
| G. Pahl, A&M Cons. | 124-202-4 | 2128 | 61.4 | 54 | 27 |
| B. Bolting, Mont. | 147-233-8 | 1920 | 63.1 | 77 | 16 |
| EJ Ezar, Rudder | 94-166-11 | 1425 | 56.6 | 69 | 13 |
| NJ Harris, Lamar Con. | 92-168-2 | 1375 | 54.8 | 80 | 17 |
| N. Gunn, Lake Creek | 96-187-10 | 1291 | 51.3 | 88 | 11 |
| C. Dumas, Paetow | 80-141-4 | 1109 | 56.7 | 64 | 22 |

| INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING | Catches | Yards | Avg. | TD | LR |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|------|----|----|
| T. Harden, Montgomery | 48 | 813 | 16.9 | 6 | 77 |
| M. Little, Montgomery | 37 | 394 | 10.7 | 2 | 66 |
| T. Carter, Huntsville | 35 | 432 | 12.3 | 7 | 68 |
| B. Linscomb, Lake Creek | 34 | 336 | 9.9 | 1 | 52 |
| N. Hambright, Huntsville | 31 | 311 | 10.0 | 1 | 46 |
| K. Lee, Rudder | 31 | 576 | 18.6 | 11 | 69 |
| J. Baker, Paetow | 30 | 496 | 16.5 | 14 | 64 |

FINAL H.S. FOOTBALL STANDINGS

DISTRICT 19-6A

| OVERALL | DISTRICT | SCORING | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------|----|---|-----|-----|
| W | L | PF | PA | | | |
| xy-Katy | 10 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 467 | 75 |
| x-Tompkins | 9 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 487 | 149 |
| x-Mayde Creek | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 280 | 221 |
| x-Taylor | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 261 | 319 |
| Morton Ranch | 5 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 228 | 222 |
| Seven Lakes | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 235 | 300 |
| Cinco Ranch | 0 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 63 | 465 |

DISTRICT 10-5A, D2

| OVERALL | DISTRICT | SCORING | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------|----|---|-----|-----|
| W | L | PF | PA | | | |
| xy-A&M Consolidated | 10 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 454 | 118 |
| x-Lamar Consolidated | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 397 | 202 |
| x-Paetow | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 426 | 183 |
| x-Huntsville | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 306 | 145 |
| Rudder | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 309 | 337 |
| Lake Creek | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 266 | 325 |
| Montgomery | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 247 | 381 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 84 | 554 |



Katy High senior Skylor Weaver (1) delivers a spike during the Class 6A regional quarterfinal playoff game against Cy-Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Wheeler Fieldhouse.

Katy falls short in regional quarters

By **STEPHEN GREENWELL**
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

SUGAR LAND — After an initial set of emotional play, Katy struggled with blocking up front and setting up its attack in a 3-1 Class 6A regional quarterfinal playoff loss (23-25, 25-22, 25-12, 25-19) to Cy-Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Wheeler Fieldhouse.

In that first set, Katy (33-15) consistently attacked with precision and power. The Tigers were led by seniors Karah Parkerson and Skylor Weaver, and sophomore Maddie Waak. Parkerson had a strike for the final point and had four kills in the set. It was a tight, back-and-forth first set, with Katy's biggest lead only as large as five points.

However, as the match wore on, Katy struggled to cover the wide attack area from the Bobcats, who also tightened up their errors. Cy-Fair (36-10) gave away nine points in the first set, but only had 13 errors total in the final three sets.

In contrast, the Bobcats' attack seemed to wear down Katy. The Tigers

had 24 errors in the final three sets and didn't pass well off of serves, leading to weak attacks from outside hitters.

Cy-Fair's athletic front line, combined with a nimble back line, dealt well with Katy's combination of strikes and tips. Senior Lauryn Bourne had 19 kills, with junior Rebekah Portalatin finishing with 15 kills and four aces.

Katy trailed in the second set from the start, falling into a 6-2 hole because of several strikes from Bourne and errors on striking attempts. However, the Tigers fought back to tie the set 17-17, and briefly took the lead 19-18 after kills from Waak and sophomore Jordan Gamble.

The comeback effort drained a lot of Katy's energy, though, and Cy-Fair recovered down the stretch. The Tigers didn't have another kill in the set, only scoring points on errors by the Panthers. Bourne and Portalatin had kills in the Bobcats' 7-3 run to finish the set.

While the Tigers fought to the end of the fourth and deciding set, the Bobcats were in front in comfortable fashion throughout. After Cy-Fair jumped out to

a 15-10 lead, the margin never got closer than three points.

For Katy, Parkerson had a bounce back game after struggling in the previous area round against a large Bellaire front line. She finished with 11 kills against the Bobcats. Weaver had a team-high 13 kills and two blocks, using conventional strikes at the net with her usual cross-court tips and taps.

Although the result wasn't what the Tigers were looking for, the future remains bright for coach Karen Paxton's team.

Waak, a LSU commit, had eight kills and three aces, thriving in her usual dual role as an outside hitter and primary setter, depending on personnel. The 6-foot-2 Gamble had more and more of the offense run through her as the season went on, and finished with eight kills against Cy-Fair.

Juniors Perris Key, Abby Sherman and Hannah Hoover all return next year, and were significant difference-makers to a team that finished as a regional quarterfinalist for the second straight season.

COUGARS

from page B1

planned to do," Wells said. "Our passing wasn't there, therefore, we couldn't do what we tried to do (on offense), what our game-plan was."

Courtley and O'Brien were stellar when they got good strikes on the ball, finishing with 12 and eight kills, respectively, but that took effort the entire night for Cinco Ranch. Struggles with receiving serves and dealing with the Ridge Point attack led to fewer opportunities for Cinco Ranch's primary outside hitters.

In the second set, Cin-

co Ranch again got into an early hole, 12-7, but this time fought back, tying the game 18-18 on a block by O'Brien. The teams traded points to 19-19, but the Cougars couldn't ever get over the hump to take a lead. Ridge Point scored six of the next seven points to take the second set, with the lone Cougars point coming on an error.

Cinco Ranch led for most of the third match, but again seemed to struggle with execution in the game's final 10 points. The Cougars held a 16-13 lead after a kill from junior Kayla Griehl, but Ridge Point scored the next four points to take the lead, on two kills each from Jeter and freshman

Sydney Jordan—a 6-foot-3 outside hitter who seems primed to take the torch from her upperclasswomen. After its 16th point, Cinco Ranch's lone kill came on a block from O'Brien.

While the season ended in disappointing fashion for a Cougars team that had legitimate aspirations of getting to the state tournament, Wells said she was proud of how the team performed this year.

Cinco Ranch, which won an undefeated District 19-6A championship this year, graduates 11 seniors, but Wells said she's still enthusiastic about the future. Juniors Griehl, Hayley Bird, Eva Fitzgerald and Brooke Hirsch all played

significant minutes this year, along with sophomore Catalina Martinez and freshman Courtney O'Brien, younger sister of Madalyn.

"They've all grown from their freshmen year to their senior year," Wells said of her seniors. "They've just matured and become leaders, and they've also done a good job of keeping the team chemistry. They've done a lot for the group and they'll be missed, but we also have some juniors on the team that are going to be great leaders too, sophomores and freshmen to add to the mix, and juniors and freshmen as well. We can build this back up. I trust that we can do that."

RAMS

from page B1

for a program that had won seven games in the previous three seasons combined.

"The playoffs have been a dream and a goal since junior high," senior offensive lineman Curtis Stripling said. "This year, we really locked into just doing our job, everybody doing their part. We understand that when that happens, good things will happen."

Rabe praises his team's "finishing mentality." He loves its never-too-high, never-too-low approach.

It was all on display during Mayde Creek's 47-27 regular-season finale win over rival Morton Ranch on Friday, Nov. 8.

Ahead 28-27 at the half after letting a 21-0 advantage slip away, the Rams dominated the Mavericks in the second half, outscoring them 19-0 and holding them to 24 total yards in eliminating Morton Ranch from playoff contention.

"The way they've handled the victories and the way they've handled defeats, as the season goes on you start to feel really comfortable with them, because it doesn't affect them one way or the other," Rabe said of his team. "They play with a workman's attitude in practice and do the same things over and over the right way. The moment is never too big for them."

There's a plethora of reasons why Mayde Creek is one of the feel-good stories in all of Texas high school football this year.

- The aforementioned culture Rabe has implemented since his first year at the helm in 2015 has been vital. Marcie Impastato, the gracious and spirited athletic secretary who is in her 10th year at Mayde Creek, said the discernible difference is togetherness. "Coach Rabe and the staff have created a culture of family," Impastato said. "We are much more cohesive. The boys really care about each other, and that's made all the difference in the world." Senior defensive lineman Victor Holdman agreed. "All the other years, we had the talent but never really played together," Holdman said. "This year we're playing as a team."

- The defense is drastically improved from years past, allowing 22.1 points on 268.5 yards per game and compiling 14 takeaways (four interceptions and 10 fumble recoveries). The

Rams rank third, statistically, in the district in defense. "They're all real fast to the ball," Huery said. "Every rep, they're going 100 percent. Everybody. There's no slacking."

- Newcomers Julius Loughridge and Donte Jones, both juniors, have been game-changers. Loughridge is the Rams' workhorse tailback with 1,323 yards and 13 touchdowns. "I love it here, man. It's fun," Loughridge said. "These guys are my boys. My teammates trust me to make the right decision every time, so I'm going to go out there and play for them." Jones is a versatile athletic talent that can play quarterback, running back and receiver. Against Morton Ranch, Loughridge rushed for 228 yards and three touchdowns. Jones threw two passes for 74 yards and two touchdowns, rushed for 144 yards and another touchdown, and caught a pass for eight yards. "They're good," Rabe said in a humorously understated fashion. "They run the ball well. They run the offense well. They're a good combination back there together."

Holdman said when the Rams beat Taylor, 16-10, on Oct. 18, he knew this season could be great. Impastato said once the team got to district play, and won games against teams like Cinco Ranch and the Mustangs, she knew things were going really well.

Rabe said he knew this season could be special because of the junior and senior classes. "This group of seniors right now did well as freshmen. The group of juniors did well as freshmen," he said. "You could see those two classes coming together, so we had a pretty good idea we could be successful."

Stripling agreed. The Rams have relied upon the experience and leadership of 15 starters and 22 lettermen that returned from last year.

"I knew we could be special since this Class of 2020 won district our seventh grade year," Stripling said. "It was just about putting all the pieces together and playing for each other this last year. Giving everything we've got."

Indeed, "we've come a long way," Huery said. "We made it happen."

"Bringing a winning atmosphere back to Mayde Creek has meant a lot," Stripling said. "The teachers this year are telling us good luck or patting us on the back. It's never been like that in the past. There's just more support, and because of that you want to work that much harder for your school."

Rams' Jones a versatile threat

By **DENNIS SILVA II**
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek junior Donte Jones has missed four games this season because of injuries and disciplinary reasons. But when he's been on the field, the 6-foot, 175 pound quarterback/receiver has been a game-changer.

If junior running back Julius Loughridge has been the thunder to Mayde Creek's potent offense, then Jones is the lightning. The newcomer has been a godsend for the Rams as a playmaker who can affect a game in multiple ways.

In six games, Jones has completed 16 of 25 passes (64 percent) for 295 yards and three touchdowns to two interceptions. He averages 11.8 yards per pass attempt, a sign of Jones' ability as a downfield passer.

Jones has also rushed 44 times for 348 yards and five touchdowns, averaging 7.9 yards per carry. He's caught seven balls for 121 yards and two touchdowns, compiling 17.3 yards per catch.

In games Jones has played, the Rams are 5-1.

"We've seen him get better week in and week out, especially as of late with his confidence and understanding of our offense," coach Mike Rabe said. "We have a lot of moving pieces with our offense, so as he starts to grasp that he gets more comfortable on the foot-



Mayde Creek junior Donte Jones runs for yards during a game Nov. 8 against Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium.

ball field. You're seeing the results."

Jones is powerful and quick. And he doesn't lack confidence.

"Anything the (defensive) end does is wrong," Jones said about what he looks to take advantage of pre-snap. "Whatever move he makes is wrong."

That's because Jones can burn a defense wherever and whenever.

"He brings everything," senior center Curtis Stripling said. "Speed, he can throw, he can run. He keeps the defense on the edge. Put him at quarterback, he can throw. Put him at receiver, he can catch. He does it all."

The Rams have plenty of offensive weapons at their disposal. Jones makes them all click.

As the maestro of Mayde Creek's run-option attack, Jones can either hand off to Loughridge on power runs, or to Daniel Huery or Eddie Harrell on jet sweeps, or keep it himself. Maybe he'll throw a quick screen pass to Huery or deliver a long bomb to L'den Skinner.

He picks apart defenses with ease.

SPORTS

KATY ISD FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW



MARK GOODMAN

Tompkins junior Marquis Shoulders and the Falcons enter the playoffs with a 9-1 record and a state championship as their goal.

Playoff journey begins for 5

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

The road to a Texas high school state football championship begins for five Katy ISD teams this week.

Out of Class 6A, Katy and Tompkins are representatives in the Division I playoff bracket. The No. 2 state-ranked and No. 8 nationally-ranked Tigers, making their 29th consecutive playoff appearance, are playing for a state-record ninth championship after going through the regular season unscathed. Tompkins is in the playoffs for the second straight year. The Falcons went to the third round last year, but they were in the Division II bracket then. A stronger field awaits in Division I.

The Class 6A-Division I Region III playoff bracket is a who's who murderer's row of elite programs in the state, like Katy, Cy-Fair, Atascocita, Ridge Point, Tompkins and defending state champion North Shore, among others.

Mayde Creek and Taylor are Class 6A-Division II reps. The Rams are in the playoffs for the first time since 2008, while Taylor is making its fifth postseason appearance in six years.

Paetow is competing in Class 5A, a playoff participant for the first time in just its second year of varsity football. The Panthers are playoff-ready, however, surviving a District 10-5A that includes regional heavyweights like A&M Consolidated, Lamar Consolidated and Huntsville.

Here are previews for each game this week.

Mayde Creek (8-2) vs. Fort Bend Bush (5-5) Thursday, Nov. 14, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Mayde Creek has its most wins in a season since 1997, when it finished with 10. ... The Rams have always been a potent offensive team. This year, the difference is defense. Mayde Creek is allowing 22.1 points on 268.9 yards per game, with 14 takeaways. The Rams average 2.0 sacks per game and have 56 quarterback hurries this season. ... Senior DL Victor Holdman averages 8.9 tackles per game and has 12 tackles for a loss to go with 3.0 sacks. Senior DE/LB Trejuan Holmes leads the Rams with five sacks. Junior DB Joseph Kinyock averages 8.4 tackles per game with two interceptions. ... Offensively, Mayde Creek is led by junior RB Julius Loughridge (1,331 yards, 13 TDs) and junior QB/WR Donte Jones. Jones has 296 passing yards for three TDs, 349 rushing yards for five TDs and 121 receiving yards for two TDs. He has scored six TDs in his last three games. ... Senior WR/RB Daniel Huery has missed the last two games because of a hamstring injury, but he is expected to play against Bush. Huery has 830 all-purpose yards this season (372 rushing, 360 receiving, 49 kick return, 49 punt return) and has five rushing TDs and two receiving TDs. ... Bush averages 17.2 points per game and gives up 17.1 points per game. ... After a 7-2 showing in 2017, Bush has gone 5-5 each of the last two seasons. ... Senior

DB Kenneth Phillips, who verbally committed to Texas A&M in July, is the Broncos' top athlete, playing mostly on defense but also some on offense. The 6-foot, 200-pounder averages 3.9 tackles with an interception and fumble caused. He also has 241 rushing yards and three TDs, averaging 5.7 yards per carry. ... Senior QB Jaden Pete has thrown for 928 yards and six TDs to four INTs, and rushed for 184 yards and four TDs. ... Sophomore RB Donovan Nixon is the Broncos' top ballcarrier with 472 yards. He averages 7.6 yards per carry and has three rushing TDs. ... Senior Bush WR Jalen Weatherpoon has seven touchdowns. ... Bush is more of a defensive-oriented team than offense-oriented, thanks to Phillips and senior cornerback Matthew Andrews, who leads the team with four interceptions.

Tompkins (8-2) vs. Fort Bend Travis (10-0) Thursday, Nov. 14, at Mercer Stadium, 7 p.m.

Tompkins' first step toward a state championship? Undeclared Travis. ... This figures to be a shootout. Tompkins averages 48.7 points on 433.4 yards per game. Travis averages 44.5 points on 409.8 yards per game. ... The key to this one is the quarterbacks. Tompkins junior and Texas commit Jalen Milroe has completed 66.7 percent of his passes for 1,991 yards and 23 TDs to two INTs. Travis senior Eric Rodriguez has completed 70.3 percent of his passes for 2,408 yards and 29 TDs to five INTs. ... The difference could be the running game. Travis averages just 163.4 yards rushing on 6.1 yards per carry. Tompkins averages 231.5 yards rushing on 7.5 yards per carry. ... The Falcons have a dynamic backfield tandem in senior RB R.J. Smith (1,041 yards, 20 TDs) and junior RB Marquis Shoulders (824, 11). ... Whereas Tompkins is a balanced offensive outfit, the Tigers are a pass-heavy unit. Senior WRs Jarrell Farr (914 yards, 12 TDs) and Parker Washington (829, 14) are electric. The passing game accounts for 60 percent of Travis' total yards. ... That will make for an interesting subplot against a talented, athletic Tompkins secondary. The Falcons allow just 90.9 passing yards per game and have nine interceptions. ... Defensively, Tompkins has the edge, allowing 14.3 points on 228 yards per game. Travis allows 23 points per game. ... Tompkins junior LB Kobe Madriz and senior DB Pryce Powell average 7.6 and 7 tackles per game, respectively. Powell also leads the team with three interceptions. ... Travis has no player averaging more than 5.2 tackles per game. But the Tigers do get to the quarterback as they average 2.4 sacks per game. Senior DL Pat Brown has six sacks. Senior DE/MLB Jared Wright and senior DE/OLB John Henderson have four apiece. ... Travis also has picked off 14 passes this season, led by senior Cam Oliver's six. Junior Cam Moore has four. ... Senior DL J'mani Gibson missed all of 2018 with injury for Travis,

but has been big this season. He averages 4.9 tackles per game, has 10 tackles for a loss, to go with three sacks and two fumble recoveries. ... For the first time in four years, Travis is playing someone other than Katy in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

Katy (10-0) vs. Ridge Point (8-2) Friday, Nov. 15, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Katy is playing Ridge Point for the first time. ... Katy is averaging 46.7 points on 443.6 yards per game. The Tigers are surrendering 7.5 points on 167.9 yards per game. ... Katy's workhorse is senior RB Ron Hoff, who has enjoyed a breakout season during his illustrious career. Hoff is averaging 21.8 carries per game and has 1,440 yards and 16 TDs. ... Katy junior QB Bronson McClelland is completing 68 of 120 passes for 1,212 yards and 14 TDs to four INTs. ... The Tigers have a pair of dynamic playmaking receivers in seniors Jordan Patrick (641 yards, six TDs) and Steven Stiles (417 yards, seven TDs). Stiles has three touchdowns in his last two games. ... Katy has 21 takeaways this season: 13 interceptions and eight fumble recoveries. Senior CB Bryan Massey leads the team with three interceptions. Junior CB Hunter Washington has two pick-6s. Sophomore LB Ty Kana leads the team in total tackles and tackles for loss with 72 and nine, respectively, and junior LB Shepherd Bowling leads Katy in sacks with six. ... The Tigers' defense has shutouts in its last four games, and has five in all this season. ... Ridge Point averages 37.4 points per game and gives up 17.7. ... Thirty-one of the Panthers' 45 touchdowns have come via the run. Senior Marcus Wright leads Ridge Point with 102.4 rushing yards per game and 10 TDs. He averages 7.5 yards per carry. ... Junior John Paul Richardson is a do-it-all threat for the Panthers' offense. He has six rushing TDs and four receiving TDs. ... Senior QB Will Pendergrass averages 115.1 passing

ON THE GRID: WEEKLY FEATURE SPOTLIGHT



ALLEN SCARROW

Paetow senior DJ Mourning holds up the ball after recovering a fumble during a game against Northbrook on Sept. 6 at Tully Stadium.

Mourning thriving with playoff-bound Panthers

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Derick "DJ" Mourning thought he'd be finishing his high school football career this season at Morton Ranch High. But on Nov. 5, 2018, the Monday prior to the final game of Paetow's inaugural season of varsity football, Mourning and his parents were in Paetow coach B.J. Gotte's office, discussing a transfer. "There was family stuff going on," Mourning said. "My mom thought it was a good decision for me to come here. She'd heard good things about this school from some of my past friends that came over here."

Mourning preferred to finish his high school career where it started, at Morton Ranch. Gotte understood that. So, with the understanding that Mourning could not dress out or play that final game of the season later that week, Gotte offered Mourning a chance to practice with the scout team so Mourning could see how things were, how they could be.

"One of the things that stood out to me was how he worked that week," Gotte said. "You could tell he had a lot on his plate personally, and he didn't expect himself to be here. He knows he's not going to play, yet he's working extremely hard to make us better. That's when I knew he had a unique trait about him and a passion for the game that goes beyond what a lot of kids his age has."

Mourning stayed. It turned out to be a rewarding decision for both parties.

For Paetow, Mourning is the dominant leader of one of the top defenses in Class 5A-Division II this season, providing an identity for a storybook 8-2 season that has resulted in the program's first playoff berth. For Mourning, the Panthers' coaching and scheming have awarded a career-best season.

The 6-foot-3, 215-pound

outside linebacker/defensive end is averaging 6.5 tackles per game with seven sacks, one interception, three fumble recoveries, one fumble caused and eight tackles for a loss. Gotte said Mourning is refreshing, a "football nut who lives in the fieldhouse."

"It's really shocking," Mourning said. "I always expected myself to be somewhere else and things going differently. But everything happens for a reason. I'm glad I ended up here."

Physically, Mourning is a daunting individual, big and athletic. Mourning said he prides himself on pass-rushing; he leads the team with 15 quarterback hurries. Gotte said Mourning has an innate ability to play so low to the ground in spite of his size.

But it's Mourning's knowledge and passion of the game that are remarkable.

Gotte, who was the offensive coordinator at Katy High from 2012-2016 before taking over Paetow in January 2017, said Mourning is "one of the best defensive players I've been around as a coach." He mentions Mourning in the same sentence as former Katy High linebacking great JoVanni Stewart, who went on to a playing career at West Virginia.

Gotte vividly remembers being in awe when watching Mourning as a scout team player last season.

"He came off the edge and used his hands on one of our offensive tackles, and it was a speed our guys didn't even know existed," Gotte said. "I'm watching our tight end, and he goes up against DJ and DJ comes off the edge, chops and goes right by him. I told our guy, 'Yeah, that's what a real defensive end looks like.'"

After the play was done, Mourning went over to the tight end to advise him where to put his hands next time to make it more difficult on the pass-rusher.

"That right there was, like, this dude is different," Gotte said. "Not only does

he have the ability, but he understands why and how and he was a good enough teammate to tell the offensive guy what he needs to do to get better."

Mourning is playing in the same 3-4 defensive scheme as he played in at Morton Ranch. At Paetow, he said, he has more opportunities to rush the passer, as more blitz packages have been implemented to accommodate him.

But Mourning's more substantial progress has come as a leader. The Panthers are a young team; this roster consists of seniors for the first time. Because of that, Mourning has embraced his role as a veteran elder statesman.

"Before, I would pour a bit, I'd carry myself differently," Mourning said. "Coming here, and being around a younger team, I knew I couldn't do that anymore, so I matured a lot from a leadership role. It's been good. These young guys have really come a long way."

Mourning said the Panthers' seniors don't have the luxury of having looked up to a previous senior class to know how and why things work, or why things are done the way they are.

"They haven't seen the hurt of a high school career ending," Mourning points out. "It's hard, but it's something that can't be understood until you see it and go through it."

So Mourning said he has a sense of responsibility to delay that feeling for as long as possible. Gotte said he can see it, as Mourning's already-laser-like focus has tightened more so now that the postseason is here.

"We have to give everything we have now, especially a guy like me who's a senior," Mourning said. "It's weird when you think that everything you're doing at this point of the season could be your last. These days could be my last padded practices of high school ... it's just weird. So I'm trying to not take anything for granted."

See PREVIEW, page B8

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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INSIDE THE TIGERS NOTEBOOK

Katy-Ridge Point meet up for 1st time

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy and Ridge Point are playing each other for the first time. It just so happens it comes with the season on the line.

The 10-0 Tigers and 8-2 Panthers meet Friday, Nov. 15, in their Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game at Legacy Stadium at 6:30 p.m. After facing Fort Bend Travis in the bi-district round each of the last three years, Katy gets a new face in Ridge Point from Missouri City.

"We knew what to expect from Travis. We knew what their schemes were based on," coach Gary Joseph said. "This is like preparing for a non-district game against somebody you've never played against. The stakes are higher, but this is what the playoffs are about. Our kids are going into uncharted waters, playing people they haven't played before."

If Katy gets by Ridge Point, it will likely match up with Cy-Fair in the area round next week. The Tigers haven't faced the Bobcats since 2010, so these first couple weeks of the postseason bring forth fresh names.

"It's part of the playoffs," Joseph said. "You generally don't have tendencies on people. You don't know how they're going to attack you. That's what makes preparation different for the playoffs. Our kids know a couple of the kids over there (at Ridge Point), but they really don't know that much about them."

Ridge Point has an impressive tradition of success since its first year of varsity football in 2011.

The Panthers made it to the Class 5A state championship game in 2015, losing to Cedar Park. They moved up to Class 6A in 2016, and since then have produced an overall record of 38-7.

"They play with a lot of confidence. They don't beat themselves," Joseph said. "(Junior receiver/cornerback) John Paul Richardson has several Division I offers. The kid No. 44 (senior running back Marcus Wright) runs a lot like our backs, hard and downhill.

"The thing I see that is the difference in their team and past Travis teams is they're probably a little more physical and better up front on both sides."



Katy sophomore Bobby Taylor almost collects an interception during a game Nov. 7 against Taylor at Legacy Stadium.

MARK GOODMAN

Ridge Point's only defeats this season have come to North Shore and Travis. The Panthers lost to North Shore, 38-7, and to Travis, 27-23.

Joseph said he feels this year's Katy team has a good opportunity in the playoffs.

"This group, I'm hoping, is different (than years past) in the confidence which they play with," he said. "It's a journey. There's nothing guaranteed past one game. Everything matters right now. That's a mindset they have to have, and they'll grow into it."

Shurtz a 'good weapon'

Joseph has been satisfied with the kicking game this season, particularly junior punter Fuller Shurtz.

Shurtz has punted 10 times this season, averaging 45.2 yards per punt. His performance will be all the more critical now in the

playoffs, which becomes more of a game of field position.

Shurtz has also done an admirable job kicking off, forcing opponents to start drives from their own 25-yard line more often than not.

"Fuller has done a good job all year long," Joseph said. "He's a weapon that you don't really know how good it is until you don't have one. He's done a really good job kicking off, too. That's helped immensely. There's a big difference between (teams) starting on the 40-yard line or the 25-yard line. I've been impressed with the job he's done there."

Joseph said Shurtz has strong leg power and good technique, which he credits to Shurtz's work ethic.

"He's very conscientious about it," Joseph said. "He'll come up here (to campus) and work on his own. Him and Coach (JD) Williams work together, and then

I see him up here in the evenings and at night on his own.

"That's just a kid who really wants to do well."

Taylor finding his way

In transferring to Katy from Houston Heights over the summer, sophomore defensive back Bobby Taylor came in as a highly-recruited prospect.

But the 6-foot-1, 170-pounder is still working to make a significant impact full-time for the Tigers.

Taylor has played primarily as a backup cornerback, totaling four tackles with three broken-up passes. He scored his first touchdown as a Tiger during last week's 57-0 win against Taylor when he took a punt return 72 yards to the end zone.

"He's not where he's going to be yet, but it's a maturity thing. It's growing up," Joseph said. "It's understanding the difference in

expectations of things. You can see the talent's there. He's just got to refine the talent."

Taylor did not go through spring training with Katy as he was a late-summer transfer. He has had to be baptized into the ways of the program during the regular season.

Joseph said there will be an emphasis to get Taylor stronger during the offseason. He praised Taylor for playing well whenever injuries have occurred to the starting secondary.

"It comes down to understanding what we're doing, and a big part of that is experience," Joseph said. "But he's still just a sophomore. The technique and fundamentals of what he's been taught is completely different from what we're teaching. It's about understanding schemes, understanding leverage, understanding physicality, understanding the calls we make based on releases or how they line up. It comes down to repetition more than anything else."

KATY TIGERS SEASON STATS

TEAM OFFENSE

| | GP | Rushing | Passing | Total | Average |
|------|----|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Katy | 10 | 2876 | 1560 | 4436 | 443.6 |

TEAM DEFENSE

| | GP | Rushing | Passing | Total | Average |
|------|----|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Katy | 10 | 406 | 1273 | 1679 | 167.9 |

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

| | Carries | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|------|----|
| Ron Hoff, sr. | 218 | 1440 | 6.6 | 16 |
| Jalen Davis, jr. | 76 | 584 | 7.7 | 9 |
| Sherman Smith, jr. | 55 | 409 | 7.4 | 5 |
| Bronson McClelland, jr. | 31 | 128 | 4.1 | 5 |

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

| | P-A-Int | Yards | Pct. | TDs |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|------|-----|
| Bronson McClelland, jr. | 68-120-4 | 1212 | 56.7 | 14 |
| Jacob Bernard, sr. | 25-34-1 | 320 | 73.5 | 4 |
| Bryce Nirider, so. | 4-14-1 | 44 | 28.5 | 1 |

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

| | Catches | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|----------------------|---------|-------|------|----|
| Jordan Patrick, sr. | 32 | 641 | 20.0 | 6 |
| Steven Stiles, sr. | 28 | 417 | 14.9 | 7 |
| Dylan George, sr. | 10 | 104 | 10.4 | 1 |
| Matthew Stanley, sr. | 7 | 125 | 17.9 | 1 |

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

| | Solo | Ast. | TACKLES | | | Sacks |
|----------------------|------|------|---------|-----|---|-------|
| | | | Total | TFL | | |
| Ty Kana, so. | 39 | 33 | 72 | 9 | 1 | |
| Dalton Johnson, jr. | 29 | 25 | 54 | 1 | 0 | |
| Jaylen Phillips, sr. | 25 | 19 | 44 | 7 | 5 | |
| Hagen Losa, sr. | 21 | 21 | 42 | 7 | 2 | |
| Shepherd Bowling, jr | 19 | 20 | 39 | 9 | 6 | |
| Bryan Massey, sr. | 22 | 13 | 35 | 3 | 0 | |
| Cohen Dearman, jr. | 14 | 14 | 28 | 7 | 5 | |
| Timothy Nugent, sr. | 6 | 18 | 24 | 5 | 0 | |
| Daylin Johnson, sr. | 12 | 10 | 22 | 1 | 0 | |
| Malick Sylla, so. | 11 | 8 | 19 | 7 | 4 | |

INDIVIDUAL KICKING

| | XPM | TACKLES | | | PUNTING | |
|--------------------|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|
| | | XPA | FGM | FGA | Att. | Yds |
| Nemanja Ladic, jr. | 53 | 54 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Fuller Shurtz, jr. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 452 |

KATY

from page B1

Everyone does what they're supposed to do. That's how it is. If each individual does what they're supposed to do, then as a team we'll win."

This Katy defense is powerful in all phases, a stark contrast to defenses of the last couple of years when inconsistency and tackling woes were causes for concern.

It starts up front, which has been a pleasant surprise for Katy.

Dearman (five sacks, seven tackles for a loss), seniors Jayden Holcomb (three sacks) and Timothy Nugent (five tackles for a loss), and sophomore Malick Sylla (four sacks, seven tackles for a loss, two fumbles caused) have consistently been able to intrude opposing backfields. That allows the linebackers and secondary to cover.

"That pass rush is something else, way better than last year," senior defensive back Daylin Johnson said. "They're getting to the quarterback faster. Because of them, we have better opportunities to make plays on the ball."

The linebackers—Phillips, senior Hagen Losa, junior Shepherd Bowling and sophomore Ty Kana—are playmaking dynamos, as sharp dropping back in coverage as they are rushing the quarterback. Kana leads the team in total tackles with 72. Bowling leads the team in sacks with six. Phillips and Losa have combined for 14 tackles for a loss and seven sacks.

The secondary is a precocious, physically gifted bunch that continues to get better each week with more and more reps. Juniors Dalton Johnson (two interceptions) and Hunter Washington (two interceptions



Katy sophomore linebacker Ty Kana (42) and senior linebacker Hagen Losa (33) make the stop on Taylor running back Casey Shorter (22) during their game Nov. 7 at Legacy Stadium.

MARK GOODMAN

returned for touchdowns), and senior Bryan Massey (three interceptions, two fumbles caused) are natural ball hawks, and depth has been established with Daylin Johnson, senior DQ Dawson and sophomore Bobby Taylor.

More significant than all of that, however, is the intangible "buy-in." Massey said while last year's seniors were as committed as this year's, the difference is that the underclassmen are more bought in and focused.

"We play for each other," Phillips said. "That's what we're doing, and that's what Katy is built upon. Playing for the brother beside you each and every down."

The awakening for the defense was the Oct. 3 35-30 win over Tompkins. The Tigers gave up 471 total yards as the defense played on its heels during most of the second half.

The Tigers' defense played irresponsibly, trying too hard to make the big play and win one-on-one matchups. Since then, coach Gary Joseph said the defense is playing better as a team. Phillips said they went back to the basics during practices—run hard to the football, tackle and

wrap up, and play fast.

"It showed us where we were, and where we needed to be," Massey said of the Tompkins game. "We should have played better in that game than in any game we've played. Our focus in practice is better. There's no more joking around. No more fun. It's a much better commitment to practice."

Daylin Johnson said the recipe for success since the Tompkins eye-opener has been simple.

"We read our keys and we do what we're coached to do," he said. "When we do that, we can have a lot of success."

Joseph has confidence his defense will continue to make plays against what figures to be a nightmarish gauntlet through a ridiculously competitive Class 6A Division I playoff bracket.

"We're fixing to play some really good people," Joseph said. "I saw somewhere where we're going to have to play five of the top 10 teams in the state to win the whole thing. Nobody does that. But that's fine. That's the path we have. The only thing we can worry about is the next one. It'll be a long haul, but I know we're up for it."



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2019-20 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

To submit scores, news or
schedules, email dennis.
silva@katytimes.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

CLASS 6A AREA VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

- Katy 3, Bellaire 1
- Cy-Fair 3, Seven Lakes 0

FOOTBALL

- Katy 57, Taylor 0

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

CLASS 6A AREA VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

- Cinco Ranch 3, Memorial 0

FOOTBALL

- Mayde Creek 47, Morton Ranch 27
- Seven Lakes 52, Cinco Ranch 13
- Lamar Consolidated 37, Paetow 21

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Morton Ranch 58, Fort Bend Elkins 46
- Oak Ridge 55, Taylor 51
- Cypress Ridge 63, Mayde Creek 19
- Clear Falls 50, Cinco Ranch 47
- Foster 45, Seven Lakes 35
- Dickinson 44, Katy 23
- Klein Cain 53, Paetow 34

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

CLASS 6A REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

- Cy-Fair 3, Katy 1
- Ridge Point 3, Cinco Ranch 0

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Katy 52, Kempner 33
- Taylor 59, Fort Bend Elkins 33
- Cinco Ranch 54, Fort Bend Bush 49
- Tompkins 81, Cy-Falls 23
- Cy Ranch 55, Seven Lakes 37
- Hastings 64, Morton Ranch 41
- Paetow def. Willis

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Mayde Creek vs. Fort Bend Bush, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Fort Bend Travis, at Mercer Stadium, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Katy at Spring Branch Tournament
- Seven Lakes at Peggy Whitley Classic, at Clear Creek High

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Katy vs. Ridge Point, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Class 5A Bi-District Football Playoffs
- Paetow at Whitehouse, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Cy Creek at Tompkins, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Fort Bend Marshall, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at College Station, 6:30 p.m.
- Katy at Spring Branch Tournament
- Seven Lakes at Peggy Whitley Classic, at Clear Creek High

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Houston Westbury at Katy, 7 p.m.
- Aldine Davis at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Alief Taylor at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Aldine at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.

Katy's 'D' starring as playoffs arrive

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy finished its undefeated regular season like it started: with a dominant defensive performance that brings to mind explosive Tiger defenses of the past.

The Tigers held Taylor to 212 total yards and compiled six takeaways in a 57-0 regular-season finale win at Legacy Stadium on Thursday, Nov. 7, that clinched their 11th consecutive undefeated district title.

No. 2 state-ranked and No. 8 nationally-ranked Katy (10-0 overall) had four interceptions and two fumble recoveries as Taylor had turnovers on 35.3 percent of its possessions.

"Anytime you make a team turn the ball over in a football

game, you feel like you should win," senior linebacker Jaylen Phillips said. "We still need to clean up on some stuff, but it was a good night for us."

It was the fourth consecutive shutout for Katy's defense, and its fifth of the season. The six takeaways were a season high for the Tigers; this season, Katy has 21 total: 13 interceptions and eight fumble recoveries.

The Tigers are allowing 7.5 points on 167.9 yards per game heading into Friday's Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game against Ridge Point at 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium.

"Everyone does their job," junior defensive lineman Cohen Dearman said. "Everyone fits what they're supposed to do.



MARK GOODMAN

Katy junior linebacker Shepherd Bowling (25) and junior defensive lineman Cohen Dearman (94) get the sack on Taylor quarterback J Jensen III (11) during their game Nov. 7 at Legacy Stadium.

See **KATY**, page B2

RAMS ARE IN!

Mayde Creek's best season since 1997 produces 1st playoff berth since 2008

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

When Mayde Creek running back/receiver Daniel Huery and his Class of 2020 peers stepped into the football fieldhouse as freshmen in August 2016, they were quickly introduced to a demanding, no-nonsense culture that coach Mike Rabe had initiated just a year earlier.

"With the summer programs and workouts, we had to show up early in the mornings," Huery said. "The workouts were tough, hard. Coach made sure nobody quit. Nobody slacked off. He made us hold each other accountable. He made sure we understand our responsibilities.

"Every time we go out on the field now, we're playing for each other. We're playing for all the hard work we've put in."

Little did Huery and his teammates know that that was the start of something special, an exhaustive grind of a tenuous process, full of losing season after losing season, that has culminated in an epic season so far.

Mayde Creek is in the playoffs for the first time since 2008, courtesy of an 8-2 regular season that produced the program's most wins since 1997, and hosts a playoff game Thursday, Nov. 14, versus Fort Bend Bush (5-5) at 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Stadium.

It's quite a climb

See **RAMS**, page B3



MARK GOODMAN

Mayde Creek junior running back Julius Loughridge (15) celebrates his touchdown with senior Daniel Huery (2) during the Rams' 47-27 win over Morton Ranch on Nov. 8 at Legacy Stadium that capped an 8-2 regular season.

Cinco Ranch ousted in sweep to Ridge Point

By STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

SUGAR LAND — It was a disappointing season finale for Cinco Ranch, as the Cougars were swept for only the second time this season in their Class 6A regional quarterfinal playoff game against Ridge Point on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Wheeler Fieldhouse.

Cinco Ranch lost 25-14, 25-20, 25-19, and was defeated for just the seventh time in 42 games this year.

The Cougars held the lead for most of the third set and some of the second set, but ultimately struggled to execute well on offense. Cinco Ranch had 11 errors in the first set and seven errors in the third set. Even the close margin in the second set

was aided by eight points from Ridge Point errors.

As usual, the Panthers (45-4) were led by their pair of Division I commits in seniors Reagan Rutherford and Claire Jeter. The Kentucky and Texas A&M recruits, respectively, combined for 25 kills and five blocks.

In contrast, the Cougars came out flat. Cinco Ranch got into a 7-3 hole early, forcing coach Danielle Wells to call an early timeout. The Cougars fought back to an 8-7 score after a pair of Ridge Point errors and kills by seniors Madalyn O'Brien and Danyle Courtley. However, the Panthers scored the next seven points and cruised to a 25-14 victory in the first set.

"We just didn't do what we

See **COUGARS**, page B2



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK GOODMAN

Cinco Ranch senior Danyle Courtley goes up for the spike during a Class 6A regional quarterfinal playoff game against Ridge Point on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Wheeler Fieldhouse.

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Three candidates file for TX House District 132 election

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

Incumbent Gina Calanni (D-Katy), her predecessor, Republican Mike Schofield of Katy and Republican Angelica Garcia, also of Katy, have filed to be on the ballot for Texas House District 132. The District includes the portions of Harris County in the Katy area and extends north, toward Cypress.

"Over the next year, we will listen to Texans' concerns, reach out to voters and knock on doors across the district to ensure Texas families in House District 132 continue to have real representation in Austin," Calanni said in a Nov. 12 press release.

Calanni, an author and finance director for a small business, won the 2018 election when she went against Schofield, who was



GINA CALANNI



ANGELICA GARCIA



MIKE SCHOFIELD

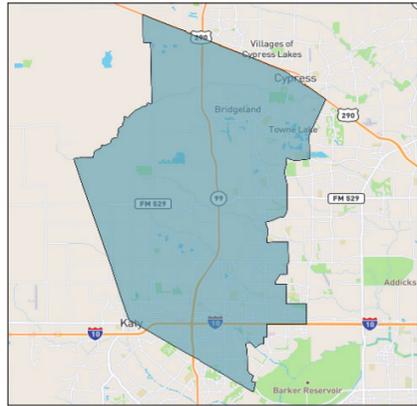
the incumbent at the time. Schofield, an attorney, served in the 2015 and 2017 legislative sessions. Garcia is a newcomer to the District 132 race and owner of AIM Global Logistics which she founded.

"This country has given so much to me and I want to give back to those who have supported me, protect our God-given free-

dom and to be a voice in Austin for those who need help now," Garcia said in a press release announcing her candidacy.

Schofield's campaign said he has already been out walking blocks to try to meet as many residents of House District 132 as possible to let them know what his priorities will be if he is again elected to the Texas House.

"My experience allows for me to hit the ground running on day one to fight for the conservative priorities of our district, including lowering property taxes," Schofield said via press release.



SOURCE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Planned development district moved to City Council

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

At its regular meeting Tuesday evening, the City of Katy City Planning and Zoning Commission voted six to three in favor of moving forward a plan for the 25K Morton Park and Silver Oaks Estates planned development district. The development proposed by JPSPS Development, L.P., if approved by city council on Dec. 9, would be situated in the northwest corner of Morton and Katy Hockley Cut Off roads.

Heritage Park West Subdivision residents living directly to the north of the proposed development voiced concerns about the development including drainage, easements, proximity of commercial portions of the development, a possible homeowners association and the development's impact on their property taxes.

"One of my concerns is what the price point for the houses are going to be proposed to be in that neighborhood. What are we looking at? How many houses are we looking at," said Heritage Park West resident Carolyn Easley during the open comments portion of the meeting.

Property values in the develop-



R. HANS MILLER

The 25K Morton Ranch and Silver Oaks Estates planned development district – commonly referred to as a PDD – will begin development in this lot sometime during 2020 if approved by Katy City Council Dec. 9.

ment are expected to be \$300,000 or more, said Matt Stoops of LJA Engineering, a firm helping with the development plan for the project. Stoops presented plans for the proposed 34.86-acre develop-

ment. The presentation included about 11 acres of commercial property near the intersection of Morton and Katy Hockley Cut Off roads, about 16 acres of residential development, roughly 5 acres of

recreational space and four and a half acres of detention ponds.

Use of the commercial portion will be subject to city restrictions, Stoops said. Tattoo shops, smoke shops, vape and CBD vendors, self-storage facilities, vehicle dealerships and liquor stores will not be permitted. Authorized use includes medical, fitness, shopping, convenience stores, pharmacies, restaurants, daycare centers and gas stations, though Stoop said his client intended to avoid a fuel station. Commercial buildings will be 40 feet in height or less, according to the presented plan.

Initial plans for construction of single-family residential lots in the district call for a minimum lot size of 9,660 square feet – or a lot measuring about 84 feet wide by 115 feet deep as an example of possible measurements. Initial plans call for 58 residential lots in the development. Each home is slated to have a two-car driveway, sidewalks along street-facing front lawns and wood or precast concrete fencing depending on where the home is located in the development.

Flood mitigation assets in the plan include two detention ponds that will drain to the east along Morton Road. Steve Wilcox

of Costello Engineering, the firm retained by the city to coordinate a comprehensive drainage plan for the city and to coordinate with the Harris County Flood Control District and other relevant entities, said that JSPS and LJA had gone to significant efforts to ensure the drainage plan for the site met all city and county requirements.

"The Harris County Flood Control District has a drainage master plan and that master plan had very specific flow rates at certain points from the area that is generally north and west of Katy Hockley [Cut Off] and Morton Road," Wilcox said. "We helped work with the different parties... and determined who got how much of that flow rate."

The three dissenting commissioners wanted to recommend additional sidewalks and the elimination of some of the commercial area in favor of residential space within the plan.

Prior to construction, there are still several steps in the planning process, Stoops said. While the initial plan has been recommended for approval to the Katy City Council, the council will still need to approve it at its Dec. 9 meeting. Additional plats and surveys will also need to be done.

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HHS official to run FDA on temporary basis

By LAURIE MCGINLEY
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Donald Trump announced his intention Friday to nominate Stephen Hahn, the chief medical officer of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, as the next commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

But in a surprise move, acting FDA Commissioner Norman "Ned" Sharpless, will immediately return to his previous position as the director of the National Cancer Institute, and Brett Giroir, a top official at the Department of Health

and Human Services, will oversee the FDA until Hahn is confirmed, according to individuals who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues.

Sharpless has been acting commissioner since April, when the previous commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, stepped down. However, Sharpless' term as acting agency head expires Friday. His time at FDA could be extended only if the White House officially nominated a successor, which it cannot do because Hahn's paperwork isn't finished, according to people familiar with the situation.

Hahn, a radiation and medical oncologist, oversees clinical care at the cancer center. Previously, he served as chief operating officer of the hospital, and he has been praised for helping engineer its financial turnaround.

Hahn's nomination is occurring at a critical time for the agency, which is at the center of a debate about banning almost all flavors of e-cigarettes, a step designed to stem sharp increases in youth vaping. Trump announced plans for the ban in September, but the agency has not yet issued its final policy.

In September, officials said the ban would include mint and menthol, but recently two people familiar with the discussions said the White House is considering excluding menthol and possibly mint from the ban because of concerns about political backlash.

A medical and radiation oncologist, Hahn is described by friends and colleagues as an energetic consensus-builder with a disarming, folksy manner.

Hahn, after a stint at NCI, joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1996, serving as chair of radiation oncology from 2005

to 2014. He then moved to MD Anderson to become division head of radiation oncology. He has conducted an array of clinical trials, including trials of treating prostate cancer with proton therapy and new ways to combine immunotherapy and radiation.

Sharpless, an oncologist who also was a contender for the FDA job on a permanent basis, had strong support from medical and other groups. In September, the groups and several previous FDA commissioners released letters endorsing him for the position.



R. HANS MILLER



BOND

from page A1

chief engineer of the Fort Bend Drainage District. With that project completed, funding will be directed toward other projects, he said.

"[We're] also looking at the erosion along Willow Fork from where the Cane Island [branch] hits it all the way down to the Grand Parkway," Vogler said. "All of those are eroded areas and [the Natural Resource Conservation Service] is putting up about \$42 million in those projects, and so we at the county have to put in about \$4.2 million to cover our share of it, and that's what this bond money was for with that."

Additional funding may be possible through federal and state dollars under the control of the

Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Meyers said. TDEM is processing Fort Bend County's grant applications in a competitive process, and Meyers said he was unsure if the amount of funding available would be sufficient for all of the grant applications across the state to receive funding.

"We're anxiously awaiting a decision from the Texas Department of Emergency Management which is reviewing our [flood mitigation grant] applications to get back with their evaluation of whether our applications are going to qualify for funding," Meyers said.

If TDEM funding is not approved, Meyers said the county will examine other sources of supplemental funding such as special districts whose roles include drainage and flood mitigation.

Voters approved the measure with 69.14 percent of the 65,260 county voters who went to the polls voting in favor.

The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court had considered mobility and facilities bonds but settled on a flood mitigation-oriented bond after receiving public feedback, Meyers said. Feedback indicated to the commissioners that county residents saw flood mitigation as the top priority for Fort Bend County.

"The community really deserves credit for that," Meyers said. "[The county] sent surveys asking the community what their priorities were between facilities, flood mitigation and mobility. It was based on our community input that we were then able to change from facilities bonds to flood mitigation bonds."

MILLER

from page A1

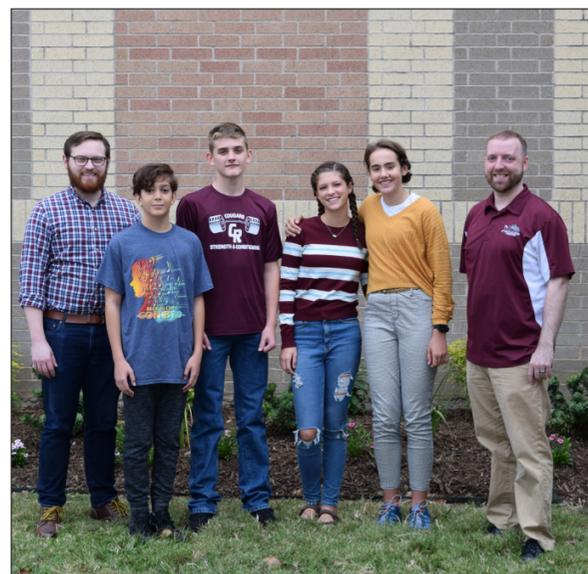
to giving this community my best effort and acting with integrity as I work with an amazing team to make this paper the community paper that residents rallied behind when it was announced the Times might stop the presses. We're here to stay. We're here to keep you in-the-know. We're here to make sure the community served by this paper is knowledgeable and thriving.

You can generally find me out in the community reporting, playing games at local hobby shops in the heart of downtown, eating pho at Katy Asian Dune, watching movies or playing Dungeons and Dragons or board games with friends at home. I also enjoy catching heavy metal or classic rock concerts whenever I can.

I am a veteran of the United States Army, having served in a variety of posts between 1994 and 2000. I am a husband of an amazing wife, Brandee Miller, and one brilliant 17-year-old son, William Lowery. I graduated with honors from Texas State University with a degree in Journalism

and a minor in History. I minored in History because I feel that a journalist should know the background of the things he or she reports on, and that love of history shows me that the heritage of a community like Katy - with its more-than-a-century-old newspaper - is important. I'm here to help the community preserve that legacy and move into the future in a well-informed way.

I can't do it without your help though. Tell me what's going on in your piece of the Katy community. Shoot an email to news@katytimes.com and let me know what's happening. I'm here for you.



R. HANS MILLER

CHOIR

from page A1

accompanying adults attended the School Days event this year. Festival representatives said 162 choirs representing elementary, junior high and high schools participated in the competition.

"I thought it was going to be smaller," said eighth-grade Con Brio member Massimo Brocchini. "I saw so many choirs before us and I thought they were doing amazing. I just thought it was a great competition to be in."

Palombo and Associate Choir Director Kody Pisney said they were proud of students' efforts to master the two pieces prior to the competition. The choir normally rehearses just twice a week, and the a cappella songs were complicated. The group had a short turnaround time to learn the material, just a few weeks.

"Usually we call for two rehearsals a week," Pisney said. "As we got closer to the actual day of the performance, we started calling for a couple more rehearsals at the end of the day during our advisory period and additional rehearsals in the mornings throughout the week."

The competition was scored on overall quality, presentation, posture and accuracy of the notes sung, Palombo said. Students were asked to put in extra work, including a tour of the school, singing for different teachers in order to get extra practice. Students were ecstatic that their extra effort paid off.

"I was really happy and grateful that we won. I think there were so many choirs that were good and deserved it but it all just came together and we did better," said seventh-grade Con Brio member John Kaluza.

Students had to fit a wide variety of activities into their schedules in addition to added

rehearsals. Sports schedules including cross country and football had to be maneuvered around, students said. Palombo, Pisney and the students all expressed their appreciation for the Athletics Department's support for Con Brio's expanded rehearsal schedule.

Beck Junior High School Principal Carra Daniels said the faculty and staff were happy to be able to support the arts at the school. Coaches volunteered to drive the bus to the event, teachers chaperoned and parents volunteered to join the students on their trip to Todd Mission, she said. Daniels said the entirety of Katy ISD is extremely supportive of fine arts in classrooms, including when Palombo asked to form Con Brio about 5 years ago.

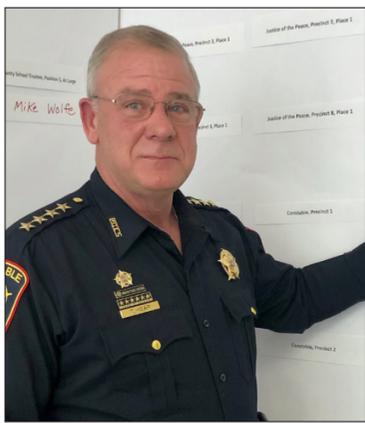
"[Mr. Palombo] came to me with the idea of Con Brio and I didn't know they had honor choirs at the junior high level," Daniels said. "There are honor choirs at the high school level, and I said, 'Yes. Let's try it. Let's do it. Let's go for it.'"

That support has helped children at Beck explore their passion for music, Palombo and Pisney said. Con Brio is a musical term that means "with passion and vigor" and the students, some of whom plan to continue with some form of honors choir when they go to Cinco Ranch High School over the next couple of years, were rewarded for their passion and vigor for music with a first-place award and a continuing love for music.

"In a way, singing kind of provides a relief for me in the same way someone can be relieved by a book. You can go anywhere kind of," said Ella Hill, an eighth-grade Con Brio singer. "There's just so many things you can do. There's so many different tones of music. You can't say you don't like music. It's like saying you don't like to eat."

"In a way, singing kind of provides a relief for me in the same way someone can be relieved by a book. You can go anywhere kind of. There's just so many things you can do. There's so many different tones of music. You can't say you don't like music. It's like saying you don't like to eat."

— ELLA HILL, AN EIGHTH-GRADE CON BRIO SINGER



COURTESY TED HEAP

Harris County Constable for Precinct 5, Ted Heap, has filed to run for a second term. Heap was sworn in as constable in January 2017.

Heap files for second term

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

Harris County Constable Ted Heap filed for reelection Nov. 9 to serve the county's fifth precinct, which includes the Harris County portion of the Katy area. Heap originally took office in January 2017.

"When I took office on Jan. 1, 2017, I promised to work to professionalize Precinct 5, increase officer training and give the men and women of this department every tool they needed to serve the constituents and families we are charged with protecting," Heap said in a press release.

Heap will be on the ballot in the March primary election as a Republican, according to the release.

According to the release, Heap has 35 years of law enforcement experience - all of which has been served in Harris County according to the release.

During his first term, Harris has worked to improve officer recruitment and increase community outreach through programs such as RAD self defense training and Citizens Police Academy. He has also worked in partnership with other law enforcement leaders to launch an animal cruelty prevention program.

"Programs to enhance the safety of seniors, women and families have also been a top priority," Heap said.

Texas income tax harder to implement

By R. HANS MILLER
FOR THE KATY TIMES

Texas voters passed a state constitutional amendment on Nov. 5 which bans the state legislature from implementing an income tax in Texas. The bill that got the measure on the ballot was originally authored by Katy resident and former Texas House District 132 representative, Mike Schofield.

"To see three-fourths of Texas voters vote for the proposition is highly gratifying and shows that we were in touch with what real Texans want for themselves and for their families," Schofield said in a Nov. 6 press release.

Texas voters passed the measure with 74.41 percent of voters casting ballots in favor of Proposition 4. Slightly more than a quarter of voters, 25.59

percent, cast ballots against the measure.

The amendment does not permanently ban a statewide income tax; however, it does make it more difficult for an income tax to be implemented. Prior to the amendment's passage, a simple majority vote in both the Texas House of Representatives and Senate would have allowed an income tax to be placed on a statewide ballot. After the amendment's passage, a new amendment to the state constitution will have to be proposed with a two-thirds majority approval in both legislative branches and subsequent approval by Texas voters before a state income tax could be instituted.

While a majority of voters were in favor of Proposition 4, educators expressed concern

regarding the measure. In an Oct. 14 statement, the Texas State Teachers Association formally opposed the amendment because it eliminated a measure approved in 1993 that required two-thirds of any state revenue from a possible income tax be put toward education.

"Proposition 4 will not prohibit a future Legislature from approving an income tax on a two-thirds vote and spending the revenue however lawmakers wish," TSTA President Noel Candelaria said.

The income tax ban is at least one thing that Schofield and his successor, State Representative Gina Calanni (D - Katy) agree upon.

"During the 86th Session, I voted to support putting the income tax ban on the ballot. In November, Texans spoke loud

and clear, and voted to end any possibility that such a tax will be imposed," Calanni said via email.

Schofield said that he had authored the original bill in 2016 for the 2017 legislative session because the Texas Constitution, a 190-page document that he feels isn't often read in its entirety, did not have a ban included in it. Schofield said that the bill, which was moved forward by Representative Jeff Leach (R - Plano) and Senator Pat Fallon (R - Frisco) in the 2019 legislative session, would stand as a hurdle to legislators that may work to increase state spending.

"I didn't want people to try to run up the tab on state government so much that it could get to the point where they could get an income tax in state government," Schofield said.

Voters approve 9 of 10 proposed amendments

ED STERLING
CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Voters rejected only one of 10 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution in the statewide election held Nov. 5.

The House and Senate, in the 86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature that ended in May, approved the propositions for voters to decide. Results are as follows:

Prop. 1, permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at a time, failed with 681,139 "yes" votes — or 34.56% of votes cast — to 1,970,765 "no" votes or 65.44%.

Prop. 2, providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas, passed with 1,285,397 votes or

65.62% of votes cast, to 673,306 votes or 34.38%.

Prop. 3, authorizing the Legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by disaster, passed with 1,667,110 votes or 85.09% of votes cast to 292,031 votes or 14.91%.

Prop. 4, making it more difficult for the state to impose an individual income tax by requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate before putting the matter on a ballot for voters to approve or disapprove, passed with 1,467,994 votes or 74.41% of votes cast to 504,848 votes or 25.59%.

Prop. 5, dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas natural areas,

water quality and history by acquiring, managing and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes, passed with 1,732,331 votes or 88% of votes cast to 236,251 votes or 12%.

Prop. 6, authorizing the Legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, passed with 1,250,089 votes or 64% of votes cast to 703,157 votes or 36%.

Prop. 7, allowing increased distributions to the Available School Fund, passed with 1,449,333 votes or 74.12% of votes cast to 506,142 votes or 25.88%.

Prop. 8, providing for the creation of the Flood Infrastructure Fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation and flood control projects, passed with 1,527,394

votes or 77.83% of votes cast to 435,184 votes or 22.17%.

Prop. 9, authorizing the Legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state, passed with 977,272 votes or 51.6% of votes cast to 916,513 votes or 48.4%.

Prop. 10, to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances, passed with 1,845,766 votes or 93.75% of votes cast to 123,032 votes or 6.25%.

Revenue is distributed

Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Nov. 6 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$849.6 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of November.

The amount is 4% more than the amount distributed in November 2018.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 **A5**

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VETERANS

from page A2

ones who had served in the military on the Memorial Tower's base.

Byrne said that VFW 9182's honor guard and VFW auxiliary members attended nine events, and he attended

4 events held in honor of Veterans Day. Many of the events were hosted by Katy ISD schools and are a part of the District's and VFW 9182's efforts to teach children about the meaning of the holiday.

"Our school community realizes that without the sacrifices of our veterans and current men and women of the armed forces, we would not be in the position to enjoy the freedoms we do today," said

Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski.

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings, Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers, State Representative Gina Calanni (D-Katy) and Larissa Plunto from U.S. Representative Michael McCaul's (R-Austin) office all provided brief statements at the ceremony.

"I encourage all communities, all sectors of society and all Americans to

acknowledge and honor the veterans, sacrifices and contributions of services and military families for what they have done and for what they continue to do every day to support our great nation," Hastings said in a prepared statement.

The photos above this article are collected from various members of the community, Katy ISD staff and members of VFW 9182.

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Do you like talking with people and figuring out ways to help them? We'd like to talk to you!

The Sealy News is an award-winning community newspaper located in Austin County along I-10 just west of Katy. We are currently seeking candidates for an advertising sales representative position.

Our products include a weekly print newspaper and related website as well as a variety of magazine and other printed and digital products. This position is responsible for working with local and regional businesses owners to develop marketing and promotional plans and identify appropriate print and digital advertising offerings to fit those plans.

We are looking for a self-driven person with a strong work ethic and a determination to exceed sales and revenue goals. Candidates should be able to develop creative campaigns and proposals to help clients achieve their business and marketing goals with our advertising offerings.

While this position will be responsible for managing and growing business with existing accounts, the primary focus will be on growing revenue through development of new business. This person also will need to identify new advertising markets and propose products to serve those markets.

The candidate we seek will have at least two years experience in business-to-business sales, preferably selling print and/or digital advertising. Candidates must have outstanding relationship-building skills, solid networking skills and the ability to develop business opportunities through a variety of channels. This person must be able to work independently, without constant direct supervision, to meet goals, while also being able to function as a contributing member of our newspaper's staff.

Strong verbal and written communication skills, as well as computer skills, as well as reliable transportation are required.

We offer a competitive performance-based compensation plan including base pay plus commissions as well as health benefits and a generous paid time off program.

This position is based in our newspaper's office in Sealy with regular Monday-Friday business office hours. This is not a telecommuting or remote position.

The Sealy News is part of Fenice Community Media, a group of Texas community newspapers that prefers to promote from within. If you meet the above qualifications and are ready for the challenge, please apply by submitting your resume, cover letter, salary requirements and any relevant sports writing samples.

Apply Here <https://fenicecommunitymedia.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=77>

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Time abroad opens my eyes

My husband, Peter, and I have settled into the little house we are calling home for a month in southern Spain. The house is old and quirky—but I've come to believe that all homes are quirky in their own way.

CARRIE CLASSON
THE POSTSCRIPT



Whenever I spend time in another person's home, I realize there are a lot of different ways of doing things that would never have occurred to me.

When I was young, my family would drive to visit my great-grandmother. She had a neighbor named Mrs. Johnson (I never learned her first name). Mrs. Johnson had a pug and when I uncurled the pug's tail, he caught sight of it and exhausted. This was endlessly entertaining as an 8-year-old. But my other vivid memory of visiting Mrs. Johnson was the way she ate pears. Mrs. Johnson took the pear and banged it on the table—side to side and top to bottom—until the whole pear was soft.

"Why are you doing that?" I asked.
"Now you can eat the whole thing—just pull off the stem and spit out the seeds!" she told me. It turned out I'd been wasting a lot of good pear, but that stopped under Mrs. Johnson's tutelage.

"You shouldn't bother that old woman!" my great-grandmother scolded me after an afternoon of eating pears and watching the pug. It didn't occur to me until later that my great-grandmother was at least a decade older than Mrs. Johnson. (It didn't occur to me until much later yet that this might be my great-grandmother's way of saying she had missed me.)

While visiting my grandpa, I watched as he cut up his apple, removing the core and eating the apple in slices. I started cutting up my apples and never went back.

"He only did that because he had dentures!" my mother told me, years later.

I have good teeth, but I still believe it's a better way to eat an apple.

I recently watched my cousin, Melissa, make a salad. She chopped up her lettuce like coleslaw.

"Why are you doing that?" I asked.
"It's easier to eat and mixes with the other stuff better," Melissa explained.

"Why haven't we always chopped up our lettuce?" Peter asked me, after it became our new way of doing things.

This is what I like most about travel. It is nice to see the sights, but it is the small things, the "why didn't I ever think of that?" things that interest me the most. Why don't we slice up tomatoes and cheese and have them for dinner? Why don't we buy olives in bulk? Why don't we have one, long pillow instead of two short ones? Spending time in another home makes me examine things I would never look at twice. I see the familiar with fresh eyes. I take less for granted. Travel forces me to realize how little of my life I actually think about and how much is done on autopilot.

Returning home, I might do a few things differently but, more than anything, I am filled with a new appreciation for all I have—all the things in my life I have neglected to notice, all the sweetness I've taken for granted.

Yesterday I bought some fresh pears at the market. Cutting up a pear in my quirky little temporary home in Spain, I suddenly remembered Mrs. Johnson. I picked up the core and ate it. It was sweet and delicious.

"Mrs. Johnson was right," I thought, "I've been wasting a lot of good pear."

Until next time,
Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



You can achieve the status of grammar guru

If a potato can become vodka, then you can become a bonafide word nerd. The tools and tips I give you are meant to be used for good; please don't gloat your grammar greatness over anyone, rather use it to lift everyone up. I'm about to share a word with you that will make everyone at the white-tie optional gala assume you're the king or queen of some distant, exotic land. Use this word and upper-crusters will begin consulting with you before they order their newest monocle. They'll picture you eating peeled champagne grapes while you brush the golden mane of your award-winning miniature pony named Lord Anponio.

I'm talking about the word "penultimate." Although this sounds like a million-dollar word, it simply means "next-to-last" or "second to last." It's as simple as that. So, if you ate the "penultimate Oreo," that would mean you ate the next-to-last Oreo in the package. If you are reading the nineteenth chapter in a twenty chapter book, you are reading the book's penultimate chapter. If you use the penultimate square of toilet paper, it's time to install a new roll so the next person isn't stuck with one lonely square.

Allow me to put on my



CURTIS HONEYCUTT
GRAMMAR GUY

finest bottle out of their wine cellars. Horse & Hound magazine (my favorite magazine about both dogs and horses) will call to request an in-depth interview about your dressage training techniques. Yes, my friends: if the humble potato can become vodka, then you too can achieve the high sta-

tus of grammar guru. I believe in you. It's time to go out there and dominate the English language.

Curtis Honeycutt is an award-winning syndicated humor columnist. Connect with him on Twitter (@curtishoneycutt) or at curtishoneycutt.com.

horn-rimmed grammar nerd glasses for a second. The term "penult" is a noun that means the next-to-last syllable in a word. The penult in the word "automobile" is "mo." Now you know that!

Certainly I'm not going to up the ante and share an even nerdier-yet-related word, am I?
Yes, I am: antepenultimate. Antepenultimate refers to the third to last item in a series, or the next-to-next-to-last thing. Going back to our twenty chapter book: If chapter nineteen is the penultimate chapter, that means chapter eighteen is the antepenultimate chapter. If we break down the Latin meanings for each part of the word, we'd get "before" (ante) "almost" (pen) and "last" (ultimate). Antepenultimate is the thing that comes before the almost last thing.

Drop any of these words into casual conversation and your friends will offer you the

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PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B3

SUDOKU

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

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!

Level: Intermediate

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 11 | | | | 12 | | 13 | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| | 18 | | | 19 | | 20 | | | 21 | | | |
| | | | | 22 | 23 | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 |
| | | | 38 | 39 | 40 | | 41 | 42 | | | | |
| | | | | 43 | | | 44 | | | | | |
| | | | 45 | 46 | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | 48 | | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | |
| 55 | | | | 56 | | | | 57 | | | | 58 |
| 59 | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | | | |
| 62 | | | | 63 | | | | 64 | | | | |

- CLUES ACROSS
- Shelter for pigeons
 - Popular lit genre ___-fi
 - Used to harvest agave
 - Wintertime accessory
 - "Gandalf" actor McKellen
 - Taxis
 - Political plot
 - Public television
 - Nigerian ethnic group
 - Informal loan clubs
 - "Wheel of Fortune" host
 - C C C
 - North, South and Central make them up
 - In an early way
 - Lied down in rest
 - Female hip-hop trio
 - Improves
 - Genus of mackerel sharks
 - Electronic countermeasures
 - Emerging
 - Balkan body of water
 - A type of delivery
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - Title given to a monk
 - Partner to "ooohed"
 - "Luther" actor Idris
 - Supporting pin (nautical)
 - Golden peas plant
 - One point north of northeast
 - Unit of measurement
 - Where clothes hang
 - Opposite of night
 - A way to change color
 - Korean independence proponent Syngman
- CLUES DOWN
- Reciprocal of sine
 - Political organization
 - Defunct funk record label
 - Geological times
 - One who drinks slowly
 - Nightclub entertainment
 - Establish in one's mind
 - Restaurants
 - Off-Broadway theater award
 - Requests
 - You don't watch to catch it
 - Intestinal pouches
 - Satisfy
 - Wet dirt
 - Regularly repeated
 - Before
 - The color of Valentine's Day
 - Indicates near
 - Bon ___; witty remark
 - One's holdings
 - Request
 - Prefix meaning "badly"
 - Midway between north and northeast
 - Ottoman military title
 - Teased
 - Happily
 - Pie ___ mode
 - Mars crater
 - Sports TV personality
 - Taxi driver
 - Abba ___, Israeli politician
 - The sick are sometimes on it
 - Relating to olives
 - Swiss river
 - Grayish white
 - A way to engrave
 - Where Coach K. works
 - Midway between south and southeast

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What's happening in Katy

The City of Katy flood and infrastructure improvements, public safety and parks and tourism projects continue apace and lead the way in the region. Flood mitigation projects, funded by the voter approved 2018 bond, in the Pine Forest subdivision are being completed. Expanding the city's Regional Detention at Morton Road will be commencing soon. Drainage improvement projects at First Street and routine ditch restoration work throughout the city are in-progress, along with completion of the Townpark Detention Pond and increasing the drainage requirements for new developments. Anticipated projects from the 2018 bond include modern drainage improvements to the Riceland Terrace subdivision. Working with other area entities, major projects funded by the Cane Island Municipal Utility District to address flood mitigation work along the Cane Island Branch of the Buffalo Bayou are ongoing.

Public safety is one of the most important roles of local government, and years of investments and hard work by many leaders have led to the Katy Fire Department being awarded an ISO 1 Rating. This rating indicates Katy's municipal fire department is one-of-the-best based on training,

response time and equipment. The Katy Police Department (KPD) has given added resources to hire additional officers. Also, recently the Texas State Legislature authorized KPD to enforce overweight and illegal 18-wheeler and commercial truck violations within city limits. These overweight vehicles that travel through the city are dangerous to other motorists and cause added wear-and-tear to streets.

The long-standing Katy Rice Festival weekend was held in October. This was the second consecutive year of the festival taking place as a City of Katy event, and the children's rides and vendor expansion was wonderful. All the volunteers, city staff, contributors, vendors and visitors to Katy - along with the beautiful weather - made this year's Katy Rice Festival fun and special.

Downtown revitalization work continues. The downtown square is being transformed into a community gathering focal point. The project includes a greenspace, an outdoor museum, new civic center and visitor center. Recently an Old Katy Downtown District (OKD) was established encompassing the historic downtown area to provide architectural standards to emphasize the legacy and charm of downtown. Our downtown businesses are vital to historic Katy's small-town feel

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Katy Times

Phone: (281) 391-3141
Fax: 281-391-2030

Karen Lopez | Publisher
Dennis Silva II | Sports editor
Victoria Parker | Designer
Terri Richard | Advertising
Debbie Prejean | Bookkeeper

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
5319 East Fifth Street
Katy, TX 77493

TO REPORT NEWS:
Call (281) 391-3141
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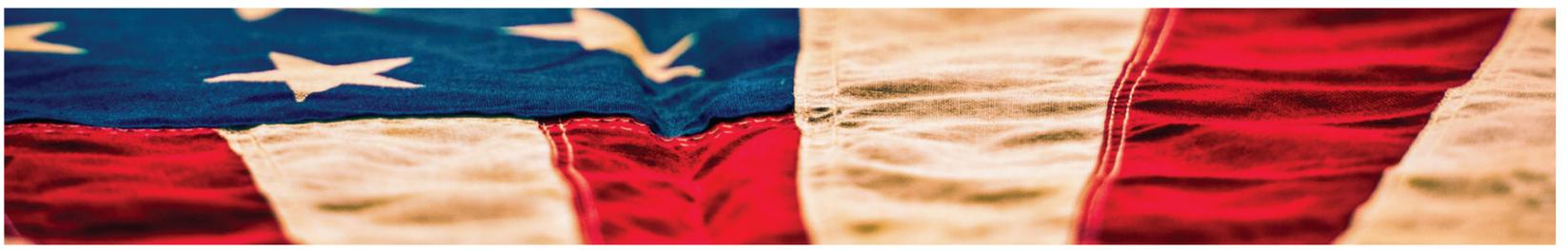
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COMMUNITY

Katy observes Veterans Day 2019

Several veterans gathered at the Freedom Park Memorial Tower along with friends and family to observe Veterans Day in a ceremony held by Veterans of Foreign Wars post 9182 on Nov. 11. Officials representing the city of Katy, Fort Bend County, the Texas Legislature and the federal legislature were present for the event.

"[We] talk to younger

people today and let them know what Veterans Day is all about and what our people that are in harm's way today are all about," VFW Post 9182 commander Don Byrne said.

During the remainder of his opening statements, Byrne reviewed the history of Veterans Day which honors those who have served in the military and is set on the anniversary of the

end of World War I when an armistice was signed with Germany. He also explained the rise of the buddy poppy to represent veterans and their sacrifices. Veterans representing multiple generations were present along with family members. Some family members placed photos of loved ones who had served in the

See **VETERANS**, page A5



Jim Baker's Unified Theory Of Everything

(JBUTOE) A new book about Science and God

Revised publishing & launch date: 2019.

BAKER'S Books, Katy, TX

22237 Katy FRWY (on I-10, close to Landry's)

Ad rev'd: 12/14/2018; previous ads are null and void



This new book will contain a new credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

One thing I had always wished for, especially as I was approaching the age of 40, is for God to speak to me. Well, when God did speak to me, I liked my first message from God about as much, I suppose, as Abraham liked his message from God, when he was told to sacrifice his son. But God was testing both of us! God was also making us stronger.

Author of new book is a Chemistry graduate (B.S. 1971/M.S. 1978) of Texas A&M (A&I) in Kingsville, TX. He also attended S.A.C. in San Antonio. He has additional hours at SWTSU, Texas Tech U., Boston College, Westinghouse PWR. He has worked at Texas Uranium Operations as Chief Chemist, at South Texas Nuclear Project as Nuclear Chemist during pre-startup, and retired from City of Houston where he was in charge of Technical Services Section of Bureau of Air Quality Control. Owner of BAKER'S BOOKS is also the author of *God's Amazing Answer To Prayer*, in 2012.

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GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST • LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

NEW * Ice Skating Rink * NEW
Sealy's Levine Park 11 am-5 pm (Sat)

Jingle Bell 5k & 1K Fun Run
Hill Center at 8:30 am (Sat)

Snowball Classic Softball Tournament
B&PW Park (Fri-Sun)

Kid's Activities & Live Snow
Sealy's Levine Park (Sat)

BBQ Cook Off
B&PW Park (Fri & Sat)

Fantasy of Lights Parade
Main Street & Downtown at 6 pm (Sat)



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