DAVIS TOO MUCH FOR KATY IN REGIONAL SEMIFINAL LOSS

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Katy Times

TAYLOR EARNS 1ST REGIONAL FINAL APPEARANCE
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VW suit moves forward

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The Texas Supreme Court ruled Nov. 22 that a lawsuit filed by Harris County against Volkswagen, Audi and their affiliates can move forward, according to a press release from Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan's office. The lawsuit was filed following the automakers' use of software that allowed some models to violate emissions standards, including those in Harris County, from 2008 to 2015.

"The Supreme Court's actions will allow this case to be ultimately tried in a Harris County court. Volkswagen's actions undermined Harris County's efforts to keep our air clean and our residents healthy," Ryan said in the release.

Use of the software allowed some of the automaker's diesel vehicles to emit about 40 times more nitrous oxides than emissions standards allowed at the time, according to the press release. Nitrous oxides are known to contribute to smog and general air pollution. Smog is known to trigger or worsen health problems such as reduced lung function, asthma, and general respiratory inflammation according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This prompted Ryan to file the lawsuit in 2015 on behalf of Harris County.

See **SUIT**, page A7



COURTESY PEXELS AND KAIQUE ROCHA

Harris County will be moving forward with a lawsuit against Volkswagen and its affiliates after a recent Texas Supreme Court decision. The lawsuit began in 2015 after it was discovered that Volkswagen had put software in some diesel vehicles to get around emissions standards.

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RISING PRICES

Harris County files lawsuit regarding insulin costs

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan announced Nov. 21 that the county is filing a lawsuit against several companies involved in providing insulin and other treatments to diabetics. The lawsuit alleges that the companies, including pharmaceutical manufacturers Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Sonofie as well as pharmaceutical benefit managers Aetna Rx, CVS Caremark, Express Scripts and Optum Rx conspired to raise insulin prices which have resulted in record profits for those organizations.

"We are bringing this lawsuit to hold these billion-dollar companies responsible for conspiring to drive up the prices of their lifesaving insulin," Ryan said in a press release.

Harris County's claim includes violations of the Texas antitrust statute, fraud and civil conspiracy. The County is suing to recover funds the county has paid as a result of the alleged conspiracy between the manufacturers and benefits companies. Harris County is now paying more for insulin and diabetes medications than for any other diseases faced by county employees and their families. Ryan claims in the county's statement that in 2015, Harris County spent greater than 60% more on diabetes medications than in 2014, and that the county has spent more than $27.5 million on diabetes medications since 2013.

However, pharmaceutical benefit managers – or PBMs – named as defendants in the suit deny the accusations against them.

"Allegations that CVS Caremark or Aetna [Rx] play any role in determining the prices charged by manufacturers for their products are false," Senior Director of Corporate Communications for CVS Caremark Michael DeAngelis said via email.



RYAN PHOTO

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan speaks at a Nov. 21 press conference announcing a lawsuit against seven companies that work to manufacture and distribute insulin for diabetic patients. The lawsuit alleges that the companies worked together "in-step" to raise the price of insulin dramatically since the late 1990s, causing increased costs to the county and its residents. Figures provided by the County claim that insulin prices have increased to more than 1500% of their 2006 prices.

Pharmaceutical benefit managers, commonly called PBMs in the industry, work to keep drug prices low to obtain lower drug prices for customers through negotiating with manufacturers and using formularies to keep drug costs low for patients, DeAngelis said. These negotiations help mitigate the rising costs of diabetic care, and nothing in PBMs agreements with drug manufacturers prevent drug manufactures from lowering their prices, he said.

Eli Lilly and Company cannot comment directly on pending litigation said Gregory Kueterman, senior director of diabetes communications for Eli Lilly and Company. However, he said the company has been working to ensure insulin is affordable for patients.

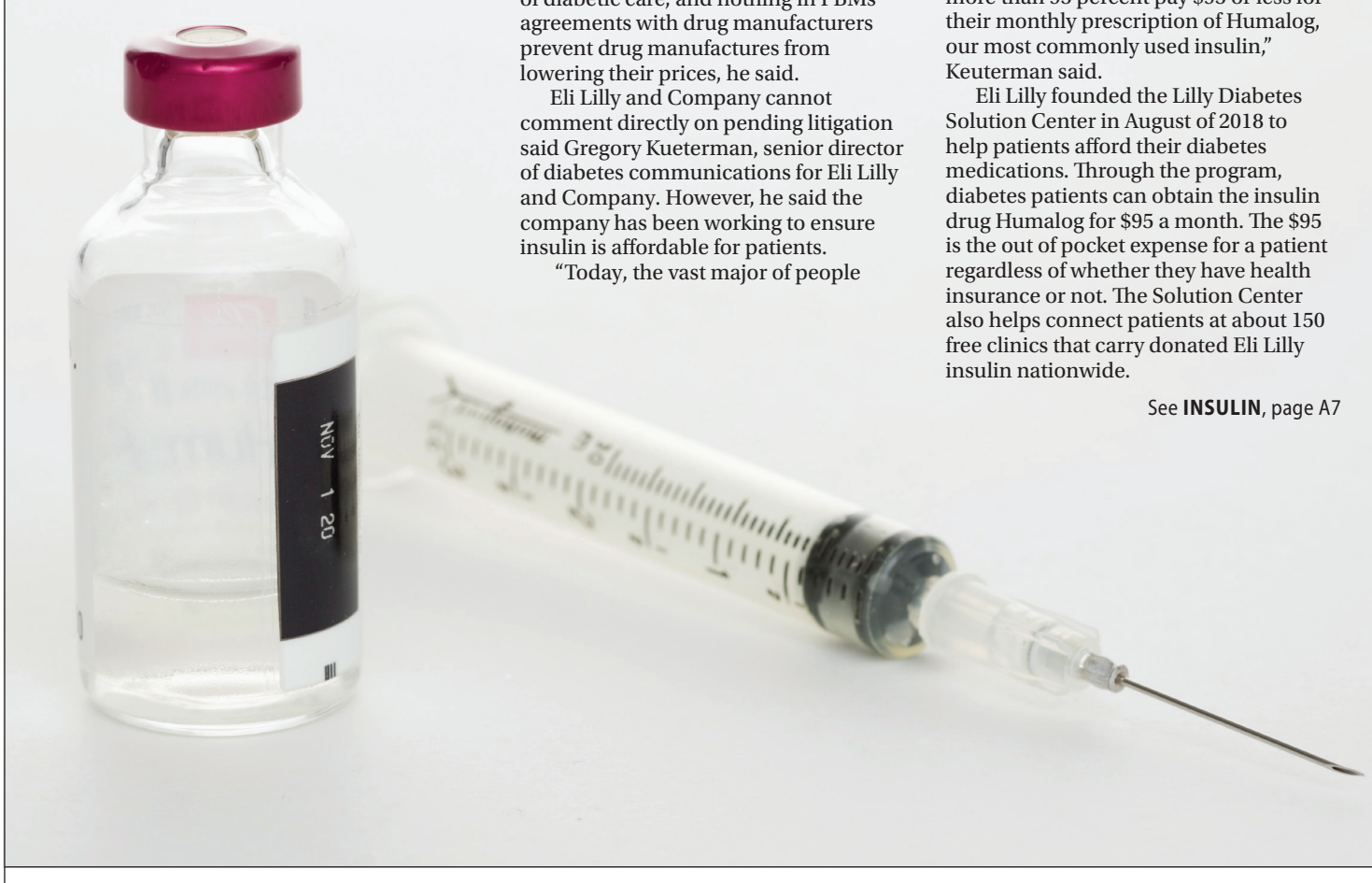
"Today, the vast major of people using Lilly insulin pay less than $100 for their monthly prescription. In fact, more than 95 percent pay $95 or less for their monthly prescription of Humalog, our most commonly used insulin," Keuterman said.

Eli Lilly founded the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center in August of 2018 to help patients afford their diabetes medications. Through the program, diabetes patients can obtain the insulin drug Humalog for $95 a month. The $95 is the out of pocket expense for a patient regardless of whether they have health insurance or not. The Solution Center also helps connect patients at about 150 free clinics that carry donated Eli Lilly insulin nationwide.

See **INSULIN**, page A7

NEED HELP?

Diabetics who are having a hard time affording their medication can call the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center at (833) 808-1234 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. central standard time.



Hotel offers needed conference space

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

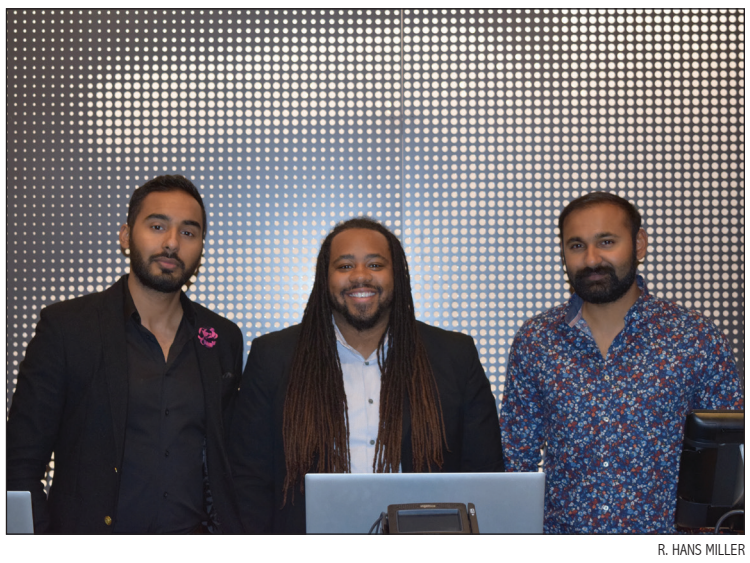
Ahmed Kamal and his brother, Basit Kamal, opened the Aloft Houston Katy hotel at 25330 Kinglsand Boulevard in late November. The 105-room hotel brings with it options for banquet and conference space which will be located near the upcoming Katy Boardwalk Project. Ahmed said the Boardwalk was just one thing that drew the brothers to develop the hotel in Katy.

"Our families – our extended families – they have been living in Katy. Growing up if we wanted to open a business, we wanted to cater to Katy," Basit said.

Katy's Aloft location has one big difference from other Aloft hotels, Basit said. When the brothers first began talking to city officials a few years ago, former Mayor Chuck Brawner had asked them what was special about the hotel that would be an advantage to residents. Rather than answer directly, the brothers asked him what he would like to see. Brawner told them the city needed more mid-size conference facilities, Basit said.

Brawner said he had told the brothers the city needed conference space that could hold 30 or 40 people. He'd told the brothers at the time that the city was losing revenue to hotels on I-10 that were

See **HOTEL**, page A7



R. HANS MILLER

Brothers Ahmed Kamal (left) and Basit Kamal (right) stand behind the front desk with one of their staff at their new Aloft Hotel. The brothers said they put a great deal of thought into making the hotel an establishment that meets Katy's needs for conference space, entertainment and a luxury hotel.

SPORTS

O'Brien's play-calling crucial in big win

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Quarterback Deshaun Watson and a stingy defense were the primary headliners for the Texans' impressive 28-22 win over the Patriots on Sunday, Dec. 1, but coach Bill O'Brien also had a stellar evening.

There's a reason he was given the game ball by players afterward.

"This was big for him, for the franchise, for all of us, man," Watson said.

In earning his first win over his mentor, O'Brien outcoached the Patriots' Bill Belichick, widely regarded as the greatest NFL coach of all-time.

O'Brien introduced a new wrinkle to his vaunted run-pass option scheme, going with three tight ends. It's something he saw from Baltimore when the Ravens dominated the Texans, 41-7, on Nov. 17. The Ravens used a three-tight end formation successfully, and O'Brien remembered as much.

With Jordan Thomas back healthy, he lined up next to the right tackle while fellow tight ends Darren Fells and Jordan Akins aligned in the backfield. It froze the Patriots' defense when Watson faked a handoff to running back Carlos Hyde, and Thomas and Fells ran out to the left side into the secondary. With Thomas clearing the perimeter, Fells caught a 13-yard pass from Watson for a 14-3 lead in the second quarter.

The Texans used the formation earlier in the game on a run play, which helped keep New England off balance.



JOE SOUTHERN | THE SEALY NEWS

Houston Texans running back Duke Johnson celebrates as he runs into the end zone to score the first touchdown of the game against the New England Patriots on Dec. 1 at NRG Stadium. Johnson also had a hand in a nifty trick play the Texans used for a touchdown later in the game. The Texans beat the Patriots, 28-22.

"I think that we have three talented tight ends," O'Brien said. "(Darren) Fells has had a good year, Ake (Jordan Akins) has done some good things, we get Jordan (Thomas) back. He hadn't played in a while; the last two games, he's played a little bit. We've got to keep incorporating him into the lineup because he's got a lot of ability and he's worked hard to get back into the lineup. So, I think that we've got to keep looking at those things and keep trying to incorporate the tight ends into our offense."

Fast forward three quarters, and O'Brien's creativity and open-mindedness was at the forefront once again.

On the Patriots' 6-yard line, Watson handed the ball off to running back Duke Johnson, who quickly tossed it to a sweeping DeAndre Hopkins.

Hopkins ran to his right, directly into the teeth of the waiting Patriots defense, before pitching perfectly to his right to Watson, who took the ball and strolled into the end zone.

The idea was that of Watson and backup quarterback A.J. McCarron. They had seen the Chicago Bears use it earlier this season on a two-point conversion.

"Now, there's a debate about whose idea this was," O'Brien joked on Monday. "I started this I guess, but now (Deshaun) Watson's taking credit for it, so we'll give him credit ... him and (A.J.) McCarron, right? They said that they came up with it? All kidding aside, we collaborate all the time with these guys. I think that, especially in the quarterback room. Deshaun, he has a really excellent football mind, so he sees things and he's done things in the past, whether it was here, now that he has a lot of snaps here, or even at Clemson, that he'll say, 'Hey, look with this motion or this look, we kind of did this. Would you ever think about doing that?' We map it out on the board and we talk about it. Then A.J.'s got a lot of experience in a lot different offenses, whether it was Alabama, Cincinnati, Oakland and here. A.J. does a good job during the game and so there's a lot of collaboration."

Watson said he and McCarron took the play to O'Brien and offensive coordinator Tim Kelly. It was Hopkins, however, who was particularly enthralled with the idea. The Texans kept working on it, figuring once they got within reasonable distance of the goal line during a game, it would work.

"It was a play we've been working on for four weeks," Watson said. "I kind of knew the whole play-call that was going to be called. Hop (DeAndre Hopkins) was excited. I was excited. He did a good job of really selling the guys that come up, and then giving me a good pitch enough where I can catch it and dive in. Give all the credit to Hop and the pass. It was good."

Added Hopkins: "They played it very well. He (Watson) was patient. I knew I had to kind of tuck the ball, wait for him to commit, to throw it to Deshaun. I knew once I threw it to him, he was going to be in."

Like any trick play, and an acute awareness on the coach's part, O'Brien said it was all about timing.

"I think any gadget play, this is just my opinion, is all about timing," O'Brien said. "It's not necessarily always where the ball is, it's more about like, 'OK, how is the rhythm of this drive going and can we smoothly just call this play and get this play run?' I thought that the timing was right for that call, so that's really what it was about.

"If you feel like you're really trying to force a gadget play, which I've been at fault to do that before, then you probably should not call that play. But if you feel like you're in a pretty good flow with the offense, moving the ball down the field or wherever the ball might be, I think you can call it."

The 8-4 Texans next host the 4-8 Denver Broncos on Sunday, Dec. 8, at noon at NRG Stadium.

KATY

from page B2

McClelland had passes of 14 and 13 yards, along with a scramble for 15 yards.

Davis scored on a draw from 10 yards out, keeping the Tigers in the game, 42-28 with 5:06 left in the third quarter. Katy added a touchdown later on a special teams play, but the Tigers wouldn't score another touchdown on offense. Katy had 43 rushing yards on that one drive, and 36 yards the rest of the game.

Kay complemented his defensive line for playing well with its hands and keeping linebackers clean to make plays.

"Their fits, the way they flowed. They were just there," said Davis, who totaled 44 yards on eight carries. "You could tell they studied. That was good coaching on the defensive side. Those linebackers, those cornerbacks ... those are really good athletes."

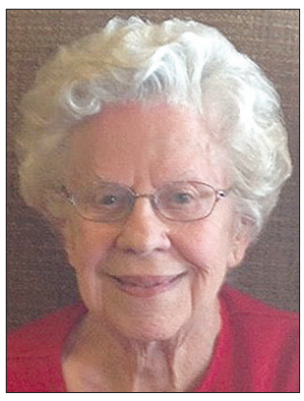
While Hoff graduates following a breakout season that saw him catch the eye of NCAA Division I programs, Davis and fellow junior backup Sherman Smith return next year for Katy.

Smith, too, suffered an ankle injury early in the first quarter of the Ridge Point game like Hoff, but did return to the field in a limited role against North Shore. Davis, who totaled 365 yards and three touchdowns on 68 carries in the postseason, said he wants to bring a leadership role next season and predicted this offseason will be his best yet as far as strength and conditioning.

"I learned to step up and how to handle adversity," Davis said. "I learned how hesitation can hurt you; just take it and run. Go. Know what you're doing, play hard and trust God's plan and we'll be good."



Janet Morrissey Atwood passed gently into the night on Nov. 27, 2019, in Houston, TX, at the age of 93.



JANET MORRISSEY ATWOOD
1925-2019

Janet was born Janet Ione Morrissey on Dec. 21, 1925 in Elkhorn, WI, the daughter of William Leonard Morrissey & Bertha Boehm Morrissey. Janet's great-grandfather, Daniel Morrissey, came from Killea, County Waterford, Ireland to Elkhorn in 1855. Her ancestors on her mother's side came from Bavaria, Germany; England; & Scotland.

Janet was raised in Elkhorn, WI. She graduated from Elkhorn H.S. in 1943. Janet studied nursing at St. Lukes' School of Nursing in Racine, WI. She became a Registered Nurse in 1947. She worked at Lakeland Hospital in Elkhorn, WI, where one of her patients was her future husband, John Horton Atwood.

Janet & John married in Elkhorn, WI on Jan. 8, 1949. During their 59 years of marriage, Janet & John had six children, became grandparents to twelve grandchildren, & became great-grandparents to seven great-grandchildren.

During her husband's, John's, business career they lived in Wisconsin; West Lafayette, IN; Central Illinois; Pauls Valley, Oklahoma City, & Tulsa, OK; New Orleans, LA, & Houston, TX. They also lived for a period of time in the Republic of Singapore & London, England. Janet & John traveled extensively, visiting all fifty of the United States, & over eight percent of the countries in the world, making over twenty complete trips around the world.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a daughter, Marjorie Jane Atwood, a brother, Robert L. Morrissey, & several brother & sister-in-laws. She is survived by five children & their spouses: John Atwood (Beth), Kathryn Mendel (Stephen), Susan Box (Michael), Michael Atwood (Julie), & Patrick Atwood (Sandra). Janet is survived by twelve grandchildren: Ashley Atwood (Stephen Pitts), Victoria Atwood, Samantha Atwood; Kyle Mendel; Jami Simons (Justin); Megan Atwood; Chase Atwood (Erin), Bret Atwood (Allyce), Van Atwood (Lizzy), Colt Atwood (Quincy), Quinn Atwood (Lauren); & Alexia Atwood; & seven great-grandchildren – Slane Pitts, Flynn Pitts, Ryker Simons, Renner Simons, Sienna Simons, Easton Atwood, Peyton Atwood. Janet is also survived by her brother, William J. Morrissey, & many nieces, nephews, & cousins.

No public service will be held. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Janet's name to the charity of your choice.

Gary Wayne Moyer, 59, passed away Monday, November 25, 2019, at his home in Katy, surrounded by his family. Gary was born in Victoria, Texas, on February 21, 1960, the fifth child of seven to William (Bill) and Doris Moyer. Gary married the love of his life, Kimberly Tourneur, on August 2, 1991.

He worked for KXR Inspection, Inc. and the Frazier family for 39 years and acted as an Operations Manager and Radiation Safety Officer.

He loved being the father of five children and Papa of two grandsons. He enjoyed camping and fishing at Lake Somerville with his family and friends. Going fishing with Gary meant never having to bait your own hook or taking a fish off your line.

A favorite past time was riding his motorcycle with Kim and attending the Annual Lone Star Motorcycle Rally in Galveston with Kim, Cheryl , Eric and many of their friends.

He was one of the most caring, loving and giving person and always brought happiness and laughter.

He is survived by three sons, Tyler Moyer of Houston, Scott Golbow and wife



GARY WAYNE MOYER
1960-2019

Maizie of Katy, Chad Moyer of Austin; twin daughters, Megan Moyer of Austin and Melanie Barnes and husband TJ of Waxahachie.; grandsons, Jacques William Golbow and Cooper Wayne Barnes; Siblings, Kathy Sue and Martin Cornelius of Bryan, Shirley and Wayne Beum of Industry, Barbara Sturm and Mike Keese of Medina , Glen Roy Moyer of Burton and Michael Kyle and Jamie Moyer of Rockport; Mother-in- law, Margaret Tourneur of Katy, sisters and brothers in law, Cheryl and Eric Golbow, Keriann and Tim Tyler and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Doris Moyer; Brother, Donnie Moyer; Father-in- law, Jacques Tourneur; Sister-in-law, Shonna Tourneur.

Honorary Pallbearers – Martin Cornelius, Donald Ray Coursey, J. D. Frazier, Stewart Frazier, Eric Golbow, Jeff Golbow, Scott Golbow, Richard Matarrazo, Chad Moyer, Tyler Moyer and Tim Tyler.

Visitation was held at Schmidt Funeral Home located at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South, Katy, Texas, 77494 on Sunday, December 1, 2019, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Memorial Service was also held at Schmidt Funeral Home on Monday, December 2, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donation can be sent to the Foundation for Prader Willi Research (https://www.fpwr.org/)

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net

Funeral services held under the direction of:

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

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SPORTS

Bulawa a steady presence for Spartans

By STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

Seven Lakes coach Angela Spurlock knows people will inevitably compare this season's team to the previous years. That will happen when a program is rich in tradition like Spurlock's.

But the veteran coach stresses that, for her, each season and each team is a new one.

"Every year is a new team," Spurlock said. "I know it's hard for people to believe that, when you've been blessed to have a program that's successful. People have a tendency to compare you to previous years. But technically, you put a new team on the floor every year, and this year it's truly a new team and a new year."

With players newly promoted to varsity, and players in new roles on varsity, the Spartans will lean on senior Bayli Bulawa, the lone senior on the roster, as a stabilizing presence.

Against Alief Taylor on Tuesday evening, Bulawa drove strong toward the basket in transition with 1:06 left, drawing the seventh team foul. She then calmly sank both free throws to give Seven Lakes a 36-34 lead. After a pair of Alief Taylor misses, the Lions were forced to foul her with 22.1 seconds left, and she sank another pair of free throws for Seven Lakes' third win this season.

"I do have a routine, and it never changes," Bulawa said. "In practice every day, the last five minutes, we put free throws in. So when I go up to that line at the end, I know I'm going to make them. There's no doubt in my mind, and I think that's what works for me."

Spurlock acknowledged after the game that Bulawa is a calming, steady presence.

"Bayli is instrumental because she's been here, and she's done this," she said. "She brings that element where she can calm people down, and she can get control of game situations like we had today, when we had to handle the tempo and handle the pressure. She's a calm person in that situation, and it's always nice to have an experienced player to do that."

Bulawa's free throws came after several Seven Lakes turnovers, and after the Spartans lost a 34-24 lead they held at the end of the third quarter. As the game wore on, Bulawa said she tried to take over and handle the ball more. She finished with a team-high 12 points, followed by juniors Daniela Alzate (8) and Ximena Diaz (6).



STEPHEN GREENWELL

Seven Lakes senior Bayli Bulawa scored a team-high 12 points in the Spartans' win over Alief Taylor on Tuesday evening.

"We have a young team, and we have a lot of new girls," Bulawa said. "So I knew I had to step up and let them know what it's like to be on varsity. I've always been known for and having the reputation for composure, so I just kind of know that we have to calm it down, and slow it down with the game and with the ball."

Spurlock said that while it's never good to lose a lead, she attributed it to players trying too hard.

"They were tested within themselves and by Alief Taylor," she said. "We wanted to win so bad, we played a little bit fast, and a little bit outside ourselves. But when we started to play within ourselves and what we wanted to do, you could see us settle and get back in the game. I'm proud of them."

The Spartans currently have 10 healthy players on the varsity roster, with junior Addison Poth coming back from an injury, and Spurlock said they were all going to be played regularly.

"Everyone's going to get the ball, and everyone's going to get their minutes," she said, adding that she would use practices to hopefully iron out some of the mistakes from the game versus Alief Taylor. "Our practices need to be harder than any game we play. To handle pressure in games like that, in my opinion, you have to put them in an environment in practice that's harder than any game, or you're going to get a performance where they make a lot of mistakes."

Going forward, Spurlock said she wanted to see steady improvement, which she noted the team had demonstrated so far.

"I think you need games to work through things, but to me, games are like quizzes," she said. "Tests are district. These are all quizzes, all these preseason games. And how you do on a quiz, it's about the same as how you do in the classroom. Some of them are going to be pretty good and some are going to be pretty rough, and you have to learn from all of it, because the tests that count are coming."



Local Katy, TX artist Mia Suzanne Walker from Suzanne's Band will be performing as a duo with solo artist JR Rodriguez at Legends Coffee and Cafe 25707 Westheimer Pkwy, Katy, TX 77494 on December 7, 2019 at 8:30PM. The acoustic show Candlelight and Carols will feature Christmas favorites across seven decades as well as the newly released single by Suzanne's Band One More Night of Christmas. Purchase or stream the single through all the usual music sources. For more information about Suzanne's Band go to *https://www.suzannesband.com*

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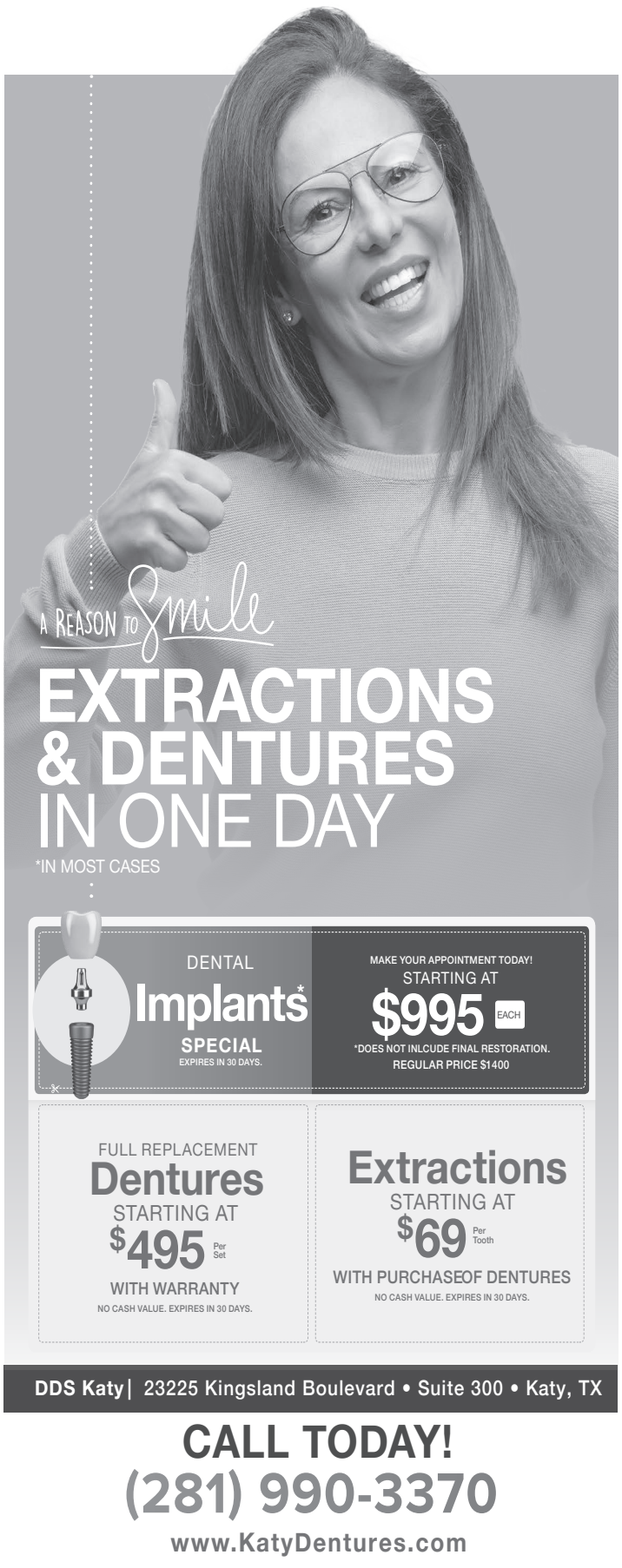
Dr. Clark graduated from Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine with both a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Veterinary Microbiology. She and her family have been members of the Sealy Community since 2005. She has been practicing veterinary medicine for 20 years and is excited to practice in her own hometown. Dr. Oberle received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine and has been practicing for over 10 years. Dr. Oberle grew up in the small town of Lamesa, TX. She and her family are looking forward to being a part of Sealy. Dr. Dennis Marek, a life time resident of Austin County and also a graduate from Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine, started Marek Veterinary Clinic in 1979. The clinic just celebrated its 40th anniversary! Dr. Marek will continue to provide veterinary care for your pets. In addition, all of the very talented veterinary staff will also continue to provide the level of personalized care that you have come to expect.

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SPORTS

Cougars' do-it-all duo hungry for more

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR



DENNIS SILVA II

Cinco Ranch senior wings Derek Dickenscheidt, left, and Jayden Collymore.

Cinco Ranch High seniors Jayden Collymore and Derek Dickenscheidt have known each other since they were in the sixth grade, as rivals at Cinco Ranch and Beck junior highs.

"He was so good going to his left. I just remember we always tried to push him to the right," Dickenscheidt said.

These days, Collymore and Dickenscheidt are team captains and three-year varsity lettermen for the Cougars. Dickenscheidt has learned what other opponents have: it's easier said than done to force Collymore away from his dominant hand. And Collymore is much more comfortable playing with Dickenscheidt than against him.

"We've grown up together, we've trained together," Collymore said. "We both put in the work. I think what helps us is we're both competitive, but we're not selfish. We're trying to prove who's better, and that relationship just makes the team better. We both want to be the best."

So far, they're off to a great start in their swan songs at Cinco Ranch, which won five of its first eight games to start this season. Both are 6-foot-5 versatile wings who can play any position. Both can score at all three levels: 3-point range, midrange and at the basket. And both are driven to leave their marks as Cougars.

"I want to leave a legacy behind and I'm trying to do my best to make my team successful," Collymore said. "I'm sure Derek would tell you the same thing. It's all about how you want to look at yourself when the game is over. Am I going to be happy because I left everything on the court, or am I going to be wishing I did more? So that's my mindset. Leave it all out there."

During a blowout 92-66 win against Cypress Ridge on Nov. 26, both did, showcasing precisely why Cinco Ranch can be a nightmare to defend.

Collymore scored 34 points to go with eight rebounds, hitting three of five 3-point attempts. Dickenscheidt scored the game's first six points and finished with 14 to go with 11 rebounds and eight assists.

"They've played a lot of varsity basketball, and you can't coach experience," Cougars coach Neil King said. "When you have guys who've played as many varsity games as they've played, you're going to find success. They're high-IQ players, friends on and off the court … it doesn't surprise me they're playing the way they are."

Either Collymore or Dickenscheidt is capable of rebounding and starting the break. Dickenscheidt, in particular, showed an affinity for initiating the Cougars' transition game; his ballhandling has improved considerably thanks to constant fullcourt skill drills during the offseason with AAU trainers Stephon Leary and Chris Hynes.

Collymore's shooting is his most notable improvement this season, showing off a quicker, smoother release after shooting 1,000 shots a day during the summer.

That has opened up his game, as opponents can no longer simply play him to shoot. After averaging 11.7 points per game last season, Collymore is averaging 22 points this season with seven rebounds and two assists per game. He was named to the all-tournament team of the prestigious McDonald's Texas Invitational last month after averaging 29.7 points per game.

"I told people last year, 'Next year, you're going to see a different side of me,'" Collymore said. "First two games—25 (points), 35 (points). I'm here to prove why I'm one of the best in the Houston area. I have a chip on my shoulder, and I want to prove what I'm capable of."

Collymore and Dickenscheidt work seamlessly together despite having similar skillsets.

Dickenscheidt credits the time playing together on varsity that started two seasons ago, when King put Collymore and Dickenscheidt into the starting lineup during the second half of district play in their sophomore season.

"That experience early was big, and it's kind of transitioned now that our roles have expanded," said Dickenscheidt, who is averaging 14 points, five rebounds and three assists per game. "We click. If he's hot, I'll feed him, and vice versa. We just want to help the team win. Yeah, we have to be a little more assertive and look for our shot more, but it's still about playing the game and making the right play."

After years of Jay Jay Chandler and Jaron Presley handling the primary shot-taking and scoring duties, the Cougars are more of a balanced team this year. Either Collymore or Dickenscheidt can score or find the open teammate. It just depends on how the defense is playing.

And because of a slew of injuries so far, the Cougars have been able to establish depth that will pay off later this season. Against Cy-Ridge, key contributors Braedon Edison and Jonathan Joseph were unavailable. Still, players like senior Chris Ngene, senior Takura Machaka and sophomore Hunter Betke stepped up and were productive in the win.

Dickenscheidt said because of his teammates' ability to shoot and space the floor, he often finds himself one-on-one, keeping the defense on its heels.

"We're making the most of it, going out and playing as hard as we can every game," Dickenscheidt said. "Hopefully it will lead us to a district championship and deep into the playoffs."

That's what King is counting on. Or, who he's counting on.

"This is it for them. They know it's the last. They want to leave their legacy," King said. "They've been a part of really good teams in the past, and I tell them all the time, 'Hey, this is your team. Make the most of it.' They're our leaders. We're going to lean on them."

Falcons' rebuilding continues into new season

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR



MARK GOODMAN

Tompkins senior Hank Sanders (33) gets the block on a shot attempt by Eisenhower's Jonathan Johnson (33) during their game Monday, Dec. 2, at Tompkins High.

It's déjà vu for Tompkins coach Bobby Sanders. Not necessarily the fun kind of déjà vu, either.

Last season, the Falcons returned just one player that was on varsity the previous year. It was a makeshift year after an incredible run to the Class 6A state championship game in 2017-18.

This season, just two players return from last year's varsity: senior post Hank Sanders and sophomore guard B.B. Knight.

So Monday's 63-51 loss to an undefeated Eisenhower team was not unexpected for a team that starts three sophomores. Tompkins (5-5) has even had more good moments than bad early on, including an impressive performance at the prestigious McDonald's Texas Invitational tournament last month.

"Going so far in 2018 with all those seniors and being a new school … it leads you with a void the couple of years afterward, with very little experience," Bobby Sanders said. "Those guys who went to state had 3-4 years of experience, taking all the varsity minutes. We've just got to start playing younger guys this year, right now, for the future."

Against Eisenhower, the Falcons were plagued by turnovers (15) and lengthy stretches of inconsistent play. They struggled finishing the game as they were outscored 18-12 in the fourth quarter after entering the period trailing only by six, 45-39.

In other words, they were very much affected by the inexperience the roster holds.

Hank Sanders is one of eight seniors on the roster, but the only one who played varsity last year. The 6-foot-5, 205-pounder had 11 points and 11 rebounds and is more physical and confident rebounding and contesting shots.

The 6-foot-4 Knight, regarded as one of the best pure shooters in the Class of 2022, had 12 points on 4-for-7 3-point shooting and showed improved ballhandling and leadership.

Otherwise, Tompkins is very much a work in progress. Sophomores Carmelo Yakubu (6-2 guard) and Jason Clark (6-2 guard) started. Yakubu is a strong defender and rebounder, but raw offensively. Clark is a confident shooter—he knocked in 4 of 11 3s—but has a lot to learn defensively.

"I've just got to be confident, taking the best shots I can shoot and doing what coach says," Clark said. "Defense has been a tough adjustment, going against faster, taller guys. That's the hardest part."

Bobby Sanders said there's no real process to expediting varsity experience for young players. It simply comes with game reps.

"And pray a lot," he added with a smile.

"We just have to coach up the younger guys, make sure they're good," Knight said. "Help them through situations. When your shot's there, take it. Work on getting stronger and faster. Get used to the speed of the game. Those are the big things."

Against Eisenhower, Bobby Sanders played 10 players in the first half. He is still trying to mix and match rotations and see which player is capable of what.

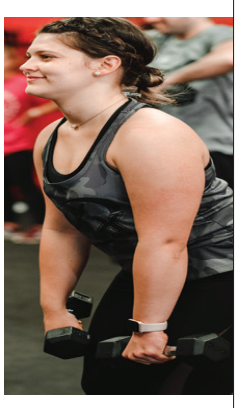
"It's where I expected them to be," he said. "As far as them, they don't know enough about basketball to know what to expect at this point. But I know where we can be, and I'm excited about it. Those sophomores getting more reps, we'll get a lot better faster."

Playing well at the McDonald's Invitational, where the Falcons went 4-1, and not being able to showcase the entire playbook yet due to a steep learning curve are encouraging factors, as well as the expected returns of junior Jalen Milroe and senior R.J. Smith from the football team.

Time will tell.

"It's tough," Jackson Sanders said. "The speed was so different for the underclassmen that they're having to learn that real quick. They just need to get comfortable with shot selection and passing. Any type of confidence is a plus.

"It's what you'd expect with a new team like this."

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This new book will contain a 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. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- 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.

There are still two major topics in life to be addressed, prior to publishing the new book. One is a major release of scientific information of the new theory across the U.S.A. The second is starting an evangelical ministry.

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.



SPORTS

Taylor secondary dominates once again

By STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Taylor junior safety Trevor Woods returns an interception 92 yards during the Mustangs' Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal game against Humble on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.



Taylor sophomore defensive back Hollis Robinson breaks up a pass during the Mustangs' Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal game against Humble on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.

HOUSTON — Taylor's defense used a pair of big plays to set the first half tone against Humble in the Mustangs' 35-14 Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal win on Nov. 30 at NRG Stadium.

But while the highlights of the game will feature the 92-yard interception return for a touchdown by junior free safety Trevor Woods and the 40-yard interception return by sophomore cornerback Hollis Robinson that set up a touchdown from the 4-yard line, it was the determined stability of the unit that salted the game away in the second half.

In the first half, Taylor allowed passes of 49, 60 and 40 yards, with the latter two going for touchdowns that allowed Humble to rally from a 21-0 deficit to a more reasonable 21-14 halftime score.

But in the second half, Humble quarterback Dexter Wyble's longest completion was 11 yards as he completed just 4 of 9 passes for 18 yards. Not coincidentally, the Wildcats did not score in the final two quarters.

At halftime, Taylor coach Chad Simmons and senior safety Braden Hay said there was an emphasis placed on limiting the long passes, which were Humble's specialty.

"Honestly, coming into the game all week, we said, 'Look, the one thing they can really hurt us on is beating us deep,'" Simmons said. "One of them was a screen that the guy broke, but the other that beat us deep was a bust in the coverage, and we re-emphasized it at halftime. Especially when we got up, we knew that's what they had to do."

Hay added, "I was trying to do my best to shift the momentum back to our side, you know, and make some plays for us."

That effort showed in the second half.

On Humble's first offensive series, Hay shot up from his safety position and tackled a receiver in the backfield on a bubble screen for a three-yard loss. On the next play, he knocked down a pass.

"For those plays, it was really just quick reads," he said. "Our scouting gets me to know what they're going to do pretty much before they do it. Once I saw one guy go out for the bubble (screen), I went out there and got that … The next play, I was expecting them to throw it deeper, and I gave them a little more cushion so that they'd throw it to my guy. I could have honestly picked it off, but I was just looking for a big play for our defense, so I just went and batted it down."

Later in the same drive, Hay knocked down a deep fade pass toward the end zone, forcing a turnover on downs. It was the fourth straight incompletion by Wyble, primarily because of the Taylor defense as opposed to inaccuracy on his part.

"The way I saw it from my position was, I'm not letting anything deep beat us," Hay said. "As soon as any ball was thrown deep, I tried to get as close to it as I could and hit it away. But other than that, I trust my teammates. I know they're going to do their part and we really wanted to keep it shallow, because we were up with a big lead. They're obviously going to try to take some deep shots, so we were kind of expecting them to come."

The Mustangs have five interceptions in three playoff games, and 17 on the season. Overall this year, Taylor has 31 takeaways.

Robinson had an interception in the area playoff win against Houston Memorial on Nov. 23, and Woods had another interception return for a touchdown on Nov. 16 in the bi-district playoff win against Fort Bend Elkins.

It was Woods' third pick-6 of the year, as he also had one against Deer Park on Sept. 14.

Simmons said Woods simply has a nose for the football.

"He's a natural football player," Simmons said, recalling Woods' 92-yard pick-6 that thwarted a Humble scoring opportunity. "He's instinctive and a heck of an athlete. That was huge for our momentum, and obviously for our opponent's."

Woods credited his speed and eye for the end zone for his development, which now includes playing offense. He is used for one of Taylor's offensive packages, "Dogs," which features him and Hay as receivers.

On his interception return for a touchdown, Woods said he was just playing his position well.

"It was a bootleg (pass) the other way, so I have anything that comes back the other way. I was just waiting on it, sitting on it," he said. "I don't know if he didn't see me, but he just threw it right to me."

Taylor is in the regional finals for the first time, going up against Cypress Creek at 2 p.m. Saturday at NRG Stadium. The Mustangs will likely continue to lean on its strong secondary. The Cougars are an impressive passing team.

Cy-Creek averages 267.3 passing yards per game, with senior quarterback Julian Uwadia completing 60.1 percent of his passes for 3,129 yards and 39 touchdowns against 10 interceptions. Uwadia has two receivers with more than 800 yards and 10 touchdowns each in seniors Legend Grigsby (869 yards, 13 touchdowns) and Cogan Derousselle (820 yards, 11 touchdowns). Seven other receivers have scored at least one touchdown.

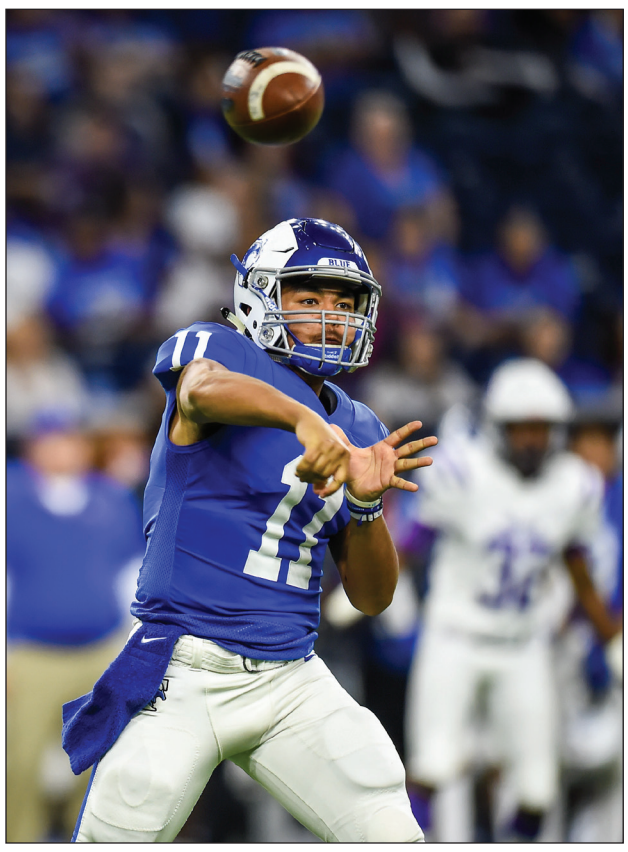
The Cougars average 38 points per game.

As if a shot at the state semifinals wasn't enough motivation for Taylor, Cy-Creek also eliminated the Mustangs in the area round of the playoffs last year. As a result, Woods said only one word was on his mind this week.

"Revenge," he said.

MUSTANGS

from page B1



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Taylor junior quarterback J. Jensen III attempts a pass against Humble during their Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.



Taylor senior Gavin Belue (33) celebrates with junior offensive lineman Bryce Foster (74) as freshman receiver Keaton Kubecka (15) looks on during their Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal against Humble on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.



Taylor senior running back C.J. Tolbert dives to score a touchdown against Humble during their Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.

The Mustangs outgained the Wildcats 315-279 in total yards, forced three turnovers and produced a second-half shutout.

Junior quarterback J. Jensen III completed 14 of 18 passes for 163 yards and three touchdowns, two to senior running back/receiver Gavin Belue and another to senior receiver Griffin Dougherty. Running backs CJ Tolbert and Casey Shorter combined for 140 yards and a touchdown on 31 carries.

The Mustangs manufactured a balanced offense: 163 passing yards and 152 rushing yards.

"When we're balanced like that, we work well," Belue said. "When the passing and rushing yards are the same, we're tough to beat."

Taylor scored on its opening drive of the game on Tolbert's 2-yard run. Sophomore defensive back Hollis Robinson picked off Humble quarterback Dexter Wyble, and that set up a Belue four-yard score from Jensen for a 14-0 Mustangs advantage.

Not even two minutes later, with Humble threatening deep in Taylor territory, junior defensive back Trevor Woods snagged a Wyble pass and returned it 92 yards for a touchdown and a 21-0 Taylor lead.

"It all starts with defense with us," said senior defensive back Braden Hay, who broke up a handful of passes. "Offense really feeds off the way we play, and big plays are always our mindset. If we make one, we know the offense has our backs and we trust them to go down and punch it in and get us a quick score."

It was deserving for a workmanlike, confident team that was excited, but not too excited, to play at NRG Stadium for the first time.

"This is a loose group, and they've gotten better at getting focused," coach Chad Simmons said. "I watched to see if they were any tighter or different, and they weren't. They realized pretty quick that the dimensions of the field are the same: 120 yards, 53 yards wide. They handled it well. Obviously."

So how did a team that finished the regular season 5-5 get four rounds deep into the playoffs? Well, Simmons said adversity dealt from a hellacious schedule helped. The Mustangs' five losses are to Atascocita (12-1 and headed to the 6A-D1 regional finals), Dickinson (10-2 area finalist), Mayde Creek (9-3 area finalist), Tompkins (11-2 regional semifinalist) and Katy (12-1 regional semifinalist).

"We've had a pretty tough schedule," Simmons said. "We've won close games, we've lost close games. We've won games big, we've lost games big. We've learned from all of it, and now we're peaking at the right time."

Junior offensive lineman Hayden Conner said there is more of a belief within the team, something that wasn't there earlier this season.

"Now we're a lot more confident than we have been," Conner said. "The offense is playing good ball and the defense is getting turnovers. We go into every game now thinking, 'Hey, we're the dudes.' That's the biggest difference right now."

And, perhaps most significantly, Hay said focus and commitment is stronger.

"It's definitely discipline," Hay said. "It's a big turning point for us. Sometimes during the season, there'd be lack of effort from some guys and it was a big deal in practice. That's not it anymore. We're all going hard. As long as we go hard in practice and have a good week, we know we have a good shot. We have great athletes all over the field that can give us a good look going into the next game.

"When we work and compete in practice, the games are easy. It's showing."

Hay said practices are more intense, more driven. He said the turning point came after the 57-0 regular season finale loss to Katy four weeks ago.

Hay said the team left plays on the field against the Tigers and the previous week's 38-12 loss to Tompkins that could have turned things around.

"Focus, focus, focus," Jensen said. "And that's exactly what we've been keying in on."

Next up is 9-4 Cy-Creek, which ousted Taylor in the area round of the playoffs last season. The Cougars upended the Mustangs, 24-14.

But Taylor is hungry for the rematch. It is not the same team.

For the first time in many years, Taylor has a legitimate passing attack that can prevent defenses from loading the box. And defensively, few teams remaining in the playoffs have such big-play capability.

"Let's just say I'm looking for revenge," Hay said, laughing. "Before this (Humble) game even started, I just wanted to get through it, honestly, to get to Cy-Creek. I'm pissed off. They were the ones that knocked us off last year and we had a good shot at going far then, too. We're looking to make big plays and come back and pop them in the mouth."

Who's to tell them no?

"It's any other game," Jensen said, "and if we do what we do, then we'll win."

SPORTS

UIL releases conference cutoff numbers

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

The University Interscholastic League, Texas' governing body for high school athletics, released conference cutoff numbers and preliminary enrollment figures on Tuesday, Dec. 3, for the 2020-2022 realignment that takes place in February.

No major surprises loom for Katy ISD.

The conference cutoff numbers provide the range of enrollment for each of the UIL's six conferences, including divisional cutoffs for football.

The cutoffs are as follows:

Class 6A (249 schools): 2,220 and above
Class 5A (254 schools): 1,210-2,219
Class 4A (202 schools): 515-1,209
Class 3A (236 schools): 230-514
Class 2A (200 schools): 105-229
Class 1A (220 schools): 104.9 and below

Divisional numbers for football:
Class 5A Division I: 1,900-2,219
Class 5A Division II: 1,210-1,899
Class 4A Division I: 865-1,209
Class 4A Division II: 515-864
Class 3A Division I: 350-514
Class 3A Division II: 230-349
Class 2A Division I: 165.5-229
Class 2A Division II: 105-165.4
Class 1A Division I: 59.5-104.9
Class 1A Division II: 59.4 and below

Based on the numbers, seven of nine Katy ISD high schools will remain in Class 6A: Cinco Ranch, Katy, Mayde Creek, Morton Ranch, Seven Lakes, Taylor and Tompkins.

Paetow remains in Class 5A, but moves up to Division I in football due to substantial increase in enrollment. Paetow's enrollment is 2,179, opposed to the 1,452 number summited two years ago at the last reclassification period.

Jordan High School, Katy ISD's ninth high school that opens in August, falls into Class 5A. Jordan submitted an initial enrollment number of 1,586.69 in late October.

Because Jordan High is opening on an even year (2020) and beginning with ninth and 10th grades, Jordan's individual sports will go varsity right away but team sports will wait until the fall of 2021, when the school has ninth, 10th and 11th graders. The only sport that is not able to be placed in realignment on the "middle" year, or halfway between the two-year realignment, is football.

Football for Jordan High won't be realigned by the UIL until 2022, which will be Jordan's first varsity football season. Until then, Katy ISD athletic director Debbie Decker said, the district will try to mix and match schedules for Jordan to play football, just not under the UIL umbrella.

Katy ISD's three previous schools—Paetow, Tompkins and Seven Lakes—all opened on odd years.

The enrollment numbers submitted by Katy ISD in October are as follows:

1) Tompkins: 4,018
2) Seven Lakes: 3,767
3) Katy: 3,466.5
4) Cinco Ranch: 3,257
5) Taylor: 2,915
6) Mayde Creek: 2,892.5
7) Morton Ranch: 2,567.5
8) Paetow: 2,179
9) Jordan: 1,586.69

The 2020-2022 realignment will be released Feb. 3 for football, volleyball and basketball. Alignments for other sports will be released in order of their seasons, per the UIL.



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Tompkins junior running back Marquis Shoulders scores one of his two touchdowns against Atascocita during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.



Tompkins junior Jalen Milroe scrambles away from Atascocita pressure during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.



Tompkins senior running back R.J. Smith carries the ball through Atascocita traffic during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.



Tompkins senior receiver Gabe Atkin (9) runs after a catch during a Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal against Atascocita on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.

FALCONS

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Tompkins (11-2) entered the game allowing just 167 passing yards per game in the playoffs, and just 103.6 in all this season. Still, the Falcons could hardly stay with Eagles receivers like 6-foot-3 junior Landen King, 6-4 senior Dylan Robinson (seven catches, 94 yards) and 6-2 sophomore Keith Wheeler (six catches, 68 yards).

A telling stat: King had the most productive day of the bunch with 174 yards and a touchdown on 14 catches, but he is No. 3 on the Atascocita depth chart behind Houston verbal commit Robinson and 6-4 senior and Louisiana Tech verbal commit Darius Edmonds (two catches, 18 yards).

Atascocita used the strength of 254 passing yards in the first half for a 35-3 halftime advantage that was too much for Tompkins to overcome.

"It was a great challenge for our defense, and we were up for it," Tompkins coach Todd McVey said. "We had some things we didn't do well that we fixed in the second half. We saw things quicker and just responded well overall.

"We ran out of time, more than anything else."

The Falcons outscored the Eagles 21-7 in the second half as junior quarterback and Texas verbal commit Jalen Milroe found his groove.

After misfiring on six of nine pass attempts to go along with an interception in the first half, Milroe completed 11 of 24 passes for 236 yards and two touchdowns to junior running back Marquis Shoulders in the second.

The defense also played considerably better, forcing three takeaways after halftime. Senior defensive back Jesse Jensen and junior linebacker Kobee Madriz recovered fumbles, and junior defensive back Colby Huerter intercepted Matthews.

"When bad things happen, how are you going to respond? The coaches did a great job with adjustments, but the kids came out and played for each other, and that was the adjustment," McVey said.

The Falcons made things interesting with some nice trickery when Milroe caught a seven-yard scoring pass from receiver Gabe Atkin with 10:42 left in the game. But that was the final score of the evening as the Eagles were able to hold off the Falcons, getting to the Tompkins 2-yard line in the closing seconds before taking a knee.

Atascocita compiled 534 total yards and averaged seven yards per play. Tompkins finished with 393 total yards at 6.1 yards per play.

"We knew what they were going to do," Huerter said. "It was just about execution. We tried different things, but it just didn't go in our favor."

It was the second straight regional semifinal appearance for Tompkins. It also marked the end of careers for 30 foundation-setting seniors, like star running back R.J. Smith and two-year captain Hayden Burke, among others.

It was this senior class that will leave a lasting legacy for a program that went 0-9 as recently as 2017. The Falcons have won 21 games the last two seasons, and this year's 11 wins were a program-best.

"This means a lot to me, as far as setting a bar for the younger kids to go accomplish and be better," said Smith, who finished his career as the Falcons' all-time leader in rushing yards and touchdowns. "This season didn't end the way we wanted it to, but I still feel like we did well."

They did, Huerter attested. It won't be forgotten.

"We owe it all to the seniors," Huerter said. "Nobody in the country is better than our seniors. They turned an 0-9 team into a successful, well-run machine. I owe it all to them, and I will remember this for next year."



SPORTS

Katy's run game falters against Mustangs

By STEPHEN GREENWELL and DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS

HOUSTON – As is typically the case year in and year out, Katy's rushing attack had been a source of strength throughout this season, averaging 204 yards per game. But North Shore was able to neutralize Katy's bread-and-butter in the Tigers' 56-35 Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal defeat on Nov. 29 at NRG Stadium.

The Tigers finished with just 79 yards on 24 carries, well off their season average and good for only 3.3 yards per tote. North Shore's pass rush and discipline playing assignment football were significant factors.

"We have to be able to establish something running-game wise, and we just didn't do it," Katy coach Gary Joseph said. "We have to find a way to be more physical up front. North Shore did a better job than we did."

Joseph lauded the improved play of North Shore junior defensive tackle Aaron Brown since the teams met in their August season opener, a 24-21 Katy win.

Katy was forced to pass 17 times, completing nine. Junior quarterback Bronson McClelland had 138 passing yards, but 72 of those came early in the first half on a scoring pass to Steven Stiles against busted coverage.



MARK GOODMAN

Katy senior running back Ron Hoff (34) is surrounded by North Shore defenders during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal on Friday, Nov. 29, at NRG Stadium.

Otherwise, the Tigers managed just 4.1 yards per pass attempt.

"Stopping the running game like they did really put us behind the eight-ball," Joseph said.

It was an especially tough game for senior starting running back Ron Hoff, who played for the first time in two weeks after suffering a high ankle sprain against Ridge Point on Nov. 15. Hoff finished with 10 carries for 27 yards, and his longest carry went for nine yards.

In contrast, Hoff had 32 carries for 206 yards and a touchdown in the first game against North Shore.

North Shore coach Jon Kay said the team identified Katy's running backs as a personnel area they needed to focus on. That led to one big play—the McClelland-to-Stiles play-action bomb—but the focus on the run otherwise bottled the Tigers up.

"They got one turned loose in the first quarter, but I think our kids made the adjustments and our coaches had a great plan," Kay said. "I don't know that we've played that well defensively against them before."

While McClelland used the bootleg several times in the first half to find open receivers, by the second half North Shore was bringing constant and consistent pressure, with the Tigers down double-digits and in obvious passing situations.

McClelland finished the first half 6-for-8 passing, but only completed three more passes the rest of the game. At one point during the fourth quarter, he was forced to throw the ball out of bounds on four straight plays across two possessions, and a fifth attempt resulted in an intentional grounding call for a 22-yard loss.

Katy only managed three carries greater than 10 yards, and not coincidentally, they came on the only touchdown drive by the offense in the second half. The drive started with an 18-yard carry by junior running back Jalen Davis, and

See KATY, page B8

TIGERS

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him on the ground. Credit to him."

The Tigers finished a season with legitimate state-championship hopes at 12-1 overall, ranked No. 8 in the nation and No. 2 in the state in Class 6A. Defending state champion North Shore improved to 12-1 and avenged its season-opening loss to Katy.

The 6-foot, 195-pound Davis did not run the ball once during Katy's 24-21 win over North Shore in late August. In round 2 this season versus the Tigers, he absolutely dominated with his legs.

Davis carried the ball 21 times for 283 yards and three touchdowns. He averaged 13.5 yards per carry, and scored on runs of 40, 30 and 1 yards.

"I knew I was going to have to get some carries," Davis said. "I had some stuff open the first time we played them and I didn't take it. I was forcing the ball into stuff, so I just had to come in with the mindset of doing what I had to do."

Joseph admitted he did not expect Davis to run the ball as often as he did.

"No," Joseph said. "I really expected the other kid No. 3 (North Shore senior running back Zach Evans) to get the ball quite a bit more."

For good measure, Davis showed off his arm, too, completing 8 of 12 passes for 134 yards and three touchdowns of 25, 48 and 11 yards.

Davis was slippery all afternoon, almost video-game-like in using his speed and jukes to escape tacklers and taking advantage of his strength to power through defenders to finish plays.

Whenever it looked like a Katy defender would bring him down, Davis kept going. He was difficult to wrap up, tougher to get an angle on.

"I don't even be thinking, I be playing," Davis said with a laugh. "It was great. I was just doing what I needed to do and taking what they were giving me."

North Shore led 35-21 at halftime and extended that to 42-21 on Davis' 30-yard run less than three minutes into the second half.

But the Tigers made a memorial rally to climb within a touchdown at 42-35 with 3:21 left in the third quarter.

Junior running back Jalen Davis scored on a 10-yard run. On the ensuing North Shore punt, kicker John Villalobos attempted an ill-advised punt after a high snap deep in North Shore territory that fell right into the arms of Katy senior defensive back Daylin Johnson, who took a couple steps into the end zone for the Tigers' second special teams touchdown in the game.



MARK GOODMAN

North Shore junior quarterback Dematrius Davis escapes Katy linebackers Jaylen Phillips (9) and Ty Kana (42) during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal playoff game Friday, Nov. 29, at NRG Stadium.

But that was as close as Katy got. Davis found Charles King on an 11-yard scoring strike with 53 seconds left in the third quarter, and then capped the scoring on a 1-yard plunge with 7:19 left in the game.

"He's very talented," Katy senior linebacker Jaylen Philips said of Davis. "He's a state champion for a reason. Give credit to him. He has overall talent—he's quick, he's fast, a very knowledgeable player who knows the game very well."

Largely because of Davis, who effortlessly managed his way through heavy Katy traffic time and time again to create his own running and passing lanes, the Mustangs converted 8 of 12 third downs.

"It was missed tackles, missed fits, getting misaligned," Katy sophomore linebacker Ty Kana said. "We had a good game plan. We just couldn't execute. I feel we prepared well, but it got away from us. They made more plays than us."

Katy senior starting running back Ron Hoff played, but was ineffective as he was clearly hindered by a high ankle sprain suffered against Ridge Point on Nov. 15. Hoff had just 27 yards on 10 carries. Jalen Davis, who started at running back for the second straight game, had 44 yards and a touchdown on eight carries.

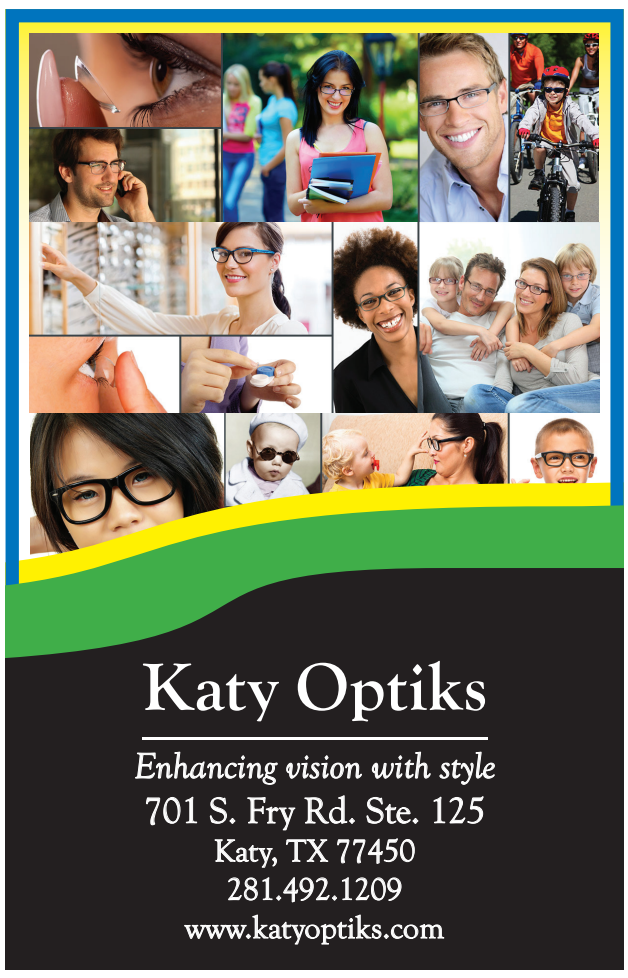
In all, Katy managed just 79 yards on 24 carries, which put the offense in precarious situations, especially on third down when the Tigers converted just 2 of 9 opportunities.

In the end, Joseph said his team "got hit with a buzz saw." North Shore compiled 554 total yards and averaged 8.7 yards per play. Katy averaged 5.3 yards per play, but had 13 fewer first downs than North Shore.

The Tigers fell to North Shore for the second straight year in the regional semifinals, and for the third time in four years in the playoffs overall.

In the last four seasons, Katy has lost just seven times. North Shore is responsible for four of those defeats.

"We have to continue finding ways to get this done," Joseph said.





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2019-20 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

CLASS 6A-DIVISION I REGIONAL SEMIFINAL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
- North Shore 56, Katy 35

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

CLASS 6A-DIVISION I REGIONAL SEMIFINAL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
- Atascocita 42, Tompkins 24

CLASS 6A-DIVISION II REGIONAL SEMIFINAL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
- Taylor 35, Humble 14

GIRLS BASKETBALL
- Katy 42, Cypress Lakes 39

BOYS BASKETBALL
- Morton Ranch 80, Dallas Kimball 77 (Mavs' LJ Cryer: 46 points, 12-16 3s)
- Pearland Dawson 57, Tompkins 43

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

GIRLS BASKETBALL
- Morton Ranch 63, 50

BOYS BASKETBALL
- Eisenhower 63, Tompkins 51
- Paetow def. Aldine

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

GIRLS BASKETBALL
- Seven Lakes 41, Alief Taylor 34
- George Ranch 37, Katy 32
- Tompkins def. Westfield

BOYS BASKETBALL
- Katy 50, Spring Woods 31
- Houston Memorial 61, Taylor 60
- Cinco Ranch 55, Cypress Woods 52
- Alief Hastings 53, Mayde Creek 52

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

GIRLS BASKETBALL
- Tompkins, Seven Lakes, Morton Ranch, Katy, Taylor, Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Paetow at Katy ISD Tournament

BOYS BASKETBALL
- Mayde Creek, Cinco Ranch, Taylor, Tompkins, Katy, Seven Lakes, Morton Ranch, Paetow at Katy ISD Tournament

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

GIRLS BASKETBALL
- Tompkins, Seven Lakes, Morton Ranch, Katy, Taylor, Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Paetow at Katy ISD Tournament

BOYS BASKETBALL
- Mayde Creek, Cinco Ranch, Taylor, Tompkins, Katy, Seven Lakes, Morton Ranch, Paetow at Katy ISD Tournament

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

CLASS 6A-DIVISION II REGIONAL FINAL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
- Taylor (8-5) vs. Cypress Creek (9-4), at NRG Stadium, 2 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
- Tompkins, Seven Lakes, Morton Ranch, Katy, Taylor, Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Paetow at Katy ISD Tournament

BOYS BASKETBALL
- Mayde Creek, Cinco Ranch, Taylor, Tompkins, Katy, Seven Lakes, Morton Ranch, Paetow at Katy ISD Tournament

HISTORIC!

Taylor earns 1st regional final appearance

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor High School administrators, students, faculty and supporters celebrated the school's 40th anniversary on Nov. 26.

Four days later, the Mustangs' football program celebrated history.

With its 35-14 win over Humble in the Class 6A-Division II regional semifinals on Nov. 30 at NRG Stadium, Taylor is not only the last Katy ISD team standing this 2019 football season, but is also in the regional finals for the first time.

As it was, the Mustangs were making just their third trip ever to the regional semis, and first since 2008. They made the most of it.

Taylor (8-5) made history by scoring early and often against an overwhelmed Humble team. The Mustangs' storybook campaign continues into the 6A-Division II regional final against Cypress Creek at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at NRG Stadium.

"It's unreal. Crazy. So crazy," senior receiver Tanner Isola said. "It's something nobody thought we could do, and we did it. It's like euphoria. This is awesome. I don't even know how else to explain it.

"We never thought we'd be in this position and we're here, and we're going to keep going with it, too."

Humble entered against Taylor with a 10-2 record. On paper, it seemed like a mismatch going up against a Mustangs team that needed help on the final week of the regular season to secure its playoff spot.

But it was Taylor that kept its season alive.

See **MUSTANGS**, page B4



MARK GOODMAN

Taylor senior receiver Griffin Dougherty flexes after scoring a touchdown against Humble during their Class 6A-Division II regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.

TAYLOR'S DEFENSE STARS ONCE AGAIN, see page B4



MARK GOODMAN

North Shore junior quarterback Dematrius Davis eludes Katy senior linebacker Hagen Losa (33) during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal playoff game Friday, Nov. 29, at NRG Stadium.

Davis too much for Katy in regional semifinal loss

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

HOUSTON— Katy was great. On most nights, thirty-five points, 235 total yards and only three penalties to no turnovers would be enough to beat anybody, even in the Class 6A-Division I regional semifinals.

But North Shore's Dematrius Davis was simply better.

In a performance that Texas high school football aficionados will talk about for a long time, the junior quarterback and Virginia Tech verbal commit produced six touchdowns and 317 total yards in leading North Shore to a 56-35 win over the Tigers on Friday, Nov. 29, at NRG Stadium.

"We had a guy there for him on every play," Katy coach Gary Joseph said. "We had other guys responsible for doing things, too ... We were about a step off on everything we did. The plays he hurt us on weren't all designed runs; there were plays where he extended them and we didn't do a good enough job keeping him in the pocket.

"We were there, we hit him several times, but we just didn't get

See **TIGERS**, page B2

Tompkins falls to dynamic Atascocita

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

HOUSTON—All season long, Tompkins was successful defending the pass. An athletic, ball-hawking secondary will do that.

Despite that, however, the Falcons' defense was no match for Atascocita's explosive, versatile passing game on Saturday, Nov. 30. Eagles senior quarterback Brice Matthews had his way in Atascocita's 42-24 Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal win over Tompkins, slicing and dicing the Tompkins secondary and throwing for 390 yards and three touchdowns.

Matthews completed 32 of 43 passes (74.4 percent), was hardly pressured thanks to quick releases and dominant offensive line play, and threw passes to six different receivers, showcasing Atascocita's ridiculous wealth of perimeter playmakers.

"They have a lot of playmakers, a lot of size," Tompkins senior defensive back Pryce Powell said. "We didn't play our best, but they have a lot of weapons, and credit to them for that."

See **FALCONS**, page B3



MARK GOODMAN

Tompkins senior defensive back Jesse Jensen (12) and junior linebacker Kobee Madriz (23) try to stop Atascocita junior receiver Landen King during their Class 6A-Division I regional semifinal on Saturday, Nov. 30, at NRG Stadium.

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TRIBUTES

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE B7

Betty Ann (Brown) Davis, 64, passed away on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in Brookshire, Texas.



BETTY ANN (BROWN) DAVIS
1955-2019

Betty Ann was born on November 19, 1955 in Houston, Texas, the youngest daughter of Leslie Cletus Brown Jr. and Betty (Showers) Brown. She grew up in Houston, graduating from Lamar High School. She was fortunate to spend most of her life with her family on the Mossleigh Farm in Brookshire, Texas. Betty Ann was passionate about helping others and served for a time as a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor. She had an abundance of love for animals, especially horses, and was recently planning to open a wildlife rescue.

She is survived by her daughters: Lesliann Nemeth of Austin and Caley Stewart and husband, Casey, of Katy; son: Hunter Davis of Katy; grandchildren: Preslee Leppert and Davis Stewart; mother: Betty Brown of Brookshire; sister: Mary Katherine Armstrong of Brookshire; brother: Leslie Cletus Brown, III and wife, Ann, of Houston; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Betty Ann is preceded in death by her father: Leslie Cletus Brown, Jr.; brother: Edward Showers Brown; and son: John Edward Nemeth.

A Celebration of Life was held at 11:00 am on Monday, November 25, 2019 at The Brookwood Community Chapel in Brookshire, TX. Interment was held in the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

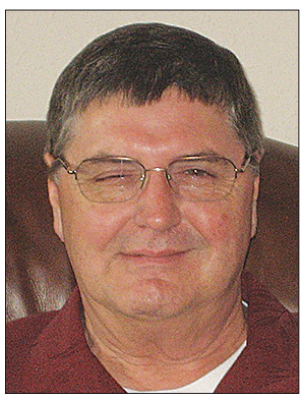
Pallbearers were Leslie Cletus Brown, IIII, Edward Showers Brown, II, Jason Clay Davis, Jake Winston Davis, John Cade Davis, and Ian David Efron.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Wildlife Center of Texas:

https://wildlifecenteroftexas.org/donate/

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Schmidt Funeral Home, PO Box 248, 819 Waller Avenue, Brookshire, Texas, 77423 - www.schmidtfunerals.com - (281) 934-2424.

Norman Douglas Price was born on March 18, 1947 in Larne, Northern Ireland to Joseph Douglas Price and Mary Isabella Hoy Price.



NORMAN DOUGLAS PRICE
1947-2019

Norman proudly served in the British Army Reserve of The United Kingdom, in the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1967 and 1968. Norman married Glenys Rowena Mary Parry on December 12, 1970 in Brynford, North Wales, United Kingdom. Norman has been a proud Katy resident since 1973 and became a United States citizen in 1992. He worked as an engineer with gas turbines. He very dearly loved his grandchildren Dylan and Ian Price; enjoyed playing pool; and loved taking his dogs, Kate & Pippa, to Katy Dog Park. He was a huge history buff and avid reader. He loved fishing, airplanes and his classic car, a 1974 Triumph TR6.

Norman Douglas Price passed away on November 22, 2019 in Fulshear, Texas at the age of 72 years surrounded by friends and family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Glenys Rowena Mary Parry Price of Katy; his son, Gareth Douglas Price and his wife Cindy; grandsons, Dylan and Ian Price of Fulshear; mother, Mary Isabella Hoy Price of Holywell, North Wales; brother, Trevor E. Price and his wife Lesley of Kings Lynn, England; nephew, Dr. Joseph Price, his wife Alexandra and great niece, Cassini Price of Queensland Australia; and niece Grace Price; his brother in law, Kenneth Jones of Holywell, North Wales; his beloved dogs, Kate and Pippa; and numerous other loving family members and many friends.

Norman was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Douglas Price; and by his sister, Janet I. Jones.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2019 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, where funeral service were held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 with Chaplain Daryl Ervin officiating. Interment in Katy Magnolia Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dylan Price, Larry Betche, David Mills, Charles Kitzman, Russell Sackett, and David Ketrick.

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net

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



Plant declared high priority violator

By KIAH COLLIER
TEXAS TRIBUNE



CASEY PORTER/REUTERS

An explosion and fire at a chemical plant in Port Neches on Nov. 27, 2019.

The Port Neches chemical plant where two explosions and an ongoing fire prompted widespread mandatory evacuations Wednesday has a years-long history of state and federal environmental violations.

The facility owned by Houston-based Texas Petroleum Chemicals, or TPC Group, which manufactures highly flammable 1,3 butadiene, has been considered a high priority violator by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for more than two years, and been out of compliance with federal clean air laws since the agency's last inspection in August 2017. State data shows the facility has reported spewing more air pollution than allowed by its government-issued permits five times this year, including hundreds of pounds of butadiene.

Though the exact cause of the fire and explosions, which injured several workers and residents, is still unknown, local emergency response officials said it had been traced to a processing unit that produces the colorless gas, which is used to make rubber and plastics and is a known human carcinogen. The first explosion took place around 1 a.m. The second occurred Wednesday afternoon, prompting mandatory evacuations within a four-mile radius of the plant in Port Neches, Groves, Nederland and northern Port Arthur.

Together, the EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the state's environmental regulatory agency, have fined TPC for air emissions violations more than half a dozen times in the past five years after finding many of the missteps preventable. The last federal censure TPC faced was in 2017 when it was ordered under a consent decree to pay a civil penalty of $72,187, make various equipment upgrades and spend no less than $275,000 on fenceline monitoring for butadiene.

But environmental and consumer advocacy groups on Wednesday said that those penalties — the civil ones add up to less than $200,000 — are nowhere near enough to deter a company that brings in billions of dollars a year from taking sufficient corrective actions.

"When you look at all these facilities and their compliance histories, it's like a rap sheet," said Elena Craft, senior director for climate and health at the Environmental Defense Fund. "And of course we see many times these bad actors that continue to have violations and ultimately this can lead to the kind of major disasters like the explosion last night."

There have been multiple, major fires and explosions at Texas chemical plants in recent years that have resulted in injuries and deaths, particularly in the Houston area. Like with Port Neches, many of the facilities had long histories of repeat violations.

In a statement issued Wednesday, TCEQ Executive Director Toby Baker called the string of incidents "unacceptable."

"Within the last year, I have witnessed an unacceptable trend of significant incidents impacting the Gulf Coast region," he said. "While not all emergency events may be prevented, it is imperative that industry be accountable and held to the highest standard of compliance to ensure the safety of the state's citizens and the protection of the environment."

But a 2017 investigation by The Texas Tribune found that the TCEQ, which is responsible for administering federal clean air laws, fined fewer than 1% of so-called "emissions events" — when a facility emits more air pollution than is allowed by its permits — in 2016. While most of the releases don't pose imminent threat of fire or explosion, some do.

When the TCEQ did fine companies, those penalties often make up a sliver of revenues and profits — even when the emissions events were potentially catastrophic — and the commission often waives a portion of them if the companies agree to address the underlying issue in a timely manner.

The two fines TCEQ handed down to TPC Group this year were for $13,688 and $7,500, but the agency agreed to defer one-third of the amount.

The EPA and TPC Group didn't respond to requests for comment.

In an incident update posted to its website Wednesday morning, TPC, which celebrated its 75th birthday this year, said it "sincerely remains focused on protecting the safety of responders and the public and minimizing any impact to the environment."

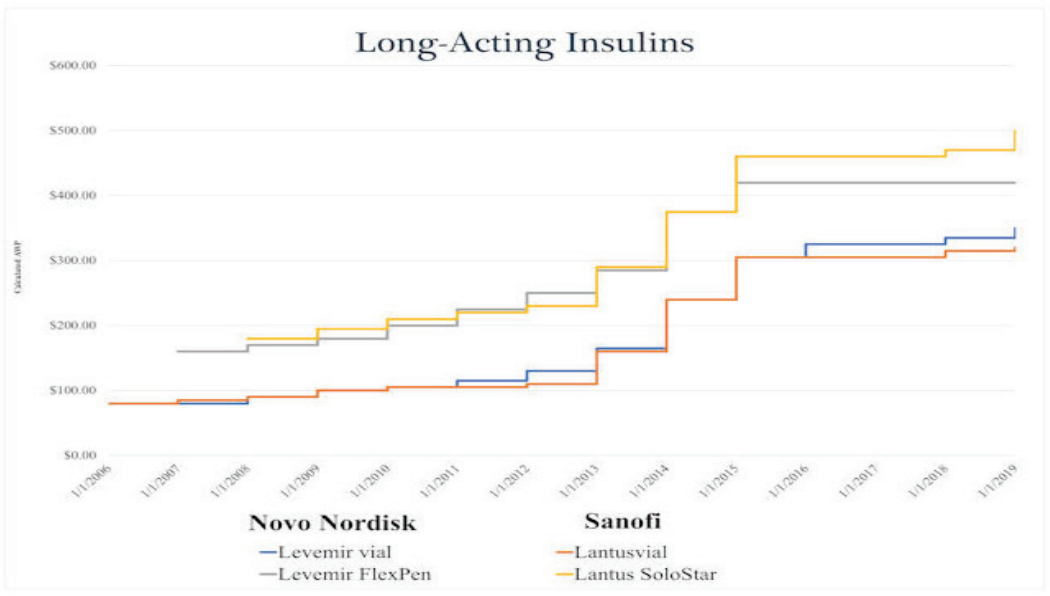
in a written statement, Catherine Fraser of Environment Texas said, "Disasters like these are terrifying and unacceptable, and the TCEQ and EPA need to take much tougher enforcement actions and strengthen safety regulations, like the Chemical Disaster Rule, to build safer and healthier communities."

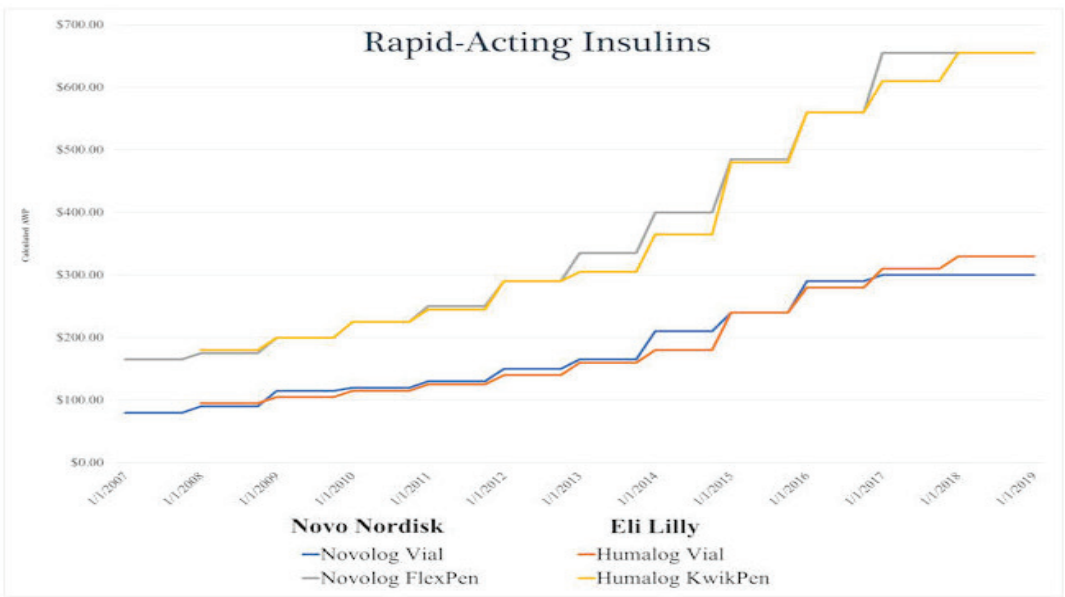
The Port Neches incident comes a week after the EPA gutted the so-called Chemical Disaster Rule — safety regulations enacted by the Obama administration that strengthened a decades-old EPA program designed to prevent and mitigate chemical disasters.

The rule would have required companies to study ways to avoid incidents by using better technology, engage in regular planning session with first responders, provide more information to first responders and the public about what types of chemicals they store on site — and to do third-party audits and root-cause analyses after incidents or near misses.

As authorities investigate the cause of Wednesday's explosions, it's difficult to say whether the Port Neches incident could have been prevented if the rule had been in effect. But Heather McTeer Toney, who was a regional administrator for the EPA under the Obama administration, said, "what we can say with all certainty is that rules like this are critical to ensuring that we're at least aware and are doing everything that we can to prevent these types of explosions."

Defendants Raise Prices in Lockstep





INSULIN

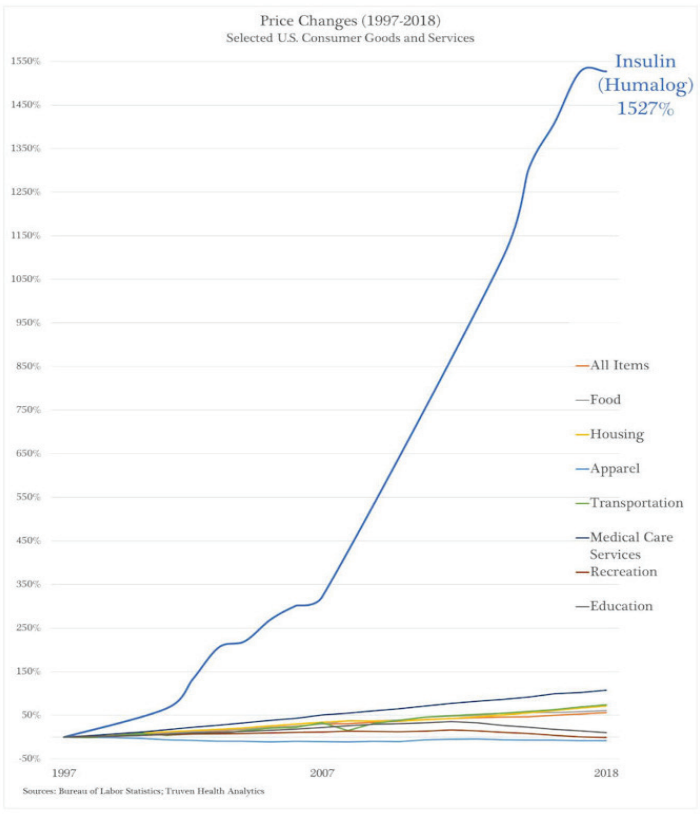
from page A1

Some patients are also eligible to receive free insulin through Lilly Cares, a separate Eli Lilly nonprofit, Keuterman said. Patients are eligible for that assistance if they make four times the federal poverty level or less, he said.

Despite Eli Lilly's nonprofit efforts, Harris County is claiming that insulin, which sold for about $20 per vial in the late 1990s is now selling for as much as $700 a vial, but costs only about $5 to produce.

"The discoverers sold the original patent for $1 to ensure that the medication would remain affordable," Ryan said. "Today, insulin has become the poster child for pharmaceutical price gouging."

Of the seven defendants, four did not respond to Katy Times inquires in time for publication of this article and Express Scripts declined to comment. DeAngelis responded on behalf of both CVS Caremark and Aetna Rx.





R. HANS MILLER

Susan the Band performs live in Aloft's WXYZ Lounge while listeners listen and relax. Owners Ahmed Kamal and Basit Kamal plan to have live entertainment as a regular feature at the hotel.

HOTEL

from page A1

located closer to Houston because nearby facilities were either large conference centers like the Leonard Merrell Center or were small facilities that were designed for only a couple dozen people at most.

"One of the things that I requested was that they have a large conference room that could handle 50 to 75 people – 100 at most," Brawner said. "I think that's going to be a benefit for not only the hotel but also for Katy. They're going to get in there and produce revenue and jobs for the city of Katy."

The hotel is considered a boutique hotel, which meant that the Kamal brothers had to have plans for the hotel that set a high standard. Rooms feature amenities like Marshall boomboxes, defogging mirrors, clothing steamers and other creature comforts in every room, Ahmed said. Mattresses and toiletries are higher-grade than non-boutique locations as well, Basit said. A full-service 700-square-foot gym is also available for guests to use.

"We felt there was a need of bringing an upscale, trendy hotel. We felt [the area] was serving just one kind of crowd," Basit said. "That's the reason why we wanted to bring this here."

The hotel also features the WXYZ lounge where the brothers hope to host live entertainment on a regular basis to attract locals to come hang out and have a drink with friends while enjoying music. The lounge includes a full-service bar.

"We want to Just keep the entertainment rolling," Ahmed said. "I never want this lobby to become boring."

WXYZ has already hosted a live, local DJ and a few live music performances, the brothers said. Future events will be promoted through Facebook and other avenues, Ahmed said. The entertainment venue also has a pool table and a full bar so people can visit and relax. Ahmed and Basit hope that locals see the venue's lobby as a place to come and relax.

"We have been open only eight days [as of Nov. 24] and we've gotten a lot of of inquiries about different events that we're going to have here," Basit said. "Girlfriends and wives have been dropping their boyfriends and husbands off to wait here while they shop."

SUIT

from page A1

Volkswagen claimed the state and county could not continue the case because the case fell under federal authority. However, in April 2018 state District Judge Tim Sulak of the 353rd District Court in Austin found that because the recalled vehicles were already on Texas roads, the county is not preempted by the federal government, the release said. Volkswagen subsequently asked the Texas Supreme Court to order Judge Sulak to reverse his ruling and grant a judgment that would dismiss Harris County's claims against the companies.

The Harris County Attorney's Office will be moving forward with their case on behalf of county residents. The lawsuit claims that Harris County is not receiving sufficient compensation from the $209 million settlement Volkswagen is slated to give Texas counties after reaching a $2.9 billion settlement in federal courts. Harris County had 24% of the vehicles in Texas with the illegal software but is only slated to receive 13% of the settlement funding.

"They owe restitution to Harris County for their reprehensible actions," Ryan said.

LIFESTYLE



The perfect sauce to pair with a roast

Creating a crowd-pleasing holiday centerpiece starts with choosing a flavorful, tender cut of meat. This year, you can make a holiday roast to remember with an elegant cut from Omaha Steaks paired with this Red Pepper Cranberry Sauce to elicit rave reviews from guests. Find more recipes and tips to create a holiday dinner to remember at OmahaSteaks.com.

Holiday Roast with Red Pepper Cranberry Sauce

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Yield: 2 cups

Roast:
- butcher's twine
- 1 Omaha Steaks chateaubriand roast (2 pounds)
- 2 tablespoons, plus 2 teaspoons, canola oil, divided
- Omaha Steaks Private Reserve Rub

Red Pepper Cranberry Sauce:
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 medium red bell peppers, finely diced
- 1 cup red wine
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons yellow mustard seeds
- 6 tablespoons dried cranberries
- 6 tablespoons dried currants
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

To make roast: Heat oven to 250 F.
- Using butcher's twine, tie roast to maintain shape. Coat all sides with 2 tablespoons canola oil and season with rub.
- In medium skillet, heat remaining oil. Sear all sides of roast 2 minutes each.
- Place roast in roasting pan and bake 1 hour, 30 minutes.

To make Red Pepper Cranberry Sauce:
- Heat medium skillet on medium-high heat.
- Add olive oil and diced red pepper; saute 3-5 minutes.
- Add red wine, red wine vinegar, sugar, mustard seeds, cranberries, currants and salt. Bring mixture to boil then turn temperature to low and simmer 20 minutes, or until liquid is mostly evaporated and thickened.
- Top each serving of roast with Red Pepper Cranberry Sauce.

Note: Mostarda can be made up to 3 days in advance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Get your home winter-ready

FAMILY FEATURES

As the days get shorter and the weather turns chilly, it's time to prepare your home for the winter months ahead. Because your home will likely require extra maintenance to keep it in shape throughout the winter, beginning preparations early can help lower energy bills, increase the efficiency and lifespan of your home's components and make your property safer overall.

Consider these tips from the experts at the National Association of the Remodeling Industry to help ensure your home is ready before winter weather strikes.

Get your furnace checked

To keep your furnace from failing when you need it most, get it inspected by a professional before you need to rely on it to heat your home in the dead of winter. Regular tune-ups can prolong your furnace's life, help prevent carbon monoxide leaks and ensure your unit is working at maximum efficiency.

Seal leaks around windows and doors

If replacing window screens with storm windows and installing a storm door on your house isn't realistic, you can keep your home warmer and increase energy efficiency by applying caulk to seal any gaps you find around window and door moldings and help keep heat from escaping. If any pipes or ducts travel through an exterior wall of your home, you can also use caulking and weather-stripping to help block potential entry points for cold air.

Check your gutters

Once the leaves have fallen and before the first snow, check to make sure your gutters are properly secured – replacing gutter spikes and downspout rivets where needed – and clear of debris. If your gutters are full of debris, it can lead to water backing up against the house and overflowing, which can cause potential damage to roofing and siding. Also adjust downspouts so they direct water at least 5 feet from the house, which can help prevent melting snow from saturating the ground around the house and causing foundational damage.

Prep the plumbing

Undrained water in pipes can freeze, both indoors and out, which can cause pipes to burst as the ice expands. Start by disconnecting hoses and shutting off exterior faucets, draining any water that remains in them and storing hoses indoors to prevent cracks. Drain any other pipes, valves or in-ground sprinklers that may be exposed to the elements and, for an extra layer of protection, wrap water spigots with covers to prevent damage.

Examine decks and patios

Your patios, sidewalks, driveways and decks need occasional maintenance as well, and giving them a once-over before colder weather hits can help ensure they're prepared to stand up to the elements. Repairing any broken joints or cracks in stonework and applying sealer can prevent melted snow from getting in and freezing, which can create bigger problems. The same principles hold true for decks and wooden handrails. Though typically made from treated or rot-resistant wood, they are subject to splintering, decay or insect damage and may need to be stained and sealed periodically. Of course, if replacement is necessary, it's best to complete the project before inclement weather hits.

Find more expert tips to get your home ready for winter at RemodelingDoneRight.com.



1 dead 1 injured after Nov. 30 shooting

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

A 20-year-old man was shot to death and an 18-year-old woman was shot in the upper body or neck after a Nov. 30 altercation with the woman's teenaged brother, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said via Twitter. The young man died of his wounds while the woman was taken to a nearby trauma center after first responders arrived at the scene in the 24000 block of Pepperrell Place Street around 11:40 p.m. to respond to the shooting.

"This was basically a house party gone bad," Ganzalez said. "Multiple people were at the residence when an altercation broke out."

Gonzalez said the teen was detained at the scene but was not arrested and a follow-up investigation is in progress. About 10 young adults and teens were at the scene when a disturbance between the male victim and the shooter began.

The weapon used was a shotgun, Gonzalez said. He added that the juvenile's parents were out of the country at the time of the incident.

The weapon used was a shotgun, Gonzalez said. He added that the juvenile's parents were out of the country at the time of the incident.

Pepperrell Place Street is located in the Williamsburg Hamlet subdivision, near King Elementary School.



KISD administration builds donations for KCM food bank

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Katy Christian Ministries received amost 6,700 pounds of food from the Katy ISD administration staff after the district held an event to collect food for the local nonprofit. The event, entitled "CANstruction" by district officials also raised more than $1,800 in cash donations.

"Everyone was eager to compete in this year's charity competition, but I know they were even more excited to help community members in need during this holiday season," said Katy ISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski said in a press release.

More than 10,000 cans and 21 turkeys were collected by staff, according to the release. Staff then used the nonperishable goods to create a variety of displays at the KISD administration building, including a slice of pie, a heart, a fireplace and an outhouse boasting the theme "flush out hunger."

"It was beautiful. It was just amazing to see all the displays that the staff were able to do. They were very creative to say the least," said Katy Christian Ministries Executive Director Deysi Crespo.

Crespo said the donation's timing was excellent. Due to recent damage to the Houston Food Bank which supplies food to the Ministries' food pantry, the nonprofit had been having to work harder to fulfill holiday needs, she said.

"We're averaging about 111 families a day that they help, so that's a lot of food that goes out every single day," Crespo said. "During the holidays, we're trying to make it extra special for them, so there's that need."

Seventeen central office departments participated in the CANstruction event, while the judges, who included Gregorski, Janet Theis, Executive Director for Partners in Education and other Katy ISD administrators, reviewed each CANstruction entry, according to the press release.

Katy ISD and Katy Christian Ministries have a longstanding partnership, and team up on various events throughout the year, such as the "Red Apple School Supplies Drive" and "Milk for Many."

"I'm just very thankful," Crespo said. "Seeing the vision [created by the displays] made it more impactful."



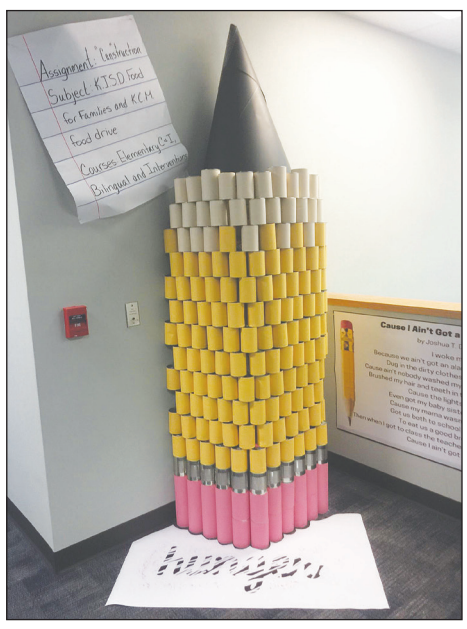
COURTESY PEXELS

Katy ISD staff created several displays with their food donations to capture the spirit of the holidays. The food collected filled a truck bed and helped Katy Christian Ministries provide meals to Katy area families for the holidays.













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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Cause No. CV 18-6709

United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York Tarasmatti Nagessar Plaintiff(s)

v. Northeast Alliance Mortgage Banking Corp. Defendant(s) Summons In A Civil Action

To: **Northeast Alliance Mortgage Banking Corp.**
565 S. Mason Rd.
Katy, TX 77459

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) – or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a) (2) or (3) - you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff of plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Tarasmatti Nagessar, In Pro Per, 111 Euclid Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208.

If you fail to respond, judgement by default will eb entered against you for the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court. Date: Nov. 26, 2018 ?s? Douglas C. Palmer, Clerk of Court

HELP WANTED

THE SALVATION ARMY DONATION CENTER is now hiring! Part-time positions are now available at our new location in Katy! Please call (713)869-3551, extension 56845 to schedule an interview.

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P E R R Y L E E HOME HEALTH is currently hiring full-time Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) to work in office to assist with staffing. Must be willing to travel and serve as a back up attendant. Starting pay 14/hour, and 175 per pay period for travel. Please contact (281) 969-8725 or fax resume to (832) 539-1901

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PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, will be received at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042, until 10:00 a.m., Local Time, Thursday, December 19, 2019, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Phase 1 Detention Facilities to serve Bergamo Vista for Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495, Harris County, Texas".

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: detention facilities.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., Local Time, at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042.

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

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred dollars ($100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) ($50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042.

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

Wilbow-Bergamo Vista, LLC on behalf of
Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 495

PUBLIC NOTICES

CINCO SOUTHWEST MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 4 NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES AND PENALTIES

Notice is hereby given that, at a meeting on November 19, 2019, the Board of Directors of the District adopted a Resolution Establishing Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of the District's Online Portal System ("Resolution"), providing rules and regulations governing the use of the District's online portal system and related phone application for water usage data. Violation of any of the rules or regulations contained in the Resolution will subject the violator to a fine of up to $10,000 per violation. Each separate occurrence and day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate violation.

A copy of the Resolution, with its rules and regulations, including the penalty listed above, is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

/s/ Kerry Crellin
President, Board of Directors

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for **Aeration Blower for Wastewater Plant** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 19, 2019.**

The Owner is the City of Katy, Texas

The successful bidder will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract as outlined in the Contract Documents.

When installation of equipment is included in the bid, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid to workers who are involved in the installation work.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities in bids.

Bidders may obtain one set of bid documents for this project at the office of the Engineer, Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Fort Bend County M.U.D. No. 58 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, L.L.C. (L.A. License No. 1387, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on January 9th, 2020 for **Fort Bend County M.U.D. No. 58 - Additional Trail Connections: Hawks Landing to Roesner Road & Loop Trail.**

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including sidewalks, site furniture, modification of existing extreme event to allow sidewalk crossing.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) and Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for each set. **This sum is non-refundable** and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Fort Bend County M.U.D. No. 58 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for December 17th, 2019, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

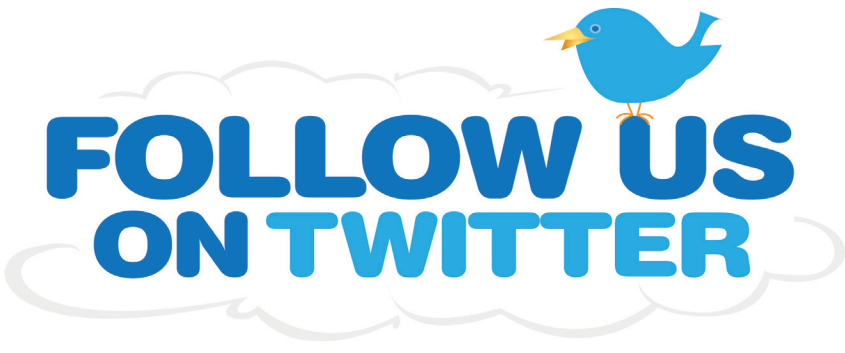
Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.



The lost feather



CARRIE CLASSON
THE POSTSCRIPT

I lost a feather the other day and I understand this does not qualify as news.

But I want to say—for the record—that this was a really nice feather. I paid good money for it and pinned it to my favorite blue hat. I wore that hat out for a walk one evening when it was chilly.

This was the last night that my husband, Peter, and I were in Frigiliana, a little town in the south of Spain. I walked to the top of the very steep hill where, 400 years ago, a Moorish castle stood, guarding the town from invaders. The invaders eventually made it there anyway and the castle was knocked to the ground. Only the amazing view over the Mediterranean remains. And that's where I went walking when I lost my feather.

There was no hope of finding it that night. The sun was already down. So, the next morning I headed out, looking for my feather. When I got to the foot of the hill (a small mountain, really) I realized what a foolish idea this was.

The ground was covered with autumn leaves that, surprisingly, all looked a lot like feathers. There was a stiff wind blowing and I had no idea when the feather had parted ways with my hat.

Just then, I met a young pair of Germans heading up the hill.

"Do you speak English?" I asked.

"Yes!" they told me (because all Germans do, it seems).

"I've lost a feather. You haven't seen it, have you?"

"A feather?" the young man repeated.

It struck me that this was the stupidest question I'd ever asked anyone, and I was filled with relief that I would never see these two people again.

"Actually, yes," he said. "I saw one near the donkeys."

I knew exactly where the donkeys were.

"Right by the donkeys?" I asked, rather incredulous.

"Yes, I saw it when I stopped to take a photo."

"Thank you so much!" And I raced back down the hill, back to the donkeys.

"It pays to ask for help!" I told myself. "It's worth asking stupid questions!" I added in my little sermon to myself.

Except there was no feather.

I searched and searched and could not find it anywhere. Even the donkeys lost interest in the project. I was there so long the Germans came down the hill again and found me.

"Did you find the feather?" the young man asked.

"No, no I didn't," I confessed. He took me to where he had seen it. There was no feather.

"Ah well. Don't waste any more time on this!" I told the considerate German couple.

"Well, good luck!" they said as they headed down the hill.

Since I still hadn't made it to the top of the mountain, I kept climbing. I went all the way to the top, to the place I had looked at the Mediterranean the night before. And there was my feather, lying no more than a foot from where I had sat. I held that feather in my hand, amazed.

Because, you see, I didn't really think I was going to find that feather. I thought the whole idea was crazy from the start. But once I shared the idea with that nice German couple, the possibility of finding it seemed more real, more attainable. Sometimes we just need someone else believing in our ideas to make those ideas—even the crazy ones—seem possible.

It was only because they believed I could find the feather that I did.

Until next time,
Carrie

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



If you teach a man to Engfish

"This is the type of arrant pedantry up with which I will not put." — Winston S. Churchill



CURTIS HONEYCUTT
GRAMMAR GUY

We have probably all written a version of this essay at some point in high school or college: you've read the assigned book (okay, "skimmed" is probably more accurate) and there's a five-page essay due tomorrow. Well, technically it's due today because it's 2:00 a.m. and your paper's due at 9:00. It's time to "fill the space," as they say in university circles. You've nudged the margins to make them bigger. You're using Courier New because it takes up more space on the page. Now it's time to make your words longer and more intelligent-sounding so you can squeak out a B-minus on this bad boy. You consult your thesaurus for every third word.

Somehow we learn a certain form of writing an essay or paper that ends up resembling everyone else's papers, or—even worse—an imitation of our professor's speech patterns. The result is a flowery, academic-sounding, five-page whopper of a nothingburger. You swap out the word "use" for "utilize" or "employ." You go to great lengths in order to avoid ending a sentence with a preposition, forcing your words to twist and turn into stuffy syntax riddles. You're verbose to the point of long-windedness.

There's a term for this: Engfish. It's when we use contrived language for the sake of sounding smart. We use Engfish in our writing and in conversations. By puffing up our discourse we end up obscuring our intended message.

In a 1946 article entitled "Politics and the English Language", George Orwell suggested six rules for combatting our tendency to write in this way:

Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.

Never use a long word where a short one will do.

If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.

Never use the passive where you can use the active.

Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.

Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

I'm with Orwell on this one. It's not bad to sound smart; I'm suggesting the best way to communicate is by putting your thesaurus away and saying what you mean to say. Don't sugar-coat it; don't even coat it at all. Just give them the naked, unvarnished truth. Do this and your communication will be strong and effective.

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B3

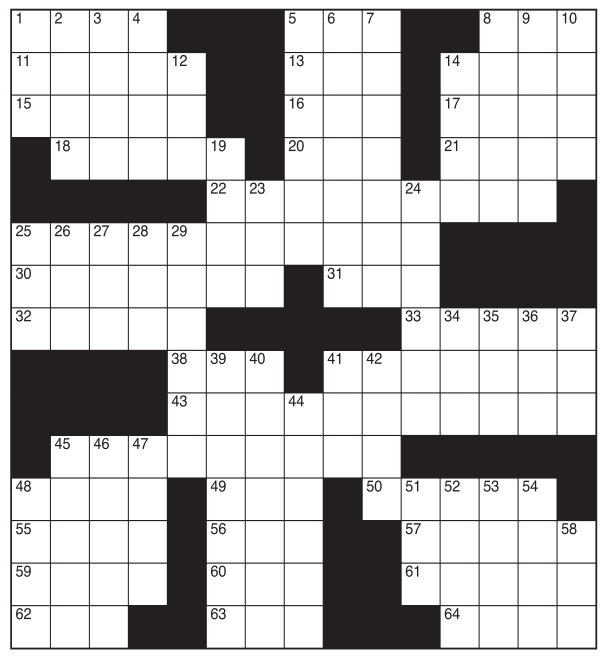
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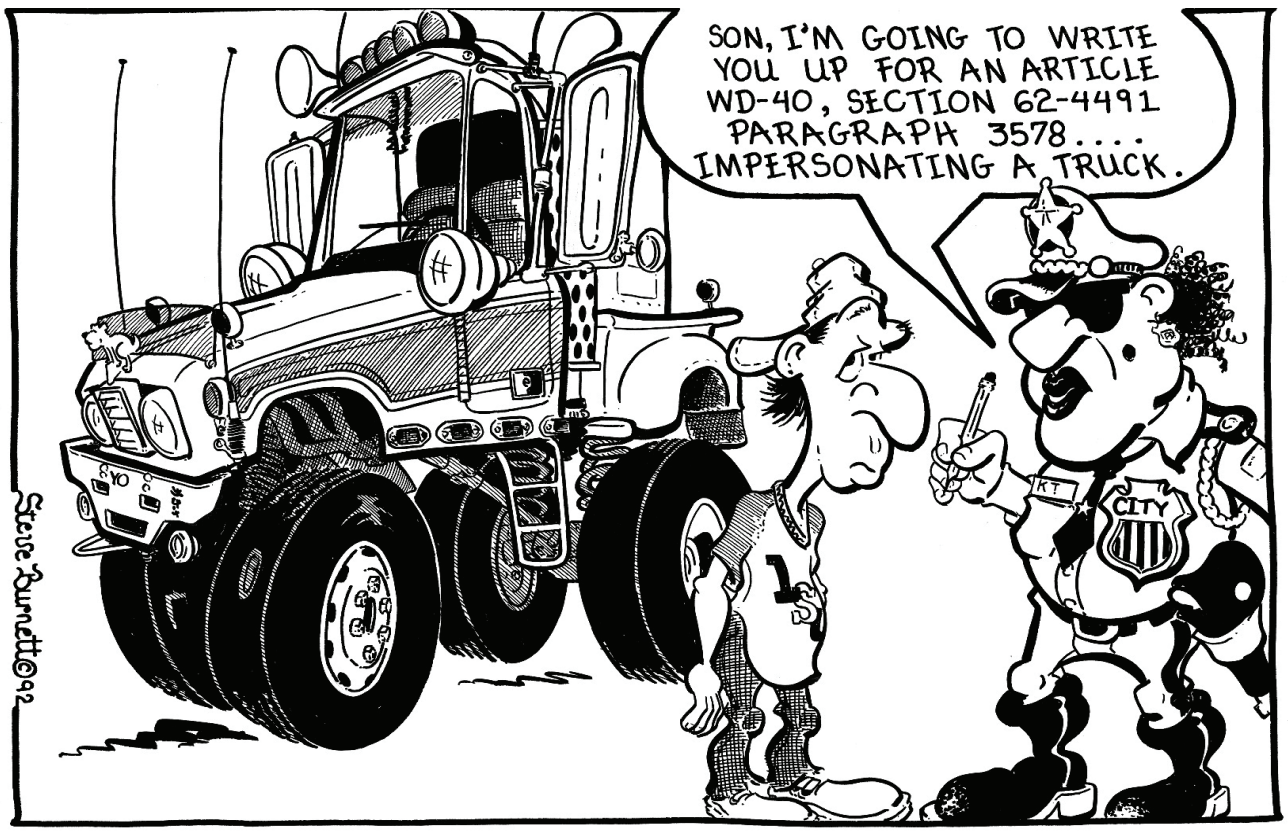
Fun By The Numbers

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!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Egyptian bull-god
5. America
8. Type of field (abbr.)
11. Reagan's Deputy AG
13. Negative
14. Mother of Hermes
15. Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
16. In shape
17. Oh my goodness!
18. People of Guinea or Sierra Leone
20. A form of "to be"
21. Succulent plant
22. Estranges
25. Honest
30. Showing conviction
31. High schoolers' test
32. Implant
33. Acknowledgment
38. Cash dispenser
41. Transferred to another
43. Superhero group
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Power to perceive
50. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Israel's first permanent UN delegate
56. Everything
57. Afflicted
59. Language spoken in Chad
60. Pioneering MC Kool Moe
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Keyboard key
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN
1. Type of degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, predatory lizard
4. River in Romania
5. Biased
6. Parties
7. TV's used to need one
8. Philly football player
9. Recognized ethnic group of China
10. Gradually disappear
12. Large, dark antelope
14. Vegetarians won't eat it
19. Takes the energy out of
23. Body part
24. Succeed in achieving
25. Where golfers begin
26. Computer memory
27. One who buys and sells securities
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Quiet and rather dull
34. A limb on which to walk
35. It precedes two
36. Of she
37. Commercials
39. Necessary for sewing
40. Infectious viral disease
41. Expression of good wishes
42. Some are contact
44. More plentiful
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Altar in Orthodox churches
51. Swiss river
52. Impartiality
53. "Luther" actor Idris
54. They resist authority (slang)
58. Criticize



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Hamilton Loomis: Katy blues man and father

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

When Hamilton Loomis' mentor, Bo Diddley, told him to find his own sound and not copy anyone else's, that's just what Loomis set out to do. Now, more than 20 years later, Loomis is playing rock and blues on his new Christmas album that doesn't sound like the Christmas music one hears when meandering around Katy Mills during the holidays.

"I started singing with [my parents] when I was 14 on stage," Loomis said. "I gradually started writing my own music a few years later. I was very fortunate because I am the tail end of the generation that got to not only meet – but play with some of the blues greats."

Loomis' parents fostered a love of music in him, he said. That passion for song led him to traveling with his parents to perform and meet other musicians. Among the musicians he felt privileged to meet were Johnny Colbert, Albert Collins and Houston's Joe "Guitar" Hughes.

"They all grew up in Houston," Loomis said. "They were eager to take on the younger generation at the time – I was like, 15 – they were eager to teach the craft to youngsters. They knew they weren't going to be around forever."

There was also Bo Diddley. In 1992, when Loomis was 16, he was backstage at one of Diddley's concerts at Rockefeller's in Houston and had the opportunity to play for Diddley. Later that night, Diddley pulled Loomis onstage to play a song with him, and Loomis was sucked even further into the rock and blues world he admired. Loomis said that the generosity Diddley showed him was something Diddley didn't have to do, but he had found a friend and mentor.

"Mainly it was all the advice and all of the stories that he told," Loomis said. "And encouragement – He encouraged me to not sound like him, to find my own voice, to find my own style."

He fell so in love with performing that his passion awarded him with a Grammy nomination in 1995 for his album, "Hamilton". Loomis said the concert with Diddly was his crossroads which eventually led him to forsaking a traditional career path after he finished college and pursuing music full time.

"As I wrote more material and started recording and that sort of thing, I just kept performing and eventually found a booking agent and started touring back in 2001," Loomis said.

Hypoglycemia and Hyperinsulinism symptoms

If the symptoms below are common, consult a physician and ask them about low blood sugar. In children, early diagnosis can improve health for life.

EARLY WARNINGS:
- Shakiness
- Dizziness
- Sweating
- Hunger
- Irritability or moodiness
- Anxiety or nervousness
- Headache
- Nighttime symptoms:
- Damp sheets or bedclothes due to perspiration
- Nightmares
- Tiredness, irritability or confusion upon Waking

For additional information on Congenital Hyperinsulinism, visit www.congenitalhi.org.

Source: Mayo Clinic



PHOTOS BY R. HANS MILLER

Hamilton Loomis performs at Katy's Wildcatter Saloon during the launch party for his new album, "This Season" on Nov. 29. He is joined onstage by his drummer, Brannon McLeod and bassist, Mike Meade.

Eventually, Loomis met his wife, Sabrina LaField and they had a son whom they named after Diddley. Bo's development was slower than expected though, and after several back and forth discussions with doctors who dismissed their concerns as those of first-time parents, they found out they had a "sugar baby." Bo was born with hyperninsulinism, a rare form of hypoglycemia that causes the body to produce too much insulin, which reduces blood sugar counts and causes other health complications, Loomis said.

Loomis credits LaField with being a "relentless mama honey badger" in finally getting Bo diagnosed and treated for his hyperinsulinism. When Bo was 17 months old, LaField had to insist that physicians check his blood sugar – which turned out to be 40. The ideal fasting blood sugar is 70-100, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Bo is now five years old and attends Katy ISD schools, but Loomis said life with hypoglycemia – Bo's condition was downgraded from congenital hyperinsulinism to severe hypoglycemia in the last few months – is still challenging. Whenever Bo is sick, Loomis and LaField must be cautious to ensure that his medication and the sugars he ingests stay down in order to keep his blood sugar up. Being advocates for Bo in discussions with medical professionals and school staff is vital for Bo's safety, Loomis said. Fortunately, he said, the two have complementary personalities.

"I think probably the best way to integrate that conversation in is she is the like the big idea person," Loomis said. "I'm the trees guy and she's about the forest."

That synergy plays into Loomis' music parenting and career. His wife has helped him come up with the concepts for albums while he wrote and performed the songs. They also work together to raise awareness for congenital hyperinsulinism and support Congenital Hyperinsulinism International – a nonprofit that helps families affected by the disease.

The opening track to Loomis' "Basics" album is entitled "Sugar Babies" in honor of his son, as is "This Season," the title track to his new album which he performed at a Wildcatter Saloon launch party on Nov. 29. Again, it was Loomis' wife that pushed him to make the album using holiday song ideas he'd been working on for a while and putting them into one collection of five holiday classics and five original songs.

"I always kind of wanted to do a Christmas CD and I've never done it," Loomis said. "This year my wife just, at the last minute too, it was like September – said you just need to do it."



Loomis is a multi-instrumental artist, playing the harmonica, guitar and other instruments. He also values the blues tradition of passing the torch and holds blues workshops and teaches children how to play.

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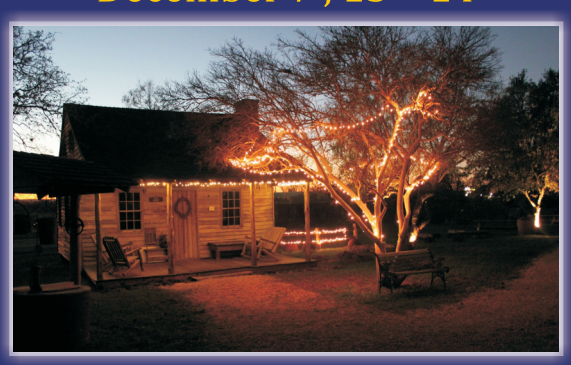
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