

Katy Times



SHOULDERS STARS FOR TOMPKINS
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019



R. HANS MILLER

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings poses with his wife, Susan Hastings, and the lodge's Worshipful Master Jim Muller who presented the award to the mayor on the lodge's behalf.

Mayor, others honored at event

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings was honored with Katy Masonic Lodge 1439's Community Builder Award at a small ceremony at the lodge's facility at 3158 Katy Hockley Road in Katy. The lodge also recognized several masons for their contributions to the lodge.

"I can't think of a more deserving person [than Bill Hastings]," said Jim Muller, the lodge's worshipful master. "We at the lodge - every year we have a committee and we put together the names of those deserving people that we know of and that we think fit the role of community builder."

The worshipful master position is like the president of other community organizations and is responsible for leading the local lodge. The community builder award is given to non-masons that show a commitment to living in faith and service to the community.

"The Katy Lodge could not have picked a better person to have received their Community Builder [Award] this year," said district deputy grand master Aaron Twardowski of the Grand Lodge of Texas, the organization's Texas headquarters located in Waco, Texas.

Muller noted Hastings's

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3 vie for commissioner seat

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers filed to run in the Republican primary for the Fort Bend County Precinct 3 commissioners court seat. Meyers will be opposed in the race by Wendy Duncan, the assistant vice president of the board of directors for the Willow Fork Drainage District in the Republican primary. One Democrat - Hope Martin has filed for the race on the Democratic ticket.

"As Fort Bend County grows we must become more disaster-resilient, more economically diverse, and we must keep government limited and effective," Meyers said in a Nov. 14 press release. "That's why today, I have filed the paperwork for reelection as county commissioner."

Meyers was first elected to the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court in 1996. He holds a bachelor of science in Industrial Technology and Engineering as well as a masters



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Incumbent Andy Meyers will face Wendy Duncan in the Republican primary in the spring Republican primary for Fort Bend County Precinct 3 commissioner. The winner is likely to face Hope Martin, the only democrat who has filed for the race thus far.

See **SEAT**, page A2

'OUR COMMUNITY IS EXHAUSTED'

Christ Clinic to hold prayer vigil as nonprofits struggle in Katy area

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Christ Clinic, a nonprofit clinic that serves the Katy area, is planning a candlelight vigil on Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Typhoon Texas near Katy Mills. The vigil is being held in response to growing strains on local nonprofit organizations such as the clinic, Clothed by Faith and others which have seen an increase in demand for services in recent months.

"Fundraising is never easy, but Christ Clinic is finding it more difficult to raise the necessary revenue needed to support operations. In speaking with other non-profits, we have found that many are in a similar situation," said Christ Clinic Executive Director Lara Hamilton in a Nov. 18 press release.

Christ Clinic isn't the only local nonprofit seeing an increase in demand without a matching increase in donations though. Hope Impacts, an organization that helps the homeless in the Katy area is seeing challenges as well, Tina Hatcher said. Hatcher is executive director and founder of Hope Impacts.

"We are all putting out more services and seeing more clients than income is coming in," Hatcher said.

Hatcher said Hope Impacts has been fortunate enough to receive a \$20,000 grant from The George Foundation that will allow the organization to provide services in Fort Bend County, where they had previously been focused on providing services Harris County. However, the grant does not meet the increased need to serve residents of both counties and is just a small portion of Hope Impact's budget.

As an example, according to Christ Clinic's annual reports, the clinic's total operating budget for 2014 was about \$928,000 to serve roughly 2,500 patients. By 2017, the number of patients had jumped to almost 12,000, or almost five times the number of patients just three years earlier. During that same time, revenue had only increased to about \$1.65 million, not even doubling the amount of income for the charity clinic.

Titus Benton, executive director of Clothed by Faith, a local nonprofit that

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COURTESY CHRIST CLINIC

Christ Clinic's waiting room at 25722 Kingsland Blvd., Ste. 111 in Katy is full as patients take advantage of a flu shot clinic held Nov. 18.

New Cinco Ranch Jr. High principal appointed

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The Katy ISD Board of Directors has accepted Superintendent Ken Gregorski's appointee to be principal at Cinco Ranch Junior High School. Mona Salinas, the current principal of Fielder Elementary School, will transition to her new role as Cinco Ranch Junior High's principal in January, immediately after winter break, according to a District press release.

"Having previously been an assistant principal at CRJH, I know the expectations and

strong values of this community. I will strive to maintain strong fine arts and athletic programs, high achieving scores, and the numerous clubs and philanthropic opportunities that CRJH provides the students," Salinas said.

Salinas has about 20 years of experience in public education which includes time as a teacher, instructional coordinator, assistant principal and principal, according to a Katy



MONA SALINAS

ISD press release. Salinas has also previously served as assistant principal at Exley and Cinco Ranch Junior High schools.

Salinas received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Sam Houston State University, as well as a Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Houston, according to the press release.

The District is currently interviewing for the Fielder Elementary principal position and the District hopes to name a replacement soon, said Renie Deanda, the District's director of communications.

COMMENTARY

Watson's perspective refreshing despite loss

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Everyone has bad days. They take place more often than we'd like. The struggle is in not letting them define us, which can be easier said than done.

Last Sunday, Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson had a bad day at the office, completing 18 of 30 passes for 169 yards and no touchdowns in a 41-7 loss to the Baltimore Ravens. Watson had two turnovers, a fumble on Houston's opening drive of the game and interception in the second half, and was sacked seven times.

It was the first time in Watson's college or pro career that his team lost by more than two touchdowns. Woof.

It wasn't just about the offense, either. The defense allowed 249 rushing yards, the most the Texans have surrendered during the Bill O'Brien coaching era, and the Ravens were the third team to never punt in a game against the Texans.

The humiliating laughter had significant ramifications. Because of the setback, the 6-4 Texans are now second in the AFC South heading into Thursday's game at home against first-place Indianapolis.

After the game, O'Brien offered the usual, tired clichés.

"We've got to turn the page quickly here and learn from the mistakes and move forward very quickly."

"It's the NFL. If you don't play well and you don't coach well and you make mistakes, you're going to get beat. They obviously did a better job."

"Anytime you lose, it's not good. It's tough. But you've got to turn the page and you've got to move on quickly."

And a personal favorite of his: "I have no idea. I've got to watch the tape."

Watson did not have many answers, either. But he did have perspective, offering an admirable uplifting outlook on an otherwise miserable afternoon.

The game was hyped as must-



KENNETH K. LAM | BALTIMORE SUN

The Baltimore Ravens' Jaylon Ferguson, left, sacks Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson in the second quarter on Sunday, Nov. 17. The Ravens defeated the Texans by score of 41 to 7 at M & T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, MD.

see between Watson and Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson, two potential MVP candidates. Both are not only unbelievable talents, but high-character individuals as well.

A role model's role model.

Jackson clearly got the best of the Texans, completing 17 of 24 passes for 222 yards and four touchdowns while rushing for 86 yards on nine carries, including a spectacular 39-yard jaunt that will be replayed on ESPN for quite a while.

Watson would have had every

reason to hang his head or even refuse to talk to the media after the game. Players do it all the time, even superstars. But one thing the Texans' leader is not is unaccountable.

In fact, Watson held his head high. He did not mumble words or speak in a whisper. When asked if he took the loss personally, Watson responded quickly, "Nope."

"I have a lot of peace in my heart and my mind," Watson said.

Wow. And then he went on to prove it.

Watson talked about exchange-

ing jerseys with Jackson after the game. On his No. 4 white Texans jersey, Watson said he wrote, 'Always love. Keep going. Keep grinding.'

"I wrote MVP on it," Watson said. "He's like a brother to me. I'm proud of him. That's what I told him. 'Keep going. Stay healthy.' Keep leading his team. It's all respect. He played well today."

A reporter's follow-up question to Watson's answer implied disbelief.

"You wrote 'MVP'?"

"This game is all about brotherhood," Watson said. "Who knows how long we're going to get to play. Yes, today didn't go our way and it's going to have a lot of criticism, but at the end of the day that's not going to stop what I'm doing, waking up blessed, happy, walking, and being able to do what I love to do at a high level!"

And there it is. Epiphany. Peace of heart, peace of mind.

As Texans fans cry for O'Brien's firing or disgrace Watson and his teammates for coming up short in a big regular season game, leave it to the 24-year-old to be the voice of reason.

Watson expressed a self-assuredness that is, well, envied. Probably something we all wish we had when adversity crosses our paths. Something we all do have if we just look in the right place and embrace a positive state of mind.

"I've had a lot of success and I've had a lot of failures," Watson said. "Every quarterback does; all the great ones do. Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers. Everyone has their days, and you continue. The criticisms come, week in and week out; I could go out Thursday and light it up and everyone would be back talking highly of us. It's a media-driven league and we're just going to continue to focus on us and the Texans and continue to win games, try and get to where we want to get to."

"There's still a lot of football."

It was a stirring moment, as Watson's words were enlightening. A needed mental (spiritual?) break from the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world of professional sports.

Hey, Texans fans, by the way: six games remain in the regular season. The world is not ending, relatively speaking.

"In the whole scheme of things, relative to how he sees life and how he attacks things, that was one day that is over," O'Brien said Monday when reporters relayed to him what Watson said the previous day. "He's overcome a hell of a lot more than that. He'll be ready to go."

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Lewis makes Paetow history on Signing Day

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

National Signing Day came and went in exciting fashion Wednesday, Nov. 13, for Katy ISD's eight high schools, but for Rayna Lewis and Paetow High it was a day that will never be forgotten.

Lewis, a senior utility player, became the first Paetow student-athlete to sign on National Signing Day. Lewis will continue her softball career at North Texas.

"It's definitely a huge blessing being the first student athlete to sign at Paetow," Lewis said. "I think it's a great opportunity to leave my mark at the school, and also to encourage the student athletes in our younger classes to strive for that moment in their athletic career. I hope me signing starts a culture of academic and athletic excellence at Paetow."

Last season, Lewis hit .393 and had an on-base percentage of .443. As a pitcher, she had 90 strikeouts.

Lewis said her earliest memory of playing softball came when she was 7-8-years old, when her league team lost the KGSA championship and "I cried for a good three days



Paetow senior softball player Rayna Lewis is the first Paetow student-athlete to sign on National Signing Day.

straight," Lewis said, laughing at the memory.

"It was about then when I realized how serious I took the game, and how much pride I took in competing to win," she said. "It wasn't until later, when I was about 11 or 12, when I really began to notice that I could take this game to the next level. I was on a national championship-winning select team, Texas Lightning, and that

definitely flipped my switch from just playing for fun to playing for my future."

Lewis recently talked to The Katy Times more about North Texas and her upcoming senior season.

Q: What was it about North Texas that made it the right school for you?

A: The biggest factor in my decision was the

coaching staff. What they are doing with the program there is unbelievable, and I wanted to be a part of that change. One of my goals was to be on a championship-caliber team, and I really think that's what I'm getting here at UNT. Aside from the sports, the atmosphere of the school is phenomenal. I loved the city of Denton and how close it is to the city of Dallas. It just really fits everything I was looking for in a school.

Q: How would you describe your recruiting process? What was great about it and what was tough about it?

A: The recruiting process for me was extremely difficult, but (it) had a great outcome. I attended so many camps and sent thousands of emails throughout my high school career. I traveled all across the country trying to get recruited, and no one ever really seemed to bite. It was super tough on me mentally, and at times I even thought that I might not get a chance to play college softball. It was like that until about the summer going into my junior year, where I saw an extreme shift in my recruitment. I began to get several looks and was able to create a list of schools to

consider. I then began to go on visits and see all different universities around the country. The best part about it all would be finally finding the perfect fit for me and my family at North Texas.

Q: What did North Texas coaches say they had in mind for you? How did they say they could see you developing for them, and what about their plan interested you the most?

A: The main thing the coaches had in mind for me was getting me in the hitting lineup, but also playing multiple positions defensively. They saw me developing into an elite hitter on the collegiate level, which really intrigued me considering hitting is what I love most about playing softball. Aside from that, they could see me developing into a true utility (player), and having the ability to play infield and outfield, all while having the opportunity to pitch in college, which is rare, but a role that I have wanted to play from the beginning.

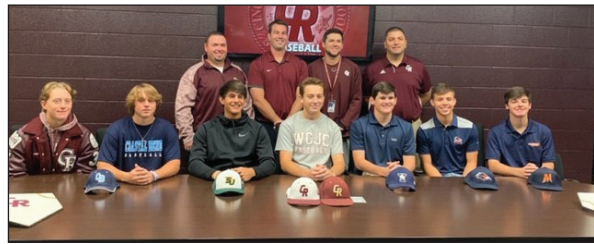
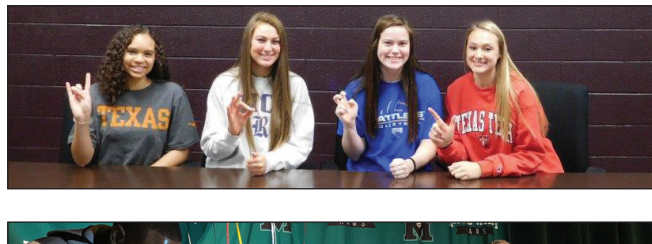
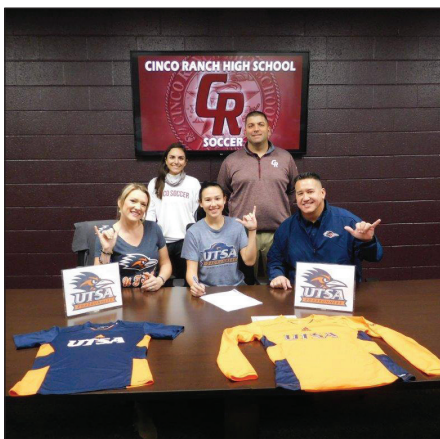
Q: After last season, what are you working on this offseason into your senior season of softball?

A: Last season was a bit of a culture shock for me because it was the

first time I pitched every game. The main thing I'm focusing on this offseason is building my stamina and relationships with my catchers, so it won't be something we have to worry about when season comes around. Also, I'm working on making the game as fun as possible for everyone on the team, given last year's results. We have tried to create a bond and redirect the overall mindset of the team. My main goal is to just go out with a bang. I definitely see playoffs in our future!

Q: What advice would you give other young athletes who go through the recruiting process?

A: The best advice I could give young athletes is to take your time. Now with the recruiting rules being changed, take more time to have fun and enjoy the sport to your fullest, and when the time comes to make a decision on your school, really choose the school you think fits YOU. And although you'll have more time, that also means you have to work extremely hard to stay at the top of your game, and it gets hard, but the end result is worth all the sacrifice. I promise.



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SIGNING OFF

In all, 52 Katy ISD student-athletes committed to play at the next level for National Signing Day on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

CINCO RANCH

- Caitlyn Bonjonia, softball, Texas State
- Tyler Burg, baseball, Coastal Bend College
- Mia Calidonio, softball, St. Edward's
- McKenzie Chew, soccer, Texas-San Antonio
- Danyle Courtley, volleyball, Rice
- Reid Easterly, baseball, Yale
- Cristian Garcia, baseball, San Jacinto College
- Michelle Graham, track and field, Texas
- Logan Henderson, baseball, McLennan Community College
- Aislan Lennon, volleyball, St. Mary's (San Antonio)
- Jacob Linderman, baseball, Texas-San Antonio
- Madalyn O'Brien, volleyball, Texas Tech
- Keaton Urioste, baseball, Wharton County Junior College

KATY HIGH

- Alec Atkinson, baseball, Yale
- David Hankins, baseball, Texas A&M Corpus Christi
- Grace Hunter, soccer, Ouachita Baptist
- Jamie Morgan, swimming, Idaho
- Allana Thompson, basketball, Prairie View
- Audrey Witham, cross country/track, Toledo

MAYDE CREEK

- Devin Alcoser, volleyball, Texas-Permian Basin
- Rommell Williams, basketball, Midwestern State

MORTON RANCH

- Madyson Bailey, softball, Texas-Tyler

PAETOW

- Rayna Lewis, softball, North Texas

SEVEN LAKES

- Seungjoon Ahn, swimming, Columbia
- Gabrielle Collins, volleyball, Colorado State-Pueblo
- Brennah Cotner, acro, Baylor
- Ari Ghafari, soccer, Baylor
- Kathryn Gleason, golf, Illinois-Springfield
- Peyton Guidry, soccer, Texas-Dallas
- Molly Humes, cross country/track, Oklahoma State
- Abby Nowak, soccer, Louisiana-Lafayette
- Rachel Oberman, soccer, Central Oklahoma
- Gaby Padilla, soccer, Stetson
- Nylissa Snagg, volleyball, Southeastern Louisiana
- Kathryn Sturgis, tennis, Colorado Mesa
- Summer Taylor, diving, Incarnate Word

TAYLOR

- John Bissaillon, baseball, Arizona State
- Alexi Brown, volleyball, New Mexico State
- Heather Foster, soccer, Austin College
- Tyler Kopp, swimming, California-Berkeley
- Emma Sticklen, swimming, Texas

TOMPKINS

- Daniel Espinosa, soccer, Memphis
- Terin Graham, soccer, Houston Baptist
- Jules Haro, soccer, Tulsa
- Kat Ibarra, softball, Texas-San Antonio
- Jalen Jones, baseball, Kansas Wesleyan
- Clayton Keys, track and field, Nebraska
- Cole Lindhorst, cross country/track and field, Air Force Academy
- Devin McGrath, baseball, St. Edward's
- Barbara Olivieri, soccer, Texas A&M
- Skylar Parker, soccer, Tyler Junior College
- Avery Witten, softball, Montevallo

Positives reign in Mavericks' loss to Yates

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

ALDINE — The bad news is Class 6A's No. 2 state-ranked Morton Ranch lost its season opener, 102-100, to Class 4A's No. 2 state-ranked Yates on Saturday, Nov. 16, as a headlining game of RCS Sports' prestigious 16-team Season Opener showcase at the Campbell Center.

The good news is the Mavericks took the 0-1 start hard. Very hard.

Coach Khris Turner was practically at a loss for words after the game. Players were disappointed and sullen. Words were few, voices were quiet.

All signs of a team that was clearly not satisfied with a tough loss to one of Houston's premier programs. Signs that would be expected of coaches and players boasting state-championship aspirations, which the Mavericks do.

"We've got work to do," Turner said. "We did a lot of good things, but the beauty of preseason is we get to work on things we need to fix so that we can get ready for the postseason. The game told us what we needed to work on."

Thirty-three turnovers and poor execution dismayed Turner. Still, though, considering that the Mavericks were oh-so-close against a tradition-rich program loaded with elite talent, coming off a state-tournament appearance and returning four of those senior starters, wasn't it, all in all, encouraging?

"Yes and no. Yates is a great program, great coach," Turner said. "But you go back and forth, because we missed some buckets we should've made, but ... you don't know how to feel. We had our chances. I don't know."

Turnovers plagued Morton Ranch, which had 21 in the first half, as it trailed by as many as 20 points early and by 53-40 at halftime, and then three in the final minute of the fourth quarter that allowed Yates to rally from a brief 95-93 deficit and score nine points in the final 118 seconds.

The Mavericks had issues solving Yates' hellacious fullcourt press. Twenty-three of those 33 turnovers were live-ball giveaways.

"Our biggest thing is execution," Turner said. "We didn't execute the way we practice and the way we plan. It bit us."

But in the long run, Morton Ranch may be perfectly fine, thanks to a breakout game for senior forward Adrian Caldwell.

Senior stars L.J. Cryer (37 points, five assists, three steals, 14-for-22 shooting), Westley Sellers (21 points, 11 rebounds, nine assists, four steals)



MARK GOODMAN

Morton Ranch senior Westley Sellers attempts a shot during the Mavericks' 102-100 loss to Yates on Nov. 16 at the Campbell Center in Aldine.

and Eddie Lampkin (13 points, 12 rebounds, two assists, two steals) clogged up the stat sheet, as expected. The Baylor-bound Cryer, who showed why he is arguably the most dynamic offensive talent in the city of Houston, was the best player on the floor, outplaying Yates senior guard Antwon Norman (34 points, three assists, three steals, 14-for-25 shooting).

Morton Ranch, though, may have found a fourth consistent playmaker in Caldwell. After Cryer accounted for 22 of the Mavericks' 40 points in the first half, Caldwell was huge in the second half, taking some pressure off his point guard.

In all, the 6-foot-3 son of the former NBA player by the same name totaled 19 points on 8-for-10 shooting to go with nine rebounds and three assists in 27 minutes.

Caldwell, who averaged eight points and 5.1 rebounds last season in his first year at Morton Ranch, scored 15 points in the second half, even draining a pair of timely clutch 3s after hitting only 11 triples all last season.

"I think he can be huge for us as long as he stays locked in. When he's

focused, he's unstoppable," Turner said.

Sellers said Caldwell has all the physical tools to be a dominant player. Caldwell's last step in his maturity, the veteran guard said, is mental.

Early in the first quarter, for instance, Caldwell picked up a quick foul and a turnover. Turner sat him down, "refocused him," and the coach said Caldwell woke up after that.

"Throughout last year and this year, he can struggle with his focus, but we've done a better job of keeping him in line, making sure he's doing the right thing, because he can be a big difference-maker," Sellers said. "He's an aggressive player, very physical. He hustles. We know he has our back. Stuff like that is big. He does everything we need him to do."

Caldwell, who said he didn't find his niche with the team until midway through last season, said he feels more confident. It showed against Yates, which had a physical and athletic front line that Caldwell more than held his own against.

"I feel very comfortable," Caldwell said. "My chemis-



Left, Morton Ranch senior forward Adrian Caldwell dunks home two of his 19 points during the Mavericks' 102-100 loss to Yates on Nov. 16 at the Campbell Center in Aldine. Right, Morton Ranch senior guard L.J. Cryer dribbles to attack the basket during the same game.



Morton Ranch senior Eddie Lampkin slams home a dunk during the Mavericks' 102-100 loss to Yates on Nov. 16 at the Campbell Center in Aldine.

try with my teammates is so much better. I've found my part with the team, as far as rebounding and executing and doing whatever I needed to do."

In all, Turner said he was pleased with players stepping up in a much-anticipated game.

Aside from Caldwell, newcomer Ethan Shiflet, a 6-foot-4 junior guard, played an active and aggressive 21 minutes, attacking at almost every opportunity and compiling five rebounds and

four assists. Senior Ernest Ellis, a rarely-used backup player last year who started against Yates, had six points and three rebounds in 11 minutes.

Sellers liked what he saw.

"We've got guys who are willing to fight and willing to ride for this team to the very end," Sellers said.

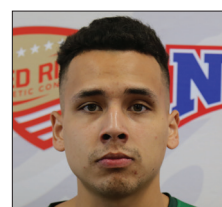
"We've just got to keep on working. We have to prove ourselves every game. We fell short, but it's something we can lean on."

Ideally, the turnovers

will dwindle and execution will only improve. And it was only game No. 1 in what the Mavericks hope is a long, long season.

"We have to manage the game better, once again, like we needed to do last year in the playoffs," Cryer said. "This is the beginning of the season, so we'll get better. We saw a lot of positives with the negatives, so I'm proud of us for fighting the way we did and coming back like we did."

"We can look at this, and at the end of the season we'll see how much we improved."



GIAN MARCO CORDOBA



SYDNEY TUME

Duo earns honors

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

University of Houston-Victoria goalkeeper Gian Marco Cordoba and defender Sydney Tume earned recognition on the All-Red River Athletic Conference team on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Cordoba, a junior goalkeeper and a Taylor High graduate, was named to the first team, while Tume, a junior defender and St. John XXIII graduate, was named honorable mention.

Cordoba compiled a 14-0-2 record in goal this season and helped guide the Jaguars to the RRAC regular season title with a 15-0-2 record. He recorded 37 saves in 16 games and allowed just eight goals.

He also has eight shutouts and a 0.822 saves percentage.

Tume has been a playmaker from his defensive position for the Jaguars, setting up a number of scoring opportunities throughout the season. He has taken four shots, including two on goal, in 12 games.

In three seasons with the Jaguars, Tume has one goal and three assists in 43 games.

UH 2020-21 conference opponents announced

UH ATHLETICS

The American Athletic Conference announced on Nov. 18 a two-year scheduling model that will be in place for the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

The 2020 season will be the first for The American with 11 football-playing institutions. The 2020 and 2021 schedules will include eight conference games—four home games and four road contests—for each team in each season. Each team will face the other 10 teams at least once in the two-year cycle.

The American will not have a divisional format for its 2020 and 2021 football seasons. The conference will determine the procedures for determining the participants in the American Athletic Conference Football Championship at a later date.

Houston's conference opponents for the 2020 and 2021 seasons are below:

Houston American Athletic Conference home and away schedule

2020

Home: UCF, USF, Tulane, Tulsa
Away: Cincinnati, Memphis, Navy, SMU (will not play ECU, Temple)

2021

Home: ECU, Memphis, Navy, SMU
Away: USF, Temple, Tulane, Tulsa (will not play UCF, Cincinnati)



Katy Sports

Don't miss out on updates and forecasts on Katy area teams! Contact Dennis with any sports events or tips in the Katy area.

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Diverse run game key for Taylor in win

By STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

MISSOURI CITY – While the final score of 51-41 might imply an eye-popping aerial attack, Taylor's Class 6A-Division II bi-district playoff win against Elkins on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Hall Stadium relied upon the team's bread-and-butter prolific running game.

Taylor coach Chad Simmons said they used the same plan and execution for the playoffs as they did for their district schedule: a ground-based attack from a trio of running backs with different styles, which then opens up the play-action passing game for junior quarterback J. Jensen III.

During the district season, the Mustangs averaged 182.9 rushing yards per game. Against Elkins, Taylor had 156 rushing yards on 45 carries, and three of its four offensive touchdowns came via the run.

"That's our game, and that's what we've done all year and been successful with," Simmons said.

Junior Casey Shorter typically serves as the team's primary running back, using a combination of speed and sharp cuts through the interior of the defense to wear it down. Shorter had 968 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns during the regular season, averaging six yards per carry. Against Elkins, he finished with a team-high 22 carries for 123 yards and two touchdowns, and also had three catches for 60 yards.

Senior Gavin Belue often functions as a change-of-pace and pass-catching back, typically on wheel routes down the seam and sidelines of the defense. He had seven carries for 31 yards, and three catches for 49 yards and a touchdown.

Finally, senior C.J. Tolbert often does his work in the third and fourth quarters,

functioning as a battering ram against what is likely to be a tired defense. Tolbert had nine carries for 40 yards, including an impressive 14-yard scoring run through the middle of the Elkins' defense with 2:03 left in the game, when everyone knew Taylor would be running.

"I saw the hole," Tolbert said of the play. "I remembered what my coach always said. 'Just hit the hole and don't let anybody stop you.' It was just going through my head, and I didn't let anybody stop me and I got into the end zone to help seal the game."

Elkins changed its defensive approach in the second half, sending more pressure at Jensen on dropbacks and more blitzers at the running backs on carries. As a result, the Mustangs had nine plays that went for two or fewer yards, and Jensen had a single completion against four sacks.

Shorter said that it pays off to have a short memory when it comes to being a running back.

"You just worry about the next play," he said, when asked how he put the negative gains behind him. "You're always going to make mistakes on some plays, so you have to focus on the next play."

While the offensive effort by Taylor wasn't always pretty in the second half, the 'next play' mentality showed in the results.

The Mustangs were able to stitch together enough gains—like a 22-yard carry by Shorter to set up a field goal by junior Renan Baeta—to wear down Elkins. Prior to Tolbert's 14-yard touchdown, Shorter had a 32-yard carry that was deflating for the Knights' defense.

However, both said that while the win was satisfying, it wasn't enough.

"We've got unfinished business," Tolbert said, "but obviously it's a great start to our postseason."



Taylor junior running back Casey Shorter, left, and senior running back C.J. Tolbert, right, pose for a photo after the Mustangs' 51-41 bi-district playoff win on Nov. 16 at Hall Stadium in Missouri City.



Mayde Creek's defense makes the stop on Fort Bend Bush quarterback Michael Adeyeba (3) during their Class 6A-Division II bi-district playoff game against Fort Bend Bush on Thursday, Nov. 14, at Legacy Stadium.

RAMS

from page B1

"We're changing the culture," Kinyock said of a program that has had just 10 total wins in the last six seasons. "It feels like we're on top of the world, but we haven't reached the limit yet. We have five more games."

Kinyock's interception was the eighth and final takeaway in a sloppy game littered with turnovers. The Rams lost five of seven fumbles. Bush (5-6) turned it over three times: two interceptions and a lost fumble.

It was certainly a game of attrition; mostly, however, through subpar play and unfavorable weather conditions.

Eventually, Mayde Creek's offense wore down Bush's defense when it counted, and Bush just never could get through the absence of a slew of key offensive players due to injuries.

"It felt like it was difficult," Rams coach Mike Rabe said on the win. "It was hard to close this one out. I think you could see the jitters late during the football game, which is very uncharacteristic of our football team to look like that late. They did what they had to do to hang on. The defense made plays to step up there at the end and we got away with a win."

A perfect synopsis of the game came on junior quarterback Donte Jones' 36-yard touchdown run with 7:54 left in the third quarter that put Mayde Creek ahead for good, 14-7.

On a run-pass option, Jones faked a handoff to junior running back Julius Loughridge, ran around the left side for about a yard, fumbled the ball before it bounced two yards directly into his path, picked it right back up in stride, and continued untouched through a pair of defenders into the end zone.

Jones and Loughridge, who totaled 193 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries, accounted for five of the seven fumbles. In the bitterly cold 45-degree evening, Loughridge wore gloves for the first time in a game, something he said accounted for the drops.

"We've been real solid on ball security all year," said Rabe, whose team had only lost five of 13 fumbles this season entering the game. "It was shocking to see that. It's not something we're accustomed to seeing."

Still, his faith and trust in Jones and Loughridge never wavered.

"They got us to this point," Rabe said. "We're going to keep giving them the football."

They rewarded him. Jones scored two touchdowns in the second half, and it was Loughridge's punishing and physically-exhausting 12-yard score with 7:35 left in the game that ultimately proved to be the difference-maker.

"It shows faith in our team," Loughridge said of his coach's trust in players. "This team plays with confidence. The defense kept getting stops. The offense put together some

big drives at the end. At the end of the day, it's a win."

Rabe chalked up some of the unforced errors at the end of the game to nerves. He also said he expects better this week.

"I didn't feel like nerves were too bad early, but as we worked through and we could see that we really had a chance to close it out, I think you could see us tighten up and make some unforced errors at the end," Rabe said. "This is big for our football program. They've been here now and I expect them to play better (this) week."

Mayde Creek outgained Bush 273-97 in total yards in what was a stellar defensive performance. Fourteen of the Broncos' 21 points came off Rams turnovers, and Bush only managed seven first downs.

Offensively, aside from the play of Jones and Loughridge, senior receiver/running back Daniel Huery had 75 total yards from scrimmage and a touchdown. Senior quarterback John Zolacha gave the offense some life with a big series in the first half, completing 3 of 3 passes for 53 yards and a touchdown to Huery to tie the game at 7 about midway through the second quarter.

"After all the work and the grind, this feels so great," said junior defensive lineman Gabriel Quezada, who had a fumble recovery. "We worked for this. We've been wanting this for a while. This is an exciting time. Our confidence is high."

TAYLOR

from page B1

instead kept it for a short gain. On the next play, George actually threw the pass, but Taylor junior defensive back Trevor Woods jumped the route, picked the pass off clean and ran it in untouched for a 38-yard touchdown.

Taylor coach Chad Simmons said it was a play they hadn't really scouted.

"The kid, Trevor Woods, he just has really good instincts," Simmons said. "Oddly, that was a play we had never even seen them run out of that formation. It was something different, and he just saw it right at the line."

The sequence established the tone for the first half, as Taylor used dynamic plays on defense and special teams to gain a hefty lead. Playing from ahead also substantially helped the Mustangs' running and play-action attack.

The Knights (8-3) answered Taylor's first touchdown with a two-minute drive, but Taylor struck back. Senior Lee Davis cleanly received the kickoff at the Mustangs' 10-yard line and cut through the middle of the defense for a 90-yard scoring return, giving the Mustangs a 14-7 lead they wouldn't relinquish.

In addition to Davis' return, senior defensive captain and cornerback Braden Hay had a 31-yard punt return and a 60-yard kickoff return. He said they had scouted vulnerabilities in Elkins' coverage.

"We were trying to get more explosive plays out there on special teams, and it's really a three-phase game," he said. "Offense and defense, people always look at, but special teams is the most overlooked thing and we exposed some things we saw. Kicking, we would see that they would spread out and leave the middle wide open. We exploited that."

Hay's punt return set up a short field for the Taylor offense on the Elkins 31-yard line. On the drive, junior quarterback J. Jensen III connected with senior Gavin Belue on a 7-yard touchdown, increasing the lead to 21-7.

The ensuing Elkins drive stalled at the Taylor 37 after Hay knocked down a fourth-down pass to the end zone. With 10:03 left in the first half, Taylor took a 28-7 lead on a 2-yard run by junior running back Casey Shorter, who finished with a team-best 123 yards and two touchdowns.

Taylor forced another Elkins turnover on downs—sniffing out a flea flicker for a 12-yard loss, and sophomore defensive back Hollis Robinson knocking down a sideline

pass on fourth down—and scored again on the ensuing possession. Elkins turned the ball over on its own 34, and Shorter scored on the third play from scrimmage with a 25-yard carry, increasing Taylor's lead to 35-7.

Elkins scored before the half was over, but Taylor junior kicker Renan Baeta booted an impressive 45-yard field goal as time expired to give the Mustangs a 38-14 lead.

Taylor ended up needing every point.

Elkins scored on its first three possessions of the second half, getting within a touchdown, 41-34, with 1:15 left in the third quarter. The lone Taylor points came on a 40-yard field goal by Baeta.

Taylor managed to kill more than four minutes off the game clock in the fourth quarter after taking over with 8:24 left, leaning on carries by senior running back C.J. Tolbert. Tolbert had four carries for 20 yards and set up a 26-yard field goal by Baeta to keep it a two-possession game, 44-34, with 4:10 remaining.

"Baeta kicking the three field goals was huge," Simmons said. Baeta, who has scored 76 points this season, was also a perfect 6-for-6 on extra points.

George, though, wouldn't let his team go away quietly. The Knights scored in four plays on their next drive, but two sequences finally sealed the victory for Taylor.

Taking over on the Elkins 45, the Mustangs quickly scored another touchdown on a 14-yard touchdown run by Tolbert, awarding a 51-41 lead with 2:03 left.

George, however, once again looked like he was going to will the Knights to victory somehow. He escaped the Mustangs' pass rush on the first play on the next drive and managed to throw the ball away, and on the second play, he had a 10-yard scramble for a first down.

It was only finally over when George threw an ill-advised deep ball to a receiver in double coverage. One of the defensive backs was Hay—he went up for it and picked it off, his ninth interception for Taylor this season.

The Mustangs were outgained 400-265 in total yards. George had 199 yards and two touchdowns passing, and 179 yards and three touchdowns rushing.

But Elkins worked from behind for most of the game, and the Mustangs never let up, making big play after big play when it was necessary.

"That was such a good relief," Hay said. "Everybody was just tense throughout that second half, because we were losing momentum here and there a little bit, but that just brought the rest of the team up and gave us a real good win."

"It shows faith in our team. This team plays with confidence.

The defense kept getting stops. The offense put together

some big drives at the end. At the end of the day, it's a win."

— JUNIOR RUNNING BACK JULIUS LOUGHRIDGE

SPORTS

ON THE GRID: WEEKLY FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

Falcons' O-line built upon relationships

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

One of Tompkins' core values this season is F.A.M.I.L.Y. Forget about me, I love you. It's the foundation of a 10-1 season and second consecutive trip to the Class 6A area playoffs. And it starts with the offensive line.

"We love each other," senior right tackle and two-year team captain Hayden Burke said. "We do this for the people behind us, not the people in front of us, so we're just so close, and honestly that's the biggest thing."

With one more win, the Falcons can establish a program-best mark for wins in a season. If they are to beat Cypress Falls in the area round for the second straight year on Friday at Legacy Stadium, the offensive line will have a big say.

The Falcons' starting O-line of seniors Burke (6-foot-3, 280 pounds), David Peterson (6-2, 230), Santiago Bohlmann (6-foot, 260) and Jarrett Resewehr (6-1, 241), and junior Tegan Coble (6-1, 230), has been dominant. They have 163 pancakes this season, an average of 14.8 per game. They have only allowed three sacks on 157 pass attempts by junior quarterback and Texas verbal commit Jalen Milroe.

They have made life easy by clearing runways for talented running backs R.J. Smith (1,050 yards, 20 touchdowns) and Marquis Shoulders (975 yards, 12 touchdowns). Combined, Smith and Shoulders average 8.1 yards per carry, in large part because the offensive line makes getting to the second level of the defense a smooth run.

"It comes down to play after play at practice," coach Todd McVey said. "We have a senior-led group that takes great pride in protecting Jalen and blocking well for the running backs. It's important to them. They not only want to get their pancakes, but they don't want to give up sacks and stuff like that. It's about pride within the unit."

The Falcons' offensive line is built upon strong relationships. Burke and Peterson have played together since the seventh grade. Burke, Peterson, Resewehr and Bohlmann all played on the same team as freshmen.

"We've always had that family aspect, and especially this year, being our senior year, we've got to make it count," Burke said. "I want to make it last. I've really tried hard to make sure this group together is tight-knit, because the better chemistry we have, then the better we'll play."



From left to right, senior offensive linemen Hayden Burke, Santiago Bohlmann, Jarrett Resewehr and David Peterson are the core parts of a dominant offensive front for the Falcons.

"We've always had that family aspect, and especially this year, being our senior year, we've got to make it count. I want to make it last. I've really tried hard to make sure this group together is tight-knit, because the better chemistry we have, then the better we'll play."

— SENIOR RIGHT TACKLE AND TWO-YEAR TEAM CAPTAIN HAYDEN BURKE

It starts with Burke, who recently verbally committed to continue his football career at Abilene Christian. In January, Burke initiated position group meals and workouts. Burke and Peterson would spend six days a week in the weight room.

"He's a great leader. He keeps us structured," Peterson said of his childhood friend. "As a cap-

tain, he brings energy, and even on days we don't feel up to it, he's always there to push us and make us better."

Burke and Co. saw what the team accomplished last season—a breakout 10-3 campaign that finished in the third round of the postseason, led by the leadership and experience of senior offensive linemen Justice

Cardenas and Rex Martin, among others.

"They took everything one step at a time and lived by the '1-0 every week' thing. They gave perfect effort," Resewehr said. "Six seconds of effort' (keeping the pocket clean for six seconds after the snap) is what we preached last year, and we've kept that this year. We've done pretty well so far. We help each other, we learn from each other, we work with each other."

When he and Peterson made the varsity team as sophomores, Burke watched and studied senior tackle Brendan Robisch and his relationship with offensive line coach Eric Mikolajchak.

Mikolajchak has always emphasized family, togetherness. Burke took the responsibility of carrying that on personally, particularly after he felt the torch of leader of the offensive line was passed upon to him once Robisch graduated.

"We've all been best friends," Burke said. "Chemistry, by far, is key for us. It's huge. We've always been a close offensive line. This team goes as far as we go." That chemistry is tangible on

the field. Bohlmann said the line does a better job this season "finishing every single play." He also said the line commits itself during practice, mastering protections, and pre-snap and post-snap communication.

"We just want to make sure we get the most out of this," Bohlmann said. "We want to make sure every single person does their most during practices and in the games. If we can do that, we can live with the results."

By the looks of it, the results will be pretty sweet if things continue as they have.

"They do their job," McVey said. "They're the meat and potatoes. Games are won in the trenches, right? You can have all the talent in the world, but you've still got to be able to block people."

"They're special, because they're going to catch all the wrath and none of the fun sometimes. We're blessed here with the guys we've had play O-line in that they embrace that. They don't get the glory, except from all of us coaches and their teammates. We love those guys."

FALCONS

from page B1

to wideout Gabe Atkin, which came on third down in the fourth quarter with 2:20 remaining.

Tompkins coach Todd McVey said he was pleased with the push the offensive line was getting in protecting the pocket for Milroe and opening holes for Shoulders.

"They've been getting better every week, and they take great pride in what they do," McVey said. "They did a great job for Marquis and keeping Jalen off the turf, as we like to say. They're very proud about that and I was really happy with their effort tonight."

Smith entered the game with 1,021 yards rushing and 21 rushing touchdowns. Against Travis, Smith only had one carry for nine yards.

"He's okay," McVey said

of Smith after the game. "He'll be ready (this week)."

While Tompkins controlled the middle portion of the game, the Falcons at first struggled to match the pace of the Tigers. Tompkins received the opening kickoff, but the drive ended at the Tigers' 39-yard line after an interception.

Travis used a six-play drive to quickly cover 61 yards in about two minutes and take a 7-0 lead. Tompkins answered almost immediately with a touchdown, a 55-yard inside run by Shoulders, but Travis took the lead again on a 1-yard QB keeper by Eric Rodriguez with 10:44 left in the first half.

However, that was the last lead the Tigers held. The Falcons forced three punts before the end of the half and scored 28 straight points over the next three quarters to take a 35-14 lead.

McVey said he knew it would take time for his team to adjust to live football after a bye week to end the regular season, especially since Travis played as a faster tempo. Rodriguez kept the Tigers alive with 20 carries for 135 yards, with three 20-plus yard gains coming after he avoided the Tompkins pass rush and scrambled.

"We've been off a week, so getting back to game speed, I told them it would take a bit to get back to that, and we're facing a really good football team," McVey said. "You can say it all week, but then it happens that fast. Our defensive staff does a great job of keeping the kids calm and just making the adjustments on the sideline."

The Falcons also survived a late scare from the Tigers. Tompkins went up 35-14 with 8:17 left in the

fourth quarter on a 1-yard keeper by Milroe. However, it only took 61 seconds and five plays for Travis to go 64 yards for a touchdown.

After a three-and-out by Tompkins, the Falcons punted from their 41-yard line but only gained 13 yards of field position from the short kick. Rodriguez completed a 50-yard touchdown pass to get the Tigers within a touchdown.

At that point though, the Falcons were able to re-establish control by using the clock, and also with gutsy play-calling. Facing third-and-6 with 2:20 left, Tompkins elected to pass and Milroe hit Atkin

in stride down the right sideline.

Travis didn't have any timeouts left, but curiously didn't allow Tompkins to score to get the ball back. Instead, Shoulders and Milroe combined for three

carries for seven yards, and the game clock ran out.

Tompkins (10-1) faces Cy-Falls (10-1) in the area round this week. The two teams will play at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at Legacy Stadium.

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Tompkins junior defensive end Turnise Adeleye (94) sacks Travis quarterback Eric Rodriguez during their Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game against Fort Bend Travis on Thursday, Nov. 14, at Mercer Stadium in Sugar Land.

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Big-play Patrick clutch again for Katy

By **DENNIS SILVA II**
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

There wasn't too much celebrating as Katy High players and coaches walked into the locker room following an intense 35-28 Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff win over Ridge Point on Friday, Nov. 15.

Relief? Yes, plenty of that. But not too many smiles, not much joy and even less outright excitement than one might expect from a team that had just improved to 11-0 and extended its season by at least one more week.

Well, that is, except for the slight grin that crossed senior receiver Jordan Patrick's face when he talked about the game afterward.

"I'm glad we had a game like this," Patrick said. "It's generally blowout after blowout. I'm glad we had a game that brought us back down to earth, so we know we have to go to practice every day and get better. There's no slacking."

And that is precisely why Patrick is admired by coach Gary Joseph and respected by his teammates. Patrick is a competitor at heart. He wants to earn wins, like Katy did in its resilient comeback win over a gutsy Panthers team.

And the 5-foot-8, 160-pounder plays his best when the moment is at its biggest. Patrick caught three passes for 80 yards against Ridge Point. Two of those catches went for touchdowns, for 18 and 56 yards, respectively. As if that



MARK GOODMAN

Katy senior receiver Jordan Patrick hauls in a catch during a Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game against Ridge Point on Nov. 15 at Legacy Stadium.

wasn't enough, those scores came when Katy needed them the most.

Patrick's 18-yard catch along the back right corner of the end zone with 9:18 left in the fourth quarter put Katy ahead for good, 28-21. With four minutes left, he took a 56-yard Bronson McClelland flare for a score and a 35-21

advantage, which ultimately ended up the difference-maker after Ridge Point scored less than three minutes later.

Like any receiver, Patrick always feels the ball should be thrown his way more. That, again, is the trademark of a competitor. There is no ball he doesn't think he can't grab;

there is no defense he doesn't think he can't beat.

In four playoff games the last two seasons, Patrick has caught 13 balls for 380 yards and four touchdowns. In the regular season the last two seasons, Patrick averaged 79.8 receiving yards per game and 22.1 yards per catch. In the post-

season, he averages 95 yards per game and 29.2 yards per catch. "He's one of the better competitors we have on our football team," Joseph said.

Patrick came into the Katy program as a freshman running back. He was moved to receiver as a sophomore when Joseph said he had to find a way, any way, to get him on the field.

Patrick has rewarded that faith and worked tirelessly at his craft. His downfield blocking has improved considerably. Joseph said Patrick understands now what he's trying to do on routes and where the open spaces are.

Patrick's teammates noticed a difference right away.

"He's grown a lot, being able to read man or zone (defenses) and how that will affect your route," McClelland said late August during fall camp. "He's always had the raw talent. Now he knows and sees the game. If it's zone, you sit down in a hole. If it's man, you're going to have to carry that route through. Him seeing that stuff is a really good thing."

Overall this season, Patrick has 34 catches for 714 yards and eight touchdowns in nine games.

"I don't take any credit," said Patrick, as humble off the field as he is confident on it. "That's all my teammates and coaches. They put me in situations like that. They trust me and I trust them."

And this time of the year, the playoffs, is all about trust. That means it's Jordan Patrick time.

"I'm ready," Patrick said. "Ready to go to war for my brothers."

INSIDE THE TIGERS NOTEBOOK

Katy's Hoff, Smith 'game-time decisions'

By **DENNIS SILVA II**
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy coach Gary Joseph said senior starting running back Ron Hoff and junior backup running back Sherman Smith are game-time decisions as to whether they will play in Friday's area playoff game against Cy-Fair at Tully Stadium.

"Game-time decisions, probably on both of them," Joseph said Tuesday morning. "If you told me I had to pinpoint right now, I'd say doubtful. (Junior) Jalen Davis will have to carry the load. We've got a sophomore running back that played on JV this year who we'd moved to fullback, and he'll go back (to running back) to give us some insurance."

That sophomore is Isaiah Smith, a 5-foot-11, 195-pounder who has yet to take a varsity snap this year. Joseph said Smith is a lot in the same mold as Hoff.

"He's not a breaker. He's a four-yard-per-carry kid," Joseph said. "He's 195 pounds, downhill. The similarities are there, but he's just not as strong right now."

Davis stepped in admirably when Hoff and Smith went down with ankle injuries early in the first quarter of last week's bi-district playoff win against Ridge Point.

Davis had 30 carries for 219 yards and two touchdowns. The 30 carries were his most ever, Davis said after the game. Davis' previous season-high for carries was 13 against Seven Lakes on Oct. 18; prior to last week's game, he had carried the ball 10 or more times in only four games.

The 219 yards were a season-high for Davis by 95 yards.

"More than anything else, it's kids having confidence in him," Joseph



MARK GOODMAN

Katy coach Gary Joseph said "it's time to figure out what our kids are capable of doing" as undefeated Cy-Fair looms this week as an area playoff opponent.

said. "We don't talk about who we don't have. It's always about the person we do have. His improvement, not just as a runner, but as a pass-protector has been a really good thing, and he has to continue going that way. He's gotten better."

Undefeated Bobcats await

For the first time since 2010, Katy and Cy-Fair meet in the playoffs.

Both teams are undefeated at 11-0. Both claim elite offenses and defenses in the Greater Houston area.

The Tigers average 45.6 points and allow 9.4 points per game. The Bobcats average 43.4 points and surrender 6.3 points per game.

"They're very well-coached. They don't beat themselves," Joseph said of Ed Pustejovsky's team. "Defensive-

ly, they don't make any mistakes and they're very physical. Offensively, they've always had good running backs, but what's impressed me the most is the offensive line of scrimmage. It's very consistent, and they do a really good job of blocking and getting on people."

Joseph said Katy and Cy-Fair share the same mentality as far as running the football, playing great defense and controlling the clock.

Cy-Fair may have the best player on the field come Friday in junior running back L.J. Johnson.

The 5-foot-10, 200-pounder is a four-star recruit with 18 offers, including Alabama, Baylor, Michigan, LSU, Oklahoma, Stanford, Texas and Texas A&M.

Joseph said Johnson is a "two-step faster version of Ron Hoff." Johnson has 1,834 yards and 36 touchdowns this season, averaging 9.7 yards per carry and 166.7 rushing yards per game.

"He's got great burst and he can run inside or outside," Joseph said. "Their best running play is the power play, and he does a good job of finding holes and hitting the creases. He runs through people."

Defensively, the Bobcats have moved to a 4-2-5 defense from a 4-3 and it has paid off. Cy-Fair has 31 takeaways (16 interceptions, 15 fumble recoveries) to go with 25 sacks.

Joseph said the Bobcats' defense does a good job lining up and forcing offenses to beat them. He said Katy has "looked at different things to improve ourselves" and hinted subtle changes may be coming to the offensive line.

"They're undefeated for a reason," Joseph said of Cy-Fair. "It's time to

figure out what our kids are capable of doing."

Third-down concerns

Katy only converted 1 of 8 third downs last week against Ridge Point.

"You can't do that against good people," Joseph said. "All year long, we punted 13 times (in 10 regular season games). We punted five (against Ridge Point). It tells you about us not being able to convert in situations. It was enough to win the game, but against good teams you have to be able to control the clock and control the tempo of the games."

Joseph said third-down conversions are predicated upon the first two downs.

Pass-protection is key, whether it's for the run game or being able to throw the football on first down to keep defenses off-balance and from loading the box.

Because of the big-play capability of junior quarterback Bronson McClelland and senior receivers Jordan Patrick and Steven Stiles, Katy can thrive on third down if it does well the first two.

"What are you doing to get to third down? It's how you do on first and second down," Joseph said.

"The run-and-shoot people and the people who run a spread offense, it (third down) doesn't matter. For us, it does. We like to get second-and-medium situations. If you have third down-and-short or third-and-medium, your playbook is open. You have to be effective enough to run the football on first down to give yourself a chance, and if you throw you have to be able to convert 65 percent of your passes to put yourself in second-and-manageable."

TIGERS

from page B1

No. 2 back all season. Entering the playoffs, Davis had 587 yards and nine touchdowns on 76 carries. Success as a ballcarrier was no stranger to the first-year varsity back.

It was Davis' 11-yard touchdown run 62 seconds into the third quarter that tied the game at 21 to complete a Katy rally from a 14-0 early deficit.

"I'm just going to hit the hole hard and play with heart," Davis said. "If it's open and I'm there, I'm going to get it. If we're down and my team needs me, I'm going to put them on my back."

Joseph was pleased.

"He made some mistakes, but he ran hard and made some plays," Joseph said. "We know he's a good football player. He's gotten to play for us all year long, and that's why we can play him, in case we get caught in situations like that. It's not many situations where you lose two running backs in two minutes in the first quarter, but he stepped up."

The Tigers trailed 21-14 at half-



MARK GOODMAN

Katy High senior defensive back DQ Dawson (38) and junior defensive back Dalton Johnson (43) make the stop on a Ridge Point runner during their Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game on Nov. 15 at Legacy Stadium.

time. In the first half, Ridge Point played a split alignment on defense, which is when a defensive tackle lines up outside the offensive guard to the split end side. The entire defensive line aligns that way.

That arrangement threw off Katy's offensive line, and as a result the offense sputtered. The Tigers' first five possessions: punt, interception, interception, punt, punt.

But the Tigers scored two quick

touchdowns late in the second quarter. And Ridge Point left 10 points on the field in the first half in a missed 40-yard field goal and a fumble on the goal line right as running back Marcus Wright was about to score.

"Some of the plays they made, they were fortunate enough to make the play," junior linebacker Shepherd Bowling said. "We weren't there in time. They spread us out a bit, and we just had to rally and make tackles."

The Tigers, as is their way, were dominant following the halftime break.

Katy held Ridge Point to seven points on 115 total yards in the second half. The Tigers had three takeaways in the final two quarters: a fumble recovery by senior defensive lineman Timothy Nugent, and interceptions by senior defensive back DQ Dawson and Bowling, the latter a significant play as it came deep in Katy territory with Ridge Point threatening to tie the game late in the fourth quarter.

"We tackled better. We actually covered people," Joseph said of the difference defensively in the second

half. "What bothered me in the first half is we had a hard time getting pressure. We've got to do a better job of that, and not leaving our secondary guys out there on an island."

With Davis moving the chains and finding the end zone in the running game, Ridge Point went to a man defense in the second half. That allowed openings for senior receiver Jordan Patrick, who scored two crucial touchdowns, an 18-yarder along the back right corner of the end zone to give Katy the lead for good at 28-21 and then a 56-yard haul with four minutes left in the game for a 35-21 advantage.

After throwing a pair of interceptions in the first half, junior quarterback Bronson McClelland was brilliant in the second half. He finished by completing 9 of 13 passes for 153 yards and three touchdowns, showing off impressive accuracy and arm strength.

"A close game like this always helps," Davis said. "We're going to play better teams, and it gives us that adversity to keep fighting and play harder. We know what we've got. A game like this can really bring a team together."

katytimes.com

2019-20 KATY
AREA VARSITY
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schedules, email dennis.
silva@katytimes.comTHURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 14CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Mayde Creek 27, Fort Bend Bush 21
- Tompkins 35, Fort Bend Travis 28

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Lamar Consolidated 54, Katy 51
- Fort Bend Dulles 62, Katy 38
- Magnolia West 70, Mayde Creek 15
- Deer Park 48, Mayde Creek 31

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Katy 35, Ridge Point 28

CLASS 5A BI-DISTRICT
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Whitehouse 35, Paetow 10

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Ball 41, Mayde Creek 31
- Morton Ranch 64, Fort Bend Marshall 29
- Cinco Ranch 63, College Station 61
- Katy 47, Aldine 29
- Cypress Creek 43, Tompkins 36
- Ball 41, Mayde Creek 31

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Seven Lakes 69, Aldine Davis 57
- Tompkins 47, Alief Taylor 42
- Mayde Creek 53, Aldine 50
- Paetow 73, Northbrook 26
- Houston Westbury 51, Katy 49

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 16CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Taylor 51, Fort Bend Elkins 31

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Katy 56, Northbrook 25

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Cinco Ranch 82, Westside 34
- Yates 102, Morton Ranch 100

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Cinco Ranch 75, Brazoswood 53

TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 19

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Katy 55, The Woodlands 32
- Tompkins 52, George Ranch 47
- Taylor 33, Klein 23
- Morton Ranch 63, Brookshire Royal 50
- Clear Springs 51, Seven Lakes 47

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Cinco Ranch 93, Cypress Park 92 (OT)
- Taylor 50, Brenham 39
- Seven Lakes 69, Cypress Springs 65
- Cy Fair 65, Mayde Creek 52
- Shadow Creek 81, Morton Ranch 75 (OT)
- Cy Ranch 56, Paetow 52

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 21CLASS 6A AREA
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Mayde Creek at Cypress Creek, at Pidgeon Stadium, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins, Cinco Ranch at Fort Bend ISD Tournament
- Tompkins, Cinco Ranch at Pasadena High Tournament
- Taylor at Coppell High Tournament
- Seven Lakes at La Joya Tournament

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

CLASS 6A AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Tompkins vs. Cypress Falls, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Katy vs. Cy-Fair, at Tully Stadium, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

CLASS 6A AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Taylor vs. Houston Memorial, at Legacy Stadium, 1 p.m.

'THIS FEELS SO GREAT'

Mayde Creek earns 1st playoff win since 1997

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Mayde Creek's first playoff game since 2008 furnished its first playoff win since 1997.

And like the 11 years that bridged postseason appearances, it did not come easily.

It was only until 1-minute, 53-seconds remained that the Rams could breathe. On 2nd-and-10 from Mayde Creek's 26-yard line and the Rams ahead by six, Fort Bend Bush senior quarterback Michael Adeyaba lofted a fade pass toward the end zone, intended for senior receiver Jalen Weatherspoon. Weatherspoon had just scored 37 seconds earlier to pull the Broncos within a touchdown of the Rams.

But Mayde Creek junior defen-

sive back Joseph Kinyock read the play perfectly, picking off the pass to secure a dramatic 27-21 Class 6A-Division II bi-district playoff win on Thursday, Nov. 14, at Legacy Stadium.

"The previous plays before, I noticed they were throwing fades," Kinyock said. "So my coach told me to switch sides (left to right). No. 3 (Adeyaba), watching film on him, he can't really throw; he's a receiver. So I thought he'd underthrow it or throw it out of bounds. So I baited him, and once I saw him throw it, I went up and got the ball."

The Rams are 9-2 heading into this week's area round playoff game against Cy-Creek at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at Pidgeon Stadium in Cypress.



MARK GOODMAN

Mayde Creek junior running back Julius Loughridge carries the ball during a Class 6A-Division II bi-district playoff game against Fort Bend Bush on Thursday, Nov. 14, at Legacy Stadium.

See RAMS, page B4



ALLEN SCARROW

Tompkins junior running back Marquis Shoulders carries the ball during a Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game against Fort Bend Travis on Thursday, Nov. 14, at Mercer Stadium in Sugar Land.

Shoulders stars
for TompkinsBy STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

SUGAR LAND - Tompkins junior running back Marquis Shoulders said he only learned shortly before kickoff that he would be starting the Falcons' Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game against undefeated Fort Bend Travis on Thursday, Nov. 14.

But he played like he had been preparing for the opportunity all year.

Shoulders had 30 carries for 157 yards and a touchdown in the Falcons' 35-28 win at Mercer Stadium. The night could have been even bigger for Shoulders, but a 45-yard touchdown was called back because of a holding call.

It was a breakout performance for the elusive and speedy back, who has mostly spent the year

backing up senior star R.J. Smith. After the game, multiple social media posts, including one from Smith's mother, indicated Smith was sick.

"Since I was playing a lot, I was just in the flow of the game," Shoulders said, attributing his success to his offensive line. "They're working hard and moving everybody out of the way and making holes for me. It was good."

The O-line also gave junior quarterback Jalen Milroe all night to pass. The Texas verbal commit wasn't sacked on 16 passing attempts, although he struggled in the first half with three interceptions, attempting to force plays.

Milroe still finished with 226 yards, three passing touchdowns and a rushing touchdown. He also iced the game with a 25-yard completion

See FALCONS, page B3

Davis steps up, lifts Katy to win

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High junior running back Jalen Davis wasn't the only reason why the Tigers rallied dramatically to win their Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game against Ridge Point on Friday, Nov. 15.

But he is a huge reason why the No. 2 state-ranked and No. 8 nationally-ranked Tigers are still playing.

After senior starting running back Ron Hoff and junior backup running back Sherman Smith left the game with injuries early in the first quarter, Davis admirably picked up the slack, totaling 30 carries for 219 yards and two touchdowns in helping lift Katy to a 35-28 win at Legacy Stadium.

"I had to do whatever I could to step up for my team. Next man up," Davis said. "Play that role. I had a job coming in as far as supporting my team to help them get to the next round."

The undefeated Tigers (11-0) play undefeated Cy-Fair (11-0) in the area round at



MARK GOODMAN

Katy High junior running back Jalen Davis carries the ball against Ridge Point during their Class 6A-Division I bi-district playoff game on Nov. 15 at Legacy Stadium.

7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at Tully Stadium.

Katy coach Gary Joseph said Hoff (ankle) and Smith (ankle) are game-time decisions in regard to whether or not they will play against Cy-Fair. Hoff was the leading rusher in Katy ISD this season with 1,451 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"We're going to have to ride him now for a while, I think," Joseph said of Davis.

If that's the case, Davis proved he's up for the task.

The 5-foot-10, 180-pounder averaged 7.3 yards per carry against Ridge Point, and earned his longest run of the season with an 80-yard burst that tied the game at 14 with 1:17 left in the second quarter. Davis and Smith have swapped back and forth as the

See TIGERS, page B2

Mustangs move
on to area roundBy STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

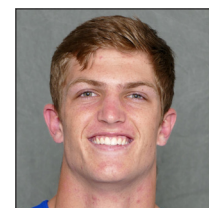
MISSOURI CITY — Taylor jumped out to a 28-point first half lead and survived a furious late Elkins rally for a wild 51-41 Class 6A-Division II bi-district playoff win on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Hall Stadium.

The win marked Taylor's fourth straight bi-district playoff victory. The Mustangs (6-5) play Houston Memorial (7-4) in the area round at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Legacy Stadium.

After kicking off, Taylor's defense notched the Mustangs their first lead on the game's third play from scrimmage. On the second play, Elkins senior dual-threat quarterback Cam George faked a quick pass to a wideout, but



BRADEN HAY



TREVOR WOODS

See TAYLOR, page B4

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Katy Market Day bolstering Old Town Katy

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Betsy Proctor, owner of The Limited Edition Art & Antiques and founder of Katy Market Day, said the monthly market which she started in the 1990s is still going strong after more than 20 years. The monthly event which was most recently held Nov. 16 is a huge financial boost to the antique shops and boutiques in Old Town Katy, she said.

"It brings us in a lot of business," Proctor said. "It's just good promotion for the businesses in downtown."

At KT Antiques, Sadia Ayala, Jessie Ward and Donna Washburn voiced their appreciation for Market Days which they said brings new customers to the antique shop each

month. New customers come in from as far away as Conroe, Ayala said.

Proctor said the event drew about 500-700 people, which is about average most months.

More families tend to come to the store during Katy Market Day events, Washburn said. Those shoppers also come back after that first visit, she said.

It also helps improve Old Town Katy's reputation, merchants said. The Katy Market Day event is somewhat unique in that it is located in a hometown historic district, Proctor said. Katy Market Day also only allows vendors that sell actual products, rather than marketing vendors such as chiropractors and realtors, which makes it so shoppers aren't hassled, she said.

"[Katy Market Day] promotes by word of mouth," Ward said.

Melissa Gorman, a shopper who had travelled up from Sugar Land, said she enjoyed the market.

"We just kind of accidentally found it. We thought the one at the Merrell Center was today but it wasn't, so we looked for what else was around [and found this event online]," Gorman said.

The event wasn't too crowded and was a nice event to visit, Gorman said.

Katy Market Day also cohosts the Katy Old Fashioned Christmas with No Label Brewery. The annual Christmas celebration will be held Dec. 7 in downtown Katy behind City Hall. The free event, which includes a craft fair, holiday shopping, children's events and 50,000 pounds of artificial snow is celebrating its tenth year in 2019.



R. HANS MILLER

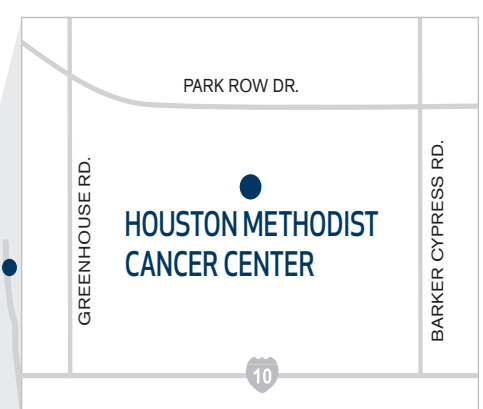
Shoppers browse the monthly Katy Market Day event on Nov. 16 in Old Town Katy. The event is known for its crafts and lack of marketing vendors.



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Katy Budget Books moving to Mason Road

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Walking into Katy Budget Books, one wouldn't think that the store will be closing its doors soon to move to a new location. Students from Taylor High School sort through books at tables at the front of the store while bibliophiles wander, browsing for new titles to lose themselves in. But after about 20 years – the store is moving, owner Tamra Dore said.

"We are going to work our last day in this building on Sunday, Dec. 1," said store manager Richard Deupree. "We'll shut down Sunday night at 6 p.m. and will begin packing immediately."

Movers are scheduled to come and pick up books and store fixtures and take it to the store's new location at 870 South Mason Road, Ste. 101, Deupree said. The store's staff – about 15 will be staying on with the store, including Deupree who has been with the store for more than eight years – will then begin unpacking and getting the bookstore's new location ready.

"It should take about four days to unpack and the hope is to open up on Friday [Dec. 6], ready to go," Deupree said.

Katy Budget Books originally opened on First Street in downtown Katy in 1983, Dore said. At the time, Dore was a practicing certified public accountant and had stopped into the small, 800-square-foot bookstore during her lunch break. She hit it off with the woman that owned the store at the time and left her card behind with a note to get in touch if the store was ever up for sale.

"Then, I guess about a month later, I went



Tamra Dupre (Center, front) is moving her store, Katy Budget Books, to Mason Road after about 20 years at the store's current location on Fry Road. More than a dozen staff will help her move into the new facility in early December.

back on my lunch hour and when I walked in [the former owner] said, 'Funny thing. I was just about to call you,'" Dore said.

The former owner's husband had been transferred at work, so the store was up for sale. Dore went home that night and spoke with her husband, Carl Dore, who supported her decision to move forward with buying

the store. Eventually, the store moved from First Street to Avenue B. After opening a second location in the mid-1980s, the Katy location eventually closed in favor of the new location near the intersection of Fry and Saums roads. Dore had the current location built around 2000, and the store has been there ever since, she said.

Since that time, the store has done well, Deupree and Dore said. However, as Katy has changed, the challenges of the book industry in the age of the internet have forced them to examine some difficult truths. Deupree said that surveys have shown that most of the store's customer base is south of I-10, closer to the Cinco Ranch area. Customers north of the freeway are sad to see them go, but as a business, being more convenient for book lovers is essential, he said.

"[Customers tend] to be south and so we just felt like it behooved us to try to get a little closer to them - to try to be more convenient," Dore said. "Where it looks like ... it's not a big detour to get here."

One goal after the move is to revamp and refresh the store's programs such as book clubs and signing events, Dore said. Providing services is essential for a bookstore to be successful in the current digital economy that offers books in digital format and through online ordering, she said.

Deupree lauded Dore for her commitment to the community, including support for teachers and her dedication to her staff.

Moving around a lot when she was young led Dore to a love of books, she said. Wherever a bookstore or library was, she could find a friend in a book. Her love of reading was with her through moves until she graduated from Katy High School and she continued being a lover of bookstores, she said. Eventually, that led to owning her own shop.

"I think Katy Budget Books is a perfect example of what happens when you just follow what you love to do," Deupree said.

Texas DPS trains 10K Texans to recognize signs of child trafficking

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

The Texas Department of Public Safety released a statement Nov. 11 stating it had trained more 10,000 Texans in its Interdiction for the Protection of Children, or IPC, training program. The program provides training for law enforcement officers and others to help them recognize signs of child trafficking.

"The Interdiction for the Protection of Children program provides vital training to law enforcement, and in turn removes heinous criminals who target children from our streets," said DPS Director Steven McCraw.

The statement comes in the wake of a newly-generated awareness of the human trafficking problems in the Greater Houston area around I-10 and other major thoroughfares in and out of the Nation's fourth largest city.

More than 60 arrests were made in July during Operation Freekom, a joint operation among Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 3 Wayne Thompson, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office and other participating agencies in the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance. Five adults and two children were rescued from forced sex trafficking during the operation. Those arrested included two gang members and a law enforcement officer.

"I can't say that [any of my staff] have been to that exact training, but we have gone to similar-style trainings before," Thompson said.

The skills trainings like IPC provide are vital to stopping human trafficking, said Kelly Litvak, executive director of Childproof America, a Katy-area nonprofit that works to prevent human trafficking.

"Many victims are trained to believe officers are the 'bad guys' and should be feared," Litvak said. "Because of these barriers, trained officers must reach beyond first impressions and see signs that are not clearly visible."

It is difficult to set a number on how often human trafficking happens in the Katy area, Thompson said. The phenomenon is subtle and is not easy to investigate due to the methods of

"Many victims are trained to believe officers are the 'bad guys' and should be feared. Because of these barriers, trained officers must reach beyond first impressions and see signs that are not clearly visible."

— KELLY LITVAK, CHILDPROOF AMERICA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GETTING INVOLVED

Katy Times readers that would like to know more or suspect someone is being trafficked can utilize the resources below. Anyone who witnesses an actual kidnapping taking place should immediately dial 911 according to local law enforcement agencies.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
(888) 373-8888
humantraffickinghotline.org

RESCUE HOUSTON HOTLINE
(713) 322-8000
https://rescueamerica.org/locations/houston

CHILDPROOF AMERICA
childproofamerica.org

ELIJAH RISING
(832) 628-3439
elijahrising.org

LOVE PEOPLE NOT PIXELS
(281) 826-1351
lppnp.org

the perpetrators, he said. Thompson also noted his precinct, which takes up the southern third of the Katy area

has three major highways in or near it, making it a prime location for human traffickers to move victims through – I-10, FM 1093 and I-69 to the south.

Now in its eleventh year, IPC has been credited with the rescue of hundreds of children by law enforcement across the state, including more than 400 children by Texas State Troopers. Training is also provided to local law enforcement and Child Protective Services staff, among others, according to the DPS press release.

"The program is applicable to law enforcement agencies of all sizes and gives officers the resources they need to recognize children who are in danger – with agencies often making their first rescue within six months," said DPS Captain Derek Prestridge who supervises the IPC program for the state.

Other local groups such as Elijah Rising, a faith-based nonprofit that works to help victims of human trafficking, work with law enforcement and the public to help prevent human trafficking or rescue trafficking victims, Thompson said. He also recommended those interested in preventing human trafficking reach out to Love People not Pixels for more information.

"The need for effective training for our law enforcement officers is urgent and critical," Litvak said. "The reality is, most victims will not self-identify which means officers coming into contact with a victim must have a trained filter to quickly and effectively assess the circumstances and draw the right conclusion."



R. HANS MILLER

This small library was established by United Methodist Women in order to promote reading and literacy in the community, especially among children.

Little library adds reading resources in downtown Katy

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

United Methodist Women, a women's ministry at Katy First United Methodist Church in downtown Katy has installed a little library near the intersection of Avenue A and Fifth Street. The library is a free lending library to encourage reading and literacy in the community, said Patricia Kourie, a representative of the ministry.

"It's really important, I think, for people – children and adults – to read," Kourie said.

The small, outdoor library holds about 30 books of various types and includes a variety of genres, Kourie said. Children's books, adult fiction, devotional books and other genres are represented in the library and anyone is welcome to take a book from the library which accepts family-friendly materials that are stored by the church until space becomes available.

"It says, 'If you take a book, leave a book,'" Kourie said. "You don't have to because we've got plenty of books – although, donations are always welcome."

Kourie said a large part of why the little library was placed where it is was because the ministry wanted to keep the books close to the church's Little People's School to encourage children to read.



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LIC# 59348
Ken Clay

HCSO detention officer arrested on drug charges

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

An internal investigation has resulted in the arrest of a Harris County Sheriff's Office detention officer on five felony drug charges according to a Nov. 17 press release from HCSO.

Jason Flores, 19, is charged with five felonies that include manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, and possession of a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.



JASON FLORES

Flores was arrested on Saturday when he reported for duty at the jail. He has since been released from jail after posting \$105,000 bond.

Flores began working for the Sheriff's Office in March. He has been relieved of duty.

"The overwhelming majority of Harris County Sheriff's Office detention officers are committed to upholding their responsibility for the care, custody and control of the inmates in our jail," said Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "Those who betray that trust will be held fully accountable."

In a written statement, Gonzalez praised the HCSO's Internal Affairs Division for their quick and thorough investigation of this issue.

Nevárez turns himself in after dropping envelope with cocaine

By CASSANDRA POLLOCK
AND PATRICK SVITEK
TEXAS TRIBUNE

State Rep. Poncho Nevárez, an Eagle Pass Democrat and House committee chairman, turned himself in to authorities to be booked on felony drug possession charges Thursday evening and was released after posting his bond of \$10,000, according to both the lawmaker and the Texas Department of Public Safety.



STATE REP.
PONCHO NEVÁREZ

"I did," Nevárez said in a text message Friday to The Texas Tribune. "Last night in Maverick County."

A statement from DPS said the investigation involving Nevárez "remains active and no further information is available at this time."

Nevárez arrived for booking hours after authorities issued a warrant for his arrest. That arrest warrant cited surveillance footage of the lawmaker in September dropping an envelope with cocaine as he was leaving the Austin airport.

Before the warrant was issued, Nevárez, chairman of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, confirmed to the Tribune in a statement that the "news is true" — and that the events detailed prompted his recent announcement that he is not seeking reelection.

"I do not have anyone to blame but myself," Nevárez said. He also mentioned he plans to seek treatment.

The lawmaker faces a charge of third-degree felony possession of a controlled substance. That carries a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison.

Before Thursday's arrest warrant was issued, an affidavit detailing the circumstances involving Nevárez surfaced. A copy was posted online late Wednesday by the conservative activist group Direct Action Texas. The Tribune confirmed its contents Thursday morning.

That affidavit, filed Oct. 29 in Travis County by DPS, stated that, on Sept. 6, surveillance footage showed Nevárez exiting an area of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport used by traveling state officials. Nevárez then entered a black SUV owned by his chief of staff

and dropped "a white paper object," the affidavit said. The envelope, according to the document, had Nevárez's official House seal on it and contained "four small baggies." The total weight of the contents, according to the affidavit, was roughly 2 grams.

Last week, Nevárez had two unexpected announcements that took even his colleagues by surprise. On Nov. 6, he announced his office would deactivate its Facebook page — but provided no reason for the move. Two days later, Nevárez announced he would not seek reelection in 2020.

Nevárez, an attorney in Eagle Pass, also serves as vice chair of a select committee that state leaders formed two months ago in response to the deadly shootings in El Paso and Odessa.

Nevárez's mounting legal problems set off an exchange later Friday between House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, and some of his committee chairmen about potentially stripping Nevárez of his own leadership posts.

After news broke that Nevárez turned himself in Friday, three chairmen, all Republicans, wrote to Bonnen asking for Nevárez to be removed as chairman and member of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, as well as vice chair and member of the Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety.

"It appears that Representative Nevarez is prepared to accept responsibility for his actions and we are hopeful that he is fully committed to getting any physical, mental, and spiritual help that he needs," the chairmen wrote. "Nonetheless, as House Members and Committee Chairmen, it is our responsibility to ensure that the important work of this legislative body and the trust bestowed on our Chamber by the people of Texas is never compromised."

The chairmen also asked that cocaine incident be referred to the General Investigating Committee so that it can "determine if any additional Texas laws or rules of the Texas House have been violated."

The three lawmakers who sent the letter were Reps. Phil King of Weatherford, chairman of the Redistricting Committee; James White of Hillister, chairman of the Corrections Committee; and Jeff Leach of Plano, chairman of the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee.

UT System increases tuition 2.6%

By SHANNON NAJMABADI
TEXAS TRIBUNE

The University of Texas System approved an across-the-board tuition hike of 2.6% for its eight academic campuses, amounting to a \$290-a-year increase for in-state, undergraduate students at its flagship university in 2020 and 2021.

The two-year increase, announced Thursday by the system Board of Regents, was set to match the rate of higher education inflation and is intended to rein in tuition for students burdened by growing costs. But the 2.6% rate means UT System students across the state will likely pay hundreds of dollars more, and some campuses, like the University of Texas at Austin, will see their in-state tuition increase at a faster clip than in previous years.

At most UT institutions, tuition for in-state undergraduates grew between 3% and 8% in both 2018 and 2019.

The Texas A&M University System has approved a rate increase that mirrors the one passed by the UT System. And Texas State University System regents signed off Thursday on tuition increases of up to 2.6% for each of the next two years, except at three schools. The Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar State College - Orange and Lamar State College - Port Arthur will see no increase at all. In-state students at the other Texas State campuses will see annual tuition increases between \$100 and \$300 in 2020.

UT student regent Daniel Dominguez, who holds a nonvoting position on the board, told regents Thursday he could not support the increase.

"I very much understand the needs of the schools, I very much understand the strategic priorities that they are putting forward to this board. But let's not forget the point of view of the student," he said. "A lot of students are already struggling to pay for their education."

University officials have argued tuition increases are necessary to keep pace with inflation, recruit and retain employees, and offset declining state support. UT System records from 2018 show state funding for its campuses decreased from about \$8,000 per full-time student, adjusted

for inflation, to around \$6,000 between 2002 and 2016. The tuition and fees paid by UT students and their parents crept up from about \$5,000 to \$8,000 during that time. In 2018, tuition and fees were around \$10,600 for in-state undergraduates at UT-Austin and \$11,300 at Texas A&M University, according to data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Not all UT schools have been increasing their tuition and fees by more than 2.6% a year.

In-state UT-Austin students saw their tuition rise \$200 in both the 2018 and 2019 academic years — annual increases of 2%. The University of Texas at San Antonio increased tuition by 0.1% in 2018 and 2.6% in 2019, increasing costs for undergraduates by \$260 over that time.

But tuition at most UT institutions grew between 3% and 8.5% in each of the last two years, with some in-state students facing annual increases of more than \$500. Across the state, public universities grew their tuition by 4.5%, on average, between 2017 and 2018, according to data from the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The regents' statement Thursday comes four months after the board announced it would fully cover tuition for UT-Austin students whose families earn \$65,000 or less a year starting in 2020. School officials have estimated a quarter of their in-state undergraduates — 8,600 students — would have their tuition paid for under the new plan.

Texas A&M University has had a similar program since 2011, and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley also plans to cover tuition and fees for qualifying students with household incomes under \$75,000 starting next academic year.

The tuition increase wouldn't hit low-income students covered by those plans, said board chairman Kevin Eltife, but would be felt by middle- and upper-income students.

"It's a balancing act. It's never easy. We take it extremely serious at this board because we know that \$20 a month more to anybody, to some of these families, is a lot of money," said Eltife, a former state senator. "Every

member of this board does hand-wringing over tuition increases. I know because I've talked to every one of the board members. No one — the chancellor, the system staff and our presidents — no one takes it lightly. But we have to do what we have to do to keep quality education in our institutions."

He said the system is working with each campus to create a five-year financial plan "so we can see the financial needs and we can do a better job of forecasting and looking at the tuition needs."

UT-Austin President Greg Fenves said in a message to students Thursday that the 2.6% rate would mean the flagship's undergraduates would see increases of about \$290 in both 2020 and 2021. The tuition for most master's and doctoral programs would not be increased for the next two years, he said.

"At UT, we are committed to living up to our constitutional charge to be a university of the first class. That means balancing affordability with the costs of delivering high-quality education at one of the finest public research universities in the world," Fenves said. He added that a portion of the revenue from increased tuition would "allow for additional funding for student success, student mental health services and expanded technology and internet on campus."

In-state tuition for public universities in Texas is around the median nationwide, according to data from the College Board.

Students also pay for textbooks, room and board, transportation and other costs associated with attending college, which can exceed the cost of tuition.

Texas lawmakers set tuition rates until 2003, when they turned the process over to university regents. The average tuition and fees charged by Texas' four-year universities doubled in the 15 years that followed, while state appropriations declined by 26%, according to inflation-adjusted numbers.

Lawmakers have regularly tried to limit or slow tuition increases.

Higher Education Coordinating Board data shows around 50% of Texas undergraduates left college with debt in 2017.

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The Monday, November 25, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Has Been Cancelled In Observance Of Thanksgiving Holidays.

By Order Of Mayor And City Council City Of Katy, Texas October 17, 2019

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TexSCAN Week of Nov. 17, 2019

ACREAGE

23.28 acres, Duval County. Heavy South Texas brush. Electricity, fenced 2 sides. Deer, hogs, javelina, turkey. \$4365 down, \$722/month, (9.9%, 30 years). Larger and smaller tracts available. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 866-286-0199.

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Donate a boat or car today to Boat Angel. 2-Night Free Vacation. Sponsored by Boat Angel Outreach Centers to stop crimes against children. 800-700-BOAT, www.boatangel.com.

EVENTS

Christmas in Comfort - Nov. 30th, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. All day Holiday Fun for all ages. Live music, food, gifts, Santa Land, lighted night parade, fireworks, 830-995-3131, www.comfort-texas.com.

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CITY OF PATTISON, TX INCORPORATED 1972

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the City of Pattison will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2020 Budget. The Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. in the Royal ISD Administration Building, located at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas 77466. The proposed budget is posted on the website: www.pattison.texas.gov.

Contact the City Secretary at 281-934-3715 or via email at CitySecretary@pattisontexas.org with any questions.

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 be 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

We're HIRING

THE SEALY NEWS
Advertising Sales Representative

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main Street, 6th Floor Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, December 17, 2019**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of **"Elyson Overflow Channel South Trail Landscape"**, Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, December 3, at 2:00 p.m.** Local Time, at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main Street, 6th Floor Houston, Texas 77002. Bid will not be opened unless the bidder or a representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Tuesday, December 3, 2019.**

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.

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Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, December 3, at 2:00 p.m.** Local Time, at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main Street, 6th Floor Houston, Texas 77002. Bid will not be opened unless the bidder or a representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

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HOLIDAY EVENTS LISTING

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

As the holidays approach, it's time to consider what new family traditions to start and where to go to get gifts for loved ones. These family-friendly, free Katy-area events are open to the public and can be a great way to start an annual family get-together.

Christmas Tree Lightings

MKT Distillery at 5373 First Street in Katy will have a tree lighting ceremony Nov. 30 just after 5 p.m. where they will light up a tree at the top of the rice dryers the local watering hole is housed in. Children's activities such as a bounce house and games will be available to keep youngsters happy while adults visit and listen to live music performed by Mike Hurst from 5-8 p.m. Beverages are available to purchase and El Canton Firewood Pizzeria will have stone-cooked pizzas to enjoy.

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and Fulshear Ace Hardware will host this annual event Dec. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available to enjoy and local school choirs will perform a medley of holiday music.

Fulshear Festival of Lights and Parade

This annual event will be held Dec. 7 in downtown Fulshear from 5-9 p.m. and features a visit from Santa and a parade. Gift vendors, family-friendly activities and live music from Nick and the Groove will be available at this free public event.



COURTESY KATY MARKET DAY

Katy Old Fashioned Christmas

Step out with family on Dec. 7 to enjoy a variety of fun activities and shopping with the family and friends. The event is hosted by Katy Market Day and includes a visit from Santa, food trucks, craft vendors, a beer garden and 50,000 pounds of snow in the heart of downtown Katy. The tenth annual event is held on Second and Third streets between Avenue A and Avenue D from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Snow Fest at Jordan Ranch

Step out and toss a snowball at Jordan Ranch where 70,000 pounds of snow will be available for visitors to enjoy Dec. 14 from 12-3 p.m.. Located at 30757 Jordan Crossing Blvd. in Brookshire, the festival includes a visit from Santa, a three-lane snow slide, food trucks, face painters, trackless train, bounce houses, a live DJ and a chance to tour a dozen model homes if you're looking for a really big present.



COURTESY CANE ISLAND

Cane Island's Candy Cane Market

The master planned community teams up with The Real Craftwives of Katy for this annual event Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can shop at more than 60 vendor booths, get photos with Santa in the subdivision's conservatory and enjoy food and refreshments from food trucks and the community's restaurant The Oaks Kitchen.

Home for the Holidays

12th Annual Christmas Gift Market

November 22-24, 2019

Katy's Largest Gift Market at the Merrell Center

First Call Shopping Friday 10am-1:00pm
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175 Vendors in 2 Buildings!

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www.HomefortheHolidaysGiftMarket.com

katytimes.com

We just can't avoid worries

My husband, Peter, and I are spending a month in Spain and we have left our worries behind.

As a result, we have had to come up with new, temporary worries to occupy us until we get back home.

Peter ran out of lotion and for several days used something he found in the house which turned out to be soap. ("I wondered why it wasn't soaking in!" Peter said.) He doesn't like my lotion ("axle grease!" Peter complains) so he ventured out yesterday to buy some more. He came home with some lotion in a metal tin and immediately began worrying if this container would travel well.

"I don't want grease leaking all over my luggage!" Peter worried.

In the absence of a real grocery store, we worry if we will be able to find olives we like and, once we find them, if we will ever find them again. We feed the cats on the roof every day, then worry how they will survive after we are gone. (But then we remember they were not overly slim when we arrived.)

Earlier this week we hiked to a neighboring town, spent the night, and returned. The hike was wonderful, crossing through mountains and fording a stream. We had dinner in the square with two ladies in their 60s—an Englishwoman who had come to live in this remote town several years earlier and a Dane, who was on her way to explore Argentina. Hiking home the following day, I thought (as I always do while traveling) of the endless variety of ways there are to live.

It was nice to get back in our funny little house, but I worried we were running out of time. Peter made soup, as he does. "This will be my last batch this trip!" Peter announced.

I will miss this little house more than Peter will. The doors are very low, and the stairs are very steep, so Peter walks around the house slightly stooped and carries a hiking pole up and down the stairs, as if he is herding sheep to and from the upstairs bathroom. I try not to laugh—but sometimes I fail.

Yesterday I hiked to the top of a hill that overlooks the town. There used to be a Moorish castle on the top hundreds of years ago. The view is amazing. I looked down on the white houses and the Mediterranean in the distance and thought of all the people who had been exactly where I was, looking at that view.

Sometimes they were worried, I imagined, looking for invaders, or bad weather, or some other trouble coming by sea. But most of the time I imagine they sat where I did for the same reason—to wonder how long they would get to look at something so glorious, to wonder why they spent so much time worrying.

When I got home, Peter read about a ship that was having mechanical troubles in the Mediterranean. Once they finish cruising the Mediterranean for the season, the bigger ships cross the ocean to spend the winter in the Caribbean. Peter reads these articles because we are taking one of those ships home.

It turns out, the ship in trouble was ours.

"Someone said they heard an explosion and reported a fire in the engine room!" Peter exclaimed, reading the article (which was not from a major news source and seemed a little short on facts).

"Goodness!" I said.

I guess—since we need something to worry about—this is as good a worry as any.

Until next time,

Carrie

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

CARRIE CLASSON

THE POSTSCRIPT



How to get in the next-to-last word

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

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

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

Certainly I'm not going to up the ante and share an



CURTIS HONEYCUTT
GRAMMAR GUY

even nerdier-yet-related word, am I?

Yes, I am: antepenultimate. Antepenultimate refers to the third to last item in a series, or the next-to-next-to-last thing. Going back to our twenty chapter book: If chapter nineteen is the penultimate chapter, that means chapter eighteen is the antepenultimate chapter. If we break down the Latin meanings for each part of the word, we'd get "before" (ante) "almost" (pen) and "last" (ultimate). Antepenultimate is the thing that comes before the almost last thing.

Drop any of these words into casual conversation and your friends will offer you the finest bottle out of their wine cellars. Horse & Hound magazine (my favorite magazine about both dogs and horses) will call to request an in-depth interview about your dressage training techniques. Yes, my friends: if the humble potato can become vodka, then you too can achieve the high status of grammar guru. I believe in you. It's time to go out there and dominate the English language.

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B3

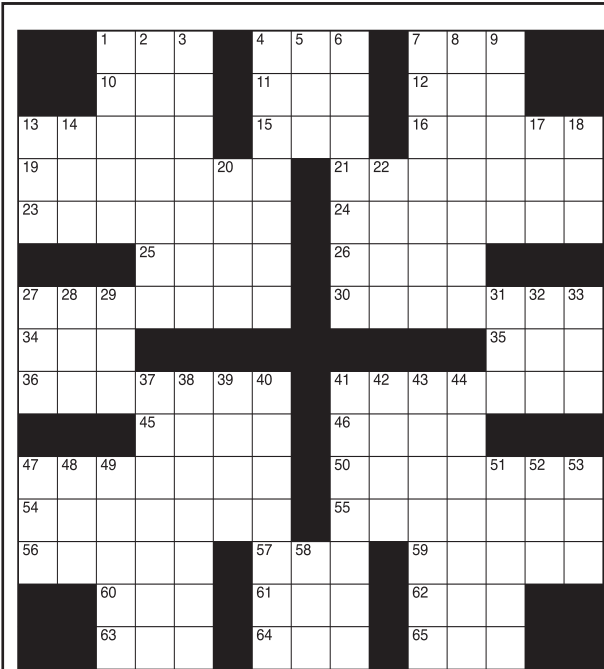
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Fun By The Numbers

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!

Level: Intermediate



- Small viper
- It goes great with peppers and onions
- Some are covert
- Orifice
- A waiver of liability (abbr.)
- Turned into bone
- Speak out
- The Princess could detect it
- Retirement plan
- Bands of colors
- Small dog
- Makes use of
- City in Iraq
- Central African country
- Car mechanics group
- Lake in the Kalahari Desert
- Shrimp-like creature
- He was a "Chairman"
- Majestic
- Legally possess
- TV detective
- One point north of due west
- Central Canadian province
- Small peg of wood
- Causing to wind around
- Stretch of swampy ground
- Wise man
- Is indebted to
- Knicks legend Willis
- Where you were born (abbr.)
- Muscular weaknesses
- A team's best pitcher
- John Stockton compiled them
- Cool!
- South American plant
- Female sibling
- To some extent
- This stimulates the thyroid (abbr.)
- Where manners are displayed
31. Female sibling
- Showy
32. This stimulates the thyroid (abbr.)
- Fall down
33. Reserved
- Shoelaces are often this
34. More prickled
- Disease-causing bacterium
35. Forbidden by law
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
36. One-time presidential candidate
- Sufferings
37. A place to stash things
- One who noisily enjoys
38. Defunct currency in India
- About blood
39. Causes to ferment
- Transaction verification system (abbr.)
40. A type of gland
41. "In Living Color" comedian
42. Veterans battleground
43. Expression of creative skill
44. Midway between northeast and east
45. Patti Hearst's captors
46. Punctuation
47. Central American fruit
48. Brooklyn hoopster
49. Punctuation
50. 100 square meters
51. Local area network
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CLUES DOWN

- Something useful

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wynley Miguez
Ryan O'Brien
Amy Dhevi Atsisk
Abrar Shehab
Jack Reddy

Jose esearza

Thank you for sharing your business with our class. It is so exciting and important for our students to be able to learn from community members and be active and contributing citizens themselves.
Super Seniors SLHS

CORRECTION

Note: The "What's happening in Katy?" letter to the editor posted in our Nov. 14 edition was submitted to Katy Times by Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris.

Katy Times

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Fax: 281-391-2030

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Debbie Prejean | Bookkeeper

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contact us at (281) 391-3141 or email katyclass@katytimes.com. Advertising deadline is noon on Friday for both classified and retail advertising.

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CORRECTIONS:
We strive for accuracy and transparency in our reporting. If you believe that we have made a factual error in reporting, please call (281) 391-3141 or email editor@katytimes.com with a link to the story in question, along with information on what you believe is factually incorrect in the reporting. Individual columns in the

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CHRIST CLINIC TOUR

Christ Clinic's executive director, Lara Hamilton (left) meets with Fulshear's Mayor Pro Tem Kaye Kahlich (center) and Mayor Aaron Groff (right) to discuss the services offered by the clinic and explain the growing demand for services while the two officials toured the clinic Nov. 18.

CLINIC

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provides free clothing to those in need said he is seeing similar trends across his organization's coverage area which includes a large portion of Greater Houston.

"We have been a Katy-based nonprofit with a donor base that is mostly in Katy and now we're trying to serve a whole city," Benton said.

Clothed by Faith offers its services to about 195 zip codes, Benton said. Because nonprofits partner so much - Clothed by Faith has more than 150 community partners across the region - requests for services keep increasing as those in need hear about Katy-area charities by word of mouth, Benton said.

Because nonprofits are operating on shoestring budgets, they have to be very responsible with the money they have, Christ Clinic's Director of Advancement, Beverly Allen said. The organizations are all operating as cost-effectively as they can, but the situation is still challenging because demand is increasing at a much faster rate than resources are, Allen said.

"I think our community is exhausted. I think there is a lot of donor fatigue," Benton said. "I think that all the nonprofits are fishing from the same pond and they're tired of being asked."

Benton said Clothed by Faith is working to find other revenue streams by setting up textile recycling collection bins for clothing that is not suitable for being redistributed and similar innovations. Christ Clinic and Hope Impacts representatives also said they are looking for grant funding, but even those efforts are still leaving them short of meeting the needs of those they serve financially.

Partnering to meet client needs has become a vital part of the situation for financially-strained Katy-area nonprofits, Allen said. Each nonprofit tries to focus on its strengths. As patients come through Christ Clinic for medical services, they are referred to Clothed by Faith for clothing; or, as a homeless client is getting a shower and a medical issue is recognized, Hope Impacts will help that client get to Christ Clinic for treatment. Christ Clinic has also partnered with Katy Christian Ministries to provide food packages to meet the needs of diabetic patients served by the clinic.

"As we reach further to wrap our hands around the whole person, it is imperative that we lean on our non-profit partners to provide the supportive services that we would be duplicating if we provided them ourselves," Hamilton said. "Duplication of services means duplication of overhead unless there is a strong, concerted effort"



R. HANS MILLER

Katy Mayor Bill Hastings (far left) poses for a photo with his wife and several of the lodge members who were present for the awards ceremony.

HONORED

from page A1

commitment to faith and community service over his more than 40-year career. Since 1975, Hastings has served in the Katy Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter, paramedic, fire marshal and arson investigator, Muller said. He also served as a patrolman, K9 officer, detective and chief

of police with the Katy Police Department and has participated in a variety of nonprofit roles such as being a member of the Katy Christian Ministries Advisory Board. Hastings is also a veterans of the US Coast Guard.

In a brief acceptance speech, Hastings thanked those who have supported him in his endeavors in community service.

"This award is quite an honor," Hastings said.

"I've had a few awards but I don't know that any of them have meant as much as this one does."

Several other masons received awards for tenure in the masonic organization. Jerry Weaver received an award for 50 years of service to the community. Lester Fontenot, Timothy Graves, Walter Shockey and Gail Stolzenburg were all recognized for 40 years of contributing to the lodge's success. Alford Cook, Wil-

liam Lackey, Billy Parker, Kendall Reese, Kenneth Reese, William Rollwitz, Catarino Silva, William Skidmore, Bruce Vancura and Paul Woodward were recognized for 25 years of contribution to the lodge.

Dustin Garrett received the lodge's Perfect Ashlar Award for his service to the lodge and its members without concern for personal recognition. Garrett is the third ashlar awardee in the lodge's 43-year history.

SEAT

from page A1

in business administration, both from Louisiana State University. He also has a background in accounting and real estate.

Duncan said she will be formally filing her candidacy paperwork by Nov. 22. She has already been campaigning for some time. Duncan holds a bachelors degree from Texas A&M University and a masters degree from the University of Houston in Education Administration - both in education-related fields. She was a teacher for six years and a school principal for two and is an entrepreneur. Duncan is currently assistant vice president on the board of directors for Willow Fork Drainage District and is co-founder of Barker Flood Prevention, a local flood mitigation advocacy group.

"I will be running on the Republican ticket [for Fort Bend County commis-

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on these candidates before going to the poles, keep an eye on www.katytimes.com and direct your browser to their campaign websites:

- andymeyers.com
- wendyforcommissioner.com
- hopeforcommissioner.com

sioner for Precinct 3] in the primary of March 2020. My values are focused on life, liberty, individual constitutional rights, personal responsibility, innovative leadership, small government, strong families and always lending a compassionate hand up," Duncan said in a statement on her campaign website.

The winner of the Republican primary will face a Democrat on Election Day in November 2020. Thus far only Hope Martin, an Air Force veteran with more than a decade of experience in healthcare administration. Martin also holds a bachelors degree in Technical Management from DeVry University, a masters degree in business administration and another masters degree in Human Resource Management. Both masters degrees are from the Keller Graduate School of Management. Her campaign priorities are listed online as flood preparedness, addressing traffic congestion and economic growth.

"We need authentic transparency and an elected official that is more loyal to the people than special interest groups," Martin said in a statement on her campaign website.

The deadline to file for candidacy is Dec. 9 and the primary will occur March 3, 2020.

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