

HARRIS COUNTY

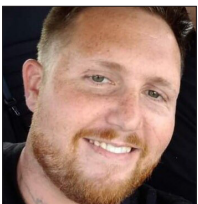
Sheriff's office investigates hit and run

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Sheriffs Office investigators are looking into an accident that took the life of a pedestrian in the 18,200 block of Keith harrow Boulevard at about 4:40 a.m. Dec. 7, HCSO representatives confirmed. The pedestrian, Christopher Houlihan, 30, was struck either while crossing at a crosswalk or walking in the inside lane of the roadway when struck.

"The vehicle fled the scene traveling westbound. Mr. Houlihan was found at the scene with no signs of life. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division," an HCSO statement said.

Houlihan's twin sister, Molly Ladner, said via telephone that her brother's vehicle had been found at Mugshots Tavern on Clay Road, just east of Fry Road. Houlihan's cell phone was found in the vehicle and it was known that he



CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN

See **INVESTIGATION**, page A5

KATY

City Council OKs fire station repairs, permitting review

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy City Council members approved mold remediation and repairs for the city's Fire Station One with costs not to exceed \$600,000 at their Monday afternoon meeting. Council also approved an agreement allowing SAFEbuilt, Inc. to review the city's permitting practices.

"I'm pleased that (the permitting measure) is on the agenda and we do get to vote on it," said Council Member Rory Robertson who was elected Nov. 3. "Permitting can be a challenge for both the businesses and individuals in the past. It has never been a people problem before, but a numbers problem in Katy and the growing community."

Permitting concerns

Builders, homeowners and businesses operating within the city of Katy have noted challenges with getting permitting issues consistently addressed in recent years. Owners Nicholas Jesset and Nici Jesset of MKT Distilleries said they had a variety of problems over the summer while trying to make some repairs and minor improvements at the distillery which is housed in Katy's iconic rice dryer silos. The frustrations they experienced included inspectors giving them inconsistent informa-

See **REPAIRS**, page A5

CLASS 6A VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS! FINISHED!

Class 6A state title caps off remarkable season for Batenhorst, Seven Lakes

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

GARLAND — A little more than a month ago, Seven Lakes coach Amy Cataline had a talk with her team.

The Spartans had just returned from a 2 ½-week suspension of play due to half of the team having COVID-19. The abrupt hiatus halted rhythm and flow, and Cataline wanted to ensure her players that they were still the author of their season's story.

"What did we want the headline to be?" Cataline recalled saying. "Were we going to throw our hands up because we had to go weeks not playing volleyball

Spartans win one for beloved coach Cataline, SEE PAGE B1



DAVE SANDERS | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes players celebrate after winning the Class 6A state championship match over Klein on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Culwell Center in Garland.

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

Katy ISD reviews growth

School district also moves forward with bond preparation

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD moved forward with forming of a bond committee to determine if the district should move forward with a bond referendum in the May 2021 election. If it moves forward, the district may utilize the funding to build schools to service the district's growing population.

"Katy ISD is now the fifth largest producer of homes out of 61 school districts in the Houston area. The majority of the lots in the northwest quadrant of Katy ISD are building out rapidly. By the time Katy ISD is fully built-out, it should have approximately 115,500 students" said Pat Guseman of Population and Survey Analysts.

Population problems

Guseman and her coworker Kris Pool represent PASA, the district's demographics consultant, and presented recent findings regarding the district's anticipated growth through 2030. Those projections indicated continued population growth in the district which would increase the district's student population from about 84,400 during this school year to between 94,300 and 99,500 by 2025. Projections for 2030 place the



R. HANS MILLER

Katy ISD's Board of Trustees approved moving forward with a committee to explore the possibility of a bond referendum in May of 2021 after hearing a report from the district's demographer consultant regarding expected growth over the next decade.

district's student body at between about 101,000 and 112,000 students, they said.

Most of the growth in the area appears to be in the northwestern portion of the district, Guseman said. This growth pattern is the result of the parklands – such as the Barker and Addicks reservoirs – being set aside from development and large

portions of the remainder of the district being built out in the south and eastern portions of KISD's physical boundaries. Meanwhile, new subdivisions are coming to the district's northwestern area that attract millennials who are having families and looking for entry-level homes.

See **KISD**, page A5

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TEA to pause A-F ratings but will still require STAAR testing

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Texas Education Agency announced via a press release that it has put a pause on the A-F rating system for Texas schools due to the challenges associated with education during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in the same announcement the agency which oversees Texas schools indicated that students would still have to take the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness – or STAAR – tests this school year.

"The last nine months have been some of the most disruptive of our lives. The challenges have been especially pronounced for our parents, teachers, and students. We continue to prioritize the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff in our schools this year, while working to ensure students grow academically," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath via press release.

See **STAAR**, page A3

Area hospitals begin giving vaccine to frontline workers

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Memorial Hermann announced Tuesday that it has received 16,575 doses of the Pfizer-produced COVID-19 vaccine and begun administering the inoculant to its frontline staff that work directly with patients affected by the SARS-COV-2 virus. Houston Methodist has also received doses of the vaccine and has begun administering it to staff.

"We have been fighting this battle against COVID-19 since March. I'm thrilled there is now a vaccine to help protect us against this virus, and I am very grateful and proud to be among the first in the country to be able to receive it," said Robert



COURTESY METHODIST WEST HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Dr. Ashley Drews, medical Director for Infection Prevention and Control at Houston Methodist received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine administered by Houston Methodist on Tuesday. COVID-19 has killed more than 300,000 Americans since March according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Luckey, a registered nurse who works in the COVID Intensive Care Unit at Memorial Hermann's Texas Medical Center location. According to the Memorial Hermann press release, the CDC recom-

mends health care workers at high risk of contracting COVID-19 be the first in the U.S. to receive vaccinations to protect against the virus.

See **VACCINE**, page A5

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Katy Responds helps disaster-impacted families

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In a small building in downtown Katy next to Katy Bible Church, Ron Peters and his crew of staff and volunteers work to help Katy area residents continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey and other disasters that come along. The nonprofit was founded by area churches as a response to Harvey, but Peters said it has grown to look at how to help those that are affected by other disasters as well.

“We’re a disaster organization which is the Harvey and Tax Day floods – all accurate,” Peters said. “But there’s economic disaster. There’s family disaster.”

The main point of the organization is to lift up those living in need, Peters and Director of Administration Chelsea Lucas said.

The organization was founded on that concept as churches came together in late 2017 and early 2018 to try to expand their Harvey relief efforts to more than just mucking and gutting homes. Those area churches approached Houston Responds for advice on how to move forward and Houston Responds acted as a mentor agency to help them for Katy Responds. Initial funding was provided by the churches and Houston Responds, but once an internal fundraising mechanism was established, Katy Responds moved forward on its own, Peters said.

The system put in place to identify homeowners in need of repairs to their houses is frugal and self-sustaining and relies on community members to be productive, Peters said. The community helps with funding, volunteering, community outreach and even assists with identifying homeowners to help, he said.

“Volunteer@KatyResponds.org is the easiest way to get plugged in,” Lucas said. “On social media – like, comment, share (helps with our) message getting spread.”

While volunteering is great, given the professionals that have to get involved such as plumbers and carpenters, Peters said donating is a great way for the community to help out as well.

“We don’t move if we can’t bring dollars in,” Peters said. “That’s our biggest deal. We have 1,000 people on our mainlining list that have come and volunteered with us. The first two years, because there was dollars available out there from The



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY KATY RESPONDS

Katy Responds volunteers and staff pose with Virginia Holcomb (second from left). Holcomb’s home was flooded and became Katy Responds’ 100th home to be repaired. The organization repairs homes impacted by disasters such as floods, but also works with those experiencing family emergencies such as single mothers who need assistance making home repairs.



About 95% of Katy Responds’ clients live in homes infested by mold, one of the most significant health concerns posed after a home is flooded. A priority for Katy Responds is to remediate mold in order to ensure residents live in a healthy environment.

United Way and Red Cross and those types of people – we didn’t build the muscle to encourage donations.”

Peters said Katy Responds is asking the community for donations now because that’s what helps them meet their goal: putting those they help in homes that are safe, sanitary and secure. That goal requires licensed home professionals, he said, and licensed home professionals cost money.

Katy Responds focuses on being frugal though, Peters added.



After completion of a project, Katy Responds’ goal is to have the home be functional, safe and healthy and essentially identical to the condition the home was in prior to the damage inflicted on it.

The organization is typically able to do a \$50,000 repair and remodel job for about \$25,000 by mixing the professional labor with volunteer labor and buying supplies through sources that save them money. Volunteers build fences and paint walls while the plumbers, electricians and carpenters stick to their areas of expertise.

Even the mold remediation is done with cost savings in mind. About 95% of the homes Katy Responds repairs are infested with mold that is negatively impacting

the health of the residents of the home. Mold detection kits cost about \$400 and remediation can take as long as two weeks of Katy Responds’ typical 12-week project time, Peters said.

“We don’t like to spend (for mold detection) more than twice on a project,” Peters said. “So, we anticipate two times, but we’re hoping we get it killed in one.”

The organization also has partnerships with mold remediation companies that allow Katy Responds to borrow mold treatment

equipment such as dehumidifiers, Lucas said.

The process from clients’ perspectives is simple, Lucas said. Once Katy Responds is informed about an area household in need, she reaches out to the homeowner to do an initial assessment. Next, if the household meets Katy Responds’ criteria for help – such as making \$50,000 or less per year – Peters assesses the home and calculates project cost. The organization then reaches out to the community and asks for donations for that home repair project. Funding includes community donations and grants, she said. Once the funding is raised, the work is performed in a manner that is respectful of the residents’ privacy and time.

Often, inspections aren’t necessary after a repair because the home is simply being put back to its original condition prior to flooding, Peters said. However, Katy Responds focuses on making sure the home meets their standard of safe, sanitary and secure.

Once the home is finished, Katy Responds tries to connect the homeowner with churches that can provide support to keep raising the quality of life of the household, Peters said.

“Part of our job is to draw as many church body members into each family so that they get a little bit of loving, you know? That they feel community,” Peters said.

This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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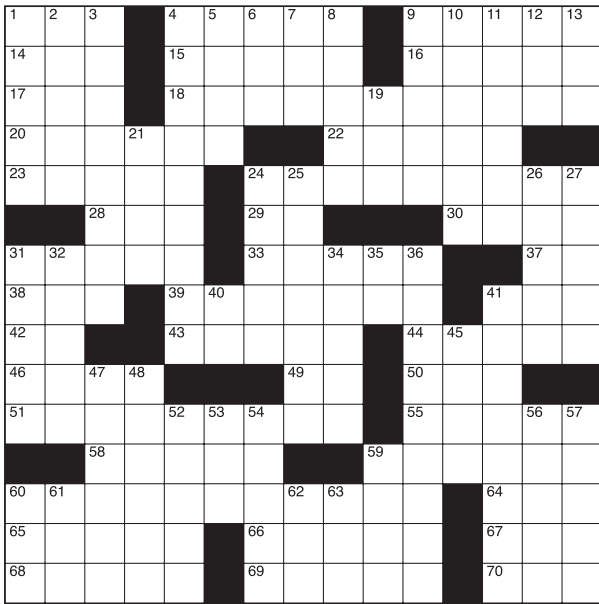
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular pickup truck
- Profoundly wise men
- Camera company
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Passerine birds
- Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- Popular kids channel
- Dodgers’ skipper
- Removes
- The Atlantic is one
- Badgerlike mammal
- Foulness
- Luke’s mentor —Wan
- Commercial
- A type of gin
- Temptress
- Shuts in an enclosed space
- Milligram
- Actress Adams
- Strive to equal or match
- Health insurance
- A detective’s source
- Small American rails
- Alfred __, Brit. poet
- Crest of a hill
- Atomic #52
- __ Caesar, comedian
- Breaks apart
- Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- Worker
- Chemical compound
- Disgraced newsman
- Born of
- Chemical substance
- Supernatural powers
- Clothes
- Indy footballers
- Moves forward
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Driver

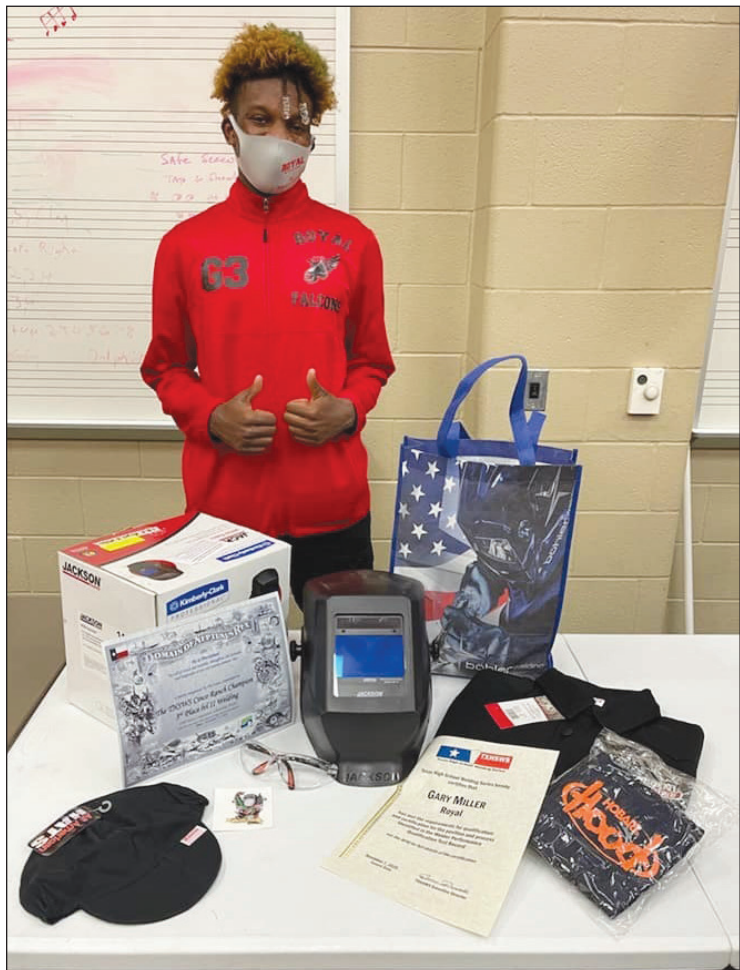


- Bone cavities
- Menacing
- Where coaches patrol
- Greek mythological figure
- War-based board game
- Midway between northeast and east
- 18-year period in astronomy
- Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- Large bodies of water
- Eurasian ryegrass
- Perform on stage
- Greek island
- 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- One point east of southeast
- Belgian city
- Praise excessively
- River in France
- Edible lily bulbs
- Quarterbacks take them
- Organic compound
- Tears down (Brit.)
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Unconscious
- Missouri
- Firemen use them
- Pig noise
- Greatly dismay
- Imitator
- Moves by turning over
- Boxing’s GOAT
- Swarms with
- Margarines
- Feudal superior
- As fast as can be done
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Chinese city
- Tell on
- United

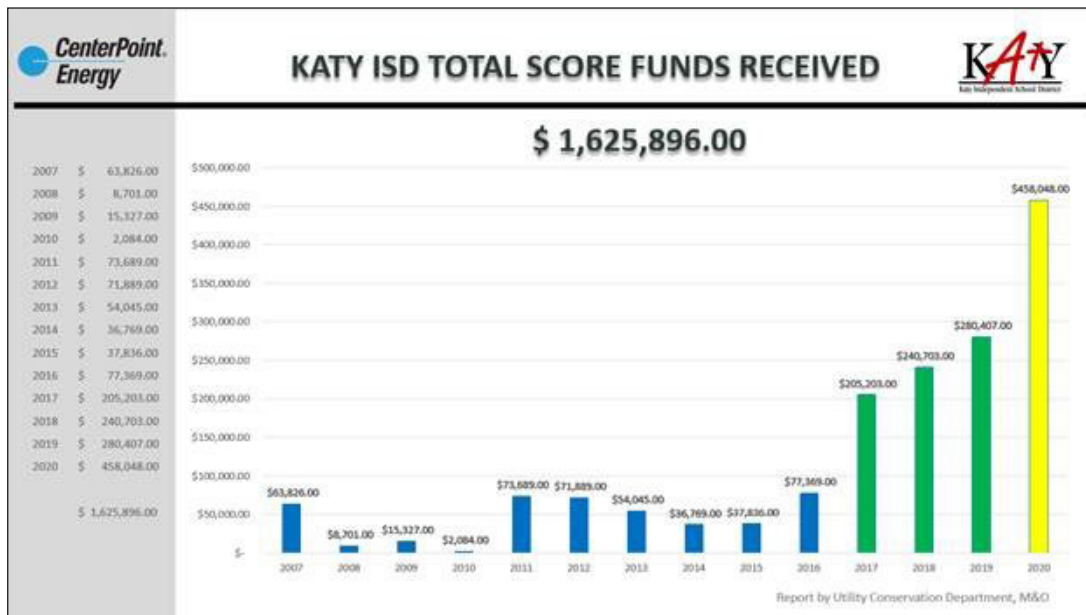
Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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RHS junior places 3rd



Royal High School junior Gary Miller III recently competed in the Texas High School Welding Series Cinco Ranch Championship, where he received 3rd place out of 15 Cypress area schools. In recognition of his efforts, was awarded a \$500 Ocean Corporation Scholarship Award and a \$2,000 scholarship to Precision Welding Academy. Miller also met the requirements and certification for the Texas High School Welding Series Qualification Test.



SOURCE KATY ISD

Since 2007, Katy ISD has received more than \$1.1 million in rebates for advances at district facilities in regard to energy efficiency through a program offered by CenterPoint Energy. It's most recent rebate was more than \$450,000.

KISD receives energy savings rewards

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD announced Monday morning that it has received more than \$1.1 million in funding since 2007 for taking action to save energy throughout its facilities through the CenterPoint Energy Schools Con-



TED VIERLING

serving Resources and Energy Program. Its most recent rebate check was more than \$450,000, the announcement said.

"A portion of these funds are reinvested into the energy program, while the majority goes to the general operating fund (GOF) which supports students and teachers," said Katy ISD Chief of Operations Ted Vierling.

CenterPoint's SCORE program began in 2006 and incentivizes K-12 schools to reduce electricity demand and consumption through energy efficiency projects and equipment upgrades. As those items are implemented or installed, CenterPoint provides rebate checks reflecting the respective district's energy savings strategies.

"In addition to this program, Katy ISD will pursue Energy Star Certifications for our schools in 2021," Vierling said.

STAAR

from page A1

The use of the STAAR test was not suspended because the agency feels that it is critical to provide the information about student learning that teachers and parents obtain through the test as they make decisions regarding students' educational needs, the press release said. The release also acknowledged

the challenges faced by local policymakers, parents and teachers working to educate students during the pandemic. Local educators expressed appreciation for the TEA's decision.

"Royal ISD leadership supports the state's decision to suspend the district rating and continue with testing," said Royal ISD Associate Superintendent Kendra Strange. "We welcome the fresh data that the STAAR tests provides us to guide our instruc-

tion and help us fill in the gaps from COVID slides."

Strange said Royal ISD understands that data from the STAAR test will be for informational purposes and not necessarily a full measure of student success, it will still be useful as educators try to identify gaps and continue to help students despite the pandemic.

"We are always striving to get better and see the STAAR data as a means to find ways to improve

our virtual and face-to-face learning environments," Strange said.

Katy Times reached out to Katy ISD but declined to provide a statement regarding the decision at the time.

Morath said the TEA still sees value in the A-F rating system as a tool for improving the school system, but said stepping away from the system given the challenges of the pandemic was appropriate.

"The issuance of A-F ratings for schools has proven to be a valu-

able tool to support continuous improvement for our students, allowing educators, parents, and the general public to better identify and expand efforts that are working for kids. But the pandemic has disrupted school operations in fundamental ways that have often been outside the control of our school leaders, making it far more difficult to use these ratings as a tool to support student academic growth. As a result, we will not issue A-F ratings this school year," Morath said.

The Katy Times

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PASTOR RICHARD DEVOST

Retailers are stepping up

Despite the grim economic news, the V-shaped economic recovery President Donald Trump has talked about may soon be a reality.

The news that several novel coronavirus vaccines will soon be available may allow the lockdowns to end. If all goes as planned, Operation Warp Speed could lead to the nation recovering lost economic ground in months rather than years, even if the number of cases continues to rise.

Retailers across the country are contributing to Operation Warp Speed by ordering freezers, thermometers, and the additional medical gear needed to administer vaccines once they're available. It makes sense. Since grocers and pharmacies offer flu shots, their support in delivering the vaccine is crucial given their thousands of locations in every city and county in the nation.

These public-private partnerships in Operation Warp Speed not only show we can beat this pandemic, but also highlight the benefits when America's private sector steps up.

Over the last ten months, retailers have taken the lead, offering "hero pay," additional bonuses, and greater safety measures to keep their employees and customers safe. Their story is just one of many waiting to be told once all of this is behind us. But that's not the only way this one segment of American business is stepping up to address the nation's critical problems.

Employees from Albertsons, Kroger, and Ahold recently ratified agreements with 27 local unions to withdraw from a union multi-employer pension fund circling the drain and join the newly formed UFCW and Employer's Variable Annuity Pension Plan. This change includes investments of nearly \$2 billion from these companies that will improve the security and stability of future benefits for employees and modernize retirement benefits.

The issue of pension reform has been before Congress for some time, but it's been stuck. If the nation's pension plans fail in any significant way, with far too many of them currently underfunded, the required bailout that would follow would imperil any recovery, as well as long-term future prosperity.

What has just been accomplished is great news for all involved. Millions of workers in other pension plans may not be so lucky. Rather than bicker over the best way back to a pre-COVID economy, policymakers ought to be focusing on the pitfalls ahead. Many of them, like the need to



reform the pension system, are not hard to spot.

Pension reform has long been an issue that elected officials on both sides of the aisle have recognized and have attempted to address but that never went far enough. For example, there are about 1,400 pension funds that are, according to the federal Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation "collectively bargained plan(s) maintained by more than one employer, usually within the same or related industries, and a labor union" that are potentially in trouble.

Policymakers must take a balanced approach to the issue of troubled multi-employer pension funds that provide participants with the retirement income they depend on while not placing undue burdens on the employers who participate in them. A solution must be found soon to protect the 10 million or so workers millions enrolled in employed by manufacturers and retailers and mining and shipping concerns to prevent them from having their benefits reduced significantly or cut entirely.

The PBGC's safety net for pension funds that default is shrinking. Insolvency may come as soon as 2025 as more and more multi-employer plans face financial challenges and member companies fail or enter bankruptcy. Many of these companies have been hit hard by the coronavirus lockdowns and been unable to keep up their contributions.

Companies like Albertsons, Kroger, and Ahold did not wait for government incentives to make the switch. They moved ahead because it's the right thing for workers and that's good for the corporate bottom line. Other companies and industries will hopefully follow suit because it's good for workers, good for taxpayers, and great for America.

If Operation Warp Speed is to be deemed a success in the months ahead, it will be thanks not only to the pharmaceutical companies who created the vaccines but to the retailers who distributed and vaccinated Americans at record rates. Should our recovering economy continue its current trend, we will prevail because private companies invested their profits and resources to make it happen.

OPINION



Have yourself a merry little... hedgehog

As Christmas approaches and homes are festooned with twinkling lights, decorated trees, and culturally inaccurate Nativity sets populated by what appear to be Scandinavian fashion models, my thoughts always turn to hedgehogs. Yes, hedgehogs.

You see, at some point in the distant past (before bras, braces, boyfriends and other omens of my impending doom), my middle daughter declared that she'd like to have a real live hedgehog for a pet. While any normal person with any normal child might have been stunned by such a request, for us, this was vintage middle child. It ranked right up there with her aspirations to become a professional coin-operated claw machine performer.

I just dismissed the idea as an innocent childhood fantasy because I naturally assumed that it was impossible, if not illegal, to own a hedgehog, not to mention that they were probably poisonous – and only existed in children's books.

A few months later, I entered my yearly Christmas shopping panic, and I came across a Facebook post about a woman nearby breeding and selling hedgehogs. "Ludicrous!" I thought. This had to be one of those ironic Facebook hoaxes, like the one about Donald Trump actually being a Klingon.

Sucker that I am, I called the number on the Facebook post (fully expecting to be connected to someone in Nigeria with an exciting investment opportunity), spoke to the hedgehog lady, and made arrangements to purchase



my first hedgehog for about the price of a small private jet.

But, of course, it wasn't that simple. The hedgehog lady needed to unload the hedgehog by Thanksgiving to make room for additional hedgehogs. (Apparently, female hedgehogs can actually give birth to baby hedgehogs. Ouchie!) I was also instructed by the hedgehog lady that the creature would need to be "handled" twice a day for thirty minutes at a time in order to tame it. She could have asked me to eat it alive and I would have been no less shocked. I didn't think you could touch them at all without risking dismemberment from hedgehog shrapnel.

To make a long story even longer, I had to help Santa keep this fiasco a secret. So for a solid month, I spent thirty minutes every morning before showering, and thirty minutes every night before bed, in my walk-in closet, gently caressing what looked like the love child of a small possum and a box of toothpicks. It only took one session to determine that underwear alone is not appropriate hedgehog-cuddling attire. (Don't ask.)

Christmas morning finally came, and, once again, Santa got all the credit. But what mattered the most was that my daughter was

in heaven over the new addition to our own private zoo. (We welcome visitors for \$100 per pound-of visitor.)

Over the course of the next year, suffering from some kind of spiny-mammal mania, I made three more visits to purchase hedgehogs from the hedgehog lady, who is by now likely drawing up construction plans for The Jase Graves Hedgehog Sanctuary. Realizing we had exceeded our hedgehog capacity, though, we have since re-homed two of them to friends we like to laugh at.

The bottom line is that our two remaining hedgehogs have provided all three of my daughters several minutes of happiness and given me something to do on lazy Sunday afternoons when we get out the backhoe and hazmat suits to clean their cages. And the unpleasant little animals have actually grown on me. The African pygmy hedgehog is a rather surly nocturnal creature that will tolerate humans, but prefers to be left alone – my spirit animal, basically. As a bonus, they're also relatively quiet and odorless (ok, so we aren't exactly the same). And you haven't truly lived until you've trimmed an uncooperative hedgehog's toenails (again, pants required).

So, this Christmas, if you want to surprise your family with a unique gift that will provide them with companionship and fun (at least until the novelty wears off), consider a pet hedgehog. I have two for sale now.

Heck, I'll even throw in a pair of toenail clippers and a gently-used hazmat suit.

CORRECTION

Volume 108, Issue 50: Junior Service League supports nonprofits. FBJSLS supported Gigi's Playhouse through volunteering.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 2. THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT

SEC. 1. SEPARATION OF POWERS OF GOVERNMENT AMONG THREE DEPARTMENTS.

The powers of the Government of the State of Texas shall be divided into three distinct departments, each of which shall be confided to a separate body of magistracy, to wit: Those which are Legislative to one; those which are Executive to another, and those which are Judicial to another; and no person, or collection of persons, being of one of these departments, shall exercise any power properly attached to either of the others, except in the instances herein expressly permitted.

Katy Times

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KISD

from page A1

The Elyson community along FM 529 and smaller developments to its west, including small subdivisions in Waller County meet this need, drawing new people to the area.

According to PASA's report, the addition of homes and a strong overall economy relative to Greater Houston drawing more developers is expected to continue to draw growth to the region, causing the district to grow in the northwest and place strains on schools in the area including Katy and Stockdick junior high schools.

According to a presentation by KISD Chief Communications Officer Andrea Grooms, Katy is already over capacity and Stockdick is nearly at capacity with space for only 50 more students. Haskett Junior High, now under construction near the intersection of Clay and Katy Hockley roads, would open with a capacity of 1,400 students in 2021 and be at a projected population of 1,373 students by 2024 and at a projected 1,813 students by 2026. Elementary and high school campuses in the area would face similarly pressured capacities, according to the presentation.

Those strains place the district in a situation where it needs to consider adding multiple campuses at all levels, Pool said. Actions proposed by PASA include adding two high schools in the relatively near future and another prior to the district being completely built out. Two or more elementary schools may also be needed in the northwestern portion of the district, including one in the Cane Island area to relieve pressure on Bryant Elementary, Pool said.

"Clearly, the district is going to need to open several elementary schools in this area rapidly," Pool said. "The one that I mentioned in Cane Island will relieve the top part of Bryant (Elementary's service area), but then we're looking at McElwain (Elementary) in 2025 will be pushing 3,000 students, and with each

elementary – new elementary anyway – having a capacity of just over 1,000, we can almost utilize three entire schools there."

Bonding growth

The population discussion moved into a discussion of the district proposing a bond committee. A statement released by the district after a vote that approved the reformation of the KISD Community Bond Advisory Committee – sometimes referred to as the CBAC – said the committee would be formed to "review capital needs in consideration of a May 2021 Bond Referendum."

Grooms said the district would have a shortened timeframe and number of meetings for the committee to meet due to the COVID-19 pandemic but would move forward with the meetings at the Merrell Center to facilitate social distancing among the committee's roughly 150 members. The meetings would happen in Jan. 13 and 20 as well as a possible meeting Jan. 27. A subsequent special KISD Board of Trustees meeting is expected Feb. 8 to approve the recommendations of the committee, followed by submission of any approved bond

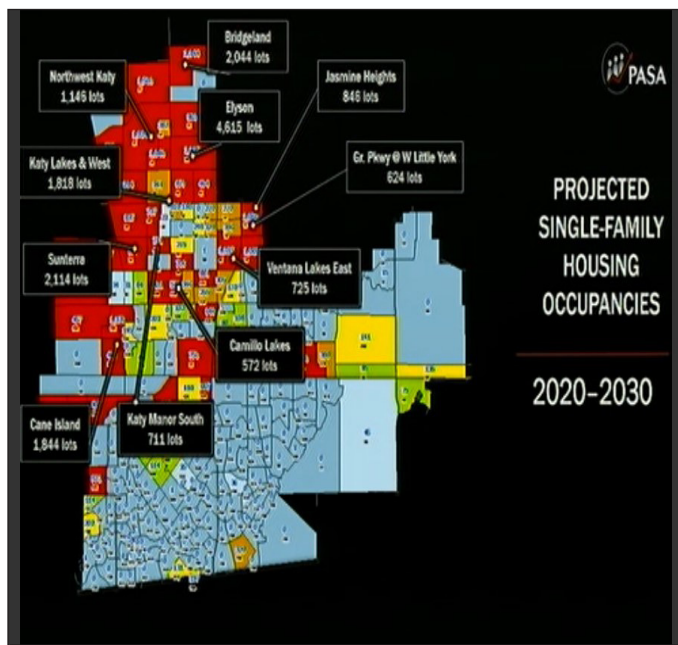
measure by the state's Feb. 12 deadline, she said.

KISD Chief Financial Officer Chris Smith said he felt confident the district could put forth a bond measure of \$700 million without raising the district's tax rate. He also pointed out that the district has consistently lowered its overall rate over time and has a debt service tax rate of \$0.39 per \$100 valuation. The total tax rate, which includes the maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.9988 per \$100 valuation, is currently \$1.3888 per \$100 valuation.

Smith also said that now is a good time for the district to move forward with a bond as the bond market favors borrowers with interest rates being much lower in recent years and still appearing to be trend low.

An exact bond proposal is not yet available, pending results of upcoming committee meetings and Trustee Dawn Champagne asked for more details.

"We're still in development of that. ...," said KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski. "We probably need five or six schools in the next (bond) but that is not official yet of what we think, but for sure a high school, probably a junior high and a couple of elementaries for sure – maybe as many as three."



PASA, Katy ISD's demographic consultant pointed out several new subdivisions under development in the northwestern portion of the district in its report to the KISD Board of Trustees. These new subdivisions, Elyson being the largest with more than 4,600 single family homes, will collectively bring more than 17,000 new homes to the Katy area and tens of thousands of students to Katy ISD campuses according to PASA's research.

INVESTIGATION

from page A1

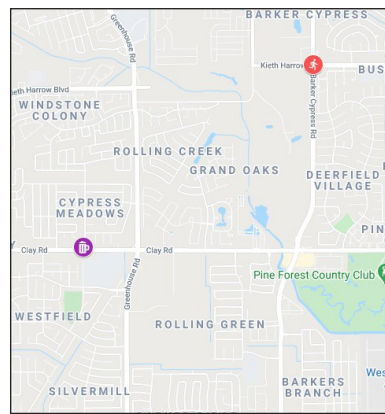
had frequented that tavern the evening prior to the incident that took his life. It is unknown if he left Mugshots with anyone else, she said. Inquiries at Sharky's Machine near where the accident occurred do not indicate so far that Houlihan visited that establishment, Ladner said, and it is unknown why her brother would have been walking in the area at the time of the accident.

HCSO said the case remains under investigation and anyone with information regarding the case should contact the HCSO non-emergency line at 713-221-6000 and ask to speak with Deputy Johnny Villarreal with the Vehicular Crimes Division.

The family is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to resolution of the case. A gofundme has also been set up to assist with funeral expenses. Houlihan leaves behind his wife, Ashley Houlihan and two daughters whom Ladner said he was very dedicated to.

(A link to the GoFundMe is available through the online version of this story at www.katytimes.com.)

"He was very funny; he had a great sense of humor and was really quick-witted and he made everybody laugh," Ladner said. "He was very



Christopher Houlihan's vehicle and cell phone were found at Mugshots Tavern (purple icon) on Clay Road. Houlihan was struck by a motor vehicle near the intersection of Keith Harrow Boulevard and Barker Cypress Road (light red icon).

kind and caring and he always took care of his friends and family and he loved his daughters so much.

Ladner said the family has been hit hard by the loss of her brother whom she described as someone who brought a great deal of joy to those around him.

"He's my twin brother; we're only 30. He shouldn't have died," Ladner said.

A funeral is scheduled for noon Dec. 19 at the Memorial Oaks Funeral Home located at 13001 Katy Freeway, Houston.

REPAIRS

from page A1

tion that led to expenses that were unreasonable and prompted Nici to ask to be put on the agenda at the Katy City Council Sept. 28 meeting.

"When we first opened, there were no issues and they were great," Nici said in an Oct. 11 interview. "And then, you know, as soon as we got the plumbing permit to do stuff that the health department wanted us to do, I mean, all Hell broke loose."

The Jessetts said their attempt to fix some minor plumbing issues led them to the permitting department, which then gave them a series of requirements that were inconsistent with what they'd been initially set up with when they first opened a couple years ago. There were discussions of installing special sinks with grease traps as if they were a restaurant – the only food the distillery itself serves is cut lemons for cocktails, all other food is served by food trucks – and at one point an inspector told them that their seating capacity would require them to install a large public restroom, which might have closed the business given the shutdowns caused by the pandemic.

Council was receptive to her feedback during the October meeting Nici said.

Public Works Director Elaine Lutringer and other city officials moved forward to set up the agreement with SAFEbuilt which was approved at the meeting. It was unclear at the meeting if the move was solely due to the Jessetts bringing the issue to the council's attention. Lutringer said she expects the assessment of the permitting process to begin in early January 2021 and take about a month.

"I just want to thank Elaine (Lutringer) and Public Works and staff for being open," said Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris. "I know it's difficult to ask for criticism and feedback, so I know that's a tough part of the process, but I don't want to say it's a negative or that there's always a problem. There's a lot of positive that comes from the Permitting Department."

Remediating mold

The quality of structures was a theme earlier in the meeting as well, as Katy City Council members discussed mold remediation and structural repairs to Fire Station One at 1417 Avenue D in Katy. Staff were moved out of the fire station in early May after the city was advised that a mold infestation at the facility presented a health concern to firefighters, EMTs and administrative staff working at the facility. Staff are currently working out of the Fussell Senior Center and the other fire stations operated by the city.

"I think that anyone (who) knows me, knows without a doubt my support for first responders. I feel that this sentiment carries across the entire council," Robertson said. "We know that we need to get them home and this is an important vote tonight to accomplish that goal."

Mold remediation will be handled by the Gordian Group with a not to exceed amount of \$600,000 for the first phase of repairs to the building. The first phase is expected to remediate the mold, repair the structure and make modifications to the building to bring it within code. City documents indicate that the mold infestation appears to be mostly on the south side of the building where administrative offices are located. Additionally, those documents indicate problems with the building's roof which will have to be addressed to prevent water from leaking into the building, possibly causing additional water damage and opportunities for mold to infest the station once again.

Council was in favor of ensuring that warranties and guarantees were obtained wherever possible given that Fire Station One has had a recurring problem with mold infestations in the past, as Robertson pointed out.

Repairs to the station would take about four months, Lutringer said. During that time, workers will also assess the building for any additional repair needs and those needs and costs would be brought back to council for review and approval, she added. Those repairs may address the HVAC system in the building as well as steel columns in the vehicle bays to ensure the building's serviceability.

VACCINE

from page A1

"I've had many describe the day like Christmas morning waiting for Santa's sleigh to arrive and sitting at the top of the stairs while your parents won't be down quite yet to open up the presents," said Dr. Marc Boom, CEO of Houston Methodist regarding his staff's attitude toward the vaccine. "... I am just thrilled that these brave men and women got the change to get this (vaccine)."

State guidelines for distribution of the virus includes such staff receiving the vaccine first according to a Department of State Health Services publication. They are joined by long-term care staff that work with vulnerable clients such as the elderly living in nursing homes, EMS providers who provide emergency services like pre-hospital care and transport, home

health care workers including hospice workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

State guidelines then prioritize staff in outpatient care environments, freestanding emergency rooms and urgent care clinics, pharmacies, those that work in emergency response centers, last responders such as morticians and medical examiners and then school nurses who provide care to students and faculty.

Memorial Hermann's statement said the hospital had registered to obtain as many doses of the vaccine as possible as soon as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. That request allowed it to receive more doses than any other health system in the Greater Houston area.

"It's been a stressful, exhausting 10 months, so I think I can speak for everyone when I say that it's an honor

for us to be able to offer this vaccine to the individuals who have dedicated nearly a year of their lives to caring for our community during this pandemic," said Dr. David Calender, president of Memorial Hermann.

Both hospital officials and elected officials said it is unknown how long it will take for production of the vaccine to ramp up enough for the general public to receive it, but they hoped it would not take long.

"We have not won yet, but we know we will, and so it should bring hope," Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said. "But there should also be a reminder for everybody in the community that we're not through with this and it's going to take a while for these vaccines to be available to everybody in the country, for there to be enough production of the vaccine so that everybody can get it."

Merry Christmas!

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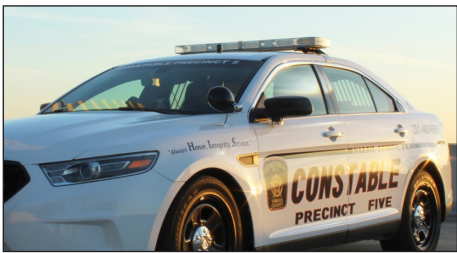
HARRIS COUNTY

Burglary suspect arrested

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Harris County Constable Ted Heap's office announced via social media Dec. 9 that Thomas Ryan Hubbard, 44, has been arrested at his home in the 3,600 block of Laverne Street on Dec. 9. Hubbard, who has a record of burglary, theft and driving stolen vehicles was released on parole over the summer for a prior conviction, was arrested on burglary and theft charges.

"The arrest followed a lengthy investigation into a string of burglaries and thefts since September. Home surveillance videos captured images of the suspect driving neighborhood streets in a maroon Chevy Tahoe late at night, stealing everything from tackle boxes to lawn furniture to children's bicycle," the social media post said.



Harris County's Precinct Five constables have arrested Ryan Hubbard in connection with multiple thefts.

Investigators with Heap's office were able to identify Hubbard as the suspect and he was arrested without incident.

Harris County Jail online records show Hubbard in custody with a bond of \$2,500 under charges for theft of property worth \$2,500 or less with two or more prior convictions. A court date is set for Feb. 2, 2021.

FORT BEND COUNTY



PHOTO COURTESY WAYNE THOMPSON

Fort Bend County Constable for Precinct 3 Wayne Thompson (right) presents a lifesaving award to Deputy Constable Andy Blauser in recognition of Blauser's response to a shooting in Pecan Grove. Blauser tended to three victims with multiple serious injuries including a sucking chest wound, a wound requiring a tourniquet and dressing wounds of a third victim that was bleeding.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Sheriff's Office seek assistance identifying burglary suspects

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is seeking information concerning a burglary of a building.

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office deputies were called to the Sportsman's Boat and RV Storage located at 8310 Powerline Rd in the Richmond area of Fort Bend County Dec. 8.

Unknown suspects broke into multiple storage units and stole a 2020 Polaris Razor loaded on a 2020 C&M utility trailer, a 2020 Polaris Ranger 1000 XP Highlifter loaded on an East Texas Longhorn utility trailer, four Fuel Forged Rims and tires, a 2015 Yamaha Grizzly 700 four-wheeler, and several Honda Generators.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY FBSCO

Thieves broke into a Richmond storage facility Dec. 8 and took multiple recreational vehicles, trailers and other items.

Anyone who may have information about the stolen property is asked to contact Detective J. Smith at the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Burglary & Theft Division. You can email or call Detective

Smith at Jordan.Smith@fortbendcountytexas.gov or 281-341-3835.

"Help us catch those responsible for stealing thousands worth of property," said Sheriff Troy Nehls.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Supreme Court rejects Texas AG's lawsuit

By CHRIS COBLER
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton challenging the results of the presidential election.

President Donald Trump and 17 Republican attorneys general had joined the lawsuit, which asked the Supreme Court to toss out the elections in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The lawsuit claimed the states "exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify ignoring federal and state election laws and unlawfully enacting last-minute changes, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election."

Texas Democrats accused Paxton of filing the lawsuit to distract voters from his own legal problems. More than 100 Republican members of Congress signed an amicus brief supporting the Texas lawsuit.

COVID-19 black market

Federal agents seized more than 100,000 counterfeit N95 surgical masks being stored in an El Paso warehouse.

The fake masks, likely made in China, were headed to a hospital on the East Coast, officials said. The raid was conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

ICE launched Operation Stolen Promise in April to protect U.S. consumers from fraud and other crime stemming from the pandemic.

The federal agency warns "that high public demand for access to vaccines and treatments will lead to illegal attempts to introduce counterfeit versions of these items into U.S. and global marketplaces." In response, Homeland Security has started Operation Stolen Promise 2.0, which focuses on this emerging public health threat.

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SPORTS RESULTS
& SCHEDULE**

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 11**CLASS 6A DIVISION I
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**

- Tompkins 42, Fort Bend Travis 10
- Ridge Point 56, Seven Lakes 20

**CLASS 5A DIVISION I
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**

- Paetow 70, Baytown Lee 18
- Girls Basketball
- Cinco Ranch 75, Mayde Creek 22
- Tompkins 50, Katy 34
- Seven Lakes def. Taylor
- Paetow 39, Morton Ranch 36

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Paetow 73, Waller 65

SATURDAY, DEC. 12**CLASS 6A STATE
VOLLEYBALL FINAL**

- Seven Lakes 3, Klein 1

MONDAY, DEC. 14**BOYS BASKETBALL**

- Paetow 55, College Station 36

THURSDAY, DEC. 17**CLASS 5A DIVISION I
AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**

- Paetow vs. New Braunfels Canyon, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18**CLASS 6A DIVISION I
AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**

- Tompkins vs. Cy-Fair, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.

**CLASS 6A DIVISION II
AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**

- Katy vs. Lamar, at Rhodes Stadium, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Houston Heights, at Delmar Stadium, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Mayde Creek at Katy, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Bryan Rudder at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Morton Ranch at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Katy at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Taylor at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Royal at Morton Ranch, 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 22**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Tompkins, 1 p.m.
- Taylor at Mayde Creek, 1 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins at Morton Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Katy, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Taylor, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 28**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Houston Heights at Cinco Ranch, 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 29**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Morton Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Tompkins, 1 p.m.
- Klein Forest at Paetow, 1 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Seven Lakes at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Taylor at Cinco Ranch, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Mayde Creek, 1 p.m.
- Paetow at Montgomery, 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Morton Ranch at MacArthur, noon
- Paetow at Caney Creek, 11:30 a.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Humble at Katy, 5 p.m.
- Cy-Creek at Tompkins, 1 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Cy-Falls, 1 p.m.
- Paetow at Cy-Fair, 1:30 p.m.

SEVEN LAKES: 2020 STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS!**A CHAMPION'S COACH**

DAVE SANDERS | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Seven Lakes coach Amy Cataline cheers on her players during the team's Class 6A state final game against Klein on Dec. 12 at the Culwell Center in Garland.

Seven Lakes wins title for beloved coach Amy Cataline

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

GARLAND — Win for Coach Cat. As Seven Lakes played deeper into the volleyball playoffs—a state championship seeming more and more a legitimate, if not altogether inevitable, possibility—the Spartans' 'why' became clear. Yes, the Spartans thirsted for a state title. It had been their M.O. since day one of the season, and, really, since 2017, when they lost in the state final to Lewisville Hebron. But who they wanted it for, they kept stressing during the weeks leading up to their

Spartans win Katy ISD's first state volleyball championship

SEE PAGE A1

Class 6A state championship win over Klein at the Culwell Center on Dec. 12, was for the person who had taught them so much, head coach Amy Cataline. "She's such a great coach and taught me how to be a leader," said senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst, the championship game's Most Valuable Player. "Being able to play for

her and win one for her, she puts so much passion into this team and does so much for us. She really loves us. We could not have done this without her."

Cataline, in her fourth season at the helm of the Spartans, had previously been to the state final twice. In 2015, as coach of Fort Bend Austin, her Bulldogs fell to Hebron. In 2017, Hebron, again, prevented Cataline and the Spartans from hoisting up the gold trophy.

But the third time has a ring to it. "It means so much that I was with a

See **CATALINE**, page B3



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Tompkins senior running back Marquis Shoulders runs with the ball during the Falcons' 42-10 Class 6A Division I bi-district playoff win over Fort Bend Travis on Dec. 11 at Legacy Stadium.

No. 6 Falcons open playoffs with rout

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

The run game and stingy defense ignited Tompkins' 42-10 Class 6A Division I bi-district playoff win over Fort Bend Travis on Friday, Dec. 11, at Legacy Stadium.

Nothing fancy, nothing new. Workmanlike and businesslike, just as the Falcons have been through this program-best season.

But No. 6 state-ranked Tompkins is savoring playoff wins a little more these days after a plethora of playoff games around the Houston area were canceled last week because of COVID-19. That included two games that affected district partners, as Katy and Taylor moved on to the area playoffs with byes after their bi-district opponents were forced to forfeit because of the novel coronavirus.

"Welcome to 2020," Tompkins coach Todd McVey said. "We control our controllables. That's it. I tell them to count our blessings, wear our masks and just do what we can do. That's all we can do. It seems really easy, but it's not sometimes. We'll continue to work on that."

The Falcons (9-0) had little trouble with the Tigers (4-5). Tompkins led 21-0 after the first quarter on senior receiver

COVID-19 affects Katy, Taylor playoff games,

SEE PAGE B2

Joshua McMillan II's 28-yard touchdown haul from senior quarterback Jalen Milroe, senior safety Colby Huerter's 35-yard fumble recovery return for a touchdown, and senior running back Sherman Smith's four-yard scoring run.

"In big playoff games, we know we've got to start fast or else it'll be a long game," said senior running back Marquis Shoulders, who had 38 yards on his first three carries to set up McMillan's score on the opening drive. "We have to do that every game."

Shoulders battered Travis for 118 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries. Smith added 49 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries.

"Those guys complement each other well," McVey said. "The O-line did a great job opening things up so they could find some creases. It's a blessing to have those two guys."

The difference-maker, however, was Huerter.

The South Dakota State signee

See **FALCONS**, page B2

QB Milroe finds right fit with Tide

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

In July of 2018, a late morning discussion between a reporter and Tompkins head football coach Todd McVey centered around the potential of sophomore quarterback Jalen Milroe. His intriguing background. His promising future.

Following an eye-opening two months of spring ball, Milroe was the unofficial projected starter for Tompkins heading into the 2018 season. His natural skill, though raw, was obvious. But it was something else of Milroe's that enamored him to McVey and others around him.

"The MVP of smiling," McVey acknowledged of his precocious youngster. "It's contagious."

Milroe did, in fact, boast a particular joy about life. McVey recalled his initial meeting with Milroe at WoodCreek Junior High a few years earlier, coming away impressed with his maturity and perspective. They were signs of what was to come.

"He wants this program to grow as we want it to grow, and he's up to the challenge," McVey admired.

Jump ahead two years and Milroe, the No. 15-ranked pocket-passing quarterback in the Class of 2021, is not only leading Tompkins to greater heights as intended, he's also the University of Alabama's next prized recruit at quarterback. The 6-foot-2, 192-pound four-star recruit signed his letter of intent to play for the Crimson Tide on Wednesday evening after verbally committing on Aug. 17.

At the time, Milroe's verbal commitment raised eyebrows. He had verbally committed to Texas the previous summer, but decommitted a little more than a year later. It was Alabama's culture and system, along with head coach Nick Saban and offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian, that eventually won Milroe over.

"Playing in an offensive system that is pro style, Coach Sark is running a system that will be run in the NFL," Milroe said. "My ultimate goal is to make it to the NFL, and I feel like I'll be able to achieve that at Alabama. Texas's

See **MILROE**, page B2



COLE MCNANA

Tompkins senior quarterback Jalen Milroe found the culture and system at Alabama too important to pass up.

Freshman Carlton a unique talent for Spartans

By **DENNIS SILVA II**
SPORTS EDITOR

Justice Carlton watched Seven Lakes varsity girls basketball games as an eighth grader at Beckendorff Junior High last year.

In awe of the speed of the players and the game, Carlton imagined herself playing with those same Spartans as a freshman.

"I watched them play before I got here and it's cool to see the same players that I watched are now my teammates," Carlton said. "I was excited to play with them."

Her new teammates are just as excited to play with her.

Carlton is a 6-foot-2 freshman forward, a unique, versatile talent that has quickly made an impact for Seven Lakes. Carlton is averaging 26 points per game for the 7-1 Spartans, who are 2-0 in District 19-6A play with wins over Katy and Taylor.

"The game is just so much easier with Justice," senior guard Addison Poth said. "Shots are wide open, and we still aren't used to that. It's great how much attention she gets and how she pulls the defense in. It opens up so much for everyone."

In Monday's non-district

54-45 win over George Ranch, Carlton was dominant with 21 points, 11 rebounds, five assists and four blocks. The 21 points were a season low, telling of how great she has been this season.

Carlton was constantly double-teamed in the second half by an athletic Longhorns team. Still, she almost always made the right play. She faced up and found open teammates (often it was Poth, who drilled four 3s). Because of her ability to initiate offense from the perimeter, senior forward Lily Baumgardner and junior guard KK Tucker had success driving open lanes for easy buckets or free-throw opportunities.

"She's so special in the fact that she's mature in the game itself," coach Angela Spurlock said of Carlton. "She's 15 years old and just really understands basketball. She wants to be a great teammate as much as she wants to reach her own personal goals, and that's really special to have in a young player."

Carlton is having a blast. In middle school, she often felt like she was on an island as defenses swarmed her, making life difficult. She had teammates who simply were not on her level of skill



Seven Lakes freshman forward Justice Carlton drives to the basket during a non-district game against George Ranch on Monday, Dec. 14, at Seven Lakes High.

or thinking. Now, whenever she's harassed by defenders, she has teammates who can handle the ball, make plays and shoot from distance.

"It's definitely the speed and the people around me," Carlton said about her biggest

adjustment from junior high to varsity high school basketball. "In middle school, I didn't have that many people to depend on when I was double-teamed."

Having watched Seven Lakes games and studied

players, Carlton knew she'd be joining a team full of shooters and guards. So, during the summer, she worked tirelessly to refine her interior game.

She has a quick second jump on offensive rebounds and a soft touch around the rim. And while it's only eight games into the season, the Spartans' guards are quickly grasping how and when to get the ball to Carlton.

The post-entry passing against George Ranch was impressive. Whether double-teamed or fronted by the defense, Carlton had no trouble getting the ball as guards worked angles and were patient swinging the ball from side to side to get her the best look.

"We've been working a lot in practice on giving her the right pass," Poth said. "At the beginning, we struggled, simply because none of us are used to playing with a legitimate post player. But we've been working hard and she's getting it in good spots."

It's not an unfamiliar sight at Spartans practices to see mesh dummies, traffic cones and trash cans mimicking double teams and defenses so that players and Carlton can work on passing, positioning and ball movement.

Poth said Carlton's leadership is also exceptional. Generally, freshmen are quiet and timid. Not Carlton. She communicates to teammates and helps them.

"It's just been a matter of helping them figure out how to play with a true post," said Carlton, who said she models her game after the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis and Las Vegas Aces' Liz Cambage and wants to be able to "play everywhere, off whatever people give me." "Sometimes we run into each other just because that is so new to them. Lily and I are still trying to figure out how to work together, and we're all still trying to figure out our places on the floor."

Spurlock, the program's head coach since the school's inception in 2005, said she has not coached a true post talent like Carlton since 6-3 center La Toya Micheaux at Hightower in the early 2000s.

"Here at Seven Lakes, we just haven't been a very tall team," Spurlock said. "It hasn't hindered us from being a successful program, but the game changes when you've got someone like Justice in the middle."

ROYAL PLAYERS EARN ALL-DISTRICT FOOTBALL HONORS



Royal High football players were recently recognized as all-district selections in District 12-4A, Division 2. First team offense: Jeremiah Venson, tight end; Matthew Green, fullback. First team defense: Cedric Smith, cornerback; Jeremiah Venson, defensive end. Second team offense: Frederick Hardy, center; Zechariah Robinson, tackle. Second team defense: Kernis Thomas, linebacker; Matthew Green, linebacker. Honorable mention: Eduardo Arteaga, offensive line, defensive tackle; Elbert Adams, running back, defensive end; Kolby Lewis, defensive back; Andre Prohett, defensive back; Frederick Hardy, defensive tackle; Anthony Ball, linebacker.

FALCONS

from page B1

had the early defensive score—his first fumble recovery for a touchdown since his sophomore season—and added a big interception late in the first half that halted Travis momentum after the Tigers climbed within 21-7.

Huerter's 78-yard return on the pick set up Smith's second touchdown run, a three-yard stop-and-go to the outside with 1:18 left in the first half.

"I'm not so much proud of what this defense does against any particular team, it's what it does for us," said Huerter, who cited the defense's energy. "What we do together. We gel. It's great when you can see it all fit and come together from the backend as a safety. It's a beautiful sight. We've got a great family on defense."

Huerter has six takeaways this season. McVey said the 6-foot, 180-pounder provides a perfect example for the younger guys on the team.

Huerter understands the entire field well, coaches everyone else on what to do, and his reaction time has improved with experience.

"He's a guy we've had since his

sophomore year," McVey said. "He's a terrific leader to the guys. He brings the energy. This year especially, he's just playing. He's letting the game come to him. I tell him he's being the older Kobe Bryant instead of the younger Kobe who was, just, go. He's learned how to play the game and it's slowed down for him."

In all, the Falcons had three takeaways and held Travis to 204 total yards.

"It comes down to preparation," Huerter said. "We watched a ton of film, a lot of film. They're a great bunch of athletes over there. We schemed well, did our job."

Tompkins was coming off an open week as it could not get a game scheduled for the last week of the regular season. The Falcons have had other games canceled because of COVID-19. They've had games postponed. Practice time has been at a premium.

They've seen teams they know well have to end their seasons because of the virus.

"It's difficult, but we try to just do what our coach says," Huerter said. "Us at Tompkins, we know how to do this COVID stuff. We're very disci-

plined and Coach McVey has done a phenomenal job making sure it's in our heads to keep our masks up and be safe out there."

Tompkins' next scheduled opponent is Friday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium against No. 10 Cy-Fair, which is 10-1 and outscoring opponents by 32 points per game. It's the Falcons' first game against a state-ranked opponent since they played Katy on Nov. 5.

They are looking forward to the heavily anticipated matchup, regarded as one of the best area round games around the state this week. But if there's one thing the Falcons have learned this season, it's to appreciate and be grateful for the games that are played.

So, they planned to enjoy the Travis win for a bit longer than they normally would have any other season.

"It's another chance to play, and that's the important thing," McVey said of Cy-Fair. "They're a very good football team, so we'll have our hands full. But we'll enjoy this one, like we've generally done in 2020, get back to work, and it's one day at a time. Whenever we play them will get here soon enough."

MILROE

from page B1

offense is great, but development-wise being under Coach Sark and Coach Saban ... it's a better fit. And then throw in playing against the best in the nation in the SEC ... that was definitely one of my goals growing up and now I'm able to achieve that."

Tuscaloosa was Milroe's first college recruiting visit during the summer of his junior year. Milroe participated at a program camp and soaked in the first-hand coaching from Sarkisian and Saban. But he pushed back his commitment date, and another player committed to Alabama during that time. So, Milroe redirected and verbally committed to Texas on July 21, 2019.

"But during my commitment to Texas, Alabama kept recruiting me," Milroe said. "When I sat down and thought about it, Alabama is outstanding. Coach Saban is Coach Saban. Coach Sark has NFL experience and has coached around the Division I level. It's hard to miss. The class we had built at Texas for 2021 was the one real thing holding me back, and it was hard leaving that, but I had to do what was best for my future. Development-wise, I feel I can better myself at the University of Alabama."

The Tide's no-nonsense, disciplined ways were another attraction. Milroe comes from a military family. His father, Quentin, was a Marine who served in Iraq and his mother, Lola, was in the Navy.

The nomadic lifestyle has taken Milroe from his native California to Maryland, Houston and now Katy, which explains his ability to seamlessly adapt to situations and people, as well as his craving for structure.

"It was important to me to find a family-like environment and a structured environment," Milroe said. "Alabama has that. All of that matters. You can definitely see it through the success they have and how many players Saban puts through the (NFL) draft. It's certainly a different place."

Still, Milroe said he has "unfinished business" at Tompkins, which has won 86 percent of its games since he took over at quarterback.

This season, Milroe has completed 62.5 percent of his passes for 1,136 yards and 13 touchdowns to two interceptions in nine games. He has rushed for 259 yards and four more touchdowns. Under his stewardship, the Falcons have won 30 games and counting over the last three seasons, including the program's first district championship.

But the main goal of lifting the Falcons past the third round of the playoffs remains. Tompkins has fallen in the regional each of the last two seasons.

"It's all a blessing," Milroe said. "All thanks to God throughout this journey. Through the process, it's a lot of hard work, grit and want-to. Commitment to the grind is important. Get one percent better each and every day and you'll get to that 100 percent, and that 100 percent is your long-term goals—being successful as a program, winning the game that week. From when I got here to now, the commitment level from our guys has helped the success in the program. It had lacked commitment previous years before I got here."

"I give all thanks to the coaching staff, from Coach McVey to the training staff, and my teammates. It hasn't been easy. Everything we've gone through, we've needed, and it shows in the success."

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SEVEN LAKES: 2020 STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS!

SPARTANS

from page A1

with half of our team out, or are we going to come back stronger and it'll just be a part of our story?"

The Spartans turned what could have been a tale of what-if into an "adventure novel," by Cataline's definition, that will live on in history.

Seven Lakes defeated Klein, 3-1 (24-26, 25-22, 25-20, 25-22), in the Class 6A state championship match on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Culwell Center. The Spartans finished a remarkable season at 25-1 and handed previously unbeaten Klein (27-1) its first loss in an all-Houston area state final.

The Spartans are Katy ISD's first volleyball state champion as they avenged their 2017 state final loss to Lewisville Hebron.

"I'm hoping people saw us and realized they could do it, too," senior Mayo Olibale said. "It's not about talent. It's about hard work and work ethic. We've been working for this for so long, and I'm happy we were able to do it. I hope for all of the other girls watching us, it helps them to believe in themselves that they can do it, too."

Senior outside hitter and Nebraska signee Ally Batenhorst was named the championship game's Most Valuable Player. One game after setting a state tournament record with 35 kills in a 3-2 semifinal win over San Antonio Reagan on Dec. 7, the 6-foot-4 Batenhorst had 30 kills, 15 digs and two blocks.

For the season, Batenhorst averaged 6.6 kills per set. In the playoffs, she averaged 7.2.

"It was so much fun," Batenhorst said of her four years as a Spartan. "I loved every season. I love my teammates so much. We just had so much passion for the game and we all had the same mentality that we could go far. We played together. Finishing the season with a gold ... I'm just so grateful to be a part of this program."

Batenhorst, ranked as the No. 3 player in the Class of 2021, capped off an illustrious high school career in which she was named national freshman of the year, MaxPreps All-American, Under Armour All-American, and, now, state champion.

She totaled 2,384 kills, 1,389 digs and 254 blocks as Seven Lakes went 106-38, won two district championships, a state championship and made the state tournament twice over her four years on varsity.

Batenhorst, however, will be remembered as so much more than just a breath-takingly dominant volleyball player.

"I adore her as a person," Cataline said. "She loves her teammates and shows it. She gave her whole heart this postseason. The girls followed. It's fun to coach talent, but, man, it's fun to coach a kid that plays with so much heart. She is a team player to the core, and you just don't find that in many elite players these days."

The Spartans fell behind 1-0 in the match and trailed 18-12 late in the second set, a 2-0 match deficit staring them in the face.

Instead, with their season on the brink, they lived what Cataline preaches: they fought and played with heart.

Four consecutive Klein attack errors made it 18-16. Two more Klein attack errors made it 19-19. Then Batenhorst took over with three kills. Olibale added a kill, and senior Katarina Teahan capped the movie-like comeback with a kill of her own to win the



Seven Lakes senior Ally Batenhorst rises for an attack during the Spartans' Class 6A state championship match over Klein on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Culwell Center in Garland.



Seven Lakes players celebrate with the state championship trophy after winning the Class 6A state title match over Klein on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Culwell Center in Garland.

set, 25-22, and tie the match as Seven Lakes closed on a 13-4 run.

"It's huge anytime you can get momentum back on your side," Cataline said. "My girls are just resilient. They wanted it so bad. It wasn't just come to state. It was get gold. That was our goal."

"It was talked about all the time, and their want and will won over."

The Spartans dropped the first set by two points, unforced errors behind much of their undoing. Batenhorst attributed that to nerves.

"We were just so excited to be there," Batenhorst said. "We had so much adrenaline. Our serve-receive was off; we were all over the place and got in our heads a bit. In the second set, we came together, fixed ourselves, and got out of that rut."

Seven Lakes jumped out to a 16-9 lead in

the third set and a 2-1 match lead. The Spartans led 15-7 in the fourth set and looked to cruise to the win before Klein produced its own impressive comeback.

The Bearcats rallied to tie the fourth set, 22-22. But Batenhorst delivered a kill, Klein erred, and Batenhorst delivered the Spartans into a state of euphoria with her 30th and final kill of the evening, fittingly off a perfect set from her sister and junior setter Casey Batenhorst.

"We got down a bit and I think we understood how much we wanted it," said Casey Batenhorst, who had 52 assists and 12 digs. "How much we wanted it for each other. We had to fight back and get those points. That's what pushes our team. The trust and fight. Looking each other in the eye, we knew we could do it if we all just worked together." Olibale added 13 kills and four blocks.

HOW THEY GOT HERE

The Spartans' playoff journey to Class 6A state champions:

- BI-DISTRICT:** vs. Fort Bend Dulles (25-14, 25-17, 25-13)
- AREA:** vs. Cypress Creek (25-14, 25-20, 25-16)
- REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS:** vs. Cinco Ranch (25-20, 25-14, 16-25, 25-15)
- REGIONAL SEMIFINALS:** vs. Pearland Dawson (25-23, 25-20, 25-22)
- REGIONAL FINALS:** vs. Katy (22-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-17)
- STATE SEMIFINALS:** vs. San Antonio Reagan (25-17, 25-16, 21-25, 24-26, 15-12)
- STATE FINAL:** vs. Klein (24-26, 25-22, 25-20, 25-22)

BEST OF THE BEST

The 2020 UIL Class 6A volleyball state all-tournament team as selected by the Texas Girls Coaches Association volleyball committee.

- ***Ally Batenhorst**, senior, Seven Lakes
- **Casey Batenhorst**, junior, Seven Lakes
- **Mayo Olibale**, senior, Seven Lakes
- Annie Antar, senior, Klein
- Gaby Mansfield, junior, Klein
- Kierstyn McFall, junior, Klein

*-championship game MVP

2020 SEVEN LAKES SPARTANS

CLASS 6A STATE CHAMPIONS
RECORD: 25-1

NO.	NAME	CLASS
1/23	Kailey Bickel	Senior
2	Grace Lanier	Sophomore
3	Mayo Olibale	Senior
4	Emma Manuel	Senior
5	Casey Batenhorst	Junior
7	Blayne Burke	Senior
8	Peyton Sykes	Senior
9	Amanda Thompson	Senior
10	Katarina Teahan	Senior
11	Andrea Urzua	Junior
12	Mia Blum	Junior
13	Kaia Nickel	Senior
14	Ally Batenhorst	Senior
15	Adreina Mireles	Senior
16	Emma Schroder	Junior
17	Sameena Burns	Freshman

HEAD COACH: Amy Cataline
ASSISTANT COACH: Diane Price
ASSISTANT COACH: Danielle Flannery
ASSISTANT COACH: Eric Nenninger

Teahan had eight kills and three blocks. Senior Emma Schroder added seven kills and two blocks.

The Spartans broke through. For them, Seven Lakes High School and Katy ISD. "We talked about it, we wanted it, we believed it," Cataline said. "That 2017 team paved the way, when Ally was a freshman, and now it was about finishing. We talked about that often. They finished it."

CATALINE

from page B1

group of girls that wanted it so bad and was able to see it through," Cataline said. "I'm just so elated for the girls. That means the world to me."

Cataline's philosophy is simple. Her life's truth, one that she even emphasizes to students in her leadership skills class, is the good ol' time-tested axiom: "10 percent of life is what happens to you and 90 percent is how you respond to it."

"That's who I am," Cataline said. "I believe in that wholeheartedly."

She gets her moxie, fight and resilience from her mother, a former multi-sport coach at Clements High School, and father. As a child, Cataline's father would tell her if she did not like what she was getting, keep working harder and the cream will always rise to the top.

"It is very important to me that the girls unite as one team and play with passion and poise and resilience," Cataline said. "My favorite complement is when an opposing coach tells me, 'Your girls are fun, I can tell they love each other, and they just don't get rattled.' That's what I want Seven Lakes volleyball to be. Everybody celebrating each other and being one."

Mission accomplished. But not only does Cataline's players celebrate each other, but they love celebrating their coach.

Senior libero Kailey Bickel said Cataline has a knack for making every single player feel important.

"She's my favorite coach I've ever had," Bickel said. "She's grown me as an athlete, as a volleyball player and as a person. The whole holistic view. I'm very grateful to have her. She inspires us not just to be a team, but to be our best selves."

Bickel's favorite story of her coach is a tradition of Cataline's each season in which every week a different player is given an award that is personalized for that player, highlighting the best they have to offer. In every player, Cataline brought out their strengths and acknowledged them for what she appreciated them for.

"I've never seen a coach that has cared as much as her," Bickel said.

COACH CAT IN CHARGE

Head Coach Amy Cataline's record in her four years at Seven Lakes.

YEAR	RECORD	RESULT
2017	28-8	State finalist
2018	27-11*	Regional quarterfinalist
2019	26-18	Area finalist
2020	25-1*	State champion

*-district champion

Senior Katarina Teahan remembers looking up to Cataline as a freshman, being "super excited" to play for her. Cataline's specialty, Teahan said, is studying all the differing personalities and strengths of each player and making it into one team.

"It's an amazing quality," Teahan said. "I'll always remember when she told me how proud of me she was after the Katy win (in the regional final). And just to see that excitement for us and that we're all in this together, it's really incredible as a player to get that from your coach."

Batenhorst is a physically gifted athlete, a 6-foot-4 generational talent who was born to play volleyball. But Cataline even managed to bring out another level in the No. 3 ranked player in the nation for the class of 2021.

Knowing that Batenhorst needed to be a voice and leader of the team, Cataline had her star player sit in on weekly leadership meetings starting the spring of Batenhorst's sophomore year. They had been meetings generally only reserved for seniors.

"Ally didn't realize the voice she has," Cataline said. "She doesn't want to be overbearing or seem like she's talking down to someone. She doesn't want to step on toes. So, she just will sit back and stay in her own lane. But she needed to know that her lane was as a leader."

Each week, the meetings focused on different aspects of leadership, such as accountability, responsibility, et cetera. Cataline encouraged Batenhorst to be more vocal and coached her on how to engage with teammates.

"Because of her, I feel I can bring the best



Seven Lakes coach Amy Cataline talks to her team during their Class 6A state semifinal match against San Antonio Reagan on Dec. 7 at the Merrell Center.

out of my teammates around me and keep everyone focused on one goal," Batenhorst said. "Communicating and holding teammates accountable. It's a different type of being a leader."

One of Cataline's proudest moments was when Batenhorst spoke to the team before its first playoff game against Dulles. Players often speak before playoff games, but Batenhorst had requested to speak specifically for that game long before the playoffs were to start.

Batenhorst showed a video montage of the 2017 team's trip to state.

"I'm not showing you this to compare this team to that team," Batenhorst told her teammates. "I'm just showing you we can do this."

Batenhorst choked up at times as tears ran down her face. She struggled to finish sentences. A player who, prior to this season, had so often watched others assume ownership of the team was baring her heart and soul.

"I get chills just thinking about it," Cataline said. "She told the girls she believed in the team and how we could make our own memories. Just to hear her baring her heart and

showing how much she cared ... I mean, she's graduating and going to Nebraska. Having an elite player like that be so sold out for her high school teammates is exceptional. At that moment, I knew my job was done."

Cataline's best player was courageous and vulnerable during that time. Her teammates and coaches felt it. It inspired a dominant postseason run for the Spartans, culminating in Katy ISD's first volleyball state championship.

"She's taught me how to not only lead by example, but lead by character," Batenhorst said. "We really wanted to win for Coach Cat, because all of what she's done for us."

Players had seen the investment, love and effort Cataline poured into each meeting, practice, game. The least they felt they could do is wrap that gold medal around her neck.

"I'm so happy we could show her how much she's impacted us," senior Mayo Olibale said. "Coach Cat has made us better athletes, better people. Faith, passion and work ethic ... all those things she's instilled in us. I'm so happy we could do this for her."

SPORTS

Katy, Taylor get byes as COVID-19 forces forfeits

By **DENNIS SILVA II**
SPORTS EDITOR

The novel coronavirus had a significant impact on the Katy ISD football playoff season before it even started.

Taylor and Katy advanced to this week's area round of the postseason after both teams were granted byes due to their



respective bi-district playoff opponents being unable to play last week.

George Ranch, Taylor's opponent, and Elkins, Katy's opponent, were unable to compete due to both programs having cases of COVID-19. Both games were scheduled to be played Friday, Dec. 11.

The UIL rules that if a team in the playoffs is unable to compete because of COVID-19, then its opponent will advance. It is a

ruling that will hold until the state semifinals.

The Fort Bend Herald reported Wednesday, Dec. 9, that 10 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases were found within the George Ranch program, in addition to 13 student-athletes and coaches in quarantine. The following evening, Katy ISD announced on Twitter that it was notified by Fort

Bend ISD that Elkins would be unable to play versus Katy due to "an abundance of caution and to prevent the spread of illness and student injury."

Katy (9-1) plays Lamar (6-2) at 7 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium. Taylor (9-2) plays Houston Heights (7-1) at 7 p.m. at Delmar Stadium. Both area playoff games are scheduled to be played Friday, Dec. 18.

FINAL 2020 H.S. FOOTBALL STANDINGS AND STATS

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		SCORING	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
xy-Tompkins	6	0	8	0	297	68
x-Katy	5	1	8	1	414	100
x-Taylor	4	2	7	2	291	211
x-Seven Lakes	3	3	3	5	159	283
Cinco Ranch	1	5	1	7	115	269
Morton Ranch	1	5	3	6	190	286
Mayde Creek	1	5	4	5	246	282
x-clinched playoff berth						
y-clinched district title						

DISTRICT 10-5A, D1

	OVERALL		DISTRICT		SCORING	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
xy-Manvel	6	1	4	0	304	196
x-Richmnd Foster	7	2	4	1	294	190
x-Paetow	8	1	5	1	308	132
x-Hightower	3	4	2	2	263	236
Terry	5	5	3	4	238	278
Angleton	3	5	0	5	206	244
Kempner	4	3	1	3	154	164
Wisdom*	0	5	0	3	14	173
Milby	0	1	0	0	6	7
x-clinched playoff berth						
y-clinched district title						
*-forfeits rest of season						

KATY ISD FOOTBALL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS FINAL TEAM OFFENSE

	GP	RUSHING	PASSING	TOTAL	AVG
Mayde Creek	9	1779	1859	3638	404.2
Katy	9	2391	1231	3622	402.4
Tompkins	8	1927	1156	3083	385.4
Taylor	9	1673	1482	3155	350.6
Paetow	9	2057	1036	3093	343.7
Morton Ranch	9	1733	747	2480	275.6
Seven Lakes	8	996	925	1921	240.1
Cinco Ranch	8	283	1576	1859	232.4

TEAM DEFENSE

	GP	RUSHING	PASSING	TOTAL	AVG
Tompkins	8	737	918	1655	206.9
Paetow	9	1002	862	1864	207.1
Katy	9	728	1195	1923	213.7
Mayde Creek	9	1372	1270	2642	293.6
Taylor	9	1560	1399	2959	328.8
Morton Ranch	9	1621	1392	3013	334.8
Cinco Ranch	8	1571	1461	3032	379.0
Seven Lakes	8	1921	1193	3114	389.3

TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL

	GP	TAKEAWAYS	GIVEAWAYS	DIFF.
Paetow	9	18	7	+11
Taylor	9	20	11	+9
Tompkins	8	17	9	+8
Katy	9	16	9	+7
Morton Ranch	9	13	12	+1
Seven Lakes	8	8	9	-1
Cinco Ranch	8	10	16	-6
Mayde Creek	9	16	24	-8

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	CARRIES	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Loughridge, Mayde Creek	194	1464	7.5	19
Bankston, Paetow	161	1389	8.6	13
S. Davis, Katy	123	991	8.1	11
J. Davis, Katy	108	966	8.9	16
Shoulders, Tompkins	100	866	8.7	14
Whitaker III, Taylor	112	683	6.1	8
Smith, Tompkins	76	555	7.3	7
Christopher, Mrtm Ranch	108	513	4.8	3

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	P-A-INT	YARDS	PCT.	TDS
Wilson, Mayde Creek	139-246-10	1860	56.5	9
Jensen III, Taylor	114-181-5	1442	63.0	13
Rutherford, Cinco Ranch	99-209-8	1372	47.4	11
Milroe, Tompkins	68-109-1	1079	62.4	12
Koger, Katy	58-104-2	1050	55.8	14
Dumas Jr., Paetow	77-147-2	966	52.4	9
Beltran, Seven Lakes	75-130-2	815	57.7	6
Wilson, Morton Ranch	26-47-3	468	55.3	4

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	CATCHES	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Skinner, Mayde Creek	50	768	15.4	1
Irving III, Taylor	33	672	20.4	3
Abboud, Cinco Ranch	36	570	15.8	5
Salverino, Cinco Ranch	24	481	20.0	3
McMillan II, Tompkins	25	458	18.3	7
Anderson, Katy	20	355	17.8	3
Medford, Seven Lakes	32	327	10.2	2
Khan, Mayde Creek	13	323	24.8	6

PUNTING

	PUNTS	YARDS	AVG.	BK
Stanford, Seven Lakes	44	1948	44.3	0
Shurtz, Katy	27	1040	38.5	0
Woods, Taylor	22	774	35.2	1
Huckaby, Tompkins	26	908	34.9	0
Fuentes, Paetow	24	811	33.8	0
Moore, Cinco Ranch	45	1449	32.2	0

PUNT RETURNS

	RETURNS	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Woods, Taylor	10	258	25.8	0
Medford, Seven Lakes	4	74	18.5	0
Schneider, Katy	2	31	15.5	0
Huerter, Tompkins	15	200	13.3	0
Taylor, Katy	16	196	12.3	1

KICKOFF RETURNS

	RETURNS	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Khan, Mayde Creek	10	267	26.7	1
Woods, Taylor	5	149	29.8	0
Jer. Johnson, Mrtm Rnch	2	122	61.0	1
Tolbert, Seven Lakes	8	111	13.9	0
Christopher, Mrtm Rnch	6	111	18.5	0
Taylor, Katy	3	103	34.4	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	INT.	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Huerter, Tompkins	4	112	28.0	1
Khan, Mayde Creek	3	55	18.3	0
Truehill, Paetow	3	20	6.7	0
Polidore, Tompkins	3	0	0.0	0
Washington, Katy	2	83	41.5	1
Sanford, Paetow	2	26	13	0
Earles III, Mayde Creek	2	23	11.5	0
Rodriguez, Katy	2	1	0.5	0

SCORING BY KICKING

	PATS	FGS	POINTS
Lazic, Katy	54	6	72
Baeta, Taylor	32	9	59
Fuentes, Paetow	39	6	57
Huckaby, Tompkins	32	6	50
Arriaga, Morton Ranch	25	3	34

PANTHERS MAKE MORE HISTORY



Coach B.J. Gotte's Paetow Panthers added another chapter of program history last week when they beat Baytown Lee, 70-18, in their Class 5A Division I bi-district playoff game on Friday, Dec. 11, in Baytown. It was the first playoff win for the Panthers, who are in their third year of varsity football play. Senior running back Damon Bankston led Paetow with 241 yards and four touchdowns. Junior quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. completed eight of 11 passes for 141 yards and three touchdowns. Paetow totaled 575 yards of offense to Lee's 302 and 19 first downs to Lee's 11. The Panthers (9-1) play New Braunfels Canyon in the area round on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium.

Area's Best Business Review

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