

# BACK AT IT



COLE MCANANA

Katy junior linebacker Ty Kana brings down a Lamar ball carrier during Katy's Class 6A Division II area playoff win on Dec. 18 at Rhodes Stadium.

## Tigers start playoff journey, roll to area win

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

No. 9 state-ranked Katy had to wait a week longer than most other teams to initiate its playoff journey. But once they did, the Tigers, per their ways, put everyone on notice that they will be no easy out.

After its bi-district game against Elkins on Dec. 11 was canceled due to COVID-19 cases in the Knights' program, Katy, which was awarded a

bye for the first round, finally got back on the field on Friday, Dec. 18. It then dominated, thoroughly, as it eased its way to a breezy 60-7 win over Lamar in their Class 6A Division II area playoff game at Rhodes Stadium.

The Tigers (9-1) advanced to play No. 21 Shadow Creek (6-3), the 2019 Class 5A Division I state champion, in the regional semifinals on Saturday, Dec. 26, at 1 p.m. at Freedom Field in Alvin.

See **TIGERS**, page 10

### FORT BEND COUNTY

## Commissioners approve more CARES Act grants

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County Commissioners approved a second round of grant funding for small businesses through CARES Act funds allocated to the county at the governing body's Dec. 8 meeting. The forgivable grants are available to Fort Bend businesses in amounts up to \$25,000 depending on the company's annual sales reported for 2019.

"The case management team is aggressively pursuing the grantees for submission of their documentation because we have right at 1,700 that are eligible for a second grant," County Auditor Ed Sturdivant said during the meeting.

Sturdivant said at the time the Auditor's Office had only been able to help a little less than 10% of the original grantees receive a second grant. Grant funding is available for expenses incurred through the end of December, he said.



COURTESY FORT BEND COUNTY/SWAGIT

Fort Bend County Auditor Ed Sturdivant discusses the availability of funding for CARES Act grants to help businesses in Fort Bend County adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court meeting held Dec. 8.

Initial funding was available in the amount of more than \$47 million, though it was unclear how much funding remained available.

According to county documents, funding from the grants may be used to pay for personal protective equipment, reopening supplies, equipment and renovations, inventory, utilities, remote working expenses, leases, payroll to bring employees

back to work and mortgage assistance.

Applicants' principal place of business must be in Fort Bend County and reported annual 2019 revenue must be at least \$25,000 and no more than \$5 million to be eligible. Additional requirements include having between one and 50 full time employees, the business must be for prof-

See **GRANTS**, page 5

### FULSHEAR

## City adopts water fee, OKs development agreement



Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff explains that Fulshear is required under state legislation to accept an increase in water pumpage fees established by the North Fort Bend Regional Water Authority. Essentially, he said, for the first 5,000 gallons of water used by a resident, about \$4 goes to the city while about \$20 goes to the water authority.

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Fulshear City Council adopted a development agreement with DR Horton for about 1,300 acres to be developed into residential housing. They also adopted, as required by state law, an increase to the North Fort Bend Regional Water Authority fees that are passed through the city to residents through water bills at their Dec. 15 meeting.

"Unfortunately, while staff recommends (accepting the fee increase), I also know that we have no choice but to recommend (it) and we're going to continue to fight that - at least, that's my promise to you all - through legislation and conversations," Mayor Aaron Groff said.

### Costly water

The NFBWA is a regional water authority created by the 79th Texas Legislature in May of 2005 with the purpose of reducing subsidence - the sinking of land due to water being pumped out from beneath it - and encourage water conservation practices as well as a move to surface water. The fees on residents' water bills will be set at \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater pumped or \$4.60 per 1,000 gallons of surface water pumped per business or household. This is an increase from the prior year's rate of \$3.95 per 1,000

gallons of groundwater and \$4.30 per 1,000 gallons of surface water. The water authority pumpage fees apply to all Municipal Utility Districts and cities within the boundaries of the North Fort Bend Water Authority including the Cinco Ranch area and the city of Katy. Funds raised through the fees are required to be used for projects that educate the public on water conservation or convert the region from groundwater to surface water usage, according to the NFBWA website.

Council Member Debra Cates said she felt it was important that the city explain to residents that, while they have no choice but to accept the water authority's fee increase due to legislation, they are not necessarily in favor of the increase which is a continuation of the fees increasing annually for the past several years.

Council Member Joel Patterson said that, given his experience in geology and associated issues with subsidence, he would like the city to push to get its own individual membership on the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District which oversees the water authorities in the Greater Houston area.

Groff said he would continue to push for representation on that board and would work to ensure representation for the city at all levels associated with the fees, especially given what he felt was a lack of progress on

See **FULSHEAR**, page 5

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### WALLER COUNTY

## Commissioners move ahead with renovation

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Waller County commissioners approved next steps in the county's plans to revitalize county-operated buildings at their Dec. 16 meeting by approving and agreement with Sedalco Construction Services to and the purchase of a new heating system for the Waller County Courthouse.

"As you might have noticed, it's a little chilly in here," County Judge Trey Duhon said when opening discussions regarding replacing the heating and cooling system for the courthouse. "Because we have (no heat) in the courthouse at this time. The boiler has finally come to its final demise."

Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe said the boiler, which county officials said was about 70 years old, had broken to the point that it is no longer repairable. Replacement of the boiler system was approved through the BuyBoard group purchasing agreement which Waller County participates in. Collective purchasing platforms such as BuyBoard help small municipalities such as counties and cities negotiate better prices by operating collaboratively. Replacement of the system will cost about \$56,000, Rothe said and will need to be installed by an outside vendor.



FILE PHOTO BY R. HANS MILLER

The Waller County Courthouse will see a great deal of activity in the near future as work crews replace its roughly 70-year-old boiler system which recently broke down beyond repair and assess the building for an internal redesign and remodel that will modernize the structure.

"(Maintenance staff) do a lot of plumbing and a lot of electrical and a lot of AC systems, but this is a boiler that's going to be about the size of (the tables in the courtroom)," Rothe said. "It has to be brought in. We've already cleared an area in the maintenance room upstairs on the fourth floor for it."

Air-Tech Brazos Valley out of College Station will perform the heating system replacement.

The old system will not be removed from the building at this time, Rothe said, but rather will wait until more is known about upcoming renovations

to the county courthouse to be removed.

Commissioners approved the agreement with Sedalco for assessment of the county courthouse after county staff recommended the organization citing a good working relationship with the firm which also completed the county's new justice center on time and on budget, which commissioners noted is an uncommon occurrence. Sedalco was the top-recommended bid out of five the county received, Rothe said. Sedalco will work with BSW Architects on the design portion of the project.

"I appreciate the committee that got together and looked at those things that came up with the scoring (of the bids)," Duhon said. "I appreciate your time. I mean, just based on our experience in this with the justice center and working with those firms, I think that's great. I have no problems with those firms whatsoever."

An exact cost for the assessment, redesign and remodel of the building is not set as yet because final negotiations on the proposal are ongoing.



# Katy turns out for Wreaths Across America

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Veterans and residents of the Katy area held memorial services at Magnolia Cemetery on Franz Road and the Antioch Community Cemetery despite the rain Saturday morning. The services, part of the American Legion's Wreaths Across America annual event, were designed to remember, honor and teach about those who have served the U.S. in the various military branches.

The Magnolia service included a keynote address by U.S. Army Major General (Retired) Darrell McDaniel and was attended by members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Members of Katy City Council, Katy Mayor Bill Hastings, members of local Future Farmers of America chapters, first responders and Daughters of the American Revolution representatives also attended.

More than 475 wreaths were laid out at the Magnolia Cemetery after an opening ceremony that included playing the national anthem, a 21-gun salute and placement of wreaths honoring the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

A second ceremony followed at the historically-Black Antioch Cemetery near Katy High School on Stockdick Road in downtown Katy. Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Antioch Baptist Church and the Military Order of the Purple Heart spoke at the Antioch ceremony.

Children were present at both locations and were accompanied by parents as they learned about the sacrifices made by American servicemen and women.

Grave markers for veterans at both cemeteries denoted veterans going back at least to World War I and membership in a variety of branches of the military.



U.S. Army Major General (Retired) Darrell McDaniel delivers the keynote address at Katy's Magnolia Cemetery for the Wreaths Across America event held Dec. 19. Dozens of area residents turned out to hear McDaniel speak and help lay nearly 500 wreaths on the graves of veterans.



Headstones of veterans were identified with U.S. flags placed there prior to the wreath-laying ceremony so that community members could assist in laying the wreaths.



Community members including Boy Scouts helped distribute wreaths to those that wanted to place them at Magnolia Cemetery.



An honor guard comprised of veterans from American Legion Post 164 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 conducts a 21-gun salute. Each of the seven honor guard participants fired his rifle three times in a tradition known as the greatest honor awarded to Americans with the exception of a fifty-gun salute only utilized on the day of the funeral of a president, former president or president-elect.



Prior to the remainder of the wreaths being laid in honor of veterans, wreaths were set on stands honoring each of the branches of the U.S. military as well as those who are still considered missing in action or prisoners of war.



The graves of Jimmie Harris (Private, U.S. Army) Levy Whiteing (Private First Class, U.S. Army) are adorned with wreaths at Antioch Cemetery after the wreath-laying ceremony held Dec. 19.



A veteran bugle player performs Taps at the Antioch Cemetery wreath-laying ceremony. During the playing of Taps, tradition dictates that military members and veterans should render a salute and civilians should remove any hats and place their hands over their hearts.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

### Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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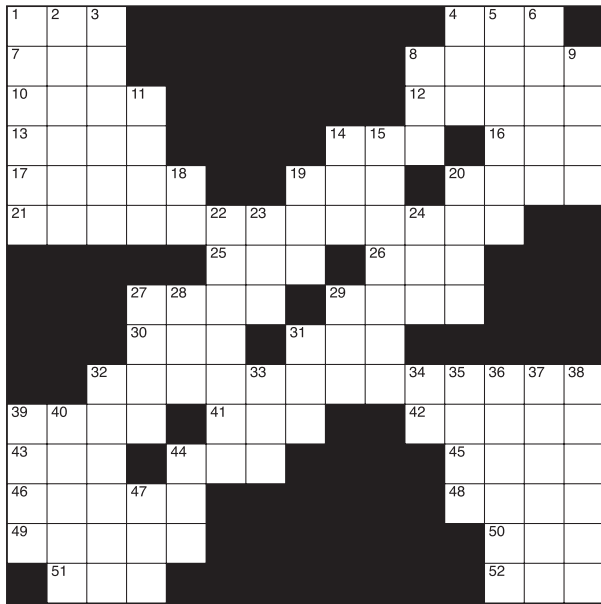
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- Crow species
- Partner to flow
- Male offspring
- Sedate
- Orange beverage
- Pair of small hand drums
- 12th month of Jewish civil year
- Former Pirates star Jason
- Computer company
- Made angry
- Beverage container
- Charlize Theron film "\_\_\_ Flux"
- Localities
- Consume
- Don't know when yet
- Bed style
- Make a low, continuous sound
- Wrath
- Pollinates flowers
- Association
- Prejudice
- Unhealthy
- Hasidic religious leader
- Distinctive philosophy
- Short-term memory
- In a good way
- Emperors of Ethiopia
- Imaginary line
- Of barium
- One's sense of self-esteem
- Man who behaves dishonorably
- Monetary unit

### CLUES DOWN

- Rear of (nautical)



- He minds the net
- Ring-shaped objects
- When you hope to get there
- Young children
- Beloved hobbit
- Pigpen
- Wish harm upon
- Quick-eyed (Scottish)
- Scrooge's phrase "\_\_\_ Humbug"
- One more
- A ballplayer who only hits
- Once vital TV part
- Sixth month of Jewish civil year
- Advantage
- Type of tree
- Luke's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
- Life stories
- Vase
- Tiny
- Package (abbr.)
- A photog's tool
- Wood
- One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- Pueblo people of New Mexico
- Wild goats
- A way to comply
- Horatio \_\_\_, British admiral
- Actress Leslie
- Sir \_\_\_ Newton
- Pouch
- Have already done

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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## TRIBUTES

Delton Faye Staelke was born to the late Charlie and Olga Herr Staelke on October 13, 1935 in Willow Springs, Texas. He spent most of his life in Katy, Texas, where he went to be with the Lord on December 16, 2020 after a long and wonderful life of 85 years.

Delton spent his childhood in Fayetteville, Texas, where he played basketball and baseball and graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1954. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army to serve his country before returning home to marry the love of his life, Alice Ann Kalmus, on October 3, 1959. They moved to Katy in 1976, where they enjoyed dancing, visiting the casinos, attending Katy High School football games, and spending time with family and friends. They were long-time members of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Katy, Texas.

He spent his career as a machinist. He and his oldest son, Michael, both worked for Burgess & Associates before starting their own company, D&M Machine Works, in 1987. Their business thrived for 13 years, and Delton happily retired in 2000. His favorite pastimes included playing poker and dominos, walking his dog, Bug, and spending time at his farm in Fayetteville talking to his cows.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Charlie & Olga Staelke, and his brother, Delphine Staelke.

Delton is survived by his younger sister, Jean Sladek, his beloved wife of 61 years, Alice Staelke (Kalmus); and their three children, son Michael Staelke and spouse Diana Staelke, son Ken Staelke, and daughter Jennifer Staelke. He leaves behind two grandchildren and their spouses, Logan and Paige Staelke, and Jessica and Eric Tanner, and one great-granddaughter, Tomi Jo.



**DELTON FAYE STAEKKE**  
1935-2020

Serving as pallbearers are Logan Staelke, Eric Tanner, Bob Main, Rodney Sladek, Ted Fritsch, and Darrell Supercinski.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the thoughts and prayers throughout this difficult time.

The family received friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, 1508 East Avenue, in Katy, where a rosary was recited at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday with Deacon William C. Wagner reciting. Mass was celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020 at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 5356 Eleventh Street, in Katy, with Rev. Ricardo Arriola, Celebrant. A graveside service was held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020 at St. John's Catholic Church Cemetery in Fayetteville, Texas with Rev. Steve Sauser officiating.

Family and friends would be able to watch the funeral at [www.st-bart.org/media](http://www.st-bart.org/media) with the password Staelke. The stream will start about 10 minutes before the Mass.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1508 East Avenue in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.

## Seismique museum set to open Dec. 26

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

A new, 40,000-square-foot art museum is set to open at 2306 South Highway 6 in Katy this Dec. 26. The new museum includes more than 40 unique exhibits focused on displays of light, color, sound and natural elements.

"I am really looking forward to seeing the expressions on peoples' faces when they experience Seismique for the first time; I liken it to the equivalent of walking through a portal and into an alternative universe that is a feast for the senses," said Seismique creator Steve Kopelman.

Kopelman, who has a background in immersive experience and escape games, said the year has been very difficult worldwide and he hopes Seismique can serve as a bit of an escape for visitors who are exhausted from the pandemic and other issues this year has brought.

A press release from Seismique indicated that the new facility will have policies in place to ensure visitor safety such wearing masks, limiting capacity, offering hand sanitizing stations throughout the facility and staff frequently sanitizing displays and the facility overall. A mobile app also allows visitors to interact with displays through their mobile devices without touching communal dials and knows, the press release said.

Overall, more than 30 artists' exhibitions are on display for visitors to explore at Seismique.

Artists featured at Seismique include Japanese crochet artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam who has been active globally



PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTOPHER BRIELMAIER AND SEISMIQUE

Seismique's "Eden" display is inspired by the movie "Avatar" with bright colors and carved trees for visitors to enjoy.

since the 1960s. Horiuchi MacAdam has created a playscape using colorful crocheted materials that allow children to explore her work in three dimensions through her installation "Public Art for Kids" which began as an installation for a park in Tokyo and has since evolved and grown.

Another featured exhibit is an "Avatar" inspired exhibit called "Eden" which is a large gallery by New Orleans-based artist David Carry in collaboration with Brian Val Habisreitering. "Eden" includes oversized carved trees, custom lighting and ultra-violet, blacklight-reactive paint and three large holograms.

Horiuchi MacAdam has a second gallery entitled "Venus" with a multi-dimensional playground designed to emulate the surface of the planet Venus. The display is fairly unique as one of only three installations of its type in the country. "Venus" is surrounded by a mural entitled "Ocular Existence" by Chicago-based artist C.J. Hungerman.

Museum guests can also visit "Acid Rain," an installation piece designed and constructed by Mark Roberts of

Smooth Technology that provides the optical illusion of walking through rain that comes from the ground up. As viewers work their way through the display, the rain appears to freeze in midair and eventually reverse its flow and move groundward.

Other displays will also be available for visitors to explore including "The Hub," a 70-foot spaceship that creates a display using 1,000,000 LEDs and features other multisensory displays.

Kopelman said he and his collaborator on the Seismique project, Josh Corley – both Houston-area natives – were inspired by many artists as they travelled the world and the museum is the "singular manifestation of our collective imaginations."

## SEISMIQUE 411

## HOURS:

**Sun.:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Mon.:** Noon to 9 p.m.  
**Tues.:** CLOSED  
**Weds./Thurs.:** Noon to 9 p.m.  
**Fri.:** Noon to 11 p.m.  
**Sat.:** 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

## WEB:

[seismique.com](http://seismique.com)

## PHONE:

346-202-6006

## ADDRESS:

2306 Highway 6 S.  
Houston, TX 77077

"(Corley) and I are both proud Houstonians, and we're excited to launch Seismique in our own backyard to enhance what is already one of the best places on Earth for art and culture. When President Kennedy gave his 1962 moon-shot speech at Rice University, he espoused the virtues of space as a vast frontier that beckons never-ending exploration. Nearly 60 years later in the same city, Seismique will further embody the limitless potential of space exploration through the lenses of art and technology," Kopelman concluded.

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# The right kind of Christmas sounds

“Hello. I’m Grandpa.” For Christmas 50 years ago, my parents splurged and bought me a compact reel-to-reel tape recorder. My father had whetted my appetite with remarks that one could build a primitive voice recorder along the lines of Thomas Edison’s prototype, but this was the real store-bought deal.

I took the prized possession along when my paternal grandparents hosted Christmas dinner for the very last time.

I THINK the device is still nestled in my mother’s attic; but even without it, I distinctly remember Granddaddy Carl neglecting his King Leo stick candy long enough to lean forward and humor me by uttering, “Hello. I’m Grandpa” for the benefit of posterity.

Certainly, favorite carols playing over the radio or the shopping mall PA system create priceless Christmas memories; but, like my grandfather’s announcement, there are so many other sounds that warm the cockles of our hearts and create cherished remembrances.

For instance, the laughter that accompanies good-natured ribbing when a new boyfriend or girlfriend meets the extended family for the first time.

Or the woofs, meows and neighs of new pets delivered to their forever home by Santa.

Don’t forget the joyous sound of well-wishers when a family member announces a pregnancy, or when a baby experiences its first Christmas.

We can relive our own childhoods when we overhear youngsters unleashing their imaginations or discovering “Jingle Bells, Batman Smells” for the first time.

Even a distressing sound such as spinning tires stuck in snow can be outweighed by the sound of a neighbor (or a total stranger) asking, “What can I do to help?” instead of “What’s in it for me?”

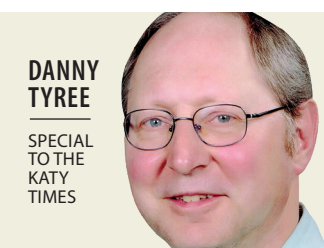
A well-worded, heartfelt prayer over a Christmas meal can fortify us just as much as the protein, vitamins and minerals.

Yes, Christmases seem to come faster and faster; but there is ample time for obstacles, disappointments and disasters between them. That’s why we should embrace all the pleasant audio memories we can get.

On the other hand, some Christmas sounds are toxic.

A respectful exchange of political viewpoints keeps office parties and family get-togethers lively, but overheated ultimatums have no place on the holiday celebrating the Prince of Peace.

Christmas is not the time



**“We can relive our own childhoods when we overhear youngsters unleashing their imaginations or discovering ‘Jingle Bells, Batman Smells’ for the first time.”**

for families to serve up heaping helpings of long-simmering complaints about favoritism, inheritances or ostentatious displays of wealth. As the Horatio R. Palmer hymn advises, “Angry words, oh, let them never/ From the tongue unbridled slip. / May the heart’s best impulse ever / Check them ere they soil the lip.”

Some people spend all year guaranteeing that the yuletide season will be miserable for themselves and others. Christmas should be a time for togetherness and sharing, not a time for finger-pointing or self-flagellation.

Life gives us enough hard knocks without our wallowing in self-inflicted wounds (whether from dimwitted investments, shortsighted health decisions or hormone-driven shaky relationships). Good planning minimizes the need for abject apologies or violent defensiveness.

I have my “Hello. I’m Grandpa” memories to keep me warm – as well as the sound made by the “air blaster” toy I received all those decades ago and the ability to conjure up the jokes of long-gone aunts and uncles.

I’m sure you have your own favorite Christmas-connected sounds. I hope that this year you can accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative and make new connections that will last throughout the years.



## All I want for Christmas is the new vaccine!

Now that we are well into the month of December, my three teenage daughters have provided me with their extensive Christmas lists – both electronic and hard copies – in triplicate. Full of the typical objects of adolescent desires like designer clothing, electronics, jewelry, and luxury vehicles, their lists read like the inventory of Elon Musk’s next yard sale.

My list, on the other hand, is simple. All I want for Christmas is for life to return to the way it was in the good old days of 2019 – and not just because I had less ear hair then.

Like virtually every other human on earth, other than toilet paper manufacturers, I want the COVID-19 crisis to end. And God willing, the end is on the horizon with the emergence of several vaccines.

Now, I realize that there is great debate about the safety of the vaccines and whether Americans should roll up the sleeves of their hazmat suits and take them.

I, for one, would be excited to accept these injections even if they had to be administered into my eyeballs or under my fingernails. Sure, the vaccines might cause me to grow an extra head or two, but at least my heads could be mask-free. Of course, I’m kidding. I know masks will still be required on all of



my heads for the near future.

Seriously, though, I can scarcely bear the thought of more than one Christmas being marred by the necessary inconveniences of face coverings, social distancing and – worst of all – hand washing. I mean, really!

One change my family will face at this year’s Christmas celebration is that our church will hold its yearly candlelight Christmas Eve service virtually, meaning that we’ll have to watch the event online, and break out a BIC lighter and some leftover birthday candles like we did several years ago when our youngest daughter had pneumonia. That year, we almost turned our home into a giant yule log. Maybe this year I can avoid burning off my eyebrows during “Silent Night.”

Another change is that our time with grandparents (and their food) will be limited at best. One of the most meaningful Christmas traditions for me is to loiter around my mom and dad’s dining table – lad-

en with every high-carb Christmas treat imaginable – and graze like a famished Angus bull. I’ve been known to consume my own weight in Dad’s homemade Chex mix, but this year – if I’m lucky – I’ll only get as much as he can send home with me. (Fortunately, the back seats fold down in my SUV.)

Probably the most painful change for my three daughters is that they will be forced to spend the bulk of the Christmas celebration at home with their parents. Even an escape to go visit their cousins, grandparents, and ancillary relatives will likely be off the agenda this year, meaning they’ll be faced with the terrifying prospect of being cooped up in the house with us for family board games, sing-alongs, and – heaven forbid – old home movies featuring moments from their early childhood when they (sometimes pantless) actually acknowledged our existence.

Christmas of 2020 will definitely create unique memories (until we find a way to repress them). Hopefully we can all follow the example of Linus in “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and remember what Christmas is all about.

And although the only thing I really want for Christmas is an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am hoping that someone gets me a new ear hair trimmer.

# Katy Times

**SUSAN ROVEGNO** | Publisher  
**R. HANS MILLER** | News Editor  
**DENNIS SILVA II** | Sports Editor  
**VICTORIA PARKER** | Designer  
**DEBBIE PREJEAN** | Bookkeeper

**OFFICE HOURS:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday  
**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 678, Katy, Texas, 77492-0678  
**PHONE:** 281-391-3141

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Call 281-391-3141 or email news@katytimes.com

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## THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### SECTION 3: EQUAL RIGHTS.

All free men, when they form a social compact, have equal rights, and no man, or set of men, is entitled to exclusive separate public emoluments, or privileges, but in consideration of public services.

#### SECTION 3A: EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW.

Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin. This amendment is self-operative. (Added Nov. 7, 1972.)



# Harris County elections were fair and secure

By **PATRICK SVITEK**  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A task force formed to ensure the security of the November election in Texas' biggest county has found no evidence of wrongdoing after finishing its work.

The Harris County Election Security Task Force was made up of the Harris County Precinct 1 constable's office, the district attorney's office, the county attorney's office and the county clerk's office. In a report published Friday, the task force said it "received approximately 20 allegations of wrongdoing that needed to be elevated to the level of a formal investigation."

"Despite claims, our thorough investigations found no proof of any election tampering, ballot harvesting, voter suppression, intimidation or any other type of foul play that might have impacted the legitimate cast or count of a ballot," the report says.



MICHAEL STRAVATO FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Election Security Task Force for Harris County said in a report released Friday that it "found no proof of any election tampering, ballot harvesting, voter suppression, intimidation or any other type of foul play that might have impacted the legitimate cast or count of a ballot."

Harris County, home to Houston, was the epicenter of the voting rights battle that led up to the

Nov. 3 election in Texas, with state GOP leaders battling the county clerk, then Chris Hollins, over

his proposed changes to election procedures due to the coronavirus pandemic. The fallout is still underway, with authorities arresting a former Houston police captain Tuesday for his role in an elaborate plot to find evidence for a false conspiracy theory of widespread voter fraud across the county.

And while the task force returned no evidence of wrongdoing, the district attorney, Kim Ogg, announced last week that a grand jury had indicted three people for allegedly trying to illegally influence races in two Houston-area state House districts. Two face allegations that they submitted paperwork for a candidate under a fake name in a Democratic primary. A third was accused of sending threats to a Democratic legislator in hopes of scaring her into dropping her bid for reelection.

The task force operated from Oct. 13 through Nov. 3, which was Election Day, according to the

report. Undercover officers made 6,311 visits to 122 early voting and 806 Election Day polling sites. The task force responded to 77 calls for service. And it used four explosive-detecting K-9 units to make 323 sweeps of polling locations, as well as "continual sweeps" while voters dropped off ballots at NRG Stadium on Election Day. (The task force found no explosives.)

"We all worked together to ensure our elections, which are the lifeblood of democracy, were free and fair and that any and all allegations were thoroughly investigated," Ogg said.

The four county offices represented on the task force are all led by Democrats.

There were nearly 1.7 million votes cast in Harris County last month. The county continued to become bluer, with Joe Biden carrying it by 13 percentage points, a slightly larger margin than Hillary Clinton won it by four years earlier.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Readers looking to support local businesses can use a few tricks to find the local businesses offering the products and services they need. The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce launched a new service earlier this year that helps identify local businesses through an online search engine located at [www.tricountysearch.com](http://www.tricountysearch.com). The search engine limits results to businesses located in Waller, Harris and Fort Bend counties to ensure local results.

Fulshear Katy Chamber President Don McCoy said that while the chamber prioritizes chamber members by placing them at the top of the search results, all businesses in the area are welcome to register their business with the search because the chamber wants to champion all businesses in the community it serves.

More information can be found at:

- [www.tricountysearch.com](http://www.tricountysearch.com)
- [www.fulshearkaty.com](http://www.fulshearkaty.com)
- Chamber membership listings for other local chambers may be found at:
- [www.katychamber.com](http://www.katychamber.com)
- [www.ghbcc.com](http://www.ghbcc.com)
- [www.tcbcc.org](http://www.tcbcc.org)
- <https://asianchamber-hou.org/>
- <https://katychristianchamber.com/>

## FULSHEAR

from page 1

the part of the NFBWA and the subsidence district.

"I do think the public generally understands what's happening now," Groff said. "The problem is we're not seeing that return and the fees continue to grow, and they haven't hit their deadlines. ... There's a whole lot of pieces in play that I think continue to frustrate our constituents. In addition to the cost, we're paying for something that we're not getting and that's a hard pill to swallow."

### Growth agreement

After a closed session to discuss the issue, Fulshear City Council members also approved a development agreement with DR Horton for the development of a residential area consisting of about 1,300 acres within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction, or ETJ.

Groff said the city had gotten several beneficial concessions from the developer including about seven acres to accommodate a regional water treatment plant after Fort Bend MUD 222 operates a temporary wastewater treatment plant there for the initial phase of the subdivision's development.

The development agreement includes a 26-acre section of parkland that is expected to bring ball fields to the city, Groff said.

Representatives from the developer said that, while about 3,700 single family homes with an average lot size of about 6,000 square feet will be built - about 25% of which may be 4,500 square feet or less - around 1,800 multi-family homes such as apartments, condos or duplexes may be built on the property as the final plans for it develop.

### Other items

- Council approved a variance for the monument sign at Jordan High School. The variance was approved despite the sign which is already installed being about twice the allowed height due to a former city staff member's error. Replacing the sign could have cost the district as much as \$60,000 per Katy ISD General Counsel Justin Graham who spoke at the meeting.

- Council also approved an agreement with Fort Bend County to extend Bois D'Arc Lane directly north from its intersection at McKinnon Road to FM 1093 at Tiki Drive. City staff said this extension was expected to improve traffic flow in the area, especially during times when parents and students are traveling on Charger Way in the morning and afternoon as classes begin or end at the schools that serve the city.

## SUBSIDENCE FIGHTERS

The North Fort Bend Regional Water Authority and Harris-Galveston Subsidence District are developing projects to mitigate the negative impact of subsidence on Greater Houston, including Fulshear, Katy and the surrounding area. Subsidence can cause damage to roads and buildings and increases flood risks by lowering land topographically. For more information on these municipalities, refer to the following resources:

### NORTH FORT BEND REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

WEB: [NFBWA.com](http://NFBWA.com)  
PHONE: 281-642-2100  
Public meetings are held at 5 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month and are currently being

conducted via Zoom. The link to register to attend the meeting is in the agenda on the water authority's website.

### HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT

WEB: [hgsubsidence.org](http://hgsubsidence.org)  
PHONE: 281-486-1105

The subsidence district holds regular board meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Meetings are currently being held via GoToWebinar and preregistration is required for video access to the meeting. Registration information is available on the agenda for the meeting which may be found on the district's website. Telephone participation information may also be found on the agenda and does not require preregistration.

## GRANTS

from page 1

it and in good standing with the state of Texas and the business must have been substantially impacted by COVID-19 and operational as of Feb. 15, 2020.

There is no credit score requirement, though a FICO score will be obtained in order to verify that the applicant is in good standing according to the county.

"We will work side by side to keep people employed, distribute necessary goods and services, ensure best practices for social distancing and sanitary workspaces, and direct the federal and state funding streams as quickly as possible," Fort Bend County Judge KP George said in a letter to businesses when the first round of grants was set up over the summer.

Businesses wishing to apply for the grants can

apply through the county's online portal at [www.fortbendcounty.com/grants/](http://www.fortbendcounty.com/grants/).

Assistance in applying for the grants is available through the local chambers of commerce that are active in Fort Bend County by contacting one of the individuals listed below via email:

- Don McCoy of the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce: [Don@FulshearKaty.com](mailto:Don@FulshearKaty.com)
- Matthew Ferraro of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce: [Matthew@KatyChamber.com](mailto:Matthew@KatyChamber.com)
- Kristin Weiss of the Central Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce: [Kweiss@cfbca.org](mailto:Kweiss@cfbca.org)
- Keri Schmidt of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce: [keri@fortbendcc.org](mailto:keri@fortbendcc.org)
- Rachele Kanak of the Fort Bend Economic Development Council: [rkanak@fbedc.org](mailto:rkanak@fbedc.org)
- Bradley Stavinoha of the Needville Chamber of Commerce: [Bradley@NeedvilleInsurance.com](mailto:Bradley@NeedvilleInsurance.com)

Bottom line....

If it is not toilet paper, then it shouldn't be flushed.

Save your pipes and your pocketbook.

The cost to remove blockages and clean up any sewage spills is a hefty cost to all of us.

It's a toilet, not a trash can.



## Jim Baker's Unified Theory Of Everything --- With God's Help

(JBUTOE-WGH) A new book about Science and God. Revised publish date: late 2020

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(ad revised: 11/22/2019; previous ads are null and void)



This new book will contain a credible "unified theory of everything" that can explain the very basics of science. Albert Einstein predicted that someone "off the street" was going to do this someday. After 53 years (at approx. year 2000), I decided to include God at every step of the process of trying to come up with a scientific "Theory of Everything". Prior to this, it was about the "only thing" I felt I had not been successful at inventing or figuring out. --- You see, God had already given me the gift of inventing at age 9-10, in His response to my Second Major Prayer. --- By the year 2014, God had allowed me to assemble sufficient knowledge that I felt 95%, of what I needed to figure out, had been accomplished.

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

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

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



Photo By Brett Erickson

"Since losing my mother to pancreatic cancer, my goal has been to ensure that everyone facing a pancreatic cancer diagnosis knows about the option of clinical trials and the progress being made."

- Keesha Sharp

Stand Up To Cancer and Lustgarten Foundation are working together to make every person diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a long-term survivor.

To learn more about the latest research, including clinical trials that may be right for you or a loved one, visit [PancreaticCancerCollective.org](http://PancreaticCancerCollective.org).



Stand Up To Cancer is a division of the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



## 2020-2021 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

To submit scores, news or schedules, email dennis.silva@katytimes.com. Schedules are tentative due to COVID-19 protocols.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 18

#### CLASS 6A DIVISION I AREA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

- Tompkins 51, Cy-Fair 28

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

- Katy 60, Lamar 7
- Taylor 28, Heights 13

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Katy 66, Mayde Creek 18
- Seven Lakes 67, Morton Ranch 16
- Tompkins 46, Taylor 30.
- Bryan Rudder 40, Paetow 22

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Seven Lakes 44, Morton Ranch 41
- Katy 57, Mayde Creek 51
- Taylor 74, Tompkins 72
- Paetow 59, Bryan Rudder 55

### TUESDAY, DEC. 22

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins 77, Morton Ranch 33
- Taylor 34, Mayde Creek 28
- Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, ppd. Dec. 30

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Cinco Ranch 62, Katy 56
- Tompkins 67, Morton Ranch 57
- Taylor 54, Mayde Creek 50

### THURSDAY, DEC. 24

#### CLASS 6A DIVISION I REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFF GAME

- Tompkins vs. North Shore, at Legacy Stadium, 1 p.m.

#### CLASS 6A DIVISION II REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFF GAME

- Taylor vs. Clear Falls, at Challenger Stadium, noon

### SATURDAY, DEC. 26

#### CLASS 6A DIVISION I REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PLAYOFF GAME

- Katy vs. Shadow Creek, at Freedom Field, 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.

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Elkins at Seven Lakes, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Aldine Davis, 11:45 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Morton Ranch at MacArthur, noon
- Paetow at Caney Creek, 11:30 a.m.
- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.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.

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Tompkins vs. Friendswood, at Jordan High, 11:30 a.m.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Caney Creek at Paetow, 11 a.m.
- Bellaire at Seven Lakes, 4 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 31

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

- Paetow at Bellaire, 4:30 p.m.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Klein Cain at Taylor, noon

# STAYING HOME

## Taylor High School star O-linemen Foster, Conner to continue illustrious athletic careers at A&M, Texas

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

The goals are the 2024 Olympics and NFL Draft. That's always been the M.O. for Bryce Foster, a two-sport athlete with an impossibly bright future.

On Friday, Dec. 18, the Taylor senior offensive lineman and dominant discus thrower and shot-putter chose the next chapter of his career in which to pursue those goals when he put on the maroon and white hat of Texas A&M.

The 6-foot-5, 330-pound Foster, a four-star recruit and Rivals.com's No. 1 offensive guard in the class of 2021, picked Texas A&M over Oklahoma, Texas, LSU and Oregon. Foster said he knew as early as Monday, Dec. 7, that the Aggies were it.

Foster declared his choice with a three-minute commitment video during a signing ceremony with teammates at the high school's performing arts center. When the video was over, Foster picked up the Texas A&M hat placed along the desk he sat at among the hats of the four other schools and placed it firmly upon his tousled hair.

On the football field, Foster will play for Jimbo Fisher and compete with the best of the best in the SEC, regarded as the country's most competitive college football conference. As a thrower, he will learn under legendary track and field coach Pat Henry



DENNIS SILVA II

Taylor senior offensive tackle and Texas signee Hayden Conner, left, and senior offensive guard and Texas A&M signee Bryce Foster, right, pose for a photo with offensive line coach Travis Sharp during their signing ceremony Dec. 18 at the performing arts center at Taylor High.

See **MUSTANGS**, page 10



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Tompkins senior defensive back Gilbert Koronje (10) brings down Cy-Fair receiver Weston Mounce during the Falcons' Class 6A Division I area playoff win on Dec. 18 at Legacy Stadium.

## Defense dominant for No. 6 Falcons in win

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins senior defensive back Colby Huerter had not returned a fumble for a touchdown since his sophomore season. Now he's got three in his last two playoff games.

Junior linebacker Bryce Shaink had not forced a fumble all season. He forced two in one game. Sophomore defensive back Caleb Komolafe had not had an interception return for a touchdown. That is no longer true.

The Falcons' defense was awe-inspiring in No. 6 state-ranked Tompkins' 51-28 win over No. 10 Cy-Fair in their Class 6A Division I area playoff final on Friday, Dec. 18, at Legacy Stadium. Cy-Fair (10-2) was without senior running back and four-star recruit LJ Johnson, who was ill.

Johnson, who attended the game and was dressed out on the sidelines, had rushed for 1,109 yards and 18 touchdowns this

See **FALCONS**, page 7

## Despite difficult ending, Panthers grateful for season

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow's impressive football season came to an abrupt and disappointing end on Thursday, Dec. 17, when the program was forced to shut down because of an abundance of COVID-19 cases, canceling the Panthers' Class 5A-DI area playoff game against New Braunfels Canyon last weekend as a result.

The game had already been rescheduled once after Katy ISD was informed of cases in the program on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The rescheduling was done "to ensure the Katy ISD emergency management team has sufficient time to conduct contact tracing and ensure student athletes

See **PANTHERS**, page 7



COLE MCNANNA

Paetow players Tyler Silves (34) and Jacob Johnson (94) celebrate a strong defensive play during a game against Barbers Hill in the season-opener on Sept. 26 at Legacy Stadium.

## With 500 wins, Spartans' Spurlock in rare company

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Growing up in north Louisiana, Angela Spurlock played basketball in her driveway, knocking down long jump shot after long jump shot, dreaming of becoming a coach.

Spurlock was a natural at softball; she eventually finished her college years playing for Stephen F. Austin. But basketball had her heart. In the fourth grade and all through high school, Spurlock attended basketball camps at Louisiana Tech, which was then winning national championships under renowned coach Leon Barmore. She watched players like Kim Mulkey and Teresa Weather- spoon star for the Lady Techsters.

Spurlock was a four-year varsity shooting guard for a Trinity Heights

Christian Academy team that won two state championships and was a runner-up another year under legendary coach Merle Gore. It was there that her core beliefs about the game were refined.

"I've always believed that winning was a byproduct of doing the things that you really believe in," Spurlock said. "I was fortunate to play in a system in high school that taught me a lot. I was able to be around some coaches like Leon Barmore. It was those formative years when I was very impressionable. The system of basketball then was ingrained in me."

Spurlock eventually made a career out of basketball, a distinguished one at that. Now in her 24th

See **SPURLOCK**, page 9



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Seven Lakes coach Angela Spurlock talks to her players during a timeout during a game against George Ranch on Dec. 14 at Seven Lakes High.



SPORTS

FALCONS

from page 6

season and is arguably the most talented Class of 2021 running back in the Greater Houston area. “They run the same offense (without Johnson) and that quarterback (senior Carter Cravens) is a very competitive athlete,” Tompkins coach Todd McVey said. “Those kids compete. They have a great program with a lot of tradition. I’m just proud of our kids.” Trailing 7-3 after the first quarter, Tompkins (10-0) scored 38 points in the second, inspired by four takeaways that led to 24 points. “I was obviously very pleased,” McVey said. “We stress turnovers all the time, so seeing them execute the things we work on in practice ... I’m very happy for.” During a two-minute, 28-second span midway through the second quarter, Tompkins’ defense forced three consecutive turnovers

and scored on all three. Huert-er had two consecutive fumble returns for touchdowns. Both fumbles, committed by Cravens, were caused by Shaink. “I was attacking his hip, I got my arm through and just ripped it out,” Shaink said. “We were just hitting hard. We just kept hitting them in the mouth. Once they got hit, they couldn’t respond. It says a lot about our defense.” McVey was proud of Shaink, who has emerged as a consistent playmaker for one of the top defenses in the state. “Bryce does his job,” McVey said. “He’s very intense. He’s on his craft every day and he continues to get better. He’s a very focused individual who wants to create havoc. When you separate the ball, good things happen, and he does a good job with that.” Mere moments after Huert-er’s second fumble return for a touchdown, Kolomafe intercepted Cravens and returned it 44 yards for a score.

After a Sherman Smith 1-yard scoring run, the Falcons again scored off a turnover moments later when junior defensive back Maliik Edwards recovered a fumble caused by senior linebacker Temisan Alatan. Hunter Huckaby capitalized with a 33-yard field goal for a 41-7 halftime lead. “What really changed this week is we were physical,” Huerter said. “We were hitting. The balls were flying loose, and I got lucky. The ball kept coming to me and I did my job. It’s all about having fun and being physical.” “I know all those boys at Cy-Fair. I played with them in 7-on-7. They’re great guys. I knew how mean and physical they are. They’re like Katy. They’re a machine. I told our guys all week we just had to play physical. Do our job, be aligned and we came out on top.” The Falcons’ starting offense scored just 14 points. Senior quarterback Jalen Milroe scored on a dazzling 55-yard run to score

Tompkins’ first touchdown of the game in the second quarter and gave the Falcons the lead for good. Tompkins only produced 288 yards of total offense. It didn’t matter. The defense held Cy-Fair to 4.5 yards per play. In the fourth quarter, the Bobcats scored three touchdowns on 140 of their 307 total yards against Tompkins’ backups. “It brings fuel to us to watch our defense,” Milroe said. “It makes us hungrier to fight. Those guys played their tails off. They don’t like losing. Every single rep, they do not like to lose. They’re always looking for ways to improve.” Cy-Fair’s offense was on the field for 28-minutes, four-seconds. Tompkins’ offense was on the field for just 19-minutes, 56-seconds. “They better be happy we gave them that much of a break, man, I was getting exhausted,” Huerter joked. “It’s a lot of fun right now to play.” Next up for the Falcons? The defending Class 6A DI back-to-

back state champion, 12-0 North Shore Mustangs, ranked No. 1 in the state. They play Thursday, Christmas Eve, at 1 p.m. at Legacy Stadium. Tompkins players said they’re excited about the opportunity. It’s a matchup of two teams ranked in the top six in the state. A powerful offense in the Mustangs against the relentless defense of the Falcons. It’s also a matchup of two premier quarterbacks, potentially the start of a rivalry that will linger on into the SEC over the next few years: Alabama signee Milroe versus Auburn signee Demetrius Davis, who could make a claim as the best quarterback in Texas high school football history when his career is finished. “We’re excited to play in games like this,” Milroe said. “I don’t get caught up in all the comparisons. It’s Tompkins versus North Shore. We’re trying to steadily improve and get better, and I’m looking forward to playing a great team.”

PANTHERS

from page 6

and staff are cleared to continue practicing and preparing for upcoming competitions,” per a district release to the *Katy Times*. Less than 24 hours later, however, after six more positive cases were reported, the game was canceled altogether. It will go down as a “no contest,” and not a forfeit, for Paetow. Canyon gets a bye and advanced to the regional semifinals this week. It’s a heartbreaking end for Paetow’s 33 seniors who were freshmen when the school opened its doors in August 2017. Paetow is the first Katy ISD football team this postseason to see its season end because of COVID-19, and the second in all. The Seven Lakes team tennis program had its area playoff game canceled because of cases in October.

“It was a hard-fought season,” team captain and senior linebacker Christian Tibbetts said. “I can proudly say we made history and left a legacy being the first four-year class at Paetow. It sucks that we didn’t go down at least swinging due to the virus; that part hurt the most. Nonetheless, I wouldn’t take away anything our seniors and everyone on our team did to contribute to our success.” Paetow finished 9-1 this season and was coming off the first playoff win in school history, a 70-18 rout of Baytown Lee on Dec. 11. “It’s been about these seniors and their work ethic and them defying the odds,” Paetow coach B.J. Gotte said. “These seniors came in as incoming freshmen when we had strength and conditioning camp in the parking lot at the junior high by the dumpster because our facilities weren’t ready yet. Just working, building and molding this into what’s it turned into. They’ve defied the expectations of what people have for start-up programs.” A couple of Paetow football players said they weren’t feeling well on Monday, Dec. 14, and were sent home. One tested positive, which triggered the district to have the entire team tested. Through that process, over Tuesday night and through the day Wednesday, a number of kids on the varsity roster tested positive. The district’s emergency management team met to create a mitigation plan that Wednesday. The kids who tested positive were removed, and the plan was to test the entire team and program staff over the next three days to show if the mitigation plan was removing the positive cases. But six more positives showed up the next



Paetow High seniors Drake Ladig (14), Johan Campos (67) and David Odejimi (66) lock arms before the national anthem during a game against Barbers Hill in the season-opener on Sept. 26 at Legacy Stadium.

day, and the emergency management team decided it was in the best interest of the kids and their health to not play. Positive cases affected 18 varsity starters for the Panthers, particularly throughout the offensive and defensive lines, tight ends, and outside linebackers, but Gotte had confidence he could still field a competitive team for the Canyon game with varsity backups and junior varsity starters. “I told our leadership when they called to get my input that I’m a fighter,” Gotte said. “If we can’t play, it’s not going to be because I say we can’t play. We’re going to keep swinging until they tell us we can’t. If they’re asking my opinion if we can put a competitive team on the field? Yes. Will we be as competitive as before we lost 18 starters? No, but we will compete. We have kids who have trained and prepared for this.” “But as it pertains to COVID, that’s their (EMT) call. If they didn’t feel it was safe, I supported them 100 percent. That’s their job. But as it pertains to me as a football coach, I’m not worried about the health and safety of our kids on the football field as it pertains to being football players.” Gotte’s focus was on the positives of a negative situation. There were opportunities for seniors who had not played much this season to play a lot against Canyon. Some of the younger kids who had not played a varsity game, it was a chance for them to get big-game varsity reps as well. But the number of positive cases never waned.

“We had ‘X’ amount of positives one day, ‘X’ amount of positives another day,” Gotte said. “It shows community spread. I do know leadership’s plans are thorough and well thought-out and they’re trying to do what’s in the best interest of kids.” The seniors were sophomores when the Panthers went 3-7 in their inaugural year of varsity play in 2018. As juniors last year, that turned around, remarkably, to 8-3 and a first playoff appearance. This season, Paetow was ranked in the top five in Class 5A in the Greater Houston area with signature wins over Barbers Hill, Class 6A Morton Ranch, Angleton, Hightower, Class 6A Deer Park and Lee. “I think what I take away most is we set the standard of excellence,” Tibbetts said. “You know, being here since the start of SAC camp workouts in the parking lot to fighting in the second round of the playoffs years later is big, really. Thanks to our coaching staff and staff overall, there’s a lot to be happy about, man. The encouraging thing is we can always get better. And that’s what I expect out of these underclassmen. I want to see Paetow win a state championship, and I’ll be around to see it happen.” Senior captains this season were Tibbetts, defensive back Carl Simon and offensive lineman Demetrius Elko. Gotte remembered going to Katy Junior High to talk to prospective Panther athletes the spring before the school opened. He met with four kids. One of those was Tibbetts, then a ‘C’ team lineman who eventually played an essential role in setting a winning foundation for a newborn program.

2020 PAETOW  
PANTHERS

RECORD: 9-1

SENIOR CLASS

NO.	NAME	POSITION
5	Zach Cooley	DB
10	Harrison Sager	QB
14	Drake Ladig	QB
19	Jamin Godwin	WR
20	Carl Simon	DB
23	Dave Forbes	DB
24	Josh Ward	DB
26	Damon Bankston	RB
29	Isaiah Vasquez	LB
31	Callum Majors	FB
33	John Lillard	FB
35	Randle Kelley	FB
40	Andrew Rutherford	DL
41	Christian Tibbetts	LB
41	Michael Sarhene	LB
47	Antonio Andrews	LB
50	Luis Toscano	DL
52	Nicholas Mercado	OL
57	Agumba Otuonye	DL
58	Demetrius Elko	OL
63	Jeramiah Marquez	OL
65	Michael Wilder	DL
66	David Odejimi	OL
67	Johan Campos	OL
70	Emmanuel Olorunfemi	OL
71	Jesse Torres	DL
74	Sammy Almdares	OL
80	Saul Sosa	WR
86	Ian Lyon	TE
87	David Murray	TE
91	Cameron Mushtaq	DL
92	Eder Amaya-Evans	DL
96	Roman Hedgecock	DL

“Most people associate going to a new school as a sentence,” Gotte said. “Our seniors get to say that they played in big games, competed in the playoffs, and our kids now feel they can go into big games and have a chance. Our kids believe they can win. For us to be at that stage, with our seniors getting to experience that, is probably the most memorable thing for me.” “We’re fortunate to get to play 10 games. There’s a lot of teams that didn’t. There’s a lot of people across the country who are dealing with a lot worse than we are. We’ll pick ourselves up, celebrate what we accomplished, go back to work and be appreciative for what we had.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING  
4:30 p.m., Monday, January 25, 2021

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; By Amending Ordinance Number 1199 “Katy Mills” Planned Development District, To Allow For An Institution Of A Religious Nature (Gateway Church) At 25024 Katy Mills Drive, Also Described As Reserve “I-5A” Of Replat Of Unrestricted Reserve I-5 Of Katy Mills. A Subdivision In Harris County, Texas According To The Map Or Plat Thereof Recorded Under Film Code Number 444042 Of The Map Of Records Of Harris County; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Amending The Comprehensive Plan To Conform To The Land Uses Provided For In The Ordinance; Providing A Penalty In An Amount Of Up To \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And Providing For Severability. Applicant And Agent Is Executive Pastor Matt Osgood Of Gateway Church.

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4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING  
4:30 p.m., Monday, January 25, 2021

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City’s Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone A 34.562 Acres Of Land In The Thomas Cresap Survey, A-369 And A-405, In The J. Thompson Survey, A-393 And In The D.A. Conner Survey, A-159, In Both Fort Bend And Waller Counties As “R-1” Single Family Residential. Amending The City Of Katy’s Comprehensive Plan To Conform To The Zoning Classifications Set Forth In This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists. Applicant And Agent Is Katy Independent School District.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Part time help needed on horse ranch near FM 723 and FM 359.

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Full time employee needed: Live-in with your family, all expenses paid.

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Call or text at 713-419-9009. Please leave a message, call will be returned.

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**Public Notice**

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to construct a new telecommunications tower facility located at 21311 2/3 Julie Marie Lane, Katy, Harris County, TX 77449. The new facility will consist of a 33-foot wood pole telecommunications tower. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 6120010387 - MB EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (717) 472-3070.

**Aviso temprano y revisión pública de una propuesta de actividad en una llanura aluvial de 100 años**

A: Todas las agencias, grupos e individuos interesados.

Esto es para notificar que la **Ciudad de Katy** ha determinado que la siguiente acción propuesta bajo la Subvención en Bloque de Desarrollo Comunitario - Programa de Recuperación por Desastre administrado por la Oficina General de Tierras de Texas - Programa de Recuperación por Desastre (GLO DR) y **19-076-013-B362 / B-16-DL-48-0001**, está ubicado en la **llanura aluvial de 100 años**, y la **ciudad de Katy** identificará y evaluará alternativas viables para ubicar la acción en la llanura aluvial y el impacto potencial en la llanura aluvial de la acción propuesta, según lo requiere la Orden Ejecutiva 11988, de acuerdo con las regulaciones de HUD en 24 CFR 55.20 Subparte C Procedimientos para tomar determinaciones sobre la protección de llanuras aluviales.

**Ubicación del proyecto:** Todo el trabajo se llevará a cabo en la ciudad de Katy, condado de Fort Bend, Texas, en la planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales de Katy (PTAR) ubicada en 25839 Katy Freeway (29.773617, -95.826417).

**Descripción del proyecto propuesto:**

Instalaciones de alcantarillado: El subbeneficiario deberá levantar y estabilizar los diques existentes, reconstruir y elevar los caminos, instalar una nueva estación de bombeo de aguas pluviales y un generador de emergencia, reconstruir las cercas existentes, reorganizar las zanjas de drenaje y completar los accesorios asociados.

Llanura aluvial: De acuerdo con FEMA # 48157C0040L (fecha de vigencia 4/2/14), el proyecto ocurrirá dentro de una llanura aluvial de 100 años (Zona AE).

Área de perturbación: 4.0 acres

**Valores naturales y beneficiosos potencialmente afectados negativamente por la actividad:**

- Una inundación podría dañar la nueva infraestructura propuesta. Sin embargo, no se prevé un daño de este tipo, ya que es poco probable que se produzcan inundaciones de la magnitud necesaria para dañar la nueva infraestructura.
- Los recursos naturales de la llanura aluvial incluyen recursos hídricos, biológicos y sociales. El proyecto propuesto tendrá impactos insignificantes en la llanura aluvial porque ayudará a controlar las inundaciones en la PTAR, lo que resultará en menos daño al hábitat natural dentro de la llanura aluvial.
- Después de la revisión de las Listas del Condado de Especies Amenazadas y en Peligro para el Condado, las inspecciones en el sitio del sitio del proyecto y la consulta con el USFWS, se concluyó que la construcción de las instalaciones no tendrá un impacto cuantificable en la vida vegetal y animal. Solo se deben usar plantas nativas en las llanuras aluviales y en el sitio.
- Los recursos sociales también deben considerarse durante el proceso de diseño. Los diseños están destinados a complementar las características naturales del área y ofrecer una estructura estéticamente agradable. El sitio no tendrá ningún efecto sobre las tierras agrícolas.

Hay tres propósitos principales para este aviso. En primer lugar, las personas que puedan verse afectadas por las actividades en las llanuras aluviales y aquellas que tengan interés en la protección del medio ambiente natural deben tener la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones y proporcionar información sobre estas áreas. Se anima a los comentaristas a ofrecer sitios alternativos fuera de la llanura aluvial, métodos alternativos para cumplir el mismo propósito del proyecto y métodos para minimizar y mitigar los impactos. En segundo lugar, un programa de notificación pública adecuado puede ser una herramienta educativa pública importante. La difusión de información y la solicitud de comentarios públicos sobre las llanuras aluviales pueden facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales. En tercer lugar, como cuestión de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determina que participará en las acciones que se llevan a cabo en las llanuras aluviales, debe informar a quienes puedan correr un riesgo mayor o continuo.

Los comentarios por escrito deben ser recibidos por la **Ciudad de Katy** en la siguiente dirección en la tarde del **11 de enero, 2021, Ciudad de Katy, 901 Ave. C, Katy, Texas 77493 y 281-391-4816**, Atención: **Bill Hastings, Alcalde**. También se puede revisar una descripción completa del proyecto de **9:00 AM a 5:00 PM**. en la dirección anterior. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a [todd@texasenvironmentals.com](mailto:todd@texasenvironmentals.com).

**Fecha de publicación: 24 de diciembre de 2020**

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**December 17 Puzzle Answers**

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**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals.

This is to give notice that the **City of Katy** has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Program administered by the Texas General Land Office - Disaster Recovery program (GLO DR) and **19-076-013-B362 / B-16-DL-48-0001**, is located in the **100-year floodplain**, and the **City of Katy** will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Protection of Floodplains.

**Project Location:** All work will occur in the City Katy, Fort Bend County, Texas at the Katy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 25839 Katy Freeway (29.773617, -95.826417).

**Description of the Proposed Project:**

Sewer Facilities:

Subrecipient shall raise and stabilize existing levees, reconstruct and elevate roads, install a new storm water pump station and emergency generator, reconstruct existing fences, regrade drainage ditches, and complete associated appurtenances.

FLOODPLAIN: According to FEMA #48157C0040L (effective date 4/2/14), the project will occur within a 100-year floodplain (Zone AE).

Area of Disturbance: 4.0 acres

**Natural and beneficial values potentially adversely affected by the activity:**

- A flood could damage the new proposed infrastructure. However, such damage is not anticipated as flooding of a magnitude necessary to damage the new infrastructure is unlikely to occur.
- The natural resources of the floodplain include water, biological, and societal resources. The proposed project will have negligible impacts on the floodplain because it will help control flooding at the WWTP which will result in less damage to the natural habitat within the floodplain.
- After review of County Lists of Endangered and Threatened Species for the County, on-site inspections of the project site and consultation with the USFWS, it was concluded that the construction of the facilities will have no quantifiable impact on plant and animal life. Only native plants are to be used in the floodplains and on the site.
- Societal resources should also be considered during the design process. The designs are meant to complement the natural features of the area and to offer an aesthetically pleasing structure. The site will have no effect on agricultural lands.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the **City of Katy** at the following address on or before **January 11, 2021, City of Katy, 901 Ave. C, Katy, Texas 77493 and 281-391-4816**, Attention: **Bill Hastings, Mayor**. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**. at the above address. Comments may also be submitted via email at [todd@texasenvironmentals.com](mailto:todd@texasenvironmentals.com).

**Publication Date: December 24, 2020**

**Katy Times**

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**NOTICE**

The Monday, December 28, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Has Been Cancelled In Observance Of The Christmas Holidays.

By Order of Mayor and City Council  
City of Katy, Texas  
October 26, 2020

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The City Planning And Zoning Commission Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing At Their Regular Meeting To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

**CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING**

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The Hearing Is Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Subdivision Replat Of 1.606 Acres In Cane Island Master Planned Community, Waller County, Out Of The F. Eule Survey, A-376. Also Being A Replat Of Lots 1, 2 And 3, Block 1 Of Cane Island Section 16 Amending Plat Number 1. Recorded Under Waller County Map Of Records Number 1604425. Reason For Replat Is To Create 2 Lots. Agent is EHRA and Owners Are Lindy and Roland Oliva.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

**CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING**

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**

4:30 p.m., Monday, January 25, 2021

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: An Institution Of A Religious Nature (Iglesia Rios De Aceite - Rivers of Oil Church) In A "C-2" General Business District At 541 Pin Oak Road; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists. Applicant And Agent Is Pastor Hernan Castano Of Iglesia Rios De Aceite - Rivers Of Oil Church.



SPORTS

# Skinner works way to Eastern Illinois

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

When Brooks Haack was hired as offensive coordinator at Mayde Creek last spring, he was intrigued at what he had in 6-foot-2, 192-pound senior receiver L'den Skinner.

Haack, a former honorable mention all-state quarterback at Katy High, was bringing a wide-open, pass-happy spread offense to the Rams. Right away, he knew he had a talent in Skinner.

"L is a great kid and someone we knew early on that he was going to be an instrumental part of the offense," Haack said. "He was very raw, and I could tell once he understood what we were trying to teach him, then sky's the limit on what he could accomplish."

Skinner was just as excited as Haack. He had primarily been a blocking receiver for a Rams offense that was run-dominant under previous head coach Mike Rabe.

Getting the ball more was a welcomed thought.

"I knew this was my chance to show what I could do," Skinner said. "It was my spotlight."

That light shone fairly bright as Skinner was one of the more dynamic playmakers in Katy ISD football this season. He led all of Katy ISD in receiving with 768 yards and a touchdown on 50 catches, averaging 15.4 yards per catch for the district's top offense. It was a considerable rise from 2019, when he had 10 catches for 211 yards and a touchdown.

Though a relative newcomer to the sport and position, having played football only since the seventh grade and receiver since his sophomore year, Skinner earned an opportunity to play at the next level when he signed to play for Eastern Illinois on Dec. 16.

Skinner plans to hold a public signing ceremony in February.

"When I first talked to Eastern Illinois, I could tell they had a family atmosphere from the jump," Skinner said. "Everything clicked. We just had this chemistry off the bat. The people and the community at Eastern Illinois was strong."

Skinner said he's barely scratched his potential.

"I feel I can show off my speed a lot more," said Skinner, who runs a 4.42 hand-timed 40-yard dash. "I showed it off a couple games early on, but I want to show how fast I can really run with the ball in my hands and how fast I can run after the catch."

"This was my first year ever having the football in my hands. I had a lot to learn, and I still do."

Skinner had a rough season opener

against Conroe, when he had two catches for 29 yards and dropped three passes.

"I could say I was too excited; my first game, it wasn't great at all," he said. "It was terrible. But I came back to myself. I couldn't let the moment soak me up. I had to just play my game."

Eventually, Skinner got more comfortable as a primary option on offense. Haack said his route-running and understanding of how to use his body and leverage improved drastically.

Physically, Skinner has all the tools. Every program wants a tall, fast receiver, especially Eastern Illinois, which plans to use Skinner on both the outside and inside and will play him as a true freshman if he proves himself.

"A few things he can get better at would be understanding the game and coverages and how to win a route versus everything," said Haack, who played collegiately at Louisiana-Lafayette and Northwestern State. "Speed and strength will come as well at the next level, and just being a student of the game."

Growing up, Skinner always wanted to be a professional athlete. He just thought he'd be in the majors.

He played centerfield and shortstop for his travel ball teams from nine years old up until his freshman year. His mom only started letting him play football in the seventh grade at Mayde Creek Junior High.

"She hated it," Skinner said, laughing. "She didn't like how physical it was, felt it was abusive to the body. She's actually starting to like it more now. She won't admit it, but she does."

Skinner loves it. He played fullback, which is where he learned to appreciate the art of blocking, and cornerback in junior high. As a freshman, he played outside linebacker. His sophomore year, he was moved to receiver.

His one endearing memory is that first touchdown catch, a 65-yarder. From there, he only wanted more and more.

"I just like catching the ball and running with it," he said. "If you gave me that, I was good."

This season was the culmination of it all. He had a 48-yard catch against Cypress Lakes. A 37-yard haul against Dulles. His touchdown catch went for 91 yards against Taylor.

Skinner's 50 catches were 17 more than the next-best receiver in that department and his yards were almost 100 more than the next-best in that respective category.

"He's a young man that deserves everything that's coming his way," Haack said, "and if he will continue to work, like I know he will, then he will have a great career and great life even after football."



COLE MCNANNA

Mayde Creek senior L'den Skinner was the top receiver among all Katy ISD players this season with 50 catches for 768 yards and a touchdown.

## SPURLOCK

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season as a head coach, and 16th year at the helm of Seven Lakes' girls basketball program, Spurlock is in an exclusive class of coaches in Katy ISD, becoming just the fourth to have 500 career wins after the Spartans beat Katy, 46-33, in their district opener Dec. 4 at Katy High.

Spurlock, who has been the head coach at C.E. King, Friendswood, Hightower and now Seven Lakes, joins Katy High baseball coach Tom McPherson, Cinco Ranch wrestling coach Bill Dushane and Katy High softball coach Kalum Haack in the 500 club.

"It's been a career filled with something I absolutely and truly love and adore, so it never feels like work," Spurlock said. "There's good days and bad days, sure, but I work hard and our players work harder. It's never been a job, and the benefit of loving something and being able to do it for a living, you accomplish things that maybe you think you'll never do."

Following the Spartans' 67-16 win over Morton Ranch on Dec. 18, Spurlock has a career record of 504-298, a winning percentage of 62.8 percent. She has led teams to 19 playoff appearances, 12 district championships and two regional finals.

At Seven Lakes, Spurlock has a 315-181 record, a 63.5 win percentage. Her Spartans won seven straight district titles from 2011-2018.

"The main thing she has taught me is to always believe," senior forward Lily Baumgardner said. "She has really showed me when you truly believe in something, you can accomplish anything, no matter how big the goal."

Spurlock's foundation is defense—predicated upon heart, effort and desire, all traits she demands as core values of her program—and respecting opponents and shooting. She embraces the notion that she is an "old-school coach."

Her players dress alike on game days, arrive and leave together, and do things as a team. Unity is a part of the Spartans' success and has only been enhanced through expectations.

"During my junior year, going through a PCL (posterior cruciate ligament) surgery, Coach Spurlock included me in everything," senior guard Addison Poth said. "Even though I couldn't play, she made sure I was a part of the team as a leader for the younger players. She really helped me get through the toughest year of my career. It has made this season more special, since I was allowed to work my way back to also being a leader on the court."

Spurlock emphasizes discipline and accountability, and having fun doing so. Junior guard KK Tucker said Spurlock taught her how to be responsible in her academics, athletics and home life. Tucker also remembers Spurlock spraying them with silly string before pregame shootarounds last season, which energized and excited the players just as they were about to hit the court.

Playing for Spurlock, junior guard Aliyah Atiqi said, is "an honor and a privilege."

"My favorite memory is just being part of Coach Spurlock's 500th career victory," Atiqi said. "Seeing her being so humble, but I know deep down inside it meant a lot to her."

Indeed, Spurlock was taken aback when



RAY BORCHERT | RAYBORCHERTPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

Seven Lakes coach Angela Spurlock gestures toward her players during a game against George Ranch on Dec. 14 at Seven Lakes High.

she was presented with balloons and a banner sign honoring her 500th win after the Katy game. She didn't think anyone knew. She certainly was not going to bring it up; Spurlock loathes discussing herself, always wanting to keep the topic of conversation on her team.

She did admit, though, that accomplishing the career milestone at a school she helped open up, for a program she started from scratch in 2005, was rewarding.

"It was a cool opportunity and a bucket-list thing to open a school," Spurlock said. "I always wondered what it would be like to take the knowledge of what I had learned as a player and young coach and see if I could apply those pillars and cornerstones to a program that didn't know anything. It's a pretty humbling, emotional experience to know it was successful."

Recently, Spurlock allowed herself a rare moment to reflect on her basketball life. From playing with a larger-sized basketball and no 3-point line in high school to her playing days at Panola Junior College to two regional final appearances at Friendswood and Seven Lakes.

Spurlock remembers some of the wins, but like any great coach, the losses are what stick with her.

"Those losses taught me how to win," Spurlock said. "The loss column is probably just as important as the win column, if you really look at how true teaching and learning the game of basketball takes place."

Spurlock is appreciative of every player, grateful for every assistant coach, and thankful for all four school districts she has worked for. She is encouraged about this year's 8-1 team, excitedly noting, of course, its dominant defensive performances to start the season.

And she is thrilled for what is still to come.

"I've enjoyed the journey and I've enjoyed the process," Spurlock said, "and, God willing, I hope it continues."

## Cajun Catfish Mondays

3:00 - 7:00 pm  
All You Can Eat  
for \$10.99

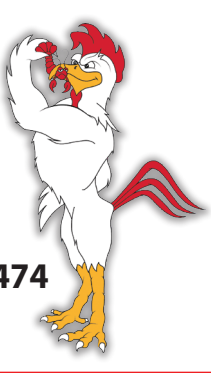


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