

# Katy Times



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THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

## Water bills to rise in 2020

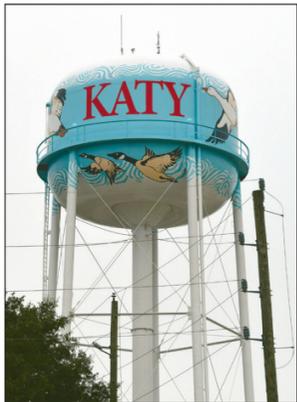
By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

Most Katy area residents will have higher water bills in January due to an increased surcharge fees from the North Fort Bend and West Harris County Regional water authorities. Both authorities recently approved a \$0.30 and \$0.25 increase in their pumpage surcharge rates respectively which are passed through water suppliers such as cities and municipal utility districts - commonly referred to as MUDs - to water consumers in those cities and districts.

"We are the billing entity and the West Harris County [Regional] Water Authority has asked for that amount of money, so the city of Katy billing department is just a passthrough," said Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris.

In most instances, municipalities such as MUDs and cities like Katy simply pass the cost on to their residents and may include a small additional fee to process the payment, local officials said. However, the city of Katy is able to offset the cost for some

See **WATER**, page A5



R. HANS MILLER

Residents in the Katy area are likely to see water bill increases due to increases in surcharges passed through cities and water districts to prevent subsidence in Greater Houston.

### HAVE A NEWS TIP?

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January 2, 2020  
12 pages | \$1

# REDUCING RISK

## First responders increasing education efforts

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

The Katy area continues to grow and with that come more families firefighters and emergency medical service professionals are trying to keep safe. With that in mind, first responders are increasing their education and outreach efforts through community risk reduction programs.

"This has really grown. Probably about four years ago it was just beginning and developing," said Harris County Emergency Services District 48 Chief of Community Risk Reduction Jason Tharp.

Fire and EMS leaders that operate within Katy ISD's boundaries said they are all working on developing their

community outreach programs. These programs include a variety of training courses that help residents prevent emergencies or respond better to situations as they occur. HCESD 48, Katy Fire Department, Willowfork Fire Department and the Westlake Volunteer Fire Department all have some level of training to help prevent and manage emergencies for residents.

"The overall goal obviously is that we're preventing things from happening to keep us from responding to

See **RISK**, page A5

### WANT SOME TRAINING?

Katy area fire departments all offer some level of outreach for groups interested in fire prevention. Options including station tours, courses for children and adults and home safety audits may be available through your fire department. To find out more, follow the departments on Facebook, visit their websites or call them using the information below:

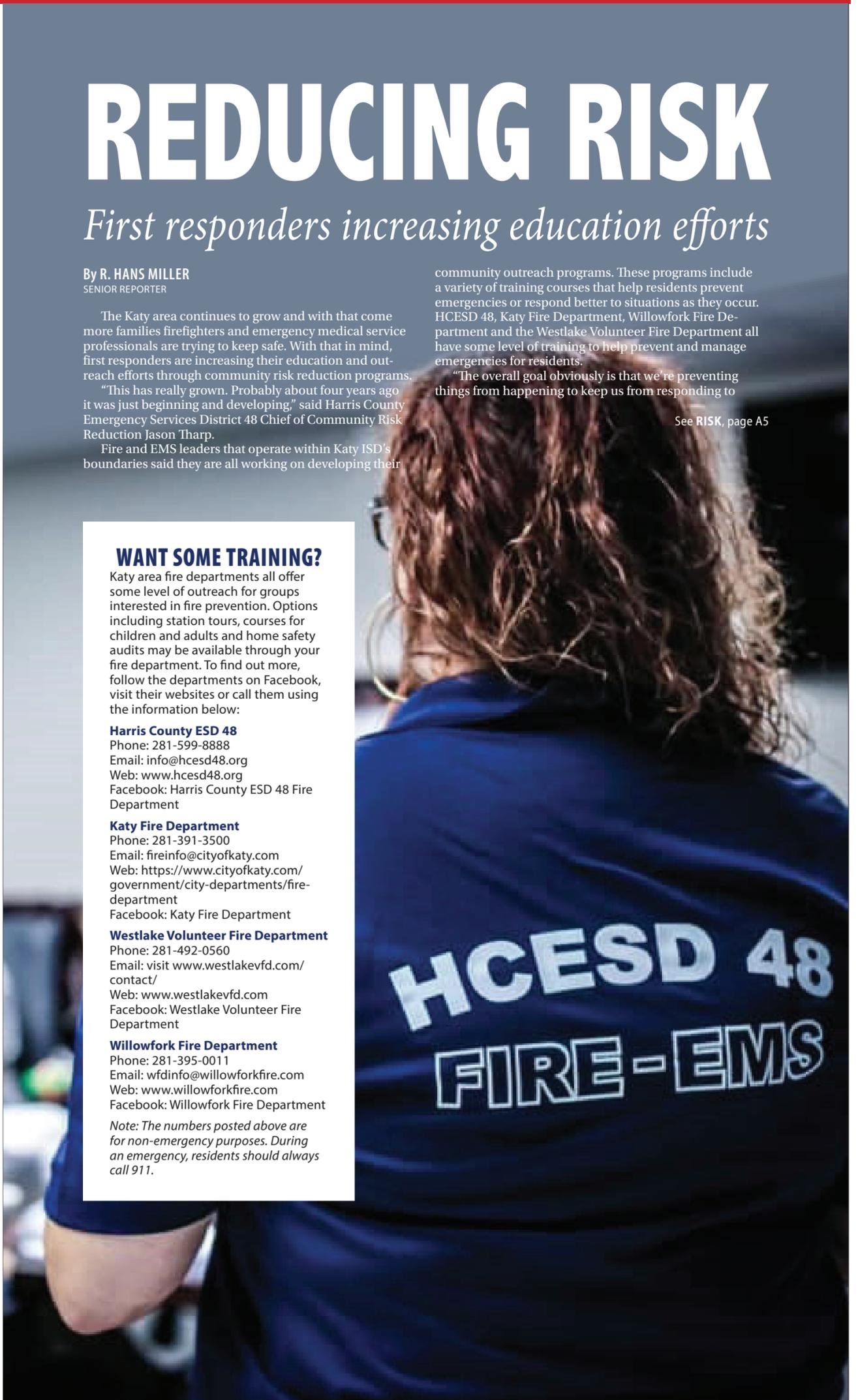
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Email: [info@hcesd48.org](mailto:info@hcesd48.org)  
Web: [www.hcesd48.org](http://www.hcesd48.org)  
Facebook: Harris County ESD 48 Fire Department

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Facebook: Katy Fire Department

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Facebook: Westlake Volunteer Fire Department

**Willowfork Fire Department**  
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Email: [wfdinfo@willowforkfire.com](mailto:wfdinfo@willowforkfire.com)  
Web: [www.willowforkfire.com](http://www.willowforkfire.com)  
Facebook: Willowfork Fire Department

*Note: The numbers posted above are for non-emergency purposes. During an emergency, residents should always call 911.*



## Katy Times moves to new building downtown

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

As the Katy Times looks to the future, staff realize the paper doesn't need the space that our longtime home at 5319 East Fifth Street provides to us. As a result, the Katy Times office is moving to a space that better serves the paper's needs.

Construction is currently underway at our new office at Katy Centre, just across the street from Katy City Hall at 811 Avenue D, Ste. 160 in downtown Katy and is expected to be up and running by the end of January.

In the meantime, we'll be working out of our old office in Katy to keep the presses rolling while we wait for construction of the new Katy Centre space to be completed.

Those who wish to provide a news tip, place an ad or subscribe to the paper can either visit us at The Hub on 1st. Our phone number and email addresses aren't changing, so the community may still call us at 281-391-3141 or via email at [news@katytimes.com](mailto:news@katytimes.com).



PHOTO OF THE HUB ON 1ST

Katy Times staff will be moving to our new location across from Katy City Hall in the near future. In the meantime, staff will be available to help readers at our old location. A notice will be put on [www.katytimes.com](http://www.katytimes.com) when the move is completed.



## TIGERS

from page B1

factor. I want to show I can contribute."

Froe is now a team leader, even as an underclassman. Perdue is an up-and-coming talent.

Together they have made an impact, and that was never more evident than during Katy's 65-51 win over Kempner on Dec. 20.

Froe had 13 points, five rebounds and three assists. Perdue, coming off the bench, had nine points and 11 rebounds.

Froe is now a trusted floor leader after playing more of a catch-and-shoot role last season. That was by design.

"He's probably more comfortable and natural playing the position he is now than last year," coach Danny Russell said. "He was a freshman having to step in and play varsity, which is a lot. It's

a lot they've got to be able to learn and do. So, it was more us simply putting him in a position to be successful last year rather than having him grow into a role."

Froe worked on ballhandling over the summer. He put on some muscle. He is getting to the rim more, and he worked to boost his confidence.

"I knew, last summer, I was going to have to be more of a leader and do more for this team," Froe said. "I prepared myself mentally to handle that. I came into this year more confident in knowing I could do what I needed to help this team."

Russell has been impressed. "He's doing a really good job," the coach said. "The last four or five games, he's balancing being aggressive looking for his own shot versus facilitating for others. That's the defining factor when you look at great point guards, being able to understand when to get other guys involved and

how, and when, to take your own opportunities."

Perdue had a feeling last summer that he'd be on varsity. He worked out with those players instead of the freshmen.

All fall, Russell evaluated the 6-foot-3 Perdue. It's a thoughtful, lengthy process. Russell could not hide the fact that the Tigers' varsity not only had room for Perdue, but it needed him.

"It went from 'Can he do this?' to 'We need him,'" Russell said. "It's pretty obvious. He's probably our most physically aggressive kid and he's a great rebounder. He has a real good understanding of the game. We don't just put them in places and run plays. He's learning those things, but as long as he plays hard, is aggressive and goes and gets the ball, he's going to make us better."

One thing Perdue is arguably the best on the team at is communication. He will yell, scream and direct, particularly on defense.

"He brings a lot of energy," Froe said. "A lot of times, none of us want to talk, and he'll be the one to do it. He gets us going."

For that, Perdue credits his teammates.

"It comes from them being so great to me and so welcoming," he said. "This is a great team, and it's easy to be yourself."

Russell told Perdue early on that just because he was a freshman didn't mean he couldn't be one of the leaders on the team. Perdue took that to heart, and it shows in his actions.

Already a potent threat on the right block and turning to shoot over his left shoulder, he planned to work on his drop-steps and catching passes from the wing over the holiday break.

Katy begins district play this week, opening with Mayde Creek on Friday. The Tigers are 10-9, indicative of consistency issues that Russell said must be addressed.

Otherwise, he likes what he

sees from a roster that goes 10-deep.

"We've got a group of kids that has been with us a while and has a good understanding of how we want to play," Russell said. "They really enjoy sharing success and genuinely like each other on and off the court. It makes them a fun group to coach and a fun group to watch."

Aside from Froe and Perdue, there's seniors Casper Belaiter, Bryce Purchase and Chermene Sims, and juniors Connor Champion and Ryon Johnson that are efficient, productive playmakers.

It is a lot of no-nonsense, workmanlike talent that does not lack confidence.

"We're a team most people look at and they don't expect us to come out there and whoop them," Champion said. "When we play and go out there and work, we can compete with a lot of teams out there."

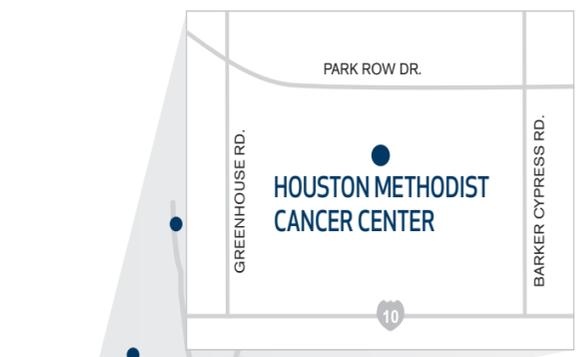


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Charlotte Taylor Martinez was born on December 19, 1955 in Houston, Texas to Alan Roy Taylor and Laverne Bush Taylor.

Charlotte graduated from Marion High School in 1974. She was a professional model and was one of the Derrick Dolls Cheerleaders for the Houston Oilers, she also worked as an airline stewardess for Delta Airlines. Charlotte married Emil James Martinez in Columbus, Texas on October 27, 2009. She worked as a paramedic for both Katy EMS and Brookshire EMS. Charlotte enjoyed cooking and baking, in fact, she collected several thousand cookbooks over the years.

Charlotte Taylor Martinez passed away on Thursday, December 19, 2019 in Katy, Texas at 64 years of age.

She is survived by her loving husband, Emil "Chico" Martinez of Weimar; step-daughter, Chelsea Martinez and her boyfriend Jacob McDonald of Austin; parents, Roy and Laverne Taylor of Katy; brother, Gary Allen Taylor and his wife Debra of Katy; nephews, Clint Taylor, Brent Taylor, Trey Taylor, and numerous great nieces and other loving family members and a host of friends.



**CHARLOTTE MARLENE MARTINEZ**  
1955-2019

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway in Katy. A rosary will be recited at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019 at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church, in Sweet Home, Texas, where mass will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, celebrant. Interment at Queen of Peace Cemetery, in Sweet Home, Texas.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), 424 E. 92nd Street, New York City, New York 10128, www.ASPCA.org, or to the Queen of Peace Catholic Church, P. O. Box 201, Sweet Home, Texas 77987, www.qpcatholicchurch.com, or to the Saint Michael's Catholic Church, 410 N. Center Street, Texas 78962, www.stmichaelweimar.org

To express condolences, please visit www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net Services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home

1344 W. Grand Parkway South ~ Katy, Texas 77494 ~ (281) 391-2424

Dorothy Marie "Dot" Morton passed away on December 18, 2109 in Katy, Texas. She was born on December 31, 1925 in Brookshire, Texas. Dot was preceded in death by her parents, sister Eileen Pederson and husband, Monroe Morton of fifty eight years. Dot was a member of the Katy Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School classes and played the organ and piano for many years. Dot went to Katy High School and graduated in 1942. She attended Sam Houston University for one year where she played in an all-girl band. Music has always been a big part of her life. Dot was a member of the 21st Century Club of Katy for many years.

Dot married Monroe "Boy" Morton on June 10, 1945 and moved to their home on Morton Road and Katy Hockley Cut-off after their marriage. Dot resided in the same home until her death. Dot and Boy were blessed with two sons - Keith Morton and his wife Barbara and Lee Morton and his wife Lois. She was also blessed to have four grandchildren

- Cheryl Morton Clary, Michael Morton, Daniel Morton and Zachary Morton. Dot had six great grandchildren - Dylan Morton, Jase Morton, George Morton, Whit Morton, Margot Morton and Owen Morton.



**DOROTHY MARIE "DOT" MORTON**  
1925-2019

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at the Schmidt Funeral Home East Avenue Chapel, in Katy. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 23, 2019 at Katy First United Methodist Church with Dr. Richard L. White officiating. Interment in Memorial Oaks Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to Katy First United Methodist Church, 5601 Fifth Street, Katy, TX 77493.

Condolences may be expressed at www.SchmidtFuneralHome.net. Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home 1508 East Avenue ~ Katy, Texas 77493 ~ (281) 391-2424

## Devotional Page

This devotional page and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. For more information, see our Church Directory Online at [www.katytimes.com](http://www.katytimes.com)

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Psalms 94:19

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4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.  
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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**HOUSTON TEXANS (10-6) VS. BUFFALO BILLS (10-6)**

Saturday, January 4, 3:35 p.m., at NRG Stadium  
TV: ESPN/ABC



	<b>Bills (NFL Rank)</b>	<b>Texans (NFL Rank)</b>
<b>Points Per Game</b>	19.6 (24th)	23.6 (14th)
<b>Points Allowed Per Game</b>	16.2 (2nd)	24.1 (19th)
<b>Total Offense</b>	330.2 (24th)	362.0 (13th)
<b>Rushing Yards Per Game</b>	128.4 (8th)	125.6 (9th)
<b>Passing Yards Per Game</b>	201.8 (27th)	236.4 (15th)
<b>Total Defense</b>	298.3 (3rd)	388.3 (28th)
<b>Rushing Yards Against</b>	103.1 (10th)	121.1 (25th)
<b>Passing Yards Against</b>	195.2 (4th)	267.2 (29th)
<b>Top Passer</b>	Josh Allen: 271-461-9; 3,089 yards; 20 TDs	Deshaun Watson: 333-495-12; 3,852 yards; 26 TDs
<b>Top Rusher</b>	Devin Singletary: 151 carries, 775 yards, 2 TDs	Carlos Hyde: 245 carries; 1,070 yards; 6 TDs
<b>Top Receiver</b>	John Brown: 72 catches, 1,065 yards, 6 TDs	DeAndre Hopkins: 104 catches; 1,165 yards; 7 TDs
<b>Top Defensive Players:</b>	Tremaine Edmunds 115 total tackles; Jordan Phillips 9.5 sacks; Tre'Davious White 6 INTs	Zach Cunningham 137 total tackles; Whitney Mercilus 7.5 sacks; Tashaun Gipson 3 INTs



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes had a handoff to Chiefs running back LeSean McCoy (25) as Texans defensive end J.J. Watt (99) went after McCoy during the second half of game action Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, at Arrowhead Stadium.

# Texans' Watt in line to return for playoffs

By **DENNIS SILVA II**  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into Saturday's AFC wild card playoff game against Buffalo, the Texans were cautiously optimistic about the possible return of star defensive end J.J. Watt.

Watt returned to practice early last week after missing the previous two months with a torn pectoral muscle that required surgery. It is an injury that generally requires 3-4 months of recovery before a player returns.

Watt said last week during a press conference that the plan is to play against Buffalo. He suffered the injury during a Week 8 win against the Raiders on Oct. 27. The Texans have gone 5-3 without him, but have allowed 60 more rushing yards per game in his absence.

"I mean, obviously, that's the plan, that's the goal," Watt said. "The plan is for the first playoff game."

Watt returned to practice Dec. 24. He said it was an easier injury to deal with than previous ones to his back and leg. He has been able to run and lift weights with his legs as his shoulder heals.

"I feel extremely excited about being able to be back on the practice field with the guys," Watt said. "The medical team here has done a great job. There's obviously an element of risk involved that I understand and we understand, but to me, the opportunity to play in the playoffs, the opportunity to try and help this team win football games, there's nothing that I want more. I just want to be on the field with the guys and I feel really good. We've worked extremely hard at rehab, we've had a very smooth process and everything has been going extremely well. So I'm really, really excited to get back on the field with everybody and to be back out there helping my team and playing for this city."

Texans coach Bill O'Brien said since

Watt was cleared to return to practice, everything from here on out is "football-related." There is no telling how much of an impact Watt will have or how much he will be able to play.

For now, just him being back on the field has been uplifting.

"I mean, it's dope but it doesn't catch me by surprise, because that's the type of person he is, to do whatever he can to help this football team and get back out there with his brothers," quarterback Deshaun Watson said. "I know at the early (part) of the rehab and surgery, it was definitely a thought that he probably wouldn't be able to play the rest of this year, but I guarantee whenever he had his surgery and the doctors told him he had a chance and gave him a timeline, if he did everything right, that he was going to do that. You could see it."

"He was in here every day with us, still in the meeting rooms, still rehabbing, working out, still around the locker room. So it was definitely passionate and very strict priority for him to be able to get back out there."

In eight games this season, Watt has 24 total tackles, 4.0 sacks, four tackles for a loss, 20 quarterback hits, two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

"Obviously when I got hurt, I just assumed I was done," Watt said. "I didn't even know that there was a possibility, and then literally a couple of days after the surgery I was feeling so good that I just started asking questions. I said, 'Is it remotely possible?' We left the door open for a possibility, and from there it was just literally day-by-day, just work, doing whatever I could do and we arrived to here."

"And like I said, I wouldn't call it a difficult decision, no. I mean, I get a chance to play in the playoffs with my team and go out there and try and help us win football games. So, to me, that'll never be a difficult decision."

**"Obviously when I got hurt, I just assumed I was done. I didn't even know that there was a possibility, and then literally a couple of days after the surgery I was feeling so good that I just started asking questions. I said, 'Is it remotely possible?' We left the door open for a possibility, and from there it was just literally day-by-day, just work, doing whatever I could do and we arrived to here."**

— J.J. WATT



Houston Texans running back Duke Johnson (25) dives for a touchdown on Sunday, Dec. 29, against the Tennessee Titans at NRG Stadium. The Titans beat the Texans, 35-14.

# With playoffs approaching, Texans rest starters in regular season finale

By **BILL McCAUGHEY**  
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

The Texans lost to AFC South rival Tennessee, 35-14, on Sunday, Dec. 29, at NRG Stadium in a meaningless contest for the home team.

With the Texans' playoff status locked in as the fourth seed in the AFC after clinching their fourth AFC South title in the last five years last week, coach Bill O'Brien rested his three Pro Bowlers (quarterback Deshaun Watson, wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins and left tackle Laremy Tunsil), along with nose tackle D.J. Reader, linebacker Whitney Mercilus and cornerback Bradley Roby.

Meanwhile, the Titans were motivated to win as they needed a victory to make the playoffs as the sixth seed.

On the Texans' first series, backup quarterback A.J. McCarron directed the team on a 15-play, 75-yard touchdown drive, with running back Duke Johnson scoring on a 1-yard run, to give the Texans a 7-0 lead.

After that, however, it was all quarterback Ryan Tannehill, running back Derrick Henry and receiver AJ Brown as the Titans dominated the Texans.

The Titans quickly responded to Johnson's score with a 51-yard touchdown pass from Tannehill to Brown. The Titans then scored on a Michael Pruitt 1-yard touchdown pass from Tannehill and a Henry 3-yard run before McCarron scored on a 1-yard run, cutting Houston's deficit to 21-14 with 1:16 left in the third quarter.

But Henry, who rushed for 211 yards and three touchdowns to take the league's rushing title, scored on runs of 1 and 53 yards, respectively, in the fourth quarter.

Tannehill completed 13 of 20 passes for 198 yards and two touchdowns. Brown caught four passes for 124 yards and a touchdown.

For the Texans, McCarron completed 21 of 36 passes for 225 yards and rushed for 39 yards and a touchdown. DeAndre Carter had 65 yards on six catches. Taiwan Jones had 40 yards on nine carries.

"I was looking for guys to go out there and compete at a high level," O'Brien said. "We made some good plays, but not nearly enough. I appreciate the guys who played and gave a good effort. We just didn't do enough to win."

The Texans (10-6) play the Buffalo Bills (10-6) on Saturday, Jan. 4, at NRG Stadium in the wild card round of the playoffs. Kickoff is scheduled for 3:35 p.m. on ESPN and ABC. The Bills are the NFL's third-best total defense going up against the 13th-best total offense in the Texans.

The Bills and Texans had four common opponents this season. The Bills lost to the New England Patriots twice, 16-10 and 24-17, while the Texans beat the Patriots, 28-22. The Bills beat the Tennessee Titans, 14-7, and the Texans split with the Titans, winning 24-21 at Tennessee and losing 35-14 at home.

The Bills beat the Denver Broncos, 20-3, while the Broncos beat the Texans, 38-24, and the Baltimore Ravens beat both the Bills, 24-17, and the Texans, 41-7.

"We need to put everything else in our lives in the drawer this week and concentrate on the playoffs," O'Brien said. "Buffalo is a tough team. They work really hard. We just need to limit our mistakes. We have a good football team that is excited about the playoffs."



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# Mond's late run lifts Aggies in Texas Bowl

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

HOUSTON — Until last Friday, Kellen Mond had never owned a cowboy hat. But after throwing for 95 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 117 yards and another touchdown to lift Texas A&M to a 24-21 win over No. 25 Oklahoma State in the 13th Texas Bowl on Dec. 27, the junior quarterback earned a late Christmas present.

"I just need some boots now," Mond cracked to reporters after the game, wearing the cowboy hat awarded to the bowl's Most Valuable Player.

With a little less than 11 minutes left in the fourth quarter, Mond kept the ball on an option play and raced 67 yards for the go-ahead touchdown to break a 14-all tie in front of a mostly-maroon-clad crowd of 68,415 at NRG Stadium.

"It was a speed option to the left," Mond said. "The guy we were pitching to widened out and I was able to give a fake, stick my foot in the ground and get up the field. I made one guy miss and tried my best to get to the end zone."

His best was enough.

Prior to the play, Mond had just 20 yards on 10 carries. But he kept the ball on this option play-call—after the Aggies had earned a first down on a Mond pitch to Ainius Smith earlier in the game—and put A&M ahead for good with 10:45 left.

Mond also had a 30-yard keeper on another option on the next series that set up a 24-yard field goal from former Katy High standout Seth Small.

In the first half, Mond completed 8 of 11 passes for 35 yards and fumbled twice while rushing five times for 12 yards. In the second half, however, he completed 5 of 8 passes for 60 yards and rushed for 105 yards on seven carries.

"I have to thank my teammates," Mond said. "They were the ones who kept me up at halftime. I was frustrated with myself, having two turnovers and a missed throw to Ainius for a touchdown. Them keeping me up and Coach staying on me with positive encouragement, I was able to come out in the second half and lead us to a win."

A&M coach Jimbo Fisher praised Mond's play at the line of scrimmage. Most of the quarterback runs in the second half were checked into, Fisher said. They weren't designed, but were changed to by Mond based on what he saw from the defense.

Fisher called Mond's touchdown run a "big-time play in a big-time moment."

"When you play quarterback, and a lot of times things don't go your way perfectly, it's easy to get frustrated," Fisher said. "It's a great sign of maturity when you don't, and you go back and do the things you can to give your team a chance to win when you're not playing your best. That guy's a heck of a player."

It was the first meeting in eight years between the former Big 12 rivals and the 11th consecutive bowl appearance for the Aggies. The win helped erase the bitter taste from A&M's previous game, a 50-7 defeat to No. 1 LSU on Nov. 30.

It also served as the 100th career win for Fisher, who improved to 2-0 in bowl games at the helm of the Aggies. This one didn't come easily. A&M trailed 14-0 after the first quarter.

"We started out the last game we played, and things didn't work out," Fisher said. "Our team could've said, 'Oh my God, here we go again.' But they didn't lose their poise, battled right back and showed a lot of character. They went right back to fundamentals, and that's what gets you back on track."

Fisher said he hoped his team took away from this season "the urgency to be great."

"The level of consistency and toughness and execution you have to be to be great, and then, when you get to that certain level ... they don't let you eat at that table unless you take a chair," Fisher said. "You've got to want to be there."



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN | FENICE COMMUNITY MEDIA

Oklahoma State linebacker Amen Ogbongbemiga (11) tracks down Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond (11) on a carry during the second half of the Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl game on Friday, Dec. 27, at NRG Stadium in Houston. Texas A&M won, 24-21.

## TEXAS BOWL MVPs

Since its inception in 2006, the Academy Texas Bowl has had an outstanding group of players that has been awarded Most Valuable Player honors, including current players in the National Football League.

- 2007: Andy Dalton, TCU QB
- 2008: Chase Clement, Rice QB
- 2009: Ricky Dobbs, Navy QB
- 2010: Mikel LeShoure, Illinois RB
- 2011: Ryan Tannehill, Texas A&M QB
- 2012: Seth Doege, Texas Tech QB
- 2013: Terrel Hunt, Syracuse QB
- 2014: Brandon Allen, Arkansas QB
- 2015: Leonard Fournette, LSU RB
- 2016: Jesse Ertz, Kansas State QB
- 2017: Michael Dickson, Texas P
- 2018: Charlie Brewer, Baylor QB
- 2019: Kellen Mond, Texas A&M QB

While an otherwise ho-hum game will likely be remembered for Mond's big run, it was the Aggies' defense which enabled that.

Oklahoma State scored 14 points on 163 total yards in the first quarter, embarrassing A&M's defense behind the accuracy of quarterback Dru Brown, playmaking of receiver Braydon Johnson and running of Chuba Hubbard, one of the nation's best backs.

But over the final three quarters, the Cowboys managed just seven points on 171 total yards; in the third quarter, Oklahoma State had 16 yards on 12 plays. The Aggies' defense produced four sacks and nine tackles for a loss.

Sophomore defensive end Tyree Johnson had two sacks and two tackles for a loss. If Mond personified resilience for the offense, Johnson did the same for the defense. Entering the game, he'd had just two sacks all season.

"This whole year, I was expecting to have a more productive season," Johnson said. "Things don't always go the way you planned. But it's not about me. It's about doing my job for the team, and that's what I shifted my focus to in the middle of the season. I was focused on the sacks at the beginning, letting everybody talk about that. I just started focusing more on what I have to do to help the team win and be the best I can be for that."

Oklahoma State averaged 7.4 yards per play at the half, when it led 14-7. It finished at 5.7 yards per play.

"Those guys up front put a lot of pressure on the quarterback," said Fisher, commending the play of sophomore defensive tackle Bobby Brown, junior defensive tackle Jayden Peevy, junior defensive end Michael Clemons, freshman defensive end DeMarvin Leal, and Johnson. "They had the sacks, got penetration. We overran some runs, but we fit better in the secondary. Our front was very physical.

Those young guys played well."

Entering the game, the primary storyline for A&M was its depleted depth at running back. Only one scholarship player, Isaiah Spiller, was available for the game.

It ended up being immaterial.

A&M compiled 248 rushing yards for six yards per carry. Mond led the way, followed by Spiller's 77 yards and a touchdown, and Smith's 54 yards.

In all, the true freshmen Spiller and Smith combined for 179 all-purpose yards. Spiller finished the season as the team's leader in touchdowns with 10.

"Both of those guys are extremely hard workers," Mond said. "For Isaiah to come in as a true freshman and be thrown into the fire ... playing running back is a big-time role understanding run schemes and pass protections, especially in this offense. People don't realize how hard that is. Ainius coming in, us not having a deep running backs corps, he was able to switch from receiver and give our offense a huge kickstart."

A&M's five losses this season came to three No. 1 teams, a No. 4 team and a No. 12 team. Nineteen true freshmen and 11 redshirt freshmen played this year.

Fisher and his players spoke optimistically and proudly about what's to come.

"The biggest thing is we never broke apart as a team," Mond said. "That takes a lot of leaders and leadership from the coaches. When you play those big-time games, and your mindset is you expect to win but you don't, you can fall apart and individualize. But for this team to grow together and stay together, it shows the resilience we have. Obviously, we're going to play great teams next year, so we've got to grow and get better."



Texas A&M sophomore defensive tackle Bobby Brown (5) takes down Oklahoma State running back Chuba Hubbard (30) during the second half of the Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl game on Friday, Dec. 27, at NRG Stadium in Houston. Texas A&M won, 24-21.



Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher holds up the Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl championship trophy after beating Oklahoma State 24-21 on Friday, Dec. 27, at NRG Stadium in Houston.

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The third annual Houston Sports Awards will honor Carl Lewis, Mary Lou Retton and Rudy Tomjanovich as its third Hall of Fame Class.

The Legacy winners are chosen by the Sports Awards Executive Committee with input from the Selection Committee. The committees are comprised of sportswriters and electronic sports media members who live and work in the Greater Houston area.

Houston Texans outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus and Houston Astros owner Jim Crane join Lifetime Achievement Award Bob McNair, the late Houston Texans owner, as the 2020 Legacy Award winners. The nominees for six other awards which will be given out on January 21 have also been selected.

### COACH OF THE YEAR

- A.J. Hinch – Houston Astros
- Tina Langley – Rice Owls
- Bill O'Brien – Houston Texans
- Kelvin Sampson – University of Houston

### ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

- Simone Biles

- Alex Bregman
- James Harden
- Justin Verlander
- Deshaun Watson

### COLLEGE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

- Corey Davis – University of Houston
- Jalen Hurts – University of Oklahoma
- Nicole Lennon – Rice University
- Erica Ogwumike – Rice University

### HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

- Devon Achane – Fort Bend Marshall High School
- Matthew Boling – Strake Jesuit College Preparatory
- Zach Evans – North Shore High School
- Libby Overmyer – Kingwood Park High School

### MOMENT OF THE YEAR

- Jose Altuve's walk-off home run in Game 6 to clinch the American League Championship
- James Harden's 61-point game in 114-100 win at New York Knicks
- Kaycee Feild wins 5th Bareback Riding title at Rodeo Houston
- Texans beat Patriots for the first time since January 3, 2010

## LENNON

from page B1

couple people from that team, so we had a good starting point. We worked so hard in the spring. We worked on all of our weaknesses and got better at the stuff we were already good at, so we knew this season would be great. It exceeded my expectations, even so."

### Q: As a team, what were some of those weaknesses that were addressed?

A: "Playing out of system. Whenever you get a bad pass and the setter is running around, you have to find a way to attack it still, aggressively, so you can still finish the play. We'd always been great working with the perfect pass, but we worked a lot in the spring on being great with a not-perfect pass. You're out of system a lot in the game of volleyball, so being good at that gives you an edge over other teams. Coaches put us in crazy scenarios of running down balls, diving and throwing up balls to finish the play; learning to improv and figuring out how to better the ball."

### Q: Coming into this year, you were third in Rice history in kills per set. You averaged 4.78 kills per set this year. Did you see yourself better in that aspect compared to last year?

A: "I did. Last year, my biggest improvement was freshman year to sophomore year when I got better at making fewer errors. Last spring, I just built off that. I know my team is counting on me, and when they set me in pressure situations, that's when I know they trust me. That happened more this year than it did last year. The results came with that."

### Q: In your attack and hitting, is there anything you found you really particularly improved in?

A: "I was a lot smarter in what I was doing. Freshman year, I was swinging at every ball as hard as I could. As the years have gone on and now, I threw in a lot more shots and tips and rolls. It keeps the other team on their toes. Teams will sit back deep on me because they know I'm going

to swing, so whenever you throw in a tip or two they're caught off guard."

### Q: Is there a difference when you have that responsibility of being a go-to hitter in high school compared to college?

A: "It's very different. College is already bottle-necking from high school. Fewer than 10 percent of the girls you play in high school play in college. To have recognition in college is a way higher honor. I was always happy about being recognized in high school, because that's your world at the moment. But I was nervous about college and how I'd end up. But with a lot of hard work, I was able to make myself known. The college level is so high, I'm really proud of myself and the team for being at that level."

### Q: Was there anything else you worked on in the spring offseason to get ready for this year?

A: "I'm always working on all facets of my game. As a six-rotation player, I have to hit, block, serve, pass, dig. I'm always trying to become better so I can be an asset for my team in every one of those areas."

### Q: Going into next season, what expectations do you have for yourself and what more can the team do to take that next step?

A: "I'll be the only senior, so I'll have to take a huge leadership role. That will be new for me, because I've always been on a team with girls older than me. I'll have to step up and experience something new. As a team, we already are good in most aspects of the game, but we want to be great, especially in ball-control. We want to work a lot on serve-serve and stay known for our defense."

### Q: Have you thought about how you want to become the leader and what your approach will be in that regard?

A: "I'll be able to get there with the help of my coach. If I ever need advice, I can ask her. But what helps is I have really good relationships with my teammates, and I think they'll respect the fact that I have a lot of experience and that I know a lot about college volleyball. I think that will make it easier for me."



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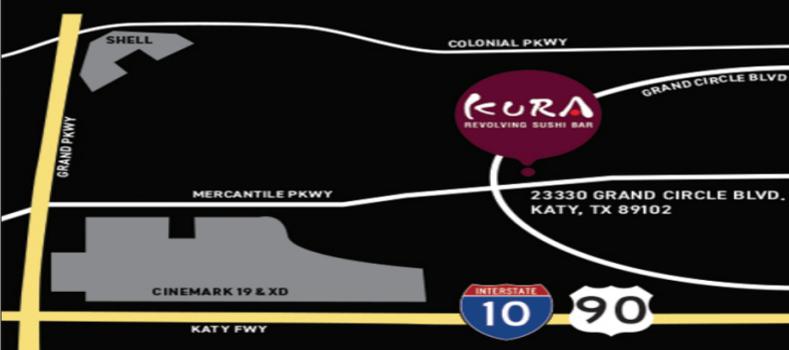
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SULTS & SCHEDULE**To submit scores, news or  
schedules, email [dennis.silva@katytimes.com](mailto:dennis.silva@katytimes.com)**THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 2****BOYS SOCCER**

- Katy vs. Channelview, at Pearland Dawson High, 4 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Pasadena Dobie, at Pasadena Memorial Stadium, 2 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Hays, at Hays High, 8 a.m.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

- Katy vs. Kingwood Park, at Kingwood Park High, Noon
- Tompkins vs. Klein, at The Woodlands High, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at The Woodlands Invitational

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3****GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Tompkins at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Katy, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 11:30 a.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

- Morton Ranch at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Katy at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Bryan Rudder at Paetow, 1 p.m.

**BOYS SOCCER**

- Morton Ranch at Paetow, 12:45 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Cypress Fair, at Cinco Ranch High, Noon
- Katy vs. Conroe, at Pearland Dawson High, 5 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. Cypress Creek, at Pearland High, 2 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Cypress Park, at Berry Center, 8:15 a.m.; Taylor vs. Bellaire, at Pidgeon Stadium, 1:45 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Cibolo Steele, at Lehman High, 4 p.m.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

- Katy vs. Alief Taylor, at Kingwood Park High, 4 p.m.
- Tompkins vs. St. Johns, at The Woodlands High, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at The Woodlands Invitational

**SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 4****BOYS SOCCER**

- Katy vs. Pasadena, at Manvel High, 10 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Klein Oak, at Pearland Dawson High, 10 a.m.
- Taylor vs. Memorial, at Pidgeon Stadium, 11:45 a.m.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

- Katy vs. Kingwood, at Kingwood High, 10 a.m.
- Tompkins vs. Cedar Ridge, at The Woodlands High, 7:30 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at The Woodlands Invitational

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6****BOYS SOCCER**

- Seven Lakes at Paetow, 5 p.m.
- Brazoswood at Cinco Ranch, 3 p.m.
- Fort Bend Bush at Morton Ranch, 7:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 7****GIRLS BASKETBALL**

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

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

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

# BEST OF THE BEST



PHOTOS BY RICE ATHLETICS

Rice junior outside hitter and former Cinco Ranch star Nicole Lennon is one of four nominees for the 2020 Houston Sports Awards' College Athlete of the Year.

## Lennon nominated for College Athlete of the Year

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

After making the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2009 in 2018, Rice volleyball took it up a notch in 2019, totaling its second-most wins in a season with 27, winning its first NCAA tournament game with a sweep of Oklahoma, and ranking in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 25 for the first time.

A big reason for that success was junior outside hitter and former Cinco Ranch star Nicole Lennon. Lennon recorded 505 kills (good for fourth all-time in a Rice single season) and 362 digs, totaling 20 double-doubles and 20 or more kills in eight matches.

For that, Lennon is one of four nominees for the 2020 Houston Sports Awards' College Athlete of the Year. The awards show, created by the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority, recognizes the most accomplished athletes, coaches, teams, contributors and moments in Houston sports.

The show will be held Jan. 21 at the Hilton Americas.

Along with Lennon, fellow Rice star

Erica Ogwumike (women's basketball), Jalen Hurts (Oklahoma football), and Corey Davis (University of Houston men's basketball) are nominees for College Athlete of the Year. Rice coach Tina Langley is a nominee for Coach of the Year.

"My coach texted me and said, 'Congrats on being nominated!' I was like, 'What award?' She sent it to me and that's how I found out," Lennon said. "She was really happy for me. I've never been nominated for a city-wide award or non-conference-related award. I was just really honored to be noticed."

"Obviously, that's thanks to my team and how well we did this season. It was really flattering."

Lennon was an AVCA All-Region selection and AVCA All-America honorable mention choice. She established a Conference USA record with seven Offensive Player of the Week awards and ranked 11th in the NCAA in kills per set (4.78).

Lennon compiled her 1,000th career kill in a Sept. 7 sweep of Abilene Christian and posted 23 kills in Rice's upset over then-No. 3 Texas on Sept. 18.

"It takes a lot, especially for women's

sports, for them to really see you," Lennon said. "Basketball and football, they get a lot of exposure. It's easy to hear about one of those guys. But for me and one of the basketball players at my school to be noticed, it's even more of an honor, in my opinion."

Lennon recently talked with The Katy Times about her 2019 breakout season.

**Q:** Rice volleyball had a tremendous season, going 27-4. What do you credit for that success?

**A:** "I think the reason we were so successful this year was the relationships between the girls. We're all best friends. We have great chemistry. We have so much fun. Whenever you're getting along and having fun on the court, it shows in the level of play."

**Q:** Did you have a feeling coming into this year that y'all could have the year you did have? Or was it unexpected?

**A:** "My sophomore year (2018), we had a really great season. We only lost a

See LENNON, page B2

## Youngsters Froe, Perdue key for Katy

By DENNIS SILVA II  
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Dayvaughn Froe knows what it's like to be a freshman basketball player on varsity at Katy High. He knows how hard it is to grasp the intricacies of a playbook predicated more upon reads than simple plug-and-play. He knows what it's like to earn a spot and, perhaps just as important, how to keep it.

So, when the now-sophomore point guard looks around at practice or during games and sees freshman post Aydan Perdue holding his own, Froe can respect that more than most.

He's been there, done that. And it's not easy.

"I was a freshman on varsity last year, and I know, for me, the coaches having enough confidence to have me on varsity was big," Froe said. "I competed like I belonged. I think that's the same thing with Aydan."

While the coaches' confidence in him was significant, Froe admitted his own was low. His emotions ran too high or too low, based on his play. He was desperate to prove himself.

It's the same thing Perdue finds himself doing now.

"My mindset is to work hard and prove myself every night," Perdue said. "I don't want to just be out there and not be a



DENNIS SILVA II

Katy High sophomore point guard Dayvaughn Froe, left, and Katy High freshman post Aydan Perdue are leaders and strong contributors for the Tigers this season.

See TIGERS, page B6

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# Dennis Bonnen 'likely violated' law

By CASSANDRA POLLOCK  
TEXAS TRIBUNE

The House General Investigating Committee on Friday unanimously adopted a report from its legal advisers that said House Speaker Dennis Bonnen "likely violated" state law during a June meeting with a fellow member and a hardline conservative activist — though members didn't raise the idea of any possible action against Bonnen and said the investigation was closed.

"Today's action concludes the committee's investigation," said state Rep. Morgan Meyer, a Dallas Republican who chairs the committee, after members met behind closed doors for over an hour.

Meyer, who left the hearing room at the Texas Capitol without taking questions from reporters, said the full report from the three legal advisers retained in October by the committee would be "promptly transmitted" to House members. The committee did not immediately release the report to the public, though a copy was later obtained by The Texas Tribune.

The report concluded by saying the information produced "militates against criminal prosecution" against either Bonnen or state Rep. Dustin Burrows, a Lubbock Republican considered one of the speaker's top lieutenants who was involved in the political fallout — a line that the speaker's office reiterated in a statement after the news.

"The committee has confirmed what we have known for months and the conclusion of their



House Speaker Dennis Bonnen announces committee chairs at the state capitol. Jan 23, 2019.

PHOTO BY MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR. FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

report speaks for itself," Cait Meisenheimer, a spokesperson for Bonnen, said in a statement.

Bonnen "likely violated" section 572.051(a) of the Texas Government Code, according to Meyer, who was reading from the report during the committee hearing — but advisers in the report said the law provided no "independent statutory consequences" for

a state official who breaches it.

That section states that a state officer or employee should not "accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence the officer or employee in the discharge of official duties, or that the officer or employee knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the officer's

of employee's official conduct."

The section also states that such a person should not "intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the officer's or employee's official powers."

Citing the report, Meyer also said that lawyers did not find supporting evidence that either Bonnen or Burrows broke other parts of state law. Meyer also noted that, if state Rep. Charlie Geren, a Fort Worth Republican who chairs the House Administration Committee, was correct about characterizing Empower Texans as a group that participates in lobbying activities, then giving Sullivan's organization credentials to the floor of the lower chamber would be a violation of House rules. Geren has previously denied Empower Texans those credentials.

The issue at hand dates back to late July, when hardline conservative activist Michael Quinn Sullivan revealed he had secretly recorded a meeting with Bonnen and one of the speaker's top lieutenants the month before at the Capitol. During the meeting, Bonnen offered Sullivan's group media credentials to the lower chamber if its political action committee targeted 10 Republicans in the 2020 primaries.

Bonnen also disparaged a number of House Democrats. And the speaker, as well as state

Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, made comments criticizing local government officials.

Sullivan's secret recording set off a months-long political drama that ultimately ended in Bonnen announcing he would not seek reelection to the lower chamber — and, consequently, the speakership — after serving in the House for over 20 years. Amid the fallout, Burrows also stepped down as chair of the House GOP Caucus.

As the drama was playing out, the General Investigating Committee asked the Texas Rangers, the state's top law enforcement agency, to investigate the matter — a request that the District Attorney Jeri Yenne from the speaker's hometown also made soon after. In October, the Rangers concluded their investigation and submitted findings to Yenne, who announced Bonnen would not face criminal prosecution over his remarks during that June meeting.

After Yenne announced her decision, attention turned to the committee, which retained three legal advisers in October to help review the final report and advise them "on the most appropriate next steps." The three legal advisers are Patricia Gray, Will Hartnett, both of whom are former members of the House, and Thomas Phillips, a former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Democrats, for their part, said that Friday's news reiterated the need for the

Texas Legislature to pass "substantial ethics reforms."

"It is unfortunate that Chairman Meyer scheduled today's hearing to be part of a Friday news dump right before the holidays," state Rep. Chris Turner, who chairs the House Democratic Caucus, said in a statement. "If the committee has found that there is no consequence for transacting campaign business in the state capitol building or exchanging House media credentials for political favors, then we need to pass new laws. House Democrats will be ready to lead that effort when the Legislature convenes in 2021."

Further action is now up to the full 150-member House. The General Investigating Committee, according to House rules, can propose articles of impeachment — but did not do so during Friday's hearing. If House members wanted to act on the impeachment of Bonnen, they would have three vehicles to do so during the legislative interim, according to Section 665 of the state's government code, including the governor issuing a proclamation calling the House back into session.

A copy of the full Rangers report, which committee members have had since October, has not been made available to the public. An open records request to the Department of Public Safety was referred to the attorney general's office, which has 45 days to determine whether the report should be turned over.

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## RISK

from page A1

things that can be prevented,” said Lieutenant Joe Driver, public information officer for the Westlake Volunteer Fire Department.

### Past efforts

Katy's fire departments are building their education programs as the populations they serve grow and they are all at different stages in developing outreach initiatives.

The Katy Fire Department has been concentrating for the last few years on converting from a volunteer group of firefighters to a full-time, professional firefighting team, said Katy Fire Chief Rusty Wilson. As the department grows, Wilson said, it will continue to develop its outreach programs, but that will take time.

Katy FD's outreach programs have mostly focused on being involved in schools to help children understand fire safety, KFD Fire Inspector-Investigator Enrique Escobedo said. Appearances at community events with child-oriented materials also occurs throughout the year.

Willowfork Fire Department Chief Billy Wilson said his team has not been able to do as much outreach as they'd like due to staffing and funding. The department visits community organizations upon request, but as a mostly-volunteer department, Willowfork hasn't been able to build a large outreach program.

Westlake has been offering a variety of classes for quite some time, Driver said. The department offers stop the bleed classes, an emergency medical technician course and various other classes for adults and children throughout the year.

HCESD 48 Community Paramedic Joe Casciotti oversees the department's training programs such as CPR training, infection control, blood drives, stop the bleed and matter of balance classes - issues that directly affect the health of residents in HCESD 48. He also manages the Community Paramedicine Program which is designed to help reduce return visits to hospitals, he said.

Tharp handles community events such as home safety surveys, car seat inspections, open houses and Katy Safety Fest - activities that involve training residents for prevention or inspecting homes. HCESD 48 began hosting Katy Safety Fest as its largest community event in 2016 and it has grown every year since then, department officials said. All the Katy area's fire departments participate in the annual festival.

Tharp said the growth of the community education and prevention function of the department have taken a long time and a lot of communication. The departments



Harris County Emergency Services District 48 Community Paramedic Joe Casciotti discusses the need for volunteers in community risk reduction programs at a recent HCESD 48 gathering.

all speak to one another and share best practices so they can each keep improving their programs, he said.

“This has really grown. Probably about four years ago it was just beginning and developing,” Tharp said.

### Current programs

HCESD 48 has grown enough that it has been able to formalize its outreach efforts, Tharp said. The department was able to establish a \$61,000 budget for community risk reduction for the 2020 fiscal year, he said. The budget for 2019 had not been formalized but earlier reports indicated the expenditures at less than \$40,000.

Tharp said many of the trainings offered by HCESD 48 are free of charge, though some have costs the department minimizes to encourage participation. Safe sitter and fire extinguisher classes are generally free, though materials for other classes or fire extinguisher recharging may have an associated fee. Home safety surveys - a home inspection that looks at fire risks and other safety concerns - are free to the public.

Legislative requirements imposed on schools to ensure staff know how to deal with bleeding cases in the event of emergencies has increased demand for trainings offered by fire departments, Tharp said. Some schools are training more people than required, when having a few properly trained faculty and staff would suffice, he added. Casciotti has been helping set up training with Katy ISD.

“[The] important thing is making sure they know how to use the equipment,” Tharp said. “That’s been the challenge in our whole area.”

HCESD 48 also conducts smoke alarm blitzes - a community event where firefighters go into a neighborhood and do brief safety inspections that include examining and replacing smoke alarms, Tharp said. In 2019, the department replaced

nearly 1,000 unserviceable smoke alarms, he said. Smoke alarms for blitzes are often provided to fire departments by The American Red Cross at no charge.

CPR, stop the bleed and basic first aid courses are the core of the education courses offered by Westlake VFD, Driver said. Westlake also offers an EMT course - the only one in Katy outside of the Miller Career & Technology Center operated by Katy ISD - which is necessary to become or maintain the necessary certifications for a career as an EMT.

“It’s one of those things that it’s a perishable skill,” Driver said, “If they need a reminder they can always come back.”

Billy Wilson said Willowfork's only class it offers currently is a fire extinguisher course, though the department does go into schools and other places for fire safety seminars, upon request.

“We use actual full scale and full-sized fire extinguishers, but they’re done with lasers instead of discharging extinguishers,” Billy Wilson said.

The Katy Fire Department's community programs are mostly oriented toward children, Escobedo said. The department makes as many appearances with Fire Truck Freddy - a radio controlled fire truck designed to interest small children - as it can and works with the schools within its service area to ensure children are given training in fire safety. However, he said the department is trying to do more outreach as staffing allows.

“There’s also the proactive element,” Rusty Wilson said. “We need to be doing education, inspections and investigations. We’re starting to get those covered.”

### Future growth

All of Katy's fire departments understand their community outreach programs have room to grow both in formal classes and out in the community.



First aid and CPR courses help residents react properly for better outcomes in the event of an emergency that involves an injury.



Safe Sitter courses teach adolescents the basics of keeping themselves and the children they care for safe when babysitting or watching siblings.

“On my side - the home safety surveys - we’d like to double our numbers,” Tharp said. “We’re sitting at about 64 for the year, but we’d like to double that.”

HCESD 48 is also adding a citizens’ fire academy and vacation fire school and partnering with local businesses, nonprofits and churches, Tharp said. The department has recently added a safe sitter course, which teaches children basic first aid and safety skills to use when babysitting.

Rusty Wilson said Katy FD's focus is adding staff and training them, but the department is planning on increasing its outreach programs as much as staffing and responding to fires and other incidents allow.

Escobedo said he is working on adding smoke alarm blitzes to Katy FD's outreach itinerary because it is important to raise resident awareness.

“I’ve been to inspections where at an apartment - residents will take down alarms because of smoke from cooking,” Escobedo said. “[They just] take out batteries.”

Billy Wilson said Willowfork isn't at the point where it can start expanding its outreach programs quickly, but he realizes the need for

outreach in his district. The recent purchase of fire extinguisher training equipment and an inflatable fire safety house set the department up to do as much as possible with the resources at its disposal.

“Right now it’s just the fire extinguisher training and home fire surveys,” Billy Wilson said, but added, “The public is where we need to be.”

Driver said he has plans for Westlake's outreach in 2020. The department has budgeted to begin doing smoke alarm blitzes and will be offering a Flight Nurse Medic course in 2020 which provides the highest level of certification available in emergency medicine.

Driver said some safety courses and services will be available to request or register for online soon - a feature that HCESD 48 began offering in the fall of 2019 through Eventbrite.

The departments encourage the public to reach out to them with any fire safety issues they'd like advice on or if they want a home fire safety survey.

“[We are] going to continue to push out our community programs and events to have a greater presence within the Katy area,” Tharp said.

## WATER

from page A1

residents because it sources water in Harris, Fort Bend and Waller counties, Harris said. As a result, the city of Katy was able to raise its overall rate by only \$0.08 rather than the full \$0.25 due to Waller County water not being subject to the water authorities' surcharges.

The North Fort Bend Water Authority increased its fees by 30 cents from \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons of surface water pumped and \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater pumped to \$4.30 and \$3.95, respectively Dec. 19. Meanwhile the West Harris County Regional Water Authority had already increased its groundwater fee from \$2.95 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater and \$3.35 per 1,000 gallons

of surface water to \$3.20 and \$3.60, respectively Nov. 13. The increased rates are effective Jan. 1, 2020.

According to documentation from both water authorities, the fees are used to fund projects to bring surface water to residents in western Harris and northern Fort Bend counties from Lake Houston. While most of the region has access to well water, the projects are being undertaken to prevent subsidence - the sinking of land which results from water being pumped out of aquifers.

According to the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, land in the Katy area has sunk by a foot or more since 1906 and land in downtown Houston near the intersection of the Gulf Freeway and Highway 90 Alternate has sunk by 10 feet or more during that same time. That sinking has put the Brownwood subdivision in Baytown underwater and

can increase the risk of flooding further inland, according to the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District.

The city of Fulshear had to increase its billing to accommodate the full \$0.30 increase from the North Fort Bend Water Authority, said Fulshear Public Works Director Sharon Valiante. Instead, the city passes the full cost of the increased surcharge through rather than subsidizing it through other portions of its budget, she said. While a service charge to pay for the administration of the water authority's surcharge was considered, it was decided against by city officials, she said.

“It’s just a pass-along. It’s a passthrough fee. Period,” Valiante said. “We were going to [add a processing fee], but decided it was probably not the best interests of everybody to do that, so we did just a flat passthrough.”

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the water authorities and subsidence district, visit their websites or attend their regularly-held public meetings:

### Harris-Galveston Subsidence District

www.hgsubsidence.org  
Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.  
1660 W. Bay Area Blvd.  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
Phone: 281-486-1105

### West Harris County Regional Water Authority

Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.  
Fry Road MUD  
20111 Saums Road  
Katy, TX 77449  
Phone: 281-398-8211

### North Fort Bend Water Authority

Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.  
Willow Fork Country Club  
21055 Westheimer Parkway  
Katy, TX 77450

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

**Owner:** Mason Creek Utility District  
**Owner's Office:** 847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450  
**Project (the Work):** Replacement of equipment in M.C.C.C. pump room (after plane crash), as further described in the Contract Documents  
**Project location:** 20201 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX.  
 Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by **January 17, 2020 at 4:00 PM**, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on [civcastusa.com](http://civcastusa.com). A pre-bid conference is set for January 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the Project Location. /s /James "Trey" Hamblet, Project Officer.

#### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ORDINANCE NO. 2935 BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON DECEMBER 9, 2019:

**An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 "Traffic And Vehicles" Of The City Of Katy Code Of Ordinances And Amending Article 12.05 "Parking Restrictions On Specific Streets" By Amending Section 12.05.041 "No Parking Zones" To Prohibit Parking On The South Side Of Poplar Creek Ln West Of Woodcreek Bend Ln To The Intersection Of Morgan Creek Ln; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability; And Providing For A Penalty Not To Exceed \$200 For A Violation Of The Ordinance.**

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Summons In the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, Division of St. Croix LPP Mortgage, Inc. f/k/a LPP Mortgage, Ltd., Plaintiff, v. Patsy Raveneau a/k/a Patsy Revineau, and Lenore Raveneau, Defendants. Case No: SX-18-CV-73 Action for Debt and Foreclosure of Real Property Mortgage The Government of the Virgin Islands: To: Patsy Raveneau a/k/a Patsy Revineau, Defendant Address: 3735 E. Piper Grove Drive, Katy, TX 77449. Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the complaint for debt and foreclosure of real property mortgage. Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2019 Estrella H. George, Clerk of the Court Matthew R. Reinhardt, Esq., Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A., 1000 Blackbeard's Hill, Suite 10, St. Thomas, VI 00802 Mailing Address: 255 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 900, Orlando, FL 32801 Tel: (855) 2870240 [matthew.reinhardt@qpwbllaw.com](mailto:matthew.reinhardt@qpwbllaw.com) Note: The defendant, if served personally, is required to file his answer of other defense with the Clerk of the Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty-one (21) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of the service. The defendant, if served by publication, or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, is required to file his answer, or other defense, with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for **WATER WELL NO. 10** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 16, 2020.**

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas  
 The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

A Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable, without recourse, to the Owner or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute bonds in forms provided as outlined in the Contract Documents. Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Maintenance Bond, in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required.

For public projects, not less than the minimum wage rates as prescribed in the General Conditions must be paid.

The Contract for this project will be awarded by the City based on the lowest and best bid received

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

Bonded general contractor may obtain one set of bid documents for each project at the office of the Engineer, **Clay & Leyendecker, Inc., 1350 Avenue D, Katy, Texas 77493, (281) 391-0173**, upon deposit of a check or cash only in the amount of \$40.00/set, payable to Clay & Leyendecker, Inc. Bidder must telephone before coming to pick up plans. Said amount will be refunded if the bid documents are returned in **good condition within one (1) week** of the date of bid. Otherwise, no refunds will be made. Additional sets may be purchased for \$40.00. Subcontractors and Suppliers may purchase sets for \$40.00 which will not be refunded.

#### NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Thursday, January 23, 2020, At 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2020-02, The Application Of **Laurinda Goncalves**, Present Owner, Under Section 22.5-3 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **4961 South Nelson Way**, In An "R-1" Single Family District. Property Description: Lot 11, Morrison Boulevard Place R/P, Reserve Y, Katy, Harris County, Texas.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Platted Side Yard Building Setback Of Five Feet (5') For The Placement Of A Back Yard Deck.

David Minze, Chairman  
 Zoning Board of Adjustment

#### NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Thursday, January 23, 2020, At 1:00 P.M.** In Council Chambers At Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas, On Docket No. 2020-01, The Application Of **Katy Independent School District**, Present Owner, Agent is **PBK Architects**. Under Section 22.5-3 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Legal Description Of The Lot To Be Affected: **TRS 2N-1 AND 2P-1, A-452, H&TCRR SECTION 65, BLOCK 2**, In An "R-1" Single Family District. Property Is Located In Harris County.

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Minimum Height Requirement Of Thirty-Five (35) Feet And To Not Exceed Two And One-Half (2-1/2) Stories In Height. The Variance Is For The Proposed Building That Exceeds The Maximum By One-Half (1/2) Story Measuring Eight (8) Feet Over The Allowable Height.

David Minze, Chairman  
 Zoning Board of Adjustment

## CINCO SOUTHWEST MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2 NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES AND PENALTIES

Notice is hereby given that, at a meeting on December 16, 2019, the Board of Directors of Cinco Southwest Municipal Utility District No. 2 (the "District") adopted a Resolution Establishing Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of the District's Online Portal System ("Resolution"), providing rules and regulations governing the use of the District's online portal system and related phone application for water usage data. Violation of any of the rules or regulations contained in the Resolution will subject the violator to a fine of up to \$10,000 per violation. Each separate occurrence and day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate violation. A copy of the Resolution, with all of its rules and regulations, including the penalty listed above, is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where it may be read in full.

/s/Alan Hirshman  
 President, Board of Directors

### MISC.

### MISC.

### MISC.

### MISC.



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is District Administration Building located at 21201 Morton Road, Katy, Texas 77449.

#### NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 1 is 21055 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77450.

#### NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2 is Willowfork Fire Station, 24655 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77494.

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## Let me tell you about Caleb, the Christmas Tree

I went with my parents to get a Christmas tree. All the trees were wearing hangtags shaped like bells and all the bells had hand-lettered names on them. At first, I assumed these trees were spoken for and the names indicated the person who had reserved the tree. Then I realized that, no, the names were for the trees.

This was a fancy place and apparently, when you spend as much as this store was charging for a tree, the tree came complete with a name. Actually, for what they were charging, I'm surprised the trees didn't come with at least a two-year degree from a vo-tech college. Still, they were lovely trees, I must admit. We immediately spotted a Balsam fir named Howard, and the wind was so chill I was fully prepared to pile Howard on top of the car and call it a day.

But tradition insisted we make something resembling a hunt and so we reviewed the rest of the trees lined up in the windy parking lot until we came to one that seemed to have near perfect shape: not too bushy, an attractive leader at the top, no straggly branches at the bottom, and just the right height. There was only one problem: the tree was named Caleb.

"Mom, Caleb is not a good name for a Christmas tree."

"No, it really isn't," my mother agreed.

We both studied Caleb silently. There was no denying that Caleb was an attractive tree.

"Maybe we could rename him," my mother suggested, as we strapped Caleb to the roof for the short drive home.

My dad got out the metal tree stand which is old and a little rusty and will never be replaced because you can't buy one like it anymore. He pounded the tree down onto the stake in the middle of the pan and tightened the screws. He raised the tree into a standing position and its branches slowly relaxed, showing off its full splendor, then he wrapped it in a few strings of lights.

"Do you think that's enough lights?" my mother asked my husband, Peter, (who is the least likely to have an opinion on the subject) and Peter declared that there were plenty of lights.

Then my mom pulled out the ornaments and wondered aloud where many of them came from and how long we have had them. We don't remember.

Except we know the little fellow in the canoe used to be holding an oar until my dad carved a tiny paddle for him (because what was he doing with an oar in a canoe?) And my mom remembers the ornaments she brought back the year they visited the Holy Land. But what about the sled that had my dad's name on it and the year: 1982? It is a mystery—as is the angel made of pinecones and the tiny skiers holding tiny skies and the surprising number of mice in Christmas attire.

"You could have dressed up a whole string of them you caught under the sink this week!" I suggested to my mom (a thought she did not seem to care for).

There were a few glass balls hung to fill in the empty spaces and the whole process was finished in what seemed like no time at all.

"I think Caleb looks very nice!" my mother declared.

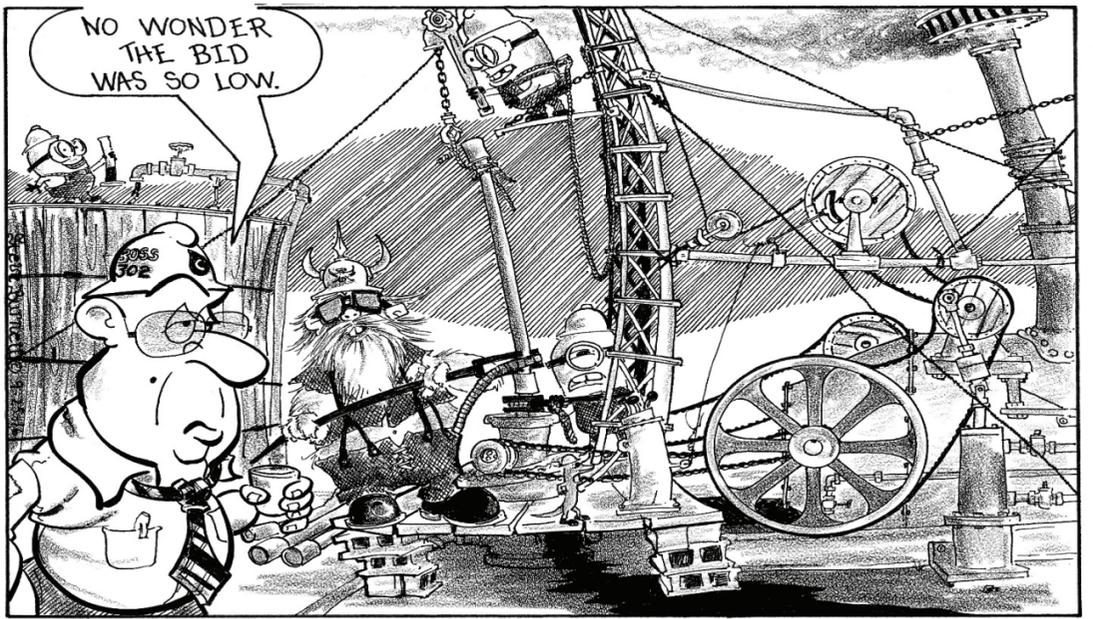
And, while I still thought it was a wildly inappropriate name for a Christmas tree, Caleb had somehow managed—as is often the case this time of year—to embody the Christmas spirit exactly.

Until next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).



CARRIE CLASSON  
THE POSTSCRIPT



## Grammar Guy, I presume ... assume?

Have you ever been confused about something, but you didn't want to look dumb asking about it?

For instance, you might think Cappuccino drinks are made from ground up Capuchin monkeys, even though that sounds pretty cruel. Without questioning the coffee industry, you just go along with it, until one day your girlfriend orders a Cappuccino during a date. Suddenly you shout at the top of your lungs, "How could you do that to the monkeys?!" in the middle of your local coffeehouse.

The words "presume" and "assume" are kind of like that. They're kind of similar, so let's just use them interchangeably. Wrong. I think to understand the difference between the two words, we need to understand what "-sume" means. Get your togas on, because it's time for a Latin lesson, folks!

According to The Latin



CURTIS HONEYCUTT  
GRAMMAR GUY

Dictionary, "sumere" means "to put on or take up." Google's Latin to English translator sums it up in one word: take.

You already know that the prefix "pre" means "before." So, when we presume something, we have "put on" what we think about something based on prior or previous knowledge or evidence. Presuming is when we suppose something based on a decent probability that it's true. For instance, when I walked into my lecture hall class, I presumed the woman in the pantsuit at the lectern was my professor.

The prefix "as" shows up as a variant of the prefix "ad"

when the next letter in the word is an "s." Trust me; I looked that up in the dictionary. The prefix "as" means "assert." So "assume" is when we "assertively" "take" on an opinion about something without any evidence or prior knowledge. Assuming almost always gets us in trouble.

Both presume and assume have to do with "supposing" something. The difference is, presume is supposing something about which you already know at least a little bit. Think of

"presume" as an educated guess and "assume" as an asinine guess.

To avoid looking asinine, get the facts on words like presume and assume before you use them in casual conversation. While you're at it, school yourself on common coffee terms; you'd hate to assume your significant other is a ground-up monkey drinking psychopath.

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

### PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE A5

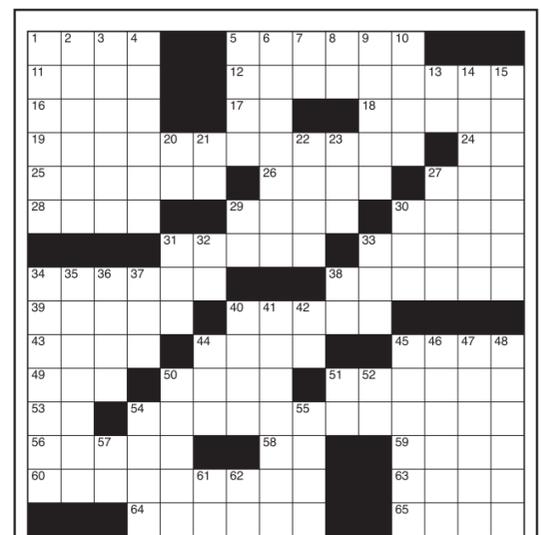
#### SUDOKU

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

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#### CLUES ACROSS

- Database management system
- Soft blue-gray mineral
- Algerian coastal city
- A healthy redness
- El \_\_, border town
- Part of the mind
- Female body part
- Atrocities
- You can call Paul Simon this
- Copyread
- Large integers
- Large, flightless bird
- Bread and whiskey are two
- Indicate pain or discomfort
- Worry
- Wild goats
- Belittle
- More supernatural
- Wakes up
- Intestinal pouches
- Popular dance
- American state
- CSI actor
- Having a keen enthusiasm for
- Swiss river
- Restaurant item
- Intense unhappiness
- Unit of loudness
- Increase in velocity
- Mesoamerican religion
- Early multimedia
- Forearm bone
- An unprincipled person
- Swarming with
- Shellfish
- Root of taro plant
- Noses
- Smile
- One who examines closely
- Lethal dose
- Denotes past
- "This Is Us" actor Fitch
- Dabbling ducks
- Polish beer
- A type of cat
- Shows respect for
- Of I
- Commercial
- Chai and chamomile are two
- Lodging option
- Geological times
- Unit of electrical inductance (abbr.)
- Where G-men work
- Hot beverage
- One of the six noble gases
- Southern constellation
- South American nation
- Suitable for use as food
- The back
- I (German)
- Blood group
- Fit to stand trial
- Praise excessively
- Female's title
- EU predecessor
- Acutely insightful and wise
- Disguised
- Improved the appearance of
- Generator
- The real \_\_, the genuine article
- Male's title
- Home of the Hawkeys
- About aviation
- At all times
- Military peace officer
- College degree
- Indicates position

#### CLUES DOWN

- More silly
- Adult beverage
- Iron used for lofting

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Letters to the editor have been around for ages and are a proven way to get the attention of elected officials, community members and the staff here at the Katy Times. Concerned about a development or excited about new shopping opportunities? Angry about a public facility's decline or excited about how well your high school's debate team is performing? We want to hear it all.

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We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Katy Times Staff



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## Sheriff's Office investigating shooting

By R. HANS MILLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is investigating a shooting at local barber shop Magic's Kutts & Fades located at 239045 Franz Road, just west of the Grand Parkway. Witnesses have told police that on Dec. 21 the suspect, a black male possibly driving a gray Honda Accord, shot a barber shop employee during an argument over a haircut.

"The customer retrieved a pistol and shot the employee multiple times," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez via Twitter. "The injured male is in serious condition."

The sheriff's office is still conducting its investigation, HCSO Director of Public Affairs Jason Spencer said via email Dec. 27. Initial details shared with the public indicate that the shooter had brought his 13-year-old son in to get a haircut. After the haircut, the suspect found out the child did not like the haircut and returned to the shop. The barber redid the haircut, but an altercation occurred afterward and the suspect allegedly went to his vehicle, removed a firearm and shot the barber, then fled the scene.

HCSO has identified a suspect and is interested in questioning the suspect but does not identify suspects in an investigation unless charges have been filed, Spencer said. As of Dec. 27, the victim of the shooting was recovering and expected to survive, he added.

"When it's finished, the evidence will be presented to the District Attorney's Office for them to determine possible charges," Spencer said.

HCSO is asking anyone with additional information the department at 713-221-6000 or CrimeStoppers at 713-222-8477.



R. HANS MILLER

According to witnesses, a father who was unhappy with the haircut his son had received at Magic's Kutts & Fades shot an employee over the issue during a Dec. 21 altercation. Employees at neighboring businesses have said the barber shop has been closed since the incident.

### PET OF THE WEEK

#### MEET MOCHI!

Female | Akita mix | 2 yr-old | 45lbs | Medium energy | Has Dwarf Syndrome | Dog-Friendly | Kid-Friendly | Cat-Friendly | Lover of sticks



This silly pup's name is Mochi. She was dumped (yes, literally dumped) at Special Pals Shelter in August 2018. Her previous owners threw her over the shelters eight-foot gate in the middle of the night. Despite this, she loves every person she meets, is great with other dogs, and is even okay with cats. She clearly has a heart of gold.

She also has dwarf syndrome, which has caused her muscles to be underdeveloped, and her eyesight to be compromised, but she does not let that stop her. She runs, plays, and jumps just like any other dog, she just does it with a little skip in her step (which we think is adorable). She loves playing with sticks. And we mean loves.

She'll take some time to get used to her new home, but she's a fast learner. She needs someone who has the patience to care for a dog with a disability but her enthusiasm for life will give a family more smiles than they can possible count.

## Texas Renaissance Festival concludes

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As the final fireworks show of the season came to an end last Sunday evening, applause and cheers erupted through the crowd. Some festival goers had tears in their eyes as the last burst of light in the sky signaled the end of the 45th season of the Texas Renaissance Festival. "This is my home away from home and my faire family," said Chip Ware of Houston.

Over nine-themed weekends that ran from October 5 – December 1, more than 460,000 came through the gates of the festival and stepped into the 16th century European village of the New Market. This year's themes included: Oktoberfest, 1001 Dreams, Pirate Adventure, All Hallows Eve, Return to the Renaissance, Heroes and Villains, Barbarian Invasion, Highland Fling and Celtic Christmas.

New to the TRF stage at the Cloister in the Green was Full Armored Combat where warriors clashed in hand-to-hand combat until one warrior was proclaimed as the victor. The three shows each day were standing room only for an appreciative audience.

Also new and popular this season was the duo of Opal and Jade Off-Colored Treasures at the Red Lion Tavern, and the return of The Dublin Harpers at the stage in The Green.

Adam "Crack" Winrich of the wildly popular Firewhip show successfully made a Guinness World Record attempt of Most Fire Whip Cracks with two Whips in One Minute: 314. Winrich needed to achieve



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Texas Renaissance Festival was established in 1974 and attracts visitors each year to its 55-acre New Market Village and the adjacent 200-acre Fields of New Market Campgrounds in Todd Mission, Texas. This immersive experience features live entertainment, artists and craftspeople, food and drink, hand-powered rides and games and over 200 interactive characters during its nine themed weekends October through November 2020.

more than 200 cracks for the record. This record marks 12 records that he currently holds.

Pirate Cove owner Scott Brenis held a daily raffle for a free sword to benefit the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) non-profit organization. Over the nine-weekend season, Brenis raised over \$21,000 which surpassed his original goal of \$20,000. "It's really important to remember the person who make doing what we do possible. If we're not giving back then we're failing," said Brenis. "Being able to provide the patron's the opportunity to say thank you and contribute," he added.

This season marked the last season of the "hat lady" Berthe Carp who has been selling hats at the festival for the past 45 years. "It has been my pleasure to work with Berthe Carp for the last few seasons. She is a

delight whose dedication to her craft and joy in the festival setting have been marvelous assets to TRE. We will miss her and wish her and her family the very best in her retirement," said Kim Bryant, TRF Vendor Coordinator.

"The entire Texas Renaissance Festival team would like to thank the patrons who joined us for our 45th Anniversary season, to experience the sights, sounds, flavors and unique goods offered by our many merchants, artisans, entertainers, demonstrators and vendors throughout the New Market Village" said Joe Bailey General Manager. "We are looking forward to continuing the tradition of the magic that our patrons experience when they walk through the gates of the festival and providing an even more immersive experience for the 2020 season," he added.

The Texas Renaissance

### HISTORICAL FIGURES

- 9 – Weekends in the 2019 Texas Renaissance Festival season
- 21 – Total days of operation for the festival including two school days
- 467,304 – Total attendance for the 2019 season
- 41,312 – School days attendance
- 69 – Weddings
- 24 – Special events (birthday, proposals, bachelorette party, corporate)
- 85,860 – Turkey legs consumed

Festival will return for its 46th season on October 3 and run through November 29, 2020, open Saturdays, Sundays and Thanksgiving Friday. For more information visit [texrenfest.com](http://texrenfest.com).

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