

Katy Times



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

Speed limit changes coming

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Drivers in Fulshear will need to pay attention to changing speed limit signs over the next few weeks as the city implements new speed limits on multiple roads in the city. Fulshear City Council unanimously approved changes to speed limits suggested by city staff in light of a recently completed speed limit study.

"This study has been long-coming for the community because most of the roads that were built have what we call design speeds posted because they're built to a specific speed," said Fulshear Public Works Director Sharon Valiante. "So, we've taken the opportunity now that we have a lot of our collector streets in place and have had traffic on them for some time now to go ahead and do a speed study to post the appropriate speeds.

Speed limits on seven roads will change by 5-10 mph with some of those roads having increases in the speed limit while others have reductions in speed limits, according to documents provided by the city. Roads with speed limit changes include Bois D'Arc Lane, Fulshear Trace, Cross Creek Bend Drive and Flewellen Way.

"From the Executive Summary [of the study] there are... six sections of roadway that will have changes," Valiante said.

Council members asked Valiante to have notices put up that the speed limits would be changing prior to switching the actual speed limit postings. Valiante said posting notices that changes to speed restrictions was already part of the implementation plan for instituting the ordinance updating the traffic regulations.

Council Person Joel Patterson asked Valiante why some roads were changing while others that seemed similar to him were not.

Roads were changed based on multiple factors that included average speed drivers were traveling on the roadways, what sorts

See **CHANGES**, page A3

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MONEY MATTERS

Katy ISD eyes 2020 bond election, gives Gregorski raise

By JULIE SILVA
FOR THE KATY TIMES

During its regular Jan. 21 meeting, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees voted to form a committee relating to a possible November bond election and gave KISD Superintendent Ken Gregorski an extended contract that included a raise.

Bonding matters

Katy ISD is forming an advisory committee to discuss a possible bond election in November as the district attempts to keep up with enrollment growth.

One projection by Katy Independent School District consultants estimate 94,579 students by 2024 and 104,575 by 2029. Currently, the district has nearly 84,000 students, and it adds about 2,500 each year.

"Over the past 15-20 years, we've been talking about extreme growth over in the southwest quadrant of the district. We still see that, although we're running out of territory down there," said Ted Vierling, assistant superintendent of operations. "And now what's coming, of course, is the growth over in the northwest quadrant."

Estimates show Katy ISD hitting the 100,000-student milestone in 2027.

Without a bond, Vierling showed the board estimates that increase Katy High School's enrollment from 2,697 students in 2020 to 4,544 in 2029. Paetow, the district's newest high school, is projected to grow from 2,672 students in 2020 to 7,258 in 2029.

Andrea Grooms, chief communications officer, said the district has developed a habit of issuing bonds every three to four years. Most recently, \$609.2 million was issued in 2017 and \$748 million was issued in 2014. The last two bonds, Grooms emphasized, were issued without a tax rate increase.

The advisory committee is expected to include as many as 150 people, but any member of the community will be permitted to watch the presentations and deliberations.

The committee will look at the potential need for capital projects and costs before coming up with a recommendation for the KISD Board of Trustees.

It will include 16 teachers, four principals and six students. Each trustee is expected to appoint three members, and another 25 members will be from previous bond committees. The remainder of the committee members will be selected from applications from the community. The committee's charter calls for members to have diverse skills, backgrounds, cultures and geographic regions.

Applications for the committee will be available on the district's website beginning Feb. 3, and the deadline to apply is Feb. 17. To be eligible, applicants must live within the district's boundaries, attend a minimum of 10 meetings and commit to share information about the committee's process with their affiliated organizations and networks.

The first meeting is scheduled for April 7, and a series of meetings will be held through July and into August, if needed, from 5:30-9 p.m.

Aug. 17 is the last day the district can call an election.

Super salary

Katy ISD trustees were filled with praise as they voted to give Superintendent Ken Gregorski a salary increase and a longer contract after his annual evaluation at Monday's board meeting.

Gregorski's salary was increased by 8% to \$324,000 and his contract with Katy ISD was extended from an end date of June 2022 to an end date of December 2025 in a 6-0 vote with trustee Susan Gesoff absent.

Maria Corrales DiPetra, district spokeswoman, said the increase was aligned with the increase teachers saw this school year.

Board members took turns highlighting Gregorski's enthusiasm, knowledge and sense of humor.

"And the one thing ... that most impressed me, though,

See **MONEY**, page A3



Katy ISD holds dedication ceremony for Leonard

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

Katy ISD held a dedication ceremony for Olga Leonard Elementary Jan. 16. The school's namesake, Olga Leonard served as an educator in Katy ISD for 26 of her 30 years in education and was able to attend the event as a speaker and honoree.

"What an incredible honor to be standing before you today as we dedicate a Katy ISD campus bearing my name," Leonard said.

The new 138,500-square-foot elementary school has a total student body of 644

LEOPARDS BY GRADE

Pre-K:	60
Kindergarten:	79
First Grade:	119
Second Grade:	68
Third Grade:	95
Fourth Grade:	127
Fifth Grade:	74
Total:	644

SOURCE: Katy ISD

currently but has space for a total of 1,300 students at capacity. The campus serves the Morton Creek Ranch

subdivision according to a KISD press release.

Leonard began her career outside of Katy ISD but came to the district in 1985 as a first grade teacher at Bear Creek Elementary. She continued her career helping teachers develop curriculum and eventually taught Spanish at the junior high and high school levels. She served as principal for Memorial Parkway Elementary and interim principal at McRoberts Elementary in her career as well.

The ceremony included performances by students and comments from Leonard and members of the district's administration and board.



COURTESY KATY ISD

Olga Leonard speaks at the Jan. 16 ceremony dedicating Olga Leonard Elementary School in her honor. Leonard served as an educator in Katy ISD for the majority of her 30-year career.

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New community to be built north of city limits

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

A 1,039-acre master-planned community which will include about 3,000 homes will be built in the northeastern corner of Clay and Schlipf roads is on its way, according to a press release from Land Tejas.

"Just a few miles north of Interstate 10 and west of the Grand Parkway, this tract offers an excellent location close to major employment centers and it's also within the Katy Independent School Dis-

trict," said James Henrie, Chief Operating Officer, for Land Tejas.

Land Tejas has developed more than 17,000 acres in the Houston area, according to the press release. The property was acquired in the last quarter of 2019 with financing provided by CBA Land Capital.

The first homes in the community are expected to be completed in 2021.

"We envision this as a premier community mirroring the successful home offerings, amenities and forward-thinking features that are trademarks of a Land Tejas community," Henrie said.



Land Tejas will be constructing a new master-planned community north of the city of Katy in the near future.

PET OF THE WEEK

Booklyn | Female | 3.5 years | Catahoula mix | Spayed | House Trained | May be ok with large dogs but only dog preferred | No cats | Good with Children | Loves People



MEET BROOKLYN

Booklyn is a housetrained 3.5-year-old Catahoula mix. She walks well on a leash without pulling. She is high energy so would prefer an active family and would do best as an only dog in the family. She may be able to be paired with large dogs but not with small canine friends. She is good with kids and great with people in general. Stop by Special Pals Shelter to see her good with kids, great with people.

Goddard School celebrates 10 years

By **R. HANS MILLER**
SENIOR REPORTER

The Goddard School of Katy at 24025 Cinco Village Center Boulevard in Katy celebrated its tenth anniversary Jan. 10 with a carnival. The event featured train rides, live music, acrobats and other carnival activities.

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Katy community, knowing that we have

made such a positive impact on so many children and their families, that's a great feeling," said school owner Asli Remlinger.

The school has used a play-based curriculum for the last ten years to engage children in fun, educational activities.

"Our mission has always been to provide a curriculum that allows children to learn through play and fun activities," Remlinger said.



Attendees of The Goddard School of Katy's decennial celebration participated in a carnival-themed party and enjoyed treats. Owner Asli Remlinger (left with cake) expressed excitement over the school's ability to reach the ten-year milestone.

KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2019

Data Control Codes		General	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES						
5700	Local, Intermediate, and Out-of-State	\$ 452,020,019	\$ 142,185,153	\$ 2,128,635	\$ 28,428,248	\$ 624,762,055
5800	State Program Revenues	292,379,255	1,892,985		10,016,298	304,288,538
5900	Federal Program Revenues	23,937,282		1,434,858	39,550,015	64,922,155
5020	Total Revenues	768,336,556	144,078,138	3,563,493	77,994,561	993,972,748
EXPENDITURES						
Current:						
0011	Instruction	452,758,768			27,170,229	479,928,997
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	8,284,336			845,449	9,129,785
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	9,421,981			4,056,453	13,478,434
0021	Instructional Leadership	5,969,633			597,921	6,567,554
0023	School Leadership	40,705,308			788,051	41,493,359
0031	Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	31,364,974			3,948,607	35,313,581
0033	Health Services	7,293,402			264,914	7,558,316
0034	Student Transportation	22,491,858			132,471	22,624,329
0035	Food Services				31,562,559	31,562,559
0036	Extracurricular Activities	15,521,883			4,318,793	19,840,676
0041	General Administration	13,558,104			103,684	13,661,788
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	67,044,502			72,973	67,117,475
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	9,000,306			28,876	9,029,182
0053	Data Processing Services	14,183,673			1,860	14,185,533
0061	Community Services	287,593			572,007	859,600
Debt Service:						
0071	Principal on Long-Term Debt		84,235,000			84,235,000
0072	Interest on Long-Term Debt		81,419,061			81,419,061
0073	Bond Issuance Costs and Fees		467,399	1,532,017		1,999,416
0081	Capital Outlay: Facilities Acquisition and Construction	4,339,232		241,131,313	556,115	246,026,660
Intergovernmental Charges:						
0093	Payments to Fiscal Agents SSA	630,385				630,385
0095	Payments to JJAEP	5,500				5,500
0097	Payments to Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone	4,155,711				4,155,711
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	4,272,945				4,272,945
6030	Total Expenditures	711,290,094	166,121,460	42,663,330	75,020,962	1,195,095,846
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	57,046,462	(22,043,322)	(239,099,837)	2,973,599	(201,123,098)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/(USES)						
7901	Refunding Bonds Issued					
7911	Capital-Related Debt Issued			190,695,000		190,695,000
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	53,539			54,913	108,452
7915	Transfers In	500,000	23,106,508			23,606,508
7916	Premium on Issuance of Bonds			20,037,017		20,037,017
8911	Transfers Out	(22,977,873)		(2,128,635)	(500,000)	(25,606,508)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	(22,424,334)	23,106,508	208,603,382	(445,087)	208,840,469
7919	Extraordinary Item - Insurance Recovery	10,000,000				10,000,000
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	44,622,128	1,063,186	(30,496,455)	2,528,512	17,717,371
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	213,495,712	57,446,794	141,832,254	17,749,694	430,524,454
3000	Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 258,117,840	\$ 58,509,980	\$ 111,335,799	\$ 20,278,206	\$ 448,241,825



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KM Realty purchases Morton & Fry Business Center

By R. HANS MILLER
SENIOR REPORTER

KM Realty, a Houston-based property management and realty firm, expanded its inventory of properties by purchasing more than 36,000 square feet of space at the Morton & Fry Business Center Jan. 15.

"Morton & Fry Business Center fits well among KM Realty's existing properties. As KM Realty continues to grow, we actively seek further additions whether through purchase or through [umbrella partnership real estate investment trust] transactions."

According to a Jan. 17 press release, KM Realty owns about 687,000 square feet of space, now that the Morton & Fry Center property has been added to its portfolio. That portfolio also includes about 20 shopping centers in the Katy area including properties near Fulshear and in Cinco Ranch.

Katy area properties operated by KM Realty include the Shops at Cardiff Ranch, Shops at Firethorne and Shops at Pine Mill Ranch properties, said KM Realty Marketing Director Nick Lovitt via email. The company acquired The Shoppes at Cinco Ranch I and II shopping centers in the second half of 2019.

KM Realty is looking for additional investors in order to help it expand its current overall portfolio of more than 60 properties.

"We see not only [greater] Houston, but also all major Texas cities as targets for expansion," said KM Realty's Director of Leasing Steven Stone. "We feel very comfortable navigating the market, and we are especially excited to be working with this new group of tenants."



COURTESY KM REALTY

The newly-acquired property includes three buildings and a large detention pond covering just less than a quarter of the property.



The Morton & Fry Business center is fully leased out according to a press release from KM Realty.



ALL FULL

The Morton & Fry Business Center is already fully leased out and is home to the following businesses.

19909 Morton Road Katy, TX 77449

- Ste. 100 – Texas Homebrewers
- Ste. 200 – Salon De Belleza
- Ste. 300 – Cottage Care
- Ste. 400 – Median Biotech
- Ste. 500 – Farmers Insurance
- Ste. 600 – Jas-it-up Nails & Spa
- Ste. 700 – Shapewear Central
- Ste. 800 – Grayscale Barber Shop

19911 Morton Road Katy, TX 77449

- Ste. 100 – Stasskol
- Ste. 600 – Superstik
- Ste. 700 – Slipsi

19915 Morton Road Katy, TX 77449

- Ste. 100 – Yilaam Kitchen Cabinets
- Ste. 200 – Turf Feeding Systems
- Ste. 300 – The Floor Shop
- Ste. 400 – Riddle's Roofing
- Ste. 600 – ICT Church

CHANGES

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of facilities or homes occupied spaces next to the roads and curves and other road features that could impact safety, Valiante said.

"The reason I'm asking for this [information] is because I want to understand why before I vote on this," Patterson said. "Because I think it's very important to have consistency because [of] many of the issues that we've had before – and I certainly understand on major collector roads, you're going 35 [mph] then all of a sudden you're 30 [mph] and the Fulshear Police [Department] pulls you over."

Fulshear Police Chief Kenny Seymour said pulling people over for revenue was not the point of the change and that speeding tickets are not a significant source of revenue for the city. Only a small amount of money from speeding tickets go to the city, he said. Most of the funds from traffic violations go to the state of Texas coffers, he said. He emphasized that the point of the speed updates was about safety.

"On the Bois D'Arc speed limit, the speed limit's 45 [mph]. It's a crazy road. It's not forgiving. On the curves, you can't do 45 [mph]. You can't do 40 [mph]," Seymour said.

As the Cross Creek Ranch Subdivision grows, along with the city of Fulshear, Seymour said that consistency in establishing speed limits will improve public safety. Ensuring that drivers know what speed limits to expect and can anticipate dangers while driving are the key factors pushing the standardization which the speed limit study helped to define, he said.

Roadway	Affected Section	Old Limit	New Limit
Cross Creek Bend Lane	Cross Creek Ranch Boulevard to Fulshear Bend	30 mph	35 mph
Cross Creek Bend Lane	Cross Creek Ranch Boulevard to Morgan Spur Drive	30 mph	35 mph
Cross Creek Ranch Boulevard	FM 1093 to Cross Creek Bend Lane	35 mph	30 mph
Flewellen Way	Ivy Hollow Lane to Flewellen Oaks Lanes	30 mph	35 mph
Morgan Spur	Cross Creek Bend Lane to northern end of roadway	30 mph	35 mph
Fulshear Trace	Midway between sharp turn near FM 1093 to end of roadway	30 mph	35 mph
James Lane	FM 1093 to drainage channel	30 mph	35 mph
Bois D'Arc Lane	FM 1093 south to sharp turn toward McKinnon Road	45 mph	35 mph
Bois D'Arc Lane	From McKinnon Road south to end of roadway	45 mph	40 mph

"We want to be consistent with it. We want the citizens to be comfortable with the speed limits so the conditions [are] safe and they know what to expect," Seymour said.

Other items approved by the council

included the first portion of designing a regional wastewater treatment plant and an update to the city's master plan which guides development for the city. The update to the master plan is expected to take about ten months.



BRANDEE MILLER



R. HANS MILLER

The Fulshear City Council is comprised of seven voting members and a mayor. Pictured from left to right: Council Person Kent Poole (At Large Position 1), Council Person Kevin White (District 1), Council Person Debra Cates (District 2), Mayor Aaron Groff, Mayor Pro-Tem Kaye Kahlich (District 5), Council Person Lisa Kettler Martin (District 3), Council Person Joel Patterson (District 4), Council Person John Kelly (At Large Position 2).

MONEY

from page A1

is your love of our kids," said trustee Bill Lacy. "Your love for the kids in the community, the kids at Katy ISD, is shown every single day."

Duke Keller and Lance Redmon, the board's newest trustees elected in May, both said they appreciated that Gregorski is always available with quick responses whenever they have questions, even during holidays or at inconvenient times. Gregorski took the position

in January 2019 after serving as deputy superintendent under Lance Hindt. Hindt resigned in May 2018 amid accusations that he plagiarized his doctoral dissertation. Gregorski served as acting superintendent for the remainder of the year as the board postponed

a search for a replacement while they debated the process. In December, a majority voted to seek applications internally and named Gregorski to the seat.

Trustee Ashley Vann has served for six years with three superintendents, and she noted the "unusual

way" Gregorski stepped into the position.

"This district, these students, teachers, administration didn't skip a beat, didn't lack for anything, and nor did this board," Vann said. "I appreciate your steadfast leadership."

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.

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A night at the funeral home

“What do you think?” my husband, Peter, asked about the link he’d sent me as we prepared to head home from the holidays.



CARRIE CLASSON
THE POSTSCRIPT

“The funeral home?” I asked.

“Yeah, that one.”

“I thought it was a joke.”

“No, it’s right on our way.”

“We’re going to spend the night in a funeral home?”

“It’s very inexpensive!”

I suddenly felt like I was in the opening scene of every horror film I’d ever watched.

Peter wanted us to spend the night in a historic funeral home on our way home. The funeral home had been converted into an Airbnb. It was both right on our way and suspiciously cheap.

Peter and I drive home on two-lane roads. The roads are slower, but the route is more direct. The problem is that the few motels on the way are very much the worse for wear. We’ve tried virtually every one and I can no longer keep them straight.

“We stayed there,” Peter will say as we drive by.

“Was that the one with the really loud heater?” I ask.

“No, that was the one with the toilet that rocked—and not in a good way.”

If a person stayed in a bad funeral home, I figured, at least the experience would be memorable.

We pulled in about sunset. There was a bare weeping willow out front. The proprietor, a woman about my age named Cheryl, met us at the door. We’d been having trouble with our car battery, so we asked if we could plug a trickle charger into the unusually large garage.

“Boy!” Peter said, “This is a big garage.”

“They stored the coffins here until the hearse picked them up.”

“Huh,” Peter said.

We entered the house and noticed the front hallway was at an odd angle. I asked Cheryl why this was.

“There are three parlors, all with pocket doors to close them off and separate entrances,” Cheryl explained. “So they could have three funerals at once!”

“Did they really have three funerals at the same time?” I asked. That seemed like a lot of simultaneous casualties in a town this size.

“I don’t know if they did, but they could!”

Cheryl had four cats. One was black and named “Old Scratch.”

“You know, that’s a nickname for the devil,” I told her—certain she already knew.

“No! I didn’t know. He used to have a sibling named ‘Sniff,’ who died years ago and now I just call him ‘Old Scratch.’”

There was a life-sized skeleton at the pump organ in one of the parlors and a figure in Victorian dress looking out the window. Our room upstairs was filled with antiques. There was also a skeleton in our closet, I discovered, when I put our luggage away.

Cheryl told us about the purported paranormal activities that had occurred in the house and the people who had stayed there, looking for them. There was, she told me, a persistent report of a woman on the back stairway.

“I don’t know if it’s haunted or not,” Cheryl concluded cheerfully. “If I hear something funny, I just say, ‘Oh! It’s the cats again!’” This seemed to me like a practical response.

I slept very well in the funeral home.

The house was quiet and bed was comfortable and I cannot tell you anything unusual that occurred during the night. Except this:

I had a particularly vivid dream. I was flying and felt fearless and full of joy and humor. I was learning new things and surrounded by friends.

If that’s what haunting feels like, I’ll take it.

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



The best sounding words out there

There’s an entire school of thinking for beautiful words. It’s called phonaesthetics. Think about words that sound nice to your eardrums; these words make your brain release oodles of endorphins. Hearing pleasant-sounding words is the aural equivalent of watching baby river otters perform a synchronized swimming routine.

There’s a word to describe these pleasant-sounding words: euphonious. Actually, the word “euphonious” is itself euphonious. How about that? Do you know what many people consider to be the most pleasing word out there? Cellar door. Okay, “cellar door” isn’t one word, but it’s a compound word that isn’t smooched together into one word. Respect the space, people! Both J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis (two of my favorite Inklings) noted that “cellar door” is one of the most beautiful phrases in the English language. If I ever start an underground spoken word appreciation club, I think I’ll name it “The Cellar Door.”

Here is a sampling of words that frequent the top of the charts when phonaestheticians put together lists of the most euphonious words. For the purposes of this exercise, just imagine



CURTIS HONEYCUTT
GRAMMAR GUY

I’m reading this list to you in the voice of Liam Neeson: iridescent, solitude, luminous, lullaby, serendipity, destiny, idyllic, soliloquy, and elysian. As opposed to “cellar door,” these words have incredibly positive connotations.

It’s easy to forget that our mutt of a language can be quite lovely when someone strings together a sequence of perfectly elegant-sounding prose. We’ve become accustomed to being bombarded by political polarization that presents anyone who doesn’t agree with you as an enemy. Harsh words abound (just watch your Twitter stream for five minutes). People born after a certain year can’t get along with people born before a certain year. Instead of dividing Sharks from Jets, why don’t we combine forces to form jet-sharks, the most terrifying, unstoppable air-and-sea threat you’ll ever face?

My vote for the best-sounding phrase in the

English language is “Here’s your pile of cash,” although I’d settle for hearing my kids say “Daddy, we’re going to let you go to the bathroom alone without barging in and having a conversation with you.” I doubt I’ll ever hear either of

those statements uttered in my general direction.

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B5

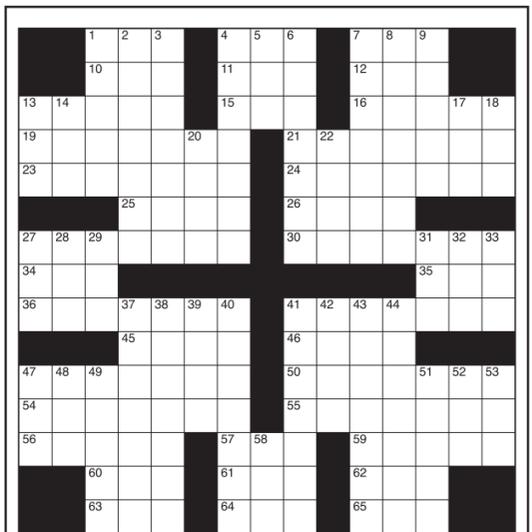
SUDOKU

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7							8	4
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	2	4	1					

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

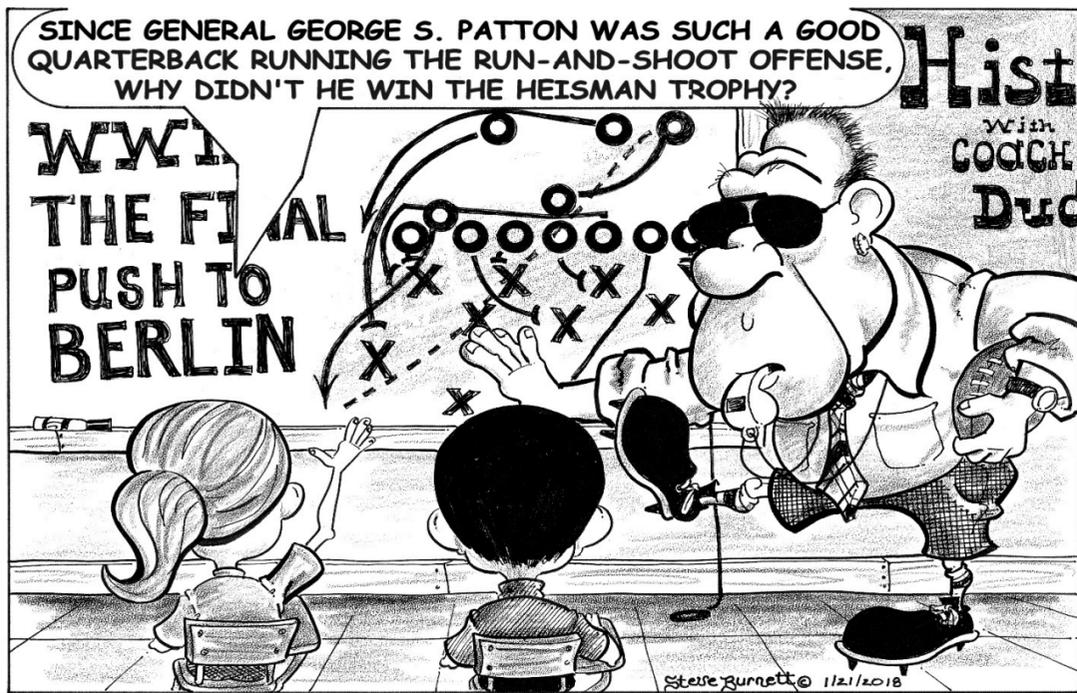


CLUES ACROSS

- Public broadcaster
- Hit lightly
- Keyboard key
- Grain
- Make a mistake
- To the ___ degree
- Endure without complaint
- Chinese-American actress Ling
- Edible stomach lining
- Sunrooms
- Feared
- Most eager
- Excessive chatting session
- MLB ace
- Major Central European river
- Muscular weaknesses
- Where seedlings germinate
- Former monetary unit of the EU
- Personal ads abbreviation
- Mythical animal
- Members of Orthodox Jewish sect
- German city
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- Military men
- Salt of sulfuric acid
- Rhododendrons
- Mixture
- Recommended quantities
- 007’s creator
- Men
- Kids need it
- Midway between east and east-northeast
- OJ trial judge
- Yes vote
- USDA branch that manages the FCIC
- Create with cloth

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- English seaport
- What’s owed
- Sound systems
- Elections feature them
- Southern constellation
- London and Brooklyn are two
- One-time Ugandan capital
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- Rebuke
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Texas carries out first execution of 2020

By **JOLIE MCCULLOUGH**
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas, the state that has put to death more people than any other by far, carried out the nation's first execution of the decade Wednesday.

John Gardner was executed for the 2005 Collin County murder of his soon-to-be ex-wife. Tammy Gardner was shot and killed in her home weeks before the couple's divorce was finalized, according to court records. She called 911 before she died to say her husband had shot her.

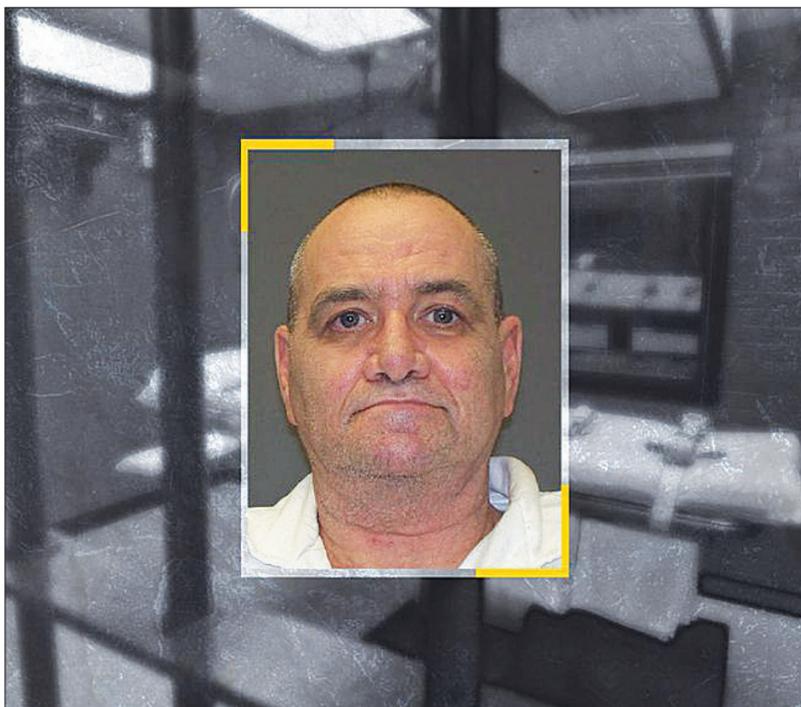
With no pending appeals, John Gardner was taken into Texas' death chamber in Huntsville and injected with a lethal dose of pentobarbital at 6:20 p.m. He was pronounced dead 16 minutes later.

Five of his friends and a spiritual adviser were expected to watch through a glass pane in a small room, according to a prison witness list. Tammy Gardner's mother, daughter and son planned to stand in an identical room next door. In his final words, he told his friends he loved them after apologizing to the victim's family.

"I would like to say sorry for the grief I have caused. I hope you find peace, joy and closure. Whatever it takes to forgive me. I am sorry. I know you cannot forgive me but I hope one day you will," the 64-year-old man said.

John Gardner had a history of domestic violence, including the shooting of a previous wife who later died from her injuries, court records state.

He had argued for years that his crime should not have been prosecuted as a capital murder, which is the only crime in Texas



John Gardner was sentenced to death for the 2005 murder of his estranged wife, Tammy Dawn Gardner.

that can result in the death penalty. A capital murder conviction in his case required the jury to decide that the killing was committed during another felony crime — home burglary or retaliation for his wife being a witness in their upcoming divorce proceeding.

Instead, his appellate attorneys said, John Gardner's trial lawyers should have raised an "abandonment rage" defense. They argued that he didn't break into his wife's house and that he shot her to prevent her from leaving him, not because she was going to testify against him in court. Texas and federal courts rejected the argument.

The Gardners had been married for more than five years, and court records indicate it was an abusive

relationship. Tammy Gardner's friends and relatives testified at trial that her husband had put a gun to her head before and that she showed up to places with bruises on her face. After she filed for divorce, they said that she was terrified for her life and that John Gardner was harassing her, asking if she was going to go through with it.

The day of the murder, her daughter said John Gardner was repeatedly texting his wife about the divorce and asked, "YES OR NO?"

At trial, while jurors weighed whether to sentence John Gardner to death or life in prison without the option for parole, his sister testified that they had grown up with abusive parents. Their father, a Baptist preacher,

would interrupt church services to loudly beat his son with a belt in the hall, she said. John Gardner's appellate attorneys later said trial lawyers didn't properly search for other evidence that could have turned the jury toward life.

The slaying wasn't John Gardner's first domestic violence conviction. Three of his previous four wives had also reportedly been abused by him, according to a federal court ruling. In 1983, he was convicted of aggravated assault on the shooting of his wife at the time, Rhoda Gardner, who was pregnant and later died from her injuries. He served two years of an eight-year sentence in Mississippi. After two years on parole, he was again

"I would like to say sorry for the grief I have caused. I hope you find peace, joy and closure. Whatever it takes to forgive me. I am sorry. I know you cannot forgive me, but I hope one day you will."

— JOHN GARDNER

imprisoned after being accused of assaulting his new wife's daughter, who required hospitalization, and kidnapping his wife at knifepoint.

At the Tammy Gardner murder trial, prosecutors also presented evidence that John Gardner sexually assaulted his wives' young daughters.

His appellate lawyers argued most recently to the U.S. Supreme Court about the abandonment rage defense. They said lower courts had wrongly rejected such claims.

"[John Gardner's] violent domestic history further supports the fact that he abused or killed his former spouses and their children 'to manage his relationships,' and not because of their status as a prospective witnesses who would testify against him," his attorney, Lydia Brandt, wrote in a petition. "The killing of Tammy Gardner was an estrangement killing — which is not a capital murder offense."

If he had been convicted of murder, the harshest punishment he would have received is life in prison. The Texas Attorney General's Office argued to

the high court that John Gardner killed his wife because of the upcoming divorce, where she was a prospective witness, and not earlier at the time of the breakup.

John Gardner's appellate attorneys also said the lack of evidence of a forced entry showed that he wasn't committing a burglary, the other felony that could trigger the capital murder offense. The state argued Tammy Gardner's 911 call and her fear for her life indicated she would not willingly let him into her home.

"In fact, uncontrollable rage triggered by abandonment makes it more likely Gardner entered Tammy's home without her effective consent and for the purpose of harming her," wrote Texas Assistant Attorney General Matthew Ottaway.

Texas has seven more executions scheduled through May.

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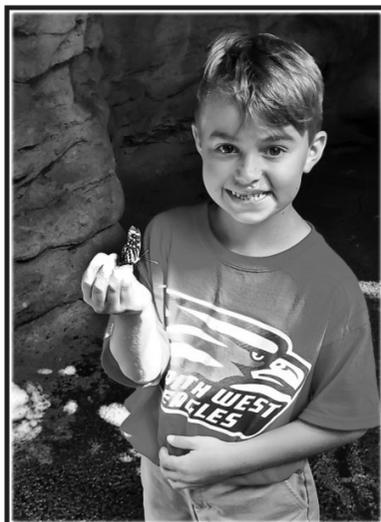
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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Notable moments in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s career

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Each January, Americans honor the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, King would grow up to become one of the most influential people of the 21st century.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in January each year. Taking time to learn about some of the many notable moments in King's career is a great way to honor his legacy.

Morehouse College

After attending segregated public schools as a child, King was accepted into Morehouse College at the age of 15. Morehouse College was the alma mater of both King's father, a pastor, and his maternal grand-



father. While King studied medicine and law at Morehouse, perhaps the first major moment of his career in

the ministry occurred while he was a college student. It was at Morehouse where King was mentored by the

highly regarded theologian and racial equality advocate Dr. Benjamin Mays. Before his final year at Morehouse, King, now 18, chose to enter the ministry.

Montgomery Bus Boycott

Montgomery, Alabama, was a highly segregated city when King and his family relocated to Alabama in the 1950s. Shortly after the King family moved to Alabama, an incident involving a 15-year-old black schoolgirl in Montgomery who refused to give up her bus seat to a white man highlighted racial tensions in the city. Those tensions escalated further nine months later, when 42-year-old Rosa Parks rejected a bus driver's plea that she give up her bus seat to a white passenger in a section designated for black people. As a result

of these incidents, King organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for more than a year but ultimately led to the end of racial segregation on all Montgomery public buses.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

The Montgomery Bus Boycott made King a national figure, and he capitalized on that recognition to help establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC was a group of civil rights activists devoted to nonviolent protest. As SCLC president, a role he held until his death, King traveled the globe promoting nonviolent protest and civil rights.

March on Washington

King played an integral role in the organization and execution of the March on

Washington for Jobs and Freedom in August 1963. Estimates suggest as many as 300,000 people attended the march, which is considered a watershed moment for the civil rights movement that shone a light on the injustices faced by African Americans across the country. The march culminated with King delivering his most famous address, which is often referred to as his "I Have a Dream" speech." King delivered the speech while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and shared his view of a future for the United States in which all people would have equal rights and opportunities.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a remarkable human being. Celebrations of his life can involve revisiting some of his more notable moments.

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your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalms 94:19

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3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
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- Tompkins 65, Mayde Creek 13
- Katy 65, Morton Ranch 22
- Taylor 39, Cinco Ranch 32
- A&M Consolidated def. Paetow

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Morton Ranch 78, Katy 50
- Cinco Ranch 74, Taylor 60
- Tompkins 65, Mayde Creek 55
- Paetow 66, A&M Consolidated 61

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins 41, Seven Lakes 35
- Taylor 43, Morton Ranch 21
- Cinco Ranch 71, Mayde Creek 25
- College Station def. Paetow

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Tompkins 67, Seven Lakes 54
- Morton Ranch 75, Taylor 56
- Cinco Ranch 53, Mayde Creek 52
- Paetow 59, College Station 58 (OT)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Seven Lakes at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Taylor at Katy, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia West, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Katy at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Magnolia West at Paetow, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

- Westside at Taylor, at Legacy Stadium, 5 p.m.
- A&M Consolidated at Paetow, 7:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at George Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Brazoswood, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Aldine, at Aldine Smith Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

- Katy at Cinco Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Tompkins, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, 7:30 p.m.
- Paetow at A&M Consolidated, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

GIRLS SOCCER

- Magnolia at Paetow, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

GIRLS BASKETBALL

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

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

BOYS SOCCER

- Paetow at Magnolia, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

BOYS SOCCER

- Cinco Ranch at Mayde Creek, 7:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Seven Lakes, at Legacy Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

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

Cryer, Mavs good enough, 5-0 in 19-6A

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't pretty. A rare substandard showing by Morton Ranch against Taylor in a District 19-6A showdown on Tuesday, Jan. 21, produced disappointed looks and frustrated play.

It was sloppy, senior guard L.J. Cryer said. The Mavericks won by 19 points, 75-56. He wasn't efficient, Cryer added. Cryer scored 44 points, on only 23 shot attempts, in his ninth game this season scoring 40 or more.

"I don't keep track of any of that stuff," said Cryer, who is averaging 34.8 points this season. "I just go out there and try and get the win. We're trying to make a statement and win all the games by 20 or 30 points. I'm not happy with 5-10-point wins."

Morton Ranch is 5-0 in 19-6A, winning those games by an average of 20.6 points as it appears to be easing its way to a second consecutive district championship. More impressively, the Mavericks are doing so without star center and TCU signee Eddie Lampkin, who suffered a knee injury in early December and is out at least a couple of more weeks.

"It says these guys refuse to quit," coach Khris Turner said. "They fight. We get better every time we play."



MARK GOODMAN

Morton Ranch senior guard L.J. Cryer looks for his shot during a game against Taylor on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Morton Ranch High. Cryer scored 44 points in the win.

See MAVS, page B2

MAKING WAVES

MARK GOODMAN

Taylor High senior Emma Sticklen participates in the girls 100 yard butterfly event at the District 19-6A swimming championships at the Katy High natatorium on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Mustangs, Spartans dominate 19-6A championships

By STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

Taylor senior Emma Sticklen made it a four-peat for Swimmer of the Meet as she led her Mustangs girls team to a 75-point victory at the District 19-6A swimming championships on Saturday, Jan. 18, while the Seven Lakes boys' team held off Taylor by 2.5 points for its third straight team title.

Sticklen, who will swim for the University of Texas in the fall, won the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke, and also swam a leg of the 200 medley relay. She was the 2019 state champion in each of those individual events.

"Coming out here and winning again

with my girls' team is so special to me, and I feel like I still have something left in the tank for state," she said. "I definitely have room to improve. I'm just trying to make it past regionals without a (disqualification), so I've been super safe on all of my underwaters and my starts. I definitely have a lot more in the tank."

It's been an uneven season for Sticklen as she got the flu shortly before

the junior nationals in December, resulting in a pair of second-place finishes. Since then, she's been focused on refining her skills.

"I know every kick I take and the amount of strokes I need to take to go as fast as I can," she said.

Sticklen was part of a dominant team effort as the Mustangs girls won nine of the meet's 11 events. They notched another four second-place finishes as well, and coach Matt Apple said they had 15 different swimmers score points.

"It's one of those things where the stars align, and we happen to have all of these girls that are really good," he said. "All the girls, they all work hard. They're

See SWIMMING, page B5

McVey honored as NFL H.S. C.O.Y nominee

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

When he was eight years old, Todd McVey was handed a flyer. It had the Miami Dolphins on it.

"And that's who I started following pro football with," McVey said.

McVey, a quarterback growing up, idolized Dan Marino. Then-Dolphins coach Don Shula, he said, "was way ahead of his time. A great coach."

So when McVey, now the head football coach at Tompkins High, learned he was the Houston Texans' nominee for the 2019 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year award, he was humbled. And a bit amused.

"It's kind of coming full circle, from an 8-year-old to now, and the guy it's named after is Don Shula," McVey said. "How cool is that?"

McVey is one of 32 nominees for the award after leading the Falcons to a program-best 11-2 season in 2019. He is one of two

nominees from Texas. The Dallas Cowboys nominated John Paul II's George Teague.

Coaches were recognized by their local NFL team for the award, which is named after the winningest coach in NFL history. It is based on the coach's character, integrity, leadership, dedication to the community, commitment to player protection and on-field success.

The award winner will be announced during the 2020 Pro Bowl on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. on ESPN and ABC.

"I was very humbled," McVey said. "What a great honor to represent the Houston area and for Tompkins. This is really 'Staff of the Year.' It's a lot of people doing a lot of work. It's a proud moment for the school."

All award nominees will attend the Pro Bowl in Orlando, Fla. and be recognized during the NFL's week-long celebration.



MARK GOODMAN

Tompkins head football coach Todd McVey is one of 32 nominees for the 2019 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year award.

See McVEY, page B3

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Taylor's big win muddies 19-6A race

By **STEPHEN GREENWELL**
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

A crowded playoff race in District 19-6A girls' basketball district got even tighter following the finish of the first round of play on Friday, Jan. 17, as Taylor's 39-32 win against Cinco Ranch left both teams with a 3-3 record in the district.

For the Mustangs, it was a gritty win with forward Dominique Lombard leading them to the finish line. The rugged forward was scoreless in the first half, but finished with 10 points, three blocks and a steal.

Taylor coach Blair Ary noted Lombard's work ethic and energy are stellar, to the point that she actually has to warn her to slow down at times.

"She's a workhorse and does anything to get the job done," Ary said. "She doesn't mind contact, and she'll run through people. She does a phenomenal job and she doesn't ever stop. I don't think I took her out."

As the season has progressed, Taylor has tightened its rotation. The Mustangs mostly went seven-deep against Cinco Ranch, with senior Tyler Mahaffey receiving spot minutes late in the game. Seniors Danielle St. Denis and Sarah Holson take most of the frontcourt minutes with Lombard, with junior Deborah Imeh coming off the bench.

However, the Mustangs are trying to win while also developing youth at the point guard position. While sophomore Sheridan Shaw

has supplanted freshman Micah Elegores in the starting lineup, both still play significant minutes. Junior Henley Beisert plays off the ball and on the wing, along with St. Denis in certain configurations.

"We're young in places, so we've just got to focus on us and what we need to do, because I think every team is going to have tweaks in what they do," Ary said about her team heading into the second round of district play. "Going into every game, we've been 100 percent focused on us and what we need to do, playing as a team and playing together, and the goals we've set. If we can play the way we want to play and do the things we want to do, then we'll be fine."

On the other sideline, Cinco Ranch coach Dwayne Archangel had one word for what he needed to see from his team in the second half of district play.

"Effort, effort, effort," he said. "When adversity hits, we have a tendency to think, 'Oh, here we go again,' without realizing that we've grown as a team. There are things we've been working on for the past three years to be in the top two in the district, and now we took a bump and we're on the bottom end."

The Cougars have been playing significantly short-handed for several games, with two starters missing. Senior Catherine Hursh, a first team all-district player last season, suffered a concussion in the team's Jan. 3 loss to Tompkins. Archangel said she is in the concus-

sion protocol, and expected her to miss at least one more week.

Senior forward Victoria Huggins twisted her ankle in practice the day before the Katy game, a 53-33 loss on Jan. 13. She missed the Katy game and the Taylor game, but Archangel said she's been cleared to return to practice.

The lone bright spot for Cinco Ranch against Taylor may have been the performance of junior Bella Meyers. Archangel said she started the year on junior varsity to get more playing time, but was elevated to varsity—and the starting lineup—against Taylor. She responded with 12 points, tying for the team lead with junior Abby Bala.

With players returning, and a long talk following the loss to Taylor, Archangel thinks his team is ready to compete in the district season's second half.

After the first round, Tompkins leads the pack at 6-0 in 19-6A, followed by Seven Lakes and Katy each at 4-2, and Taylor and Cinco Ranch each at 3-3. The top four teams make the playoffs.

"We had a nice little conversation, and I feel good from this conversation airing some stuff out and getting back on the right track," Archangel said. "We put ourselves in a tight situation and now we just have to fight. We can't afford to lose to anybody else."

"We put ourselves in the situation, so hopefully that will light a fire under us and they'll dig in deep now, because this is it. We can't afford to lose any games."



Taylor High's Dominique Lombard (15) and Cinco Ranch's Taylor Rowland (2) go up for a rebound during their game Friday, Jan. 17, at Taylor High.

MAVS

from page B1

Morton Ranch got better against Taylor by playing harder down the stretch, locking down on defense and manufacturing easier buckets.

It didn't start that way, however. The undersized and depleted Mustangs (2-3 in 19-6A) are a resilient team with a standout player of their own in junior guard Jake Arnold, one of the top 10 scorers in Houston who had a workmanlike game of 28 points and 12 rebounds. Arnold and Taylor's zone defense gave Morton Ranch fits well into the third quarter.

Silly turnovers and poor defensive rebounding were the Mavericks' primary woes.

"Yeah, we won by 19, but it was sloppy," Cryer said. "And everything is about the way you do things. I would accept winning by 19 and playing well. This wasn't good."

Eventually, though, the Mavericks pulled away, thanks to Cryer finding substantial steam in the second half.

The Baylor signee scored 25 points after halftime, asserting himself aggressively and more often to put the game away.

Cryer's game consists of studying Damian Lillard's poise and ballhandling, and Luka Dončić's change-of-speed moves. It shows. When Cryer hits another gear and is determined to score, few can stop him, even when he's not at his best.

"This game wasn't really a good game for me," Cryer said. "It sounds crazy, because (44) points. I wasn't as efficient as I usually am, and I've just got to get back in the gym and get better."

But Cryer got help when it mattered, and that's what Turner seeks.

Junior guard Ethan Shiflett, playing out of position in the frontcourt since Lampkin's injury, attacked, and attacked hard. The 6-foot-4 Shiflett finished with 14 points, his second consecutive game scoring in double figures, and added six rebounds.

"Ethan plays hard," Cryer said. "He's stepping up. We've asked him to do a lot more, and he's taken that challenge."

The Mavericks are desperate for consistent playmaking alongside Cryer and do-it-all guard Westley Sellers (10 assists, eight rebounds and two steals against Taylor). Shiflett is providing that.

"He's finally acclimated to the pace of the game," Turner said. "He brings rebounding and intensity. He brings everything that we're trying to figure out, outside of Eddie."

Shiflett is a transfer from Cypress Park High. Versatile enough to play any of the three frontcourt positions, he is more comfortable now as he has a better understanding of his assignment at every position.

"The biggest thing for me was working harder and keeping my emotions under control," Shiflett said. "Over there, I was an emotional dude. It's a big transition coming from there to here. Now I have to work hard, shut my mouth and keep fighting. Box out, get rebounds and get up the floor."

News to Turner's ears.

"We're still patching things together and figuring out what works and what doesn't," Turner said. "We've been like that the entire season, figuring out things with guys in and out of the lineup. We're always searching for that right fit."



Morton Ranch junior guard Ethan Shiflett attacks the basket during a game against Taylor on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Morton Ranch High.

DISTRICT 19-6A BASKETBALL STANDINGS

AS OF THURSDAY, JAN. 23

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
Morton Ranch	5	0
Tompkins	4	2
Katy	3	2
Taylor	2	3
Mayde Creek	2	3
Cinco Ranch	2	3
Seven Lakes	0	5
x-clinched playoff berth		
y-clinched district title		

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
Tompkins	7	0
Katy	4	2
Seven Lakes	4	3
Cinco Ranch	4	3
Taylor	4	3
Mayde Creek	1	6
Morton Ranch	0	7
x-clinched playoff berth		
y-clinched district title		

DISTRICT 19-5A BASKETBALL STANDINGS

AS OF THURSDAY, JAN. 23

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
Paetow	6	0
A&M Consol.	5	1
Magnolia	5	1
Waller	2	4
College Station	2	4
Brenham	2	4
Bryan Rudder	1	5
Magnolia West	1	5
x-clinched playoff berth		
y-clinched district title		

	DISTRICT	
	W	L
Paetow	1	8

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Rabe excited for 'special opportunity'

By DENNIS SILVA II
TIMES SPORTS EDITOR

Mike Rabe is adept at turning around high school football programs.

The Cuero native's first head coaching season came in 2006 at Ganado, which had one win that year before finishing with nine apiece in 2008 and 2009 before Rabe moved on to Waco Connally.

At Connally, Rabe's team went 0-10 his first year there in 2010, then won 16 games combined in 2013 and 2014 before he landed in Katy at Mayde Creek.

In 2015, the Rams were winless in Rabe's first season and won just one game the next season. But they finished 2019 with a nine-win campaign, enjoying the program's finest season in 22 years.

But when the job at Jordan High arose, Rabe couldn't resist.

Sporting a splendid gold and black tie—the school colors of Jordan, Katy ISD's



MIKE RABE

ninth high school that opens in August—and wearing a smile just as distinguishable, Rabe was formally introduced on Monday, Jan. 20, as the first head football coach and athletic coordinator for the Warriors.

"I've been lucky enough to go into several different programs as a head coach and be able to rebuild those and re-stamp them as you go through," said Rabe, whose first day at Jordan was Jan. 14. "This is an opportunity to not have to do anything over. You get to go in and do everything from day one. It's real exciting."

Jordan High School submitted an initial enrollment number of 1,586.69 in late October. Football for Jordan High won't be realigned by the UIL until 2022, which will be the program's first varsity football season.

"It's a special opportunity to be able to open up a high school," Rabe said. "You look across the state and there's not many of those that happen. You see several each year, but it's a small opportunity to be able to jump in and do that. It's something I've always wanted to do."

Rabe just finished his fifth season at the helm of Mayde Creek, where he had a 16-35 overall record. But the Rams went 9-3 in 2019 and made it to the area round of the playoffs, producing their best season since

1997, winning their first playoff game since that year and making the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

Rabe, who was named the District 19-6A Coach of the Year for the 2019 season, implemented a no-nonsense, family-oriented culture at Mayde Creek that helped spear a remarkable turnaround for the program. He is a creative offensive mind and has always sustained a close, positive and strong relationship with his players.

"We looked for a builder, someone who would be a good fit for the community and that staff and those students," Katy ISD athletic director Debbie Decker said of the Jordan High job. "That, as well as knowledge of the game and success rate ... it wasn't so much that it was a familiar face, it's that the cream always rises to the top in interviews. Mike rose to the top."

"Every place he's been, he's taken that program and elevated it."

Jordan High is Rabe's fourth stop. He has an overall record of 66-86-0.

"You want commitment, you want consistency, you want accountability," Rabe said of his values. "Those are big things with your staff and players. We want to have a great attitude and effort when we go out there, and to be a program that can go out

there and execute on a regular basis in high intense situations."

The Mayde Creek job was publicly posted Monday, Jan. 13. Decker said she will begin interviews for the Rams' job the week of Jan. 27. She intends to have a hire made sometime in February.

Since January 2017, Katy ISD has filled openings for head coach in seven of its nine football programs. Only twice has it gone outside the district in making its hire over that span.

"As an athletic director, you want to develop your coaches and you want to know what their goals are and you want to try and assist them to get to that next level," Decker said. "With that said, we open every job up, and with every job we follow the same process. As we go through the interview process, the person that's hired is the best fit for that school and the best person for the job."

"We're proud to say that the last seven of nine since 2017 have been Katy ISD people, but we can't just go into every job saying we're only going to hire from within. We're going to get the best fit and the best person for every single job, while hoping to help our coaches develop to where they are those men or women who can step into that role."

McVEY

from page B1

Coaches will have VIP access and accommodations at events, including Pro Bowl practices and the Play Football High School Skills Showdown. They will also have a chance to interact with members of the NFL.

Two finalists will each receive \$15,000 from the NFL Foundation, \$10,000 of which will go to their respective football program. They will also attend Super Bowl LIV in Miami as guests of the NFL.

"I'm excited about it. You get to be around football," McVey said. "I might be able to steal some nugget from listening to somebody or I might see a drill I like. But I'm just going to absorb and enjoy it."

"I do the second-best thing I get to enjoy in the world, and that's coach. I wanted to play pro football, but I'm not 6-7 with 'Elway' or 'Marino' on my back, so it kind of didn't work out. For me, it's going to be like a kid in a candy store."

McVey is beloved by his players.

"Coach McVey is the type of coach that everyone wants as their coach," senior offensive lineman Hayden Burke said. "Throughout my time with him, he was the hard-nosed coach who made sure he got what he wanted out of the program, but also he's that coach that is loving and caring. His passion for the players is immense. I remember him telling us when he got hired, that he did it because he loves being around us, the players. The way he cares for the players makes you want to play for him, because you know you have someone who truly wants the best for you."

McVey has Tompkins on a fast rise. In his first season at the helm, the Falcons went 0-9. Then they went 10-3 in 2018, recording the biggest

turnaround in Texas high school football that season, and bested that record in 2019.

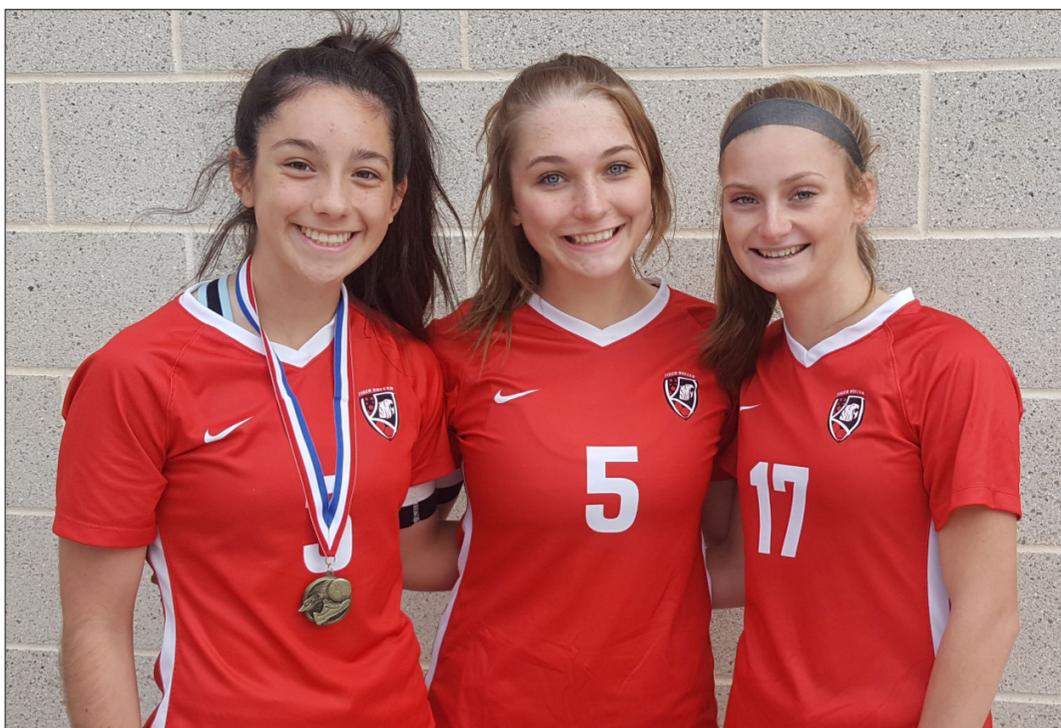
"Every day, he has a new story he heard about or a few quotes from books that he reads. At all times, he's got a lesson to give to me," junior defensive back Colby Huerter said. "He's an amazing coach, but an amazing teacher, too."

The Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year winner is selected by a panel of eight distinguished individuals:

- Pro Football Hall of Fame President David Baker.
- Former Dallas Cowboys Personnel Director and NFL.com contributor Gil Brandt.
- Super Bowl XLIV winner and NFL Legends Youth Advisory Committee Member Mark Brunell.
- Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach and current NBC analyst Tony Dungy.
- Executive Director of USA Football Scott Hallenbeck.
- Three-time Super Bowl champion and NFL Legends Youth Advisory Committee member Willie McGinest.
- Two-time AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year, current head coach at the Sayre School (Lexington, Kentucky) and NFL Legends Youth Advisory Committee member Chad Pennington.
- Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Don Shula.

"I'm proud of the coaches' and kids' buy-in and work ethic," McVey said. "Like we say here, 'Chop wood, carry water.' They've bought in. Even that first group in 2017 bought in. Just the work ... every program works hard, but we work extremely hard. This is a staff and player award. I just get to be the one going."

"More than anything, I hope what the kids get out of Tompkins football is where and what they are 10 years from now. We're very blessed. We want them to continue paying things forward."



Katy girls soccer captains Yamila Lara, Grace Hunter and Alison Spavale pose for a photo following the team's 2-0 victory in the championship round of the Tigers' bracket in the I-10 Shootout on Jan. 11 at Legacy Stadium.

Tigers ready to prove doubters wrong

By STEPHEN GREENWELL
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

While the Katy Tigers girls' soccer team graduated 11 seniors and eight starters from last year's squad, the three captains this season—junior midfielder Yamila Lara, and senior defenders Grace Hunter and Alison Spavale—are vocal about wanting to surprise the district.

Katy opens District 19-6A play on Friday, Jan. 24, against Cinco Ranch.

"We want to prove some people wrong," Lara said. "We're kind of the underdogs of our district, and a lot of people don't know the capability of our talent. If we just play to our abilities, we can prove a lot of people wrong."

Hunter added, "It would make this season super fun and exciting to just come in and wreck other teams, because they don't expect it."

To do that, though, Katy coach Dianne Loftin said they're still working on finding the right roles and positions for players.

"We're just super young and trying to get organized," Loftin said. "The girls are playing well. They're young, and we've got players in the wrong positions, trying to learn. I'm super

proud of them, though. They're a hard-working group."

The Tigers finished 3-5-2 last year in district play, qualifying for the playoffs. They lost 1-0 to Ridge Point in the bi-district round of the postseason. However, they've started this year impressively, winning their bracket of the prestigious I-10 Shootout tournament with a 2-0 victory over Houston Heights on Jan. 11.

One area to watch for the Tigers will be goalkeeping. Sophomore Sarah Pattillo has the potential, and the size, to be one of the better keepers in the district.

"She's a six-foot 14-year-old, so she's kind of gangly but she's starting to come into her own," Loftin said. "Height is a huge advantage in goal, and she's growing into the height. She works real hard for us and she takes lessons, and she wants to play at the next level."

The team's captains said they've been happy with the work ethic of the squad so far, noting that, up and down the roster, players have been putting in the work.

"Everyone showed up at (summer) camp and gave it their all throughout preseason," Spavale said. "It's not just us that's being leaders, it's everyone."

Hunter and Lara stressed that while they're captains, accountability is preached by everyone in practice, in order to fill the experience that graduated from last year's team.

"Honestly, it just took leadership from the team," Lara said. "Not just captain-wise, but everybody stepped up into those roles and took care of what we came back to, and to help out the new people."

Hunter said, "Our offense is a lot stronger this year. Our defense and our offense are both stronger, and it's starting to come together and we're working together and using both sides."

Lara added, "We all trust each other to take care of business."

A team goal, according to Hunter, is to play strong from start to finish—at the micro level, in individual games, and across the season-long schedule. Heading into last year's playoffs, the Tigers had a five-game winless streak and only scored three goals in that span.

"A team goal would be to start strong this season, and to finish strong," Hunter said. "We need to work hard the entire season and not get comfortable."

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SWIMMING

from page B1

driven and focused, and each of them wants to do well. They care about how they do individually, but they care about the team and they understand why this person is here and this person is here, to get the most amount of points."

Apple was named Coach of the Meet. Taylor senior Tyler Kopp was named Swimmer of the Meet for the boys' side.

"Ever since my freshman year, it's been something I've been striving for, so a chance to win it my senior year is such a great feeling," Kopp said. "Seeing all the people I looked up to my freshman through junior year winning the award, it's a great honor."

Kopp described the Mustangs' practice regimen as "pretty intense."

"We're practicing close to 11 times a week, and we're in the water at 6 a.m., going to school after, and then to practice for two-and-a-half hours," he said. "We're going to continue putting in some hard work and getting prepared going into regionals and, hopefully, state. I think we have a chance to place highly and do better than we have in a long, long time, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Apple described his two

star swimmers as being on opposite ends of the spectrum at the start of their high school careers.

"Tyler came in and he was a real small, slight, short kind of guy his freshman year. You could tell he was going to be a good swimmer, but his body hadn't developed like it is now," he said. "Emma is a little bit different, because she walked in and she was a stud from day one. It's interesting how their paths are different, but they've ended up at the same spot. I'm really lucky to have both of them."

For Seven Lakes, the depth of the Spartans' boys propelled them to a first-place team finish.

"Last year, we graduated three guys that are swimming (NCAA Division I) right now, so we had a lot of JV kids move up," Seven Lakes coach Jordan Beck said. "These guys that helped us win this third straight (boys title), they were on JV last year. So, they went from JV to varsity to help us get that third title in a row."

Beck said he knew it was close heading into the final race, the 400 freestyle relay, and, based on incorrect information provided from the stands, he thought they were tied after the race. While Taylor won that relay, Seven Lakes finished in second. Taylor needed the Spartans to finish fourth or worse to swing the meet.

"I knew it was going to be close, because Taylor has a really, really good boys' team, and last year it was close with us also and we graduated a bunch, so we knew it was going to be a battle," Beck said.

The Spartans secured the title thanks to their depth and because of a strong effort from Tompkins that kept Taylor from securing more points.

The Spartans and Mustangs tied with four first-place finishes each, and Taylor actually had more second- and third-place finishes—seven in total, as compared to four for Seven Lakes.

However, Tompkins took third place at the meet with 113 points and racked up five third-place finishes. The Spartans also consistently tallied points from the fourth and fifth positions to overcome higher individual placements by the Mustangs.

Beyond the team finishes, Mustangs junior Taylor Schababerle had a strong meet, setting a Katy ISD record in the girls 200 freestyle. As a condition of covering the meet, Katy ISD officials asked media to not report times from the meet. Sticklen also broke her own 2018 record in the 100 butterfly.

In District 19-6A girls diving, Seven Lakes' Summer Taylor won gold for first place, followed by Katy High's Brianna Cannon in second and Seven Lakes' Kailey Koval in third. All advanced to the regional meet.

In 19-6A boys diving, Tompkins starred. Daniel Barrientos won gold and teammate Matthew Aigner won second to advance to regionals.

The Region V-Class 6A swimming and diving championships will be held Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at the Cy-Fair ISD Natatorium in Cypress.



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Seven Lakes' Andres Sea participates in the boys 500 yard freestyle event at the District 19-6A swimming championships at the Katy High natatorium on Saturday, Jan. 18.



Taylor High's girls varsity swim team poses for a photo in the pool after winning the 19-6A swim title at the Katy High natatorium on Saturday, Jan. 18.



Seven Lakes' boys varsity swim team poses for a photo in the pool after winning the 19-6A swim title at the Katy High natatorium on Saturday, Jan. 18.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

P	B	S	D	A	B	E	S	C							
O	A	T	E	R	R	N	T	H							
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9	5	6	4	8	7	2	1	3
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6	1	8	3	2	9	4	7	5
5	7	3	6	4	1	9	2	8
7	6	5	9	3	2	1	8	4
1	8	9	7	5	4	3	6	2
3	2	4	1	6	8	7	5	9

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