



## All in the family

### Daniels twins get it from dad

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Mike Daniels still has the game ticket in his wallet. It is proof of attendance, an assurance of reality, of December's Class 6A-Division II state semifinal football game between the Taylor Mustangs, with his twin sons Marcus and Jordan as starting defensive ends, and eventual state champion Austin Westlake at McLane Stadium in Waco.

It's a warm reminder of what was and an exciting reminder of what could be.

"I always said I'll always keep that ticket, because maybe one day we'll be back, or we'll get further," said Daniels, manager at Willy Burger in Old Town Katy since 2017. "That run was amazing, seeing those kids coming together."

Since the fifth grade, Marcus and Jordan have played on the same football team. It started with tackle football in Katy Youth Football. It continued through sixth grade, when Marcus won a national championship on a loaded Katy All-American team co-founded by Mike. And it came together once again last season as juniors, when Taylor defensive coordinator J Jensen moved Jordan from receiver to defense right at the start of the playoffs, pairing him with his brother up front.

Now it's the final hurrah for Marcus and Jordan as Mustangs, and maybe even playing together. They hope to play on the same college team at the next level, but that's not a guarantee. So, for now, they're soaking in every minute of this final senior ride, as key players for a driven Mustangs team.

Taylor is 2-0 following its 26-14 win over George Ranch on Oct. 1. The defense is allowing a stingy seven points per game.

"We have a lot of eyes on us and we have high expectations," Marcus said. "There's a lot of pressure on us. The goal is state."

#### Never back down

Daniels has tons of unforgettable

See DANIELS, page B5

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# Comptroller speaks in Katy

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Tex. Comptroller Glenn Hegar provided an update Thursday afternoon to inform business leaders of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the state's overall budget. Predicting impacts to the state budget with its dependence on sales tax revenue has been a challenge with unexpected trends, Hegar said.

"For the current budget cycle, we had a \$3 billion surplus, but we knew that surplus was going to go away," Hegar said. "The question was ... how much would it get eroded?"

During an event held by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, Hegar said Texas assesses and establishes its budget every other year for a two-year period. The budgeting assessment had looked to start out with a \$3 billion surplus for the coming 2021-22 budget had changed into a now-projected \$4.6 billion deficit.

"Now that deficit is in part being closed because very quickly, I told my staff, I said, we're going to freeze hires; we're going to freeze pay increases. We are reevaluating all of our active projects because these are things we can control very quickly," Hegar said.

Hegar said identifying the economic factors in this unusual economic time had the Comptroller's Office looking at what he called "nontraditional economic indicators" such as airline usage.

"I never knew that ... actually we have about 2.3 million people fly in airplanes in the United States every single day," Hegar said.

While, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, Hegar's number was smaller than that agency's reported average of 2.9 million daily air travelers, Hegar said the number had dropped to about



Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar speaks at the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's October meeting at Perry's Steakhouse in LaCentera in the Cinco Ranch portion of the Katy area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY KELLY RICHMAN/COUNTRY PARK PORTRAITS

90,000 people daily for some time which is why the air travel has been in headlines throughout the last few months. However, he said, there have been some signs of recovery.

"Over Labor Day Weekend, we actually hit - on two of the days - we had a little over a million. That is a far cry from average," Hegar said. "Actually, the average of about 750,000 is what we had (Sept. 30)."

Other state agencies are trimming their budgets similarly and some of the sales tax receipts have not been as negative in comparison to 2019 as expected, Hegar said. The Comptroller's Office did not

expect a positive sales tax month to be reported for nearly a year, but he and his staff were pleasantly surprised. It turned out that revenues reported in July for June proceeds showed a positive tax collection result much earlier than expected when he got that report July 20, Hegar explained.

"What's interesting is a few days later other states and revenue departments were checking in with each other and saying, 'Well wait, it looks like we're having a positive month and we did not expect to have a positive month this early on.'"

See COMPTROLLER, page A6



R. HANS MILLER

Katy ISD Board of Trustees candidates are competing for positions four and five on the school district's governing body this Nov. 3.

## Q&A with Katy ISD trustee candidates

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Three positions are on the ballot for Katy ISD positions for the upcoming Nov. 3 election. Voters within Katy ISD will have the opportunity to check boxes next to the names of candidates for the Katy ISD Board of Trustees positions three, four and five when they head to the polls.

Ashley Vann, candidate for Position 3 and incumbent on the board has effectively won her election due to her

See TRUSTEES, page A5

## Ft. Bend Pct. 3 Constable candidates talk priorities

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

After this year, Fort Bend County's third precinct will have a newly-elected constable after incumbent Constable Wayne Thompson dropped out of the race, saying that he wanted to focus on his family.

Two candidates are currently in the running. Republican Chad Norvell, a major with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is running against Democrat Patrick Quincy, an Incident Response Division Manager with the Harris County Toll Road Authority and sergeant with the Harris County Constable Pct. 3 Reserve Division. Both are U.S. Marine Corps veterans with extensive experience and certifications in law enforcement and residents of Fort Bend's third precinct.

Each candidate was provided the questions via email and was given the same deadline to return their responses with the same word count limitations for each respective question. Responses have been lightly edited to correct typos and



CHAD NORVELL PATRICK QUINCY

formatting and to be within the word count limitations established for each question.

#### Tell us about yourself:

**Norvell:** I have 27 years of law enforcement experience with the last 16 years at the management level. I am currently a Major with FBCSO and oversee Patrol, Criminal Investigations and Media Relations. I have been in this position since 2013 and served for 8 years prior as the Chief Deputy for FBC Pct. 4 Constable's Office. I have a BS in Organizational Leadership, am a graduate of the Police Staff and Command School at Northwestern University, and a US

See CONSTABLE, page A3

## Waller Harris ESD 200 asks for approval of 1% sales tax

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Waller Harris Emergency Services District 200 is asking voters to approve a 1% sales tax increase in unincorporated portions of the district which spans all of Waller County and a portion of Harris County in the Katy and Cypress areas. Funds raised through the sales tax will be used to improve the ten volunteer fire depart-

ments the district oversees, WHESD 200 commissioners said.

"In most of the county (sales tax is set at) 6.25% and then what we're asking for is one cent," said WHESD 200 Commissioner Tommy Albert, who also serves as the district's treasurer.

The general idea is to ensure the district has equipment and staff available to respond quickly to

See TAX, page A6

**W H ESD 200, PROPOSITION A**  
W H ESD 200, PROPOSICION A  
W H ESD 200, KE HOACH DE NGHİ A  
W H ESD 200, 提案 A  
THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN WALLER-HARRIS EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 200 AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED ONE PERCENT (1%) IN ANY LOCATION IN THE DISTRICT.  
LA ADOPCIÓN DE UN IMPUESTO LOCAL SOBRE LAS VENTAS Y EL USO EN EL DISTRITO NRO. 200 DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA DE WALLER-HARRIS A UNA TASA QUE NO EXCEDA EL UNO POR CIENTO (1%) EN CUALQUIER LUGAR DEL DISTRITO.  
VỀ AN DUNG THUẾ BÀN VÀ SỬ DỤNG TẠI ĐỊA PHƯƠNG TRONG KHU VỰC DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 200 CỦA WALLER-HARRIS VỚI TỶ LỆ KHÔNG VƯỢT QUÁ MỘT PHẦN TRĂM (1%) TẠI BẤT KỲ ĐỊA ĐIỂM NÀO TRONG KHU VỰC.  
在 WALLER-HARRIS 緊急事件服務區第 200 號地區徵收當地銷售和使用稅。稅率在該地區的任何位置均不超過 1% (1%)。

FOR A FAVOR 贊成

AGAINST EN CONTRA 反對

**Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200**  
**Proposition A**  
Distrito de Servicios de Emergencia de Waller-Harris No. 200  
Proposición A  
Local Sales and Use Tax  
The adoption of a local sales and use tax in Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200 at a rate not to exceed one percent (1%) in any location in the district.  
Impuesto Local a las Ventas y al Uso  
La adopción de un impuesto local sobre ventas y uso en el Distrito de Servicios de Emergencia de Waller-Harris No. 200 a una tasa que no exceda del uno por ciento (1%) en cualquier lugar del distrito.

For A Favor

Against En Contra

HARRIS AND WALLER COUNTIES

Waller Harris ESD 200 is asking for voter approval for a 1% sales tax in unincorporated portions of the district to fund improvements to emergency services.



WALLER COUNTY

Luther Francis (left in blue medical mask) and Prairie View Mayor David Allen (right in suit) attended the Waller County Commissioners Court meeting on Sept. 30 as well as the flag raising ceremony at the memorial afterward. Allen said Francis, at 97, is perhaps the oldest living WWII veteran in Waller County.

## Waller Co. moves forward with virus testing, honors vets

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Waller County Commissioners Court announced the implementation of its own COVID-19 testing program in partnership with AccessHealth during its Sept. 30 meeting. It also had a flag-raising ceremony for the county's new veterans memorial which is located on

See TESTING, page A5

## Family tradition still kicking in Katy

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Master Joseph Santarose and his wife Erika Erica just recently moved their family martial arts studio, Rock Solid Martial Arts, into downtown Katy. The dojang originally opened in a 1,000-square-foot storage unit just off The Grand Parkway in 2011, but with a focus on the students and bringing family together, Santarose has been able to bring his family's tradition of martial arts to the Old Town Katy District.

"I was forced to do it because my dad owned a Taekwondo school," Santarose said. "So I started when I was four, but then I just fell in love with it when I was about 11 or 12 years old and I loved the fighting aspect of it. That also helped me build a lot of confidence because I am hard of hearing."

Santarose, who said he has about a 90% hearing loss, said connecting with people at his fathers martial arts studio helped him make friends as a child. The confidence he built in that social environment and the talent he found he had as a competitor kept him going.

While Santarose didn't mention it, Erica pointed out that his love of Taekwondo and the effort he puts into his students as a result of his passion for martial arts has earned him two inductions into the U.S. Martial Arts Hall of Fame - both times in categories relating to quality instruction. His first induction was in 2013 as master instructor of the year and his second a few years later as leading Taekwondo master.

However, Santarose said, while he's proud of his own achievements in the ring, it is the connections with his students and how his sport brings families together that makes it worth it for him.

"That's one of the things that I always tell the parents, you know, you can't play on the softball team or the baseball team with your kids. You can play on the football team with them - but you can do Taekwondo with them," Santarose said.

Santarose said that, while the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for the martial arts studio. However, there have been some things that have helped. He began offering instruction online when COVID-19 closed the business down - Rock Solid is categorized as a gym for business purposes - and moving into a new, larger space allows for social distancing now that the business can open with partial capacity. The space allows him to space students out into work-out stations that they can then sanitize themselves prior to switching to the

next station, similar to circuit training with one-on-one instruction as Santarose works with each student.

"(Sept. 25) we had 30 people come in just for that one-on-one training and just rotating through," Santarose said.

Now that classes have begun again, Santarose has realized that his instruction process was already set up to facilitate social distancing with students spaced six feet apart when lined up for drills, he said.

Another thing that has helped has been the popularity of the new "Karate Kid" spinoff show, "Cobra Kai," Santarose and Erica said. As pop culture focuses on martial arts, the dojang sees waves of students come in and the most recent one has helped keep the business running they said.

"You know, it's funny, because on Facebook everybody's (saying), 'Oh, we saw "Cobra Kai" so we're coming by to check out martial arts.' Everybody's getting into it, and what's funny is I know the show and I've seen a couple of episodes, (but) I haven't watched it like everybody else has," Joseph said.

Joseph said his focus though isn't on TV shows, but making sure students connect to the sport and traditions of martial arts and succeed. It's a point of affectionate contention for the two.

"I hate watching martial arts films with him," Erica said. "He's always like, 'Really? That was the kick you're gonna go with?'"

Erica, who functions as office manager and jack-of-all-trades for the business, said she has seen her husband's dedication to his students and she's proud of his humility and passion as a Taekwondo master. For him, she said, it's about helping students succeed which she said is part of why his students have done well in competitions.

"Two of his boys right now are currently in the running to represent the U.S. at the Olympics in 2024," Erica said. "And I would say that's because of his commitment."

Santarose said those successes come from a love of the sport he learned from his father and encourages parents to join in with their young martial artists. He offers classes for adults as well, he said, and if the parents have studied other martial arts disciplines, he'll keep them at their same belt level and work with them to learn Taekwondo at that same level before the belt progression starts or allow them to start from scratch with a white belt just like their children so the family can have a shared learning experience.

"You can ask them to get on the (dojang) floor, practice with them, get your black belt together, and it's really cool to see a family of three or four all get together and get their black belts," Santarose said.



Joseph Santarose is a successful competition fighter himself and a 5th degree black belt in Taekwondo. Since 2009, he has a fight record of 52 wins and 12 losses and has competed on the global stage.



Joseph Santarose (right) and his wife Erika Erica (left) are the owner-operators of Rock Solid Martial Arts in Old Town Katy. Erica kept her maiden name when the pair got married because she thought it was a fun part of her personality that she didn't want to lose.



Santarose's students have been successful in competitions both regionally and nationally. His wife said that, while he nurtures them, he also instills in them the discipline necessary to succeed.



While Santarose has competed internationally, he said his favorite part of his job is working with young students in his dojang.



A martial arts studio dedicated to Taekwondo is referred to as a dojang. Rock Solid offers enough space in its dojang to allow students to spread out while working out.

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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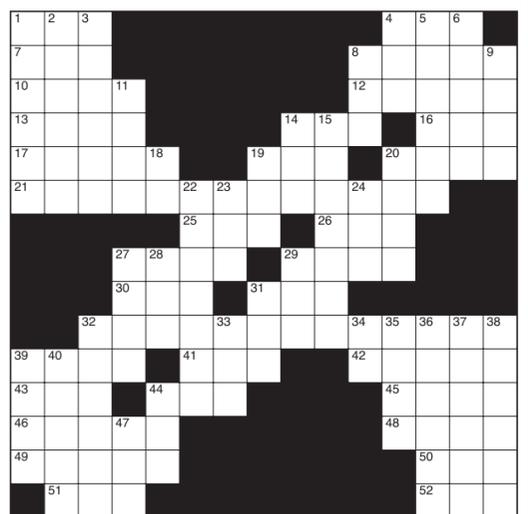
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- They look out for kids
- Play
- Water (French)
- Prayer leader
- Small constellation
- \_\_ Carta: influential royal charter
- Pressure unit
- Extrasensory perception
- A symbol of "Aloha"
- Portion of the small intestine
- Psychedelic amphetamine
- Very long period of time
- British overseas territory
- Cereal grain
- Car mechanics group
- Wish harm upon
- At a specific prior time
- Peyton's younger brother
- UK firefighters' union
- Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- Popular show honoring musicians
- Basics
- Honk
- Trent Reznor's band
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Long-legged wading bird
- Specialized biological grouping
- A coin goes in it
- Of the wind
- One-time measure of length
- A very large body of water
- River in NE Scotland

### CLUES DOWN

- Boston hoopster



- A type of bribe
- SE England county
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Italian province
- Mischievous child
- Popular street name
- Boxing promoter Bob
- Snakelike fish
- Break into pieces
- The Bay State
- Time zone
- Port city in Yemen
- In name only
- 007's creator
- No (Scottish)
- Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- Pie \_\_ mode
- Don't know when yet
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Make a ringing metallic sound
- Helps little firms
- Pound
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Put on the back burner
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Poker stake
- Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- Pouch
- Not around

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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## TRUSTEES

from page A1

only candidate, R.C. Simmons, dropping out of the race earlier this year citing racist messages and harassment of his family as the reason for stepping away from the campaign.

That leaves Leah Wilson and Michael Dillard vying for the Position 4 trustee seat while incumbent Bill Lacy faces challenger Greg Schulte for the Position 5 seat. Current KISD Board of Trustees President Courtney Doyle and Position 4 seat holder withdrew her bid for reelection Feb. 14.

All of the candidates have children and/or grandchildren that have attended or will attend Katy ISD in the near future.

The races for the KISD Board of Trustees are nonpartisan, therefore the respective candidates' party affiliations are not listed in this article.

Candidates were all provided the questions concurrently via email and received the same word count limitations for their responses.

### Position 4

#### Tell us about yourself:

**Dillard:** My family has lived in Katy for ten years. I am a former elementary school teacher. My wife has taught kindergarten for eight years in Katy ISD and has a huge impact on my desire to serve. Our three children are on the honor roll and involved in extra-curricular activities. I strongly support the district's SPED program, having two children with their own 504 plans. Currently I am a seasoned Human Resources professional who builds strategic relationships and creates solutions that support corporate values/objectives. I have volunteered thousands of hours in the district along with serving on numerous committees.

**Wilson:** My husband Brian and I, along with three of their four children have resided in Katy/Fulshear since 2014. My community involvement includes: Girl Scout troop co-leader, Big Brother/Big Sister volunteer, member and officer in multiple school PTAs including Katy Council of PTAs, school volunteering and band booster organizations. I am an alumnus of Leadership Katy and was a member of the 2017 Bond Advisory Committee.

I retired from the US Air Force in 2012. Professionally, I have more than 21 years' experience in Information Technology with multiple IT certifications and have managed procurement, installation, administration and security of vast networks.

**Q. Human trafficking is a concern throughout the Houston metropolitan area. What do you feel Katy ISD can do to help keep students safe from human trafficking?**

**Dillard:** Human trafficking is here in Katy and is a major concern for the young women in our district as well as various nationalities. Every single life matters and as a district we must do all we can to protect our students from outside influences. Train school personnel to recognize and respond to the signs of trafficking. Develop and implement a trafficking protocol. Offer a prevention curriculum to students. See something, say something; save a life.

**Wilson:** This is a very complex issue and one Katy ISD must collaborate with outside sources. This team should include child protective services, law enforcement and social services to develop protocols for human trafficking. Then they will need to increase staff awareness through education, increase parent and student awareness of risks and realities of trafficking and most importantly develop district-wide policies/protocols for identifying and responding to suspected victims.

Finally, we will need to institute teaching our school children about sex trafficking in an age appropriate, yet realistic manner. This must happen because children will not divulge to most adults and their fellow students will be more apt to inform someone of trust.

**Q. Katy ISD students created the group Katy 4 Justice this year and said they would like to see Black History curriculum improved within the district. While much of the overall history curriculum is set by the Texas Education Agency, what do you think board members should do to ensure more options for history courses that reflect the district's diversity?**

**Dillard:** National conversation on racial injustice brings new scrutiny to how Black history is taught. African American history is for everyone and U.S. history is incomplete without the complete story being told. Black history plays an important role all throughout our nation's past (and present) intersecting in every unit and period.

The Board of Education in Texas recently approved a course on African American studies that will be an elective for high school students.

I'm committed to expanding the curriculum as it pertains to Black history and petitioning TEA to do so. Helping ensure that every Black student (as well as the entire student population) gets a chance to learn about the culture they come from and most importantly, have the permission to dream about the possibilities of who they can become is critical. A month to recognize the contributions that African Americans have made to our great nation and the oppression they have faced and continue to face isn't good enough. It needs to be talked about and incorporated into history lessons every single day.

**Wilson:** Board members have an obligation to our students, families, teachers and community to ensure the education of our students is whole. Katy has a deep heritage and our students will be better for knowing the entire truth: the pleasant, the controversial, the easy to discuss, the difficult to discuss, all the history that has culminated into our current diverse environment. One place we can look for detailed guidance is Fort Bend ISD to understand what it is doing to highlight the history of the district after the recent mass grave findings in Sugar Land.

**Q. Secondary education continues to become more costly, while vocational training and occupations provide good career options for those with high school educations. Miller Career Center provides several vocational training options. What other vocations would you like to see added to its program offerings to help students succeed without going into crippling student debt?**

**Dillard:** I've had the pleasure of touring the Miller Career Center a few times and was completely floored with the vast array of vocations they have to offer. From cyber security and architectural design to cosmetology and hospitality, the MCC truly is an amazing resource to hundreds of juniors and seniors annually.

I have eaten at the Bistro quite often which is run by students and the food is delicious. Houston continues to be the oil/gas hub of the world and the environmental consulting industry has a dominating presence locally as well. Adding oil and gas blue collar vocations such as drillers and deck hands would prepare graduates to step into the oil field.

Environmental technicians are in high demand as well and training certifications are achievable within six months to a year.

Additionally, real estate agents will always be needed as there will always be property for sale no matter the economic climate. Giving students the ability to earn their real estate license would be a great boost to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation.

**Wilson:** This is a topic near and dear to my heart and is my number one priority for Katy ISD. I want to ensure we continue to support all potential post-high-school pathways and develop opportunities to match students with future needs in the workforce.

To that end, I would like to see the following vocations added to our curriculum: Carpentry, Construction Inspector, Electrician, Plumbing, HVAC, Real Estate, Firefighter and last but not least additional JROTC options. I would be remiss if I failed to mention that we could start it sooner than 9th grade. We could offer introduction opportunities for our Junior High students in a handful of areas to introduce them to the variety of options they will have.

**Q. How accessible will you be to parents and students, if elected, and what will you do to ensure they can speak with you about their concerns?**

**Dillard:** I will be accessible at all times to anyone who would like to talk, no matter the day or time. As a trustee I want to know first-hand the concerns of parents and students. There are protocols and processes the board has to follow but I will always have an open line of communication and will gladly point people in the right direction. Additionally, I will work on the back end to make sure concerns are addressed in a timely manner. If there are lingering questions still, I will work to find a solution that works for both the student/parent as well as the district. As a new trustee, there will be questions that I will not know. If I'm asked a question on a topic I'm not familiar with, I will let you know. I will confer with my colleagues on the board and do my own research to familiarize myself with the issue at hand and reach out with an answer quickly.

**Wilson:** I want to be a strong voice for our community and help mend the broken relationship between the school board and our community. My intention is to provide greater transparency by bringing information directly to the public and relaying information/questions back to the members of the board. I will be happy to use any form of communication legally allowed to reach every educator, parent, student and community member within Katy ISD. Building open lines of communication creates public understanding, feelings of mutual support and greater participation. If I fail to speak with our key stakeholders, how can the board possibly weigh all of the facts before making any decisions?

### Position 5

#### Tell us about yourself:

**Lacy:** I am a Senior Loan Officer in the mortgage banking profession. I am currently the Vice President of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees. I am on the Texas Association of School Boards Board of Directors, TASB Budget and Finance Committee, have been a Delegate, and training partner. I am a member of the Mexican American School Boards Association as a voting representative. I am active with the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards. I have served on numerous Katy ISD committees. I support Future Farmers of America. I have resided in the Katy area for more than 25 years.

**Schulte:** I am married with four kids and have lived in Katy for over 20 years. I have been active volunteer in all my children's activities including soccer, basketball, theater and choir. I have an Engineering degree and have been a Project Manager of large complex international and domestic oil and gas projects for over 30 years. I am currently in the ownership group of a mid-sized engineering firm with over 500 employees and 8 offices in 3 countries. I have a wide range of experience including developing corporate strategy, organizational improvement, procurement, risk management and workforce development.

**Q. Human trafficking is a concern throughout the Houston metropolitan area. What do you feel Katy ISD can do to help keep students safe from human trafficking?**

**Lacy:** Awareness is important. Not only the staff (teachers, administration, police), but our children as well. Human trafficking is happening everywhere. Education and awareness will go a long way to help prevent our children (and adults) from being lured into situations that jeopardize their safety and well-being.

**Schulte:** Schools cannot address this critical issue alone, and I DO believe schools can play an important front line role in recognizing key indicators and developing policies and educational awareness tools for students, parents, and faculty. I think the district should consider following a similar path that they did when bullying became a big issue several years ago. A working committee of concerned and motivated parents, administration representatives, teachers and subject matter experts was chartered. This committee developed a framework that resulted in a comprehensive anti-bullying policy with measurable and impactful results. The same method that worked previously, could be employed to keep our children safe from sext trafficking.

**Q. As the district grows, new campuses become necessary which cause attendance boundary modifications. What can the district do to help parents better understand the process and make the transition easier for students?**

**Lacy:** Attendance Boundary Modification is one of the most difficult jobs that is placed on a Trustee. As a rapid growth district, Katy ISD has had to open several schools over the last 30 years due to overcrowding. Safety of our children is very important to me. It is what is on my mind as I review and consider the movement of our students.

**Schulte:** It looks like growth is here to stay in Katy ISD, even considering impacts COVID-19 has had on the economy. Growth leads to difficult but necessary decisions on boundary modifications. I feel the best strategy for the administration is to actively and transparently engage with the community with the sincere intent to listen and understand their concerns. Whenever possible, the district should seek mutually agreeable solutions/compromises for the benefit of everyone. And when difficult decision

must be made, the district needs to remain sensitive to the impact the decision have on the students.

**Q. Katy ISD students created the group Katy 4 Justice last year and said they would like to see Black History curriculum improved within the district. While much of the overall history curriculum is set by the Texas Education Agency, what do you think board members should do to ensure more options for history courses that reflect the district's diversity?**

**Lacy:** History continues to be one of my favorite subjects. The history of our state and country is important. I feel we need to teach a full and comprehensive history of our state and country.

**Schulte:** I feel the Board has the responsibility to solicit feedback from the community, determine if gaps exist, and then work with the Superintendent to update the district's strategic plan (annually) to ensure all critical items identified are added for consideration. Items added to the strategic plan, should be tactical plans developed by the Administration with the Board support and oversight. An item such as enhanced Back History curriculum benefits everyone, and as such, should be discussed and an aggressive plan developed to implement changes.

**Q. Secondary education continues to become more costly, while vocational training and occupations provide good career options for those with high school educations. Miller Career Center provides several vocational training options. What other vocations would you like to see added to its program offerings to help students succeed without going into crippling student debt?**

**Lacy:** Miller Career Center offers so many opportunities to our students. Programs I would like to see added would be building trades - Heating and Air Conditioning, Plumbing, Electrical to name a few. The challenge in the past has been the number of students that have shown interest in those skills.

**Schulte:** I believe the Miller Career and Technology Center (MCTC) is outstanding alternative for students that make the decision not to go to college. The MCTC currently offers a wide range of relevant post high school skills. The list of offerings should be continuously be evaluated based on hiring trends, and interests of the community. I would like to see consideration given for further expansion of services into the trades (electrician, plumber, renewable energy, HVAC).

**Q. How accessible will you be to parents and students, if elected, and what will you do to ensure they can speak with you about their concerns?**

**Lacy:** I feel I have been and will continue to be very accessible to our parents. My cell phone is always on. I have a district email. People frequently see me out in the community. I am not someone that is easily lost in a crowd. I welcome discussion from anyone. If you would like to discuss a concern, have a solution we can discuss as well.

**Schulte:** I think it imperative that the BOT and Administration be available and open to continuously solicit feedback from all key stakeholders (teachers, students, parents). I do not believe that the 30-minute open forum at the begging of BOD meetings, does not provide the correct venue for concerned community members to provide feedback to the BOT /Superintendent. I have a spent a lot of time meeting with the community during the campaign process, and am finding there are groups of stakeholders with similar issues that have formed and would like the opportunity to discuss ideas they have. To the extent the BOT is allowed to communicate directly with these groups, I would plan to make this a priority.

## Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals on 10/8/2020: This is to give notice that the Waller County has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Development Block Grant Program under contract 20-065-062-C180. The County proposes to reroute a section of Diemer Road with the use of excavation, road base and asphalt and shall complete associated appurtenances, creating approximately 4,500 linear feet of new road in Waller Co., Texas. The project shall include activities within approximately 6.2 acres of the 100-year floodplain. Waller County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: a reduction in scope, alternate locations, and no action. The scope and location of project activities were chosen based on minimum improvements necessary to correct the health and safety risks existing facilities pose to the natural and human environment. Best management practices shall be employed during construction and shall comply with state and local floodplain management protection procedures. Waller County has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative, and that project activities shall have minimal to no negative impact on the floodplain. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review, and copying upon request during regular business hours at the County Courthouse. There are three primary purposes for this notice: (1) People who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas; (2) An adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas; and (3) As a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received on or before 10/15/2020 by Waller County at 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445, (979) 826-7700. Attention: Carbett "Trey" J. Duhan, County Judge, during regular business hours. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during regular business hours at 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445. Comments may also be submitted via email to ben@grantworks.net.



MICHAEL DILLARD



BILL LACY



GREG SCHULTE



LEAH WILSON

## John Lennon's 80th birthday

**I**ronically enough, I did not sleep PEACEFULLY last night, because I was concerned about taking the wrong tone with this column about the iconic singer/songwriter/musician and anti-war activist who wrote "Give Peace A Chance."

Friday, October 9 marks the 80th anniversary of the birth of John Lennon (who was murdered by a deranged fan on December 8, 1980 at age 40).

In honor of Lennon's outspokenness, I hesitated about writing a fawning Beatles-fan puff piece; but neither did I want to lay too much criticism on a fellow fallible human being who isn't here to defend himself.

Then I got the idea of thinking of Lennon as a Facebook friend.

Facebook allows you to experience the touchy-feely side of people you may know only casually. Likewise, the home movies in the video for Lennon's "Beautiful Boy" (from the "Double Fantasy" album) genuinely tug at the heartstrings.

Various Facebook memes let you see your friends in a different light ("What would your pirate name be?" and the like). I got choked up seeing actor Robert Carlyle's cameo as a 78-year-old unassuming, non-celebrity Lennon in the 2019 fantasy movie "Yesterday."

Facebook shows you how your friends strive to grow and reinvent themselves. The Beatles COULD have hung on as a nostalgia act for decades, playing their "Ed Sullivan Show"-era hits at local dances and Rotary Club fundraisers; but (both before and after the breakup), Lennon thrived on innovation, experimentation and avant-garde aspirations, creating a deeper bond with the listeners and society.

With Facebook, you get treated to previously unseen "glory days" snapshots of your friends. On a recent weekend, my wife, our son and I FINALLY got to watch and enjoy the zany 1965 Beatles movie "Help!"

If you're like me, you sometimes click "Like" without really scrutinizing all those vacation albums and kindergarten graduation



DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

albums that your friends inundate you with; but every now and then, you have the luxury of time. Lennon left a discography containing much more than commercial hits such as "Power to the People" and "Instant Karma" and I hope I live long enough to explore it.

And, of course, SOMETIMES your friends – no matter how witty, talented and lovable they are – espouse political beliefs so wrongheaded that they convince you they were repeatedly dropped on their heads as youngsters.

Yes, I'm thinking about "Imagine" (which some people would like to see replace the National Anthem). Although Lennon softened his interpretation of the message over the years, he was initially proud of having applied enough sugar-coating to lure unsuspecting millions into embracing an anti-religious, anti-nationalistic, anti-capitalistic philosophy.

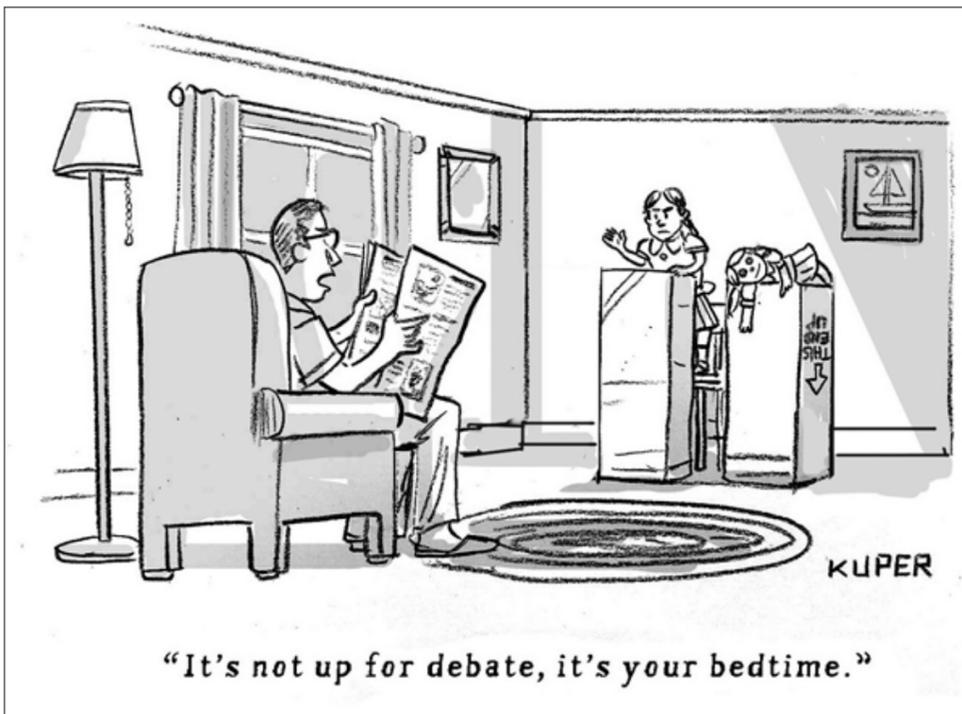
As with Facebook, I'm tempted to cope by rolling my eyes, agreeing to disagree and scrolling down to something less exasperating.

But seriously – don't just sway and chant. THINK about the implications of the lyrics. They're not just naïve or impractical or misguided; they're all those things ON STEROIDS.

Imagine there's no heaven? As if primordial ooze produced a genius such as Lennon? As if DREAMERS should relish the "fact" that all great musicians just CEASE TO EXIST?

No possessions? Um, stereotypes are possessions, dude. Living for today?

Yes, I'll live for today. I'll ALSO cherish my MEMORIES and plan for a FUTURE in which I employ a wide range of emojis to keep new generations aware of John Winston Lennon – warts and all.



## Feeling fatigued? You're not alone.

**F**eeling emotionally fatigued? Imagine how players in the NBA playoffs must've felt last month. Following another police shooting of an unarmed Black man, players were faced with a difficult choice: protest the death of Jacob Blake, or play as scheduled.

Many chose to protest – a decision viewed by some as an empty gesture of the entitled, and by others as a courageous stand of the outraged. Regardless, as a behavioral scientist, I can tell you that these athletes – alongside many of us – are fatigued.

Right now, many Americans are experiencing something we call "identity fatigue" – exhaustion from everything we're being asked to do. Wear a mask. Protest for social change. Hire a diverse workforce. Buy sustainable goods. Get out and vote. And don't forget to do your job – from home.

Playing all of these identities – hero, activist, green consumer, possible contagion, mindful citizen, dutiful employee – is exhausting. It's exactly how professor Roger Reeves described the pressures of protest on Black athletes in his moving essay, "Black athletes were exhausted with bearing the dead on their shoulders."

"They were exhausted, so they stopped working," wrote Reeves. "Exhausted by the pandemic and laboring inside the bubble that



LILLY KOFLER

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

allowed the NBA to salvage its season and profits. Exhausted by the isolation. Exhausted by this latest summer of killings by the police and white supremacist vigilantes."

Do you see it now? Reeves is talking about the compounding pressures of multiple identities on these athletes. I count at least four: Black American, citizen surviving the pandemic, hard-working employee, and mobilizer for social change.

How many roles are you being asked to play?

Remember how tired you felt when your mom barged in on a Saturday morning, demanding you do the chores you'd been putting off all week? Now amplify that to a national scale – and add a racial reckoning, an ever-present climate crisis and a global pandemic.

This kind of fatigue can pose actual dangers. The UK government used it as a reason not to impose stronger regulations to curb the spread of

the coronavirus, arguing that too many restrictions would cause behavioral fatigue and lead to non-compliance. In the U.S., we're being hit with so many changing demands at once that even the simplest actions, like wearing a mask, can get blurred.

Luckily, behavioral science can help us all fight the fatigue.

Practice Radical Acceptance.

One study found that not fully adopting an identity can lead to burnout and fatigue. Self-doubt is a big part of this, as is playing "out of position" in multiple roles. Operating as an executive, a teacher's assistant, and a Zoom technician all from your kitchen table can make it difficult to adopt one singular identity. The remedy here – rather than rejecting these new roles – is to practice radical acceptance. Yes, life is weird now – but accept it, stop fighting it, and move on.

Pick Your Sources. Consistent miscommunication and mistrust can push us to tune out the world. First, we weren't supposed to wear masks, and now we are? No one knows anything, so I'm listening to nothing, right? Wrong. You can combat this tendency by being a smart shopper for accurate information. Don't follow hashtags on Twitter, follow accounts you trust to tell you the truth.

Limit Your Options. We all love the freedom of choice, but having too many options can actually ruin your motivation to make any decision at all. It can also make you unhappier with the choice you do make. Some, such as Steve Jobs and Barack Obama, limit their clothing choices to free up brain space for work. Others cook ahead on Sunday, so they don't have to decide what to make for dinner every night. You have a shirt that looks good on a Zoom call? Amazing! Buy one in every color.

Among many other things, this pandemic has reminded us of our interconnectedness and the potential of our actions to impact those around us – a realization at once empowering and exhausting. And as we continue on in face of these challenges, knowing what is causing this exhaustion might help us better manage identity fatigue and provide a healthier way to engage with the world.

***This kind of fatigue can pose actual dangers. The UK government used it as a reason not to impose stronger regulations to curb the spread of the coronavirus, arguing that too many restrictions would cause behavioral fatigue and lead to non-compliance. In the U.S., we're being hit with so many changing demands at once that even the simplest actions, like wearing a mask, can get blurred.***

## Katy Times

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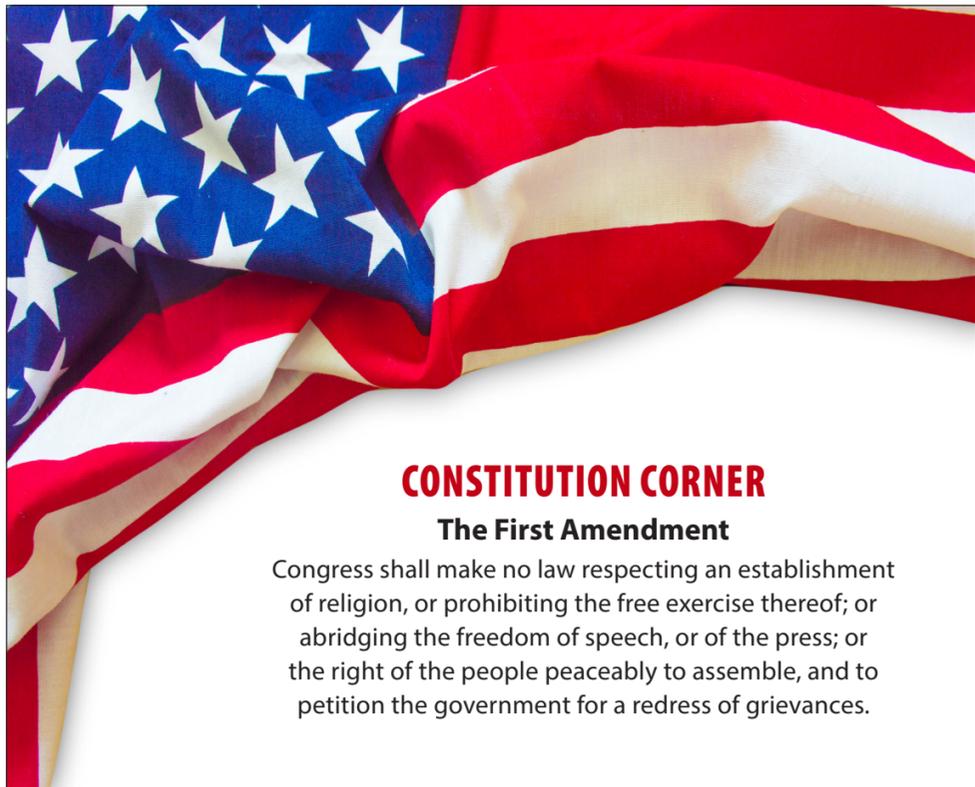
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## CONSTITUTION CORNER

### The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

KATYTIMES.COM

Elgin "Neil" Hart of Katy, Texas, passed away on October 3, 2020 at the age of 85.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gussie Rosenhain Hart and Elgin Hart; sister, Anna Beth Hart Sherrill; and brother, Ronald Hart.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marilyn Jurajda Hart of Katy; daughter, Lisa Hart Yarbrough and her husband, Dr. Michael Yarbrough of Katy; sons, Jeffrey Hart and his wife Arla Hart of Winchester, TX, Gregory Hart of Maryville, TN, and Bradley Hart and his wife Laurie Hart of Georgetown, TX; grandchildren, Kayla, Kensley and Cayden Hart, Gregory "Neil" Hart, Nichole Barton

and Darrell Sledge; great grandchildren, Grey Hart, Sophia, Emerson, Brooks, and Eleanor Barton, Caleb Stimac, Brenden Downs, and Bryson, Cameron, and Dylan Sledge.

Neil was born on November 12, 1934 in Winchester, Texas. He attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College after graduation from LaGrange High School. Neil joined the Air Force in August 1954 and was at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

On June 7, 1958, Neil married Marilyn Jurajda and they moved to Houston. He worked for General Motors until retiring. Neil loved hunting, fishing, and camping with

family and friends. He was in the cattle business all of his life. He loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren dearly. Neil was a great husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He will truly be missed.

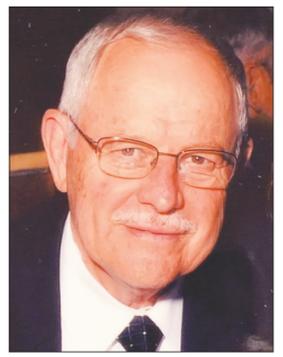
The family of Elgin Neil Hart would like to thank DaVita Dialysis Center at Cinco Ranch for all the years of care.

The family will receive friends 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel, in Katy, where funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020. A graveside service

with military honors will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020 at the Winchester Cemetery in Winchester, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Jeffrey Hart, Gregory Hart, Bradley Hart, Gregory "Neil" Hart, Dr. Michael Yarbrough, and Jonathan Hart. Honorary pallbearers will be Darrell Sledge, Ronnie Sherrill, Lester Kitchen, Edsel Morrow, Dwight Mann, Henry Pearson, Ray Byrd, and Jules LeBlanc.

Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home at 1344 W. Grand Parkway South in Katy, Texas. They can be reached at 281-391-2424.



**ELGIN NEIL HART**  
1935-2019

## CONSTABLE

from page A1

Marine Corps Veteran. I am a 26-year resident of the Katy-area and currently reside in Firethorne.

**Quincy:** After graduating high school in May of 1999, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where I proudly served my country. I then moved to Houston, Texas where I attended the Law Enforcement Academy finishing 4th in my graduating class. In April of 2006 I joined the Katy I.S.D. Police Department. In August of 2007 I was sworn in as a member of the Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 5, becoming a supervisor assigned to the HCTRA Incident Management Division. I have a Master Peace Officer certification and 5,800 training hours with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

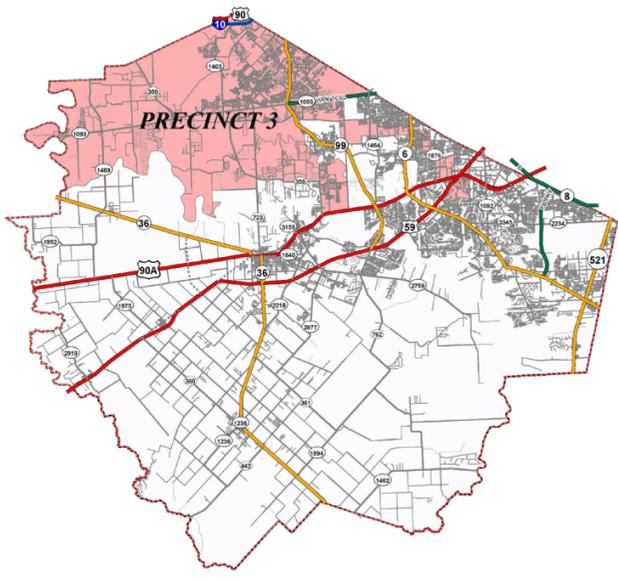
### Q. Why are you running for this position?

**Norvell:** The Constable's Office is funded for 18 employees to perform 3 functions: serve civil process of the courts, serve Class C warrants and provide a bailiff to Justice of the Peace Kelly Crow. The other 32 employees are funded by "supplemental patrol contracts" with HOAs, MUDS or CADs. Those Deputies are supposed to spend 95% of their on-duty time in the given contract. Many have not been. I will ensure I am providing an efficient, professional service for our taxpayers while also ensuring communities are receiving the service they are paying for.

**Quincy:** I am running for Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Constable because I believe that under the right leadership, law enforcement can truly serve all people effectively. I believe law enforcement based in compassion and empathy rather than ego and power is the only way we can truly serve our community. I look forward to working hand in hand with our community and making them feel as if they are part of our agency, and in return we are part of their lives as well. We can truly work together to keep our community safe.

### Q. Precinct 3 has become known for its innovations within the Katy area with an animal cruelty investigator among other programs. What will you do to ensure that services to the community remain consistent and of the highest quality, if elected?

**Norvell:** The Animal Crime Deputy is part of a task force led by the Harris County Pct. 5 Constable's Office in partnership with the Houston Humane Society. I have already met with the supervisor of this unit and recognize there is room for improvement with the Fort Bend County representative. Unfortunately, it is only one Deputy and the Pct. 3 Constable's Office does not have staff to respond outside of the 40 hours that Deputy



FORT BEND COUNTY

Fort Bend County Precinct 3 includes the majority of the Cinco Ranch portion of the Katy area and a slice of the city of Katy as well. Fulshear is also within the precinct along with active areas in the community such as LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch.

works nor are they staffed with Detectives. The program needs support from FBCSO to properly protect animals and respond 24/7 to those calls. Additionally, while that program is in their current budget, many of the other advertised "programs" are not.

I will ensure we are only providing services that are not already provided by another office in Fort Bend County. We should not be wasting tax dollars duplicating services. Duplicating law enforcement services is the flawed, wasteful model of law enforcement that Harris County operates. As a steward of our tax dollars, I will ensure we are operating efficiently and in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.

**Quincy:** Precinct 3 has made vast improvements under the leadership of Constable Wayne Thompson. I look forward to building on those improvements by expanding the Animal Cruelty Division as well as the Contract Program. Expanding our Contract Program will ensure that our deputies are assigned to more neighborhoods in our community which will increase our presence and drastically reduce response times to incidents. I also plan to implement other programs such as a Domestic Violence/Victim's Assistance Division and DWI Taskforce. These programs will allow us to better serve our community.

### Q. Precinct 3 is the most populated portion of Fort Bend County with dramatically more roadways and subdivisions to serve than other portions of the county. What will you do to ensure candidates of the highest quality are recruited at the constable's office to ensure residents are adequately served?

**Norvell:** Actually, the 4 precincts are supposed to be evenly

populated and the current uneven distribution will be corrected in next year's redistricting.

Recruiting law enforcement officers is a challenge nationwide right now. Agencies must maintain their standards during this difficult time and not settle for subpar applicants. Those that are veterans, educated and experienced will be sought out.

**Quincy:** We must take a proactive approach to recruiting if we want to have a diverse group of well-trained deputies patrolling our communities. Our agency will actively pursue quality candidates from our local law enforcement academies. We will also perform a thorough background investigation on every candidate we consider for employment. There are no shortcuts when it comes to putting qualified deputies in our communities. Once we hire these new deputies, we must insure they complete our Field Training Officer Program in order to adequately prepare them for their patrol functions. It can be a long process to find the right candidates but I feel the job is too important and there's too much at stake to take shortcuts.

### Q. What do you see as the biggest need the Pct. 3 constable's office is currently facing and how will you address that need?

**Norvell:** This is the first year in many that Fort Bend County did not provide a raise for employees or allow for growth in law enforcement. This will affect recruiting and how services are provided. Clearly, we still have new residents moving in daily and law enforcement managers must learn to do more with less. COVID-19 has significantly affected income for the county and the forecast for 2021 is not good. We need to be fiscally conservative in all things we do at the agency.

**Quincy:** One of the biggest challenges the Precinct 3 Constable's Office is currently facing is keeping up with the rapid growth in the area. Electing a leader who understands that our area requires more law enforcement and is committed to growing our agency to meet the demands of our community is paramount.

We cannot afford to revert back to the outdated policing model where we are solely dependent on the Sheriff's Office when we have seen that result in 20-30-minute response times to incidents. My model will vastly reduce response times and allow us to respond to our residents at a much faster rate.

Another need of the Precinct 3 Constable's Office is cooperation from the Sheriff's Office as well as the other surrounding agencies. I will prioritize bridging the broken relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the Constable agencies in order to better serve the community and increase our overall effectiveness.

### Q. What will you do to ensure that officers under your command have opportunities to build a rapport with the communities they work in?

**Norvell:** As stated above, 32 of the employees are funded to provide "supplemental" service to area communities. Those deputies will understand their priority is serving and interacting with the given area. They will learn to engage with residents, attend community functions and meetings and work with the community to identify and solve problems.

**Quincy:** I believe the first time you meet the deputy assigned to your neighborhood should not be when there is a problem. Deputies will be required to make citizen contacts every day during their shifts. This will give them opportunities to introduce themselves and let citizens know they are there to help whenever they are needed. This will also give our deputies the opportunity to become familiar with the residents in their area.

Our deputies will attend community events, HOA meeting, and frequent areas of the neighborhood frequented by pedestrians to make sure our community knows we are always there if you need us.

Our agency will also implement a Citizen's Police Academy where citizens in our community can come to our agency and undergo training in law enforcement techniques and procedures. We will also implement a Youth Explorer Program that basically serves the same function as our Citizen's Police Academy, only geared towards our school-aged residents. These programs will open the doors of our agency and bridge the gap between law enforcement and our community.

### Q. Law enforcement is a difficult profession and has been under a proverbial microscope in recent months.

**How will you ensure that any officers who behave inappropriately are held accountable while balancing that with the need to support officers in their need to make difficult calls while on the job?**

**Norvell:** Law enforcement's primary duty is to provide courteous and professional police services. Hiring employees that understand this and then ensuring it is reiterated consistently will be a mission of supervisors. Those that operate outside of this protocol will be dealt with swiftly. Good officers will receive the training and support with professional policies in place that provide guidance.

**Quincy:** Supporting our deputies has to start before they are placed in a position to put themselves or the public in danger. Our deputies will have regular access to a mental health professional to ensure they are mentally fit for the task that await them in the community. I find it unacceptable that in law enforcement, we are only required to take a psychological exam during the hiring process. After you begin your career, there are no further requirement to speak to another mental health professional for the remainder of your employment. In a profession that is proven to cause PTSD and other mental health conditions, we have to ensure our deputies are well taken care of if we expect them to take care of our community.

Should an issue arise from a citizen complaint, our agency will implement a Disciplinary Review Board which will also consist of trusted members of our community who will sit on the board alongside law enforcement professionals to review those cases and assist with making a determination for discipline.

### Q. What do you feel is the most important part of being an elected constable?

**Norvell:** Law enforcement leaders must provide professional policies to guide and protect employees. This will ensure there is a clear understanding of expectations. Additionally, I must ensure we have good people in place and operate the office in the most efficient, professional, fiscally conservative manner possible.

**Quincy:** My goal as constable will be to protect all residents of Precinct 3 and provide exceptional service to meet their needs. This includes expanding our contract program to assign more deputies to participating neighborhoods and reduce response times. I will expand and implement other programs like our Animal Cruelty Division, Domestic Violence/Victims Assistance Division, and a DWI Enforcement Taskforce. These, along with our disciplinary review board will allow us to better serve our community. It all boils down to truly having a passion for service, and all our actions will reflect that passion when I am elected your next Constable.

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## Katy ISD providing free lunches to kids

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

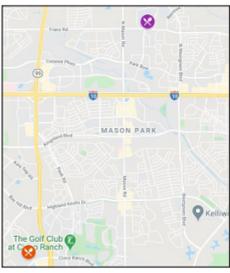
Through an extended waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of Agriculture, Katy ISD will begin providing free meals to all Katy area as of Sept. 21. Students can receive breakfast and lunch at no cost through December 31 or pending available funds through the USDA and TDA.

"All students are eligible for one breakfast and one lunch meal per day per federal guidance," said Nutrition & Food Service Executive Director Donna Pittenger. "Parents can however add funds to their student's Pay N' Go meal account for a la carte purchases or in preparation for when the USDA waiver ends," added Pittenger.

For students participating in Katy ISD virtual instruction, as well as children 18 and under not enrolled in Katy ISD, breakfast and lunch can be picked up at designated school curbside distribution sites from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Meals are packaged to be heated and eaten at home and are to be picked up a day before the intended use.

### Distribution sites include:

- Cinco Ranch High School, 23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Katy, TX 77494



Meals may be picked up at Cinco Ranch High School (orange icon), Morton Ranch High School (purple icon) and Mayde Creek High School (yellow icon).

- Mayde Creek High School, 19202 Groeschke Road, Katy, TX 77084
- Morton Ranch High School, 21000 Franz Road, Katy, TX 77449

The TDA policy now requires parents picking up meals, without a student, to present one of the following forms of documentation for each child: an official letter, email, electronic school application, student report card, student ID card, attendance records with student's names, or a birth certificate.

Once the waiver expires, Katy ISD will switch back to the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. Free and reduced meal applications must still be submitted for the 2020-2021 school year to determine benefits after the waiver ends. Parents can visit [schoolcafe.com/Katy-ISD](http://schoolcafe.com/Katy-ISD) to apply online.

## COMPTROLLER

from page A1

When it was examined why the positive month was happening, state staff saw increases in improvements around the home from new furniture, upgrades for pools, repairs to homes and online delivery orders which now add to the sales tax collection for the county the purchaser resides in, Hegar said. While that has varied, those sectors have helped strengthen the economy overall.

Essentially, Hegar said, between online sales through Amazon and similar retailers as well as home improvement projects since more people are working at home, retail did not slow down as much as was anticipated.

The next challenge Hegar said the state faces from a budgetary perspective is spending the \$6 billion dollars in CARES act funds the federal government has provided to the state. There is a deadline of spending that money by the end of December, but with the restrictions placed on how

that money can be spent, Hegar said he needs congress and the president to lighten restrictions on what those funds can be used for so that state agencies can funnel it into the economy for things like infrastructure – roads, bridges and similar projects, that will help keep the economy moving.

About \$1.5 billion of the CARES Act funds had already been spent, he said. That leaves about \$4.5 billion remaining that he is hoping to be able to spend to keep the economy rolling.

However, there are some basic economic factors that Hegar said would help. Those items include online transactions and people spending money in Texas as recovery begins.

Hegar also said the real estate market statewide would help with recovery because people still want to move to Texas and that puts land prices mostly increasing throughout the state. However, resting on our laurels isn't sufficient and people need to be active in the economy, he said.

"The one industry that's going to lead us out of this is you and I," Hegar said.

**Texas to begin voting soon**  
Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. The last day to register to vote in Texas was Oct. 5 and early voting is set to begin next week. Voters should be aware of the dates below when planning to cast their ballots.

First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, October 23, 2020
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Friday, October 30, 2020
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, November 4, 2020 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply)

SOURCE: TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

## TESTING

from page A1

the front lawn of the county courthouse.

"I still get multiple messages a week, you know, 'My son just came down (with COVID-19), my daughter, my husband – where can we go get tested.'" County Judge Trey Duhon said. "Now we have ongoing testing in Waller County."

### Testing Initiated

Duhon announced during the meeting that testing through AccessHealth was ready to begin with testing for COVID-19 using county-allocated CARES Act funds.

Waller County Fire Marshal Brian Cantrell said the testing had begun the morning of the meeting at the Waller County Community Center in Prairie View. Testing will be conducted each Wednesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The week of Oct. 4-10 would have the testing moving from that location to the Brookshire Convention Center, he said, then would continue in an alternating pattern between the two sites to ensure both the north and south ends of the county were served.

"Folks, the testing is no cost," Duhon said. "All you need to do is register."

Registration is available through [www.myaccess-health.org/walleresting](http://www.myaccess-health.org/walleresting) or by calling 281-238-2397. Phone lines are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon, Duhon said. Web registration is available anytime.

Duhon said during the meeting that Waller County had 856 cases of COVID-19 countywide with 14 fatalities from the disease. Only 33 of those cases were considered active at the time of the meet-



Members of the Waller County Commissioners Court and community members who helped bring the new Waller County Veterans Memorial to fruition pose for a photo in front of the new monument to the contributions of veterans.

ing, he said.

Cantrell said the testing would be administered through a nasal swab and that results would be provided to residents who received testing within two to three days. Those who test positive will be provided with information on what protocols to follow during their illness.

"So, we have actually been going down and, in fact, two days ago we had a day with no confirmed cases," Duhon said. "So I mean – as I've said – I think the number of cases that we've had has been decreasing so I think that's good. I encourage people to continue washing your hands, wearing a mask, following social distance protocols – just continue to do that."

The number of total cases for the county had risen to 876 by Sunday afternoon.

### Veterans Honored

Luther Francis – whom Prairie View Mayor David Allen said is likely the county's oldest World War II veteran – attended the flag raising ceremony and expressed appreciation for the memorial. He also explained some of his service while serving during the second world war.

"I was all over Germany," Francis said. "I stayed over there long enough to speak a little German."

Francis received a standing ovation from those present at the commissioners

court meeting after speaking briefly during the public comments portion of the meeting.

Near the end of the meeting, members of the court and the general public worked their way out to the front lawn for a brief flag-raising ceremony which had been postponed due to rains the prior week. Attendees included all members of the commissioners court, Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe and several of the members from the community that organized fundraising for the roughly \$40,000 monument – many of them veterans.

The flags were raised by the veterans in attendance and everyone attending recited the Pledge of Allegiance afterward.

The memorial includes several marble slabs which are dedicated to the various branches of the United States Military with a variety of images from specific conflicts veterans had served in. Benches are available for visitors to sit at while contemplating the monument as well.

A more formal opening ceremony is being planned for Veterans Day this coming Nov. 11, Duhon said.

### Other items:

The commissioners court also approved the following items during the meeting:

- The advertising of a

public hearing regarding the installation of speed limit signage throughout the county.

- The publication of an advertisement in newspapers throughout the county that the county was seeking bids for type A, grade 2 flex base for construction purposes.

- Advertising changes in locations for some stop signs on the northern end of the county.

- The payment of a victims' assistant in the District Attorney's Office at the current levels of pay until such time as grant funding from the Governor's Office is awarded for that purpose.

- The tabling of a possible burn ban and removal of a burn ban from future agendas due to enough rainfall coming to reduce the fire hazard rating countywide.

- The purchase of furniture for the Precinct 4 Annex located near Brookshire on Highway 90.

- The approval of a certificate of substantial completion for the construction of the Precinct 4 Annex.

- The relocation of a secure file hardware from the County Clerk's Office to the new Waller County Justice Center at a cost of about \$5,600.

The Waller County Commissioners Court meets each Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead. A live stream of the meeting is available at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/comm.WCCCVideo>.

## TAX

from page A1

emergencies such as house fires or the more common accidents along I-10 and Hwy. 290, officials said. With the district's property tax set at the state maximum, it isn't enough to fund everything needed for the district's current population growth over time, but with a sales tax the funding comes not only from residents but those traveling through the district, commissioners with the district said.

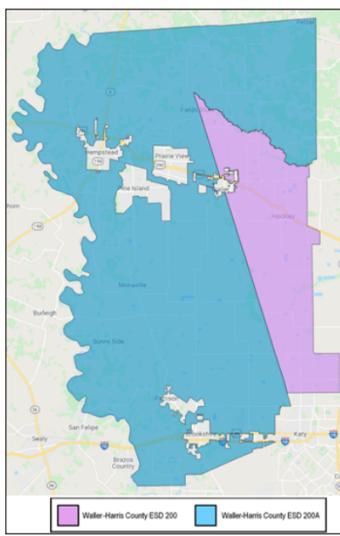
The additional penny in tax per dollar spent will only be collected outside of city limits within the district, said Simon VanDyk, WHESD 200 public information officer. As a result, purchases made within the city limits of Katy, Brookshire, Pattison, Hempstead and other towns would not incur the additional sales tax and the funds would come in through transactions made at retailers such as gas stations along I-10 and Highway 290 by both area residents and those traveling through the district.

VanDyk said online sales through Amazon or other online retailers will be impacted as well if the buyer's home is within the district.

Currently, the district serves about 230 square miles through ten volunteer fire departments which is funded through a \$0.1000 per \$100 valuation property tax rate which raised about \$6 million for the 2019 budget and \$7 million for the 2020 budget. The ten-cent tax rate is the highest an ESD can assess under Texas law, VanDyk said. As the district grows, this puts a strain on the district to serve everyone.

"(Seven) million dollars only goes so far," said Commissioner Rick Dalton.

Dalton and Albert, along with Commissioner Jimmie Orsak said the roughly \$1.5 million per year that the sales tax proceeds are expected to generate would help the district ensure timely service to all residents of the district. With the current budget coming only from ad valorem taxes,



Waller Harris ESD 200 provides fire and EMS services to residents of the district which encompasses most of Waller (blue) and a portion of Harris (pink) counties. The district includes ten volunteer fire departments with 15 fire stations among them. WHESD 200 representatives said the volunteer staffing throughout the district is currently straining to meet the safety needs of residents.

revenue is not sufficient to keep up with population growth and increased traffic on I-10 and Hwy. 290, they said. Especially with responses to accidents on those two major thoroughfares being the most common call the district responds to. Without the added funding, they said, fire and EMS crews are stretched thin.

"Well, now we're doing right at 600 calls a month," Orsak said. "Six hundred calls a month with five ambulances full time, 24-seven."

Orsak said the strain on those crews forces the district to move assets around the county to back one another up and can lead to longer than desired response times for EMS calls. Currently, EMS calls can take as long as 30 minutes if the nearest ambulance crew is taken up and a backup has to come from the other end of the district, he said.

The National Fire Protection Association sets the ideal response time for an EMS call at seven minutes.

Further, part of the proceeds would go to adding additional ambulances and professional firefighters to help supplement the volunteers and ensure the volunteers have additional training opportunities and support as population growth continues, Orsak said.

Specifically, according to the ESD's election documentation posted online, funding raised by the sales tax in 2021 would go toward setting up a two-story fire training facility, training for firefighters and fire chiefs, three full time duty crew to staff stations throughout the district, equipment and an ambulance and pumper truck or ladder truck. In 2022, three additional full timers would be added with additional training, trucks and equipment as well as a new fire station in the city of Brookshire. Dispatch improvements would be addressed in 2023 as well as more full time staff, and equipment. Both 2024 and 2025 would see similar improvements.

"Our duty crews currently are only responding to emergency calls," Orsak said. "And with lack of bandwidth and a large coverage area, that's critical because you get a certified firefighter with EMT basic (certification) on scene to start providing that patient care."

However, in order to maintain that standard and improve service, the district needs the additional funding, commissioners said.

"Looking at call volumes alone, we've got to do something to shore up that south side (of the district) in the Brookshire area," VanDyk said. "Right now, if there was a major incident – let's say a Harvey was coming in – that facility down there currently won't do it. It literally is the old youth group building (for one of the churches in Brookshire.)"

WHESD 200 is hosting an informational open house Oct. 13 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Department for residents that have additional questions about the sales tax election.



### Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III

Waller County Judge

On September 29, 2020, the Honorable Judge Maya Guerra Gamble of the 459th District Court in Travis County agreed with and ruled in favor of Waller County and declared that Texas law prohibits firearms in courthouses. Attorney General Ken Paxton sued Waller County in Austin, Texas for posting signs at the Waller County Courthouse that warn visitors that carrying a firearm or other weapon into the building is prohibited by state law. Despite clear evidence that firearms are prohibited in courthouses, Attorney General Paxton chose to target multiple counties and cities throughout Texas and attempted to intimidate local governments into allowing firearms into courthouses in violation of Texas law. The 459th is the second District Court to rule that Waller County is upholding the Texas laws properly!

"This ruling is a victory for the rule of law, separation of power principles, and all local governments targeted and demonized by Attorney General Paxton's office. This proves that Waller County has always taken the most conservative approach in applying the law exactly as it was intended by the Texas Legislature," stated Waller County Judge Trey Duhon.

District Attorney Elton Mathis added that "Waller County is a rural county full of hunters, farmers and gun enthusiasts. Of course we respect the 2nd Amendment and the rights of Texans to lawfully carry firearms. However, we are also a county that believes that we follow the laws as written by the Texas legislature and don't get to pick and choose what is best for us politically. The country is tired of that and demands better."

Waller County was represented by Assistant District Attorneys Elizabeth Dorsey and Sheryl Ha.

KATYTIMES.COM

## Abbott: Accusations 'raise serious concerns'

By **EMMA PLATOFF**  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Senior officials in the Texas Attorney General's Office have asked federal law enforcement to "investigate allegations of improper influence, abuse of office, bribery and other potential crimes" by their boss, the Austin-American Statesman and KVUE-TV first reported Saturday.

The senior staff members, including Jeff Mateer, who resigned from his post as Paxton's top aide this week after several years leading the agency, notified the agency's human resources director that they sought the investigation.

"We have a good faith belief that the attorney general is violating federal and/or state law including prohibitions related to improper influence, abuse of office, bribery and other potential criminal offenses," seven agency leaders wrote in a one-page letter obtained by the Statesman.

The brief letter, dated Oct. 1, says the officials notified law enforcement of a potential crime on Sept. 30, but does not provide detailed accusations. The officials also say they notified Paxton himself of the accusation via text message on Oct. 1.

Paxton, a second-term state official and former state legislator who serves as co-chair of the Lawyers for Trump coalition, has been under indictment for more than five years on felony charges of securities fraud. Paxton has yet to go to trial on the charges amid side battles over where the case will be heard and how much the special prosecutors appointed to take the case to trial will be paid.

The Houston Chronicle reported Sunday that the allegations are tied to Paxton's relationship with Nate Paul, an Austin real estate investor and campaign donor, citing the text message Mateer and the other officials sent to Paxton last week.

"General Paxton, yesterday, each of the individuals on this text chain made a good faith report of violations of law by you to an appropriate law enforcement authority concerning your relation-



Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks outside the U.S. Supreme Court in 2016. Paxton has been under indictment for more than five years on felony charges relating to securities fraud. New allegations of abuse of power were brought to light in early October by those who have worked closely with him.

ship and activities with Nate Paul," Mateer told Paxton in the Oct. 1 text, obtained by the Chronicle.

According to the report, Mateer and the other officials felt compelled to act after Paxton allegedly appointed a special prosecutor to target "adversaries" of Paul.

A spokeswoman for the attorney general's office said in a statement that "the complaint filed against Attorney General Paxton was done to impede an ongoing investigation into criminal wrongdoing by public officials including employees of this office. Making false claims is a very serious matter and we plan to investigate this to the fullest extent of the law."

She declined to comment further, citing an open investigation.

Ryan Bangert, the deputy first assistant attorney general and one of the seven aides who signed on to the letter, wrote to agency staff Sunday encouraging them "to ensure the agency continues its important work without interruption."

"I write to assure you that the executive team remains committed to serving you, this office, and the people of Texas. The work we do together makes a difference every day in the lives of our fellow citizens," Bangert wrote. "Your work, your sacrifice, and your dedication to this office inspire us all."

Meanwhile, top Texas Republicans reacted cautiously to the allegations against Paxton.

"These allegations raise serious concerns," Gov. Greg Abbott said Sunday in a prepared statement. "I will withhold further comment until the results of any investigation are complete."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called the news "obviously concerning." "I learned about this from media reports," Patrick said in a statement. "I will wait until the investigation is complete before making any additional comments."

The office of House Speaker Dennis Bonnen did not immediately return requests for comment.

An attorney with Paxton's defense team in the securities fraud case, Philip Hilder, declined to comment. Brian Wice, one of the special prosecutors on the case, said Sunday that "we're going to look into this," but declined to elaborate further. It's not clear whether the latest allegations are related to the pending securities fraud charges.

Jordan Berry, a political adviser to Paxton, confirmed Sunday that he had resigned in the wake of the allegations.

Michelle Lee, a public affairs officer for the FBI, declined to comment on the matter, citing

internal policy within the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice not to comment on the existence of pending or potential investigations. A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney for the region said "we have no comment." Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore said Saturday evening "we do not have an investigation."

Paxton has faced numerous questions over his ethics over his more than a decade in public life. To help pay for his stacked team of defense attorneys, he has collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts for his legal defense fund, claiming the contributions came from "family friends" and are exempt from a state bribery law that bars elected officials from receiving gifts from people who are subject to their authority.

In the securities fraud charges that are still pending, Paxton is accused of convincing investors to buy stock in a technology firm without disclosing that he would be compensated for it. He has maintained his innocence and criticized the prosecution as politically motivated. In 2014, the Texas State Securities Board fined Paxton \$1,000 for soliciting investment clients without being registered, and he signed a disciplinary order without disputing its findings.

Last year, his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, filed a bill that would have expanded her husband's power as attorney general, giving him the power to exempt individuals from state regulations like the one he has been charged with violating.

In 2018, Paxton's office filed — and then abruptly recalled — a formal court brief in a lawsuit over Plano's zoning policies, in a move that his supporters attributed to political influence from conservatives in his home county.

Paxton, a conservative who has often elbowed for airtime as the state's top culture warrior, has kept up a busy and high-profile role during the coronavirus pandemic.

This spring, he declared that Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on elective medical procedures, an effort to conserve hospital resources for coronavirus patients, also barred

abortions in the state, sparking a lawsuit that would drag on for weeks and force hundreds of women to cancel appointments to terminate their pregnancies. His office threatened to sue the state's biggest cities if they did not roll back coronavirus-related safety precautions, including mask mandates, and told local officials they could not keep landlords from evicting their tenants during the pandemic.

Paxton used the power of his office to lean on a Colorado county after it shut its doors to vacation home owners — including a top donor.

Paxton has led major multi-state lawsuits to overturn laws like the Affordable Care Act and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, often landing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He's made equally political choices in the cases he chooses not to take. His office refused to defend a state agency, as it typically would, when it was sued for disciplining a state judge who refused to perform marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples. And it declined to defend the Texas Ethics Commission in a lawsuit brought by the hardline conservative group Empower Texans, a political donor.

Last year, he was a major player in Texas' botched effort to review its voter rolls.

Paxton often boasts of his close relationship with the president, frequently greeting him on the tarmac when Air Force One touches down in Texas, and sharing stories during public appearances about their communication on major Texas-led litigation — the time Trump called while Paxton was in the shower is a favorite.

In 2018, Paxton narrowly bested his Democratic opponent, Justin Nelson, to win reelection in an unexpectedly tight race. Nelson had made Paxton's indictments the centerpiece of his campaign.

"Ken Paxton is the top law enforcement official in the state," Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said in a statement Saturday. "Yet, he has proven for years that he cannot follow the law himself."



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schedules, email dennis.  
silva@katytimes.com**THURSDAY, OCT. 1****FOOTBALL**

- Taylor 26, George Ranch 14

**FRIDAY, OCT. 2****VOLLEYBALL**

- Seven Lakes 3, Taylor 0
- Katy 3, Tompkins 1
- Cinco Ranch 3, Mayde Creek 0
- Paetow 3, Waller 1

**FOOTBALL**

- Paetow 38, Morton Ranch 35
- Channelview 24, Cinco Ranch 21

**SATURDAY, OCT. 3****VOLLEYBALL**

- Seven Lakes 3, Morton Ranch 0
- Tompkins 3, Taylor 0
- Katy 3, Mayde Creek 0

**FOOTBALL**

- Katy 66, Cy-Woods 21
- Tompkins 10, Clear Springs 7
- Mayde Creek 35, Cy-Lakes 7
- Klein 42, Seven Lakes 28

**TUESDAY, OCT. 6****VOLLEYBALL**

- Katy 3, Cinco Ranch 2
- Tompkins 3, Morton Ranch 0
- Taylor def. Mayde Creek
- Brenham def. Paetow

**THURSDAY, OCT. 8****FOOTBALL**

- Dulles at Mayde Creek, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 9****VOLLEYBALL**

- Tompkins at Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Magnolia at Paetow, 6 p.m.

**FOOTBALL**

- Seven Lakes at Katy, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cinco Ranch, at Rhodes Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 10****VOLLEYBALL**

- Seven Lakes at Mayde Creek, noon
- Taylor at Katy, noon
- Morton Ranch at Cinco Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cy-Fair, 10:30 a.m.

**FOOTBALL**

- Morton Ranch at Taylor, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 13****VOLLEYBALL**

- Cinco Ranch at Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- Katy at Morton Ranch, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Magnolia West, 5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 15****FOOTBALL**

- Katy at Tompkins, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.

# Panthers top Mavs to kick off rivalry



Paetow junior Anthony Fuentes.

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

In a much-anticipated game for bragging rights between two Katy ISD schools in Morton Ranch and Paetow hungry to establish a fruitful, competitive rivalry, the Panthers made certain they are regarded as much more than just the new kid on the block.

For the second straight game, Paetow rallied from a two-score deficit in the second half and upended Morton Ranch, 38-35, on Anthony Fuentes' 23-yard game-winning field goal as the buzzer expired on Oct. 2 at Legacy Stadium. Not only was it the first football meeting between the two schools separated by five miles, but also the first time Paetow, in its third year of varsity

football, played a Katy ISD football program.

"It was pretty important," Fuentes said with a huge smile on his face. "I wanted to show all my friends who were talking smack over there that we could win."

When Paetow High opened as Katy ISD's eighth high school in 2017, it took with it a split of Katy High and Morton Ranch High kids to build its enrollment. Since then, Panthers and Mavericks football players have been looking forward to the day they'd play each other.

That day came last Friday, and it did not disappoint. The two teams combined for 73 points and 817 yards of total offense. There were only two turnovers in all, and none after the first quarter. The second

half featured seven touchdowns—four from Paetow and three from Morton Ranch.

But no score was bigger than Fuentes' sailing kick.

"It was crazy," Fuentes said. "There was a lot of pressure on me. I just had to clear my mind and kick through. I was pretty nervous. When I got out there, my leg started to shake, but in my head, I just started believing."

Paetow improved to 2-0 this season. Morton Ranch dropped to 1-1.

Each team showed off forceful running attacks. Morton Ranch boasts a quartet of dazzling play-makers in the backfield that totaled 305 yards on 51 carries. Senior

See PAETOW, page B5



FILE PHOTO BY MARK GOODMAN

Katy senior running back Jalen Davis has rushed for five touchdowns through the first two games of the season.

# MAKING PROGRESS

## QBs Koger and Nirider make strides as Katy routs Cy-Woods

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

That's better.

Katy's offense got right quickly against Cy-Woods last week following an inauspicious outing the previous game against Clear Springs. The No. 3 state-ranked Tigers thrashed the Wildcats, 66-21, on Oct. 3 at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium, but this one was over by halftime.

And while the defense played to its typically high standards, it was the offense, which was a point of concern in the win against Clear Springs on Sept. 26, that served as the ignition.

Katy had 422 total yards and scored on all eight first-half possessions in building a 56-0 lead at the break. The Tigers had 17 first downs and averaged 11.1 yards per play.

After punting nine times against Clear Springs, Katy's first-team offense did not punt at all against Cy-Woods.

Sophomore quarterback Caleb Koger got the starting nod and was terrific in captaining the Tigers on a nine-play, 81-yard opening scoring drive that resulted in a Jalen Davis four-yard run. Koger, who was responsible for all three of Katy's completions against Clear Springs, went 3-for-3 for 69 yards on the drive.

In all, both Koger and junior quarterback Bryce Nirider, who started the Clear Springs game, were impressively effective against Cy-Woods. Koger completed six of eight passes for 132 yards and two touchdowns. Nirider completed four of five passes for 90 yards and two touchdowns and also rushed for a touchdown.

It was a night-and-day difference for the two signal-callers, who combined for 3-for-11 passing for 26 yards against Clear Springs.

"They were way more poised," said Davis, who rushed for 51 yards and two touchdowns and has five touchdowns total this season. "They have it in them. I've always believed in them. I'm proud of the way they played. Those two guys practice hard all week and they deserve everything they get."

Coach Gary Joseph said he will continue to play both quarterbacks as district play starts this week against Seven Lakes. He added that he will play both until at least midway through the district season.

"I don't know much longer we'll split time,

See KATY, page B2

# Quarterback McClelland no longer with Tigers

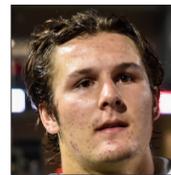
By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD spokesperson Maria DiPetta confirmed Sept. 30 that former Katy High quarterback Bronson McClelland is no longer enrolled in the district. DiPetta said the district would have no further comment on the situation.

McClelland, a two-year starter and three-year varsity letterman who was entering his senior season for the Tigers, did not play for Katy in its scrimmage against Klein Collins on Sept. 17 or its season-opening win against

Clear Springs on Sept. 26. McClelland was not listed on the team roster for the Clear Springs game, but he was on the team depth chart and was with the team in League City.

The Houston Chronicle reported after the game that McClelland was caught with an illegal substance, according to an anonymous source close to the situation.

BRONSON  
MCCELLELLAND

Last season, following a win against Tompkins in October, McClelland was caught saying a racial slur on a video posted on social media, leading to a two-game suspension.

McClelland was a prolific passer during his time with the Tigers. A Beaumont native whose family moved to Katy because of their passion for Tigers football, McClelland was the first quarterback in the program to make the varsity roster as a freshman.

For his career, McClelland completed 60

See MCCELLELLAND, page B2

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# Defense, Smith step up big as Falcons go to 2-0

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

As the offense works through a considerable dose of newness, particularly at offensive line and receiver, Tompkins' defense rose to the occasion last Saturday and steadied the Falcons against Clear Springs.

Tompkins' defense shut out the Chargers, whose lone score came on a 77-yard kickoff return, and the Falcons persevered to earn a demanding 10-7 win on Oct. 3 at Legacy Stadium.

The Falcons held the Chargers to 92 total yards and 1.8 yards per play. Clear Springs started drives in Tompkins territory on three of its final four possessions in the second half. It didn't matter. The Chargers punted and turned the ball over twice.

Overall, Tompkins (2-0) stopped Clear Springs (0-2) on fourth down four times and forced a turnover.

"It didn't matter where we started on the field," senior defensive back Temisan Alatan said. "We just did what we were supposed to do. Everybody did their job. We went 1-0 every single drive."

Alatan had a couple of sacks of Clear Springs quarterback Luke Sampson, who averaged a mere 4.4 yards per pass completion. Junior defensive lineman Sean Dubose had another sack. Senior defensive back Dru Polidore had an interception deep in Tompkins territory to close the first half.

Senior safety Colby Huerter had a pair of incredible pass break-ups to halt potential long touchdowns, and junior linemen Etini Basse and Daniel Aigbogun controlled the line of scrimmage.

Sophomore safety Caleb Komolafe and junior defensive back Samuel Kalu were praised by players and coaches for their physicality and instincts.

"We had fight," Polidore said. "We kept flying to the ball. We told ourselves that they weren't going to score on us, and we held true to that."

Coach Todd McVey said he liked the way his defense responded to tough field position.

"They grew up a little bit today," he said. "We got better with our eyes. We have young guys that I told last week that they're no longer rookies, they're veterans. I was proud of their effort and finishing the game the way they did."

Polidore commended a defense that is more established.

"We have a lot of returners; we had a bunch of young cats playing last year, including me," he said. "We're all back. Everybody plays for each other."

That's a good thing, since the Falcons' offense was only marginally better than the Chargers', totaling 194 yards and 4.6 yards per play.

And if Tompkins didn't have senior running back Sherman Smith, who knows where it would have been. The spring transfer from Katy High had his breakout



Tompkins senior defensive backs Temisan Alatan, left, and Dru Polidore helped spark a dominant defensive effort in the Falcons' 10-7 win over Clear Springs on Oct. 3 at Legacy Stadium.

game as a Falcon with 139 rushing yards on 20 carries.

Smith's 87-yard scamper with 8:32 left in the third quarter that put Tompkins up 10-0 was the game's only offensive touchdown.

"I'm just excited to contribute as much as possible, do whatever I can," Smith said. "Whatever the coaches need me to do. If that means me going out there throwing blocks or having the ball in my hands ... whatever I need to do, that's what I'm most excited about."

With senior quarterback and Alabama commit Jalen Milroe struggling to find rhythm with receivers, completing just 5 of 10 passes for 39 yards, and senior tailback and Tulsa commit Marquis Shoulders held to 24 yards on 10 carries, Smith had his number called time and time again against a familiar foe.

"Coming from Katy, we played them two years straight, so I already knew the things they did, like blitzing from the outside," Smith said. "The coaches did a great job calling the plays to our advantage and putting us in the right spots to be successful."

McVey said it's "a blessing" to have Smith.

"Sherman is very physical with some

**"I'm just excited to contribute as much as possible, do whatever I can. Whatever the coaches need me to do. If that means me going out there throwing blocks or having the ball in my hands ... whatever I need to do, that's what I'm most excited about."**

— SENIOR RUNNING BACK SHERMAN SMITH

speed and has come into our family and really blended in," McVey said. "He was big today, with some very big first downs we needed and our O-line getting out in front of him and doing a great job."

Tompkins has no returning starters at receiver or the offensive line, which explains the offense's inconsistencies early on. Still, McVey was reluctant to say that he expects the defense to hold the fort in the meantime.

"You can say that, but that's just one phase," McVey said. "We talk all three

phases that we can get better at. The defense has the most guys back, so you'd think that, but our offense is coming along and getting better. The defense is supporting them, and that's the big thing. They know if they keep getting them the ball, good things will happen."

The defense understands that.

"We've got their backs no matter what," Alatan said of the offense. "We're always cheering on our offense, and whether they score or not, we know we have to handle our business."

## KATY

from page B1

but we've got to have both of them," Joseph said. "It's not like we have a senior that can come in and play and finish up. Both of them are still young and maturing. We kept talking to them about being a quarterback, being a leader. They've got to step into the huddle with confidence. They can't just be there."

Joseph said the return of 6-foot-6, 260-pound senior tackle Jacob Norman added stability to the offense. It also helps that the Tigers have a pair of playmaking dynamos in the Davis brothers.

Jalen Davis, a senior, had 113 rushing yards against Clear Springs, but it was his little brother Seth, a sophomore, who did most of the damage against

Cy-Woods. Seth tallied 119 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries.

So far, the Davis brothers have combined for eight touchdowns this season.

"He's just now getting the light shined on him, but this is what I expected," Jalen said of Seth. "I'm glad he's getting that recognition. He deserves it. He's been in all the workouts with me, does the same training. People slept on him because of his size, but he's right and I'm happy for him."

As for himself, Jalen has worked tirelessly to make his claim as the Tigers' next great back. It's paying off, particularly in a leadership-by-example role.

"Day in and day out, I have to come in with that confidence and show the team my work ethic and tempo in practice," Davis said. "If they don't see it from me, as a returner in an offense where there's not many

experienced guys ... then where do they see it? I just try and keep that positive energy and make sure the tempo is right."

While the quarterbacks found their groove, perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise in how soon they were able to do so. The fact they have to go up against this Katy defense every day in practice can only expedite growth and maturity.

The Tigers' first-team defense held Cy-Woods to 84 total yards and just one first down in the first half, forcing two turnovers and limiting the Wildcats to 4.4 yards per play. One can only imagine how well quarterbacks have to play, let alone two youngsters in Koger and Nirider, to thrive against Katy's defense, even during practice.

"We do some live periods where we go (starters versus starters) and we'll get after them," said senior linebacker Shepherd Bowling, who had six

total tackles and two tackles for a loss. "They might not feel like they're doing their best because they're going up against our defense, but we still encourage them and let them know they'll be alright. We know they'll do their jobs."

That, they did. Koger and Nirider admirably ran a machine-like offense, establishing the run and showing off improved timing and confidence in receivers like junior Nic Anderson, who caught five passes for 103 yards and a touchdown.

It was much needed for the Tigers, whom Bowling said "left a lot on the table" against Clear Springs. Against Cy-Woods, they made sure to leave no doubt.

"We were more in sync," Davis said. "Our practice habits showed. We didn't like how we played that first game and we weren't satisfied. We're still not satisfied, but I think it was a great second game for us."

## MCCLELLAND

from page B1

percent of his passes for 4,078 yards and 55 touchdowns to 13 interceptions. He also rushed for 315 yards and 11 touchdowns on 83 carries.

According to 247Sports.com, the 6-foot-2, 210-pounder has a college offer from Tulsa.

Katy started junior quarterback Bryce Nirider, in his second year on varsity, in the Clear Springs game and sophomore quarterback Caleb Koger in its win over Cy-Woods on Oct. 3.

Koger has completed nine of 15 passes for 158 yards and two touchdowns. Nirider has completed four of nine passes for 90 yards and two touchdowns. Each quarterback has rushed for a touchdown.

Katy is ranked No. 3 in Class 6A in the state.

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**October 1**

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

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### COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid:

**TYPE A, GRAE 2 FLEX BASE**

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., October 26, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. October 28, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on November 4, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility.

Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at [www.co.waller.tx.us](http://www.co.waller.tx.us).

ALAN YOUNTS  
County Auditor  
836 Austin Street, Suite 221  
Hempstead, Texas 77445

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for a **Water Plant No. 7 - Plant Improvements** will be received at City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 21, 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.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
OCTOBER 28, 2020 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,  
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Transportation Code Chapter 251, Subchapter E to consider Stop Sign Changes at the following locations:

Kyle Road - Westbound at Bowler/Howell Rd.  
Intersection - Add one Stop Sign. This will become an All Way Stop.

Kyle Road - Westbound at Brooks Road - Remove Stop Sign

Curtis Road - Westbound at Brooks Road - Remove Stop Sign

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
OCTOBER 28, 2020, 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,  
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Chapter 251.152, Transportation Code, to consider the establishment of speed limits and the installation of speed limit signs on the following roads:

KERR RD - Entire length - 40 mph  
HOLIK RD - Entire length - 40 mph  
STEFKA RD - Entire length - 40 mph  
FOREST HILLS LN - Entire length - 35 mph  
E HOLLYHILL DR - Entire length - 35 mph  
WEST LOOP DR - Entire length - 30 mph  
DOUBLE CULVERT RD - Entire length - 40 mph  
OLD HOWTH RD - Entire length - 45 mph  
TEXAS OAK DR - Entire length - 30 mph  
KYLE RD - Entire length - 30 mph  
ROYAL OAK DR - Entire length - 30 mph  
SPANISH OAK DR - Entire length - 30 mph  
LAKE RD - Entire length - 30 mph  
THOMPSON RD - Entire length - 35 mph  
CLARK RD - Entire length - 35 mph  
LONE STAR BLVD - Entire length - 35 mph  
WILLOW BEND LN - Entire length - 30 mph  
N REIDS PRAIRIE RD - Entire length - 35 mph

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

### Aviso final y explicación pública de una actividad propuesta en una llanura aluvial de 100 años

Para: Todas las agencias, grupos e individuos interesados el 10/8/2020: Este es para notificar que el Condado de Waller ha realizado una evaluación según lo requiere la Orden Ejecutiva 11988, de acuerdo con las regulaciones de HUD en 24 CFR 55.20 Subparte C Procedimientos para hacer Determinaciones sobre manejo de llanuras aluviales y protección de humedales. La actividad está financiada por el Programa de subvenciones globales para el desarrollo comunitario bajo el contrato 20-065-062-C180. El Condado propone desviar una sección de Diemer Road con el uso de excavación, base de la carretera y asfalto y completará los accesorios asociados, creando aproximadamente 4,500 pies lineales de nueva carretera en Waller Co., Texas. El proyecto incluirá actividades dentro de aproximadamente 6.2 acres de la llanura aluvial de 100 años. El Condado de Waller ha considerado las siguientes alternativas y medidas de mitigación que se deben tomar para minimizar los impactos adversos y restaurar y preservar los valores naturales y beneficiosos: una reducción en el alcance, ubicaciones alternativas y ninguna acción. El alcance y la ubicación de las actividades del proyecto se eligieron en base a las mejoras mínimas necesarias para corregir los riesgos de salud y seguridad que las instalaciones existentes representan para el medio ambiente natural y humano. Se emplearán las mejores prácticas de gestión durante la construcción y deberán cumplir con los procedimientos de protección de gestión de llanuras de inundación estatales y locales. El Condado de Waller ha reevaluado las alternativas a la construcción en la llanura aluvial y ha determinado que no tiene una alternativa viable y que las actividades del proyecto tendrán un impacto negativo mínimo o nulo en la llanura aluvial. Los archivos ambientales que documentan el cumplimiento de los pasos 3 a 6 de la Orden Ejecutiva 11988 están disponibles para la inspección pública, revisión y copia a pedido durante el horario laboral habitual en el Palacio de Justicia del Condado. Hay tres propósitos principales para este aviso: (1) Las personas que puedan verse afectadas por las actividades en las llanuras aluviales y aquellas que tengan interés en la protección del medio ambiente natural deben tener la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones y proporcionar información sobre estas áreas; (2) Un programa de aviso público adecuado puede ser una herramienta educativa pública importante. La difusión de información y la solicitud de comentarios públicos sobre las llanuras aluviales / humedales pueden facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales; y (3) como cuestión de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determina que participará en las acciones que se lleven a cabo en las llanuras aluviales / humedales, debe informar a quienes puedan correr un riesgo mayor o continuo. Los comentarios escritos deben ser recibidos antes del 10/15/2020 por el Condado de Waller en 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445, (979) 826-7700. Atención: Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon, juez del condado, durante el horario comercial habitual. También se puede revisar una descripción completa del proyecto durante el horario comercial habitual en 836 Austin St., Suite 203, Hempstead, TX 77445. También se pueden enviar comentarios por correo electrónico a [ben@grantworks.net](mailto:ben@grantworks.net).

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed written proposals for **Wastewater Treatment Plant Unit 3B, Expansion to 3.900 MGD** will be received at the City of Katy Municipal Building, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 28, 2020.** At that time the bids will be opened and read aloud.

The Owner is the City Of Katy, Texas.  
The Engineer is Clay & Leyendecker, Inc.  
email [CANDL12@aol.com](mailto:CANDL12@aol.com).

The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter into a contract with the Owner.

The project consists of constructing concrete aeration and aerobic digester basins, with related blowers, piping, and electrical work to expand the plant capacity by 0.825 MGD. No clarifier or disinfection is included. The estimated cost range is \$3.50 million to \$4.50 million.

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.**

A non-mandatory site visit will be held at the plant site 25839 IH 10, Katy, TX 77494 beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 21, 2020. PPE and distancing protocols must be observed. Any questions raised will be noted, and responses will be provided via email as set out in the Bid Documents.

Bid Documents are on file at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). There is no cost to view the Bid Documents, and printing can be done through the website. Hard copies of the Bid Documents will not be provided. Complete sets of the Bid Documents must be used by the general contractors in preparing their bids (proposals) and by subcontractors and vendors in preparing their quotes or prices for the general contractors. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will have any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of the Bid Documents.

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**H.S. FOOTBALL STANDINGS**

AS OF OCT. 7

**DISTRICT 19-6A**

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Katy	0	0	2	0
Tompkins	0	0	2	0
Mayde Creek	0	0	2	0
Morton Ranch	0	0	1	1
Seven Lakes	0	0	0	2
Cinco Ranch	0	0	0	2

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched district title

**DISTRICT 10-5A, D1**

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Paetow	0	0	2	0
Terry	0	0	2	0
Angleton	0	0	2	0
Richmond Foster	0	0	1	0
Manvel	0	0	1	0
Kempner	0	0	1	0
Hightower	0	0	0	1
Milby	0	0	0	1
Wisdom	0	0	0	1

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched district title

**KATY ISD FOOTBALL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**TEAM OFFENSE**

	GP	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average
Mayde Creek	2	486	373	859	429.5
Paetow	2	452	301	753	376.5
Morton Ranch	2	566	163	729	364.5
Cinco Ranch	2	101	615	716	358.0
Katy	2	444	267	711	355.5
Taylor	2	273	330	603	301.5
Tompkins	2	418	129	547	273.5
Seven Lakes	2	100	342	442	221.0

**INDIVIDUAL PASSING**

	P-A-Int	Yards	Pct.	TDs
Rutherford, Cinco Ranch	37-67-2	575	55.2	4
Wilson, Mayde Creek	26-49-2	373	53.1	2
Dumas Jr., Paetow	20-40-2	301	50.0	3
Jensen III, Taylor	20-29-0	295	69.0	2
Beltran, Seven Lakes	22-36-2	291	61.1	2
Wilson, Morton Ranch	6-13-1	163	46.2	1
Koger, Katy	9-15-0	158	60.0	2

**INDIVIDUAL RUSHING**

	Carries	Yards	Avg.	TD
Loughridge, Mayde Creek	54	427	7.9	7
Bankston, Paetow	51	400	7.8	2
S. Davis, Katy	17	204	12.0	3
Christopher, Mortn Ranch	27	199	7.4	2
Wilson, Morton Ranch	33	191	5.8	2
J. Davis, Katy	31	164	5.3	5
Milroe, Tompkins	8	156	19.5	1

**INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING**

	Catches	Yards	Avg.	TD
Salverino, Cinco Ranch	10	291	29.1	1
Irving, Taylor	11	189	17.2	1
Abboud, Cinco Ranch	9	157	17.4	2
Davis, Morton R	4	150	37.5	1
Medford, Seven Lakes	12	147	12.3	1
Skinner, Mayde Creek	9	134	14.9	0
Anderson, Katy	6	115	19.2	1

**VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS**

AS OF SEPT. 30

**DISTRICT 19-6A**

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Seven Lakes	3	0	9	0
Katy	3	1	5	2
Cinco Ranch	2	1	3	4
Tompkins	2	2	6	4
Taylor	2	2	4	7
Morton Ranch	0	3	2	7
Mayde Creek	0	3	2	6

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched district title

**DISTRICT 19-5A**

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Brenham	3	0	10	0
Magnolia West	3	0	10	1
College Station	2	1	7	2
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*Isaiah 40:31*  
"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

SPORTS

DANIELS

from page A1

memories of his boys. But particular ones do stand out.

Daniels will always remember Marcus's face when he won the 2014 national championship in sixth grade. Their Katy All-American team—stacked with elite Class of 2021 Katy ISD recruiting prospects like Taylor's Hayden Conner, Bryce Foster and Casey Shorter, and Tompkins' Jalen Milroe—went 24-0 and won the title in Florida.

"To see his face after we won? That brought tears to my eyes," Daniels said.

Daniels' favorite story about Jordan came around the same time.

Jordan and Marcus played for the KYF championship in the fifth grade at Rhodes Stadium. Marcus fared well. Jordan, however, was taken aback by it all.

"The spotlight was too big for him," Daniels said. "He was overwhelmed."

So when Jordan skipped out on football his sixth-grade year but wanted to return for seventh grade, Daniels was touched.

Jordan simply needed time. Daniels had desperately wanted him to play that sixth-grade year. Though teammates and coaches encouraged Jordan to return that year, he wasn't ready.

"Having fun with the kids, he missed that," Daniels said. "That year he missed, he still traveled with us to Florida for the national championship and everybody on the team still treated him as if he was on the team."

Marcus and Jordan are naturally gifted athletically. They each stand 6-foot-2 and 210 pounds. They are strong and fast. Both competed on the Mustangs' 4x100 relay during the track season earlier this spring. Marcus ran the second leg and Jordan was the anchor.

But what really makes them tick is their aggressiveness. It's something they get from Dad.

"He's always been a tough man growing up," Jordan said. "I think his upbringing makes him who he is, as far as an aggressive,

tough man. It rubs off on us."

Jordan and Marcus are fighters on the field, as competitive as anyone. They are relentless. Nothing makes them happier than to see a quarterback scrambling for his life. Still, they are humble and respectful off it.

All traits of Daniels's. "He taught me how to man up in certain situations. Be tough," Marcus said. "That's what he teaches us."

Daniels grew up on a country farm in Caldwell, Texas. He credits his aggressiveness to tending to animals under the demanding watch of his grandfather.

"I had to learn at an early age," Daniels said. "Cows can be aggressive; horses can be aggressive. So, I learned to never be afraid because my grandfather would always push me. 'Rope that cow.' 'Don't you fall off that horse.' 'If they drag you, you better hold on.' That's just what it was. I knew I'd get a whooping if I didn't."

Daniels took that to the football field while playing cornerback and receiver at then-Spring Branch High and playing cornerback for a year at Lamar University.

"I might be short," Daniels said, "but I never backed down."

Their own circle

If you didn't talk to Daniels about football or his childhood, you'd never know of his aggressive and competitive nature. Most people know Mike Daniels only as the friendly face at Willy Burger.

People are drawn to Daniels because of how he cares about and treats people. It's often you'll hear someone say Daniels is one of the nicest people they've ever met.

"He works hard every single night," Jordan said. "A lot of people know him because of the work he puts in and how he cares about them. It's cool. I'm so proud of him."

Football doesn't define Daniels. Quite the contrary. It's a small part of what he's about.

"I'm much more laid back now," Daniels said. "I love people."



On the left, twins Jordan, front, and Marcus Daniels sit with dad Mike at Willy Burger on Sept. 26.

Daniels' respect for people has rubbed off on his boys. Coaches rave about the twins. 'Yes, sir.' 'Yes, ma'am.' Polite and courteous. Never disrespectful.

"They're some great kids," Daniels said. "They do a lot, they're smart, they don't get into trouble, they stay to themselves. Basically, they're as one. They started playing sports and evolved into great men. I can't ask for any better kids."

Daniels' dad was a twin. He has twin sisters who were born when he was 19 years old.

"Twins run in my family," Daniels said, laughing. "I saw my sisters grow up as kids. They were best friends. Everywhere one went, the other went. It's the same way with the boys. So, I already had an idea how it was going to be. When I found out we were having twins, I was like, 'OK, here we go.' They're their own circle."

Neither of Daniels' siblings had twins as children. "It skipped a generation to me," he said.

It's been as expected. Marcus and Jordan are hardly ever apart. Marcus is the quieter one, while Jordan is more outspoken. Other than that, that's where



From left to right, Jordan and Marcus Daniels are starting defensive ends for a Taylor Mustangs football team coming off a state semifinal playoff run.

the differences stop. "It's been crazy," Marcus said. "You don't see twins playing on opposite sides of each other on the football field. You don't see that often. We're the same person. Very similar."

Added Jordan: "A lot of twins don't like to be the same. I embrace it. I love

having a twin brother." Their focus in the meantime is football. Not only the present, but in the future.

Daniels desperately wants his boys to play together at the same college. So far, Howard Payne University is the only school to offer that opportunity. But if it doesn't happen?

"I'll be right there at every game, even if one's on the west coast and one's on the east coast," Daniels said. "I'll drive. I've stopped flying. But I'll be there."

"I'm hoping they can stay together in college. I really do. But if not... them getting an education and to play some ball? I'm all for it."

PAETOW

from page B1

quarterback Jaymarcus Wilson led the way with 116 yards and two touchdowns. Junior Karsten Christopher Jr. had 88 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Santana Scott had 52 yards and a touchdown, and senior Jermichael Johnson had 49 yards.

Mavs coach Ron Counter said he has the best skill kids he's ever had in his four years at the helm of the program. It showed. It also helps that he has a returning starting quarterback for the first time in Wilson, who also completed 2 of 5 passes for 100 yards, including an 89-yard touchdown bomb to senior speedster Jaelon Davis.

The Panthers, too, were dominant on the run, compiling 247 yards on 30 carries. Senior Damon Bankston played up to his great standards with 192 yards

and a touchdown. Junior Jacob Brown added 54 yards and a score on two carries.

For a while, though, it seemed none of that prolific production would matter for Paetow as Morton Ranch had its way early and often against a very good defensive Panthers unit.

That is, until the fourth quarter. "I just told our kids we didn't finish," Counter said. "We didn't make some stops on defense in the fourth quarter when we needed to, and we didn't get first downs on offense that we needed to. But you have to give Paetow a lot of credit."

Paetow trailed 35-21 going into the fourth quarter. Junior quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. had a 1-yard sneak with 7:58 remaining to pull the Panthers within a score. After a Mavericks three-and-out, Dumas hooked up with junior receiver Kole Wilson on an acrobatic 26-yard score with 5:28 left to tie things.

"We just kept going," Paetow

coach B.J. Gotte said. "We started off a little slow on offense; we started off a little slow the last game on offense. But guys got into a rhythm. C.J. got into a rhythm. Guys got going. Damon got going. The offensive line kept working. We made a couple of adjustments on how we were attacking them in the second half. We just executed better."

After another Morton Ranch three-and-out, Dumas methodically drove down the field for another game-winning drive, just as he did against Barbers Hill the previous week.

"We kept our composure," Bankston said. "We knew it was going to be a close game. In the first half, they were everywhere, flying to the ball. But as we kept going, we kind of wore them down. We knew they'd get tired, which they did, and that's when our offense just started pounding away."

Bankston had a big 35-yard run on the final drive. Dumas found

sophomore Dez Myers on a terrific 15-yard catch. Bankston added an 11-yard run. It was all enough to set the stage for Fuentes, whose extra point on the Dumas-Wilson late touchdown against Barbers Hill with 21 seconds left gave the Panthers that 21-20 win.

"He's a great kid," Gotte said. "His demeanor is perfect for a kicker. He's even-keel. You can't get him too high and you can't get him too low. I'm so proud of him. He executed it when it mattered."

For a rivalry game, Gotte said he was taken aback by his team's slow start.

"At halftime, I told our kids I thought they were going to be more intense and more emotional from everything I'd heard," Gotte said. "I thought, early on, we were lethargic. So, it was kind of surprising. But, obviously, in the second half, things picked up and it was kind of fun."

Counter said emotions from his players heading into the game were relatively tempered.

"It's a devastating, tough loss, but at the end of the day it's a non-district game," Counter said. "Yes, they're a Katy ISD school, but they're not in our district right now, so we've got to get ready for district (this) week."

There were no on-field scuffles or shoves. No verbal altercations. Perhaps the two teams were too exhausted from all the back-and-forth scoring to concern themselves with any unnecessary shenanigans.

It was exciting, yes, and history will always remember the winner of the first rivalry game between Morton Ranch and Paetow. But the play on the field was more enthralling than any theatrics leading up to or during the game, which was appropriate.

"You can say it's a rivalry, but all that matters is we play to our best and get a win," Bankston said. "I still have a whole bunch of friends over there, so it's nothing but love, to be honest with you."

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# Taylor's Irving stars in win over George Ranch

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor High is used to having good receivers. During last year's state semifinal playoff run, Griffin Dougherty and Tanner Isola played significant roles because of their play-making skills.

Senior Tyrone Irving III, however, is *different*.

In only his second game as a Mustang, the 6-foot-2, 180-pound Irving caught seven passes for 125 yards and a touchdown in Taylor's 26-14 win over George Ranch on Oct. 1 at Legacy Stadium, lifting the Mustangs to a 2-0 start to the season.

For perspective, no Taylor receiver had more than 93 yards in a game last season. That's typical for a Mustangs offense centered around its power run game.

Irving, though, has made a fast, early impact on the perimeter.

"He's a special talent," coach Chad Simmons said. "He's got a different speed, a different gear than what we've had here. He's got great energy. He's a great competitor; we've even got to rein him in sometimes."

"He's found a great home with our kids and he's really fit in."

Irving arrived to Katy during the summer from New Orleans, where he had attended Chalmette High School. While he's quickly established a name for himself on the field, it's what's taken place off it that has him excited.

"The brotherhood is real here," Irving said. "I love it. I've never been treated the way I'm treated here. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Irving had a nice debut in the Mustangs' 37-0 season-opening win over Cy-Springs on Sept. 24. He



Taylor senior receiver Tyrone Irving III had a breakout game against George Ranch last week. Irving had seven catches for 125 yards and a touchdown in helping the Mustangs go to 2-0 on the season.

COLE MCNANNA

caught four passes for 64 yards.

Against George Ranch a week later, he was flat-out spectacular.

Courtesy of two eye-opening acrobatic catches on a late first-half series—for 25 and 28 yards, respectively; the latter a remarkable one-handed snare—Irving single-handedly set up quarterback Jensen III's 3-yard keeper that pushed Taylor's lead to 17-0.

Irving's touchdown came on a haul of a screaming 28-

yard flare from Jensen that he caught in the back left corner of the end zone in the third quarter to push the Mustangs' lead to 26-0.

Irving and Jensen have worked tirelessly together on routes and timing since Irving got to town in late July.

"He's awesome," said Jensen, who completed 11 of 15 passes for 155 yards. "As soon as he got here, I got his info and we started working and throwing, even on the weekends. He catches everything in his area.

"We've had great receivers here. He's even better."

Irving is hungry to showcase his talent. In Louisiana, he said he did not have the team or exposure that he does playing for Taylor. He defines himself as a deep-ball threat who can do a bit of everything—catch off short routes, deep routes, screens. Simmons said Irving, who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.47 seconds and has a 36-inch vertical, has strong body control and explosive speed to go with sure hands and

admirable concentration on the ball.

During practice leading up to the George Ranch game, Irving played as Javon Gipson, simulating the Longhorns' top playmaker and Baylor commit, on the scout team against Taylor's starting defense.

"He made us look bad a few times," Simmons said. "The way he played in practice helped us take No. 13 (Gipson) out of the game."

Because of Irving's ability, the Mustangs' defense was well-prepared

**"The brotherhood is real here. I love it. I've never been treated the way I'm treated here. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."**

— SENIOR TYRONE IRVING III

for Gipson, who caught just two passes for 46 yards.

"This team, the O-line and my quarterback give me the opportunity to really show all that," Irving said. "Just everything here ... it makes me feel so good."

Irving is an ideal weapon for the Mustangs, who have rushed for 291 yards through the first two games. Even without No. 1 running back and Army commit Casey Shorter, who is dealing with a hamstring injury, Taylor has shown it has more-than-capable ballcarriers in Michael Whitaker Jr. and Andrew Meza.

Throw Irving into the mix, and the offense is poised to be as diverse and dynamic as it's been in quite some time to accommodate the usual playmaking defense that already has five takeaways this season.

"From what I've seen him do," Simmons said of Irving, "(his play) doesn't surprise me at all. That's what I expect him to do."

## WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The MAYDE CREEK M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Teleconference: 1-888-251-2909, Access Code: 3732912.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	Willie Jo Reynolds, Jorge Diaz, Betty Mancía Alvarenga, Cyrus Dumas, and Jessica Graham
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	None
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.86000/\$100 Adopted	\$.84000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.02000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.32%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 172,998	\$ 177,781
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 172,998	\$ 177,781
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,487.78	\$ 1,493.36
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 5.58 .37%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

## WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The MEMORIAL M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 26, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Phone: 414-909-5028, Access Code: 774 292 357# or by Video: meet.google.com/cud-cntw-aob.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	Timothy C. Miller, W.F. Trotter, Jr., Crystal Sampson and Thomas H. Williams
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	None
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Miguel G. Hull

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.40500/\$100 Adopted	\$.40000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-1.23%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 232,664	\$ 234,066
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 232,664	\$ 234,066
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 942.28	\$ 936.26
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ -6.02 -.63%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

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Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

# Coach Randle's 'Morning Minute' inspires

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Thoughts of frustration crossed Mayde Creek head football coach Brian Randle's mind one late April afternoon as he sat on a couch in his house, beyond irritated with the day's earlier events.

As it was, at the time then and now, the world was in a precarious state because of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, that halted schooling and postponed, and then eventually canceled, spring athletics. Mere days into his arrival at Mayde Creek, the new Rams coach needed a way to reach his new kids, for them to get to know him and him to get to know them. Zoom, a popular video conferencing tool, was thought to be the answer.

Thought.  
"My first Zoom with my kids got hacked, and it was all kinds of craziness," Randle recalled. "A guy's on there cussing ... it was awful. After that, I told my guys, 'Hey, we're not doing that again. We're not going to go through that.'"

"I had no control, the screen flipped over, I was trying to exit everything. But I still needed to reach the kids. So, I thought I'd jump on social media and just use Twitter. I told the coaches to make sure all the kids are following me, and that way I can give them something positive."

And so, "The Morning Minute" was born. After mulling on his couch, Randle went to his car and shot a video with the message he intended to speak to his kids that day. He posted the video at 11:19 a.m. on April 20.

That message spawned a social media craze for Randle during unprecedented times that desperately need shots of positivity. Randle shoots the videos on his phone and has done them on campus, in his car, in his house and in his office. He often invites fellow coaches and athletic administrators on his "Morning Minute."

"There was no brainstorming, no thought behind it, no process," Randle said. "I just didn't want any more Zooms getting hacked, man!"

Randle has produced more than 110 videos as of Oct. 4. The videos address a variety of significant topics, such as mental health, the value of time, positive thinking, the dangers of excessive cell phone use, and "embracing our scars," among many others.

While most of his guests include Houston-area high school athletic directors like Decker and coaches such as Jon Kay (North Shore), John Snelson (Dickinson), Shaun McDowell (Richmond Foster), James Williams (Marshall), Joe Sheffy (Danbury



First-year Mayde Creek head football coach Brian Randle has become a social media sensation with his uplifting "Morning Minute" videos.

assistant coach/former Mayde Creek, Taylor head coach), Ricky Tullos (George Ranch), Don Clayton (retired Cinco Ranch coach) and the district's own Chad Simmons (Taylor) and Todd McVey (Tompkins), Randle has also included professional athletes like former NBA veteran Rashard Lewis, former NFL star LaDainian Tomlinson and former NFL veteran Roberto Garza.

He has even had a state trooper on as a guest. If you have a positive message, he will provide the platform to share it.

"It's like a mini game-day speech that motivates me to get my day started," Mayde Creek senior running back Julius Loughridge said. "Coach Randle is a genuine person that cares for his players like they were his own children."

Randle is all about positive affirmation. It drives him.

His mother's degree is in social work. His father has been in education for 46 years.

Randle grew up in a "no-excuses" household that stressed the importance of helping others.

"That's my family background, so we're all about helping others achieve their goals," he said. "As long as we're helping people, we'll be fine. The Lord will take care of the rest. I feel like you block your own blessings when you're not being a blessing to somebody else."

When he was 3 years old growing up in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Randle was left completely blind in his right eye after a bad incident when he was playing on the stairs with his older brother.

"He had a big wheel and I had a tricycle," Randle said. "Well, if you have a big wheel, you can go down the apartment stairs into the snow without a problem. A tricycle's not gonna. I flip over and, coming from the second story, I hit my head so hard I severed my optic nerve. But I've never known what

it's like to see out of two eyes, so I don't know what I'm missing. I was too young to remember."

Randle, as is his way, turned a bad thing into a good thing.

"When a kid's feeling down, I'll say, 'How many hands do you have? How many ears do you have? How many feet do you have? How many eyes you got?'" Randle said. "Then I tell him, 'So, you're doing better than old Coach Randle.' We can laugh about it and it helps them understand that no matter what situation you're in, somebody is doing worse than you. It brings everything back into perspective."

After the accident, Randle said people always told him what he couldn't or wouldn't do because of his vision, or lack thereof. In baseball, he had to wear an awkward helmet. When he played football, he had to wear a visor.

It never stopped him. He played defensive end as a three-year starter at Texas A&M-Kingsville, a NCAA Division II program notable for winning national championships.

"We all have a story that needs to be shared, and I need the kids to understand that as long as you're doing something positive in your life, you'll be OK," he said.

Randle, who often wears a green T-shirt with "The Morning Minute with Old Coach Randle" in yellow lettering, wanted his kids to see "the old guard" delivering the same messages they're hearing from the younger coaches.

"The names change, but the game remains the same," Randle said. "The format is different, but we're saying the same exact thing. We're all saying the same things their parents are telling them."

Randle receives his own positive affirmation about the videos. He was in Alief at a shoe store recently when he ran into some of his former players from Alief Taylor High, his previous coaching stop before Mayde Creek.

"Hey coach, what's up with this Morning Minute?" one said. "We watch it every day. Keep it going!"

Jaden Newsome, another former player of Randle's from Alief Taylor, used to record Randle's talks on his own phone during team meditation before games on Fridays. Newsome still watches those videos when he's frustrated or feeling down.

"The messages actually mean a lot, especially during these times," Mayde Creek senior receiver L'Den Skinner said. "It's so inspirational and he also gives a lot of wisdom, not only to the football team but the whole school. I know a lot of people already look up to him and he's respected by a lot."

## Holt attracts DI attention

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jaden Holt never saw it coming. Never expected it in his wildest dreams. Not so soon, at least.

And why would he have? Rarely does a kid, barely a teenager at 14 years old, expect to have a NCAA Division I scholarship offer before he enters high school, let alone the eighth grade.

But that's what happened July 17, when Holt, a 5-foot-8-1/2 point guard product of Adams Junior High in Katy, was offered by the University of Tulsa. And it happened again Oct. 3, when Holt received another offer, this one from TCU.

In less than three months, Holt had two scholarship offers from DI programs, and he's a year away from playing on a high school gym floor and weeks away from playing his eighth-grade season.

"I was like, 'Wow,'" said Holt, who turned 15 years old on Oct. 5. "The hard work really pays off."

The first one will be one he never forgets. Holt was on his way to practice when his father and AAU coach Lamar handed him the phone.

"I didn't even know who it was," Holt said. "The coach starts asking me which players I like to watch, stuff like that. I was just answering back and forth."

It turned out to be a Tulsa assistant coach, the program's recruiting coordinator.

"They'd seen film that they liked and really liked me," Holt said. "They told me it looked like I belonged, and he just offered me right there."

To many, the news was an eye-opener. But to the Holts, it was little more than a considerable step forward.

"He was very excited to get that offer, but as a dad/coach, that's where I come in and let him know that, 'Hey, you're six years away,'" Lamar said. "It means you've got to continue to work hard. It's not that he's made it already. It's just telling him he's one of the top players in the class of 2025 in the country. But to stay there, he's got to work extra hard. Now he's got that 'X' on his back."

Lamar runs the Rytes Warriors AAU basketball program. In the program's 14 years, Lamar has coached talent like De'Aaron Fox (now of the NBA's Sacramento Kings), who was with Rytes from third through eighth grade; the Boston Celtics' Carson Edwards; and former Texas A&M Aggie and current New Mexico Lobo JJ Caldwell, among others.

As a first grader, Holt tagged along with dad to practices and games and watched players like Jamal Bienenmy (former Oklahoma Sooner, current Bienenmy of Texas-El Paso Miner), C.J. Washington and Texas A&M receiver Jhamon Ausbon.

"We had some really good, quality athletes at the time, and he grew up watching them, traveling with them," Lamar said. "By the time he became a third and fourth grader, he was on a sixth and seventh grade skillset and aptitude. He's been in it for a long time."



Adams Junior High eighth grader Jaden Holt.

Holt remembers those days well. He didn't just watch Bienenmy and Co. train and workout. He studied them, and then when he started the second grade, he did drills alongside them.

It also didn't hurt that he grew up going against older brother Eden, a DI talent in his own right who plays at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Holt was exposed to an elite level of basketball at a young age. He took advantage of it. "I learned to stay calm and stay poised," Holt said. "Through any situation, especially the tough ones, just stay poised. I remember all the trips we went on and how they carried themselves. They never did too much, never showed too much. They always had respect for others, and I try and carry that with myself."

Aside from his cool and calm demeanor, Holt is gifted offensively. Lamar said Holt has had a knack for getting buckets since the fourth grade.

Holt considers himself a "pass-first guy"—he admires Chris Paul because of his passing skills—but it's obvious he is a natural scorer.

"I can read the seams, the holes and the gaps on the floor before it happens," Holt said. "My dad always taught me how to read the floor well. I'm able to attack and make my moves quickly."

Lamar is the varsity boys basketball assistant coach at Episcopal High School. Right now, that's where he expects Holt to go. However, the Holt family lives in Katy, the Rytes program is based in Katy, and Eden is a former Tompkins High standout, the starting point guard on the 2018 state finalist Falcons team.

But that's the future. As for today, Holt now has a target on his back. One he is prepared for, if not altogether ready for.

"I'm just going to stay calm and be me," he said. "Stay humble."

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The West Memorial Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via videoconference at ZOOM link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82454751964> or Teleconference Number: 1-346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 824 5475 1964. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal:	K. L. Cryar, G. Griggs, R. Stoddard & E. Vanderloo
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	G. Barnhill

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.390 /\$100	\$ 0.390 /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$178,168	\$179,558
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	-\$35,634	-\$35,912
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$142,534	\$143,646
Tax on average residence homestead	\$555.88	\$560.22
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$4.34 0.7807%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

**The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.**

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

# Cougars' Atkinson to make most of senior year

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was during her freshman year that Cinco Ranch senior Sophie Atkinson was dealt an awakening of sorts.

A metatarsal fracture limited Atkinson to two cross country meets during that year. Then she suffered a stress fracture to another metatarsal on the same foot that wiped out her track season.

But after eventually coming to terms with the devastation of two setbacks within months of each other, Atkinson found a way to move forward. She leaned on her faith. Her focus turned to becoming a better teammate. And, most



SOPHIE ATKINSON

importantly, she realized there was a lot more to her life than running.

"I was able to focus on other things," Atkinson said. "It's easy to get lost in the practices and all that time. I believe everything happens for a reason, and I used the time to become stronger mentally and physically. That period was tough. I had to work my way back up and had to learn how to be mentally engaged even when I couldn't race or finish in the top

of races. I had to be persistent." That perspective and commitment earned their keep. On Sept. 12, Atkinson announced she will be running cross country and track for the University of Virginia.

Even with the COVID-19 pandem-

ic prohibiting official recruiting visits, Atkinson said she was able to get the information she needed from coaches, who sent videos of school facilities and different places where the team trains. She is confident she will love Charlottesville once she gets there.

The most important thing was the strong relationships she established with track and field and cross country director Vin Lananna and assistant track and field distance coach Nicole Freitag.

"I wasn't able to have the opportunity to do an official (visit), but I just felt really confident in it being the right place for me," Atkinson said. "I was looking for a school that had academic and athletic success, and I felt Virginia was the best option in that case. Also, their vision was something I felt aligned with and excited me. Coach Vin and Coach Nicole ... I'm really excited

to work with them and I feel I mesh well with them."

Verbally committing to compete at the NCAA Division I level is an impressive feat for Atkinson. Sure, there is a reason she was a well-decorated runner out of the Class of 2021, but injuries and unfortunate circumstances have hindered opportunities to showcase her considerable ability.

Not only did Atkinson essentially lose her entire freshman year of competition, her track season this spring was abruptly canceled because of COVID-19.

However, there is no denying her talent. As a sophomore, Atkinson was an all-state cross country and track runner, finishing ninth at the 2018 cross country state meet and qualifying for the state track meet in the 800-meter, 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs in the spring.

The day before the novel coro-

navirus caused the shutdown of the 2020 spring track season, Atkinson ran a United States No. 2 time of 4-minutes, 48.95-seconds in the mile.

And there is more to come. Atkinson said she is fully healthy and has never felt better. It's showing. Last weekend, Atkinson posted a time of 17 minutes at the 5K Nike South Invitational in The Woodlands, setting a meet record.

"I feel I've gotten back to the level of competition that I was at before my injury," Atkinson said. "I'm just trying to go into each meet with the mindset of being grateful that there is a meet and that there is a competition, considering everything that has happened. I want to see what I can do. I don't want to put limitations on myself. I want to go into each race just seeing what I can do, going forward and giving my best"

## Getting your annual mammogram is still important.

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Getting your annual mammogram is one of the most important steps you can take for early detection. That's why our Breast Care Center is taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you and our staff members safe.



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### During the coronavirus pandemic, we are:



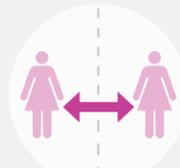
**Screening all patients**, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office.



**Wearing masks** and other personal protective equipment while providing patient care.



**Implementing additional sanitation processes** to disinfect all equipment and surfaces.



**Redesigning waiting rooms and check-in procedures** to ensure social distancing.

