

No. 3 Katy routs Dickinson as No. 14 Tompkins looms

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High coach Gary Joseph wanted his team to come out of its Oct. 30 matchup with area power Dickinson "a better football team."

He got it, and then much more. The No. 3 state-ranked Tigers dominated previously undefeated Dickinson, 49-7, at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson. The Gators were 2-0 and ranked No. 9 in the Houston area heading into the game.

Katy, ranked No. 6 nationally by MaxPreps, improved to 5-0 overall.

The non-district game was abruptly rescheduled last Thursday, Oct. 29, when it was moved from last Saturday afternoon at Legacy Stadium to one day earlier in southeast Houston.

The move was part of a domino effect due to a COVID-19 outbreak at Seven Lakes High School last week. The Seven Lakes campus was temporarily closed, effective Friday, Oct. 30, until Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Seven Lakes' football team had to reschedule this week's



After dominating area power Dickinson, 49-7, last week, senior defensive back Dalton Johnson (43) and No. 3 state-ranked Katy heads into a clash of Katy ISD titans against Tompkins on Thursday at Legacy Stadium.

game against Tompkins to Nov. 27. The two teams were supposed to play this Thursday, but with only one day of practice available for the Spartans because of the suspension of athletics during the

campus closure, that would not be possible.

So, Seven Lakes has a second straight open week this week.

See **TIGERS**, page B5

Katy voters hit the polls



R. HANS MILLER

Record turnout throughout the country, including the three counties that comprise the Katy area left some results in the lurch Tuesday night right before press time. However, some candidates held strong leads making them the apparent winners of their respective races. In funding races, first responders and mobility passed in the Katy area while education bonds either didn't make it onto the ballot or failed.

Election results a mix of old and new faces

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

After record-setting turnout at the polls, Katy area residents made their voices heard and sent a mix of newcomers and familiar faces to city hall, Austin and Washington on Election Day.

School work

At the local level, Katy ISD appears to have one familiar and two new faces on the board after an extended election wait. Katy ISD Board Secretary Ashley Vann will retain her Position 3 seat after running unopposed.

Leah Wilson convinced voters to provide her with 11,605 more votes than her opponent Michael Dillard in the Position 4 race. Wilson will replace current KISD Board of Trustees President Courtney Doyle who had initially run for reelection but withdrew from the race Feb. 14.

Meanwhile, incumbent Bill Lacy will be stepping to the side as his opponent Greg Schulte enters the Position 5 seat. Lacy garnered about 11,000 votes fewer than Schulte in preliminary election results. Lacy is the current vice president of the board.

Royal ISD's bond proposals that district officials said were necessary in order to prepare the district for growth all failed. Trustees will need to decide whether to move forward with another attempt at a bond package in the spring or fall of 2021.

Who will sit on the RISD Board isn't immediately clear. While Elton Foster walked away with 58.19% of the vote for Position 6, no clear winner was determined for positions five and seven as of press time.

Council Seats

Katy City Hall will continue to see At Large Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris on the dais during city council meetings after he ran unopposed as well. However, in the Ward B race, initial results favor Rory Robertson to replace incumbent Durran Dowdle. Tentative results put Robertson at about 51% of the vote.

"First I would like to thank Durran Dowdle for his years of service to our city. I would also like to thank Sam Pearson and Steve Pierson for their campaigns," Robertson said. "We have developed a strong respect for each other."

In contrast, the Ward A race appears to be secured in incumbent Janet Corte's favor with 57.7% of votes going to her.

See **ELECTION**, page A5

About 127,000 Harris County drive-thru votes to be counted

By JOLIE MCCULLOUGH
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A federal judge Monday rejected a request by a conservative activist and three Republican candidates to toss out nearly 127,000 votes cast at drive-thru polling sites in Texas' most populous, and largely Democratic, county.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, a George W. Bush appointee, follows two earlier decisions by the all-Republican Texas Supreme Court rejecting similar efforts by Republicans challenging the validity of drive-thru voting in Harris County. Although Hanen's ruling is still expected to be appealed quickly, it appears to clear the way for counting the early voting drive-thru ballots on Election Day.

In his ruling from the bench, Hanen said he rejected the case on narrow grounds because the plaintiffs did not show they would be harmed if the drive-thru ballots are counted. He noted, however, that the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals could think differently if the cases reaches them.



ANNIE MULLIGAN FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Cars lined up to vote in the drive-thru line at NRG Stadium in Houston during the first day of early voting on Oct. 13, 2020. The judge's ruling follows two related decisions by the Texas Supreme Court rejecting efforts to have Harris County's drive-thru voting process deemed illegal. It appears to clear the way for all drive-thru votes to be counted on Election Day tomorrow.

If he had ruled on the larger issues in the case, Hanen said he would have rejected the request to toss out votes already cast. But Hanen said he would have shut down Harris County's drive-thru

polling places for Election Day, because the tents being used for the sites don't qualify as "buildings" under state election law.

See **VOTES**, page A5

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November 5, 2020
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Seven Lakes High School temporarily closed

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD announced Oct. 29 it was temporarily shutting down in-person instruction at Seven Lakes High School after receiving a Corrective Action Advisement letter from Fort Bend County Health and Human Services. During the temporary closure, in-person students were provided virtual instruction through at least Nov. 3 and students and staff were expected to return to campus Nov. 4.

"As outlined in the 'Katy ISD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan,' with the temporary closure of in-person instruction, all extracurricular and student programs will be temporarily suspended during a campus closure. Athletic coaches, CTE teachers and Fine Arts Directors will be in contact with their students regarding the dates and times to resume practices and competitions," a statement emailed to the parents of Seven Lakes students said.

Under the intermittent school



R. HANS MILLER

Seven Lakes High School was temporarily shut down for on-campus instruction last Thursday due to a breakout of COVID-19 cases among students and staff. Campus operations were switched to a fully-online format. School officials said contact tracing indicated medium-to-large groups of students congregating after school without practicing proper social distancing and other protocols are the likely reason for the outbreak.

to home situation described in the mitigation plan, students attended virtual classes via the Canvas online platform until they returned to campus. Extracurricular and student athletics programs were temporarily suspended during that time as well.

(For more information on the

impact the shutdown had on KISD athletics, see our sports coverage on page B1.)

The district's COVID-19 case dashboard indicated at the time that Seven Lakes had a total of 48 cases among students and staff, with 43 of those cases involving students attending in-person

instruction. Seven Lakes currently has 1,846 students enrolled for in-person instruction and about 300 faculty and staff overseeing operations at the school.

"The campus' active cases largely pertain to the close contact that occurred within an athletic and fine arts program," a statement from the district said.

A letter sent to parents Oct. 28 by Seven Lakes High School Principal Kerri Finnesand said contact tracing conducted by the district's emergency management team had determined that many of the COVID-19 cases for Seven Lakes High could be linked back to medium to large gatherings involving students.

"These gatherings include off-campus weekend parties where social distancing and mask wearing has not occurred," Finnesand said in the letter.

Finnesand asked for parents and students to support faculty and staff in preventing the spread

See **CLOSED**, page A5

OUTSMARTING CANCER IN WEST HOUSTON & KATY

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KCM plans to purchase new office building

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy Christian Ministries Executive Director Deysi Crespo and Board of Directors President Patti Lacy recently met with the Katy Times to announce the nonprofit's plans to purchase a 13,300-square-foot building on about 3.5 acres of land in the Katy area as its new headquarters.

The purchase will be funded by a capital campaign led by Lacy. "Our goal is to transform lives and make people self-sufficient," Lacy said. "And this building campaign, this capital campaign, and this building is to help KCM have their own property and make us self-sufficient ourselves. So, to practice what we preach and be able to turn the mirror on ourselves and be self-sufficient as well and own our own land."

The purchases of the land and building, which KCM has identified but wished to keep confidential while final negotiations on the deal continue, are part of a strategic plan designed to match the ongoing community growth in the Katy area, Crespo said.

Growth has already forced the expansion of offices nearly every year since 2016. The group started out with its administrative functions housed in a large closet at the resale store located at 5504 First Street in Katy. From there, they added about 1,400 square feet in the same building, then moved its crisis counseling center to the Kingsland Community Center in 2019. The group also added a second retail shop at 23232 Kingsland Blvd. that same year.

Growth of the resale shop portion of the nonprofit is just one sector of necessary expansion. In 2017, the nonprofit helped 912 victims of domestic violence in the Katy area. By 2019, that number had increased to 2,227 domestic violence victims. Similarly, 726,706 pounds of food were distributed in 2017 while 1,288,393 pounds of food assistance were provided by the KCM food pantry in 2019. All other reported service areas showed similar growth in KCM's annual reports which the social services organization posts online.

Now, in order to consolidate operational space and create efficiency and allow for growth, Crespo and Lacy are negotiating a deal for the new building.

"We are under contract and we have a property identified and it is absolutely perfect. We need the help of the community, so we can help them back," Lacy said.

In identifying property and



R. HANS MILLER

The Katy Christian Ministries building on First Street in downtown Katy has been a flurry of activity since March as volunteers and staff work to serve those who are facing economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, if the nonprofit can raise sufficient funds, it will be purchasing a new building to call home. The resale store will remain in place, but being able to consolidate operations space will create efficiency for the popular local nonprofit – in addition to self-sufficiency, something it works hard to support among its clients.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

While not everyone can donate money to the nonprofit's combined campaign due to limited resources, here are other ways to help Katy Christian Ministries support those in need through the pandemic, especially through the holiday season:

- Donate canned goods such as canned fruit, chili, tomato sauces and veggies or other food items with long shelf lives to the KCM food pantry.
- Donate shampoo, deodorant, hand soap, baby wipes, diapers for infants and adults, laundry detergent, tooth brushes and other personal hygiene items.
- Donate items for holiday meals such as hams stores give away for free with the purchase of a turkey.
- Donate items for sale through the KCM resale stores on First Street and Kingsland Boulevard.

For more information, visit www.ktcm.org.



COURTESY KCM

Katy Christian Ministries volunteers work to distribute thousands of pounds of food to those in need on Oct. 31 through the nonprofit's partnership with the Houston Food Bank and other local groups. Food insecurity is one of several community issues the local charity works to solve at the local level, including domestic violence, financial insecurity and trauma experienced by sexual assault victims.

choosing a location that best served their clients while creating operational advantages, Lacy and Crespo said the management team at KCM looked at data indicating where most of their clients lived.

One of the main benefits of the new site will be the ability to consolidate the charity's operations, Crespo said.

"We're still assessing and we're going to do it in phases, right? But eventually, we're going to have everyone under one roof and have some operational efficiency as a result," Crespo said.

Both ladies noted that the resale store locations operated by KCM

would remain at their current locations even after the land purchase.

Lacy, who is running the campaign to get the remaining capital to make the purchase, said she is excited about the project and will be fundraising for the foreseeable future in order to ensure money is raised in time. The goal is to have the down payment ready by December at the latest so that the deal can be solidified, she said.

While fundraising has been difficult this year, Crespo said the planning for this purchase was underway before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now the goal is to move forward with a capital campaign that raises the

remaining funds needed for a down payment, roughly \$305,000 of the total estimated cost of \$1.15 million.

One example of difficulty in fundraising is KCM's annual gala which took place Oct. 27. Crespo said the KCM team made slightly more than 50% of its fundraising goal of \$100,000. Ordinarily, it is much closer to meeting that goal, she said.

Crespo said about \$43,000 was already raised for the land purchase and she was hoping the commu-

nity would come together to help Lacy and herself raise the remaining \$262,000 needed for the down payment.

Those willing can make immediate donations by calling the nonprofit at 281-391-5261, but pledges toward the project are welcome as well. Anyone wishing to pledge, or otherwise help on the project, can email Crespo at deysi.crespo@ktcm.org. Cash donations may be made at <https://bit.ly/34KE09W>.

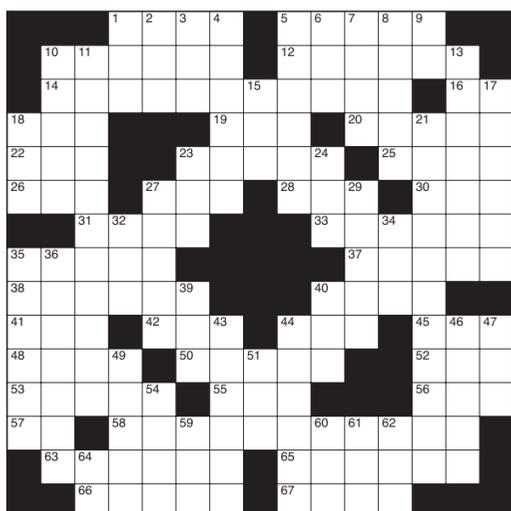
This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Upright post on a boat
- Sentimental person
- Native American tribe
- Wear away
- Where you're going
- Doctor
- Popular Chinese dialect
- One point east of due south
- Northern sea duck
- Note
- Wives (law)
- Trigonometric function
- A way to communicate (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- No (Scottish)
- Commercials
- Large instrument
- ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthe
- Small, saclike cavities
- High and thin in tone
- Treat extremely well
- Famed track star Usain
- Secure web connection (abbr.)
- Rob of energy
- Paving material
- Cool!
- Tip of Aleutian Islands
- Indicates silence
- Water in the solid state
- Security interests
- Popular hoopster Jeremy
- Shed tears
- Low frequency
- Harmful bacterium
- Common language: lingua ___
- Standards of perfection
- They consist of two parts
- A detailed description of design



CLUES DOWN

- More (Spanish)

- A subdivision of a play
- Japanese title
- More jittery
- Fabric
- Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- Cleaving tool
- Central Brazilian town
- Court game
- Land
- "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- Retract a statement
- Data executive
- Capital of Yemen
- Portable computer screen material
- Electronic data processing
- "Matt Houston" actor
- Horsley
- Resinous substance
- Rural delivery

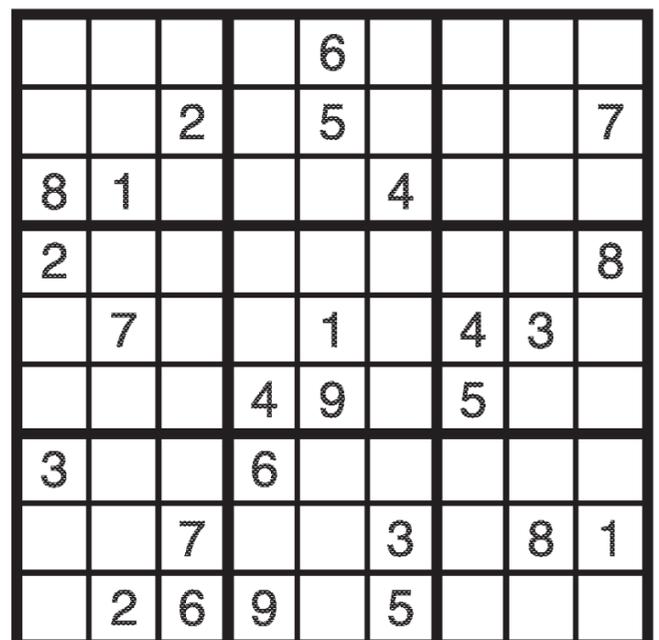
Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

SUDOKU



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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Harris Co., Catholic Charities offering help

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has been appointed by Harris County as the administrative agency for \$40 million in emergency financial assistance. The help is available to those experiencing financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Harris County COVID-19 Emergency Direct Assistance Fund will provide 33,333 families with one-time payments of \$1200," Catholic Charities said in a statement released to the press.

The program's application period began Nov. 2 and is open through Nov.

6. Those wishing to apply may do so by visiting www.catholiccharitieshelp.org or calling 832-990-1318. Applications may be submitted by telephone through 8 p.m. Friday; however, those enrolling online have until 11:59 p.m. Friday evening to complete their applications through the website. Applicants should visit the Catholic Charities website prior to applying in order to determine what documentation will be needed in order to apply.

"Applicants are encouraged to check their spam folder and to promptly respond to calls/texts about assistance about the program, to ensure they do not miss out on the opportunity for aid," the statement read.

According to the press release, those receiving the funding – which was awarded to the county through the federal CARES Act – may spend it on housing, food, utilities, health care, child care, transportation and other necessary expenses.

Aid awards will not be issued on a first-come-first-served basis, the news release said. Instead, all qualifying applicants with completed documentation will be entered into a pool and randomly selected to ensure fair distribution of the funds.

Applicants of all faiths and backgrounds living in any portion of Harris County will be considered, the statement said.



According to Workforce Solutions, an agency that tracks unemployment in the Greater Houston area, Harris County's unemployment rate was 8.4% in August with a loss of more than 24,000 jobs in the first quarter of 2020 alone, causing a need for assistance throughout the area. Harris County has partnered with Catholic Charities to help distributed \$40 million in CARES funds to families impacted by the economic downturn spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors such as uncertainty in the energy sector.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gringos Tex-Mex is set to open Nov. 10 at 230 W. Grand Parkway S. in Katy, just south of the intersection of the Grand Parkway and I-10.

Gringos Mexican Kitchen to open in Katy on Nov. 10

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Gringo's Mexican Kitchen is set to open at 230 W. Grand Pkwy. S. in Katy Nov. 10. The 9,800 square-foot Tex-Mex restaurant will feature a shortened menu at first which includes pollo Marisco, burritos con queso, fajitas and a popular green sauce among other dishes.

"To be able to open a new restaurant during a pandemic has been quite an adventure! Through it all, we've stayed focused on making progress and moving the project along," said Gringo's Mexican Kitchen Chief Marketing Officer Heather McKeon.

The restaurant will be able to serve 290 guests once the pandemic is done and seating capacity caps

are removed, according to the press release. The restaurant, which is located at the Grand Crossing Shopping Center, features a vaulted ceiling, murals and a wraparound bar.

The restaurant is currently looking for multiple bussers, cooks, dish washers, hosts, servers and cashiers/to-go hosts, according to workatgringos.com/katy.

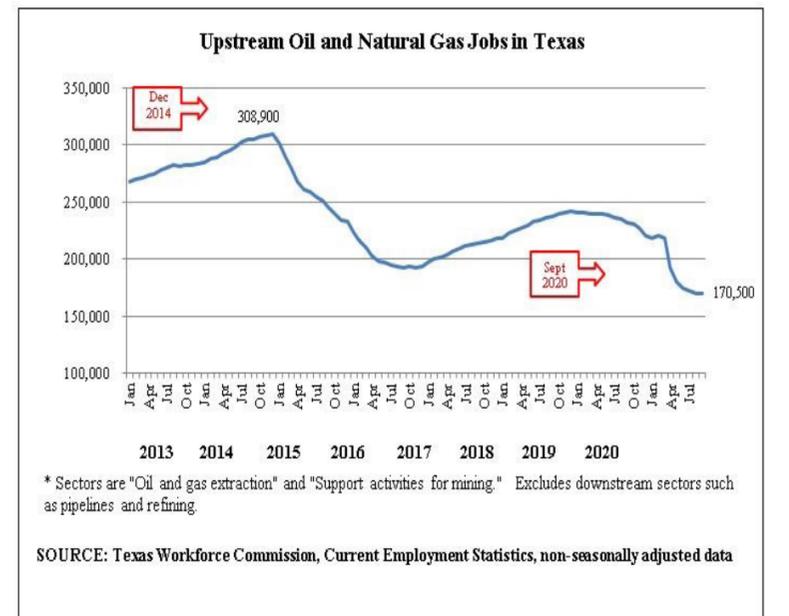
Applications now open for FBJSL scholarship

Each year, the Fort Bend Junior Service League awards up to four \$1,000 Volunteer Scholarships and one \$2,000 new beginnings scholarship.

The Volunteer Scholarships are awarded to female high school seniors in Fort Bend County who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in volunteerism and community service and plan to attend an accredited college or university.

The New Beginnings Scholarship is offered to help Fort Bend County women with established financial need who have been accepted into an accredited college, university or vocational school after having taken a break in their education.

Additional information and copies of the applications are available on the FBJSL's website at www.fbjsl.org. Applications will be accepted until February 1, 2021.



Oil and natural gas extraction is upstream activity, meaning that it excludes other sectors in the industry such as refining, petrochemicals, fuels wholesaling, oilfield equipment manufacturing, pipelines, and gas utilities. The employment shown also includes "Support Activities for Mining," which is mostly oil and gas-related but includes some small amount of other types of mining.

Deputy passes due to COVID-19



HCSO Deputy Johnny Tunches

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Harris County Sheriff's Office has announced that Deputy Johnny Tunches has passed away Nov. 3 after a fight with COVID-19. Tunches leaves behind a wife and three daughters.

"Our Sheriff's Office family mourns the death of Deputy John Tunches," Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said. "Deputy Tunches served the people of Harris County with distinction. We were proud to call him our partner, and our friend. He will be missed terribly, and our condolences go out to his family and all those whose lives he touched."

Tunches is the third HCSO deputy to succumb to COVID-19. Sergeant Raymond Scholwinski passed on May 6 and Deputy Juan Menchaca died June 13 after contracting the disease caused by the Novel Coronavirus.

Tunches, 56, had been in the hospital for nearly a month during his fight against the disease. He was a 29-year veteran of HCSO and had been assigned in District 2. He began his time with the department in 1991 at the department's Inmate Processing Center – also known as the IPC.

Deputy Johnny Tunches, 56, had been hospitalized for almost a month after contracting COVID-19. He was a 29-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's Office and his most recent assignment was as a Contract Deputy in District 2. He began his service with the Harris County Sheriff's Office in 1991 and worked at the Inmate Processing Center (IPC).

Funeral arrangements for Deputy Tunches are pending.

Jobs up in Texas upstream oil and gas sector in September

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The upstream sector of the Texas oil and natural gas industry added 700 jobs in September, according to data from the Texas Workforce Commission. This is the first uptick since February, bringing the total upstream employment in Texas to 170,500 jobs – jobs that pay among the highest wages in Texas. The upstream sector

involves oil and natural gas extraction and excludes other industry sectors such as refining, petrochemicals, fuels wholesaling, oilfield equipment manufacturing, pipelines, and gas utilities, which support hundreds of thousands of additional jobs in Texas.

"At a time when some question the future of oil and natural gas, this small but positive job growth is an indicator of better days ahead," said Todd Staples,

president of the Texas Oil & Gas Association.

Oil and natural gas are important to the economy and are expected to remain a part of the energy sector for generations, Staples said.

He added that oil and natural gas are essential for 96% of the products used in day to day life such as computers, cell phones, medical devices, eye glasses, hand sanitizer and other products.

COVID-19 STATS

As of the afternoon of November third, Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties had the following case counts per their respective health departments. The Texas Department of State Health Services serves as Waller County's health authority.

FORT BEND COUNTY
Active Cases: 921
Recoveries: 16,886
Deaths: 252

HARRIS COUNTY
Active Cases: 27,395
Recoveries: 134,173
Deaths: 2,276

WALLER COUNTY
Total Cases: 1,015
Deaths: 17

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

It's a toilet, not a trash can.

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

INTERSTATE MUD

COVID-19 ruins another tradition

The 2020 World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers won't be going to the White House to celebrate. COVID-19, the great kill joy, ensured that no invitation would be extended.

Baseball teams first visited the White House in 1865 during Andrew Johnson's administration. Like Abraham Lincoln before him, Johnson, who labeled baseball the "nation's game," was a true fan who once gave the entire federal bureaucracy a day off to watch a three-team round robin played behind the White House.

In June 1869, when the Cincinnati Red Stockings traveled to Ulysses S. Grant's White House, journalists couldn't decide which was more popular - the undefeated Cincinnati powerhouse, or the recently elected Civil War hero. As one scribe wrote, "This season, the whole country seems to have baseball on the brain."

Legend has it that Grant would sometimes join in games young boys played near the White House. In the 1868 presidential campaign, teams that supported Grant and his challenger, former New York governor Horatio Seymour, once played a game against each other. The results are unknown.

The Red Stockings were baseball's first professional team, and the ballclub took the nation by storm. Anchored by captain and team manager Harry Wright and his 22-year old shortstop brother George, the Red Stockings made the most of their \$10,000 budget to attract baseball talent across America. In 1869, George, considered the original Babe Ruth, hit .630, and 49 home runs. The Wright brothers are in baseball's Hall of Fame.

By the time the Red Stockings were puffing stogies with the cigar-loving Grant, the team was 25-0, on its way to a 57-0 season, and an eventual 81-game winning streak that spanned two seasons. When the team returned from the White House to Cincinnati's Union Station, 4,000 delirious fans awaited.

On Opening Day, when it hammered its Cincinnati Picked Nine opponents 24-15 and the next day administered a 50-7 drubbing, the Red Stockings served notice to the baseball world that it was a force. The Red Stockings scored runs in abundance, and averaged 42 scores each game. Once, the Cincinnati nine tallied an amazing 103 runs in a single game. As the Red Stockings racked up win after win, America fell in love



JOE GUZZARDI
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

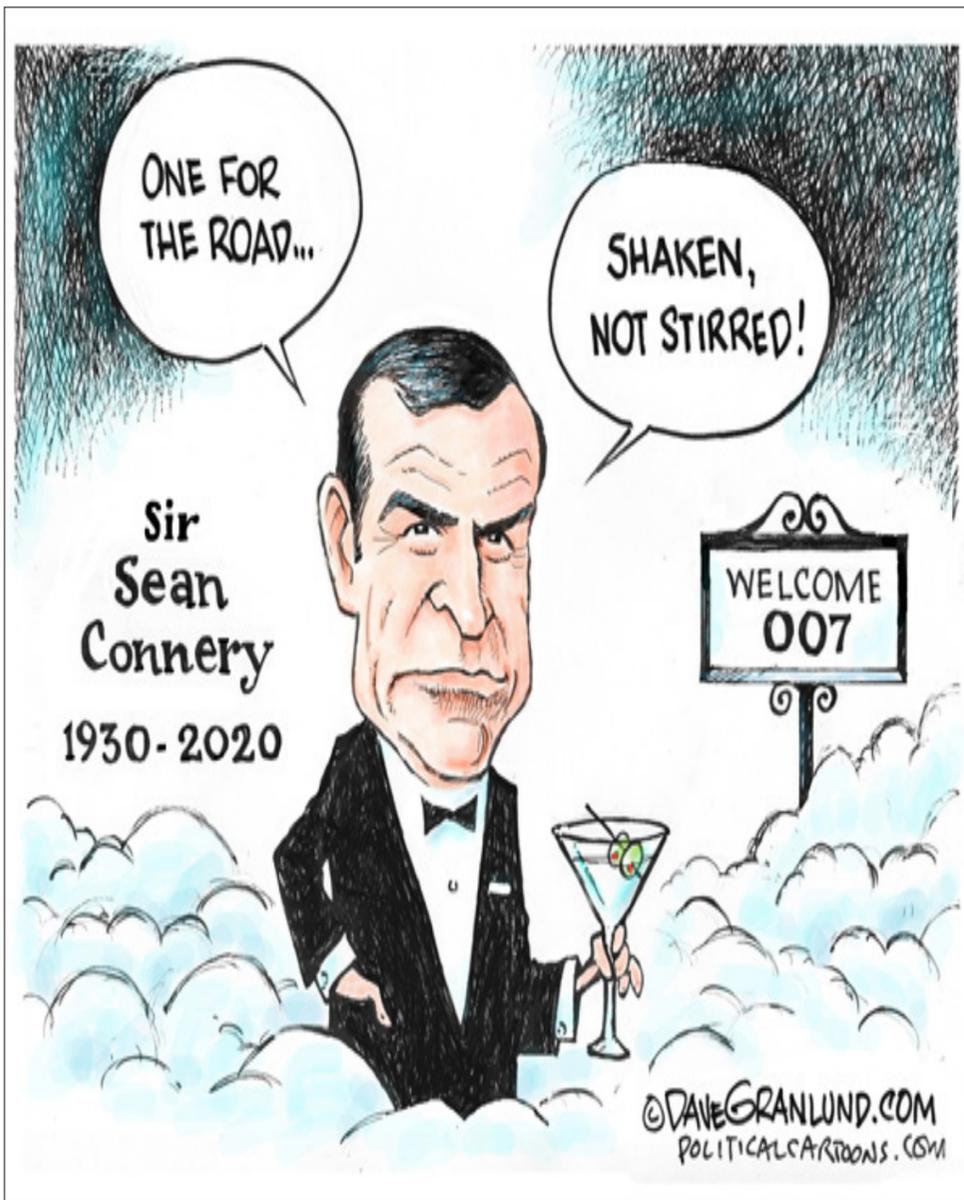
with the team. Celebrated in newspaper stories and in song, "The Red Stockings' March," fans couldn't get enough. The Red Stockings helped Cincinnati emerge from a destitute post-Civil War slaughterhouse capital to an emerging cosmopolitan metropolis to rival New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Even though ticket prices doubled to .50 cents, fans continued to flock to the yard. In Chicago, an overload of Red Stockings baseball bugs, as fans were called in the game's early days, caused the bleachers to collapse. During September 1869, seven years before the Battle of the Little Big Horn, the Red Stockings embarked on a wild and woolly train journey to the west coast. As the train zig-zagged along the rough rails, inhospitable Native Americans roamed the plains. One correspondent wrote that standing up straight while the train was in motion or jumping the tracks was impossible. Once in California, however, the Red Stockings obliterated Sacramento and San Francisco teams. They had accomplished their mission to introduce eastern style baseball to westerners.

The Red Stockings good fortune continued in 1870 when the team peeled off 27 more straight wins. Then, on June 14, the Red Stockings lost an 11-inning, 8-7 road thriller to the Brooklyn Athletics; the streak ended. The first defeat in more than 100 games cost the Red Stockings its fickle fan base, and its sponsors. The team moved to Boston where it became known as the Bean Eaters, and then the Braves.

More than a century later, baseball historians dubbed the Red Stockings as the "First Boys of Summer" and properly credited the team with making baseball famous coast-to-coast. Some dismiss the Red Stockings' achievements as insignificant, ancient history. But the 1869 Red Stockings were trailblazers, adhered to the 19th century's rules, took on all comers, and traveled through hostile territory to crush California's teams.

In the process, they won all their games, a feat no other professional baseball teams can claim.



The best states for business in 2020

The states experienced a major upheaval of the economic success that preceded the pandemic this year, but, like clockwork, we have overcome one step at a time.

We didn't get a free pass to fall behind, and neither did our state leaders. It is important now to hold our elected officials and ourselves accountable for the sake of the years to come.

Businesses did not take a free pass either. They are open, and they are eager to succeed. To hold states accountable to improve pro-business environments means more jobs and a smoother recovery for the nearly 14 million Americans currently unemployed. And this month Area Development released its state ranking of top states for doing business in 2020. Publications, rankings and analyses are more important than ever before because they tell us, the voters, how our state or state leaders are stacking up, and who we should be taking cues from.

At the top of the list is Georgia - its seventh consecutive win - followed by Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas and North Carolina, respectively. In fact, every state in the ranking's top ten is in the South aside from the 7th, Indiana. But separate from a clear geographical majority, the 13 variables used to rank the



LISA NELSON
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

state's pro-business environments included corporate tax structure, the state's regulatory environment and state government cooperation and responsiveness.

Similarly, organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council release comprehensive reports annually to check in with how the states are doing in specific policy areas. Last month the 13th Edition of Rich States, Poor States released, which ranks the economic competitiveness of states using 15 equally weighted policy variables. Right-to-work, top marginal corporate income tax rate and state minimum wage are among them, and Area Development's top 5 states are ranked in the upper half of these Rich States, Poor States variables.

While Area Development makes a ranking to help states create a pro-business environment - which would no doubt help states identify steps to build business strong in the recovery unfolding before us - it's also important to stay attuned

to what priorities best serve the taxpayers in our states.

Stronger business means more jobs, and more jobs mean more opportunity for Americans. Good economic policy is obviously a win for the residents of every state, and trends have shown people will flee the poor states to find success in those better-prepared states. We saw it this year with New York, and we will likely see it again.

Luckily, we also know the policy solutions that make up good economic policy thanks to the many publications, rankings and analysis that tell us how our states did. Even before the pandemic, when our economy was thriving, neglecting to make policy changes in the right direction was enough to fall behind. This is even more true today as we grapple with the fiscal shock of the global crisis.

That is why it is so important we stay informed, and we check in on our elected officials' and our state leaders' performances to make sure we're making the right decisions as voters, taxpayers and community leaders. We should keep up with our state's ranking in business, in economic competitiveness and how our governors are performing. These variables have proven to work, they are based on individual liberty and free enterprise and they lay the roadmap to success.

We have the tools, it's time to use them.

Katy Times

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DENNIS SILVA II | Sports Editor
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CONSTITUTION CORNER

U.S. Constitution: Article I, Section 6

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.



Republicans appear to keep majority in the Texas House

By **CASSANDRA POLLOCK** and **DAN ROSENZWEIG-ZIFF**
TEXAS TRIBUNE

Republicans seemed poised to hold onto their majority in the Texas House on Tuesday, fighting off a well-financed attempt by Democrats to flip the lower chamber for the first time in nearly two decades.

The GOP's likely electoral success solidifies the balance of power heading into a legislative session that state lawmakers say will be their toughest in years, and it most certainly means the next speaker of the House — to be elected when lawmakers convene in January — will be a Republican. The issues before the Legislature will include a budget strained by recession, state responses to the pandemic and a once-in-a-decade redistricting process — always a divisive and partisan affair.

It was unclear on election night how many seats the Republicans and Democrats will hold when the Legislature convenes in January, but it appeared from incomplete returns that it will be close to the 83-67 split between the two parties during the 2019 legislative session.

Early voting made up a bulk of the votes counted Tuesday, though a portion of mail-in ballots will not be counted until after Election Day due to later deadlines for them to arrive in the mail.

The fight for the state House this election cycle was a major rallying cry for both Democrats and Republicans, with tens of millions of dollars flowing in from state and national groups.

Democrats, bullish after flipping a dozen seats in 2018, needed nine to gain a majority in the chamber. Both parties had marked dozens of seats

as competitive heading into Election Day, including nine in Republican districts that Democrat Beto O'Rourke won in 2018.

In the dozen seats freshman Democrats were defending, Republicans seemed poised to regain control of one in Harris County: Former GOP state Rep. Mike Schofield ousted state Rep. Gina Calanni, the Katy Democrat who unseated him in 2018.

Meanwhile, most Republican incumbents in races targeted by Democrats were leading in early vote returns. In Tarrant County, three — Matt Krause of Fort Worth, Craig Goldman of Fort Worth and Tony Tindler of Arlington — were leading their opponents by several percentage points. In Collin County, Matt Shaheen and Jeff Leach, both of Plano, had narrow leads over their challengers. In one Houston-area race, state Rep. Sarah Davis, R-Houston, was trailing her Democratic challenger, Ann Johnson, by several percentage points, according to incomplete vote returns.

And in Dallas, two Republicans were trying to hold off tight Democrat challenges. Hours after the polls closed, State Rep. Morgan Meyer held a lead of fewer than 1,000 votes over Democrat Joanna Cattanaach, and fellow state Rep. Angie Chen Button was leading Democrat Brandy Chambers by just over 200 votes.

Republicans also led in four open-seat contests that Democrats had hoped to flip this cycle in their quest for gaining a majority in the House. Republicans Jeff Cason and David Cook were ahead in their contests, both in Tarrant County, against Democrats Jeff Whitfield and Joe Drago, respectively. And in Harris County, Republican Lacey Hull was main-

taining a narrow lead over Democrat Akilah Bacy.

In Fort Bend County, Republican Jacey Jetton was ahead of Democrat L. Sarah DeMerchant by just under 3,000 votes late Tuesday night. Democrats had hoped to flip the seat currently held by Republican state Rep. Rick Miller.

In the Texas Senate, most incumbents coasted to reelection, with the exception of state Sen. Pete Flores, R-Pleasanton, who appeared to have lost to state Rep. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, after winning the seat in a 2018 special election in a historically Democratic district.

Flores, the first Hispanic Republican to serve in the Texas Senate, was down by a margin of 29 percentage points.

Before the election, Republicans had 19 seats to the Democrats' 12. If Flores loses the seat, Republicans will have just 18 votes in the Senate, losing the supermajority they need to bring bills up for debate under Senate rules. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who in 2015 oversaw lowering the long-standing 21-vote threshold down to 19, said in January the Senate may further reduce that threshold to 16.

It takes a simple majority to change the rule, which has allowed Patrick's Senate to steamroll Democrats while bringing up a host of conservative priorities for consideration.

"All I'm saying is that if we were to be a vote short — and I don't think we will, but if we were to be — then we would have to look at that because otherwise we would be right back to where we were in history as the majority party ... of having to have a Democrat sign off on every bill," Patrick said in January. "That doesn't feel right to me."

OTHER NOTABLE ELECTIONS

The results below have not been canvassed and were current as of 2 a.m. on Nov. 4. The person whose name is listed first is considered the projected winner.

PRESIDENT
Insufficient information available at press time.

U.S. SENATOR
John Cornyn (R)
MJ Hegar (D)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE – DIST. 2
Dan Crenshaw (R)
Sima Ladjevardian (D)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE – DIST. 7
Lizzie Fletcher (D)
Wesley Hunt (R)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE – DIST. 10
Michael McCaul (R)
Mike Siegel (D)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE – DIST. 22
Troy Nehls (R)
Sri Preston Kulkarni (D)

TX HOUSE DIST. 28
Gary Gates (R)
Eliz Markowitz (D)

TX HOUSE DIST. 132
Mike Schofield (R)
Gina Calanni (D)

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER
Chrysta Castaneda (D)
Jim Wright (R)

WALLER-HARRIS ESD 200
(1% sales tax increase in unincorporated portions of the district)
Passed

ELECTION

from page A1

"I'm excited and pleased that so many people believed in me to let me continue to do what I do at City Hall," Corte said.

Brookshire City Council will see Kim Branch returning to her position as Alderwoman for Position 3. Position 4 initial results indicate Lee Nelson Jones at 41.54% of the vote, followed by Sammy Montoya at 32.67% and Felicity Lewis at 25.78%, leading to a possible runoff election for that seat. Position 5 has a similar situation to the fourth seat, with incumbent Eric Green at 48.12%, Tony Marchant at 27.5% and Susette Baines at 24.37%.

"I'm just glad that the citizens of Brookshire gave me the opportunity to continue to serve," Branch said.

County seats

For the first time in more than 30 years, Harris County voters in Precinct 3 will have a new commissioner representing them on the Harris County Commissioner's Court. Republican Tom Ramsey appears to have won the election with 52.47% of the vote against Democrat Michael Moore. Commissioner Steve Radack, who was first elected in 1988.

In Fort Bend County's Precinct 3, Republican Commissioner Andy Meyers is the apparent winner against Democratic challenger Hope Martin with about 59% of the vote. In the constable's election for that precinct, Republican Chad Norvell has defeated Democrat Patrick Quincy with about 59% of the vote.

"I feel pretty good," Norvell said. "Obviously we've worked very hard and I'm very proud to be the first Katy-area official to be elected. I'm proud to be serving and to have a Katy address while doing it."

Fort Bend County's bond propositions which will provide \$218.2 million for mobility projects and \$38.4 million for parks throughout the county. County documentation shows that much of the mobility funding will be utilized for projects in the portions of the county near Katy and Fulshear.

Democrat Eric Fagan appears to have won the race for Fort Bend County Sheriff against Republican candidate and Precinct 4 Constable Trever Nehls, current Sheriff Troy Nehls' identical twin brother. Fagan took home just shy of 53% of the vote.

In Harris County, Democratic Sheriff Ed Gonzalez has defended his position against challenger Joe Danna. He is joined in retaining his seat by Harris County Precinct 5 constable Ted Heap, a Republican who defended his seat against Democratic challenger Mark Alan Harrison.

Republican Troy Guidry has defeated Democratic opponent Cedric Watson in the race for Waller County Sheriff. Guidry took home 11,026 votes to Watson's 5,812 votes. Guidry will replace Interim Sheriff Joe Hester who was appointed after the passing of Sheriff R. Glenn Smith earlier this year.

Editors Note: Election results are not final until officially canvassed by designated election authorities. Follow elections at www.katytimes.com for updates.

VOTES

from page A1

"If I were voting tomorrow ... I would not vote in a drive-thru just out of my concern as to whether that's illegal or not," he said. "I am going to order the county to maintain all the drive-thru voting records ... just in case the 5th Circuit disagrees."

Ten percent of Harris County's in-person early voters cast their ballots at the county's 10 drive-thru locations. Dismissing the votes would have been a monumental disenfranchisement of voters in a presidential election besieged with fights over voter suppression and fraud.

The judge ruled from the bench after a hearing with plaintiffs, the county and numerous Texas and national voting rights and political groups joining Harris County to argue that the drive-thru program was legal under Texas election law.

The latest challenge to drive-thru voting was brought to the Houston federal court in a last-minute filing last week by litigious conservative Steven Hotze and Harris County Republicans state Rep. Steve Toth, congressional candidate Wendell Champion and judicial candidate Sharon Hemphill. They sought to

have the tens of thousands of votes already cast declared illegal, arguing that the county's drive-thru program was an expansion of curbside voting, which under state election law is only available for voters with disabilities.

Curbside voting, long available under Texas election law, requires workers at every polling place to deliver onsite curbside ballots to voters who are "physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring the voter's health." The plaintiffs also argued that the drive-thru program expanded voting beyond what the Texas Legislature had allowed, using the pandemic as an excuse.

The Harris County Clerk's Office argued that its drive-thru locations are separate polling places, distinct from attached curbside spots, and therefore can be available to all voters. The clerk's filing with the Supreme Court in the earlier lawsuit also said the Texas secretary of state's office had approved of drive-thru voting. Keith Ingram, the state's chief election official, said in a court hearing last month in another lawsuit that drive-thru voting is "a creative approach that is probably okay legally," according to court transcripts.

And even if the court did decide the polling places violated state elec-

tion law, county officials argued, Texas law and court precedent dictate that voters shouldn't be penalized for election officials' errors, and the votes would still be valid. Hanen appeared to agree with this sentiment, noting that he didn't "necessarily find the voting to be illegal as opposed to the voting place."

After losing twice in the state courts, Hotze and the candidates made the argument in a federal court hearing Monday that Harris County's drive-thru voting violated the U.S. Constitution, and therefore the votes should be deemed invalid.

The legal challenge gained national attention as lawsuits across the country pit Democrats and voting rights groups seeking to expand voting access during the pandemic against Republicans pushing to limit voting options.

Over the weekend, many voting rights and political groups joined the fray, filing briefings before Hanen supporting the legality of the votes and hoping to take part in the lawsuit. Some of the parties included the ACLU of Texas, a Texas-based NAACP, the League of Women Voters of Texas, former Republican House Speaker Joe Straus, Texas' Democratic U.S. Senate candidate MJ Hegar's campaign and national Democratic campaigns.

The district is referring parents to its Smart Restart website for additional information. Emails may also be sent to COVID19Responses@katyisd.org and questions can also be submitted by calling 281-396-7499.

CLOSED

from page A1

of the novel coronavirus by practicing good hygiene, social distancing and wearing appropriate face coverings.

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Here's how votes are counted in Texas

By HANNA KOZLOWSKA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

There are more votes than ever to count in Texas this year: A record-breaking 9.7 million people cast ballots during Texas' early voting period — 8.7 million of those were cast in person, and nearly 1 million sent through the mail. By the time Election Day comes and goes, experts predict that the total Texas vote count could reach 12 million.

The state's 254 counties are responsible for tabulating the ballots, but they must follow a certain set of rules. Here's how the process works in Texas:

Processing and counting mail-in ballots

County officials have already started reviewing mail-in ballots. In counties with over 100,000 residents, early voting ballot boards were allowed to start convening and processing mail-in ballots 12 days before the election. In smaller ones, they could start after the polls closed on the last day of early voting — which this year was Oct. 30. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3, and they must arrive by Nov. 4.

Once the early voting ballot board gets the ballot, officials check whether the voter is registered to vote and may entrust a signature verification committee to match the signature on the envelope to the voter's absentee ballot application. (They may use other signatures the county has on file.) The signature verification committee must have at least one reviewer from each party, and the majority of its members has to agree that the signature matches. Because of a ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Oct. 19, Texas officials can reject a mail-in ballot without telling the voter, unlike in states such as California, where voters must be notified of a problem with their ballot and given the opportunity to fix it.



JORDAN VONDERHAAR FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Texas voting system is very decentralized, which means each of its 254 counties might handle the way it processes and counts its votes differently.

In the counties that use scanning devices to count votes, officials could start opening the envelopes and scanning the ballots in preparation of Election Day. But this process hasn't gone smoothly everywhere — in Tarrant County, Texas' third most-populous, the scanners were rejecting about one-third of the mail-in ballots because of illegible bar codes, forcing board members to manually replicate the ballots in order for those votes to be counted. Although the votes can be scanned, they cannot be tallied before Election Day.

The portion of absentee ballots in Texas is larger than usual but smaller than in many other states since Texas is one of the few states that didn't expand mail-in ballot eligibility requirements during the coronavirus pandemic. Voters had to have an excuse, whether it was being over 65 years old, having a disability, or being out of the county. The risk of getting infected

with the coronavirus was not a sufficient reason.

Counting in-person ballots

Because of the pandemic, however, Texans were able to vote early in person starting on Oct. 13, providing six more days than in previous years. Voters use three methods to cast their ballots in person, depending on their county. Unlike many other states, Texas does not require a paper record of a person's vote when using an electronic system. Still, for in-person voting, paper ballots remain the main way many Texans cast ballots, according to the secretary of state's office. In some locations, the process is analog from start to finish, and ballots are both filled in and counted by hand. In others, voters mark paper ballots, which they then insert into a scanner, which also acts as a tabulating device.

The third method is through direct record electronic systems, or DREs. The voter makes their choices on a touchscreen or using a dial, and presses a "Vote" or "Cast Ballot" button to register their decision. That's the kind of machine used by Harris County, making it the largest jurisdiction in the country — with 4.7 million residents — whose votes can't be verified by a paper trail.

The Texas voting system is very decentralized, which means each of its 254 counties might handle the way it processes and counts its votes differently. For example, in Harris County, votes cast on the DRE machine are registered on a memory card, which has to be taken out of the device and transported to a central counting location, uploaded onto a computer and then tallied, The Houston Chronicle reported.

In Kendall County, population 47,431, which will use new

equipment this year, the scanning machine is also the tabulator, and the process happens at the precinct level.

Not even the secretary of state's office, which oversees elections in Texas, was able to tell Votebeat whether most counties do their vote tabulating on the precinct or on the county level.

Reporting results

All counties must, however, notify the secretary of state's office of their results.

"The counties manually enter the vote totals into our system (TEAM, the state's election interface) on election night," Stephen Chang, spokesperson for the secretary of state's office, said. "They access a web based application and put the numbers in one digit at a time, one race at a time."

Most Texas counties report their early vote tallies pretty soon after the polls close at 7 p.m. The in-person Election Day count across the state usually comes in later, especially since Texas voters can cast a ballot if they are in line when polling sites close at 7 p.m. The polling analysis website FiveThirtyEight estimates that Texas should get most of its tallying done on Tuesday, but the counting might go into Wednesday or Thursday.

That is not the end of the process. Texas has a post-election audit to ensure an accurate count. Districts that use electronic voting systems that do provide a paper record of the vote have to start conducting a partial manual count, also known as canvassing, by Friday, Nov. 6. It has to be done in three precincts or in 1% of the precincts, whichever is the larger number, and be completed by the 21st day after the election.

This coverage is made possible by Votebeat, a nonpartisan reporting project covering local election integrity and voting access. The article is available for reprint under the terms of Votebeat's republishing policy.

John Cornyn defeats MJ Hegar to retain U.S. Senate seat

By PATRICK SVITEK
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has defeated Democratic challenger MJ Hegar.

With an estimated 63.9% of the votes counted and Cornyn in front by 1 percentage point, Decision Desk called the race for the incumbent, 49.3% to 48.3%.

Libertarian Kerry McKennon was getting 1.7%, while Green Party candidate David Collins was garnering 0.7%.

Hegar called Cornyn and conceded within minutes of the race being called, according to both campaigns.

"I'm so proud and incredibly grateful for all of your support," Hegar said in a tweet addressing her supporters. "Together, we've worked so hard, and overcome so much, shattering expectations along the way. We've built a powerful grassroots movement from the ground up, and I know our fight here in Texas is far from over."

The results reflect many of the state's biggest urban counties, which tend to favor Democrats, while many of the Republican-friendly rural counties were not reporting results yet. Cornyn is competing for his fourth term against Hegar, the former Air Force helicopter pilot who unsuccessfully ran for U.S. House two years ago in suburban Austin.

Throughout the race, Cornyn maintained single-digit polling leads against Hegar — some smaller than others — though she



AMINA IIAZ FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, visited College Station on Oct. 28, 2020, as part of his statewide bus tour. Cornyn was also joined by Rick Perry and Pete Sessions at this campaign stop.

benefitted in recent weeks from fundraising momentum and a late outside spending surge, making for a less certain homestretch.

Hegar ran against Cornyn, casting him as a career politician whose time had passed and touting herself as a military veteran, working-mom outsider who would better represent Texas values. She accused him of not taking the coronavirus pandemic seriously enough and emphasized his leading role in the GOP push to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and, with it, its protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Cornyn, meanwhile, pitched himself as a "steady hand on the wheel" whose congressional

seniority was especially needed in such a turbulent time. He portrayed Hegar as too liberal for the state, calling her views hostile to the oil and gas industry and seeking to link her to the "defund the police" movement.

After U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz's unexpectedly close race against Beto O'Rourke in 2018, Cornyn admitted Republicans had a wake-up call and sought early to show he was not taking anything for granted. He hired a campaign manager in January 2019 and lined up a series of big-name intraparty endorsements — including that of President Donald Trump — to guard against serious primary opposition.

Cornyn was successful. State Sen. Pat Fallon, R-Frisco, opted against challenging Cornyn after a short flirtation, and Cornyn easily dispatched four primary opponents in March.

Hegar's path to her party's nomination was far longer and more difficult. The Democratic primary attracted 11 other candidates, and many were upset when the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee intervened in December and backed Hegar.

She finished first in the primary but found herself in a runoff against state Sen. Royce West of Dallas, who proved to be a tough opponent. The runoff was postponed from May until July due to the coronavirus pandemic, and it turned bitter at the end as West interrogated Hegar over her Democratic credentials, and she suggested he had used his public office to enrich himself.

Hegar defeated West by 4 points, a closer-than-expected margin that came after an 11th-hour wave of spending by her national Democratic allies.

Once in the general election, it was not immediately clear how quickly Hegar would be able to pivot from the protracted nominating process to taking on a well-funded incumbent. She put that question to rest on Sept. 30, when she announced she had raised over \$13.5 million in the third quarter, nearly eight times more than what she raised in her previous best quarter. She raised nearly double Cornyn's haul for the period, and more no-

tably, she erased his long-running cash-on-hand advantage.

As early voting got underway, more help arrived for Hegar — and in a major way. A coalition of national Democratic super PACs, led by the Silicon Valley-backed Future Forward, dumped over \$20 million into the race, much of it on TV ads against Cornyn. The incumbent, whose allies were not able to keep up, admitted the late spending spurge was what worried him the most as he neared Election Day.

The homestretch was not all positive for Hegar, though. After her relationship with West came up at her only debate with Cornyn, West revealed that he did not plan to vote for her and said she had a problem with Black voters. The Cornyn campaign seized on the bombshell, cutting ads highlighting West's comments. West pushed back on Cornyn making an issue out of it and said he would vote for Democrats up and down the ballot, but he never confirmed whether he specifically cast a ballot for Hegar.

While the pandemic upended plans for in-person campaigning throughout most of the general election, both candidates crisscrossed the state in the final days. Hegar joined U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, for her three-city tour of Texas on Friday before setting out on her own. Cornyn, meanwhile, completed a weeklong bus tour of the state that ended Monday with three stops featuring Cruz.

2 more senior aides fired after accusations against Paxton

By EMMA PLATOFF
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Two more senior aides to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton have been fired weeks after top deputies accused him of criminal wrongdoing — marking four such terminations in just a few weeks.

David Maxwell, the agency's director of law enforcement, and Mark Penley, the deputy attorney general for criminal justice, have been fired. Both had been on paid investigative leave for weeks in the wake of their roles vetting



KEN PAXTON

a complaint made by Nate Paul, a real estate investor and political donor to Paxton. Ian Prior, a political spokesman for Paxton, confirmed the moves Monday.

Paul accused federal and state authorities of wrongdoing related to a raid on his home and office in 2019. An internal email obtained by The Texas Tribune showed the complaints had been examined by senior aides, who found them meritless. Paxton has said he was concerned that his staff had not sufficiently vetted Paul's allegations. Paxton ultimately hired an outside attorney to look into the matter, sparking a staff mutiny during which top aides accused Paxton of using the agency to serve Paul's financial interests. Those aides reported Paxton to law enforcement. Paxton has denied the allegations and called the whistleblowers "rogue employees."

Prior said Maxwell was fired for violating agency policies, including making employment decisions without consulting the human resources department "that have resulted in allegations of discrimination."

"He also violated other policies and has taken other actions that have left no choice but to terminate his employment," Prior said in a statement.

In another statement, Prior said Penley "omitted or misrepresented to a court material facts, as well as other policy violations."

Neither Maxwell nor Penley immediately returned requests for comment Monday night. The press team for the office of the attorney general did not return requests for comment.

Maxwell has been at the attorney general's office since 2014 and in law

enforcement for some 50 years. He is well known in Texas law enforcement circles, where he became famous for identifying the man who killed his sister decades after her death.

Penley has been with the attorney general's office since 2019.

Two other top aides who accused Paxton of criminal violations — Blake Brickman and Lacey Mase — were fired last month. Penley, Brickman and Mase had each signed on to a letter to the agency's human resources department, as well as alerted law enforcement to Paxton's behavior, meaning they gained legal protections for whistleblowers. Maxwell, while involved in the investigation into Paul's claims, was not a signatory on the letter. Other aides have been put on leave or resigned.



2020-21 KATY AREA VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS & SCHEDULE

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

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

VOLLEYBALL

- Tompkins 3, Mayde Creek 0
- Katy 3, Morton Ranch 0
- Brenham 3, Paetow 0
- Seven Lakes at Cinco Ranch, ppd.

FOOTBALL

- Tompkins 48, Morton Ranch 0
- Paetow 45, Terry 0
- Katy 49, Dickinson 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

VOLLEYBALL

- Morton Ranch 3, Alief Taylor 0

FOOTBALL

- Taylor 56, Mayde Creek 42

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

VOLLEYBALL

- Taylor 3, Morton Ranch 1
- Katy 3, Cinco Ranch 1
- Magnolia 3, Paetow 0

THURSDAY, NOV. 5

FOOTBALL

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

FRIDAY, NOV. 6

VOLLEYBALL

- Taylor at Cinco Ranch, at Merrell Center, 5 p.m.
- Clear Falls at Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- Clear Lake at Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Magnolia West at Paetow, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Dickinson, 5:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

- Cinco Ranch at Taylor, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Morton Ranch, at Rhodes Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Clear Falls at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Cy-Falls at Katy, 7 p.m.
- Galena Park at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins at Bridgeland, 5:30 p.m.
- Taylor at Oak Ridge, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at Klein Cain, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

VOLLEYBALL

- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, 1 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Seven Lakes, 3 p.m.

FOOTBALL

- Paetow vs. Richmond Foster, at Legacy Stadium, 2:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Morton Ranch at Fort Bend Elkins, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 9

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Hastings at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Cypress Park, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10

VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes vs. Cinco Ranch, at Merrell Center, 5 p.m.
- Taylor at Clear Lake, 5:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Clear Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow at Bryan Rudder, 6 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Fort Bend Bush at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Fort Bend Elkins at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Memorial at Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Willis at Paetow, 7 p.m.
- Katy at Kempner, at Wheeler Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.



PRIME TIME PANTHERS

Paetow looking forward to showdown with Foster

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite a program only in its third year of varsity football play, Paetow is no stranger to big games.

Last season, when the Panthers went 8-3, was full of them. There was the game at A&M Consolidated when both teams were undefeated midway through the season. There was a thrilling come-from-behind home win against perennial regional power Huntsville that secured the program's first playoff berth. There was the regular season finale at Lamar Consolidated, a loss that cost the young Panthers at least a share of the district title.

And after all that, from the disappointing playoff debut loss at Whitehouse through an offseason plagued by a global pandemic to a regular season that is stainless so far, the Panthers face arguably their biggest test yet when they line up against regional titan Richmond Foster at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Legacy Stadium with a District 10-5A, Division I zone play championship on the line.

Because of scheduling challenges presented by COVID-19, the nine-team district split into zones for this season. Paetow is zoned with Wisdom (which chose to forfeit the rest of its season following its 64-0 loss to the Panthers on Oct. 22), Fort Bend Kempner, Rosenberg Terry and Foster. The other district zone consists of Manvel, Hightower, Angleton and Milby.

Paetow is 3-0 in zone play, with wins over Wisdom, Kempner and Terry. Foster is also 3-0 in zone play, with wins over Terry, Kempner and a Wisdom forfeit. The winner of the Paetow-Foster game plays the winner of the other zone, likely to be either Manvel or Hightower, to determine the overall district champion.

If the 5-0 Panthers wish to keep their district championship hopes alive, they will need to overcome a 4-0 Foster team ranked No. 5 in the state and outscoring opponents by an average of 37.8 points per game.

Foster is ranked No. 1 in the Houston area high school football media poll. Paetow is No. 4.

"I expect a war, hopefully," Paetow coach B.J. Gotte said. "They've got a great team and Coach (Shaun) McDowell does a great job. They're an established program. They're well-known in the area as a team that runs deep every year. We're a young program that really hasn't proven much in that regard. I tell our guys they've earned the right to play in important games. They've earned this, and now they can go

See **PANTHERS**, page B5

COLE MCNANNA | SEALY NEWS
Paetow junior quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. and the Panthers are no strangers to big games. Another one looms this week as Paetow hosts No. 5 state-ranked Richmond Foster on Saturday at Legacy Stadium.

Falcons, Coogs take 19-6A

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch senior Sophie Atkinson defended her district cross country title and Tompkins' boys program is officially on a dynastic run after claiming its third district team championship in four seasons.

Much went as expected at the District 19-6A cross country championships on Friday, Oct. 30, at Bear Creek Park. Atkinson, the Virginia commit who has been dominant with all first-place finishes so far this season, won the girls individual title by more than 40 seconds, setting a personal record with a time of 16-minutes, 40.9-seconds.

The top two teams and top 10 runners overall advanced to the Region III-6A meet at Kate Barr Ross Park on Nov. 10 in Huntsville. Cinco Ranch and Katy head to regionals in the girls team division, and Tompkins and Cinco Ranch will represent the boys.

For full list of cross country regional qualifiers, **PAGE 10**



KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Cinco Ranch senior Sophie Atkinson defended her District 19-6A cross country championship by running a personal record time of 16:40.9 at last week's district meet at Bear Creek Park.

"It was definitely more of a team effort," Atkinson said. "I had a responsibility to make sure I was as far out ahead as I could for my team."

See **DISTRICT**, page B6

COVID-19 influences Seven Lakes programs

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

COVID-19 had a significant influence on the Seven Lakes cross country and team tennis seasons last week.

On the early afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 29, under advisement from Fort Bend County Health and Human Services, Katy ISD temporarily closed Seven Lakes High School from Friday, Oct. 30 to Tuesday, Nov. 3, due to an outbreak of COVID-19 cases. Under the closure, all extracurricular activities, including athletics, were suspended as well.

The news came less than 24 hours before the District 19-6A cross country meet was held at Bear Creek Park.

"When we were notified (on Thursday) that there could be a potential issue with Seven Lakes running the race Friday morning, we consulted the UIL and threw out some different ideas," Katy ISD athletics director Debbie Decker said late Friday



evening. "One of them, the UIL agreed was the best-case scenario we could do, under the circumstances."

The district was told it would not be given an extension on holding its cross country meet. So, Decker and her staff came up with an idea to have the Spartans boys and girls run their 5K races at Bear Creek Park later that Thursday afternoon.

Decker consulted with Seven Lakes principal Kerri Finnesand before holding an emergency

See **SPARTANS**, page B4

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Royal Independent School District is seeking Request for Proposals:

Onsite Childcare Services RFP# 2020-OC

Details may be obtained from Kati Drennan in the RISD Purchasing Department at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas 77466, or by calling 281-934-1360.

The sealed RFP response should be received in the RISD Business Office at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, Texas 77466 by 3 p.m. CST on Friday, November 20, 2020. Late or faxed proposals will not be considered. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all responses and waive any and/or all formalities.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, December 10th, 2020**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via Go-To-Meeting for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of **"Elyson Bear Creek Community Park Landscape"**, Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, November 19th, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. Local Time**, via Go-To-Meeting. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/865336589> or join the call via telephone number 1-877-309-2073 and use access code 865-336-589.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Wednesday, November 18th, 2020.**

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

NOTICE OF SALE

HARRIS-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas)
Located within Harris and Waller Counties, Texas)

\$3,600,000
Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2020

Bids to be Submitted: 10:00 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Awarded: 1:30 P.M., Central Time
Monday, November 16, 2020

Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 3 (the "District") will publicly receive sealed bids for the above described Bonds on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 10:00 A.M., Central Time. At a Board of Directors meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 1:30 P.M., Central Time the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the qualified bid that produces the lowest net effective interest rate for the Bonds. It is anticipated that said meeting will be held via telephone conference call pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. If the Governor's proclamation is lifted or expires or if the Governor terminates the partial suspension of the Texas Open Meetings Act, a meeting in a physical location may become necessary. In such case, the Board will conduct the meeting at the District's regular meeting place at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas, 77027.

Address of Bids: Bids, which must be submitted in duplicate on the Official Bid Form and plainly marked "Bid for Bonds," should be addressed to "President and Board of Directors of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 3," and delivered to the District's Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 10:00 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 10:00 A.M., Central Time, Monday, November 16, 2020, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bids must be accompanied by a Bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$72,000 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.

Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the "Official Notice of Sale" and the "Preliminary Official Statement" which may be obtained from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010; c/o Jan Bartholomew, jbartholomew@rwbaird.com; Financial Advisor to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and the "Official Bid Form."

Board of Directors
Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 3

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: FH: 3637

Christopher Lopez, Unlicensed
Matthew Bennise, Unlicensed
Michael Farris, Unlicensed
William "Bill" Blume, Unlicensed
Resort Advocate Group, LLC
Katy, Texas and Orlando, Florida

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Christopher Lopez, Matthew Bennise, Michael Farris, and William "Bill" Blume of Resort Advocate Group, LLC, are hereby given notice that the Arkansas Real Estate Commission will conduct a disciplinary hearing on the complaints of Sherrie Mays and James Randleas against them for conducting activities described in Ark. Code Ann. § 17-42-103(10), 17-42-105(a)(1), and 17-42-109 without holding an active Arkansas Real Estate License. **The last known address of Resort Advocate Group, LLC, is: 23603 W. Fernhurst Dr Suite 2104, Katy, Texas. Last known address for Christopher Lopez is: 110 N. Loop 336 West Ste 500, Conroe Texas.**

The statutory violations occurred on or about January 24, 2018 and on or about January 25, 2018, when Bennise, Farris, and Blume, representing Resort Advocate Group, LLC, met with residents of Arkansas, at a location in Little Rock, Arkansas, and attempted to sell, exchange or purchase timeshare interests through negotiations and offers to timeshare owners. Bennise and Farris entered into a Purchase Agreement with Ms. Mays for a deed transfer of her timeshare interest. Bennise, Farris, and Blume entered into a Purchase Agreement with Mr. Randleas for a deed transfer of his timeshare interest.

The public hearing shall be conducted on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the meeting room of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission Building, 612 South Summit Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. All public health protocols issued by the Arkansas Department of Health will be strictly enforced. In person appearances are limited to ten (10) people. The Commission will make arrangements for attendance through a virtual platform. Contact AREC staff at 501-683-8010 for details.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Willow Fork Drainage District, Attention: Wendy Duncan, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m., Local Time, Tuesday, November 17, 2020, and then publicly opened and read for "Construction of the Westheimer Parkway Trail Crossing for Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas". Due to the pandemic and Federal guidelines of not gathering in groups of more than 10 people, people of the public who wish to attend the Bid Opening must do so by telephone. The telephone number for the Bid Opening is 713.358.8400, Access Code 0163582.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Construct approximately 1000LF of 6" sidewalk, 600LF of 4-5' cast in place reinforced concrete retaining wall and safety handrailing, regrade 300LF of backslope interceptor swales and construct two concrete manholes and two 24" corrugated metal pipe outfalls in existing Willow Fork Drainage Ditch.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory audio/web pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., Local Time, Tuesday, November 10, 2020. To attend the non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial 713.358.8400, Access Code 0143636. To join the web portion of the conference please visit <https://micollabuca.ljaeng.com/call/0143636>.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of one hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or at <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register on this website to download bidding documents.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Willow Fork Drainage District

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Anita Braun Johnson, 100, died Oct. 29, 2020, in Round Rock.

Visitation was held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, with the family present from 4:30-6:00 p.m., at Memorial Oaks Chapel in Brenham.

The funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2 at Memorial Oaks Chapel. Interment in Oak Hill Cemetery in Burton.

Mrs. Johnson was born June 18, 1920, in Burton, TX, to John and Dora (Betke) Braun. She was a retired school cafeteria worker.

Survivors include her son, James Herzog of Round Rock; daughter-in-law, Judy Free-



ANITA BRAUN JOHNSON
1920-2020

man of Round Rock; grandchildren, Bea Herzog, Jamie Herzog, Julie Herzog, Joy and Amber Lundeen-Herzog;

great-grandchildren, Samantha and Austin Garretson, Iyanna Herzog, Glenn Phillips Jr., Kai Lundeen-Herzog, Kaylani Lundeen-Herzog, Kayden Lundeen-Herzog and Kingston Lundeen-Herzog; and sister-in-law, Dora Braun.

She was preceded in death by Alvin Herzog, Zebulon Johnson and Ray Herzog.

Memorials may be given to Compassus Hospice.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Memorial Oaks Chapel, 1306 W. Main St., Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-4564. To post a tribute to the family, visit: www.memorialoakschapel.com.

How parents can help young athletes lower their injury risk

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Athletes are at risk of injury any time they step onto a field or court or into another competitive arena. Adults competing in sports may recognize that risk, but children often do not, which can make it difficult for young athletes to cope with injuries that prevent them from playing their favorite sports.

Stanford Children's Health notes that roughly 30 million children in the United States participate in some form of organized sports every year. Data from the Aspen Sports Institute indicates that youth sports participation in Canada has been in decline over the last decade. However, that same data indicates that more than 52 percent of girls between the ages of six and 12 and roughly 61 percent of boys in that same age group participate in organized sports in Canada.

Modern parents may not be as quick to encourage participation in certain sports as their own mothers and fathers were. That could be due to the increased availability of information about the long-term effects of injuries suffered in contact sports like football, field hockey and even soccer. For example, the risk of head injuries, and a growing amount of research as to the long-term effects of such injuries have led many parents to discourage their youngsters from participating in football.

Such decisions can be difficult. Parents who want their children to get all the benefits of organized sports participation can take steps to reduce young athletes' risk of injury.

Schedule down time. The American Academy of Pediatrics advises parents to plan at least one day off from training per week and at least one month off from training per year. These breaks allow young bodies, even



Athletes are at risk of injury any time they step onto a field or court or into another competitive arena. Student athletes have unique risks on sports fields because their bodies are still developing.

those who haven't suffered injuries, to recover.

Increase flexibility. Stretching should be part of everyone's daily fitness routine, and young athletes are no exception. Stretching exercises after games and practices can increase flexibility. The Mayo Clinic notes that stretching may improve range of motion in the joints and decrease risk of injury.

Top technique. Make sure the right techniques are followed and the right gear is worn. The AAP advises parents to ensure kids follow the correct techniques when performing exercises. Poor form in the weight room can increase young athletes' risk of injury. Coaches often supervise strength-training regimens on campus, but parents should keep watchful eyes on youngsters who work out at home or without the supervision of a coach. The right gear, which includes protective cups, eyewear and mouthpieces, also should be worn at all times. Parents can periodically inspect gear to ensure it's not worn down.

Parents must work together with their children to reduce youngsters' risk of suffering sports-related injuries. More information about reducing youth sports injuries can be found at www.aap.org.

Raymond Thomas Wachel "Pops," 91, of Katy, Texas, joined his heavenly family on Sunday, October 25, 2020.

Ray was born on July 30, 1929 in Bremond, Texas to Joe and Josephine Wachel. He proudly served his country and was honorably discharged after 25 years of active duty service from the USAF.

He and his wife Gladys built a home in Katy, Texas, in 1970 where they raised their two children: Dolores Rustin-Turnbow and Steven Wachel.

He was a hardworking, independent, and quick-witted man. His knowledge, honesty, and unbothered nature led to many life successes. He raised and supported his family as a well-respected business man and was a member of St. Mary's Church of Frydek, Texas, and the Knights of Columbus.

He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, gardening, and a good game of dominoes or cards. He had a natural green thumb,



RAYMOND THOMAS WACHEL
1929-2020

growing vegetables and fruit to gift for so many to enjoy. He enjoyed "sunning" (as he would say) in his garage visiting with friends and family. Ray's garage was a place where some of the best tall tales could be told, especially on Thursdays. Snappy's Café is where "Pops" could be found catching up with friends who became family. Pops became a second father and grandfa-

ther to so many people with his often-unsolicited advice and lovable personality. He enjoyed fine scotch, food, and conversation in his leisure time.

Ray touched the lives of so many people around him and is remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend. A man with such distinctive character will never be forgotten.

Survivors include his daughter, Dolores Rustin-Turnbow, his son, Steven Wachel and wife Pattie, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at 12:00, Friday, October 30 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Frydek. Ray has been buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Knesek Bros. Funeral Chapel at 768 Fourth St. in Sealy. They can be reached at 979-885-3535 or www.knesekfuneral@aol.com.

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Psalms 94:19

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Mustangs survive Rams in 19-6A shootout

By DENNIS SILVA II
SPORTS EDITOR

If 2020 was a high school football game, it just might have been the Taylor-Mayde Creek District 19-6A affair that took place on an otherwise unassuming Halloween morning at Legacy Stadium.

An emotional rollercoaster. Plenty of highlights. An unfortunate share of lowlights. Perseverance, resilience, grit, toughness. A lot of bizarre. A lot of 'huh?'

All of that. The Mustangs upended the Rams, 56-42, in an impressive showcase that featured 12 touchdowns, two field goals, 41 first downs and a special teams score. The teams combined for 930 total yards, four turnovers and 11 penalties. In all, 141 plays were run.

Taylor improved to 5-1 overall, 3-1 in 19-6A. Mayde Creek lost its second straight game, falling to 3-2, 0-2 in district.

"It was a battle, both teams working hard," said Taylor junior running back Michael Whitaker III, who rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown to go with 71 receiving yards and another touchdown. "We finally picked it up there in the second half and got the win."

Both teams were coming off ugly losses—Taylor via 28-0 drubbing by Tompkins, and Mayde Creek a lackluster 21-17 loss to Cinco Ranch—but it was the Mustangs who rebounded into the win column.

Taylor did so without the dis-



Taylor junior Michael Whitaker III makes a catch in the end zone for one of his two touchdowns during the Mustangs' 56-42 win over Mayde Creek on Oct. 31 at Legacy Stadium.

trict's top receiver in senior Tyrone Irving III, who is out indefinitely due to a probable concussion, and a depleted secondary that was worsened when steady veteran Camron Hennon left in the first half with a head injury.

But the Mustangs had Whitaker and a healthy Casey Shorter, and that was enough. Shorter, a senior running back and Army commit, looked right for the first time all season after suffering a hamstring injury in the season opener on Sept. 24.

Shorter had 117 yards and no touchdowns on 33 carries in four previous games. Against Mayde Creek, he had 159 yards and two

touchdowns on 19 carries.

"If I didn't have my line ... I couldn't do it without those guys," said Shorter, crediting the space-clearing ways of Hayden Conner, Bryce Foster, Abe Okezie, Landan Mowry and Nolan Hay. "I missed being out there with my boys and running the ball. They said, 'Ol' Casey is back.'"

The game was knotted at 42 after Mayde Creek's Alpha Khan returned a kickoff 95 yards for a score with 11:32 left, adding to a list of *SportsCenter*-worthy game highlights that included Taylor's Trevor Woods' incredible juggling 25-yard catch seconds before he fell to the ground, Mayde Creek's

Jace Wilson's twisting-and-turning 19-yard scoring run, a seamless 60-yard scoring hookup from Wilson to Khan, and Woods' 65-yard punt return that came up just short of the goal line.

Following Khan's kick return, Shorter capped a 3-minute, 32-second scoring drive with a four-yard scoring run to put Taylor back on top to stay. On the Rams' next series, a little more than midway through the fourth quarter, Wilson was forced to sit out a snap after his helmet came off during a run play. It is a rule of the high school game. Mayde Creek backup quarterback Cardell Beard was sent in.

Woods, a safety, was on top of it.

"I was telling our safeties to play up on the bubble and I was telling everyone else it was a run," Woods said. "They don't want to throw with the backup quarterback on his first play of the game in that situation."

The Mustangs swarmed Coyle, who fumbled the ball as he quickly tried to backpedal from disaster. Woods recovered it to set the Mustangs offense on the Mayde Creek 47-yard line.

"It was huge," said Woods, who also had two catches for 32 yards and a touchdown. "We needed a big play, no matter who or what it is. We needed a stop and it turned the game."

Not long after, junior running back Tyler Irving, called up from the junior varsity just a month ago, bullied and powered his way

through a handful of defenders for a tough, and ultimately game-sealing, seven-yard score with 3:52 left to put Taylor up by two touchdowns.

"He refused to be denied," Simmons said of Irving, cousin of Tyrone. "Heck of a run. You weren't stopping him."

Junior defensive back Jaden Burr's interception of Wilson on the Rams' final drive—Mayde Creek's fourth giveaway of the game—shut the door for good.

"We talked all week about being resilient, and that's what we wanted to do," Woods said. "We have to be more physical, and we definitely were. We have to keep building."

The Mustangs were outgained 474-456 in total yards. They survived an electric performance from the jaw-dropping Wilson, a Furman verbal commit. The precocious playmaker completed 15 of 27 passes for 313 yards and two touchdowns and added 103 rushing yards and a touchdown on seven carries.

"He's very efficient with the ball," said Simmons, who said his team has to do a better job of tackling. "He's accurate. He's a real dual threat kid, the type of player you want as your quarterback. Real athletic kid."

Fortunately for Simmons, his team had enough to get by.

"This was big," Whitaker said. "The Tompkins game was bad for us. We finished the game, played all four quarters. Made us feel good."

SPARTANS

from page B1

district executive committee meeting with all 19-6A principals for approval.

"It beats not being able to get the kids' times at all," Decker said.

Seven Lakes boys cross country coach Scott Kenney and girls cross country coach David Pollack were notified of the plan after the DEC meeting.

"It was good news, bad news," Decker said of how she told them. "The good news is we have a way to get your times. The bad news is we have to run today."

The Spartans coaches had four hours' notice to get their kids ready and at the course to run by 4 p.m. Thursday. The girls ran first, and the boys ran at 4:30 p.m.

The course had already been marked by assistant athletic director Pat Dowling earlier that day. Paetow's cross country coaches were used as official timers.

The races had a lead gator and trail gator and a couple of course monitors to ensure a fair and unbiased race, Decker said.

"It wasn't perfect, but it was the best we could do," Decker said. "It was unfortunate, but at least the kids had an opportunity to run."

The Spartans did not reveal their times until after Friday morning's district meet. It was then that their times were figured in to determine who would qualify for the Region III-6A meet on Nov. 10.

Seven Lakes, which swept last season's district team championships and is perennially a regional power, did not qualify either of its boys or girls teams

to regionals. It qualified one girl, Katie Fitzpatrick, and two boys, Fernando Hernandez and Ruben Rojas.

Late Friday evening, the Seven Lakes' cross country and track and field Twitter account tweeted: "Proud of Spartan Cross Country kids and Seven Lakes H.S. Sometimes unfair and unjust things happen even when you follow the guidelines. We remain Spartan Proud of you! #asterick (sic)."

The Spartans' team tennis club did not have the same opportunity to compete as the cross country team.

Seven Lakes had scheduled its area round playoff match against Cy-Fair for Friday, Oct. 30. The two coaches agreed to that arrangement on Wednesday.

But with Friday no longer a viable option due to Seven Lakes' campus closure and suspension of athletics, the Spartans asked Cy-Fair on Thursday if the match could be moved to later that same day. The Bobcats tried to accommodate the Spartans, but some of their top players had jobs to attend to Thursday and would not be available to play.

So, Seven Lakes had to forfeit. "It's so unfortunate for our kids, because I know they worked very hard," Decker said.

With a picture of team and individual player photo banners surrounding his team's court on campus, Seven Lakes tennis coach Kevin McIlvain tweeted on his account late Friday evening: "Unfortunately, our season comes to an end from the sidelines in the Area Round due to the school being closed for matters out of our control. Thanks for your hard work and doing things the right way Spartan Tennis!"

TOMPKINS MAKES HISTORY, MOVES ON TO REGIONAL SEMIS



COURTESY PHOTO TOMPKINS TENNIS

Tompkins beat No. 13 state-ranked Fort Bend Clements, 10-8, in the regional quarterfinals earlier this week to advance to the Class 6A regional semifinals for the first time after four straight years of falling in the third round of the playoffs. The Falcons, who are now ranked No. 7 in the state, will play their fourth-round matchup later this week against an opponent to be determined. Tompkins has defeated Fort Bend Austin, Jersey Village and Clements this postseason.

JORDAN'S PLAYOFF RUN COMES UP SHORT IN REGIONAL QUARTERS



COURTESY PHOTO JORDAN HIGH TENNIS

In its inaugural team tennis season, Jordan High produced a stirring playoff run with a team of precociously talented freshmen and sophomores. The Warriors came up short in the Class 5A regional quarterfinals earlier this week, falling to College Station High. Jordan High's postseason was a memorable one. The Warriors were down 9-6 in their area playoff matchup against Austin LASA, but rallied to win, 10-9, thanks to Erick Velderrain's third-set tiebreaking 15-13 win. The Warriors will return every player to make another run at a state championship next season.

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H.S. FOOTBALL STANDINGS AS OF NOV. 4

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL		SCORING	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Tompkins	3	0	5	0	165	28
Katy	2	0	5	0	243	44
Taylor	3	1	5	1	199	129
Cinco Ranch	1	2	1	4	55	157
Seven Lakes	1	2	1	4	91	183
Mayde Creek	0	2	3	2	146	105
Morton Ranch	0	3	1	4	86	145

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 10-5A, D1

	OVERALL		ZONE PLAY		SCORING	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Paetow	5	0	3	0	210	62
Richmond Foster	4	0	3	0	206	55
Terry	2	2	1	2	87	115
Kempner	2	2	1	2	107	96
Wisdom*	0	4	0	3	14	171
Manvel	3	1	1	0	151	110
Hightower	2	2	1	0	155	152
Angleton	3	2	0	2	158	157
Milby	0	1	0	0	6	7

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title
*-forfeits rest of season

KATY ISD FOOTBALL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL

LEADERS

AS OF NOV. 4

TEAM OFFENSE

	GP	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average
Mayde Creek	5	982	1035	2017	403.4
Katy	5	1214	778	1992	398.4
Tompkins	5	1288	664	1952	390.4
Taylor	6	1098	1103	2201	366.8
Paetow	5	1088	720	1808	361.6
Morton Ranch	5	1085	275	1360	272.0
Seven Lakes	5	490	702	1192	238.4
Cinco Ranch	5	45	999	1044	208.8

TEAM DEFENSE

	GP	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average
Paetow	5	567	241	808	161.6
Tompkins	5	266	598	864	172.8
Katy	5	282	609	891	178.2
Mayde Creek	5	510	671	1181	236.2
Taylor	6	1217	741	1958	326.3
Morton Ranch	5	771	898	1669	333.8
Cinco Ranch	5	805	1071	1876	375.2
Seven Lakes	5	1368	540	1908	381.6

TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL

	GP	Takeaways	Giveaways	Diff.
Taylor	6	14	6	+8
Katy	5	10	4	+6
Paetow	5	9	3	+6
Tompkins	5	10	7	+3
Morton Ranch	5	7	9	-2
Mayde Creek	5	13	15	-2
Cinco Ranch	5	8	11	-3
Seven Lakes	5	3	6	-3

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	Carries	Yards	Avg.	TD
Loughridge, Mayde Creek	101	772	7.6	12
Bankston, Paetow	83	715	8.6	7
S. Davis, Katy	63	543	8.6	6
Shoulders, Tompkins	61	525	8.6	9
Whitaker III, Taylor	87	479	5.5	5
Smith, Tompkins	53	387	7.3	6
J. Davis, Katy	60	370	6.2	9
Wilson, Morton Ranch	61	326	5.3	3

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	P-A-Int	Yards	Pct.	TDs
Jensen III, Taylor	81-120-1	1070	68.0	9
Wilson, Mayde Creek	70-132-6	1035	53.0	4
Rutherford, Cinco Ranch	61-129-6	864	47.0	7
Milroe, Tompkins	38-66-1	656	57.6	4
Dumas Jr., Paetow	43-76-2	650	56.7	7
Koger, Katy	35-54-0	611	64.8	9
Beltran, Seven Lakes	57-97-2	592	58.8	2
Wilson, Morton Ranch	10-22-1	203	45.5	1

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	Catches	Yards	Avg.	TD
Irving III, Taylor	27	560	20.7	3
Skinner, Mayde Creek	31	554	17.9	1
Salverino, Cinco Ranch	20	399	20.0	2
Abboud, Cinco Ranch	21	309	14.7	3
Medford, Seven Lakes	25	271	10.8	1
Anderson, Katy	14	260	18.6	3
Davis, Morton Ranch	14	241	17.2	1
Whitaker III, Taylor	23	221	9.6	2

INTERCEPTIONS

	INT.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Khan, Mayde Creek	3	55	18.3	0
Earls, Mayde Creek	2	23	11.5	0
Truehill, Paetow	2	20	10.0	0
Rodriguez, Katy	2	1	0.5	0

SCORING BY KICKING

	PAT	FG	Points
Baeta, Taylor	21	8	45
Lazic, Katy	33	2	39
Fuentes, Paetow	27	3	33
Huckaby, Tompkins	17	4	29
Mares, Mayde Creek	13	1	16
Arriaga, Morton Ranch	11	1	14
Sneedon, Seven Lakes	7	2	13

VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS AS OF NOV. 4

DISTRICT 19-6A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Seven Lakes	7	0	13	0
Katy	10	2	12	3
Tompkins	7	4	12	6
Cinco Ranch	6	4	7	7
Taylor	3	7	5	12
Mayde Creek	3	8	5	11
Morton Ranch	0	11	3	15

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A

	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Magnolia	9	2	11	5
Brenham	9	2	16	2
Magnolia West	8	3	15	4
College Station	8	3	13	4
Rudder	4	7	10	9
A&M Consolidated	2	7	6	10
Paetow	1	8	2	14
Waller	0	9	3	12

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171**, will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, December 3rd, 2020**, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via Go-To-Meeting for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of **"Elyson Blvd Section 2 Landscape"**, Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, November 19th, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time**, via Go-To-Meeting. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/893602045> or join the call via telephone number 1-877-309-2073 and use access code 893-602-045.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Wednesday, November 18th, 2020.**

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

Notice to Bidders

The City of Katy requests competitive sealed proposals (bids) for selective demolition and interior office renovation to the third (3rd) floor of the Katy City Hall building located on a block bounded by Avenue C, 1st Street, Avenue D and 2nd Street in downtown in the incorporated limits of the City of Katy, Texas.

Bid Due Date:

Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10:00am (Bids submitted after 10:00am will not be accepted)

Bid will be received at the following Location:

City of Katy
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Pre-Bid Conference:

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:30pm at the Katy City Hall
901 Avenue C
Katy, Texas 77493

Scope of Work:

The Project consists of construction of the following:

Interior office build-out of 3 offices and reception area (total of 1,074 S.F.) on the third (3rd) floor of the City Hall building. The scope of work includes selective demolition and renovation to accommodate new offices. The work is interior only.

Evaluation Criteria:

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive irregularities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the Bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof or to reject the Bid.

Schedule:

The Project must be Substantially Complete by Monday, December 28, 2020 and Punch List items / Retainage complete and final "Retainage" Pay Application issued no later than Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

Bid and Bond Requirements:

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds and Guaranty on the forms provided within five days after the Notice to Proceed is received by the General Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening the Bids, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds on the forms furnished with the Bid, in the amounts of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

Bid Documents:

Plans and specifications will be available on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at the CivCastUSA website <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

PANTHERS

from page B1

out and give it our best. That's all we can focus on, every day being at our best so we can play our best and we'll see what happens."

The Panthers walked that talk last week. When they could have easily overlooked an average Terry team with the Foster matchup looming, they didn't. They dominated Terry 45-0 and outgained the Rangers 368-60 in total yards.

Paetow held Terry, which entered the game 2-1 overall, to 1.2 yards per play.

"It's momentum," said junior defensive back K.J. Truehill, who had an interception for one of Paetow's two takeaways. "You get a shutout like this, it only gives you more confidence going into playing a team like Foster."

Paetow coaches and players say they've learned from playing in last year's big games. Gotte is betting on that.

Perhaps no player is more evident of that maturity and growth than junior quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr., who has completed 43 of 76 passes for 650 yards and seven touchdowns to two interceptions this season.

Dumas is the embodiment of the team's no-nonsense, workmanlike state. "Confidence is a big thing for me

right now," said Dumas, who has not thrown an interception since the Oct. 2 win over Morton Ranch. "Being a sophomore on varsity last year, I always felt like I had something to prove. I feel like I've been attacking that the right way, just trying to get better every game, every practice. I'm just trying to focus on my craft."

Dumas, who has started receiving recruiting interest from Arizona State, is no longer overthrowing receivers as he had been earlier this season. He has heeded quarterbacks coach Lane O'Connor's advice to trust his throwing mechanics.

Since that Morton Ranch game, Dumas has completed 23 of 36 passes.

"Every week, he continues to get better, and it's a credit to his work ethic, it's a credit to how he approaches the position," Gotte said. "He takes it serious and he'll continue to make strides. We're going to need him to play well. He's getting better, and that's encouraging."

As the run game remains steady with the electric Damon Bankston and dazzling Jacob Brown and the passing game continues to improve under Dumas, it's the Panthers' defense that solidified Paetow's contender status.

The Panthers have nine takeaways. A devastating pass rush led by Alexander Kilgore, Sultan Bakare and Agumba Otunoye has 20 sacks. The pass coverage is filled with ball-hawking play-

makers like Truehill, Carl Simon and Kentrell Webb.

Take the Terry game, for example. The Rangers boast an athletic trio in quarterback Kellen Stewart, running back Michael Odom and receiver Trumaine Mitchell. They combined to average 232.6 total yards of offense with 11 touchdowns through Terry's first three games.

Against Paetow, they were held to 45 total yards.

"I feel really good where the defense is at right now," Truehill said. "Foster has a really high-powered offense, but I think our defense can handle them well. I like how we're pursuing to the ball and everybody is handling their own jobs, focused on their own role and not worried about anyone else."

Gotte said his team does an admirable job taking one day at a time, staying focused. Last season helped establish that mindset.

"If we just focus on us and don't worry about anything else, we're going to play well," Dumas said.

But there is also a distinct sense of urgency, something that wasn't there last season.

"Our kids understand how important these games are, and they know to enjoy it," Gotte said. "When it's over, it's over. You don't know when that is until it comes, and then you can't do anything about it. I'm proud of their urgency and maturity and camaraderie they have with each other."

TIGERS

from page B1

Katy, meanwhile, was supposed to be open this week, but now plays Tompkins on Thursday in a much-anticipated District 19-6A bout that has been rescheduled three times because of COVID-19.

As of press time, Katy and No. 14 state-ranked Tompkins play 6 p.m. this Thursday at Legacy Stadium.

All of that rearranging of the schedule led to the move of the Katy-Dickinson game, which affected the Tigers not one bit.

Senior running back Jalen Davis scored a 69-yard touchdown on the game's first play from scrimmage, and Katy never was threatened. Senior tight end and Texas A&M commit Fernando Garza scored on a 10-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Caleb Koger, sophomore running back Seth Davis scored on a six-yard run and Jalen Davis scored his second touchdown on a 3-yard run as Katy held a 28-0 halftime lead.

Jalen Davis has 370 rushing yards and nine touchdowns in four games so far this season.

With 7:23 left in the third quarter, junior receiver Nic Anderson hauled in a 15-yard throw from Koger. Koger scored on a 1-yard keeper with 22 seconds left in the third quarter and running back Ivy Bell scored on a 9-yard run with 24 seconds left in the game.

Anderson has three touchdowns in his last four games.

Katy outgained Dickinson 450-201 in total yardage. The Tigers had one turnover and committed just three penalties for 35 yards after committing 11 for 85 yards in a lackluster win the previous week over Cinco Ranch.

Koger completed 11 of 16 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns. He has not thrown an interception in 54 pass attempts this season.

Now Tompkins looms next for Katy. It's a tantalizing matchup between the last two undefeated teams left in District 19-6A and, for all intent and purposes, is for the district title, which the Tigers have won the last 11 in a row.

The Falcons are 5-0 and have shut out their last three opponents. Tompkins has outscored its opponents, 165-28. The Tigers have outscored their opponents, 243-44.

Each team has 10 takeaways, but Katy only has four giveaways to Tompkins' seven.

Both teams rely on strong, diverse running attacks and punishing defenses; Tompkins ranks second among all Katy ISD teams in yards against with 172.8 per game and Katy ranks third with 178.2.

Tompkins averages 257.6 rushing yards per game, with 16 of 20 offensive touchdowns coming on the ground. Katy averages 242.8 rushing yards per game; 21 of its 32 offensive touchdowns coming on the ground.

The Davis brothers, who have a combined 913 yards and 15 touchdowns rushing, pace Katy's ground game. Seniors Marquis Shoulders (525 yards, nine TDs) and Sherman Smith

DISTRICT

from page B1

Though she did not hit her time goal of 16:30, Atkinson was pleased with her race. She said she's in better condition this season and credits a tough offseason for her success. She hasn't had to increase mileage, but consistent, intense training has paid off.

"This season, I've had a lot of motivation to finish well for my team, just because we've been doing so well," Atkinson said. "I'm definitely running better than I ever have."

Tompkins senior Gavin Saacke won the boys individual title with a 15:16.3. It was Saacke's first district championship, and the fourth straight season that a Falcon has won it.

"I was able to take advantage of being in the front," Saacke said. "I had total control of the race. I got to push the pace myself and make all the decisions. I just pushed myself hard even though I didn't have anyone quite up there with me."

Saacke broke through in a big way after a slew of second-place finishes this season.

"I knew where I was supposed to be in this race. I knew I was favored," Saacke said. "I just had to do my job for myself and my team."

Tompkins boys coach Walt Yarrow said winning district was a primary goal of his team's after Seven Lakes won last season.

"We were looking at district as redemption and just getting back to where we were," Yarrow said. "We weren't thinking about regionals. We weren't thinking about state. It was about district."

The Falcons are led by seniors Saacke and Ben Smith, who finished second, and four juniors who earned quality experience by running at state last season. All seven of Tompkins' runners finished in the top 15.

"We had a really good summer," Yarrow said. "The legacy's been set from guys in the past, like Cole (Lindhorst) and Daniel (Figueroa). These boys know the routine. They did a lot of running on their own. I feel we've had as good of a summer and fall build-up as any we've had in the four years I've been here."

Cinco Ranch won the team title on the girls side after not qualifying for regionals last season. Aside from an inspired Atkinson, the Cougars are buoyed by the healthy return of senior and Arkansas commit Heidi Nielson, who missed the district, regional and state meets last season because of injury.

Cinco Ranch had six runners finish in the top 20: Atkinson, Nielson in second, Helen Ulrich in eighth, Alison Mueller in 10th, Camila Corser in 18th, and Natalia Corser in 19th. Lindsay Krippner finished 22nd.

Katy's girls also qualified for regionals as a team. The Tigers include Isabella Rubio (fifth), Maddy Hunter (seventh), Larissa Carr (ninth), Christina Rodriguez (12th), Ally Serna (21st), Paige Bay (31st) and Jessica Roca (39th).

Tompkins' district champion boys team featured Saacke (first), Smith (second), Noah Howard (fourth), Connor Augustine (sixth), Omar El Miloudi (11th), Colton Howard (12th) and Jackson Torti (15th).

Qualifying for regionals for Cinco Ranch's boys team were Ethan Boyd (third), Adrian Hahn Vadstein (ninth), Kassem Karouni (10th), Derek Bryant (16th), Adam Elbanna (18th), Ryan Du Plessis (21st) and Andrew Crawford (24th).

Individual regional qualifiers for the girls were Tompkins' Addison Stevenson (third) and Hayden Gold (fourth), and Seven Lakes' Katie Fitzpatrick (sixth).

KATY ISD ON TO REGIONALS

19-6A QUALIFIERS

GIRLS

TEAMS

Cinco Ranch, 39 points
Katy, 54 points

INDIVIDUALS

1. Sophie Atkinson, Cinco Ranch, 16:40.9
2. Heidi Nielson, Cinco Ranch, 17:21.4
3. Addison Stevenson, Tompkins, 17:50.0
4. Hayden Gold, Tompkins, 18:12.8
5. Isabella Rubio, Katy, 18:13.1
6. Katie Fitzpatrick, Seven Lakes, 18:27.0
7. Maddy Hunter, Katy, 18:54.7
8. Helen Ulrich, Cinco Ranch, 18:58.9
9. Larissa Carr, Katy, 19:00.3
10. Alison Mueller, Cinco Ranch, 19:01.3

BOYS

TEAMS

Tompkins, 24 points
Cinco Ranch, 56 points

INDIVIDUALS

1. Gavin Saacke, Tompkins, 15:16.3
2. Ben Smith, Tompkins, 15:38.0
3. Ethan Boyd, Cinco Ranch, 15:39.0
4. Noah Howard, Tompkins, 15:47.8
5. Fernando Hernandez, Seven Lakes, 16:00.1
6. Connor Augustine, Tompkins, 16:01.1
7. Ruben Rojas, Seven Lakes, 16:01.6
8. David Livingston, Mayde Creek, 16:03.1
9. Adrian Hahn Vadstein, Cinco Ranch, 16:05.0
10. Kassem Karouni, Cinco Ranch, 16:05.7

19-5A QUALIFIERS

GIRLS

INDIVIDUALS

5. Addison Sutton, Jordan, 19:41.1
7. Logan Warren, Paetow, 20:02.4
10. Beatriz Laepple, Jordan, 20:16.8

Individual regional qualifiers for the boys were Seven Lakes' Fernando Hernandez (fifth) and Ruben Rojas (seventh), and Mayde Creek's David Livingston (eighth).

Warriors, Panthers to represent at regionals

Katy ISD will have three representatives at the Region III-5A cross country meet on Nov. 10 at Kate Barr Ross Park.

Jordan High freshman Addison Sutton (fifth, 19:41.1), Paetow senior Logan Warren (seventh, 20:02.4) and Jordan High freshman Beatriz Laepple (10th, 20:16.8) qualified individually.

"I really wanted to kick it in gear for this race, and I did," said Sutton, who won her first three meets of the season. "I also took advantage of the cool weather conditions; I find it easier to control my breathing in this weather. I had to push myself mentally harder than I have before. Even when my



COURTESY

The Tompkins' boys team won its third district cross country championship in four years by dominating last week's District 19-6A cross country championships at Bear Creek Park.



COURTESY

The Cinco Ranch girls team won the district championship by 15 points at least week's District 19-6A cross country championships at Bear Creek Park.

legs felt they were getting exhausted and it hurt, I fought through."

The Warriors girls team fell just short of qualifying as a team, finishing third behind College Station and Magnolia West.

"I am so proud of our team and how they performed," Sutton said. "I just think it's amazing of how well we did as only freshmen and sophomores. We can learn from all of this and come back so much stronger for next season."

Warren improved considerably on her district time last year of 20:50.80. She has high expectations at regionals after finishing fourth last season.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Katy Management District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., by teleconference at (877) 336-1831, Access Code: 1721562. 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: D. Cox, K. Berger, R. Hargarther, P. Redmon & D. Callender

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (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)	\$ 0.800 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.800 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$0	\$0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$0	\$0
Tax on average residence homestead	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$0.00 0.0000%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE 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 eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

* There were NO residential homesteads for comparison purposes.

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.

Cajun Catfish Mondays

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



Kathy's Shrimp Boil

from 5-9pm
(every Friday) for \$10.50 lb
includes corn and potato
with every pound.



Kathy's
KORNER



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