



Waller County Sheriff Elect Troy Guidry said he intends to update the department by reorganizing staff, establishing standards for pay grades within the department and focusing on community policing once he is sworn in this coming January.

## Guidry talks future plans

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Republican Troy Guidry defeated Democrat Cedric Watson in the race for Waller County Sheriff during the Nov. 3 elections with 14,506 votes to Watson's 7,376. His plans for the Waller County Sheriff's Office include a focus on community policing and more efficient uses of resources to modernize the department, he said.

"It's not going to be just, 'I'm your leader and we're running this,'" Guidry said. "I have a (leadership) team whose coming in."

Guidry said he intends to improve the department by adjusting staffing, updating and solidifying policies and procedures as well as setting up a command staff to ensure operations run smoothly.

The first priority Guidry has is to get the right staff in place starting by installing two chief deputies - one for the jail and court system and another for the patrol division. With that, he said he would empower those two officers to hire their own staff in accordance with guidelines set for officers within the WCSO.

"These two guys are responsible for hiring the guys that are going to be underneath them, so it will be a structured command staff you have to follow within this agency," Guidry said.

See **GUIDRY**, page A5

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# BREAKING THROUGH

## Tompkins downs Katy, snaps Tigers' 75-game district win streak

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

It had been 75 games, 12 years and parts of three decades between district losses for Katy High.

But don't bother telling all that to Tompkins, conquerors of the Tigers' daunting 75-game district win streak via 24-19 win over Katy on Thursday, Nov. 5, at Legacy Stadium.

Yes, the Falcons beat Katy for the first time in seven tries. Yes, they handed Katy a district loss for the first time since a 27-21 overtime loss Nov. 8, 2008, to Cinco Ranch. And yes, they now have the upper hand for the District 19-6A title, likely ending the Tigers' 11-year reign of district supremacy in the process.

But, the Falcons will tell you, it was just another win. Just the next game on the schedule.

"It's a big win, but this doesn't win us a state championship," said junior receiver Joshua McMillan II, who caught eight balls for 146 yards and three touchdowns. "It's just one game."

See **FALCONS**, page B4

### MORE INSIDE

Katy looks to learn from loss, **SEE PAGE B1**

Tompkins QB Milroe rises to the occasion, **SEE PAGE B1**



COLE MCNANNA | SEALY NEWS

Tompkins junior receiver Joshua McMillan II (2) celebrates the first of his three touchdowns during a game against Katy on Nov. 5 at Legacy Stadium. The Falcons won, 24-19, to snap Katy's 75-game district winning streak.



CREDIT: CONTRIBUTED BY KISD

Caption: Katy ISD staff unload testing supplies Nov. 4 after receiving testing kits and related equipment from the Texas Education Agency. Free testing is now available for all KISD students at the district's Young Agricultural Sciences Center on Katy Hockley Cut Off Road.

## Katy ISD now offering free COVID-19 tests to students

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD is now offering free COVID-19 screenings to all students of the district, said KISD Director of Risk Management Lance Nauman. The Food and Drug Administration-approved saliva-based test is being offered at no cost to students through a cooperative effort with the Texas Education Agency.

"I made the application (the week of Nov. 2) and then we picked up our tests, the masks, the gloves - all the (personal protective equipment) that goes with it - provided by the state - yesterday," Nauman said in a Nov. 5 interview.

The improved access to testing will help the district monitor and mitigate the spread of the disease in the district, Nauman said. Because the testing is free, it increases ease of access for families that are facing tough financial times and with those students getting tested, the district will have a clearer picture of how serious the spread of the novel coronavirus is among the student body. Nauman said the district has received 18,000 tests and that, once the supply runs below a certain level, the TEA will provide additional kits, so he is not concerned about running out of supplies at this time.

"I think the increased testing allows us to mitigate from an even stronger position and keep campuses open," Nauman said. "There are going to be circumstances"

See **TESTING**, page A5

## Brookshire City Council talks staffing, construction

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Brookshire City Council met via teleconference Nov. 5 to discuss address a relatively light agenda. During the meeting, council members accepted the city's audited annual financial report for the fiscal year ending in Aug. 2019, discussed an ordinance to require developers to better maintain worksites in the city and another ordinance regarding staffing.

Stephanie Harris, a certified public accountant with the accounting firm Belt Harris Pechacek, delivered the results of a review of the Brookshire's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - also known as the CAFR.

"We are issuing a clean, unmodified opinion on

See **BROOKSHIRE**, page A5



R. HANS MILLER

Brookshire City Council accepted the assessment of its annual financial review and discussed the development of ordinances to set standards for developers in the city and to hire enforcement staff to enforce city building and other codes at its Nov. 5 meeting.

## Katy City Council approves water treatment project

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy City Council approved a contract for \$2.5 million to B-5 Construction Company, Inc. out of Magnolia Texas for improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant during its Nov. 9 meeting. It also approved the purchase of agenda and documentation management software that will help move the city toward more efficient streaming of its meetings.

Council members voted unanimously to approve the contract awarded to B-5 Construction which will expand the capacity of the city's wastewater treatment plant, according to documents provided by the city. The job entails identifying and rerouting several pipes near the complex, adding other piping, expanding overall capacity and repairing items such as missing hardware in one of the water clarifiers. The total cost of about \$2.5 million includes all of these items plus contingency funding for any overages on the project which is standard practice in Texas for government projects such as this.

Council members also unani-



The Katy City Council is currently comprised of (from left to right) Council Member Janet Corte (front, left, seated), Council Member Jennifer Stockdick (front, right, seated) Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris (back, left), Mayor Bill Hastings (blue tie) Council Member Durran Dowdle (handlebar mustache) and Frank Carroll (back, right). This will be one of the last meetings with this group of council members after Dowdle lost his bid for reelection to Rory Robertson during the Nov. 3 elections.

mously authorized an agreement with CivicPlus for software that will allow city staff to incorporate agenda archiving and video archiving together in conjunction with software purchased through

SwagIt. The CivicPlus software will be purchased with CARES Act funding and will use about \$11,500 of the city's CARES Act funding. If renewed, the cost for a year of continued service is

about \$7,600. It is unknown how a renewal might be paid for.

City Secretary Becky McGrew said she had worked with CivicPlus' representatives to ensure the system would work with the SwagIt software approved at the council's Oct. 26 meeting.

"I believe the city of Abilene uses it directly in the same regard," said McGrew. "But I also called just to verify that I was remembering correctly and (CivicPlus' representative) was able to verify ... that we will be able to upload the file from SwagIt and as I'm doing (meeting) minutes, I will be able to video tag that recording and push it out to the web."

This upgrade in the city's streaming will bring the city in line with many of its neighbors and regional partners such as the city of Fulshear and Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties commissioners courts.

At the meeting, council also:

- Heard a presentation from representatives of Spiritual Warriors Against Trafficking - also known as SWAT - regarding human trafficking intervention in the Greater Houston area.

See **KATY**, page A5

## American Legion Post 164 offers support to vets

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

American Legion Post 164 moved into a permanent home Oct. 20 in a grand opening ceremony attended by a variety of supporters including Katy Mayor Bill Hastings, Congressman Pete Olson, State Representative Mike Schofield – Schofield was elected Nov. 3 and was a candidate at the time of the event – and representatives from throughout the American Legion’s chain of command.

“In the name of (Jonathan D. Rozier American Legion Post 164) I dedicate this structure as the embodiment of the ideals of justice, freedom and democracy,” said American Legion Post 164 Commander Jim McGuire at the event.

### History

The post was founded in 2001 when a group of veterans began meeting at Mary Jo Pekham Park in downtown Katy, McGuire said. Since then, the group has been hosted by the Katy Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 and the Katy Elks Lodge No. 2628 while it built up its membership and established a budget to find its own home – the new post located at 22125 Kingsland Blvd. in unincorporated Katy.

The new location finally came about after the post’s last commander, Harry Woodstrom – a Vietnam era veteran – discovered that the West Memorial Homeowners Association was looking to lease the building that eventually became the post’s new home.

McGuire praised the HOA’s flexibility in setting up the lease in such a way that the legionnaires would be able to host the events necessary to achieve the post’s goals and mission as a nonprofit.

“(Woodstrom) and I went over and spoke to them and it took probably four or five months, getting the lease and contract all written up to have it done properly so we could do fundraisers and those kinds of things inside (the post),” McGuire said. “We live off having fundraisers and if we can’t do a fundraiser in our own house (this wouldn’t have worked).”

But it did work out and the Jonathan D. Rozier American Legion Post 164 now has its own home after nearly 20 years.



R. HANS MILLER

Representatives of American Legion Post 164 participate in a ribbon cutting for the Jonathan D. Rozier Legion Hall which was put on by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

McGuire said the post is dedicated to the late 2nd Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier who was awarded the Bronze Star for valor for his actions in combat which saved many American service members’ lives. The post has a memorial wall honoring Rozier as the post’s namesake.

### Reaching out

Aside from the basic ideals of patriotism in his statement, McGuire later said in an interview with the Katy Times that the main goal of the post is to provide a source of support for veterans of all eras and their families through programs the nonprofit offers. While the American Legion is a global organization, it focuses on grass roots efforts to support veterans through community engagement programs.

One of the newest veteran outreach events is the post’s hosting of a PTSD group that had been meeting at the local Katy Veterans Affairs clinic up until the COVID-19 pandemic began. Because the clinic had shut its doors to nonessential visitors, the PTSD group had been meeting in a gazebo near the VA clinic. Once the post’s services officer, Jody Castro, found out, he helped coordinate allowing the group to meet at the clinic and utilize its facilities for meetings that could even include presentations using the facility’s audio-video equipment.

The American Legion offers other community and veterans’ programs as well. The primary program is outreach to veterans which is coordinated by Castro, McGuire said. Castro is trained by the American Legion and



COURTESY AMERICAN LEGION POST 164

American Legion Post 164 hosts and honor guard in conjunction with Katy VFW Post 9182. Members participate in formal ceremonies honoring veterans, military members and other civic events.



R. HANS MILLER

American Legion Post 164 Commander Jim McGuire poses in front of a commemorative wall honoring Second Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier, the post’s namesake.

### POST 164 EVENTS

The events below are sponsored by American Legion Post 164 and the public is welcome to attend or offer their support as appropriate. Due to the age and health factors among the various post members that includes multiple World War II veterans, attendees are asked to take steps such as wearing facial coverings and staying home if ill to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the post’s membership.

#### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Fundraiser to purchase wreaths for placement on the graves of local veterans. Wreaths may be purchased at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) (donors should specify the location of the wreath placement for the Magnolia Cemetery event) and will be placed upon the graves of veterans at Katy’s Magnolia Cemetery at 10 a.m. on Dec. 19. The ceremony and wreath laying takes about 1.5 hours. American Legion representatives will also be available at Ace Hardware at 1720 Mason Road Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those interested in volunteering to help with the event may reach

out to Linda Malsbary at [linda.malsbary@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.malsbary@yahoo.com). Individual wreaths cost \$15.

#### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

American flags will be honored and properly cremated in a ceremony Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. This event is held at and in conjunction with the Katy Elks Lodge No. 2628 at 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road.

#### PTSD SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Mondays from 1-2 p.m. at American Legion Post 164 located at 22125 Kingsland Blvd. In Katy (formerly the West I-10 fire station). Veterans can get together to support one another as they work to overcome and manage their PTSD symptoms.

#### BREAKFAST WITH A VETERAN

Residents can attend this recurring event the first Saturday of each month with the next event occurring Dec. 5. Meals are \$9 for adult and \$4 for kids under twelve. Toddlers eat free. This event is held at the Katy Elks Lodge at 1060 Katy Fort Bend Road.

See VETS, page B3

This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

## SUDOKU

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

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.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678

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This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

# Katy Times

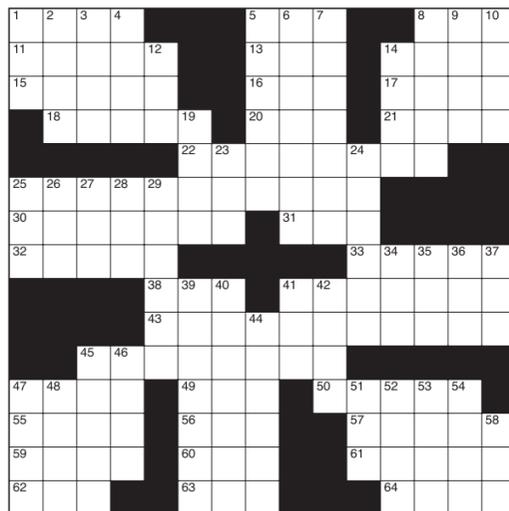
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

- Dutch word for “language”
- Popular music style
- Body part
- Largely dry valleys
- Brew
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Where rockers play
- Human gene
- One point east of northeast
- Adversary
- Small cask or barrel
- About ear
- Benign tumors
- In a different way
- One charged with a crime
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Long, narrow straps
- Passover
- Ottoman military commander
- One who does not succeed
- Data
- 3D image
- Whale ship captain
- Japanese title
- Made of wood
- Yokel
- Exercise system \_\_\_-bo
- Supreme being
- Playing card with three spots
- Hostelry
- Spiritual leader
- Single lens reflex
- Time of the 90th meridian, used in the central U.S.
- Thomas \_\_, American cartoonist

### CLUES DOWN

- Shattered airline



- Swiss river
- Port city in Yemen
- It can be straight
- Tennis player’s tool
- Estranged
- Garden archway
- Assists
- Grain crop
- Millisecond
- U.S. Founding Father Adams
- Small, deerlike buffalo
- Easily manageable
- Male parent
- Nearsightedness
- Patriotic women
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- \_\_\_ fi (slang)
- A joke rooted in wordplay
- Attack violently
- Keyboard key
- \_\_\_ juris: independent
- Corporate executive (abbr.)
- Adult female bird
- Pertains to knowledge
- Pashtoes
- Prefix title for Italian monks
- To be fired from a gun
- A way to position
- \_\_\_ process: produces ammonia
- Follow instructions
- Humanistic discipline
- Throw
- Swiss river
- American hate group
- Actor Idris
- Seizes
- Baseball stat

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

P.O. Box 678, Katy, TX 77492-0678

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## A salute to our Katy area veterans

By **R. HANS MILLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

I joined the U.S. Army in 1996 to find a way to get out of the small northwestern Montana town where I grew up. Little did I know how little I'd grown up and how much I was about to learn about myself, about the world, about dedication, about integrity and about self-sacrifice.

Over the subsequent four years that I served, I was privileged to meet men like Sergeant Stephen Neubauer who taught me how to pull apart a diesel engine and put it back together; how to face the things I feared

as a young man; how the pursuit of knowledge is its own reward; and how integrity will always hold you in good stead. Neubauer later went on to become a sergeant major and retire in California and I remain in touch with him today.

Then there was First Sergeant Robert Miller - no relation - who taught me a great deal about what it means to be a leader. He also had a knack for teaching the historical context of each leadership lesson he taught. I later went on to minor in history at Texas State University, in part because he taught me to love the subject.

My own experience in the military

brought me closer to my father, a U.S. Air Force veteran, who served as a security policeman during Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidency. The tone of our conversations changed, and I could see him not only as my dad, but as a human being with experiences I could relate to. I even figured out why he was so picky about certain things and why he used strange jargon from time to time.

There were many others who taught me what it meant to be a soldier and a patriot and to hold my head high when I put on my uniform each day. And each of those men and women, they learned from people like those pictured below. Veterans from World

War II to Vietnam, Korea, Desert Storm and the conflicts we've seen since Sept. 11, 2001.

To these men and women and the many we simply haven't connected with for this tribute, the Katy Times team, the Katy area community as a whole and our nation - we say, without qualification, "Thank you."

Thank you for defending the Constitution which allows us freedom of the press, the right to vote in elections such as the one we just had and the many other rights that allow us "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Thank you for the sacrifices you have made, the service you have rendered and the lessons to be taught to today's military and tomorrow's recruits.



**JIM BABIN**  
U.S. Air Force



**BOB BERRY**  
U.S. Army  
221st Signal Company  
3 years active duty/25 years reserve  
Bien Hoa S. Vietnam, 1969



**STEPHEN BRADY**  
U.S. Air Force  
ARDF Operator  
1970-1977



Japan, Thailand, Korea, Goodfellow AFB



**DON BYRNE**  
U.S. Army (ret)  
1st Cavalry HQ  
Camp Howze, Korea



**MASON CARDONA**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
2018-Present



**JODY CASTRO**  
U.S. Navy  
4 years



**RONALD CATCHINGS**  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Army Reserve  
28 years combined service



**WILL DUVALL**  
U.S. Navy, Radio Technician 2nd Class  
World War II, USS Yorktown  
19 years of age, now 94



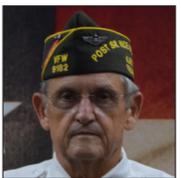
**CARL EDMUNDSON**  
U.S. Army



**JAMES FOLAND**  
U.S. Army  
30 year veteran



**ANTHONY HART**  
U.S. Air Force  
1967-1978  
Vietnam War  
Southeast Asia, 1971



**BILL HASTINGS**  
U.S. Coast Guard



**PHIL HUFFMAN**  
Major, U.S. Army (ret.)  
20 years



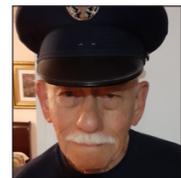
**STEPHEN JAFFE**  
U.S. Army  
Vietnam War



**JAMES JANKOVIC**  
U.S. Air Force  
1972-1976



**J. GARY JONES**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1968-1970



**WILLIAM KITZMAN**  
U.S. Air Force  
1951-1955



**WALLACE KLEKAR**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1968-1972



**BOB LEE**  
U.S. Army  
Vietnam War



**STUART LEVIN**  
U.S. Air Force  
1974-1978



**PHILIP MALSBAR**  
U.S. Air Force  
1961-1966



**TAL S. MARTIN**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1974-1978



**JIM MCGUIRE**  
U.S. Army  
20 years



**LOUIS MEHR**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Korean War  
1951-1953



**WILLIAM R. MILLER**  
U.S. Army  
Texas State Guard



**GREG MORRISON**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1968-1969



**CHAD NORVELL**  
U.S. Marine Corps



**MIKE NASCHE**  
U.S. Army  
12 years active duty  
9 years reserves (ongoing)



**TREVOR NEHLS**  
U.S. Army  
Active and Reserve  
1988-Present



**TROY NEHLS**  
U.S. Army (ret)  
1988-2009



**MARK OLDMIXON**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1973-1977



**JASON PANKHURST**  
U.S. Army  
Bagdad, 2004



**VIRGIL POE**  
World War II



**GERALD PROVANCH**  
U.S. Navy (ret.)



**JOHN R. SANDERS**  
U.S. Army (1991-1994)  
Texas Army National  
Guard (1994-2000)



**SKIP SCHWORKE**  
U.S. Army  
24 years



**JIM SCOGGIN**  
U.S. Navy (ret.)  
22 years



**CLEMENTE SILVA**  
Merchant Marines  
World War II  
Seaman First Class/  
Gunner's Mate



**RODNEY SMITH**  
U.S. Army 1966-1968  
U.S. Army Reserve  
1969-2002



**JEB STRICKLAND**  
U.S. Air Force  
Southeast Asia



**EDWARD SWEAT**  
U.S. Navy  
Vietnam War  
1972-1979



**JOE SZATKOWSKI**  
U.S. Army  
Desert Shield/Desert Storm



**HENRY THOMAS**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Vietnam (2 tours)



**WAYNE THOMPSON**  
Texas Army National  
Guard, 16 years



**ANDREW VALADEZ**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1988-1992



**RALPH WEST**  
U.S. Navy  
World War II



**CHARLIE WHITE**  
U.S. Army  
Korean War  
Punch Bowl Korea (1952)



**MICHAEL WILLETT**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1994-2001  
8 deployments/various conflicts



**BRIAN WILSON**  
U.S. Air Force  
20 years



**LEAH WILSON**  
U.S. Air Force  
20 years



**HARRY WOODSTROM**  
U.S. Army  
26 years



**JOHN WRIGHT**  
U.S. Navy  
Taiwan, China (1969)



**MELTON YARBROUGH**  
World War II  
Combat Medic

### MORE TO COME

The Katy Times will continue honoring those who have served our nation as we move into the future. We will continue to collect information for Veterans Day and Memorial Day throughout the year, but we need the community's help to make sure we get it right. We ask that readers keep in mind that Veterans Day is a holiday designated for those veterans who are still with us while Memorial Day is when we honor those who have served and have passed away or were killed in the line of duty. If you know of a veteran we should include in either, please send the following information to [news@KatyTimes.com](mailto:news@KatyTimes.com) with the following information:

- Name
- Photo
- Branch of Service
- Conflicts served in, if applicable
- Dates of service, if known
- Date of birth and death (for Memorial Day submissions)

Thank you again to each of the veterans who chose to participate this year. If we were unable to reach you in time for this year's publication and you would like to appear in next year's Veterans Day tribute, please send in your information and we will be happy to include you.



Sincerely,  
**R. HANS MILLER**  
Katy Times News Editor  
U.S. Army  
1996-2000

## Elect to talk about politics with family

I usually avoid discussing politics in my columns, mainly because I would rather not be disowned by family members, unfriended by friends, or doused with milkshakes and other beverages by complete strangers at the local Whataburger.

This time, though, I just can't help getting out my big ol' stir-up-sumpin' stick.

I'll begin by announcing that I recently cast (as in chucked, lobbed or hurled) my vote for President of the United States of 'Merica. I decided to vote early so I could avoid the airborne particles of other humans on Election Day - I thought. To my dismay, when I arrived at my early-voting location, a shabby community center built during the make-every-structure-look-like-a-doctor's-office period of architecture, the line of voters wound around the inside of the building as if I was awaiting my turn to discombobulate my innards on the Space Mountain ride at Disney World.

Unfortunately, my innards still felt discombobulated, but not because of a thrilling roller coaster ride. Instead, the building had no air conditioning and smelled like a massive, well-used cat litter box. (And since my three teen daughters are philosophically opposed to caring for their own pets, I would know.)

Rather than filter out the odor, my COVID-19 face mask trapped it in my defenseless nostrils. By the time I reached the voting kiosk, I was so overcome by the heat and stench that I feared I might face-plant on the touch screen and accidentally place a write-in vote for the late Wilford Brimley - which might not be such a bad option.

Speaking of my three daughters, even though none of them are old enough to vote, I felt like it was important to engage them in the vital subject of national politics during an election year so that they, too, could make an informed argument about which presidential candidate has the most humiliating dance moves.

On a recent evening while we were digesting our tacos around the dinner table, I asked each of my daughters to offer their opinions about President Trump and Joe Biden.

My eldest and most expensive daughter replied



JASE GRAVES

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

that both of the candidates are too "creepy" for her. She longs for a viable third-party candidate who would pledge to place a cap on the price of a Venti Double-Shot Espresso on ice with two pumps of caramel-classic syrup and almond milk at Starbucks.

My middle daughter had to admit that she knows very little about the candidates, and she doesn't care much about politics. She did declare that both leading candidates seem "old and crusty," and she wishes she could find a way to get her current boyfriend on the ballot.

My youngest daughter didn't hear the question because she was too engrossed in her iPhone - watching a YouTube star explain how to dress up your pet as a Russian babushka. (You think I'm kidding.)

After this initial round of discussion, we proceeded to take an online political survey designed to determine which presidential candidate would most closely match our values and beliefs as a family. We chose answers to questions ranging from our views on immigration to our feelings about eating our Thanksgiving dinner via slingshot due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were only slightly disappointed to discover that we would be most satisfied with Baby Yoda as President.

On another evening, we all gathered in the living room to watch the musical "Hamilton" on Disney+. In today's divisive political atmosphere, it was refreshing to revisit the time of our Founding Fathers - when politics were more harmonious, everyone knew how to rap, and political disagreements could be settled with an old-fashioned shooting.

Whatever the outcome of this year's election, it's important to remember that we are all Americans, and our devotion to our country should overcome our political differences. Most of all, when disagreements do arise, we should resist the temptation to douse one another with our favorite fast-food beverages.



## Have you mailed your Veterans Day cards yet?

Veterans Day parades? Veterans Day school essays? Veterans Day ceremonies on the courthouse lawn? Star-spangled Veterans Day memes on social media? Platitude-enhanced newspaper editorials?

Sure, I'm familiar with all those expressions of patriotism and appreciation; but until I stumbled across a certain article the other day, I had been blissfully ignorant of the widespread availability of Veterans Day CARDS.

Whether you use a preprinted card, customize an online template or create a unique masterpiece totally from scratch, this is an outstanding way to let our nation's defenders know they are not forgotten.

Speaking of store-bought cards, it's unfortunate that the Hallmark Channel is always already wall-to-wall Christmas movies even before the jack-o'-lantern is consigned to the compost heap. It would be heartwarming to have a week-and-a-half of early-November movies in which Candace Cameron Bure and other Hallmark stars find romance on the obstacle course or save the town ammunition depot from being replaced with a mall. ("I don't know about atheists in foxholes, but there's a chaplain in this one! It's military wedding time!")

I'm slowly sorting through a stack of correspondence between my late father and



DANNY TYREE

SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

his mother from when draftee Dad was in the U.S. Army. (I'm sure the newspaper clippings and neighborhood gossip from Granny Tyree helped take the sting out of the "Dear John" letter he received.) Such mail between flesh and blood is a good starting point, but don't limit yourself to kinfolk.

Friends and neighbors who did a tour of duty should certainly be thanked for their sacrifice, whether it was last year or two generations ago. Total strangers being treated in a faraway VA hospital could also use the ray of sunshine provided by the gesture of a Veterans Day card.

And let's not forget active servicepeople and their families. When my mother talks about some hectic endeavor, she tends to use the phrase "dragged from pillar to post." And surely no one gets dragged around like military families. A sincere card would mean so much among the bills and junk mail.

Even a "value-priced" professional card can be the high point of someone's day, but

challenge yourself to personalize your cards. Not everyone is a polished wordsmith (as I demonstrate on a weekly basis), but perhaps venturing out of your comfort zone will give you a slightly better rapport with those who face or faced constant danger.

"Diligence," "selfless," "resilience" and "greater purpose" are some of the recurring words used in Veterans Day cards; but I'll bet you could express your pride and appreciation even better with a more conversational tone and more intimate anecdotes. Be bawdy, be mushy, be vulnerable, be REAL.

If you're going to be taking the personal route, why not go whole hog with the "Christmas letter" approach? (You know the sort of insufferable letter I'm talking about: page after page of humble-brag recitations of dream vacations, promotions and genius children.) Crow about all the things that are going right in your life - and after each and every one of them, pause to acknowledge that your freedom and achievements wouldn't be possible without the sacrifices of the military.

COVID-19 has hobbled many of the traditional ways of celebrating Veterans Day (including hugging a veteran), but 2020 might be a good time to become part of the new tradition of sending Veterans Day cards to our heroes.

## Katy Times

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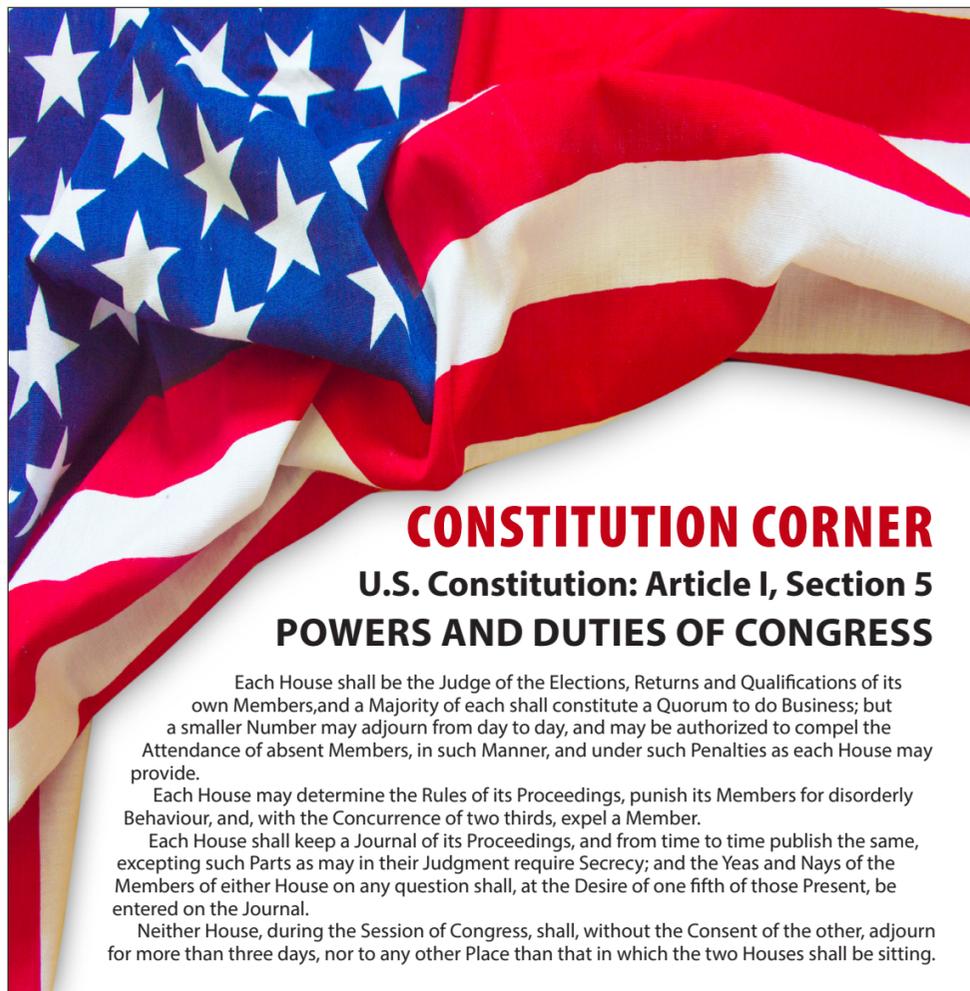
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## CONSTITUTION CORNER

### U.S. Constitution: Article I, Section 5 POWERS AND DUTIES OF CONGRESS

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

## GUIDRY

from page A1

As part of that hiring process, Guidry said he intends to standardize pay grades and the requirements for each rank in the department to ensure fairness and equity among employees. He said that doing so was essential for attracting and retaining staff in Waller County when it is surrounded by competitive departments, from a career perspective, throughout neighboring counties that can afford to pay their officers more.

Guidry said he plans to work to increase salaries in the department to make the department more attractive, without having to increase his budget.

"I think we should actually be a little under budget making the changes we'll make (to staffing)," Guidry said. "We'll be able to push salaries to a certain point to start that structure."

One key element in Guidry's plan to develop the department is to bring reserve deputies onto the team at WCSO. A reserve deputy is a volunteer, often a retired law enforcement officer, who patrols or performs other supplementary work to assist a law enforcement agency. WCSO currently has 55 approved reserve position but only 33 are currently filled, he said. By adjusting paid staff through a restructuring and adding reserve deputies, Guidry says he expects to improve law enforcement services to Waller County while saving taxpayers money.

"I can bring in a reserve guy who works for free and shows up on his own time because he loves doing it," Guidry said.

These volunteer deputies will be assigned not only as patrol deputies, but as experienced officers to assist in specific areas like investigating robberies, assaults or aiding a crime scene investigator - another position Guidry said he wants to fill.

Guidry said adding a crime scene investigator will help the department make headway against certain trends Waller County is seeing when it comes to crimes such as construction site burglaries.

Another priority will be



Troy Guidry will replace the late R. Glenn Smith who passed away over the summer. Smith had served as sheriff for about 12 years and helped develop the county's new justice center. Interim Sheriff Joe Hester will fulfill the role of sheriff until Guidry is sworn in.

intervention in the county's drug problem. Rural areas such as Waller County that are near urban centers such as Houston see drug manufacturing and traffic, and Guidry said he has plans to deal with the problem.

"We have interdiction of narcotics," Guidry said. "We'll be brining that to the county. We have two major thoroughfares through, (Highway) 290 and I-10."

Guidry said he would work to obtain grants and improve partnerships with appropriate agencies to address the issue efficiently, but he would also utilize tools already at the WCSO such as K-9 officers and community policing skills.

"We also have a (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission) sting that we're going to begin for selling underage kids tobacco and alcohol," Guidry said. "And this is all going to be done through our reserves so it won't cost us money."

Still, while Guidry discussed strong policy and procedural changes, discipline and tough enforcement in regards to drugs, he emphasized that the main goal was to develop community-based policing by developing relationships with county residents, not by WCSO being a hardnosed law enforcement agency.

Minor infractions such as driving infractions or marijuana use will likely see warnings or simple fines rather than arrests, Guidry said. Generally, he said, it's more expensive to arrest and prosecute those cases than to fine someone and let them help pay for enforcing the law against



The Waller County Sheriff's Office serves the county on the west side of Katy with a spur jutting east on the northern end. The county has an area of about 518 square miles and a population estimated at about 55,000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition to the WCSO, the county has 4 constables offices.

more serious infractions while keeping deputies free to patrol for more serious infractions.

Guidry said that building trust with the community and helping them avoid breaking the law or come into compliance with the law is more useful for the community and helps county residents make a difference themselves in reducing crime, simply by talking to law enforcement.

"If we teach these deputies to go and talk to residents if they see them out mending fence or weed eating, I guarantee you that guy knows more about what's going on within two miles than (a deputy will) ever know just driving around looking," Guidry said.

In regards to his elected predecessor, the late Sheriff R. Glenn Smith, Guidry said he would like to ensure that Smith and all of the officers that have served Waller County over the years are honored at the county's new justice center, where he hopes to set up a wall displaying artifacts and information about the department's past. Until now, there has been a collection of some items, but he'd like to expand that, he said.

"If families (of fallen Waller County officers) want to donate more guns, badges, IDs or whatever, if we can get ahold of those families and they still have some of that stuff and they want to donate it to the sheriff's department to be put in (the display) and be showcased - then that's what we're going to look to do for that."

## TESTING

from page A1

es where there are going to be spikes, but because we're so actively engaged, it allows us to control things on campus."

The new tests use a saliva sample to determine if the student being tested is positive for the novel coronavirus, Nauman said. However, if the student's parents would like, a nasal swab test is available. However, the nasal swab test does have a cost of \$125 associated with it. Test results for the saliva-based test are rapid and usually provided in minutes, he said.

Staff have already had access to testing since before the fall semester began, Nauman said.

Testing for both students and staff is being conducted at the district's Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center at 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road just north of downtown Katy. The testing center is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Appointments are not necessary, but those needing more information may call 281-396-7808. Nauman said the facility's location keeps those getting tested from having to interact with school campus populations.

Keeping campuses safe is the primary concern, Nauman said. With recent temporary closures of Seven Lakes High School and Nottingham Country Elementary School, the

district is working hard to minimize the number of campus closures. Having a solid idea of the number of infected students and staff at each location can greatly assist the district in making decisions to keep campuses open, or shut them down, Nauman said.

Making those determinations is a group effort, Nauman said. While the district understands the inconvenience of closing campuses, even temporarily, student safety is the district's priority. When COVID-19 cases begin to climb at a given campus, a team comes together at the district level to determine the best course of action. Each campus' situation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the team makes a call based on that campus' needs and challenges.

"There's not a cookie cutter percentage," Nauman said. "We have to look at, 'Is it a program issue?' and with each - elementary, junior high and high school - there's all different sets of circumstances that could guide those numbers."

Once an evaluation is made, the committee makes a decision, Nauman said. Each campus has different factors such as the number of students, number of staff, types of programs and other factors that play into that decision, so one-size-fits-all policies don't help with decision making.

Seven Lakes High School was closed from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3 after reaching 48 cases of COVID-19 between students and staff. The

campus reopened Nov. 4. A statement from the district indicated that students socializing without practicing social distancing or wearing masks was the likely cause of the spike in cases. As of Nov. 9, cases had reduced to 30 among staff and students.

Nottingham Country was closed Nov. 5 through Nov. 9 with classes set to restart Nov. 10 after the district reported via its online COVID-19 dashboard that 17 students and five staff had COVID-19. No suspected cause for the spike was announced. One additional case among staff had been identified as of the afternoon of Nov. 9.

As of Monday at 2:13 p.m., the district shows a total of 603 cases since Aug. 19. Of those, 220 are active with 148 of the 220 being face-to-face students, 10 among those attending Katy Virtual Academy and 62 cases among staff. The largest portion of cases are associated with high school campuses.

Campus closures are not taken lightly, Nauman said.

"This is not 'turn on a dime.' We have thought it through very carefully, as best we can, based on the best information we have and all the conflicting information. The parents should know and the community should know that we're doing the very best (we can) and we're dedicated day in and day out for the students and the staff and we all need to be responsible - stress 'we all' - need to be responsible in our actions."

## KATY

from page A1

- Accepted the transfer of utility billing for street lights in the Young Ranch subdivision.
- Approved membership dues for the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$10,000.
- Approved the closure of Avenue C between Second and Third streets on

Dec. 4 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. for a holiday event.

- Authorized the sale of \$3.9 million in bonds by the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 163 for improvements within that district which overlaps the city of Katy's borders.
- Approved no parking signs between Highway 90 and I-10 on Pedersen Road on the western side of Katy as recommended by City Engineer David Leyendecker.

*Katy City Council generally meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and holidays, it has been meeting at 4 p.m. on those days since March. Meetings in November and December are at irregular times due to the holiday season. The next scheduled Katy City Council meeting is set for Nov. 17 to canvass the city's election results.*

## BROOKSHIRE

from page A1

the city's financial statements; unmodified being the highest level of assurance we can provide that the financial statements are materially correct, and that all disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles have been included," Harris said.

Harris said the city had total revenues for the 2019 fiscal year of just over \$4.85 million and incurred expenses of just over \$5.37 million for that financial year. The city's claim fund balance reduced by about \$515,000, she said.

"With that being said, the general fund did end the year with a relatively low fund balance of \$348,138," Harris said. "As a percentage of (Brook-

shire's) expenses, this was roughly 80% left in ending fund balance and again, the recommendation would be to maintain at least an ending fund balance of 35% of your annual expenses."

Council members then went on to discuss Ordinance Number 20-681-14 which would adjust portions of the city's code to require construction bonds and construction site maintenance and repair for some project sites within city limits. The code once finalized will require certain construction projects to include a bond payment that the city could refer to if a developer damages or leaves a mess on city rights of way once a construction project is completed.

Alderman Eric Green brought up several concerns during the discussion that he

felt should be added to the ordinance before the council voted on it to ensure it was more comprehensive, noting recent difficulties in the city. Green said trash, general eyesores, blocking of roadways, general worksite maintenance and damage to streets near construction sites were concerns that needed to be addressed in the ordinance.

After discussion, no action was taken on the worksite ordinance except to ask Green to work with City Attorney Justin Pruitt to update the proposed ordinance to account for Green's requests. The matter is expected to be taken up during the next regular city council meeting set for Nov. 19.

"Instead of approving it tonight, we can work out the specific details of what you want to see in (the ordinance,

Alderman) Green, I can get that to you," Pruitt said. "And then at the next meeting, we can have the final version of the ordinance ready to go."

Next on the agenda was a workshop to discuss amending the city budget the current fiscal year to create a separate fund to pay for positions to deal with permitting and code enforcement. Lack of staff in those specific roles has placed the duty on the city secretary's office, said City Secretary Claudia Harrison.

"I was trying to move along with this so we can have somebody (in those roles) because we're getting pretty busy," Mayor Darrell Branch said.

Pruitt said he was concerned with the job descriptions associated with the positions because he felt that

the code enforcement officer job description was combined with that of a building code enforcement officer. He added that the two positions have separate skillsets that may overlap but require specific knowledge and skills that do not completely overlap.

As council members discussed the issue though, the decision was made to follow the suggestion of Mayor Pro Tem Marilyn Vaughn to explore the option of outsourcing code enforcement and permitting staff to see if that might save the city money.

"I suspect that what the city really needs is kind of an all-in - if there's a company out there that do the all-in (but) they may not do the code enforcement type role - but for sure the building enforcement, the building

official, that type of job, they can do that for sure," Pruitt said.

After input from Pruitt, Vaughn and other council members, city staff were directed to find more information regarding options for outsourcing code enforcement staffing and bring it to an upcoming meeting for review, including a possible procurement for outsourcing.

*The next Brookshire City Council meeting is scheduled to be held Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Residents may call in at 346-248-7799 or log in via Zoom using meeting ID 985-2128-2072. As of press time, only two items were on the agenda for the Nov. 12 meeting - the canvassing of voting results for the city's Nov. 3 election and the administration of the oath of office for newly-elected city officials.*

**Merry Christmas!**

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## Fort Bend Co. libraries move into phase two

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Fort Bend County libraries have begun Phase Two of reopening their buildings to visitors. The second phase will allow visitors access – though somewhat limited – to the county's libraries in Cinco Ranch, Richmond, Missouri City and the Sienna Branch Library for grab-and-go services, the Fort Bend County Library system announced in a press release.

"We miss all of our patrons, and we know how important our libraries are to their daily lives," said Library Director Clara Russell. "We want to return to 'normal' service as soon as possible, but this needs to happen in phases so that we can keep everyone safe and healthy."

Under the guidelines for Phase Two, library visitors will be able to:

- Browse collections on the first floor.
- Apply for or renew library cards.
- Update addresses on their library accounts.
- Pay fines and fees of \$5 or



The Cinco Ranch Branch Library is one of the libraries reopening in Fort Bend County with limited services. The county's library system had been mostly closed until the reopening Nov. 5.

more with a credit card. (No cash will be accepted at this time.)

- Make copies, scan or fax documents.
- Use computers and print documents. (By reservation only. Two-hour time limit.)
- Ask a librarian for assistance at the reference desk.
- Check out mobile WiFi hotspots and launchpads. (Fort Bend County residents only on a first-come, first-served basis. Con-

nectivity items must be returned to the library they were checked out from.)

The number of visitors allowed in each library will be limited in order to ensure social distancing and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Visitors must wear masks in accordance with county guidelines during the pandemic. A brief health screening will occur prior to entry.

The libraries will also be set up

### GRAB-AND-GO

The hours for the four Grab-and-Go locations, as well as for the remaining Curbside-Service-only locations, are as follows:

- Mon-Thu – 9 am-6 pm;
- Fri – 9 am-5 pm;
- Sat – 9 am-5 pm at all locations EXCEPT at the Albert George Branch Library (Needville), the Mamie George Branch Library (Stafford), and the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library. For these branches, the Saturday hours are 9 am-1 pm;
- Sun – CLOSED (all locations).

For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website ([www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us)).

to allow social distancing throughout and some areas such as lounges and study tables will not be available for use.

Libraries will not be accepting donations of books at this time. Children under the age of 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Materials should be returned using the outside drop boxes at each library.

"FBCL serves a large number of residents throughout the county, so we are being very thoughtful and deliberate with our re-opening plans," Russell said. "These are our friends and neighbors, and we're going to do everything in our power to expand library services while keeping our staff and communities safe."



PHOTO BY BRANDEE MILLER

Bill and Cindy Haskett Junior High School is currently under construction at 25737 Clay Road near the intersection of Clay and Katy Hockley roads. The new facility is estimated to have a cost of about \$65.6 million and the district is planning on opening the campus for the 2021-22 school year.

## Katy ISD names Paz as principal for Hasket JH

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD announced Monday afternoon that David Paz has been appointed by Superintendent Ken Gregorski as the new principal for Bill and Cindy Haskett Junior High – formerly known as Katy Junior High 17.

"Thirty-four years ago, my family moved to the Houston area and Mayde Creek Junior High was my first school, as a student, in Katy ISD," Paz said.

Paz began his career in education in Aug. 2001 as a fourth grade teacher at Bear Creek Elementary. In 2005, he accepted a position teaching math at McDonald Junior High. In July 2007, Paz was promoted to assistant principal at McDonald and in July 2013 he returned to Mayde Creek as principal in the school he began at as a student 34 years ago.

The Haskett campus which Paz will lead is being paid for through a voter-approved 2017 bond package and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2021, according to a KISD press release.

The \$609.2 million bond paid for Campbell, Leonard and McElwain elementary schools as well as Haskett and Adams junior high schools and Jordan High School.



DAVID PAZ

Renovations to Fielder Elementary and Katy High School assets were also included among other projects. Anticipated costs for Haskett Junior High School are about \$65.6 million according to the district's website.

The projected student body for Haskett in the 2021-22 school year is 913 students, but that number is expected to reach 1,529 students according to projections published by the district.

Paz received his Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Houston. He also holds a doctorate in Public Administration from Texas A&M University.

"Katy ISD is more than just a school district to me, it is my family and I have treasured every memory as a student, an educator and now as a school administrator," Paz said.

## In-person classes suspended at elementary school

By R. HANS MILLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Nottingham Country Elementary School Principal Tracy Stroud announced via campus newsletter that the campus will be temporarily suspending in-person instruction in accordance with Katy ISD's COVID-19 guidelines.

"We encourage our parents to continually monitor their students for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to returning them to campus on November 10 and to complete the self-reporting tool on the District website should you receive a positive test result," Stroud said in the announcement.

According to KISD's COVID-19 dashboard, the campus at 20500 Kingsland Blvd. in the Katy area currently has five cases among staff and 17 cases among students receiving face-to-face instruction. There are no cases reported among students attending classes through the Katy Virtual Academy program.

The announcement follows the closure of Seven Lakes High School last week which was shut down after receiving a Corrective Action Advisement letter from Fort Bend County's Health and Human Services Department. District representatives did not respond to questions regarding whether Nottingham Country's closure was also prompted by a county-level decision. Nottingham Country is



GOOGLE

In-person instruction at Nottingham Country Elementary was temporarily suspended Nov. 5 due to increasing cases of COVID-19 at the campus. Classes were expected to resume Nov. 10.

### RESOURCES

Parents of students impacted by campus closures can refer to the following KISD resources for assistance in getting devices for online learning checked out to their children:

EMAIL: COVID19\$2sponses@katyisd.org  
TELEPHONE: 281-396-7499

located in unincorporated Harris County.

Districtwide, KISD has more than 200 active cases of COVID-19 among staff and students and is working to manage the situation in a way that mitigates risks to students and staff. "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," a letter issued by KISD to parents of Nottingham Country students said.

## Bill filing for 87th Texas Legislature session begins

By CASSANDRA POLLOCK  
and SAMI SPARBER  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The 87th Texas Legislature won't gavel in until January, but state lawmakers on Monday got their first chance to file legislation for what's expected to be a particularly tough 140-day stretch at the Capitol next year.

By mid-afternoon Monday, the first day to pre-file legislation, more than 530 bills had already been filed in the House and Senate. Thousands of bills are expected to be filed throughout the legislative session, though only a

fraction of them will make it through both chambers and end up on Gov. Greg Abbott's desk.

State leaders have already said they expect the upcoming session to be the toughest state lawmakers have seen in years. The state is forecasting billions of dollars in shortfalls to the state budget, which the coronavirus pandemic has fueled. On top of that, lawmakers are set to undergo the once-in-a-decade process of redrawing the state's political maps.

House Redistricting Committee Chair Phil King, a Weatherford Republican, filed legislation Monday morning

related to the composition of House districts and State Board of Education districts with House Bill 63 and 64, respectively. Later Monday, King filed a bill related to congressional districts.

With fights over voter access and ballot integrity dominating the election offices and courthouse across the state in recent months, lawmakers are also seeking to resolve some of the central issues around how Texans vote with a battery of bills filed in the early hours Monday. Before noon, nearly 30 pieces of elections-related legislation had already been proposed in both chambers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bottom line....

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

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## THURSDAY, NOV. 5

## FOOTBALL

- Tompkins 24, Katy 19

## FRIDAY, NOV. 6

## VOLLEYBALL

- Cinco Ranch 3, Taylor 0
  - Magnolia West 3, Paetow 0
- FOOTBALL**
- Taylor 51, Cinco Ranch 14
  - Mayde Creek 41, Morton Ranch 35

## SATURDAY, NOV. 7

## VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes 3, Mayde Creek 3
- Seven Lakes 3, Morton Ranch 3

## FOOTBALL

- Richmond Foster 28, Paetow 10

## MONDAY, NOV. 9

## VOLLEYBALL

- Paetow 3, Waller 1

## TUESDAY, NOV. 10

## VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes 3, Cinco Ranch 0
- Katy 3, Clear Springs 1
- Tompkins 3, Clear Creek 1
- Bryan Rudder 3, Paetow 1

## THURSDAY, NOV. 12

## FOOTBALL

- Morton Ranch at Cinco Ranch, at Legacy Stadium, 6 p.m.
- Taylor at Katy, at Rhodes Stadium, 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 13

## VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, at Merrell Center, 5 p.m.
- College Station at Paetow, 6 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Clear Falls, 5:30 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

- Mayde Creek at Seven Lakes, at Legacy Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Marshall at Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- College Station at Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m.
- Alvin at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.
- Cy-Falls at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cy-Creek, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek at Conroe, 7 p.m.
- Katy at Klein, 7 p.m.
- Paetow at New Caney, 7 p.m.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 14

## VOLLEYBALL

- Seven Lakes at Tompkins, 4 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
- Bridgeland at Katy, 3 p.m.
  - Paetow at Cy-Woods, 3 p.m.
  - Tompkins at College Station, 10:30 a.m.

## MONDAY, NOV. 16

## VOLLEYBALL

- Tompkins at Bridgeland, 5:30 p.m.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Cy-Falls at Morton Ranch, 6 p.m.
- Clear Springs at Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 17

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

- George Ranch at Tompkins, 5:30 p.m.
- Klein at Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Crosby at Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Shadow Creek at Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Cy-Park at Paetow, 7 p.m.
- Katy at The Woodlands, 7 p.m.

## CHAMPION COOGS



KATY ISD ATHLETICS

Cinco Ranch's girls won the Region III-6A cross country team championship on Tuesday afternoon in Huntsville. Senior Sophie Atkinson, holding the team regional championship trophy, finished first.

## Cinco Ranch girls take 1st at Region III-6A meet to pace Katy ISD state qualifiers

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Behind dominant performances from gifted athletes who will eventually stake claim as two of Katy ISD's all-time best, Cinco Ranch's girls cross country team

won the Region III-6A cross country championship Tuesday afternoon at Kate Barr Ross Memorial Park in Huntsville.

The top three teams and top 10 runners not on the top three teams advanced to the Class 6A state cross country meet on Nov.

24 at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock.

The Cougars were 18 points better than second-place Kingwood as seniors Sophie Atkinson and Heidi Nielson finished first

See REGIONALS, page B6

For full list of Katy ISD cross country state qualifiers.  
See page B6

District streak gone,  
Tigers look to learnBy DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy High's 75-game district winning streak was the second-longest active mark in the state before Tompkins upset the Tigers, 24-19, on Thursday, Nov. 5, at Legacy Stadium.

The Tigers' remarkable run will not be forgotten anytime soon. It lasted 4,380 days and three presidential terms. Over the course of the streak, Katy won two state championships (2012, 2015) and was a five-time state finalist (2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015).

But Katy coach Gary Joseph's focus after the Tompkins game was not on his team's incredible streak. It was on this week's game against Taylor.

"We'll do that at the end of the year, maybe," Joseph said about reflecting on the magnitude of the streak. "Right now, we're just focused on the next game. Not the last one. We have to get ready to play another Thursday game. You can't dwell on the negative. We've got to be positive about what we're doing to have a positive reaction to this thing."

Prior to falling to the Falcons, Katy (5-1 overall, 2-1 District 19-6A) had not lost a district game since a 27-21 overtime



See TIGERS, page B4

Tompkins QB Milroe  
rises to the occasionBy DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

If one wants to know what a great quarterback does before a big game with district championship implications—against a perennial state title contender, no less—just ask Jalen Milroe.

The Tompkins senior and Alabama commit understood what was at stake heading into his team's game against Katy last week. Two undefeated teams. Two teams ranked in the state's top 15 in Class 6A; Katy No. 3 and Tompkins No. 14. Two teams ranked in the Houston area's top five; Katy No. 2 and Tompkins No. 5. One team ranked nationally, Katy No. 6.

Perhaps more notably, Katy's awe-inspiring 75-game district winning streak was on the line as well.

So Milroe did what he's always done as the signal-caller at Tompkins. He spent hours upon hours in the film room the days leading up to



COLE MCNANNA | SEALY NEWS

Tompkins senior quarterback Jalen Milroe celebrates after the Falcons' 24-19 win over Katy on Nov. 5 that snapped the Tigers' 75-game district winning streak.

See MILROE, page B4

## Honors keep coming for Seven Lakes star Batenhorst

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Top national recruit. U.S. youth national team member. National high school freshman of the year. MaxPreps All-American.

The accolades are daunting for Seven Lakes senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst, the No. 3 ranked player in the Class of 2021.

Daunting, and seemingly never-ending.

On Nov. 4, the Nebraska verbal commit added Under Armour All-American to her distinguished resume when she was named one of 11 athletes to the prestigious first team.

"I'm insanely grateful for every-

thing," Batenhorst said. "I've always just tried to work hard and do my own thing. I get these things and I'm like, 'Oh, my gosh.' I never know how to take it. It's pretty incredible.

"I just have to maintain that and keep working hard. I just want to keep improving and see where I can go with everything."

Since the award was established in 2008, former Under Armour All-American selections include 79 collegiate All-Americans and 14 athletes on the current USA volleyball women's national team roster.

Batenhorst will compete in the Under Armour All-American match

See BATENHORST, page B6



KATY ISD

Seven Lakes senior outside hitter Ally Batenhorst was awarded with her Under Armour All-American jersey on Nov. 4 after being selected as one of 11 players to the first team.



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**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**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](http://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.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**Owner:** Mason Creek Utility District  
**Owner's Office:** 847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450  
**Project (the Work):** Kingsland Blvd. & Prince Creek Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation, including slip-lining, pipe-bursting and other goods and services.  
**Project location:** In Western Harris County, Texas generally between Fry Road and Westgreen Blvd. along and south of Kingsland Blvd.

**Owner proposes to let a contract** for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by **December 4, 2020 at 11:00 AM**, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on [civcastusa.com](http://civcastusa.com). A pre-bid conference is set for November 20, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Owners Office. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

**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](http://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>.

**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.**

**November 5 Puzzle Answers**

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

	A	P	A	C	H	E		S	O	F	T	Y	
	D	E	S	T	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	M	D
M	I	N		S	B	E		E	I	D	E	R	
I	O	U		F	E	M	E	S		S	I	N	E
A	S	L		A	A	R		N	A	E	A	D	S
	T	U	B	A				C	R	E	M	E	S
A	C	I	N	I				R	E	E	D	Y	
P	A	M	P	E	R			B	O	L	T		
P	I	A		S	A	P		T	A	R	R	A	D
A	T	T	U	T	A	C	E	T		I	C	E	
L	I	E	N	S		L	I	N		C	R	Y	
L	F		S	A	L	M	O	N	E	L	L	A	E
	F	R	A	N	C	A		I	D	E	A	L	S
	D	Y	A	D	S			S	P	E	C		

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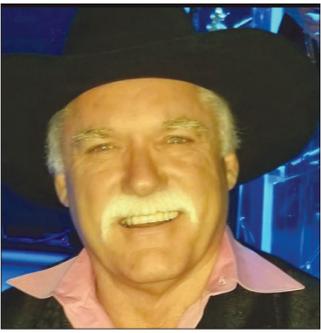
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**RANDY LEE NITZSCHKE**  
1958-2020

Randy Lee (Leach) Nitzschke, beloved son, father and grandfather, passed away on November 3, 2020, surrounded by family and friends. He was the precious son of John Lee and Della Virginia Nitzschke, born January 12, 1958, in Houston, Tx., attending Whittier Elementary and Furr High School.

He loved to dance, crack jokes, bar-b-que and was a longtime member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Committee. To many he will be remembered (in the words of several friends) as a man with "great salt and pepper hair" (maybe those are Randy's words...lol) and "remember his frankness and sense of humor."

He leaves to cherish his memory, his parents Della and John Nitzschke; two children, Daniel (Heather) Nitzschke, and Jarred (Jennifer) Nitzschke; two brothers, Dale and Davin Nitzschke; three sisters, Darla (Blake) Talley, Dalael (Mike) Wille and Daura (Randy) Chastain; five grandchildren, Cheyenne (Austin) Morris, Savannah Murphy, Bert "Cooney" Savage, Alexandria and Camdyn Nitzschke and a host of friends. A very special thanks to Audrey Clifton, who was a loving girlfriend and Randy's caretaker for the last two years.

A celebration of Randy's life will be held at Second Baptist Church, 19449 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77094 on Friday, November 13, 2020 beginning at noon. The family requests the use of masks (mandatory by the facility rules) as well as safety and social distancing for attendees.

In these difficult times the family encourages your participation of "Randy's life celebration" on "Facebook Live" if cannot be attended in person. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Memorial Sloan Kettering Center for AML research and treatments.

He will be greatly missed, but we know we will see him again in Heaven.

## VETS

from page A2

registered with the VA to assist local veterans in connecting with the resources they need when they're in crisis or just need pointed in the right direction to get VA benefits.

The Boys State scholarship and education program takes high school boys and allows them to go to Austin to learn the operations of government, including mock elections and the passing of bills. Attendees are eligible for scholarships and may be able to go to Boys Nation in Washington D.C. to participate at the national level.

Another scholarship program is the post's Oratorical competition, McGuire said. For this program, there are several different levels of competition, but it starts at the post level where participants can earn \$500 scholarships before moving on to the state and national levels. Overall, according to the post's website, more than \$138,000 is awarded nationwide each year. To earn a scholarship, each student must deliver two speeches showing their understanding of civics.

"It's an eight-to-ten minute speech on any topic of the Constitution that the person doing the speech wants to talk about," McGuire said. "They also have to know a good working knowledge of all of the amendments to the Constitution because every year the American Legion (national level leaders) pick four amendments and they send them out to be used in the competition."

### Family focused

Recruitment for veterans organizations like the American Legion has been tough even though the country has been in conflicts for nearly 20 years now, McGuire said. Such organizations suffer from a reputation of being a place for older veterans, which McGuire said is frustrating because the organization wants to be able to connect with younger veterans who have fought in the War on Terror.

Fortunately, a few changes have made it easier for the American Legion – a federally chartered organization – to adjust its recruiting methods and welcome younger veterans into the fold, McGuire said.

The first change is the passage of the LEGION Act and subsequent signing by President Donald Trump last year. The act allows the legion to expand its recruitment activities to veterans that served during periods that, while no war was formally declared, combat operations were happening. This includes Vietnam veterans, which McGuire said had felt left out for some time because the Vietnam War – technically a conflict from a legal perspective – did not count as wartime service.

"If you go on social media, there's a lot of negativity about that," McGuire said. "They were bitter because, 'Well, I went to join and they wouldn't let me join because I didn't meet the eligibility requirements.'"

Membership requirements were simplified by the LEGION Act. Now, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard veterans who served between April 6, 1917 and Nov. 11, 1918 as well as those that served from Dec. 7, 1941 to the present can join. Merchant Marine veterans who served during World War II are also eligible.

The next step, McGuire said, has been for the post to focus on making the itself family friendly. Younger veterans of the War on Terror often have wives and children and creating a family environment has been a focus in recent years. Recruiting for the Women's Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion have been increased and family-friendly activities are increasing.

For Halloween, the post hosted a haunted house of sorts with treats for children and a walk through the post's decorated garage. Additionally, the post is setting up a junior shooting sports program to allow children an opportunity to learn firearm safety in a safe environment with certified military instructors, McGuire said.

The main point though, McGuire said, is that the members of American Legion Post 164 want to be there to support veterans, to provide support to veterans in the way only another veteran can. It's about supporting one another and maintaining traditions, he said.

"Last year, I had the privilege of giving one of our members his continuous service certificate for 65 years in the American Legion," McGuire said. "(Ralph

## KATY AREA VETERAN RESOURCES

The organizations below are either headquartered locally or provide services to veterans in the Katy area. Each offers a variety of unique services to veterans including options for financial assistance, legal aid, counseling and medical assistance. This list is noncomprehensive, however, many of these organizations partner with groups not in this list and can refer veterans to services at those unlisted entities.

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 164

22125 Kingsland Blvd.  
Katy, TX 77450  
281-615-3320  
Info@legionpost164katytx.org

### AMAZING SOLDIERS

3880 Greenhouse Road, Ste. 409  
Houston, TX 77084  
www.amazingsoldiers.org  
281-310-5913

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West is) one of our World War II vets and he lives in Eagle Trace in the assisted living facility. I went up there and personally gave him his certificate and that's amazing that he spent so many years in one organization."

McGuire hopes the tradition of service that West represents continues for the legion and he and the veterans and family members at Post 164 intend to work toward that end goal.

## The Katy Times

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Katy coach Gary Joseph looks on during the Tigers' game against Tompkins on Nov. 5 at Legacy Stadium. The Tigers' 24-19 loss snapped a 75-game district winning streak.

**TIGERS**

from page B1

defeat to Cinco Ranch on Nov. 8, 2008. Perhaps the end of the streak is a good omen for the Tigers. That 2008 season, the Tigers went on to win the state championship, beating Abilene Wylie, 17-3, in the state final.

While the Tigers will not win the district title outright for a 12th straight season, their big-picture goal remains intact.

"The first goal is to win a district championship. After that, it's always to win a state championship. That's still in front of us," Joseph said. "The last district game we lost, we ended up winning a

state championship that year. Hopefully, we can convince our kids that they can do the same."

The Tigers' district-winning streak started with a 39-0 win over Morton Ranch on Oct. 9, 2009. Katy averaged 48.7 points during the streak and held opponents to 6.4 points per game.

Of Katy's 75 wins, 26 were shutouts. Forty-five were won by 40 or more points, and 26 were won by 50 or more points.

There were a few close games, but not many. Katy beat Taylor, 21-10, and Cinco Ranch by a point, 21-20, in 2009; in the latter, the Cougars missed a field goal that could've won them the game. The Tigers beat Cinco Ranch, 35-21, in 2012. They beat Seven Lakes, 17-12,

in 2013. And, last season, Katy beat Tompkins, 35-30.

This year's Tigers are a relatively young team. Starting quarterback Caleb Koger is a sophomore and made just his fifth varsity start against Tompkins. Katy's No. 2 running back, Seth Davis, is a sophomore. The No. 1 running back, senior Jalen Davis, is in his first year as the lead back. The receivers are all in their first seasons of varsity experience.

Joseph saw positives against Tompkins, such as the Tigers' ability to run the ball (305 yards, 7.6 yards per carry) against a stout defense and his defense's adjustments to a new blocking scheme Tompkins showed.

"The big thing right now is consistency," Joseph said.

Players admitted to Joseph after the Tompkins loss that they were trying to do too much. As much as anything, he said, he hoped his players learned that they have to play their game. Do their job. Nothing more, nothing less.

"It's about maturing and growing up," Joseph said. "Don't let one defeat turn into two. It's a growing-up experience for our young kids. I think the moment was too big for some of them right now, for some of our young kids. And that's good. They need to be in these moments in the spotlight.

"As coaches, we're disappointed, but we're going to be positive and get better. We're going to get better."

**MILROE**

from page B1

the game. He upped the ante during practices.

He set the tone, just as he's set the standard during his three very successful years captaining the Falcons.

"Katy is a fast and physical defense, so it came from game-speed reps and having the mindset that every practice is a game," Milroe said. "For me, mentally, it was about my feet and making sure my eyes were right. They come at you from every point."

And then the 6-foot-2, 192-pound Milroe went out and completed 17 of 23 passes for 209 yards and three touchdowns to no interceptions against one of the top defenses in the state, leading the Falcons to a landmark 24-19 win over the Tigers Nov. 5 and putting his team as the frontrunner for the District 19-6A title, likely breaking Katy's 11-year stranglehold as the district's best in the process.

"It came with confidence, due to our preparation and the work we put into the offseason," Milroe said. "Without that work, none of this would've been possible. Physically, mentally ... just being ready. We've all been locked in since the offseason. We went through adversity with COVID and the break, but we always had faith we'd still have a season. We put in work the whole time, and it's factoring in."

Ninety minutes before kickoff to the Katy game at Legacy Stadium, Milroe was on the field throwing with an assistant coach, getting his arm right. He comes from a military background. Work ethic is part of his DNA.

Coaches love coaching him and teammates love being around him. Milroe is quick with a smile off the field, but assassin-like on it.

He had his way against a Katy defense averaging 121.8 passing yards against entering the game. Milroe was cool and calm in the pocket. Quick, but never in a rush.

He got rid of the ball quickly and knew when and where to deliver it.

"He throws a great ball, makes some good decisions," Katy coach Gary Joseph said. "I'm disap-



Tompkins senior quarterback Jalen Milroe (4) stands tall in the pocket as Katy junior defensive end Mallick Sylla attempts to rush during the Falcons' 24-19 win over Katy on Nov. 5 at Legacy Stadium.

pointed we didn't get more pressure on him, but he did a good job. He put the ball on the money and the receivers did a good job of catching the ball. He's a big-game player who made some big plays."

Milroe wasn't the lone reason why Tompkins was victorious.

Junior receiver Joshua McMillan II was outstanding with a career-best night of 146 yards and three touchdowns on eight catches. The offensive line of junior Dylan Erwin, junior Tyler Lynch, junior Nathan Archibald, junior Ethan Vasquez and junior Luke Snyder—all first-year varsity starters—did an admirable job keeping Katy's dangerous pass rush at bay and giving Milroe time; Milroe was only sacked once. The line also created enough gaps for senior running back and Tulsa commit Marquis Shoulders to rush for 92 yards on 16 carries for a balanced offensive effort.

The coaching game plan is also to be credited. In the final minute of the third quarter, with his team ahead 17-13, Tompkins coach Todd McVey made a gutsy call to go for it on 4th-and-17 from the Katy 30-yard line.

Milroe dropped back from the shotgun, eyed his target and bombed a 30-yard flare to McMillan that landed perfectly in the receiver's hands just beyond the goal line at the front of the end zone.

"Put it in Jalen's hands and let's go," McVey said. "Give it a shot. That's our quarterback and we trust him. He did a great job making it happen."

"It was a big choice to take that shot," added Milroe, who had connected with McMillan on a 50-yard

laser moments before to put the Falcons into Katy territory. "It shows that Coach McVey has confidence in the offense, and I love him for that."

Milroe never ceases to amaze even his teammates, who get to watch him every day in practice.

"He's unreal," senior defensive back and fellow team captain Colby Huerter said. "Seeing him make the plays he made, it's unbelievable."

It wasn't long after that touchdown to McMillan that Milroe knew his team had the win in the bag. In the fourth quarter, he looked over at the Katy sideline and saw something he'd never seen before.

"Seeing their heads going down ... we feed off of energy. One of our core values we have on our wrists is 'high energy,'" Milroe said. "Their heads dropped, and it was key for us to keep pushing."

Milroe has performed exceptionally against Katy the last two seasons. In last year's 35-30 loss, he completed 19 of 28 passes for 405 yards and three touchdowns to one interception. That defeat lingered with him and his team, all through a global pandemic and a delayed start to his senior season.

When the opportunity finally came around to play Katy again, after the game was rescheduled three times due to COVID-19, Milroe was ready.

"It's his senior year and he's worked extremely hard during this offseason," McVey said. "He's doing his homework, the extra stuff he's supposed to be doing. He's just growing. It's that mental game, and I thought the game really slowed down for him."



Tompkins senior safety Colby Huerter (14) takes down Katy High sophomore running back Seth Davis (23) during their game Nov. 5 at Legacy Stadium.

**FALCONS**

from page A1

That game promoted Tompkins seven spots in the Class 6A state poll to No. 7 as the Falcons improved to 6-0 overall and 4-0 in 19-6A. Katy dropped seven spots in the state poll to No. 10 as the Tigers fell to 5-1 overall, 2-1 in district.

The game also put Tompkins into the MaxPreps Top 25 national rankings, at No. 25, and pushed out Katy, which was ranked No. 6 nationally before the game.

Tompkins' program-defining win was two years in the making. Ever since last season's 35-30 loss to Katy, the Falcons knew they had what it took to beat Katy.

That was their inspiration. To be the best, you've got to beat the best, as the timeless cliché goes. And the Falcons worked, tirelessly and punishingly, during the offseason and every practice and game to claim that No. 1 spot.

"I told them all the stuff I put them through in offseason, this is the reason why," Tompkins coach Todd McVey said. "That's the stuff we're proud of, and their efforts."

One of the program's off-season traditions are "Falcon curls," something that brings a wince to every player when mentioned.

Following intense weight room sessions, McVey puts his players through a "gut-check workout" in which they do various amounts of curls with three bars, ranging from 95 to 135 pounds. They do 3-5 sets, with no release of the bar or else the workout is restarted. They start with the 135-pound bar, move on to the 115-pound bar and then the 95-pound bar.

One time, the Falcons had to do those 3-5 sets nine times before being dismissed.

"Guys come into this district saying they want to beat Katy, but they're not willing to say what they are going to do to beat Katy," said Tompkins senior quarterback and Alabama commit Jalen Milroe, who completed 17-of-23 passes for 209 yards and three touchdowns. "We came in saying we're going to beat Katy, and it came from the confidence of this entire team and program. We had heart and we played as a family."

The Falcons simply outplayed the Tigers. "At times, it didn't look like us," Katy coach Gary Joseph said. "We just didn't play well enough to win. It



Tompkins senior running back Marquis Shoulders leaps past Katy High sophomore defensive back Arian Parish as he breaks into the open field during their game Nov. 5 at Legacy Stadium.

was a good game. We had opportunities to win. We had the ball with four minutes left in the game at the 40-yard line with a chance to win and we didn't do it."

Katy outgained Tompkins in total yards, 386-306, but Tompkins had fewer penalties (two for 15 yards to Katy's five for 25) and no giveaways to Katy's two.

Tompkins' veteran defense took advantage of the inexperience of Katy sophomore quarterback Caleb Koger, who completed just 7 of 14 passes for 81 yards and a touchdown to two interceptions. Koger, making just his fifth start of the season, played well beyond his years in the previous four games—he entered the Tompkins game with no interceptions in 54 pass attempts—but against Tompkins, he struggled reading coverages. The Falcons played more man defense than they usually do to mix defensive looks with their typical zone alignments.

"It was just us not being afraid," said senior defensive back and team captain Colby Huerter, whom McVey said gave his team a passionate speech during halftime, when Tompkins led 14-10. "They're a really good team, obviously. But our offense played phenomenal and our defense held them. That's all that matters."

Milroe was spectacular. He and McMillan burnt Katy's secondary all night long. It was that dynamic duo that provided the dagger with 54 seconds left in the third quarter.

Ahead 17-13 on 4th-and-17 from the Katy 30-yard line, McVey went for it. With pressure closing in, Milroe stayed poised out of the shotgun, gathered himself and aired out a bomb to McMillan just beyond the goal line at the front of the end zone, justifying his coach's faith and putting his team ahead 24-13.

"Big time players make

big-time plays in big games," McMillan said.

On the next Katy drive, Tompkins junior defensive lineman Sean Dubose got his second sack to force a punt. Tompkins punted on its next drive, and then the Tigers struck when Koger found Taylor Saulsberry on a 17-yard score with 4:41 left.

The two-point conversion pass attempt was almost intercepted. Katy forced another Tompkins punt on the next possession and its offense took over on its own 38-yard line with 3:49 left.

The Tigers used senior running back Jalen Davis, who was brilliant all evening with 238 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries, to methodically drive down the field. But on 4th-and-13 from the Tompkins 47-yard line, Koger was sacked by senior defensive lineman Justin Bevrutte with 2:02 left, turning the ball over on downs with no timeouts left and handing the Falcons a hard-earned win.

"As much as anything else, I hope they take away from this that you have to play your game," Joseph said of his players. "You can't try and be somebody you're not. I talked to some of the kids and that's what they said; they were trying to do too much. You don't need them to do too much. You need them to be who they are. Hopefully they learn from that."

Senior defensive back Dru Polidore said the Falcons came into the game knowing what would happen.

"We came in knowing we belonged in a game like this," Polidore said. "This is no surprise to us. It's just another win."

The Falcons wanted to come back with a vengeance after last year's tough loss, Polidore said. Take care of business, he said.

They did. "It feels pretty good," Huerter said about the magnitude of the win. "About time, that's all I've got to say."

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SPORTS

# Play-in game looms for Paetow

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

In a matter of a week, Paetow went from playing to keep its district championship hopes alive to playing for a playoff berth.

The Panthers fell to No. 5 state-ranked Richmond Foster, 28-10, on Nov. 7 at Legacy Stadium. The win awarded the Falcons winners of Zone A in District 10-5A, Division I. Foster (6-0) plays Manvel, winner of Zone B, for the district title this week.

Paetow, meanwhile, suffered just its first loss of the season and stands 5-1. The Panthers will play Angleton at Wildcat Stadium in Angleton in a playoff play-in game at a date and time to be determined. The game was supposed to be played Saturday, but a COVID-19 case reported within Angleton ISD on Monday postponed the game to a later date.

Winner of Paetow-Angleton earns a playoff berth. Loser is eliminated from postseason contention.

The district decided to split its nine teams into zones this season in order to accommodate flexible scheduling because of the pandemic.

"It's 2020, man. Every day is a new deal," Paetow coach B.J. Gotte said. "It's like the playoffs, which is odd, but it really is. If you win, you move on. If you don't, you go home."

Paetow led Foster, 10-7,



Paetow coach B.J. Gotte and the Panthers suffered just their first loss of the season with a 28-10 setback to No. 5 state-ranked Richmond Foster on Nov. 7 at Legacy Stadium and now stand 5-1.

when junior Anthony Fuentes nailed a 40-yard field goal with 9:30 left in the third quarter.

And then it was all Falcons.

On Foster's next series, senior running back Xavier Smallwood scurried 24 yards untouched up the middle to put the Falcons ahead to stay. Less than four minutes later, Foster senior quarterback Philip Amy found Ethan Newton for a 62-yard score on third down.

And with 1:26 left in the third, senior receiver and Oklahoma commit Cody Jackson scored the second of his two touchdowns on a 47-yard catch-and-run to cap the scoring.

Foster outscored Paetow in the third quarter, 21-3, to win the game.

"We were with them in the first half, and in the second half they just outplayed us," Paetow senior running back Damon

Bankston said. "They came out after halftime more ready than we were."

The Panthers struggled to get anything going offensively. Bankston had 171 of Paetow's 187 total yards of offense. He was a headache for Foster's defensive front seven, averaging 6.3 yards per carry and scoring the Panthers' only touchdown, but had little support.

Junior quarterback C.J. Dumas Jr. completed just 11 of 26 passes for 125 yards. The Panthers fumbled four times, losing all four. A generally stingy Paetow defensive front did not manage to get much pressure on Amy, who completed 15 of 23 passes for 206 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

Foster totaled 438 yards. Jackson caught only four passes for 67 yards, but set the tone early when a direct snap to him

on the game's first play from scrimmage resulted in a 70-yard burst down the visitors sideline for an early 7-0 Falcons lead 12 seconds into the game.

"It's my fault, from the get-go," Gotte said. "I should've called timeout. I was about to. The center and quarterback are on the side... it's obvious. That's on me. Our kids responded well from that, and we were in the game. But we just learn from it."

Bankston said the Falcons had more skill, but he felt the Panthers had more heart.

"We just died out in the second half," Bankston said. "We'll learn from it. We need a harder week of practice; we need everybody focused. We need a practice week of no errors."

Gotte was proud of the way his kids competed. Yes, Foster was as fast, well-coached and dynamic offensively as advertised, but he added his team also suffered from self-inflicted mistakes, like poor alignments on defense and poor fundamentals up front.

"I don't like losing, but I can deal with it if our kids can learn from it," Gotte said. "We've got to bounce back and we've got to refocus. Our goals are still in front of us, as far as making the playoffs and making a run."

Paetow must rebound. Its season is on the brink.

"Everybody is disappointed," Bankston said. "But we'll get our spirits back. Nobody in that locker room is happy, but we'll be ready, and we have to."

## H.S. FOOTBALL STANDINGS

AS OF NOV. 11

DISTRICT 19-6A	DISTRICT		OVERALL		SCORING	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
x-Tompkins	4	0	6	0	189	47
x-Taylor	4	1	6	1	250	143
Katy	2	1	5	1	262	68
Mayde Creek	1	2	4	2	187	140
Seven Lakes	1	2	1	4	91	183
Cinco Ranch	1	3	1	5	69	208
Morton Ranch	0	4	1	5	121	186

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 10-5A, D1	OVERALL		ZONE		PLAY		SCORING	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA		
x-Richmond Foster	6	0	4	0	234	65		
Paetow	5	1	3	1	220	90		
Terry	3	2	2	2	121	121		
Kempner	2	3	1	3	113	130		
Wisdom*	0	4	0	3	14	171		

x-Manvel	4	1	2	0	200	148
Hightower	2	3	1	1	193	201
Angleton	4	2	1	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. 11

TEAM OFFENSE	GP	Rushing		Passing		Total	Average
		Yds	Att	Yds	Att		
Mayde Creek	6	1286	1198	2484	414.0		
Katy	6	1519	849	2368	394.7		
Tompkins	6	1385	873	2258	376.3		
Taylor	7	1398	1222	2620	374.3		
Paetow	6	1275	845	2120	353.3		
Morton Ranch	6	1224	388	1612	268.7		
Seven Lakes	5	490	702	1192	238.4		
Cinco Ranch	6	67	1162	1229	204.8		

TEAM DEFENSE	GP	Rushing		Passing		Total	Average
		Yds	Att	Yds	Att		
Katy	6	359	822	1181	196.8		
Tompkins	6	571	669	1240	206.7		
Paetow	6	799	447	1246	207.7		
Mayde Creek	6	584	819	1403	233.8		
Taylor	7	1246	894	2140	305.7		
Morton Ranch	6	1085	1045	2130	355.0		
Seven Lakes	5	1368	540	1908	381.6		
Cinco Ranch	6	1106	1192	2298	383.0		

TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL	GP	Takeaways		Giveaways		Diff.
		Yds	Plays	Yds	Plays	
Taylor	7	17	6	6	+11	
Tompkins	6	12	7	7	+5	
Katy	6	10	6	6	+4	
Paetow	6	10	7	7	+3	
Mayde Creek	6	15	16	16	-1	
Morton Ranch	6	8	11	11	-3	
Seven Lakes	5	3	6	6	-3	
Cinco Ranch	6	8	14	14	-6	

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING	Carries	Yards	Avg.	TD
Bankston, Paetow	110	886	8.1	8
S. Davis, Katy	80	622	7.8	6
Shoulders, Tompkins	77	617	8.0	9
J. Davis, Katy	79	608	7.7	10
Whitaker III, Taylor	96	592	6.2	7
Christopher, Mrtm Ranch	71	398	5.6	3
Smith, Tompkins	58	391	6.7	5

INDIVIDUAL PASSING	P-A-Int	Yards	Pct.	TDs
Jensen III, Taylor	88-130-1	1182	67.7	12
Rutherford, Cinco Ranch	65-141-6	958	46.1	8
Milroe, Tompkins	55-89-1	865	61.8	7
Dumas Jr., Paetow	54-102-2	775	52.9	7
Koger, Katy	41-67-2	682	61.2	10
Beltran, Seven Lakes	57-97-2	592	58.8	2
Wilson, Morton Ranch	16-32-1	313	50.0	3

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING	Catches	Yards	Avg.	TD
Irving III, Taylor	27	560	20.7	3
Abboud, Cinco Ranch	25	414	16.6	4
Salverino, Cinco Ranch	20	399	20.0	2
McMillan II, Tompkins	18	336	18.7	4
Anderson, Katy	17	315	18.5	3
Medford, Seven Lakes	25	271	10.8	1
Whitaker III, Taylor	26	262	10.1	2

## VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

AS OF NOV. 11

DISTRICT 19-6A	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
x-Seven Lakes	10	0	16	0
x-Katy	10	2	13	3
x-Tompkins	7	4	13	6
x-Cinco Ranch	7	5	8	8
Taylor	3	8	5	13
Mayde Creek	3	9	5	12
Morton Ranch	0	12	3	16

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched district title

DISTRICT 19-5A	DISTRICT		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
x-Magnolia	11	2	14	6
x-College Station	10	3	15	4
x-Magnolia West	9	3	16	4
x-Brenham	8	4	15	4
Bryan Rudder	6	7	13	9
A&M Consolidated	3	9	7	12
Paetow	1	11	2	17
Waller	1	11	4	14

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched district title

# Youngstown-bound Johnson eager for senior season

By DENNIS SILVA II  
SPORTS EDITOR

Every now and then, when he's struggling with his swing or simply has an inquiry about the game of baseball, Katy High senior Jack Johnson will call or text a legend.

Whether it's Major League Baseball's all-time hits leader Pete Rose, 10-time all-star Steve Garvey or Hall of Famer Tony Perez, it doesn't matter. Greatness is at Johnson's disposal, and he soaks it in whenever he gets the chance.

"The older you get, you make different adjustments. That's something Pete's shared with me," Johnson said. "In high school, adjustments are game-to-game. In college, adjustments are at-bat-to-at-bat. In the pros, adjustments are swing-to-swing. It's about being more and more meticulous and aware."

Johnson has known Rose and Perez since 2016, when they helped with the then-start-up Hit King Baseball Academy, which was co-founded by Johnson's father, Johnny. George Foster, a former MVP and World Series champion, was also a part of that group.

Foster attended Johnson's junior high basketball games and gave him baseball lessons in the backyard. Johnson was introduced to Garvey when he attended Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez's induction into the baseball Hall of Fame in the summer of 2017.

"All of these baseball guys

are like a band of brothers, or a fraternity," Johnny said. "Jack reaches out from time to time, they answer his calls or text him back to give advice."

Johnson is a baseball junkie, falling in love with the sport at 3 years old and now an all-district third baseman and catcher for the Tigers.

Before the 2020 high school baseball season was abruptly canceled in the spring, Johnson hit .341 with eight RBIs and a .545 on-base percentage in 17 games. He can hit from either side of the plate.

His true value, however, may come defensively. He has a POP time (the time taken from the moment the catcher receives a pitch to when the ball is thrown into the glove of the second baseman) of 1.88 seconds, which is well above-average, and his throws from home plate to first base are timed at 4.01 seconds, another above-average mark.

Johnson's all-around game drew the attention of Youngstown State coaches three months ago. On Oct. 15, he committed to the school.

"It's been a 3-4-year process for me," Johnson said. "For sure, it's always been a dream school for me."

Johnson visited Ohio often as a kid. His uncle used to live in Youngstown. The university is known for its top-10 engineering program, a field Johnson wants to study, and its affordability and NCAA Division I baseball

program. It made for the ideal fit for Johnson, who began emailing Youngstown State coaches his freshman year.

Johnson was recruited as a catcher and utility player. He's excited about his new home in "picturesque" Ohio. But priority No. 1 is his upcoming senior campaign as a Tiger. Johnson even chose to bypass competing in travel ball this fall to spend his time and effort with the Katy High training program.

Johnson said the COVID-19 global pandemic has brought the team closer together. There are plenty of chips on shoulders. A lot of players, some of the most talented on the Tigers, are getting overlooked in recruiting, Johnson said, because of all the dead periods for recruits during the pandemic.

Johnson said it's heartbreaking to not see guys fulfill their dreams. But that has been a source of inspiration as well, knowing that they still have a senior season as Tigers to showcase their talents and, hopefully, determine their futures in the game.

"We've never been as collective as a team more, as far as single-minded in the same goal, and there's a huge team unity this year," Johnson said. "It's been great."

Johnson said the Tigers derive great motivation from last season's sudden end. The Tigers were 12-3-2 when the season was shut down.

"During the offseason, when school shut down and we couldn't be with our team programs, it made you rely more on your friends and teammates," Johnson said. "Nobody was go-

ing to tell me to get up and go lift weights or work out or run and hit and throw. You depended on your teammates to work out together, and that's what we did."

Johnson made the Tigers' varsity team as a freshman in 2018—no easy feat considering the program's stature as one of the finest in Region III—and has maintained an upward progress in his career, leaning on Rose whenever necessary.

Not surprisingly, Rose has been a particularly significant influence in Johnson's hitting. Johnson said Rose taught him six ways to approach an at-bat: move up closer to the pitcher, move back towards the umpire, move up closer to the plate, move away from the plate, choke up on the bat, choke back down on the bat.

Their relationship has grown to where Johnson considers Rose a close friend. Rose affectionately refers to Johnson as "My boy Jackie."

"He's a really nice guy," Johnson said. "Super goofy, really funny. I enjoy talking to him."

During the spring and summer, Johnson took advantage of the pandemic, which closed schools and encouraged social distancing, to hone his craft at home, where he has a hitting cage in the backyard. He lifted weights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He ran sprints every day. He also had a throwing program he attended to consistently each week.

"I want to see continued growth for myself," Johnson said. "As a team, I want to win, and so do my teammates. I think we're going to do a pretty darn good job of that this year."

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**REGIONALS**

from page B1

and second, respectively, in the three-mile race.

Atkinson, a Virginia commit, won with a time of 17:04.3. She has not lost a race this season.

"I wanted to use it as an opportunity before state," Atkinson said. "I'm pleased with my effort, being a more difficult race because of the tough, rocky terrain with a steady incline for 800 meters. Three loops of that. I went out a little too fast, but I'm glad I learned that lesson that maybe that's not the best strategy. It was definitely a learning lesson going into a bigger race."

The Cinco Ranch team also includes junior Alison Mueller (18th, 19:25.0), sophomore Helen Ulrich (19th, 19:26.7), senior Camila Corser (32nd, 19:59.2), sophomore Lindsay Krippner (51st, 20:52.8) and junior Natalia Corser (85th, 22:06.5).

"This team has been really cohesive about helping each other be able to reach goals individually, so the team can prosper," Cinco Ranch girls coach Dana Mathis said. "That might be the difference for us."

Nielson, an Arkansas commit, finished second with a time of 17:41.1. Nielson missed the district, regional and state meets due to injury last season.

Nielson has five second-place finishes and a first-place finish in her six meets this season.

"It's amazing how dominant they are," Mathis said of Atkinson and Nielson.

"You think back to when they were freshmen, young and tiny, and just beasts. They've continued to grow and work hard. They've never peaked through any of this. They're dedicated to what they're doing and super dedicated to their team."

Individual girls state qualifiers from Katy ISD are Katy junior Isabella Rubio (third, 18:17.1), Tompkins senior Addison Stevenson (fourth, 18:32.8), Seven Lakes junior Katie Fitzpatrick (eighth, 18:47.9), Katy freshman Maddy Hunter (10th, 19:02.0) and Tompkins senior Hayden Gold (17th, 19:22.5).

Gold is the Tompkins girls program's first four-time state qualifier.

"Hayden had an immediate impact on our team," Tompkins girls coach Amy Pitzel said. "She finished her freshman year as our top runner at regionals and state. She was our No. 1 runner her sophomore year."

"She has incredible leg speed and has worked on adding strength and endurance by adding more mileage this year. She's running her fastest as a senior."

On the boys side, Tompkins' finished third as a team. Atascocita won first with 60 points, followed by Strake Jesuit with 75.

Tompkins boys coach Walt Yarrow said there's a different feeling this time around for his runners. More of a sense of urgency.

Because of the pandemic created by COVID-19, the UIL limited team qualifiers this postseason. Instead of three teams qualifying



The Tompkins boys cross country team finished third at the Region III-6A meet in Huntsville on Tuesday to book its ticket to state.

**KATY ISD ON TO STATE**

(Katy ISD state qualifiers are in bold)

**REGION III-6A QUALIFIERS**

**GIRLS**

**TEAM QUALIFIERS**

Cinco Ranch, 62 points

Kingwood, 80 points

Clear Falls, 85 points

**INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS**

**3. Isabella Rubio, Katy jr., 18:17.1**

**4. Addison Stevenson, Tompkins sr., 18:32.8**

6. Arlette Concepcion, Pearland Dawson sr., 18:38.4

7. Allie Weinhardt, Stratford fr., 18:42.4

**8. Katie Fitzpatrick, Seven Lakes jr., 18:47.9**

9. Summer Call, Atascocita fr., 19:00.9

**10. Maddy Hunter, Katy fr., 19:02.0**

15. Haley Harkrider, George Ranch jr., 19:14.1

16. Madison Haldiman, George Ranch so., 19:18.7

**17. Hayden Gold, Tompkins sr., 19:22.5**

**BOYS**

**TEAM QUALIFIERS**

Humble Atascocita, 60 points

Strake Jesuit, 75 points

**Tompkins, 90 points**

**INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS**

1. Emanuel Galdino, Stratford jr., 15:07.7

3. Noah Heileab, Pearland Dawson jr., 15:14.7

**4. Ruben Rojas, Seven Lakes jr., 15:15.8**

5. Austen Cannon, Pearland Dawson sr., 15:21.0

6. Sam Whitmarsh, Brazoswood sr., 15:33.8

**8. Ethan Boyd, Cinco Ranch sr., 15:38.1**

10. Cody Ayers, Clear Falls so., 15:53.7

**11. Adrian Hahn Vadstein, Cinco Ranch so., 15:55.7**

16. Sean Gambrell, Clear Springs sr., 15:59.2

21. Benjamin Countiss, Cypress Creek sr., 16:00.6

for regionals at the district meet, it was two. And instead of four teams qualifying for state at the regional meet, it was three.

"That's the biggest factor," Yarrow said. "You have to rev it up and be at your best. It's a different animal. There was some cushion before. But we really have had to bring our best both meets, and it can be difficult to hold that intensity, keep the training load, the recovery ... all that. It's a slippery situation with fewer spots."

Yarrow said his team didn't run its best at regionals. The mindset has been to look at each meet as a stepping stone to state instead of the end-goal, he said. Instead of keying on district or regionals as their own entities, the big-picture goal is Round Rock.

Tompkins senior Gavin Saacke finished second with a time of 15:08.8. Senior Ben Smith (25th, 16:08.2),

junior Noah Howard (27th, 16:14.4), junior Connor Augustine (28th, 16:14.8), junior Jackson Torti (38th, 16:30.0), junior Omar El Miloudi (47th, 16:40.4) and junior Colton Howard (124th, 18:53.2) round out the Falcons.

"Gavin ran well. He was going for the win, and I think it'll fuel him for state," Yarrow said. "Last year, he was sixth. This year, he's second. It'll give him some extra incentive. Jackson Torti ended up our fifth guy and he was really a game-changer. We had some challenges in our fifth-sixth-seventh runners. Torti had been our seventh runner at district and was our fifth at regionals. That was huge. He was a big reason why we were able to advance."

Of Tompkins' seven runners, four competed at state last year as sophomores. Saacke finished sixth overall as a junior.

**BATENHORST**

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on New Year's Day in Orlando, Florida.

The 6-foot-4 Batenhorst is averaging 6.6 kills per set with a .372 hitting percentage for the 16-0 and No. 4 state-ranked Spartans. She ranks second on the team in serving aces with 20 and averages 4.2 digs per set, also good for second on the team.

Batenhorst has recorded 30 or more kills in a game twice this season.

"It's my last season and I want to leave it all out there," Batenhorst said. "I want to finish strong before college, and I do believe we can make another run at state. I really want to do that."

For her four-year varsity career, Batenhorst is averaging 5.4 kills and 3.1 digs per set with 239 total blocks and 158 total aces.

But this season, she has played better than she ever has. Batenhorst is setting career-best marks in kills and digs per set, hit percentage and kill percentage (48.5).

"She's more versatile, being that she can move anywhere along the net and get a good swing," said Seven Lakes coach Amy Cataline, who also praised her star player's humility and leadership. "She's more flexible with the different options along the net."

Batenhorst and her team returned to the court on Nov. 4 for the first time since beating Katy, 3-1, on Oct. 16. Since then, the program had to suspend activities and postpone district games due to an outbreak of COVID-19 cases. The school recently temporarily shut down campus for three days because of the disease.

"It's crazy. It's insane how weird this has all been," said Batenhorst, who said she did not get sick. "Everything is

unknown and always changing. But our team is mentally stable. We don't focus on the future. We focus on the now and ourselves. I think we're pretty good staying level-headed."

Batenhorst said she sees similarities between this year's Spartans team and the 2017 team that lost in the state championship game when she was a freshman.

"This year's Spartans are strong on serve-receive and the defense gets better with each game. Other than veteran stalwarts in Batenhorst and younger sister and junior setter Casey, Seven Lakes has benefited from the standout play of junior hitter Emma Schroder, and senior middle blockers Katarina Teahen and Mayo Olibale.

"I felt this year, we had the talent," said Batenhorst, who said this year's team is similar to the '17 club in its mindset and drive to get to the state tournament. "But I also think we're executing really well, and a lot better than I thought. We're a really solid team."

Since her freshman year, Batenhorst has dealt with great expectations. The PrepVolleyball.com National High School Freshman of the Year honor was "super cool" and one of her favorites, and it set the standard. It put Batenhorst on the radar.

And, as each season has gone on, she has done nothing but thrive, and perhaps even surpass expectations, in the spotlight.

"Freshman year, I was careless, just doing my own thing and not thinking about much at all," Batenhorst said. "As I got older, I realized the expectations and I understood I had a responsibility to fulfill that. I've definitely had ups and downs with everything, but I try to not think about that. It's volleyball. Just play my game, play for the fun of it and think of always improving myself."

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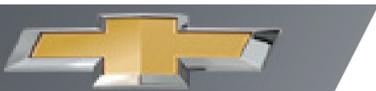


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