

KATY VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS INTO AREA ROUND
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

2 charged in child murder and neglect case

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Gloria Yvette Williams, 35, and Brian Ward Coulter, 31 – both of Harris County – have been arrested and face charges in the death of Williams' 8-year-old son after investigators were contacted by the boy's 15-year-old sibling on Oct. 24. The young boy had been dead for what authorities say is about a year in an apartment at 3535 Green Crest Drive, just south of Barker Reservoir.

"For many agency veterans, it was the most disturbing scene they worked in their entire law enforcement career," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez during an Oct. 27 press conference. "It seemed too horrific to be real."

See **ARRESTS**, page A3



BRIAN WARD COULTER



GLORIA YVETTE WILLIAMS



R. HANS MILLER

Katy Christian Ministries staff members place roses in vases as the names of Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties residents who died from domestic violence over the last year were read. Ministry staff and law enforcement officials said the last 18 months since the pandemic began have seen a dramatic increase in violence in the home.

KCM's Silent Witness event honors those lost to domestic violence

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Dozens of community members went to Katy Christian Ministries' Silent Witness event at Westland Baptist Church. The annual event honors those who lost their lives to domestic violence and those who are fighting against the problem in the community and included a proclamation from Katy Mayor Bill Hastings regarding the event.

"This proclamation recognizes that every one of our residents deserves to live and live free from violence and abuse," the mayor said.

Chief Prosecutor for the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office Chad Bridges provided the keynote speech during the event which included silhouettes scattered throughout the church representing the victims of domestic violence who had lost their lives to abuse. Bridges said the last 18 months since the pandemic began has seen an increase in domestic violence

"When they're ready to get away from that situation, then they know we will be there for them."

— SUSAN HASTINGS, KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES' CRISIS CENTER DIRECTOR

has jumped up to about 5,200 cases – a 50-60% increase.

"And because of this, my prosecutors are tired, and my police officers are tired, and my victim-witness advocates are tired, and they struggle," Bridges said.

Bridges applauded his staff, law enforcement officers and victim advocates for not giving up despite the exhaustion they're feeling.

Over the last two years, Bridges said the Fort Bend District Attorney's Office has worked to change how first contact with potentially abused residents is approached. The DA's office, law enforcement and other victim support groups worked with experts to innovate and modernize standard procedures for law enforcement, prosecutors and staff to help individuals dealing with violence in the home improve their situations.

First Lady of Katy and director of Katy Christian Ministries' Crisis Center Director Susan Hastings said in a follow-up interview that

See **WITNESS**, page A3



R. HANS MILLER

The Royal STEM Academy would have been remodeled and updated with several repairs made to the aging building had voters approved a \$99.5 million bond on Nov. 2. However, voters denied Royal ISD's Proposition A with nearly 60% of voters casting ballots against the bonds.

Royal Bond a bust as Texas Constitution amended 8 times

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Eight amendments to the Texas Constitution were solidly approved by Texas voters on Nov. 2. Meanwhile, voters went to the polls in Royal ISD to determine whether the district would

receive authorization for a proposed \$99.5 million bond package to add new campuses and refurbish others – and said no to the bond.

Ballots against the bond were cast by 494 (57.24%)

See **ELECTION**, page A3

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Harris County adopts new precinct map

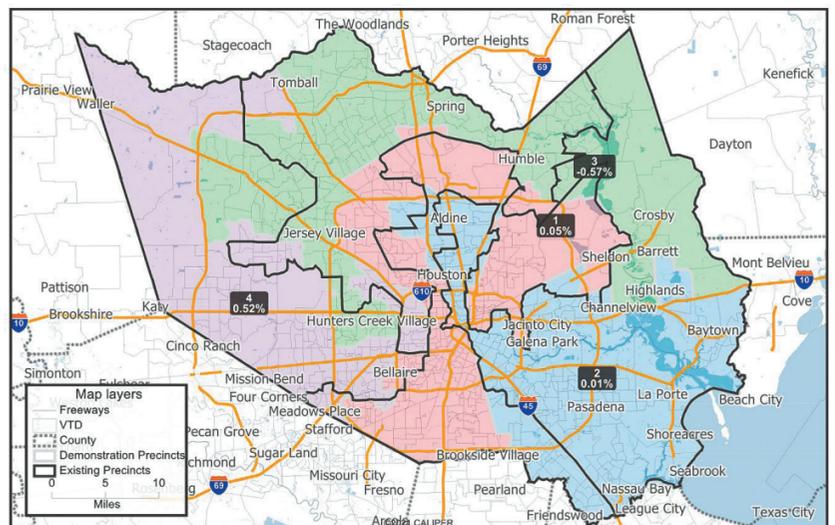
Katy area moved mostly into Precinct 4

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In a 3-2 vote along party lines, the Harris County Commissioners Court adopted a new precinct map proposed by Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. During a heated two weeks of meetings allowing for public input and debate involving county residents, commissioners and County Judge Lina Hidalgo, several maps were proposed with the one that was finally adopted placing the Harris County portion of the city of Katy in Precinct 4, against the wishes of Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey.

"I think the process – at this point – is corrupt. Corrupt in the sense that there's a map that's been generated, referred to as Commissioner Ellis's Map (One), a week ago," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey during an Oct. 21 special meeting of the

See **PRECINCT MAP**, page A3



HARRIS COUNTY

Harris County Commissioners voted along party lines to adopt the map above which was proposed by Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. This was Ellis' third map proposal after Republican commissioners on the court described his initial proposal as "corrupt" and implied that it was gerrymandered in favor of Democrats.

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Harmony now enrolling

Harmony Public Schools is now enrolling for the 2022-23 school year. The STEM-focused charter public school is tuition free but requires an application process. The charter school — the largest charter group in Texas — has one active location in Katy. Harmony also recently broke ground on a new location on Nov. 1 at 22855 Elyson Falls Drive in the Elyson subdivision on FM 529. The new 59,000-square-foot elementary will be followed by a 90,000-square-foot middle and high school building. First classes at the elementary are expected to start in August of 2022.

A&M program receives award

Texas A&M's Education Abroad Program has been selected for Diversity Abroad's Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion in International Education Award, according to a press release issued by the university. The recognition reflects the university's efforts to address inequities in international education programs.

"We congratulate the 2021 EDIIE Award recipients for their work to democratize global education and ultimately unlock the doors of opportunity for the students they serve," said Andrew Gordon, CEO and founder of Diversity Abroad, a membership organization that assists young people from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds to pursue global education.

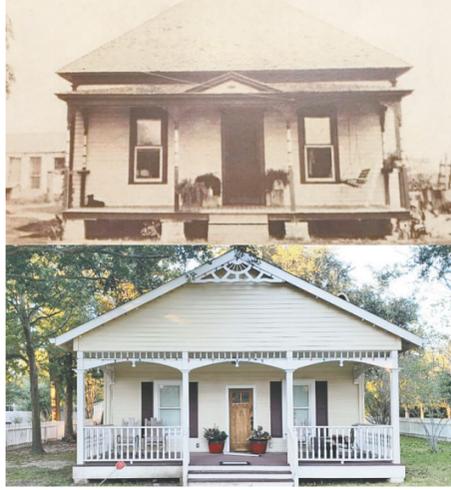
The university also announced record enrollment for the fall 2021 semester with 73,284 students enrolled at the college — a 3.1% increase from last year's 71,109 students.

UHV Katy to host Jaguar Day

UHV Katy will host an open house from 3:30 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 4. Representatives from the Recruitment, Financial Aid and International programs will be available to answer questions for prospective students and their families. Attendees may choose from three time slots by visiting www.uhv.edu/virtual.

—FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy City Council approves purchase of historic home



COURTESY CHRIS HARRIS

The purchase of the Fussel home at 5402 Franz Road was approved by Katy City Council on Monday, Nov. 1. The home has a long history in Katy and was once considered to be out in the country, though Katy has since expanded around the home. The Fussel home many years ago was surrounded by a hedge and had a less finished porch. Generations of the Fussel family grew up in the home which has witnessed much of Katy's growth over the last century.

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

In a brief Monday afternoon meeting, Katy City Council unanimously approved the purchase of a historic home located at 5402 Franz Road for \$350,000 and the purchase of a tractor and trailer for a total of \$22,750. Both purchases will be paid for out of the city's reserve fund.

"The Parks Department employees are going to be there and it's also going to be used for a learning center," said Katy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris. Harris added that the new tractor and trailer will be used by the city's Parks Department to help maintain parkland around the city.

Harris said the building is the historic home of the Fussel family who worked in the rice farming business when the house was still considered to be out in the country.

The lot the home is located

on is about 1.24 acres and is just east of the Katy Branch Library on Franz Road, according to city documents. Harris said the property is situated near park spaces such as Katy City Park, the Katy Off-Leash Dog Park and Mary Jo Peckham Park as well as the library, other public buildings and an arboretum. It is also a short walk from Katy Junior High School and just more than a mile from Katy Elementary School.

President of the Katy Heritage Society, Adrienne Davitz, said she is glad the city is working to ensure the historic home will be maintained. She also hopes the city will involve the society in efforts to preserve the property, which was the childhood home of a former first lady of Katy.

"It is one of the historical homes that we have on our marker system that was done during the Texas sesquicentennial," Davitz said.

Boardwalk Lofts opens near Katy Mills

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Boardwalk Lofts announced its opening in the Katy Boardwalk District on Monday, Nov. 1. The apartment complex offers 319 units in one, two and three-bedroom floorplans according to a press release.

The complex was built by Sueba USA and is located at 122 Lakeview Way, just south of Katy Mills Mall. The 16 floor plan options range from 480 to 2,087 square feet. Apartments feature chef-inspired kitchens with under-mount sinks, tile backsplashes, stainless steel appliances and granite

countertops. Ceiling heights range from nine to 12 feet. Patios and balconies are available in some residences as well.

Amenities offered at the new complex include multiple pools, a spa, verandas with outdoor kitchens, a net café, a 24-hour CrossFit-inspired athletic center, a business conference center with a catering kitchen, social areas and WiFi in all common spaces.

The four-story mid-rise also offers storage rooms, valet trash service, a parking garage and electric car charging stations.

In addition to its proximity to ma-

ior employment centers, Boardwalk Lofts' location within Katy Boardwalk District provides residents immediate access to the Katy Mills, Typhon Texas Water Park and the Katy area's retail and dining centers.

With the completion of Boardwalk Lofts, Sueba USA has now developed more than 10,000 units in Greater Houston since 1984. Other current projects under construction include San Tierra at 1616 Partnership Way in Katy and San Estrella at 13475 Rincon Drive in the Energy Corridor.

Visit www.boardwalklofts-katy.com for more information.

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will be closed Thursday, November 25 in observance of
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Deadline for all advertising in November 25th issue is
Wednesday, November 17 at 4 p.m.
We will also close at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 26.
Deadline for display advertising in December 2nd issue is Friday, November 26 at Noon
Best Wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Texas Renaissance Festival
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Discounted Tickets available at TexRenFest.com
Kids get in Free on Sundays!

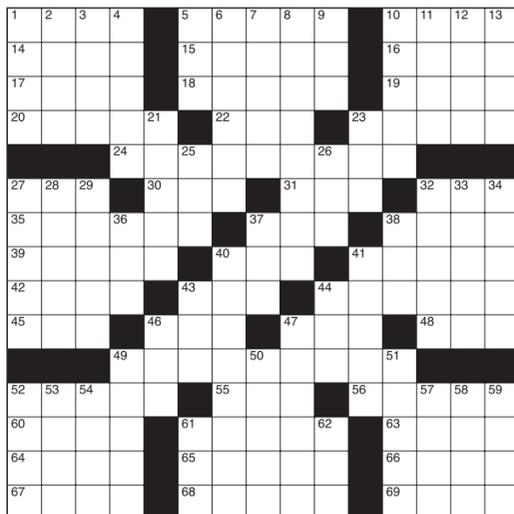
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear undersea weapon
- President of Syria al-__
- Partner to flows
- "Snow" in Welsh
- Famed Mexican painter
- Song
- ticks outward from the crown
- Doddering
- Resist authority (slang)
- Antsy
- Wrath
- Spills the beans
- Past
- The woman
- One has 24 hours
- Talk
- It can sting
- Astronomy unit
- Halfway
- Chinese dynasty
- Australian river
- Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
- Fabric
- Crucifix
- Defunct European economic group
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Michael Knight's car
- Actress Ryan
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Insecticide
- Scientific instrument
- Golden-__ corn
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Sword

CLUES DOWN

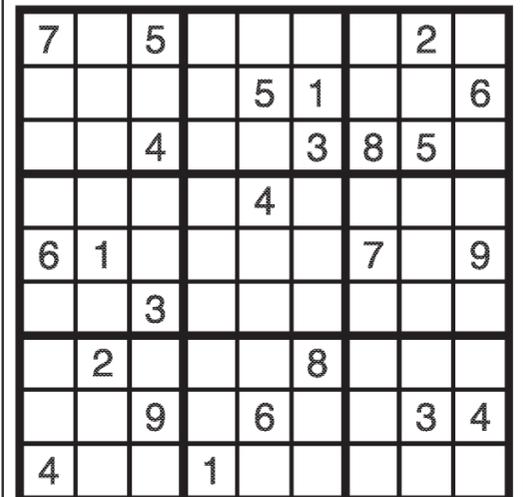
- One point east of southeast
- Italian monetary unit
- Warship prison
- Tropical American tree
- Alias
- Normal or sound powers of mind
- English county
- Not compatible with
- Female deer
- Not late
- La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
- Impudence
- Advises
- Founder of Babism
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Male parent
- A type of plug
- Capital of Vietnam
- Fungal disease
- Shelter
- Finished
- Excrete



- Unhappy
- Partner to cheese
- Coffee receptacle
- Spend time dully
- Makes full
- Snakelike fish
- Take in solid food
- __ student, learns healing
- A way to take away
- Impart a lesson to
- "Transformers" actress Fox
- Spiritual leader
- Every one of two or more things
- Indian city
- 17th stars
- Weapon
- Amounts of time
- Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

ARRESTS

from page A1

Gonzalez said there were three children, ages 15, 10 and 7, found in the home and that at least two of the children – he did not specify which – were on the autism spectrum. The teenaged boy had managed to call and report that the three boys had been left alone in the apartment for about a year and that his younger brother's body was in the apartment.

When investigators arrived, they found the three living siblings were malnourished and the 10-year-old showed signs of recent physical abuse that investigators believe was caused by Coulter. The 10-year-old's jaw was seriously injured, and surgery would be needed to get it to properly heal, said Sgt. Dennis Wolford of the HCSO Homicide Division.

Wolford said that it appeared the two younger children had not been permitted to leave the apartment since November 2020. He added that he suspects fear caused the teenaged boy not to call earlier because of a pattern of abuse in the situation.

Williams and Coulter were located on Oct. 24 and released without charges because not enough evidence had yet been collected to file charges, Wolford said. They were later arrested on Oct. 26 without incident after investigators had gathered enough evidence to file charges. The two had been living in a separate home from the children a little over 20 minutes away.

Williams is facing charges of injury to a child by omission, injury to a child with serious bodily injury and tampering with evidence. The last charge references the fact that her son's body was hidden in the apartment while the other children resided in the home. Her bail has been set at \$300,000 and Williams remains in custody at the Harris County jail. Her next court date is set for Nov. 5.

Williams has been charged with murder in the death of Williams' 8-year-old son and is also being held at the Harris County Jail. His bond has been set at \$1 million. His next court date is set for Dec. 15.

WITNESS

from page A1

it is common for the victim advocates on her staff to get attached to the clients they work with. When a victim doesn't make it out of their domestic violence situation safely, it hits staff members hard, she said. Management at the ministry was glad to have a program in place to help with difficult situations when a client is killed, she said.

"When that happened, I had several pastors come in and visit with the staff and pray with them," Susan Hastings said. "I had some of our colleagues that are (licensed) counselors; they came in and met with all of us and we just worked through it and dealt with it together."

Susan Hastings also said domestic violence is a difficult thing to pull clients out of. Many of the people her staff work with either grew up in a situation where that type of violence was the norm. Additionally, the level of mental control an abuser has over their victims is often over-

whelming she said. As a result, the person being abused doesn't fully realize how out of the ordinary their situation is, she said. KCM's staff work to help victims recognize their situation and improve their lives.

"We want them to be able to know that that is not a normal way to behave with someone," Susan Hastings said. "It is not love when they do that."

Susan Hastings recommended that anyone seeing someone being abused immediately call 9-1-1 to ensure the victim's safety. In less urgent situations, if someone believes someone is being abused, they can reach out to KCM through their two hotlines (281-391-4357 for domestic abuse and 281-693-7273 for sexual abuse). The ministry will then work to connect the victim with services and to provide for their safety, including finding ways to ensure the person being abused can discuss things subtly with those working to help them. The

main thing, she said, is to reach out and make sure they know they're not alone.

"When they're ready to get away from that situation, then they know we will be there for them," Susan Hastings said.

At the end of the Silent Witness event, the names of those in Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties who died from domestic violence were read by representatives of Harris County Constable Ted Heap's office while roses were placed in vases for each name.

Harris County saw 37 documented cases of death from family violence, followed by Fort Bend at seven deaths and Waller with one death. Texas saw a total of 228 deaths statewide, according to the Texas Council on Family Violence.

KCM staff said they hope all those numbers decline.

"No more roses would be perfect," said KCM Board President Patti Lacy.

ELECTION

from page A1

of the district's 863 voters with 369 (42.76%) voting in favor of the proposition.

Had the bond been approved by voters, it would have gone to construction of a new pre-kindergarten to fifth grade elementary, a new junior high school, renovations to the existing junior high, the district's Early Childhood Center, STEM Center, Royal Elementary and expansion of the RISD Transportation center.

Those facilities are all in disrepair due to age and a lack of funding, according to district officials. Superintendent Rick Kershner, who took the lead at RISD in August of 2020, said during multiple community meetings that the infrastructure in existing buildings needed serious repair and the district would have to expand its campuses to handle oncoming growth as at least 10 new subdivisions spanning more

than 4,000 acres are being built within RISD's physical boundaries. Those developments include Freeman Ranch and Crystal Lakes.

That population growth is expected to double or more the size of RISD's student body in the next several years, RISD officials said.

With the additional land value in the district as industrial and residential sites are improved, the district anticipated being able to reduce its ad valorem tax rate by about a penny per \$100 in value. However, in discussions with the public, multiple community members said they were concerned about tax bills going up despite the rate decrease due to increases in property value as assessed by the Waller County Appraisal District.

With the passage of the state-level propositions, the Texas Constitution will:

- Allow sports teams' charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles at sporting events.

- Allow counties to finance the redevelopment of infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted areas.

- Disallow limiting religious gatherings via executive orders at the state or lower levels.

- Adjusts qualifications to become a justice with the Texas Supreme Court and other high courts.

- Grants additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct regarding candidate eligibility.

- Allow residents to designate an essential caregiver that cannot be denied entry into an assisted living facility.

- Exempts the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services who is killed in the line of duty from paying property taxes.

PRECINCT MAP

from page A1

commissioners court. "Clearly – clearly – it is obvious to everyone that's the map preferred by the majority of the court."

Ramsey referred to Ellis's initial proposal which would have had Precinct 4 stretch from Katy, north to Highway 290 then east to encompass Tomball, Spring and Crosby, then south again to Baytown. Ramsey expressed concerns that not only would the proposed map compress Precinct 3 but would also expand Precinct 4 to encompass too many square miles for Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle and his staff to maintain from a roads, parks and services standpoint. Additionally, both Republican commissioners expressed concern that the initial proposal from Ellis would take two majority-Republican precincts and make them lean Democratic or make races in those precincts tighter.

In response, Ellis – a Democrat – said he had used software to develop an initial plan and had not intended to

gerrymander the precincts, but rather to even out the populations of the districts in such a way as required by law after census results are released. Additionally, he said his initial plan would even out populations in the county's four precincts after growth in the county had brought its population to about 4.7 million people.

In subsequent meetings, commissioners lessened partisan rhetoric as they debated adjustments to proposed maps from all four of them which came about as a result of public testimony and efforts to compromise between court members. All four commissioners indicated that they felt it was important to keep what they called communities of interest such as school districts, municipal utility districts, cities, villages and historically recognized neighborhoods under individual precincts rather than splitting them. This included keeping drainage tributaries such as Buffalo Bayou and Barker and Addicks reservoirs under one commission-

er's authority.

For much of the debate, County Judge Lina Hidalgo, a Democrat, listened and observed. However, she did point out that she agreed with assertions made by Ellis and Garcia that proposed maps needed to correct what they asserted was gerrymandering of precincts after the 2000 and 2010 censuses. She also indicated a partisan reason for her vote in favor of Ellis's third map which was adopted Oct. 28, referring to an earlier disagreement along party lines this year when Ramsey and Cagle threatened to break quorum unless taxes were not cut more than proposed by Democrats.

"I think, despite your concerns, that 'Ellis Three' is the better map, because I am concerned that your party is on a race to the bottom to literally not be able to pay for lifesaving services when you're rejecting a tax cut – Cut! – so that you can defund the hospital district by \$17 million in the middle of a pandemic," Hidalgo said.



Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 163 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Brazos Room, Houston, Texas. *Members of the public may attend the hearing in person. Due to Covid-19 virus epidemic emergency and the high threat level warnings issued by various governments and agencies, members of the public may also attend this hearing by telephone at 866-390-1828, Access Code: 7607880. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: C. Maluski, J. Hundl, R. Patrick & A. Yoder

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: (none)

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.900 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.890 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.010 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$559,382	\$606,089
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$559,382	\$606,089
Tax on average residence homestead	\$5,034.44	\$5,394.19
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$359.75 7.1458%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

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



Meet Tim Davis, RICP®, CLU, Safe Money Expert.

Tim is a Houston-based expert on how to de-risk your retirement portfolio and avoid stock market losses.

Are you ready for an unpleasant surprise?

A crucial component of both retiree and pre-retiree financial well-being is having enough money set aside to cover unanticipated expenses.

Although the pandemic generated greater awareness of the need for an accessible emergency fund, 75% of Americans in a recent survey admitted they have little to no money set aside.

Even the smallest of unexpected expenses set back those unprepared for short-term money emergencies. Anything from burst pipes, malfunctioning air conditioners, vet bills and other situations can turn an otherwise solid retirement plan sideways.

Time to take a review and be honest with yourself. Do you have enough funds set aside for retirement?

Talk to your advisor about ways you can be better prepared to handle life's curveballs.

Tim Davis is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to safe money strategies for retirement.

daviscapitalcorp.com tdavis@daviscapitalcorp.com (281) 665-3133

Interested in additional information?

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Protecting Medicare Advantage is advocating for seniors

The senior community needs champions. Despite being one of the most significant voter groups in the country, the senior community often feels ignored when it comes to policy. This happens both in terms of failing to give seniors the space to voice their opinions over what policies they prefer and in ensuring they are made aware of policy decisions happening around them.

Because of this, I have dedicated much of my life to ensuring the best quality of life for seniors and their families by advocating for senior wants and needs, and ensuring their voices are heard where policies are being decided.

One of the greatest successes in the fight for improving the lives of seniors has been widespread enrollment in Medicare Advantage.

Medicare Advantage is the only program that connects seniors with benefits and services that will improve their health and does so without asking for high premiums or absurd out-of-pocket costs.

Through Medicare Advantage, seniors are able to access an array of services that work not only to help them if they get sick but to promote better health outcomes through preventative care as well.

The coverage provided by Medicare Advantage gives seniors access to integrated hearing, vision, and dental benefits, gym memberships, wellness programs, in-home caregiver support, innovative telehealth options, and provides a cap on out-of-pocket costs.

Additionally, the program continues to adapt to meet the current needs of the senior population. During the most challenging months of the pandemic, Medicare Advantage provided beneficiaries with prescription drug and grocery delivery services, allowing seniors to stay healthy while remaining physically safe in the comfort of their homes.

With the extensive benefits the program provides, it is no surprise that 94% of the 27 million seniors currently enrolled are satisfied with their coverage.

When a program is meeting the needs of a community to this extent, we should be doing everything we can to encourage more seniors enroll and

VIOLA
HEBERT

TEXAS
SILVER-
HAIRED
LEGISLATURE



Cuts to this program could result in millions of seniors losing access to affordable healthcare coverage. And making cuts to this program would be moving backwards in the fight to improve and enhance the lives of seniors and their families.

continue garnering community support. The more seniors who are made aware of this program, the better we can address senior healthcare needs.

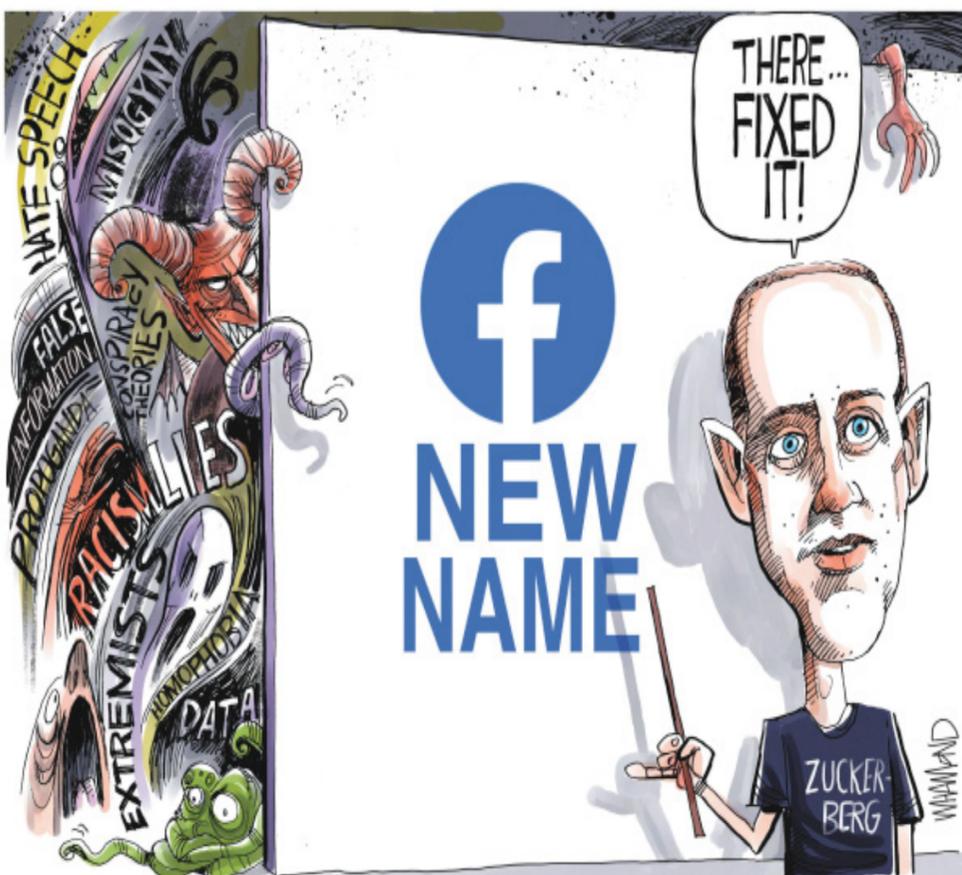
Medicare Advantage is exactly the type of program that should be highlighted by our lawmakers. And yet, there are discussions occurring over potential cuts to the program.

Now, I understand - here in Texas, and across the country, we have a lot of work to do. But if Congress wants to be solving problems, then they shouldn't be considering making cuts to a program like Medicare Advantage.

Cuts to this program could result in millions of seniors losing access to affordable healthcare coverage. And making cuts to this program would be moving backwards in the fight to improve and enhance the lives of seniors and their families.

I hope Congress remembers their commitment to bettering the lives of American seniors and continues to fight for Medicare Advantage.

Viola Hebert is a registered nurse and member of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, Houston/Harris County.



Do you hate intersections too?

When my high school classmates obtained a driver's license, it was not uncommon to hear a teacher opine, "Oh, they must be having a sale at Sears."

Judging by the deplorable examples of road etiquette I've witnessed, maybe the teachers weren't so far off about the low bar set by testers.

I have pontificated about slow drivers, speed demons and motorists who think turn signals are the Mark of the Beast. But today I'd like to vent about intersections.

Instructions about right-of-way are readily available, but most drivers treat them as if they're as obscure as silverware protocol for hosting the Duke of Wellington. I suspect that regardless of whether motorists are listening to Adele, Garth Brooks, Dave Brubeck, Led Zeppelin or Jay-Z, they have a dash of Frank Sinatra's "I Did It My Way" careening between their neurons.

When approaching an intersection with no traffic light, I tend to slow down, so there is no question who arrived first. But circumstances are not always so clear-cut.

One website suggested that when multiple vehicles arrive at an intersection simultaneously - and you can't depend on everyone obeying the rules - eye contact can be a useful indicator of driver

DANNY
TYREE

SPECIAL
TO THE
KATY TIMES



intent. Sadly, what I usually see is befuddled drivers reciting, "Lefty loosey, righty tighty...er, leaves of three leave it be...spring forward...um, 'i' before 'e' except after 'c'..."

The same website indicated that it is also okay for one driver to motion another to proceed through the intersection, but I am leery of deference contests. I am reminded of the vintage comic strip "Alphonse and Gaston" (1901-1937). The two Frenchmen were sickeningly polite, and hijinks ensued as the pair invariably got into an infuriating "No, after you" exchange. I fear that if the other driver changes his mind or an unexpected motorist gets involved, the phrase "See ya in the funny papers" would be replaced with "See ya in the obituaries."

Road rage can overflow when there's an impasse, but tried-and-true gestures don't work with some of these mental giants. ("That fellow needs...a splint. Mildred, I'll leave the car parked in front of this firetruck and take him one...")

It's almost enough to make you ban perpendicular streets

and resign yourself to a lifetime of wistfully wondering what's going on with all those unreachable parallel roadways. ("Maybe... maybe those neighborhoods have possums that actually know how to cross the road.")

Intersections with traffic lights are equally nerve-wracking. I keep getting stuck behind people who are mesmerized with their cellphone long after the light turns green. Cellphone lost its charge? No problem! Get out the Ouija Board and have a long chat with Alexander Graham Bell!

If I have rolled to a complete stop at a red light, with aspirations of making a left turn, the oncoming driver waits me out like I'm going to snap and go demolition derby on him. I've tried my best to appear less intimidating. I've spent a fortune on moisturizer and Fred Rogers sweaters. Maybe I should switch my "I brake for flying insects" bumper sticker to the front of the car.

Yes, I can think of worse things than more frequent re-certification of drivers.

"I got my license renewed and they threw in a Kenmore washer! Dang! I forgot to strap it into the back of the pickup truck! See ya in the State Farm 'Hall of Shame.'"

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrees@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Katy Times

SUSAN ROVEGNO | Publisher
R. HANS MILLER | News Editor
TYLER TYRE | Sports Editor
DEBBIE PREJEAN | Office Manager/
Bookkeeper
MARISSA FERREIRA | Page designer

EDITORIAL INTERN:
Nitya Hosur

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

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Dale was not above taking advantage of events



KATYTIMES.COM

KISD students raise funds to help those facing homelessness

BY R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Katy ISD junior high students that participate in junior honor society programs at McMeans, Beck, Katy, Seven Lakes and Stockdick junior high schools collected gift cards totaling nearly \$5,300 to donate to Hope Impacts, a local nonprofit that helps those facing homelessness during what organizer, John Erskine, says is hoped to be an annual tradition.

"This was the first year to undertake a service project such as this one, and I'm extremely proud of what our students were able to accomplish. We plan on doing it again, and when we do, it will be bigger



and better each time," Erskine said.

The gift cards will allow the nonprofit to help clients out by providing them opportunities to use gift cards at Chick-Fil-A, Walmart,

McDonald's, Whataburger, Target, Subway, HEB, Sonic and other area retailers said Hope Impacts founder and executive director, Tina Hatcher. Gift cards are a good way

to give to the nonprofit because it allows staff and volunteers to provide support to those facing housing challenges in a dependable way. Gas cards and meal cards can help those facing homelessness get to much-needed new jobs or get a break from their situation by treating their children to meals and a chance to play on a restaurant's playscape, Hatcher said. She added that the gift cards help the nonprofit manage its budget efficiently.

"That's (ordinarily) money that comes out of our budget that we don't necessarily have," Hatcher said. "We don't get any federal or state funding so government support isn't what we get, so it's local support that we rely on."

Hatcher said the gift cards also help incentivize clients to come to education and support programs they otherwise might not prioritize because it allows the nonprofit to provide gift cards when participants in those programs engage fully.

Erskine said he and his fellow honor society leaders and the students at their respective campuses are excited to make the gift card drive an annual event that helps students engage in supporting members of the community.

"The goal of this, and similar initiatives, is to foster the idea of taking a proactive approach to issues, such as hunger, in our community as opposed to ignoring them," Erskine said.

TRIBUTE

Wilma was born March 18, 1939 and passed away October 25, 2021.

Born in Denver, Colorado, survived by husband of 62 years, Monte. Resident of Houston - Katy since 1972. Parents: Roy & Ann Gist, Bullhead, Az. Mother of 3 boys: Timothy, wife Vickie; James, wife Ana; Douglas, wife Nancy. Grandchildren: Ashely, Brittany, Cody, Veronica, and Zachary. Brothers: Clayton, wife Shirley; Walter, wife Jeanette. First-cousin Betty Haligas family matriarch of Denver, Colorado, and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

School: California North Hollywood Valley College, President Delta Phi Sorority. Served for 24 years as Alief ISD APA in the Special Education Department.

Some of her many credits include Volunteering for 45 years with Texas SOTX Volunteer/Coach, SOTX Sports Competition Management Instructor, 7 years Texas SOTX Board of Directors. Was vice president Family-owned busi-



WILMA ROYALYN GIST IKNER
1939-2021

ness - All Microwave Center, Houston. An usher at Parkway Fellowship Church, a member of PALS 55+ ministry for 10 years, as well as a lifetime member of H.L.S.R.

Wilma loved to be outdoors, always movin' and shakin'. Traveling was one of her favorite hobbies; she loved seeing how other people lived and their world around them. Wilma was VP of Heritage Travel Club, traveling in 37 countries over 12 years. Earlier fond mem-

ories also included exciting weekends with her loving family at Lake Livingston Marina Village and tubing the Guadalupe River. Wilma always put "family first."

Memorial Service: Thursday November 4, 2:30 p.m. at Parkway Fellowship Church 27043 FM 1093 Richmond, TX 77406 Intersection of FM 1463 and FM1093 832-222-9282

In lieu of personal attendance, streaming will be available on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at Parkwayfellowship.com/live. Scroll down and find Wilma Ikner service Thursday 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations accepted by: **Katy SOTX Wolf Pack** 22918 Governorshire Drive Katy, TX 77450 and **Parkway Fellowship Church** 27043 FM 1093 Richmond, TX.77406 Condolence messages may be sent to rememberwilmakaty@gmail.com.

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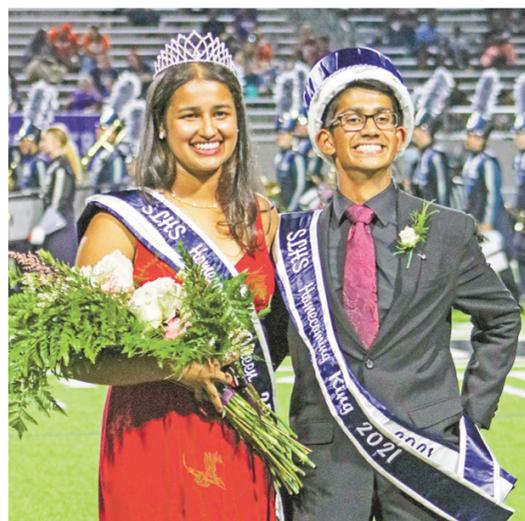


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COURTESY ROYAL ISD

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jordan High School did not have a homecoming king and queen this year because it does not yet have a senior class. Congratulations to the students above on their honors and the Katy Times wishes them a happy, healthy and memorable senior year.

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Cinco Ranch clinches playoff berth

Rutherford enjoys record-breaking night

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch got together as a team a week after the season last year and made a commitment.

After winning one game over the course of two years, Chris Dudley wanted his team to leave all the baggage from past teams into the offseason.

The team embraced that attitude and pushed through the offseason, through summer strength and conditioning and into the season.

That buy in has paid off for the Cougars, as the team clinched its first playoff berth since 2017 by beating Morton Ranch 55-16 on Friday night at Rhodes Stadium.

"It hit me with about a minute to go that we did it," Dudley said. "It's a great feeling for the community and a great feeling for the players and parents who have been supportive. I'm just so proud of the coaching staff, because there were a couple years

there where it was rough. To have the kids be able to enjoy this moment, it's a special thing. I'll never forget it."

There was never a doubt in any Cougar players mind on if the team could make the playoffs, it was just a matter of how it would get done. On Friday, a big part of that answer, as it so often has been this year, was Gavin Rutherford.

The quarterback had the best game of his career in the biggest moment of his career, throwing for 435 yards and six touchdowns while rushing in another score.

The six touchdowns and 423 yards passing both broke single game records for Cinco Ranch as Rutherford continued to shine as a junior.

See **CINCO**, page B2



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES
Cinco Ranch's Sam McKnight carries the ball during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

Katy sews up at least share of district title

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Judson Ceyanes came off the field after recording a sack and looked on to the field.

The senior linebacker then watched as his brother JR reeled in a 31-yard touchdown catch.

The Ceyanes' had a big day on Thursday as both made a difference in Katy's 67-17 win over Taylor at Legacy Stadium, as Katy continued to stay undefeated on the season.

"It's awesome," Judson said, "It's so great to be running off the field, look up and see him scoring. It was really cool to see. He was telling me the same thing, it was definitely a good feeling."

Judson has multiple sacks on the night, while JR caught four passes for 62 yards and two touchdowns on the night.

The two have both played big roles on the team this year, but had yet to have big games simultaneously.

"It's honestly crazy," JR said. "We hadn't had a game where we both had fully played to our best, but tonight was that night. It was just a crazy feeling being able to sit down on the bench after a touchdown, look up and see him getting a sack. It's just crazy."

Katy started the night off with a bang, as it took three plays for the team to drive the field before Caleb Koger threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to JR.

After forcing a three-and-out, the Tigers looked to be driving for another touchdown, but a muffed snap was recovered by Taylor



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES
Katy's JR Ceyanes makes a reception during a District 19-6A game between Katy and Tompkins at Legacy Stadium.

and the Mustangs. Taylor capitalized on the turnover, as Tyler Irving ran in a touchdown to tie thing up at the end of the first quarter.

But Seth Davis took over from there, as the Katy running back rattled off touchdown runs of five-yards, 32-yards and 46-yards in the sec-

ond quarter before to help Katy pull away. Leading Davis along the way, as he does every week, was Isaiah Smith, who plays an integral position for Katy at fullback.

See **KATY**, page B5

WEEK ELEVEN SCORES & SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

District 19-6A
• Katy 67, Taylor 17
• Seven Lakes 50, Mayde Creek 10
• Cinco Ranch 55, Morton Ranch 16

District 10-5A, Division I
• Manvel 33, Paetow 28

District 12-4A, Division II
• Sweeny 28, Royal 20

Non-District
• Jordan 55, Pieper 0

Thursday, Nov. 4

District 19-6A
District 10-5A, Div. I
• Paetow vs. Angleton, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium
• Mayde Creek vs. Tompkins, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Friday, Nov. 5

District 19-6A
• Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium
• Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

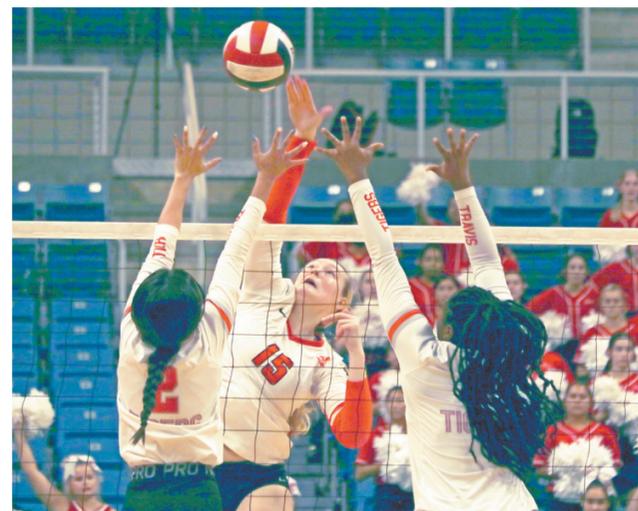
District 12-4A, Div. II
• Royal vs. Wharton, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 6

• Jordan vs. Davenport, noon, Legacy Stadium

VOLLEYBALL

Class 6A, Bi-District
• Katy 3, Fort Bend Travis 0
• Cinco Ranch 3, George Ranch 2
• Ridge Point 3, Seven Lakes 0
• Tompkins 3, Fort Bend Austin 0
Area
• Katy vs. Cypress Creek, TBD
• Tompkins vs. Stratford, TBD
• Cinco Ranch vs. Cy-Fair, TBD



TYLER TYRE
Katy's Jordan Gamble spikes the ball during a bi-district match against Travis on Monday at the Merrell Center.

Katy sweeps Travis to start playoff run

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy has been focused on two things all season. Get to the playoffs and play your best volleyball once you get there.

"We lost some people last year but gained some people this year," said Maddie Waak, a senior captain. "It's been a really good season so far and I think that we can go just as far as we did last year."

The Tigers achieved their first goal, finishing second in district and got off to a good start in the playoffs Monday, sweeping Fort Bend Travis in three sets: 25-12, 25-21, 25-16 in the Class 6A bi-district round of the playoffs.

"We really were trying to finish fast. We wanted to start off strong and finish strong so we could end it in three sets," Chandler Lee said. "The second thing we were trying to do is just worry about each point. Instead of looking ahead and worrying about finishing, we wanted to just keep our mind on the present and keep doing well with every point in front of us."

Katy took a commanding lead in the first set and didn't look back, easily gaining the advantage.

The second set was a different story though. Katy struggled out of the gate and Travis continued to build a lead and was up 18-12 when Katy took its second timeout of the set.

The Tigers came back and

reeled off seven straight points to take the lead back and eventually won the set 25-21.

"We had to get back to the basics," said senior Libero Izzy Denton. "We had to make sure to get a good pass, get a good set and get a good hit. You can't do anything without a pass, so I just tried to do that for my setters and they did their job. I just got to watch from the back."

A key point in the second set was when Maddy Chaapel made a diving save of a ball headed at the scorers' table. Katy eventually turned what looked like a Travis point into a Tigers point and the team's confidence continued to

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B2



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Cinco Ranch's QB Gavin Rutherford delivers a pass during a conference game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

CINCO

from page B1

"I can't even put into words what it means," Rutherford said. "But I really can't do it without my team, without my coaches and my line and my receivers. My job is just to get the playmakers the ball and let them do what they can do and what I know they can do. I depend on my line and they did whatever they could for me. I'm so proud of them and this is really up to them. I can only do so much, this is really something for everybody around me. I just love my team and we all love each other. This is a real brotherhood."

Cinco started the game off with an interception and Rutherford didn't take long to take an impact, throwing a touchdown pass to Grayson Williams on the Cougars' opening drive.

Morton Ranch answered back with a touchdown on a Santana Scott 8-yard run and made it a one-point game, but Rutherford threw a 23-yard touchdown pass on the next drive to give Cinco Ranch more distance.

Morton Ranch again trimmed the lead to one early in the second quarter, but from there, the Cougars switched into a different gear.

Rutherford threw touchdown passes of 21 yards, 48 yards and 24 yards in the second quarter to Noah Abboud, Seth Salverino and Fischer Reed, before Morton Ranch's Juan Arriaga kicked a 38-yard field goal as time expired in the half and Cinco Ranch went into the half with a 34-16 lead.

Rutherford and Cinco Ranch didn't slow down in the second half. Rutherford ran in a 1-yard touchdown to start the third quarter before Sam McKnight scored late in the fourth quarter. Rutherford broke the passing yards record on the next drive and broke the passing touchdowns record when he threw an 18-yard touchdown early in the fourth to Salverino.

"Special, that's what (Rutherford) is right now," Dudley said. "He's really developed into an outstanding football player and outstanding leader. What he does off the field is just as impressive as what he does on the field. To have a quarterback at this level make it look effortless is so impressive. He's poised and his knowledge of the game is mature beyond his years. He's just scratching the surface and can still get better and I can't wait to see that."

Senior safety Fordham Parks made an interception midway through the fourth and Cinco Ranch ran out the clock from there.

"It felt really good because last year I wasn't able to clinch the game for us," Parks said. "It just felt really good but I only got that pick because of my defensive line and linebackers. They got pressure on the quarterback. I wouldn't be able to do anything without those guys."

After the game, Fordham and the other seniors that have been on varsity for three years stood up in the locker room and were recognized by their teammates for going through the lows and getting to the highs of the program.

"The guys that have been through that mean so much to us, they're all such leaders and they've been through those trials and tribulations," Dudley said. "Fordham is a guy that leads with how he plays on the field."

He gets everyone lined up in the secondary and he makes those splash plays in both the run and pass game. He's got tremendous speed and instincts and his game has grown tremendously from his junior year to his senior year.

The Cougars know there is work to be done, but for now, they are savoring the moment.

"We know how good we could be and all the work we have put in is finally showing," Rutherford said. "When our offense plays like we can and our defense stops them like we know we can, when we mesh like this it feels great. Our team is at a great point right now and we've all come together and it's showing."

Cinco Ranch 55, Morton Ranch 16

Cinco Ranch	14	20	14	7	--	55
Morton Ranch	6	10	0	0	--	16

First quarter

Cinco: Gavin Rutherford 57 pass to Grayson Williams (Santiago Taborda kick) 6:55

Morton: Santana Scott 8 run, 3:50

Cinco: Rutherford 23 pass to Noah Abboud (Taborda kick) 3:10

Second quarter

Morton: Ryan Hall 1 run (Juan Arriaga kick) 11:42

Cinco: Rutherford 21 pass to Abboud (Taborda kick) 9:47

Cinco: Rutherford 48 pass to Seth Salverino (Taborda kick) 5:06

Cinco: Rutherford 24 pass to Fischer Reed, 1:36

Morton: Arriaga 38 field goal, 0:00

Third quarter

Cinco: Rutherford 1 run (Taborda kick) 9:25

Cinco: Sam McKnight 21 run (Taborda kick) 1:43

Fourth quarter

Cinco: Rutherford 18 pass to Salverino (Taborda kick)

Team stats

	Cinco Ranch	M. Ranch
First downs	16	19
Yards rushing	17-53	45-236
Yards passing	435	85
Passes	16-22-6-0	10-26-0-2
Punts	4-31	4-37
Fumbles-lost	2-0	1-1
Penalty-yards	6-45	7-60

Individual Statistics

Rushing - Cinco Ranch: Sam McKnight, 6-42-1; Eric Eckstrom, 5-8; Gavin Rutherford, 6-3-1; Morton Ranch: Santana Scott, 27-109-1; Josh Johnson, 12-95; Ryan Hall, 4-37-1; Juan Arriaga, 1-(-5)

Passing - Cinco Ranch: Gavin Rutherford, 15-21-423-6-0; Jack McCall, 1-1-12-0-0; Morton Ranch: Josh Johnson, 10-26-85-0-2

Receiving - Cinco Ranch: Seth Salverino, 5-192-2; Fischer Reed, 5-115-1; Noah Abboud, 4-59-2; Grayson Williams, 1-57-1; Dylan Kripki, 1-12; Morton Ranch: Santana Scott, 3-29; Cameren Hudson, 2-28; Mike Gerald, 4-23; Josiah Mills, 1-5;

VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

grow from there.

"I turned around and realized that the ball was heading out and wasn't on our side of the court anymore, and I was just like 'oh shoot, I can still get this and help us get the point.' I just did my part and got to it."

Katy didn't let Travis keep it close in the third set, the Tigers took an early lead in the set and kept pushing it, easily earning the sweep.

"We did overall we did a great job," said Katy head coach Karen Paxton. "Our setters did a great job moving the ball around, our middles did a great job on the block and it allowed a lot of splits for Chandler and Maddie on the right side. Defensively, we had some players that were able to keep the

ball and help us in long rallies. It prevented them from going on any kind of three or four point runs. We also were really smart with shot selection."

Katy will take on Cypress Creek in the third round, date and time to be determined. The Tigers have a wealth of experience on the team having made it to the regional final last year, and they are looking forward to every match in front of them.

"The key for us is to just play our game," Denton said. "We can't lose sight of what our goal is at the end of the day. We have to go one team at a time and take it that way. We can't talk about what teams we could play in the future and only focus on the team we are playing next. We'll be ok if we do that."



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KATY ISD

WEEK ELEVEN PREVIEWS



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Seven Lakes Spartans running back Barrett Hudson (5) delivers a stiff arm to Mayde Creek Rams defensive back Ryan Waters (31) on a 27-yard touchdown run during a game between Mayde Creek and Seven Lakes on October 29, 2021 in Katy, Texas. Seven Lakes won, 50-10.

Playoffs decided heading into final week

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Thursday

District 10-5A, Div. I

Paetow (8-1, 6-1) vs. Angleton (7-2, 5-2), 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Paetow's undefeated season and search for its first outright district title came to an end last week, as the Panthers fell 33-28 to Manvel in an extremely close matchup. Paetow struggled for the first time all year, allowing 33 points and not being able to dominate on the ground. CJ Dumas went 9-20, throwing for 160 yards but also throwing an interception. And the Panthers defense was unable to stop Manvel, as they allowed Kaeden Smith to throw for 201 yards and De'Monte Seymore to rush for over 100 yards.

Despite the loss, Paetow can clinch a share of the district title with Manvel and Hightower with a win over Angleton this week. The Panthers will look to get back to basics and dominate with the run game along with shut down offenses like they had all season leading up to the Manvel game.

District 19-6A

Mayde Creek (4-5, 2-3) vs. Tompkins (8-1, 4-1), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Tompkins has already secured its spot in the playoffs, and knows it will be the number one 6A, Division I seed out of District 19-6A no matter what happens in its regular season finale against Mayde Creek. The Falcons had their bye week after beating Seven Lakes 44-0 two weeks ago and come into the last week of the season with new legs.

The team has developed a good balance in the run and pass game, they are still pass first, with Cole Francis having thrown for 1975 yards and 19 touchdowns over the teams nine games so far, but Caleb Blocker, Collin Marshall and Wyatt Young have all showed strong things in the run game, especially Blocker. The sophomore has 625 yards and nine touchdowns on 108 carries so far.

Mayde Creek has struggled this year but has seen good things out of Carldell Beard the past two weeks, the junior has thrown for over 200 yards in each of the games, but will need to cut down on his turnovers, as he threw three interceptions in the two games. The run game for Mayde Creek has not been strong all season and they will continue to try to figure that out as they take on Tompkins.

Friday, Nov. 5

District 19-6A

Morton Ranch (4-5, 2-3) vs. Katy (9-0, 5-0), 6 p.m., Legacy Stadium

Katy has already clinched a share of the district title and has a chance to make it an outright championship against Morton Ranch on Friday. The Tigers also know they will go into the playoffs as the No. 1 seed in the Division II bracket out of the district. Katy comes off a trouncing of Taylor and will look to continue that against Morton Ranch. Seth Davis is already over 1600 yards on the season and will be looking to rack up as many as he can and get to 2000 once the playoffs start. Caleb Koger has 1185 yards and 15 touchdowns this year and Antonio Silva leads the team with 449 receiving yards and six touchdowns.

Morton Ranch is out of playoff contention after its loss to Cinco Ranch last week and is just playing for pride at this point. It's been a great season from Santana Scott who has 1196 yards rushing and 295 yards receiving, both tops on the team. Mike Gerald has a chance to get to 1000 yards passing on the season if he passes for 51 yards against Katy.

Cinco Ranch (6-3, 3-2) vs. Seven Lakes (6-3, 3-2), 7 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes both locked up their playoff positions last week and so this game won't be of the most importance to either. Cinco Ranch, with its huge win over Morton Ranch, locked up the second seed in the Class 6A, Division II bracket and with Seven Lakes win over Mayde Creek, Seven Lakes will be the second seed in the Division I bracket. For Cinco Ranch, Gavin Rutherford is almost to 2000 yards passing on the year and has thrown 21 touchdowns to just two interceptions on the season. Seth Salverino has 836 yards receiving and nine touchdowns and has a chance to get to 1000 yards receiving in the playoffs.

Seven Lakes has a run first approach to their offense, sophomore Barrett Hudson has been great in the run game, and has 729 yards and five touchdowns this year while Michael Amico, Grayson Medford and Marcel Davis also all have over 100 yards rushing. Medford has been steady in the pass game, throwing for 805 yards and six touchdowns so far this year.

Saturday, Nov. 6

Jordan (2-6) vs. Davenport (6-3), noon, Legacy Stadium

Jordan notched its second win of the season last week against San Antonio Pieper, putting up 55 points and clinching a shutout. The Warriors will finish up their first varsity season against Davenport, who they narrowly lost to 52-45 earlier this season.

Bi-district volleyball

CINCO RANCH COMES BACK FROM TWO SETS DOWN, TOMPKINS SWEEPS, SPARTANS FALL

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Down two sets to zero to George Ranch, Cinco Ranch didn't panic.

Head coach Danielle Wells let her team talk in the huddle and remained confident in them.

"I didn't go in there and give any speech, as a coach I let them talk and I let them figure it out," Wells said. "Before we went into this match, I told them that they had to do the things that we practice, at that point they weren't doing that. They talked about it and they came together after that."

The chat between the players worked, as the Cougars (19-17) won the next three sets to take home a thrilling five set victory over George Ranch (28-14) in the Class 6A bi-district round on Tuesday at the Merrell Center.

All five sets were within six points as Cinco Ranch won 24-26, 20-25, 25-21, 25-19, 15-10 to advance.

The Cougars led the majority of the first set before George Ranch mounted a comeback to win 26-24. George Ranch controlled the second set, but Cinco mounted a furious comeback, but that wasn't enough as the Longhorns took a two set to zero advantage.

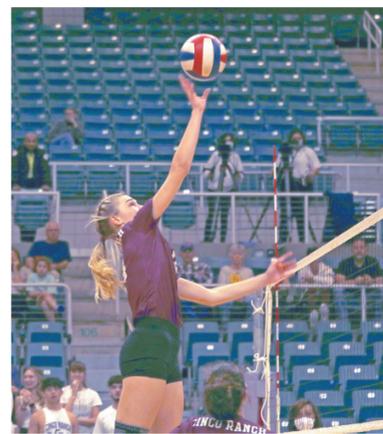
"We just went into the huddle and talked about keeping the intensity," said junior libero Kayla Atkinson. "We knew we had to clean things up a bit on our side and go out there and play our game. We knew if we did that we'd have a shot."

The Cougars switched up their defense and it paid dividends. George Ranch made a match of things, as Cinco only led 17-16 at one point in the third set, but Cinco started to pull away and came out 25-21 winners. Cinco started to show a bit of dominance in the fourth set and pulled away in the fifth to complete the victory.

"It was really successful when we switched our defense," Wells said. "We were keying in on certain things and our defense really picked up those last three sets, and our serve-receive was pretty on tonight, and that helped a lot."

The Cougars will play Cy-Fair in the area round, date and time to be determined. The Bobcats swept Lamar in the first round.

"It was amazing to win in five sets," Atkinson said. "I was so excited for my team, the energy was so good. To know that we really fought for all five sets it was a



TYLER TYRE

Cinco Ranch's Emily Killam tips the ball over the net during Tuesday's bi-district round match against George Ranch at the Merrell Center.

great feeling. Now we just have to keep our momentum and keep the practice up."

Tompkins sweeps to advance

District 19-6A champion Tompkins (34-5) swept Fort Bend Austin (17-26) in three sets to advance to the area round of the playoffs. The Falcons will take on Stratford in the area round, date and time to be determined. Stratford swept Heights in its bi-district round matchup.

Seven Lakes falls in bi-district

The defending Class 6A champions were unable to make a run for the second straight year.

Facing District 20-6A champion Ridge Point (34-10), the Spartans (22-20) fell in three sets, 23-25, 18-25, 23-25.

The Spartans took the lead and stayed close in the first set. They had things tied at 22, but Ridge Point pulled away late to take the advantage.

Ridge Point controlled the second set and pulled away early, but Seven Lakes made a game of things late in the set. The Spartans were unable to do enough however and lost the set to go two down. Seven Lakes fought in the third set and led late, but again Ridge Point made a charge to win the set and the match.

Ridge Point will move on to play Houston Memorial in the area round.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Harris County M.U.D. No. 432 in the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC (L.A. License No. 2602, Texas), 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494 until 2:00 P.M. on November 11, 2021 for Harris County M.U.D. No. 432: North Lake Amenity Trail Enhancements.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for construction of improvements including sidewalks, irrigation, planting, fine grading and hydromulch.

Bidders shall submit two (2) copies of the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided. A Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) and Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents may be examined without charge in the offices of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, Texas, 77494, or may be obtained upon deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each set. This sum is non-refundable and checks should be made payable to KGA/DeForest Design, LLC. Only check or money order will be accepted.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Harris County M.U.D. No. 432 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for November 05, 2021, at 2:00 P.M. at the office of KGA/DeForest Design, LLC.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Fort Bend-Waller Counties MUD will be received **electronically** until 10:00 a.m., Friday November 19th, 2021 and then publicly opened and read for furnishing all plant, labor, material and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of: **Clearing and Grubbing in Katy Court Phase I.**

The bids will only be received electronically bid through CivcastUSA. The electronic bids will be publicly opened and read via conference call. Physical bids will not be accepted.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, large gatherings are not recommended. Bids will be publicly read aloud at the time bids are due via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 795481868# when prompted.

The project is located within the future Katy Court Development in Harris County, TX. It is within the boundaries of Fort Bend - Waller Counties M.U.D. No. 2 and is in the City of Katy. It is approximately 900 feet south of the Clay Rd and Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd intersection. The project is located in Harris County, Key Map No. 444-G, 444-H, 444-L, and 444-M.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check (the "bid security") drawn on a responsible bank located in the State of Texas, for at least two percent (2%) of the total amount of the bid and made payable to Owner only. Bid Bonds for five percent (5%) of the maximum total bid amount are acceptable for construction contracts over \$250,000. The successful bidder shall forfeit bid security to Owner as liquidated damages if it shall fail or refuse to enter into a proper contract for the Work, including failure or refusal to furnish the Performance and Maintenance Bond and the Payment Bond required by the Contract. Bid security will be returned to all but the three lowest bidders within three days after the Bid Opening Time, and the second and third lowest bidders may at that time substitute a bid bond by a qualified surety for the certified or cashier's check. Remaining bid security will be returned after execution of the Contract.

Plans, specifications, and bidding documents are available at www.civcastusa.com.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, November 12th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via teleconference call. The number for this call is: 1-832-856-3756. Enter access code 357304986# when prompted.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of 60 days from the date bids are open.

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<p>NOTICE OF SALE HARRIS-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3 (A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas) Located within Harris and Waller Counties, Texas)</p> <p>\$2,860,000 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2021</p> <p>Bids to be Submitted: 10:00 A.M., Central Time Bids to be Awarded: 1:30 P.M., Central Time Monday, November 15, 2021</p> <p>Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 3 (the "District") will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of the Bonds at the designated meeting place outside the boundaries of the District, at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Freeway Suite 2600, Houston, TX 77027 at 1:30 P.M., Central Time, Monday, November 15, 2021.</p> <p>Address of Bids: Bids, which must be submitted in duplicate on the Official Bid Form and plainly marked "Bid for Bonds," should be addressed to "President and Board of Directors of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 3," and delivered to the District's Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 10:00 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 10:00 A.M., Central Time, Monday, November 15, 2021, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bids must be accompanied by a Bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$57,200 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.</p> <p>Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the "Official Notice of Sale" and the "Preliminary Official Statement" which may be obtained from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010; c/o Jan Bartholomew, jbartholomew@rwbaird.com; Financial Advisor to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and the "Official Bid Form."</p> <p>Board of Directors Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 3</p>			

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Katy will be received at Katy City Hall at 901 Avenue C, Katy, TX 77493 until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Friday, November 19, 2021 and then publicly opened and read for the **STORM WATER MITIGATION POND FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**. Proposals received after closing will be returned unopened.

A **NON-MANDATORY pre-bid** conference will be held online on Thursday, November 11th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Below is the website and call in information:

Web Application: Microsoft Teams: teams.microsoft.com
 Call in: 346-235-0346 Conference ID: 710 597 001

Each **PROPOSAL** shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount not less than ten percent 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 date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening of **PROPOSALS**, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

The successful bidder must furnish **PERFORMANCE** and **PAYMENT BONDS** on the forms furnished with the **PROPOSAL**, in the amount of one hundred percent of the total Contract price, from a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates.

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Katy will be received at Katy City Hall at 901 Avenue C, Katy, TX 77493 until 10:30 a.m. local time, Friday, November 19, 2021 and then publicly opened and read for **STORM WATER PUMP STATION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**. Proposals received after closing will be returned unopened.

A **NON-MANDATORY pre-bid** conference will be held online on Thursday, November 11th, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Below is the website and call in information:

Web Application: Microsoft Teams: teams.microsoft.com
 Call in: 346-235-0346 Conference ID: 954 310 046

Each **PROPOSAL** shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond, the "bid security", in an amount not less than five (5) percent 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 date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders the day of opening of **PROPOSALS**, and the remaining bid sureties will be returned after execution of the Contract.

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

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas General Land Office - Community Development & Revitalization and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin.

The City of Katy is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Section 3 Residents, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids.

All contractors/subcontractors who's System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration is not active or that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

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Jones' kick return lifts Cougars past SMU

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

With the University of Houston tied with SMU and under 30 seconds remaining, Marcus Jones took things into his own hands.

The senior cornerback and return man for the Cougars took a kickoff from his own endzone and navigated the field to return it for a touchdown, giving the Cougars a 44-37 win over SMU on Saturday at TDECU Stadium.

"I didn't think they were going to kick it to me," Jones said. "So whenever I saw them kick it I just thought 'I'm going to return it.' The coaches always talk about hitting the hole wherever it is, and I saw the hole so I just hit it."

It was a last-second victory that saw Houston overcome blowing a 17-point lead before answering

back, and Marcus Jones made the two biggest plays on the night, scoring the game-winning touchdown on the kick return and recording an interception in the fourth quarter to halt a big SMU drive.

"I keep saying it, but he's the best returner in the country," said Houston head coach Dana Holgerson. "He was an All-American last year and he's better this year. I'm getting to the point where I may call him the best returner ever; the things he does is unbelievable. He's a special young man, a special player and a special person."

It was also a career night for Clayton Tune, who threw for a career best 412 yards and broke his career high with four touchdown passes in the win.

Receiver Nathaniel Dell had a huge game as well, catching nine passes for 165 yards and three

touchdowns.

"I'm really happy with the performance and the way the guys around me played," Tune said. "The line blocked well, the receivers made a lot of plays. Tank's (Dell's) stat line was crazy. I'm just really happy with everyone."

Tune started the game hot, as he found Jeremy Singleton for a 55-yard pass on the Cougars' opening drive to get the team into the redzone. Tune then connected with Nathaniel Dell on a 7-yard touchdown pass to give Houston a seven-point lead, and Tune connected with Dell again on the next drive on a 48-yard touchdown pass. Dalton Witherspoon kicked a 50-yard field goal to make it a 17-point game.

Then came shades of the Texas Tech game, as SMU started to go on a run.

SMU went on a seven-play drive

that ended with a 43-yard touchdown pass from Tanner Mordecai to get on the board. Houston got another field goal, but SMU responded as Mordecai threw a 50-yard touchdown to Tre Siggers. After a Houston fumble, SMU went on a 7-play, 35-yard drive to tie things up. Witherspoon kicked a 30-yard field goal to give the Cougars the lead heading into halftime, despite Houston outgaining SMU 332-183 in the first half, they led by just three.

Houston and SMU traded scores as there were four lead changes to start the second half, before Jones made an interception with under 10 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, giving the Cougars a chance to take a two-possession lead, but went three-and-out. From there it became a slugfest in the final minutes of the game as both teams' defenses forced stops, but

SMU mounted a 10-play, 58-yard drive and tied it on a 45-yard field goal from Blake Maza. But Houston wasn't done. On the ensuing kickoff, Jones took the return for the touchdown, giving Houston the win.

"It felt so good," Dell said. "We work so hard and we've preached all these weeks about starting strong and finishing strong. We knew we would have to compete with them and finish so everyone with what happened at the end there was just really excited."

The Cougars will travel to Florida next week to take on The University of Southern Florida.

"It's just another game, we have to do what we've been doing," Dell said. "I'm just hoping to keep playing my best and make it my best game and do what I can do to help the team."



THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in West Houston & Katy

At Houston Methodist Cancer Center, we treat every aspect of your cancer. Leading oncologists work with our specialists across disciplines to minimize cancer's effects on major organs. One comprehensive team — dedicated to your individual care — uses the latest research, treatments and technology to stop your cancer. From infusion and clinical trials to surgery and reconstruction, our innovative care is available in West Houston and Katy.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it.



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