

TOMPKINS VOLLEYBALL BATTLES IN STATE TOURNEY  
SPORTS | B1

# Katy Times



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THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ [katytimes.com](http://katytimes.com)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2022

## New Target store in north Katy features updated design

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Target has opened a new store in north Katy, at 22165 FM 529, to help serve the community's growing population.

Store officials said the Katy location is both larger and features an updated design. The company said its design team first created a fully virtual, life-sized representation of

the reimagined store. In this way, the design team could analyze and redesign features in real time and virtually "walk" the store to make sure everything worked for customers and staff.

"Our team has always been on the cutting edge of design technology, and leveraging virtual-reality for the first time allowed us to iterate on our store design and a faster way than

ever before," Sarah Amundsen, senior director of store design, said in a statement. "We were not only able to keep evolving are designed during the pandemic when physical store visits weren't an option, but the technology allowed us to foresee issues before we got to the execution phase, so we were able to ensure we were bringing to life



See **TARGET**, page A3 An exterior view of the new Target, at 22165 FM 529 in Katy.

## Katy ISD names principals

District accepting campus naming nominations for Elementary Schools 45 and 46

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD Elementary Schools 45 and 46 are under construction and scheduled to welcome students in Fall 2023. The district has named principals for the two campuses, and is accepting nominations for the campus namesakes.

Charlotte Gilder will lead Elementary 45. Michael Schwartz will lead Elementary 46.

Gilder has 28 years of experience in public education. She began her journey as an educator in 1994 at Sam Houston Elementary School in Port Arthur ISD. Five years later, she joined Goose Creek CISD, and in 2000 she transitioned to Cypress Fairbanks ISD, where she became a reading and writing specialist.

Gilder joined Katy ISD from 2002-09 and then had an opportunity to expand her professional experience in counseling with Lamar CISD. She returned to Katy ISD in 2012 and has served in multiple roles, including counselor and assistant principal

See **PRINCIPALS**, page A3



RODERICK BATSON

These Under Armour shoes are among the many items of sports-related clothing Roderick Batson hopes to donate to local schools and sports teams.

## Local entrepreneur looks to donate shoes, clothes to area schools and sports teams

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Roderick Batson, the Katy franchisee for Howdy Homemade Ice Cream, is looking to donate shoes and clothes to area schools and sports teams.

Batson is continuing a charitable activity begun by Natalie Craig of Lubbock. Batson said Craig led a nonprofit called WITS (an acronym for Walk In The Shoes). Batson said the sporting goods manufacturer Under Armour sponsored her about three years ago, giving her about \$1 million worth of shoes, clothes and so forth to distribute among Title 1 schools, among others, in Lubbock and the Texas Panhandle.

But not all the items got passed out, and wound up in a storage facility. Batson said those items were essentially collecting dust.

Craig and Batson became acquainted through his involvement in Howdy Homemade Ice Cream, along with various charities. She reached out to him, he said, and basically



RODERICK BATSON

athletes and students in Houston as possible."

Already, Batson said, he is sponsoring Royal High School athletics in Brookshire; Track-Houston, which he said is the largest track club in Houston; KIPP Academy, and Hearne High School athletics.

Batson said plenty of items remain, and he hopes to develop a partnership with Under Armour to continue distributing those items.

Batson said his sister, Dana, is coordinating the distribution effort. They can be reached through the Howdy Homemade Ice Cream Facebook and Instagram pages.

wanted to pass the torch.

Batson sent an 18-wheeler to Lubbock to pick up the materials.

"The truck was full of brand-new Under Armour spikes, cleats, shorts, shirts, tights, anything you can think of," Batson said. "My goal is to get it out to as many

## Legislators share their priorities for next session

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

Area state legislators said they will focus on keeping property taxes under control and improving public education in a Nov. 15 panel discussion at the Katy Area Economic Development Council.

State Reps. Jacey Jetton, Gary Gates, Mike Schofield and Jon Rosenthal were the panelists. All represent a different part of Katy in their respective legislative districts. Jetton and Gates are from Fort Bend County. Schofield and Rosenthal are from Harris County. Jetton, Gates and Schofield are Republicans. Rosenthal is a Democrat. All won re-election Nov. 8.

Jetton said he would work to support public education, parent empowerment and school funding.

"I think this next session there will be a lot of conversations about education," Jetton said.

See **LEGISLATORS**, page A5

ROYAL ISD

## Committee selects \$144 million of projects for May ballot

BY GEORGE SLAUGHTER  
NEWS EDITOR

A Royal ISD facilities advisory committee Nov. 17 recommended \$144 million worth of projects to be included in a May 2023 bond election.

Committee members, meanwhile, are set to hold their final meeting Dec. 8. At that meeting, committee members will select two people to present the committee's recommendations to the board. Trustees will review and approve, or reject, the bond package for placement on the May ballot.

**Most recommended projects approved for package**

Committee members approved 36 of 37 items for the bond package. The only item rejected was a \$5.25 million land acquisition, which would

See **ROYAL**, page A3

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## Community Calendar

# December



**DEC. 1**

**HOLIDAY TRUNK SHOW**

Amber's Designs Fine Jewelry, 722 Pin Oak Road, hosts this public event, which features new vendors with one-of-a-kind jewelry. Lite bites and holiday cheer will be served. The show is from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, call 281-391-6333.

**DEC. 1**

**KATY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

An annual tradition at Katy City Hall, 901 Ave. C, that kicks off holiday festivities in the city. The event is free and open to the public.

**DEC. 2-3**  
**FROZEN JR.**

Student thespians from the British International School of Houston will enchant audiences with a production of the 2018 Broadway musical, Frozen Jr., which brings the characters of Princess Elsa, Princess Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, on stage. The show features all the memorable songs from the animated film and is a story of true love and acceptance between sisters.

The show is at 6 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the British International School of Houston Theatre, 2203 N. Westgreen Blvd. Tickets are from \$5-10 and can be purchased through the website [bish.booktix.com/index.php](http://bish.booktix.com/index.php).

**DEC. 3**

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Families will enjoy photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus, crafts in the elf's workshop, and special visits from Elf Cow! Enjoy a free 4-Count Chikin' Mini with the purchase of a meal when you dine in.

The breakfast is from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Chick-fil-A Katy Mills, 25601 Nelson Way.



**DEC. 3**  
**A KATY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS**

The 12th annual Katy Old Fashioned Christmas event features 200 vendors, food trucks, entertainment, beer garden, inflatables for the kids, Santa and lots of surprises. Local shops will all

be open for holiday shopping. Proceeds will go to Katy Christian Ministries. The event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in historic Downtown Katy. For more information, call Betsy Proctor at 281-391-1993.

**DEC. 3**

**CHRISTMAS AT THE PARK**

The Katy Heritage Society sponsors this event. A ticket includes a cup of hot cocoa, a letter to Santa, a Christmas craft, tour of Katy's historic homes and the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Christmas carols +raffle. Food, hayrides, popcorn, drinks will be available as add-ons. All people age 1+ need a ticket. The event is from 5-9 p.m. at 5990 George Bush Dr. For tickets, visit the website [katyheritagesociety.com/event-details/christmas-at-the-park-1](http://katyheritagesociety.com/event-details/christmas-at-the-park-1).

**DEC. 5**

**KATY HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT AND AUCTION**

Winter choir concert and silent auction. The auction will open online ahead of the concert and end at 7:30 p.m., when the concert begins. The concert is free and open to the public. The event will be at the Katy High School Performing Arts Center, 6331 Highway Blvd.

**DEC. 10**

**THE MUSIC OF DURAN DURAN AND DAVID BOWIE**

Radio Duran and 'Lectric Eye perform at the Wildcatter Saloon, 26913 Katy Fwy. Tickets range from \$10-\$25 and may be purchased by visiting the website [eventbrite.com/e/the-music-of-duran-duran-and-david-bowie-with-radio-duran-and-lectric-eye-tickets-464362269047](http://eventbrite.com/e/the-music-of-duran-duran-and-david-bowie-with-radio-duran-and-lectric-eye-tickets-464362269047).

**DEC. 10**

**LET'S GO FAMILIA SOCCER FUNDRAISER**

Juventus Academy Houston, a non-profit 501(c)(3) soccer organization, is hosting a soccer fundraising event to bring the community together while raising funds that will directly assist in continuing to sponsor young people who love soccer, to give them affordable and quality soccer development.

The event is open to the public for all age groups. Different stations will have inflatable bumper balls, friendly and funny competitions, a potluck, raffles, magic show, giveaways and more.

The event is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Sports Park 23910 Katy Fwy. Every activity station will cost a ticket between \$1-\$3 to participate. To register, just show up.

**DEC. 12**

**KATY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Katy City Council holds its last meeting of 2022. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the council chamber at City Hall, 901 Ave. C.

**DEC. 13**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

The Steve Radack Community Center hosts a Christmas luncheon. Take a moment with friends to enjoy the holidays before the hustle and bustle begins. The luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road.

Cost is \$10, due at sign-up. For more information, visit the website [hcp4.net/radack](http://hcp4.net/radack).

**DEC. 17**

**QUEEN LEGACY BAND PERFORMS AT KATY VIBES**

Queen Legacy, a Queen tribute band, will perform at 8 p.m. at Katy Vibes, 24757 Katy Fwy. Tickets range from \$20-\$300. To purchase tickets, visit the website [kqueen.eventbrite.com](http://kqueen.eventbrite.com).

**DEC. 28**

**SENIOR NIGHT OUT**

Katy area seniors are invited to meet new friends, enjoy the old, and try some of local restaurants. No membership is required. Call the center to find out this month's eatery of choice!

The activities are from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. Fifth St. 281-391-4837.

**DEC. 27**

**TRIP MOVIE AND LUNCH**

Katy area seniors are invited to watch a movie and enjoy lunch at a Katy restaurant. The activities are from 11:00 a.m.-5 p.m. and begin at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E. Fifth St.

For more information, call the center at 281-391-4837.

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Scottie is a 1 yr old mixed breed. He was adopted and returned 3 months ago through no fault of his own, and is still seeking his fur-ever home.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- India's "City of Lakes"
- Large marine mammals
- Used to carry belongings when traveling
- Rechristens
- Equally
- Heavy plant-eating mammals
- Millihenry
- Japanese immigrant to N. America
- Deep, red-brown sea bream
- Norse gods
- Peppermint and pekoie are two
- Auguste \_\_, founder of positivism
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
- Wide metal vessel used in cooking
- V-shaped open trough
- People of southern Benin
- People of southern Ghana
- It's a significant creed
- Period between eclipses
- Furies
- Emerged
- Philippine Island
- Where wrestlers battle
- Unhappy
- Central European river
- Language
- Semitransparent gemstone
- Forming in a bottom layer
- Distinct region
- Broad blades
- Leavened bread
- Influential cosmetics exec
- Exclamation of surprise
- Era free of war
- One who helps professors
- Idealistic
- Ornamental plants
- Grouped
- Kids love this street

**CLUES DOWN**

- Beloved hound
- Equal to 100 grams
- S-shaped moldings
- Hawaiian cliff
- Everyone has one
- Subatomic particle
- Ghost
- Adult female bird
- Greek temple pillars
- Emits coherent radiation
- Measures the width of printed matter
- Musical interval
- Tantalizes
- Places of worship
- An unskilled actor who overacts
- One who volunteers to help
- Precaution
- Beverage holder
- Very long period of time
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- More critical
- Sends packing in a boxing match
- Taxi
- Decorative Russian tea urn
- North American Great Plains natives
- Seize
- A passage with access only at one end
- Cut a rug
- Devil rays
- Bubble up
- Veranda
- Outcast
- Car mechanics group
- Realm
- A place to get off your feet
- Popular music awards show
- Consumed
- A way to make cooler
- Thus
- Indicates it's been registered

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## SUDOKU

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

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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

## ROYAL

from page A1

have been used for two elementary schools.

Approved items for the package include:

### Safety and Security

- Perimeter fencing, \$476,000.
- Exterior doors, \$692,000.
- Security equipment, \$1.8 million.
- Security vestibules, \$1.1 million.

### New construction

- New Pre-K elementary #2, \$42.9 million.
- New Ag Science Expo Center, \$12.9 million.
- Land acquisition (elementary school #2 and high school/junior high/ag center new campus), \$10.6 million.
- Design for new junior high and new high school, \$9.3 million.

### Comprehensive renovations and remodels

- High school renovations (move ROTC and cosmetology to CTE, repurpose classrooms), \$4.5 million.
- CTE addition (new culinary arts and classroom, lab and support spaces), \$2.4 million.
- CTE addition (welding addition—20 stalls, project assembly space, classroom and support services), \$2.3 million.
- Elementary school addition (increase capacity, add flex learning spaces, replace flooring and slab repairs), \$8.3 million.
- Transportation center renovations, \$4.7 million.

### Athletics

- New turf field, \$2.1 million.
- New track, \$1.8 million.

- Visitor bleacher replacement (800 bleachers), \$420,000.
- Home bleacher renovation (add 200 bleachers, restroom renovation and press box), \$1.3 million.
- Site safety and security, \$627,000.
- Resurface tennis courts, \$80,000.

### Existing facilities

- Code compliance, \$8 million.
- Roof leaks, \$2.8 million.
- Building repairs, \$8.1 million.
- Communication systems, \$2.7 million.
- Food service equipment, \$1.7 million.
- Casework/interior finish upgrades, \$2.4 million.
- Technology upgrades \$1.6 million.
- Flooring finishes, \$2.1 million.
- A ceiling tile/grid replacement, \$1.4 million.
- Furniture, \$2.5 million.
- Site repairs, \$1.1 million.
- Technology
- interactive flat panels for all classrooms, \$700,000.
- Network infrastructure upgrades, \$1 million.

### New trustees to consider package

Royal school trustees are expected to consider and approve the bond package at their January meeting. The four newest trustees—Scott Hartman, Perla Mariela Aguilar, Cori Hillsman Vahalik and Jimmy Meador—were expected to take their oaths of office at a Nov. 21 special meeting.

Kimberly Bow is volunteering to help lead the bond campaign. She said the matter is “near and dear” to her, even though she lives



GEORGE SLAUGHTER

Royal Elementary School principal Ashley Cook said her campus needed significant foundation repairs. This crack in the wall is one of several such repairs that are needed.

in Fulshear and not in the Royal ISD. While she said she understood Royal ISD voters rejected the most recent bond election in November 2021, she said this time things feel different.

“There were so many great questions asked,” Bow said, adding that there was a lot of good information to be shared with families, friends and neighbors about the bond and what it entails for the district.

“I think this committee has put in a lot of hard work and they recognized the needs that are here,” Bow said.

Bow said for the bond election to go forward, trustees must approve the measure by Feb. 17, 2023.

## PRINCIPALS

from page A1

at Mayde Creek Elementary, curriculum and instruction assistant principal at Beckendorf Junior High, assistant principal at Wilson Elementary and Morton Ranch Junior High and, most recently, principal of Schmalz Elementary. Gilder has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Sam Houston State University, a master's degree in Counseling and Development, and another master's degree in School Administration from Prairie View A&M University.

“Katy ISD has always felt like home and I'm excited to open yet another new campus in this thriving school district,” Gilder said. “I look forward to working with the students, parents and the community to name the new school and to create new traditions for years to come.”

Much of Schwartz's 16 years in education has been in Katy ISD. In August 2006, he started his public education career at Cimarron Elementary as a fourth and fifth-grade teacher. His passion for educating every student at Cimarron Elementary led to a promotion as an instructional coach in July 2011.

A year later, Schwartz joined Spring Oaks Middle School in Spring Branch ISD as assistant principal. He returned in May 2014 to Katy ISD as assistant principal at Bear Creek Elementary and four years later at Wolfe Elementary. Schwartz has been the principal of Stephens Elementary since February 2019. He has a bachelor's degree in Journalism from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from the University of Texas at Arlington.

“What an amazing new chapter for Katy ISD and for this new school community,” Schwartz said. “I am eager to work closely with parents, students, and the community as we open this new school. Together, as a team, we will provide opportunities for students to be curious and think critically so they can dream big and be guided toward a fulfilling future.”

Additionally, Katy ISD is accepting campus naming nominations for Elementary Schools 45 and 46 through Nov. 28.

Individuals interested in submitting a name must review the Katy ISD Board Policy for facility naming guidelines, the abbreviated website for which is bit.ly/3Ei4F9D, then submit the Nomination for Naming a New School or

Facility Form, found on the Katy ISD School and Facility website at bit.ly/3EdpIdm.

The naming form and all supplementary materials may be submitted in the following manner by 4 p.m. on Nov. 28:

- By email: schoolnaming@katyisd.org
- By mail: Katy ISD School/Facility Naming, School & Community Engagement, P.O. Box 159, Katy, TX 77492-0159
- Personal delivery: Education Support Complex (ESC), School & Community Engagement, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy, TX 77494

Elementary 45 will be located at 25600 Longenbaugh Road. Elementary 46 will be located at 25615 Clay Road. Both schools are in the north-west quadrant of Katy ISD. These campuses will provide enrollment relief to neighboring schools experiencing fast growth.



CHARLOTTE GILDER



MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

## TARGET

from page A1

the absolute best experience for our guests and our team.”

Next year, officials said, more than half of Target's expected 200 full store remodels, along with most of its approximately 30 new stores, will have elements of this new design.

The store, which is 145,000 sq. ft.,

opened recently.

“Our new store is bigger than our previous stores, and that extra space and optimized layout ensures our team can offer the very best of target to our guests, whether their shopping online or in our stores,” John Conlin, Target senior vice president for properties, said

in a statement. “Guests are turning to us for more things now than they ever did before—more joy, more inspiration, more fulfillment options—and this new store design enables us to even more easily and efficiently deliver for our guests all those things and more, now and into the future.”

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# Giving thanks

Is the glass half empty or half full?

In my experience it's always been half full—and that's one of many things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving.

We lost my father this year, and that leaves a huge hole in our hearts — until we focus on the life he lived so well and the many wonderful, loving memories of him my family and I will always have.

I got to experience 59 Thanksgivings with my dad, give or take — 59 cheerful gatherings in which he recited Grace before 40 or more cheerful extended family members.

I have random flashes of my dad throughout the days now—memories that come at me out of the blue.

I vividly remember one Saturday in December 1967, when I was 5.

It was uncharacteristically warm in Pittsburgh that year. My father was 34 then and his hair was black as coal. He stood nearly 6-foot-2, a powerful man.

As he lifted our Christmas tree off the roof of our white Ford station wagon, I marveled that his biceps and forearms were bigger than Popeye the Sailor Man's!

It wasn't too many years later that I—his only son—became his sidekick to complete multiple family tasks.

Every Thursday, after dinner, we boarded our Plymouth Fury III station wagon and headed to the Del Farm grocery store in a small suburban plaza one mile away.

I pushed the cart as I helped him work through the long shopping list my mother provided until the cart was packed to the ceiling.

When we finally pulled the loaded-down station wagon into our garage everyone in the house was alerted and the massive unloading process began. It was like a Red Cross relief operation!

And then the theme song for "The Walton's" would begin to play, just as we settled down for our snacks and a new episode of one of my favorite shows.

I didn't know then why I loved that wholesome family show so much, but I know now.

I loved it because my mother and father gave up so much to give so much to us and that still fills me with a profound sense



**TOM PURCELL**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

**We lost my father this year, and that leaves a huge hole in our hearts – until we focus on the life he lived so well and the many wonderful, loving memories of him my family and I will always have.**

of security.

The stress of feeding us on one income took its toll on my mom and dad.

When I was 18, we thought my dad had suffered a heart attack. I couldn't stop the tears as I raced behind the ambulance taking him to the hospital.

But the doctor got his diagnosis wrong, and boy, was it wonderful to get my healthy, sturdy dad back home to celebrate the holidays that year.

I got my first nice car when I was 24, a 1986 Pontiac Firebird with T-tops, and I can still see my dad laughing out loud as he revved the motor and smoked the wheels—payback for the damage his lead-footed son had done to several of his cars.

I wasn't thankful for his behavior that day, but it makes me laugh out loud now.

We are all lost in our own ways without my dad. My mother, with him nearly 70 years, is especially suffering, and for me that's the most painful part.

But despite the grief, my glass is more than half full.

Thanksgiving for my family this year cannot in any way be the same without my dad there, but I'll do my best to recite Grace in his absence.

Happy Thanksgiving.  
*Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.*



# Get out of bed and breakfast

The whole concept of a bed and breakfast is pretty ingenious and fits almost perfectly with my lifestyle. In fact, the words "bed" and "breakfast" are fair representations of my favorite activities, namely eating, sleeping and eating. I only wish I could reinvent the idea and call it "bed and breakfast food eaten in the early afternoon" since my wife and I both identify as late sleepers and, on most Saturdays, are finishing our pancakes at around 2 p.m.

Speaking of my wife, who would prefer that I leave her out of this, we spent our wedding night in a historical bed and breakfast in Jefferson, Texas. The most memorable aspect of our stay—other than my relief that she actually went through with the wedding—was what has become known as "The Bathtub Plug Incident." Now, before you let your imaginations get carried away, let me explain.

Our honeymoon suite featured an antique, clawfoot bathtub with brass fittings, into which I was looking forward to performing my most romantic cannonball after swamp-soaking my penguin suit throughout the wedding ceremony on a sweltering East Texas August's eve. Unfortunately, in our post-wedding delirium, we couldn't locate the tub's antique drain plug.

Sporting my luxurious rented bathrobe, I crept downstairs to the owners' quarters and lightly knocked on the partitioning French doors. When they opened, a bleary-eyed fellow appeared—enveloped by billows of pungent smoke. Now, I'm not 100% positive



**JASE GRAVES**  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

about the source of the fumes, but let's just say that this guy probably had a raging case of the munchies.

After I very slowly and deliberately explained my dilemma, the owner stumbled up the stairs, into our room and over to the bathtub where he pointed to the brass drain plug resting in and camouflaged by the brass soap dish, peered at me suspiciously with his mouth hanging slightly open and simply said, "Dude."

Needless to say, hilarity and cannonballs ensued.

Recently, my wife and I decided to relive the whole bed and breakfast experience—minus the stoned proprietor—at the charming Brazos Bed and Breakfast, a countryside cottage suite in Washington, Texas, a short drive from Texas A&M University where our eldest and most expensive daughter attends. We thought it would be nice to have some peace and quiet out in the country while also being close enough to go watch the Aggie football team run out of time—again—and visit our daughter so she could ask for money in person.

(Incidentally, the nearby Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site is where the Texas

Declaration of Independence was signed in 1836, and I'm pretty sure the armadillo was designated as the official roadkill of the new republic.)

And speaking of armadillos, upon our arrival, the owner warned us about the electric fence encircling the picturesque property just off the ground in order to keep the nocturnal creatures from having pasture parties and breaking in to use the bidet.

Yes, there was a bidet! I'd never used a bidet before and wasn't sure exactly how it worked, but I did give the opposite bathroom wall a thorough pressure washing.

Despite having to get up before noon to eat, the breakfasts were ample and delicious. The cordial owner served breakfast in our suite and reminded us, "Don't ever feel like you have to eat everything. We have chickens, and they love leftovers!"

My only thought was whether or not we could eat the chickens, too.

Although I would have liked a little more bed to go with the breakfast, we had a wonderful trip. I'm even thinking about purchasing a clawfoot tub for our own house someday—right after I figure out how to install the bidet.

*Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.*

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**NEWS ITEM** The F.T.C. MAY FORCE CARTOON CHARACTERS TO HAWK HEALTHIER FOODS...



## TRIBUTE



**PATRICIA KELLEY FULCO**  
1927-2022

Patricia Kelley Fulco passed away on Thursday, July 21, 2022, in Katy, TX. She lived 95 years on this earth and will continue to live in the hearts of all who loved her.

She is survived by her children, Dianne Callender; Faye and Ronnie Pembo, Neal and Anna Mae Fulco, Teresa and Guy Gibson, Lisa Fulco, brother Nelson Kelley and; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by

her husband, Sammy A. Fulco; parents, Ruth and Evan Kelley; and her in-laws, Sam and Vivian Fulco; sisters, Betty Kennedy and Joy Walter.

Patricia Kelley Fulco was born on July 3, 1927 in Lawton, Oklahoma to Evan and Annie Todd Kelley. She grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana. She graduated from Fair Park High School.

The War affected her family, like so many others. After graduating she joined

the U.S. Cadet Nursing Corp., attended Centenary College for Medical Training. After 1 year she went New Orleans where she attended LSU and Tulane Medical School. She later obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Centenary College in Louisiana.

She was later to meet the love of her life, again, Sammy A. Fulco. They had been kindergarten sweethearts while attending Alledale elementary school in

Shreveport. They married in 1967. She lived most of her adult life in the Houston and Katy areas. She was a faithful member of St. Bartholomew Church. She loved bible studies and singing in the choir.

Patricia loved the mountains, oceans and Aviation. They vacationed every year in the mountains of Colorado or the beaches of Florida.

She was a long-time member of the Experimental Aircraft Association

(EAA), Chapter 774 in Brookshire, TX. She was recognized by the Nation EAA for her outstanding work with their Young Eagles program. She was presented with an award at the Oshkosh Airadventure by Chuck Yeager. She and Sammy owned their own airplane and flew together often.

Patricia will be buried in Shreveport, La., next to her husband on November 19, 2022.

## LEGISLATORS

from page A1

The state is expected to have an approximately \$27 billion budget surplus for the upcoming session, which begins in January. Schofield said when people read the controller's report, they would see that that figure is due to inflation. The money is not there because the state has grown, he said.

"It's not extra wealth and we need to return a lot of it," Schofield said.

How the legislature will use that money will be a key issue. There is conversation of using the money to help draw down property taxes, and Jetton said it was an issue in recent school district tax ratification elections, called TREs. Katy ISD voters rejected a proposed TRE in the Nov. 8 election.

"People feel the strain of property taxes and were going to have to continue working on that," Jacey said.

Schofield said in a fast-growth areas such as Katy, "there's no point in doing all these other

wonderful things if people have to move away" because they cannot afford higher property taxes. He said he hoped to find a systemic way to keep property taxes from running people out of their homes.

Schofield said he has knocked on many doors during his campaigns, and people tell him that while they're supporting him, they were planning to retire in a few years and move to other places, such as Northern Arkansas, because they cannot afford local property taxes.

"It is fundamentally not the business of your government to tax you out of your home," Schofield said.

Schofield said another goal of his is to pass legislation that would improve clarity in the language read by voters on such matters as state constitutional amendments. Often such language can be misleading and that needed to stop, Schofield said.

Gates said the Texas education

system does not do a good job of preparing kids for work and who are not going to college. Trades like welding, carpentry, plumbing and HVAC bring good salaries, and in some cases up to six figures, he said.

Gates said he wanted to work to bring vocational training back into the school system and into community colleges. He admitted, however, it might take a while to happen.

"It may take a couple of sessions," Gates said.

Rosenthal described himself as the lone progressive on the panel. Yet property taxes would be a focus for him just as it is for his colleagues, he said.

Rosenthal said while Texas has no state income tax—there is a state constitutional amendment banning it—the average Texas taxpayer pays more in taxes than the average taxpayer in California, where there is a tax. This is a problem, he said.

## 'MACHINE GUN PREACHER' SPEAKS



SUSAN ROWEGNO

Sam Childers, a former drug-dealing criminal who underwent a call to faith and today works to save the children of East Africa, was the featured speaker at the Nov. 18 Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce meeting at Westland Baptist Church, 1407 W. Grand Parkway South. Childers is on a speaking tour, where he talks to people at youth detention centers, drug rehab centers, prisons, schools, businesses, churches, and organizations where he believes his story will inspire hope and motivate anyone that wants to make successful changes in their lives. He is known as the "Machine Gun Preacher" whose life story was published in his 2009 biography, *Another Man's War*. The book was turned into a feature film in 2011.

## The Katy Times

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**EDUCATION BRIEFS**

**Royal High School MCJROTC wins National Air Rifle League match**

The Royal High School MCJROTC defeated Natchitoches Central (La.) AJROTC 935.1 to 822.8 last week in the National Air Rifle League.

Diego Martinez, who shot a 236.8, led Royal. Returning contributing members were Jesus Morales, Nathan Covington and Jenna Johnson. They are from Pattison. LaShan Bland coaches the team.

Royal is ranked 41st in the Distinguished Division, and 8th in the Marine Corps JROTC Conference. Royal has a 2-4 record.

Royal will next compete against Grove City (Ohio) Christian School. Grove City has a 2-3 record.

The Orion Scoring System sponsors a national team league for high school teams and junior rifle clubs. The league has two parts. An eight-week regular season is happening now, followed by the post-season.

The Champions Division is reserved for the top teams in the country. The top eight teams from the Champions Division regular season will compete in a single elimination tournament for the league championships.

The Distinguished Division are the second tiered teams, followed by the Elite Division.

**WGU Texas' Teachers College provides opportunities to ease tuition costs during national teacher shortage**

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"WGU's Teachers College has a history of maintaining remarkably affordable, flat-rate tuition that allows students to pursue their professional passions without the burden of student loan debt," Stacey Ludwig Johnson, acting WGU senior vice president of WGU and executive dean of the School of Education, said. "With these scholarships, we continue our commitment of offering accessible educational opportunities focused on the individual so that each and every student, regardless of circumstances, can see



The Royal High School MCJROTC competes in the National Air Rifle League.

ROYAL ISD



JOHN GLASER

The Taylor High School Mustang Band performs at the UIL State Championships at the Alamodome in San Antonio.



The Seven Lakes High School Spartan Band performs at the UIL State Championships at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

JOHN GLASER

themselves on the path to a degree."

According to data sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Texas has an unmet need of approximately 20,181 teachers for the 2022-23 school year, including elementary, secondary, and special education. As part of a solution to this teacher shortage, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, WGU's Teachers College has graduated more than 32,700 students nationwide between Jan. 1, 2020 and Aug. 31, 2022 who have gone on to become certified teachers

or advanced in their school-leader roles with 2,029 of those graduates in Texas.

"Our students deserve certified teachers who will help them reach their fullest potential," Linda Battles, WGU Texas chancellor, said. "That's why we must invest in and support our teachers. One way to do this is through these scholarships that support our efforts to ensure future educators can earn their teaching degrees so that all students have access to a diverse group of educators. We want teachers to be good educators, and successful professionals, with little debt and room for continued growth. Our Teachers College is committed to making sure we advance the education profession."

In the last 20 years, the Teachers College has conferred more than 70,000 degrees to educators across all 50 states and has approximately 35,000 students currently enrolled. The college provides a broad port-

folio of dozens of degree pathways in a student-centered, competency-based model with flexible scheduling to learn where and when students want, within each six-month term. This enables students to progress through their courses as soon as they demonstrate skills mastery.

New and enrolling WGU students may apply by Dec. 31 for the WGU Loves Teachers scholarship or the Become a Teacher scholarship by visiting [wgu.edu/aew](http://wgu.edu/aew).

WGU's Teachers College programs have been continuously accredited since 2006. They are currently accredited by both the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), a prestigious combination of accreditations. To learn more about WGU's Teachers College and its academic programs, visit [wgu.edu/online-teaching-degrees](http://wgu.edu/online-teaching-degrees).

  
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# Tompkins' historic season ends in state final loss to Dripping Springs



BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a historic year for Tompkins.

Through it, the Falcons had an undefeated district season, a first regional tournament and a first state appearance.

The Falcons continued to make history, making it to the state final game for the first time in school history, with the only thing standing between them and a championship being Dripping Springs.

But the Falcons were unable to sustain their run against Dripping Springs, as they fell in three sets to the Tigers, 26-24, 25-15, 25-19.

But win or lose, the Falcons were winners this season, and even after a season ending loss, Tompkins kept their heads high and remembered

how special this run was.

"I'm just so proud of these girls and the history they made," said Tompkins head coach Allison Merrell. "From here on out, every Tompkins team can look to these girls as their role models and what they can strive to. I can't thank them enough for taking our program to that level, we wanted it to go another way tonight, but we didn't and that's ok, we're going to relish in what we did and getting to this point."

It was a battle against Dripping Springs and Tompkins gave everything they had for all three sets. The Falcons fought to extra points in the first set and nearly pulled it out, but could never get back in a rhythm after that.

"They just have some phenom-

See **TOMPKINS**, page B3

Cindy Tchouangwa spikes the ball during Saturday's state final between Tompkins and Dripping Springs at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland.

TYLER TYRE

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25

### SCORES & SCHEDULES

#### FOOTBALL

##### Scores

- Katy 62, Memorial 21
- Cinco Ranch 13, Cy-Ranch 10

##### Friday

#### CLASS 6A-DIVISION II REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

- Katy vs. Summer Creek, 2 p.m., Turner Stadium

#### CLASS 6A-DIVISION I REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

- Cinco Ranch vs. North Shore, 2:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

#### VOLLEYBALL

##### Scores

- Tompkins 3, Keller 2

#### CLASS 6A STATE FINAL

- Dripping Springs 3, Tompkins 0

#### BASKETBALL

##### GIRLS

##### Friday

- Katy vs. Elsie, noon

##### Saturday

- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Park, 2:30 p.m.
- Tompkins at Foster, noon

##### Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 7 p.m.
- Jordan vs. Marshall, 7 p.m.
- Katy vs. Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Mayde Creek, 7 p.m.
- Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 7 p.m.

##### BOYS

##### Friday

- Mayde Creek at San Antonio Sam Houston, 8 p.m.

##### Saturday

- Mayde Creek vs. Cy-Lakes, 1 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Stratford, 4 p.m.

##### Monday

- Jordan vs. Terry, 7 p.m.

##### Tuesday

- Cinco Ranch at Hastings, 7 p.m.
- Katy at Tomball, 7 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Alief Taylor, 7 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Bridgeland, 7 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Pearland Dawson, 7 p.m.
- Taylor at Jersey Village, 7 p.m.
- Tompkins at Cy-Fair, 7 p.m.



DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Santiago Taborda celebrates after kicking a game winning field goal during Friday's Class 6A-Division I area round game between Cinco Ranch and Cy-Fair at Pridgeon Stadium.

## Taborda field goal lifts Cinco Ranch past Cy-Fair, into regional semifinals

BY ANDRES CHIO  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

"We want Dudley! We want Dudley! We want Dudley!"

The chant rang out from the Cinco Ranch locker room after the team advanced to the third round of the playoffs for the second year in a row with head coach Chris Dudley at the helm of the program.

When the team went 0-10 in 2019, Dudley knew there was work to do. In 2020, he turned to a promising group of

sophomores to bolster the varsity team and many of those players have turned into the leaders of the experienced 2022 unit.

"There's a core group of seniors that have been on varsity since they were sophomores. They trusted the process when the new staff came on board," Dudley said. "We're just going to ride this wave of momentum. I'm so proud of them."

One of those seniors is kicker Santiago Taborda, who made the game winning 45-

See **CINCO**, page B2

## REGIONAL SEMIFINAL PREVIEWS

# Katy, Cinco face biggest games of the season

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

### FRIDAY

#### CLASS 6A-DIVISION II

### Katy (12-0) vs. Summer Creek (8-4), 2 p.m. at Turner Stadium

**Last year: Katy 34, Summer Creek 31**  
• Katy just keeps on rolling.

The Tigers are back in the regional semifinals for the 21st consecutive season after a trouncing of Memorial in the area round.

It was a total team effort for the Tigers once again, as they topped 50 points for the seventh time in eight games and continued to dominate on the ground, gaining 549 yards.

Seth Davis was his dominant self once again, the senior averaged 26.8 yards per carry and had three touchdowns in the first half, while Jared Kelly had 106 yards on the ground to go with two touchdowns, Dallas Glass had 80 yards and a score and Chase Johnsey had two touchdowns on the day.

The Tigers' defense did its job, forcing Memorial out of the ground game while they played from behind and being strong when needed, but they did allow 297 yards through the air while allowing Chase Goodwin to complete 25 of 38 passes and two receivers to go over 80 yards in the game, an area the team will need to improve on this week.

Up next the Tigers get a rematch of last year's Class 6A-Division II Region III Final as Katy will face off against Summer Creek for a second straight season. Last year's game came down to the final possession, with Katy winning 34-31 in a very close contest.

Summer Creek has lots of weapons, especially on the offensive end and Lloyd Avant is maybe the top one of them.

The junior running back is having another great season and has already put up great performances in the playoffs, as Summer

See **PREVIEW**, page B2



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DOMENIC GREY

Sam McKnight tries to find a hole to run through during Friday's Class 6A-Division I area round game between Cinco Ranch and Cy-Fair at Pridgeon Stadium.

**CINCO**

from page B1

yard field goal as time expired to give Cinco Ranch the 13-10 win over Cy-Fair and send the Cougars to the next round.

Taborda said the cohesiveness he has built working with his holder, senior Jack McCall, and long snapper, senior Fischer Reed, since his freshman year gave him confidence that he could make the kick. Once he made contact with the ball, it was a bit of a different story.

"I didn't look because I was too nervous. [Once it was in] I didn't know what to do so I was just running everywhere," Taborda said.

According to Dudley, it wasn't just the players on the field that made the difference.

"Bruce Hayes, who passed away [recently], was our kicking coach. He's looking down on us today. He's helping us and he's so proud. I know he is," Dudley said.

Hayes was a long time teacher and coach at Cinco Ranch who passed away on October 29, 2022. He taught at Katy ISD for nearly 20 years and won Teacher of the Year awards at the school and district level.

With heavy hearts, the team has come together to keep playing and fighting on the field.

With the rain pouring hard onto the field, both teams struggled and ended their first drives with fumbles. Cinco Ranch's Walker White recovered a Cy-Fair fumble at the 9-yard line to stop a potential scoring drive while senior Gavin Rutherford fumbled the ball on third down to force a Cougar punt.

The Cougars' second drive played out

similarly to the first as the offense got to the midfield before fumbling the ball. This time, Cy-Fair recovered the ball on the Cinco Ranch 33-yard line.

Cinco Ranch's defense shut down Cy-Fair's run game as the Bobcats lost yards on more than half of their 21 run attempts. The Bobcats were able to find success in the short and medium passing game with quick comeback routes to open up holes in the Cougar defense.

Cinco Ranch relied on the running game in the wet weather as they ran the ball 35 times and threw the ball just 19 times. The Cougars found some success in both avenues, but were unable to finish drives and score in the first half.

Cy-Fair scored the first points of the game on a 38-yard field goal by Dennis Castello to make it 3-0 before the first half ended.

After both teams went three-and-out to start the second half, Cinco Ranch's offense found its footing as the Cougars ate up the clock in the 3rd quarter. Taborda nailed a 19-yard field goal to end an 8:10, 70-yard drive for the Cougars and tie the game.

On the next offensive drive, it was the seniors that made play after play for the Cougars. Rutherford connected with senior Seth Salverino for a 48-yard pass to get the team into the redzone. Senior Sam McKnight finished the drive with an 11-yard run and Taborda tacked on the extra point to make it 10-3 with 10 minutes to go in the game.

Cinco Ranch's defense finally slipped up on the next drive as Cy-Fair fired off a pair of

big runs with junior Jamel Nickerson running in a 7-yard touchdown for the Bobcats.

The score was tied with just three minutes left to play and Cinco Ranch marched up the field before penalties stalled the drive on Cy-Fair's 28-yard line with five seconds left in the game. That was plenty of time for Taborda to make the 45-yard field goal, win the game and set off a frenzy on the sidelines.

"They're such great teammates and the brotherhood is so strong between them. They love each other, fight for each other, and they're not afraid of anybody," Dudley said.

Cinco Ranch will face North Shore (12-0) in the Regional round of the playoffs at 2 p.m. on Friday at Rhodes Stadium.

**CINCO RANCH 13, CY-FAIR 10**

Cinco Ranch	0	0	3	10	--	13
Cy-Fair	0	3	0	7	--	10

**Second quarter**

CF: Castillo 38 field goal, 0:13

**Third quarter**

CR: Santiago Taborda 19 field goal, 1:23

**Fourth quarter**

CR: Sam McKnight 11 run (Taborda kick)  
CF: Jamel Nickerson 7 run (Castillo kick) 3:09  
CR: Taborda 45 field goal, 0:00

**Team stats**

	CINCO RANCH	CY-FAIR
First downs	17	17
Yards rushing	35-111	21-22
Yards passing	142	217
Passes	13-19-0-0	22-38-0-0
Punts	4-36	5-34
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-1
Penalty-yards	6-51	3-20

**Individual Statistics**

Rushing – Cinco Ranch: Sam McKnight 13-59-1; Eric Eckstrom, 7-39; Seth Salverino, 1-25; Gavin Rutherford, 13-(-9); Cy-Fair: Trey Owens, 8-14; Jamel Nickerson, 1-6-1; Zaccheas Baynes, 11-5; Connor Porter, 1-(-3)

Passing – Cinco Ranch: Gavin Rutherford, 13-19-142-0-0; Cy-Fair: Trey Owens, 22-38-217-0-0;

Receiving – Cinco Ranch: Seth Salverino, 4-82; Fischer Reed, 4-45; Coleson Harry, 1-13; Kellen LeCronier, 1-4; Sam McKnight, 2-2; Noah Abboud, 1-(-4); Cy-Fair: Owen Carter, 5-83; Kyle Chamberson, 6-76; Connor Porter, 7-36; David Jackson, 1-12; Zaccheas Baynes, 3-10;

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**PREVIEW**

from page B1

Creek's offense has been rolling through the bi-district and area rounds.

The Tigers know what they will have to do, the biggest things defensively will be to slow down a very strong Summer Creek run game and keep them from feasting on the run and play action game.

Offensively, Katy will again lean on the run game and all the halves of rest that Seth Davis has accumulated this season will come in very handy, as he may be needed for a full four quarters to lead the Katy offense.

It should be an absolutely thrilling game, between two very strong teams that have been looking towards this rematch all season.

**CLASS 6A-DIVISION I REGIONAL SEMIFINAL**

**Cinco Ranch (9-3) vs. North Shore (12-0), 2:30 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium**

**Last year: Did not play**  
• Cinco Ranch has been finding different ways to win.

All year, the Cougars have leaned on their offense to get results, but the past two weeks, it's been the team's defense that has made such a difference.

Over the course of Cinco's two playoff games, the Cougars have given up just 24 points and have limited George Ranch and Cy-Fair in every way to advance to the third round for the second straight season.

Against Cy-Fair, Cinco Ranch limited the Bobcats to under 250 yards of total offense and just 22 yards on the ground. The Cougars also kept Trey Owens from doing much damage, as he threw for 217 yards, but was unable to get in the endzone, a rare sight for the junior.

Offensively, the Cougars leaned on the run game just as they did last week. Sam McKnight came away with 59 yards rushing and a touchdown while Eric Eckstrom had 39 yards on the ground and Seth Salverino ran for 25 yards. Gavin Rutherford was not called upon as often as the senior usually is, but still performed well, completing 13 of 19 passes for 142 yards, with Seth Salverino catching four passes for 82 yards.

The Cougars' efforts get them a date with the No. 1 ranked team in the state in North Shore.

The Mustangs have been on a tear all season, as they are undefeated and have only been in two one-score games throughout the season.

North Shore comes off a 43-34 win over Dickinson in the area round and are looking to make it back to the regional final yet again and continue their dominance.

The Cougars will be in for a fight and will need to have one of their best performances of the season to beat such a strong team. Gavin Rutherford and the Cougars' pass attack will need to be on top of their game while the rush attack will need to again be effective. Defensively, the Cougars will have to stop the run just as they did against Cy-Fair and find a way to force turnovers will be a huge key.

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# TOMPKINS

from page B1

enal players," Merrell said. "We knew that they had some great players, but we also thought we matched up well with them. We run the same kind of scheme, but we just got outmatched. But we're at state, this kind of competition is all you can ask for."

Tompkins tried to stay in it in the second set, but Dripping Springs continued to pull away to go up two sets to zero. Tompkins battled to within three points multiple times in the third set, but a late rally by the Tigers secured the sweep and ended the Falcons season.

"This experience was amazing and I'm just happy we got to play as long as we did," said senior outside hitter Tendai Titley. "I know we lost but I enjoyed every second of this and I love this team. It was a really great experience and I'm so happy we got here."

Throughout the year, the commitment of the team and the senior leadership showed in the program, and for Merrell, who has been with Tompkins since the school opened, it was a very special group.

"I couldn't ask for better," Merrell said. "They're easy, one of the easiest groups I've ever coached as far as their chemistry and their desire. They wanted to learn all the time and were never satisfied. As a coach you can't ask for more than that and the fact that they're so fun makes it easy. It's been a joy to coach them all season."

The seniors in the program helped propel the team to new heights and at the same time took the younger players under their wings, something that will be felt in future years.

"The seniors were just amazing," said Brooklynn Merrell, a sophomore libero. "They helped us through everything, all the freshman and sophomores. Anytime we were nervous they were there, anytime we needed anything they were there. We had a lot of new sophomores and freshman and they helped us a lot."

The Falcons have big shoes to fill next season, with a number of key players graduating, but the impact of this team will be felt and Merrell hopes will lead to another team getting back to this point.

"We know what we need to do," Merrell said. "You have to have a determination and drive to get here and we know that. The works these kids have put in is unmatched, and they've set the bar so high."

## Tompkins overcomes Keller, advances to first state volleyball state final

Tompkins had to stare into something they hadn't faced before on Friday.

The Falcons were front and center on the Texas high school volleyball stage, playing for a chance to make to the state final against an opponent that had been on this stage before in Keller.

On top of that, Tompkins fell behind for the first time all playoffs, needing to win two sets straight to keep their season alive.

But the Falcons' confidence never wavered, no matter the moment or pressure. Tompkins knew exactly what they had to



do — they dug deep and they reeled off two straight sets to top Keller in five sets, 26-24, 17-25, 20-25, 25-22, 15-11, as the Falcons advanced to the state final for the first time in school history.

"It was just such a gritty performance from every single one of the girls," said Tompkins head coach Allison Merrell. "There was so much resilience and so much fight and I'm so proud of them for that. They didn't give up, didn't give in and it went our way in the end. The fight just took over at the end and I'm so proud of them."

Things started well for Tompkins, as the Falcons jumped out to a lead in the first set. But things went back and forth and eventually it came down to just one point, as the Falcons took the first set 26-24 to gain a crucial advantage.

"I don't think these girls have ever been intimidated out on the floor," Merrell said. "It doesn't matter if we haven't been here or what situation we get in — they are confident and they're going to give their all every single time they touch the floor, and it just went our way at the end."

But Keller responded as soon as they went down, building a big lead in the second set to tie things and then surviving a Tompkins comeback attempt in the third set, as the Falcons fell behind.

Keller again took an early lead in the fourth set, but Tompkins finally settled into its groove and answered by reeling off a strong comeback and taking a close fourth set.

And the Falcons finally took an early lead in the fifth set, taking the advantage and never letting it go as they worked towards the five set victory.

"We knew going into the fifth set that we needed to take a breath and calm ourselves because we knew that was it," said senior outside hitter Tendai Titley. "We just went out there and left it all on the court and it got us the win."

The Falcons said coming into this week that they weren't done yet, and they proved that with the come from behind win. "We actually said that before the fifth set," Merrell said. "I looked at them before that last set and told them, 'you're not done yet.' We talk all the time about starting strong because we hadn't been doing that, and they just took it by five points the whole way, they went out and led at five, then at 10 and then got to 15. That was it, they knew that they weren't done."

Tompkins will play the winner of the Woodlands and Dripping Springs Saturday at 5, and the Falcons are determined to get one more win.

"We just trust each other," said sophomore libero Brooklynn Merrell. "I know the person next to me can do it and I know that I can do it. That's all we need, we did that tonight and we have to do that tomorrow."



PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

Top: Tompkins celebrates after winning Friday's Class 6A State Semifinal between Tompkins and Keller on Friday at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland. Above: Skylar Skrabanek attempts a kill during Friday's Class 6A State Semifinal between Tompkins and Keller on Friday at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland.



Presley Powell sets a ball during Saturday's state final between Tompkins and Dripping Springs at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland.

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By Order Of Mayor And City Council  
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October 10, 2022

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**ROYAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating**

Royal Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, December 12, 2022 in the Board Room at Royal Administration Building 3714 FM 359 North Pattison, TX

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Royal Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS State Financial Accountability Rating**

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools will hold A public meeting At 11:30 am December 13, 2022 In the Conference Room Calvin Nelms Charter Schools High School Building 20625 Clay Road Katy, TX 77449

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Calvin Nelms Charter Schools' "Superior" Rating achieved through the state financial accountability system

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

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45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale 12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, cattlemansale.com.

EVENT  
Palacios Downtown Christmas - Fri., Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m. The Palacios, Texas Downtowners are hosting A Downtown Christmas. Cookie crawl, Christmas pageant, lighted bike parade, turkey giveaway, door prizes, shopping, food and much more. Chamber's free seaside holiday event on Dec. 3.

Christmas in Comfort - Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Live music, food, gifts, Santa Land, lighted night parade, fireworks. 830-995-3131, www.comfort-texas.com

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's on-premise permit (BG) by Mr. Penguin Snacks LLC dba Don Pinguino Snacks #1 located at 18775 Clay Rd., Suite B/C, Houston, Harris County, TX 77084. Officer of this company is Araceli Andrade Owner/manager.

## November 17 Puzzle Answers

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

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

**CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**  
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2022

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**  
6:30 p.m., Monday, January 9, 2023

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Amending The City Of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: Religious Institution In A "C-1" Commercial District At 5038 East Fifth Street; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For A Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day A Violation Of This Ordinance Exists.

**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

From our family to yours

**Katy Times**

# Seven Lakes graduate Michael Batton shines in expanded role for ULM

BY PAUL LETLOW  
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

When opportunity knocks, it pays to be ready.

With leading tackler Tristan Driggers sidelined with a shoulder injury and a game plan that required a herd of linebackers to stop a run-first offense, the University of Louisiana-Monroe walk-on and Seven Lakes graduate Michael Batton found himself with a chance to shine Saturday afternoon at Georgia State University.

"That's what I told people," Batton said. "When opportunity meets preparation."

Batton responded with a monster performance, registering 16 tackles with 15 solos, one pass break-up and a forced fumble in ULM's 31-28 victory over the Panthers at Center Parc Stadium in Atlanta.

"I was Tristan's backup and we knew this team was more of a running team," Batton said.

"And so, we ran more of a 4-3 this week, rather than our usual 4-1-6. We kind of kind of brought the will and the star positions more in the box. Especially the will played more of a stereotypical linebacker."

Although Carl Glass Jr. made the start in place of Driggers, Batton was raring to go too.

"They were passing the ball more than usual," Batton said, "and eventually, I think they decided it was better to have me out there and I was performing well, thankfully."

Batton, who had 14 total tackles prior to Saturday's break-out performance, was part of a team effort that saw ULM (4-6, 3-3 Sun Belt) snap a 19-game road losing streak, dating back to 2019.

"It was a long time, a little over three years," Batton said. "The energy was right. When I was out there, I didn't have a doubt in my mind we were going to win. We're just learning how to win."

Prior to ULM, Batton played quarterback at Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York. He

was 6-3 in nine starts last year, accounting for 1,110 yards of total offense and 12 touchdowns while leading his team to an appearance in the NJCAA Division III Championship game. He graduated high school from Seven Lakes, where he played quarterback as well.

"I played quarterback my whole life," Batton said. "I had always played defense, but I kind of ended up at quarterback and did well for myself in high school. I took it to JUCO and did well there too. I couldn't really find an opportunity, but ULM recruited me to be an athlete and I just wanted to play Division I football; play in the big stadiums and stuff like that. That's how that worked out."

Batton found his way to ULM thanks to a family connection to associate head coach/inside linebackers coach Ron West. As a young assistant at Louisiana Lafayette in the 1980s, West coached Batton's father Peter. West showed interest in the younger Batton out of Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas, and recruited him again when he was looking for a next college stop earlier this year.

"Coach West knew me out of high school and he recruited me there," Batton said. "He coached my father in the '80s and he'd had his eye on me for a while. He always believed in me as a player. Once he got to ULM, he was always telling me he had a spot for me. When my recruiting went by the wayside, we gave him a call and he was happy to have me."

Batton credits his father for helping develop into a productive football player, no matter the position.

"I know what I'm capable of," Batton said. "I started football early. I played quarterback, but he made me a football player. Honestly, I was always better at defense than offense growing up, but I always played both. I definitely did have a lot of energy and things I wanted to prove. It wasn't a surprise to me, but I'm blessed I got the opportunity to go out there."



The Tompkins girls pose for a photo before the state meet.

COURTESY KATY ISD

# Tompkins leads way in Cross Country All-District selections

Tompkins led the way in District 19-6A selections to the All-District team, earning the top number of runners on the first team and a coach of the year honor.

On the boys side, Walt Yarrow, Tompkins head coach, was named the coach of the year in the district, while Tompkins and Seven Lakes both placed two runners on the first all-district team in Seven Lakes' Matthew Montgomery and Reese Sullivan and Tompkins Mathias Pitzel and Austin Garcia. Tompkins also dominated the second team list, placing three more runners there, more than any other team in the district.

On the girls side, Mayde Creek's Shawn Siemers was named the coach of the year and the Rams placed two on the first team in Rachel Solano and Jamie Klander, Tompkins meanwhile placed three on the first team list in Rowan Saacke, Courtney Richman and Mary Alice Sheley. Katy placed two on the 2nd team, which was tops in the district, while Jordan placed three runners on the honorable mention list.

## 2022 DISTRICT 19-6A XC ALL-DISTRICT TEAMS

BOYS		GIRLS	
<b>Coach of the Year</b>	Walt Yarrow	Tompkins	Shawn Siemers
<b>1st Team:</b>	Matthew Montgomery	Seven Lakes	Rowan Saacke
	Adrian Hahn Vadstein	Cinco Ranch	Rachel Solano
	Mathias Pitzel	Tompkins	Maddy Hunter
	Austin Garcia	Tompkins	Courtney Richman
	Anthony Perez	Mayde Creek	Kirsten Thomas
	Evan Couture	Katy	Jamie Klander
	Reese Sullivan	Seven Lakes	Mary Alice Sheley
<b>2nd Team:</b>	Parker Wood	Tompkins	Claudia Klander
	Aiden Ramshaw	Tompkins	Casey Sherperrel
	Juan Perez Salas	Tompkins	Laine Heiser
	Adam Elbanna	Cinco Ranch	Beatriz Lapple
	Hector Cruz	Seven Lakes	Asha Salim
	Jason Chivala	Seven Lakes	Meghan Carlson
	Alex Hahn Vadstein	Cinco Ranch	Victoria Guerrero
<b>Honorable Mention:</b>	Nicolas Valadez	Paetow	Heidi Greene
	Ryan Du Plessis	Cinco Ranch	Addison Sutton
	Aaron Ramshaw	Tompkins	Isabella Castillo
	Ryder Darcey	Katy	Summer Rhodes
	Logan Morris	Katy	Ximena Lopez
	Jacob Wyman	Jordan	Keely Hrachory
	Joshua Perez	Katy	Sophia Ramshaw
			Mayde Creek
			Taylor
			Seven Lakes
			Jordan
			Katy
			Tompkins
			Katy
			Cinco Ranch
			Tompkins

## Christmas \* Worship \* Guide

Publishing 12/8/2021

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DEADLINE: Friday, December 2

Contact: Susan Rovegno, Publisher, Katy Times  
cell 914-522-4612 or susan.rovegno@katytimes.com

**Katy Times**

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# Royal's successful season ends in bi-district round

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Royal had a tremendous season. The Falcons bounced back from a losing season and winning one district game to finish second in district and earn their first playoff appearance since 2017. That made for a hugely successful year for a program that is trying to build itself into something bigger and better, but, at least for this season, things came to an end in the first round of the playoffs, as the Falcons fell to Hamshire-Fannett in bi-district, 40-10, to end their season. Royal fell behind but stayed in it in the first half, trailing 6-0 after the first quarter and giving up another six points but scoring three in the second quarter. But a strong second half by Hamshire-Fannett was too much to overcome. Fannett scored 21 points in the third and



PHOTO COURTESY ROYAL ISD

The Royal football team. The Falcons fell to Hamshire-Fannett in bi-district, 40-10, to end their season

seven points in the fourth, while Royal was only able to put up seven points in the second half.

Royal had a balanced day offensively, Ashton Robinson completed 12 of 22 passes for 128 yards, while also throwing an inter-

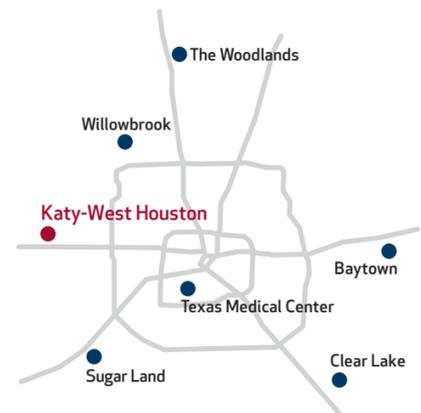
ception, while Avery Robinson Jr. led the way receiving, catching three passes for 54 yards and Antonio Page caught four passes for 22 yards. Zakai Anderson had a strong day running the ball, carrying it 19 times for 116 yards and a touchdown and averaging 6.1 yards per carry. The Royal defense did a good job against the Hamshire-Fannett pass game, limiting the teams pass attack to just 78 yards and forcing an interception, but Fannett had two players go over 150 yards rushing, with Tyler Spencer rushing for 164 yards and three touchdowns and D'onte Zeno getting 154 yards and two touchdowns, with Fannett ending the day with 353 rushing yards. But it was still a tremendous year for a building program, and Royal will be returning plenty of talent as they work forwards 2023, including both Robinson and Anderson.



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