



By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Sports Columnist

High School Football Revue



Demetris Gardner

(VILLAGER) - With high school football now in full swing, I'm introducing a new feature to the Villager's sports coverage. Starting this week, we will look back at some of the top performers from the previous week's games. We will also preview the upcoming Game of the Week.

I will begin making my fearless predictions once district play gets underway.

LAST WEEK'S TOP PERFORMERS

In one of the most exciting, highest-scoring games in the first week of the season, Connally junior running back Demetris Gardner rushed 24 times for 266 yards and five touchdowns in a 51-49 loss to Austin High. It was a career-best performance for Gardner, who rushed for a total of 366 yards last year.

Bowie senior tight end Jayden York caught four passes for 136 yards and a touchdown in a 42-21 win over Pflugerville. York, who caught four touchdown passes last year, is a favorite target of senior quarterback Trinidad Sanders.

Making his first varsity start, Del Valle jun-

ior quarterback Jace Wilson competed 22 of 30 passes for 271 yards and three touchdowns in a 47-29 win over McNeil. Wilson totaled five touchdowns as he also carried the ball eight times for 45 yards and two more scores.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Connally (0-1) at Del Valle (1-0), Friday at 7:30 p.m. - Expect a shootout as the teams combined to score 96 points in their respective openers.

Connally's Jace Wilson had a big debut at quarterback, but Del Valle also features explosive running back Tavierre Dunlap, who rushed for nearly 1,500 yards last season. Dunlap debuted with 97 rushing yards to go along with three touchdowns in the opener. Connally counters with its own dynamic running back, Demetris Gardner, who turned in one of the area's best rushing performances last week.



NEW CLASS AT HT UNIVERSITY AIMS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS OF COLOR

MEASURE (a community-based organization whose mission is to use data and education to empower communities to eliminate social disparities), Huston-Tillotson University (Austin's Historically Black College and University), and Capacity Catalyst (a nonprofit that works to build bridges between academia, professionally applied research, and the social sector in Austin) came together to create an innovative undergraduate Community Engaged Research course set to launch in the fall of 2019.

"People of Color are underrepresented in the field of research. The Community Engaged Research class aims to locally disrupt this narrative by empowering 15 students and 5 local nonprofits through lessons on data-activism, traditional research methods and social equity," said Meme Styles, founder of MEASURE.

Travis County celebrates Voter Registration Awareness Month

(AUSTIN, TX) - More than 2,300 volunteer deputy registrars will fan out across Travis County in September looking to register voters as they recognize Travis County Voter Registration Awareness Month.

Today, Travis County Commissioners Court unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the month and reminding residents that Sept. 24 is National Voter Registration Day.

"We want to encourage everyone to register to vote, change their voter registration address if they moved within the county and join us in registering voters by becoming a volunteer deputy registrar," said Bruce Elfant, the Travis County voter registrar and tax assessor-collector.

The tax office's voter registration division will celebrate the month by recognizing Sept. 1-7 as Education Week; Sept. 8-14 as Local Business Week; Sept. 15-21 as Civic Week; Sept. 22-28 as Senior, Rehabilitation and Assisted Living Week; and Sept. 29 to Oct. 7 as Challenge Week. Oct. 7 is the deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 5 election that will include several state constitutional amendments.

The tax office is setting a goal to register more than 800,000 voters by Oct. 7, which would represent almost 94 percent of the county's eligible voters. Currently, there are more than 790,000 registered voters or about 93 percent of the county's eligible voters.

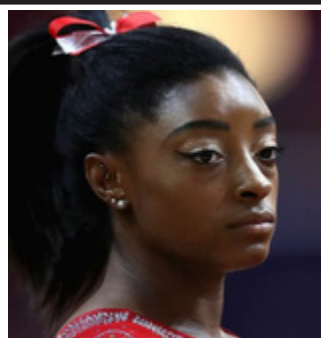
Those wanting to help register voters should visit the tax office Facebook page, facebook.com/TravisCountyTaxOffice, to view and sign up for available volunteer deputy registrar trainings.

Simone Biles' "Heart Aches" Over Brother's Triple Murder Charge

By Defender News Service

(DEFENDER) - Olympic gymnast Simone Biles faces one of the hardest challenges of her personal life after her brother, Tevin Biles-Thomas, was arrested and charged on Friday stemming from a December 31 shooting which left three people dead.

Biles took to Twitter to share an emo-



Simone Biles

tional post, marking her first official statement on the news since her brother's arrest made headlines.

"My heart aches for everyone involved, especially for the victims and their families," she wrote. "There is nothing that I can say that will heal anyone's pain, but I do want to express my sincere condolences to everyone affected by this terrible tragedy. I ask everyone to please re-

Game Changers: 'Sims Stars and Norman Tigers Shine and Roar Together'

The Norman and Sims community gather to welcome the game changers of the future back to school.



Children high-fiving the Norman Tiger as they start first day of school.

(AUSTIN, TX) - Austin ISD kicked off its new school year last week and the students from Norman and Sims Elementary schools were greeted with cheers and congratulatory statements.

Members of the community also were up bright and early to meet students. Representatives from City Council member Harper-Madison's office and Travis County Commissioner Jeff Travillion were also on hand. Students from Norman and Sims are sharing the Sims campus while the \$25 million modernization of the Norman campus is underway. The modernization will include technology improvements and collaborative spaces for 21st-century learning.

"Both our schools recently received a 'B' rating from the state," said Ms. Mills. The Texas Education Agency ranks schools across the state and released its ratings on Aug. 15. "We are proud of that success and the only direction we want to go this year is up!"

Mills brings a history of educational leadership to Norman and Sims, having worked in public education for 18 years. She has served as an administrator in Lockhart, Cedar Hills and Austin ISDs and has been principal at Norman since 2017. Two new assistant principals also joined the staff this year. Patrick Salinas who graduated from the University of Texas with a masters in education whose goal is to become a progressive school leader with a focus on equity to ensure all students receive a high quality education. Matthew Kenny, also a University of Texas graduate, considers himself a passionate servant to his school community and bilingual students everywhere.

To ensure parents are involved in the school community, Mills plans on connecting with parents through a variety of ways, such as educational support, social committees, projects and events.

"All of us—staff, parents and students—look forward to learning as a team," says Mills.



Tevin Biles-Thomas

spect my family's privacy as we deal with our pain. XO," she wrote in closing.

She captioned her note with, "still having a hard time processing last week's news."

Many of her followers replied with messages of support and encouragement.

Prior to her post on Monday Biles sent a series of cryptic tweets which showed the raw emotion and difficulties

public figures face as they are merely human.

According to TMZ, Biles-Thomas was charged with murder, voluntary manslaughter, felonious assault and perjury from the New Year's Eve shooting which occurred after a fight broke out at a party hosted in a Cleveland, Ohio, Airbnb rental.

Two people, Delvaunte Johnson, 19, Tashaun Banks, 21, died at the scene, while a third, Devaughn Gibson, 23, died at a nearby hospital, CNN reports.

Biles Thomas is scheduled to appear in court on September 13 and is currently being held without bail as he awaits extradition to Cuyahoga County.



Monthly Service Charges Waived for Everyone Under 25 Years Old and Younger

(VILLAGER) - It's always a good time to teach young Texans about money management. To help them out, we've waived the monthly service charges on the Frost Personal Account and Savings Account for everyone under age 25.

Help young Texans get a good start with their finances with features like:

- Paid quarterly interest on our Savings Account
- A top-rated mobile app to deposit checks, send and receive money with Zelle® and check their balances on the go
- Phone calls always answered by a person, 24/7
- Debit Card Alerts for peace of mind and fraud protection
- 1,200+ ATM locations to access their cash across Texas

Learn more about the Frost Personal Account and Savings Account today.

If you have any questions, you can call us 24/7 at (800) 513-7678 or visit your nearest Frost financial center to open an account.