

THE newlyweds

TOGETHER FIFTY-TWO YEARS,
DALLAS' MOST NOTED GAY COUPLE
FINALLY PUT A RING ON IT.

ICONS OF DALLAS, GEORGE HARRIS (LEFT) AND JACK EVANS STAND IN FRONT OF THE CITY THEY CALL HOME.

STORY DAVIS MARSH | PHOTOS ARNO GOETZ



n June 26, 2015, America changed — fundamentally.

With a 74-page majority opinion released by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, gay couples won the right to marry the people

they loved.

More than 1000 miles away from the nation's capital, George Harris rushed home from a doctor's appointment and went with his partner of 52 years, Jack Evans, to the Dallas County courthouse.

In a waiting room filled to the brim with couples seeking their marriage licenses, the clerk asked for Jack and George by name.

"Are Jack and George here? Y'all are gonna be first."

But this day of celebration was haunted by the more sobering memories of the past half-century the pair have spent together. When Jack and George were fired from their jobs in the 50s, just because they were gay. When their friends were rounded up like animals by the police in the 60s, shamed in the newspapers and forced into hiding. When they lost so many dear friends in the 80s to the vicious outbreak of the HIV/AIDS virus.

Yet, despite all the tragedy and pain, there Jack and George remained, standing hand-in-hand, a newlywed couple — 52 years together.

Jack grew up in a small town south of Wichita Falls while George is from what he describes as “the backwoods” of Mississippi. The pair hail from a time and place unlike the gay-friendly world of 21st century America.

“[Young people] don’t realize that they couldn’t always walk down Cedar Springs holding hands,” Evans said. “The generation that’s coming takes things for granted. And they need to remember so that they got some appreciation to what happened before.”

One of the freedoms gay people now enjoy that was not always available is job security. Harris and Evans both lost their jobs in the Eisenhower-era.

“In the ‘50s, when I got out of the military,” Evans said. “I went to work for [a department store] in its first store outside the city of Dallas. I became the manager of the men’s shop. And I loved the work, loved the people. Until they found out I was gay, and they let me go, didn’t fire me, but they let me go because ‘I could be blackmailed into stealing from the company.’”

Society was different. Same-sex couplings were not even accepted as an “alternative” lifestyle.

“Well, when we got together,

THROUGH FIVE DECADES, THE COUPLE HAS SEEN IT ALL. FROM THE AIDS OUTBREAK TO THE LEGALIZATION OF GAY MARRIAGE.

two men, and certainly not two women, couldn’t be on the same mortgage,” Evans said. “You couldn’t buy a car together. Look how far we’ve come. This is 1961 I’m talking about.”

Back when they met each other, Dallas itself was a far different place, and not the gay-friendly city it is today. Months after the Stonewall Riot in New York, a frightening and tragic event took place in Dallas.

“The [undercover police] went to a gay bar and started taking people to an after hours party,” Evans said. “The bars always closed at twelve o’clock, and nobody was ready go home, so it was not uncommon for someone to grab a six pack and say come on over for a couple hours.”

The police had set up a fake party in East Dallas, attracting 79 gay men. The police then rounded up 29 of them on anti-sodomy charges, and those 29 men’s lives were devastated.

“They all left their jobs,” Evans said. “They had to leave town. One of them was a doctor and had to go to Canada to practice medicine.

And Evans says these actions ruined lives.

“See now, they ruined a lot of lives. Not only the guys, but their families,” Evans said.

After living through an Inquisition-type period in Dallas’s history, Evans and Harris witnessed the horrors of the AIDS crisis.

“It brought us together because there was so much desperation, and boys were being disowned,” Harris said. “And [GLBT community leader] Don Mason started [a shelter] in Oak Cliff where they could go. There was an organization called H-Resources and the purpose of it was to feed, clothe and take care of those who had contracted AIDS.”

And out of the trials Dallas’s gay community has faced, resources have emerged for those in need of help.

“They have a lot of places for help,” Evans said. “I mean, Youth First Texas is a great organization. It’s being run now by the resource center of Dallas. It’s amazing what they do.”

But beyond their having witnessed immense change in Dallas, Evans and Harris are best known for their own story. Over the course of their 52 years, they have contributed to Dallas in many ways, including as real estate agents.

“George and I worked together for 38 years,” Evans said. “We were in residential real estate and opened our own office together.”

During a downturn in the real estate market, Evans and Harris approached a large, Preston Center-based firm to see if they would be interested in opening a satellite branch.

“They were very polite,” Evans said. “They said ‘No, but if you would like to join us we would take your license.’ And I said, ‘I want you to know for sure that George and I have been together for 34 years.’ And she said, ‘I don’t think I’ve had a woman in my office that’s been with the same man for 34 years.’”

Evans and Harris also give back to the community. They started

the GLBT Chamber of Commerce, and have partnered with University of North Texas to archive their mementos to further the ongoing study of GLBT history.

“Our focus has always been to serve in one capacity or another and to encourage,” Evans said. “Ten years ago, nobody came out, everybody was in the closet. We just want to tell the young people that it gets better and we want to give them hope.”

And the couple also has advice for longevity in a relationship.

“It hasn’t been easy but it hasn’t been tough,” Evans said of his relationship with Harris. “One thing that we have always maintained is never go to bed angry. Do not argue, because nobody wins in an argument. There are no winners, everybody’s a loser.”

“That’s my line, since you always like to stir up something and I won’t argue,” Harris said. “Years ago, when we’d fight over something, we would decide that when we could come in from work, we’d have a martini. We’d sit down and work it out. Thank the lord we didn’t become alcoholic.”

The two are very active in the congregation at Northaven United Methodist Church. Their religious affiliation did play a part in their decision as to when and where to get married.

“We have chosen to attend Northaven United Methodist Church because it’s what’s called a reconciling congregation,” Harris said. “It’s a congregation that welcomes everybody, gay, straight, homosexual, black, white, whatever without reservation.”

And not long after, the two went to another church for a religious marriage, not a civil ceremony.

“On March 1st of last year, we got married in Midway Hills Christian Church,” Evans said. “We couldn’t get married in the Methodist church. But, after the ceremony, we went back to our church for

the reception.”

As far as the state of Texas was concerned, these two men, dedicated to each other for half a century, had no right to wed. Until June 26. The two describe that day:

“A man gets up and says we are about to begin, and he had not heard from the attorney general,” Harris said. “‘First,’ he said, ‘is Jack and George here?’ We raised our hands and he said, ‘Well ya’ll are going to be first.’”

Evans says that the crowd there hollered when the man said the pair would be first. And later, they were crying.

“We all wound up crying,” Harris said, “and people around us were crying.”

“We had made history,” Evans said.

From *D Magazine* to the *Jerusalem Post*, the world celebrated the pair’s historic wedding. Even President Obama showed his support.

“We got a dear Jack and George letter from the President,” Evans said. “It said congratulations. We’re having it framed.”

Perhaps most importantly, all the positive attention and press lauded on the couple has reassured them that the world is moving in the right direction.

“We have been blessed by this recent publicity because it gives us an opportunity to establish roles and to reach out,” Evans said. “There’s hope now that never has been.”



A portrait from their earlier years (above) contrasts with the images of the couple from a summer 2015 *Dallas Morning News* story about their marriage, the first gay union in Dallas.

WHAT'S RIGHT WITH ME.

SWAPPING
BASEBALL FOR
INVESTMENTS, THIS
ALUM IS NOW IN THE
EPICENTER OF POWER AND
INFLUENCE IN THE COMPETITIVE
WORLD OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STORY BRADFORD BECK | PHOTOS COURTESY RYAN COTTON

Less than a year ago, he gave a Cum Laude speech about his philosophies on life, about things he wished he had known as a young adult, about the kind of man he had become. He had been chosen to talk for many reasons. Because of his academic success. Because of experience in Major League Baseball. Because of his success as a venture capitalist.

From Princeton and Stanford, to Major League Baseball, to Bain capital and everything in between, his speech made an impact.

But when the speech was over, no one was talking about his lessons, his past or his public speaking. They were talking about one word.

A word that was casually dropped toward the end of his speech. One that stuck with the students long after his speech ended.

That word? "Boyfriend."

Continued, next page

COTTON, PICTURED LEFT IN PHOTOS WITH HIS BOYFRIEND MIKE BASKOWSKI, HAS SEEN FIRST HAND MANY CULTURAL SHIFTS SINCE HIS DAYS AS A STUDENT AT 10600 PRESTON ROAD.



Ryan Cotton '97 grew up just down the street from 10600 Preston Road, deep in the heart of Texas. But for Cotton, Dallas wasn't a good place. School wasn't a good place. It was a place that did not look kindly on differences. Different was wrong, thus making it a place where a 15-year old Cotton did not feel free to be who he was.

"St. Mark's was not and to some extent still is not a place that nurtures and supports that kind of diversity," Cotton said. "I would've been treated as very, very different. The narrative would have been 'What's wrong with you?' not 'What's right with you?' A very important distinction that is still blatant in the way we think and talk about this issue in Texas and St. Mark's today."

Cotton's experiences have led him to believe that the school can improve its atmosphere and attitude toward gay students.

ST. MARKS IS GOING TO BE THE KIND OF SCHOOL IT WANTS TO BE, AND IF IT WANTS TO BE AT A LEVEL THAT IS ONE OF THE MOST ELITE SCHOOLS IN AMERICA, WE NEED TO BE A LEADER ON THIS ISSUE AND NOT A FOLLOWER — AND RIGHT NOW WE'RE NEITHER.

"You'll notice that St. Mark's doesn't have an LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) kind of community," Cotton said. "It doesn't have an organization that says it's okay to be that. For years the response of the school was that 'We have a school counselor'. I don't need counseling. There is nothing wrong with me. I just need you to know that there is nothing wrong with me."

Cotton felt he had no one in his dugout, no support if he tried to be himself.

"We had, at the time, two, three, four teachers we knew were gay but all of them lied about it," Cotton said. "And so who's going to support me? And what are the examples that are being set by the 'adults' that I'm supposed to be learning from. The example I was learning, the behavior I was supposed to model from the adults around was 'Good God, don't tell anyone about this.' Lie, repress, act like it's not a thing, hide it, hide

who you are."

But to be fair, Texas was not the only place where this model was set. Cotton has seen it everywhere, and sees parallels in professional sports. Even though professional sports had been leading the charge on civil rights movements with people like Jackie Robinson, Cotton believes they are on the other side of gay rights. Cotton had a brief stint in the Major League Baseball front office before he saw the writing on the ball — that professional sports was a place where he could not be open.

"Sports have been pretty progressive," Cotton said. "Sports teams make pretty powerful statements about things. Yet this issue for some reason is one that they want to run very very very far away from. That is just strange to me."

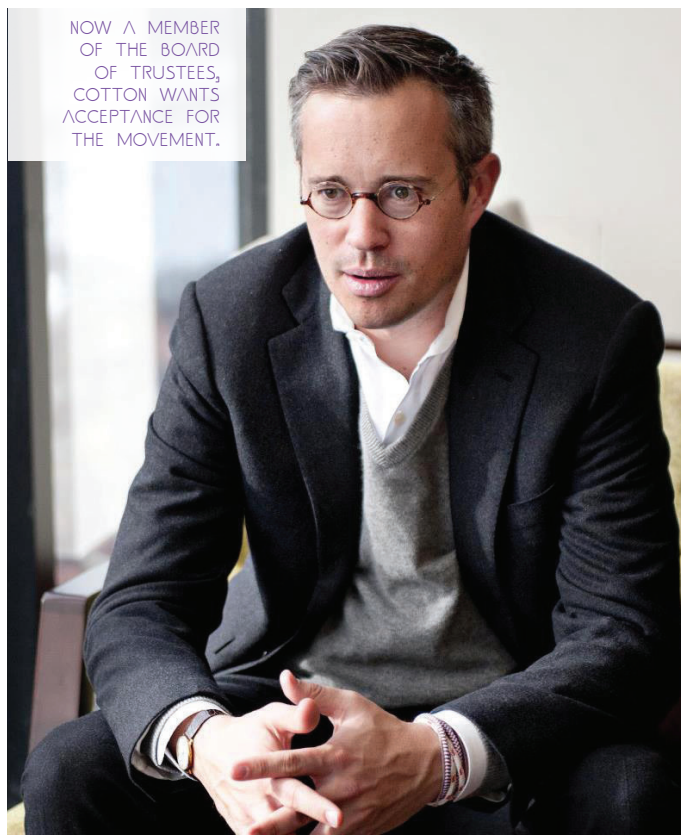
For the country and professional sports to change, Cotton believes that the June 2015 Supreme Court case, which granted same-sex couples the right to get married, will not be enough.

"I don't think this case has any bearing on that," Cotton said. "It's a much more powerful emerita of silence and lying that has become the social norm that it's going to take a pretty daring act of courage to buck that trend. I think it's kinda sad that those people have to lie about who they are, live a double life, and can't be a full-functioning, fully participating, open, honest member of society. Having said that, I think the first super-star athlete that just says 'Screw it I'm gay.' I think it's going to be unbelievably powerful socially."

Cotton sees how much the country has changed and believes that the pieces have been set for an athlete to be open about who he or she is.

"For some people that is kind of scary, they're kind like 'I don't want to be that guy,'" Cotton said. "But I think to the one who is courageous enough to do it, it's going to be pretty game-changing. All of the money in America is lined up on the right side of this issue. All of the progressive institutions, corporations and people are lined up on the right side of this issue. The same sort of celebration would follow the first major athlete that had the guts to do that. But for

NOW A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, COTTON WANTS ACCEPTANCE FOR THE MOVEMENT.



whatever reason we haven't seen it yet, and that is kind of amazing to me."

But Cotton understands the difficulty of breaking barriers.

"There's a normative culture of expectations that weighs on everybody in that world," Cotton said. "And it's a self-propagating culture of normative expectations because, you know, it's what everybody else around you is acting like is normal. And that creates this unbelievable culture of should and pressure and expectation that's very, very hard to stop. And so I think that's pretty powerful evidence of how powerful this culture really is."

Cotton says more and more of the country is getting behind the gay rights movement. He feels St. Mark's is at a point where it can become a leader in the issue.

"St. Marks is going to be the kind of school it wants to be," he said, "and if it wants to be at a level that is one of the most elite schools in America we need to be a leader on this issue and not a follower and right now were neither.

For the country to change, Cotton believes places like St. Mark's must lead the way. And he believes his chapel conversation

was a step in the right direction even though many people focused on the one line where he revealed his orientation.

"I suspect I was the first person to stand up in the chapel and say those words [boyfriend]," Cotton said. "I knew it was important. It was important to me to say it, and it was important for the school to hear it."

"I wasn't terribly afraid," Cotton said. "Headmaster Dini is one of the greatest people I know and I knew he had my back a 100 percent. In some small way, I think he is smart enough that he invited me because he wanted this very conversation."

Eugene McDermott Headmaster Dini invited Cotton — not because of his sexuality — but, rather, because of the person he had become.

"There wasn't an agenda in asking him to speak, but I'm very proud of who he is," Dini said. "I'm proud he was here that day and proud of what he said."

And as America and St. Mark's continue to move forward, Cotton hopes that one casual word — boyfriend — will still be a significant part of his speech, just not the defining one.



UNDERGROUND SCIENTIST
Presenting his discovery of *Homo Naledi*, a missing link in the human evolutionary tree, Dr. Lee Berger spoke to the Upper School Sept. 30.
PAGE 2

TAKING CENTER STAGE
For the first time in 30 years, the play, premiering Oct. 30, sees a new director — drama instructor Marion Glorioso.
PAGE 12






TIM O'NEARA PHOTO



'THE TEAM HAS PULLED TOGETHER AND STEPPED UP FOR THE PLAYOFFS.'
- Senior Jackson Cole
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POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN IN CLASS. SAY SOMETHING CONTROVERSIAL, PEOPLE GO CRAZY. TALK ABOUT SEX? CAREFUL. **WHAT** ABOUT EQUAL PAY, EQUAL WORK? THAT'S TOUCHY. NOT TO MENTION  WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW — THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT. THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON GAY MARRIAGE. ISSUES  IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MIGHT WANT TO STAY AWAY FROM THOSE. SO WHAT **CAN** WE TALK ABOUT? CAN WE TALK ABOUT CATHOLICISM, ATHEISM, CREATIONISM IN CLASS?  CAN WE TALK ABOUT ABORTION? OR IS THAT TOO MUCH? AND WHAT ABOUT TEACHERS. SHOULD THEY TALK ABOUT POLITICS  WITH THEIR STUDENTS? DEBATE HILLARY, BERNIE, CARSON AND CRUZ? HOW DO **WE** HANDLE OUR CONVERSATIONS? WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL SAY? ARE WE TOO AFRAID TO TALK? ARE WE  SCARED OF WHAT WE **SAY?**

PHOTOS CREATIVE COMMONS

Hold that thought.

The ReMarker investigates what can be said in the classroom, **page 9**

STORY CAMERON CLARK, KOBE ROSEMAN, ZACH NAIDU **ILLUSTRATIONS** ABHI THUMMALA

Administrators begin national search for new head of Upper School

by **Aidan Maurstad**
School administrators have started their search for a permanent Head of Upper School after the departure of former head Wortie Ferrell. According to Interim Head of Upper School Scott Gonzalez, the administrators did not want to rush into filling such an important position.
“Last year, when Mr. Ferrell announced to the faculty and to the school that he would not be returning,” Gonzalez said, “one of the issues that I engaged [Headmaster David Dini] with was that, because we were going to be having [Associate Headmaster John Ashton] come in and because we were going to have a couple changes coming up for this year, why don’t we take a step back and give it

some time.”
Gonzalez spoke with several search agencies across the country, settling on Boston-based Carney, Sandoe and Associates to conduct the search. Administrators are willing to take as much time as they need to find candidates that they feel are the best fit for the school.
“What we’re doing is just vetting carefully,” Ashton said, “and thinking, ‘Okay this group, let’s actually talk with them, Skype with them, and get to know them.’ And if it’s just not there yet, we’ll keep going and going and going until we get that really strong view that is so compelling that we think, ‘Gosh, the school will be served well.’”
Gonzalez wants the decision, when it comes time to make it, to be a hard one.

“We want to make a tough choice,” Gonzalez said. “We really do. ‘Do you want this guy or this guy?’ ‘Oh my gosh, let’s take some time and really look into this.’”
For Gonzalez, the most important quality in a potential candidate is passion.
“Does this person really have a vested interest in the education of young men?” Gonzalez said. “I have to look at our school and see who would best fit, someone who’s willing to engage the guys and really get to know them and work for them.”
Ashton stresses the role of a new head of Upper School as a fresh pair of eyes that can develop the school in new ways.

“It’s exciting,” Ashton said, “if you get someone that brings what I call that ‘How might we?’ factor of bringing fresh eyes to a great place that is incredibly strong, but – based on experiences he or she has had or ways of thinking – says, ‘that’s really neat. How might we do X differently?’”
According to Gonzalez, many candidates will have experience, but it’s what a candidate can bring to the community besides their experience that’s important.
“There are a lot of candidates that would qualify just on [experience] alone,” Gonzalez said. “But what separates them and what makes them right for our community? That’s the big question.”

See ‘Listening is quality one,’ — **page 23**

CALLING AN audible

FLYING HIGH Senior William Caldwell leaps into the air to snag a touchdown, his last one before a season ending injury.

With more injuries this fall than any other football team in the last decade, the Lions looked to unexpected leaders to carry the team — limping and hurt — into the playoffs.

Senior captain William Caldwell spins, cuts and jukes to turn a five-yard slant into a 25-yard gain. It's the second quarter and the Lions are up 12 needing 25 yards for a first down.

But it's second down and they have two downs to get there. This isn't a situation that called for an extraordinary play, but, as he has done so frequently during his three-year varsity career, he makes one.

As usual, Caldwell delivers.

He delivered last season, leading SPC in most categories for receivers.

He delivered in the first game this year, twisting in mid-air to catch the game-winning touchdown above a Cistercian corner desperately trying to guard him in the dying minutes of the fourth quarter.

As always, extraordinary circumstances called for Caldwell.

But now he can't deliver.

On one of these expected displays of brilliance, he snapped his fibula so severely he needed a metal plate inserted. Somebody needed to step up.

And the players who were called upon to fill his size-13 cleats plus those of the other team members that were injured have done just that.

Besides Caldwell, there have been a total of nine players who have faced with injuries during the game — a number far greater than teams from past years.

Senior Zak Houllion, who has led the Lions' offense in receiving yards with four touchdowns since Caldwell's injury, has been one of the many players that have stepped up the plate.

Houllion believes the injuries should not take away from the team's drive to make the playoffs.

"I think the goals are exactly the same for the team," Houllion said. "Even though there are injuries, that doesn't change anything. We still have to have our mind in the same place and still achieve what we want to

achieve with these injuries because if you take a different mindset to it, you're going to get a different result and that's not what we want."

In only his first year as a high school football player, Houllion recognized Caldwell's absence and spent extra time to improve his game. His work has paid off as he has doubled the amount of yards from his first two games as a starting receiver.

EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE FIELD, I KNOW I CAN STILL MAKE ONE AS A CAPTAIN OFF THE TURF.

WILLIAM CALDWELL

Houllion attributes his success to his willingness to rise to the occasion.

"At first I was kind of scared because I was thrust into the starting position with absolutely zero practice," Houllion said. "So I was kind of playing scared a little bit. But as I started to realize that I can do this and that I need to do this due to William's injury, I got more of a confident attitude, and I feel like if you take that attitude, you really start to go get the ball instead of letting it come to you and taking charge of your overall game."

After a 21-14 loss against Casady on Sep. 25 to put the Lions record at 2-3, the team was in a situation where they needed to win out in order to make the playoffs. By losing one of their most productive players in Caldwell, it seemed as if the season was going to be a lost cause.

But after a 28-16 win against an undefeated Oakridge and a 21-20 victory against Trinity Valley in overtime, it seemed like the Lions had responded well to its multitude of injuries.

Head coach Bart Epperson is hopeful for his team's chances — despite injuries.

"The biggest thing is that the team continues to pull together, and they continue to get better each week at what they can do," Epperson said. "And, if they continue to do that, with the guys being injured, we at least give ourselves an opportunity to win the football game."

That's what Epperson is hoping to do. "If we can stay together, build together and keep doing the things we need to on any facet of the game, we're going to give ourselves a chance to win," Epperson said.

With starters Michael Mosle and Hunter Alexander injuring themselves during two-a-days, the varsity team has called on many sophomores to fill starting position on the line and receiving core.

Sophomores Matthew Fornaro, William Hall and Canyon Kyle have played minutes in big games and have given the entire team hope they can push through the season.

Senior captain Drew Baxley believes a certain mentality is necessary for this situation.

"The coaches have preached a 'next man up' philosophy since day one of two-

a-days," Baxley said. "As a result, every player prepares in practice as though they are going to play that Friday. The goal is to have good athletes on the sideline able to cover every spot on the field in the case of an injury."

Sophomore Fausto Reyher has understood the importance of his role as a starter on the defense. Leading the team with 14 tackles against All Saints, he was recognized as the team's most valuable player that week.

For Reyher, the starting position was entirely unexpected for him.

"I had no idea I would be playing safety," Reyher said. "I never played that position until this year, so getting a starting position was a complete surprise to me. Now as the starting safety."

Ultimately, the Lions have responded well to the injuries and leaders Caldwell and Baxley are happy to see the change for the team.

"They've [the team] stayed resilient. They've stayed the course, trusted their abilities, and have just come ready to play and haven't let the numerous injuries really affect them," Caldwell said. "While there may have been some hiccups early on in the process, they've really bounced back. They come to work hard everyday and practice to prepare for games, and I know that all of this work will pay off."

In addition, Baxley's mindset is directed towards one game at a time as they head into the postseason.

• With a 24-21 Homecoming victory over Greenhill Oct. 24, coach Bart Epperson's football team advances to the SPC playoffs. The Lions host Houston Kinkaid tomorrow at 12 noon at Lamar Hunt Family Stadium.

"This year we started out the season very confident in our ability only to have our pride checked by several injuries at key positions," Baxley said. "This, however, does not change our goal or the way we play. We have plenty of younger guys who have been training hard all year to fill those roles. I like our chances."

Nevertheless, the team has not only built a foundation upon the younger guys, but has also given inspiration to rising players who aspire to play at the varsity level early on.

For Epperson, the team's continuous drive to respect each other's efforts on the field is the most important part of the team's goals for the football season.

"Yes, winning is very important, but for a successful season, the guys on the team need to play together as a team and respect everyone on the team when they're out there on the football field and learn some life lessons" Epperson said. "So, to me that's a successful season. Now granted, winning is important without a doubt, but if the guys can do those things that I mentioned, as a group and then as a team, that's more important to me."

HIS TIME TO SHINE Senior Zak Houllian lines up before a route as the primary receiver for the Lions in Caldwell's absence.

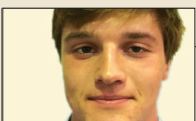
Home remedies

Two-way players and their solutions to staying healthy.



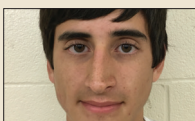
TIM SCAPEK
Senior strong safety and kicker

"I do specific stretches before practice, after practice and before I go to sleep for my position and past injuries I've had."



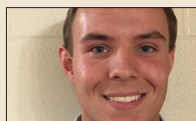
BRYCE KILLIAN
Senior defensive tackle and slot receiver

"I eat right and stay hydrated, especially on game days, with pedialyte and bananas."



FAUSTO REYHER
Sophomore safety and wide receiver

"I eat bananas and drink a lot. I even drink mustard in games to get through the cramps. I also aim lower when tackling instead of big hits to protect myself."



DREW BAXLEY
Senior center and defensive tackle

"I condition extra after practice by running sprints so that I stay healthy while playing on both sides of the ball."

KATY RUBARTH'S BATTLE

It's the fight.

A working single mother of three, Director of Communications Katy Rubarth has battled through two rounds of cancer over the course of nine years, but now she faces a troubling prognosis after her second period of remission.



FOR HER FAMILY
Although she faces a deeply intimidating challenge, Rubarth has the support of her family and friends like Kathy Mallick.

Katy Rubarth is scared. She doesn't know what's going to happen or who is going to take care of her boys or even how long she has left.

She's scared of the future. She takes her boys to Connecticut to spend some time with them. Her three boys Andy, Charlie and Oliver sit making handprints in still wet concrete plaster, laughing, unaware of the battle taking place inside their mother. The boys don't know that only weeks before, their mom had been told that she didn't have long left to live. They don't know that she brought them to this spot so that they would have a place to remember her. They don't know that their mom is sick. Again.

Seven years before that sunny day in Connecticut, Director of Communications Katy Rubarth was diagnosed with breast cancer.

At the time, she was volunteering full-time for the Red Cross, assisting people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

After going in for tests that she had been putting off, the doctors found a tumor.

After several surgeries and countless rounds of radiation, Rubarth was cleared by her doctors.

"Usually they say if you're out and healthy for five years you can put it behind you," Rubarth said. "I went seven years."

Seven years later, Rubarth had just

finished with Baccalaureate and Commencement when she felt something in her back.

"I remember thinking the next day I must have pulled something," Rubarth said. "We were running everywhere trying to make it a good experience for everyone. It wouldn't go away. It felt odd, like a muscle strain."

After a visit to both the school trainer and nurse, neither of whom could figure out what was causing the pain, Rubarth went to her doctor. When the first X-ray signified that something was wrong, Rubarth had to undergo further

AS IT SUNK IN, IT WAS THIS OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE. YOU'RE HEARING ALL OF THIS BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY PROCESS IT.

KATY RUBARTH

By the numbers: BREAST CANCER

1 out of every eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in her life.

0.9 percent of patients diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States are men.

2.6 million female survivors of breast cancer live in the United States.

testing.

The tests weren't good. "The next day the nurse called, I was sitting right here in my office, and she said, 'the doctor wants to see you. And she wants you to bring a friend to drive you,'" Rubarth said. "That's not good. I knew something was going on and bad news was probably coming."

Recently divorced, Rubarth's schedule was overburdened between her career and being a single mother of three boys.

She hadn't had much time to develop many close friendships. Not knowing where to turn for help, Rubarth turned to the community.

"I had gone on the Frank Jordan trip to Wyoming the year before as one of only two moms," Rubarth said. "The other mom was Kathy Mallick. I called her and said, 'I need to ask you a favor, and it's probably going to be a big favor; it may be bad news, but I need someone to go to the doctor with me.' From that day on, Kathy has been at my side."

Walking into the doctor's office, Rubarth didn't know what to expect.

She had made it seven years in remission, so cancer wasn't something she expected.

Rubarth's doctor sat her down, and burst into tears as she tried to explain that the cancer was back, spreading all throughout her body.

"You have cancer, and it's bad," Rubarth's doctor said. "It's in your bones, it's in your organs, you have a

spot on your spine too. I would take this time and spend it with your children because this doesn't look good."

Rubarth took her boys to Connecticut several days later, filled with uncertainty and not knowing how she was going to tell her boys.

"Things just sort of pop up randomly, you wonder how it happens," Rubarth said. "At that point I was wondering why is this happening, and what am I going to do. I was feeling very lost."

During the trip, Rubarth's college roommate insisted that Rubarth meet with a deacon from the Catholic church who was in town for one night.

"I didn't want to go anywhere, I sure didn't want to talk about faith," Rubarth said. "But my roommate said, 'we're going to his house.'"

Rubarth had yet to cry due to her diagnosis, but this time was different.

"This stranger deep looked in my eyes, and I just melted," Rubarth said "I hadn't cried, I was being really strong, I had to buck up for my boys, but I just melted."

The deacon asked what she was most afraid of.

"I'm most afraid of leaving my boys without a mother."

To be continued.

• The second and final part of Director of Communications Katy Rubarth's story in the upcoming issue of *The ReMarker*, which will be distributed March 11.

STORY CRAWFORD MCCRARY PHOTO ALDEN JAMES

Curtains debuts tonight at the Eisemann Center

by Kobe Roseman

After months of preparation, the Upper School Hockaday musical, *Curtains*, is set to premiere tonight at 7:30 at the Eisemann Center in Richardson.

The initial stages of planning began as early as February of last year when the new director of the show, drama teacher Emily Gray, was hired.

According to Gray, this Broadway murder-mystery was chosen due to the many roles available to students.

"[The musical] has a lot of roles that are like lead roles," Gray said. "There's not just one male and one female lead role. There are several male roles and several female roles. So it gave some pretty good people some good opportunities."

Along with this, Gray also wanted to choose an upbeat musical that could serve as a release from students' academic lives.

"It's very funny, silly, lighthearted and upbeat," Gray said. "I think people audition for the musical, and it's an extracurricular thing at school, I don't think people are looking to do something really desperately depressing."

But when the musical was announced to the students, many were surprised and had expected something more well known.

"It was sort of a curveball," senior Link Lipsitz, who will play detective Frank Cioffi, said. "We were all expecting something really fun, and then they were like, *Curtains*, and we didn't know what to think. But it's going to be fun so we are excited."

With the current construction at Hockaday and a new musical director, the preparation has been running at a different pace than years past.

"[The practices] are extremely busy," Gray said. "We really don't have a lot of downtime. We have just enough time to do

everything we need to do. Every practice is no taking breaks and stuff. We really use every minute we have."

With the craziness that most practices have been, Gray tries to motivate everyone to stay positive despite the threat of falling behind.

"My thing is always stay positive," Gray said. "Even if you are behind or concerned about getting behind, there's no point in wallowing in negativity. It doesn't actually produce anything useful."

But ultimately, Gray hopes that the musical will become a large event for both schools' communities.

"I hope it will be something that people can come to in big groups, have a lot of fun together and have a really good, uplifting night out," Gray said. "I think people will be surprised as to just how many talented students — boys and girls — we have between our communities."



CURTAIN CALL With a varied cast of both Marksmen and Hockadaises, Gray hopes to put on a show that will both entertain and uplift her audience.