

Candidate info sought

A questionnaire for candidates running for the position of U.S. representative for Congressional District 22 will appear in the Feb. 20 edition of the *Leader*. At press time, the paper was unable to contact four candidates (all Democrats). Anyone who knows how to reach Chris Fernandez, Nyanza Davis Moore, Carmine Petricco III, Sri Preston Kulkarni or Derrick Reed is urged to contact the *Leader* at mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Sage Meadow meet changes

The Sage Meadow Maintenance Committee will host its monthly meeting on a different day than usual for February. The meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Sage Meadow MUD building, 10755 Hall Road, at 7 p.m. Homeowners, residents and community members are encouraged to attend. For additional information, email info@sage Meadow.org or call and leave a message at 832-377-0847.

SPCIA meeting Feb. 20

The Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association will hold a homeowners' meeting Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Items on the agenda for the meeting include proposed deed restriction changes and violations; and community improvement issues and actions. All Sagemont Park homeowners and residents are urged to attend.

Life Church hosts class

Life Church is hosting a free conversational Spanish/ESL class taught by a certified bilingual teacher Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd. Email JoAnna De la Garza at islasdelagarza@gmail.com for more information.

Beltway closures planned

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 14.

At least two alternate southbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 from Crenshaw to Grayson will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 14.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Sunday, March 1.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, March 1.

Gulf Freeway closures set

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be completely closed at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 until further notice.

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be completely closed at FM 518 until further notice.

There will be a total closure of the southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to FM 518 nightly from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Feb. 28.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, Feb. 29.

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Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Feb. 13, (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Feb. 14, (second Friday of the month). February is for junk waste, but tree waste will also be accepted. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

PIP set for Feb. 18

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room on the first floor. Guest speaker to be announced. PIP is held the third Tuesday of the month and consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods. For additional information, call HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776.

Lasso events planned

There will be a series of mandatory events for those wishing to join the Dobie High School Lasso JV dance team. A mandatory parent meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in the school cafeteria. Mandatory Lasso clinics will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. March 30, March 31 and April 1 in the school's Larjaette Room. Mandatory Lasso tryouts will be held Thursday, April 2, in the school's Larjaette Room beginning at 4:30 p.m. The program is open to all incoming freshmen. For more information, email Chelsea Henning at channing@pasadenaisd.org.

Controversy surrounds Precinct 2 arrests

Recent Precinct 2 arrests, conducted in coordination with the South Houston Police Department, have come under scrutiny, as they may have been done in error, exposing the county to potential litigation.

The arrests in question took place Wednesday, Jan. 29, in the 600 block of Mississippi

Street in South Houston. According to a Facebook post that day from the South Houston Police Department, the incident stemmed from an attempt to remove "squatters" and "trespassers" from a property at the owner's request. The eviction led to several arrests, including two felony warrants and the recovery of two stolen vehicles.

When the defendants appeared in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's court on Thursday, Feb. 6, however, the case was dropped due to an improper vacate notice.

Further, it was disclosed that the suspects had paid rent to the property's landlord, making them tenants, rather than squatters or trespassers. And tenants are required, by law, to be given advance notice before such an eviction.

Legal experts have told the *Leader* that if the eviction itself was unlawful, the subsequent arrests may also be, and any evidence collected may be inadmissible.

Confounding matters, Precinct 2's top civil officer reportedly offered to visit the residence in question prior to the arrests but was told by a superior to stand down, as it was "being handled."

"This thing stinks to high heaven," said one source familiar with the incident. "There were

certainly laws that were broken."

The *Leader* has been told by multiple sources that the incident is currently under investigation by the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

A similar incident last March led to the firing of Precinct 2 Deputy Claudia Arellano. In that case, however, the error was merely clerical and accidental in nature. The mistake was found and corrected that same day, well before the defendant's court date.

Additionally, the exchange with the affected tenant was amicable, and no arrests were made.

It was unclear at press time, what disciplinary actions, if any, would be taken in this incident.

Numerous calls to both the Precinct 2 constable's office and the South Houston Police Department for an official statement went unanswered.

See related letters on Page 2A and candidate questionnaire on Page 5A.

City clears homeless camp



The Houston Police Department, working in conjunction with City Council Member Dave Martin's office, recently cleared a homeless camp located near the intersection of Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway. The measure was taken in response to a letter from Catherine O'Brien that appeared in the Jan. 30 edition of the *Leader*. Pictured above at the encampment are, left to right, Sgt. P. Lozano, Clear Lake Division community liaison; Clarisa Perez, Martin representative; and Officer J. Curtis, Clear Lake Division community service. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Teen girl killed in head-on crash

A teenager was killed in a head-on collision Monday, Feb. 3, on Allen Genoa near Crenshaw.

According to police, Destani Oliver, 18, was driving at the aforementioned address when a driver heading the other way veered off and crashed head-on into her vehicle.

The impact knocked Oliver's car off the street into somebody's yard. Oliver was killed in the crash. The other driver's condition is unknown.

A cosmetology student at the Lewis Career and Technical High School, Oliver was set to graduate this May.

Oliver's fellow classmates decorated her work station with flowers and balloons. Classmates also released balloons with personal notes in Oliver's honor.

An investigation is ongoing. See related obituary on Page 2A.

San Jac to offer nursing bachelor's degrees

The Texas Board of Nursing approved San Jacinto College's new bachelor of science in nursing (RN-to-BSN) program Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, clearing the way for the college to launch its first baccalaureate degree in fall 2020.

The program was previously approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

"We're excited to launch this new program and to be able to provide a vital next step for registered nurses with an associate degree work-

ing in the health care industry," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "San Jac has been a nursing educator for more than 50 years and we're excited to expand our credentialing trajectory to help meet the needs of our local hospital partners and our health care graduates now looking to further their education."

Developed with input from a BSN advisory committee comprised of area hospitals, San Jac's new program is designed for working registered nurses seeking professional growth, enhanced marketability, and opportunities to specialize in

advanced practice.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, an estimated 44 percent of health care organizations require new nurses to hold a BSN degree, and nearly 80 percent of health care employers prefer BSN graduates.

"At San Jac, associate degree nursing is our launching pad, not our landing pad," said Dr. Veronica Jammer, San Jac's new RN-to-BSN department chair. "BSN is really the natural next step."

This next step has been nearly 10 years in the

making, as San Jacinto College formed advisory committees and began planning the path to offering a baccalaureate program on the heels of a 2010 Institute of Medicine report, which highlighted necessary changes in the evolving health care industry and recommended 80 percent of RNs should hold BSN degrees by 2020.

The 2017 Texas Legislature also recognized the growing demand for nurses with higher credentials and authorized community colleges to offer workforce-related bachelor's degree pro-

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SJC, Pasadena ISD Promise, provide free tuition

In partnership with Good Reason Houston, San Jacinto College has launched the Harris County Promise at San Jacinto College, a program for local high school seniors to earn a tuition-free higher education credential.

Harris County Promise is a partnership between local independent school districts, higher education institutions, and Good Reason Houston aimed at increasing college credential and

degree attainment for the region. Data shows that 65 percent of today's jobs require more than a high school education, but only 21 percent of students in Harris County earn a postsecondary credential.

"Harris County Promise provides an incredible opportunity for high school students and their families," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "The Promise and college

staffs will partner to provide additional support for our students to enroll in college, stay on a path to completion, and ultimately earn their certificate or associate degree."

The Promise program launched last month in seven high schools across three school districts with three community college partners. The

participating high schools in the San Jac Promise program are from Pasadena ISD. Seniors at Dobie, Sam Rayburn and South Houston high schools are eligible for the tuition-free program, which requires that students be Texas residents and complete four steps to enroll, regardless of

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Early primary voting to begin Feb. 18

Early voting for the March 3 primary elections will begin Tuesday, Feb. 18, and continue through Friday, Feb. 28.

In addition to the highly publicized presidential race, voters will also decide who will fill a number of congressional and legislative seats, as well as many county positions, including that of judge, commissioner and constable.

Races relevant to the South Belt include U.S. House District 22, state Senate District 11, state House District 129, Harris County Precinct 1 commissioner and Harris County Precinct 2 Constable.

Republicans vying for the U.S. House District 22 seat being vacated by Pete Olson include Pierce Bush, Diana Miller, Troy Nehls, Brandon T. Penko, Shandon Phan, Howard Steele, Jon Camarillo, Douglas Haggard, Aaron Hermes, Greg Hill, Matt Hinton, Dan Matthews, Bangar Reddy, Kathaleen Wall and Joe Walz. Democrats competing for the position include Chris Fernandez, Nyanza Davis Moore, Carmine Petricco III, Sri Preston Kulkarni and Derrick Reed.

State Senate District 11 incumbent Larry Taylor

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Former resident helps area needy

Former Dobie student Justin Sepulveda is on a mission to feed and clothe the area's homeless.

A 2008 graduate, Sepulveda launched the nonprofit organization Clutch City Connect this past March to help fulfill that goal.

"I would go out to feed the homeless behind the scenes, and after the discovery of what was being done, the outpour of support made me realize that I needed to turn this hobby into an organization," Sepulveda said.

To initially help finance this mission, Sepulveda, who also attended Moore Elementary and Thompson Intermediate, printed 100 Hous-

ton-themed T-shirts. He planned to then use profits from the sales to purchase needed supplies. The shirts sold out in less than 24 hours.

With funds in hand, the former South Belt resident reached out to other charity groups and made arrangements with five other nonprofit organizations to make monthly donations of food, clothing, hygiene products and other items.

In May, Sepulveda hosted his first official community event, a collaboration with SEARCH Homeless Services. Held at Ecclesia Church, the function was a pet clinic for animals belonging to

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Sepulveda spreads joy



Former South Belt resident Justin Sepulveda (second from left) recently founded the nonprofit organization Clutch City Connect to help those in need. Sepulveda is pictured above at a toy drive he organized this past Christmas at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Galveston. Shown with him are, left to right, Omar Gomez, Leigh Ann Trujillo and Jasmin Perla.

Publisher's Opinion

Early voting begins Tuesday—be an informed voter!

Early voting starts here next Tuesday. The good news for all voters is that now you can vote in any location for early and regular voting. I would urge all our people to be sure to vote. Next I would urge that you be prepared when you go to vote. Don't just pick a nice name. Know that the person you are voting for is someone you want representing you.

Too many times people vote not knowing anything about the person for whom they are voting. I suggest if you do not know about the persons in a race, skip that race. I frequently get calls from community members asking whom I support for a particular office. There is on the Republican side, in my opinion, an easy candidate to support and I would urge you to vote for him. That is state Rep. Dennis Paul. He has been very supportive of our community and is always willing to help with commu-

nity issues.

If you are voting in the Republican primary, I ask that you consider voting for Fred Flickinger for the Harris County Department of Education, Trustee No. 5.

Fred, for the sake of transparency, is the elder son of my husband David and myself. He is a good, honest person who is interested in looking out for taxpayers and believes he can improve the county department of education.

The job pays \$6 a month; yes, that is \$72 a year, so he is not running for this office for financial profit. Fred is a very honest, conscientious individual and would do a good job on this board.

My last recommendation is more complicated than the first two, which were easy. That is in the Democratic party and the race for constable. As our readers know, there have been many issues raised re-

cently.

I am accused on this page in a In My Opinion letter of being biased. I do not believe that to be the case. Unfortunately, I am aware of a lot of issues and facts, many of which have not yet been disclosed in writing.

I do not believe we are biased because we report the facts. Unfortunately, the facts many times are one-sided. Factually, there are many problems in the current office. Otherwise you would not have 11 former employees bringing lawsuits and would not have had a Texas Ranger's investigation and, in addition, we are told there is an on-going federal investigation.

The bottom line is, our safety and security are too important not to be a top priority in the community.

The current office is complicated by too many outside distractions such as those

previously mentioned.

My choice for constable is Jerry Garcia who is a law enforcement officer with 21 years experience, evenly divided between civil and criminal law. Many do not know, but civil is a major portion of the constable's responsibilities. The current constable is a politician, not a professional lawman. I believe we need a professional police officer.

On Tuesday night, at a political event, one of the candidates for constable, Alberto "Bert" Rivera, even said if he didn't win, he would work hard to elect Garcia due to Garcia's extensive experience as a law enforcement officer.

Whatever you do, vote with your brain. Voting is important, but more important is smart voting. Get informed before voting.

—Marie Flickinger,
Publisher

Deaths

Wilna "Beth" Williams



It is with great sadness the family of Wilna "Beth" Williams, 86, of Pearland and longtime South Belt resident, announces she passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. She was born Jan. 3, 1934, in Donie, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Louie Mathis Williams; her parents Laura Mae and Clarence Huffman; brother Elbert and wife Jean Huffman; brother Ralph and wife Ann Huffman; and brother-in-law Jim Atteberry.

Beth will forever be remembered by son Ron Williams and his wife Patsy of Canyon Lake; son Mike Williams and his wife Linda of Houston; daughter Sandra Williams of Manvel; son John Williams and his wife Cissy of Chattanooga, Tenn.; brother Bob and wife Mildred Huffman of Titusville, Fla.; sister Bonnie Atteberry of Springfield, Miss.; and brother Jim D. and wife Mary Huffman; grandchildren Trey, Michael Jr., Brady, Sean, Mark, Brittany, Ryan, Jamie, Sarah and Ellie Williams; and great-grandchildren Kennedy Williams, Ryan Diaz, Rylee Sanchez, Jada Williams, Juliana Williams, Brennan Engle, Collin Labban and Benjamin Williams; as well as numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Beth was a loving mother and homemaker, a remarkable cook and enjoyed breaking bread with family and friends. As matriarch of the family, she showered her family with love, her wonderful generosity and her great faith in God's plan.

After graduating from Teague High School in 1950

at the age of 16, Beth moved to Austin to attend Nixon Clay Business School. It was while visiting with a friend in Lampasas that she met her husband.

The couple married in 1952 and lived in Corpus Christi, Arlington and St. Louis, Miss., before moving to the South Belt area of Houston. Beth was a charter member of Sagemont Church. She was also an early staff member of Sagemont Church where she worked as secretary to the education pastor.

As a member of the church, her volunteer activities included service to the original Danbury Lodge, the cooking team for Shin-Oak ranch retreats, the Church Ordinance Committee, the Pastoral Care Ministry, the VIP host program, and the women's ministry events.

She was active in the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce for several years, representing Central Ace Hardware founded by Beth and husband.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Niday Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road. The funeral service will be 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, with Dr. Jim Hastings, presiding. Burial will follow at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Houston. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be sent to Sagemont Church NVision Project, 11300 Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77089, or a charity of one's choice.

Tillie's funeral took place Dec. 23, 2019, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Bedford.

She will be interred with her husband in the Houston National Cemetery on Feb. 18, 2020, at 11 a.m.

The Catholic Daughters will host a memorial luncheon Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road.

Anyone wishing to offer a memorial in her name may send it to the Catholic Daughters of America, Mother of Unity Court #2292, 11414 Sagekaron Court, Houston, TX 77089.

For more memories of Tillie's life, visit the Dignity Memorial website at www.dignitymemorial.com.

Otilia Marie (Tillie) Orea



Otilia Marie (Tillie) Orea, 97, died Dec. 20, 2019, in Bedford, Texas. Tillie was born on Oct. 2, 1922, in Shiner to Frank and Rosie

Straks.

She was married Valentine's Day, 1944, to Charles W. Orea and they lived in Marfa, Texas, while Charles served in the Army Air Force as a flight instructor.

Their son Charles F. Orea was born in 1945 while Charles was overseas. After the war, she and her family moved to her husband's home town of Grand Rapids, Mich., until 1950 when they decided Houston was best for them.

In 1952 Tillie began a very successful career in the cosmetic and fragrance business which continued until her retirement in 1988. Tillie and her husband were residents of the Kirkwood subdivision from 1972 until 2012. Her husband of 60 years died in 2004 but she remained in the home they had made together.

Tillie was a charter member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Mother of Unity Court and enjoyed friendship with many members and loved the charitable work she did. In 2012, at the age of 90, she moved to Park Place Retirement Community in Bedford to be closer to her son and his family.

Tillie is survived by her son and his wife Carol Orea; her granddaughters Christine and husband Jason Petermeier and Laura and husband Scott Celinski; and her great-grandchildren Evan and Amber Petermeier, and Violet and Penelope Celinski.

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In My Opinion

Hummel expresses on unwanted paper

Good Day,

My name is Debi Hummel and I am the Registered Agent for the Sageglen Community Association.

In our Homeowner Association we have 1,465 homes. At our last HOA meeting many of the Homeowners complained about the Spanish Edition that is being thrown to every Houston Chronicle subscriber.

Many of these orange sleeved papers end up in our drainage systems and the fear of flooding in our area (The South Belt) is ever-present on our minds. We want to know how to stop or opt out of having the Spanish paper delivered to our homes. Is this distribution done by the Chronicle or a company that the Chronicle sold our account information to.

Our next HOA meeting is on March 16, 2020 and I would be very appreciative of an answer of some kind by then.

Please let me know if you have any information on this matter. Thank you Marie,

Debi Hummel
Sageglen Community Association
Publisher's comment:

This really upsets me when I see them littered throughout the community. I have tried previously to get them stopped and found out that the Chronicle wants each homeowner to get it discontinued. As a local paper it upsets me since I know businesses are paying for readership they are not getting.

And, you are so right about them ending up in our drainage system.

We will take this on as a project and maybe get something done. Check next week's issue. I hope to have further information on this on our front page.

We would also like to hear from others who want this publication to no longer be littered throughout our community. Email us.

Thanks for caring about the community. —Marie Flickinger, Publisher

Randy supports conservative Hill

As you know, in 1981 I went into the Texas Legislature for the purpose of drawing Congressional District lines (22nd Congressional) in our area that reflected the values of its residents.

At that time I was working with Ron Paul. There have been changes in the district lines since those days and it looks as if the district is getting more diverse. I believe this is our last chance to elect a true conservative and that is why I am urging my friends to support Greg Hill in the Republican primary. Best,

Randy Pennington
Imelda Hernandez responds to opinion

I am writing to Mr. Hernandez in response of his opinion that was published in the *South Belt Leader* on Jan. 30. That's what it really is, an OPINION. Mr. Roy Hernandez, you start your letter by saying that you are not into local politics, yet you write such a lengthy letter offering no facts. Mr. Roy Hernandez, you stated that the crime has risen in our community but do not cite any statistics from previous years to make a comparison. This is just your own perception. Mr. Roy Hernandez spoke about a forum that will be held in February where Constable Chris Diaz declined to participate. I support Constable Chris Diaz's position not to participate in this forum. It is MY OPINION that the focus of this forum opportunity will be to discuss or focus on the alleged suit brought forth by this group of individuals that were either terminated or resigned from the Constable's office for different reasons.

The State of Texas is a strong employment-at-will state, where an employer does not have to provide a cause for letting an employee go. The timing of this new "Federal" suit is clearly political, but will be heard in a court of law, not in a public forum such as this one in February. The Constitution of the United States is clear that any person who is accused of breaking the law should NOT be considered guilty until they have been proven guilty by a court of law. This case was barely brought to the courts and no decision has been made regarding these accusations.

Mr. Hernandez, you stated in your OPINION, that there should be a comparison between the candidates running for Precinct 2 primary election and then you immediately started praising Mr. Jerry Garcia for what he has done in the past. Mr. Hernandez, you are clearly just an arm of Mr. Jerry Garcia's election team writing in to promote your preferred candidate. What {Mr. Roy Hernandez} you failed to mention in your OPINION is that Mr. Jerry Garcia- the South Belt resident which he is referring to- is a RE-

PUBLICAN posing as a DEMOCRAT. Mr. Roy Hernandez, you also fail to mention that candidate Jerry Garcia supports the Trump administration and its policies, as evidenced by his voting in the previous 2016 Republican Primary Election. Jerry Garcia is a Republican who is masquerading himself as Democrat. The fact that he is running as a Democrat in the Precinct 2 election is evidence of his efforts to try to deceive voters, especially Democrats. I hope that in this forum, Candidate Jerry Garcia will explain why he is running as a Democrat, when he and his campaign team are truly Republicans. Perhaps the South Belt Ellington Leader can also remain non-biased, despite their pro-Republican tendencies (in my opinion), and publish an article explaining this situation as well.

Mr. Roy Hernandez, in the past there have been many comparisons made between Constable Chris Diaz and other candidates. You can even look in past publications of the *South-Belt Ellington Leader* to find them. There have been many opportunities for you to hear or meet with Constable Chris Diaz to learn more about his campaign, if you (Mr. Roy Hernandez) were truly interested. It is okay that you are into local politics Mr. Roy Hernandez, but here is something you should also know. There have been postings on the accomplishments and crime stats by the Deputies and Clerks of Precinct 2- Constable Chris Diaz office- but this paper chooses not to publish that information for its readers. The reason given was because the editor could not validate these accomplishments as being factual. Why would Pct. 2 post a list of accomplishments that were false? When has an editorial body ever "investigated" the accomplishments prior to publication? No agency is going to give the details of every arrest, report, or give you the keys to the evidence room to prove what they claim to be accomplishments. In my opinion, this paper deciding not to publish this is another way that they are withholding reported information to the community. Mr. Roy Hernandez, as a voter sir, this should upset you and make you question why they didn't publish it? Is it because the *South Belt Ellington Leader* would rather not publish the recent accomplishments or positives but only publish negative rumors or hearsay stories instead? Perhaps you can ask the editor why they don't publish these recent crime stats and law enforcement information for the community, so you can truly make an educated decision on this upcoming election.

I believe that Constable Chris Diaz has done an excellent job the past 6 years that he has been our Constable. I am confident he will continue to do so with the support of our community, despite the nonsense political attacks being made. Voters (in my opinion) are tired of negative politics and attacks that have no merit. Mr. Roy Hernandez, I hope you do take an interest in your local politics going forward and if Mr. Jerry Garcia wants to be honest with the voters of this community, he needs to come clean as to why he is running as a Democrat when he is really a Republican. In closing, let me add that this entire letter is MY OPINION, in direct response to Mr. Roy Hernandez's OPINION. After speaking with the editor regarding my initial letter, I was asked to make that clarification. After my conversation with Marie Flickinger, the editor of the *South Belt Leader*, I also am deeply concerned for what I perceive to be a personal vendetta by Marie Flickinger against Constable Chris Diaz (and others directly mentioned within in his command staff). She stated to me that she used to support Constable Chris Diaz but no longer does due to recent personnel changes within his department that she doesn't agree with. I am sure she is not aware of why these changes were made, but maybe she expects the Constable to clear all personnel changes through her first? Last I checked, Constable Chris Diaz runs his department and Marie Flickinger runs her paper. I am sure she doesn't run employee issues from her paper by him prior to making changes. That is just my opinion as well.

Imelda Hernandez
Precinct 2 Resident
Publisher's comment:

There are so many comments and corrections I would like to make, but my comments would end up longer than Imelda Hernandez's letter. Let me just say much of the information is totally false. But remember this is her opinion.

What she is calling biased in our paper mostly are other letters to the opinion page. Additionally, the rest is reported facts, that sometimes are negative. We are not being biased, but factual.

We have printed many positive stories about work Chris Diaz and his officers have done in the contract and surrounding area.

The contract officers have done a good job in the community. Unfortunately, in the last few weeks we have been unable to get anyone with the constable's office to return our phone calls and give us information on arrests, etc., in the area. This makes it very difficult to let our

readers know the good work being done through the contract. I have personally, in the last two weeks, made in excess of 15 calls that have all gone unanswered. Yet our unincorporated community has over a \$1,000,000 yearly contract with this group. You would think they would be more responsible.

Regarding Jerry Garcia being a Democrat or a Republican, what I am interested in is his law enforcement experience. He has 21+ years in law enforcement, about half and half divided between civil and criminal. Perfect experience for a constable. I, too, vote in both primaries, but that makes me independent, not Republican or Democrat. In my opinion, I believe it is best to vote for the person. (See editorial this page.) Too bad more voters don't vote this way. This paper comes out the night of the candidate forum. What a shame Chris was not there.

Those working on the event assure me Imelda's opinion is wrong; they are not there just to discuss and focus on the lawsuit. Proof is in the pudding. When the event is over we will know if Chris was justified in staying away or not. I am confident Chris and Imelda are wrong. Chris did himself a disservice by not attending.

As a final comment, we try very hard at the *Leader* not to be biased on all political issues. Sometimes, though, the facts make it appear that we are biased one way or the other. But we are printing facts, just like we use to hear on the old TV show *Dagnet*, "the facts, just the facts." I can't help it if the facts currently are not in Chris' favor. It would help maybe if his people would talk to us. As is our normal method of operating, you will see in this week's paper, Page 5A, questions and answers of all the candidates, unedited. Just another way we work to have our news unbiased. You may also read on this page my editorial on the election and recommendations. This will be biased, but is clearly labeled "opinion" so our readers know the difference.

—Marie Flickinger, Publisher

April Scarlott endorses Goffney

Thank you in advance for your kind acceptance of this endorsement letter for Mr. George Goffney Jr.; a current candidate for the office of Harris County Constable, Precinct Two.

I write this letter not only as a "friend of", or as a casual recommendation, but as a heartfelt and sincere acknowledgement for someone that has habitually exhibited the traits which the Office that he is running for, should always require.

George Goffney Jr. has exhibited a caring and concern for others that exceeds politics, exceeds a desire for recognition and goes far beyond the "Call of Duty". This is a man who has been a Union Steward for over 30 years and a Certified Fire Fighter with Dow Chemical and an active Union Representative that fights for the people!!

George Goffney Jr. grew up in this precinct and made his home here. His Mother & Father are entrepreneurs and business owners in the neighborhood, which taught him good work ethics and stewardship skills. The trait that most equips him for this job though, is his dedication to helping others and his passion for Justice.

I cannot think of anyone better suited to fill this position than Mr. George Goffney Jr., our candidate for Constable of Harris County Precinct Two, for We the People.

Thank you again for taking the time to share this with your readers and the Constituents of Precinct 2. We are grateful to you and your newspaper for sharing this endorsement. Respectfully,

April Scarlott
Associate Broker

Why vaccinations are important

As a mother and grandmother, I am very aware of the great lengths that we will go to protect our families from things such as common dangers in our homes to safety crossing the street. As an occupational health nurse, I feel that same deep sense of responsibility to protect and maintain the health of my coworkers

and community. Which is why I am asking family members, friends, colleagues and the community to focus their attention toward hepatitis B.

We don't often pay attention to hepatitis B, largely because of its consistently declining rates in the early 2000's due to widespread and effective vaccination. Texas began hepatitis B vaccination of newborns in 1991 and, in the 2006-2007 school year, it was added as a required immunization. Today, however, we are facing a significant public health concern with the CDC confirming that hepatitis B rates are now on the rise in our communities at alarming rates; there are multiple reasons and that is a topic for another day.

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, called hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause lifelong infection, scarring of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure and even death. Currently, there is no known cure for hepatitis B. Many people don't know that the hepatitis B virus is 100x more infectious than HIV and can remain infectious outside the body, on surfaces, for more than a week. What's more, nearly three out of four people with hepatitis B may not know that they have it and are able to transmit the virus thru body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal fluids and even in saliva.

What can you do to protect yourself? Get vaccinated! Vaccinations are among the simplest, most effective, and least expensive ways to prevent hepatitis B. Recent advancements have led to the development of a two-dose hepatitis b vaccine option that is administered over one month, called Heplisav-B. That means that in just 30-days, you can be protected against hepatitis B.

Given how quickly and easily hepatitis B can spread, I want to strongly encourage everyone in our community to get vaccinated. However, vaccination is especially important for those of us who work in an environment with a high-risk for injuries, first responders – such as police officers, firefighters, nurses and doctors – and people with diabetes, as well as those who might be traveling to third world countries without all of the safety checks for blood products that we have here in the United States. All of these populations are especially vulnerable to contracting hepatitis B.

In 2020, let's commit to taking care of our health and the health of our community.

Evelyn Jackson
MS, APRN, FNP-C

Rivera on upcoming constable election

It is a pleasure to be able to express my views on the upcoming election for Constable of Pct #2 with you!

I am Alberto "Bert" Rivera. I am a career Law Enforcement Officer and I am NOT a politician. I think it is very important for all of you to understand this. I am running to be your next elected Constable of Pct 2 because I have a passion for the profession and for the citizens of this community.

Do we really need another professional "politician" running such an important organization as our Constables office? I think not and I hope you agree with me. We need accountability in the Constables office. We need someone who will surround himself with professional law enforcement professionals who will solve the needs of our community.

All of you are paying taxes to Harris County and you have the RIGHT to expect service and professionalism from the Constables office.

You have the right to expect accountability from you Constable, and you have earned the right to have your questions answered.

I have not solicited campaign contributions from persons living outside our precinct and I have not looked for endorsements from corporations. The only endorsements I am looking for are from the people in our community, my community.

"Service before Self" is not just my campaign slogan, it is my motto which I have tried to uphold my entire life which was instilled in me by my family. I ask for your support in this election so that I may serve you all.

Alberto "Bert" Rivera

Leader checks out social media

By Natalia Abarca
A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook page posted a video of a person breaking into cars in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision Feb. 7, early morning. The member advises others to lock doors and keep valuables out of vehicles.

On the same Facebook page another member shared a post that two un-

identified individuals tried to break into a neighbor's vehicles. Shortly thereafter, the member saw a Ford 500 or a Mercury Montego, dark color, (black or dark blue) leave. The incident occurred in Riverstone Ranch subdivision, Feb. 7. The member advises others to keep their vehicles locked. The member states that this isn't the first time a break-in of vehicles has occurred. This post

has been shared to other Facebook pages.

A member of *People of Sagemont* 2 posted that they were having issues with delivery and pickup of the mail on Sagevale Lane. The member states that frequently the outgoing mail does not get picked up. There are other members that commented on having the same issues and also receiving other residents' mail.

Elected officials share their words

Bettencourt lauds the release of "Do-Not-Hire Registry"

Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) is applauding the release of the "Do-Not-Hire Registry" by the Texas Education Agency. This registry was created by amending Senate Bill 1256, authored by Bettencourt, to House Bill 3, authored by Rep. Dan Huberty (R-Houston) and sponsored by Sen. Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) during the last legislative session. This builds upon the implementation of Senate Bill 7 from the 2017 Legislative Session which sought to stamp out the growing scourge of inappropriate student-teacher relationships. Both public schools and private schools will have access to the Do-Not-Hire Registry and will help them stamp out inappropriate teacher-student relationships. For more information on the Do-Not-Hire Registry visit: <https://bit.ly/35sWGml>.

"The Do-Not-Hire Registry is important to finally stop passing the 'trash' from one school district to the next, or between public and private schools," said Bettencourt. "These adults have no business preying on kids for sexual relationships and should not have a job in any part of the education system in Texas!"

The legislation includes the following changes:

— Requiring schools to report certain allegations of misconduct against non-certified employees and,

— Creating a registry of individuals who are not eligible for hire in a Texas public school based on misconduct or criminal history.

The most recent numbers from the Texas Education Agency shows there have been an increase in cases of alleged teacher-student misconduct, from 99 cases in fiscal year 2019 to 140 cases in fiscal year 2020. School districts are not allowed to hire any individual who has been placed on the Do-Not-Hire Registry. More information on the updated Commissioner Rules are found at <https://bit.ly/2uHGGAe>. The reporting portal and public view of the registry are scheduled for release later this spring.

"Inappropriate relationships between students and educators must be stamped out. We're talking about the safety of our kids. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye or sweep these issues under the rug anymore," continued Bettencourt. "I would like to thank TEA Commissioner Mike Morath and his TEA team for getting this important issue started at the beginning of the new year!" he added.

Homeowners have payment options for property taxes

Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by taking advantage of a payment option called "residence homestead tax deferral" and filing a tax deferral affidavit at the Harris County Appraisal District.

This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed – but not canceled – with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

Once the homeowner files the tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for the

deferred taxes as long as that person owns and lives in the home.

When the homeowner no longer owns and lives in the home, the deferred taxes and interest become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect the deferred taxes and interest.

Additional penalties are possible.

If you have a mortgage, most mortgage companies require tax payments to be current so it is important to check with the mortgage company to make sure deferring taxes does not violate the terms of the deed of trust.

Homeowners should be sure they have applied for and received their homestead exemption. This can be done without cost at the Harris County Appraisal

Clear Brook Decathlon wins at regionals



Clear Brook High School's Academic Decathlon team attended its Regional meet last weekend, Feb. 7-8, and came home with a number of awards. Gold medals were won by team members Victoria Nguyen in the math honors division while her teammate Ayden Runnels achieved the same rank of gold in the interview portion for the varsity division. Ayden also found success by winning a bronze medal in the science

varsity division while fellow competitor Anne Davies joined him in this achievement and division by winning another bronze medal with a score of 700 out of 1,000 possible points. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Francine Umali, Georgina Perez, Victoria Nguyen, Ayden Runnels, (back row) Brooklyn Gundling, Nathan Jensen, Anne Davies, Sophie Mooney and Kana Iwahara. Photo submitted

PISD schools recognized for state level guidance counseling award

Six Pasadena ISD Schools earned Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas (CREST) awards for excellence in guidance and counseling. CREST recognizes schools across the state.

These are this year's winning campuses and their guidance counselors:
Leticia Sanchez, Burnett Elementary;
Ilsa Garza, A.B. Freeman Elementary;
Emily Ontiveros and Deronda Pitra, Fred Roberts Middle School;
Shari Harris and Tracy Skripka, Lonnie B. Keller Middle School;
Tara Merida, Meador Elementary; and
Danielle Knight and Santana Fairley, Rick Schneider Middle School.

The six campuses were among 76 winners selected for this achievement throughout the state.

guidance, college and career readiness skills, along with social/emotional skills.

Sponsored by the Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA), schools that were recognized as CREST winners demonstrated a commitment to students by providing them with classroom

The CREST awards recognize schools across Texas that appropriately utilize their Professional School Counselors and demonstrate a continuous commitment to building a campus team and programs based on the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling programs, endorsed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Black belts teach self-defense in free courses

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes, on Fridays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The courses are taught by experienced martial arts instructors who have earned black belt degrees.

The physical requirements to take the classes are minimal. No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary.

For more information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

February school prayer walk postponed

The prayer walk hosted by School Prayer Walks USA originally scheduled for Feb. 15 at Pearl Hall Elementary in South Houston has been postponed. A new date has not yet been scheduled.

See an upcoming issue of the *South Belt Leader* for a notice of the next school prayer walk. For more information, call 281-484-0901.

These award-winning campuses engage their Professional School Counselors to provide students with the classroom guidance, college and career readiness and social/emotional skills needed to be academically successful and well-prepared for life. Professional School Counselors receiving the CREST award use data-driven results to show the effectiveness of their comprehensive guidance and counseling program.

University of Houston-Clear Lake releases calendar briefs

Surface water quality monitoring training

The Environmental Institute of Houston at the University of Houston-Clear Lake will be offering a two-part training course focusing on Surface Water Quality Monitoring techniques. This course will cover methods and protocols outlined in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Surface Water Quality Monitoring guidelines.

The one-day partial course taking place March 9 will cover fundamental techniques for TCEQ's water quality and hydrological monitoring.

The four-day full course, taking place March 9-12, will cover additional techniques and protocols for biological and physical habitat monitoring, emphasizing wadeable stream sampling techniques.

Each course day will consist of classroom and field-based instruction designed to explain the theory and methodology of SWQM procedures with a hands-on component in local rivers and streams.

The cost of the partial course is \$200 if registered by Feb. 24. The cost of the full course is \$700, if registered by Feb. 24. Registration is open now and closes Feb. 24.

Continuing Education Units are available upon request.

For more information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/cihtraining>.

For additional information, email EIH@uhcl.edu or call 281-283-3950.

London stage actors perform Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'

Storms, shipwrecks, magicians and love. Five talented Shakespearean actors from Shakespeare's Globe Theater and the Royal Theater Company present "The Tempest" at University of Houston-Clear Lake's Bayou Theater with three shows, Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 13-15, 7:30 p.m.

One will be transported to a remote island after a terrible shipwreck to tell the story of Prospero, his daughter Miranda and the fate that awaits them.

For tickets to this event, or for more information about the Bayou Theater at UH-Clear Lake, visit <https://events.uhcl.edu/index.php?eID=2507>.

The name 'Anthony D'Amato' might not seem to be a common one, but in the case of an Asbury Park, New Jersey-based singer by that name, it became a problem when he became confused with another singer with the same name at the same booking agency.

With a new and unique name, Remember Jones, backed up by an 11-piece band, will perform his theatrical pop-soul songs with a throwback, storytelling vibe at the University of Houston-Clear Lake's Bayou Theater Friday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Amato explained that for his upcoming performance at the Bayou Theater, he would be playing his original hits as well as a set re-creating Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black" album. "We call it, 'Back to Back to Black,' recreating that album and turning it into a theatrical concept show," he said.

"I sing the whole album. It's a new perspective. I don't change the lyrics, I don't dress like her, and I don't change the lyrics. It's not a 'tribute.' But you will feel the same passion and energy as when that album was first heard," Amato said.

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SHHS HOSA students celebrate passing EKG exams



Congratulations go to Casey Cipriani, Health Occupations Students of America teacher at South Houston High School, and her 30 students who recently passed their EKG certification tests. This is an accomplishment of an 83 percent passing rate. Last year, there were 44 ECG certifications earned throughout the whole district. Ten more students will test in a few weeks. Shown are students who passed their exams, left to right, (first row) Yohanna Garza, Andy Rodriguez, Olivia

Meza, Trinity Vela, Francisco Ibarra, Dana Yebra, Katie Lerma, Sonia Morales, Kassandra Cerna, Bianca Compean, Joshua Anguino, Joseline Hurtado, Katia Garcia (second row) Samantha Moreno, Yanelly Medrano, (third row) Samantha Marquez, Mariana Rivera, Minerva Mejia, Grecia Velasquez, Alexis Ramirez, Thuan Nyguen, Ashley Avelar, Leslie Benavidez, and (fourth row) Anthony Pichardo. Photo submitted

Stuchbery names VIPs for the month of January



Stuchbery Elementary School officials announce VIP students of the month. These students were chosen by their teachers for displaying the character trait "caring" during the month of January. Shown are, left to right, (first row) pre-kindergartners Katie Garza, Saiedy Hernandez, Elijah Harrison; kindergartners Jacob Villareal, Kinley Brister, Angie Sanchez, Genesis Turner, Kalyah Allen; (second row) first-grader Ahmad Conaway; kindergartener Danellie Cervantes; first-graders Cason Atkins, Emiliano Aguirre, Nolan Liscano, Eleny Balderas, Sophia Cavazos,

Titus Dorsey; (third row) second-graders Destinee Rambo, Minh Luong, Rachel Cummings, Zandaley Serrano, Maria Ramirez; (fourth row) third-graders Cimaira Rangel, Gisselle Jimenez, Carolina Penado, Tenley Meldrum, Prince Hubbard, Phoebe Schlueter; (fifth row) fourth-graders Nicholas Aguilera, Andreus Knoxon, Abigail Brooks, Jay'anna Turner, Dhelya Gomez, Camila Lopez and Aidan Gama. Not shown are second-grader Angeliin Garcia and fourth-grader Isela Jimenez. Photo by Shannon Garris

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:

Thursday, Feb. 13, 5-6 p.m. Tween craft: Hope box, for ages 9-12. Coretta Scott King and award winning author Nikki Grimes authored "Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope" prior to Barack Obama's November 2008 election. Create a hope box covered with African American leaders and their quotes. Fill the boxes with hopeful messages and affirmations.

Thursday, Feb. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Spanish computer class for adults and seniors
Monday, Feb. 17, 10:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. The classes cover the 100 civics questions and how to prepare for the citizenship interview. Other topics include citizenship application and qualifications. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 10:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Polliwog Nature Club, for preschoolers ages 3-5 years toddlers ages 18-36 months. This event is designed for little polliwogs to hop into nature by developing their nature knowledge and skills through a variety of books, songs, crafts, and hands-on animal experiences brought by Harris County Precinct One. This is a special monthly series. Space is limited. Open to first 30 children. First come, first served.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 10:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. By appointment only.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1-2:30 p.m. Computer basics
For more information, call the library at 832-393-2580.

Bracewell hours are: Thursday noon-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Parker Williams Library

Note: Income tax help by AARP is available at Parker Williams Library Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until April 13 with volunteer tax assistants.

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, Feb. 13, 4-5:30 p.m. Community craft: Paper Heart House, for ages 8 and older. "Paper Heart House" is not only pretty for Valentine's day, but it's also for any romantic occasion. Just cut out the templates, fold, put a piece of candy inside and glue it. It will be a cute gift for your loved ones or for decoration. All materials are provided.

Thursday, Feb. 14, 2 p.m. Masterpiece movie showing of "Belle" for adults and teens. This is the library's first masterpiece movie. According to the Internet Movie Database website, the movie was "inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate mixed-race daughter of Royal Navy Captain Sir John Lindsay. Raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield and his wife, Belle's lineage affords her certain privileges, yet the color of her skin prevents her from fully participating in the traditions of her social standing."

Saturday, Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m. Learn Korean With Rhee, for adults. For those interested in learning another language, meet at the library and learn together! Registration is requested.

Monday, Feb. 17, 2-4 p.m. Genealogy group: The Parker Williams Genealogy Group is an informal group that meets the first and third Monday to discuss family history research (beginner to advanced). Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in tracing family history.

Monday, Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m. Captivating Cards Gameplay, for ages 8 and older. Join in the card-playing fun with Uno, Exploding Kittens or other captivating card games in the community room. Participants can bring games including Magic, Yu-Gi-Oh and Pokémon for an exciting night of games, fun and community.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5 p.m. Escape Room 101 - Red Herring, for ages 7 and up. Plan to participate in the library's community room and sift through red herrings to solve Mr. John's challenge.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. Apollo Chamber Players. The group returns with a program celebrating African-American heritage. Music is by composers Florence B. Price, Henry Thacker Burleigh and William Grant Still. Plan to attend a program inspired by spirituals and folk music performed in an intimate setting by this adventurous and gifted ensemble.

Below are the programs that occur every week, unless the library is closed:

Tuesday, Babytime lapsit, 10:30 a.m. For babies from birth to 18 months, featuring a mother-baby lapsit time with fingerplays, songs and playtime.

Wednesday, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

Wednesday, 2-3 p.m.: Basic computer classes (Vietnamese). Learn mouse, keyboarding, basic internet skills and more at this weekly class in Vietnamese. Registration is requested.

Thursday, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.

Saturday, Vietnamese learning time, for adults and children ages 8 and older. Classes are at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. For information, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on all other programs, call the library at 832-927-7870.

Library hours are: Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1-9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom presents Purim celebration

Jews have their own Halloween? Who knew? And a carnival! Join the celebration, games, rides, bounce house, food, face painting, raffle and more. Congregation Shaar Hashalom together with Temple Beth Tikvah of Clear Lake and B'nei Israel of Galveston will celebrate Purim with the annual carnival Sunday, Feb. 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The celebration will take place at Shaar Hashalom.

What is Purim? Purim is the Jewish celebration which some compare to Halloween. The comparison is not quite correct. Indeed, children as well as adults wear costumes, but that's where the similarity ends.

Purim is the celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from the evil Haman,

through the courage of their leader Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai.

Though a relatively minor Jewish holiday, Purim is one of the most joyous holidays. It is celebrated with sending special pastries called Hamantaschen (Ozney Haman in Hebrew) to friends, putting on costumes (especially those of the story characters) and reading the Megillah

- the story of the Book of Esther. During the reading, every time Haman's name is mentioned, everybody shouts out with boisterous noisemaking and booing. The festival takes place each year on the 14th day of Adar (the sixth month of the current Jewish calendar).

Congregation Shaar Hashalom, the Conservative synagogue of the Bay Area

is located at 16020 El Camino Real (midway between Bay Area Boulevard and El Dorado). Temple Beth Tikvah located off Bay is the Reform synagogue in Clear Lake. B'nei Israel is the oldest Jewish Reform congregation located in Galveston and the second chartered Jewish congregation in Texas.

The carnival is a fund-

raising event. The entire community is invited to join in the fun, food, and merriment.

Ticket information may be obtained by calling the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; or by sending an email to office@shaarhashalom.org. Visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/>.

grams — including BSN — which accelerated San Jac's efforts to help meet the workforce needs.

Dr. Rhonda Bell, San Jac Central campus dean of Health and Natural Sciences, said the college has always listened and responded to area workforce needs, but the BSN team also designed the program to answer the call of busy RNs.

"We're nurses. We know how it is to juggle families, school, and work," Bell said. "From the very beginning, we made sure not to lose that vision. We want the nurses in this community to have the opportunity to return to school, but we also want the school to meet them where they are."

San Jac's BSN classes will cost the same low tuition rate as the college's other credit courses. The hybrid program will build on working RNs' experience through eight-week courses that combine in-person and distance learning. The program will concentrate on community health nursing, nursing research, public and global health policy, informatics, and leadership, and will culminate in a capstone project, requiring students to determine a community health need, collect data, and design a project to meet that need. The application period for the first cohort will be March 16 to June 30.

For more information on San Jac's new BSN program, visit sanjac.edu/bsn.

St. Luke's hosts reflection

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church presents "Where the Hell is God?" Advent strikes back a pre-Lenten reflection. Does God sometimes seem to be missing in action? What's with this absenteeism? Are atheists right? There will be an English presentation Sunday, Feb. 23, from 5:45 to 9 p.m. at the church, 11011 Hall Road, presented by Jonathan Alexander. A Spanish presentation will be held Feb. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m., presented by Víctor Gallardo. A multilingual Mardi Gras Mass will be celebrated Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. There will be children's classes in the Education Building.

Parker Williams needs donations

The Parker Williams Branch Library in need of donations of new or gently used softbacks (pocketbooks), children's and children's chapter books. The library is also accepting other like condition donations of DVDs, hardbacks and current magazines.

Israeli folk dancing announces upcoming dates

Israeli folk dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Due to the schedule of the Jewish high holy days this year, the February sessions will be on the 17 and 24. March dates are 2, 16, 23 and 30.

The cost is \$4 a session or \$35 for 10 sessions for CSH members. Nonmembers are \$5 a session or \$45 for 10 sessions. Newcomers are welcome to join the group!

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend.

For more information contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)
South Belters living in Houston city limits were surprised to learn that they lived in Zone C, the cheapest National Flood Insurance zone.

Padadena Independent School District board voted to assess property at 100 percent of its value, instead of the previous 80 percent.

35 years ago (1985)
Houston Fire Department Station 70 opened on Beamer, and firefighters moved into the new station.

30 years ago (1990)
The jury in the Slaughter v. Monsanto case absolved Monsanto of any liability regarding the Brio waste dump. Close to \$350 million in damages was being sought by 222 plaintiffs.

The Committee For Good Schools, made up of community watchdogs, encouraged a "no" vote on the upcoming Pasadena Independent School bond issue.

Thompson Intermediate principal Vicki Thomas promoted a sense of school spirit and self-achievement by starting the "BUG" (Bring Up Grades) Club for her 950 students.

Meador Elementary was chosen to conduct a pilot program which would allow each student to use a computer on a daily basis.

25 years ago (1995)
Leader publisher Marie Flickinger received 90.5 percent of the votes cast at Dobie High School for San Jacinto College District's board of regents Position

3. Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon Team would be among 40 large schools competing at Clear Creek High School.

The Pasadena Independent School District board unveiled a facilities plan that could lead to a \$44.86 million bond election in the fall.

Merchants along Scarsdale Boulevard were alerted that a contractor had been telling some that they had been annexed by the city, when in fact they had not.

20 years ago (2000)
The Pasadena Independent School District \$200 million bond issue was approved by 88 percent of the voters.

Minh Pham, three-year Dobie varsity football letter winner on the line, was selected to the 5A academic all-state team.

15 years ago (2005)
The city council for the city of League City did not approve an interlocal agreement which would have provided infrastructure to build CCISD's fourth high school.

A previous article in the Leader resulted in the newspaper office being deluged with telephone calls informing the staff of illegal gaming operations in the South Belt area. One location in a shopping center on Hughes at Beamer removed gaming machines and closed its doors for business.

10 years ago (2010)
Eighth-grade Thompson student Alexander Mays won the Pasadena Independent School District's annual spelling bee, allowing him to advance to the citywide Houston PBS Spelling Bee. Mays won the competition by successfully spelling the word, *toucan*.

5 years ago (2015)
A homeless man was arrested for starting a Feb. 13 fire that destroyed a storage building at the Quba Islamic Institute on Dixie Farm Road. Darryl Ferguson, 55, was charged with first-degree felony arson. The incident garnered national media attention, as many suspected it to be a hate crime. Ferguson, however, said the fire was unintentional.

1 year ago (2019)
The late Dr. B.J. Garner was honored as the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce Legacy recipient at the group's 35th annual gala, held Friday, Feb. 8. A longtime local optometrist, Garner was very active in the community, serving as a founding member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the former president of the Pasadena ISD board.

The Dobie High School Academic Decathlon team excelled at the regional tournament held in La Porte Feb. 8 - 9, taking home the top honor of first place in Region 5.

The team then advanced to state finals in San Antonio in March, ranked number six in state. In early December, the team finished second place to Pasadena Memorial High School at the district competition but bounced back to win region by a narrow 100 points over Pearland High at region. Team members included Xochi Martinez, Hoang Le, Ulvi Baktashi, Cameron Tobias, Minh To, Gus Rodriguez, Fredy Orellana, Trang Vu and Osvaldo Escamilla. The team was under the leadership of coaches Bob Daugherty and Todd Gerries and science/math coach Thomas Etienne.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis



DEAN CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Dean Baier, longtime South Belt resident and director of operations at Clear Brook City MUD, is wished a happy birthday Feb. 16 from son Ryan Baier, granddaughter Payten Worden, friends and the Leader staff. He is active in the community, serving as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter for Harris County Southeast Fire Department and chairing the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

JADE CELEBRATES 12TH BIRTHDAY
Special happy birthday wishes are sent to Jade Elizabeth Scarberry who turns 12 years old Tuesday, Feb. 18. Hugs and kisses are sent to her from dad Austin, wife Tiffany and little sister Lily Scarberry; mom Nicole Scarberry; grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry; former longtime South Belt residents; aunts Jenny Hayes and Stacey Flowers; uncles Stephen Flowers, Joey Hayes and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno, and Kennedy Owen and Evie Flowers. Jade's parents are both Dobie High School graduates.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 13 through Feb. 19, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Ludivina Perez Feb. 17.

Burnett Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting Feb. 13 to Carla Reyes.

Bush Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for Aide

Buenrostro is Feb. 18.
Frazier Elementary
Maritza De La Garza enjoys a birthday Feb. 15. Send a happy birthday greeting Feb. 16 to Maria Rodriguez.

Genoa Elementary
The day for a party for Summer Bradley is Feb. 18.

Meador Elementary
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent Feb. 13 to Yolanda Arebalo. Light the birthday candles for Natalie Aviles Feb. 15.

Moore Elementary
Join in the birthday fun Feb. 18 with Ashley Evans.

South Belt Elementary
Marking a birthday Feb. 19 is Amber Morris.
Melillo Middle School
The day for cake and ice cream for Gabrielle Creagh is Feb. 14.

Roberts Middle School
Marking a special birthday Feb. 13 is Esmeralda Rodriguez. Celebrating a birthday Feb. 15 is Angela Avera. Sing a happy birthday song Feb. 17 to Maritza Duron. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 18 is Jennifer Saldívar.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send birthday wishes Feb. 15 to Barbara Henderson.

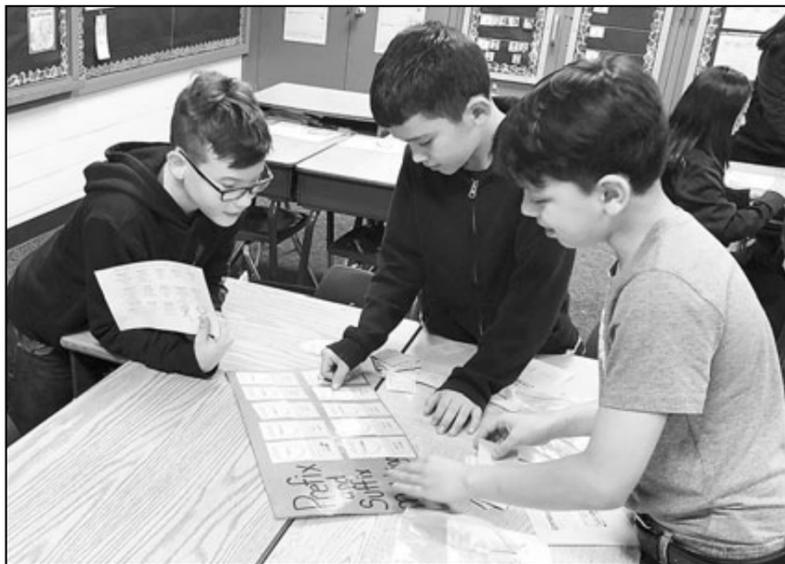
Thompson Intermediate
Break out the balloons and party favors Feb. 17 for Sandra Trevino and Margaret Teatsworth. Sing a happy birthday chorus Feb. 19 to Yolanda Robinson.

Dobie High
Maria Parras and Holly Peel enjoy a wonderful birthday Feb. 13. Andrew Kirkpatrick enjoys a birthday Feb. 15. Sharing a birthday Feb. 16 are Samantha Poulard and Willard Joiner. The day for a party for Reema Shaukat is Feb. 18.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The Leader sends birthday wishes to friends who have a birthday. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, Feb. 13: Celeste Beaty, Trisha Waguespack, Cristi Skerrett and Randy Harms; Friday, Feb. 14: Cathi Brockman and Jon Baker; Saturday, Feb. 15: Mark Wilson, Laura Allison, Gene Cernal and Kelley Huebner; Sunday, Feb. 16: Yvonne Rojas, Linda Soria, Danielle Cunningham, Mary Nell Dees, Rhonda Stallbaumer, Sharla Fults and Lisa Fernandez; Monday, Feb. 17: CaShaune Murphy, Jeannie Nelson, Monica Gonzales, Dawn Armstrong, Jeri Joslin, Donn Reichelt, Russell Janacek and Susan Slater, Tuesday, Feb. 18: Sonja Britt, Jason Jaeger, Leslie Barr, Sterling Washington, Rose Pena, Tianne Bernal, LeRoy Peters, Shana Kiser, Daer Platt, Valerie Chavez and Troy Taormina; and Wednesday, Feb. 19: Jason Minck, Dalaina Rounsavall-Harris, Patricia Doran and Ryan Mint.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.



Shown above third-graders, left to right, Alexis Ruiz, Nathan Contreras and Emmanuel Martinez, enjoyed playing an educational reading game. Shown in the right photo are, left to right, fourth-grader Mariany Mendez and Beverly Bolton, principal. Mendez won an art supplies gift basket. Shown below at the face painting station are Rubi Rocha (left), paraprofessional, and fourth-grader Idalis Villegas. Shown below right is kindergartener Gwen Bounds enjoying the hula hoop creation in which students gathered into teams and built hula huts with hula hoops. Many students enjoyed crawling inside.

Photos by Tara Merida



Bay Area singles dance Feb. 15

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance is Saturday, Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at VFW Lodge, Post 6378, 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson.

All singles are invited to attend. Bring party snacks to share. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information, call 832-483-3257 or 832-477-6778.

Frazier offers scholarships

Frazier Elementary School is offering eight scholarships for graduating Dobie seniors who attended Frazier Elementary School. Applications can be picked up in the Dobie College Now office, P-16, and are due to the Dobie counselor on Friday, March 20. The scholarships will be awarded at a ceremony held at Frazier in May.

Boy Scouts invite members

Calling all girls and boys from kindergarten to fifth grade, ages 5 to 11, to join the Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scout Pack 773 and Boy Scout Troop 773.

The Cub Scout Pack 773 meets at Stuchbery Elementary School, 11210 Hughes Road, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For information about becoming a Cub Scout, contact Thomas Fitzgerald at rodeokidsz9@gmail.com or text at 832-692-0672.

The Boy Scout Troop 773 meets at Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua St., Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. For information about Boy Scout troops, contact Scott Vackar at svackar773@yahoo.com or call 832-563-3751.

AARP seeks helpers for taxes

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for compassionate, friendly people to join local volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide makes it easier for older, low-income taxpayers to file their tax returns and get the credits and deductions they've earned. Volunteers provide free, in-person assistance in local neighborhoods at 5,000 sites across the country. Volunteers help prepare tax returns or serve in other ways, like organizing client paperwork, managing computer equipment, acting as interpreters, or making sure everything runs smoothly.

There's a role for everyone. Make a difference in your community. Become an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteer. Visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide.

Meador Elementary hosts family fun night

Meador Elementary School held its annual Family Math & Literacy Fun Night Jan. 30 with more than 650 attendees. Families enjoyed the book fair, a gift basket raffle, popcorn, math and reading games, gym activities, Kindle Reading, face painting, a "Just Dance" room, karaoke and more. It was a fun-filled evening for families and staff. Shown left are, left to right, school counselor Tara Merida, sisters Azariah Rios, Sadie Rios, Isabella Rios and principal Beverly Bolton at the photo booth station.



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Constable candidates respond to South Belt-Ellington Leader questionnaire

Republican Daniel Vela



Name: Daniel Vela
Age: 55
Occupation: police officer
Education:
Marital Status/Children: marry
Party Affiliation: Republican

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes Pasadena 48 years

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

no

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes Police Officer 25 years

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes Masters Peace Officer

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

Experience and Prior Marshall Captain

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

Not Yet

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Burglary and Transients

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

Increased Patrol

How do you view the department's role in the South Belt patrol contract (100 words or less)

Need Update

How would you address possible problems with employees? (150 words or less)

Depends on problems

How would you prioritize the department's various obligations in the South Belt community (serving paper, patrol contract, etc.)? (150 words or less)

Command. Staff work-shop.

Democrats Chris Diaz



Name: Constable Christopher "Chris" Diaz
Age: 46
Occupation: Harris County Constable Pet. 2
Education: Associates Degree in Business from San Jacinto College and continued education at University of Houston Clear Lake
Marital Status/Children: Married to Ana Diaz / 2 children Christopher and Nicholas
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, my family and I are lifelong residents of Precinct 2. We live in Jacinto City and I am a proud product of the Galena Park ISD, San Jacinto College and the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Since taking office in 2013, my staff and I have partnered with the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce, Clear Brook City MUD, and local schools on local community projects in which we both

participate and sponsor. With these partners we have been able to increase the number of Deputies serving the South Belt area. I am proud to have several deputies on staff that live in the South Belt.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I am currently serving in my second term as your Pet. 2 Harris County Constable.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I do hold a TCOLE commission for the past 10 years. Upon taking office in 2013 we also become Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and Standards Training Provider, which provides training for not only Precinct 2 deputies but also provides training for other Texas Law Enforcement Agencies.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I am the best qualified person to serve the constituents of Precinct 2 as their Constable because I have the qualifications and experience to continue to run the office. During my two terms of office we have been able to increase patrol units, provide more security during local community events, implemented Neighborhood Night Out at both offices and have been able to increase the budget by great communication with our Harris County Commissioners. I have strong partnerships with local, state and federal elected officials as well as local business and organizations which helps us better serve the community.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

Congressmembers Garcia, Lee, Gene Green, Senator Whitmire, Representative Perez, Noriega, Constables Rosen, Walker, Eagleton, Councilmen Gallegos, Shabazz, Plummer, Former Councilman Rodriguez, South Houston/Jacinto City Mayor and Councils, Trustees Garza, Hernandez, Miller, Esparza, Broussard, Johnson, Erica Davis, HPOU, HC Deputies, Metro Police Union, Locals 28/22, USW, Seafarers, Teamsters, Pipefitters, Plumbers, HHA.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I see one of the biggest challenges affecting the South Belt community is the growth. To keep up with the ever-changing population trends we as your primary law enforcement agency need to make sure we change with it.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

To continue and expand our Citizens Police Academy and community outreach to keep in touch with as many people in the community as possible. I would like to put in place a "Are U Ok" program for our senior citizens and others in need. I would like to increase our Special Ops division to get more drugs off the streets. I believe Communication is the key to success we will continue to send Deputies to as many community functions as possible to ensure we have good communications and continue to be a good steward of the taxpayer's dollars.

How do you view the department's role in the South Belt patrol contract (100 words or less)

I believe the role of this office is provide a safe and secure place to live and work. The patrol should have open communications with the public we serve in order to better understand the needs of the community.

How would you address possible problems with employees? (150 words or less)

This office addresses possible problems with employees in accordance to the Standard Operating procedures set forth by the Harris County Human Resources and on the advice of the Harris County Attorney's Office.

How would you prioritize the department's various obligations in the South Belt community (serving paper, patrol contract, etc.)? (150 words or less)

Major issues affecting the South Belt community are

obligations to the community from providing a safe community to be responsive at a moments notice for call for emergency service. Our primary obligation is to be responsive and timely when calls for help are requested while being a community partner for all constituents and businesses.

Jerry Garcia

On ballot as
Jerry Garcia, Harris County
Lieutenant



Name: Lt. Jerry Garcia
Age: 47
Occupation: Lieutenant at Harris County Constable's Office
Education: University of Houston-Downtown
Marital Status/Children: Married/four children
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I do reside in Precinct 2. I have been a resident of the Gulf Meadows subdivision for about 23 years.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I do have direct ties to the South Belt community. I have resided in the South Belt area for about 23 years. I attend St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church where I have been a member for about 10 years. I have also served in the South Belt area as a soccer coach/trainer at South Belt Youth Soccer Club for about 18 years. I have many family and friends in the South Belt area and I truly care about the prosperity of our community and believe we deserve better.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

To lead an effective and efficient 21st century law enforcement agency, the combination of leadership experience and innovative ideas is crucial. I began my law enforcement career with the Constable's Office Precinct 5 as a patrol deputy for 10 years and transitioned to the Civil Division serving an additional 7 years. During this time, I was asked to lead the Constable's Office within the Precinct 2 Civil Division as a Sergeant where I served for 3 years. I am currently a Lieutenant in the Constable's Office Precinct 3 Civil Division where I've been for about 1 1/2 years.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I currently hold a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Master Peace Officer License. I am also a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Instructor. I have been licensed with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement since 1996.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I strongly believe that I am the most qualified candidate to serve the constituents of Precinct 2. It is evident that all candidates, one which is the current Constable, do not have the law enforcement experience that I have. The main function within the Constables office is the execution and service of civil process. My experience consists of a decade serving in the patrol division within the Constable's Office and additionally over a decade of true leadership experience within the civil division which nobody else in this race possesses.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

Yes, I have received endorsements from the following organizations: Bay Area New Democrats, National Latino Peace Officer Association, C.O.P.S. LOCAL 911 (Coalition of Police & Sheriffs, Inc., I.U.P.A., AFL-CIO), and the Houston GLBT Caucus.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Major issues affecting the South Belt community are

the lack of patrol visibility, homelessness encampment issues, the rise in criminal activity, and traffic enforcement. I have received numerous concerns from our citizens in regard to traffic violations, major accidents within the South Belt area, and the lack of proactive visible patrol activities.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

If I, Lt. Jerry Garcia, am elected as your next Constable in Precinct 2 I would like to bring back integrity and a positive culture within the Constable's Office. Furthermore, if elected Constable I would like to implement proactive patrol visibility to deter criminal activity in our communities. Establishing a mental health unit and a Citizens Outreach Team is a top priority of mine to provide citizens with quality service. There is currently a disconnect with the Constable and the residents of South Belt. As South Belt resident I am already connected and engaged in our community.

How do you view the department's role in the South Belt patrol contract (100 words or less)?

At present, the Harris Constable's Office Precinct 2 patrol division is suffering from a lack of experienced leadership. I believe that bridging the gap between the Constable and the South Belt community is of the utmost importance since there is currently a disconnect between the Constable and our community. The disfunction within this agency must end and a better high-quality agency must be introduced.

How would you address possible problems with employees? (150 words or less)

If the precinct 2 constituents elect me, Lt. Jerry Garcia, to be the Precinct 2 Constable I will ensure that the administration holds all employees accountable, including myself. Good leaders always lead by example. If elected Constable we will ensure that Your agency is transparent, accountable, and permits the citizens to have a voice in ensuring that our employees are doing quality and dutiful work for all of our citizens. Furthermore, if elected, I will ensure that our deputies are held to higher standards by raising the level of training all deputies must adhere to.

How would you prioritize the department's various obligations in the South Belt community (serving paper, patrol contract, etc.)? (150 words or less)

Prioritized resource allocation within Precinct 2 is extremely important. One of the fundamental roles of a Constable is to serve civil process. The serving of all judicial civil processing is of high priority to safeguard the right to due process for all parties involved. Furthermore, providing effective patrolling within the community is of the utmost importance. A proactive visible patrol within the South Belt community must be implemented in order to deter criminal activity in the area. Proper usage of the people's funds is critical in ensuring transparency, effectiveness, and bridging the gap between law enforcement and the underserved community.

George Goffney

Age: 63
Occupation: Process Operator
Education: Associate Degree
Marital Status/Children:
Name: George Goffney

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Married/ 7 Children/ 10 Grandchildren
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I currently live in Autumn Lakes. I have also lived in Gulf Meadows and the Belfort area.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Yes, I have lived in the South Belt Community for most of my life. I live in Pct #2, in the MUD #381 contract near the Durham Park community.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, Galveston County Sheriff Department for 8 years.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

No

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

Precinct 2 has been neglected and corrupt for 8 years. It's time for a new leader and this is a driving force for my candidacy for the position of Constable. Precinct 2 deserves better.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

Yes, ENGY, Black Firefighter's Association, Southeast Houston Community Development, Houston Business Connections Newspaper.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Crime, Campus Safety, Highway and Traffic Safety.

How would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

I promise to safeguard life and property, reduce fear of crime, enhance public safety and improve the quality of life for the diverse people of the community we serve.

How do you view the department's role in the South Belt patrol contract (100 words or less)

I will as is.

How would you address possible problems with employees? (150 words or less)

We will interview and do background checks on all employees. We will also provide training for all officers. As constable I will also work the streets with an watchful eye on all employees. I will lead by example.



Name: Alberto 'Bert' Rivera
Age: 51
Occupation:
Education:
Marital Status/Children: Single/Divorced-5 children
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I currently live in Autumn Lakes. I have also lived in Gulf Meadows and the Belfort area.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

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Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, Galveston County Sheriff Department for 8 years.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

No

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How would you address possible problems with employees? (150 words or less)

We will interview and do background checks on all employees. We will also provide training for all officers. As constable I will also work the streets with an watchful eye on all employees. I will lead by example.

How would you prioritize the department's various obligations in the South Belt community (serving paper, patrol contract, etc.)? (150 words or less)

I promise to also provide custom tailor law enforcement to the neighborhood and business within Precinct 2, faithfully following the rules and codes that govern the service and execution of the civil documents.

Alberto 'Bert' Rivera



Name: Alberto 'Bert' Rivera
Age: 51
Occupation:
Education:
Marital Status/Children: Single/Divorced-5 children
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I currently live in Autumn Lakes. I have also lived in Gulf Meadows and the Belfort area.

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I promise to also provide custom tailor law enforcement to the neighborhood and business within Precinct 2, faithfully following the rules and codes that govern the service and execution of the civil documents.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

The only endorsements that I have sought in this campaign is from the citizens of Pct #2. I want the voters to know that I will not pander to anyone or any special interest. I am very humbled by all the support I have received from all of you and I thank you for your continued support.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I see the biggest challenge directly affecting the South Belt community is making sure the voice of its citizens are heard and respected. For too long the citizens of this community have been underserved by both the city and county. The constable's office must do a better job of serving this community.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

I will bring accountability and transparency to the constables office. I will raise the level of professionalism and training to the office. I will surround myself with members of this community and other peace officers who specialize in solving the problems we face each day. I will strive to use the resources at our disposal in a more efficient manner and fight for additional resources to better

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Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)</

Sabo ditch study "top priority"



State Rep. Dennis Paul (second from right) has been working closely with county officials to address a long-standing flooding concern near the intersection of Fuqua and Sabo. The ongoing problem has now been tagged as a "top priority." Pictured above with Paul examining the issue are, left to right, Myron Jones, precinct coordinator for Commissioner Rodney Ellis; Dawn McDonald, district director for Paul; Jeremy Phillips, director of community services for the Harris County Flood Control District; and Andrew Orlando, property manager for HCFC. See related story on Page 1A.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Free tuition available

Continued from Page 1A
GPA or family income.

"Promise at San Jac is starting with students from the Pasadena Independent School District because PISD is already working with Good Reason Houston on another initiative," stated Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College vice chancellor for strategic initiatives. "We selected these three schools because they represent some of the lowest and highest college-going rates. We will be studying the data to determine how we can efficiently grow the Promise program to get more students on a path to meaningful careers."

After leveraging any financial aid awards and grant funds, as well as third-party scholarships, the students who meet the requirements will receive a scholarship from the San Jacinto College Foundation to cover the remainder of their tuition and books.

Students will be required to take a minimum of 12 hours each fall and spring

semester and must complete the credential within three years with a minimum 2.0 GPA. Staff will be available at the college to assist students throughout their time at San Jacinto College to ensure that they complete their credential or associate degree on time.

"Harris County Promise is more than just a scholarship," Hellyer said. "The Promise staff provide additional supports that ensure our students stay enrolled in college and persist to graduation."

Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell is also enthusiastic about the program.

"We know in a fast-changing world, our students need more skills to remain competitive in today's job market," Powell said. "This program helps our students receive the degree or technical certification needed to succeed in the workforce and beyond."

Modeled after similar successful programs across Texas and the country, Harris County Promise aims to solve the opportunity gap and increase college completion, particularly among low-income students.

While Harris County Promise launched with seven high schools, the program plans to expand to more high schools and four-year colleges in the future.

"This is an unprecedented partnership that demonstrates a community-wide investment in our students and a dedication to ensuring all students can obtain a postsecondary credential and enter the workforce ready to succeed," said Paris Woods, managing director of Harris County Promise. "Our hope is that Promise can close the equity gap in college completion and change the life trajectory of our students for years to come."

For more information about the Harris County Promise at San Jacinto College, visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions-aid/paying-college/harris-county-promise-program>.

Cosmetology students host book drive



Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School cosmetology students are preparing for SkillsUSA district and state competitions by hosting a book drive. The goal of the students was to donate books for children in need in the Houston and Pasadena areas as a community service project, contributing to their community and spreading

awareness of SkillsUSA. This drive encourages community members to donate by dropping off pre-K through fifth-grade children's books at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School through Feb. 14. Shown above are, left to right, Rubi Romero, Kamryn Garza, and Alexandra Gutierrez.

Photo submitted

Half-Price HLSR Carnival Packs
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Early voting begins

Continued from Page 1A
is running unopposed on the Republican side. Democrats competing for the nomination include Susan Criss and Margarita Ruiz Johnson.

In the state House District 129 race, Republican incumbent Dennis Paul is facing GOP challenger Ryan Lee. Kayla Alix is the lone Democrat in the contest.

Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis is being challenged by Democratic opponent Maria T. (Terri) Jackson.

In the race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 Constable, incumbent Chris Diaz is being challenged by Democrats Jerry Garcia, George Goffney Jr. and Alberto "Bert" Rivera. Daniel Vela is the sole republican candi-

date in the race. (See related questionnaires Page 5A.)

Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin and Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado are both running unopposed.

Locations

Nearby early voting locations include the Harris County annex, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.; the East Harris County Activity Center, 7340 Spencer Highway in Pasadena; and the Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane in the Clear Lake area.

Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 18 - Feb. 22; 1 to 6 p.m. Feb. 23; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 24 - Feb. 28.

For a complete list of polling locations or sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

Homeless get help from JFD grad

Continued from Page 1A
people experiencing homelessness. Clutch City Connect donated more than 180 pounds of dog/cat food, leashes/harnesses and several other items. These animals also received free exams, vaccinations and grooming. More than 300 people were also fed at the event.

A second event followed in August when Sepulveda held a clothing drive at The Beacon, a day center for the homeless in downtown Houston. For several weeks prior to the event, Clutch City Connect had collected clothing donations to distribute. In all, 85 trash bags full of clothes were collected from supporters who donated in response to a promotional video from the group. The clothes were sorted and placed on tables for homeless men and women at the facility.

Later that month, Sepulveda's group partnered with several businesses to host a back-to-school bash at R.P. Harris Elementary. The event provided school supplies to more than 400 students.

In October, the Houston Public Library reached out to Clutch City Connect seeking care packages for the homeless. The group provided 100 of these for the cause.

With winter approaching, the group launched a campaign last November to collect 500 blankets to distribute to the homeless. With the help of multiple businesses, the organization met its goal.

Also in November, Clutch City Connect hosted its second pet clinic at Ecclesia Houston, a downtown community church.

During the Christmas holidays, the group partnered with

the Shriners Hospital for Children and Today's Harbor for Children to provide toys for patients and foster children, respectively.

With Clutch City Connect's one-year anniversary approaching, Sepulveda wants to expand to focus more on at-risk youth. "Helping at-risk youth is also of great importance to us because the kids of today are truly the future of tomorrow, as cliché as that may sound," Sepulveda said. "Over the past year of running this organization, I have had the privilege of working with a lower-income elementary school, two foster homes and countless children that live in homeless shelters. There are so many opportunities that they miss out on due to funding and the factor of not having any family to help guide them. I have also

learned the unfortunate statistics of how many foster kids become homeless after they turn 18. They basically get thrown out to the streets and are left to be on their own. We want to help prevent this on-going cycle and prepare them for when they become adults."

Sepulveda also wants to help get homeless off the street. "Our goal has always been to lend a helping hand and provide the necessities for the survival of the less fortunate in our local Houston/Greater Houston area," Sepulveda said. "We want to do more than lending a helping hand. We are going to start helping with getting the homeless into housing, preparing them to get jobs and actually back on their feet."

For more information or to donate or volunteer, visit www.clutchcityconnect.com.

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Frazier unveils Little Free Library

Frazier Elementary recently opened a Little Free Library. This is a place where families can come any time, any day to read a book, take a book or donate a book by opening the library bench that is located in front of the school. A Girl Scout named Ella DeRousse contacted the school librarian Lupe Palacios about a Little Free Library service project for Frazier. Around the same time, a group of ladies from a Bible study group contacted the school. The group raised money on behalf of a dear friend Barbara Walton who died in 2018 after a long battle with cancer. Walton was a former reading teacher at Frazier who had substituted for many years prior to her 2003-2013 classroom teaching position. The Bible study group decided to donate money toward a project to honor Walton's love for teaching children and her years of service to Frazier. Thus began the Little Free Library journey. Shown below left are, left to right, Staci Griffin (Barbara's daughter), Stephen Walton (Barbara's husband) and Holly Ramirez (Bible study member). Shown below are Palacios (left) and Girl Scout Ella DeRousse.

Photos by Wendy Wiseburn



Fred Flickinger

Reliable Conservative

for County Dept. of Education Trustee Pos. 5

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

PISD Brown Relays hit Auxiliary Feb. 14

Thirty-eight teams from across the region will invade Pasadena ISD's Auxiliary Stadium Fri., Feb. 14 as the long-standing Brown Relays play out. The Dobie boys' and girls' teams, fresh off a solid start at the Deer Park and Kethan Relays to open the season, will co-host along with the other four Pasadena ISD programs. The field events begin at noon, with running prelims at 1:30 p.m. and running finals at 5:30 p.m. See more Dobie and Clear Brook track and field news on Page 2B.

Lady Longhorns open against Brook Feb. 17



Regional quarterfinalist Dobie will open the 2020 varsity softball season Monday, Feb. 17, taking on neighboring Clear Brook at the Pasadena ISD Complex at 6 p.m. Above, senior pitcher Jessica De La Cerda, who figured prominently in that run to the third round, is again expected to see a ton of time in the circle for a team coming off a 26-win season. Head coach Robin Rackley welcomes back De La Cerda in addition to as many as seven position players who played quite a bit in 2019. What's in store for this season? See more on the Lady Longhorns on Page 2B. Photo by Jade Wise

Brook boys take big step Dobie basketball playoff bound

It's official. Both the Dobie boys' and girls' basketball teams are headed to the postseason. And, the Clear Brook varsity boys' team has taken a huge step in its quest to reach the playoffs out of District 24-6A after an impressive win over second-place Clear Lake Feb. 11. **Lady Horns grab third** Dominant wins over South Houston and Memorial were enough for the Dobie varsity girls' team to finish 12-4 overall for the second straight season, which again comes with the No. 3 playoff seed out of District 22-6A. At press time, Dobie was waiting for the outcome of a District 21-6A tiebreaker between Beaumont United and North Shore to determine its bidistrict playoff foe. **JFD boys are in** Anything can happen in the playoffs, and that's just what the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team is thinking after a 70-54 victory over Memorial pushed the locals to 10-5 in league play and into the postseason. Atascocita and Summer Creek are locked into the No. 1 and No. 2 playoff seeds, and a peer at remaining schedules would appear to give Kingwood an edge over the Horns for the third seed. **Continued on Page 6B**

JFD, Maverick soccer to clash

Four teams battling for very different things right now are set to clash as the Dobie/Memorial varsity soccer rivalry continues. 4 playoff seed in 22-6A with Memorial and others, will take on the Lady Mavericks Friday, Feb. 14 at San Jacinto College South at 7:30 p.m. See more soccer news on Page 6B.

SBHLL accepting Jrs./Srs.

Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League officials are still hosting registration for junior/senior division players (ages 13 to 16) through Feb. 15. The registration fee is \$200 per player. Those wishing to play this season may complete the process online at <http://sbhll.activesports.com/Register>. There will also be separate in-person sign-up dates Feb. 14 and Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tryouts will then follow Feb. 15 thereafter the registration session is complete.

Dobie girls vs. Memorial Fri., Feb. 14 San Jacinto College South campus, 5:30 p.m.

Dobie boys vs. Memorial Sat., Feb. 15 Veterans, 2 p.m.

First place superiority at the midway point in the season will be on the line as five-time defending District 22-6A champion Dobie, currently leading the league at 6-0-1, going against Memorial, which is second at 6-1-0. Those two teams will meet Saturday, Feb. 15, at Veterans Stadium at 2 p.m., the final game of a tripleheader at the stadium. The Dobie girls, currently fighting for the No.

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Dobie footballers sign letters of intent



Dobie varsity football standouts Cameran Gray (seated left) and Jesse Mitchell (seated right) selected where they will continue their education and respective playing careers during a national letter of intent signing Feb. 5 at Dobie. Gray is headed to the University of Houston after inking with the Cougars, while Mitchell will go to Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., after signing with the Storm. Gray starred at receiver and Mitchell at linebacker as the Longhorns went 9-1 this season to give the program nine wins for the first time since 1999. Dobie coaches present at the signing included, standing left to right, assistant coaches Brooke McCain and Zach Whitt, head coach Kevin Bernethy and assistant coach Cody Blanchard.

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SJC softball wins three more

Cat Cavazos and Kaylee Thomas came up with terrific pitching performances as the San Jacinto College softball team finished the Galveston Invitational with a pair of wins, giving the team seven victories in nine games to open the season. Kaylee Thomas won her fifth game of the young season as she threw a seven-inning gem in the finale, getting San Jacinto (7-2) past Angelina 2-1. Thomas, a freshman from Clear Springs High School, struck out nine over the seven frames, allowing four hits and no earned runs. Kylee Hatton and Audrey Garcia drove in runs, and Lexi Saenz and Tamara McKnight had two hits apiece. Cavazos was just as good as part of a nine-inning outing in a 4-1 win over Connors State. The freshman from North Shore High School allowed four hits and an earned run while striking out 10 in the game. Morgan Childs led San Jacinto offensively with a pair of hits and three runs scored. McKnight and Laura Hernandez also had two hits each in the game. In the tournament opener, Childs homered and drove in four runs while collecting two hits and scoring three times as the locals defeated Bossier Parish 15-3 by mercy rule in five innings. Thomas was the beneficiary of the big run support as she worked just three frames for the win, with Cavazos finishing up, as the locals came away with three wins.

SB Dolphins to register

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League continue to host new player/drill team, cheer/mascot registration Feb. 22, at Blackhawk Park. The in-person registration session will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Blackhawk Park. For additional football player information or about the program, call Cheryl Arnesen at 713-459-4330 or direct email to her at cheryl_arnesen@att.net.

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JFD out of gate at Kethan Relays

As expected, Dobie's distance runners stood out at the 2020 track and field debut at the Jim Kethan Relays, giving the team some momentum heading into the Brown Relays Feb. 14 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

Junior Alberto Campa, a state qualifier during the cross-country season, was off and running in Deer Park as his time of 10 minutes, 19-one hundredths of a second easily won the 3,200-run to get his season off and running.

Javier Martinez was also on his game during first-week action as he was third in the 800 run with a time of 2:07.40.

Junior Amari Singleton, turning her focus to the 800 run in Deer Park, came up with a second-place finish in that event with an outstanding time of 2:28.55.

The Longhorns' Jeremiah Ballard did his part as he wound up second in the 110 hurdles at 16.45, and his top high jump of 5-10 was fifth.

Jason Brooks, a Vanderbilt University football signee, helped out in the shot event with a throw of 46-1 for second place. In the same event, Dobie's Dominic Caballero had a throw of 42-5 for sixth place.

Dobie also got a boost from Dontavion Crosby in a pair of field events. In the triple jump, Crosby went 40-1 for third place, and his mark of 19-5 1/4 gave him fourth in the long jump.

The Longhorns did well in the relays for key points, getting second in the 4x2, third in the 4x1 and sixth in the 4x4.

Along with Singleton, there were other Lady

Longhorn standouts. Isabella Delgado was third with a time of 54.66 in the 300 hurdles, and Kenya Horton's leap of 32-4 1/4 was fourth-best in the event.

Amya Ray scored in the sprints, taking fifth in both the 100 (13.41) and the 200 (28.03), and teammate Izzy Padilla was fifth at 12:41.68 in the 3,200 run.

Jordyn Ridge went 14-5 1/2 for sixth in the long jump, and Janelle Mooney placed sixth in the 400 with a time of 1:03.79.

Like the Dobie boys, the Lady Longhorns scored well in the relays, taking second in each of the three.

In the 4x1, it was Raven Finister, Briana Haywood, Mia Sanchez and Ray as the Lady Longhorns came in at 51.34.

A time of 1:52.28 was

also good for second place as that foursome included Finister, Ridge, Sanchez and Horton.

Mooney, Sanchez, Vanessa Villareal and Singleton combined in the 4x4 for second in a time of 4:16.94.

"We were very proud of our group," Dobie head coach Charles Washington said.

"The girls competed well, particularly for the first meet of the year. We still have some work to do to get our times down. Amari Singleton is looking strong. And our freshman, Mia Sanchez, is fitting in well with our varsity group."

"The Brown Relays will present a big test. There are more schools (38) and tough competition."

The tougher competition is what the Dobie teams welcome this season as the District 22-6A meet is expected to be perhaps the most competitive throughout the Region III ranks when the time comes in April.

Pleasants dazzles in LSU softball debut weekend

It's hard to imagine that even Taylor Pleasants herself could have imagined delivering the kind of collegiate debut she put together while helping Louisiana State University's softball program to a 4-0 run of the table at the Tiger Classic in Baton Rouge. The 2019 Dobie graduate and reigning 22-6A Most Valuable Player smacked doubles in wins over Central Arkansas (3-2) and Oklahoma State (1-0) and then went 1 for 2 with a pair of runs scored in an 8-0 shutout over Florida A&M. Pleasants then saved her best for last, going 3 for 3 with a walkoff solo homer in the bottom of the seventh inning as LSU got past Oklahoma State 3-2. She also added a solid display of defense over the weekend from her shortstop position, including diving to catch a liner in the hole for a putout. Through the four games, Pleasants hit .692.



SJC baseball drops three

If it wasn't for bad luck... San Jacinto College's baseball team began perhaps its most important nonconference weekend of the season with a blowout win but then suffered three single-run losses to go 1-3 for the trip to Marianna, Fla.

Alan Shibley, Raphael Ochoa and Tyrice Silas drove in two runs apiece over five innings as the Gators began things with a 17-3 blowout of Motlow

State. Silas homered in the game, and Brandon Birdsell struck out six over his three innings for the win.

The locals then went nine innings against Northwest Florida State, getting just one hit. Staff ace Parker Mitchell struck out 12 over five frames in a no-decision.

Top-ranked Chipola scored late for a 3-2 win over San Jacinto despite solo home runs from Hunter Townsend and

Blaine Robinson.

SJC's Bryant Salgado was solid in his start, going four innings and fanning seven with no earned runs.

Townsend was 2 for 5 with a home run, two runs scored and three runs batted in while Jordan Williams drove in two, but Florida SouthWestern State scored a run in the last of the 10th to take a 3-2 victory as SJC fell to 5-3 overall.

Lady Longhorn softball again has high hopes

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Reaching the regional quarterfinals a season ago has only whetted the appetite of the Dobie varsity girls' softball program heading into the 2020 campaign.

Losing the services of District 22-6A Most Valuable Player Taylor Pleasants to Louisiana State University certainly doesn't help — head coach Robin Rackley freely admits Pleasants cannot merely be replaced — but the Lady Longhorns will push on.

Make no mistake, 2019 proved magical for the program. Dobie first won a three-way battle for second place and then downed North Shore and Clear Falls before eventually losing to La Porte in the regional quarterfinals. Along the way, Dobie reached the regional quarterfinals for the first time since the 2012 campaign, won 26 overall games and saw Pleasants become an all-state selection.

Pleasants is now at LSU having already collected Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Week honors for her outstanding play during opening weekend (see above).

Those now vying to fill

the vacancy at shortstop for the first time in five seasons are Jasmin Benitez and Kristen Barba, while Jessenia Pena will likely shift to third base to cover some extra ground.

Karlie Barba will get a good look at first base, and Mykayla Gutierrez returns at catcher. Leslie Longoria, sporting one of the best batting averages in the region a season ago, returns to the outfield along with Dani Colunga and others.

In the circle, Jessica De La Cerda and Miquela Guajardo return, and there are other options like Karlie Barba and freshman Marissa Perla. Any direction Rackley turns, there is plenty of varsity playing experience.

"I think what we did last year made the kids hungrier for more, and that's certainly what coach (Chris Swinnen (varsity assistant coach) and I pushed in the offseason," Rackley said.

"Nobody likes to lose at that point in the season, and we also saw the end of an era with Taylor playing her final game, but now we are ready to go there again and beyond.

"I feel like we have a roster full of players who know what it takes to win and to go deep in the play-

offs. I expect us to have a very good season."

After facing Clear Brook in the 2020 opener Feb. 17 at the Pasadena ISD Complex, Dobie will head to College Station Feb. 20-22 for one of the state's largest annual events. Dobie will also compete in the Pearland tournament.

Early on, Rackley is seeking chemistry. The talent is there, but there is a true fit, and she will find it.

"I'm big on just how we all work together, and I want us to feel that vibe as a group," Rackley said.

"We want to find that one unit that functions well as a whole, but I also feel like we have a lot of players capable of filling key roles when called upon."

Dobie will again play in one of the best top-heavy leagues around, with as many as six programs capable of advancing.

But the Lady Longhorns are undeterred. They were tested greatly in 2019 and were the last standing from 22-6A.

"We're excited to get started," said Rackley. "This can be another memorable year for our program, and that's what we all want."

Clear Brook's Lee to join Midland bowling program



Clear Brook High School bowler Allison Lee (seated center) signed with Midland University, owner of one of the top bowling programs in the nation, to continue her education and bowling career with the Warriors. Those with her at the signing included Clear Brook assistant bowling coach and her father, Jason Lee (left), and her mother, Nanette Lee. A four-year member of

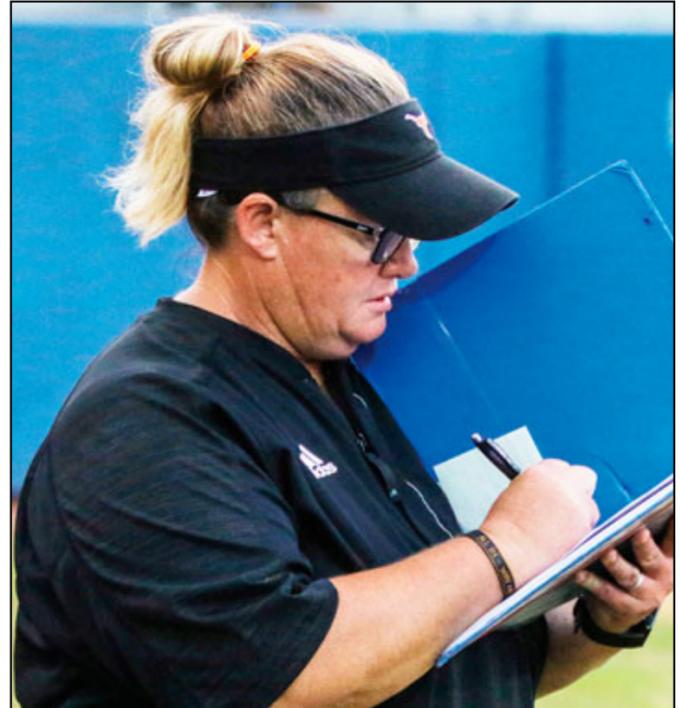
the Lady Wolverines' program, Lee has contributed greatly to three straight district championships for the team and has also helped lead the squad to a pair of regional titles as well as a state berth. Lee has been named to and competed on the Houston Southeast All-District Team.

Clear Brook graduate Cassity will attend medical school



Class of 2016 Clear Brook High School graduate and two-time all district football player Andrew Cassity just may one day focus his attention on helping athletes return from injury as he has been accepted to join the Texas A&M School of Medicine's Health Science Center in Bryan, Texas, with a projected graduation date of May 2024. He is anticipated to earn his undergraduate in biochemistry pre-med bachelor of science degree and minor in biology in May of this year from Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., where he also played football while holding a grade point average of 3.933 on a 4.0 scale. Last year, Cassity earned numerous honors, including the Allstate American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team Nom-

inee: 169 college football athletes from around the nation were selected for their achievements off the field, selected by their community service and ability to overcome adversity; as well as the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities David M. Halbrook Certificate for Academic Achievement among Athletes: Awarded to one student athlete at each of the 8 member Mississippi Colleges for academic excellence. He has logged hundreds of hours of shadowing, research and presentation work during his academic career at Millsaps, including summer internships and more. He also participated in lacrosse, powerlifting and water polo while at Clear Brook High School.



A Region III final eight appearance was nice in 2019, but the Dobie varsity girls softball team is now gunning for more with plenty of previous varsity experience to draw from throughout the lineup. Dobie head coach Robin Rackley (above) will lead her team into the 2020 season opener Feb. 17 against Clear Brook before the team travels to the College Station Invitational Feb. 20-22.

Sports Calendar

JFD netters produce solid results at Franklin/Kramer

BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 14

Dobie varsity boys host Summer Creek, 7:00
 Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek, 7:00
 Brook JV boys at Clear Creek, 5:30
 Dobie JV boys host Summer Creek, 5:30
 Brook sophomore boys at Clear Creek, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys host Summer Creek, 5:30
 Brook freshman A boys host Summer Creek, 4:00
 Brook freshman A boys at Clear Creek, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B boys host Summer Creek, 4:00

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Brook varsity boys host Clear Falls, 7:00
 Brook JV boys host Clear Falls, 5:30
 Brook sophomore boys host Clear Falls, 5:30
 Brook freshman A boys host Clear Falls, 4:00
 Brook freshman B boys host Clear Falls, :00

SOCCER

Friday, Feb. 14

Dobie varsity girls vs. Memorial, SJCS, 7:30
 Brook varsity boys host Clear Creek, 7:30
 Brook varsity girls at Clear Creek, 7:30
 Brook JV boys host Clear Creek, 5:30
 Brook JV girls at Clear Creek, 5:30

Saturday, Feb. 15

Dobie varsity boys vs. Memorial, Vet., 2:00
 Dobie JV boys vs. Memorial, Aux., noon

TENNIS

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15

Dobie varsity at Corpus Christi Spring Fling, TBA

SOFTBALL

Saturday, Feb. 15

Dobie varsity hosts 5-team scrimm., El Franco, 9 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 17

Dobie varsity hosts Clear Brook, PISD, 6:00
 Dobie JV Orange hosts Clear Brook, PISD, 4:30

Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 20-22

Dobie varsity at College Station tourn., TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

Friday, Feb. 14

Dobie varsity boys/girls host Brown Relays, TBA

BASEBALL

Friday, Feb. 14

Brook varsity hosts Pas. Memorial scrimm., 4:00
 Dobie varsity at Baytown Sterling scrimm., 4:00
 Brook JV at Pas. Memorial scrimm., 6:00
 Brook sophomores at Pas. Memorial scrimm., TBA

Monday, Feb. 17

Brook varsity at Sante Fe scrimm., 4:00
 Dobie varsity hosts Clear Lake scrimm., 3:30
 Brook JV hosts Santa Fe scrimm., 6:00
 Brook sophomores host Santa Fe scrimm., TBA

Friday, Feb. 21

Brook varsity at Dobie scrimm., 3:00
 Brook JV hosts Dobie scrimm., 5:30
 Brook sophomores host Dobie scrimm., 3:30

Monday, Feb. 24

Brook varsity hosts Pas. Memorial, 6:30
 Brook JV hosts Pas. Memorial, 4:00
 Brook sophomores at Pas. Memorial, 3:30

Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 27-29

Dobie varsity at Laredo Border Olympics

Co-tournament honoree Bobby Kramer would have no doubt been proud had he been in town as the Dobie spring tennis contingent excelled in numerous divisions at the Pasadena ISD Franklin/Kramer Invitational. Franklin is the former

longtime head tennis coach at Rayburn High School, while Kramer led the Dobie program from 1977 to 1995 and is a Dobie Hall of Honor inductee from 2017. The two legendary coaches are honored each spring by the Dobie program during the

spring season. Among the many Dobie standouts this season, mixed doubles A division players Kristy Morales and Quan Dinh reached the finals before losing to eventual champion Dawson. In the draw, the Dobie duo dumped Angleton

6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals and then handed Pearland a 6-1, 6-0 loss. "Kristy and Quan have really been playing solid tennis together," Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said. "They are looking more and more like they could represent our district at region-

als. I'm just proud for them and excited about the way they have played this spring." Also in the mixed doubles B spot, Dobie's Thailony Kam Trevino and Lael Martinez made their way to the finals with some impressive play.

Brian Nguyen, a talented sophomore, also rolled in boys' singles B play, getting the final before a Kempner player, Brandon Vo, downed him in three sets. In the boys' doubles B

division, Hayden Lazo and Kyle Redmon advanced to the quarterfinals via a bye and then beat a twosome from Katy before losing to a Dawson duo. Gisell Morales reached the semifinals in the girls' singles B division as she defeated players from Alief Taylor and Pearland before a defeat to Nederland's Vahn Ho.

And sophomore Megan Rodriguez made the Longhorn faithful proud, advancing to the quarterfinals with

a pair of wins before a loss to eventual bracket champion Leah Block of Friendswood. Overall, Moreno was pleased with the day, citing the help of countless coaches who helped greatly while managing their respective playing sites.

"We wound up with 35 teams, so it was a great turnout, and I really appreciate the help we got from all of the coaches," Moreno said. "We could not have done it without their help over the course of the day."

Wolverines' Smith to dive at UIL state



The University Interscholastic League's State Swimming and Diving Championships will play out Feb. 14-15 at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center on the campus of the University of Texas as Clear Brook's Gabby Smith (left), the Region III runner-up and regional champi-

on Charliz Beniquez of Clear Lake High School will be among the medal contenders in the Class 6A 1-meter diving. Among the statewide regional qualifiers, Beniquez ranked ninth with Smith 15th. Southlake Carroll's Hailey Hernandez had the highest score at a regional.

UH-Victoria, Kristoff get season going



The University of Houston-Victoria softball program got its season going with three wins in five games as former Dobie batter mates Marissa Longoria (above) and Michelle Kristoff (right) were heavily involved. Longoria, a senior catcher who was the Red River Athletic Conference Defense Player of the Year in 2018 and has now start-



ed 138 career games, hit .333 in the early going. She is a 2016 Dobie graduate. As for Kristoff, she made three pitching appearances over the five games, going 2-1 with a 3.20 earned run average. She graduated from Dobie in 2017 and played her first two seasons at San Jacinto College.



The Dobie spring tennis team continued its strong play so far this season, with numerous singles players and doubles teams excelling in various divisions at the Franklin/Kramer Invitational, hosted by the Pasadena ISD Feb. 7. Those who played well for the Longhorns included, left to right, Lael Martinez, Quan Dinh, Kristy Morales, Thailony Kam Trevino and Brian Nguyen. Next up, the Longhorns are headed out of town to compete in the Corpus Christi Spring Fling as the locals continue to position themselves for as high seeds as possible heading toward the 22-6A Championships.

Tourney is May 1-3

Lajaunie tennis plans ongoing

The 2020 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will return to the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena May 1-3.

The DLTSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are in the planning and sponsorship gathering stages for its ninth annual memorial tennis tournament, and there are already some exciting details in line.

Darren Lajaunie began his tennis career playing tennis at Dobie High School and graduated co-valedictorian in 1984. Members of the Dobie tennis team will be awarded entry fees to play in the tournament in his honor.

Lajaunie lost his battle with melanoma May 3, 2011. This scholarship

fund and tournament is a way to honor his memory by helping junior tennis players enjoy tennis and assist with their education in college.

He was an electrical engineer graduate from the University of Texas in Austin, and a pillar of the community while working at the Johnson Space Center. Lajaunie was also dedicated and passionate for his favorite pastime of playing tennis.

All 2020 players will receive a tournament T-shirt and other goodie bag items and enjoy a complimentary opening morning breakfast snack.

A free lunch will also be available for players and spectators. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are busy seeking donors and silent auction items.

Opening night events include match play and complimentary drinks beginning at 6 p.m. on May 1, with the silent auction ending on May 2 at 3 p.m.

Those who would like to donate may do so on the website. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit corporation, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Donations may now be made via the website with a credit card or one may mail a check or money order to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, TX 77059, or contact Camille Lajaunie, committee chairperson at cjlajau nie@gmail.com with any questions.

The Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is now a member of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers are still accepting tennis racket donations. Call 281-480-6933 to make a donation or to learn added details.

Follow the event on Facebook at Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarships. Player entry and ticket information will be determined soon.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
 7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For additional information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizens-bank.com.
 9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.
 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
 11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. For details, email pearlandarearepublican club@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real. This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.
 7 p.m.
Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets monthly on the second Thursday (except June, July and December) at

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.
 11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
 7 - 10 p.m.
Bay Area Singles Club - monthly dance at 7 - 10 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, Post 6378, located at 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson, 77539. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For additional information, call 832-483-3257 or 832-477-6778.
 7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - bluegrass music show and jam session on the third Saturday (except December.) Stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. Free. Johnny Arolfo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For details, visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
 1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and

Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.

2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 - 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of the church. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information, or drop in.
 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
 10:30 a.m.
Seniors and Law Enforcement Together - SALT meetings are 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Madison Jobe Senior Center, 1700 East Thomas St., in Pasadena on the third Monday. Meetings start timely and teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may be in attendance. Free. Refreshments served. For more information, call 713-477-0175.

Continued on Page 4B

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 2 p.m.

Genealogy Group - The Parker Williams Genealogy group meets from 2 - 4 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. The public is invited to attend. For details, email Liz Hicks at eroottrot@usa.net.

6 p.m.
New Directions Singles - Age 50 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. 7 p.m.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisisshotline.org or call 832-416-1177.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society - Meets the third Monday at Clear Lake Park Bldg., 5001 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook. Presenters explore topics such as fossils, planetary geology, mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry making, fossil and mineral collecting. Field trips to Texas collecting sites and surrounding states. Door prizes. Free parking. For details, visit www.clgms.org.

7:30
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
9:30 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Free dance lessons - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180. 1:30 p.m.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 at Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. Call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees - NARFE Chapter 941 meets the third Tuesday, El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Visitors welcome. For details, call Roy at 713-734-1461 or EFL Center at 281-464-9708.

Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details/classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. 7 p.m.

Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club - meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). There is no meeting in December. For details, contact Cathy at houston skyscraper shadows.org or call 713-332-6294.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 22930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, first floor staff meeting room. PIP is police and citizens working together making neighborhoods safer. Bring a friend. For details, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group that meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 50 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips are available. Deposits are being taken for Black Hills, Badlands and Legends of the West in South Dakota, July 15-21, 2020; and a Hawaiian Cruise on the Pride of America/Norwegian Cruise Line, Nov. 7-14 2020. For additional information, call Marilyn 713-444-6744.

The Community Club - meets monthly on the third Wednesday at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. Social time is 9:30 a.m.; meeting is at 10 a.m. The club is a charitable organization of women helping the Salvation Army feed and care for homebound elderly/disabled people, children and the homeless, providing scholarships for Bridge Over Troubled Water clients. Day trips may be scheduled, followed by a guest speaker/program with fellowship and lunch. New members and guests are invited. For details email jmopry@yahoo.com.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details. 11:30 a.m.

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets monthly, first and third Wednesday, Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. December may be an exception. For details, email Teresa Dover at doverbookkeeper@aol.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Hometown Heroes Park - has Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For information on the activity card, call the city at 281-554-1180. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for details. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 7:30 a.m.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com. 10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 6 p.m.

Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets the third Thursday, monthly, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com for details. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

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District 22-6A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball

(As of Feb. 12)

Teams	W	L
Atascocita	14	1
Summer Creek	13	1
Kingwood	10	4
Dobie	10	5
Humble	6	8
Memorial	4	10
Rayburn	4	10
South Houston	2	12
Pasadena	1	13

District 22-6A Standings Varsity Girls' Basketball

(As of Feb. 12)

Teams	W	L
Summer Creek	15	1
Atascocita	14	2
Dobie	12	4
Humble	11	5
Kingwood	6	8
Memorial	5	11
Rayburn	3	13
Pasadena	2	14
South Houston	1	15

Local basketball teams score playoff berths

Continued from Page 1B

Kingwood, 10-4 at present, has remaining games against Summer Creek and Sam Rayburn, while Dobie finishes its season at home against Summer Creek Feb. 14.

If form holds true, it would appear the Longhorns are headed for a bidistrict playoff clash with state-ranked North Shore.

However, if the Longhorns can get out of the gate against Summer Creek in a similar fashion as they did against South Houston and Memorial, the battle for playoff seed-

ing could get interesting as Kingwood and Dobie have split their series.

In a 71-38 rout of South Houston, the Longhorns outscored the Trojans 18-2 in the first quarter to take control early on.

Already in front by a wide margin, the Longhorns also won the final period 25-13 to finish off the impressive win.

Five players scored at least eight points in the game, with 10 players scoring points as head coach Kevin Cross was able to substitute freely.

Adrian Young led the way with 10 points in the

game, and Cameran Guy added nine of his own. Marquice Scott and Jalen Lendsey had eight points each.

Then came a 70-54 win over Memorial at home Feb. 11 as Lendsey led the way with 18 points and nine rebounds as he continues to close out his final regular season strong.

Scott, the longest-tenured varsity player with parts of four seasons to his credit, added 16 points as he, too, looks to cap his final regular season with a bang.

Shannon Hayes had nine points as the Long-

horns used a 28-5 run in the first quarter to basically put the win away.

Wolverines roll past Lake
A 17-0 run over a key juncture of the game allowed the surging Clear Brook boys' team to create a log jam in District 24-6A.

Dickinson is on its way to the District 24-6A crown, but there's now a three-way tie for second place among Clear Brook, Clear Lake and Clear Creek after the Wolverines bounced Lake 75-55 Feb. 11 at Krueger Field House and Clear Springs scored a mild upset over Clear

Creek. The Wolverines got a game-high 24 points from Ka'Mauri Millender and 23 more from Brandon Andrews.

Lake held a 22-13 lead at one point before a Wolverine surge led to a 30-22 edge for the visitors.

Brook, now 24-9, hosts Clear Creek Feb. 14 while Lake takes on Dickinson in a pair of huge games as the regular season is down to two games each. The Wolverines seemingly have a playoff berth in hand but would love to get up to the No. 2 seed with a pair of wins.

District 24-6A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball

(As of Feb. 12)

Teams	W	L
Dickinson	10	0
Clear Lake	6	4
Clear Creek	6	4
Clear Brook	6	4
Clear Falls	4	6
Clear Springs	4	7
Alvin	0	11

District 24-6A Standings Varsity Girls' Basketball

(As of Feb. 12)

Teams	W	L
Clear Springs	11	1
Clear Creek	9	3
Clear Falls	9	3
Dickinson	5	7
Clear Brook	3	9
Alvin	3	9
Clear Lake	2	10

Dobie soccer teams set as Mavs' games loom

The Dobie/Memorial rivalry may not be as old as some of the others in the Pasadena ISD ranks, but it's certainly as fierce as any.

The heat is about to pick back up as the respective boys' and girls' soccer programs go head-to-head in a pair of huge matches to close out the first half of league play.

Dobie boys' head coach Justo Manrique basically pointed to Memorial as the chief threat to ending the Longhorns' string of five consecutive 22-6A crowns.

Now, with just one match in round one, it's Dobie versus Memorial for sole possession of first place.

At 6-0-1 following recent wins over Rayburn (5-1) and South Houston (5-0), the Longhorns have collected 19 points to take

over first place. Memorial, meanwhile, is just a point back at 6-1-0.

Dobie got to this point by first taking down Rayburn 5-1 Feb. 7 as Isaac Cortez led the way with three goals.

Oscar Aparicio and Oscar Beltran added goals and Imanol Pena had three assists as the Longhorns controlled things throughout for the win.

Against South Houston Feb. 11, Cortez had two more goals and Anthony Nery, Jonathan Men-

dez and Aparicio also had goals. Mendez contributed two assists as the Longhorns grabbed first place.

Dobie and Memorial are also pushing to hold off the likes of Humble, Kingwood and Atascocita as the games gain added importance.

So far only a tie at Kingwood has kept the Longhorns from perfection, but it has not been easy.

With five goals over two games, Cortez now leads the Longhorns with 11 for the season.

Nery and Pena have five each, and Pena leads the team with eight assists. The Longhorns are 9-1-4 overall this season.

The way the 22-6A girls' race has played out to this point, Dobie really needs a win over the Lady Mavericks Feb. 14.

The Lady Mavericks have the edge currently by virtue of a tie with Summer Creek, while the Dobie group trailed by just a goal at halftime to Summer Creek before a 6-3 loss.

Atascocita is 7-0 and out in front, and it will also be difficult to catch Kingwood (5-1-0).

That has left Summer Creek, Memorial and Dobie battling for the final two playoff seeds.

So it's down the stretch in the respective varsity soccer races, and it's Dobie going head-to-head with Memorial.

Manrique said the boys' race would go this way, but he also believed his group would prevail. The time is here.

Bidistrict Playoff Basketball

**Dobie girls vs. North Shore or
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District 22-6A Basketball
Dobie boys host S. Creek

Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., Dobie High School

District 24-6A Basketball
Brook boys at Clear Creek

Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., Creek High School

Brook boys host Clear Falls

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Creek High School



Above, senior Victoria Chu (3), Dobie's leading scorer last season and this, has the Lady Longhorns in the mix for what is currently the No. 4 playoff seed in District 22-6A following a 4-0 win over Sam Rayburn coupled with a 2-1 win over South Houston Feb. 11. At 4-3-0 with a game remaining in the first half of league play against Memorial, the Lady Longhorns trail the 4-2-1 Lady Mavericks but can overtake them with a win Feb. 14. Atascocita and Kingwood are jockeying for first place, with Summer Creek third and Memorial fourth at present. Below, Dobie goalkeeper McKenzie Rankins has continued to play well of late for her team heading into the big matchup with Memorial as the Lady Longhorns have surrendered just one goal in two games since losses to Kingwood and Atascocita. Rankins, in first full season as the starter, has helped Dobie to a 9-6-1 overall record, and the Lady Longhorns are pushing for more down the stretch.

Photos by John Bechtle



Dobie's Tori Nunez (4) advances the ball upfield after a takeaway against Rayburn Feb. 8 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as the Lady Longhorns went on to gain an easy 4-0 victory. After losses to Kingwood and Atascocita in consecutive games, Dobie tripped Rayburn and then edged South Houston 2-1 Feb. 11 to set up a key game against Memorial Feb. 14 at San Jacinto College South.

22-6A Girls' Soccer Standings As of Feb. 12

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Atascocita	7	0	0	21
Kingwood	5	1	0	15
Summer Creek	4	2	1	13
Memorial	4	2	1	13
Dobie	4	3	0	12
Pasadena	2	5	0	6
Rayburn	0	6	0	0
Humble	0	6	0	0
S. Houston	0	6	0	0

22-6A Boys' Soccer Standings As of Feb. 12

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	6	0	1	19
Memorial	6	1	0	18
Humble	5	1	1	16
Kingwood	4	1	3	15
Atascocita	4	3	0	12
Pasadena	2	5	0	6
Rayburn	1	5	1	4
S. Houston	1	6	0	3
Summer Creek	0	7	0	0



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