

MUDs face trash delays

At press time, several residents serviced by local MUDs were experiencing delays in trash collection. According to MUD officials, this is the result of staffing shortages at Texas Pride Disposal, the contractor hired to collect the waste. Area MUDs are working to correct the problem, officials said.

Sageglen to meet Jan. 16

Sageglen Community Association will hold a homeowner meeting Monday, Jan. 16, at the Sageglen Community Building, 11610 Sageglen, beginning at 7 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 281-481-2160.

Knights hold blood drive

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive in memory of John Urdiales at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road, on Sunday, Jan. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. To schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org. For more information, call Val Co-meaux at 713-582-5358.

Library donations sought

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library group is seeking donated materials from the South Belt community. Items sought include DVDs, CDs, gently used children's books and adult fiction. Donations can be dropped off during regular library hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

PIP set for Jan. 17

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the CES Classroom on the first floor of the main building. PIP consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods.

Guest speaker will be Sgt. Antonio Gracia, HPD Vice Department, who will address the topic of human trafficking. Face masks are mandatory. For additional information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org or 832-395-1776.

Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 12 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Jan. 13 (second Friday of the month). December is for tree waste only. Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Local COVID cases reported

While the number of active COVID-19 cases in ZIP codes 77075 and 77034 is roughly on par with the last *Leader* publishing on Dec. 22, the figure in ZIP code 77089 has increased significantly.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 10, there were 102 active cases in 77089, up 26 from the last *Leader* publishing on Dec. 22. To date, 137 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous publishing.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 20 active cases, up one from the last *Leader* publishing on Dec. 22. To date, there have been 81 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous publishing.

In 77034, there were 30 active cases, up one from the last *Leader* publishing on Dec. 22. To date, 90 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous publishing.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday, March 31.

Both the northbound entrance and southbound entrance ramps from FM 518 in League City will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the entrance ramps from SH 96.

The northbound exit ramp to FM 517 in Dickinson will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the northbound exit ramp to Holland/Hughes.

Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, March 31. Significant delays are expected.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Leader remembers highlights of 2022

The *Leader* continues its look back on 2022 with a list of some of the significant stories of 2022. For highlights up to Feb. 10, see the Dec. 29, 2022, edition of the *Leader*.

Feb. 10

State Rep. Greg Bonnen and Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin were honored at the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's annual Quasar Award Banquet Friday, Jan. 28, when they were presented the 2021 and 2022 Quasar Awards respectively. This marked the last time longtime South Belt resident and BAHEP President Bob Mitchell would host the annual event.

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-

off was once again canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the third consecutive year the event was canceled due to disease. Organizers said the decision hinged largely on Harris County not committing to allow the event to be held at El Franco Lee Park, where the event has been traditionally held for several years. The event has grown significantly in size in recent years, making it difficult to relocate. The cook-off is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt fireworks display, which is also held at El Franco Lee Park. The fireworks display was also canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizers pledged to return the following year.

On Friday, Jan. 28, a man was found shot to death inside his apartment in the 12200 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Lee Mayfield was pronounced dead at the scene. According to Houston police, officers responded to a report of a person down at the above address, and upon their arrival, they found signs of forced entry into an apartment. Once inside the apartment unit, police found the victim dead from multiple gunshot wounds. His body appeared to be in the early stages of decomposition. Eddrel Antonio Brown, 28, was later charged with the murder.

Feb. 17

Dobie High School announced its 2022 Hall of Honor inductees. This marked the 10th annual class of inductees. This distinction recognizes graduates who have made significant contributions in the community and serve as role models to students. This recognition is the highest honor

bestowed to Longhorn alumni or former faculty members. Dobie's 2022 Hall of Honor class included five individuals, four graduates and a faculty member. Inductees included Larry Neumann (Class of 1970), David Jackson (Class of 1981), Alysia Raycraft (Class of 1986) and John Evans (Class of 1986). David Chollett is the lone faculty member being recognized. A star athlete at Dobie, Neumann returned to coach at his alma mater, as well as Nederland High School. Jackson became a longtime employee at NASA. Raycraft went on to become a filmmaker and costume designer for "The Office." Evans became an award-winning Texas musician and artist. Chollett served as the area high school's head track and field coach for nearly 30 years. An induction ceremony for the honorees was held at the area campus Feb. 25.

The Redford Apartments near Edgebrook and
Continued on Page 4

Leader wraps up 2022



Another year has passed, and with the turn of the calendar, the *Leader* has completed another Christmas food and toy drive. South Belt Elementary once again participated in the annual program by donating toys. Students shown above donating to the drive are, left to right, Kaleb Bauge, Tristan Vigil, Caleb Castillo, Lia Palacios, Faith Cavazos, Adalyn Aleman, Edina Lendsey and Sean Rodriguez. Shown above with the students is South Belt Elementary counselor Lakitha Thomas.

Residents may file for tax deferments

Offer open to those 65+ and to disabled

Qualifying residents may file to defer their tax payments, according to the Harris Central Appraisal District.

Texans who are age 65 or older or who are disabled as defined by law may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the HCAD office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred – but not canceled – as long as the owner continues to qualify for the exemption. Taxes accumulate with 5 percent interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when the deceased spouse died.

"Homeowners who are 65 or older or disabled also should be sure they have applied for and received the appropriate homestead exemptions. These exemptions will reduce future tax burdens, and the tax savings from homestead exemptions are theirs to keep," said Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger. "In December, the appraisal district mailed postcards listing the homestead exemptions the property owner has and encouraging them to contact us if they are eligible for one additional exemption because of a 65th birthday or becoming disabled."

A filed tax deferral affidavit keeps homeowners from losing their homesteads because of de-

linquent property taxes. A pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien will also cease as a result of filing a tax deferral affidavit. In addition, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes once an affidavit is filed. There are no penalties on delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

"Homeowners with a mortgage on their home should first check with their mortgage company to make certain the deferral does not violate the terms of the deed of trust securing the mortgage on the property," Altinger said. "Most deeds of trust require that taxes be paid currently."

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer qualifies for the exemption. If the tax debt remains unpaid at that time, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

For further details about property tax deferral, contact the Harris Central Appraisal District's information center at 713-957-800 or email help@hcad.org. Information can be found online at www.hcad.org by keying in "tax deferrals" in the Search Bar at the top right of the screen. Information also is available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax.

Robbery investigation leads to arrest

Suspects charged in September incident

A lengthy Precinct 2 investigation into a Sagemeadow armed robbery has led to the arrest of two suspects.

Last September, deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's Patrol Division responded to an aggravated robbery that occurred in the 9600 block of Sageaspen. Upon arrival, deputies learned that the complainant had been robbed at gunpoint by multiple suspects while in front of a residence. Lawn equipment, wallets, and money were among some items taken during the robbery.

Over the next few months, deputies with the Special Operations Unit began to investigate this case and develop several leads. Through their in-

vestigations, they were able to locate the suspect vehicle, and the two suspects involved in the robbery.

Once identifying the two suspects, deputies learned that they were currently in Harris County Jail on separate robbery charges filed by the Houston Police Department.

Deputies were able to later interview both the suspects in jail and officially link them to this robbery.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted additional Aggravated Robbery Charges on both suspects, whom were identified as 27-year-old Victor Livingston and 23-year-old Dauntre Brown.



Victor Livingston



Dauntre Brown

Resident killed in wrong-way crash

Shortly before midnight Monday, Jan. 2, deputies with Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office were dispatched to a major traffic accident in the northbound lanes of the Fred Hartman Bridge between the cities of La Porte and Baytown.

It was reported a wrong-way driver had collided with another vehicle head on.

Upon arrival, deputies learned a black GMC half-ton pickup truck, being driven by 90-year-old Major Abram of the east Houston area, was traveling south in the northbound inside lane of the bridge when it collided with a black Toy-

ota Corolla. The Toyota's driver was identified as South Belt resident 27-year-old Lamont Rhodes.

Both drivers died at the scene as a result of the impact.

There were no passengers in either vehicle, and no other vehicles were involved. The northbound lanes of the bridge were shut down for approximately three hours while Precinct 8 crash investigators processed the scene.

At press time, the case remained under investigation.

Suspect, 19, arrested in fatal stabbing

Fatal incident reportedly over loud puppy

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal stabbing of a woman that took place around 10 p.m. Dec. 31, in the 12200 block of Flushing Meadows Drive near Astoria.

The suspect, Derrion Mitchell, 19, is charged with murder in the 177th State District Court in the death of 45-year-old Adrienne Russell, 45.

According to Houston Police Department of-



Derrion Mitchell

officials, patrol officers responded to a stabbing call at the residence at the above address, and a male told officers he left his female roommate at the residence and when he returned, he found her in the backyard with multiple stab wounds.

Paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced the woman dead at the scene.

Further investigation led to the identity of the suspect as Mitchell, another male who had been staying at the residence.

Mitchell was arrested Tuesday, Jan. 3, without incident.

According to a ABC Channel 13 news report, the incident stemmed from an argument over a puppy Mitchell had gotten for Christmas.

Copper theft leaves some without power

Copper wire theft from a utility pole of a business in the 8400 block of Hall Road near Beltway 8 around midnight Tuesday, Jan. 3, left multiple CenterPoint Energy customers without power for days.

A pair of thieves were captured on surveillance footage allegedly stealing several feet of copper wiring from equipment located on a piece of property owned by State Farm insurance agent Aaron German.

According to CenterPoint officials, since the equipment the copper was stolen from was customer-owned, it is their responsibility to make the necessary repairs, estimated at approximate-

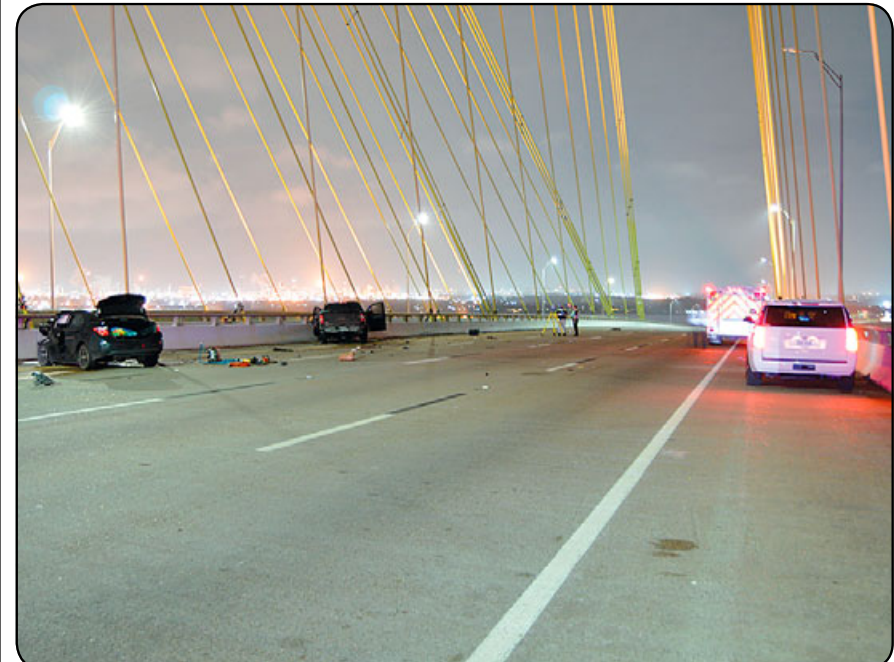
ly \$60,000. Once a licensed electrician has made the repairs, CenterPoint will be able to reconnect the customer's service.

This marked the second time this has happened at German's business. The first time, thieves stole around 800 feet of wire. This time it was even more.

CenterPoint officials said such crimes are on the rise, as the price of copper continues to rise. Officials warned that such thefts are extremely dangerous, as they could cause fatal electrocution.

If anyone sees such a potential copper theft, they are urged to call 911.

Area resident killed in crash



A South Belt resident was killed in a crash shortly before midnight Monday, Jan. 2, while crossing the Fred Hartman Bridge between La Porte and Baytown. Lamont Rhodes, 27, was traveling north on the bridge in a black Toyota Corolla when he was struck by 90-year-old Major Abram of the east Houston area, who was driving on the wrong side of the road in a black GMC half-ton pickup truck. Both drivers were pronounced dead at the scene. The crash caused extensive traffic delays, as the northbound side of the bridge was closed for approximately three hours while Precinct 8 investigators processed the scene. This case remained under investigation at press time. Photo submitted by Phil Sandlin's office

St. Luke's, Carmelites celebrate Christmas



Members of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church traveled with Carmelites members on a trip to Branson, Mo. to enjoy their Christmas extravaganza. Shown above, from left to right are (front row) Eleanor Burleigh, Dottie Cantalamessa, Mary Zucha, Delia Coy, Mary Garza, Herlinda Estrada, (back row) Marilyn Roberts, Veronica Garza and Jose Estrada. Not pictured is Tony Zucha.

Elected officials share their words

Martin discusses 2023 plans, projects

Dear residents, 2023 marks the beginning of my last term in office as your District E Council Member, I plan to prioritize mobility, public safety, and resiliency. Mobility in District E is a top priority with two major roadways under expansion. In the south sector, El Dorado Boulevard is near completion with the replenishment of native tree species on the horizon. Those living in the north sector can look forward to the ground-breaking of the expansion of Northpark Drive this spring, which I have been working on diligently since I took office in 2012.

These projects take years of coordination and work with not only federal, state, local entities but within the community as well. At the end of the day the community must all live with the result, and it is important to remember these projects are our legacy. The beautification and preservation of our community's character is extremely important to those living in District E. I believe that quality makes our area one of the most beautiful to live and visit in the city. In addition to these major road expansions, I plan to continue to utilize my Council District Service Funds to repair panel replacements across the district as well as work closely with the Houston Public Works Transportation Drainage Operations team to prioritize street rehabilitations in high traffic areas.

This past fiscal year, I have also spent a significant amount of my Council District Service Fund Dollars related to public safety overtime initiatives in both the north and south sector areas, while also providing our officers with crucial life saving equipment, and FLOCK Cameras. My dedication to the community, its safety, and our first responders will continue through supporting them any way that is possible.

As we get ready to kick off the 88th Texas Legislative Session next week, I'm excited to work with our partners in the legislature to fortify the resiliency of Lake Houston and our Texas Coast against future threats. I am incredibly proud of the relationships that I have cultivated with our state partners in the House and Senate which make this session particularly exciting.

This legislative session presents an opportunity to continue improving our resiliency to natural disasters with thoughtful projects on land and sea while expanding our reach into space through technological innovation at the Houston Spaceport. The sky is no longer the limit for District E as we continue to break barriers with the future development and expansion of the Houston Spaceport. I encourage you to visit www.capitol.texas.gov where you can find all the information you will need to keep up with the over 1600 bills that have been filed so for the 88th Texas Legislative session. The last day to file, legislation is March 10th and regular session is only 180 days.

Sincerely,
Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin

Fred Roberts celebrates students of the month



Fred Roberts Middle School teachers recently selected their Aviator of the Month students for December. Shown above, left to right, are Liam Lesniewski, Melanie Garay-Garza, Zoi Matthews and Sergio Maciel.

Photo by Crissy Higham

Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 4 – 5 p.m. Family storytime. Registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.: Thursday, Jan. 12, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 5 – 6 p.m. Adult project classes.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Project grad.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"

After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

Have a library card number and PIN handy.

A pickup time and instructions will be given.

Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.

Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

Read along and play with picture books on TurnleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

In My Opinion

Muecke honoring veterans, families

I served in the Air Force 1956/1959 in the Cold War time. After my discharge I forgot about my service until about 6 years ago. No one knew of the Early Warning Radar System, 650 sites around the world in some very isolated and harsh environments.

Tour one year, no family and in some cases no place to visit or buy anything. I suggested a monument to several veterans. Took some arm twisting but we formed an association, all volunteers, collected \$43,000 to design, build and install at the United States Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton.

A super beautiful monument showing radar sites, a mission statement and wording describing what we did. Also, a globe showing we were world wide. We were known as the Silent Sentinal as no one had ever heard of us.

With this said, and so many monuments and memorials across America I felt we should be recognized by our government. That an article should be read into the Congressional Record. Tried a couple of Congressmen and none wished to do. So I contacted Congressman (Dr.) Brian Babin, 36th District of Texas.

He agreed to honor our veterans and on Tuesday Dec. 13, 2022 he read the article on the House Floor. What a Christmas present. It is now part of the House records. Yes, I stepped up, but this was not for me. Many thousands served in the Early Warning Radar System, most are now gone, but they are now remembered and thanked for their service.

I ask you to please honor them by watching the presentation on this link, https://www.dropbox.com/s/ur0z7ek6uv1f1u/James%20Muecke_Cold%20War%20Radar%20Station%20Vets.mp4?dl=0.

Jim Muecke

King urges "gain-of-function" research

I fear that the investigations Republicans have promised in the House next year will be little more than another round of toxic partisan gamesmanship. But there is one investigation Congress should undertake, and that is into so-called "gain-of-function" research.

Before the pandemic, I suspect that most of you, like me, had never heard of gain-of-function research. What we learned during the pandemic is that scientists around the world routinely tinker with the genome of viruses to see how the induced changes will affect replication of the virus (contagiousness) and the effects it has on its host (lethality). Such research has apparently been going on for decades and is routinely funded by governments, including ours.

Within weeks of the COVID-19 virus emerging in China near the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), many began to question whether the virus had been created by gain-of-function research and somehow escaped from WIV's labs. Chinese documents that surfaced early in the pandemic seem to suggest the virus might have come from WIV. To many, the proposition that the novel coronavirus just happened to naturally occur a few hundred yards from the WIV facility seemed too much of a coincidence.

But in February 2020, barely three months after the virus's genome had been sequenced, 27 scientists signed a statement in the medical journal *The Lancet*, unequivocally declaring that the virus had occurred naturally and that any suggestion to the contrary was quackery and a conspiracy theory.

Their statement quickly became the accepted orthodoxy for much of the world's scientific community and virtually all the mainstream media.

However, as time wore on, circumstances regarding the origin of that statement came under scrutiny. In a 2021 Vanity Fair article, investigative journalist Katherine Eban revealed that the statement was organized by a scientist named

Peter Daszak. That statement concluded with a declaration from the scientists who signed it that "we have no competing interests." However, Eban reported in a follow-up article that Daszak was the director of EcoHealth Alliance, which in 2014 had received a \$3.7 million grant from the NIH for gain-of-function research and made a sub-grant for \$600,000 – to the WIV.

I wrote to the email address reserved for the statement in the *Lancet* post, posing a number of questions about the circumstances around the creation of the letter and the "competing interests" statement. I also reached out to two of the scientists who signed the letter asking for an interview regarding the statement. I received no responses.

Questions about gain-of-function research predate COVID. In fact, there has been a robust debate about the potential risks and benefits that dates to, at least, 2011. In 2014, a group of 300 prominent scientists, led by Harvard's highly regarded epidemiologist Peter Lipsitch, signed a statement raising alarms about risks associated with gain-of-function research.

The academic controversy caused the Obama administration to issue a moratorium on gain-of-function research, but it included a general exception for studies "urgently necessary to protect the public health or national security." According to Eban's reporting, the exception quickly became a glaring loophole that essentially rendered the rule useless and the controversial research mostly continued unabated.

The Trump administration scrapped the moratorium in favor of a complex review process. But that process was mostly conducted outside of the public's view or even significant peer review, leaving many of the critics, including Lipsitch, still wary.

The debate over the origins of COVID still rages today and unfortunately has become politicized, with Democrats and Republicans generally lining up behind the natural and lab-leak theories, respectively. In August 2021, the National Intelligence Council issued an unclassified report in response to an order from President Biden to review the origin of the virus. The report stated that the intelligence community had not been able to reach a conclusion and that the origin would likely never be known without more cooperation from the Chinese government.

Of course, the more time that passes the less likely it is that the mystery will ever be solved.

While we would all like to know how the pandemic started, the mere fact that it might have originated from gain-of-function research gone awry makes it imperative to conduct a detailed investigation of the risks and potential benefits of this kind of research. Of all the things we regulate, surely tinkering with viruses to make them more contagious and more lethal should be right at the top of the list. Congress needs to pass laws closely regulating what Rutgers professor Richard Ebright described to Katherine Eban as "looking for a gas leak with a lit match" and not leave this up to the shifting tides of executive orders.

Congress should also investigate what appears to have been a coordinated attempt to squelch any inquiry into the legitimate questions over COVID's origins in the early days of the pandemic. For example, the signers of the *Lancet* statement should be subpoenaed and questioned about what was almost certainly a false certification of "no competing interests" by at least one of the signers. (The criticism regarding potential conflicts of interest is not just coming from the right: The uber-progressive Columbia professor Jeffrey Saks disbanded a group he had established to study the origins of COVID, citing conflicts of interest. Interestingly, Daszak was part of the group Saks disbanded.)

I don't know whether House Republicans can conduct such hearings without turning them into a carnival sideshow. But hopefully they will rise above partisan instincts and deliver much-needed answers for the American people.

Bill King

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group posted a picture of an air conditioning unit on top of Meador Elementary that looked to be tampered with.

The member states she could be wrong but it looked like someone might have broken into all three AC units to steal copper. The incident occurred Saturday, Jan. 7.

Another member of the same Facebook group posted a picture of their truck with license plates GTY6192, that was stolen from Park Center Apartments near Beamer Road, Friday, Jan. 6, overnight. The member states that his truck was not the only one stolen and wanted to notify the community to be on the lookout.

A member of the Neighbor's app posted a video surveillance

of their 2022 black GMC truck being stolen.

The incident happened Friday, Jan. 6 at 3:20 a.m. near Blackhawk Boulevard and Alameda-Genoa Road.

Another member from the same app posted a video of an individual that was caught on surveillance checking for unlocked vehicle doors. The member stated a neighbor's vehicle was broken into a few doors down. The incident

occurred Wednesday, Jan. 4, a little after 11 p.m.

A member of *Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a post of a person's truck that was broken into at Golden Corral off Gulf Freeway and Fuqua Street. The post states their wallet was stolen and it contained their driver license, credit cards, P-EBT card and Sam's card. It also mentioned one credit card was used at a gas station.

South Belt Graphics & Printing
One stop for all your printing needs
11555 Beamer 281-484-4337

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care
Now Enrolling
New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.
281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com
LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)
Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español*
*Also Available on Facebook Live
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.
Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

Emil Edward Havelka



Emil Edward Havelka, 58, passed away unexpectedly Friday Dec. 16, 2022. Emil was born Sept. 16, 1964, in Pasadena.

After high school he worked many different jobs before he found his home at General Plastics & Composites. Emil worked his way up to new product manager after excelling in various positions for more than 30 years at GP&C. As a result of his innovations, he held several U.S. patents.

He was extremely dedicated, motivated, loyal and firm but fair to his GP&C family.

Emil was known to be genuine, smart and quick-witted. Everything ran on Emil's time. He had a mischievous smile and contagious laugh that could light up the room. His greatest adventure was the life he built and shared with his wife and soulmate, Deanna.

He went all in being a loving grandpa, devoted husband, proud father and outdoorsman. In his later years he really enjoyed being around his grandkids and great nephews. From chasing them around the house to building racetracks and playing video games, they always kept him busy.

He was always adventurous and loved skydiving, hunting and most of all offshore fishing.

A fun fact about Emil was that he lived in Puerto Rico in his teens where he spent time surfing and skateboarding.

Emil is preceded in death by his parents Bettie Ann (Boyd) Havelka of Houston and John Joseph Havelka of Austin; aunt Jolene (Boyd) Howell of Bacliff; and uncles Emil Edward Havelka, Jerry Havelka and Teddy Havelka of Georgetown, Texas.

He is survived by his sister Judy Havelka; loving wife of 36 years Deanna Havelka; son Asher Havelka; daughter-in-law Rebecca Havelka; grandsons Grayson Alexander Havelka and Liam Edward Havelka; brother-in-law Paul Henderson; sister-in-law Missy Mojica Henderson; nephew Anthony and wife Kelli Henderson; great-nephews Abel and Niko Henderson; nephew David and wife Christina Arcement; nieces Desiree Elizabeth and Flora Mae Arcement; mother-in-law Frances Suniga Mojica; brother-in-law De'Mel Mojica and Christina Ghan; niece Eva Grace (Ross) Mojica; niece Lyla Mae Adamson; cousin Jay Weldon Howell, and father-in-law Benjamin and wife Glenda Mojica.

Emil will be missed by so many, his memory will be cherished and his love will be forever lasting.

"If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, I would walk right up to heaven and bring you back again."

— Author Unknown

The family received friends Jan. 9 at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Forest Park East Cemetery, 21620 Gulf Freeway, Webster, TX 77598.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the *Leader* style.

Deaths

Patrick Ryan Fox



Patrick Ryan Fox died Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022 at the age of 63.

Fox was born June 5, 1959 in Oklahoma City to Sue Margaret Roberts Fox and John Joseph Fox Jr.

Fox is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Mary Campbell-Fox, and his greatest treasures, his five children – Ryan Fox and wife Karissa; Kelli Fox Logan and husband Andrew; Corey Fox; Tara Fox; Colin Fox; and his granddaughters Makenzi Fox and Emmie Wilson.

Fox was from a large family and he loved all of his siblings. He is survived by his sister Mary Margaret and husband, Doug Wood; his brothers William Fox, Mark Fox and wife, Lisa Fox, Robert Scott, Edward Fox, Dillon Fox, Ian Campbell, Joey Fox, Thomas Wood, Robert Wood and Jamison Fox; his nieces Jessica (Nate) Meshburg, Sheila (Tim) Peters, Kathryn Fox, Lori (Justin) Hatcher, Stephanie (Neal) Shannon, Margaret (Carina) Fox, Lara Campbell, Kathleen Wood, Addie Fox, Harper Fox; and many other family members. Fox was predeceased by his parents and his brothers, John Fox, James Fox, Thomas Fox and Charles Fox.

Fox resided in Oklahoma City until he went to Omaha, Neb. to attend high school at Father Flanagan's Boys Town from which he graduated in 1977. Fox was an outstanding athlete who excelled in football, basketball and track and field. Among his achievements were the Ike Mahoney Memorial Most Valuable Football Player Award and Boys Town Outstanding Back Award in 1977. After high school, he lived in Boulder, Col. until 1985 when he moved to Houston and met and married the love of his life, Mary Campbell. Later that year, Fox joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany and later in Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War. Upon his discharge from the Army, he went on to complete his Bachelor of Science and master's degrees from the University of Houston.

Fox worked for the Pasadena Independent School District for 28 years, coaching and teaching most recently at South Houston High School from 2000-2022 and at Sam Rayburn High School from 1994-2000. A passionate teacher, he helped his students master topics in biology, physical science, chemistry, physics and astronomy.

Fox was a family man who greatly loved his wife, children, grandchildren and all of his family and friends. His five children will tell one he was the best dad, something he strived for every day. Fox also had a soft spot in his heart for the many students he coached and taught

throughout his years, especially those going through rough times. He embraced his time at Father Flanagan's Boys Town and was able to reflect on his experiences in order to help students who struggled with similar circumstances. He went to work every single day with joy and determination, excited to work among his fellow teachers to impact the lives of his students.

Everyone who knew Fox knows that he was larger than life. He loved life, and loved having a good time. He never met a stranger; within five minutes of meeting someone, they knew everything about his kids, his wife and most of his life story. He was a storyteller, engaging his audience with endless energy, enthusiasm and a healthy dose of mischief. He was a patriot and was proud of his service in the U.S. Army. There was never a game, even at home, where Fox did not stand up and put his right hand over his heart during the national anthem.

Fox's love for life was endless and cannot be put into words. Among his passions were the ranch in Gonzales, Texas, his Dallas Cowboys, the Oklahoma Boomer Sooners, Harley Davidson motorcycles, rock music, history (he stopped at every historical marker in the state of Texas), his dogs and horses, learning, traveling, grocery shopping (at H-E-B), cooking wonderful meals for friends and family, and ending the day with an ice-cold beer. He constantly displayed his love for Mary as a handyman, diligently working through his "honey-do" lists and proudly prancing around when he completed a particularly difficult task.

Fox loved coaching Ryan, Corey and Colin in their youth sports teams and had a blast rooting Kelli and Tara on at their cheer and dance competitions. When Colin found his passion for calf roping, Fox became a rodeo dad. He immersed himself in rodeo life and devoted countless hours to supporting Colin's rodeo career. He cherished his time in jeans and a cowboy hat and was so proud of the kids he was able to watch grow up over the last decade. Their friends from rodeo have become like family, and have offered tremendous love and support to the Foxes.

Fox was an avid reader, enjoying novels by Dan Brown, Tom Clancy and Wilbur Smith. Even through his big, loud, tough exterior, he had a giant soft spot and could not make it through movies like "Spencer's Mountain," "Brian's Song" or the show "Little House on the Prairie" without crying. Fox was raised Catholic where he served as an altar boy, then later joined the United Methodist Church where he and Mary raised their children.

Fox always strived to set an example for his children by being the best dad he could be. For the past 35 years, he was the best father anyone could dream of. He raised his family with discipline, love and passion. He was so proud of them and loved them with everything he had.

Fox will forever be remembered as a source of happiness, love and so much fun.

A visitation for Fox was held Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022 at Forest Park East Funeral Home in Webster, followed by a funeral service. A reception followed at Golfcrest Country Club.

More discounts.

State Farm® offers more discounts to more drivers.
Get to a better State®.
Get State Farm.
CALL ME TODAY.



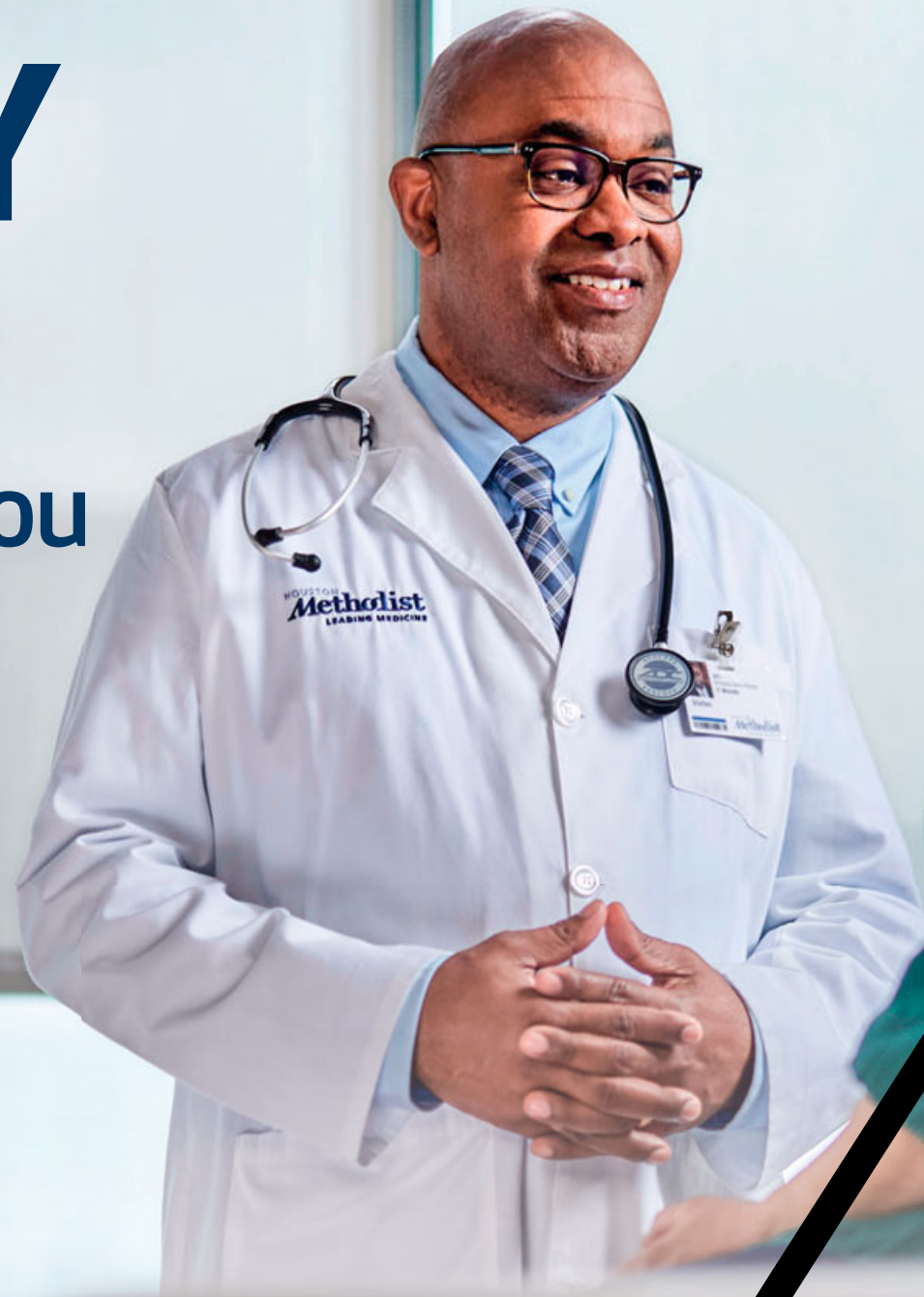
Cynthia Beecher, Agent
11705 S Sam Houston Pkwy East • Houston, TX 77089
Bus: 281-464-2422
cynthia.beecher.gwne@statefarm.com
M, T, W, Th, F 8:30am to 5:00pm
Sat 9am-11am
After Hours by Appointment



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, Bloomington, IL, State Farm Life and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL, 1201159

PRIMARY CARE

Personalized to You

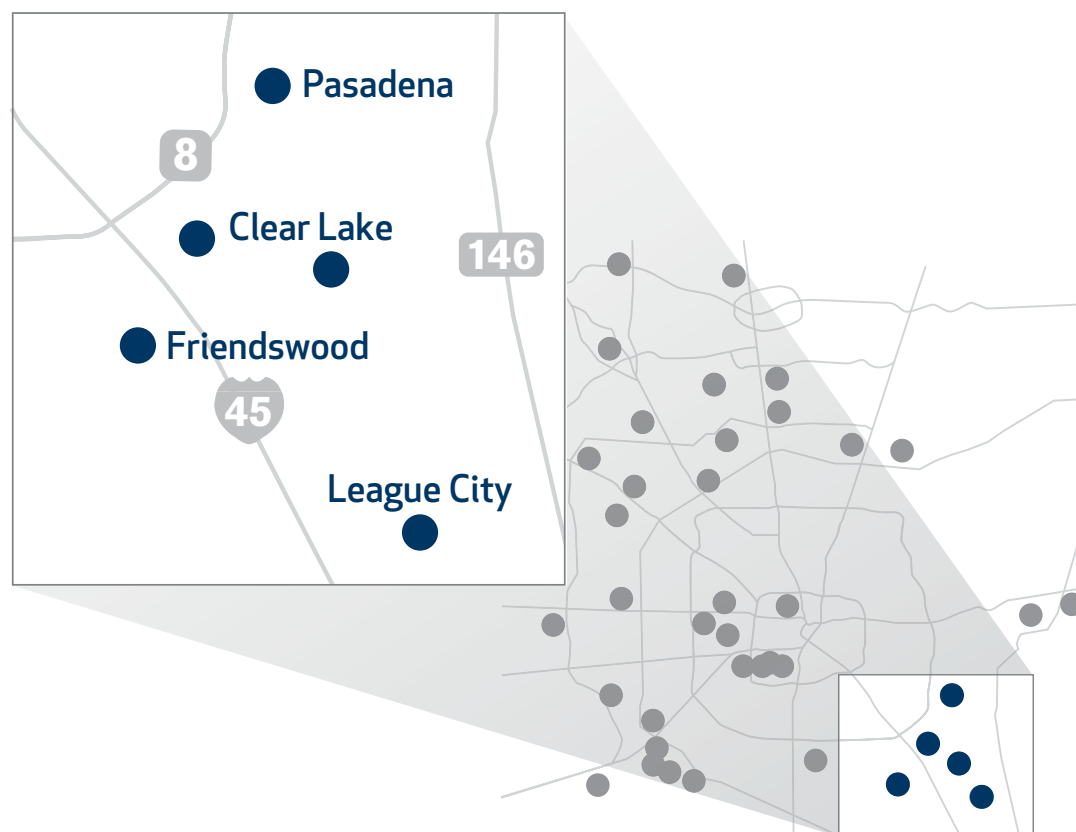


Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans



Melillo MS presents spelling bee finalists



Melillo Middle School officials are pleased to announce the winner and runner-up of the 2022-2023 campus spelling bee held on Dec. 1. Shown are, left to right, Emanuella Tchammou, winner; Diane Wheeler, principal; and Mikayla Gonzalez, runner-up. Photo by Debra Yocum, Melillo librarian.

Melillo announces 2nd nine-weeks honor roll

Melillo Middle School faculty recently recognized their sixth-grade honor roll students for the second nine-weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Osama Abdallah, Salma Abdallah, Me'Shai Alexander, Samuel Alexander, Jay Amaya, Emily Armenta, Alexandria Arnes and Fernando Balanta.

Samantha Barraza, Edmundo Bravo, Alexis Brown, Nevaeh Bumgarner, Brianna Bustos, Xavier Cantu, Brandon Castro and Sabrina Cavazos.

Daniel Cerda, Arianna Chapa, Lila Collazos, Brooklyn Coronado, Carissa Cortez, Minh Dang, Katherine Dao, Jesse DeLeon, Gael Diaz, Peyton Dowell, London Freeman and Nathaniel Gansit.

Khloe Garcia, Matteo Garciduenas, Victoria Garza, Mia Gonzalez, Mikayla Gonzalez, Jayden Grimaldo, Hannah Harmouche, Dario Harrison, Alexander Hernandez, Sebastian Hernandez, Alexis Hodges and Allison Hua.

Camille Hutchison, Hazza Jama Osman, Bradley Jones, Alessandra Labra, Alice Lam, Ronaldo Le, Camila Leyva, Kimberly Lopez, Saul Lozano, Andrew Malone, Alexander Maravilla Cabrera, Maddox Martinez and Hiba Mateen.

Chloe Maycott, Annie Nguyen, Ethan Nguyen, Hillary Nguyen, Kate Nguyen, Simon Nguyen, Thu Nguyen, Troy Nguyen, Ochoa, Artemio Ortiz, David Ozich, Rhema Palma and Robert Pheister.

Melody Ramirez, Joseph Reyes, Grayson Riley, Amber Rodriguez, Ethan Rodriguez, Victoria Rodriguez, Zoey Rogers, Joshua Salazar, Valerie Sanchez, Phoebe Schlueter, Jakob Tellez and Jocelynn Thach.

Jayden Tran, Lauren Tran, Travis Tran, Lucas Tulud, Hailey Vargas, Alexander Vasquez, Ethan Vega, Rey Vega, Christina Vu, Kelvin Wiley, Abriela Williamson, Joir'Dan Wyatt and Zaire Zavala.

Wolverines continues to sweep



Shown above, left to right, are debate team conquerors Khang Ngo, Danetta Paul, Abiha Altaf, Helena Simpton, Hareem Tariq, Ariella Calili, Gregory Stuart and Emily Joseph. Fresh off of their holiday break, Brook Speech and Debate students were back at it while attending the Alief Elsik High School swing tournament on Jan. 6 and 7. After the final rounds were held, the team walked away with two more state qualifications, 22 more state points and one novice competitor who is more than halfway to state qualification. Leading the team in points this weekend was team historian and junior Calili who placed first and then third in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking in the two halves of the swing. Needing only two additional points to her state qualification, Ariella picked up a total of twelve points, bringing her state total to an impressive 20. In addition, team secretary and senior Tariq made it to the final round of Informative Speaking in the second half of the swing and placed fourth which earned her two points, resulting in her state qualification, the team's 15th.

Two more members moved ever closer to their state goals, beginning with team member Stuart. In the first half of the swing, he placed sixth in finals in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking and then fifth in the second half which resulted in three earned points which now bring his point total to five, half of his state goal. The team is also excited to announce its first novice competitor who is well on her way to a state qualification. Team freshman Joseph, who has enjoyed numerous novice wins and trophies this season, has stepped up her game and competed in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, a varsity event. She appeared alongside Stuart and Ariella in finals in both halves of the swing. She walked away with fourth- and fifth-place finishes, earning her a total of five points which, like Stuart, puts her halfway to her state qualification. In addition to these finishes, team members Simpton, Ngo, and Altaf all made it to the semifinal rounds of their events. Original Oratory and Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking respectively.

Thompson celebrates November students of the month



Thompson Intermediate School recently announced its students of the month for November. Shown above, left to right, are seventh-graders Langston Edwards and Gabriela Ramirez, Christine Veltman (assistant principal) and eighth-graders Andy Pineda and Adelle Bongfen.

Laura Bush honor roll students commended

Laura Bush Elementary faculty recently announced the honor roll students for the second nine-weeks.

Kindergarten
Jon Chavez, Elizeo Gonzalez, Elijah Hernandez, Evangelin Hernandez, Chris Nguyen and Amber Vo.

First grade
Catalina Fernandez, Brayden Hurst, Mason Karsten, Ivan Martinez, Darren Nguyen, Kayden Rodriguez, Scarlet Rojas, Genesee Short and Emmanuel Tinajero.

Second grade
Matthew Garza, Kensi Hernandez, Nina Holquin, Zeus Perez and Caleb Rodriguez.

Third grade
Isabella Alvarez, Matthew Bonilla, Eli Burmudez, Elizabeth Chavez, Calvin Le, Kaylee Ly-Tran, Annahi McKinney, Charlie Nguyen, Dylan Nguyen, Thea Pham and Isabella Rodriguez.

Fourth grade
Aubrey Brown, Nevaeh Flores, Alayna Rice and Jan-carlo Tejada.

Leader remembers 2022 highlights

Continued from Page 1

sponded to a shooting call at the above address, and witnesses reported an unknown suspect forced his way inside the apartment and shot the victim multiple times after a physical altercation. The suspect then fled on foot. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded and pronounced the victim dead at the scene. Just two days later on Tuesday, Feb. 8, a 22-year-old man was critically injured after being shot in the face in broad daylight at the same complex. In that incident, a suspect again forced his way into an apartment complex, shot a sleeping victim, then fled the scene. Police said they believed the two shootings were related.

The South Belt-Ellington Leader's 2022 Year in Review is to be continued in next week's paper.

Albemarle donates \$10,000 for dropout prevention



Shown above, left to right, are Albemarle employees Blanca Chapa, Simone Quirk, Jocelyn Walker, Flor Alvarado and Clarissa Ponce. Next to them are Communities In Schools - Bay Area faculty, Elizabeth Pena, Kennedy Hansen and Peter Wuenschel.

Communities In Schools - Bay Area is pleased to announce it has received a contribution of \$10,000 from the Albemarle Foundation to support dropout prevention programming for campuses in Clear Creek ISD and Dickinson ISD.

"It is an amazing honor for Communities In Schools - Bay Area to be a beneficiary of an Albemarle Foundation grant, and we look forward to our partnership with them in addressing childhood poverty and keeping children safe, healthy, and educated," stated Dr. Peter Wuenschel, executive director of Communities In Schools - Bay Area.

Founded in 1989, Communities In Schools - Bay Area is a dropout prevention organization that works in schools to ensure that every student has what they need to realize their potential in school and beyond. The mission of Communities In Schools - Bay Area is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. For more information, visit www.cisba.org or call 281-486-6698.

Albemarle Corporation created the Albemarle Foundation in 2007 as a privately endowed 501c3 entity with a mission to make a positive, sustainable difference in communities where the company operates. Its philanthropic efforts support education, health and social services, and cultural initiatives through grants, matching gifts, volunteer grants and scholarships. To learn more about the Albemarle Foundation visit <https://www.albemarle.com/about/albemarle-foundation>.

South Belt Graphics & Printing
One stop for all your printing needs.
11555 Beamer
281-484-4337

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)
Master Sgt. William A. Finnis won the Oklahoma Regional Service leg match with a score of 483 out of a possible 500.

Residents of the Sageglen subdivision were taxed by Harris County as if they were members of the San Jacinto College district even though they were not.

40 years ago (1983)
Willie Moore and Ronald Parker were arrested for possession of a controlled substance. Three drug enforcement agencies combined their efforts to catch the two men. The officers seized a gallon and a half of PCP, the chemical used in making angel dust.

Charles Ray Ogden easily won re-election to the San Jacinto College Board of Regents with a vote count of 3,466 to 2,259.

35 years ago (1988)
While a preliminary report from the Houston Board of Air Quality Control suggested no evidence of fallout from the Archem Co. explosion, the company continued to receive claims, according to a company representative.

Recommended safety actions by the city Traffic and Transportation Department were not believed to be enough by the South Belt Civic Coalition and the principals who said their schools needed school zones with flashing lights.

30 years ago (1993)
The program on local gang violence held at Dobie High School was so popular that it was repeated for a teacher inservice.

The Dobie boys basketball team suffered a 49-43 defeat to Pasadena but bounced back to upset Clear Lake 58-44.

25 years ago (1998)
An 11-year-old was killed in a hit-and-run accident while visiting his mother at the Pavilion Square Apartments.

The design for the connecting road between the South Belt area and the city of Pearland was revised, with the plans being less impacting to the South Belt area.

20 years ago (2003)
The Dobie Academic Decathlon Team placed first in the Pasadena Independent School District competition.

Former J. Frank Dobie soccer coach Marvin Corley, 48, pleaded guilty to indecency with a child.

15 years ago (2008)
Candidates filed the necessary paperwork to meet the state deadline to appear on the Democratic and Republican primary election ballots. South Belt residents could be found on nearly every ballot from the smallest local races to national senatorial positions. Among these were Sageglen resident and former Clear Brook student Keyvn Bazy who ran for the Republican nomination in the race for the 22nd Congressional District, Raymond Stewart and Sandra Woodard who ran for the Democratic nomination in the race for Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace and longtime Kirkmont resident Ruben Guerrero who ran for the Democratic nomination in the race for the position of judge in the 174th Criminal District.

The South Belt AARP chapter installed John Heckler as its new president for 2008. Heckler replaced outgoing president Charlene Knox. 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of the group.

Former longtime Kirkwood South resident Neil West was presented the 2007 Planning Commissioner of the Year Award at a state conference in Addison, north of Dallas. The annual honor is bestowed by the Texas chapter of the American Planning Association. Following the APA conference, West was awarded the City of Pearland Certificate of Recognition at its city council meeting.

A loose pit bull once again terrorized members of the South Belt community, bringing attention to the policies of Harris County Animal Control. When deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office arrived at the scene in the 10900 block of Kirkbrush and were also threatened by the canine, they phoned the animal control office. The lone officer on duty said she would lose her job if she responded to a call where no one had actually been bitten by the animal. After dealing with the dog for roughly an hour, the deputies finally coaxed it back into its owner's yard. Following the incident, Detective Rick Holloman took the necessary steps to have the dog declared dangerous.

10 years ago (2013)
A former Dobie student was killed early Saturday,

Jan. 12, in a drunk driving accident in the 10000 block of Hughes Ranch Road. Jasmine Autumn Quinones, 17, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the vehicle, Nisa Nicole Sanchez of Pearland, was arrested and charged with intoxication manslaughter, a second degree felony. Sanchez told police the two teens had been at a graduation party earlier that night.

An off-duty Houston police officer shot at a man who was allegedly breaking into the officer's car outside his home in the 10000 block of Sagetrail early Wednesday, Jan. 16. According to police, the officer was inside his house at roughly 1:40 a.m. when he checked his home's surveillance system and spotted a man wearing a hoodie walking around his driveway and checking the doors on several vehicles. The officer grabbed a gun and went outside to confront the suspect. Police say the hooded man initially crouched behind one of the cars to hide. After being told by the officer to leave the property, the suspect then allegedly charged at him with his hands concealed. Fearing for his life, the officer then fired at least twice at the suspect, who fled the scene. Investigators do not believe the suspect was wounded in the incident.

5 years ago (2018)
The new Dobie ninth-grade center officially opened for class Tuesday, Jan. 9. Located at the southeast corner of Fuqua and Monroe, the facility was approved by voters in November 2014 as part of a \$175 million bond package. The new campus was needed to alleviate overcrowding at the main campus, as Dobie has long been at its maximum capacity. The facility holds approximately 1,000 students, all of whom have the same academic and extracurricular opportunities as students on the main campus.

Work began on the long-awaited city project to make drainage and pavement improvements in the Sageglen subdivision. Originally scheduled to begin in 2012, the endeavor involved making improvements on selected streets determined to be in the most need of repair. Improvements included drainage systems, necessary concrete paving, curbs, sidewalks, driveways and underground utilities. In all, eight area streets were to be addressed.

1 year ago (2022)
The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt area had increased dramatically, as the highly contagious Omicron variant filled the country's hospitals in a rash of infections not seen in several months. The number of total confirmed COVID-19 cases in ZIP code 77089 reached 10,000 - with approximately 1,000 cases being reported for two weeks consecutively. At the national level, the United States made headlines for topping 1 million active cases.

A man and a woman were shot around 4:50 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, in the 1300 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. The victims, Marilyn Lee Lambert, 70, and Marcus Ray Hawkins, 51, were transported to area hospitals in stable condition. According to the Houston Police Department, officers were dispatched to a shooting call at the apartment complex at the above address and learned that three unknown black male suspects knocked on the door of the victims' apartment. When one of the victims asked who was at the door, at least one

Largest selection of wigs in Texas!
FEATURING ESTETICA DESIGNS WIGS & EXTENSIONS
The Right BRA, The Right Form! by JODEE
Caring Fitters Trained & Certified to Help With All Your After Breast Surgery Needs.
Great selection of Mastectomy Swimsuits
Becky's Street
125 E. Galveston Street
League City
281-332-6407

Exceptional Grooming at Common Sense Prices
281-484-9655
Best Friends Boutique
Groom & Board
Tues.-Sat. 7am-6pm
11506 Hughes Rd. South Belt @ Hughes
BFBGrooming.com Family owned and operated since 1985

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KRISTEN!
Kristen Giles celebrates her 23rd birthday Jan. 13. Her parents, Tracy and Jim Giles, grandparents Bobby and Kenneth Griffin, and brothers Cody and Aaron and wife Ashley and sons Jaxson and Jace Giles extend their best wishes for a wonderful birthday. Kristen is a Dobie graduate.

DR. JOHN MORGAN CELEBRATES
Greetings are sent to Dr. John Morgan, founding pastor of Sagemont Church, from friends and the Leader staff as he celebrates a birthday Jan. 14. Affectionately called "Brother John" by many who know him, he founded and pastored the church for more than 50 years.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 12 through Jan. 19.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to Mildred Rojas Jan. 13.

Frazier Elementary
Esthela Silva enjoys a birthday Jan. 17.

Meador Elementary
Send a special birthday wish to Melisa Hinojosa who enjoys a birthday Jan. 16.

Moore Elementary
Send a special birthday greeting Jan. 15 to Diana Moreno.

Fred Roberts Middle School
Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 13 for Jorge Rocha.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Martha Garcia enjoys a birthday Jan. 12.

Remember Irene Flores on Jan. 16 with a special birthday wish. Join in the birthday fun Jan. 18 with Travis Regner.

Thompson Intermediate
Melinda Harrison enjoys a birthday Jan. 15.

Carrie Giokas celebrates a birthday Jan. 18.

Dobie High
Light the birthday candles Jan. 14 for Chrystal Limon and Constance Ramos. Celebrating a birthday Jan. 16 is Jessy George. Enjoy a slice of birthday cake with Remi Yusuf Jan. 18.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Jan. 12: Rosalind Vela, Troy Vessel, William Carpenter, Jose Pena, Barry Francis and Tammy Overstreet; Friday, Jan. 13: Scott Langefeld, Claire Mules, Gregden Martin, Betty Shamblin, Jessica Hynes, Joseph Farrias and Shane Poynter; Saturday, Jan. 14: Tracy Oliver, Laurie Lynn, Tiffany Defreitas and Louis Casas; Sunday, Jan. 15: Denise Montano, Patrick Lesley, Heather White, Cody Fountain and Barbara Bennett-Northern; Monday, Jan. 16: Rachel Perez, Heidi Ferguson, Troy Merkall, Samesia Bass-Hamlett, Kimberly Dann-Mandy, Dana Willis and Lisa Pennington; Tuesday, Jan. 17: Scott Greene, Tiffany Juarez, Donald Adams, Katherine Macias, Carla Parker, Jodie Lawson and Kevin Jasso; Wednesday, Jan. 18: Charlie Boldt, Theria Malone, Lynn Carnes, Dwight Baker and Theresa Touchette;

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

Family is why WE DO IT ALL.

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.

Ann Brannen, Agent
107 Landing Blvd
League City TX 77573-3461
Bus: 281-332-0568
ann.brannen.b4sq@statefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM INSURANCE STATE FARM IS THERE.®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
statefarm.com®
State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois
P02640 11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

PISD Cup title secured again, Dobie boys' soccer starts fast

A 2-1 win over District 22-6A opponent South Houston Jan. 7 at Veterans Stadium earned the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team the Pasadena/Pearland Cup championship as the Longhorns capped a 4-0-1 opening week.

Dobie, the owner of eight consecutive 22-6A titles, has typically used a great deal of success at the first-week cup event to catapult itself to greater goals down the line.

For now, consider the Longhorns on track after three wins and a tie over three days in Pasadena.

At the PISD Cup, Dobie topped Fort Bend Bush (4-1), Waltrip (4-0) and

South Houston (2-1) while playing Goose Creek Memorial to a 2-2 tie. Over the four games, the Longhorns produced 12 goals to four for its combined opponents.

JFD off to Austin

A 4-win start during the first week of the season in hand, the locals will again face tough sledding.

The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team is now set to take on three tough opponents as the second week of the high school soccer season plays out with the Longhorns' appearance at the prestigious Austin Lakes Elite Showcase.

Dobie will go against San Antonio Johnson Jan.

12 at 2 p.m., then test San Antonio Churchill a day later - Jan. 13 at 1 p.m.

The Longhorns wrap up their appearance at the event Jan. 14 at 8 a.m., playing United South of Laredo.

Johnson, 17-7-1 a season ago, took second in District 28-6A and advanced to the same area playoff round as did Dobie. United South finished third in District 30-6A in 2022.

How far can the Longhorns push things in 2023? That's to be determined. But with a strong start to the season providing a lift, Dobie should be able to

Continued on Page 6



Victor Hernandez (7), the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year a season ago, came out of the gates quickly during the first week of the 2023 varsity boys' soccer season, leading the Longhorns in the scoring column as they went 3-0-1 in all to claim top honors in the event. Now comes a trip to Austin for the locals. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

South Belt Youth Soccer Club registering online until Jan. 31

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is now accepting online registration through Jan. 31 for the upcoming 2023 spring season as the league continues decades of player development on local fields.

The registration fee for under-4, under-5, under-6, under-7 and under-8 divisions is \$85 per player, while the fee is \$95 for the under-9, under-10, under-11 and under-12 divisions.

Players in the under-13, under-14, under-15, under-16, under-17, under-18 and under-19 divisions will pay \$105 per player.

Payment must be made by credit card or debit card only.

Player families will be required to provide a soccer ball, shin guards and cleats, while the league will provide uniform items including a jersey, game shorts and socks.

League officials also encourage parents to apply online for head coach, assistant coach, team parent

SBYSC registration
www.southbeltsoccer.org
through Jan. 31

and team manager opportunities.

A typical league week includes two practices and games on Saturdays, with no games on Easter weekend or during spring break.

Most age groups will compete in an 8-game regular season, with no Sunday games.

Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org for registration options as well as other information about the league and the upcoming 2023 season.

USA KARATE

Now enrolling for the fall 2022 term.

Transportation from CCISD, Pasadena ISD, and Pearland ISD.

Call for our weekly rate specials!

• Weekly Fee Includes Karate Training

COME LEARN:

- RESPECT
- FOCUS
- CONFIDENCE
- DISCIPLINE
- AND MORE

1101 Resource Pkwy. 281-484-9006

1853 Pearland Pkwy. #109 832-736-9006

We have space available at each location

Austin Lakes Elite Showcase

Dobie vs. San Antonio Johnson
Jan. 12, 2 p.m. at Dripping Springs H.S.

Dobie vs. San Antonio Churchill
Jan. 13, 1 p.m. at Westlake H.S.

Dobie vs. Laredo United South
Jan. 14, 8 a.m. at Dripping Springs H.S.

JFD softball to begin preseason



Aiming for a fifth consecutive full season with 20 or more wins, the Dobie softball program begins preseason workouts Jan. 13. Above, senior catcher Bella Perez, who has signed to play collegiately at McNeese State University beginning this fall, is one of the veteran performers head coach Robin Rackley is leaning on as the Longhorns open the regular season Feb. 13 against Clear Brook. The Longhorns will host Barbers Hill in a scrimmage Jan. 28. See Dobie's 2023 schedule on Page 6. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Area basketballers face district battles

The start of the new year means district basketball races across the state have come into focus, and things are already taking shape within the 22-6A and 24-6A ranks.

In 22-6A, the Dobie programs led the way a season ago, with the varsity girls' team winning a second straight league title and the varsity boys going unbeaten to win their title.

Such a difference a year makes. Graduation losses finally caught up for coach Jasmine Hartman's group, with just three returnees opening the season in burnt orange.

Dobie's loss to Deer Park in the league opener for both programs set the early tone, but the Longhorns came back to win against Pasadena, 42-14, and Memorial, 47-30, before the Christmas break.

Another easy victory over Rayburn had the Longhorns on a hot streak to start 2023, and a rematch with Deer Park will come Jan. 17.

At 20-3 overall, Deer Park has earned its place

at the top, but Dobie, despite its 51-40 loss to Deer Park the first go-around, is intent on getting even.

On the boys' side of things, Memorial cruised past the Longhorns Dec. 20 to start league play.

And with Deer Park, Pasadena, and South Houston already boasting 15 total wins or more, the 22-6A race is as competitive as it gets.

Deer Park is in the midst of its best overall season in several years, with three tournament crowns and an 18-6 overall record. The Deer have also been impressive on the way to a 3-0 record in 22-6A action.

Pasadena lost its district opener to Deer Park but bounced back to crush Memorial. Overall, the Eagles have a 22-2 record this season.

Then there is South Houston, which has started with a pair of league wins and is 16-5 overall as 22-6A play kicks in to high gear over the next several weeks.

Continued on Page 6

Upcoming Basketball

- Brook boys host Dickinson**
Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
- Brook boys host Clear Falls**
Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
- JFD boys host Deer Park**
Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
- Brook girls at Dickinson**
Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
- Brook girls at Clear Falls**
Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
- JFD girls at Deer Park**
Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

Brook, Dobie baseball plan for preseason

The Clear Brook and Dobie baseball programs have announced scrimmage dates ahead of the 2023 regular season, which begins Monday, Feb. 20 for both programs.

The Wolverines will be at Pasadena Memorial Feb. 20 to begin the regular season against the Mavericks at 3:30 p.m.

Head coach Gene Flores' program will throw the first pitch to preseason workouts Feb. 20 and will scrimmage at home against Summer Creek Feb. 4 at 11 a.m.

Clear Brook then scrimmages Feb. 7 at La Porte at 3 p.m., at Pasadena Memorial Feb. 10 at 3:30 p.m. and Feb. 11 at Santa Fe at 4 p.m.

The Wolverines will close out the preseason with a Feb. 17 scrimmage at Dobie at 3:30 p.m. before the program's annual Hit-A-Thon Feb. 18 at Clear Brook.

The Longhorns will open the regular season Feb. 20 at home against Chavez in a 4 p.m. contest before heading to the Border Olympics three-day tournament in Laredo Feb. 23-25.

The baseball preseason workouts for Dobie will begin Jan. 20, and the scrimmage schedule gets

going Feb. 4 as the Longhorns host Alvin at 11 a.m.

Dobie's remaining scrimmage schedule includes Feb. 6 sessions at home against Angleton at 3 p.m., Feb. 10 at Baytown Sterling at 4 p.m., Feb. 14 at La Porte at 4 p.m. and the Feb. 17 duel at home against Clear Brook.

Dobie baseball program hosts tryouts Jan. 20-21

Dobie will mark the start of high school baseball preseason workouts by hosting tryouts for current freshman players as well as other grade level students who aren't already involved in the program.

Prospective first-time players must first submit a required physical and other forms to the Dobie training office before becoming eligible to com-

pete.

The mandatory two-day tryout is Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 9 a.m., both at the Longhorns' field on the main campus.

Dobie head coach Miguel Torres and his staff will also begin preseason workouts Jan. 20, with the first allowable day for scrimmages coming Feb. 4. The regular season will begin Feb. 20 with Dobie hosting Chavez.

Celebrating Our 39th Year

Our Burgers are the Original "Old Fashioned" Hamburgers.

281-481-1491

Special Hours 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Dine in, Drive-thru, Phone orders or Delivery

ENTIRE MENU SERVED ALL DAY

Brown Bag Special

2 Hamburgers \$9.99

2 Fries

Now Serving Hunts Brothers Pizza!

281-481-1491 10606 Fuqua

SOLD

ROY SHIFLETT REALTORS

281-481-3733

ROY SHIFLETT REALTORS

281-481-3733

BUYING or SELLING?

We're South Belt's #1

- ★ 50 Years Experience
- ★ Great Office Location
- ★ Knowledgeable Personal Service

The Name You Know!

With Experience You Can Trust!

(Free Home Inspection With Estimate of Value)

Call Today!

SPRING BASEBALL - T-Ball thru High School

Bay Area Texas Baseball League Play

\$100 - \$230

Ages 3* through 18 *Must turn 4 before Sep 2023

Register online NOW at BayAreaTexasBaseball.com

Fee includes:

Jersey, Pants, Cap, Socks, Belt

Bring a friend and play on the same team.

14U Special \$75

Born Jan 1, '08 to Aug 31, '10

Walk-in Registration Saturdays: Jan 7 and Jan 21 10 AM to Noon

LATE REGISTRATION continues online while openings exist.

2351 Clear Lake City Blvd
Hwy 3
All games played here
Evergreen Village
Bay Area Dad's Club Fields
14500 Village Evergreen Trail
No boundaries if you can get here, you can play here
BAY AREA TEXAS BASEBALL is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit league.

Auto Service Center & Car Wash

NOW HIRING CASHIERS, CAR WASH PERSONNEL & LUBE TECHNICIANS

Mon. - Sat. 8am - 6pm Sun. 9am - 5pm

APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL WASH SERVICES (Wash Packages, Details and Hand washes)

All vehicles SANITIZED (\$10 value) www.islandbreezecarwash.com

No need to wait shuttle service now available!

shuttle service only available within a 5 mile radius

\$10 Off Auto Alignment
With coupon only. No reproductions. Not valid with any other discount.

11210 Scarsdale (Between I-45 & Bearner) 281-484-5945

ISLAND BREEZE CAR WASH

The Works Includes \$20

- Island Breeze LAVA Carnauba Wax
- Underbody Rinse
- Wheel Cleaning
- Clear Coat Protectant
- Tire Shine
- Hand Drying

\$50 Monthly

Wheels & Tires \$15

Includes "Shine & Polish" Plus

- Rain-Guard
- Tire Shine (In Tunnel)
- Clear Coat Protectant

\$35 Monthly

Express Exterior \$8

- Wash
- High Velocity Drying (In Tunnel)

\$20 Monthly

*MONTHLY UNLIMITED WASH PLANS (PER VEHICLE)

Full Service Oil Change \$49.99

Includes our 16 point inspection - Oil Change (Up to 5 Quarts Conventional Oil)

- Install New Oil Filter
- Complete Chassis Lube
- Check Brake Fluid
- Check & Fill Power Steering Fluid.

- Check & Fill Transmission Fluid
- Check Air Pressure in all Tires
- Check Gear Boxes
- Check Battery Fluid

- Check & Fill Windshield Washer
- Vacuum Interior
- Check Air Filter & Cabin Filter
- Check Breather Element

- Check PCV Valve
- Check Radiator Overflow Reservoir
- Check Belts
- Check Wiper Blades

FREE Car Wash

Up to 5 Qts Conventional Motor Oil - 16 Point Check - With coupon. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Expires 2/4/23.

Dobie boys' soccer starts at 4-0-1

Continued from Page 5
build momentum moving forward.

Looking ahead to the third week of the season, Dobie will go head-to-head with some of the region's most gifted squads in Deer Park.

The Longhorns will face Bellaire, Alief Taylor and Beaumont West Brook over three days Jan. 19-21 at the Battleground Invitational in Deer Park.

After that tournament, the Longhorns will be focusing on District 22-6A action beginning Jan. 24 at Deer Park, which finished third in the league a season ago before making a run to the Region III final

four.

Cup dominance again

The annual PISD Cup seems to have been made for the Longhorns as head coach Justo Manrique's team has dominated the event.

In the Pasadena/Pearland Cup opener early on Jan. 5, the Longhorns got two goals from Victor Hernandez and a goal and an assist from Jordi Garcia while beating Fort Bend Bush 4-1 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Alex Escobar also scored for the Longhorns, with assists from Axel Olmedo and Jordi Garcia to win easily.

Moving on to the sec-

ond day, Jan. 6, the Longhorns played Goose Creek Memorial to a 2-2 tie at Veterans Stadium.

Jordi Garcia and Victor Hernandez scored goals for the Longhorns, and Daniel Saravia dealt an assist.

On the final day of the event, the Longhorns got an early start in dropping Waltrip 4-0 as four different players scored goals, including Victor Hernandez, Robert Villatoro, J.P. Rodriguez and Emerson Saravia.

Andres Hernandez, Anthony Torres, David Miranda and Jesus De La Torre dished assists.

In the PISD Cup championship match later in the day, Dobie outlasted South Houston 2-1 as Escobar and Emerson Saravia scored goals, with assists from Daniel Saravia and Victor Hernandez.

Opener a success
The Longhorns opened 2023 with a 5-2 win over Morton Ranch Jan. 3, getting a pair of goals from Victor Hernandez and two assists from Kevin Guzman at Katy ISD's Legacy Stadium.

Manrique also saw Jesus De La Torre, Andres Hernandez and Anthony Torres net goals, while Villatoro also assisted on a goal.

Dobie goalkeeper Mauricio Leal, playing his first game at the varsity level, allowed the Morton Ranch scores.



With two goals through five games, Dobie midfielder Emerson Saravia (22) is one of nine players to score goals for the 4-0-1 Longhorns. The locals have also dished 12 assists on 17 total goals.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie senior goalkeeper Mauricio Leal (0) has shared netminding duties with junior Geo Arango to help the locals get off to a quick start.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

San Jac baseball sixth in NJCAABCA poll

Defending national champion Central Arizona Junior College has earned the top spot in the National Junior College Athletic Association Baseball Coaches Association's 2023 preseason Division I national rankings, with San Jacinto College at No. 6. Donning their new collegewide mascot for 2023, the Ravens will begin the 2023 season with a Jan. 27-29 three-game series against the University of New Mexico in San Antonio. In 2022, San Jacinto College went 45-20 overall following a win and two subsequent losses at the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colo. Central Arizona went on to defeat Cowley County 4-2 for the national championship.

2023 Preseason Rankings

1. Central Arizona (Ariz.)
(59-13 in 2022; national title)
2. Cowley County (Kan.)
(54-11 in 2022; 2nd in nation)
3. Walters St. (Tenn.)
(60-7 in 2022)
4. Wabash Valley (Ill.)
(59-9 in 2022)
5. Crowder (Mo.)
(54-13 in 2022)
6. San Jacinto (Texas)
(45-20 in 2022)
7. Central Florida (Fla.)
(47-17 in 2022)
8. McLennan (Texas)
(50-13-1 in 2022)
9. Snead St. (Ala.)
(42-16 in 2022)
10. Harford (Md.)
(48-9 in 2022)

Pioneer swimmers excel at TISCA

At right, Lutheran South Academy standout sophomore swimmer Lauren Ferguson (left) reestablished a pair of school records while competing at the 2023 Houston Area TISCA Invitational Jan. 7. She placed third overall and set a school record in the 200-yard freestyle at 2 minutes, 00.33 seconds and also provided a program-best of 5:33.00 in the 500 freestyle. Boys' senior swimmer Elliott Miles (center) took fourth place in the 200 IM and fifth in the 100 breast, while teammate Tristan Haver, a junior, was third in the 200 free and sixth in the 100 free.



Dobie grad Garza eyes key role with UTSA baseball



Daniel Garza will enter his junior season this spring intent on making his largest contribution yet as a weekend starting pitcher with the University of Texas at San Antonio pitching staff. The Dobie High School Class of 2020 graduate and four-year varsity team standout wound up second among all Roadrunner hurlers in 2022 with 42 2/3 innings pitched, going 4-1 overall with a

4.01 earned run average. Transitioning from a middle inning reliever to weekend starter, Garza played a big role as the Roadrunners went 38-20 overall a season ago despite being left uninvited to the NCAA regional round. With staff ace Luke Malone and Garza among the pitchers back for 2023 ready to lead the way, the Roadrunners aim for big things beginning next month.



The Dobie varsity girls' basketball team, including junior guard Brooklynn Bush (10) has collected solid league wins since a first-round loss to Deer Park and looks forward to a rematch with the Deer Jan. 17.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Area basketball programs face difficult league races

Continued from Page 5
So where does that leave the Longhorns with still plenty of time to make a move?

A 74-51 win over Rayburn Jan. 6 got the Longhorns over the .500 mark at 12-11, and the locals went against South Houston Jan. 10 after press time.

With another big game coming against Deer Park Jan. 17 and a first-round matchup with the Eagles still to come, the Longhorns are certainly in control of their own destiny.

In the District 24-6A varsity girls' basketball ranks, Clear Brook had still set the bar as of press time Jan. 10. Key games against Clear Springs Jan. 10 after press time and upcoming Jan. 17 against co-undefeated Dickinson remained, but the Clear Brook varsity girls' team had done everything it needed to hold the top spot in District 24-6A.

Yes, Clear Brook is the reigning champion of 24-6A, having gone undefeat-

ed a season ago to win the program's first 6A league crown. And while three key sophomores remain from that group, much has changed since then.

Still, first-year head coach Mileka Loydrake has guided an injury-affected squad to win after win, with the locals at 16-8 overall at press time.

The sophomore trio of Rezia Castillo, Kamryn McLaurin and Chardell Terrell continue to lead the way with help from senior Ja'Delle Major, and freshman Bella Robbings providing a lift particularly from 3-point land.

The Wolverines used just six players in a 46-22 win over Clear Creek, with Terrell netting 13 and Castillo adding 10 more.

With Clear Brook 4-0 early on, Dickinson at 3-0 and Clear Springs at 3-1, the leaderboard has started to take shape, but the Wolverines want much more.

Brook boys push on
Clear Lake opened Dis-

trict 24-6A play with an 83-74 win over the Wolverines prior to the Christmas break but then suffered a 20-point loss to Clear Springs on the other side of the break.

Such is life within the 24-6A ranks. While time will tell if there is a true Region III title threat in the group, the competition on a nightly basis is as stiff as it gets.

Prior to play Jan. 6, Clear Lake had 16 total wins while Dickinson, Clear Falls and Clear Springs all had 15.

Where does this leave Clear Brook? The Wolverines bested Clear Creek 53-49 to open league play on this side of the holiday break. But there's still plenty of heavy lifting to be done.

Clear Springs, Clear Falls and Dickinson have all held state rankings at one point or another this season, but the Wolverines know they have what it takes to push for a playoff berth in 2023.

Youths offered JFD Buddies Baseball

Area youth baseball players will once again have the chance to take part in the Dobie baseball program's fun-filled Buddies Baseball group for 2023.

Youths ages 5 through 13 may join the program, which partners the youth players with those from the Dobie varsity baseball

program for just \$30.

The Dobie Diamond Club is partnering with the Longhorns' baseball program to host the event. Registration deadline is Jan. 28.

Participants will be paired with a Dobie player and receive a Buddies Baseball T-shirt while also taking part in two

separate one-hour training sessions, an invitation to all Dobie home games, a meet-and-greet prior to the start of Dobie's season Feb. 20 and an end-of-season team mingling event.

Direct questions via email to jfdiamondclub@gmail.com or visit www.dobiediamondclub.com to register.

Chapman finishes career at Oregon



Clear Brook High School graduate Caleb Chapman (19) joined teammate Kyle Kasper (17) for a celebratory photo after the teammates helped their Oregon University football program defeat North Carolina 28-27 in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego, Calif. The Ducks finished the season at 10-3 overall as Chapman closed out his career. A former star receiver at Clear Brook, Chapman played through his junior season at Texas A&M, battling back from two separate knee injuries. At Oregon, Chapman had one catch on the season and a tackle while playing on special teams.

SERVICE

Attention advertisers, make your ad stand out with color. Call 281-481-5656 for information. Participants will be limited to 10, so call soon if you want to be included.



SOUTH BELT
A/C & HEATING INC.

CALL FOR HEATING INSPECTION

Free Estimates on New Equipment

American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

100% Financing to Qualified Buyers

281-484-1818

4403 F.M.2351

www.Southbeltair.com

TACL26543E

GET IT TODAY!

ELECTRIC
REPAIRS & INSTALLATIONS
45 Years Experience
• Free Estimates
• Senior Citizen Disc.
• No Service Charge
• Res./Comm.
• Master Electrician
• Insured
• TECL#21246
281-484-8582
LOW PRICES HIGH QUALITY
MEMBER
SAGEMENT ELECTRIC SVCS.

**Support
Leader
Advertisers**

**A-BETTER
PLUMBING**
Complete Home Residential Service Plumber
CALL TODAY FOR SPECIALS
A-Rated on Angie's List
MPL #18439 **281-692-1684**

Garage Door Problems?
Call
Big Edd's
Serving Houston & Surrounding
Areas Since 1979
Repair/Replacement **281-480-8898**
Garage Doors & Openers **713-784-4238**

WINNER BEST ROOFING COMPANY IN BAY AREA
Since 1978 **Call Now!**
TEXAS TOP
Roofing & Siding
5 Year Labor Warranty
Kevin Dalley '76 Dobie Grad
Clara Leal '93 Pearland Grad
David Hernandez '15 Dawson Grad
• Vinyl
• Hardi Board Siding
281-481-9683
REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

**BONANZA
AIR & HEAT**
281-922-5665
It Is Time For A Furnace Checkup!
Someone You Can Trust • NEVER A SERVICE CALL CHARGE
We Service ALL Makes & Models • We Honor Competitor Coupons
It's not too soon! Beat the rush!
WINTER CHECK-UP TIME!
Goodman Financing Available
TACL002755C

**ANY SEASON
TERMITE & PEST CONTROL, LLC**
Residential & Commercial
TRUSTWORTHY and RELIABLE
Providing environmentally friendly services with your children and pets' safety in mind.
Jimmie Sue Orth Owner
Richard (Dick) Orth Operator
B.S. Chemistry
Trinity University
281-484-6740
Family Owned and Operated Since 1984

G & F APPLIANCE REPAIR
We service all major home appliances. Our Professional Technicians will provide you with service you can trust.
MENTION THIS AD AND SAVE \$10
281-650-4777
SAME DAY SERVICE

Annual maintenance will save you money.
Heating Systems on Sale Now
Call for Free Estimates.
Airstream
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
TACL29730E
281-481-6308

After Hours Plumbing Service
Commercial, Industrial & Residential
Sewer • Water Heaters • Drains
Leaks • Water • Repairs • Gas
\$50 OFF Any Service w/coupon
Free Estimates - MPL#41513 - Hablo Español
Military, Law Enforcement & Senior Discount
www.afterhoursplumbingservicehouston.com
832-715-6441

Triple M Plumbing
281-455-1175
Melvin D. Glover III
Master License # 40217

LEWIS CONSTRUCTION
www.YourCompleteHomeCare.com
We have been Same Name & Phone Number Since 1991
713-944-5257
Quality Work - Dependable
Free Estimates - References
Painting Interior & Exterior
Additions - Kitchens
Bathrooms - Garages
Siding All Types - Floors
Conversions - Patios - Fences
Concrete - Carpentry Work
Owner: Myron Lewis
Please Check Us Out - We Are Here To Stay

Primary Plumbing Services
COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL
713-643-7228
Ruben Muñoz - MPL 17449

R.B. GARAGE DOORS
Garage Door Experts • 20 Years Experience
Affordable Prices • Free Estimates
*Replace Garage Doors *Garage Door Openers
*Crashed Door Resets *Lube, Tunes & Springs
ROGELIO 832-755-5245
www.rbgaragedoors.com rbgaragedoors@gmail.com
• Genie • Craftsman • Lift Master • Chamberlain

Blessing Painting
FULL REMODELING
• BATHS / KITCHENS • ROOM ADDITIONS
• PAINTING • FLOORING • SHEETROCK WORK
• PLUMBING • SIDING • ROOFING • CONCRETE
• FENCES • GARAGE CONVERSION
281-779-5053
www.facebook.com/zamudio.poly References • 25+ Yrs. Exp.

A/C & Appliance Repair
• Former Sear's Technician
• Insured & Licensed (TACL44251C)
713-505-7534

JT Garage Door Systems
Free Estimates
Repair, Replace, Install
Over 20 Years of Experience
Contact Jason Teel
281-991-7697

A & M PAINTING
• PAINTING INTERIOR/EXTERIOR • REMODELING • SHEETROCK
• TAPE & FLOAT • DEMOLITION • HAULING • FENCES
• CARPENTRY • PRESSURE WASHING
Alvaro Bravo **281-642-2939** Free Estimates

GULF TEX REMODELING
Residential & Commercial • Insured
Kitchens • Baths • Plumbing • Painting • Sheetrock • Flooring
Patios • Concrete • Fences • Commercial Design & Build Out
Serving Houston for over 25 years
Flood Disaster Specialist **832-891-4610** Free Estimates

Mike's Affordable Pressure Washing Service
832-606-1074
Driveways • Sidewalks • Patios • Etc...

Licensed • Insured
Lighthouse ELECTRIC
Master Electrician
Johnny R. Gibbs
"Look on the bright side"
281-847-1111
www.lighthouseelectrictexas.org TECL #19197

South Belt Graphics & Printing
One stop for all your printing needs
11555 Beamer **281-484-4337**

COUPON
\$200 OFF FOUNDATION REPAIR OR SEWER REPAIR
(on jobs \$2,500 & up)
Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per house.

BOOKKEEPING
Cynthia L. Veters, CPA
Individual-Corporate-Partnership & Estates
• All Tax Preparations
• Financial Statement Preparation
• Monthly Accounting Services
• Individual & Business Tax Planning
• Payroll & Other Related Services
281-481-4184

FOUNDATION REPAIR UNDER SLAB SEWER REPAIR HOUSE LEVELING
Allied Foundations
281-479-5247
FREE ESTIMATES

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** - Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. Call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.
11:30 a.m. **ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South, Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland, TX 77584. Lunch is \$20 cash or check. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6:30 p.m. **Pearland Area Republican's Club** - meets at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W Walnut St., Pearland. For details, email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - free discussion about Judaism and religion in general at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real, Houston. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org for more information.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascoana.com or https://nastuff.com/.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets

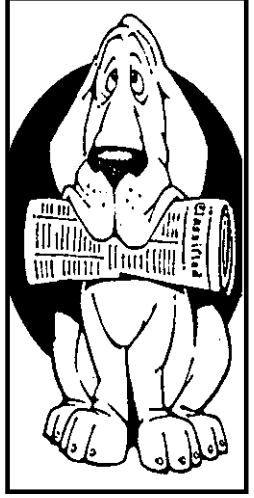
at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts welcome. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalananon.org/.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd, in back of a medical/retail community. Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, JANUARY 16
10 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Dance lessons offered. Call 281-554-1180.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery open

meeting in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
10:30 a.m. **Tri County Republican Women** - General meetings held at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15, exact cash or check. Visit www.tricountyrw.club/ or call 832-250-8901 to RSVP.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club meets virtually at https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society** - meeting held at League City Library - Helen Hall; open meeting, no membership required.
100 W Walker St, League City, TX 77573
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - See Monday's notice.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

LEADER READERS
25 words: Personal: \$8 for 1 week/ \$21 for 3 weeks;
Business: \$10 for 1 week/ \$27 for 3 weeks

AUTO
FOR SALE. 2013 Hyundai Sonata in excellent condition, \$7,500 obo. Sun Quest tanning bed with new bulbs, \$200. Call 281-460-8539 or 713-851-1417.
SERVICE
ALL SEASON WOOD FENCES. Installation and repair, interior & exterior painting, drywall repair and installation and pressure washing. Free estimates. Call 832-406-0183. 1-26
CARPENTER/ HANDY-MAN. Light electrical, plumbing & painting, replace/repair. No Job Too Small. 281-948-8887.
PRESSURE WASHING! Free Estimates. Call Scott and Sons at 979-235-0645. House, driveways, sidewalks, boats, R.V.'s, etc. Time for cleaning. Free Estimates! 1-26

HELP WANTED



Wanted
Part-Time Office Staff/Assistant
Located in the South Belt Area
Looking for individual with computer & verbal skills
Detail oriented, needs experience with Outlook, Access & Word
Small Office with Flexible Hours: Mon. - Thur.
Salary is commensurate with abilities.
Send resume with current phone number to: worker.needed101@gmail.com

Need Help Finding Your Dream Home?
Let the Leader Classifieds Be Your Guide!
281-481-5656

Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
Is seeking experienced full time and part time CNAs, CMAs, RNs and LVNs. If you want to work in a dynamic and fulfilling team environment, then Baywood Crossing is for you.
We offer competitive pay rates and benefits.
Please stop by and complete an application at 5020 Space Center Blvd., Pasadena OR give us a call at (713) 575-1800

LAWN & GARDEN
Licensed, Insured, Affordable
• Free Estimates •
Professional Trimming, Shaping, Removal, Grass Installation, Mulching
713-501-0184

Darren Lajaunie tennis scholarship fund plans new 2023 format

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament will celebrate its 12th year with an exciting new format for 2023 that includes three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis and graduating senior class educational scholarships.

As the sponsorship efforts start for 2023, various sponsorship levels are available to individuals or businesses at DLTTennisScholarships.com, where the "Be A Sponsor" tab may then be selected.

For students applying for the tennis camp and college scholarships on the same site, deadline for submissions is April 7, 2023. The scholarships will be awarded to all honorees in the latter part of April.

Dobie seniors who wish to apply for the college scholarships may do so by visiting the Lajaunie website or by picking up a packet in the school's counseling office.

The deadline for Dobie senior scholarship submissions is April 6, 2023. The scholarship fund is named in honor of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis enthusiast who died in 2011 after a lengthy cancer battle.

Over the years, the fund has provided dozens of youth tennis scholarships and college education scholarships to deserving players. The three jamboree series events will be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the April 29, Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees. Players/teams will earn points for performance during each jamboree segment, with an emphasis placed on competing in each of the three two-hour Saturday events.

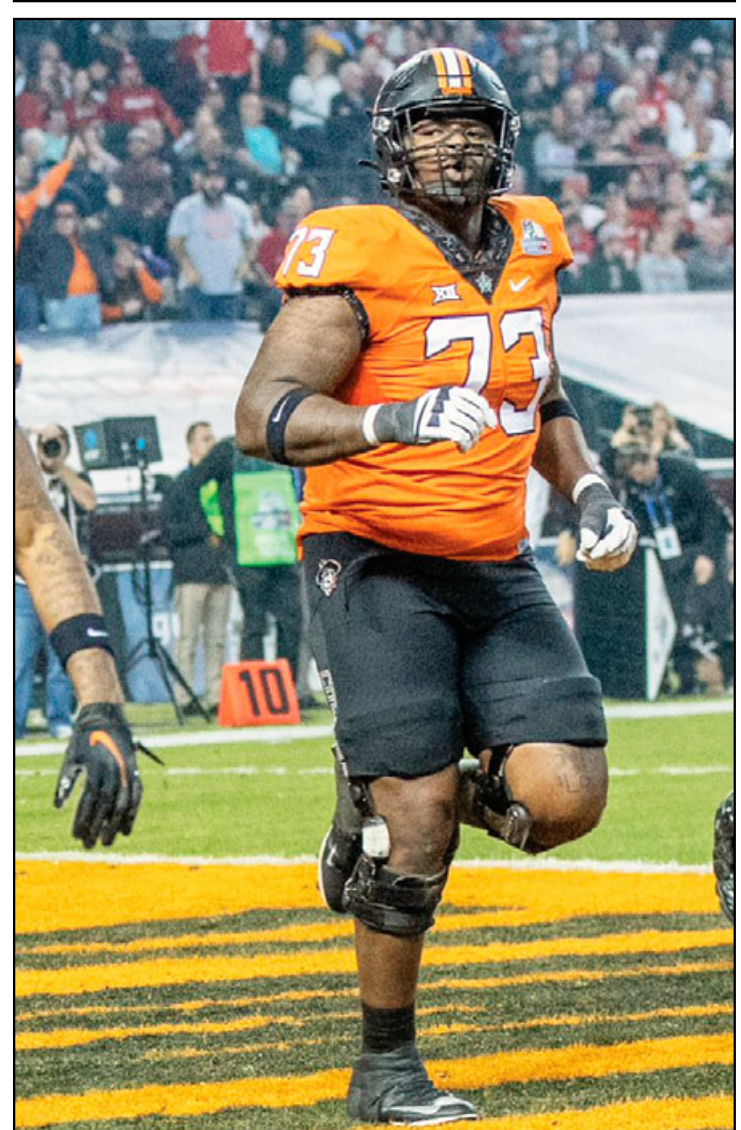
The first segment – April 29 – will include a fun-filled April Fools theme. Players may register for play at DLTTennisScholarships.com.



REGISTER NOW
FOR SPRING 2023 CLASSES
 CLASSES START JANUARY 17

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
www.sanjac.edu
 An Equal Opportunity Institution

Brooks starts in Cowboys' bowl game



Dobie Class of 2020 graduate Jason Brooks (73) wound up the 2022 season at Oklahoma State University as the Cowboys' primary starter at left guard, seeing action in 11 overall games during his redshirt sophomore football season. Following a 24-17 loss to Wisconsin in the Guaranteed Rate Bowl Dec. 27, the Cowboys finished at 7-6. As for Brooks, who began his collegiate career at Vanderbilt before joining OSU through the transfer portal, he appears to be very much a part of the mix along the offensive front as the Cowboys proceed toward the 2023 season and beyond.

Thompson picks college



Standout Clear Brook shot put and discus specialist Kennedy Thompson used the holiday break to announce that she has verbally committed to attend Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., where she will compete for the Choctaws beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. A member of the NCAA Division II ranks, Mississippi College competes within the Gulf South Conference. As a junior a season ago, Thompson threw the discus 113 feet, 1 inch for fifth place at the District 23-6A/District 24-6A area championships. She also enjoyed a successful run on the summer track and field circuit. Thompson plans to study in the biomedical sciences field.

Bay Area Jewelers
WE BUY GOLD!
 Jewelry & Watch repair on site
 19054 Gulf Fwy. 281-488-8067
 Located outside Baybrook Mall across from Forever 21

COUPON
\$200 OFF FOUNDATION REPAIR
 OR SEWER REPAIR
 (on jobs \$2,500 & up) Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per house.

FOUNDATION REPAIR
UNDER SLAB SEWER REPAIR
HOUSE LEVELING

Allied Foundations
281-479-5247
 FREE ESTIMATES

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEX TRAFFICKING



- Not free to come and go
- Isolation from family or friends
- Changing residences frequently
- Hiding bruises, scars, marks or injuries
- Working excessively long or unusual hours
- Lacking access to basic needs or medical care
- Not in possession of money, ID or documentation

If you suspect human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **1-888-373-7888**