

South Belt-Ellington Leader

43 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Beltway closures planned

Two inside westbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to SH 288 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, March 23.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thursday, Jan. 16.

At least two alternate southbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 from Crenshaw to Grayson will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Jan. 16.

At least one inside lanes of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to SH 288 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, March 23.

At least one alternate lane of the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage roads will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 2.

At least one alternate lane of the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage roads will be closed from Vista to SH 225 nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Feb. 2.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road to El Dorado Boulevard will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, Jan. 17.

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

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

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

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

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

Knights sell spaghetti

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is sponsoring a fundraising spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road. The event features all-you-can-eat spaghetti pasta covered with our original KC 9201 spaghetti sauce, two made-from-scratch Italian meatballs, garden salad with Italian dressing, French bread and ice tea or lemonade. The cost is \$7 eat-in or take-out. For children under 12, the cost is \$3 (one meatball, eat-in only).

PIP meetings resume

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings will resume Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, located at 11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room on the first floor, beginning at 7 p.m. December's PIP meeting had been canceled as it fell during the Christmas holidays. A guest speaker is to be announced. PIP consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods. Meetings take place each month on the third Tuesday. For additional information, call Houston Police Department Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776.

SoHo presents play

The South Houston High School Theater will present "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" in the campus auditorium Thursday, Jan. 30, through Saturday, Feb. 1. Showtime is 7 p.m. each night. General admission tickets are \$10.

Knights host blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive in the St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church social hall, located at 11011 Hall Road, Sunday, Jan. 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358.

Sageglen to meet Jan. 20

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its first homeowners meeting of the year Monday, Jan. 20, at the Sageglen Community Building, located at 11610 Sageyork, beginning at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and the board of directors will announce the results of the annual Christmas light contest. For more information, call 281-481-2160.

Free self-defense classes start

Free self-defense and karate classes offered by the American Society of Karate at Sagemont Park Recreation Center, located at 11507 Hughes Road, will begin Friday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, call 281-788-5930 or email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com.

PISD Athletics Hall of Fame inductees named

The Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame committee will host its eighth annual induction ceremony, recognizing some of the most celebrated names in athletics at PISD. The event, scheduled for April 4 at Phillips Field House, will add 10 names to its roster, including one team, three coaches, five athletes and a family.

The inductees were selected for their exemplary athletics and coaching careers, in addition to inspiring the next generation of college and professional athletes and coaches.

This year's Athletics Hall of Fame inductees include:

- J. Frank Dobie Girls Softball Team (1993 state champions)
- Charlie Goehring - track and cross-country coach (1971-2007)
- T.J. Mills (deceased) - football coach (1977-2005)
- Wilburn Raby - track coach (1952-1980)
- Steve Prentice - swimming (South Houston, Class of 1970)

- Bryan Willingham - football (Pasadena, Class of 1971)

- Ron Schroeder - golf (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1975)

- Marlen Esparza - boxing (Pasadena, Class of 2007)

- Bo Snelson - football (Pasadena Memorial, Class of 2009)

- Snelson family, including Billie (deceased) and sons John and Andy

Dobie softball team (1993 state champions)

Dobie's 12-member 1993 Lady Longhorn softball team made history after winning the school's first softball championship, 1-0, against Tomball. Christa Williams, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and PISD Hall of Famer, led the Lady Longhorns to the title, pitching a three-hitter and striking out 11, outdueling an equally matched Tomball pitcher and scoring on a fielding error. Dobie earned a seat on the road to state after pounding El Paso Bell Air for 17 hits in a 10-2 victory in the semi-finals.



Paul inspects drainage

State Rep. Dennis Paul recently visited the South Belt community to inspect a long-standing flooding concern near the intersection of Fuqua and Sabo. The issue in question, a 24-inch stormwater restrictor installed on a ditch just south of the aforementioned crossing, has been a topic of discussion for nearly 50 years. Nearby residents have long complained the device significantly increases flooding upstream of the installation. Harris County officials, however, contend the restrictor is necessary to alleviate flooding downstream. The topic is now being revisited because affected residents feel the new South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, being constructed near the intersection of Beamer and Dixie Farm Road, should help with downstream flooding issues, allowing the size of the Sabo restrictor to be increased. Pictured above with Paul is District 129 aide Dawn McDonald.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Apartment laundromat catches fire

The laundromat at an apartment complex in the 11800 block of Algonquin, near Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway, caught fire the evening of Monday, Jan. 6.

Firefighters arrived on scene at roughly 9 p.m. to find smoke and fire coming from a one-story apartment laundromat. They began an attack on the fire and secured the utilities.

The fire was quickly extinguished, and HFD

arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire. At press time, the cause of the blaze was still under investigation.

The fire caused approximately \$10,000 in damage. Crews were able to save around \$2,500 in property.

No injuries were reported.

Crews from Stations 70, 52, 61 and 93 responded to this incident.

Leader continues 2019 year in review

The Leader year in review is continued from the previous issue. Stories up to July 11 can be found in the Jan. 9 edition of the Leader.

July 18

Former South Belt resident Jessica Swenson was named the new principal of South Houston Intermediate. A 1997 Dobie graduate, Swenson most recently served as assistant principal at Pasadena Memorial High School, where she had been since 2013. Swenson started her educational career in 2001 as a teacher in Pearland ISD. In 2003, she joined the Pasadena ISD family as a journalism teacher at Dobie. In 2010, she was promoted to assistant principal at Miller Intermediate before being named assistant principal at Memorial. Swenson replaced former South Houston Intermediate Principal Laura Gomez, who was promoted to principal of Pasadena High School.

July 25

Win Weber was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustee Chris

Reed, following his death the previous month. A former longtime Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustee herself, Weber was a personal friend of Reed's. Reed was elected to the District 2 seat in May 2017 following Weber's retirement from the board. A criminal defense lawyer by profession, Weber will serve in this position through May 2020, when the District 2 spot is up for election.

A warrant was filed on a former board member of the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League for allegedly stealing from the organization. Paul Rodriguez was charged with credit card abuse, a state jail felony. According to investigators, Rodriguez had recently resigned from the board but had continued to use the group's credit card use for personal expenses. Rodriguez avoided arrest by proactively posting a no-arrest bond, allowing to remain out on bond while awaiting trial. A similar incident took place the previous year with the former president of the Dobie High School baseball booster club. In that case, Christopher Anthon Escalera, 44,

Charlie Goehring - track and cross-country coach (1971-2007)

An alumnus of Pasadena High School, Charlie Goehring coached track and cross-country in Pasadena ISD for over 30 years. While attending PHS, Goehring earned two varsity letters in football and was a wide receiver on the Eagles' state runner-up team. After graduating from the Uni-

versity of Houston, Goehring coached at various schools throughout Pasadena ISD and spent 16 years as the head boys' cross-country and track coach for South Houston High School and 10 years coaching boys' cross-country at Pasadena High School. Goehring retired in 2008 and was inducted into the Hall of Honor of the

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More info released in Algonquin death

Houston police have released more information about the fatal shooting that took place Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale.

One victim, Jesse Perez, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene. A second man, 22, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

According to police, officers responded to a shooting call at an apartment complex at the above address and found Perez deceased in a bedroom. The second man and a witness stat-

ed they were asleep when the sound of gunfire awakened them. When the man went into the hallway to see what was happening, the suspects then shot him in the hip as they fled the scene.

The suspects were described merely only as four black males, one of whom was carrying a long gun.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Teen accidentally shot near Fuqua

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a female that took place around 5:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, outside an apartment complex in the 12500 block of Southgreen Drive, near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway.

The victim, Aliyah Layton, 17, was transported to an area hospital in an unknown condition.

According to police, Layton was with a group of friends in a vehicle parked in the back of the complex smoking marijuana when a passenger who was playing with a gun accidentally shot her in the shoulder.

Layton was reportedly then placed in the back

seat of the vehicle while the group drove around until they decided to call 911.

Once reported to police, the teens allegedly gave conflicting reports to investigators about what had happened and who all was in the car at the time of the incident. At press time, it had not been determined if there was another passenger in the back seat during the shooting.

No charges were immediately filed.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Mysterious boom sound reported

A loud boom sound startled several South Belt residents the evening of Saturday, Jan. 11.

The Leader received several reports from residents about a mysterious sound similar to an explosion ringing through the community around 11 p.m.

Many said the incident could also be physically felt.

Several residents took to social media to share their experiences.

"This boom knocked a mirror off my son's wall," said Facebook user Terry Johnson on the People of Sagemont 2 group.

Reports of the bizarre boom came from as far away as Sugarland, Alvin, Humble and beyond.

"I heard it but in Mont Belvieu, TX," said Facebook user Narciso Lopez on the People of Sagemont 2 group.

At press time Wednesday, Jan. 15, it remained unclear what caused the sound.

Retrial set in Armstrong murder

The 2016 murder of former South Belt resident Dawn Whitely Armstrong is again making headlines, as her son, accused of killing her and her husband, is headed to a March retrial.

The case initially gained the attention of national media because Armstrong's husband, Antonio Armstrong, was once a star football player at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

The slain mother was a 1992 Dobie graduate. According to police, the couple's son, Antonio Armstrong Jr., then 16, was responsible for fatally shooting both of his parents in the head at the family's Bellaire-area home.

He was subsequently charged as an adult for

capital murder.

The teen has always maintained his innocence, claiming a masked intruder was responsible for the crime.

Prosecutors, however, contend that the home's alarm system remained armed during the incident and there were no signs of forced entry.

This past April, a jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict in the case after hearing weeks of testimony. In capital murder cases, it is required that the jury bring a unanimous verdict.

Armstrong Jr. was subsequently released on bond but required to wear an ankle monitor.

If convicted, the teen faces life in prison with a possibility of parole after 40 years.

was charged with felony forgery and misdemeanor theft.

Aug. 1

U.S. Rep. Pete Olson announced he would not seek re-election in 2020 due to family reasons. Olson was facing a tough re-election campaign, as Democrats had already set their sights on District 22 after challenger Sri Preston Kulkarni came within five points of defeating the Republican incumbent the previous November. A former U.S. Navy pilot, Olson had held the position since 2008 when he defeated Democrat Nick Lampson.

Human remains were discovered Monday, July 29, in the 900 block of Clear Lake City Boulevard near SH 3/Old Galveston Road. At press time, the victim's gender, identity and cause of death are still pending verification by the county medical exam-

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Car crashes through store



A car smashed through the front of the Mobil convenience store at Hughes and Beamer around 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. The accident marked the third time in two weeks a major accident has taken place at the area intersection, with crashes also taking place at Donut Haven and a nearby residence (see related photos on Page 5A and the Jan. 9 edition of the Leader). The Mobil station reportedly remained open throughout the incident. Photo courtesy of Southbelt This & That Facebook page

In My Opinion

Hannan on Sabo's drainage problem

I sent a note earlier saying the new filling station had moved their 24 inch pipe closer to the dam, but there was other work going on.

Where the original pipe was, to the east, they have built a concrete sluice, that goes into the ditch. I talked to one of the workers today and he said the sluice comes from a detention pond that they have built between the gas station and the commercial (washer/dryer) buildings. I did not go to their side of the ditch, and do not know how big the detention is, but they are going to be dumping all the runoff from the areas they paved over into the ditch with no place to go.

What can we do to get the removal of the brick wall expedited?

Jack Hannan

Publisher's comments: I am totally with you and Rosemary Caraway and all others who believe it is way past time to reopen this drainage area.

If only we can get the serious attention of Harris County Flood Control. It was bricked up decades ago with the promise of being reopened when there was additional downstream capacity.

The South Belt 100-acre retention pond has provided that, but now officials want to wait until the Corps of Engineers do their project.

In the meantime things keep getting worse for the residents on and near Sabo. The addition of this latest construction is just the straw which breaks the camel's back. Come on HCFC - do what is right for the taxpayers! (See related photo Page 1A.) -Marie Flickinger

Rodriguez cites news about constable

As a concerned citizen, resident and active voter, of the South Belt, I am deeply concerned with the negative clout with the current Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Christopher Diaz.

Myself and my neighbors have been paying close attention to the recent news coverage of a constable and a federal lawsuit filed against him and his office and his corrupt practices. If it was only one or two individuals filing a lawsuit I could probably say that it may be one or two disgruntled employees but the fact that you have almost a dozen high-ranking employees in this lawsuit, that just speaks volumes to me and it gives validity to the accusations alleged in this lawsuit and it shows the type of character that he has in the current incumbent constable.

I can only imagine what other unethical behavior he has committed.

Not to mention the pretty obvious implication that Christopher Diaz asked his cousin-in-law to also be involved in the race for constable and use the same name of another candidate only to merely cause confusion to the voters.

The behavior of Christopher Diaz needs to come to light of the Harris County Commissioners Court and as residents we need to demand that something needs to be done to restore the confidence in the Precinct 2 Constable's office.

In all the years I have lived in the South Belt I have seen crime rise to the level that concerns the safety of me and my family. Before the election I did not know much about Christopher Diaz and I was unaware that he did not have any law enforcement experience which answers many of my questions of why we have such scarce Patrol activity in our community. It's obvious that we have a constable who lacks the experience to properly manage our law-enforcement needs. I beg to answer the question how Chris Diaz was even elected to office without the proper experience.

Of all the candidates the obvious most experienced and best choice is the Harris County lieutenant, Jerry Garcia who definitely will have my vote.

Wendy Rodriguez

Luis Ojeda family thanks community

The family Ojeda are so grateful that

we have people that can help for Christmas. In fact, we thank you so much for all the presents and food you provided us and my kids were really happy with them. Keep up the good work you guys are doing for the people that need it. We are glad that you helped us and wish the best to you as well.

Sincerely,
Luis Ojeda/Maria Ojeda

Anderson concerned about sign politics

Dirty Politics - Third World Country Tactics

With the election season upon us, we are all passionate about who we will support in our local, county, state, and national elections. I am learning quickly about dirty politics.

I feel disgusted by the childish cheating, ugly back stabbing and dishonesty. I understand name recognition is the name of the game. You want to get your name out there for your supporters and remind them to vote.

We have a passionate team who will support our candidate Jerry Garcia (specifically shown on the ballot as "Jerry Garcia (Harris County Lieutenant)"), so please get to know your next Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (Harris County Lieutenant).

Do your background, educate yourself and come to know the real facts and real circumstances, along with real people. Having family, friends, time, money, and manpower can make all this happen. Campaign signage can have a strong impact on votes and reaches more people than you know, and it serves as a powerful resource to get voters motivated. Recently, the hanging of campaign signs for Jerry Garcia (Harris County Lieutenant) for Pct. 2 Constable has become an ugly unfortunate mess for us.

Our team has worked very hard - putting in some very long days - lawfully placing Jerry Garcia (Harris County Lieutenant) campaign signs in the Pct. 2 areas in the recent past. Even though signs may not be the most important factor influencing an individual voter's final decision, campaign signs still can have a powerful influence on a candidate's political future.

Our volunteers take that extra step with residents for permission to place campaign signs. In doing this we also try very hard to build positive relations with these homeowners and business owners.

So, while stealing and mutilating another candidate's political signage is both unethical and illegal, and obviously demonstrates just plain bad political campaign practices, this type of behavior also reveals the underhanded mindset of the people and organization doing it: the win at all costs even if you have to cheat mindset! Please note various signage locations we had to repair recently:

- 1) 9802 Gulf Freeway @ Shell Station
- 2) 9100 Gulf Freeway
- 3) 8610 Airport Blvd
- 4) 9906 Gulf Freeway @ Hobby Event Center
- 5) Next to Pappas BBQ Gulf Freeway
- 6) Scarsdale @ Gulf Freeway. Chris Diaz signs are untouched, but Jerry Garcia (Harris County Lieutenant) signs were destroyed. To view these pictures please go to Jerry Garcia's Facebook page.

In closing, please vote Jerry Garcia (Harris County Lieutenant) for Pct. 2 Constable - a man who is passionate, honest and loyal - and a perfect fit for this job in our community! Sincerely,
Donna Anderson

Jitani family thanks the community

Our family wants to tell you thank's a lot for the wonderful presents the community gave us for Christmas.

People like you are what world needs; angels that think in others and do what you do. We enjoyed the presents and we feel blessed with the generosity of the community through the Leader program..

Sincerely,
Lourdes Jitani/Marcel Jitani

Elected officials share their words

A look back at Boykins' 6 years

For the past six years, I have had the great honor of representing you as your District D City Council Member. Together, we have accomplished a number of great things for this historically diverse district and made significant progress.

My service to the people of District D has been the greatest honor. From South Union, Third Ward, Museum District, Sunnyside, Southpark, South Belt-Ellington, Midtown and all neighborhoods in between, thank you for allowing me to serve you. My team and I have highlighted successful projects below. Join us in taking a trip down memory lane. It has been the greatest honor to represent the community I was raised in and to prove it's not where you start, but where you finish that counts! Thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I will ALWAYS strive to be a servant to my community. Love, Dwight Boykins

2014 Senior Minor Home Repair

617 homes and counting... Council Member Dwight Boykins established a non-profit to assist senior citizens living in District D with minor home repairs at no cost to them. This program is governed by nine senior citizens from the District D community.

Council Member Boykins developed the idea for the assistance program as a result of walking the streets of District D and speaking to senior citizens about their needs. The Seniors Assistance Fund passionately committed to making a difference in lives of seniors in District D while improving their quality of life.

The goal of the program is to ensure a safe and reliable living environment for senior citizens in the historic district.

Swingin' 4 Seniors Golf

To aid the Senior Minor Home Repair Program, Council Member Boykins developed the Swingin' 4 Seniors Golf Tournament! In 2018, they were able to raise almost \$20,000 to benefit the Senior Assistance Fund as they continue to provide minor home repairs to District D seniors at no cost under the leadership of Board Chair, Dorothy Booker. A major thank you to Hermann Park Golf Course and all the sponsors, teams, and individuals who continue to support this worthy cause. And as always, a warm thank you to each volunteer who comes to assist. As of this year, over 600 homes have been repaired through this nonprofit fund.

2nd Chance Job Fair

Council Member Boykins created The Second Chance Job Fair to provide opportunities for individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, have dropped out of high school and those who have made mistakes in the past, including nonviolent ex-felons, and are in need of a second chance.

A major thank you to the many volunteers, METRO for providing free transportation to George R. Brown, and Houston First for providing the venue. Also, thank you to the Texas Wrecker Association for donating four trucks as Council Member Boykins continues to promote this entrepreneurship initiative.

Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and Conversation with the Council Member allows residents to have direct communications on issues affecting their neighborhood and creates "old school politics" at the dinner table. Each year, we have held 16 Coffee and Conversations at homes throughout the district, in the first year of office.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Council Member Dwight Boykins created the Holiday Tree Lighting & Kwanzaa Celebration on Alameda, a fun-filled event for the Houston metropolitan area. The event raises money to make minor home repairs at no cost to seniors in District D. We were able to donate over \$80,000 to the Seniors Assistance Fund, helping to improve lives and move District D forward.

Key Accomplishments

My Gift to YOU... Our New H-E-B! Opening of Pyburns Farm Fresh Food.

District D Satellite Office

In May 2014, the District D Council Office held the official grand opening of the four (4) District D Satellite Offices to address the immediate needs of senior citizens. Satellite Office Locations: J.J. Roberson Family Center, 4810 Redbud St. Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. Third Ward Multiservice Center, 3611 Ennis St. Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, 4605 Wilmington St. Reconstruction & Beautification of MLK Jr. Blvd.

This particular reconstruction project will transform 7,400 linear feet of concrete pavement roadway with relative storm sewers, sidewalks, street lighting, and necessary underground utilities. There will also be improvements to drainage and the storm sewer system within and around the

vicinity of the project limits.

I made a commitment to help transform Martin Luther King Blvd by promoting improvements that truly honor our beloved civil rights icon. Today, I'm proud to see the fruits of these efforts on display with the esplanade beautification project and ongoing road enhancements.

Sunnyside Multi-Service

After much consideration and community conversations, the new Sunnyside Multi-Service Center and Clinic is coming to the corner of Wilmington and Reed Road, less than half a mile from its current location. This \$25M project will have 6.5 acres to be built on with an acquired 1.47 acres adjacent to it for a new community park.

Infrastructure Projects

We're proud to announce that we have exciting new infrastructure projects happening in our district! We are currently working to remove and replace concrete sidewalk and ramps on Holloway Dr. (south side) from Cullen Blvd. to Leintrin Way.

In addition, this month an ordinance was approved appropriating \$59,621,409.20 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and \$133,490.80 out of Water and Sewer Contributed Capital Fund, for a 72-inch water line from Emancipation to Tuam along Polk, Hutchins, Clay, Cheney, Hadley and Crawford. The project also includes roadway repair and replacement as needed for construction.

Community Connections

Approved \$550,000 in funding to be invested in afterschool programs and out-of-school time activities as a youth crime-prevention and child safety strategy.

Hosted District D Crime Prevention Meeting to discuss ways to reduce the prevalence of criminal activity in the community.

Council Member Boykins joined police officers from the Sunnyside Storefront for the Houston Police Department March on Crime.

The District D Council Office was honored to present the South Central Sportz Baseball Team with a \$1,000.00 donation at the 9th Annual Health, Education, Science Fair & Carnival.

Council Member Boykins joined volunteers and community leaders to plant, mulch, de-litter and improve the quality of life throughout District D for Keep Houston Beautiful Day.

TIRZ 8 Gulfgate Expansion of nearly 8,000 acres, including a significant portion of South Park.

Council Member Boykins partnered with The Houston Ballet to provide District D children with dance lessons at Shape Community Center. Grand Re-opening of Sunbeam Depository and Recycling Center, aiding in getting trash off the streets.

Council Member Boykins purchased and awarded bikes to the top male and female readers participating in the Houston Public Library Summer Reading Program from District D.

Council Member Boykins uses a portion of the Council District Service Funds to provide overtime pay to current City of Houston Dept. of Neighborhoods workers for them to cut weeds lots in District D every weekend.

Ribbon Cutting for the completion of the Cullen Blvd. street reconstruction project.

Groundbreaking for The Village at Palm Center - a multifamily and mixed-use development project.

2015

Council Member Boykins began a campaign to tackle illegal dumping and revealed the new "No Illegal Dumping" signs that have been placed throughout District D. He also wrote state legislation that would increase the fines associated with illegal dumping, with certain dumping offenses resulting in 30 days in the Harris County Jail.

District D Office hosts Kennedy Heights Crime Prevention Meeting to address the increased level of criminal activity occurring in and around the Kennedy Heights community.

Council Member Boykins allocated funds to the Blue Triangle Community Center for its afterschool programs, which serves youth in and around District D.

The District D office consistently worked to keep residents informed of latest developments in the CES clean-up effort.

Through Strategic Hard Targeting Enforcement, Council Member Boykins allocated funds from District D District Service Budget to create an overtime program and place additional officers in the community and on the streets during critical hours.

Council Member Boykins, along with his city council colleagues, voted to approve the body camera contract for up to \$6.3-million, which will supply Houston's Police Department with body cameras.

2016

Council Member Boykins worked directly with the current Mayor and administration to create the Sunnyside TIRZ #26, appointing community residents and business owners to the board.

Council Member Boykins launched the BARC Overtime Initiative, allocating \$50,000 from his Council Service Budget in the hope that we can make safe our streets and find these strays a home.

Recipe for Success Foundation joined Council Member Boykins for the ground breaking of the Hope Farm, located in Sunnyside, one of the city's largest food deserts.

Council Member Boykins used service funds to purchase a solid waste heavy trash collection vehicle to assist with illegal dumping.

Council Member Boykins allocated funds for and worked with the Fire Department and the General Services Department to commission a memorial plaque and statue honoring the Late Captain Dwight W. Bazile.

Houston Police Department Cadet's holds Cultural Diversity Tour with Council Member Boykins showing them around Sunnyside and South Union and encouraging each of them to become familiar with the communities they will serve.

During the Thanksgiving holiday, Council Member Boykins expressed 5 MOVEMENTS of Thanksgiving. He mowed the lawns of 5 seniors within District D the day before Thanksgiving.

2017

Council Member Boykins traveled to New York as the city prepared for the issuance of pension obligation bonds, valued at \$1.005 Billion. The sale allowed the city to provide \$250 million to the Houston Municipal Employee Pension System and \$750 million to the Houston Police Officer Pension System.

The Chauncey Glover Project honored Council Member Boykins with the Legacy Award at their Inaugural Black Tie Gala "Breaking Out: Breaking Chains, Breaking the Cycle" at the Queensbury Theatre.

Council Member Boykins joined in the celebration of the Grand Opening of Emancipation Park.

Council Member Boykins spent the afternoon with the District D fire fighters as he delivered new equipment to each station in the district.

The District D office held a press conference to announce the 3 new speed awareness monitors for District D to slow motorists down.

2018

District D welcomed a new Cadence Bank to the Palm Center area off MLK and Griggs.

Council Member Boykins stood with members of the Commission Against Gun Violence as they announced the first set of recommendations to address the gun violence epidemic ravaging our communities.

Houston Police Department Positive Interaction Meetings, working to make sure that we provide the best service to the community in every aspect.

New Hope Housing Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening - This holistic setup not only provides transitional housing but also a fresh food market, a chapel, business center, playground, and services to assist residents from financial to health to job readiness. The City of Houston allocated \$10.1M in HOME and Homeless Housing Bonds towards this District D project.

Next Generation Advisory Council Beta Class Graduation - This group of young professionals got the opportunity to grow through volunteerism, economic development, education, and community revitalization for District D. They also made a lot of life long connections with company's executive teams such as Reliant Energy, CenterPoint Energy, the Texas Medical Center, Walter P. Moore, Silver Eagle Distributors, Houston First and many more.

2019 Final Year in Office

The construction of the new Fire Station 55 at Cullen and Mowery should be completed in Spring 2020. The updated building will be a 5 bay, state of the art Fire Station that is much needed for this community. I'm looking forward to all the great changes that are happening for Fire Station 55.

Groundbreaking on the new Frost Bank to be located on Scott Street in the heart of District D.

The official ribbon cutting at Forbes Crossing, which has over 500 homesites and sits on 142 acres in District D. In a partnership with The Montrose Center, we are building the second largest LGBTQ affordable senior housing center in the nation, called "There's No Place Like Home." Many thanks to Mayor Parker for her vision.

Thank You District D! It's been an amazing run...

Death

Ada Sue Sorenson



Longtime South Belt resident Ada Sue Skipper Sorenson, 85, died Dec. 18, 2019, and was buried Dec. 21.

She was born Aug. 31, 1934 and was known by her middle name "Sue." She served as the outreach director for the Williams/Tranco Retiree Club for several years and was also a secretary for Transcontinental Gas Pipeline.

She was born in Huntington, Texas, close to Lufkin. Her father, CA Skipper, was a preacher and a farmer. Her mother Laura married CA when he was widowed with his children Catherine, Kenneth, Elizabeth and CA Jr. In about three years the couple became parents to three more children, Lou, Sue and Charles.

Sue went to business school after high school graduation, then moved to Houston in 1954. She met Bill Valentine in Houston, and her marriage to him was the shortest of her three

marriages. After Sue's first marriage, the Lord blessed her with two wonderful husbands, Jay Nickelson and Raymond Sorenson.

Sue liked to fish. She rode a motorcycle with Jay, and taught her children to love the music of Nat King Cole, Aretha Franklin, Jim Reeves and Patsy Cline. She and Bill went to a Patsy Cline concert in El Paso when Bill was in the service and saw Patsy's warm-up act, the newcomer, Elvis Presley.

She loved her family. She was so proud of her granddaughter Rachel Reid as a teacher and was glad she had married again and is happy. She loved the activities of her great-grandchildren Logan Banister (sports) and Reese Bannister (plays and cheerleading). She was proud they made good grades in school. Sue was great at sending cards. Many times one would get a card that she had created herself on the computer.

Enjoying a few hobbies, such as gardening and growing flowers and vegetables. Sue also liked to feed the birds and squirrels. The last few years she acquired a love for the Astros. Although she didn't call a single player by the right name, she enjoyed watching them. Her favorite players were Geikle, not Keuchel, Attuve, Spencer not Springer, and the all-time favorite, Verlando.

Some thought Sue had missed her calling as a researcher since she was determined to get to the bottom of things. Last summer Sue took on a project to discover the fate of the Ledbetter brand steaks at Kroger. She called Kroger, then hunted down the people at Ledbetter, who told her the steaks were being sold under the Kroger name. She received a coupon for her valiant efforts.

The two great passions of her life were Jesus and politics. The immense "I'm not a Liberal" sign on her car was a big advertisement of her political affiliation. In her home were hundreds and hundreds of pages of letters she had written to presidents, congressional representatives and senators, pages from internet articles and from Rush Limbaugh. Sue worked many days on her own article she submitted to the *South Belt Leader*.

The greatest love of her life was the word of God. She loved preachers on TV. She loved Bill Gathers' gospel music. She loved her personal Bible study and the Bible study of her friends and community. She truly made the word of the Lord a lamp unto her feet, as the Psalmist said.

Sue leaves behind her daughter and son-in-law Cyndi and Mike Svoboda; granddaughter and husband Rachel and Ford Reid; and great-grandchildren Reese and Logan Banister.

A Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, Jan. 4, with a reception afterward for friends and family at Freeway Baptist Church on Kingspoint.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *Southbelt This & That (Official)* Facebook group shared a post of surveillance footage about an incident that happened on Kirkwood South and Sage-willow near Hall Road. The doorbell camera caught a masked man sneaking around a member's doorstep on the morning of Jan. 9. The member is advising all their neighbors, and shared with HOA, Harris County Sheriff and constables and encourages everyone to be watchful. The post has been shared to other Facebook pages.

On the same Facebook page a member shared photos and a video of a vehicle that drove into the Handi Stop! Mobil gas station store on Beamer and Hughes. The incident happened Jan. 11, just after 8:30 p.m. The member stated that the driver dropped his cigarette and thought that he put his car in park but it was in drive. (See photo on Page 1A.)

On the same Facebook page another member shared pictures of a post that has been shared with other Facebook pages of Jerry Garcia (Harris County lieutenant) signs that have been vandalized. The incidents occurred Jan. 11.

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont*

Area Crime Alert Facebook group warns the community by sharing several stories to be aware of a local man who offers to do landscaping jobs. The man drives an older model Ford truck. He trims trees and does partial work then states that he'll return and finish. The man then takes the trimmings and dumps them in the streets. The man allegedly takes the money and does not finish the job.

To read the many stories of other residents' experiences, visit the Facebook group page. The post has been shared to other Facebook pages.

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

All Houston public libraries will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and will reopen Tuesday at the regularly scheduled time.

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Thursday, Jan. 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Book club: "The Death of Mrs. Westaway, by Ruth Ware." Call the library to reserve a copy.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Spanish computer class for adults and seniors

Thursday, Jan. 21, 10:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. The classes cover the 100 civics questions and how to prepare for the citizenship interview. Other topics include the citizenship application and qualifications. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 10:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only.

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m. Para los niños, bilingual storytime

Wednesday, Jan. 22. Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic PowerPoint

For more information, call the library at 832-393-2580.

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

Parker Williams Library

All Harris County public libraries will be closed Monday, Jan. 20 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and will reopen Tuesday at the regularly scheduled time.

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.: Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m. Cut the Cord, presentation for adults. The cable company is not the only game in town. There are many gadgets and services that enable streaming favorite programs and movies over the internet. Learn whether this process is applicable for personal TV viewing habits and if money may be saved monthly without using a cable company.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 1:30 p.m. Learn Korean With Rhee, for adults. For those interested in learning another language, meet at the library and learn together! Registration is requested.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunar New Year Celebration, for all ages. The Year of the Rat (Chinese zodiac) is upon us for 2020. Meet at the library for the community celebration. There will be a brief story time followed by games and refreshments provided by the Friends of The Parker Williams Library and the Vietnamese learning community.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m. Start the New Year with Meditation. Part 1: The New Year is a time to create a clean slate. Daya Sharma, a longtime meditator facilitates the workshop. Registration is requested.

Below are the programs that occur every week, unless the library is closed: Tuesday, Babytime lapsit, 10:30 a.m. For babies from birth to 18 months, featuring a mother-baby lapsit time with fingerplays, songs and playtime.

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

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

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

Saturday, Vietnamese learning time, for adults and children ages 8 and older. Classes begin at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. It's a great time to take a class to help with a skill for work, gain understanding of a topic or learn a language. There are many free classes available online at the library website or on the internet, through universities or other sources. Practice navigating the internet to learn about these, or sign up for one. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

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

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

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Class of 2024 DOBIE WEEK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

BHI VISIT TO DOBIE9
ELECTIVE FAIR FOR BHI @ DOBIE9
BHI PARENT NIGHT @ DOBIE9

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

THOMPSON VISIT TO DOBIE9
THOMPSON PARENT NIGHT @ DOBIE9

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

ELECTIVE FAIR @ THOMPSON DURING LUNCH

REGISTRATION

BHI
MONDAY & TUESDAY
JANUARY 27 & 28

THOMPSON
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
JANUARY 29 & 30

*Visit to Dobie9, Elective Fair & registration all take place during the regular school day

Parent Night

BHI:
Tuesday, January 21

Thompson:
Wednesday, January 22

Both nights @ Dobie9
10811 Monroe Rd
6:00 PM

Dobie9 administrators, counselors and elective/organization teachers will be available to answer questions!
Park in Fuqua-side parking lot and enter through gym

Southwest Airlines opens new Hobby Airport maintenance facility

Southwest Airlines Co. on Jan. 8 officially opened a new maintenance facility at William P. Hobby International Airport, highlighting the importance Houston holds for the nation's largest domestic airline and underscoring its commitment to safety while investing in the Bayou City.

Southwest Airlines opened a new 240,000-square-foot hangar at Houston Hobby Airport on Wednesday, Jan. 8, making it the Dallas-based airline's largest aircraft maintenance facility anywhere.

The new structure includes offices, training facilities, warehouse space, and a 140,000 square foot hangar. This hangar is the base for Southwest's growing technical operations group in Houston, which has 400 employees able to work simultaneously on up to six 737 aircraft indoors and has

space for an additional eight aircraft outside the hangar bays. It replaces Southwest's smaller technical operations facility at Hobby Airport, which opened in 1988.

"This state-of-the-art hangar will support our Technical Operations Team's unwavering commitment to safety and maintaining our fleet to the highest standards," said Gary Kelly, Southwest Airlines chairman and CEO.

"I'm very proud of our hundreds of Technical Operations Employees in Houston for the work they do every day to support our growing operation from Houston's Hobby Airport, which includes almost 200 departures per day during peak seasons to nearly 70 destinations across the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean," Kelly said.

"We thank Southwest Airlines for its nearly 50-year

partnership and commitment to the Houston community," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "Between the direct employment of 5,000 local residents, continued growth in flight activity, and this investment in infrastructure, the airline represents \$3 billion in economic impact for Houston each year and that's something that makes us proud and thankful."

"Having similar values allowed McCarthy Building Companies and Southwest Airlines to form an integrated team to address the many entities and hurdles involved with constructing such a high profile project at a major airport. This was instrumental in the success of this project and the team's ability to deliver it on time," said Jim Stevenson, McCarthy's Houston division president. "We are proud of our partnership with Southwest and pleased to be part of

this important maintenance hangar project that will have such a high impact on its operations."

The airline is currently investing in aircraft maintenance build-outs at Baltimore/Washington International Airport and Denver International Airport, as well as an expansion of its maintenance facility at Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport. Including the projects in Denver and Baltimore, the airline expects to have eight maintenance hangars throughout the United States.

Broadcast-quality photos and videos are available for download at the carrier's online newsroom, swamedia.com/houstonhangar.

In its 49th year of service, Dallas-based Southwest Airlines Co. continues to differentiate itself from other air carriers with exemplary cus-

tom service delivered by more than 60,000 employees to a customer base topping 130 million passengers annually.

Southwest became the nation's largest domestic air carrier in 2003 and maintains that ranking based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's most recent reporting of domestic originating passengers boarded. In peak travel seasons, Southwest operates more than 4,000 weekday departures among a network of 101 destinations in the United States and 10 additional countries.

Southwest coined Transfarency to describe its purpose philosophy of treating customers honestly and fairly and low fares actually staying low. Southwest is the only major U.S. airline to offer bags fly free to everyone (first and second checked pieces of luggage, size and weight limits apply, some carriers offer free checked bags on select routes or in qualified circumstances) and there are no change fees, though fare differences might apply.

Southwest is one of the most honored airlines in the world, known for a triple bottom line approach that contributes to the carrier's performance and productivity, the importance of its people and the communities they serve and an overall commitment to efficiency and the planet.

Learn more information about the carrier giving back to communities across the world at Southwest.com/citizenship.

Houston is key to Southwest's growing Central America network and a connecting point for destinations such as Cancun, Mexico; Liberia, Costa Rica; and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

Southwest has nearly 200 departures a day from Hobby and serves about 70 destinations throughout North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to Dan Landon, Southwest spokesman, Dallas has the largest number of Southwest Airlines maintenance workers.



Southwest Airlines mechanics work on Boeing 737s inside the carrier's new hangar at William P. Hobby Airport



Celebrating the opening of Hobby Airport's larger maintenance facility are, left to right, Mario Diaz, director, Houston Airport System; Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner; Gary Kelly, Southwest Airlines chairman and CEO; original Houston technical operations employees Brad Shelton, Paul Mould and B.J. Ritter; and (back row) Landon Nitschke, Southwest Airlines senior vice president of technical operations. Photo submitted

Meador announces honor roll

Meador Elementary officials announced honor roll, merit roll and bug roll for the second nine-weeks.

First grade Honor roll
Aleishmaire Aponte-Muniz, Jaelyn Avila, Oscar Barrera, Ja'kayla Bradford, Eleena Breightheit, Azariah Calidonio, Giselle Cammack, Sophia Chayeb, Julian Choto, Daniel Ekong, Breanna Elizalde, Eliannys Fuentes, Arleth Garcia and Genesis Gonzalez.

Kristin Gonzalez, Makala Hernandez, Elizabeth Hoffman, Keyona Kelly, Lucy Le, Rosalie Longoria, Gael Lopez, Kendall Lynskey, Nathalie Mai, Pablo Martinez and Annemarie Mauricio.

Fourth grade Honor roll
Angelica Barragan and Jennie Mancuso.

ny Johnson, Andres Maldonado, Isaiah Martinez, Glenn Mason, Mariah McCray, Angel Mendez, Christopher Nunez, Noah Salazar, Laryn Stevenson, Markia Stewart, Flor Vasquez, Madilyn Wallace, Josiah Wilkins and Miley Williams.

Fourth grade Honor roll
Angelica Barragan and Jennie Mancuso.

Merit roll
Karely Maldonado, Anthony Maldonado and Mariany Mendez.

Bug roll
Drake Avalos, Thomas Bravo, Gissele Cardiel, Charel Cole, Jose Cortez, Ariana Espinoza, Alana Fonseca, Olvin Garcia, Gabriel Garcia, Luis Gomez, Hailia Gonzalez, Naomi Green, Ra'Naiya Guichard, Mon-

serrat Jaime and Luke Kellen.

Luis Lupian, Katherine Luviano, Karely Maldonado, Anthony Maldonado, Janenish Muniz, Josue Murillo, Adan Ortiz, Janelle Ramos, Tahirah Rasheed, Joseph Rodriguez, Jayson Saucedo, Sanaa Stephens, Alexander Tiscareno, Amalia Torres, Katelyn Ware and Zyria Watson.

PLT presents "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?"



Millie is getting married and her best friends are throwing the best "Girl's Night In" they can. Enjoying the evening of fun are cast members, left to right, Amy Morneau of League City, Adriana Rodriguez of La Porte, Juliet Barron of La Porte and Teresa Stranahan of Houston. Photo by Zack Varela

Pasadena Little Theatre staff members wish everyone a happy 2020 and are proud to continue celebrating its 65th Anniversary. Beginning the new year is a fun jukebox musical called "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?" written and created by Roger Bean.

Millie's getting married! At her impromptu bachelorette party, Millie and her best friends dive into age-old questions about love, marriage and the overwhelming dating game. As the celebration picks up steam and the drinks flow, the girls reveal scintillating secrets about their love lives as they poke fun and challenge each other to take control of their lives. Featuring smash pop hits from the 1960s such as "My Boy Lollipop," "I Will Follow Him," "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me," and "Hey There Lonely Boy," this uplifting show reaffirms that during life's struggles, true friendship will unveil its everlasting strength and often with a real

rockin' beat!

"Why Do Fools Fall in Love?" features director Gregory R. Brown and musical director Crystal E. Mata. This production opens on the Russell Stage Jan. 24 and continues weekends through Feb. 9. Friday and Saturday showtimes are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets call the box office at 713-941-1758, or visit www.pasadelittletheatre.org.

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The state of recycling in the state of Texas

By Jackie Lelsz

The big question I'm hearing a lot right now is, "What is going on with recycling?" (in the face of China's National Sword policy).

There is a lot going on with recycling; some good and some bad. Some cities are dropping certain items from their program, like mixed paper or plastics. Other cities are ending their recycling programs completely. However, this should not happen. Instead, we should rally around companies and cities that are recycling and encourage their residents to recycle. There must be a strong push to continue recycling programs in Texas.

Removing items or completely ending recycling programs, as some entities have opted to do, risks disrupting a significant economic driver in Texas. As quantified in the state's 2017 Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling report, the Texas recycling industry employs over 17,000 Texans, contributes over \$3.3 billion to the Texas economy, pays over \$195 million in local and state taxes and has traded over \$700 million worth of material for recycling. Altogether, recycling in Texas provides job numbers comparable to those in the broadcasting, pipeline transportation and paper mill industries. By removing materials from collection that recycling programs rely on, Texas recycling businesses are in jeopardy of layoffs or even closure. This cannot happen.

News outlets report that "recycling is dead." On the contrary, recycling—especially in Texas—is an important part of the economy that needs to continue. We cannot waste the last 20-plus years of recycling education and program development in which governments and businesses have invested. Instead, we need to support the companies that rely on these recyclables as part of their business model by increasing the volume of materials they receive. This will create more jobs through investments in better methods and facilities that manage consumer goods, right here in Texas.

There are a multitude of problems that have culminated and created a "perfect storm." These include:

- a longtime reliance on foreign processing,
- markets and manufacturers that favor virgin materials,

- massive subsidies for virgin material extraction,
- high levels of contamination due to consumer confusion about exactly what to recycle, and
- cheap landfill rates.

These are just some of the factors affecting recycling in Texas today. Even more, the biggest, most immediate issue is: there is not enough domestic infrastructure in place to process and use recyclable material. Put simply, there is too much supply and not enough demand.

These myriad issues and this perceived crisis are really the biggest opportunity American recycling has had in the last 25 years. Surprisingly, for over 20 years, America and the rest of the world has largely relied on China to process and use the recyclables we place in our carts daily. That was, until February 2017, when China enacted the National Sword policy. This policy effective-

ly banned multiple materials from being imported, like electronics, scrap plastic, mixed plastics, mixed paper and other commonly recycled items. China also highlighted another big issue, in that there was a high percentage of contamination, such as food waste, plastic wrap and paper, mixed in with the recyclables they were receiving. Currently, any material that is accepted must be extremely well-sorted and contain 0.5 percent or less contamination. This is a big problem for our aging recycling infrastructure, causing facilities to slow sortation lines and add more workers, which results in higher processing costs. Currently, Texas cities are averaging 20 to 40 percent contamination in material sent for processing. If the correct items were placed in recycling carts initially, this would not be such an issue, but we still need markets for these materials.

With China now rejecting nearly all imports, recycling markets have collapsed globally. Other countries have enacted bans on importing recyclables to avoid becoming "dumping grounds" for the world. The higher costs of processing and moving materials, costs previously offset by material sales and lower fees, are the biggest reasons why local and regional recycling programs are scaling back or ending. Despite all that, recent events in Texas this past year have given new hope to the recycling industry.

Here at the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR)—Texas' 30-year-old nonprofit recycling organization—we recognized that, without companies in place to process and use the recyclables that Texans generate daily, the recycling industry here would be impacted greatly and negatively. With that in mind, STAR undertook a grassroots legislative effort to

have the State of Texas fund a recycling market development plan. With a lot of hard work by our business council, going door-to-door in the state capital talking to legislators and providing testimony, we successfully passed SB 649! Sponsored by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and House Rep. Ed Thompson (R-Pearland), this bill ensures that Texas will build a plan to fill in the gaps and remove the barriers that currently prevent recycling markets from developing, while incentivizing growth and support. The state of Texas will lead America in domestic recycling, taking advantage of our technology, workforce and logistic sectors to enable material circulation that supports cities and businesses' programs and operations.

Recycling in Texas is strong and will not only survive this market downturn but will become a national example and leader. Keep recycling, Texas!

Atkinson lists second honor roll

Atkinson Elementary officials announced the second nine-weeks honor roll and merit roll list.

Third grade Honor roll
Zorion Collins, Jonathan Fonseca, Jay Guerrero and Anna Trinh.

Bug roll
Katherine Barahona, Daniel Denova, Ana Elizalde, Isabelle Fernandez, Skylar Glayzer, J'ovanni Hernandez, Mark Herrera, Parker Hladysch, Kassidii Holcombe, Ke'Arianna Johnson, Ethan Mancillas, Natalie Montalvo, Osvaldo Perez, Sophia Ramos, Alexia Ruiz, Bella Salazar, Vance Smith, Mateo Vela and Giovanni Venturella.

Third grade Honor roll
Cecilia Anthony, Matthew Barragan, Carolyn Erazo, Alexa Guevara, Arlet Guzman, Paige Hyladysch, Milan Johnson, Isaiah Martinez, Gregory McNeil, Alyssa Picarro, Azul Pineda, Annabelle Rodriguez and Lyla Saldana.

Merit roll
Derek Broadwell, Evanie Carreno, Sophia DeJesus, Daniel Garcia, Kenberly Jones, Domingo Martinez, Isaac Montano and Miley Williams.

Bug roll
Derek Broadwell, Diamonique Burton, Derrick Callis, Evanie Carreno, Natasha Cordova, Sabrina Corral, Leonardo Cruz, Kaci Curry-Shepard, Kenasia Davis, Jeffrey Gonzalez and Bryce-ton Green.

Faith Guajardo, Alexa Guevara, Ruby Jasso, John-

Edmundo Bravo, Kayla Cisneros and Venessa Udoh.

Fourth grade Honor roll
Alondra Cruz, Luna Hernandez, Carden Huynh, Cathy Nguyen, Khai Nguyen, Daniella Tamayo, Jolie Tran and Alexander Vargas.

Merit roll
Rafael Alcala, Ricky Doan, Jessica Escobar, Lailah Garcia, Robert Gonzalez, Susan Plata, Rubi Reyes, Daniel Rubio, Genesis Tamez and Avion Vanhorne.

Fourth grade Honor roll
Yamila Arguello, Ian Avalos, Hayle Bonilla, Damian Chavez, Giovanni De La Garza, Naomi Estrada, Natalia Garza, Cruz Jasso, Nicolas Jenkins, Alexander Limachi, Jocelyn Nguyen and Steven Nguyen.

Stephanie Ochoa, Briana Olvera, David Ramirez, Brayden Rojas, Karim Rubio, Dylan Santiago, Natalie Soto, Dawson Tran, Kathleen Tran, Tina Tran, Ava Trevino, Gabriel Trevino, David Vega, Jacob Velasquez and Victoria Vu.

Third grade Honor roll
Aurora Castillo, Isabelle Chavez, and Rex Robinson

Merit roll
Andrew Amezcua, Javier Aranas, Alexis Brown, Joshua Byron, Josue Climer, Aivy Dinh, Noah Holguin, Abraham Ibarra, Isela Jimenez, Salma Mohamad, Ethan Rodriguez, Jade Rodriguez, Ja-

cob Tellez, Valeria Tinajero and Linda Tran.

Fourth grade Honor roll
Daniel Alvarez, Ian Avalos, Javanni Capuchino, Damian Chavez, Brendan Cortez, Lindsey Escobar, Naomi Estrada, Esther Garcia, Amelia Gomez, Juandavid Hernandez, Melodie Hernandez, Blayke Howard, Andrew Jaramillo, Cruz Jasso, Nicholas Jenkins and Madison Lee.

Hammad Matin, Justin Nguyen, Lucas Nguyen, David Ramirez, Vanessa Rivera, Mariana Rodriguez, Brayden Rojas, Yahya Shaikh, Alondra Silva, Natalie Soto, Christian Tejada, Savannah Tellez, Yahir Torres, Dawson Tran, Kathleen Tran, Evan Vo, Victoria Vu, Lilian Zermeno and Angelo Zuniga.

Merit roll
Phi Dang, Giselle Esparza, Carlos Garcia, Natalia Garza, Sebastian Garza, Leilani Hernandez, Steven Nguyen, Brooklyn O'sullivan, David Reynolds, Isabella Rosales, Ava Trevino, David Vega and Gregory Zamora.

Perez signs with Kutztown University



Alexis Perez (sitting in the middle), senior golfer at Dobie High School, signs with Kutztown University in Pa. Alexis qualified for Regionals last year as a junior and is preparing for her senior campaign in the spring. Shown celebrating her accomplishment are, left to right, (front row) Shelli Perseval, mother; Perez; Carlos Perez, father; (top row) Franklin Moses, principal; Kristen Tolley, assistant golf coach; and Chris Ferguson, head golf coach. (See related photo on Page 2B.) Photo submitted

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MARY

Best wishes to **Mary Clark** as she celebrates her birthday Monday, Jan. 20. Greetings are sent from her husband **Chris**, other family members and her friends at the *Leader*.

MIKE ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Mike Williams enjoys a birthday Jan. 20. Best wishes are sent for a special day from family and friends at the *Leader*.

FLICKINGERS MARK ANNIVERSARY

Marie and **David Flickinger** celebrate 58 years of wedded bliss on Jan. 20. Best wishes for an enjoyable day are sent to the couple from their sons **Fred** and wife **Leslie Flickinger** and **Davy** and wife **Ellie Flickinger**; granddaughters **Kimberly Flickinger** and **Courtney Durham** and husband **Chris** and children **Abigail**, **Jackson** and **Penelope**; granddaughter **Natalie Abarca** and husband **Jose** and children **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah**, **Elliana** and **Isabelle Abarca**; and their friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 16 through Jan. 22.

Atkinson Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Katy Fielder** Jan. 20.

Burnett Elementary

A celebration is in order Jan. 22 for **Leticia Sanchez**.

Bush Elementary

Blow out the candles on a triple-layer cake for **Jacqueline Breed** and **Esmeralda**

Guerra and Maria Villanueva.

Genoa Elementary
Light the birthday candles Jan. 16 for **Luz Salazar**. The day for a party for **Mary Helen Ramirez** is Jan. 17.

Meador Elementary

Send a belated birthday wish to **Melisa Hinojosa** who enjoys a birthday Jan. 16. **Maria Hernandez** celebrates a birthday Jan. 21. Special birthday wishes are sent to **Joycelyn Woodard** Jan. 22.

Moore Elementary

Sandra Rodriguez marks a birthday Jan. 19.

South Belt Elementary

Join in the birthday fun Jan. 19 with **Linh Moore**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Deborah Edwin** Jan. 21.

Stuchbery Elementary

Send a special birthday wish Jan. 19 to **Charlene Provence**. **Juana Valdez** marks a birthday Jan. 21.

Roberts Middle School

The day for a celebration for **Julie Lanham** is Jan. 22.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Remember **Irene Flores** on Jan. 16 with a special birthday greeting. Blow out the candles on a layered cake for **Travis Regner** on Jan. 18. Send a happy birthday card Jan. 22 to **Amber Estrada**.

Thompson Intermediate

Special birthday wishes are sent to **Laurin Soto** Jan. 19.

Dobie High

Celebrating a birthday Jan. 16 is **Jessy George**. Marking a birthday Jan. 17 is

Deborah Scheffer. Light the birthday candles Jan. 18 for **Remi Yusuf**. On Jan. 19, a double birthday is celebrated by **Cathy Meek**. Remember **Deena Delarosa** on Jan. 22 with a birthday greeting.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

Thursday, Jan. 16: **Rachel Perez**, **Heidi Ferguson**, **Troy Merkall**, **Samesia Bess-Hamlett**, **Kimberly Dann-Mandy**, **Dana Willis** and **Lisa Pennington**; Friday, Jan. 17: **Scott Greene**, **Tiffany Juarez**, **Donald Adams**, **Katherine Macias**, **Carla Lazo**, **Brenda Mahoney** and **Lori Watts**; and Monday, Jan. 20: **Jeremiah Orsak**, **Stephanie Johnson**, **Mary Belz**, **Mark Roden**; Tuesday, Jan. 21: **Traci Fort**, **Kim Saucedo**, **Karen Harlan**, **Connie Birmingham** and **Lisa Allen-Bragg**; and Wednesday, Jan. 22: **Amber Estrada**, **Shad Taylor** and **Mitchal Nordstrom**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbelt-leader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Beverly Hills donates to local food drive



Beverly Hills Intermediate donated food to the *South Belt Ellington-Leader* for the Christmas program to help local families in need. Shown with some of the packaged food are, left to right, (front row) Bear Co. Sponsor **Bery Mejia**, **Chelsea Escamilla**, **Fennix Chavez**, **Isabella Monita**, **Joyce Gossett**, **Myranda Cortez**, (middle row) **Elli Yu**, **Aleyla Aguilar**, **Kenneth Jones**, **Cesar Hernandez**, **Randy Perez**, **Juan Hinojosa**, (back row) **Zena Hamdan**, **Erandi Barrera**, **Julian Summers**, **Jaden Lopez**, **Freddy Gonzales**, **Eric Escamilla**, **Luis Ysaguirre**, Bear Co. Sponsor **Melanie Thompson** and Bear Co. Sponsor **Samantha Ruiz**. Photo submitted

Roberts Middle School names honor rolls

Fred Roberts Middle School officials announced honor roll names for the second nine-weeks.

Fifth grade-honor roll

Giselle Ivory Achuo, **Victor Manuel Alatorre**, **Tyler Shaun Albert**, **Daniel Eithan M. Arevalo**, **Ibrahim Asif**, **Valeria Benavidez**, **Naiven Dasiel Buendia**, **Mya Kaitlyn Cantu**, **Arlet Castilleja**, **Gabrielle Luz Castilleja**, **Gabriel Charles Darby**, **Urias Azai Del Angel**, **Santiago Diaz** and **Liz Gabriela Dominguez Rodriguez**.

Sixth grade-honor roll

Helen Acosta, **Amanda Aguilar**, **Lahnay Aileen Avendano**, **Blue Jakob Banda**, **Anderson Steven Betanco**, **Haris Bhatti**, **Xavier Alfredo Blanco**, **Rick Sergio Bonilla**, **Megan Van Bui**, **Lucas Daniel Calderon**, **Ashley Valeria Cantarero**, **Aaron Nickolas Carballo**, **Marlin Bell Carter**, **Kimberly Abigail Castillo** and **Brithany Yareli Castro**.
Kennedy Marie Cavazos, **Joshua Josiah Cerda**, **Italo Obed Chavarria Mendez**, **Victoria Denisa Chioreanu**, **David Nicolas Contreras**, **Isaura Isabel Correa**, **Ashley Jade Cruz**, **Hailey Sunshine Cubos**, **Kailene Irene Culpepper**, **Bryan De Leon** and **Kenneth Josue Dominguez Gonzalez**.

Ernesto Isaac Enriquez

Andrew Escobar, **Daniel Cruz Flores**, **Harold Yair Funez**, **Dianna Camila Galvan**, **Alyria Aivee Garcia-Garza**, **Ociel Isaac Garcia**, **Jose Luis Garza**, **Brissa Colette Gaytan Montemayor**, **Mikkel Gonzalez**, **Bryan Alexander Goytortua**, **Pedro Daniel Gutierrez** and

tine Perez, **Andy Jose Pineda**, **Jacobo Rene Ramirez**, **Kaden Eli Ramirez** and **Jazalynn Faith Randall**.

Jeremiah Adea Lee Rivero

Maylene Rodriguez, **Christopher Salinas**, **Jalayah Renee Silas**, **Dayelith Eliethe Silva Guevara**, **Te'shaun Lamar Taylor**, **Ngoc Nguyen Bao Truong**, **Elijah Bosane Ugalde**, **Adrian Alberto Villatoro**, **Rachel Jean Wilson**, **Xamira Evellett Zambrano** and **Christopher Anthony Zapata**.

Victoria Vy Hoang

Anthony Jennings, **Leland Gabriel Jimenez**, **Mohammad Zajib Khan**, **Valeria Cristina Lamarque Rios**, **Allyssa Honey Laurila**, **T'nyah Lee**, **Daniel Santos Luna Garcia**, **Calissa Marquez**, **Santiago Rafael Martinez**, **Rylan Kyle McArthur**, **Annakaren Melchor**, **Samuel Max Moreno** and **Chloe Michelle Morse Zavala**.

Zainab Naveed

Anh Van Nguyen, **Huy Nhat Nguyen**, **Nam Hoang Nguyen**, **Ngoc Ha Bich Nguyen**, **Quynh Thien Nguyen**, **Toby Tang Nguyen**, **Grace Marie Ojeda**, **Sodana Oun**, **Jaelynn Justine Perez**, **Andy Jose Pineda**, **Jacobo Rene Ramirez**, **Kaden Eli Ramirez** and **Jazalynn Faith Randall**.

Miranda Hernandez.

Cadie Jones, **Travis William Keith**, **Nazirah Viktoria Limon**, **Katherine Lopez**, **Melani Giselle Lopez**, **Breanna Mya Lott**, **Michael Anthony Maldonado**, **Ariela Crystal Medina**, **Dulce Mejia Hernandez**, **Mahreen Mortaza Mir** and **Savannah Aliana Montes**.

Devani Miranda Morales

Gabriel Morales, **Anh Ngoc Ngo**, **Delayla Phuc Nhi Nguyen**, **Diana Ngoc Nguyen**, **Tien Nguyen**, **Tuan Minh Nguyen**, **Henry V. Nunez**, **Victory Chioma Nwosu**, **Karla Giselle Ornelas**, **Chelssy Mary Orta**, **Natali Liseth Palomares** and **Josellin Perales Espinosa**.

Maria Jose Perez Perez

Eduardo Perez, **Emyly Guadalupe Pineda**, **Wilson Alexander Ponce**, **Rebecca Nohe-mi Ramirez**, **Leila Alejandra Reyes**, **Rebecca Gail Reyes**, **Jayson Matthew Rivera**, **Tai Heaven Robinson**, **Arelly Clarita Rodriguez**, **Rodrin Thomas Rodriguez**, **Scarlett Rodriguez**, **Mia Nicole Sanchez**, **Kamryn Taylor Sandoval**, **Marlenie Sandoval** and **Eric Silva**.

Sebastian Solis

Alison Esteyns Soriano Gonzalez, **Mario Alberto Torres**, **John Hoang Tran**, **Parker Minhquoc Tran**, **Emily Isabel Trevino**, **Elias Emanuel Varela**, **Juan Bernardo Vega**, **Kevin Ladi-mir Velasquez**, **Alice Yetzany Villa**, **Vanessa Wu**, **David Zavala** and **Keyla Norelys Zeledon Moreno**.

Young Professionals SE Toastmasters meets Jan. 20

The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club is open to everyone in the community who wants to practice communication skills in a friendly atmosphere.

The group meets every Monday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, located at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., adjacent to the fire department.

The next meeting is Monday, Jan. 20.

For more information, call Karen at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn at 832-372-3565 or visit <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>.

Meador announces good character recipients



Meador Elementary announced its second nine-weeks good character recipients. One student was selected per classroom for displaying excellent character and kindness and received a certificate during the awards program Jan. 10. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) kindergarteners **Terrance Morris**, **Elijah Martinez**, **Gwen Bounds**, **Alexander Zarate**, **Dylan Mendoza**, (back row) second-graders **Ethan Mancillas**, **Aidan Saucedo**, **Mateo Vela**, **Skylar**

O'Rourke, **Miguel Torres**, first-graders **Sreyphich Nou**, **Renesmee Nanez**, **Nathalie Mai**, **Giselle Cammack** and **Alexa Modragon**. Shown below are, left to right, fourth-graders **Ariana Espinoza**, **Emilio Zavala**, **Tahirah Rasheed**, **Helen Hernandez**, **Joseph Rodriguez**, third-graders **Solach Deleon Cordova**, **Jose Jaime**, **Gregory McNeil**, **Cesar Gonzalez** and **Symphony Rentz**.

Photos by Tara Merida



Frazier Elementary lists honor, merit rolls

Frazier Elementary announced perfect attendance, honor roll and merit roll for the second nine weeks.

Pre-K

Perfect attendance
Cooper Azzam, **Ava Boone**, **Simone Boutte**, **Aaban Farzam**, **Laura Love Mejia**, **Javari Nelson** and **Natalia Oke**.

Kindergarten

Perfect attendance
Sofia Contreras, **Jaxon Jimenez**, **Juan Mejorado**, **Jorge Sanchez**.

First grade

Perfect attendance
Mason Aguirre, **Adrian Assed**, **Logan Betancourt**, **Natalia Betancourt**, **Tyler Bowers**, **Juliana Guerra**, **Adelyn Guillen**, **Carlisle Hutchinson**, **Joseph Ortega**, **Arlette Pulido**, **Piper Stokes**, **Troy Truong** and **Jayden Turcios**.

Second grade

Perfect attendance
Roselin Aleman, **Miguel Armenta**, **Conner Ball**, **Aizik Chiovaro**, **Anthony Ferrufino**, **Grace Flynn**, **Alizia Gonzalez**, **Isabella Guillen**, **Athena Hernandez**, **Bella Longoria**, **Emily Martinez**, **Mia Martinez**, **Tijuana McCline**, **Melanie Rico**, **Kobe Rodriguez**, **London Rodriguez**, **Brianna Sanchez**, **Kyle Sciba**, **Aiza Shaikh**, **Sophia Tervino**, **Emare Washington**, **Lucian Williams** and **Kaylee Yaguas**.

Third grade

Perfect attendance
Emily Armenta, **Alexandra Betancourt**, **Louis Betancourt**, **Nevaeh Bumgarner**, **Emily Campos**, **Ben Carter**, **Antonio Castorela**, **Ashar Faizan**, **Gisselle Flores**, **Scarlette Garcia**, **Serenity Horton**, **Jhosua Lobo**, **Simon Nguyen**, **Dezaray Olivares**, **Angelica Pena**, **Noah Perales**, **Zion Taylor**, **Blake Turnipsed** and **Abram Wright**.

Honor roll

Emily Armenta, **Alexandra Arnes**, **Gisselle Flores**, **Amado Lopez**, **Simon Nguyen** and **Blake Turnipsed**.

Merit roll

Nevaeh Bumgarner, **Ashar Faizan**, **Emma Gurrusquieta**, **Izaiah Rivas** and

Abram Wright.

Fourth grade

Perfect attendance
Joan Alvarenga, **Jasmine Brown**, **Yaszlyn Brown**, **Israel Antu**, **Annalee Castillo**, **Ava Castillo**, **Annalise Chavez**, **David Corral**, **Melanie Crain**, **Sara Eschete**, **Jazlyn Esparza**, **Angel Ferrufino**, **Leisy Flores**, **Gracie Giang**, **Ezekiel Guzman**, **Alyzza Hernandez** and **Jadyn Jaso**.

Ray Longoria

Monserat Marquez, **Jordan Mata**, **Emme Mejia**, **Kingston Mitchell**, **Moses Monarez**, **Ronaldo Montalvo**, **Hazel Nino**, **Bryan Ojeda**, **Taylor Palacios**, **Damian Paz**, **Adam Pulido**, **Alfredo Ramirez**, **Yulianna Ramirez**, **Angel Reyes**, **Shaila Rivera**, **Haley Rodriguez** and **Daila Valdez**.

Honor roll

Gracie Giang, **Sasha Lewis**, **Trace Parker**, **Erika Rivera**, **Noah Rodriguez** and **Bella Sherwood**.

Merit roll

Jordan Garcia, **Caleb Johnson**, **Emme Mejia**, **Moses Monarez**, **Savannah Mueller** and **Jacob Ordenez**.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

The fifth-grade pod of Burnett Elementary School was damaged by fire.

South Belters breathed a sigh of relief after three continuous days of rain finally stopped. No flooding inside homes was reported.

Students at Stuchbery Elementary

remained outside for more than an hour while police checked for a bomb after the school received a phone call stating that a bomb had been placed in the school. No bomb was found and the children finished the regular school day.

Spring registration at San Jacinto College South was expected to reach more than 1,200.

35 years ago (1985)

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at 11555 Beamer Road where the new offices of the *South Belt Leader* and *South Belt Graphics* and Printing would be located. Additional offices in the building would be leased to M & M Graphics, Tebco Co. and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Construction was expected to be complete by mid-April.

A quarter-mile jogging trail

at Sagemeadow Park was nearing completion. The \$12,710 trail was designed by the county and paid for by the Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee.

Construction of two additional lanes for Beamer Road

between Scarsdale Boulevard and the South Bend subdivision was set to be underway by June 1986.

The completion of Fuqua from the Gulf Freeway to Old Galveston Road was underway and expected to be complete by midyear.

30 years ago (1990)

Pasadena Independent School District expelled 11 Thompson Intermediate students for the sale, distribution and use of LSD on school district property.

Dobie High senior Jeremy Craft and sophomore **Zach Burton** earned spots on the University Interscholastic League All-State Choir.

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency

spoke to about 400 residents at a public meeting about the Brio site.

25 years ago (1995)

The **Dobie High School Academic Decathlon** team was headed to state finals after winning regionals in La Porte.

Marie Flickinger was one of two top vote-getters in the race to replace longtime San Jacinto regent **Charles Ray Ogden**.

Dobie High School junior Heather Ogilvie

was fourth runner-up in the Miss Teen Texas USA Pageant.

EPA filed a multimillion-dollar suit

against 22 companies to recoup cleaning up costs of a 10-acre site

on Conklin by South Belt and I-45.

City Council approved an \$80,000 traffic study within the boundaries of Dixie Farm Road on the east, Highway 35 on the west, FM 518 on the South and Blackhawk/Beamer on the north.

15 years ago (2005)

Former Tonight Show band leader **Doc Severinsen** visited San Jacinto College South campus' music department. Professional trumpet players were able to play Severinsen's trumpet, **Destino**, at the invitation-only event.

Harris County officials met to finalize plans for two South Belt roadway connections. **Blackhawk Boulevard** was designated to be extended from Scarsdale Boulevard to Dixie Farm Road and Scarsdale would be extended westward to connect with Yost Road.

The Rev. Gordon Berg

and wife **Pat**, founders of Action Ministries, assisted victims of the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami in Indonesia by collecting and shipping food to that country.

10 years ago (2010)

A benefit held to aid **John Elam** in his fight against cancer was a huge success, raising nearly \$50,000. Roughly 550 people showed up to support the 1985 **Dobie** graduate and football star in his effort to raise money for further treatment. In a moment of generosity, 1983

Dobie graduate and former student athletic trainer **Ken Simmons** purchased **Elam's** autographed Texas A&M football jersey for \$4,000, then returned it to him. Sadly, event organizer **Hugh Lazenberry** was unable to attend the event due to a sudden illness.

Derek Fitzhenry gained Pasadena Independent School District board approval and was formally introduced as **Dobie's** new head football coach/campus athletic coordinator. **Fitzhenry** had most recently led the **Giddings High School** program.

5 years ago (2015)

Beverly Hills Intermediate celebrated its 50th anniversary Jan. 16 with a banquet at the area school that was attended by dozens of current and former staff members, students and community members. All four of the campus' surviving principals were in attendance.

An off-duty police officer shot and killed a man Jan. 16 after he allegedly pointed a gun at the officer outside **Bombshells Restaurant** and **Bar** on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua. Police said the victim had been kicked out of the restaurant earlier for fighting with other patrons.

1 year ago (2019)

A man was fatally shot the morning of Sunday, Jan. 13, in the 110 block of East Edgebrook Drive. **Frank Kelley** was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police,

officers responded to a person-down call at the above address and found the victim lying face down on the sidewalk near apartment building No. 8. **Houston Fire Department** paramedics subsequently pronounced him deceased from gunshot wounds. No immediate arrests were made.

A man was shot during a robbery the evening of Thursday, Jan. 10, in the 11400 block of Sagedeck. The victim, **Nestor Duenez**, 18, told police he had arranged a meeting with someone he met on the software app OfferUp to sell them a TV and a pair of Air Jordan shoes. During the transaction, however, the buyer, a Hispanic male known only as King, produced a pistol and shot Duenez in the face and leg. No immediate arrests were made.

A driver was killed in an accident the night of Saturday, Jan. 12, in the 14100 block of the Gulf Freeway (between Scarsdale Boulevard and Astoria). **Larry Cortez**, 50, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Cortez was driving a black Ford F-150 pickup truck south at the above address when he apparently lost control of the vehicle. The pickup truck spun around and struck a concrete pillar before stopping on the service road. No other individuals or vehicles were involved in this incident.

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Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center

U.S. Marshal Gary Blankinship retires after 40 years

Local businessman and law enforcement officer, Gary Blankinship who is known as a legendary Texas lawman, officially retired last week after 40 years of service to law enforcement. Gary had been confirmed by President Barack Obama in February 2014 to serve as United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas. Obama called Blankinship an accomplished law enforcement officer with tremendous dedication and tenacity: "Throughout his distinguished career, Blankinship has served his country with great courage and commitment," said Obama. "It is my honor to nominate him to continue protecting the American people as a United States Marshal." Blankinship, who was employed by the Houston Police Department from 1982-2012, continuously worked his way through the ranks to the position of Senior Police Officer. Blankinship was also employed by the Harris County Sheriff's office. He has served as vice president for the National Association of Police Organizations and was the longtime president of the Houston Police Officer's Union. Born in Houston, Blankinship currently lives in Pasadena, with his wife, Lisa. Blankinship is shown here with Emory Gadd, far left and Fred Roberts, far right.



PISD Athletics Hall of Fame inductees named

Continued from Page 1A
Gulf Coast Scholastic Track Coaches Association in 2009.

T.J. Mills – football coach (1977-2005)

As head coach of the Sealy Tiger football team, T.J. Mills became one of only two 11-man coaches in Texas HS football history to lead a team to four straight state titles from 1993 to 1997. The Tigers were 63-1 during that time, with a streak of 24-straight playoff victories. The four-peat consecutive winning streak produced 20 first-team All-State players. His Sealy team reached the title game again in 1999. Mills coached the Tigers for 14 years before moving on to Odessa HS and then La Porte HS. While Mills retired in 2005, he continued to earn multiple accolades including Coach of the Year by the Texas Sports Writers Association, also a four-peat victory. He was later enshrined in the Texas High School Coaches Association's Hall of Honor in 2014. Mills graduated from Pasadena High School in 1972 and played quarterback, receiver and defensive lineman on the football team, in addition to basketball. He married his high school sweetheart and classmate Becky Chambers Mills.

Wilburn Raby – track coach (1952-1980)

Wilburn "Willy" Raby coached track and cross-country in Pasadena ISD for 27 years. While growing up in Corsicana, he played football and basketball during high school. After bravely serving in the Navy during World War II, he attended Navarro College and Daniel Baker College, playing football for both schools. Raby went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sam Houston State and began his Pasadena ISD coaching career in 1953 with a two-year stint at Jackson Junior High. Raby spent 14 years as the head track and cross-country coach at Sam Rayburn High School, leading the Texans to two district titles and one regional team title.

Bryan Willingham – football (Pasadena, Class of 1971)

Bryan Willingham, a graduate of Pasadena High School, was the go-to receiver for the Eagles football team. While playing in the 1971 Texas Coaches Association All-Star Game, Willingham set a record with 11 catches for 166 yards and three touchdown grabs. After high school graduation, Willingham attended the University of Houston and lettered for three years as a receiver. He performed exceptionally well during his junior year of college, catching an impressive 83-yard touchdown pass and completing 16 catches for 328 yards.

Marlen Esparza – boxing (Pasadena, Class of 2007)

Marlen Esparza is a barrier-breaking Olympic boxer who won the bronze

medal in the Women's Flyweight Division at the 2012 Olympics in London. Esparza graduated from Pasadena High School in 2007, where she ran cross-country, participated in swimming and competed in debate. As a high school junior, Esparza won the bronze medal in the 2006 Women's World Boxing Championships. Today, she is an undefeated boxer with Golden Goy Productions and is a member of the PHS Alumni Hall of Honor.

Steve Prentice – swimming (South Houston, Class of 1970)

Steve Prentice is a graduate of South Houston High School's class of 1970. While attending SHHS, Prentice lettered in swimming all four years, earned All-American honors and was elected as the president of his senior class. After graduation, Prentice attended Texas A&M and quickly became known as one of the Southwest Conference's most accomplished swimmers. He qualified for the NCAA meet in each of his four years attending A&M, served as the team's captain for three seasons and set school records for three individual events.

Ron Schroeder – golf (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1975)

Ron Schroeder is a stand-out golfer who has played in amateur and professional leagues. During his high school career, Schroeder was known as the district's top golfer and he was the Pasadena ISD individual champion, district champion and an all-city honoree. As an amateur, Schroeder won the Greater Houston Amateur Championship five times. While playing professionally, he has won multiple tournaments and was named the Southern Texas PGA senior player of the year in 2017. In 2018, he won the Texas open and in April of 2019, he won the PGA's Senior Series for the second time.

Bo Snelson – football (Memorial, Class of 2009)

Bo Snelson lettered in football, track and baseball before graduating in 2009 from Pasadena Memorial.

Genoa announces honor, merit rolls

Genoa Elementary officials announced the 2019-2020 second nine-weeks honor and merit rolls.

Third grade

Brittney Donovan's class
Honor roll

Valeria Galan, Eli Mendoza and Nataly Salinas.

Katie Dunagan's class
Merit roll

Latifah Meite, Andrea Sanchez, Sophia Serafine and Alexander Trejo.

Maria Duran
Merit roll

Santiago Vega.

Cassy Horton's class
Honor roll

Imelda Lopez.

Merit roll
Suzanna Moreno.

After his senior season of football, he was named an Old Spice Red Zone National Player of the Year, a title given to only 50 players throughout the U.S. Snelson attended the United States Naval Academy after graduating from high school and was the team captain of the football team, where he was known for his leadership skills, as well as, his statistical contributions. After receiving his commission, Snelson graduated from the Marine Corps Officer's School and he now serves as a Series Commander and Infantry Officer for the Marine Corps in San Diego.

Snelson family/Billie M. Snelson (deceased), sons Andy and John

Billie M. Snelson – former basketball and volleyball coach

Billie M. Snelson graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1948, where she received her bachelor's degree in education. She played basketball at Oklahoma Baptist University, using that background to coach basketball, plus volleyball during her 31-year-long career in Pasadena ISD.

Andy Snelson – football (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1974)

Andy Snelson, a graduate of Sam Rayburn High School, was an All-State sprinter in track and three-year letterman in football, earning multiple All-District awards. Andy's record-breaking 9.4 seconds in the 100-yard dash and 21.6 seconds in the 220-yard dash are still among the top in Pasadena ISD history. At Sam Rayburn, he was coached by Odell Harrison and soon-to-be PISD Hall of Famer Wilburn "Willy" Raby. Coach Raby enjoyed taking his 1973 and 1974 track team all over the state, showcasing the talents of his boys.

After graduation, Snelson attended the University of Houston, where he sprinted for coach Johnny Morris and Tom Tellez. He also attended Odessa College for one year under coach James Segrest. Due to injuries, Snelson never finished

Fourth grade

Imelda Barragan's class
Honor roll

Kevin Arana and Natalia Guzman.

Leslie Foster's class
Honor roll

Brian Dao, Brandon Ingersoll, Giselle Martinez and Thanh Tran.

Merit roll
Alyssa San Miguel.

Elena Pantoja's class
Honor roll

Riley Blakely.

Merit roll
Van Tran.

Steven Sawyer's class
Honor roll

Flint Gardner Jr.

Merit roll
Emiry Rodgers.

his career at University of Houston. He is now retired and resides in Pasadena.

John Snelson – football/baseball (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1986)/ Memorial football coach

John Snelson's Pasadena roots run deep. He graduated from Sam Rayburn High School with an impressive high school football résumé. Coached under Charlie Lyles, John became one of the football program's top players, starting three years. A four-year letterman in baseball, John was also a member of Rayburn's 1985 baseball team that played for the Class 5A state championship under head coach Al Campo. From the gridiron to the sidelines, John channeled his experiences as a standout athlete into his coaching. He joined the Memorial Mavs' coaching staff as the team's defensive coordinator during the football program's inaugural year in 2003.

In 2006, Tom Ed Gooden stepped down from his head coaching position at Memorial and John filled in. With John at the helm, Pasadena Memorial's football program was the first to advance to the third round of the playoffs for a district title since the 1960s in 2007, falling to Katy in the Class 5A Division II regional semifinals. Memorial won their first district championship in 2009, going 6-1 in district 22-5A after winning against Pearland and La Porte. In 2006, John joined

the Dickinson Gators football program as head coach, where he's tallied 112-55, some of the most wins in Gator history.

Melillo Middle donates to Christmas program



Melillo Middle school students donated toys and food to South Belt-Ellington Leader to help local families this Christmas season. Shown are, left to right, (first row) Ilyena Lindberg, Christopher Vu, Julian Acevedo, Mia Bella Garza, Ava Hernandez, Fernando Vargas, Adrian Corral, Abigail Gutierrez, sixth grade teacher, Jessica Adamek (second row) Samuel Lopez, Emily Golenko, Daniel Soto, Daniel Ngyuen, Edgardo Mateo, Kian Ton (third row) Ava Richardson, Blessing Akinloye, Makayla St. Romain, Jaslynn Chavez, Kylie Campos, Jalen Tran, Mahika Singh (fourth row) Alonzo Chapman and Jaiden Flores.

AARP announces upcoming meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes everyone to attend the upcoming meeting Friday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m., at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook. The meeting will be held in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

The community is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. The program will be "Options for Senior Care" presented by Heartis Assisted Living facility, CarePatrol senior housing placement advisors, and A*Med home health care provider. The presentation will begin at 10:30 a.m. after the Chapter business meeting ends. There will not be a potluck lunch after the meeting.

If anyone is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP.

For more information, contact Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417 or lynne_justis@yahoo.com.

BHI collects coins for Christmas



During the Christmas season, Beverly Hills Intermediate students raised \$750 through Coins for Christmas to benefit the South Belt community. Shown are (front row) Z'nyiah Riggs, Khaden Davis, Aaliyah

Martinez, (back row) Arwen Cardona, Danilo Moran, AJ Silva, Fernando Morales, Jorge Jasso, Mariyah Elkins and Alan Flores.

Photo by Berenice Mejia

Genoa Elementary officials announced the 2019-2020 second nine-weeks honor and merit rolls.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Beverly Hills Civic Club meets

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will meet Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bracewell Library, 9002 Kingsport Dr.

All Beverly Hills subdivision residents are urged to attend.

Theta clash leads to nonfatal gunfire

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man that occurred around 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, in the 2200 block of Theta Street near Edgebrook Drive.

The victim, Israel Gamboa, 19, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

According to police, Gamboa, along with 10 to 15 other people, got into a fight in the street at the above address. During the fight, multiple

gunshots were fired, one of which struck Gamboa in the leg.

At press time, there was no known suspect in the shooting.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800.

Informants may also call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Car smashes through Donut Haven



A car smashed through the front of Donut Haven at the intersection of Beamer and Hughes the evening of Thursday, Jan. 2. The driver of the vehicle reportedly fled the scene, marking the second hit-and-run accident to take place at the intersection in a two-week period. A vehicle suspected of being involved in the crash was towed from the adjacent town homes, but at press time, it was unclear if any arrests had been made.

Photo courtesy of People of Sagemont Facebook page

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Sunday 7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.
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Sunday School • 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service • 9:00 a.m. Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Nursery Available at all Services

South Belt Leader looks back on 2019 high, low points

Continued from Page 1A

ner's office. This marked the second time in less than a month that human remains were discovered in the South Belt area. It is unclear if the two incidents were related.

Aug. 8
Thunderstorms brought strong winds to the South Belt area, causing extensive damage in the community. A wind advisory was put in place for the Houston area, as wind gusts reached up to 40 mph.

Clear Creek ISD announced a significant compensation package for its nearly 5,000 employees. The package included a 4 percent to 9.49 percent pay raise for classroom teachers, counselors, librarians and nurses; competitive hourly rate for school bus drivers; an increase in the district's contribution to employee health care premiums; and an across-the-board 3.5 percent increase for all other employees.

Aug. 15
On Wednesday, Aug. 14, deputies with the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office discovered a man sleeping in a stolen vehicle in the 10100 block of Sageglow. Edgar Tower was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, having an outstanding felony warrant for possession of a controlled substance in Galveston County and other misdemeanor warrants from Friendswood and League City.

Aug. 22
South Belt students returned to school, with both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD starting classes on Monday, Aug. 19. Lutheran South Academy students began school on Wednesday, Aug. 14 and San Jacinto College began classes on Monday, Aug. 26.

A lightning bolt sparked a fire at an apartment complex in the 10300 block of Alameda Genoa Road near the Gulf Freeway Wednesday, Aug. 14. In all, eight units were damaged, leaving 10 people homeless. One female resident was transported to the hospital for health problems associated with smoke inhalation. One firefighter was also treated on scene for possible heat exhaustion and dehydration, and transported to the hospital as a precaution. Firefighters were able

to contain the fire to one side of the building. Damage was estimated at \$200,000.

Aug. 29
On Wednesday, Aug. 21, a security guard was injured in a shootout outside of a restaurant near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway while trying to break up a domestic disturbance. Houston police responded to the incident in front of Jabastian's Mexican Cuisine to find Anthony Lee Reyes, 30, shot in the leg. According to police, Reyes had observed a male suspect choking a female in the parking lot. When Reyes went to the female's aid, the male suspect fired multiple shots at him, striking him once in the leg. The couple then fled the scene in a pickup truck to a nearby apartment complex, where the male suspect unsuccessfully fired shots at another man. Reyes was transported to the hospital in stable condition. Police identified David J. Spears as the male suspect. Spears, 27, was charged with three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one count each of deadly conduct and a felon in possession of a firearm.

Sept. 5
San Jacinto College opened its new Center for Petrochemical, Energy and Technology. Located on the college's central campus, the new facility will provide workforce training for the area's growing petrochemical industry. With 151,000 square feet of instructional space, the center is the largest petrochemical training facility in the Gulf Coast region. The \$60 million facility was funded by the college's \$425 million 2015 bond referendum.

Sept. 12
A man was shot during a robbery Monday, Sept. 9, in the 10500 block of Thornlea. The victim, Hugo Parra, 18, was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening wounds. According to witnesses, three suspects fled the scene following the shooting. No immediate arrests were made.

Sept. 19
The South Belt community was spared the brunt of Tropical Storm Imelda. Rains associated with the storm, however, caused street flooding and school closures. While some predictions called for the area to

receive as much as 12 inches of rain, county officials said the actual amount was only about half that. The incident marked the first named storm to strike the Houston area since Hurricane Harvey in August 2017.

Burnett Elementary received a library makeover from stars of the hit HGTV Property Brothers. The brothers, Drew and Jonathan Scott, unveiled Burnett's new library during a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Sept. 12. The school was selected from 15,000 applicants, including 150 Texas schools, nationwide for the library renovation. Sponsored by Heart of America, HarperCollins and Kohl's, the renovation included a collaborative learning theater, 700 new library books, a check-in area and a Lego wall. Each student received two books. The brothers selected Burnett for showing "heart" during Hurricane Harvey and creating a safe space for students and their families whose homes were underwater.

Sept. 26
Former Dobie student Jourdan Ellison was charged with capital murder for the fatal Sept. 4 shooting of Christian Lezama at his apartment in the 1800 block of St. Joseph Parkway. Investigators determined robbery to be the motive. According to multiple witnesses, Ellison, 17, pulled a gun on Lezama, 19, and demanded his necklace and diamond-plated teeth. When Lezama refused, he was fatally shot. Ellison most recently attended class at The Summit, Pasadena ISD's alternative school.

On Friday, Sept. 20, at the Lutheran South Academy football game against Brookshire Royal, Beau Psencik and Francesca Scotto were crowned LSA's 2019 Homecoming king and queen.

Oct. 3
The Pasadena ISD board of trustees was recognized as the Region 4 Outstanding School Board of the Year and as a top-five school board in the state of Texas. Board members include Jack Bailey, vice president; Marshall Kendrick, board president; Kenny Fernandez, secretary; Vickie Morgan, assistant secretary; Mariselle Quijano, board member; Nelda Sullivan, board member; and Fred Roberts, board member. Javier Martinez and Char-

lize Tamayo were crowned Dobie High School's 2019 Homecoming king and queen.

Oct. 10
The body of a male was found floating in a detention pond outside Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital Tuesday, Oct. 8. The man was later identified as Alan Montes, 27. While initially investigated as a possible homicide, the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences determined the cause of Montes' death was accidental drowning. Montes was not a patient at the hospital.

A 12-year-old child was shot early Sunday, Oct. 6, in a possible road rage incident on the service road in the 10500 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook. The victim was transported to an area hospital in stable condition, with a gunshot wound to his leg. According to police, the victim was a passenger inside a truck traveling north on the Gulf Freeway service road approaching Edgebrook when a red sedan pulled alongside the truck. The driver of the sedan pointed a gun at the truck and fired several shots into the passenger side of the vehicle, striking the victim. The suspect fled the scene to the east on Edgebrook. No immediate arrests were made.

Oct. 17
Former Dobie student Kenneth A. Howery assumed the position of U.S. ambassador to Sweden. Howery attended Stuchbery Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate, before entering Dobie High School, where he graduated in 1994. While at Dobie, Howery earned the titles of valedictorian and drum major, among many other honors. In 2013, Howery was inducted into the Dobie High School Hall of Honor. Following graduation, Howery attended Stanford University, where he earned a degree in economics in 1998. Howery remained in Silicon Valley and went on to become one of the cofounders of PayPal, where he worked alongside such notable colleagues as Peter Thiel and Elon Musk. After PayPal was acquired by eBay, Howery cofounded Founders Fund, a venture capital firm in San Francisco. Founders Fund has invested in such notable technology firms as Facebook, Airbnb, Spotify, Lyft and SpaceX.

Howery resigned from his position at Founders Fund after taking on his new role as ambassador. The role had been vacant since Trump became president in January 2017. The absence of such a diplomat is somewhat historic, as Sweden has not been without a U.S. ambassador in the last century.

Oct. 24
A local panhandler dubbed the "Gas Can Man" was arrested again Wednesday, Oct. 16, this time on a felony charge of assaulting an officer. The incident came just 12 days after Luz Alfred Garcia, 29, was previously arrested for obstructing a roadway. Both arrests were featured on local news outlets. Garcia has become somewhat of a local celebrity in recent years in the South Belt community, as his Gas Can Man persona has become a hot topic on social media, with one Facebook page even being established to track his location and share photos. The page has nearly 4,000 likes.

Oct. 31
A man was fatally shot Thursday, Oct. 24, in the 7900 block of Glenheath. Brandon Savoie was found dead in the front yard of the aforementioned address when police arrived. He had been shot several times. No immediate arrests were made.

Nov. 7
The results from the City of Houston were tallied, with many races then headed to a Dec. 14 runoff. In the city's mayoral race, incumbent Sylvester Turner received 47 percent of the vote to second-place finisher Tony Buzbee's 28 percent. In the race to fill Dwight Boykins' vacant District D City Council seat, Carolyn Shabazz and Brad "Scarface" Jordan headed to a runoff after Shabazz received 17 percent of the vote to Jordan's 15 percent. While she made a strong third-place showing in a crowded field of 11, South Belt resident Ericka McCutcheon was unsuccessful in her bid to become the At-Large Position 4 City Council member, losing to candidates Anthony Dolcefino and Nick Hellyar, who advanced to the December runoff.

Nov. 14
Atkinson Elementary celebrated its 50th anniversary with a presentation at the

area campus. The school first opened its doors in 1969, named after a father-and-son team of former Pasadena ISD board members, Delbert Ellsworth "D.E." Atkinson and Delbert Leroy Atkinson, respectively. Hollis Powell served as the school's first principal, holding the position for 26 years until current principal Lena Rohne assumed the position in 1995. Atkinson was one of the first three Pasadena ISD schools to have a media center in its school library and one of the first four elementary campuses in the district to have a gym.

San Jacinto College was named as one of the top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges. Awarded every two years since 2011, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions based on strong and improving student outcomes, including learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings and equity. Only 15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the prestigious honor.

Nov. 21
Dr. John D. Morgan, senior pastor of Sagemont Church, delivered his last regularly scheduled sermon Sunday, Nov. 24. A 1959 Pasadena High School graduate, Morgan transformed the once-small Sagemont ministry into one of the largest and most influential faith institutions in the state. Under Dr. Morgan's direction, Sagemont has been a frequent partner with local schools and other entities and has served as a headquarters for the American Red Cross during storms and other emergencies, and has provided shelter for hundreds of families during times of need. A massive expansion at Sagemont under Morgan's direction included the installation of a 170-foot, 90-ton cross on the church's property that is seen by more than 1,000,000 people each week. The expansion also included the construction of a new \$29 million worship center and adult education facility. Like all Sagemont projects, the new building was constructed debt-free. Sagemont's

buildings and property are valued at more than \$50 million. Morgan has served on numerous boards ranging from the chairman of trustees at Houston Baptist University to president of the Texas Baptist Pastor's Conference. In 2005, Morgan was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and in 2013, he was named Pasadena Independent School District's Distinguished Alumnus.

Nov. 28
Several local police departments joined Tuesday, Nov. 26, at South Houston Nissan to distribute Thanksgiving meals to roughly 1,000 area families in need. Participating in the event were the Houston Police Department, the Pasadena Police Department, the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the University of Houston Police Department. Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office also took part in the event.

Dec. 5
On Monday, Dec. 2, the infamous local panhandler known as the "Gas Can Man" was found guilty of the Oct. 16 assault of a peace officer and sentenced to two years in prison. A second charge of evading arrest was dismissed.

Dec. 12
Houston Police Department Sgt. Christopher Brewster, a former longtime South Belt resident, was killed in the line of duty Saturday, Dec. 7. According to investigators, Brewster, 32, was responding to a domestic disturbance call around 5:45 p.m. in the 7400 block of Avenue L when a male suspect shot him multiple times. He was transported to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. A 2006 Dobie graduate, Brewster graduated from the Houston Police Department Academy in November 2010. In his nine years of service, he was assigned to the Southeast Patrol Division, Gang Division and Major Offenders Division. He was promoted to sergeant in February 2019 and was assigned to the East-side Patrol Division. Arturo Solis, 25, was charged with capital murder of a police officer in the crime. Former South Belt resident Thi Nguyen hosted her

third annual Christmas festival for local students, this year at Dobie High School Saturday, Dec. 7. An online toy blogger known to many as Princess T. Nguyen was inspired to host the yearly event after local residents helped her family following the May 2000 death of her sister Jennie Nguyen.

Dec. 19
Votes from the Dec. 14 City of Houston runoff elections have been counted, with Mayor Sylvester Turner easily defeating challenger Tony Buzbee. Turner

received 56 percent of the vote to Buzbee's 44 percent. In the District D City Council race, Carolyn Evans-Shabazz handily defeated Brad "Scarface" Jordan, receiving 62 percent of the vote to Jordan's 38 percent.

Dec. 26
The Leader's 37th annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to nearly 70 area families in need. Schools, businesses and residents stepped up to the plate, making 2019's drive one of the most successful in the event's history.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Longhorns' basketball programs stand firm in standings; CB boys, too

With the District 22-6A varsity boys' and girls' basketball races basically at the halfway point, the Dobie squads are very much in the thick of things where it relates to the playoffs.

Both the Dobie boys and the Lady Longhorns

enjoyed a bye in the schedule Jan. 14, with tremendously challenging games coming Jan. 17 against a pair of state-ranked Summer Creek teams.

At this point, head coach Jasmine Hartman's Lady Longhorn squad is performing very well with a 17-8 overall record, including a 6-2 mark in league play.

Yes, the Lady Longhorns fell short against Atascocita (8-0) and Summer Creek (8-1), but the Lady Longhorns remain a half game ahead of Humble to hang on to third place in the standings.

Dobie's 57-26 win over Memorial closed out the first half of play in the district as the Lady Mavericks were held to just eight field goals in the game.

With now half of the race to be completed, it would take a monumental swing in the standings to keep the four aforementioned teams from advancing to the postseason as fourth-place Humble has a two-game edge over Kingwood.

Meanwhile, the Dobie varsity boys' team is looking very much like it wants to make a late push. At 5-2 with that tough game coming at Summer Creek Jan. 17, the Longhorns are in a third-place tie with Kingwood following the Mustangs' loss to Atascocita.

On Jan. 10, the Longhorns handed Memorial a 55-38 loss as Jajuan Rob-

inson continued his strong season with 18 points on eight of 11 shooting.

Shannon Hayes came up with nine points as the Longhorns won easily despite making just three of 12 free throw tries.

To this point in the season, senior and four-year varsity letterman Marquice Scott continues to lead the team in scoring at 12.4 points per game, including 10 double digit games this season. Robinson has averaged almost nine points per game as the Longhorns have positioned themselves for a second-half run that they hope will lead to the postseason.

The Clear Brook boys are also in fine position as the District 24-6A race is in its infancy.

Continued on Page 6B

Lady Longhorns carry momentum as District 22-6A action draws near

Senior Victoria Chu stayed on her early season scoring tear, tallying four in both of the Lady Longhorns' wins at the Port Neches Cajun Classic Jan. 9-11.

Chu, who now has seven goals through two tournaments' worth of action, saved her best for last as she had a hat trick in the locals' 8-1 victory over Port Arthur Memorial Jan. 11 to wrap up play in the event. Freshman Karen Hernandez also had two goals in that one.

The Lady Longhorns, coming off a terrific weekend at the Waller ISD Classic to open the season, kept things going smoothly in the Cajun Classic opener with a tidy 3-0 victory over Dayton Jan. 9.

Chu had her fourth goal of the season and Jade Derobles and Marissa Maxwell had their firsts, respectively.

Sophomore goalkeeper McKenzie Rankins earned the win in the nets.

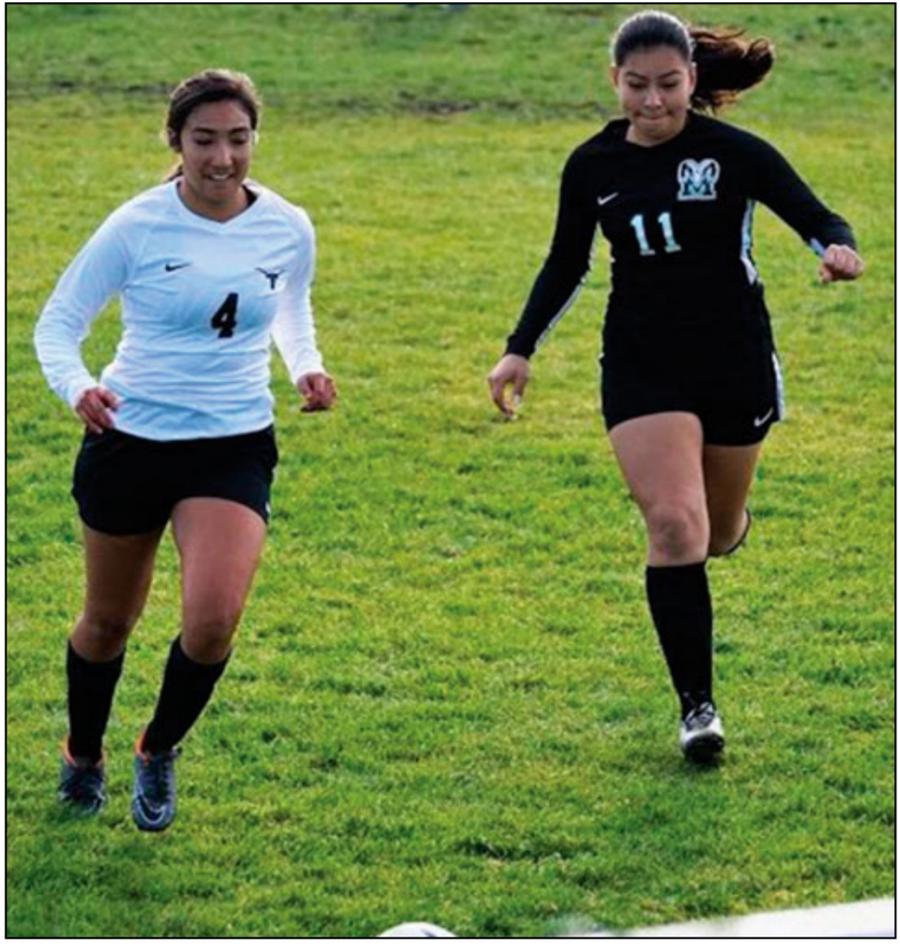
The Lady Longhorns then followed that win with separate 1-0 losses to Kelly Catholic and Magnolia before the bounce back against Port Arthur Memorial.

At 5-3-1 for the season

Continued on Page 6B

Dobie girls at Summer Creek
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Dobie boys host Summer Creek
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 5:30 p.m.
Veterans Stadium



Senior Tori Nunez (4) has been solid in the midfield and on the defensive end while helping the Lady Longhorns to a 5-3-1 record over the course of the first two weekend tournaments of the season. The Lady Longhorns will now take a break before the start of District 22-6A action later this month.

Dobie boys' soccer team unbeaten despite early formidable schedule

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Longhorn head coach Justo Manrique warns that no run of success lasts forever, but through the first two weekends of the high school soccer season, the varsity boys' soccer team has offered plenty to suggest that the 2020 league title in District 22-6A still runs through Dobie.

Going against three other playoff-tested programs at the Austin Lakes Elite Showcase Jan. 9-11, the Longhorns played McKinney Boyd and Lake Travis to ties before finishing out with a 3-1 win over Laredo LBJ.

Bear in mind, Dobie, the five-time defending District 22-6A champion under the direction of Manrique, shies away from no foe.

There was Region III heavyweight Tompkins the first week during the Pasadena ISD Cup. A schedule change at Austin Lakes then pitted Dobie with co-host Lake Travis, and then there was McKinney Boyd.

There are just seven seniors on the roster, and the goalkeeper is a sophomore, but the Longhorns will again head into league play in search of a sixth straight title with albeit incomplete yet impressive resume to boot.

Once again, several Longhorns scored goals as the locals kept playing well leading up to league play.

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JFD tennis starts spring

The routine pressure of the team tennis season will be absent, but that doesn't figure to take away from the Dobie varsity tennis team's determination and focus as the spring tournament season gets underway.

The Longhorns will be part of the Alvin Invitational (Jan. 17) and the Pearland Invitational (Jan. 24) to get things started.

The locals will also make trips to Corpus Christi, San Marcos, Beaumont and Galveston as the season continues.

Dobie fans will get a great chance to see the Longhorns in action Feb. 7-8 as the locals host the Pasadena ISD Franklin/Kramer Invitational across numerous sites, including

SBHLL continues registration

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League is conducting online registration as plans for the 2020 spring season continue to take shape.

The fee for registration in all but one of the age divisions is \$200 per player. Those wishing to play this season may complete the process online at <http://sbhll.ac> or Register.

The T-Ball division is open to those youth born between Sept. 1, 2013 and Aug. 31, 2015, while the Coach Pitch division is open to those born between Sept. 1, 2011 and Aug. 31, 2013.

The Minor division is available to those born between Sept. 1, 2009 and Aug. 31, 2011, with those born between Sept. 1, 2007 and Aug. 31, 2009 open to sign up in the Major division.

The Junior/Senior division is open to those born between Sept. 1, 2003 and Aug. 31, 2007.

SBHLL officials have also added a junior T-Ball division for those between Jan. 1, 2015 and Jan. 1, 2017 at a cost of \$125 per player.

In addition to online registration opportunities, league officials will also host in-person registration at the SBHLL facility at El Franco Lee Park. Those

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Brook volleyballers earn various honors

The 2019-2020 high school volleyball season has long since been completed, but deserving members of the Clear Brook varsity girls' program are still collecting honors.

Following arguably the program's best-ever season - the Lady Wolverines won their first-ever district championship - senior outside hitter Kailin Newsome was named the District 24-6A Most Valuable Player, having blasted 732 kills in her final season to snag the school's all-time kills lead.

Now, Newsome has not surprisingly been named a first team All Greater Houston pick, and she's also been named to the Greater Houston Volleyball Coaches Association's Class 6A Post-Season Team as well as the Texas Association of Volleyball Coaches All-Texas 6A Team, joining teammate Bella Lockwood.

As for the GHVCA 6A Post-Season squad, Newsome was joined by Lockwood as well as Lady Wolverine teammates Jaylin Aguirre and Kayleigh Schultz.

Newsome has signed to continue her education and play both indoor and beach volleyball at Southeastern Louisiana University, while Lockwood has signed with the University of Louisiana Monroe.

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Sports News, Notes

Cougar Elite 10U BBQ Jan. 25

The Houston Cougars Elite 10-under tournament football team will host a fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 25 to help with costs associated with travel to an event in February. Dobie High School graduates Kelton Bailey and Maurice Poullard are coaching the team along with several members of the Sagemont Cowboys staff. The Cougars will travel to San Antonio for a tournament Feb. 22-23. The barbecue fundraiser, including brisket sandwiches and the trimmings, will be held Jan. 25, beginning at noon at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road. For more information or preorders, call Poullard at 214-394-6797.

South Belt girls' softball sign-up

The South Belt Girls Softball Association is continuing registration for the 2020 spring season through Jan. 26, with in-person and online options available. The fee is \$80 per player with participation in the league's candy fundraiser, or \$140 per player to buy out of the fundraiser. Girls ages 4 to 16 as of Jan. 1, 2020 are eligible to compete in the league, and there are no residency restrictions. To register online, visit www.southbeltsoftball.com. Specifically, there is a waiting list for 10-U and 16-U, and there are remaining spots in the 6U, 8U and 12U divisions. There is also a need for a pitcher in the 16U division. Visit the league website for details.

UIL to reset realignment Feb. 3

Much anticipation will come to an end Monday, Feb. 3, at 9 a.m. as the University Interscholastic League will unveil its two-year reclassification and realignment for the sports of football, volleyball and boys' and girls' basketball. Both Clear Brook and Dobie are set to remain in the Class 6A ranks, with Dobie's student body total making it one of the state's largest high schools.

Will Dobie and the rest of the Pasadena ISD ranks continue to do battle with Humble ISD, or is North Shore joining the fray? What about Deer Park? Dawson and Pearland? Regardless of where Pasadena ISD is realigned the competition figures to be fierce. The same goes for Clear Brook, which will stay intact with the other Clear Creek ISD schools. Where will Dickinson go? Geographically speaking, there would seem to be limited choices where the Gators are concerned. Stay tuned for all of the news in the Feb. 6 issue.

Hurricanes' U17 place second at STYSA state championship



The U17 South Belt Hurricanes FC finished second at the South Texas Youth Soccer Association State Championship following an outstanding performance in the tournament. Members of the Hurricanes include, left to right, (front row) Natalie Powell, Fernanda Villalva, Katelyn Sadtler, Arely Labra, Karen Hernandez, Paola Pambo, Naylah Peña, Julie Garcia, (middle row) Allison McClanahan, Sara McKeown, Laura Diaz, Amelia Horsford, Callie Mohler, Lizbeth Caballero, Jennifer Lemus, Kailynn Andino, (back row) head coach Jerry Garcia, manager Mark Powell, Morgan Pullin, Ava McFadden and head trainer Juan Areguin.



Former Gator Soularie nets Perfect Game nod

Former San Jacinto College baseball standout Alerick Soularie, now a junior outfielder at the University of Tennessee, is one of the hottest names in Division I collegiate baseball as the season nears next month.

As a sophomore, Soularie hit .357 with a .602 slugging percentage, which included 13 doubles and 11 home runs.

He scored 52 runs and drove in 46 more, with 70 overall hits.

Following the season, Soularie earned numerous postseason honors, including first-team All-SEC recognition. He was also named a third-team All-American by D1Baseball.com and an All-America Honorable Mention by Perfect Game.

That same season as a freshman, Soularie was named a third team All-American in the Division I ranks. Despite being drafted in the 29th round by the St. Louis Cardinals, Soularie chose to play at least two seasons at Tennessee.

A Class of 2017 Atascocita High School graduate, Alerick Soularie helped lead the San Jacinto College baseball team to the 2018 National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I World Series before electing to continue his education and playing career at the University of Tennessee. Following a stellar sophomore campaign, Soularie is now considered one of the bright stars of the Division I collegiate baseball scene. *UT photo*

JFD's Perez picks Kutztown University golf



Dobie High School senior golfer Alexis Perez will continue her education and playing career at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa. after signing a letter of intent with the Golden Bears Dec. 14. Perez was the lone Pasadena ISD golfer to qualify for the Region III Championships last spring and is aiming to get back to that event later this season. Kutztown University competes in the NCAA Division II ranks and is part of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Son of Dobie grad helps in Air Force Cheez-It Bowl win



Christopher Herrera (above) had a tackle and contributed well on defense throughout the game as Air Force defeated Washington State 31-21 in the Cheez-It Bowl late last month in Phoenix. The sophomore graduated from Clear Creek High School and saw his most extensive action this sea-

son along the defensive front for the Falcons. Above, the Herrera family includes, left to right, Lisa Herrera (mother), Dobie graduate Chris Herrera (father) and Jacob Herrera (brother). Air Force also has junior Adam Jewell, son of Dobie graduate Rusty Jewell, on its roster. With the win over Washington State, Air Force finished the season at 11-2.

Clear Brook's Lake chooses A&M Kingsville basketball

At right, Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball player Veyda Lake (center) is set to continue her education and playing career at the University of Texas A&M Kingsville after signing a letter of intent with the Javelinas. She was joined at the signing by her parents, Mike Lake (left) and Kelly Lake (right). The four-year varsity letterwinner was an all-district performer for the Lady Wolverines as a junior and also led the team in numerous offensive categories. She has made the 24-6A all-district team twice for her play and is also a three-time 24-6A all-academic team member and twice a Superintendents' Scholar. Lake has also played summer basketball with both the Texas Lady Breakers and the Houston Skyrise Breakers. She plans to study architectural engineering at A&M Kingsville.



Brook graduate, USC Upstate assistant coach Young named a coaching hotshot

Clear Brook High School graduate and University of South Carolina Upstate assistant volleyball coach Crystal Young was named to the VolleyballMag.Com Under 40 Coaching Hotshots list.

"It is with great honor that I have received this national recognition from VolleyballMag.com for being one of the top coaches under 40 years

old," Young said. "In my short time at USC Upstate, I have been surrounded with an excellent student body, a staff that trusts in my abilities as a coach and leader and players that I have been so incredibly fortunate to be a part in their growth as athletes and people."

"I'm so excited for her because she is a young coach that has a wealth

of knowledge from both playing and learning from her different coaches," USC Upstate head volleyball coach Ronda Shirley said.

"Obviously, it puts us in a great position to have a coach of her caliber on our staff. She is able to relate to the players because she is not that far removed from her own playing days. It only puts us in a

position to be a successful program."

Young is one of two Big South assistants mentioned on the list and is one of three named from the state of South Carolina, joining South Carolina head coach Tom Mendoza and Winthrop assistant Becca Acevedo.

Young's former Colorado State teammate Adriana Culbert was also recog-

nized on this season's list. "Although I am very grateful and appreciative for these accolades that I have received, I have not done this alone," Young said.

"My mentor coach (Ronda) Shirley has played a huge role in my development, inspired me as a coach and encouraged me to continue to strive for excellence.

I hope to continue to

Region XIV Setter of the Year honors. Her 1,546 assists in 2013 were a school single-season record.

This past season on sidelines, Young assisted a pair of players to All-Big South honors. Emily Russell earned first team honors, while Gloria Ikenegbu earned second team recognition.

"Once again, thank you

for recognizing me and I can't wait to watch and be a part of all of the success USC Upstate will have moving forward," Young said.

A three-year varsity letterwinner at Clear Brook, Young was a first team all-district pick as a senior and was named the Setter of the Year in 24-6A under the tutelage of long-

time head coach Meredith Thompson.

A 2012 Clear Brook graduate, Young starred at Blinn before finishing her playing career at Colorado State.

She graduated from CSU with a degree in communication studies and spent her first season as a coach with USC Upstate working primarily

with the setters as well as specializing in floor defense.

USC Upstate produced an 8-19 record during the 2019 season as both Shirley and Young took part in their first seasons on the staff.

Looking ahead to the 2020 season, the USC Upstate roster lost just two seniors.

Pasadena ISD Girls' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 14, 2020

8A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Miller	3 0 0	6 0 0
Thompson	3 1 0	5 1 0
San Jacinto	1 2 0	3 3 0
Southmore	1 2 0	2 4 0
South Houston	0 3 0	1 5 0

Game Scores
Miller 39, San Jacinto 31
Thompson 62, Southmore 5
South Houston 30, Park View 19

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	3 1 0	3 3 0
Queens	3 0 0	5 1 0
Bondy	2 1 0	3 3 0
Jackson	0 3 0	1 5 0
Park View	0 3 0	1 5 0

Game Scores
Queens 12, Beverly Hills 4
Bondy 29, Jackson 8

8B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	4 0 0	6 0 0
San Jacinto	2 1 0	4 2 0
Southmore	1 2 0	3 3 0
Miller	1 2 0	3 3 0
South Houston	0 4 0	2 4 0

Game Scores
Thompson 42, Southmore 17
San Jacinto 25, Miller 20

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	3 0 0	4 2 0
Park View	2 1 0	5 1 0
Queens	2 1 0	2 4 0
Beverly Hills	1 3 0	1 5 0
Jackson	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Queens 11, Beverly Hills 6
Park View 22, South Houston 13
Bondy 29, Jackson 8

Pasadena ISD Girls' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 14, 2020

7A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	4 0 0	6 0 0
South Houston 2	1 0 0	5 1 0
San Jacinto	1 2 0	4 2 0
Southmore	1 2 0	3 3 0
Miller	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
San Jacinto 23, Miller 12
Thompson 35, Southmore 9
South Houston 32, Park View 4

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	3 0 0	5 1 0
Beverly Hills	3 1 0	4 2 0
Park View	1 2 0	2 4 0
Queens	1 2 0	1 5 0
Jackson	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Bondy 44, Jackson 11
Beverly Hills 14, Queens 13

7B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	3 1 0	5 1 0
San Jacinto	2 1 0	4 2 0
Miller	1 2 0	2 4 0
South Houston 1	2 0 0	4 2 0
Southmore	1 2 0	3 3 0

Game Scores
South Houston 26, Park View 10
Southmore 19, Thompson 18
San Jacinto 21, Miller 10

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	3 0 0	5 1 0
Queens	2 1 0	2 4 0
Beverly Hills	2 2 0	4 2 0
Jackson	1 2 0	1 5 0
Park View	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Beverly Hills 17, Queens 0
Bondy 31, Jackson 8



Crystal Young

grow from this and make our program proud. Being a part of this program means so much to me, it is very family-oriented and has helped me evolve tremendously on every level."

"I have seen her mature and I've seen her make that transition on how does she lead her team even when she is not on the court," Shirley stated.

"I have seen her develop through that this year, and it's been amazing to see that growth in her from taking those leadership skills from the court and to the sidelines. I'm just excited to see her grow as a coach."

As a player, Young, a Clear Brook High School standout in high school, played two seasons at Colorado State under head coach Tom Hilbert.

She appeared in 45 matches throughout her career as a Ram and compiled 675 assists.

Young averaged 5.36 assists per set. As a senior in 2015, Young recorded 634 assists, 187 digs and 18 service aces. She led the team in assists and was fourth in service aces. Her serve percentage of .952 that season tied for seventh-best in program history.

Young began her collegiate career at Blinn College in Brenham, helping the team to the 2013 NJCAA national championship with a 39-3 record.

She finished her career at Blinn with 2,367 assists which ranks second-most in school history. Young was a First Team NJCAA All-American and Second Team AVCA All-American while also garnering

Pasadena ISD Boys' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 14, 2020

8A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
South Houston 3	0 0 0	6 0 0
Thompson	3 1 0	5 1 0
San Jacinto	2 1 0	4 2 0
Miller	0 3 0	1 5 0
Southmore	0 3 0	2 4 0

Game Scores
Thompson 65, Southmore 33
South Houston 50, Park View 20
San Jacinto 39, Miller 18

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	4 0 0	6 0 0
Bondy	2 1 0	4 2 0
Queens	2 1 0	3 3 0
Jackson	0 3 0	0 6 0
Park View	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Beverly Hills 57, Queens 43
Bondy 48, Jackson 17

8B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	4 0 0	6 0 0
San Jacinto	2 1 0	4 2 0
South Houston 1	2 0 0	4 2 0
Miller	1 2 0	2 4 0
Southmore	0 3 0	1 5 0

Game Scores
Thompson 45, Southmore 8
San Jacinto 36, Miller 19
South Houston 47, Park View 19

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	4 0 0	6 0 0
Bondy	2 1 0	4 2 0
Queens	1 2 0	2 4 0
Park View	1 2 0	1 5 0
Jackson	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Beverly Hills 53, Queens 14
Bondy 58, Jackson 13

Pasadena ISD Boys' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 14, 2020

7A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	4 0 0	6 0 0
South Houston 2	1 0 0	5 1 0
San Jacinto	2 1 0	4 2 0
Southmore	0 3 0	2 3 0
Miller	0 3 0	1 5 0

Game Scores
Thompson 37, Southmore 27
San Jacinto 60, Miller 16
South Houston 58, Park View 14

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	4 0 0	6 0 0
Queens	2 1 0	2 4 0
Jackson	1 2 0	2 4 0
Bondy	1 2 0	2 4 0
Park View	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Beverly Hills 54, Queens 13
Jackson 53, Bondy 24

7B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	4 0 0	6 0 0
San Jacinto	2 1 0	4 2 0
Southmore	1 2 0	3 3 0
Miller	1 2 0	2 4 0
South Houston 0	3 0 0	1 5 0

Game Scores
Thompson 49, Southmore 20
San Jacinto 31, Miller 14

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	3 0 0	5 1 0
Beverly Hills	3 1 0	5 1 0
Park View	1 2 0	2 4 0
Queens	1 2 0	2 4 0
Jackson	0 3 0	0 6 0

Game Scores
Bondy 36, Jackson 0
Beverly Hills 32, Queens 10
Park View 47, South Houston 20

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m.
Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets the third Thursday, monthly, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com for details.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

com.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now AI-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn AI-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
11 a.m.
AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
7 - 10 p.m.
Bay Area Singles Club - monthly dance at 7 - 10 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, Post 6378, located at 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson, 77539. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information, call 832-483-3257 or 832-477-6778.
7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - bluegrass music show and jam session on the third Saturday (except December.) Stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. Free. Johnny Arolo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For details, visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.

2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, JANUARY 20
10 a.m.
AI-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 - 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
10:30 a.m.
Seniors and Law Enforcement Together - SALT meetings are 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Madison Jobe Senior Center, 1700 East Thomas St., in Pasadena on the third Monday. No December meeting. January meeting is on the second Monday. Meetings start timely and teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may be in attendance. Free. Refreshments served. For details, call 713-477-0175.
11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.
2 p.m.
Genealogy Group - The Parker Williams Genealogy group meets from 2 - 4 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at

Scarsdale. The public is invited to attend. For details, email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net.
6 p.m.
New Directions Singles - Age 50 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.
6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., next to the fire station. For details, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565 or visit https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/.
7 p.m.
Survivors of Suicide Support Group - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisishotline.org or call 832-416-1177.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.
7 p.m.
The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society - Meets the third Monday at Clear Lake Park Bldg., 5001 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook. Presenters explore topics such as fossils, planetary geology, mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry making, fossil and mineral collecting. Field trips to Texas collecting sites and surrounding states. Door prizes. Free parking. For details, visit www.clgms.org.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for non-members. Everyone is welcome. For details, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

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Continued on Page 4B

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DRIVERS WANTED: Semi-retired/retired drivers with TWIC card/optional. Send email with your name and phone # to: prague_cz@hotmail.com. Subject: Driver.1-30

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE. 5 take-off wheels/tires from 2018

Tundra. Bridgestone 275/55/r20. \$700 or OBO. Call 713-206-1872. 1-23
FOR SALE. Antiques - Early American - before 1830. 3 walnut chests, 1 walnut commode, 2 hanging oil lamps - made electric, 2 slant top desks (cherry & maple), 1 cherry wall cupboard, 1 pine washstand and 1 antique bed. Call 281-795-9474. TF

REAL ESTATE

HOME FOR SALE - by owner. 11107 Sageheather. 1781 sq. ft. Call 281-795-9474 TF



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The Southeast VFD needs you!

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: www.southeastvfd.com to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you! We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: www.southeastvfd.com to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

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

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

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

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Free dance lessons - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180.

1:30 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., For details, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

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

9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Senior Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Jan Okumura at 832-298-9480 for details.

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

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

1 - 3:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has Hump Day Dance to practice ball-room dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity

card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For information on the activity card, call the city at 281-554-1180.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

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

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

10 a.m.
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Basketball teams eye playoff positioning as stretch run nears

Continued from Page 1B

A 20-win regular season has already been achieved for the Wolverine boys, but at this point a playoff berth has to be the goal. The Wolverines have already gone against defending District 24-6A champion Dickinson, with the Gators rolling to an 82-69 win behind the scoring punch of just three players.

Marcus Williams had a game-high 36 points and 11 assists, making six of his nine 3-point tries in the game.

Tramon Mark, a University of Houston signee, had 35 points of his own after making 16 of 18 free throws, and Deuce Guidry poured in 16 as the trio scored all but two of the team's points in the game. For the Wolverines, senior Brandon Andrews led the way with 21 points, with Ke'Mauri Millender adding 17. Marcus Millender had 10 points in the game.

The Wolverines made 19 of 24 free throws in the game, but the Gators simply had too much firepower in the game.

But the Wolverines wasted little time getting back in the win column and, most importantly, keeping pace in the league with the other teams.

Going against last-place Alvin, Brook scored a 61-29 road win Jan. 14, moving to 2-1 in District 24-6A action with a pair of huge home games coming.

On Jan. 17, the Wolverines will go against Clear Lake, which has also won two of three games to start league play. Moving to Jan. 21, the Wolverines will go against Clear Creek as the locals have a pair of chances to take a big step in 24-6A play.

At Clear Brook and at Dobie, head coaches Nathan Janak (Brook) nor Kevin Cross (Dobie) will want much of the credit for what their charges have accomplished to this point, yet they should.

Janak had six seniors on the roster last season as a transitional phase ended with the Wolverines at 4-8 in league play and far from a postseason berth. The team won just 11 games while losing 23. Andrews and Shane Porter are the primary carryovers to this year's squad, which could

very well be in the mix in the end.

Similarly at Dobie, the Longhorns went just 12-20 a season ago and produced a 4-12 league mark complete with two losses to Pasadena.

Not this season, with Scott and Hayes leading a group that includes several

newcomers to the varsity level.

The race to the playoffs is certainly not over yet, but with two state-ranked programs residing within the 22-6A ranks, getting to the postseason is a challenge.

So far, the Longhorns have done what they need

to do to position themselves for a postseason run. While Humble has been down, Kingwood has perhaps been the surprise team of the league. Still, the Longhorns are right there with nine games to play. Meanwhile, the home-standing Clear Brook girls

got their first win of the 24-6A season by holding off Alvin (0-5) by a 36-34 count.

The Lady Wolverines have endured some tough losses in league play and will have to do more to get

back into playoff contention, but at least for one night a win was in order. With seven games re-

maining, the locals are holding out hope that they can turn the tables in the second half.

Dobie girls' soccer ready for 22-6A play

Continued from Page 1B with now nothing remaining but District 22-6A action, it's time for the Lady Longhorns, third a season ago, to get serious. The results will be Dobie's to control.

Action has already started within league play. Atascocita scored in the

final minute to upset defending 22-6A champion Kingwood 2-1. Pasadena already owns a win over South Houston, and Memorial played Summer Creek to a 5-5 tie.

Now, Summer Creek will host Dobie Jan. 21 as the Lady Longhorns get things started.

"Overall, we are happy with the growth that we have shown so far," Dobie head coach Bryan McDonald said.

"The focus is to continue improving day by day (as weather permits).

"We have solid scoring duo in Karen (Hernandez) and Victoria (Chu),

but they have also freed up multiple others to net some goals.

"Defensively we remain sound with Taiya Mitchell returning and McKenzie Rankins in goal. We are still mixing some new players with varsity returners, so I expect to see continued growth."

District 22-6A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball		
(As of Jan. 15)		
Teams	W	L
Summer Creek	7	0
Atascocita	7	1
Kingwood	5	2
Dobie	5	2
Rayburn	3	4
Humble	2	5
South Houston	1	6
Memorial	1	6
Pasadena	1	6

District 22-6A Standings Varsity Girls' Basketball		
(As of Jan. 15)		
Teams	W	L
Atascocita	8	0
Summer Creek	8	1
Dobie	6	2
Humble	6	3
Kingwood	3	4
Pasadena	2	5
Rayburn	2	7
Memorial	2	7
South Houston	0	8

District 24-6A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball		
(As of Jan. 15)		
Teams	W	L
Dickinson	3	0
Clear Brook	2	1
Clear Lake	2	1
Clear Springs	2	2
Clear Falls	2	2
Clear Creek	1	2
Alvin	0	4

District 24-6A Standings Varsity Girls' Basketball		
(As of Jan. 15)		
Teams	W	L
Clear Springs	5	0
Clear Falls	5	1
Clear Creek	4	1
Dickinson	2	3
Clear Brook	1	4
Clear Lake	1	4
Alvin	0	5

Dobie grad Giron thriving at Lyon Univ.



Dobie High School graduate Jade Giron (2) has fit in nicely with the Lyon University women's basketball program in Batesville, Ark., after joining the Scots via transfer after last season. Giron, who was a four-year varsity performer while at Dobie, signed with Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., out of high school and averaged 4.5 points per game as a sophomore. At Lyon, Giron has started 12 of the team's 15 games and is averaging 10.3 points per game as the Scots are 14-1.

Dobie sports medicine department reels in prized human treadmill

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

A longtime dream has now become reality as the Dobie High School sports medicine department is now home to a piece of revolutionary and new-age rehabilitation and recovery equipment.

The human treadmill, developed by Mirage as part of its H2O For Fitness program, utilizes an above-ground treadmill that is then submerged in water to allow users the ability to both train and recover through non-weight bearing activities.

There are other systems similar to this in other Houston area high schools, but Dobie head athletic trainer Jesse Lopez, who spearheaded the years-long fundraising drive to pull this off, says Dobie is now the first high school home to an above ground unit.

"I was exposed to this type of rehabilitation process when I was at the University of Texas and then in the NFL," Lopez said.

"Athletes are always on their feet, and many times when an injury is suffered, a certain athlete is then required to be off of their feet for sometimes three, four or five months.

"When that occurs, a lot of times we as athletic training staff have to go back to the basics and re-teach proper walking, running or other movement techniques.

"This system allows us to start those processes earlier through non-weight bearing activities in the water."

According to the Mirage web site, "The Mirage is a brand new product in the field of hydrotherapy and rehabilitation. H2O for Fitness introduces the Mirage as an innovative hydrotherapy treadmill. Along with aquatic rehabilitation, the Mirage can

also be used for fitness training and weight control.

"The natural buoyancy of water provides a low impact but high intensity workout which is especially important for patients in 'recovery' mode.

"With adjustable water temperatures and water levels, the Mirage makes rehab, fitness training, or weight control a relaxing experience."

Lopez says the human treadmill allows for users to be submerged in water as low as the knees all the way up to one's shoulders.

He added that when users are submerged to their knees, weight bearing is reduced 25 percent, while waist-high water pushes the percentage to 50 percent.

For those submerged up to their shoulders, say quarterbacks or others involved in throwing sports, the percentage is 75 to 80 percent.

"This really started out as a crazy dream, but as the years went by I realized this could be a reality," Lopez said.

"It came with a mighty price tag but I also feel like not only our student athletes but also teachers and coaches from other Pasadena ISD schools will have the opportunity to use this for decades to come. It's definitely a game changer for us."

Previously, Dobie has had little access to much in the way of water therapy. Years after joining Dobie, Lopez said he rid the facility of an old-style whirlpool or hot tub contraption that he estimated had been used twice.

The district is home to the Dennis Shippey Aquatics Center in Pasadena, but that is used almost exclusively for pool competitions and practices.

bie is at Beverly Hills Intermediate, the "old" Dobie. Utilizing that pool for

rehabilitation is simply not practical.

But those issues are in the past. Dobie has a new toy, and Dobie students athletes who need the

treatment are trying it out for the first time. Training departments from across

the country are tweeting Dobie personnel to inquire just how they might get theirs.

"We're very excited to have it here," Lopez said. "It's a proven tool to be able to help athletes reha-

ilitate and recover. I've never liked equipment in our training room that doesn't get used, but I'm sure this will get used quite a bit.

"We worked toward the goal of possibly having something like this available to us, and now it's a reality. Obviously, we always want to put our student athletes in the best position to succeed, and this is something that will help achieve that."



Dobie is believed to be one of the few, if not the first high schools in the Houston area to install the human treadmill, which allows rehabilitating athletes to control the water level from the knees down or up to the shoulders for optimal recovery effectiveness. There are similar in-ground machines in the area, but Dobie now houses this aboveground model. It arrived on campus just prior to the break for Christmas.

Photos by Jesse Lopez.



Years worth of savings in the Dobie sports medicine budget allowed the school to acquire a unique aboveground human treadmill, which could potentially help an untold number of both student athletes and educators from not only Dobie but from across the school district for years and decades to come, according to Dobie head athletic trainer Jesse Lopez.