



South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 48, No. 50

Sagemeadow to meet Jan. 18
Sagemeadow subdivision's annual HOA meeting will be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. This meeting will host the annual election for one board seat. This month's guest speakers will be representatives from the new management team, Goodwin & Company. This and all meetings are open to the public. For the agenda or any additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Knights sell barbecue
Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost will be \$12 for a brisket sandwich (with onions and pickles), chips and a soft drink and \$6 for a sausage on a stick. Proceeds will benefit KC Council 9201 charities.

Kirkwood to meet Jan. 29
The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are now scheduled for the last Monday of the month, rather than the last Thursday. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Coffee with the Constable
Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable. The next event will be Thursday, Jan. 18, with another event the following Thursday. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

New Covenant feeds needy
New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need. The next event is Jan. 27. For additional information, call 281-484-4230.

Beltway 8 closure planned
At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway through 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

Knights hold blood drive
The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road, Sunday, Jan. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. While appointments are preferred, they are not necessary. To schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org. Sponsor Code is 1185.

Gulf Freeway closures set
At least one northbound and one southbound main lanes and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/Brittany Bay to FM-519/Main Street until further notice.

The U-turn lane on the northbound Gulf Freeway frontage road (north to south) at FM-519/Main Street in La Marque will be closed until further notice.

The U-turn lane on the southbound Gulf Freeway frontage road (south to north) at FM-519/Main Street in La Marque will be closed until further notice.

The northbound Gulf Freeway exit ramp to SH-6/SH-146 in La Marque will close permanently at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 5. Traffic must exit FM-519 and U-turn. Traffic will merge onto the Gulf Freeway southbound main lanes at next available entrance ramp.

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.

Local COVID cases reported

While the number of active COVID-19 cases in much of the South Belt community is roughly on par with the previous week, there has been a small uptick in ZIP code 77089, according to Harris County health officials. As of Tuesday, Jan. 16, there were 202 active cases in 77089, up 12 from the previous week. To date, 138 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previously reported week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were seven active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previously reported week.

In 77034, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 93 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previously reported week.

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

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

Hard freeze strikes South Belt community

Temps drop to low 20s; icy conditions cause road hazards

The South Belt community was struck by a hard freeze this week, as an Arctic front caused icy conditions across the country.

The frigid weather – which dipped into the lower 20s on Tuesday, Jan. 16 – caused the closures of schools in Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD and San Jacinto College.

“Be prepared for your family, your neighbors, your employees, your pets, your pipes, your plants,” newly elected Houston Mayor John

Whitmire said in a press conference. “We’re prepared for the expected and the unexpected, but we need everyone’s cooperation. Try to limit your activities outdoors and your transportation.”

Whitmire was joined at the press conference by Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña and Houston Police Chief Troy Finner.

Peña warned against the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, which causes the deaths of thousands each year, he said.

“Carbon monoxide is colorless, it’s odorless, and it’s poisonous,” said Peña. “It can very easily reach levels that are lethal to both humans and animals.”

Finner said the Houston Police Department’s Animal Cruelty Task Force was to be patrolling alongside BARC to look for animals out in the cold. During the previous hard freeze in 2023, Finner and his team received 544 calls of loose animals. Finner added the department’s Homeless Outreach Team would be patrolling looking for humans who needed shelter from the freeze.

The City of Houston offered several warming centers to those seeking refuge from the cold. Centers included public libraries, community centers and multi-service centers. The city offered free rides to affected individuals by contacting the 3-1-1 system.

Local YMCAs and Lakewood Church also

served as warming centers during the freeze.

Whitmire asked nonessential workers to refrain from coming in Tuesday and work remotely if possible.

“We’re going to lead by example,” said Whitmire. “While I ask first responders, public works officials and other essential workers to come in, nonessential workers should work from home and stay off the roads.”

Live reports of icy road conditions could be found by visiting traffic.houstontransstar.org/road-closures/#iceonroadway.

While precipitation on Monday led to icy driving conditions, Tuesday’s dryer weather created a safer road environment, officials said.

The freezing temperatures subsided by the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 17, with local students and city workers returning to their normal schedules.



Still flowing next day

The South Belt community was struck by a hard freeze this week, with temperatures dropping into the lower 20s. The frigid weather caused the closures of local schools and several area businesses. While known plumbing issues were minimal, the above leak located near Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway made for an icy sculpture Tuesday, Jan. 6 and was still flowing on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

HPD seeks female robbery suspects

Woman accused of punching store clerk in face

The Houston Police Robbery Division is seeking the public’s assistance in identifying three women involved in a robbery last month at the Dollar General in the 9000 block of Clearwood near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

According to HPD officials, two unknown females entered the store around 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, walked around for a few minutes before

picking up several hair products and placing the merchandise in a backpack and walking out the store without paying.

A few minutes later, the same females walked into the store a second time, grabbed other items in the store, and once again walked out without paying.

Continued on Page 8



Leader continues its look back at 2023

The *Leader* continues its look back on 2023 with a list of some of the significant stories of the year. For highlights up to March 16, see the Jan. 11 edition of the *Leader*.

March 16

A woman robbed after making a large cash withdrawal from Bank of America on Blackhawk and Beltway 8 was paralyzed from the waist down due to injuries incurred during the violent attack. According to Houston Police Department officials, Nhung Truong, 44, was robbed in front of a shopping center in the 9800 block of Bellaire. During the robbery, Truong was body slammed to the ground, causing severe spinal damage. Prior to the attack, Truong had withdrawn more than \$4,000 from the local bank for an upcoming trip to her home country of Vietnam. Investigators believe she was followed by her robber for 24 miles to the Bellaire location. The story made national headlines. Contrary to some national media reports, however, the cash withdrawal was not made from Chinatown. Despite the widespread coverage, the suspect was

not immediately arrested.

March 23

Two teens were arrested in the attack that left robbery victim Nhung Truong, 44, paralyzed from the waist down the previous week. Joseph Harrell, 17, and Zy’Nika Ayesha Woods, 19, were both charged with aggravated robbery causing serious bodily injury.

A South Belt resident was fatally shot by her estranged husband March 8 in Huntsville as part of a murder-suicide. According to Huntsville police, Troy Anne (Tianne) Jones, 43, was shot in the back by her former husband Roy Wasbotten after handing over divorce papers. Wasbotten subsequently took his own life. A Dobe graduate, Jones left behind a 15-year-old son.

March 30

A man was fatally stabbed around 8:45 p.m. Monday, March 20, at an apartment complex in the 16300 block of El Camino Real near El Dorado Boulevard. Nathan Freeman, 32, was pronounced dead at the scene. Liliana Cervantes, 25, was later charged with murder in the inci-

dent.

April 6

Three people were shot during an incident around 1 a.m. Friday, March 31, outside a gas station at Beltway 8 and Beamer – at least two

were teens. According to Houston Police Department officials, emergency responders from both HPD and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia’s office responded to a weapons distur-

Continued on Page 4

County launches Uplift Harris

None of South Belt area ZIP codes included

Harris County recently launched Uplift Harris, a pilot program aimed at providing guaranteed income through cash assistance to low-income households who live in select ZIP codes.

The application period began Friday, Jan. 12, and will close Friday, Feb. 2, at 11:59 p.m. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis; the program is not first come, first served.

While homes in the immediate South Belt community are not eligible to participate in the program, several residences in the Hobby area may take part in it.

This initiative, the fifth largest publicly funded cash assistance project in the U.S., will distribute \$500 per month to more than 1,900 el-

igible households for 18 months. Applicants selected for the program will receive their first monthly cash award as early as March 2024.

“Investing in our hard-working families is an investment in the future of Harris County. Families are working but unable to make ends meet. Nearly four in 10 Harris County residents can’t afford a \$400 emergency expense. Oftentimes, these families are led by essential workers who keep our county moving, like teacher aides and health care workers,” said Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, a champion of the initiative. “By providing an income floor through a guaranteed income, Uplift Harris has

Continued on Page 8

Olson named Flight Museum chair

Former area representative a retired Navy pilot

Former U.S. Rep. Pete Olson – whose House District 22 encompassed much of the South Belt community – was recently named the new chair of the board for the Lone Star Flight Museum.

A former Navy pilot, Olson was unanimously elected to the position by the museum’s board of directors. (See related story Page 2.)

A 1981 graduate of Clear Lake High School, Olson attended Rice University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in computer science in 1985. He subsequently attended law school at the University of Texas at Austin, graduating in 1988.

Following law school, Olson joined the U.S. Navy, earning his wings as a P-3C Orion pilot in March 1991. Post-Gulf War, Olson flew missions over the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. In 1994, he was assigned as a Naval liaison to the U.S. Senate, during which time he assisted Republican U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm on several overseas trips. He served in the U.S. Navy for nine years.

After serving in the Navy for nine years, Olson joined Gramm’s staff in 1998. Following Gramm’s retirement from the Senate in 2002, Olson served as chief of staff to Gramm’s successor, U.S. senator and former Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, from December 2002 until May 2007.

tion until 2021, being replaced by fellow Republican Troy Nehls.

While in the House, Olson served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade and the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

Olson and his wife Nancy currently reside in Sugarland with their two children. Since leaving Congress, Olson has been working for Hance & Scarborough LLP.

Olson replaced outgoing Flight Museum chair Scott Rozzell, who served in the position for nine years.

Rozzell led the museum’s move from Galveston Island to Ellington Airport in 2017 after Hurricane Ike had severely damaged the Museum and destroyed numerous historic aircraft. Under the guidance of Rozzell and museum president and CEO Doug Owens, the re-imagined museum has overcome unique challenges and achieved numerous successes.

“It has been an honor and privilege to serve as chair of the Lone Star Flight Museum’s board of directors and I’m proud of the great strides made by the museum over the last nine years,” said Rozzell. “The museum has become one of the premier aviation history and STEM education facilities in Texas. All of this was made possible by the hard work of our board, our talented staff, dedicated volunteers and the support of our

Continued on Page 8



Olson named chair

Former U.S. Rep. Pete Olson (left) was recently named new chair of the Lone Star Flight Museum directors’ board. A former U.S. Navy pilot, Olson served as South Belt’s congressman from 2009 to 2021. Olson replaced Scott Rozzell, who had served in the position nine years. Olson is shown, left, with Bob Cardin who gave a presentation on Jan. 12 on the plane shown here, Glacier Girl, a Lockheed P-38F Lightning, World War II fighter, one of eight planes that was stranded in Greenland and buried under 265 feet of ice 50 years later. Cardin helped rescue and restore the plane which is currently on display at the museum until the end of Jan. 31. (See related story Page 2.)

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Dobie FFA students win in Coabunga, LaPorte Classic competitions

Deaths



Kaleb Jones wins 1st, 2nd

Kaleb Jones of J. Frank Dobie won first place in the Cowabunga Classic and second at the La Porte Winter Classic which was held during the Christmas break. Jones won first place in both rings.

Ag photos by Samantha Hernandez

Melanie 1st, reserve grand champ



At the Lonestar Showdown, which was held during the Christmas break, Dobie's Melanie Sanchez won first place and Reserve Grand Champion in Showmanship.

Olivia Phillis Pegues



Olivia Phillis Pegues was born on Aug. 29, 1951, to Louis and Gwendolyn Leadon in Mount Enterprise, Texas.

Olivia attended Concord High School, was a star on the girls' basketball team, graduated in 1969 and attended Tyler Community College.

Olivia married James Berry Jr. on Aug. 26, 1972, and to their union, bore one son, Christopher Ryan. Olivia, from a young age worked at GTE/Verizon, advancing in different leadership roles, and retired in 2005 with more than 30 years of service.

Olivia later married Thadis Pegues, Aug. 3, 1996, sharing this day with family and friends.

These two joined their families with growing teenage boys, surrounded by love, support and opportunities.

Olivia and Thadis were members of the One Movement Bible Church (OMBC) (formerly Bible Way Fellowship Baptist Church).

Olivia served in excellence in various ministries as a deaconess, co-teacher for the Golden Age Sunday School class, secretary for the nursery ministry, lead for the assimilation ministry, teacher of discipleship classes, communication developer for the media ministry and as volunteer in the senior pastor's office.

She worked with one powerful movement, CDC. Olivia's service and commitment to God's word was a testament of her faith. Olivia served faithfully as part of OMBC's staff in the position of front office coordinator.

As a sports advocate, one who loved to travel and as a community volunteer, Olivia was committed to seeing and supporting young people reach their goals and did so with scholarships.

Olivia was preceded in death by her husband Thadis, parents, and brother Carlton Leadon.

Olivia will be missed by all those who loved and knew her.

Loved ones and special friends to cherish her memory are sons Christopher Berry of Moreno Valley, Calif., Kinsley Pegues (Jaylyn) of League City, Thadis Pegues II of Houston, Marion Pegues of Austin; godsons Swazi and Menelik Gurnell of Houston; siblings Sheryn Isabell of Spring, Juanita Leadon of Mesquite, Brentford Leadon (Sentia), San Bernardino, Calif., Benjamin Leadon (Carmen) of Garrison, Gwen Ester Pate (Mike) of Rialto, Calif.; grandchildren; aunts; nieces; nephews; cousins; and a host of friends, sisters and brothers in Christ.

A celebration of Life Service was held Jan 11, 2024.

Rita Louise Schenk



19 years in the Pearland ISD. She had resided in the South Belt area.

Rita was an active member of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church for 40 years. She volunteered in the office sang in the choir and was active with the Catholic Daughters and Sunshiners. Her faith gave witness to many.

Rita enjoyed traveling with friends and family, snorkeling and volunteering. She participated in two pet therapy groups with her dogs, visiting hospitals and care homes.

She was an enthusiastic dog lover. Friends knew they could call on her with any need. She was most kind and compassionate.

She is survived by two sons, Eric Michael Hassfeldt (Kelly) and Robert George Lusignan (Hahn); granddaughter, Katlyn Hassfeldt; three siblings; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at St. Luke Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, on Jan. 25, 2024, at 11 a.m.

A rosary will be recited before the Mass at 10:15 a.m. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to St. Luke the Evangelist Church Catholic Capital Campaign or the American Cancer Society.

Fernanda Flores placed third



Fernanda Flores placed third in the Lonestar Showdown.

Hunter Stacey wins first place



Hunter Stacey won first place in both rings at Cowabunga.

Sadie wins Grand Champ Pee Wee



Third-grader Sadie Jones won Grand Champion PeeWee heifer showman at the La Porte Winter Classic heifer division.

Matt Trevino third at Cowabunga



Dobie's Matt Trevino was third at the Cowabunga show.

Hunter, Melanie win first, second



Hunter Stacey, Dobie FFA Chapter president and Melanie Sanchez, FFA officer are shown with their animals. Melanie won first place in the Lonestar and Hunter won second place at the Lonestar Showdown.

Plane buried 50 years flies into Ellington

Buried more than 50 years under 268 feet of ice, Glacier Girl, the recovered and restored WWII P-38 is at The Lone Star Flight Museum through Jan. 31, marking the first time the aircraft has been on museum display. On Jan. 11, a presentation by Bob Cardin, lead excavator and head of restoration, told the story of Glacier Girl. (See related photo, story Page 1.)

Glacier Girl, one of WWII's most fearsome warbirds, is on loan from the Air Legends Foundation. This twin-boom Lockheed P-38 Lightning lay buried under arctic ice for 50 years and eluded recovery attempts in more than a dozen expeditions. Finally, in 1992, it was recovered. It took 10 more years to restore.

It is the only rescued survivor of a squadron of P-38s and B-17s that attempted to cross Greenland in 1942 during WWII.

The aircraft was pulled piece by piece from under 268 feet of ice Aug. 1, 1992. Kentucky businessman Roy Shoffner financed the expedition with a team of Pat Epps, Richard Taylor and Bob Cardin on board as expedition leader.

Ingenuity and endurance brought Glacier Girl back to the surface where she had crash-landed half a century before. The team created a device they called the "Super Gopher," which circulated heated water through a metal cone to melt holes 27 stories deep and reach key sections of the plane. Then they began the long, dangerous process of dragging out the pieces, including the 3-ton, 17-foot-long fuselage. It took 20 minutes to lower each worker down to the aircraft in the claustrophobic 4-foot-diameter shafts. The final section emerged on Aug. 1, 1992.

The P-38's sections were in good enough shape for restoration. The team estimated it would take two years, but it took 10 to reconstruct the plane. Glacier Girl has the only complete set of working P-38 machine guns in existence and is considered by many to be the finest warbird restoration flying. In 2006, Rod Lewis purchased what became the signature aircraft as part of the Air Legends Foundation. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays noon to 5 p.m.



Glacial Girl

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)	
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

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The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

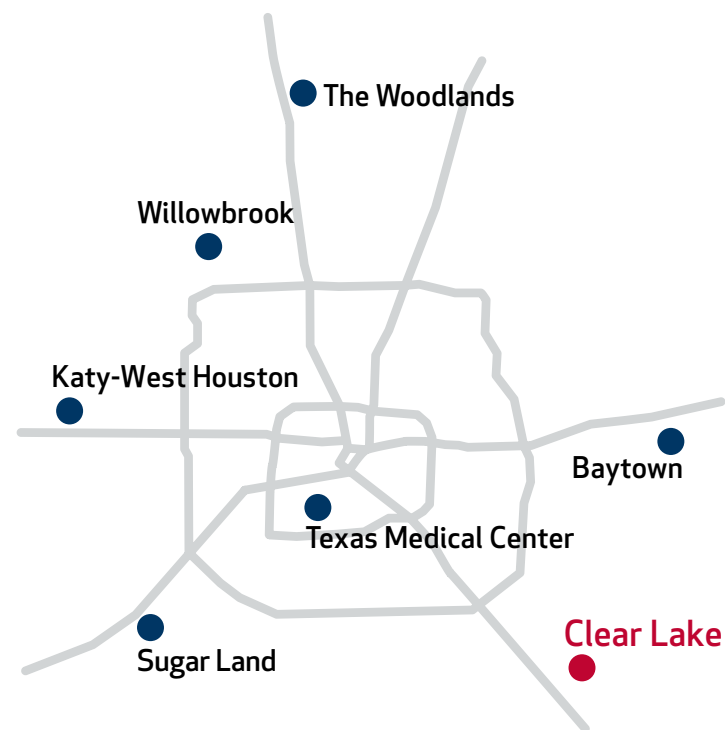
E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com
Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners



THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Clear Lake

At Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, we treat every aspect of your cancer. Leading oncologists work with our specialists across disciplines to minimize cancer's effects on major organs. One comprehensive team — dedicated to your individual care — uses the latest research, treatments and technology to stop your cancer. From infusion and clinical trials to surgery and reconstruction, our innovative care is available in Clear Lake.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it.



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
NEAL CANCER CENTER

281.333.8899
houstonmethodist.org/cancer-clearlake



Melillo holds annual campus spelling bee



On Wednesday, Dec. 20, Melillo Middle School held their annual campus spelling bee. Winners and staff members are, left to right, runner-up Gabriel Garcia, fifth grade; Principal Jennifer Saucedo; champion Mahim Alexander, fifth grade; and reading instructional coach Megan Medina.

Texas homeowners may postpone paying taxes

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

This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed – but not canceled – with interest accruing at 8 percent per year. Once the homeowner files the tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for the deferred taxes as long as that person owns and lives in the home. When the homeowner no longer owns and lives in the home, the deferred taxes and interest become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect the deferred taxes and interest. Additional penalties are possible.

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

"Homeowners should be sure they have applied for and received their homestead exemption. This easily can be done without cost through the Harris Central Appraisal District's website or mobile app," said Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger.

Exemption forms and applications can be found on the appraisal district's website, www.head.org, under the Forms tab on the top toolbar. A homestead exemption can provide a tax savings for the property owner and will reduce future tax burdens.

For more information about deferring taxes on the appreciating value of one's home, contact the Harris Central Appraisal District's information center at 713.957.7800 or email help@head.org. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

Jack in the Box gets remodeled



The Jack in the Box on Scarsdale Boulevard is one of four of the facilities which has been chosen to be remodeled. The remodeling began early January 2024 and is expected to be complete within a couple of months.

Leader continues its look back at 2024

Continued from Page 1

bance at the Shell gas station parking lot to find evidence of a fight. While patrolling the area for suspects, Precinct 2 Cpl. Ponce discovered a vehicle stopped in a moving lane of traffic in the 11500 block of Fuqua.

Upon making contact with the vehicle, Ponce discovered two 16-year-old gunshot victims who had been involved in the reported disturbance. Both of the teens were transported to the hospital, one in critical condition and one in stable condition.

HPD officials said a third individual, age unknown, had been taken to the hospital by private vehicle to the hospital with critical injuries.

At press time, there had been no reported fatalities associated with the incident, despite rumors to the contrary. According to police, it was unclear what led up to the shooting, leaving the case an open investigation.

April 13

A man who allegedly stole a motorcycle during a personal sales transaction was arrested near the intersection of Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Paris Scott, 34, was arrested by Precinct 8 deputies, who were monitoring the area for possible narcotics sales.

Scott, who was already on probation, was stopped by deputies for not having a license plate.

The suspect had reportedly met an online seller to look at the motorcycle but never returned after asking to take it on a test drive.

April 20

A motorcyclist was killed after being struck by an 18-wheeler around 3:20 p.m. Monday, April 17, in the 2500 block of Genoa Red Bluff Road near Beltway 8. Motorcyclist Jacob Maple, 18, was transported to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, where he was later pronounced dead. The driver of the 18-wheeler remained at the scene and did not show signs of intoxication. He was questioned and released.

April 27

Controversial license cameras helped nab a serial theft suspect.

Kelvin Sayles, 37, was arrested by Precinct 2 deputies and charged with felony aggregate theft for his role in multiple crimes. Investigators said Sayles was suspected of targeting similar businesses throughout the Greater Houston area.

The controversial new crime-fighting tool has proven to be effective, local officials said. In all, there are 32 cameras located throughout parts of the South Belt community not incorporated by the city, including the Clear Brook City, Sagemeadow and Kirkmont MUDs.

Opponents of the cameras view them as an invasion of privacy rights.

May 4

A pedestrian fleeing from police was critically injured around 6 p.m. Monday, May 1, after being struck by a vehicle in the HOV lane in the 12500 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua. According to Houston Police Department officials, officers responded to an assault disturbance call at the In-Town Suites, and when they attempted to make contact with the suspect, he fled, leading officers on a foot chase.

Officers pursued the suspect across the frontage lanes of traffic but halted the chase as the male crossed the main lanes of traffic out of concern for their own safety.

The suspect successfully crossed the inbound main lanes of traffic, but when he got to the outbound HOV lane, he turned around to see if the police were still chasing him, and he was struck by a passing vehicle.

The 26-year-old male suspect was transported to the hospital in critical condition.

The female driver remained on the scene and was cooperative with police.

To be continued in next week's *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

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To be continued in next week's *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

Freeman and John Waldon, were both subsequently arrested. Freeman, 34, was charged with possession of counterfeit money. Waldon, 38, was charged with possession of counterfeit money and possession of an illegal weapon by a felon.

South Belt resident Usebio Almendarez was killed in a single-vehicle accident in the 12500 block of the Gulf Freeway. Almendarez, 25, was southbound on the freeway in a Cadillac Escalade at about 11:40 p.m. when he exited at Fuqua and lost control of the sport utility vehicle, police said. The Escalade hit a curb, rolled over and partially ejected Almendarez. He was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. A female passenger riding with Almendarez was not injured.

A deputy from the Harris County Precinct 7 Constable's office was dispatched to find out why a car was blocking an eastbound lane of the tollway. The driver, Catriona J. Miller, 23, reportedly refused to speak or even look

at the deputy. The deputy approached Miller's car and knocked repeatedly on her window. When she did not respond, he opened the car's door and grabbed Miller's shoulder and turned her to face him.

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Remember When

45 years ago (1979)

South Belt residents expressed concern regarding the safety of the Friendswood Refinery located on Choate Road.

Henry G. Schuble, state district judge of the 245th District Court, took office.

40 years ago (1984)

Absentee voting for the Pasadena Independent School District school board elections set a record.

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department was to start reimbursing volunteers \$2 per run. It was intended to partially reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred.

35 years ago (1989)

Two Dobie High School students were expelled following their arrest for bringing a loaded gun onto campus.

Continuing their donation efforts for restoration of Texas historical landmarks, students at Thompson Intermediate School raised \$1,027.84 for the San Jacinto Historical Museum.

30 years ago (1994)

South Belt resident Joe Pyland was named Houston Police Officer of the Year by the 100 Club at its banquet.

Dobie High School teacher Gloria Shifflet retired after 21 years of service at the school.

After four decades on the PISD school board, Harvey Turner retired.

Chemicals found in Clear Creek fish, and documents showing historical releases of Brio toxins into the waterway, prompted a third round of testing in as many months.

25 years ago (1999)

Approximately 750 South Belt area residents attended a free event to welcome The Gardens to the community.

Claims against the Pasadena Independent School District and the coaching and training staff at Dobie High School, stemming from a lawsuit following the death of a high school football player in 1996, were dismissed.

20 years ago (2004)

Almost 200 guests attended the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet at The Gardens. The volunteer of the year award was presented to Jack Niday of Niday Funeral Home. Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1, was presented with the citizen of the year award.

Houston Astros left fielder Lance Berkman and broadcaster Bill Brown visited

Frazier Elementary School in support of the team's Perfect Attendance Program.

The Clear Creek Independent School District was preparing to hold an election for its \$264 million bond package.

15 years ago (2009)

Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan hosted a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the completion of road repair work done on Edgebrook. The 22-month City of Houston project involved repairing all four lanes on the street, installing new drains and widening the sidewalks from the Gulf Freeway to Highway 3.

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable deputies Dwayne Pacifico and Jason Curry stopped a driver at Scarsdale and Beamer who matched the description of a person who had brandished a handgun at someone in the area. Upon searching the vehicle, the deputies found \$15,000 in counterfeit \$50 bills and \$100 bills. The deputies also found a .38 caliber pistol in the car. Suspects, Gerald

Freeman and John Waldon, were both subsequently arrested. Freeman, 34, was charged with possession of counterfeit money. Waldon, 38, was charged with possession of counterfeit money and possession of an illegal weapon by a felon.

South Belt resident Usebio Almendarez was killed in a single-vehicle accident in the 12500 block of the Gulf Freeway. Almendarez, 25, was southbound on the freeway in a Cadillac Escalade at about 11:40 p.m. when he exited at Fuqua and lost control of the sport utility vehicle, police said. The Escalade hit a curb, rolled over and partially ejected Almendarez. He was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. A female passenger riding with Almendarez was not injured.

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Over The Back Fence by Patty

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MARY
Best wishes to Mary Clark who enjoys a birthday Jan. 20. Greetings are sent from her husband Chris and her friends at the Leader.

MIKE ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Mike Williams celebrates a birthday Jan. 20. Best wishes are sent for a special day from family and friends at the Leader.

FLICKINGERS MARK ANNIVERSARY
Marie (Leader publisher) and husband David Flickinger celebrate 62 years of wedded bliss 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; sister Alexis Lochner; granddaughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipino and Courtney Durham and husband Chris and their children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; granddaughter Natalie Abarca and husband Jose and children Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Eliana and Isabelle and husband Sebastian Delgado; their friends; and the Leader staff.

BIRTHDAY WISHESS FOR REBECCA
Dobie grad Rebecca (Heeth) Irvine enjoys a birthday Jan. 23. Best wishes are sent from her husband Steve and her father Richard Heeth of Kirkwood.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE WIESSES
Special wishes to Jacquelyn and Louie Wieses who will be celebrating 65 years of marriage Jan. 23. Much love and wishes for many more wonderful years to share together! Hugs

and kisses from their children Heidi, Louie, Kara, spouses and grandchildren, Cody, Louie, Arianna, Ameila and Jence.

CLAUDIA MARKS A BIRTHDAY
Birthday wishes are sent to former Leader staff member Claudia Cubos who marks a birthday Jan. 23 from her family, friends and staff at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena ISD celebrate birthdays Jan. 18 through Jan. 24.

Atkinson Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Katy Fielder Jan. 20.

Burnett Elementary
Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 23 for Lena Toole.

Genoa Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles Jan. 23 for Netza Lopez.

Meador Elementary
Join in the birthday fun Jan. 22 for Joycelyn Webster. Remember to wish Rubi Rocha a happy birthday Jan. 24.

Moore Elementary
Blow out the candles on a triple-layer cake Jan. 19 for Sandra Rodriguez, Vanessa Manrique and Marisol Salazar.

Fred Roberts Middle School
Give a birthday shout out Jan. 22 to Julie Lanham.

Melillo Middle School
Send a humorous birthday card Jan. 20 to Denise Martinez.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a festive birthday greeting to Amber Estrada Jan. 22.

Thompson Intermediate
Special birthday wishes are sent to Lauren Soto Jan. 19.

Dobie High
Remember Deena Delarosa on Jan. 22 with a birthday greeting.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Jan. 18: Charlie Boldt, Theria Malone, Lynn Carnes, Dwight Baker and Theresa Touchette; Friday, Jan. 19: Janet Thompson, Lisa Gates, Grace Lazo, and Brenda Mahoney; Saturday, Jan. 20: Jeremiah Orsak, Stephanie Johnson, Mary Belz and Mark Roden; Sunday, Jan. 21: Traci Fort, Kim Saucedo, Karen Harlan, Connie Birmingham and Lisa Allen-Bragg; Monday, Jan. 22: Amber Estrada, Shad Taylor and Mitchel Nordstrom; Tuesday, Jan. 23: Becky Forsyth, Audi Resendez, Rodney Thiel, Wendy Gray and Bill A. Stevens; and Wednesday, Jan. 24: Renee Lister and Lee Balinas.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD girls' soccer stacking the wins

At 9-1-1 out of the nondistrict portion of the schedule, the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team figures to carry plenty of confidence into the 22-6A season.

It all starts Jan. 23 at Deer Park against a Deer program that has controlled the head-to-head series to the tune of a 13-year winning streak, but first-year head coach Theresa Kamara said this is the perfect time for change.

"I know how hard these ladies have worked every day really for three months to get to this point, and I think it boils down to having both self confidence and confidence as a team to do something like beat Deer Park."

"I have seen our confidence grow, and we have seen the results play out on the field. Regardless of win or lose against Deer Park, I believe we have a chance to have a great run in district play."

Dobie was third in league play last season and fell in the opening round of the postseason after an 8-3-1 run in league play. With nine wins this season, the current group needs just one more to equal last season's total of 10.

What's the difference? Kamara's initial message was simple...take the shot. "I wasn't here last year,

but I think maybe there was a hesitation to take the shot, and obviously a big key to winning games is to score the ball," Kamara said. "We have done a better job of that so far."

"Niko Barr has proven to be a key go-to offensive threat, and Kamilah Estrada has been big for us. Karley Goeman scored in three straight games, including two that we were without Nico. Aylin Reyes has been so important for us at midfielder."

Junior keepers Becca Santana and Mia Santos have both performed exceptionally well in tournament play. While it may be difficult for Kamara to make decisions as to just who deserves to start or play primary meaningful minutes, things tend to work out.

Kamara realizes her Longhorns still have the heavy lifting to do despite such a strong start. And any playoff berth will then be followed by a first round matchup against a tough opponent out of District 21-6A.

All that aside, the ladies are having some fun in conjunction with their strong start. "We are a little beat up physically after playing so many matches through the first couple of weeks, but the goal is to be as healthy as possible going into the Deer Park match."

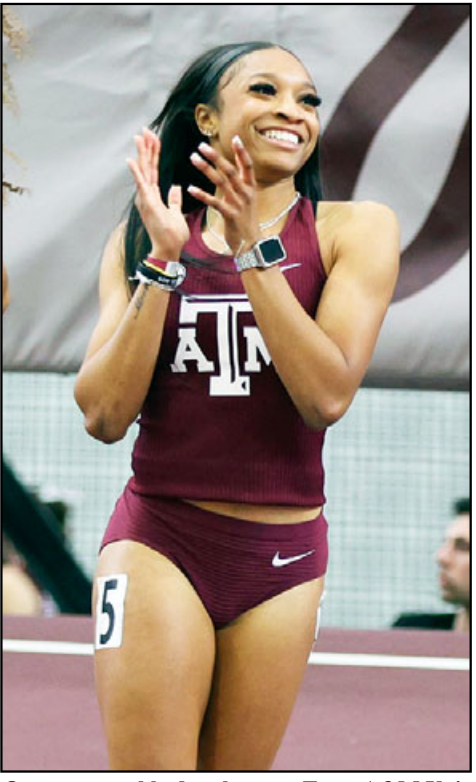


Sophomore Kamilah Estrada (12) has played a key role up front as the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team has rolled out of the gates at 9-1-1 overall with the all-important 22-6A race approaching.



Returning All-District player Aylin Reyes (10) has delivered a terrific all-around performance for a Dobie varsity girls' soccer team that needs just one more win to equal its total from the 2023 season.

Dickson dazzles at 60



On a memorable day that saw Texas A&M University christen its new state-of-the-art R.A. Murray Fasken indoor track and field facility, sophomore women's standout Camryn Dickson was busy making memories of her own. Posting a time of 7.251 in the 60-meter dash, Dickson, a Clear Brook High School graduate, championed the event in her winter debut. In the prelims, Dickson's time of 7.22 was second all-time in program history and third-best nationwide early in the 2024 indoor season.

Dobie boys' soccer reunion Jan. 18; Deer Park follows

It all started in 1984 as the Dobie boys' soccer program debuted with a second-place finish, and with the current regime having scored nine consecutive league titles and counting, there is plenty of which to be proud.

It'll all be celebrated Jan. 19 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as all players and fans, past and present, will gather to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the program. As part of the Longhorns'

match against Fulshear, the 2024 class of seniors will be honored at 6:30 p.m., while all alumni will then be recognized at half-time.

Jon Schmitz, Dobie's former longtime athletic trainer, led the program from 1984 to 1989 and guided the varsity team to district titles in 1985 and 1987.

Five more district titles came before current head coach Justo Manrique was hired prior to the 2014

season. He and the Longhorns began collecting 22-6A crowns in 2015 and are still counting them. The 2023 team was a Region III finalist.

"The program today has really developed into a force, and I have to credit coach Manrique for being all in on the reunions (a 35th was held in 2019). He really values the history of the program and honoring all the players who have contributed. It's a history we all should be proud of."

T-shirts available

The Dobie boys' soccer commemorative 40th Anniversary T-shirt is \$20 each and will be available the evening of the reunion at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Dobie 1-1-1 in Austin

The 2024 squad went 1-1-1 at the Jan. 11-13 Austin Lakes Elite Showcase, losing 3-0 to Vandegrift and playing Rockwall

Dobie varsity boys' basketball guard Ryan White (11) and his teammates were 2-2 in 22-6A action heading into play against Deer Park Jan. 17 after press time. Photo by Gloria Wallace



Dobie varsity girls' basketball guard Dezire Lewis (23) and the Lady Longhorns took on Deer Park Jan. 17 after press time aiming to make a postseason push down the stretch. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Newsome All-LSWA



Leading Southeastern Louisiana University to the NCAA Division I volleyball tournament for a second straight season, senior Kailin Newsome was this month named the two-time winner of Louisiana Sports Writers Association Player of the Year honors. Newsome, the all-time kills leader during a standout career at Clear Brook, was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-South Region honoree last month for the third time in her career. She has 1,184 kills in three seasons with the Lions spanning 80 matches. A sports management major, Newsome announced that she has entered the transfer portal for her graduate student season in 2024-2025.

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May on display as *Leader* remembers 2023's best individual, team efforts

As the *Leader* continues its year in review for 2023, the following is a look back at some of May's highlights.

May 4

Winning seven of eight games down the closing stretch, the Clear Brook varsity baseball team forced a three-way tie for the District 24-6A championship along with Clear Springs and Clear Falls at 8-4.

At Dobie, the celebration was long since over and the joy of winning the District 22-6A championship had been tempered as the Longhorn varsity baseball team prepared to take on Beaumont West Brook in the bidistrict playoff round.

Regional long jump champion Ben Hughes and Marcus Gaitan, the regional gold medalist in the 800, were to headline Lutheran South Academy's appearance at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A State Track and Field Championships at Waco Midway High School after the Pioneer program qualified many athletes for state.

Top senior Kennedy Thompson of Clear Brook was to represent her school at the University Interscholastic League's Class 6A State Track and Field Championships May 13 in Austin.

Thompson, the two-time 24-6A discus champion, was second in the discus at the Region III Championships April 29 at Turner Stadium in Humble.

Seven Lakes' Janey Campbell was the Region III champion with a throw of 145 feet, while Thompson's personal record of 138-6 was second for a silver and the second of two automatic state invitations.

Stacie Harris of Dobie concluded a stellar sophomore season as she was 10th in the Region III long jump competition, soaring to the 17 feet, 2 1/2 inch mark.

A 5-2 win in the deciding third game was enough to lift Summer Creek past Dobie in the bidistrict softball round as the two programs concluded a long evening of action April 29 at Humble High School.

Going head-to-head in the opening round of the postseason for the second straight year, second-seeded Dobie of 22-6A and Summer Creek, the No. 3 seed from 21-6A went the distance before the Bulldogs repeated as a bidistrict champion.

Dobie got home runs from Sandra Quiroz and Marisa Perla to beat Summer Creek 13-8 in

the series opener, a game that began April 28 at the Pasadena ISD Complex but had to be completed April 29 in Humble due to rain. Senior Bella Perez had a pair of doubles and drove in four runs, and a six-run bottom of the fifth inning was the difference as Dobie overcame early Summer Creek leads of 3-0 and 5-3.

Needing one win in two tries after the completion of game one in Humble proved to be elusive for Dobie, though, as Summer Creek first evened the series with a 9-3 win and then claimed the best-of-three series with a 5-2 decision in the clincher.

Mark "M.J." Milton Jr., a Class of 2018 Clear Brook High School graduate, signed with the Carolina Panthers as an undrafted free agent at cornerback following the 2023 NFL Draft.

At Baylor, Milton appeared in nearly 50 career games for the Bears. In 2022, Milton made 11 starts as a redshirt senior and was an All Big 12 Coaches honorable mention All-Academic Team honoree in 2022. He is currently a free agent.

Blake Jackson, a Class of 2011 Dobie graduate, ended what was a solid season for him individually and for his XFL team, the Seattle Sea Dragons. Despite Seattle's 37-21 loss to the DC Defenders in the conference title game April 30, Jackson had five catches for 49 yards and the Sea Dragons finished 7-4 overall.

For the 2023 campaign, Jackson had 51 grabs for 489 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Jackson led Dobie to the 2010 district championship and then guided Mary Hardin-Baylor to an NCAA Division III national championship at quarterback and has shifted to receiver at several professional stops.

May 11

Dobie, a winner of 13 of its last 14 games, was through to the area baseball playoff round to face Clear Springs as both programs reached the round of 16.

The Longhorns, champions of District 22-6A, got a one-hit shutout from sophomore Cruz Torres to close out Beaumont West Brook 10-0 May 6 in five innings at Baytown Lee High School.

Liam Vasquez was 3 for 4 with a pair of runs scored and three runs driven in, while Ian Johnson had three hits and scored a run. Catcher Omar Serna rocketed a home run in the win as the Longhorns advanced to face the Chargers.

In the opener, Dobie

sophomore left-hander Aiden Sanchez went 5 1/3 innings, punching out 10 with no earned runs allowed.

The Bruins caught up to a Matt Torres pitch and tied the game in the seventh, but A.J. Hernandez had a big two-run single in the top of the eighth as the Longhorns took the win. Torres was the winner in relief.

"We talk about hitting, pitching and defense, but it's very hard to put all three together," Dobie head coach Miguel Torres said. "We had close to that in the second game against West Brook, but baserunning bit us.

"Obviously, we are thrilled for the kids, but you take an afternoon to celebrate and then get ready for the next one. We knew the kids had it in them to put this together, and hopefully we aren't done."

A four-run third inning held up as Strake Jesuit swept past Clear Brook with a 5-4 win in the bidistrict baseball playoffs May 5, sending the Wolverines to a third straight opening series loss in as many years.

The Crusaders won the first game in the series 3-1 May 4 as starting pitcher John Toney needed just 67 pitches in a complete-game effort against Clear Brook. The Wolverines' Santiago Leija kept his team close, striking out nine over six solid innings.

Yet, after Brook's Charles Broussard opened the game with a double and scored on Francisco Leija's run-scoring single in the bottom of the first, Toney surrendered just two singles the rest of the way.

Strake Jesuit took a 2-1 lead with a pair of runs in the top of the third inning and added an insurance run in the top of the sixth before Toney closed the deal.

Shifting to game two May 5, the Crusaders rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the bottom of the third inning to take a 5-3 lead that would hold up to close out the series.

Dobie's Victor Hernandez earned Most Valuable Player honors in the District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer ranks as he had 23 goals and a team best 14 as he helped guide the Longhorns to the Region III title game.

The District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer Offensive Player of the Year honor went to Dobie's Jordi Garcia as he punched home a league-high 29 goals as the Longhorns went 24-1-4 en route to a ninth straight district crown.

As expected, District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer champion Dobie was well-represented as the league's head coaches announced the respective award winners and All-District teams following the completion of the season.

Dobie's Justo Manrique, who since arriving at the school prior to the 2014 season and guided the Longhorns to nine consecutive district championships, this time around watched as his group went 10-0-2 in the 22-6A portion of the season as he earned Coach of the Year.

Dobie junior Geo Arango was honored as the 22-6A Goalkeeper of the Year, while standouts Daniel Blanco, Alex Escobar, Kevin Guzman, Daniel Saravia and Emerson Saravia were all first-team All-District choices. Pasadena's Rene Jaime was honored as the 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year, while the Utility Player of the Year was Alex Cabello of Pasadena.

The co-Seniors of the Year were Jesus Mendoza of Rayburn and Deer Park's Cesar Garcia. Meanwhile, the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year was Rayburn's Edwin Garcia.

Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' golfers Emma Poffinbarger and Addison Trahan, both freshmen, carded a single-round score of 87 to tie for second place overall medalists' honors at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A South Regional May 2 at the Victoria Country Club as they led the Pioneers to the South Region team crown.

Overall, the Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' golf team won the 5A team championship at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A South Regional May 2 at the Victoria Country Club.

With Emma Poffinbarger and Trahan tying for second-place overall medalist honors with a single-round score of 87, the Pioneers posted a team score of 389 for the crown. Members of the team were Emma Poffinbarger, Audra Poffinbarger, Lucia DeLuca, Trahan and Olivia Rivas.

May 18

Kennedy Thompson is quick to praise the victories and accomplishments of others, so it was extra special for "Team Thompson" to set off a celebration of its own after the Clear Brook senior topped her high school career by winning a state bronze medal in Austin.

Able to perform at her best at each stop in get-

ting to state, Thompson brought home a bronze medal for her discus throw of 146 feet, 8 inches as the University Interscholastic League's Class 6A State Track and Field Championships played out May 13 on the University of Texas campus in Austin. Lewisville Marcus' Emma Sralia was dominant in the event as she repeated as the 6A girls' discus state champion with a best of 184-00.

Midland Lee's Leah Acosta was the silver medalist at 159-07, while Thompson's lifetime best of 146-8 was good for bronze.

Clear Springs first rallied from a 4-0 first-game deficit and then came up with a shutout in the clincher to end Dobie's postseason with a series sweep in the Class 6A area baseball playoffs May 12-13 at Deer Park's Kethan Field.

Dobie, which won its first district title in 14 years during the regular season, ended 2023 with 23 total wins against eight losses and two tournament season ties. Clear Springs, the three-way co-champion of District 24-6A, will play in the regional quarterfinals against Kingwood, which eliminated Strake Jesuit in a sweep in the area round.

The Longhorns came into the area series against the Chargers having won 13 of 14 overall games. Using Omar Serna's three-run bomb in the first inning and a run scored from Juelz Martinez in the second inning, Dobie built an early 4-0 lead.

But Springs plated three runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth against Longhorn sophomore starter Aiden Sanchez and held on for the game one win.

Shifting to game two, Springs scored three in the first inning, then scored solo runs in the second and third frames to lead 5-0.

A three-run sixth inning punctuated the shutout as the Chargers advanced to the regional quarterfinal round.

Bossier Parish's Piper Garcia led her team to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Softball National Championship May 16, blasting a key 3-run homer to lift the Cavaliers to a 12-3 win over San Jacinto College in the Region XIV second-place game.

Garcia's line-drive shot over the left field wall off San Jacinto College starter Christin Haygood highlighted a four-run bottom of the fourth inning as Bossier Parish turned a 2-2 tie into a 6-2 advantage through four innings.

Angelina went unbeaten to win the Region XIV postseason tournament and joined Bossier Parish at nationals.

The Lutheran South Academy girls' golf team captured the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state championship over 36 holes and two rounds at the Squaw Valley Golf Club May 8-9 in Glen Rose, Texas.

Winning the second state crown in program history, the Pioneers fired a two-round total of 689, five shots clear of second place.

Members of the team included Olivia Rivas, Emma Poffinbarger (162 for ninth place overall), Lucia DeLuca, Addison Trahan (160 for eighth place overall) and Audra Poffinbarger. Emma Poffinbarger and Trahan were named to the TAPPS 5A All-State team.

The Lutheran South Academy boys' squad rode a trio of gold-medal performances to a fifth place team finish, collecting 62 points at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A State Track and Field Championships May 5-6 at Panther Stadium in Hewitt, Texas.

Marcus Gaitan was one of those LSA gold medalists for the Lutheran South boys, going stride-for-stride with his brother and teammate, Matthew Gaitan in the 800. At 1:55.05, Marcus Gaitan captured the gold medal, while Matthew Gaitan was the silver medalist at 1:56.67. Wilson Klein grabbed gold for his 5A state championship as he cleared 13 feet in the pole vault.

The Pioneers claimed gold medals in the 4x400 relay as a time of 3:23.76 also bettered the program's record in the event with Jonah Weber, Matthew Gaitan, Case Noack and Marcus Gaitan teaming. Alma Martin starred for the Lutheran South girls as she cleared 10-6 in the pole vault to win the gold medal for a state championship.

As a team, LSA was 12th in the 5A scoring. At 120-9, Rachel Bell was the silver medalist for second place in the discus.

The Pioneers' Alec Salerno was eighth in the 110 hurdles in a time of 15.75, and a throw of 43-7 1/4 placed Lutheran South's Kris St. Claire sixth in the state final. St. Clair joined LSA teammate Cole Noack in the discus event.

There, Noack came up with a best of 132-5 for fifth place, with St. Clair seventh with a throw of 130-1. The Pioneers' Ben



Dobie sophomore Cruz Torres (6) improved to 11-0 this season as his one-hit shutout of Beaumont West Brook sent the Longhorns to the area round following a 10-0 win over the Bruins May 6 at Baytown Lee High School.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Hughes wound up fifth overall in the long jump Lutheran South Academy's Wilson Klein cleared the 13-foot mark to win the Texas Association of Private and Parochial School's 5A state pole vault championship at Waco's Midway High School.

May 25

A pair of well-known South Belt area softball stars saw their 2023 NCAA Division I collegiate softball seasons come to a close as the regional postseason round played out May 19-21.

Former Lutheran South Academy and now Seton Hall University senior Shelby Smith enjoyed a memorable close to her standout career with the Pirates, even as the program went winless.

In what could be considered a shocker, nationally ranked Louisiana State University saw its season come to an abrupt end at the Baton Rouge Regional at LSU.

With Dobie graduate and team star Taylor Pleasants leading the way, the Tigers were looking to at minimum reach the Super Regional round. Instead, consecutive defeats to Louisiana-Lafayette on the same day ended LSU's run.

The Tigers, who entered the 64-team postseason as a No. 10 seed, defeated Prairie View 12-2 May 19 and then shut out Louisiana-Lafayette 4-0 to reach the Baton Rouge Regional championship round before Lafayette responded with 7-4 and 9-8 wins to advance to the Super Regional round. LSU, which was ranked No. 11 in the final NCAA Division I regular season national poll, finished at 47-17 overall.

In 2023, Pleasants overcame an injury to put together a fine senior season that saw her earn All-Southeastern Conference second-team honors. She was also named to the Southeastern Conference All-Defensive Team as a shortstop.

Overall, Pleasants hit .346 with 11 doubles, eight home runs and 53 runs batted in for the Tigers. Starting 55 games at shortstop, Pleasants scored 35 runs and had a .562 slugging percentage. Pleasants was also named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region First Team.

The junior was also honored as a College Sports Communicators 2022-23 Academic All-District Softball Team pick, recognizing academic prowess. The CSC's Academic All-District Teams recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the diamond and in the classroom. Academic All-District honorees advanced to the CSC Academic All-America ballot, with winners announced on June 6.

At the Austin Regional at the University of Texas, Smith's Seton Hall University squad lost consecutive games to Texas and Texas State as the 2023 Big East Conference postseason tournament champions finished at 42-18. Seton Hall was making its first NCAA postseason appearance since 2005.

Smith, who won a state championship with Lutheran South as a high school senior in 2019, took the pitching loss in the May 19 opener as host Texas went on to win 8-0.

In an elimination game May 20, Smith had two hits in three at-bats, but the Pirates fell 4-3 to Texas State.

In the circle, Smith went 16-7 overall with a 1.48 earned run average, and added a .340 batting average with eight home runs, nine doubles and 38 runs batted in.

Over her junior and senior seasons, Smith logged more than 300 innings in the circle. Earlier this month, Smith was named to the College Sports Communicators' Academic All-District Team for the 2022-2023 academic

year. Each year of her playing career, Smith, a business major at Seton Hall University, has been named to the Big East Conference All-Academic Team.

A graduate student now, Smith this spring will play at the University of Houston.

Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball and softball players earned All-District accolades following the completion of the 2023 season.

On the softball field, LSA's Kat Maldonado, Lauren Brown and Maddi Smith were named as first team All-District performers, while Adori Howard and Caroline Ledbetter made the second team. Honorable mention picks from the LSA squad included Sarah Horne and Alex Garza.

Roland Aguilon was a first-team All-District baseball pick, as was Blaine Birkelbach and Victor Coronado. The Lutheran South baseball team also saw Jaylen Walker, Marcus Cantu and Trey Baumann named to the all-league second team, with Baumann also an Academic All-State honoree.

Pioneer baseball players Rowdy Sowers, Brody Smith and Ethan Hughes were honorable mention picks.

Dekun Ying of the Lutheran South tennis program was honored as part of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Academic All-State Team, as were tennis players Michael Barton and Zach Chen.

Andrew Kirkpatrick, Melissa Jimenez, Neal Brownlee and Ronnie Thomas were the big bobblehead trophy winners at the 24th annual J. Frank Dobie High School Faculty/Staff-Student Tennis Tournament May 17.

Twenty-five doubles teams competed – five unfortunately had to drop out after the previous day's rainout – in the always-fun Teacher Appreciation Week's event.



Seven Lakes' Janey Campbell (center) won the Region III girls' discus championship with a throw of 145 feet while Clear Brook's Kennedy Thompson (left) was second with a personal record of 138-6 as both qualified for the May 13 University Interscholastic League's State Track and Field Championships at the University of Texas in Austin. At right in photo, Trina Hubert of Cy-Fair won the bronze medal for third place with a top throw of 135-6.



Dobie graduate and current Louisiana State University star shortstop Taylor Pleasants (17) led the Tigers into action at the NCAA Division I Women's Softball Baton Rouge Regional May 19-21.

Longhorn JV lifters score wins

The Dobie powerlifting program got off to a strong start as the junior varsity boys came up with several first-place performances, with the varsity boys' group set to get started Jan. 18 at Pearland High School.

At Dobie, junior varsity boys' competitor David Contreras was tops in the 165-pound body weight division, while Julian Alvarez won at 242. In the 275 division, Dobie's Pedro Garza was the champion, with Ryan Ngo second.

Ballard picks La. Tech football

Jeremiah Ballard, a Class of 2021 Dobie graduate and member of the 2020 District 22-5A championship team, has elected to continue his collegiate football career at Louisiana Tech through the transfer portal. He previously spent two seasons at Texas-El Paso, reeling in 34 passes for 551 yards and a score. He will have two years of eligibility remaining at Louisiana Tech.

JFD tennis hosts Having a Blast

The Dobie underclassman tennis program will host its Seventh Annual Wilson Having a Blast Spring Classic at Dickinson. Galveston Ball, Pasadena Memorial, Texas City and the Galveston Home School teams will compete in a round-robin series of doubles matches Jan. 25 on the main campus. Play will begin at 8 a.m., and the final series of matches will begin at 3 p.m.

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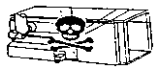
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.

9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Light-house** - 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. Call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.

11:30 a.m. **ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - Meetings are held at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seenabwa.org.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.

6:30 p.m. **Pearland Area Republican's Club** - meets at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W Walnut St., Pearland. Email pearlandarearepubliancub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARTX.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - free discussion about Judaism and religion in general at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real, Houston. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets

at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalanon.org/.

1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 beforehand.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship and Bible study programs at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.

2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 713-944-9186.

4-6 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Interfaith Call for Peace event. Members of different faith communities expressing their messages for hope and peace throughout the world. Participating faiths include Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Unity, Unitarian Universalists, and many Christian denominations. Security will be present and there will be refreshments and fellowship.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.

7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

10:00 a.m. **CCART** - Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway. Annual dues are \$50.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

10:30 a.m. **Tri County Republican Women** - General meetings are held at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr. Exact cash or check requested for lunch (\$15). RSVP at www.tricountyrw.club/ or call 832-250-8901.

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org or call 832-722-9011.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

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County launches Uplift Harris

Continued from Page 1

the potential to significantly improve the lives of thousands of residents by fostering economic stability and prosperity."

Uplift Harris is made possible by a \$20.5 million grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Harris County Commissioners Court approved the ARPA funding for the program on June 6, 2023.

The program will support 1,928 households living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, approximately \$60,000 for a household of four. Households can be selected for the program through a randomized process if they live in one of the 10 targeted high-poverty ZIP codes or participate in the ACCESS (Assessing Coordinated Care and Empowering Self-Sufficiency) Harris County program.

The target ZIP codes do not include any of the South Belt area. They include the following: 77026, 77028, 77033, 77050, 77051, 77060, 77081, 77091, 77093 and 77547.

Applicants from the target ZIP codes above will be randomly selected for the program.

Participants in the ACCESS Harris County program, the county's initiative addressing multiple needs through a care coordination team from Safety Net agencies, will also be randomly selected. ACCESS Harris County serves the county's most vulnerable popu-

lations (or cohorts) whose needs span multiple public benefit programs, including financial support and assistance.

Recipients can use the monthly payments from Uplift Harris to cover essential needs, such as rent, groceries, transportation, housing, utilities, health care and other necessities.

Research demonstrates the positive impact of guaranteed income programs, including increased employment, improved food security and housing stability, better mental and physical health, and more time for parents to spend with their children.

"Guaranteed income programs such as Uplift Harris are being implemented across the country to address the social determinants of health such as economic opportunity and security, which is a known driver of positive health outcomes," said Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Executive Director Barbie L. Robinson. "We recognize that providing individuals and families an opportunity to address some of their basic needs can be pivotal and life-changing for those experiencing poverty and economic hardship. Uplift Harris represents an innovative way to strengthen communities through creating economic security, which is instrumental to helping our community members achieve self-sufficiency and improved well-being."

The program is adminis-

tered by a third-party agency, GiveDirectly, and will be subject to rigorous evaluation throughout its duration. HCPH provides oversight and direction for the operation of Uplift Harris through GiveDirectly.

GiveDirectly, an international nonprofit organization has extensive experience in implementing similar programs.

"We are thrilled to be working with Harris County on the Uplift Harris program," said Dustin Palmer, U.S. Country Director for GiveDirectly. "For more than 13 years, GiveDirectly has helped give unconditional cash transfers to people in need around the world, and we look forward to bringing that expertise to support Texans. We know that cash has proven time and again to be incredibly effective in alleviating poverty while providing people the dignity of choice."

To ensure equitable access, HCPH has partnered with 12 local nonprofit organizations to promote Uplift Harris in the target ZIP codes and assist eligible individuals with their application process. HCPH community health workers have also canvassed over 100 businesses, nonprofits, apartment complexes, and community centers in all target ZIP codes to create awareness about the program and register residents on the online interest form.

For information, visit the Uplift Harris website, Uplift.HarrisCountyTX.gov.

Genoa Owls honor Native American heritage month

Genoa Elementary students and teachers recently integrated Native American heritage month into their curriculum, researching different Native American peoples of North America to create a heritage board.

Fourth-grade bilingual teacher Maria Duran, her class and counselor Norma Sierra collaborated to cre-

ate the heritage board. Duran's class studied the social and economic structures of Native American peoples. Duran commented

on her class' efforts and research. "The students really enjoy studying about the Indians."

Sierra said of the project, "They did an amazing job and are learning how it was back then and how it is now. The differences and similarities of yesterday and to-

day. The kiddos had a great time doing this activity and I was pleased That I was able to showcase their hard work."



Shown with their completed heritage board, left to right, are (front row) Andrea Hernandez; Lindsay Castro; Genesis Flores-Juarez; Arlyn Ortuno-Tavera; Isabella Vidales; Francisco Torres-Dominguez; Elizabeth Rocha; (middle row) Victoria Joa-Garcia; William Hernandez; Julian Jasso; David Mondragon; Juan Mondragon; Erick Paisano; Christopher Torres; (back row) Norma Sierra, counselor; Maria Duran, fourth-grade bilingual teacher and Karen Garza, assistant principal.

Submitted by Genoa Elementary officials

NAGB quarterly meeting results in action, 10-year plan



At the quarterly National Assessment Governing Board meeting, members offered their remarks and decisive action was taken to update the framework for science assessment within the education system, and a 10-year schedule for student assessment. The U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona (far left), is swearing in the newly appointed and re-appointed board at the recent NAGB meeting. Shown to the right of Cardona, from left to right, are re-appointed board member Reginald McGregor; newly appointed board member Michelle Cantú-Wilson; newly appointed board member Angélica Infante-Green; and newly appointed board member Shari Camhi. To find out more about the results of the NAGB meeting, visit <https://www.nagb.gov/news-and-events/news-releases/2023/updated-science-framework-2028.html> and <https://www.nagb.gov/news-and-events/news-releases/2023/10-year-vision-assessment-schedule.html>.

CCISD Foundation funds grants

The Clear Creek Education Foundation (CCEF) is proud to announce they have funded \$49,844.53 for mini-grants and student teacher innovative grants to 50 teachers and eight students impacting over 19,720 CCISD students for the 2023-2024 school year.

A reception was held at Challenger Stadium, Monday, Dec. 11th to celebrate and honor our CCISD teachers, staff and students with community partners.

The purpose of the grant program is to fund innovative projects that impact student learning. "We were excited to see over 100 teachers, students, parents and community partners in attendance to award and support these innovative programs. It's evident that everyone working together can make a tremendous difference in the education our students are receiving in Clear Creek ISD," stated Executive Director Jennifer Garcia.

Minigrants enhance classroom learning by providing needed resources that are not otherwise available; per request they can go up to \$1000. Student Teacher Innovative Grants (STIGs) are grants that can go up to \$5,000 per request and enhance student learning by stimulating student creativ-

ity and supporting innovative learning projects. An individual student or team of students may apply under the guidance and sponsorship of a teacher. STIGs enhance student learning by stimulating student creativity and supporting innovative learning projects. Teachers, staff and students are given the opportunity to apply for these types of grants in September and awarded in December.

"It is always such fun to review the Student Teacher Innovative Grants. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas our CCISD students have to make a positive difference on their campuses and with their fellow students. Their imaginative proposals always inspire me. Teacher Innovative grants are so important, they permit CCISD educators to make a direct impact in their classrooms and on their campus. Often a Teacher Innovative Grant that takes hold at a campus may be expanded across the district," said Joyce Abbey, CCEF programs chair.

Some of the programs funded included Engineering Design for Flight for Bayside Intermediate, sponsored by UTMB Health; Pickleball in PE at Clear Lake High School and at Ward Elementary, sponsored by the Clear Lake High School Class of 1973 and

b1Bank; Sensory needs and materials at Whitcomb Elementary, sponsored by Big Star Cadillac and Hyundai; and STEM Learning Lab at Victory Lakes Intermediate, sponsored by EliteCare Emergency Hospital.

Funding is made possible by many partners and community leaders. All innovative grants funded by CCEF offer the opportunity for someone to have a direct impact on innovation in the classroom. Funding partners are connected to the teacher and students in the classroom and get to see firsthand the difference they are making.

Since its founding in 1992, CCEF has been a nonprofit dedicated to building public education in Clear Creek ISD through grants and programs that empower every student to achieve academic and personal success. CCEF has contributed over 5 million dollars to CCISD for innovative programs in the classroom.

Grant funding is made possible by community partners across Clear Creek ISD. For more information on how to partner with the Clear Creek Education Foundation and make a difference in CCISD's teacher's classrooms, contact Garcia at fgarcia@ccisd.net.



Perez wins Sagemeadow Yard of the Month

Congratulations go to Andrew and Pam Perez for winning the HOA Sagemeadow Yard of the Month for their holiday light display. The yard featured a twinkling ornament arch, oversized candy canes, Christmas wishes, San-ta and icicle lights. Especially enjoying the display were their eight grandchildren, visitors and neighbors. The property is located on Sagemorgan Dr.

County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth announces joint election

Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth announced today that the Republican and Democratic Parties in Texas' largest county have agreed to conduct a joint election during the March 5, Primary Election cycle.

This means the two political parties will jointly hold the election in common precincts, and voters from both parties will be able to cast ballots using the same voting equipment on election day.

In previous years, the parties have held separate primary elections. "Conducting a joint pri-

mary will be a first in the history of Harris County," said Hudspeth, the County's chief election official. "I commend the chairs of each party and their executive committees for their due diligence in arriving at an accord that addresses the challenges presented by new legislation and best serves Republican and Democratic primary voters."

Senate Bill 924, passed during the 2023 Legislative session, provides that voting precincts cannot be combined in the conduct of a primary election.

As a result, the political parties must open significantly more polling locations for their primaries, making it more challenging to conduct separate elections due to a lack of resources.

"For Democratic and Republican primary voters, this year's joint aspect of the election day voting process will be familiar. It is the same voting process used for years in the conduct of early voting during primary elec-

tions, and it is the same election day voting process used when voting in a November election," said Hudspeth.

In Texas, primary elections take place on the first Tuesday in March in even-numbered years. The primary elections determine a political party's nominees for the November general election.

Aside from the approval of the county chairs of participating parties and the county elections officer, the

governing authority of the County must approve the joint election agreement via resolution.

For additional information, visit www.HarrisVotes.com or call 713-755-6965.

CCEF announces new executive director



Jennifer Garcia of Baytown, a marketing and fundraising professional, is the new executive director of the Clear Creek Education Foundation. She replaces Deborah Laine, who retired in December 2023.

A Stephen F. Austin graduate, Jennifer brings seven years of experience as the interim executive director of the Lee College Foundation and the Director of Major & Planned Gifts for Lee College. She has more than 10 years of experience in market-

Olson named Flight Museum chair

Continued from Page 1

generous donors. The board has chosen an excellent chair in Pete Olson. With his background in public service, first as a naval aviator and later as a member of Congress for 12 years, Pete has the experience and skill set to accelerate the museum's upward trajectory. I look forward to serving with Pete as he assumes his new role."

This point was reemphasized by Owens, who thanked Rozzell for his service as chair.

"Scott has been instrumental in the museum's evolution over the past nine years, and I thank him for his leadership, partnership and friendship," said Owens. "Through both challenges and successes, he's been a steady hand and it's been a privilege to work with him. I am very happy he is staying engaged with us. Scott leaves the chair in great hands, and I am very excited and look forward to working with Pete Olson as we continue offering a world-class flight museum and STEM education center to our visitors. Pete brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the chair, and we look forward to his leadership and many great years ahead."

Olson will lead the 22-member board and work alongside Owens and the museum staff on both short- and long-term goals to build upon the museum's successes.

"I am so honored and extremely humbled to have been nominated by Scott and I'm grateful for the support of Doug and our entire board," said Olson.

"I grew up in Clear Lake Forest and graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1981. Watching and hearing military and NASA training flights flying overhead from Ellington were part of my daily life, it's what inspired me to become a U.S. Navy pilot after finishing law school."

Olson said his experience working with the flight museum while a congressman will help the board moving forward.

"I had the privilege of working with the Lone Star Flight Museum team as their representative in Congress for 12 years," said Olson. "I toured the museum in Galveston after Ike's destruction, so I know how far our museum has come in such a short time. Scott and Doug have greatly strengthened our museum with record attendance, additions of NASA training systems, newly acquired and visiting aircraft, and a robust science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program, inspiring young people toward careers in STEM and aviation. I intend to build upon these successes as we embark on a new campaign to dramatically expand."

HPD seeks female robbery suspects

Continued from Page 1

The complainant, a store employee, witnessed the incident and took a picture with her cell phone as the suspects were getting into a vehicle and fleeing the scene.

At that time, a third female, possibly the suspects mother, walked into the store, grabbed several items, threw them at the store employee and then punched her in the face. The suspect grabbed various display items and continued to throw them on the ground. The suspects then got back into a Toyota SUV and fled the scene.

The first suspect is described as a black female,

30 to 39 years old, standing 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighing around 250 pounds, wearing a white shirt and dark pants. The second suspect is described as a black female, large build, wearing a pink Nike pullover and blue pants. The third suspect is described as a black female, thin build, wearing a black shirt and camouflage pants. The suspect vehicle is described as newer model gray Toyota Rav4 with damage on the passenger side and black/silver after-market rims.

Anyone with any information on this crime is urged to contact the HPD Robbery Division at 713-308-0700.

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