



South Belt-Ellington Leader

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The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Dick Raycraft dies at 82

Former South Belt resident Dick Raycraft died in Austin Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the age of 82. While living in the area, Raycraft and his wife Camille – a former longtime Thompson teacher – were very active in the South Belt community.

Major closures planned

There will be a total closure of all eastbound and westbound connector ramps from Beltway 8 to Interstate 45 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Jan. 21.

Sagemeadow holds meetings

Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will hold its annual HOA business meeting and first monthly meeting of the year Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at The Gardens at Beamer and Hughes.

Kirkwood holds meeting

The Kirkwood Civic Club's January meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes.

Free COVID tests available

Free COVID tests, four per household, are available at COVIDtests.gov. If more than four tests per household, per month, are needed they can be bought.

COVID spread slightly slows

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the South Belt has dropped slightly in comparison to the two previous weeks that saw ZIP code 77089 reporting approximately 1,000 new cases per week.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

Sagemont Civic to meet

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road.

SMF holds annual meeting

In accordance with its bylaws, the Sagemont Maintenance Fund (formerly known as the Sagemont Maintenance Committee) will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer and Hughes Road.

Beltway closures planned

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to Preston daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Jan. 20.

Pct. 2 unit closes impressive year, seizing millions

Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit confiscates \$80M in drugs in 2021

In its first year back on the job, the Special Operations Unit from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office closed out the calendar with a bang, taking millions of dollars worth of narcotics off the street and seizing hundreds of thousands in assets.

According to county records, the unit confiscated more \$80 million worth of illegal drugs off area streets in 2021. The unit, however, did not start working full time until July, making the statistics

even more impressive. While the Special Operations Unit was formed in 2017, it was disbanded in 2020 under the direction of former Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz.

Garcia pledged during his campaign he'd reactivate the group, if elected – a promise he has kept. "One of Constable Garcia's goals was to reactivate the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit as soon as possible," a post on the Precinct 2 constable's Facebook page said. "Constable Garcia realized the

importance of having this specialized division active and combating major crimes within Precinct 2. This division did not disappoint."

The elite unit is composed of three full-time deputies and one part-time deputy. In addition to battling narcotics, the group also tackles other vices, such as gambling and prostitution. The unit's mission often involves undercover work.

Deputies from the Special Operations Unit have forged strong bonds with the Drug Enforcement

Agency, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement branches, according to county officials.

Records indicate that deputies from the Special Operations Unit made 62 case arrests during 2021, including 65 felony charges and 12 misdemeanor charges.

Deputies confiscated 3,661 grams of hydroponic marijuana, with an estimated street value of

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SUMMARY TOTALS		Harris County Constable Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit Summary Stats Reporting Period 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021			
INVESTIGATIONS		Narcotic/Pharmaceutical Amounts and Values			
Complaints Reviewed	35	ILLEGAL NARCOTICS			
Follow-Up	9	Seizures	Weight(gram)	Current Value/gram	Est. Street Value
Search Warrants	11	Hydroponic Marijuana	3,661	\$25.00	\$91,522.58
Phone Search Warrants	0	Other Marijuana	6,560	\$10.00	\$65,600.00
Tracker Orders	1	THC	6,380	\$100.00	\$638,000.00
UNDERCOVER OPS		Cocaine - Crack	45	\$80.00	\$3,600.00
UC Introductions	0	Cocaine - Powder	135,713	\$100.00	\$13,571,260.00
UC Buys	2	Heroin	3,384	\$120.00	\$406,080.00
UC Contacts	0	Fentanyl	198,065	\$150.00	\$29,709,750.00
CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES		Meth - Crystal	482,548	\$60.00	\$28,952,880.00
# of New Cls Signed	0	Codeine / Prometh	1,785,289	\$3.00	\$5,355,867.00
# of buys	0	PCP	60	\$100.00	\$6,000.00
REPORTS		Ecstasy	170	\$46.00	\$7,820.00
Intel	70	Suboxone	0	\$50.00	\$0.00
Cases	0	Synthetic Marijuana	1,315	\$20.00	\$26,300.00
ARRESTS		Number of Pills Pharmaceuticals			
Case Arrests	62	Hydrocodone	0	\$12.00	\$0.00
Fel/Misd Warrant Arrests	15	Xanax	194	\$10.00	\$1,940.00
CHARGES		Oxycodone	9.8	\$10.00	\$98.00
Felony - 1st	23	Soma	0	\$15.00	\$0.00
Felony - 2nd	2	Other	70	\$10.00	\$700.00
Felony - 3rd	16	Asset Forfeiture/Seizure			
Felony - SJ	24	Number / Amount of: Total Est. Value			
Misdemeanor - A	7	Vehicles	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misdemeanor - B	5	Property	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misdemeanor - C	0	Other Assets	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Citations	0	Fed Seizures	3	\$2,034,610.00	\$2,034,610.00
WARRANTS		Currency		\$31,328.00	\$31,328.00
Felony Warrants Issued	1	Total Values \$80,903,355,581			
Misd. Warrants Issued	3	Comments			
Sealed Indictments	0	Narcotics Seized: Hydroponic Marijuana- 8.07 lbs., Other Marijuana- 14.46 lbs., THC- 14.06 lbs., Cocaine (Powder)- 299.19 lbs., Heroin- 7.46 lbs., Fentanyl- 436.65 lbs., Meth- 1,063.83 lbs., Codeine/ Promethazine- 3,935.88 lbs., Synthetic Marijuana- 2.90 lbs.			
SPECIAL OPERATIONS		Firearms Seized 84			
Buy Bust	1	The Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit recently closed out 2021, with what was an impressive first year back on the job. Its 2021 stats are posted above but as Lt. Mike Kritzer points out the unit only worked full time for six of those months, making the figures even more impressive.			
Buy Walk	1				
Trash Run	0				
Tracker Deployment	0				
Prostitution Sting	2				
ASSISTS					
Pct. 2 - Patrol	23				
Outside Agency	11				
Federal Agency	46				

Mitchell launches legislative campaign

Longtime area resident Bob Mitchell recently launched his campaign for Texas Senate District 11, which includes portions of Galveston, Brazoria, and Harris counties, including the South Belt community.



Bob Mitchell

"As a resident of Southeast Texas my entire life, I know what makes this such a special place to live and work," Mitchell said. "Over the past two decades, I have developed strong relationships with many community and business leaders across our region and worked collaboratively to identify opportunities and recruit employers to the Gulf Coast. I care about this region and have a deep knowledge about the people and companies who make this such a great place to

live. I am running for Texas Senate to represent conservative values and the Gulf Coast work ethic in Austin, where I will fight for the people whose hard work makes the Gulf Coast the heartbeat of Texas' success."

Mitchell is seeking to fill the position being vacated by outgoing Sen. Larry Taylor, who announced his retirement in early December. Mitchell worked closely with Taylor on several projects over the years in his capacity at Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, and his departure played a significant role in Mitchell's decision to run for the office. Other candidates seeking the position include Robin Armstrong, Bianca Garcia and Mayes Middleton – all Republicans. No Democrats are seeking the position.

According to Mitchell, he is a strong conservative, who stands for limited and effective government, local control, the sanctity of life and the importance of securing the border and protecting the ports.

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Commissioner candidate forum planned

A group of local civic clubs and homeowners associations will host a candidate forum Tuesday, Feb. 1, for those seeking the position of Harris County Precinct 2 commissioner. The candidate forum will take place at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road, beginning at 7 p.m.

The forum is offered at no cost to attendees and is open to the public. The event is organized for Harris County Precinct 2 residents.

To avoid the appearance of favoritism for one candidate over another in each race, all candidates, Democrat and Republican, have been invited to participate in the forum.

"We need all candidates to participate to provide voters the opportunity to evaluate all of the

contenders answering the same questions," said Kay Barbour, president of Sagemont Civic Club.

If a candidate's email invitation was not received, Barbour asks that the candidate contact the civic club.

There are eight candidates vying for the position of Precinct 2 County Commissioner.

Four of the eight should be applauded for their positive prompt responses. George Risner (D), John Manlove (R), Jack Morman (R) and Richard Vega (R) have agreed to participate in the forum.

Incumbent Adrian Garcia (D) has responded tentatively.

As of press time, Gary Harrison (D), Daniel

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Leader looks back on 2021 highlights, low points

The Leader 2021 Year in Review is continued from the previous issue. Stories up to July 1 can be found in the Jan. 13 edition of the Leader.

July 1

Atkinson Principal Lena Ortiz recently retired after serving 45 years in education – 26 of which were spent at the local elementary campus. Ortiz

was only the second principal in Atkinson's 51-year history, replacing Hollis Powell, who served 25 years in the position. Ortiz began her career in education as a first-grade teacher at Kruse Elementary, a position she'd hold for seven years. She then taught first grade at Young Elementary for two years, before moving to Gardens Ele-

mentary, where she would teach fourth grade for another two years. Ortiz then served as assistant principal at Gardens Elementary for eight years, before assuming the role of principal at Atkinson.

South Belt resident Erica Salazar has been named Ortiz's replacement, assuming the position for the 2021-2022 school year. Salazar grew up in the South Belt area and attended all Pasadena schools which included Stuchbery Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School. Salazar is a 1995 Dobie graduate and while there she played on the softball team. Being the catcher her junior and senior years, Salazar was part of the 1993 and 1995 Dobie softball state championship teams. After graduating, Salazar received a scholarship for softball which took her to Texas A&M University – Kingsville, where she also

played catcher on the softball team and pursued a degree in marketing. Salazar started her career in Houston ISD, where she taught at Sanchez Elementary for one year. She then moved to Kingsville, before returning back home to start a career in Pasadena ISD. Prior to assuming her current position at Sparks, Salazar worked two years at Atkinson Elementary, before transferring to Keller Middle School, where she served as assistant principal for three years.

Multiple new arrests were made involving two major South Belt crimes. An unnamed 16-year-old male was charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place June 17 on Fuqua near Beamer. Ben Rivera, 27, and Dylan Walker, also 27, were both charged with evidence tampering regarding a hu-

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Residents warned of water scammers

Officials from local municipal utility districts are warning residents about a potential scam involving door-to-door solicitors claiming to be from the City of Houston to address water contamination issues.

According to officials with the Clear Brook City MUD and Sagemeadow MUD, multiple residents have complained in recent weeks of be-

ing contacted by suspicious individuals, usually a pair of men with profession-appearing identification, claiming to be from the city to test indoor water lines for purity after receiving reports of contamination in the area. Presumed to be solicitors, the "workers" then attempt to gain entry into the residences. The workers usually target

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Two men shot at Edgebrook apartments

Houston police are investigating the shootings of two men that took place about 2:35 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

The victims, James Sipes, 41, and Kelvin Menefee, 57, were both transported to area hospitals in stable condition.

According to Houston police, officers re-

sponded to a report of a shooting at the above address and found both Sipes and Menefee had been shot. Sipes had suffered a minor gunshot wound to the head, while Menefee suffered a gunshot wound to the foot. Paramedics transported both men to the hospital.

Both men stated they had been in an apartment at the above address when an unknown sus-

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HFD responds to Gulf Palms house fire

A house caught fire shortly before midnight Thursday, Jan. 6, in the 11900 block of Palm-springs Drive.

Houston firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find the side of a one-story home heavily involved in fire. They forced entry into the garage to access the attic and stop fire extension.

Once the fire was extinguished, it was deter-

mined the resident had stoked the cast iron stove and after leaving, returned to find the kitchen on fire. The fire was deemed accidental.

The blaze cause approximately \$110,000 in damage. No injuries were reported.

The American Red Cross was requested to assist the resident.

Crews from stations 23, 70, 71, 52, 61, 93 and 24 responded to this incident.

Missing Scarsdale girl, 9, found safe

A missing 9-year-old Scarsdale girl was found safe early Friday, Jan. 14, Houston police said.

Police sent out an update around 8:30 a.m., saying that Skarlett Deleon had been safely discovered. No additional information was provided detailing her discovery.

Deleon had been reported missing at approximately 5 a.m. Friday morning. A neighbor had

last seen the girl around 11 p.m. the previous night Thursday, Jan. 13, as she was walking south from the 12200 block of Pompton toward Astoria Boulevard.

Deleon – described as a Hispanic female, standing 4'9" tall and weighing roughly 100 pounds, with brown eyes and curly brown hair – had last been seen wearing a blue sweater and blue and pink shorts, police said.

Contractor debris becoming an issue



Contractor debris being left at residential job sites has become an increasingly more frequent problem in the South Belt community. Contractors and residents alike should be aware that it is the responsibility of the company performing the work at a house to remove all trash associated with the project when complete. Failure to do so in the city of Houston can result in fines ranging from \$1,000 (first offense) to \$2,000 (second offense). The contractor debris at the residence above in the 10800 block of Sagetrail popped up just after a similar problem yard was cleaned nearby in the 11100 block of Sagetrail after several weeks of complaints. See related photos on Page 8.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Mitchell introduces himself for election

Primary elections often take a back seat to general elections with many people waiting to exercise their right to vote in November. I get this reasoning if the incumbent is the only person running. That is not the case this year for the Texas Senate race for District 11 that encompasses parts of Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria counties. There are four candidates who are running for the seat for which Sen. Larry Taylor has chosen not to seek reelection.

Four candidates. Four different visions for the future of District 11. You may not know me. Why should you vote for someone you don't know? First of all, I'm not a total stranger. I'm one of you – a lifelong resident of District 11. I attended the schools that your children and grandchildren now attend. I've worked the kinds of jobs you work – first on the docks at the Port of Houston and later in management level positions within manufacturing.

I know that I am the most highly qualified candidate for the job. Let me tell you why. I've worked in economic development for more than 20 years bringing companies and jobs to the region. I'm running to become the next senator for the 11th District, because I care about this region so much. I've lived here my entire life and have deep knowledge about the people and companies that make this region such a great place to live.

My commitment to bringing primary jobs to the region, which I have done since becoming the president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, BAHEP, in 2007, will continue as will my strong relationships with the many individuals in leadership positions across the region. I firmly believe that I am the right person, the most qualified person to represent District 11 to ensure the district's continued economic growth and excellent quality of life.

These two things, economic growth and quality of life, affect every one of you personally, and it definitely defines the future for your children and grandchildren. We are all working toward the same kinds of goals, and that makes us a community. I know what it takes to keep a community, an economy expanding, because I have lived it every day since I joined BAHEP in 2001.

Since 2008, I have been a strong advocate for a coastal barrier system to protect the citizens and the economy of the upper Texas Gulf Coast. The Texas 87th Legislature created the Gulf Coast Protection District where, by appointment of Gov. Abbott, I sit on its board and serve as vice president.

Under my leadership, BAHEP has partnered with the Houston Airport System, NASA Johnson Space Center, the Port of Houston, and academic institutions across the region to protect jobs and create employment opportunities as is evident in the notable expansion of the Houston Spaceport, commercial space exploration partners for NASA and its many contractors, and maritime training creating a pipeline of possibilities for those seeking maritime careers.

Through my work as an economic development professional, I have established good and purposeful relationships with legislative leadership not only in Austin but on

Capitol Hill in Washington as well. District 11, with our unique and outstanding resources, is very important to the state and to the nation. As State Senator for District 11, I will honestly and fairly represent you and your family for your futures and for the continued growth of this amazing district that we all call home.

The Texas Primary Election is fast approaching in just four weeks. Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, is the first day of early voting, and Tuesday, March 1st is Election Day. November will be too late to choose which among the four candidates you want as your next Texas Senator for District 11. I am a conservative Republican with strong family values. With deep roots in District 11, I firmly believe that I am the right person at the right time to ensure the district's continued economic growth and excellent quality of life, and I am respectfully asking for your vote.

Bob Mitchell

Risner runs for Pct. 2 Commissioner

After 35 years of service as Justice of the Peace in Precinct 2, George Risner has announced his candidacy for Commissioner Precinct 2. Risner's years of service as Justice of the Peace give him a unique perspective and knowledge of Precinct 2 and its needs. Risner is running for Commissioner to create a difference in the Precinct 2 community by making neighborhoods safer, the criminal justice system more fair, and the County's budget fiscally sound.

The Precinct 2 Commissioner can influence land use decisions, encourage affordable housing, support programs that avoid evictions, strengthen library and mentoring programs to enhance quality education, and reach out to the business community to expand employment and economic opportunities. Risner has a special interest in improving the criminal justice system, including a system of bail that is fair to all arrested persons, and trial dockets that assure defendants a speedy trial.

Risner wants the opportunity to participate in securing grants for housing stabilization and rental assistance, improving residential building standards and increasing inspections for the safety and the health of residents, making mental health services available in the Precinct, and maintaining the local parks and recreational areas for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Precinct 2. Enhancing services and programs for seniors is also a priority.

Risner is a lifetime member of the Houston and Pasadena Livestock Shows & Rodeos and is a member of the S. P. Waltrip Masonic Lodge #1328. Risner participates in local business and civic organizations, and is a member of the Texas Justice Court Judges Association. For more information about the George Risner campaign for Commissioner Precinct 2, visit the Campaign's website at RunRisnerRun.com, or call (713) 516-6310.

The campaign office is located at 1515 SSGT Macario Garcia Drive, Houston, Texas 77011. Citizens are urged to vote in the Democratic Primary on March 1, 2022.

George Risner

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonslibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonslibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays, Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Outdoors (weather permitting) storytime for all ages. Visit <https://houstonslibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card.

To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonslibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes.

Another virtual program is Craft. Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonslibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases.

Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
 - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
 - Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
 - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Hours are: Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
 - Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
 - Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
 - Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
 - Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
 - Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
 - Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.
- Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.
- Thursday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m. In-Person Toddler Time. Join Mr. John and Ms. Jasmine in the Library Community Room for Toddler Time. There will be singing, counting, rhyming and a variety of other activities.
- Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m. Virtual Citizenship Workshop. BPSOS Houston provides free assistance on citizenship and immigration. To register, one must text their name to 281-826-9870.
- Monday, Jan. 24, 5 p.m. Treat Yo Self.
- Feeling stressed? Come "treat yo self" to relax and wind down before gearing up for the new year. All teens and young adults are welcomed.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m. In-Person Story Time. Join Mr. John in the Library Community Room for some stories and rhymes. Families with children of all ages are welcomed.

Russell Raymond Lamontagne



Russell Raymond Lamontagne spent his last moments of life with his family on Jan. 5, 2022 joining his parents and 10 of his siblings in heaven. He was born in Lawrence, Mass., Oct. 22, 1928.

From Lawrence, he is survived by his brother Rene Lamontagne and sister

Elaine Scanlon along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In 1952, Russell and his wife Judy, of 69 years, moved to Houston on their honeymoon. Here, Russell started his legacy. His last words to his family were, "Don't worry about it! It will be okay!" He told these words to his family every day.

He is survived by his wife; his four daughters and their husbands Judith and Glen Goodman, Gail and Casey Ward, Ele and Brian Manry and Laurie and Greg Baxa; his nine grandchildren and spouses Bradley and Misti Payne, Cory and Hildegard Payne, Blake and Samantha Payne, Casey Jr. Ward, Nicholas Ward, Brian Jr. and Christa Manry, Blaine and Allison Manry, Emily Baxa and Bubba Baxa; and his nine great-grandchildren Cayden

and Charles Payne, Emilia and Leo Payne, Audrey and Bailey Manry, Elliott, Oliver and Rey Manry.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Jan. 28, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1612 E. Walker St., League City.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., service immediately following the visitation.

The Celebration of Life will be officiated by a dear friend of many years, Father John Rooney.

Floyd Andrew Ruth



The world has lost a great American hero. Floyd Andrew Ruth, longtime South Belt resident, U.S. Navy WWII Veteran with two Purple Hearts, Pearl Harbor survivor and Medal for Merit recipient by President Ronald Reagan, entered the kingdom of heaven at 97 on Jan. 13, 2022.

Born in 1924 in Winnsboro, S.C., he traveled the world and made Houston his home.

He is with his beloved wife Emilia Ruth, who left the world in 1992. Devoted to his family, Floyd was a father to sons Ed Ochoa and David and John Ruth. Floyd was an uncle to nephew Chris Byars. He was a grandfather and a great-grandfather.

He was a kind, loving, humble, strong, fearless, wise and proud Christian man who will be missed.

Theresa Ann Lopez



Theresa Ann Lopez, 66, went home to the arms of the Lord on Jan. 14, 2022. She was born in Houston, on March 29, 1955, to Charlie and Elva Lopez and was one of ten children.

She is preceded in death by her father.

Residents warned of potential scammers

Continued from Page 1 homes during daytime hours when women are often home alone.

Not only do local MUD residents not get their water directly from the City of Houston, the quality of the water in both the Clear Brook City and Sagemeadow MUDs, currently meets or exceeds all state and federal standards, officials said.

All MUDs are required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to provide samples for testing each year to see if their water is up to state and federal standards. Residents may see the

results to these purity tests by contacting their local MUD.

While the potential scammers' ultimate goal is unclear, there have similar reports in recent years where solicitors attempt to sell residents water purification systems, claiming there are in fact contamination issues, and it is the responsibility of the resident to correct, as the problem is on their property.

All residents, whether serviced by a MUD or by the city, are urged to not let anyone inside their home for any reason. Should a resident ever feel threatened, they should call 911 immediately.

Police respond to Edgebrook shootings

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pect(s) fired shots into the apartment for unknown reasons.

This marked the second double shooting in just three days to take place at an apartment complex on Redford.

Just three days earlier, around 4:50 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, victims, Marilyn Lee Lambert, 70, and Marcus Ray Hawkins, 51, were transported to area hospitals in stable condition after being shot at a complex in 1300 block of Redford.

In the case, investigators said three unknown black

male suspects knocked on the door of the victims' apartment.

When one of the victims asked who was at the door, at least one of the suspects fired multiple shots through the door, striking each of the victims once.

At press time, it was unknown if the two incidents were related.

Anyone with information on these cases is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of Neighbor's app posted photos of a person that took a package from the member's front porch. The incident took place Thursday, Jan. 13, at the 12000 block of Beamer Road. The member states that the police were notified.

Another member of the

community is prepared for growth in the coming decades. I want to thank Congresswoman Garcia and every member of our Congressional delegation who voted for the Administration's Infrastructure Bill.

Find more information on the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Formula Program at <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/59b9b3d2fe9640f5bc54660342435655>.

Elected officials share their words

On Jan. 14, Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia (TX-29) announced the first round of investments in repairing Texas bridges coming in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The funding announced this year is part of a larger 5-year grant, where Texas is expected to receive \$537 million for repairs. This year, \$107.4 million will come to Texas to repair state bridges, including over 818 Texas bridges found to be in poor condition.

"Residents of my district, Harris County and across Texas rely on our bridges to get to work, go to school, and live their daily lives," said Garcia. "I am proud that the infrastructure law is already delivering results for our community to make our bridges safer and prepare them for future growth."

The investment announced is designed to help the State of Texas repair local bridges critical for moving people, goods and commerce. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also includes additional funding through a competitive grant program that communities can apply for to receive funds on top of their allotment in this investment.

"I look forward to funds coming to Harris County that will help us rebuild our bridges," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Today's announcement represents a once-in-a-generation influx of funds to upgrade our bridges. These investments are absolutely vital to ensuring that our

community is prepared for growth in the coming decades. I want to thank Congresswoman Garcia and every member of our Congressional delegation who voted for the Administration's Infrastructure Bill."

Find more information on the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Formula Program at <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/59b9b3d2fe9640f5bc54660342435655>.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care

New Enrolling

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

281.481.2003

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

Deaths

Eula Mae Hannah Childs



Eula Mae Hannah Childs was born the youngest of three children on March 2, 1930 to Seth Batson Hannah and Ollie Batson Venable Hannah in Normangee, Texas. She went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jan. 12, 2022.

She lived on the family farm until her father's untimely death when she was 12.

And, after her mother also passed away a few years later when Eula was 17, she attended Mary Hardin-Baylor for a year.

After that year, her brother helped her relocate to Houston, and helped her get her first fulltime job at Old National Insurance Company.

There she met and married her future husband, James Grant Odell Childs. They had two children; a daughter, J. Candace (Candy) Childs O'Mally and a son, John Patrick Childs (known as either Pat or John).

They moved from Houston to Dallas (where her son was born) to Texarkana, finally permanently relocating to Houston, living in the same house for 54 years.

After the children were a little older, she went to work for Southern Clinic in Texarkana, then Glen Val-

ley Clinic in Houston, and finally for Baylor College of Medicine, retiring after 30 years. While there, she worked in the departments of neurology, otorhinolaryngology and finally ophthalmology.

In addition to her regular workload, she worked on Project Orbis and The Cataract Congress. She was a member of Health Meeting Planners. After retiring, she was an ombudsman for the State of Texas for 10 years.

Her family joined Sagemont Church, it is believed as charter members, in 1967. In addition to attending Sunday School and church services regularly she also taught third grade and adult ladies Sunday School classes.

She also was the storyteller to children ages three and younger for years. Even though she ultimately could not attend church activities in later years because she could not hear or maneuver very well, one of her greatest joys was the visits and calls of her special church family.

She leaves behind her daughter; her grandson and his wife, Tyler and Julie Anna O'Mally; her daughter-in-law, Karla Shelton Childs Boyer; her granddaughter, Rachel Ann Childs; and her stepson and wife, Bob and Stephanie Childs; as well as beloved nephews, their families, in-laws and a host of other family and friends.

What a reunion she is having right this very minute with her husband, son, mother, father, brother, sister, in-laws, and nephews who have gone on before her!

A visitation was held at Peevey Funeral Home, Tuesday, Jan. 18 and the funeral service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 19, also at Peevey Funeral Home. Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Leader obituary policy

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

South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

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Thompson Intermediate lists third six-weeks honor roll

Thompson Intermediate officials announced their third six-weeks honor roll.

Seventh grade
Deacon Akinloye, Tyler Albert, Isabella Allen, Kaileigh Antoine, Adelle Bongfen, Jasmine Cabrera, Thomas Canil, Jayvian Chavez and Leslie Costa.

Aidan De La Rosa, Stephanie Delgado, Linkin Dinh, Anahi Echeverria, Emma Espino, Delilah Evans, Courtney Fletcher, James Flores and Fabian Fraide.

Samuel Garcia, Ezequiel Gonzalez, Vivian Hang, Julian Hernandez, Julius Hernandez, Alexia Hoang, Marina Kostikoglou, Duy Lam and Anthony Le.

Sheyla Le, Genesis Leal, Hayden Limas, Leyla Limon, Aubrey Lugo, Allison Martinez, Ashley Martinez, Miah Martinez and Kacey McDonald.

Jaiden Medina, Madeline Medina, Adlin Mena, Dylan Nelson, Morgan Mommie, Aden Moore, De Moses, Juned Munshi and Cody Nguyen.

Hayly Nguyen, Jeffery Nguyen, Nicholas Nguyen, Ijeoma Nmezi, Lilly Oliva, Nathaniel Padilla, Jordan Parga, Jonny Pham and Mia Ramos.

Jeremy Rangel, Nicolas Rangel, Olivia Razo, Ana Reyes, Aubree Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez, Christopher Rubio, Jonathon Sanchez and Manuel Sanchez.

Sophia Saucedo, Zaire Scott, Christiane Simpson, Persephone Soria, Jayda Stewart and Kendra Tamez.

Aiden Teran, Delta Terrell, Anne Tran, Katie Tran, Phuc Tran and Nina Truong.

Eighth grade
Anderson Aguilar, Blessing Akinloye, Sureal Alcorta,

Joel Alvarenga, Jaiden Alvarez, Henry Armenta Alonso, Shawn Armstrong, Celeste Arriaga, Sean Arroyo and Kendall Ashworth.

Lahnay Avendano, Ivan Ayala, Makayla Ballard, St. Romain, Alexander Baumgartner, Nathaniel Belleville, Haris Bhatti, Erika Calvillo, Kimberly Castillo and Ethan Cavazos.

Kennedy Cavazos, Alonzo Chapman, Kevin Chau, Ryan Chau, David Contreras, Cecilia Cruz, Hailey Cubos, Arianna Davidson and Leila Davila.

Khayden Davis, Natalie De Hoyos, Dinah Dean, Daphney DeLeon, Aiden Diaz, Hadi Elghawi, Cooper Estes, Cheyenne Evans and Joel Fisher.

Savannah Flores-Lewis, Calvin Flowers, Roxann Franco, Helio Frausto, Julieta De Jesus Garcia, Max Garza, Emily Golenko, Adam Gonzales and Frank Gonzales-Adame.

Miranda Gonzalez, Abel Gutierrez, Abigail Gutierrez, Jakob Hasbell, Lance Heath, Maddox Hernandez, Morgan Hill, Rayne Larson and Alex Le.

Danton Le, Keenan Llanes, Daveon Love, Donovan Luu, Ava Macias, Jorge Martinez, Sarah Massey, Edgardo Mateo and Morgan McGee.

Tristan McKissick, Dulce Mejia Hernandez, Kiara Merkeron, Mehreen Mir, James Moe, Jalyn Mondragon, Aziel Moreno, Ayden Munoz and Jawad Naser.

Heidi Ngranou, Quoc-Bao Ngo, Gia Nguyen, Haley Nguyen, Jennifer Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen, Victory Nwosu and Thalia Oddo.

Jonathan Orellana Samiento, Valerie Ortiz,

Awele Ozieh, Tanya Palomino, Amairani Pena, Alex Perez, Thi Pham, Emyly Pineda and Izelle Pineda.

Jazmin Pineda, Wilson Ponce, Yvette Ramos, Natalie Rangel, Jaylyn Requeno Ortiz,

Sebastian Rincon, Abigail Rubio, Roger Ruiz and Edward Salazar.

Nicholas Sepulveda, Francisco Serrano, Isaiah Solorzano, Alison Soriano Gonzalez, Daniel Soto, Mia Sudario

Martinez and Pretty McCoy. Grace Menahem, Yasmin Mendez, Jillian Mikulski, McKenzie Milburn, Ashley Moreno, Charleston Nash, Alissa Nguyen Hoang, Duy Nguyen and Hieu Nguyen.

Jocelyn Nguyen, Kelvin Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Phuong Nguyen, Tuan Nguyen, Vincent Nguyen, Jeremiah O'Neal, Estefani Orellana Ramirez and Kaden Orozco.

Joseph Oviedo, Luciano Padilla, Nevaeh Perez, Vincent Pham, Andrew Posey, Angela Quinonez, Isaac Quiroga, Eric Reyes and Marco Rincon.

Gavin Ritenour, Tatiana Rodriguez, Tarvorrio Rogers, Aiden Romero, Isaias Ruiz, Daniel Salamanca, Alexander Sanchez, Johnathan Saucedo and Noah Serna.

Faraell Sims, Jacob Solis, Jonathan Solis, Alina Sosa, Samyria Spriggs, Malachi Statten-Murray, Jennifer Tan, Aiden Tellez and Marlee Tillman.

Tiffani Tillman, Ja-Nasia Tompkins, Ximena Torres-Zuniga, Miriam Torres De Leon, Daniel Tran, Kaylie Tran, Alex Truong and Tuyet Truong.

Payton Turner, Thomas Turruartes, Alan Vallejo, Ruben Vasquez, Julian Villaseñor, Minh Vu, Christopher Wickliff and Lily Yam.

Eighth grade
Leonela Aguila, Diego Aguila, Angel Amador, Jose Angulo, Dulce Arias, Hussai Arias, Alyciana Armelin, Mikalya Bain and Kaitlyn Baines.

Aleisa Banda, Ashlee Banks, Suheylee Belman, Salah Ben Achour, Sara Berinyu Nfor, Joshua Berlanga, Tanner Bo, Alexis Bonilla and Diana Bonilla.

Jeremiah Briscoe, Megan Bui, Isabella Byron, Victoria Caballero, Julian Calderon Vargas, Thien Cao, Sophia Carballo, Amirah Carraway and Daniel Carrera.

Yureimi Cazares, Daniel Chavez, Zenaida Cisneros, Kailcen Culppepper, Angelica Damian, Christina Dang, Kevin Dang, Katelyn De Leon and Josselyn Delgado.

Hayden Do, Anthony Dominguez, David Ekong, Andrew Escobedo, Chloe Estes, Kamilah Estrada, Norman Fabian Alba, Oliver

Garza, Kian Ton, Parker Tran and Alexandra Trevino.

Fernando Vargas, Marissa Vasquez, Juan Vega, Aidan Veitia, Thu Vo, Leon Vu, Zoey Vuong, Malakai West and Olivia Wheeler.

Fabian Guzman and Guillermo Fernandez.

Emily Flores, Esbeydi Fonseca, Linnea Fonseca, Essence Gabriel, Joselyn Galvan, Karyme Galvan, Ethan Garay, Edward Garcia and Johnny Garcia.

Sandra Garcia, Thomas Garcia, Alyria Garcia-Garza, Ryleigh Gonzalez, Ella Guerra, Cristian Guerrero, Daniela Guerrero, Hao Ha and Alejandro Hernandez.

Ashley Hernandez, Landen Hernandez, Kenny Ho, Trinity Hoang, Dealon Hobbs-McGrew, Alexander Hofferter, Rosa Jimenez Velasco, Ami Johnson and Jordan Johnson.

Marcus Jones, Richard Le, Janiel Lebron Delgado, Jandel Leon Ortiz, Ilana Luna, Nathan Luna, Peyton Lynn, Eduardo Martinez and Evelyn Martinez.

Kevin Martinez, Nicholas Martinez, Xavier Martinez, Mark Mata, Anthony McCall, Adam Medrano, Isaac Mendez, Alfa Montalvo and Simon Montemayor.

Nathan Montez, Zariah Morales, Tommy Ngo, Andrew Nguyen, Chloe Nguyen, Cj Nguyen, Dan Nguyen, Diana Nguyen and Hannah Nguyen.

Hoang Nguyen, Mary Nguyen, Matthew Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Thu Ninh, Kamilah Oliva, Sweney Onyango, Edgar Orozco and Elijah Parker.

Roselyn Pedraza, Isabella Pena, Matthew Perez, Stephany Perez, Don Pham, Hannah Pham, Mylan Piedra, Cynthia Pineda and Ezekiel Portales.

Yaciry Portales, Joaquin Ramirez, Kayla Reynaud, Jose Rivas, Stefany Rivera Valdez, Aileen Rivera, Ariana Rodriguez, Jesus Rodriguez and Alexander Salguero.

Anthony Salguero, Aaron Sanchez, Cristopher Sanchez, Jacob Sanchez, Jesus Santos, Alejandro Saucedo, Naven Scott, Kaitlyn Sherwood and Zachary Staten.

Thao Ta, Savannah Talavera, Jaiden Torres, Kaylanie Tran, Victoria Tran, Khang Truong and Eliud Urbina Paez.

Andres Valdez, Lilliana Vega, Brandon Ventura, Bao Vu, Clayton Washington, Jai'ana Washington and Xandria Williams.

Green Thumb lecture set Jan. 18
The Green Thumb Gardening lecture "Gardening in Small Spaces" by Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Public Library System is set for Tuesday, Jan. 18. This free virtual lecture will be presented from 11 a.m. to noon. No registration is required. One can watch via Facebook live at facebook.com/harriscountypl/events/.

CCISD celebrates 40 years of tradition



Shown above is Clear Brook High School senior Naomi Browning who practiced her showmanship skills in

the competitive arena at the Friday Night Arena Lights Progress Show Dec. 10, 2021.

Clear Creek ISD is proud to announce that from Jan. 18-20, the hard work and dedication of hundreds of students over the past several months will culminate for the district's 40th Annual Livestock Show and Auction.

The CCISD Livestock Show and Auction is a cherished tradition for students, teachers and the greater community.

"It's inspiring, year after year, to watch how our community comes together to recognize our students' devotion to their animals and other agriculture projects," said Career and Technical Education Program Manager JT Buford.

"This show of support demonstrates to our students the importance our community places on this critical industry and career field."

Much has changed over the past 40 years, but some aspects of CCISD's Agriculture programs, and the annual Show in particular, remain constant. Clear Lake High School agriculture teacher Kylie Smith was a student in the program nearly ten years ago, also at Clear Lake High School.

"As a student, I developed a great relationship with one of my former Ag teachers who pushed me and encouraged me to be the best version of myself," said Smith. "He is one of the reasons I

decided to become a teacher. I wanted to be as influential to someone as he was to me."

The public is invited to attend the CCISD West Agriculture Center to see Smith's students, and students from all five CCISD high schools, compete to be named Grand Champion in their respective categories. Students will exhibit a variety of livestock, including steers, heifers, goats, rabbits, chickens and swine; as well as non-livestock projects such as floral designs, visual arts, food science and agriculture mechanics.

"The show may only run for a couple of days, but these students have spent months learning the impor-

ance of financial responsibility, time management and sportsmanship," Smith said. "Some of my favorite memories from high school stem from my involvement in FFA and competing, and now it brings me so much joy to see my students making their own memories that will be just as special to them," she said.

Clear Creek ISD students, families and teachers are appreciative of the community's valuable support of the program and the Livestock Show and Auction over the past 40 years. One can visit ccisd.net/livestockshow for more information.

Laura Bush Elementary names second nine-weeks perfect attendance, honor roll

Laura Bush Elementary officials announced their perfect attendance, honor rolls and merit rolls for the second nine-weeks.

Perfect attendance Kindergarten
Vincent Cena, Emma Hinojos, Brian Ly, Ivan Martinez and Lacey Richards.

First grade
Sebastian Beltran, Matthew Braziel, Liam Cabrera, Anthony Contreras, Justin Dang, Vincent Dang, Dang Doan, Matthew Garza and Michael Garza.

Kaleb Guevara, Lynette Hodges, Nina Holguin, Remy Knight, Noah Martinez, Aaron Medrano, Jenny Ngo, Darren Nguyen and Steven Nguyen.

Madison Obregon, Zeus Perez, Sophia Pham, Lilliana Reyna, Khanh Tran, Abigail Tupa, Ian Vazquez and Benjamin Verner.

Second grade
Julian Canpuzano and Kylie Ponce.

Third grade
Conner Barker, Cristian Cavazos, Ben Esparza, Evelyn Gonzalez, Emily Hernandez, Sydney Logan, Devani Lopez and Mark Lozoya.

David Luis, Jolie Morales,

Cindy Nguyen, Kayla Olvera, Rouis Ong, Nevaeha Reyna, Alexandra Saavedra and Eric Wells.

Fourth grade
Arian Avila, Julia Braziel, Huy Chung, David Dang, Guy Faith, Isabella Ferufino, Gabriella Gomez and Joel Gomez.

Charles Lacy, Ethan Le, Elise Mendiola, Katelyn Pham, Ali Resendez, Desean Simmons and Jihad Sosa.

Honor roll
Karinna Acatilan, Gael Aguirre, Conner Barker, Julia Braziel, Aubrey Brown, Samuel Brown, Oscar Calvo, Emma Cantu and Cristian Cavazos.

Vincent Cena, Van Chung,

Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School announced their second nine-weeks honor roll.

Fifth grade
Osama Abdallah, Salma Abdallah, Me'shai Alexander, Samuel Alexander, Jay Amaya, Emily Armenta, Alexandria Ames, Samantha Barraza

and Alexandra Betancourt.

Edmundo Bravo, Branson Britton, Alexis Brown, Nevaeh Bumgarner, Alexander Buntaer, Brianna Bustos, Xavier Cantu, Sabrina Cavazos and Daniel Cerda.

Felix Cervantes, Brooklyn Coronado, Carissa Cortez, Katherine Dao, Layla Davila, Emilio De La Ruiz IV, Jesse Deleon, Gael Diaz and Peyton Dowell.

Samuel Espino IV, Shaikh Faizan, Gisselle Flores-Galvan, Charlotte Flores, Jay Von Fortson, Gabriella Franklin, Nathaniel Gansit, Matteo Garciduenas and Victoria Garza.

Mia Gonzalez, Mikalya Gonzalez, Lance Goree Jr., Jayden Grimaldo, Carlee Guerrero, Emma Gurrusquitta, Riley Hensley, Mateo Hernandez Magana and Elijah Hernandez.

Allison Hua, Camille Hutchison, Daveyn Jackson Little, Bradley Jones, Alice Lam, Melahmy Machado, Alexander Maravilla Cabrera, Nathaniel Martinez II and Maddox Martinez.

Chloe Maycott, D'Marvia Mevea, Michelle Medrano, Erick Montejano, Demeco Moses, Nathaniel Musquiz, Annie Nguyen, Ethan Nguyen and Hillary Nguyen.

Simon Nguyen, Thu Nguyen, Christian Orellana Sarmiento, Ava Orellana, Aracely Ortiz, Artemio Ortiz, Hazza Osman, David Ozieh and Rhema Palma.

Robert Pheister, Daniel Ramirez, Jordan Reist, Christopher Reyes, Christopher Reyes, Gabriel Rincon, Amber Rodriguez and Ethan Rodriguez.

Sixth grade
Abigail Aguilar, Marahi Aguilar, Miranda Aguilar, Afan Aleem, Angelina Amaya,

Kai Clark, David Dang, Vincent Dang, Mia Diaz, Ben Esparza, Guy Faith and Isabella Ferufino.

Hector Florez, Ivan Garcia, Matthew Garza, Kaleb Guevara, Emily Hernandez, Lynette Hodges, Nina Holguin, Ilyas Javid and Catherine Le.

Jonathan Le, Aria Lloyd, Devani Lopez, Isabella Martinez, Jenny Ngo, Ngan Ngo, Cindy Nguyen, Kevin Nguyen and Grace Olea.

Camila Pena, Jacklyn Pham, Sophia Pham, Paul Puente, Alana Reyes, Laynie Robinson, Kayliana Rodriguez, Sophia Saenz and Aaron Sanchez.

Izabella Sanchez, Genes-

see Short, Ethan Solorzano, Jayden Tan, Khanh Tran, Abigail Tupa, Maxumilian Tupa and Benjamin Verner.

Merit roll
Mahim Alexander, Javier Arredondo, Arian Avila, Sebastian Beltran, Matthew Braziel, Luis Delcid, Harrison Do, Jordy Esrade and Favian Figueroa.

Weston Garcia, Michael Garza, Alonzo Jaime, Remy Knight, Abril Ledezma, Sydney Logan, Mark Lozoya, Robert Mares and Luke Martinez.

Nelly Mendoz, Jolie Morales, Faith Morgan, Tiara Navarro, Nevaeha Rayna, Desean Simmons, Jocelyn Tran and Sa Vu.

South Belt top spellers



South Belt Elementary congratulated their 2021-2022 spelling bee runner-up and winner. Shown above, left to right, are Sophia Mancuso, runner-up; Praisy Thomas, reading coach; and Hadi Alam, winner.

Green Thumb lecture set Jan. 18

The Green Thumb Gardening lecture "Gardening in Small Spaces" by Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Public Library System is set for Tuesday, Jan. 18. This free virtual lecture will be presented from 11 a.m. to noon. No registration is required. One can watch via Facebook live at facebook.com/harriscountypl/events/.

Learn how to garden in containers and small urban spaces and address common problems.

Meador celebrates Christmas with a program

Meador Elementary's fourth-grade students put on a holiday performance for the school and parents for Christmas 2021. The school appreciates the dedication and teamwork of the students, staff and parents who made this a successful program.

Shown left to right, are Tracie Nair (music teacher), Bree Dotson, Georgia Gray, Natalie Estrada, Blake Gonzalez, Roman Wynn and Chandler Schlueter.



Shown left to right, are Billy Truong, Carlos Garcia, Bryce Bond and Yazlin Cazares.



Shown left to right, are Arleny Maldonado, Yazlin Cazares, Serenity Martinez and Gabriella Rodriguez.

Leader looks back on 2021 highlights, low points

Continued from Page 1
man corpse in the killing of 5-year-old Samuel Olson. This brought the number of arrests in the case up to three, as Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was also charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse.

July 8
Theresa Balboa, the woman charged with hiding the body of her boyfriend's 5-year-old son Samuel Olson, was charged with capital murder in the boy's death. Balboa had initially been charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse.

July 15
Chris Bui was recently selected by Pasadena ISD officials to serve as the new principal of Atkinson Elementary. Prior to his new post, Bui served as assistant principal at Melillo Middle School from 2008-2021, seventh/eighth-grade science teacher and instructional facilitator at Scobee Junior High in Southwest ISD in San Antonio from 2004-2008; fifth-grade science teacher/special education coordinator at KIPP Aspire Academy in San Antonio from 2003-2004; and seventh-grade science teacher at Pin Oak Middle School in Houston ISD from 2002-2003. Bui attended Trinity University in San Antonio

from 1994 to 1998, earning a Bachelor of Science in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish. Originally planning to become a physician, Bui enrolled in medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Near the end his third year of medical school, however, Bui chose to leave medical school and pursue the education field. Bui returned to Trinity University from 2001-2002, earning a Master of Arts in teaching. Bui went on to study at St. Mary's University in San Antonio from 2005-2007, earning a principal certification.

July 22
Gov. Greg Abbott appointed longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell, who serves as president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, to the board of directors of the newly created Gulf Coast Protection District. Abbott also lauded Sen. Larry Taylor and Rep. Dennis Paul, both of whom served the South Belt community, for championing the legislation that established the GCPD. Mitchell joined fellow appointees Sally Bakko, Michel Bechel, Roger Guenther, Lori J. Traweek and Michael VanDerSnick on the board. Their terms will expire on June 16, 2025.

July 29
Two additional juveniles were arrested in connection to the June 17 murder of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place in the 10500 block of Fuqua near Beamer. A 16-year-old believed to be the gunman was arrested in early July on charges of capital murder.

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 27, the Pasadena ISD board of trustees approved construction of the school district's new administration building, despite vocal opposition. The measure passed 6-1, with newly elected board member Crystal Dávila casting the lone dissenting vote. The design and development phase of the project was approved the previous January. The \$26.5 million construction contract was awarded to Sterling Structures. To be located on Mickey Gilley Boulevard near Fairmont Parkway, the new facility will replace the school district's current headquarters on Cherrybrook Lane. Board members said the measure was necessary because the existing administration building is aging and suffering from a number of infrastructure problems, including electrical, plumbing and roofing issues. Pasadena ISD officials said the construction would not require a new bond proposal and the necessary funds have already been allocated from within its coffers. Former Pasadena High School teacher and twice-defeated Pasadena ISD board candidate Yen Rabe led a campaign, however, suggesting the funds could be better spent by making improvements to the school

district's older campuses and merely making renovations to the current administration building.

Aug. 5
Harris County Public Health announced the county had surpassed 5,000 COVID-19 deaths. The milestone had been met the previous day. Earlier in the week, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Thursday raised the county's COVID-19 threat level amid a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations fueled by the spread of the Delta variant and a slowdown in vaccinations. The threat level was raised from yellow, or moderate, to orange, or significant, in the midst of the spiking cases during a fourth wave of the pandemic.

Aug. 12
South Belt community members scored a rare win against state bureaucracy when officials from the Texas General Land Office announced at a meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10, that they had reversed course in constructing Hurricane Harvey replacement homes deemed substandard by many in the area. The proposed construction of new houses in the South Belt area to replace those destroyed during Harvey in 2017 has been an ongoing controversy, as the GLO's initial plans called for rebuilding houses that bore little resemblance to their neighbors' existing homes. Such a move threatened the property value of the surrounding homes, civic leaders argued. New cessions by General Land Office included adding two-car garages and masonry to the current bare-bone home designs, provided a rudimentary survey of the neighboring community produces such things.

Aug. 19
Two additional juveniles were arrested in connection to the June 17 murder of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place in the 10500 block of Fuqua near Beamer. A 16-year-old believed to be the gunman was arrested in early July on charges of capital murder.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced a mask mandate for all schools in the county per CDC guidelines. The announcement was made as the number of COVID-19 cases continued to climb in the Houston area. The measure went squarely against Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order issued the previous May that prohibited local entities, including school districts,

from requiring masks. Prior to Hidalgo's announcement, commissioners court had the county attorney file a lawsuit challenging Abbott's GA-38 executive order.

Aug. 26
A man was killed in a crash Sunday, Aug. 22, in the 8700 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road. Saucedo Hernandez was pronounced dead at the scene. No other persons or vehicles were involved in the crash.

U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, who represents much of the South Belt community, announced on Twitter he tested positive for COVID-19.

Sept. 2
Sagemont Church's original building on Hughes Road was leveled by a demolition crew Monday, Aug. 30, bringing nearly a half century's worth of memories down in a mere few minutes. Originally known as Sagemont Baptist Church, the facility opened in 1966 as a mission of First Baptist Church in Pasadena. John D. Morgan was selected to serve as pastor of the new church. Morgan was the son of Dr. L.D. Morgan, who served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Pasadena for more than 33 years. The 11,000-square-foot building was constructed for only \$128,000. On Sunday, Oct. 30, 1966, the first service was held in the new Sagemont Baptist Church building, drawing 151 attendees. Of those 151 people, 40 joined the church that day, moving their memberships there from other area churches. That night, another 11 people joined.

In an effort get more residents vaccinated against COVID-19, local government entities began providing cash incentives to eligible residents. Harris County began providing \$100 cash cards to participating residents, while the City of Houston began providing \$150 gift cards. Both programs utilized federal funds made available through the American Rescue plan.

Sept. 9
At least four former Dobbie students died within three days of each other from complications associated with COVID-19. William Wendell Prevost, 59, died Sept. 2; Thuy Epperson (Class of 1989), 50, died Sept. 1; Linda Jackson Salas (Class of 1984), 55, died Sept. 3; and Sam Eaves (Class of 1979) died Sept. 2; all died from problems related to the dis-

ease. The deaths came as the number of COVID-19 cases continued to grow nationwide with the advent of the novel Delta variant. At least one of the victims had not been vaccinated. At least one was also suffering from underlying conditions.

Sept. 16
The South Belt community was spared the brunt of Hurricane Nicholas, with minimal damage being reported locally. Downed fences and branches accounted for most of the physical damage. The only other problem reported was loss of electricity to approximately 150 Sage-meadow homes.

A man was stabbed Wednesday, Sept. 8, outside an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford. The victim, David Diaz, 31, was transported to an area hospital in an unknown condition. No immediate arrests were made.

Sept. 23
Three people were shot in the same night Saturday, Sept. 18, at an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. According to police, officers were dispatched to a shooting call at the above address around 10:30 p.m. and found two people had been shot inside an apartment. While on the scene, officers were advised of another person found with a gunshot wound in a separate area of the complex. No immediate arrests were made.

A woman was killed in a traffic accident Friday, Sept. 17, in the 14100 block of the

Gulf Freeway near Beltway 8. The crash took place when a silver Nissan Altima traveling at a high rate of speed left the roadway and struck a concrete pillar. Cindy Ybanez was pronounced dead at the scene.

The American Legion Post 490 building on SH 3 near Ellington Airport caught fire Tuesday, Sept. 21. A few members were outside on the patio when the fire began in the kitchen and tried to extinguish the blaze to no avail. No one was injured. While the building's structure was not destroyed, nearly everything inside was.

Sept. 30
A pedestrian was killed in a bizarre hit-and-run accident around 3 a.m. Monday, Sept. 27, at the intersection of Hughes Road and Blackhawk. According to investigators, an adult white male, believed to have been homeless, entered into the intersection and laid down on his stomach. An unknown make and model white pickup truck was captured on a nearby homeowner's surveillance system traveling north on Blackhawk before striking the pedestrian and continuing north on the street. The man remained underneath the pickup and was dragged approximately 385 feet before separating from it. The male was found with no signs of life. Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene. His identity was not immediately determined.

Due to space limitations, the 2021 Year in Review will be continued in next week's *Leader*.

Pct. 2 unit closes on impressive year

Continued from Page 1
\$91,523; 6,550 grams of other marijuana, worth an estimated \$65,600; 6,380 grams of THC, worth an estimated \$638,000; 45 grams of crack cocaine, worth an estimated \$3,600; 135,713 grams of powder cocaine, worth an estimated \$13,571,260; 3,384 grams of heroin, worth an estimated \$ 406,080; 482,548 grams of methamphetamine, worth an estimated \$28,952,880; 1,785,289 grams of codeine/ promethazine, worth an estimated \$5,355,867; 170 grams of ecstasy, worth an estimated \$7,820; 1,315 grams of synthetic marijuana, worth an estimated \$26,300; and 194 pills

of Xanax, worth an estimated \$1,940.

In addition to contraband, deputies seized \$31,328 in currency and contributed toward \$2,034,610 in federal seizures.

Garcia said the group is to be commended for their efforts and pledged to continue their work into 2022. "The amount of deadly illegal narcotics this group was able to remove from the streets was astounding," a post on Garcia's Facebook page read. "Constable Garcia wants the Precinct 2 community to know that he hears your concerns and that he and this specialized group will continue to combat the illegal activity going on in your community."

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Genoa students listed for honor, merit rolls

Genoa Elementary officials announced their second nine-weeks honor and merit rolls.

Third grade Honor roll
Jennifer Herrera, Justin Jimenez and Alexis Vega.

Merit roll
Alexander Ayala, Endys DelCid, Abigail Gutierrez, Moeed Khan, Samantha Rodriguez and Jayden Salinas.

Fourth grade Honor roll
Genesis Castillo, Marvin Jones, Carlos Martinez, Abner Morales and Gabriel Stegall.

Merit roll
Giselle Castillo, Treasure Duong, Jacob Gonzalez, Valeria Gonzalez, Maya Hernandez, Ayden Julian, Fatima Lisandra, Isabelle Mora, Thong Nguyen, Allison Rodriguez and Emily Yado.

Mitchell launches legislative campaign

Continued from Page 1
Mitchell has been president of the BAHEP Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) since 2007, playing an active role in creating and sustaining the region's success. From overseeing the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program to promoting the creation of a spaceport at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, Mitchell sought out the jobs of the future and brought them home. Recognizing the need for local training programs to fill those jobs, Mitchell helped develop and implement training pipelines on the high school, junior college and graduate levels. Mitchell has worked to help Gulf Coast communities prepare for, respond to and recover from storms. Since 2008, he has advocated for a coastal barrier system to protect the citizens and the economy of the upper Texas Gulf Coast. In 2021, Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Mitchell to the Gulf Coast Protection District board of directors, which was created by the legislature to operate and leverage fund-

ing to address the unique flood control and surge protection needs of coastal communities. Abbott said this project will go down in history as one of the most significant measures to protect Coastal Texas, its citizens and the economic activities the region provides. Mitchell has actively donated his time in many capacities. In recognition of his work and partnerships on behalf of NASA Johnson Space Center, its many contractor companies and the Houston Airport System, Abbott appointed Mitchell to the Texas Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee, where he is currently serving his third term. He also serves on numerous boards, including HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, UTMB Health System Advisory Board, HCA Gulf Coast Regional Advisory Board, the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Board of Advisors and Gulf Coast Limestone Inc.

A father and a grandfather, Mitchell lives with his wife, Joan in Pearland.

Wright picks Bethel College

Haley Wright (right) of the Lutheran South Academy volleyball program has signed a letter of intent to continue her education and playing career at Bethel College in North Newton, Kan., an NAIA Division I program. With Wright as she signed a letter of intent with the Wildcats was her father, Anthony Simmons.

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
Four hundred and ninety students from the Scarsdale and Woodmeadow areas anxiously awaited the day that they would begin classes at their own school - Burnett Elementary.

School board candidates appeared together at the PTA meeting at Pasadena High School to answer questions about artificial turf, open concept schools and the trimester.

40 years ago (1982)
Houston arson investigators determined that a fire which destroyed a home in the 10400 block of Sagewich was deliberately set.

Robert E. Taylor was shot on Choate Road while clinging to his car after it was stolen from the Sagemont Shell station.

Two PISD incumbent trustees were handily returned to office in a low voter turnout election.

35 years ago (1987)
Officer Gary Brown, a Kirkmont resident, was rewarded for his extraordinary valor by being named an Officer of the Year by the 100 Club of Houston, Inc.

The South Belt Security Alliance made an agreement for Clay Development, owner of Sagemont Shopping Center, to use office space at the center for a nominal fee.

30 years ago (1992)
Carmen Orozco was elected president of the Pasadena School Board.

Phyoc Ba Nguyen, 19, and Kerry Deal, 20, were charged with aggravated robbery. The two men and a juvenile entered the home of Le Duc Nguyen on Sagepark as he counted the day's receipts from his Market Fish Grocery. The men knocked down the victim's wife as she opened the door to take out the trash. Nguyen then fired a gun at the assailants, who returned fire. Le Duc Nguyen suffered two gunshot wounds to the head and died at the scene. One of the suspects, Phuoc Ba Nguyen, was shot, but managed to flee on foot. The suspects stole an undisclosed amount of money.

Highland Meadow resident Miriam Willis appeared before Harris County Commissioner and charged two men in

Precinct 2 Constable's Gary Freeman's office with sexual harassment. Willis said she was fired for not disclosing to Freeman's office the information she had given to the district attorney's office during an investigation of wrongdoing inside the department.

County Commissioners approved \$600,000 to purchase books for the proposed Parker Williams Library on Scarsdale at Beamer.

25 years ago (1997)
South Belt residents Kuo Lee, 82, and Billie Lee, 43, were killed when their car struck a concrete freeway support on the Gulf Freeway as they were exiting southbound at Scarsdale Boulevard.

Four inches of rain fell in a 2 1/2-hour span flooding 35 homes in Kirkmont and Kirkwood South.

20 years ago (2002)
Incoming South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce President Jannis Lowery pledged to lead the chamber in continuing to make a good community even better.

After waiting a year for her

second heart transplant and spending more than a month in intensive care, Lindsay Simpson finally received a new heart.

The Amezcua family was awakened by a car crashing through the back wall of their home in the 12000 block of Binghampton. Police believe the driver, Johnny Galvan, 38, suffered a seizure while driving on Astoria Boulevard.

15 years ago (2007)
Army National Guard Maj. Derrek Hryhorchuk returned home for a visit following a one-year tour of duty in Iraq.

Dobbie High School's head football coach and campus athletic director Tommy Kaiser left the school after a three-year stay to become head coach and campus athletic director at Tomball High School.

City of Houston construction at the intersection of Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway was responsible for a broken water main. The incident occurred at a time the area was already receiving heavy rainfall.

10 years ago (2012)

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that interim redistricting maps drawn by a federal three-judge panel in San Antonio may not be used for the 2012 elections. The high court unanimously ordered the panel to redraw the temporary maps based on the ones originally drafted by the state's GOP-led Legislature. The justices, however, gave the San Antonio judges the authority to draw new boundaries in areas where there is a "reasonable probability" that the Legislature's maps would violate the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Franklin Moses was named the new principal at Dobbie High School. Moses had served as assistant principal at Dobbie since 2005. Before coming to Dobbie, he taught for one year at Park View Intermediate. He succeeded Steve Jamail, who announced his retirement the previous month after 11 years as Dobbie's principal.

Friendswood police arrested four people at a house in the 11000 block of Sageview, following an investigation into

the sale of illegal narcotics in and around the Friendswood area. Layton Jamal Coulter, 23, was charged with possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1 (heroin) and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. Robert Griego Jimenez, 24, was charged with possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1. Tia Amelia Stone, 19, was charged with possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1. Seamus Bernard Lamb, 22, was charged with possession of marijuana.

Three Dobbie High School students were selected to the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Ensembles during auditions held at Lamar University. Chase Morris on trumpet, April Henderson on trumpet and Edwardo Rios on violin were set to represent Dobbie and the Pasadena Independent School District at the Texas Music Educators Convention in San Antonio the following month.

5 years ago (2017)
The South Belt community was struck by a hard freeze

Tuesday, Jan. 16, through Wednesday, Jan. 17, closing several area schools, businesses and streets. Unlike the freeze the previous month, this incident brought sleet and icy conditions rather than snowfall. Temperatures dropped into the low 20s, bringing much of the area to a standstill. Police responded to more than 500 automobile accidents, with one on the Gulf Freeway near Dixie Farm Road being fatal. In that incident, a man was killed as he attempted to make repairs to his vehicle and was struck by another driver.

The Pasadena Independent School District announced its 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Honorees included Alisha Broussard (Howard), Dobbie track (Class of 1996); Allen Brown (deceased), Pasadena track coach; Nikki Cockrell, Rayburn softball (Class of 1994); Bobby Crenshaw (deceased), Pasadena football (Class of 1959); LaToya Davis, South Houston basketball (Class of 2002); Bruce Dowdy, Pasadena football (Class of 1967); Harry Morgan, South

Houston football coach; Johnny Parker, Rayburn football and basketball (Class of 1968); and Calvin Powitzky Jr., Pasadena football (Class of 1964). The inductees were recognized at a gala on April 14 at Phillips Field House.

1 year ago (2021)
The Pasadena ISD board of trustees was named the Texas Computer Education Association 2020-2021 School Board of the Year.

TCEA, a nonprofit organization that supports the use of technology in education, annually presents the award to a school board that "recognizes the importance of technology in the teaching and learning process and actively promotes the use of technology throughout the district," according to the organization website. Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeeAnn Powell praised the school board for their continuing leadership in supporting innovative technology programs and resources in the district.

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BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR REBECCA
Dobbie 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 WIESSSES
Special wishes to Jacquelyn and Louie Wiess who will be celebrating 63 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, Amelia 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.

LAILA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes for a happy birthday are sent Jan. 27 to Dr. Laila Hassan from her family, friends, office staff and the Leader staff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVID!
Happy birthday greetings are sent to Davy Flickinger, Leader president, on Jan. 27. David is wished a great day with his wife Ellie; daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Elliana and Isabella Abarca; parents Marie and David Flickinger; brother Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger; niece Kimberly and Matt Lipino; niece Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; and the staff at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 20 through Jan. 26, 2022.

Atkinson Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Katy Fielder Jan. 20. Join in the birthday fun with Ericka Palacios Jan. 25.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a festive birthday greeting to Amber Estrada Jan. 22. Jacqueline Resendez celebrates a birthday Jan. 26.

Frazier Elementary
Jan. 26 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for Ashley Jones and Janielle Wiley.

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

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday Jan. 22 is Joycelyn Webster. Rubi Rocha enjoys a birthday Jan. 24.

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

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

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Jan. 20: Jeremiah Orsak, Stephanie Johnson, Mary Beliz and Mark Roden; Friday, Jan. 21: Traci Fort, Kim Saucedo, Karen Harlan, Connie Birmingham and Lisa Allen-Bragg; Saturday, Jan. 22: Amber Estrada, Shad Taylor and Mitchal Nordstrom; Sunday, Jan. 23: Becky Forsyth, Audi Resendez, Rodney Thiel, Wendy Gray and Bill A. Stevens; Monday, Jan. 24: Renee Lister and Lee Ballinas; Tuesday, Jan. 25: Berri Walker, Kristy Guzman and Xuan Loan; and Wednesday, Jan. 26: Gene Webster and Craig Green.

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Email announcements of interest to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD soccer season off to quick start

A pair of wins in three outings at Port Neches have the Dobbie varsity girls' soccer team set to enter District 22-6A play with plenty of optimism.

In the tournament opener at Port Neches Groves, Aylin Reyes and Kori Pounds scored twice each as the Lady Longhorns took a 4-0 victory over Port Arthur Memorial.

The Lady Longhorns braved frigid conditions in the Jan. 15 closer against College Station, taking a 1-0 win as Karen Hernandez found the net for the game's lone goal.

In between those wins, the locals also suffered a setback against Magnolia, but second-year head coach Monika Mackey is excited to see how her team performs come district time.

"These first two weeks have been great to see what our strengths are and areas we need to work on," Mackey said.

"This group of girls is hardworking and have heart. I'm looking forward to starting District (Jan. 25 at Channelview) and seeing what we will accomplish this season."

As for the Dobbie boys' team, things have gone very well since a tie at Alief Taylor Jan. 3.

Over the last six matches, the Longhorns have been nothing short of impressive.

Continued on Page 6

At right, Dobbie's Victor Hernandez (7) has enjoyed a strong start to the 2022 varsity soccer season, helping his team to a 6-0-1 overall start. At the Jan. 13-15 Humble Showcase, Hernandez notched a pair of goals and an assist as the Longhorns outscored three opponents by an 8-0 margin. See more boys' soccer news on Page 6.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



JFD boys' soccer at Deer Park

JFD vs. Strake Jesuit Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.
JFD vs. Tompkins Jan. 22, 4:30 p.m.
 All games at Abshier Stadium
JFD vs. Bellaire Jan. 21, 6 p.m.

22-6A Opener: Dobbie hosts Channelview
 Tues., Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m., Veterans

Dobbie softball to begin scrimmages



Regional quarterfinalist Dobbie has begun pre-season workouts and will open its scrimmage schedule Jan. 29 at Ridge Point. The Lady Longhorns, including Karli Barba (22), will begin the regular season Feb. 14 at Clear Brook. Dobbie, 24-12 in 2021, advanced three rounds deep in the playoffs as Barba was named Utility Player of the Year in District 22-6A. The district's Most Valuable Player, Marisa Perla of Dobbie, also returns. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobbie VBers honored

The Dobbie varsity volleyball team landed 13 players on the Greater Houston Volleyball Coaches Association All-Academic Team following the 2021 regular season.

The Lady Longhorns' representatives included Montserrat Alba, Arianna Borrego, Haley DeHoyos, Aly Frias, Ariana Garza, Alexa Gonzalez, Alana Goree, Hailey Hernandez, Matison Mitchell, Natalie Onozie, Bella Perez, Nicole Portillo and Maya Scott.

Brook tracksters compete at invite

Clear Brook athletes Camryn Dickson and Matthew Trevino were among the invitees at the Texas A&M High School Classic at Gillman Indoor Stadium in Bryan/College Station Jan. 7-8.

Dickson, who in November signed a letter of intent to attend Texas A&M beginning this fall, was busy at the big event.

In all, Dickson clocked in at 7.67 seconds in the

60-meter dash for sixth overall and was in at 24.26 at the 200-meter distance for fifth place.

As for Trevino, his time of 9 minutes, 35 seconds in the 2-mile event (9:31 for 3,200 meters) set a new school record at Brook as he was fifth.

Both will join their teammates for the start of the high school track and field season early next month.

CB, Dobbie hoops top standings

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

District basketball championships aren't won in January, but the Clear Brook and Dobbie programs certainly are doing enough to thrust themselves into plenty of title conversations.

Heading into play Jan. 19 after press time, Clear Brook was the big name in the District 24-6A ranks.

The Lady Wolverines, looking for a first-ever 6A district crown while simultaneously ending Clear Springs' 11-year stranglehold on the top spot, defeated the Lady Chargers 63-42 Jan. 15 to finish the first half of league play at 6-0.

Chardel Terrell had a career-high 18 points in the win, freshman Rezia Castillo added 12 points and Danielle Robinson

had 10 as the Lady Wolverines moved to 24-4 overall.

Through the team's first

27 games, senior Alyssa Berry has averaged 15.5 points per game to pace a

balanced attack, with Cas-

tillo at 11.3 points per outing and Ashlee Seymore at 8.5.

Continued on Page 6



At right, Clear Brook's varsity boys' basketball team has received a lift inside from B.J. Jackson, who had 11 points and nine rebounds in the Wolverines' 70-64 win over Clear Springs Jan. 15. Undefeated in league play, state-ranked Brook is 24-3 overall. Photo by Andy Tolbert

SJC softball program to begin 2022 season

Fresh off the greatest season in program history, the San Jacinto College softball team will begin its season Jan. 28-30 at the Chipola College Invitational in Youngsville, La.

In 2021, the Coyotes, led by longtime head coach Kelly Saenz, finished third at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I

National Championships in Yuma, Ariz., winning three straight early on.

The locals will be reloading somewhat in 2022 without the services of second team All-American pitcher Cat Cavazos and infielder Alexis Uresti, but Saenz has welcomed a solid 2022 recruiting class, including Dobbie graduate Leslie Longoria.

Dobbie eyes track start

The Dobbie track and field program will begin the 2022 season at the Jim Kethan Relays in Deer Park Feb. 4 and will then be one of the host schools at Pasadena ISD's Brown Relays Feb. 11 at Auxiliary Stadium.

The Dobbie varsity boys' and girls' squads won District 22-6A championships last season.

Of note, PISD is the host site for the District 22-6A Championships at Auxiliary Stadium April 13. Deer Park will host the 21-6A/22-6A Area Championships.

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Dobie boys' soccer sweeps Humble Showcase; starts season with 6-0-1 record

Continued from Page 5
 Heading into his team's third and final tournament setting prior to the opening of District 22-6A play, there's no way Dobbie varsity boys' soccer head coach Justo Manrique could have imagined a better start to the 2022 campaign.

At 6-0-1 over the first two-plus weekends of the young season, Dobbie is again out of the gates quickly as it hopes to eventually claim a dynasty-like eighth consecutive league title.
 After a 3-3 tie on open-

ing night, the Longhorns have since reeled off six straight wins.
 The locals first swept through the field at the Pearl and ISD Cup and then cruised to three more wins at the Humble Showcase Jan. 13-15, scoring eight goals and allowing

none as the defense and keepers Eris Acosta and Diego Torres dazzled.
 Now it's on to the Battleground Invitational at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park as the Longhorns will face Strake Jesuit, Belaire and Katy Tompkins Jan. 20-22 before hosting

Channelview in a 22-6A opener Jan. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.
 Over its seven games, Dobbie has surrendered just eight goals while producing 22 of its own. During the six-match winning streak, Jordi Garcia has led the way with four

goals and four assists, and Manrique has seen 10 different players net goals over that span.
True showcase
 In Humble, the Longhorns' overall talent was showcased as they beat Cypress Lakes and Aldine by identical 2-0 scores be-

fore wrapping up the event with a 4-0 defeat of San Antonio Roosevelt.
 Garcia and Miguel Bazaldua scored on assists from Ronaldo Guzman and Victor Hernandez. Acosta went the distance in the nets for the shutout in the opener against Cy-

Ridge.
 In the win over Aldine, Garcia and Hernandez had goals, and Isaac Cortez had an assist. Acosta and Torres combined in goal for the win.
 Hernandez and Guzman both had goals and assists, and Garcia and Robert Vil-

lato also scored in the 4-0 blanking of Roosevelt. Deiby Cortez had an assist and Torres went the 80 minutes in the net for the victory.
 So far, so great for the Longhorns as the program eyes an eventual eighth straight district title.

Local basketball squads taking control in 22-6A, 24-6A

Continued from Page 5
 Brook was at 6-0 through the first half of league play, a full two games ahead of both Clear Falls and Creek (4-2), and well in front of Dickinson and Clear Springs (3-3).
 It's been a memorable season for the Lady Wolverines to this point, yet there's little time to enjoy it. In terms of the big picture, there's plenty still to be done.

now the arrival of Jackson should add another dimension to an already great team.
JFD girls rebound
 All is well that ends well.
 It's a mantra that the Dobbie varsity girls' squad might cling to as a tight 48-47 win over Pasadena Memorial Jan. 15 has helped vault the defending league champions back into title contention.
 A first-round district loss to Channelview pre-Christmas has forced the Lady Longhorns to battle from behind, and they've done just that.
 A subsequent first-round 36-26 win over previously unbeaten Deer Park was big, and now the win over Pasadena Memorial has the locals tied for first place at 5-1 with Deer Park.

ond half push led to the win.
 The win allowed Dobbie to gain some separation at the top of the standings with a 4-0 mark good for

a two-game lead over Memorial, South Houston and Pasadena, all 2-2.
 Now, the Longhorns want to finish off what they started.

Senior Kemo Millender led the No. 7 state-ranked (Texas Association of Basketball Coaches) Wolverines with 26 points and his brother, junior Marcus Millender, added 11 points and nine assists.
 Junior B.J. Jackson, playing in just his second game back from injury, had 11 points and nine rebounds as he looks to give the Wolverines a lift inside.
 The Wolverines, eyeing a second straight District 24-6A championship, are 24-3 overall with Kemo Millender at 21.7 points per game and Marcus Millender turning in another 16.8 per outing.
 Christian Bradshaw and Toshi Lyons have also been capable scorers, and

to another fast start in 2022. Now Acosta and his teammates are headed to the Deer Park ISD Battleground Invitational Jan. 20-22 before opening District 22-6A action Jan. 25 against Channelview at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Match time is 5:30 p.m.



Dobie guard Riani Benton (1) pressures Pasadena Memorial's Gwendlyn McGrew during the Lady Longhorns' stirring 49-47 victory Jan. 15 at Memorial. With the win, the Lady Longhorns ended the



Dobie keeper Eris Acosta (1) has excelled in the net as the Longhorns are off to another fast start in 2022. Now Acosta and his teammates are headed to the Deer Park ISD Battleground Invitational Jan. 20-22 before opening District 22-6A action Jan. 25 against Channelview at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Match time is 5:30 p.m.

Clear Creek ISD inducts Athletic Hall of Honor greats

Alumni from Clear Creek High School and Clear Lake High School, along with their families, friends and CCISD leadership, gathered in October to be a part of the Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor Induction ceremony and reception.

Guests looked on as three legendary coaches, 10 elite athletes and three state championship teams were officially inducted into the Athletic Hall of Honor, collectively as the Class of 2020. Although the class was selected in 2020, plans for the ceremony originally slated for fall of 2020 had to be deferred due to the COVID pandemic.

"We have waited more than a year to celebrate this talented and special group of individuals," said Athletic Hall of Honor Board President Dede MacPherson in her opening remarks. "It is now time to give our alumni athletes the recognition they have earned."

"To be given the opportunity to share in this experience was truly an honor in every way," said Peggy Whitley, Class of 2020 Athletic Hall of Honor inductee and iconic Clear Creek High School girls' basketball coach beginning in 1968.

"It was a great time, sharing memorable moments of athletics in CCISD and a time to reconnect with old teammates and coaches. I, and many others, will carry the memories of this event for many years to come."

Placards bearing the names of all inductees from 2016 to present are affixed to the home side concourse of CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium as well as the stadium fieldhouse.

The 2020 class was chosen through an extensive nomination and selection process for bringing distinction, honor and excellence to themselves, their alma maters and community. A 501(c)3, the CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor was established in 2016 and each year encompasses athletes of a specific era, folding in CCISD high schools as they were formed.

For the 2020 nomination and award window, the nominee had to have been a coach or graduate of Webster High School, Clear Creek High School, Clear Lake High School or Clear Brook High School between the years of 1948 and 1987.



Class of 2021 inductee Peggy Whitley had an illustrious 16-year career as the head coach of the Clear Creek High School girls' basketball program as her overall record at Creek was 372-169. In district play, the mark was a dominating 170-41.



Jim Mallory was one of the most successful varsity baseball coaches in the Houston area during his stay at Clear Creek. His 1991 team reached the pinnacle, claiming the Class 5A state championship trophy.

Clear Lake Girls' 5A State Cross-Country Champions

Head Coach – Anid de la Garza

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1983 Team (Grad Yr.)
Missy Domenick – 1985
Kim Olver – 1986
Lisa Pye – 1987
Sandy Dohanich – 1984
Andra Tamburro – 1985
Tessa Ibarra Fuqua – 1984
Denise Daley La Grange – 1985
Barbie Betters Meyer – 1985
Kim Lewis – 1987
Missy Price – 1986 | 1984 Team (Grad Yr.)
Missy Domenick – 1985
Kim Olver – 1986
Lisa Pye – 1987
Andra Tamburro – 1985
Barbie Betters – 1985
Susie Ibarra – 1988
Debbie Randall – 1987
Melissa Erwin Szama – 1987
Denise Daley La Grange – 1985
Kim Lewis – 1987 | 1985 Team (Grad Yr.)
Kim Olver – 1986
Lisa Pye – 1987
Susie Ibarra – 1988
Kelly T. Cuddeback – 1989
Noadiah Eckman – 1988
Kim Cook – 1987
Lauren Simmons – 1987
Kelly Gilbert – 1987
Ousa Haynes O'Mara – 1988
Amy Berry – 1988 |
|--|--|--|

Clear Lake Boys' 1989 5A Basketball Champions

Head Coach – Bill Krueger

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Players (Grad Yr.)
Eric Valentino – 1991
Robert Henson – 1989
Michael Moten – 1989
Dr. Brian Williams – 1990
Bradley Bruce – 1989 | Players (Grad Yr.)
Tim Glover – 1990
Scott Boykin – 1989
David Buckner – 1989
Mike Fultz – 1990
Paul Cooper – 1990 | Players (Grad Yr.)
Eric Henderson – 1989
Mike Simmons – 1990
John Easterly – 1990
Derrick Lormand – 1991
Steve Rasmussen – 1990 |
|---|--|---|

Assistant Coaches – Lynn McDonald – Charlie Spurlin – Mark Barker – Paul Quillen
 Jim "Pud" Williams (Statistician) – David Silva (Trainer)
 Team Managers – David Woods – 1989 – Dr. Justin Kerr – 1989 – Tomas Moreno – 1990 – Andy Zimmerman – 1990 – Jesse Kerr – 1991 – Anthony Kaye – 1991 – Todd Shotwell – 1990

Clear Creek 1991 Varsity Baseball

5A State Champions

Head Coach – Jim Mallory

Assistant Coaches – Eric Leger – Darrell Warden – Bobby Dingenary
 Carey Faires (Trainer)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Players (Grad Yr.)
Jim W. Molina – 1992
Pat Ryder – 1991
Kevin Roher – 1993
Chad Sundbeck – 1991
Brian Rudis – 1991
Ruben Gonzales – 1992
Shawn Buhner – 1991
Rob Rexer – 1991
Thomas Uptegrove – 1991
Reuben Samaha – 1991 | Players (Grad Yr.)
Brendan Daly – 1991
Angelo Antoline – 1993
Art Jeffords* – 1992
Chris Hosek – 1991
Ryan Keathley – 1992
Doug Cash – 1991
Todd Phillips – 1992
Eric Silvas – 1991
Jeffrey Suffron – 1992
Scott Adams – 1991 |
|--|--|
- Student Trainer: Jill J. Chicoine Smith – 1992**

At right, Angie Chivers presided over one of the state's most successful high school volleyball programs during her time at Clear Lake, as the Lady Falcons won a state crown in 1983. That standout team was inducted into the Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor in 2019.



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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meeting prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous, visit https://aahouston.org/meetings; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalnon.org.

Know someone who's contemplating suicide? Visit https://afsp.org/ or call 800-273-8255.
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - now open. Activities daily. Visit https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/ for face-to-face and virtual games. Email jpochnsr@aol.com for information.
The Humpday Dance at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, is open. Volunteers Jerry and Edith Sanford teach lessons Mondays, 1:30 - 3 p.m., with a different dance rhythm each month. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity card holders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m.
Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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Bay Area Singles Club - meets at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Call 281-470-2750.
7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
7:30 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787.
1 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23
8 a.m./10:15 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - Meets Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m.
AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, JANUARY 24
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m.
AA - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., Call 832-725-8479.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Jan. 20's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Jan. 20's.
7 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Jan. 23's.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
8 p.m.
AA - Meeting. See Jan. 21's Notice.

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Residents play trash Whac-A-Mole



Sagemont residents and civic leaders are playing a game of Whac-a-mole when it comes to cleaning up after contractors, as a new mess will pop up immediately after an old mess is removed. The top photograph shows a mess left by a contractor in the 11100 block of Sagetrail several weeks ago – several months by some resident estimates. After weeks of pleas from residents, the Sagemont Civic Club and the Leader to city officials, the debris was finally removed this past week. (See bottom photo.) Around the same that this mess was cleaned up, however, another similar pile of garbage was disposed

of by another contractor just a few blocks away in the 10800 block of Sagetrail. (See photo on Page 1.) The City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department is not allowed to collect any material that was generated by contractors who were retained by a resident. It is the responsibility of the contractor to remove all debris associated with their job. Fines can range from \$1,000 (first offense) to \$2,000 (second offense). Contractor-related debris includes, but is not limited to, tree trimmings/stumps; remodeling; new construction; and roofing.



Pasadena ISD named H-E-B excellence award finalist

H-E-B launched the Excellence in Education Awards program in cooperation with the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2002 as a positive way to support public education in Texas. It has become the largest monetary program for educators in the state, spotlighting best practices and celebrating the passion and creativity of Texas educators. Pasadena ISD is one of five

finalists selected in the large district division for Texas and one of only two districts selected as a finalist in Harris County. The district is being honored for its commitment to student achievement through innovative programs, parent and community involvement and professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a finalist for the H-E-B Excellence award," Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell said. "I attribute this honor to the collaborative efforts of our outstanding team of dedicated teachers, staff, campus leaders, district administrators and board of trustees. They all go above and beyond to prepare our students to be college and career ready, and this award is a testament to the

work across our district." As a large district finalist, PISD will receive a \$5,000 reward. In addition, a panel of judges will visit the district March 11 to conduct campus visits, and meet with the superintendent and various district stakeholders to learn more

about PISD. After H-E-B judges have visited all five large districts, the winner will be announced at the 20th annual H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards ceremony in Austin April 30. The winning large district will receive \$100,000.

Hao chooses St. Louis College



Pioneers' cross-country runner Enze Hao (center), flanked by Lutheran South coaches Gene Benson (left) and Jen Ward (right), will continue his education and running career at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. The Eutectics compete in the NAIA Division I ranks.

Commissioner candidate forum planned for Feb. 1

Continued from Page 1
Jason Harrison (R) and Jerry Mouton (R) had not responded.

Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace seat being vacated by Risner, who is stepping down from the position to seek the job of

commissioner. The 2022 Harris County primary elections are scheduled to take place Tuesday, March 1.

Organizers said a candidate's failure to participate deprives voters of vital information. "Declining an opportunity to discuss the issues that matter the most to voters is a disservice to those voters," said Sagemont Civic Club Vice President Jeff Turnipseed. "Voters can read literature, visit websites and troll social media, but these sources do not provide citizens with face-to-face comparisons."

If a resident's chosen candidate has not responded to the event, Barbour suggest they call the candidate's office and encourage them to participate in the forum.

A similar forum will be held Thursday, Feb. 10, for candidates running for the

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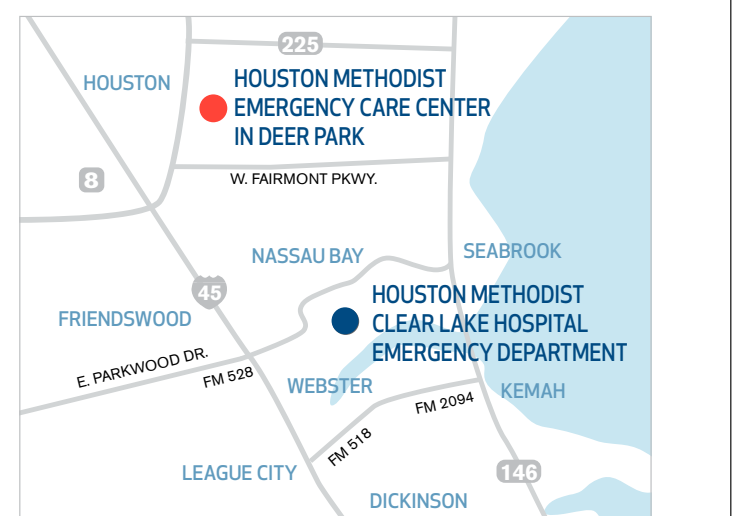
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