

Happy New Year!

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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PISD encourages masks

Following the Christmas break, Pasadena ISD is encouraging students and staff to wear a mask while indoors, per the CDC's latest recommendations. The move is in response to a recent spike in active COVID-19 cases.

Additionally, if a child is showing symptoms, they will be given a free COVID test, provided parents approve.

Local COVID cases spike

There has been a significant spike in the number of active COVID-19 cases being reported in Harris County since the *Leader* last reported on the subject in its Dec. 23 edition, with more than 50,000 new cases being reported – more than 1,000 in just ZIP code 77089.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 4, there were 251 reported South Belt deaths due to COVID-19, no increase from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23.

Of the 8,932 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 1,069 remain active, up 918 from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23. To date, 104 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (The county reported 105 deaths in December.)

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 651 of the 6,671 confirmed cases remain active, up 541 from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23. A total of 69 from the ZIP code have died, up one from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23.

Of the 6,602 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 497 remain active, up 366 from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23. To date, 78 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23.

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

Countywide, there have been 657,305 total confirmed cases. Of those, 583,019 have recovered from the disease, while 67,491 cases remain active, up 54,796 from the *Leader's* last reporting on Dec. 23. A total of 6,758 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

Major closure planned

The exit ramp that connects Beltway 8 to Interstate 45 South will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Jan. 7.

The eastbound exit ramp from Beltway 8 to SH 3/Old Galveston Road is closed until further notice.

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Genoa Red Bluff continuously through 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7.

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.

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

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

Two outside northbound frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from West Medical Boulevard to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Thursday, May 5.

One middle northbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, May 22.

Two outside southbound lanes on the Gulf freeway will be closed from Texas City Railroad to SH 6/SH 146 in La Marque nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Jan. 8.

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice.

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

Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Jan. 14 (second Friday of the month). January is for tree waste only. Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Ellington e-recycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment. Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

Leader looks back on highlights of 2021

Another year has passed, and the *Leader* staff would like to reflect on the most important stories of 2021, including both the highs and lows of an unforgettable year.

While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was undoubtedly still a big story, the release of the vaccine slowed the spread of the disease when compared to the terror of the previous year – 2020.

Locally, the year 2021 will probably be remembered more for the winter storm that hit the area in mid-February. The South Belt area was struck by a hard freeze Monday, Feb. 15, and Tuesday, Feb. 16, with temperatures dipping into

the teens. The National Weather Service declared the event as a Winter Storm Warning. A wind-chill temperature of 5 degrees was reported at Hobby Airport early Monday. Other nearby areas experienced wind-chill temperatures of near-zero degrees.

The freezing conditions forced the closures of local schools and several businesses. Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD remained closed through Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Icy road conditions forced the closures of many freeways. Officials reported hundreds of vehicular accidents, including a 10-car pileup on the Gulf Freeway.

Thousands of residents were left without power due to the freeze. Other locations, including the *Leader* office, lost the use of water. ERCOT declared the freeze its highest emergency level and initiated intentional rolling blackouts to conserve power. Thousands of others, however, were left without power due to equipment failure associated with the frigid temperatures.

The city also opened several warming centers throughout the area for those without homes or without power. One homeless man reportedly died Monday after refusing to be taken to a shelter.

While the winter storm was difficult for many, several South Belters revealed Monday, as the area received some rare snowfall, with many social media users posting photos of their experiences. Many area residents also took to social media to discuss which local stores were open and which ones weren't. With limited openings, some stores became far more crowded than usual, with some users reporting a line at the Scarsdale Burger King as being two blocks long.

In addition to the 2021 winter storm, there were several other significant events worth revisiting. Due to space limitations, the year in review will be continued in the Jan. 13 edition. See Page 5 for the 2021 sports year in review.

Jan. 7

The roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine began but was met with multiple problems, as the de-

mand far outpaced supply. The State of Texas' vaccination plan called for first providing the vaccine to frontline health care workers, classified as Phase 1A, then to elderly residents and those with underlying health issues, classified as Phase 1B. According to state officials, this process will prioritize people who are at the greatest risk of severe disease and death from the disease.

Perry & Sons Market & Grille on Scarsdale Boulevard shuttered its doors after serving the South Belt community for more than 40 years. Opened by Bob Perry in 1979, the neighborhood institution was originally just a butcher shop, before expanding in 1986 to also offer dining. Perry's son, Bobby Perry, took over running the operation when his father retired in 1989. In 1993, Perry's other son, Chris Perry, opened the family's first full restaurant, Perry's Steakhouse & Grille, located on Bay Area Boulevard. There are now 20 total locations nationwide, plus a Perry & Sons Market & Grille located in Friendswood. Other Perry siblings, Concetta and Jacqueline, also worked at the shop over the years.

Jan. 14

Due to a spike in known COVID-19 cases at Sagemont Church, services returned to online only, as church officials deemed in-person gatherings a possible safety concern. This marked the second time the area church has gone vir-

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The South Belt community received some rare snowfall during the winter storm of 2021 that struck the area in mid-February. The hard freeze forced the closure of local schools, businesses and area streets. The frigid temperatures also caused several residents to lose power and the use of water. The Clear Brook City MUD building near Blackhawk and Scarsdale is shown above with a thin layer of snow on the property.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

O'Connor ruling makes headlines

Federal judge and former South Belt resident Reed O'Connor recently made national headlines after ruling against the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for members of the military.

In the decision, O'Connor said any disciplinary action taken against 35 servicemen who refused to take the COVID-19 vaccine would violate their religious liberties.

"The Navy servicemembers in this case seek to vindicate the very freedoms they have sacrificed so much to protect," O'Connor wrote in his decision. "The COVID-19 pandemic provides the govern-



Reed O'Connor

ment no license to abrogate those freedoms. There is no COVID-19 exception to the First Amendment. There is no military exclusion from our Constitution."

Labeled an activist judge by some, this is not the first time O'Connor has made headlines for a controversial ruling. In 2016, O'Connor issued a nationwide injunction preventing transgender students in public schools from using bathroom facilities that matched their gender identity rather than their sex, and in 2018, he ruled that the Affordable Care Act was unconstitutional.

A 1983 Dobie graduate, O'Connor was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2007 to serve as a federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. In 2015, O'Connor was inducted into the Dobie High School Hall of Honor.

Construction of local charter school to resume

Construction of the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision is expected to resume in the next couple weeks, the *Leader* has learned from sources familiar with the project.

Anslov Bryant Construction has been hired to complete the remainder of construction on the area campus, sources told the *Leader*.

To be built on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, has remained half-constructed for several years, causing complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore.

Construction of the area campus has been met with problems since it began in 2015, with at least three contractors having been hired to oversee the project, and work being completely halted on multiple occasions.

Booster available for 16-, 17-year-olds

Harris County Public Health is now administering the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine booster for fully vaccinated 16- and 17-year-olds.

Eligible residents include those who completed their two-dose Pfizer vaccine series at least six months ago.

On Thursday, Dec. 9, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved teenagers to receive an additional Pfizer vaccine booster shot, and HCPH received approval from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines remain authorized only for adults.

Getting a booster shot is vital due to the holiday season and the Omicron variant. On Monday, Dec. 6, HCPH announced the first known

Omnicron case in Harris County and Texas. The best protection against any COVID-19 variant is to get fully vaccinated with any of the three available vaccines.

Harris County encourages all fully vaccinated residents to get their booster shots when eligible. To qualify for a booster vaccine, one must wait six months after getting a second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two months after a Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Eligible, fully vaccinated residents can get a booster dose of the vaccine of their choice.

All COVID-19 vaccines provide vital protection for most people. The Pfizer booster helps certain groups of people maintain their level of

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Intuitive Machines breaks ground

Intuitive Machines recently broke ground on its new lunar production and operations center at the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport.

The business will become the first-ever private company to travel to the moon.

Intuitive Machines will transition from its current spaceport facility into the bold new 125,000-square-foot building where they will build, command and communicate with more hardware that will go to the moon in the most significant facility the company has ever had.

"We grew up as a company alongside Spaceport Houston, and we continue to grow as Spaceport Houston grows," said Steve Altemus, Intuitive Machines president and CEO. Steve Altemus. "My partners, Dr. Tim Crain and Dr. Kam Ghaffarian, and I chose Houston because of its diverse talent, rapidly growing innovation ecosystem and deep-rooted connection to space-

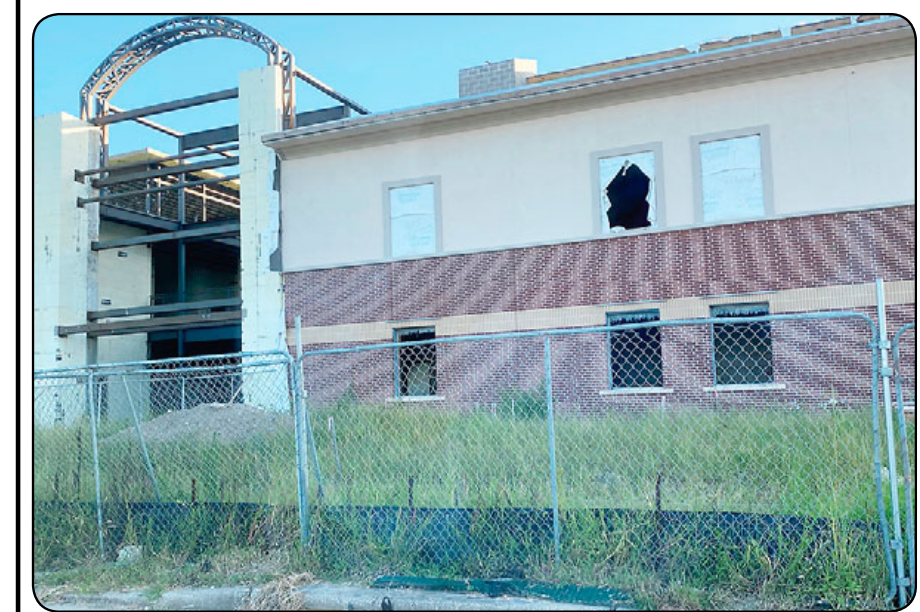
flight. Houston is our home, a place surrounded by family, friends and people of true grit. Whether it is a flood, pandemic or landing on the moon, Space City does not back down from a challenge, and this building is Intuitive Machines accepting one of humanity's greatest challenges."

Intuitive Machines' moon landing in the first quarter of 2022 starts an annual launch cadence delivering both NASA and commercial payloads on and around the moon. Demand for the company's complete lunar program, from moon lander to deep-space communications, requires expanding into the near 12.5-acre plot at the Houston Spaceport entrance.

"We are thrilled that Intuitive Machines has decided to further invest in the tremendous aerospace ecosystem at Houston Spaceport," Mario Diaz, Houston Airports director of aviation,

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Eyesore angers residents



Work on the partially constructed charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision is expected to resume in the coming weeks, sources told the *Leader*. Located on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, has long drawn the ire of area residents, who view the half-constructed facility as an eyesore.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Outdoors (weather permitting) storytime for all ages. Visit <https://houstonlibrary.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.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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. 6, 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.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 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 welcome.

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

Louis Cyril Muras



Louis Cyril Muras, beloved "Popoo," was born to Annie and Charles Muras on Sept. 25, 1929. He assumed his place in heaven on Dec. 29, 2021, and joined his beloved wife of 62 years, Regina Kominiczak Muras, known to all as "Granny." She has been waiting for him since 2010.

Born and raised in Fayette County, Louis was the 13th of 13 children. The six brothers and six sisters grew up on a farm, enjoying a lot of joking around that lasted all their lives. Louis' children and grandchildren loved his sense of humor.

He is survived by his four loving children Shirley Singer, her husband Andrew, Sandra Morgan, her husband Russell; David Muras, his wife Kathy; and Pamela Grimes. Louis' pride and joy were his 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, all who will miss him greatly - grandchildren Tara Smith and husband Ivan, Chris Muras and wife Tracy, Matt Singer and wife Beth, Katie Amos and husband Will, Will Morgan and wife Lydia, Brian Muras,

Ann Morgan and husband Matthew Haygood, Justin Grimes and wife Brittany, Sean Muras and wife Stacie, Chelsea Anderson and husband Michael, Brett Singer and wife Estefanie and Adam Grimes; and great-grandchildren Aydan Smith, Noah Amos, Avery Amos, Emmie Muras, Alexis Smith, Logan Muras, Eden Singer, Ava Muras, Matthew Singer, Raimi Muras, Nayeli Singer, Holland Amos, Jensen Grimes, Ryan Singer, Eliza Amos, Teigan Muras, Cooper Grimes and Emilia Singer.

Louis was a successful salesman for several companies, and he loved all sports, especially playing golf. He was playing and marshalling for a golf course well into his 80s. He would have given anything to be able to play another round.

As a sports lover he enjoyed coaching his son's baseball teams from PeeWee through Colt. The Houston Astros were always on his TV during the season, and he shared all of his opinions about how the manager was doing. He was thrilled they won the World Series in 2017 and that they made it again twice more, even though the team had a lot to overcome last season. As the bedrock of his family, Louis was always there to console, advise, cheer on, and congratulate each member as needed. Nothing pleased him more than being with his family. He truly was "the wind beneath their wings" and will never be forgotten.

Family received visitors from 6 until 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer, with a rosary prayed at 7 p.m. The funeral Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. Rite of Committal followed at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions be made in Louis' honor to a charity of one's choice.

James "Jim" Patterson

James "Jim" Patterson was born in Wilkinsburg, Pa., to parents, Ruth and Norman Patterson.

He grew up in Swissvale, Pa with his sister Janet. After graduating from high school, he joined the Army during



Larry Clement Pleasants



the Korean War. Jim graduated from Duke University in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

After graduating from college, Jim started his career of selling pipe, valves and fittings with Rockwell in Pittsburgh. While working at Rockwell, he met his first wife Judith Hollowood, they married and had five children together. Rockwell gave him the opportunity to move to Houston in 1963. One daughter Patti and four sons Brett, Eric, Gary and Toby, all attended J. Frank Dobie High School.

Jim married Carole Dillard in 1983, and they lived in La Porte. They enjoyed traveling, spending time with friends and family. Jim loved Duke basketball, playing golf and watching sports - especially the Houston Astros.

He is survived by his sons, Brett, wife Denise of League City; Eric, wife Evelyn of Houston; Gary, wife Beverly Greig of Willis; and Toby, wife Jennifer of Webster.

Jim is also survived by his seven grandchildren, Ivy Denis, spouse Brandon of Milford, N.H.; Ian Coyle of Milford, N.H.; Holly Patterson, husband, Brett Bailey of the Woodlands; Christopher Patterson, wife Lori of Houston; Stefanie Lewis, husband Garrett of Santa Fe; Jessica Schoppe, husband James of League City; and Trisha Rodriguez and husband Justin of Victoria. He leaves 10 great-grandchildren Austin, Trevor and Cody Denis; Bud Bailey; Riley Patterson; James and Kinsley Schoppe; and Trenton, Kole and Kannon Lewis; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, sister Janet, wives Judy and Carole, daughter Patti Gilbert and great-granddaughter Bonnie Nicole Bailey.

A celebration of life will be held later in January.

Hearn Lithographers and Bowne Co., all of Houston. In addition, he briefly performed similar roles in Denver and Atlanta in the late '80s and early '90s.

He attended Life Church (formerly Life Tabernacle) during his early adult years. More recently, he was active in CrossRoads UMC (formerly Cokesbury UMC) for almost two decades. He was a loyal fan of Astros Baseball, from the time they began as the Colt .45s. Pleasants was a coach with SBHLL (Sagemont/Beverly Hills Little League) for several years, and he volunteered with the Clear Brook High School baseball boosters from 2004-2008. For a few years during Christmas season celebrations, he relished dressing as Santa for public libraries, retirement homes, schools and churches.

Pleasants retired in 2009 when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, which ended his full-time employment. He then stayed very busy with various projects and hobbies including home renovations, family video production, fiction and nonfiction writing, genealogy, cooking and collecting toys and baseball cards.

Family, friends and

co-workers appreciated his infectious smile and his lively spirit. He had a charismatic presence; was always gregarious, and never met a stranger. His two most enduring goals, which never faded, were to publish a crime novel and to open an eatery, "Larry's Hot Diggity Dog."

Pleasants is survived by his wife of 33 years, Cathy Pleasants; and his children James Pleasants (Niki), Deborah Pleasants McSweeney (Terry), Kurtis Pleasants (Stephanie), and Robert Pleasants (Rachel). He is also survived by his grandchildren Leslie Gladney (Angeli), Mitchel Brown, Tyler Pleasants, Trey Pleasants and Lillian Pleasants.

He was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Nell Brashar Harper and Fred Harper; and his father, Walter Clement Pleasants.

Additional survivors include brothers, Lonnie Pleasants (Chrystin) and Jerold Pleasants (Anne); uncle and aunt, Edwin and Olga Pleasants; sister-in-heart, Diane Watts (Doug); cousins; nephews and nieces; and professional mentor and friend, John Kemp.

Pleasants had requested that there be no funeral service and no memorial service.

Ali named Physician of the Year



Dr. Sibtain Ali (center) was recently selected Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital's 2021 Physician of the Year. In his nomination, Ali was commended for his teamwork and collaboration as the medical director of Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland's Inpatient Dialysis department. Each year, Partners in Caring recognizes exemplary employees and physicians from across the hospital system who go above and beyond to create exceptional experiences for patients and each other. The Physician of the Year is honored with a donation of \$1,500 to a charity of their choice. Pictured above with Ali are Senior Vice President/CEO Noel Cardenas (left) and Chief of Staff Dr. Nishith Majmundar.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP OF YOUR WEIGHT LOSS JOURNEY

FREE, NO-OBLIGATION INSURANCE VERIFICATION

Weight loss is about more than losing pounds. Whether it's talking about taking control of your health or addressing fertility issues to start a family of your own, NewStart™ puts an entire team of specialists in your corner—from nutritionists to specially trained surgeons to support groups—all working together to help you reach and maintain your ideal weight. We tailor our programs to meet the specific needs of every patient we treat, even offering flexible payment options to accommodate different budgets. Get started on your weight loss journey with NewStart.

memorialhermann.org/newstart



Fred Roberts students write New Year's resolutions for 2022

Fred Roberts Middle School students share their New Year's resolutions.

For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is getting only A's in my grades and conduct, another resolution is I want to get under 1 detention for this semester and next semester, and my last resolution is I want to pass all PFA's, and projects, and additional focus areas.

Luke Kearbey
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to stop watching drama shows or murder mysteries.

Briley Starr
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to have all A in each class.

Mason Bustos
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to end the semester with all A's.

Haylie Breen
My New Years Resolution is I want to eat healthier.

Coeni Brittingham
My New Years Resolution is to not get covid 19.

Lucero Rivera
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to commit myself to getting even better grades, trying something new, and focus on learning not just grades.

Alexander Trejo
My New Years Resolution is to stay fit and eat good food.

Braelyn McArthur
For the 2022 year, my New Years resolution is going to be for me to get better grades and to work smarter not harder.

Isaiah Mendoza
For the 2022 year, my New Year's Resolution is to bring my Voila home from

school to practice two days every week.

Camila Martinez
My New Years Resolution is to learn the Morse code alphabet.

Jenny Nguyen
My New Years Resolution is to be a good student at school.

Natalie V. Benavides
My New Years Resolution is to be able to be good at every single subject in school and make my mom and dad proud so they can be happy.

Nathan Torres
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to try to be smart at math and science by knowing what I need to study and working hard so I can be little more smart!

Ashley Moya
My New Years Resolution is to pass the school year by doing the work that teachers give me and pay attention in class.

Selene Barcenas
For the year 2022, my New Year's Resolution is to practice my Violin more by practicing from 9:00 to 10:00.

Kevin Cao
My New Years Resolution is to at least make 50 dollars.

Kayla Avilez
My New Years Resolution is to be a good kid and get at least one A in my grades.

Javier
My New Years Resolution is to be taller.

Damian Garza
My New Years Resolution is that I want to make a change in me.

Brenda Villarreal
My New Years Resolution

is that I can pass everything with 10/10.

Angie Maya
My New Years Resolution is to pass the star tests and be a really good kid.

Julissa Zuviri
My New Years Resolution is to get all my grades up.

Brianna Delagarza
My New Years Resolution is I want to try to learn more and do more work.

Sebastian Chapa
My New Years Resolution is I want to learn more math this year and focus more on studies.

Rabail Khan
My New Years Resolution is to be at least 4'10.

Bryant Valadez
My New Years Resolution is I want to be able to lift 60pounds.

Adrian Gloria
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to get along with my little brother, Reuben.

Roland Wheat
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to get better at my education and to have a good year.

Amyra Harris
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to hang out with my family more.

Christian Ruiz
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to get good grades. Also to get ahead of my class.

Ryleigh Navarre
For the year 2022, my New Years Resolution is to improve switching from plucking to bowing 5 times a week for 15 minutes. while holding my viola.

Jailla Bandy
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to be nicer to my sisters, and to get better grades.

Neveh Carlos
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to complete everything in submit learning and pass the star test.

Ashton Wilson
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to spend some time in Mexico and to spend time with my cousins and pass the 5th grade.

Julius Segura
For the 2022 year, my new years resolution is to try to have good grades this year.

Carmelo Gutierrez
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to make it to 6 and 7th grade and take care of my life, my moms and my family's life.

Lily Faulkner
For 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to get the blue belt for Taekwondo.

Liany Zarazua
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to play with my dog fetch.

Antonio Hernandez
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to help people that have less than others. It is almost the time of joy so why not help people that need it.

Kyrsten Deal
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is for covid 19 to be over.

Jeremiah Myers
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to help out more with my sister, to get more skilled at sports,

and to get one step closer to being an Entomologist.

Isaiah Martinez
My new years Resolution is to get more sleep.

Cade Martin
My New Years Resolution is to not be on my electronics for more than four hours a day.

Sophia Serafine
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to quit my attitude with everyone.

Sayuli Ramirez
My New Years Resolution is to do my homework.

Sophia Galindo
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to be more productive and use my time better.

Isabella Gonzalez
My New Years Resolution is to make money.

Xavier Coleman
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades for my future job. (I'm going to be a person who makes logos).

Alaina Adams
My new years resolution is to help my family.

Cain Dominguez
My New Years Resolution is to not ever miss a day of school ever again.

Raiden Adamo
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to focus on me being happy and not listen to what anyone says.

Genesis Gutierrez
My New Years Resolution is to not worry about anything just do you.

Aaron Macias
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to learn Korean or China or to master it because I also want

to go in an airplane and go to China.

Emilio Cadena
For the 2022 year, my New Years Resolution is to get better at chess by playing my brother because he is really good.

Santiago Vega
For the 2022 year, my New Year's Resolution is that

I will bring home my violin and practice my music for 2 hours for school days and 1 hour on the weekends.

Jessica Tran
My New Year's Resolution for 2022 is to start drawing more and eventually paint and try to sell my art work.

Lola Lopez

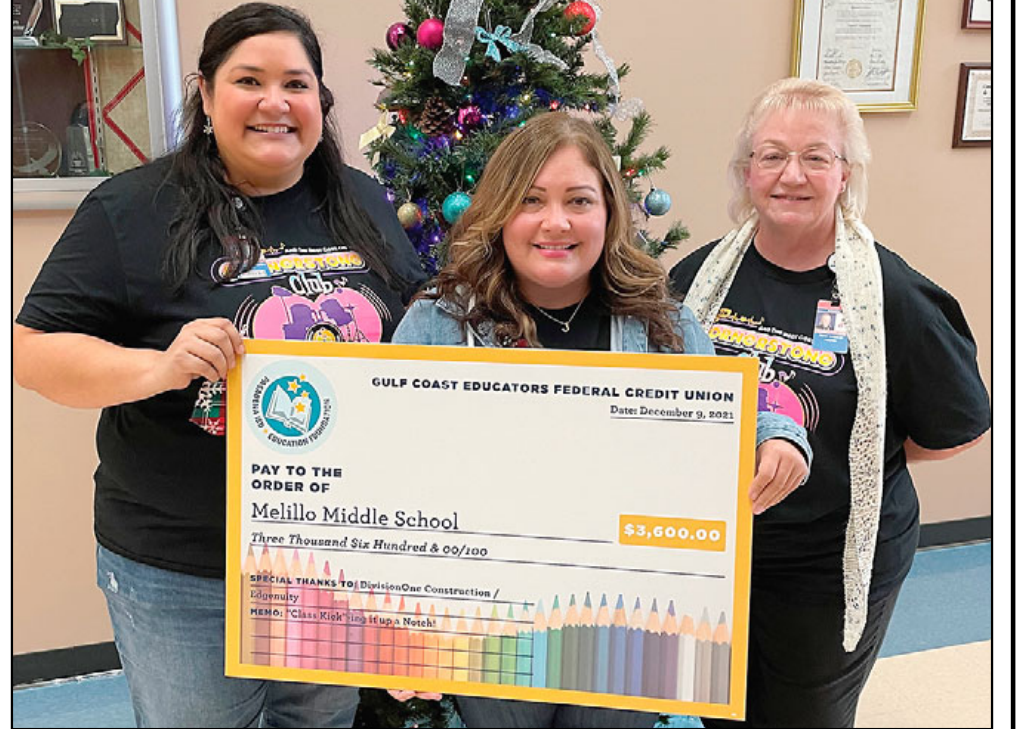
CCART meeting set Jan. 11

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its January meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022. The meeting will be held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, in Seabrook.

The gathering will feature a presentation by Coach Bill Krueger and his daughter, Kristy Krueger Tankersley, discussing their book, "Winning On and Off the Court." The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies.

The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

Melillo receives a check



Melillo received a \$3,600 mini-grant for ClassKick which will allow teachers to create innovative lessons for all learners by assessing them formatively and utilizing real-time data. Shown above, left to right, are Rebecca Castaneda (science instructional coach), Jennifer Saucedo (sixth grade AP) and Diane Wheeler (principal).

Melillo MS fifth-graders share 2022 New Year's resolutions

Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School fifth-grade students share their New Year's resolutions.

Kristin Konzelman's class
My New Year's Resolution is to be nice and get good grades.

Nathaniel Martinez
My New Year's Resolution is to be better in school and help more people.

Ke'Moni Porter
My New Year's Resolution is to be better at school.

Angelica Pena
My New Year's Resolution is to be silent in class.

Kamarie Gifford
My New Year's Resolution is to get good grades.

Alex Chavez
My New Year's Resolution is to be nice.

Neveh Rigsby
My New Year's Resolution is to be good in school and do my homework.

Cielo Wright
My New Year's Resolution is getting good grades.

Izaiz Roncancio
My New Year's Resolution is to read better.

Adrian Jimenez
My New Year's Resolution is to not eat candy so much and not complain.

Camille Hutchison
My New Year's Resolution is that I will love to stop give attitude.

Miley Aguirre
My New Year's Resolution is to make more friends.

Yanell Vasquez
My New Year's Resolution is to get my grades better.

Royin Stewart's class
My New Year's Resolution is to get my grades better.

Joseph Castro
This year 2022 I want to increase my grades.

Noe Castaneda
The year 2022 I want to get better grades.

Tori Dehoyos
This year 2022 I want to spend time with my family and get better grades.

Kate Nguyen
In 2022 I am going to start to play select basketball and train harder.

Jayden Grimaldo
This year 2022 I'm going to start getting better grades than I did in 2021.

Emily Villarreal
This Year 2022 I hope for the best for my family.

Joel Arteta
My New Year's resolution for 2022 is to get better at baseball and win a championship.

Felix Cervantes
This year I want to be strong and get better grades and sleep earlier.

Bennie Flores
This year 2022 I want to be good at art and practice more.

Jay T.
My New year's resolution for 2022 is summer break and playing games.

Pete Guillen
This new year 2022 I want to start playing baseball again on a real team with my friend.

Branson Britton
This New Year's Resolutions for 2022 I want to get into playing basketball in a real team.

Bradley Jones
My New Year's Resolution for 2022 is to finish the Spider-man Miles Morales game and to get my sister to stop watching Monsters Inc.

Jude Arizaga
This year I want to get into baseball because I want to be like the baseball player, Fernando Tatis Jr. This year I am going to be more religious. This year I am going to start boxing because I've already done mma. This year I am going to stop being so harsh on myself. This year I am going to learn more languages.

Jonathan Garza Peña
This year I want to hangout with my friends more often. This year I am going to learn how to get good at Fortnite. This year I am going to go to more party's with my friends. This year I am going to be more organized. This year I am going to learn how to get better at volleyball.

Brooklynn Maldonado
This year I want to hangout with my friends more often. This year I am going to learn how to get good at Fortnite. This year I am going to learn how to get good at Fortnite.

more party's with my friends. This year I am going to be more organized. This year I am going to learn how to get better at volleyball.

Brooklynn Maldonado
This year I want to be able to write a book that will be famous. This year I am going to practice writing horror books. This year I am going to start learning how to make my books better. This year I am going to stop not only writing horror books. This year I am going to learn how to make good and scary horror books.

Riley Perez
This year I want to take a trip to Disney World because I've never been there before and I heard a lot of good things about it. This year I am going to try a new restaurant. This year I am going to start playing volleyball. This year I am going to stop watching a lot of television. This year I am going to learn more Spanish.

Hailey Jade Vargas
This year I want to learn new things and have passing grades in all subjects. This year I am going to take a trip to Disney World. This year I am going to start taking care of myself in many different ways without my parents. This year I am going to stop sleeping late. This year I am going to learn Algebra with my dad helping me.

Osama Abdallah
This year I want to learn the History of Art. This year I am

going to eat more. This year I am going to start learning how to draw. This year I am going to stop eating less junk food. This year I am going to learn how to speak Spanish.

Sabrina Cavazos
This year I want to get good grades in all classes. This year I am going to spend more time with my family. This year I am going to start practicing my basketball skills. This year I am going to stop getting on my phone all the time. This year I am going to learn how to use my left hand.

Sebastian Hernandez
This year I want to collect more Funko Pops because they're really cool and I love them. This year I am going to make smarter choices. This year I am going to start exercising more often. This year I am going to stop eating junk food and eat healthier. This year I am going to learn about WW1 and WW2 and more battles in history.

Bryan Flores
This year I want to read more books in the summer. This year I am going to get better grades. This year I am going to start paying more attention in school. This year I am going to stop eating junk food. This year I am going to learn how to write with my left hand.

Charlotte Flores

This year I want to get better grades for school. This year I am going to get good at Reading and Writing. This year I am going to start playing my video games. This year I am going to stop being depressed. This year I am going to learn how to write with my left hand.

Paul Gonzales
This year I want to go to Boston, Massachusetts. This year I am going to Oregon State. This year I am going to start playing baseball. This year I am going to stop eating junk food. This year I am going to learn Russian.

Jaime Alvarez
This year I want to see a concert. This year I am going to play basketball. This year I am going to start reading more books. This year I am going to stop getting bad grades. This year I am going to learn Korean.

Desiree Joseph
This year I want to go out and hang out with my friends more. This year I am going to get more hours of sleep without any interruptions. This year I am going to start to socialize more. This year I am going to stop being shy. This year I am going to learn how to speak Japanese.

Melanie Martinez
This year I want to read more books than last year. This year I am going to start eating healthier. This year I am going to start

exercising for 30 minutes. This year I am going to stop eating out so much. This year I am going to learn how to spell in cursive.

Christian Orellana Sarmiento
This year I want to stop getting conduct marks for small things. This year I am going to do my homework. This year I am going to start taking care of my nails. This year I am going to stop nail biting. This year I am going to learn to be on task.

Dahlia Reyes
This year I want to eat less. This year I am going to play more outside. This year I am going to start focusing on school. This year I am going to stop being bad. This year I am going to learn Spanish.

Joshua Salazar
This year I want to get better at taking care of my little sister. This year I am going to get better at Reading and Math. This year I am going to start doing well at school. This year I am going to stop being bad at building stuff for my brother. This year I am going to learn how to play basketball and learn history.

Elier Valles
This year I want to stop eating fast food all the time. This year I am going to stop playing video games all the time. This year I am going to start saving

my money instead of spending it all on video games. This year I am going to learn how to code.

Daniel Ramirez

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Frazier announces spelling bee winner

Congratulations to all of the Frazier students who participated in the annual spelling bee on Thursday, Dec. 9. Their spelling bee champion was Alizia Gonzalez who won in the seventh round by spelling the word *trickster* correctly. Runners-up were Dorin Murray and Camille Lilly. Alizia will represent Frazier at the district spelling bee in February.



Shown right is the spelling bee champion, Alizia Gonzalez.

Shown below, left to right, (front row) Aydrienna Saenz, Alizia Gonzalez, Dorin Murray, Aizek Chiovaro, (middle row) Triton Nguyen, Camille Lilly, Abigail DeHoyos, Cecilia Bogany, Mia Martinez, (back row) Emily Martinez, Jaquelin Flores, Mauricio Amaya, Vincent Castoreno and Joshua Hernandez.



PISD CTE awards hardworking members

The following awards were voted on by Career and Technical Education (CTE) administrators from the entire Gulf Coast Region and submitted to Career and Technology Association of Texas (CTAT) for the 2020-2021 Image Awards.

These were the individuals whom PISD CTE nominated and who went on to win:

Business-Education Partnership Award
Pasadena ISD nominated



Shown above are Dr. Melissa Ryan (left) and Michael Y'Barbo.

community relations/program manager Theresa Sauls from CenterPoint Energy for this award. Sauls has been diligent in her work to bring Career and Technical Education to the forefront of CenterPoint Energy's vision.

She provides support for the schools and programs she works with by sitting on advisory committees, arranging guest speakers, making donations and most importantly, offering job opportunities to students. She is passionate

ACTE Champion CTE Award
Pasadena ISD nominated workforce development specialist David Esquibel from Shell for this award. Esquibel is a huge advocate for high school students across the region. He works tirelessly to provide support by way of donations, field trips, youth expos and scholarships for students. His passion for the

about the construction industry and even more so about career and technical education. She is doing her part to aid in the skilled labor shortage issue in the region by bridging the gap between school and industry.

As a result, young people are able to begin a career right after they graduate, and in turn, the industry gains a new generation of skilled and dedicated employees.

CTE Showcase of Excellence
This award recognizes programs that represent excellence in Career and Technical Education.

The criminal justice teachers at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School bring relevancy into their classroom and provide their students with real-world opportunities on a daily basis



petrochemical industry and the students whom he supports is evident and instrumental in the development and growth of high school CTE programs.

The petrochemical industry is integral to the region and, through his work, will continue to prosper. He retired at the end of 2020, but the groundwork that he established will have a long-lasting impact for students in the region.

In addition to this, the ongoing partnership they have with Pasadena Municipal Courts to hold the sentencing phase of court proceedings on campus, gives their students the opportunity to move from theory to practical application.

With a nearly perfect passing rate, year after year, on both the Municipal Jailer Certification and the Emergency Dispatch Certification, Dr. Melissa Ryan and Michael Y'Barbo are going above and beyond to prepare their students for a successful career in law and public safety.

Meador spelling bee champs



Meador Elementary officials congratulated their spelling bee champion Tyler Nguyen (center) and their second place winner Arleny Maldonado (right). Nguyen will represent Meador at the district spelling bee. Shown with Nguyen and Maldonado is Derenda DeHoyos, English Language Arts (ELA) campus coach.

Intuitive breaks ground

Continued from Page 1

"I believe Intuitive Machines is a real-life Houston success story that hits to the core of Houston Spaceport's mission - to create a focal point for aerospace innovation with a cluster of aerospace companies that will lead the nation in the transition from a government-focused to a commercially driven space program."

The project will vest in the city on a brick-by-brick basis, with reimbursement of the project costs by the city, for a not-to-exceed total cost of \$40 million.

Intuitive Machines will work closely with San Jacinto College's new EDGE Center, also located at the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport.

"San Jacinto College is providing skills that are desperately needed, and EDGE students will be put to work on real jobs in the aerospace

industry," said Altemus. "It's great to see the spaceport come alive with the Houston Airport System, the aerospace industry and academia all working together."

Altemus praised San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer's leadership in this area.

"I appreciate Dr. Brenda Hellyer's leadership and her demonstration that we're all connected, and that when we're together, we're greater than the sum of our equal parts. And we're better as a community as well, as a result."

For additional information on Intuitive Machines' new lunar operations center, visit www.intuitivemachines.com/lunar-services.

For additional information on the San Jacinto College EDGE Center, visit www.sanjac.edu/edge-center-aerospace.

Brook's debate tallies state points

Continuing their "Quest for the Best" at Clear Brook High School as the debate team neared the holidays, what they have found is that while the holidays may come just once a year, the state qualifications for the team just keep on giving. Coming off another successful weekend on Dec. 11 at Clear Springs High School,

the team ended with 10 state qualifications overall, still besting every other high school in CCISD. The team will continue its quest after their holiday break. Shown below, left to right, are Jyothi Manoj, Aahil Tharani, Ann-santra Sijo, Hareem Tariq, Ayla Yoakum, Isabelle Wills and Jackson Neyland.



A look back at the South Belt in 2021, a year highly influenced by COVID

Continued from Page 1

Continued from Page 1
 out of safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Multiple social media users criticized the church for not enforcing mask and social-distancing guidelines.

Jan. 21
 The Pasadena ISD board of trustees was named the Texas Computer Education Association 2020-2021 School Board of the Year. A nonprofit organization that supports the use of technology in education, TCEA 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 group's website.

A man was shot during a road rage incident Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the 11600 block of the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Genoa Road/South Shaver Street. According to Houston police, the incident took place around 12:15 p.m. as the victim was entering the freeway near Fuqua and a female driving a silver or gray BMW SUV pulled alongside him and fired multiple times. The victim, who suffered a gunshot wound to the foot, attempted to drive away from the shooter but crashed into another vehicle. The suspect was described only as being a white or Hispanic female, 28 to 35 years of age. No immediate arrests were made.

Jan. 28
 Longtime Pasadena ISD board member Fred Roberts announced he would not be seeking re-election after serving for 28 years. Roberts was first elected to the board in 1993. He currently serves as its secretary. A Pasadena native, Roberts is a self-employed insurance consultant

with nationwide clients. He attended Southwest Texas State University and is a member of NACE No. 114. A longtime member of Sagemont Church, Roberts is married to wife Vicki, a 1978 graduate of Dobie High School. They have four children, Zachary, Sara, Jacob and Jordan, who have all attended Pasadena schools, with three graduating from Pasadena ISD. In 2014, a Pasadena ISD middle school was named in Roberts' honor. During his tenure on the Pasadena ISD board, Roberts oversaw more than 56,000 students graduate.

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off has once again been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the second time in the event's 25-year history the function has been called off, as the 2020 cook-off was also canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to COVID-19 scares, organizers said the rescheduled Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo cook-off also played a role in the decision to cancel the event. Normally scheduled for February, this year's HLRSR cook-off was postponed out of COVID-19 concerns until early May - when the South Belt event traditionally takes place. Organized by the South-east Volunteer Fire Department, the cook-off is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt fireworks display, which is also held at El Franco Lee Park.

Feb. 4
 Two separate fatal shootings took place Thursday, Jan. 28, at apartment complexes in the area near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. The first shooting took place in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway. Manuel Guzman, 33, was pronounced dead at the scene from a gunshot wound

to the chest. No immediate arrests were made. That same day, a second shooting took place in the 1200 block of Redford. Ellis Williams, 39, died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds. In that case, Jarrett McClintock, 32, was charged with murder in the 183rd State District Court.

Feb. 11
 Two local Pasadena ISD staff members died this past week in a two-day period. Dobie teacher Melissa "Missy" Gutierrez, 45, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, from issues associated with the COVID-19 virus. Gutierrez taught family consumer science at Dobie High school for 11 years. She previously taught fourth grade at Atkinson Elementary. Gutierrez also attended Dobie, graduating from the area high school in 1993. The previous day on Monday, Feb. 1, Lomax Middle School Principal Norma Jean Penny unexpectedly died at the age of 52. Penny began her career at Miller Intermediate, where she served three years as a reading teacher and three years as a student counselor. She was then promoted to assistant principal at Thompson Intermediate, where she served three years, before being promoted to principal at Carter Lomax Middle School, where she served 15 years. While at Lomax, Penny was the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt fireworks display, which is also held at El Franco Lee Park.

Feb. 18
 A cyclist was killed in a crash Sunday, Feb. 7, in the 8900 block of Easthaven Boulevard near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. According to police, the driver of a gold Chrysler Town and Country minivan was traveling south on Easthaven at Clearwood Drive around 2:45 p.m. when he struck the victim, Alfredo

Rodriguez, who was on a bicycle traveling in an unknown direction. Rodriguez was transported to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, where he was pronounced dead the following day, Monday, Feb. 8. The driver of the Chrysler remained at the scene and was questioned and released, pending further investigation. No charges were immediately filed.

Feb. 25
 A house caught fire Friday, Feb. 12, in the 10000 block of Yolanda near Alameda Mall. According to fire department officials, the fire was caused by someone trying to keep their dog warm with a heated light bulb. Damage was estimated at approximately \$20,000. Investigators determined the fire was unintentional. No injuries were

reported. Carlos Morgan Sr., a softball coach with longstanding ties to the South Belt community, pleaded guilty to charges of indecent assault in Brazoria County. Morgan avoided jail time with the admission of guilt but was sentenced to 24 months of probation, assigned 24 hours of community service and fined \$200. Morgan, 60, was arrested in February 2020 in Pearland on charges of indecent assault of a minor after several youths came forward to report inappropriate contact.

March 4
 A double homicide took place around 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 2, in the 11100 block of Cayman Mist Drive near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk. According to police, the victims were the shooter's grand-

mother and younger brother. Eric Hays was apprehended near the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook shortly after the incident. The victims were identified as Carmen Hays and Bryce Alexander. Alexander was a former Dobie High School student. According to police, officers responded to a shooting-in-progress call to find the two victims dead, apparently killed by gunfire. During this time, family members were tracking the suspect down, eventually confronting him in the parking lot of the Academy store in the 10400 block of the Gulf Freeway. A struggle ensued, with Hays being struck in the head at least once. He was not seriously injured, police said. Family members were able to detain Hays until police arrived.

March 11
 Former Morris Middle School nurse Sydney Golden was arrested Friday, March 5, on felony forgery charges. Golden was arrested by Pasadena ISD Police Department and charged with a third degree felony offense of forgery of a government instrument. According to Pasadena ISD officials, the arrest came after a thorough and extended investigation. Golden was hired to start the 2020-2021 school year and was only on campus for 10 school days, officials said.

A man was shot Tuesday, March 2, outside a bar in the 12000 block of the Gulf Freeway following an argument. The victim was transported to the hospital in critical condition. No immediate arrests were made.

March 18
 Houston firefighter and longtime South Belt resident Walter Luna died the evening of Tuesday, March 9, in an off-duty cycling accident. A 1989 Dobie graduate, Luna was an engineer/operator at Houston Fire Department Station 72D in the Clear Lake area and served more than 26 years with HFD.

A man was fatally shot Saturday, March 13, in the roadway in the 9800 block of Fabiola Drive near Blackhawk and Alameda Genoa. Quincy Brown was pronounced dead at the scene. No immediate arrests were made. A man was fatally shot Tuesday, March 9, in the 12100 block Palmtown Street near Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road following a family disturbance. The case was referred to a Harris County grand jury. No immediate arrests were made.

The Shell gas station located in the 12500 block of Beamer at Scarsdale was robbed at gunpoint Saturday, March 6. No immediate arrests were made.

March 25
 Former longtime South Belt resident and current Milstead Middle School Principal Scott Pollack was named Pasadena ISD's Elementary Principal of the Year. A 1993 Dobie High School graduate, also attended Frazier Elementary and Thompson Intermediate. After graduating from Dobie, Pollack attended the University of Texas at Dallas and received a bachelor's degree in biology. He went on to earn a master's degree in education administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Pollack served as an assistant principal at Hamilton Middle School in Houston ISD until 2007 when he was named principal at Oak Forest Elementary School, also in Houston ISD. Under Pollack's direction, Oak Forest was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2010. He was named principal at Milstead Middle School in August 2011.

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

Melillo toy drive classroom winners



Melillo Middle School participated in a food and toy drive within the school and with the class donating the most getting their picture featured in the *Leader*. Shown above are the classroom winners, left to right, (front row) Jasmin Hernandez, Lisa Ngo, Douglas Moreno, Lexi Rodriguez, Jaylyne Hernandez, (middle row) Caleb Johnson, Durand Williams, Alayna Rodriguez, Shai Silva, Jennie Mancuso, (back row) Kayne Schafroth (teacher), Aja Breaux, Zeke West, Liliana Salazar, Bella Sherwood, Aly Garza and Sasha Lewis.

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
 Residents began taking an active part toward solving vandalism problems in the area. One resident who witnessed vandalism reported a license number and vehicle description to Houston Police. Another South Belt resident took pictures of vehicle tracks from a torn-up yard. *The South Belt Press* has begun working with local civic clubs in an effort to help stop such problems.

40 years ago (1982)
 Brian Matthew Rider, 9, was killed by an accidental shotgun blast as his next door neighbor's on Christmas Eve. Rider was being shown a 10-gauge shotgun when it went off. No adults were home at the time.

35 years ago (1987)
 Auditors recommended to Pasadena Independent School District that bidding and purchasing functions be centralized under one department. Testimony was slated to begin on the discriminatory hiring practices suit filed against Pasadena Independent School District by the U.S. Justice Department.

30 years ago (1992)
 Students at Burnett Elementary used a local Apple Tree grocery store as a learning environment. Lessons at the store ranged from a health lesson on reading labels to comparison shopping. Weights and measures was also taught in the store, as well as working with money.

All Pasadena district scores were below the state averages on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test.

20 years ago (2002)
 The Dobie academic decathlon team won the district competition. The team won the Super Quiz competition which continued its unbroken streak to 20.

20 years ago (2002)
 The autopsy on Dobie basketball player John Alexander Hart showed a heart defect

as the cause of death for the youth who died after collapsing during a Dobie varsity basketball game.

15 years ago (2007)
 Former longtime Kirkwood South resident Neil West was presented the 2007 Planning Commissioner of the Year Award at a state conference in Addison, north of Dallas. The annual honor is bestowed by the Texas chapter of the American Planning Association. Now a resident of Green Tee, West had been a member of the City of Pearland Planning and Zoning Commission since being appointed in 2003. During his tenure, West had

been instrumental in a number of city projects. Prior to his work in Pearland, West was also active in the immediate South Belt community. He was the founder of the South Belt Security Alliance and served as president of the Kirkwood South Homeowners Association. Following the APA conference, West was awarded the City of Pearland Certificate of Recognition at its city council meeting.

10 years ago (2012)
 Dobie graduates Trevor Cobb and Christa Williams were named part of the inaugural class of 12 inductees for the new Pasadena Independent

School District Athletics Hall of Fame. Cobb, Class of 1989, played nearly every sport offered at Dobie, but his performances as an elusive running back for the Longhorns quickly earned him a statewide reputation.

5 years ago (2017)
 A bizarre robbery led to multiple felony charges being filed the morning of Thursday, Dec. 21. According to police, the incident began around 10:30 a.m. when a patrol deputy was flagged down on Scarsdale and told the nearby CVS had been robbed. Deputies responded to the scene and were told that a man had passed the

pharmacist a note demanding specific drugs and threatened to kill everyone in the store if he did not get them. The man then fled the scene in an ambulance, later determined to be stolen from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department station in the 9800 block of Hughes Road. After the CVS robbery, the suspect led La Porte police on a chase in the ambulance on Highway 225 near Red Bluff after allegedly robbing a nearby Amegy Bank. Following the chase, Christopher Montalvo, 29, was arrested and charged with felony evading in a vehicle, federal bank robbery, robbery of a business,

burglary of a building and auto theft.

1 year ago (2021)
 Perry & Sons Market & Grille on Scarsdale Boulevard shuttered its doors after serving the South Belt community for more than 40 years.

At press time, it was unclear why the business closed. Multiple phone calls to Perry's headquarters went unanswered. The announcement came at the same time the rental contract was up for its 5-year renewal. It is believed that due to the virus and problems with restaurants, management made a financial decision not to commit to a new lease.

Over The Back Fence by Kenna

BO CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
 Best wishes to *Leader* staffer Bo Bolen who celebrates a birthday Friday, Jan. 7, from friends and the staff at the *South Belt Leader*.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KRISTEN!
 Kristen Giles celebrates her 22nd birthday Jan. 13. Her parents, Tracy and Jim Giles, grandparents Bobby and Kenneth Griffin, and brothers Cody and Aaron and wife Ashley and sons Jaxson and Jace Giles extend their best wishes for a wonderful birthday. Kristen is a Dobie graduate.
SCHOOL DAZE
 The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 6 through Jan. 12.
Atkinson Elementary
 Birthday greetings are sent to Pamela Valdez Jan. 8.
Burnett Elementary
 Join in the birthday fun Jan. 10 with Breana Grullon.
Bush Elementary
 Give a birthday shoutout Jan. 9 to Vicki Sheppard. Tawana Dockery enjoys a birthday Jan. 10. Light the candles Jan. 11 for a celebration for Cynthia Covarrubias.
Frazier Elementary
 Jan. 8 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Christine Grazioli. Nancy Guerra and Effie Pines celebrate a birthday Jan. 10.
Meador Elementary
 Enjoying a birthday Jan. 6 are Cheryl Caudill and Anastasia Riley. Blow out the birthday candles for Tara Merida and Anne Hamilton Jan. 11.
South Belt Elementary
 Remember to wish Cynthia Gomez a happy birthday Jan. 9.
Melillo Middle School
 Jan. 10 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for Jesseca Adamek and Crystal Taylor.
Roberts Middle School
 The day for a party for Ha-Bang "Susie" Nguyen is Jan. 7.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
 Send a birthday greeting Jan. 11 to Kacee Peterson. Martha Garcia enjoys a birthday Jan. 12.
Thompson Intermediate
 Special birthday wishes are sent to Tiffany Nelson Jan. 10.
Dobie High
 John Stovall marks a birthday Jan.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

For hoops squads, it's about the title chase

The most important phase of the high school basketball season is in full effect with the arrival of 2022 as district races heat up.

Optimism abounds locally, especially at Clear Brook as the varsity boys' and girls' teams are delivering plenty of promise. The Clear Brook varsity

boys' squad, intent on repeating as the titleholder in 24-6A, has already won 21 regular season games and held a state ranking all season but now find both

Dickinson and Clear Lake ready to take over.

The Gators, who have ascended as high as No. 6 in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class

6A state poll, will host the Wolverines Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. in one of the most highly anticipated matchups city-wide.

Elsewhere in the 24-6A

boys' ranks, Clear Lake is now 19-4 while Clear Falls is 15-5, but the Wolverines are 21-3 overall prior to a Jan. 5 home game against Brazoswood.

After an impressive 4-0 march through the Allen Holiday Invitational as Christian Bradshaw, Kemo Millender and Marcus Millender all scored all-tournament honors, the Wolverines kept rolling.

Meanwhile, the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team has experienced an early hiccup in its quest to repeat as champion of District 22-6A, and at right around .500 currently but 3-1 in league play, must tangle with a 15-3 Deer Park team at home Jan. 12.

The Longhorn boys' team took a nice holiday break but already owns

Upcoming Basketball

- Brook boys at Dickinson Jan. 8, 1 p.m.
- JFD boys host Pasadena Jan. 8, 1 p.m.
- Brook girls host Dickinson Jan. 8, 1 p.m.
- JFD girls host Deer Park Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

Soccer tournaments begin Jan. 6



The high school soccer season has its first big weekend of tournament action as the Dobie varsity boys' team is one of the best programs of the Pearland ISD Cup, while the Lady Longhorns' varsity team competes at the Angleton Invitational, taking on Elkins Jan. 6. As for the Dobie boys, the locals, including Ronaldo Guzman (9) host Dulles Jan. 6 and Goose Creek Memorial Jan. 7, both at Veterans Stadium at 2 p.m. On Jan. 8, the Longhorns will play Houston Heights at Dawson High School in Pearland at 8 a.m. The Longhorn boys, ranked seventh in the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches 6A Region III preseason poll, opened the regular season Jan. 3 with a 3-3 tie at Alief Taylor as Miguel Bazaldua, Isaac Cortez and Alex Escobar tallied goals.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



The Dobie varsity girls' basketball team, including junior Jacque Giron (5) will host Deer Park Jan. 12 in a likely tussle for the top spot in District 22-6A. Dobie is the defending league champion, but Deer Park has been on a roll of late.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

SBGSA registering online

The South Belt Girls Softball Association continues to host online registration for the spring 2022 season now through Jan. 31 at www.southbeltsoftball.com.

Girls ages 4 through 16 are eligible to compete in the SBGSA ranks at \$110 per player.

Currently, there are openings in the younger age division, while there is a waiting list in others.

League officials are also seeking volunteer coaches. There are no residency requirements, and sibling discounts are available.

The league's divisions

include 6-under, 8-U, 10-U, 12-U and 14U/16U.

For assistance with online registration or coaching opportunities, call/text South Belt Girls Softball Association player agent Adriana Estrada at 832-891-3579. Games are played at El Franco Lee Park.

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LATE REGISTRATION continues online until teams are full.



Karlie Barba (22) and the Dobie softball program highlighted 2021 with a thrilling run to the regional quarterfinals before a series loss to Clear Springs.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

2021 - A look at year in review

Last year began with great hope for a return to normalcy, and while it still may take a while to see that "normalcy," 2021 did provide plenty of memorable sports moments in the South Belt area.

January
Putting together an impressive 20-0 cumulative score against four opponents, the Region III power Dobie cruised to the Pasadena ISD Cup boys' soccer tournament championship, sending a definitive message along the way.

Like in previous years at this same event, Dobie clearly dominated. And counting a 4-1 win over Strake Jesuit to begin the season, Dobie outscored five foes by a combined 24-1, with 11 different players finding the net.

The pressure to maintain a perfect season ended for the Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team as Clear Lake escaped with a 58-57 victory, which ended Brook's 14-game loss-free start to begin the season.

time ever within the 6A ranks, Clear Brook was still 16-1 overall as the sibling duo of Kemo and Marcus Millender led the way. The early January TABC 6A poll had the Wolverines at No. 23.

Jade Giron was off to a terrific start with the women's basketball program at Lyon College, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program in Batesville, Ark.

The Dobie graduate had a career-high 33 points on 12 of 18 shooting as she helped the Fighting Scots to a 68-52 victory over host Hannibal-LaGrange in the American Midwest Conference opener for both teams.

Giron, a four-year varsity starter at Dobie, made 4 of 6 three-point tries and added nine rebounds, six assists and four steals as part of her big night.

The San Jacinto College baseball team returned to action with three wins in four games in its 2021 season-opening series against Baton Rouge.

Thomas Burbank, Lex

Garcia and Walker Bordovsky combined for 12

Continued on Page 6

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Dobie High School tennis players, other locals support Ronald McDonald House at Christmas



At left, the finalists in the Championship division during the "Toys For A Claus" tennis tournament in Galveston included, left to right, Jeff Dubrow and Victoria Rutherford (runners-up) and the first-place duo of Lael Martinez and Hee Young Kim. At right, current and former Dobie tennis players and tournament host Mitchell Moreno (center) dropped off more than 60 toys at the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston following the completion of the "Toys For A Claus" tennis tournament Dec. 11. From left to right, Sebastian Delgado, Ryan Le, Tracy Tran, Megan Rodriguez, Moreno, Brian Nguyen, Leslie Figueroa, Hailey Maldonado and Lael Martinez were some of the participants in the event as they enjoyed competition.



District hoops races front and center

Continued from Page 5
 a 22-6A win over Channelview with a key tip-off coming Jan. 8 against Pasadena, the league champion from District 22-6A a season ago.
 Dobie has a big 61-59 win over Channelview in pocket and is 11-8 overall and 1-0 in 22-6A action after Deven Lendsey scored the Longhorns' final eight points in that tight win Dec. 18.
 And the Clear Brook girls have played as well as any team in the city, getting to 21 wins in 24 overall games following a Dec. 31 district win over Clear Creek to highlight Alumni Day.
 Alyssa Berry had 15 points and Rezia Castillo added 10 more and Brook outscored the Lady Wildcats 19-15 in the fourth quarter to win 54-50.
 Most importantly, the

Lady Wolverines improved to a perfect 3-0 in league play prior to a Jan. 5 game at Brazoswood after press time.
 There's seemingly little else for the Clear Brook girls' squad to prove at this point, other than perhaps taking away Clear Springs' 12-year hold on the District 24-6A championship.
 Already with second- and third-place tournament finishes to its credit, Clear Brook went out and won top honors at the Pasadena Memorial Invitational, crushing four opponents along the way to get to 20 wins for the season against just four losses.
 Berry went off for a game-high 28 points in a win over Dayton, and the senior was back at it with a team-high 21 points as Brook defeated Clear Falls 74-46 for the tournament

championship.
 As for the eventual 24-6A championship, Clear Brook gets its first crack at Clear Springs Jan. 15, hosting the Chargers.
 And while Dickinson and Clear Lake have emerged as challengers to the Clear Brook boys' crown in 24-6A, the Wolverines have shown little evidence of a willingness to surrender anything to this point.
 The locals rolled through the competition at the Allen Holiday Invitational, edging Little Elm 68-65 in the opener to get things going Dec. 27 at Allen.
 In a 71-51 rolling of Frisco Independence, Kemo Millender scored 22 points and Christian Bradshaw came up with 11 more.
 Against Rockwall Heath, Brook was a 69-38

winner as Kemo Millender delivered 23 points to go with 20 from Marcus Millender as the Wolverines reached 20 wins this season.
 Dickinson, which had climbed to fifth in the latest Class 6A Texas Association of Basketball Coaches state rankings, hosts 12th-ranked Clear Brook Jan. 8 at 1 p.m.
 The Dobie varsity girls were scheduled to play in the Duncanville ISD Sandra Meadows Invitational the last week of December but instead withdrew.
 So the bar has been set across many districts, and the Clear Brook and Dobie programs have thus far positioned themselves well for a title run in their respective districts.
 Things could change from week to week, but the locals are in it for the long haul.

At right, Consolation division finalists at the "Toys For A Claus" Tennis Tournament in Galveston were Sawyer Farroni and Amy Landry, runners-up; and Megan Rodriguez and tournament host Mitchell Moreno, champions. Top Championship division finishers were: 1st - Hee Young Kim/Sebastian Delgado; 2nd - Victoria Rutherford/Jeff Dubrow; 3rd - Hailey Maldonado/Lael Martinez; and 4th - Marina Porter/Tyrese Washington. As for the consolation bracket: 1st - Rodriguez/Moreno; 2nd - Landry/Farroni; 3rd - Carmen Comeaux/Delino Comeaux; and 4th - Sophia Comeaux/Jordan Comeaux.



2021 year in review featured many sports highlights in South Belt area

Continued from Page 5
 strikeouts on the mound and Mason Lytle, Chase Adkinson and Armani Sanchez had multi-hit games as the Gators topped Baton Rouge 6-1.
 Meanwhile, San Jacinto College celebrated a return to competitive softball by opening 2021 with five wins in six games, including two against the nation's second-ranked program.
 Tamara McKnight, a key returnee from 2020, was 3 for 5 with three runs scored and four batted in. She had a homer and a double.
 Maddy Bailey drove in five, also socking a home run, and Cat Cavazos was the winning pitcher as she came on in relief and struck out 10 over six innings.
 After parts of six decades under another name, the area's youth baseball league became the Southbelt Little League as the 2021 season dawned.
 The Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team continued to deliver on the best regular season in program history, winning the District 24-6A championship by taking down visiting Clear Lake 61-53.
 The win awarded the league title to the Wolverines, who at 21-1 overall have led the way in the District 24-6A ranks all season.
 Clear Brook junior Kemo Millender eclipsed the 1,000 career-points-scored mark in a win over Clear Springs and then had a game-high 24 against Clear Lake as the Wolverines clinched the crown.
 The Dobie swimming team wrapped up a successful season by taking 12th at regionals.
 Joseph Lukner was fourth in the 100 back and sixth in the 200 free to highlight the Longhorns' efforts at the meet.
 Lukner also joined the Dobie boys' 400 free relay squad that took 10th at regionals as Lukner was joined by Bruce Nguyen, Jayline Humphrey and Hayden Fell.
 Dobie's 200 medley relay of Nguyen, Fell, Humphrey and Malcolm McGhee placed 12th in the event.
 Nguyen took 13th place in the 100 free event.
 As for the 200 free relay, the Longhorns were able to grab 14th place at the regional level as Humphrey was joined by Isaac Garcia, Fell and McGhee in the event.
 The worst eight-minute stretch of play of the course of the season was enough to end the Dobie varsity girls'

basketball team's season.
 Outsourcing the District 22-6A champion Lady Longhorns 21-4 in the fourth quarter, Beaumont West Brook came away with a 41-39 bidistrict playoff round victory.
 Dobie, which saw a 14-game winning streak come to a stunning end, controlled much of the action over the course of three quarters on the way to a 35-20 lead entering the fourth quarter.
 But the Lady Bruins, improving to 14-7 overall with the No. 4 over No. 1 seed victory, saved the best quarter of their season for the last.
 The San Jacinto College softball team emerged as a serious threat in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I rankings after reeling off nine consecutive victories.
 The Coyotes went from unranked this preseason to reaching No. 18 nationally after a 12-3 start to 2021.
 Beaumont West Brook completed a 2-for-2 sweep of Dobie in bidistrict basketball playoff action as the Bruin varsity boys nipped the Longhorns 58-56.
 The Bruins, seeded third out of District 21-6A, led the Longhorns by a dozen with about four minutes to go before Dobie tied it at 56-56 with 11 seconds left.
 A West Brook lay-in put the Longhorns down by a pair, and the locals got off a shot before the buzzer that didn't fall.
 Clear Brook advanced to Region III's version of the boys' basketball playoffs with a bidistrict win over Pearland, setting up an area round rematch with Summer Creek press.
 The Wolverines used a solid defensive effort and a balanced offensive attack to down Pearland 64-53, ending Pearland's season at 18-8.
 The Wolverines, 22-2 overall, went up against Summer Creek in the area round, looking to avenge a 64-61 loss in the same round a season ago.
 This time, Summer Creek's Amaree Abram and Jaleen Goodman had 20 points each as the Bulldogs held off Clear Brook yet again, downing the Wolverines 71-68 in the Region III boys' basketball playoff round.
 The Wolverines, with 48 wins over the last two seasons, ended their 2020-2021 run at 22-3 despite getting 20

points from Marcus Millender and 16 more from Christian Bradshaw.
 Clear Brook graduate Kenneth Pree, now with the Texas Southern University men's track and field program, was the winner of the long jump at the SWAC Indoor Championships in Birmingham, Ala., with a leap of 23 feet, 6.75 inches.
 Pree originally signed with the University of Houston out of high school but has since transferred to TSU.
 Pree went on to reach the NAAs for the Tigers as he has proven to be elite at his craft.
March
 Nine wins in 13 overall games. A 6-0 victory over Channelview to open District 22-6A play, featuring a no-hitter from sophomore Marisa Perla.
 The Dobie varsity softball team has certainly looked the part of frontrunner through the opening three weeks of the season.
 A loss to Deer Park left the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team at 1-2 and in win-now mode in the District 22-6A race.
 How did the six-time defending league champion program respond? Nine consecutive victories gave the Longhorns the maximum 27 points down the stretch.
 The final three points came courtesy of a 5-0 win over South Houston as the Longhorns claimed a seventh straight title for the program at 10-2-0.
 In the clincher over South Houston, Isaac Cortez tallied his team-best 21st goal and Alejandro Vigil had a hat trick with three goals. He added an assist.
 Dobie senior Johnathan Baldwin bagged Most Valuable Player honors on the football field and then quickly proved his worth on the hardwood.
 In earning co-Defensive Player of the Year honors, Baldwin averaged three steals as the team's top on-the-ball defender. He also averaged nearly nine points, four rebounds and three assists per game.
 Baldwin in November completed his freshman football season at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.
 The Thompson boys and Bondy girls dominated the competition at the Pasadena ISD Championships, with the Lions' seventh-grade squad tallying 188.5 points for their team win.
 The Lions' eighth-grade squad closed out its 2021 run

with 126 points for the win.
 Victoria Rivera led the Lady Longhorns varsity girls' basketball team in scoring during the 2020-2021 season as she reeled in District 22-6A Most Valuable Player honors.
 Winning 14 consecutive games down the stretch, Dobie went 12-0 in District 22-6A play as Rivera helped control the action.
 Dobie's other all-district first teamers were Gwendlyn McGrew, Kendall Brown, KeKe Robinson and Jacque Giron, with McGrew now playing at Pasadena Memorial.
 The Dobie baseball team scored an important series sweep over Channelview in District 22-6A play, building a 10-6 lead after two frames en route to an eventual 14-10 victory at Channelview.
 The Longhorns improved to 3-0 in the 22-6A varsity baseball race as Ryan Saxton, Noah Torres and Colton Cox keyed a 14-hit attack with three hits each.
 Christian Medina had two hits and knocked in three runs as the Longhorns held off the Falcons for the two-game sweep.
 Just like that, Dobie's varsity soccer season came to a close in both boys' and girls' play courtesy of Kingwood.
 The District 21-6A second-seeded Lady Mustangs cruised on to the area round with a 4-0 victory over Dobie.
 Just hours later, the Kingwood boys sent District 22-6A champion Dobie home for the rest of the postseason following a 1-0 shutout win.
 Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball junior Kemo Millender turned in one of the finest individual seasons in program history, and steadily racked up the accolades once the campaign ended.
 Millender, who celebrated scoring 1000-plus career points earlier in the season, was named a Class 6A all-state selection by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches after averaging 25.3 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game. The District 24-6A Most Valuable Player led the Wolverines to the league championship before a second straight area round playoff appearance.
April
 Dobie's superiority within the District 22-6A ranks shone through yet again as the Longhorns swept the varsity boys' and girls' track and field team championships March 31 and April 1 at Deer Park High School.

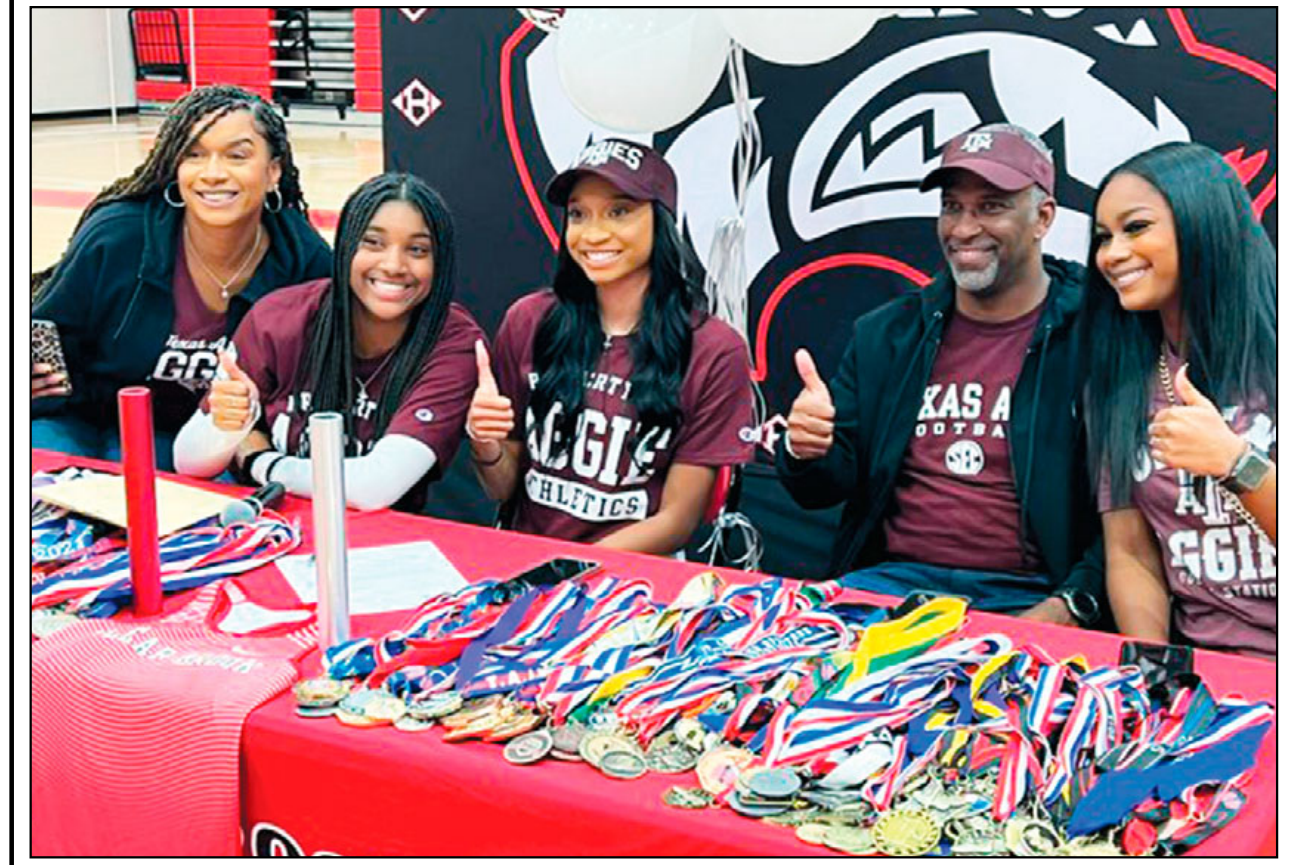
The Dobie boys got the job done courtesy of a true team effort from start to finish, taking gold medals in six individual events - two each from Jeremiah Ballard and Alberto Campa.
 The Lady Longhorns, meanwhile, used a victory in the 4x400 relay final to outdistance host Deer Park for the girls' championship.
 Junior Camryn Dickson was impressive as expected as she highlighted the Lady Wolverines' performance at the District 24-6A Track and Field Championships at Dickinson ISD's Sam Vitanza Stadium.
 At the 24-6A meet, Dickson won the 100 at 11.78 seconds and scored the 200 win in a time of 23.74 to move on to the District 23-6A/District 24-6A Area Championships.
 The Dobie tennis program celebrated as a trio of players qualified for the Region III Championships as the No. 2 seed out of the District 22-6A ranks following the league tournament.
 Dobie's qualifiers included Ashley Huynh, William Ho and Brian Nguyen. Huynh and Ho claimed the No. 2 spot out of 22-6A in mixed doubles, while Nguyen was the No. 2 finisher in boys' singles.
 Dickson was among the many stars at the Region III Track and Field Championships at Turner Stadium in Humble, winning the 6A 100 and 200 sprints to reach the state championships for the second time in her career.
 1996. Quite obviously, no player on the 2021 Clear Brook varsity baseball roster had even been born in 1996.
 The significance? The Wolverines' 25-year district championship drought had ended after the Wolverines beat the rest of the field to the finish line, going 10-2 overall to grab the top playoff seed out of District 24-6A with the postseason due to run May 6-8.
May
 And then there were eight. The Dobie varsity softball team was one of those eight, set to take on un-

beaten Clear Springs in the Region III quarterfinals after toppling Alvin 7-5 in a tense third game of a best-of-three series at Clear Lake High School.
 With that key win over Alvin, Dobie was in the regional quarterfinals for the second straight postseason.
 In 2019, Dobie defeated Clear Springs in the area round and then lost in two games to Alvin in the quarterfinals.
 Dickson became the first Clear Brook state medalist in 13 years, bringing home a silver in the 200 and a bronze in the 100 at the 2021 UIL State Championships on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.
 J.P. Mendoza drove in seven runs over two games and two Kingwood starting pitchers kept Dobie largely in check as the Mustangs run-ruled the Longhorns 14-0 and 12-2 to sweep a bidistrict baseball series May 7-8.
 Caden Ferraro and Carter Allen blasted homers as

Pearland finished off Clear Brook with an 8-3 win in the second and deciding game of the two teams' best-of-three bidistrict playoff series.
 The Oilers came into the first-round series as the fourth seed out of District 23-6A but never played as such against the District 24-6A champion Clear Brook Wolverines.
 Winning three straight games to reach the national semifinals, the San Jacinto College softball program came away with its best-ever finish nationally, taking third place at the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Championships at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex in Yuma, Ariz.
 Losing back-to-back games first to eventual national champion Florida SouthWestern and then to runner-up Grayson might have dampened things a bit for the Coyotes, but a 43-10 overall record to go with that third-place plaque was quite nice.

June
 Dobie Class of 2019 graduate and current Louisiana State University softball star Taylor Pleasants was named a National Fastpitch Coaches Association second team All-America selection following the 2021 season in which she helped the Tigers reach the Super Regional postseason round. Pleasants was one of three LSU players to start every game in 2021.
 The Tigers' starting shortstop was third on the team in batting average, second in runs, third in hits and the team leader in runs batted in with 59 and home runs with 13.
 She joined Bianka Bell (2015, first team) and Tar Asbill (2000, third team) as the only players in LSU history to be named an All-America at shortstop.
 In the Jan. 13 issue of the *Leader*, the Year in Review will have a look at some of the events that occurred from July through the end of 2021 in December.

Brook sprinter Dickson headed to Texas A&M



Clear Brook High School track and field star Camryn Dickson (third from left), one of the nation's top sprinters in 2021, has chosen to attend Texas A&M University in College Station beginning this fall after signing a letter of intent with the Aggies in November. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, Winterress Dickson (mother), Kalyyn Dickson (sister), Chancellor Dickson (father) and Karsyn Williams (sister). Brook's 2022 track season begins next month.

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CALENDAR

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.houstonalanon.org.

Know someone who's contemplating suicide? 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 6
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesdays through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom (attendee preference). See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website (calendar) or call 281-485-3634.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imper>fect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Mondays - Thursdays.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m.
Parker Williams Genealogy Group - meets the first and third Fridays monthly at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale, 1-3 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net for details.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. 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>.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
7:30 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. 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>.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>.
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 9
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. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, 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 for details.
8 p.m.
AA - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, JANUARY 10
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon 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://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>. Visit the website or call Fatimar Jones, club president, at 281-467-1880 for details.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
AA - St. Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. Education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See 1/7 notice.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.
11:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See 1/9 notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See 1/7 notice.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See 1/9 notice
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
8 p.m.
AA - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity card holders attend free.

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Thompson students of the month



Thompson Intermediate celebrated four students for December Student of the Month. These students showed Thompson PRIDE throughout the month of December. They work hard to go above and beyond for themselves, their classmates and as well as their teachers. The school is proud of each one of them for finishing off the first semester strong. Shown above, left to right, are Nikolai Miranda, Kennedy Cavazos, Emma Espino and Gabriel Swann-Walker.

Photo by Gina Gibson

SJC hosts gala to support Promise scholarships

San Jacinto College will culminate a year of 60th anniversary celebrations with the "Step Brightly Into the Future" gala presented by LyondellBasell.

The gala will take place on Friday, May 20, 2022, at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology on the San Jacinto College Central campus. Funds raised at the gala will benefit the student success endowment in support of Promise at San Jac scholarships.

"The gala is going to be an evening full of fun, with engaging student interactions, a punch wall and raffle," said Teri Crawford, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director and vice chancellor for external relations. "We invite the community to join us in changing the lives of our students as an event sponsor, by donating to the Promise endowment, or by purchasing tickets for the gala. We thank LyondellBasell for joining us as our presenting sponsor for this wonderful evening."

The Promise at San Jac

scholarship offers money to cover tuition and books for high school seniors who reside in the college taxing district.

The scholarship will cover up to three years of tuition and books, so that students can focus on completing their certificate or associate degree.

Students are required to enroll at San Jac the fall semester after their graduation, and must take at least 12 credit hours each semester.

Promise at San Jac start-

ed two years ago with three good years ago with three not worrying about having to pay out of pocket for tuition," said Dobie High School graduate Azhia Alvarez. "Being a first-generation college student, Promise is allowing me to be the first person in my family to attend college."

In addition to Lyondell-Basell, Page and INEOS Olefins & Polymers USA have committed as early sponsors for the event.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the

gala, and varying levels of event tickets – including a VIP Double Date Night and VIP Date Night for Two – are available.

Visit the gala website for sponsorship details or call the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104.

Gala guests can expect to enjoy a delicious gourmet meal, engagement opportunities with San Jac students and scholarship recipients, a punch wall and raffle and a keynote speaker.

Melillo honors students of the month

Melillo Middle School staff members announced its students of the month for December. They are honored to celebrate each of these students' hard work at school, and with their teachers and peers.



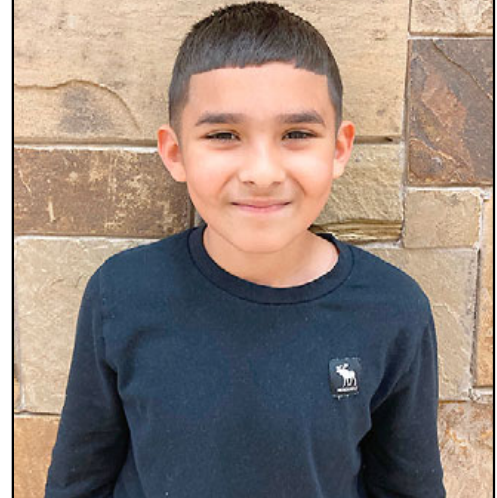
Alice Lam is a dedicated fifth-grader who exemplifies Melillo's guidelines for success. She is always willing to help her peers when they ask for her assistance. Lam exhibits outstanding character through her kindness and responsibility. She has the desire to do things well, to the absolute best of her ability.



Sixth-grader Ethyn Ybarra is a role model for others to follow. His favorite subject at Melillo is art and he enjoys creative projects. He enjoyed playing games and drinking lots of cocoa with marshmallows during the holidays. His favorite memory at school was on the first day; making new friends at lunch. He enjoys assisting others and exemplifies Hearts that Care, the Melillo school motto.



Jaylyne Hernandez is a sixth-grader who is organized, punctual and respectful. She participates regularly in class, and always demonstrates a positive attitude. She communicates with her teachers and turns in her classwork and assignments on time. She works well with her peers and sets encouraging examples for them by making positive choices. Hernandez is an outstanding student with a heart that cares.



Jesse DeLeon is an exceptional fifth-grader at Melillo. He is always ready to lend a helping hand to any adult or a peer who is in need of assistance. He is a role model for others to follow, showing his willingness to help. DeLeon exhibits outstanding character through his compassion and loyalty by helping to create a positive school environment.

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Frazier continues annual toy drive



Frazier Elementary students continued the 26-year-old tradition of donating toys and money during its annual toy drive. The boys and girls donated 183 toys and \$390.72 this year. All of the items collected were given to the Leader to be distributed to families in need in the community. Shown above, left to right, (front row) Maggie Perales, Delilah Gomez, Arlette Pulido, Evan Johnson, Shaun Mijares, (back row) Marie Sanchez, Demi Gaitan-Williams, Sophia Guerrero and Natalia Betancourt.

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