



South Belt-Ellington Leader

43 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Beltway 8 to close

Both the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 main lanes will be completely closed from Highway 3/Old Galveston Road to Fairmont Parkway from 4 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, through 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Other closures

Both the southbound Spencer and Crenshaw entrance ramps will be closed from 4 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, through 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. The northbound Highway 3/Old Galveston Road entrance ramp will be closed from 4 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, through 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 10.

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

Dobie orchestra to perform

Dobie's upperclass orchestra will perform Thursday, Dec. 5, in the main auditorium at 7 p.m. For information, contact Angela Badon, head director, at abadon@pasadenaisd.org or 713-740-0370, ext. 04225.

Chamber holds open house

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale, will hold its Christmas member-appreciation open house Thursday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sagemeadow holds election

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will hold an election for a position on its board Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Sagemeadow Municipal Utility District building, located at 10755 Hall Road, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Sagemeadow property owners are encouraged to vote.

Kirkmont I convenes Dec. 11

Kirkmont I HOA will hold its annual board meeting Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. Homeowners and residents are urged to attend. Residents are invited to meet other homeowners and guest speakers. Refreshments, chips and hot dogs will be provided from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Residents should bring mailed proxies and vote.

Dobie early college meeting

Dobie will hold an Early College High School parent information meeting Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Main campus media room from 6 to 7 p.m. The meeting is for current eighth-grade students who will attend Dobie next year and are interested in the early college program. The early college program allows students to receive a two-year college degree while attending high school. Upon graduation, students will be able to have earned a certificate or associate degree. For additional information, call the school at 713-740-0370.

Kirkwood Civic meets Dec. 12

The Kirkwood Civic Association has set its next meeting for Thursday, Dec. 12, instead of the regular date on the last Thursday of the month. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale. This will be a potluck Christmas dinner. For additional information, contact Ericka McCrutecheon at 281-989-9990.

Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Dec. 12, (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Dec. 13, (second Friday of the month). December is for junk waste, but tree waste will also be accepted. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 31. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2020. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, U-turn and head south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway between SH 96/League City Parkway and FM 518 will be closed continuously through 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. Drivers traveling north on the main lanes will continue to NASA Road 1, exit, then U-turn and come back to FM 518.

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.

Beltway work to be done by end of year

The long-awaited project to widen Beltway 8 from the Gulf Freeway to Highway 288 will be complete by the end of the year, according to officials from the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

The eastbound main lanes were opened in July 2019, officials said. Cleanup activities will continue into 2020.

Authorized by Harris County Commissioners Court in December 2015, the undertaking was divided into two portions - from Beamer to Wayside and from Wayside to Highway 288. Both construction contracts were awarded to Pulice Construction, with the first phase of work costing \$96 million and the second phase estimated at \$77 million.

Construction began in March 2016 but was met with multiple setbacks and delays. Originally scheduled to be completed by March 2018, the project's completion date was pushed back to March 2019 in April 2018. That date, however, also came and went without the work coming to a close.

The extension was largely attributed to a change in scope of the endeavor. Hurricane Harvey was also responsible for causing delays, officials said.

No adjacent occupied properties were needed to be acquired by the county to facilitate construction. Some nearby vacant land was, however, needed for off-site storm water detention.

County officials said efforts were made to limit existing main lane closures.

"With all of our projects, we seek to minimize impact to current customers using the roadway," said HCTRA spokesman Adam Collett.

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And one more!



Crashes continue to take place at the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8. The above three-vehicle accident took place around 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3. The driver of the flipped truck was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the car in the foreground told first responders he had just gotten his car back from repairs associated with another major collision. While the traffic lights at the crossing have been studied extensively, several crashes at the intersection, including the one shown above, have been caused by driver error, rather than mechanical malfunction.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Man dies in odd freeway crash

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place the morning of Friday, Nov. 29, in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway between Almeda Genoa and Edgebrook.

According to investigators, the accident occurred around 9 a.m. as the driver of a box truck was traveling north on the inbound Gulf Freeway service road, when for unknown reasons, he veered off the street and crossed the grassy median that divides the main lanes from the feeder road. He then drove across all three main lanes of the freeway, striking a red pickup truck, before hitting the center divider and flipping his truck.

The box truck driver, 61, was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. No other injuries were reported.

All three main lanes of traffic were closed following the accident, causing extensive delays. The freeway reopened to through traffic at approximately 12:25 p.m.

Investigators are trying to determine if the driver had some sort of medical emergency prior to the crash.

City runoff elections continue

Early voting for the Dec. 14 City of Houston runoff elections is currently underway and will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 10.

In addition to the mayoral race, South Belt voters will have a chance to weigh in on six different City Council contests.

Vying for the position of mayor are incumbent Sylvester Turner and challenger Tony Buzbee.

In last month's general election, Turner just narrowly missed receiving the 50 percent of the vote necessary to avoid a runoff. The final tally showed Turner receiving 47 percent of the vote to Buzbee's 28 percent.

In the race to fill the District D City Council seat being vacated by Dwight Boykins after

his unsuccessful mayoral campaign are Carolyn Evans-Shabazz and Brad "Scarface" Jordan. Evans-Shabazz is a longtime educator and trustee at Houston Community College, while Jordan is a well-known local rapper and community activist.

The Leader has endorsed Evans-Shabazz in the race. See related editorial on Page 2A.

Five at-large City Council races will also be on the ballot.

Competing for the At-Large Position 1 seat are Mike Knox and Raj Salhotra; vying for the At-Large Position 2 seat are Willie R. Davis and David W. Robinson; competing for the At-Large Position 3 seat are Janaeya Carmouche and Michael Kubosh; vying for the At-Large Position 4

Continued on Page 2A

Leader Christmas program begins

The holiday season is here, and once again it's time for the annual South Belt-Ellington Leader Christmas program. Now in its 37th year, the program is aimed at helping area families in need.

The yearly drive began in 1982 when an anonymous man, now dubbed "The Good Samaritan," walked into the Leader office and delivered the makings of a turkey dinner. The stranger said his family had been given food when he was young and requested the staff forward the meal to a needy family in the community.

This charitable behavior continues today with several different local organizations taking part. Local schools that have participated in past programs include Atkinson, Moore, Stuchbery, South Belt and Frazier elementary schools, Melillo Middle School, Beverly Hills and Thompson intermediate schools and Dobie High School.

U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, American Legion Post 490 and Action Ministries have also donated items in previous years, as have many individuals from the community.

Desired items include toys for children of all ages, nonperishable food items, paper products and cash. There is a particular need for gifts appropriate for older children and teens, such as clothing, sporting goods, makeup kits and gift cards.

All gifts should be new and unwrapped. Past recipients include single-parent families and families suffering from unemployment and incarceration. Many past beneficiaries have reciprocated and later donated items themselves.

Several South Belt families are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey. Anyone who knows of local families who are still experiencing special cir

Continued on Page 6A

Melillo hosts annual Jingle Bell Jog

Melillo Middle School, 9220 Hughes, will host its sixth annual Jingle Bell Jog at the school Saturday, Dec. 5. This community event is aimed at helping local families during the holidays.

Participants are asked to bring two nonperishable food items or one new unwrapped toy. All toys and food collected will go toward the South Belt-Ellington Leader's annual Christmas drive. (See related story on this page.) Holiday dress is

encouraged, and the best youth and adult costumes will be awarded a prize. A prize will also be awarded for the first-place Melillo boy and girl joggers. Other highlights include a performance by the Melillo band and a drawing for a turkey. Organizers encourage local businesses to take part in the event.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m., while the race will start at 8:30 a.m. For additional information, contact Kelly Jurek at 713-740-5260.



City begins drainage work

City of Houston construction crews are scheduled to make drainage improvements along Gulfpalms Street from Berry Bayou to Palmsprings Drive in Council Member Dave Martin's District E. To be conducted by the Storm Water Action Team (SWAT), the repairs are set to take place weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, through Friday, Jan. 31. Minor traffic closures and moderate noise associated with the project are to be expected.

Martin takes part in parade



Amor Dance Creation Studio owner and lifetime South Belt resident Chelsi Martin (second from left, third row) recently participated in the 2019 H-E-B Thanksgiving Parade, joining Buddy the Elf from Theater Under the Stars of Houston on Santa's Workshop float. Shown above with Martin are, left to right, (front row) Bridgette Salazar, Emily DeLaGarza, Scarlett Hernandez, Jocelyn Briones, Jasmine Banales, (second row) Abrielle Hernandez, Angie Pinon, Mariah Salazar, Eira Banda, Bethenny Barnes, Maya Reyna (third row) Amor co-director Jazmin Mobley and (back row) Buddy the Elf.

Photo submitted

Delgado rules in dog-theft case

Precinct 2 Judge Jo Ann Delgado recently ruled in favor of a resident who claimed someone had sold her missing dog to a third party without her permission.

The ruling came after a \$400 DNA test determined the animal did, in fact, belong to the original owner.

In the suit, which initially appeared before Delgado Thursday, Oct. 3, plaintiff, Cristal Navarro, contended defendant, Denise Garcia, had illegally taken possession of her dog, a Yorkshire terrier named Little Man.

According to Navarro, her dog, Little Man, which she said was born July 15, 2017, went missing from her area home.

Shortly after the animal's disappearance, Navarro's son spotted a post on Instagram from Garcia featuring a dog that strongly resembled Little Man.

Navarro subsequently contacted Garcia to see if the canine was, by chance, the same animal. Garcia assured Navarro that it was not, saying she had purchased the dog from her friend, Treveone Belton, earlier this year.

Contrary to Navarro's story, Garcia said the dog, which she calls Melo, was born March 1, 2019, and was only three months old when she took possession. Garcia said, however, that she has no proof of purchase.

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Gulfpalms drainage project begins

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin recently announced a new drainage construction project to be conducted by the Storm Water Action Team (SWAT) along Gulfpalms Street, from Berry Bayou to Palmsprings Drive, will begin Monday, Dec. 9.

The scope of work for this endeavor includes clearing and grubbing of the off-road

drainage channel along this portion of Gulfpalms Street. Crews will be on site working Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the work is expected to be complete by the end of January 2020, weather permitting.

Crews plan to start work at Berry Bayou and

In My Opinion

Councilman Martin endorses Alcorn

I met Sallie Alcorn, candidate for Houston City Council At-Large #5, when I first arrived at City Hall in 2012. For many years she worked next door to the District E office, so my staff and I really got to know her as both a colleague and a friend.

Sallie is a hard worker who knows how to get things done.

She always put constituents first. I'd often hear her on the phone navigating city bureaucracy, never getting frustrated, just staying the course to help residents get issues resolved.

Sallie served as chief of staff to two council members and also worked for the city's flood czar, Stephen Costello.

As a District Council Member, I look to our At Large Council Members for their support for specific issues within

my District, particularly issues in the South Belt – Ellington, Freeway Manor, Edgemoor areas.

During her time at City Hall, Sallie learned the nuts and bolts of how the city government runs—what works, what doesn't work, how local government can help, and when it should stay out of the way.

Sallie's campaign is focused on flood mitigation, transportation, public safety, making the city greener and more walkable, and shoring up city finances.

She has an in-depth knowledge of key city issues and will make an effective council member from the very start.

I'm certain she will represent the South Belt/Ellington area extremely well. Please give Sallie Alcorn your favorable consideration in the December City Council runoff election.

Thank you,

Dave Martin
Council Member District E

Publisher's Opinion

Leader supports Evans-Shabazz for District D

Since city councilman Dwight Boykins ran for mayor, he had to give up his seat on city council.

A total of 16 people ran for Boykins' seat. The final two who qualified for the current runoff are Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz and Brad (Scarface) Gordon.

I am personally aware of many times Dr. Evans-Shabazz has visited the South Belt community, including visits to the Scarsdale area which is still in recovery from Harvey.

She attended the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's candidates forum. In fact all the candidates, except one, attended that event. The only one of the 16 who did not attend was Brad

(Scarface) Gordon.

Gordon was also absent in returning our candidates questionnaire. (See Page 3A.) We are endorsing Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, not only because she has shown a definite interest in our community, but she, in my opinion, is much more qualified for the position she is seeking.

She currently serves as chair of the board for Houston Community College. In that position, she has much experience in approving budgets, and in overseeing the running of a major institution.

I urge all city of Houston residents to study the slate and vote, and be informed in your voting.

Marie Flickinger
Publisher

Deaths

Lee Jay Gordon



Lee Jay Gordon, 62, of Angleton, Texas, died Nov. 4, 2019, while surrounded by loved ones.

Born to parents John and Nancy Gordon in Pasadena, Lee attended Meador Elementary, Beverly Hills Intermediate and several years at Dobie High School before graduating in Big Spring, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Debbie; daughter Ashley and son Tristan; and sister Linda Gordon. He was predeceased by both parents and his older brother Jay.

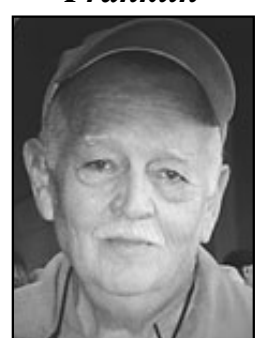
Lee was known for his love of golf, fishing, and spicy, fla-

vorful food – especially if it involved an outdoor grill or cast-iron cookware.

An avid disciple of Christ, he shared his Savior's love and generosity with many who knew him.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Second Baptist Church in Angleton.

Ira Charles Franklin



Ira Charles Franklin, 77, died at his home in Pell City, Ala., Nov. 29, 2019. He was born Oct. 18, 1942, in Prichard, Ala., to Wilbert Ira "Red" Franklin and Margaret May "Maggie" (Moore) Franklin.

A graduate of Vigor High School in Mobile, Ala., Ira attended Jones Junior College in Ellisville, Miss., pursuing electrical engineering. Here he met his wife Ann (Lewis) Franklin. They recently celebrated their 56th anniversary.

In 1993 he retired as field service supervisor with AT&T and started his own voice, data and fiber optic cabling business Media Network Services. He retired in 2003.

With a superior IQ of 135, Ira was interested in many subjects including amateur radio (K4YMQ), geology, genealogy, philately and fishing. He was a member of Stemley Bridge Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife; sister Maxine Williams of Lithia, Fla.; children Lisa R. Franklin of Sycamore Valley subdivision, Houston; Chuck Franklin of Birmingham, Ala.; Danielle Bautista of Vincent, Ala.; and Maggie Beth Franklin of Munford, Ala.; 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Ira was predeceased by his parents; brothers Jack Coleman and Ray Franklin; and adopted daughter Joy Elizabeth (Chavers) Franklin.

CCISD seeks community involvement with action plans

The mission of the Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) is to create learning experiences that inspire students to achieve, create, and lead with integrity.

It is with this in mind, the 28th largest school district in Texas is inviting parents, staff and CCISD community members to participate in the development of action plans.

The action plans involve five major themes such as safe and nurturing environments, student achievement, social and emotional learning, service before self and more.

To learn more about the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, visit https://ccisd.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_645402/File/Ex

plore%20CCISD/Draft%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf.

This is an inclusive process which requires a commitment of more than one hundred volunteers through the month of January.

At the end of the Strategic Action Planning process, a firm set of plans will be in place to assist the CCISD school district in reaching its strategic intent by 2025.

All interested persons should submit their application through an online form no later than Dec. 18, 2019.

Individuals will be asked to select up to three strategies, with the first one being their top preference.

District administrators will notify the applicant once the groups have been

formed.

To get involved fill out application visit <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z391BzW9mUaVLZ0xFCXs-Upkx6fWWjVDqJv3XwR3bE1URjE0M013QzZWNBWjTU4TFA2OUtKS0M0Si4u>.

The action teams, one for each of the five strategies, will meet on Tuesdays from Jan. 14 through Feb. 11, 2020.

The meetings will be held 6 – 8 p.m., at the Clear Creek ISD Learner Support Center, 2903 Falcon Pass (Former Clear Lake High School 9th Grade Center).

If anyone has additional questions, contact the CCISD Office of Communications at 281-284-0020 or email information@ccisd.net.

Danish finishes internship



On Nov. 27, Anshara Danish, a senior at Clear Horizons ECHS, completed her service regarding her internship with Judge Jo Ann Delgado. Shown are, left to right, Anit Joseph, Blanche Beohon, Danish and Delgado. As part of the graduation requirements, students are to complete an internship during junior and senior years. Danish would like to be an attorney in the future, so she decided to do her internship, which began in August, with Delgado. As part of her responsibilities, she was able to file paperwork such as arrest warrants, shadow the clerks at the office, and watch courtroom dockets. At the end of her internship, she conducted a mock trial over juvenile truancy, presented a pretrial pamphlet which she designed, and outlined her internship experience.

Photo submitted

Runoff election voting underway

Continued from Page 1A seat are Anthony Dolcefino and Letitia Plummer; and competing for the At-Large Position 5 seat are Sallie Alcorn and Eric Dick.

Nearby early voting locations include the Harris County annex at 10851 Scarsdale and Beamer and the Freeman Branch Library at 16616 Diana Lane in the Clear Lake area.

There will be no early voting at the East Harris County Activity Center on Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

Polling hours are 7 a.m. to

7 p.m. through Dec. 7; 1 to 6 p.m. Dec. 8; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 9-10. To see a complete list of polling locations or a sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

See related City Council candidate questionnaire on Page 3A.

A mayoral candidate questionnaire can be found in last week's *Leader*.

Project to start

Continued from Page 1A will work south toward Palm Springs Drive.

One lane adjacent to the work zone may be closed during construction. Moderate noise can be expected, as clear-

ing and grubbing will require the use of mowers, chainsaws, and other small equipment. For additional information, contact the District E office at 832-393-3008 or via email at trictre@houstontx.gov. The map on Page 1A shows the project limits outlined in red.

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:

Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Spanish computer class for adults and seniors.

Monday, Dec. 9, 10:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Citizenship class.

The classes cover the 100 civics questions and how to prepare for the citizenship interview. Other topics include the citizenship application and qualifications. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime.; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime. Toddler around with the library staff for stories, songs, and activities that will help develop a toddler's social, motor, and literacy skills. This session is intended for children ages 6 months to 4 years and their caregivers.

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

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

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, Dec. 5, 4 p.m. Floral-Pressed Clay Ornaments, for adults and teens. Fashion a handmade Christmas this year with clay ornaments decorated with pressed pine and berries. They can be used to deck a burlap laden tree or add flair to a special gift.

Monday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order (PS4), for ages 12 and older. Come to the library to try out the new gameplay video for the PlayStation 4. Explore new worlds and hone lightsaber skills to evade the Inquisitors.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 – 8 p.m. Santa Claus visits Parker Williams Library. Santa has a naughty and nice list but at the library this doesn't matter because Santa is here for everyone.

Parents can use their cell phones to get their annual FREE picture with the Claus himself.

If your child has been naughty, now is the time to give those puppy dog eyes! Space is limited and will be first come first served. Upon arrival, ask a staff member for a ticket number to reserve a spot in line.

Below are the programs that occur every week, unless the library is closed:

Tuesday, Babytime lapsit, 10:30 a.m. For babies from birth to 18 months, featuring a mother-baby lapsit time with fingerplays, songs and playtime.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stuchbery announces October VIPs



Stuchbery Elementary staff members announced their VIP students for the month of October. Shown are, left to right, (first row) pre-K Gilberto Reyes, pre-K Elijah Mitchell, pre-K Sophia Turrubartas, kindergartener Javier Balanta, kindergartener Allison Ortiz, kindergartener Jayden Torres, kindergartener Ayden Farris and kindergartener McKenna Work; (second row) first-graders Valerie Reyes, Miguel Lopez, Bryce Lee-Jones, Adalynn McMullin, Julian Parga, and Adaeze Ofoma; (third row) second-graders Juan Rodriguez, Eliana Benavides, Ace Juarez, Chandler Schlueter, Maximus Ontiveros, and Tristan James; (fourth row) third-graders Kingston Auzenne, Erick Montejano, Elise Vara, Elijah Plummer, Allison Hua and Eleana Medina; and (fourth row) fourth-graders Ashley Ly, Natalie Vasquez, Jonah Gallegos, Jazlyn Carmouche, Evelyn Hernandez, Sophia Villarreal, Ca Tran and Gae Gutierrez.

Not pictured kindergartener Daniela Salinas and first-grader Traymond Ford. Photo by: Shannon Garris

Beltway work about to wrap up

Continued from Page 1A Collett further said steps were taken to avoid unnecessary ramp closures during construction.

"We also go to extensive lengths to avoid ramp closures whenever possible," Collett said.

A similar project is also underway to widen Beltway 8 from the Gulf Freeway to Highway 225.

That undertaking consists of widening the current tollway from two lanes to four lanes in each direction, widening the inside shoulder

and reconstructing the tolled entrance and exit ramps.

Construction began in September 2017 and is expected to be complete in summer of 2021.

For additional information on these projects and planned closures associated with them, visit www.hctra.org.

CrossRoads hosts Christmas events

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Join the community at CrossRoads for The Chill on Friday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

The church will have 10,000 pounds of snow, a snow slide, Santa, hot cocoa and more! This event is free and will be sure to put one in the Christmas Spirit.

The CrossRoads Christmas Cantata will be presented Sunday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. This year's selection "Song of Joy" is a great way to get into the holiday spirit with its upbeat and joyful music.

The CrossRoads Christmas service times are Tuesday, Dec. 24, contemporary at 5:30 p.m., traditional candlelight at 7 p.m., 11 p.m. candlelight; and Sunday, Dec. 22, servicio de nochebuena en español.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert Facebook group posted photos and video taken at 3:46 a.m. on Saturday morning. Two male suspects were walking around in the 10300 block of Sierra Grace Lane in Ashley Pointe to see what vehicles had unlocked doors. The suspects were in a Nissan Altima. The member advises to be vigilant and make sure doors are locked. The post has been shared to several community Facebook groups.

A member of the Southbelt This & That Facebook group shared an image of the South Belt Girls Softball Association - SBGSA is seeking parent coaches for 6U. For more information, contact Adriana at 832-891-3579.

The post has been shared to several community Facebook groups.

On the same Facebook

page, it was reported that someone broke into a truck in the parking lot at H-E-B on Blackhawk. There was nothing taken from the vehicle, but windows on the driver's and passenger's side behind the driver were broken.

There has been a post shared by several media Facebook pages about a discovery in southeast Harris County that is giving some people who've had their trucks stolen some hope. Harris County deputies have found about 50 stolen trucks. These trucks had been stripped of engines, wheels and bumpers, etc. To find out more information, contact Harris County deputies.

Vehicles have been reported stolen on different social media pages. The incidents have happened on different days and subdivisions. If anyone has information, one is advised to contact local police.

Family is why WE DO IT ALL.



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

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

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11/04

Our Family Has Grown!



Now with two locations to better serve our community

Niday - Fairmont Funeral Home
6777 Fairmont Pkwy. • Pasadena
281.991.0575

Niday Funeral Home
12440 Beamer • Houston
281.464.7200

Still family owned and operated, our exceptional service and affordability set us apart from other funeral homes. The moment you sit down with us, you will feel and see the difference. Niday Funeral Home services all cemeteries and offers a range of funeral and cremation options.

Planning in advance can be one of the most thoughtful decisions you make for your family. Our plans are transferable should you move, and we also accept most existing policies from other funeral homes.

Niday Funeral Home
281.464.7200

City council candidates respond to *South Belt Leader* questionnaire

District "D" Candidates

Carolyn Evans-Shabazz is running for the seat vacated by Dwight Boykins who opted to run for Mayor of Houston, thereby becoming ineligible to continue to serve as city council member. Her opponent Brad (Scarface) Gordon, a rapper and community activist, opted not to reply to the *Leader* questionnaire.

Carolyn Evans-Shabazz



Name: Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
Age: 66
Occupation: Retired Educator/Real Estate Broker
Education: Ed.D.

Marital status/children: married no children
Have you served in public office before? Explain. (100 words)

I am currently an elected trustee (IV) with the Houston Community College and I have served as Board Chair for the last two consecutive years and a trustee for 4 1/2 years. We are elected by Districts much of which is currently in District D.

What makes you the best candidate to serve in this City Council position? (100 words)

I am the best candidate because I have experience which includes approving a \$364 million balanced budget which requires identifying priorities and making amendments to ensure that the college operates in a fiscally responsible manner. I also know the workings of a governmental body. I also have extensive community involvement as an executive committee member of the NAACP. I believe that you should support the community before you ask the community to support you. I am available, dedicated, transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs of the community. In other words, I am the most well-rounded candidate.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? Explain. (100 words)

In my capacity as Board Chair of the Houston Community College (HCC), I know a few former employees of the college who are currently employed at San Jacinto College (SJC) I recently met Marie Flickinger who serves in the same capacity as me at SJC

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

We have to deal with the firefighter's pay through the meet and confer contracting process. I would recommend using some of the savings from refinancing the city's debt to add to the funds already identified by the Mayor to see if we can resolve the current stand-off while Prop B litigation continues. Firefighters deserve a pay raise regardless of the outcome of the litigation and the voters have approved Prop B. Perhaps, we can also look at the pay in similarly situated cities in Texas.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (150 words)

The City needs to conduct a full audit of all departments to first determine what resources we have and where our resources are going. If it is determined that we cannot streamline expenses and that there are not adequate funds to meet the city's identified priorities/needs, we need determine if we can partner with the county in the delivery of some services. Finally, we need to cautiously examine the current revenue cap and if deemed appropriate, should be presented to the voters for approval.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Harvey, the city still faces challenges with flooding. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

I will travel to Austin to meet with the Land Commissioner about recovery funds for Houston and then to DC to meet with HUD, FEMA and the Houston Congressional delegation about expediting the distribution of funds. I will convene monthly meetings with the non-profits who

collected donations during Harvey to get an accounting of what was collected and what remains. We will need to assess the effectiveness of our current procedures. We need to work with a regional plan in identifying and abating infrastructure needs to mitigate possible flooding in the future.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (100 words)

We need to identify the root causes of homelessness, such as mental illness, job separation, and family separation especially for youth who have been put out of their homes. We have to use the human touch such as wrap around services which include psychologists, social workers, education resources, and agencies that assist with career recovery. I would like to utilize more mobile health and mental health services as some persons may not access services otherwise. We also need to look at affordable housing options and develop a real affordable housing plan.

The city recently won a 14-year-lawsuit over its implementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (100 words)

The lawsuit was concerning compliance with Proposition 1 which received the most votes in 2004 as opposed to Proposition 2. It was a legal victory for the city but does little, if anything, to address the current need to reexamine the revenue cap.

A local resident has had a recurring problem associated with the city's sewer system, in which raw sewage enters their home during heavy rains. If elected, would you commit to addressing this issue? (100 words)

The recently approved \$2 billion in sewer system improvements needs to prioritize upcoming projects as this one is an extreme concern as it is not only a violation of the Clean Water Act but a public safety and public health violation. The Environmental Protection Agency has long been at odds with the City over its damaged and clogged pipes which causes these conditions. This is also a concern in dealing with our current flooding and infrastructure abatement. This is totally unacceptable as no one should have to live in these conditions and I would be totally committed to a resolution.

A current city ordinance requires residential trash cans to be placed out of sight from the street. The city's Department of Neighborhoods, however, rarely enforces the code, even when complaints have been registered. Do you support still having this ordinance in place if it is not enforced, or would you be in favor of enforcing the measure? (100 words)

Non-enforcement of an ordinance is not a reason to remove the ordinance. Civic clubs and city officials have identified this as being a problem and therefore the ordinance needs to be enforced. Enforcement should be persistent and consistent which will give a message that compliance is expected or consequences will be enforced.

If elected, what would be the main goal you'd like to accomplish? (100 words)

My main goal will be to provide quality of life services to District D. In order to do that we will have to fix the General Fund so that we can adequately fund public safety and provide a livable wage for our first responders and our municipal workers. The General Fund provides for viable after-school programs, infrastructure repairs such as pothole repair, timely trash/recycle pick up, stopping illegal dumping and improving our parks and libraries.

At-Large Position #1 Mike Knox



NAME: Mike Knox
AGE: 61
OCCUPATION: Consultant/Author
EDUCATION: Graduate of U of H Downtown

MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married, One Adult Child, Two Grandchildren

Have you served in public office before? Explain. (100 words)

Yes. I am the incumbent Houston City Council Member At-Large 1

What makes you the best candidate to serve in this City Council position? (100 words)

I have a firm grasp on how I can serve the citizens of Houston and a clear understanding of the City Charter and the limitations placed on council members by this document. Therefore, I do not make promises which I cannot deliver and I am comfortable speaking the truth on issues.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? Explain. (50 words)

I have no direct ties to the South Belt Community other than in interest in the well being of all Houstonians

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

I believe I am the best candidate for Houston City Council At-Large 1 because I am policy focused--throughout this campaign we have put forward specific policy solutions-- and I have shared my personal cell phone number with every Houstonian in order to be accessible. Moreover, I have experience as a high school teacher in Hiram Clarke, an intern at both the local and federal levels, and a non-profit founder.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words)

I do not have any direct ties to the South Belt community.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

I would ask the Controller to analyze what the costs would be of a 5% versus a 7% versus a 10% etc. pay raise for firefighters would be. Then, once both the Mayor and the Fire Union agree on these data, I would ask both sides to return to mediation to reach a phased-in solution for a firefighter pay increase.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (100 words)

I would first ask for an audit of all City Departments to understand where we may be able to save resources. Second, I would look at creating more partnerships between the City and the County (perhaps the library systems or parks and recreation systems). Third, I would begin working to find a solution to the OPEB unfunded liabilities.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Harvey, the city still faces challenges with flooding. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

I think we should: (1) have more parks and greenspace to detain water; (2) ensure all drainage fee money is spent on drainage projects by creating more transparency and a clearer algorithm regarding how projects are prioritized; (3) address illegal dumping with more dump sites around the city and perhaps a monthly dump day in communities where the city will bring a receptacle to remove heavy trash; and (4) invest in long-term solutions such as potentially a third reservoir.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

I would look to build more Permanent Supportive Housing on site (employment, health, rehabilitation, etc.). I think we can fund this by reducing visits to the ER. That is, if we have more housing folks will have less need to use the ambulance and emergency room services thereby reducing costs.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

I hope that the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport will continue to ensure jobs and economic growth and development for the South Belt-Ellington community. Moreover, this will maintain the South Belt-

continues to be, to bring common sense, reason and logic to city government. I want to get our budget under control and reduce the amount of debt we pay each year so that we may apply more resources to our core city services -- Public safety, transportation, and city services like water, sewer, and drainage.

Raj Salhotra



Name: Raj Salhotra
Age: 29

Occupation: Attorney
Education: BA Rice University, JD Harvard Law School
Marital status/children: Not Married and No Children

Have you served in public office before? Explain. (100 words)

I have not served in public office before.

What makes you the best candidate to serve in this City Council position? (100 words)

I believe I am the best candidate for Houston City Council At-Large 1 because I am policy focused--throughout this campaign we have put forward specific policy solutions-- and I have shared my personal cell phone number with every Houstonian in order to be accessible. Moreover, I have experience as a high school teacher in Hiram Clarke, an intern at both the local and federal levels, and a non-profit founder.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words)

I do not have any direct ties to the South Belt community.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

I would ask the Controller to analyze what the costs would be of a 5% versus a 7% versus a 10% etc. pay raise for firefighters would be. Then, once both the Mayor and the Fire Union agree on these data, I would ask both sides to return to mediation to reach a phased-in solution for a firefighter pay increase.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (100 words)

I would first ask for an audit of all City Departments to understand where we may be able to save resources. Second, I would look at creating more partnerships between the City and the County (perhaps the library systems or parks and recreation systems). Third, I would begin working to find a solution to the OPEB unfunded liabilities.

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Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

I would look to build more Permanent Supportive Housing on site (employment, health, rehabilitation, etc.). I think we can fund this by reducing visits to the ER. That is, if we have more housing folks will have less need to use the ambulance and emergency room services thereby reducing costs.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

I hope that the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport will continue to ensure jobs and economic growth and development for the South Belt-Ellington community. Moreover, this will maintain the South Belt-

lington community's leader in the aerospace arena. The South Belt-Ellington community has historically been a leader and this project will continue that legacy.

The issue of dumping recyclable waste has made headlines in recent months. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

I would firstly look at an audit of the entire department to ensure this never happens again. Secondly, I think more transparency on the amount of recyclable material and amount of trash picked up every week would help. Thirdly, I think investing funds in more trucks and drivers can also help with this.

The city recently won a 14-year-lawsuit over its implementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (150 words)

I do not support the revenue cap because it prevents the City from "banking funds" in good times to be used in downturns. In the short run, I would support (just as happened under the Mayor White administration) an exemption from the revenue cap to fund public safety. In the long run, I think we should look at removing the revenue cap. Importantly, there is now a state law requiring voter approval for tax increases above 3% so that will provide voters a chance to speak out on any such increase.

If elected, what would be the main goal you'd like to accomplish? (150 words)

My main goal would be ensuring we improve our flood mitigation and drainage. We cannot live in a City where everytime it rains folks are worried they may flood and we have three devastating 500-year floods over the past five years. I think by investing in more parks and greenspace, addressing illegal dumping, spending the drainage fee wisely, ensuring we implement the Climate Action Plan, and partner with other entities (County, State, and Army Corps of Engineers) we can reach the goal of improving drainage and flood mitigation.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words)

I do not have any direct ties to the South Belt community.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

I would ask the Controller to analyze what the costs would be of a 5% versus a 7% versus a 10% etc. pay raise for firefighters would be. Then, once both the Mayor and the Fire Union agree on these data, I would ask both sides to return to mediation to reach a phased-in solution for a firefighter pay increase.

At-Large Position #2 David W. Robinson



Name: Hon. David W. Robinson
Age: 53

Occupation: Architect (FAIA) and current Houston City Council Member, At-Large Position 2
Education: Yale University (Bachelor of Art, Architecture) and Rice University (Master of Architecture)

Marital status/children: Single with my daughter who is currently enrolled in college.

Have you served in public office before? Explain. (100 words)

City Council Member, At-Large Position 2 -- Elected Fall of 2013, serving 2014 to present.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

Houston First Corporation -- Member of the Board, Ex-Officio, Appointed 2014 to present.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

Houston Galveston Area Council -- Transportation Policy Council, Appointed 2016 to present.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

Houston Planning Commission -- Appointed 2007, serving 2007 to 2011.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

Houston Airport Commission -- Appointed 2008, serving 2008 to 2011.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

Municipal Arts Commission -- Appointed 2004, serving 2004 to 2006.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? Explain. (50 words)

In the two terms that I've served, I've been an advocate and supporter of news related to the South Belt/ Ellington area. I will continue to use my leadership experience to drive issues related to land use developments, improved roadways, and infrastructure for the community.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

While this is a dynamic and fluid subject, I believe the administration is providing a path forward and considering the best interests of Houston and its citizens. I voted against Proposition B but I believe fire-fighters deserve a significant raise. While I understand that the voting population voted for a parity between the payment of fire-fighters and the police, I believed the proposition wasn't one that is sustainable by the city of Houston. I am committed to work alongside my colleagues on Houston City Council to provide a fair solution to this challenge.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (100 words)

It is increasingly difficult for the City of Houston to find the financial resources to serve our growing population. The city's fiscal health needs our critical attention in the coming years. This year I voted in favor of zero-based budgeting, which will compel the mayor and the City Council to make some difficult but important decisions about which services and programs to prioritize. Furthermore, the city must address the growing OPEB liability and our deferred maintenance on facilities and infrastructure. These decisions will not be easy, but they are critically important for our city's growth and well-being in the future.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Harvey, the city still faces challenges with flooding. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

The city's response should balance the need to fund infrastructure projects and the need to have other funds in place to develop resiliency efforts for our future growth. The city's funding through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) should leverage federal dollars for flood mitigation and align as closely as possible with Harris County's \$2.5 billion bond program. I am also a strong proponent of the agile, data-driven, and equitable SWAT (Storm Water Action Team) program started by Steve Costello. Lastly, we should also advance the proposed Green Stormwater Infrastructure program and continue to review our development codes.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

While homelessness in Houston continues to be a critical issue, Houston is leading metropolitan areas with its overall approach and metrics for understanding homelessness. Much work remains with the complex issues surrounding addiction, veterans' health, behavioral and psychological concerns. We need to provide permanent supportive housing in order to stabilize our efforts in assisting with these needs.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

The development of Houston's third airport is crucial for the future of Houston. Not only will this development lead to advances in technology, development, and aerospace in the area, it also bodes well for the overall economy of the city.

The issue of dumping recyclable waste has made headlines in recent months. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

We will continue to work on improving the basic resources of the solid waste department, investing in new vehicles, and hiring more personnel in order to expand on more territory and better coverage. Our solid waste fleet of garbage trucks are already in the process of being improved or replaced. Our overall investment plans will continue to improve upon this basic service.

The city recently won a 14-year-lawsuit over its implementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (150 words)

Public Safety: We must ensure that our communities are safe for everyone, by encouraging and funding community oriented policing, and supporting our police, firefighters and first responders who ensure our neighborhoods are protected and safe.

Improving Communities: as Chairman of the Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure (TTI) Committee and Vice-Chair of the Quality of Life Committee, I have advocated for ensuring that Houston's neighborhoods are livable for all Houstonians. I have supported funding for millions in pothole repairs and street and drainage improvements. I've been a passionate advocate for improved bike lanes and I was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Houston Bicycle Master Plan and the Bayou Greenways Initiative.

Wise Investments: As a practicing architect, urban planner and 20-year owner of a small business, I understand we must utilize resources wisely and in an environmentally fair and fiscally responsible manner.

plementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (150 words)

While operating under a revenue cap, the city faces ongoing challenges to operate efficiently with the responsibility for a growing population and aging infrastructure. Furthermore, without a more coordinated approach toward taxation between the Texas Legislature and local governance, it's appears the city will be forced to proceed in defensive posture. I support removing the revenue cap, especially in light of the city's growing financial crises regarding proposition B and needed pension funding.

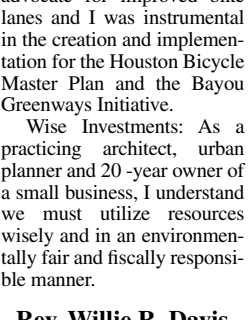
If elected, what would be the main goal you'd like to accomplish? (150 words)

Public Safety: We must ensure that our communities are safe for everyone, by encouraging and funding community oriented policing, and supporting our police, firefighters and first responders who ensure our neighborhoods are protected and safe.

Improving Communities: as Chairman of the Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure (TTI) Committee and Vice-Chair of the Quality of Life Committee, I have advocated for ensuring that Houston's neighborhoods are livable for all Houstonians. I have supported funding for millions in pothole repairs and street and drainage improvements. I've been a passionate advocate for improved bike lanes and I was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Houston Bicycle Master Plan and the Bayou Greenways Initiative.

Wise Investments: As a practicing architect, urban planner and 20-year owner of a small business, I understand we must utilize resources wisely and in an environmentally fair and fiscally responsible manner.

Rev. Willie R. Davis



Name: Rev. Willie R. Davis
AGE: 65
Occupation: Senior Pastor
Education: Master's degree
Marital status/children: Married / 5 children

Have you served in public office before? Explain. (100 words)

(No... I never served in public office before.) I ran for City Council 4 years ago and was in the run-off for At Large #2.

What makes you the best candidate to serve in this City Council position? (100 words)

What makes me the best candidate to serve in this City Council is that I have been serving the City of Houston for over 34 years as a Pastor serving many people on all levels, and I have been actively involved with many city organizations and many community issues pertaining to advancing Houston forward.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? Explain. (50 words)

I do have ties to the South Belt community. I presently serve as Pastor of Palm Church which is located on Beamer and Kirkfair Drive. I have worked with Ms. Ericka McCutcheon who is the president of one of the South Belt associations.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

What I would do to address the Prop B is to hope that the case which is now in appeals court would be sent back to the Mayor and City Council that we would adhere to the will of the people and pay the firefighters.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (100 words)

The City's budget shortfall is not due to shortness of funds, it is mis-management of funds. We need to use the process of Zero Base Budgeting and start at the bottom and work upward.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Harvey, the city still faces challenges with flooding. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

I am an independent thinker and speak up when I see something that is wrong. I took on the red-light cameras before being a council member and got the citizens to vote them out. I learned about 125 cars in our bayous and got the city and county to agree to remove them. All were stolen cars and two had skeletal remains.

The first thing I would do concerning the flooding problems in our city is to require that all Drainage Fee Dollars go to drainage and not to salaries and to cutting budget. We also need to start an extensive cleaning of all drainage in this city and do it citywide.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

The homelessness is a problem nationwide, but for Houston for us to get control of our city homelessness we need a collaboration and partnering to solve the problem that means City, Churches, Not-For-Profits and the Private Corporations to come together with a meaningful plan to address it.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

With all that I know of the construction of the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport, I think it will have a positive effect on the South Belt-Ellington community and I support the project.

The issue of dumping recyclable waste has made headlines in recent months. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

The issue of dumping recyclable waste is very serious and it must be the attention of City Council to be the watchmen on the wall concerning this issue and not allow it to be just a department issue without accountability.

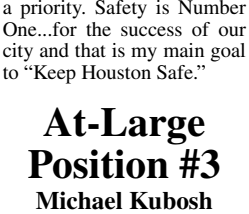
The city recently won a 14-year-lawsuit over its implementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (150 words)

I applaud the voters of Houston for taking charge over the control of tax increases of our properties. We must never allow property tax increases to become a cash cow for any Mayor to use at his or her disposal and spend at will on the backs of the taxpayers. I am totally against removing the property tax revenue cap.

If elected, what would be the main goal you'd like to accomplish? (150 words)

When I'm elected I have many main goals, but for starters.... The initial goal is to reduce the increase of crime in our city. The fact that citizens in our city do not feel safe is a major issue and cannot be ignored or not be a priority. Safety is Number One...for the success of our city and that is my main goal to "Keep Houston Safe."

At-Large Position #3 Michael Kubosh



Name: Michael Kubosh
Age: 68
Occupation: City Council member
Education: Masters Degree in Theology
Marital status/children: children 5 and grandchildren 19

ND Singles party Dec. 20

The New Directions Singles group for those ages 50 and older usually meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. for a potluck dinner.

In December, the Dec. 16 gathering will be replaced with a special Christmas potluck and dance Friday, Dec. 20.

The event is the regular venue, Webster Presbyterian Church, located at 201 W. NASA Parkway.

Plan to wear festive attire and join the group for the special event. For additional information, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

Dynamic Women host Christmas luncheon

The Dynamic Women Christmas luncheon, networking event is set for Thursday, Dec. 5 at Golfcrest Country Club. According to the group, there's nothing better than shopping with boutique vendors, enjoying a delicious lunch, and hearing an inspiring message with new and old friends as the Christmas season begins.

Some of the vendors who will be at the luncheon include Tamara Skeeter with Too Sassy Fun Fashions, Shelly Higgins Activewear, Fair Trade Jewelry and Accessories, Angie Sommer's The Scripture Life, Premiere Jewelry, Discovery Toys, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and much more.

Guests can register for door prizes when they sign-in. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the event ends at 1 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$16 which includes the networking/shopping event and lunch.

The Dynamic Women group works to connect women through networking and friendship, help women grow their businesses, and provide a service to the community. Invite friends to come. Make reservations by contacting Sandee Ellis at 713-477-1335 or email sandeellis@comcast.net.

Doors will open at 10 a.m.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BETA ACADEMY'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Beta Academy will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m., Dec. 16, 2019 Bldg. E 9701 Almeda Genoa Rd. Houston, Texas

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Beta Academy's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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Sat 9am-11am
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Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FRANCES!
Frances Valigura enjoys a birthday Dec. 5. Best wishes are sent from children David and wife Katha Valigura, Donna and husband Gary Whitted, Deborah Lea Tindall and Carl Wayne and wife LuAnn Valigura. Their 13 grandchildren and great-grandchildren Riley and Kinley Whitted, Bryce Williams, Lanse Rogers, Addy Valigura, Abigail Tindall and Alana Huston wish their beloved MeMaw the happiest of all birthdays with many more to come.

BEST WISHES, DAVID AND ELLIE!
Best wishes for a special day are sent to David Flickinger, South Belt-Ellington Leader president, and his wife, Ellie, who celebrate their eighth wedding anniversary Dec. 10 from daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Elliana and Isabella Abarca; parents Marie and David Flickinger; brother Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger; niece Kimberly Flickinger; niece Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail and Jackson; aunt Alexis Lochner; and the staff at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 5 through Dec. 11.

Burnett Elementary
Robert Hughes celebrates a birthday Dec. 5. Alexander Aponte Rivera and Mary Davitt celebrate a birthday Dec. 6. Lorena Ostepuino Chavira is sent a birthday greeting Dec. 10.

Bush Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Dec. 8 is Heather

Frazier Elementary
Send a birthday greeting Dec. 7 to Lupe Palacios. Ashley Kirkpatrick celebrates a birthday Dec. 8.

Genoa Elementary
Sing a birthday song Dec. 8 to Christa Wiggins.

Meador Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Dec. 8 is Miriam Reyna. Join in the birthday fun Dec. 10 with Vanessa Guzman.

Moore Elementary
Send a special birthday greeting Dec. 10 to Sheryl Munn.

South Belt Elementary
Light the birthday candles for Heather Garcia Dec. 7.

Stuchbery Elementary
Enjoy a slice of birthday cake Dec. 9 with Lehng Nguyen.

Melillo Middle School
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Dec. 11 are sent to Sandra Medina.

Roberts Middle School
Jorly Thomas, Roberts' principal, enjoys a birthday Dec. 5. Blow out the birthday candles Dec. 9 for Christopher Martin. Sing a happy birthday song Dec. 11 to LaShondra Evans.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Tracy King celebrates a birthday Dec. 5. Dec. 8 is the day for a party for Maria Garcia. Light the candles Dec. 10 on a double-layer cake for Louis Ciurca and April Roark.

Dobie High
The day for a party for Patricia Landrum

is Dec. 7. Carmela Swinnen celebrates a birthday Dec. 10. Michael Parker marks a birthday Dec. 11.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The Leader sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, Dec. 5: Shawn Sims, Angela Domokos, Mandi Guldge, Angelita Negrete, Anna Cavazos-Cantu, Suzanne Pollock and Craig Williams; Friday, Dec. 6: Natalie Saucedo, and Billie Benson; Saturday, Dec. 7: Matt Adams, Amber Clark, Edna Elizalde, Tim Allen, Holly Rhodes and Bill Hanson; Sunday, Dec. 8: Damon Miles, Adriana Garza, Shannon Sims, Mandy Bennett and Susanne Cook; Monday, Dec. 9: Angela Preciado Melissa Gallegos, Mary Bogan, Paul Garza, Jacob Pena and Alex Blancas; Tuesday, Dec. 10: Carmela Swinnen, Rebecca Swartz, Henry Rubio, Betsy Urschel, Sherri Lindsey, Alexis Bursiaga, Yvette Johnson-Lightfoot and Jason Manriquez; and Wednesday, Dec. 11: Kara Toro, Robert Summers, Sandra Medina, Amanda Meili and Robert Royal.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Send an email for special occasions including birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

USAFrsv recognizes Muecke



On Nov. 7 the U.S. Air Force Radar Station Veterans (USAFrsv) Monument Association held a dedication ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Air Force Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The dedication of this monument was in memory of all who served the nation

at one or more of the hundreds of radar sites located around the globe.

The monument commemorates a legacy of distinction and honor for the tens of thousands of highly trained military and civilian personnel who staffed the radar stations worldwide. Regardless of length of service or duty, all sacrificed a share of their

lives around the world, committed to the mission of maintaining world peace.

The museum will maintain the monument over the coming decades for visitors to learn about the important missions that fellow service members undertook during the Cold War.

A plaque given to James Muecke, was presented with the highest degree of honor and respect from the U.S. Air Force Radar Station Veterans Monument Association, for envisioning a monument.

Muecke pushed to pursue the actions needed to bring his brainchild to fruition when the general feeling was "it cannot be done." One only has to look at the final product and realize Muecke's large contribution.

The wording inscribed on the 12 inch by 12 inch black granite plaque given to Muecke which depicts his duty station in Japan is the exact wording that is inscribed at the top on the back side of the monument.



Shown are James Muecke (left) accepting his plaque from Lowell "Woody" Woodworth of the Air Force Radar Station Veterans. Photos submitted

Clear Brook presents "Elf"



Clear Brook High School senior Ryan Fielder is shown above in costume and will be playing Buddy the Elf in the production. Photo submitted

Bridge Over Troubled Waters receives grant

The Bridge Over Troubled Waters will use Harris County Community Development Block Grant funds to assist 265 homeless children and youth affected by family and sexual violence by building a trauma informed community center in Pasadena.

The service area is all Harris County, with a special focus on the cities of Pasadena, South Houston, Galeana Park, Baytown, Jacinto City, Channelview, La Porte and Deer Park. Services offered in this project are free of charge and will include childcare, before and after school care, therapy, support groups, case management, safety planning, parent education, school advocacy and child advocacy.

Over the course of five years, The Bridge anticipates serving 1,325 children through this project.

Note that these numbers are specific to the number served with the Harris County CDBG grant funds. The Bridge will serve approximately 335 additional children and youth each year with funds from other entities.

Clients qualifying for this grant are the homeless and those living in the Bridge Over Troubled Waters' shelter.

Approximately 40 percent of clients are from southeast Harris County and the other 60 percent of clients will come from throughout all parts of Harris County.

CC retired teachers meet
The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its December meeting Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation of Christmas music.

The gathering will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social time 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.

ABWA SEEN meeting set Jan. 2020

The American Business Women's Association-Southeast Express Network, which usually meets the second Thursday of the month, will not have a regular meeting during the month of December.

There is a members-only Christmas event set for December.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, in the private meeting room at Spring Creek Barbecue, 9005 Broadway (FM-518) in Pearland.

Networking and lunch start at 11:15 a.m. The program and business meeting follow at 11:30 a.m.

SEEN's vision statement is "To be to be the premier business league for women in a fun, engaging environment."

The ABWA mission statement is "To bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition."

The next meeting is scheduled with a program titled, "Is This Seat Taken? No, I Saved It For You," presented by Kristin Kaufman, PCC, CLC, Founder of Alignment, Inc. The meeting fee is \$20.

For more information, visit <http://www.seen-abwa.org/>.

Parker Williams needs donations

The Parker Williams Branch Library is in need of donations of new or gently used softback (pocketbooks), children's and children's chapter books. The library is also accepting other like condition donations of DVDs, hardbacks and current magazines.

AARP seeks helpers for taxes

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for compassionate, friendly people to join local volunteers for the upcoming tax season.

Tax-Aide makes it easier for older, low-income taxpayers to file their tax returns and get the credits and deductions they've earned. Volunteers provide free, in-person assistance in local neighborhoods at 5,000 sites across the country.

Volunteers help prepare tax returns or serve in other ways, like organizing client paperwork, managing computer equipment, acting as interpreters, or making sure everything runs smoothly.

There's a role for everyone. Make a difference in your community. Become an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteer. For more information, visit aarpfoundation.org/tax-aid

Remember When

40 years ago (1979)
The Dobie girls' cross country varsity and junior varsity teams placed second in district, with the varsity team qualifying to run at the regional meet.

The construction site of the Richard Moore Elementary School on Hall Road suffered numerous losses due to vandalism. Windows of the construction shack were broken and tools were stolen.

35 years ago (1984)
Stuchbery Elementary School was evacuated following a bomb scare. Students remained outside for about one hour while the school district's security personnel searched the building for a bomb, which was never found.

The Rev. Sherman Wilson retired as pastor of Sagemont Presbyterian Church. He founded the church.

30 years ago (1989)
For the first time in the six-year history of Pasadena Independent School District participation in the Academic Decathlon, Dobie High School's team emerged as district winners.

For the second straight season, the Dulles Vikings beat the Dobie Longhorns in the finale of the Spring Branch Varsity Basketball Tournament.

25 years ago (1994)
Academic teams from Clear Brook, Clear Creek and Clear Lake high schools had reached the televised round of the 1994-1995 Texaco Academic Challenge.

The home of Rick and Cathy White in the 10200 block of Kirkaspen was selected as most original in the Christmas decorating contest sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. The home of Linda Daigle, in the 12500 block of Adirondack, was selected as most religious.

20 years ago (1999)
The Dobie High School Academic Decathlon team won the district competition. A 42-year-old South Belt area woman was stabbed twice while entering her car in the parking lot at the Walgreens Drug Store on Fuqua. She was treated and released. The men were still at large.

15 years ago (2004)
San Jacinto College South sophomore Dane Richards was named the Junior College Player of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. During his two years at the SJC South campus, Richards scored 45 goals.

A live oak tree near Kirkmore and Southbluff was removed after it had been severely affected by Giant Asian Dodder, a parasitic exotic plant. Dodder is a yellow-green vine which resembles spaghetti and eventually kills trees or shrubs to which it attaches.

The San Jacinto College Foundation raised more than \$102,000 for student scholarships and Innovative Initiative grants at its ninth annual Andy Pettitte golf tournament. PISD awarded contracts totaling \$2.76 million for the designs of new schools and renovations of existing facilities.

Officials at H-E-B Corporation responded to questions regarding the lack of progress in the opening of the new store on Blackhawk. It was explained that the interior of the store was being replanned to make room for larger, full-service departments.

10 years ago (2009)
The South Belt area was hit with a series of snow flurries with some areas receiving nearly 3 inches of snowfall. The incident was the second consecutive year Houston received snowfall and was the earliest ever recorded in the city. The previous record for early snow in Houston was Dec. 10 in 1944 and again in 2008. This marked only the fourth snowfall in 15 years.

5 years ago (2014)
Rich McKay, San Jacinto College library director began a project to preserve the South Belt-Ellington Leader archives. The project will be done jointly with the University of North Texas, as part of the Denton School's Portal to Texas History Digital Newspaper Program. The archived issues are to be saved in digital form. The project is similar to a previous San Jac endeavor that attempted to archive the newspaper in a microfilm format.

The microfilm project, begun roughly eight years ago, successfully archived the first five years of the area newspaper, from 1976 to 1981. The digitization project will pick up where the previous one left off, beginning with the years of 1981 and 1982. Assuming everything goes as planned, McKay intended to then follow up by digitizing the remaining years.

1 year ago (2018)
Following a three-plus-month investigation by the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office, the former president of the Dobie High School baseball booster club was arrested Monday, Dec. 3, on multiple charges associated with missing funds from the organization. Christopher Anthon Escalera, 44, was charged with felony forgery and misdemeanor theft (aggregate > \$2,500 < \$30,000). The forgery charge carried a \$15,000 bond, while the theft charge carried a \$1,500 bond.

According to court documents, the alleged crimes took place between March 31, 2017, and June 11, 2017, when Escalera was serving as president of the Dobie Diamond Club. Investigators said Escalera forged the name of the booster club's treasurer on eight separate checks during this time. The total amount of the checks was \$2,152.91. All checks were made out to Escalera. Also during this time, investigators allege that Escalera racked up

another \$13,174.96 in transactions through the booster club's bank account. Transactions involved Comcast, PayPal, T-Mobile and ATM withdrawals. The Dobie Diamond Club does not have Comcast, PayPal and T-Mobile accounts, and the ATM withdrawals were unauthorized and not used for booster club activities. The transactions were reportedly all done on a bank card, to which only Escalera had access. In September, an agreement was drafted between the booster club and Escalera, stating no charges would be pursued in the case if he paid back the money allegedly stolen from the organization. The Sept. 21 deadline, however, came and went without receipt of payment, prompting further investigation into the matter.

Police arrested a man for fatally shooting a woman who was found in the 10300 block of Ney, near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway, around 1 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4. Guadalupe Toledo Vega, 37, was charged with murder in the killing of victim, Morgan Sproles, 20. According to police, a passerby found Sproles unresponsive lying in the street at the aforementioned address. She had sustained an apparent gunshot wound. Paramedics pronounced Sproles dead at the scene. Further investigation identified Vega as a suspect and, on Dec. 6, he was arrested and charged without incident.

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City council candidates . . .

Continued from Page 3A
 icies that will enhance the quality of life for all Houstonians.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words)

My first home was purchased in Pearland in 2002 and my flagship Dental practice was established in 2000 in Pearland as well. In addition, I have the distinct honor to have started the first League of Women Voters Chapter in the Brazoria county area.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

Firefighters deserve equal pay and I have confidence that Houston's leadership moving forward can figure out how to ensure that is the case, while still making sure we have enough first responders to serve our communities. Like the majority of Houston, I voted for Prop. B. Since the vote, The Mayor and City Controller have been more transparent about the cost of Prop. B and its implications as they relate to the city's finances. I'd like to see continued conversations with the firefighters with all the facts laid out in order to come to a satisfactory solution for Houston's residents and its first responders.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (100 words)

As a business owner for over 20 years, and as the leader of a household, I have been able to successfully balance budgets and create jobs for decades. We must look at the current City spending line by line and see where we can save and maybe even cut the wasteful spending; keeping in mind that we need to find other revenue streams of income. In addition, I would be open to reviewing the revenue cap and modifying the current language.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Harvey, the city still faces challenges with flooding. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

The city needs to support ordinances requiring new commercial/residential construction to be built on a 500-year floodplain and to install additional retention. We need to implement a 3x flood incidence Federal Buy-Back program, enforce selective zoning that prevents plants from being built in residential areas, and require green space indicators in flood zones. We also need to explore building an additional reservoir. On this issue, we must think big.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

Jails and emergency rooms are not solutions to this crisis. Houston has managed to successfully decrease its homeless population by 54% since 2011, in part by collecting detailed data. Doing so allowed the city to better track and address the needs of those experiencing homelessness. Because of its proven track record, I would strongly advocate for even more comprehensive data collection, and request additional resources be made available for homeless LGBT youth at shelters and resource centers throughout the city.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

The prospect of more jobs in the aerospace community is a positive, and I will always advocate for economic development that helps the communities those businesses will ultimately serve. Everyone knows that space travel isn't quiet, and I would work to make sure any launches or other activities are done with the health and well-being of the surrounding communities in mind. This includes waste disposal and possible emissions from the Spaceport.

The issue of dumping recyclable waste has made headlines in recent months. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

Nothing is more important to me than the health of our people, that is why I have served to make our community healthier for so long. The environment has a huge impact on people's physical health, and recycling is one

way to cut down on waste. When people go out of their way to recycle, they don't want those items to end up with everything else, or they wouldn't have disposed of them separately. The City of Houston risks eroding the faith of its residents to provide basic services if things like this continue.

The city recently won a 14-year-lawsuit over its implementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (150 words)

As a result of the revenue cap, Houston's 2018 tax rate was approximately five cents lower than the 2013 rate, and its lowest since 1987. I will support the repeal or modification of the 2004 City Charter Amendment in order for the city to balance our budget benefiting all communities from a fiscal and safety perspective. This relates to Prop. B as well as so much else having to do with city government. We are a huge city that is only growing, and City Hall needs the flexibility to deal with the challenges to come.

If elected, what would be the main goal you'd like to accomplish? (150 words)

The spirit of Houston is, in my opinion, best defined by the kindness, generosity, and work ethic of its people. You can be from anywhere and find yourself at home in Houston, as so many of its residents have. I believe we need to extend the principles we share to City Hall and have a Houston City Council that reflects our unique dynamism, diversity, and attitude. Everything goes back to the city budget, but once that is in order I would like to see us become a city that relies less on freeways, leads the way in how coastal cities deal with extreme weather, and extends our economic potential to each and every person. I believe that strong communities take care of each other, and we can certainly do a better job of that than we are right now. I hope to lead that fight.

At-Large Position #5 Sallie Alcorn



Name: Sallie Alcorn
Age: 57
Occupation: Former City Hall Staffer
Education: BBA in Finance, University of Texas at Austin; MA in Public Administration, University of Houston
Marital status/children: Married/4 children

Have you served in public office before? Explain. (100 words)

No
What makes you the best candidate to serve in this City Council position? (100 words)

I have the experience to be an effective council member from the start. For the past decade I've served three council members and the city's flood czar. I've learned the nuts and bolts of city government and have an in-depth knowledge of key city issues including flood mitigation, transportation, public safety, and city finances. I know this job, I can navigate the city, and I love this work!

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? Explain (50 words)

While serving as chief of staff in the At-Large 1 council office, I helped constituents from the South Belt community resolve city-related issues and advocated for capital improvement projects in the area. I also recently attended the South Belt Ellington Super Neighborhood meeting where I learned more about area issues.

A judge recently ruled that Prop. B was unconstitutional. If elected, what would you do to address the issue of firefighter pay? (150 words)

Urge the administration to return to the collective bargaining table to negotiate an agreement to give fire fighters the raise they have earned and deserve. The pay parity raises voters approved should be phased in over a

period of three to five years. I have recently had two experiences where my mother required EMS services from the Houston Fire Department. Witnessing firsthand the professionalism, skill, and compassion of Houston fire fighters strengthened my resolve to work to ensure they get the raises they deserve.

The city is currently facing a massive budget shortfall. If elected, what main steps would you take to address this? (100 words)

I will advocate for several of the cost-saving recommendations of the city's PFM 10-year financial plan. This plan was released in November 2017 and numerous first- and second-year recommendations have yet to be implemented. Among these are: forming a shared-services working group to explore ways the city and county can join forces; consolidating and reforming procurement practices; and conducting a space utilization analysis and expanding initiatives to reduce the city's fleet.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Harvey, the city still faces challenges with flooding. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

It's going to take massive cross-governmental collaboration of effort and money to get the major projects done to take the most people out of harm's way. I will be a careful watchdog over the recovery funds that flow to our city. I will also make sure the city is holding developers accountable to follow the rules so they are now pushing water to adjacent properties. I will push for more neighborhood-driven small-scale, high-impact drainage projects. Finally, I will champion the increased use of green storm water infrastructure, more natural drainage systems and dual use parks and recreation/flood mitigation projects.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the city, with many encampments throughout the area. If elected, what would you do to address this issue? (75 words)

Advocate for more housing with services to address joblessness, healthcare, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental illness. The city needs to continue employing a "housing first" approach addressing basic needs—a place to live—swiftly with no preconditions. Houston needs more low-barrier shelter space so there is an immediate alternative to living on the streets or in an encampment. It will take effective coordination between the city and its many partners to comprehensively tackle homelessness.

Construction is moving forward on the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. What impact do you feel this will have on the South Belt-Ellington community? (75 words)

The Houston Spaceport presents a unique opportunity to build on Houston's rich history in aerospace and engineering. The Spaceport will offer office, lab, and development space for emerging and established aero-

PLT opens "A Doublewide, Texas Christmas" Dec. 6

Pasadena Little Theatre is proud to be celebrating its 65th anniversary. The theater will be continuing their celebration with "A Doublewide, Texas Christmas," a drama by Jones, Hope and Wooten.

Fight or be obliterated! When the residents of the newest and tiniest town in Texas, Doublewide, find that the very existence of their little municipality is threatened by the Big Boys of McWayne County government, Mayor Joveeta Crumpler and her loyal band of buddies (plus the usual standard family oddballs) rise to the challenge.

And while they are sorting out their citizenship issues, they also take on all the neighboring burghs in the annual "Battle of the Mangers" challenge. What could possibly beat out "Christmas at the Alamo?" There is no better place to ring in the holidays than in that colorful slice of heaven called Texas — especially Doublewide! "A Doublewide, Texas Christmas" features director Julie Owen.

This production opens on the Russell Stage Dec. 6 and

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space companies and will provide jobs and an economic boost for the area. The city and Houston Airport System must carefully monitor development of the spaceport to mitigate potential negative effects to the surrounding community, notably traffic and flooding.

The issue of dumping recyclable waste has made headlines in recent months. If elected, what would you do to address this? (100 words)

The city has experienced significant problems over the past year with reliable trash and recycling pick up due to an aging fleet. Further, reports of recycling going into the same truck with landfill trash were disturbing. Citizens should have confidence that the items they place in the recycle bin actually make it to the recycling facility. The problem is that 40% of the items that do make it to recycling are contaminated and end up in the landfill anyway. The city must improve and expand its recycling education efforts through increased partnerships with groups like Keep Houston Beautiful.

The city recently won a 14-year-lawsuit over its implementation of a property tax revenue cap, approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 1. What is your stance on this? (150 words)

Overall, property owners have been paying higher and higher tax bills, and I don't believe there is currently an appetite for passing a measure to lift the cap. Voters would need to be convinced of the absolute need to raise the cap, and they would need to see the city operating at top efficiency. During the next two years, it's imperative the city implement cost-saving measures and shore up its finances. The city will need to gain the public's trust by spending wisely and living within its means. At that point, I would be in favor of asking voters to decide whether to lift the cap for a specific, limited amount for a specific purpose such as public safety and/or infrastructure. I do have concerns that additional revenues will be needed in the future to ensure effective delivery of core city services, but ultimately, this will be up to voters.

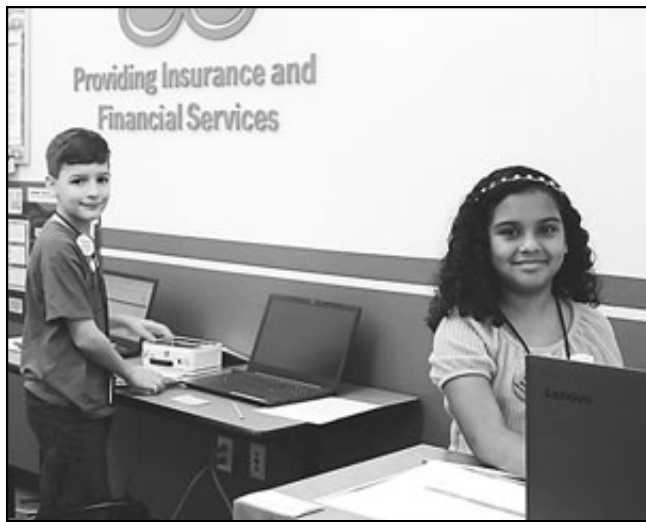
If elected, what would be the main goal you'd like to accomplish? (150 words)

To make the city more flood-resilient. Flooding is the defining issue of our city, and we must keep focused on getting the major projects done to take the most people out of harm's way. I want to help shepherd those projects and advocate for increased funding so we can do more to protect homes and businesses throughout Houston. It's all about increasing storm water capacity and storage and fixing the city's woefully inadequate drainage infrastructure. I also want to advance the increased use of green storm water infrastructure throughout Houston and promote more dual use parks and recreation/flood mitigation projects. More rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, green roofs—more natural drainage systems.

continues weekends through Dec. 22. Friday and Saturday showtimes are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m.

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

Frazier enjoys Jr. Achievement's Biztown



Frazier Elementary fourth-grade students recently enjoyed a day at Junior Achievement's Biztown, where they worked in actual businesses including Woodforest Bank, State Farm Insurance and United Airlines. The students were hired to do a particular job and assigned various tasks to accomplish throughout the day including depositing paychecks, managing a checkbook and making payments to other businesses. The fun and educational field trip provided students with real lessons in financial literacy and a small snip of life as an adult.

Shown top left are "stand-in" students at State Farm CEO Ezekiel West (left) and agent Daisy De La Garza who are hard at work.

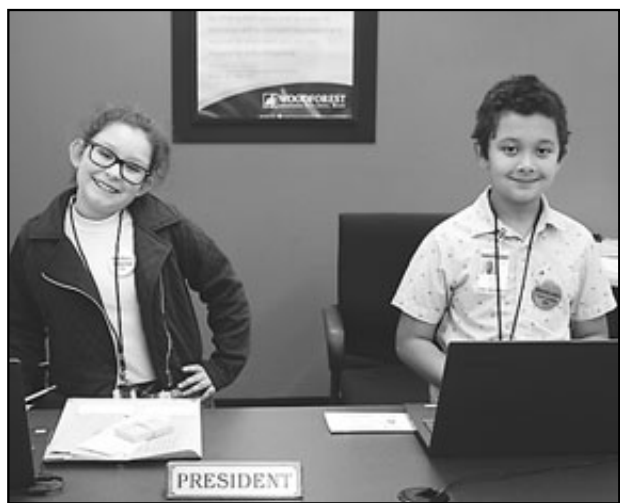
Top right is Annalise Chavez, acting as Biztown City Hall judge, who met with citizens throughout the day.

At left, in the position of Biztown mayor is Bella Sherwood giving a speech to the citizens of Biztown.

In the bottom left photo are United Airline employee "sit-ins" Israel Cantu (left) and Dez Johnson taking a break from their busy day at work.

Shown bottom right at the company president's desk are Melanie Crain (left), acting CEO of Woodforest Bank, and Jacob Ordenez, acting CFO of Woodforest Bank, enjoying their management roles.

Photos submitted



PLT presents a Christmas drama



Members of the cast for "A Doublewide Texas Christmas" is shown, left to right, Marla Miller, Cassie Wright, Judy Ahlhorn, Lisa G. Tolman, Bruce Blifford, Kayla Skinner, Julie Owen and Jeffrey Merriman from the scene "Haywood" have a plan to win the Battle of the Mangers. To discover what happens as the plot thickens, visit Pasadena Little Theatre this holiday season.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated
 Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday School • 8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service • 9:00 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

Nursery Available at all Services

Community activities around the South Belt area



Fred Roberts hosts luncheon

Fred Roberts Middle School hosted a Thanksgiving luncheon, inviting and serving several Pasadena board members, district leaders, Fred Roberts' staff and building and grounds and maintenance department crews. Shown in the photo at left are, left to right, Emory Gadd, pastor at Sagemont Church; Nelda Sullivan, Pasadena ISD board member; and Fred Roberts, Pasadena ISD board member.

Photo submitted



Former South Belt family donates turkeys

Many in the South Belt community give to those who are less fortunate during the holidays. Family members, who know the blessings of giving to others, came to the Leader office Monday, Nov. 25, to donate four turkeys to needy families as shown at left, left to right, Jacob Cuevas, Stephanie Cuevas (mom), Jayden Cuevas, Jimmy Cuevas (dad) and Nino Vasquez.

VOTE

Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

for

Houston City Council District D

EARLY VOTING

NOVEMBER 27TH

DECEMBER 2ND-10TH

ELECTION DAY

DECEMBER 14TH

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 <small>Hon.</small> Carroll G. Robinson <small>(Former Houston City Commissioner)</small>	 <small>Constable</small> May Walker, Precinct 7	 <small>Rev.</small> William A. Lawson	 <small>HCC Trustee</small> Eva Loreda	 <small>HCC Trustee</small> Zeph Capo	 <small>HCC Trustee</small> Adriana Tamez

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Houston Educational Support Personnel | Houston Stonewall Young Democrats
Harris County Young Democrats | Greater Houston Builders Association

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HOUSTON THE ★ CAUCUS

HARRIS COUNTY YOUNG DEMOCRATS

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HOUSTON STONEWALL YOUNG DEMOCRATS

HOUSTON'S PREMIERE BUSINESS COALITION

AFL-CIO

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HESP 6313

Navarro reclaims lost dog

Cristal Navarro (right) recently reclaimed her pet Yorkshire terrier, Little Man, after someone had allegedly taken the dog and sold it to another individual. Precinct 2 Judge Jo Ann Delgado returned the animal to Navarro after DNA tests confirmed with 100 percent certainty that the dog was hers. Navarro's son spotted the animal on Instagram after it had gone missing, prompting the lawsuit.
Photo by Marie Flickinger

Dog court case ends

Continued from Page 1A

While Navarro said Little Man had been a regular patient at the American Kennel Club veterinarian office, the animal had not been fitted with a microchip to monitor its whereabouts.

Following the Oct. 3 hearing, Delgado ordered that Garcia pay for genetic testing to determine whether or not the animal was related to its supposed biological parents.

Subsequent test results concluded with 100-percent certainty it was, and the dog was surrendered to its original owner.

Delgado acknowledged that the case was difficult, as the children of the second owner have now grown attached to the animal.

Discussions during the trial suggested that Garcia may have unwittingly purchased a stolen dog, and Belton was the sole party involved in any wrongdoing. No criminal charges have, however, been filed at press time. Garcia indicated she intended to seek reimbursement from Belton.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

UIL announces its classification totals

In an announcement that means little to Dobie's standing, the University Interscholastic League on Dec. 3 set the classification cut-off figures for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

Dobie, one of the state's top 10 largest high schools with more than 4,200 students, will remain in Class 6A and will almost assuredly return to the Division I football playoff bracket regardless of what transpires during realignment next February.

Allen remains the state's largest high school with a stated figure of 6,959 students. All high schools with 2,220 or more students will be classified as 6A.

The enrollment figures of between 2,219 and 1,900 will be classified as 5A. Each of the Pasadena ISD's high schools will remain within Class 6A as of the 2020-2021 school year.

Of local interest as of press time, La Porte High School, a longtime 6A fixture, will move to 5A. Alvin ISD's Shadow Creek will move to 6A.

The UIL's two-year realignment, to decide which schools are placed into competitive districts with one another, will be officially announced Feb. 1, 2020.

Brook boys outlast Dobie 48-44



Dobie senior guard Shannon Hayes (3) guards Clear Brook's Kemo Millender (5) during the first half of the Wolverines' 48-44 victory over the Longhorns Dec. 3 at Dobie. See more details on the neighborhood rivalry on Page 6B.
Photo by John Bechtle

TD Club eyes LSA trio

The Touchdown Club of Houston held its 2019 Private High School Awards Dinner Dec. 4, after press time at the Bayou City Event Center, with three Lutheran South Academy football players up for honors.

The TD Club included Pioneer running back Beau Pscenk in the mix for Offensive Player of the Year, with Mark Zamarrappa of LSA included as a Defensive Player of the Year candidate.

In addition, Lutheran South's Jake Justice, the team's top-performing receiver as a linebacker on defense, was nominated for the Iron Man Award for play on both side of the football. The three players were instrumental as the Pioneers went 9-3 overall this season, reaching the second round of the playoffs.

The Touchdown Club of Houston will host its 2019 UIL High School Awards Dinner Dec. 11 at the Bayou City Event Center.

There are no athletes with South Belt ties nominated for awards, but former Pasadena Memorial head coach John Snelson, for several years the head football coach at Dickinson High School, is up for Coach of the Year honors.

Dickinson's Mike Welch and North Shore's Zach Evans are nominated for Offensive Player of the Year, and North Shore's Corey Flagg and Dickinson's D.J. Warnell are up for Defensive Player of the Year honors. For tickets, visit www.touchdownclub.org.

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Dobie's Moreno earns prestigious honor

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Manuel Moreno Jr. has been moonlighting as a local high school sports reporter for much of his adult life, but it's still the sport of tennis that brings him the most joy.

Once a standout player at O'Connell High School in Galveston and then the team's head coach, Moreno has spent the past 20-plus years as Dobie's head coach.

Wherever he's been on this journey, Moreno's goals are the same: give every student-athlete who wants to play tennis a chance, promote both the player and the game, and give back in any way possible.

For those reasons and many more, Moreno will be one of the honorees at the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Convention's Awards Banquet Dec. 6 at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls, Texas.

More than 550 high school tennis coaches are expected to be in attendance as Moreno picks up his TTCA honor.

He was named Class 5A (now Class 6A) Coach of the Year in 2005 and in 2010 was the first-ever recipient of the Carey Caldwell Character Award.

Friendswood head ten-

nis coach David Cook, who met Moreno years ago when he was at Incarnate Word Academy in Corpus Christi and Moreno led the program at O'Connell, nominated Moreno for the honor.

Thus, Moreno will receive the Loretta Hrnrcir Dedication Award, which goes to those high school tennis coaches who spend countless hours on the court, on the road and with their players motivating them to perform at their best.

Hrnrcir spent nearly 40 years within the North Forest School District, guiding countless youth on the tennis surface before retiring in 2011.

In response to his nomination of Moreno, Cook said, "I see that there are several coaches who always go the extra mile, both for their teams and for the profession of coaching and our coaches' association."

"I wanted to at least be able to see that the coaches who do the most for others get rewarded. I am as proud of the coaches I nominated winning awards for special recognition as I have ever been in being noticed myself."

"I have always noticed

Continued on Page 6B



Longtime Dobie tennis head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. will receive the Texas Tennis Coaches Association's Loretta Hrnrcir Dedication Award Dec. 6 in Marble Falls, Texas, recognizing endless hours on the court and on the road, motivating athletes and students to perform at their best.
Photo by John Bechtle

It's tourney time, say Dobie, Brook boys

State-ranked programs such as Beaumont United, Summer Creek, Port Arthur Memorial and Manvel headline the ticket at the Clear Creek ISD's Carlisle/Krueger Invitational, featuring 24 teams in all, Dec. 5-7 at Clear Creek and Clear Lake high schools.

Over the same three days, the Dobie varsity boys' team will be part of the field at the Katy ISD Classic.

Like at the Carlisle/Krueger Classic, there will be 24 teams in Katy aiming at making the championship game Dec. 7 at the Merrell Center.

In terms of star power, Morton Ranch, at No. 18 in the Class 6A poll, is the only team with an early-season state ranking.

But the Katy ISD lineup always produces plenty of competitiveness, and the Longhorns promise to have their hands full with

Dec. 5 pool play games against Seven Lakes and Klein Collins before the start of trophy bracket action.

Dobie, 3-4 before facing Clear Brook Dec. 3, is led by Marquice Scott's nearly 15 points per outing to this point.

Fellow senior Jujaun Robinson has chipped in with more than eight points and six rebounds per game.

CCISD brings talent
Beaumont United, the No. 2 ranked team in Class 6A as of Dec. 2, will be in action along with Manvel, No. 15 in Class 5A, during Dec. 5 pool play at Carlisle Field House.

Summer Creek, which sits at No. 5 in the 6A

rankings, will join P.A. Memorial, No. 6 in the Class 5A rankings, during pool play at Butler Gymnasium.

Clear Brook, which has started the season with four wins in five games, will take on Kempner and Lake Creek during pool play Dec. 5 at Clear Lake High School.

Bracket play commences Dec. 6, with the gold, silver and bronze trophy championship games Dec. 7.

Continued on Page 6B

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Krueger/Carlisle Classic
Dec. 5 Pool Play

9 a.m. - Clear Brook vs. Kempner
6 p.m. - Clear Brook vs. Lake Creek
Both at Clear Lake High School Gym

Katy ISD Tiger Classic
Dec. 5 Pool Play

11:15 a.m. - Dobie vs. Seven Lakes
2:45 p.m. - Dobie vs. Klein Collins
Both at Leonard Merrell Center
Both tournament title games Dec. 7

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24-6A All-District Football Selections

Most Valuable Player

Mike Welch, Dickinson

Offensive Most Valuable Player

Gavin Esquivel, Clear Falls

Defensive Most Valuable Player

Savien Arnett, Dickinson

Co-Newcomers of the Year

Reggie Sanders, Dickinson

Jeremiah Crum, Clear Creek

Coach of the Year

John Snelson, Dickinson

First Team Offense

- OL – Ryan Knaus, Clear Springs
- OL – Colton Grier, Clear Springs
- OL – Malik Petteway, Clear Falls
- OL – Alex Leiato, Clear Lake
- OL – Chad Lindberg, Clear Creek
- OL – Canon Boone, Dickinson
- OL – Marcus White, Dickinson
- OL – P.J. Williams, Dickinson
- WR – Isaiah Bibb, Clear Springs
- WR – Kaleb Hymes, Clear Springs
- WR – Dan Dishman, Clear Falls
- WR – Shane Porter, Clear Brook
- WR – Darryl Harris, Dickinson
- TE – Donovan Green, Dickinson
- FB – David De Los Santos, Dickinson
- RB – Ky Woods, Clear Springs
- RB – Rayfield Conley, Clear Creek
- RB – Reggie Sanders, Dickinson
- QB – Garrett Rooker, Clear Springs

First Team Defense

- DT – Zaelyn Smith, Clear Springs
- DT – Brandon Cazares, Clear Brook
- DT – Victor Idusuyi, Dickinson
- DT – Derrick Martin, Dickinson
- DE – Christian Cardenas, Clear Springs
- DE – Jake Ferree, Clear Springs
- DE – Marcellus Walters, Dickinson
- LB – Jake Muellner, Clear Springs
- LB – Malcolm Davis, Clear Springs
- LB – Dominic Chong, Dickinson
- LB – A.J. Davis, Dickinson
- LB – Keith Cooper, Dickinson
- LB – Kyron Smith, Dickinson
- CB – Kirk Collins, Clear Springs
- CB – Julian Humphrey, Clear Lake
- CB – D.J. Warnell, Dickinson
- CB – Anthony Wickware, Dickinson
- Safety – Michael McBride, Clear Springs
- Safety – Savien Arnett, Dickinson
- Safety – Deonza Yoakum, Dickinson
- KR – Isaiah Bibb, Clear Springs
- K – Guillermo Garcia-Rodriguez, Dickinson
- P – Garrett Rooker, Clear Springs

Locals open Dec. 10 at Summer Creek

Lady Longhorns look ready to go as difficult 22-6A stretch nears

The Dobie varsity girls basketball team has been a busy bunch, playing 12 games in less than a month to begin the 2019-2020 campaign.

While the Lady Longhorns have certainly been pleased with their start – 8-4 before a nondistrict matchup Dec. 6 against Crosby, the locals know

the overall success of their season is about to be determined with the beginning of District 22-6A play. And to open things, Dobie will face the biggest of

big tests with a Dec. 10 game at state-ranked Summer Creek.

The defending Region III champion, Summer Creek once again has its

collective eye on the big prize with senior forward Maliyah Johnson having already committed to attend Texas A&M University. The Lady Longhorns will have their first “home” game of the 22-6A season when they take on Pasadena Dec. 13 at Phillips Field House.

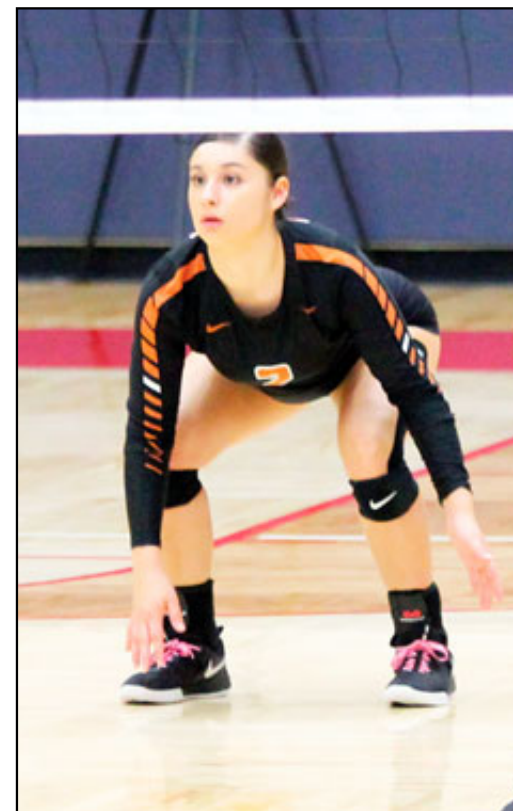


Dobie's Madison Garrett (10) was a key performer last season as the Lady Longhorns reached the area playoff round, and she is again off to a strong start in 2019-2020.



The Lady Longhorns' Vanessa Lam (14) gives the team a threat from 3-point land as Dobie prepares to enter the ultra-tough 22-6A race.

Lady Longhorn volleyballers earn academic all-state honors



The Texas Girls Coaches Association has honored three Dobie varsity volleyball players with Academic All-State honors following the completion of the 2019 season. At far left, Lady Longhorn libero Danielle Colunga (25) was one of Dobie's honorees and was a second team all-district performer in District 22-6A for her play on the court. Colunga also had a successful cross-country season at Dobie while playing volleyball simultaneously. Teammate Alexys Vega (2) was a TGCA Academic All-State selection, as was a third Dobie player, Felicity Soto. Vega was, too, an honorable mention performer within District 22-6A. Elsewhere, Clear Brook High School volleyball players Kayleigh Schultz and Amberle Heuser were likewise named as TGCA Academic All-State selections.

Photos by John Bechtel

Sports Calendar

Thursday, Dec 5 through Saturday, Dec. 7
 Dobie varsity boys at Katy Invitational, TBA
 Brook varsity boys at Carlisle/Krueger Classic, TBA
 Dobie sophomore boys host Longhorn tourn., TBA
 Dobie freshman B boys at Pas. Mem. tourn., TBA

Friday, Dec. 6
 Dobie varsity girls host Crosby, 7:00
 Dobie JV girls host Crosby, 5:30
 Dobie freshman A girls host Crosby, 4:00

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 Dobie varsity girls at Summer Creek, 7:00
 Brook varsity boys host Friendswood, 7:00
 Dobie JV girls at Katy, 7:00
 Dobie JV girls at Summer Creek, 5:30
 Brook JV boys host Friendswood, 5:30
 Brook JV girls at Katy, 5:30
 Brook sophomore boys host Friendswood, 5:30
 Brook freshman A girls at Katy, 4:00
 Brook freshman A boys host Friendswood, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls at Summer Creek, 4:00
 Brook freshman B boys host Friendswood, 4:00

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 Beverly Hills 8A boys host Park View, 5:30
 Beverly Hills 8B boys host Park View, 4:30
 Beverly Hills 7A boys host Park View, 5:30
 Beverly Hills 7B boys host Park View, 4:30
 Beverly Hills 8A girls at Park View, 5:30
 Beverly Hills 8B girls at Park View, 4:30
 Beverly Hills 7A girls at Park View, 5:30
 Beverly Hills 7B girls at Park View, 4:30
 Thompson 8A boys host South Houston, 5:30
 Thompson 8B boys host South Houston, 4:30
 Thompson 7A boys host South Houston, 5:30
 Thompson 7B boys host South Houston, 4:30
 Thompson 8A girls at South Houston, 5:30
 Thompson 8B girls at South Houston, 4:30
 Thompson 7A girls at South Houston, 5:30
 Thompson 7B girls at South Houston, 4:30

Friday, Dec. 13
 Dobie varsity boys at Pasadena, 7:00
 Dobie varsity girls vs. Pasadena, Phillips F.H., 7:00
 Brook varsity girls at Alief Hastings, 7:00
 Dobi JV girls vs. Pasadena, Phillips F.H., 5:30
 Brook JV girls at Alief Hastings, 5:30
 Dobie JV boys at Pasadena, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys at Pasadena, 5:30
 Dobie freshman A boys at Pasadena, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls vs. Pasadena, Phillips F.H., 4:00
 Brook freshman A girls at Alief Hastings, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B boys at Pasadena, 4:00

Dobie's Martinez inks with Paris JUCO



Dobie High School pitcher Domenic Martinez (second from left) celebrated with members of the Dobie coaching staff after signing a letter of intent to continue his education and playing career at Paris Junior College, a member of the Region XIV North division. A left-hander, Martinez was a strikeout specialist as a junior with Dobie, fanning 11 in 4 1/3 innings of work in the Longhorns' bidistrict

playoff opening win over La Porte as the team advanced to the area round. Martinez will again be a big part of the Longhorns' staff this season before joining Paris for 2020-2021. Those with Martinez at the signing included, left to right, Dobie pitching coach Kevin Schulba, head coach Miguel Torres and varsity assistant coach Anthony Ponce.

TASCO ranks Dobie boys' soccer fifth in Region III; season opens Jan. 2 against No. 2 Tompkins

At right, Dobie varsity boys' soccer player Eli Donaho (7), a senior captain for the 2020 season, will lead the Longhorns into scrimmage action on five different occasions this month before the locals open the regular season Jan. 2 at the Pasadena ISD Cup against defending Region III Final Four qualifier Tompkins. While Dobie opens the preseason as the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches organization No. 5 team in Region III, Tompkins is at No. 2. Elsik, a state finalist a season ago, is No. 1 in Region III.



Photo by John Bechtler

Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Region III Preseason Boys' Rankings

1. Alief Elsik (2019 RIII winner)
2. Katy Tompkins (2019 RIII Final Four)
3. Spring Woods (2019 RIII finalist)
4. Seven Lakes
5. Dobie (area playoff qualifier)
6. North Shore
7. Deer Park
8. Ridge Point
9. Cinco Ranch
10. Clements

Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Region III Preseason Girls' Rankings

1. Katy Tompkins (2019 state finalist)
2. Kingwood (2019 RIII finalist)
3. Seven Lakes
4. Houston Memorial
5. Ridge Point
6. Cinco Ranch
7. Deer Park
8. Atascocita
9. Brazoswood
10. Clear Springs

Pasadena ISD Girls' Intermediate Basketball

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

Game Scores

Miller 28, Beverly Hills 6
Thompson 43, Queens 19

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

Game Scores

Park View 28, San Jacinto 27
Jackson 18, South Houston 17
Bondy 44, Southmore 7

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

Game Scores

Miller 28, Beverly Hills 4
Thompson 36, Queens 7
South Houston 23, Jackson 7

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

Game Scores

Park View 29, San Jacinto 21
Bondy 24, Southmore 22

Pasadena ISD Girls' Intermediate Basketball

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

Game Scores

San Jacinto 32, Park View 9
Thompson 37, Queens 11
South Houston 32, Jackson 0

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

Game Scores

Bondy 53, Southmore 8
Beverly Hills 28, Miller 7

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

Game Scores

San Jacinto 23, Park View 11
Thompson 34, Queens 6
South Houston 11, Jackson 10

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

Game Scores

Beverly Hills 20, Miller 10
Bondy 21, Southmore 3

SJC pair ink letters with Fire

San Jacinto College outfielder Luis Aquino became the latest in a long line of Gators' players to find his way to a four-year institution.

Aquino, who will be a sophomore next spring for the Gators, will begin his career at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla., beginning with the 2020-2021 season after inking a letter of intent this month.

Aquino helped the Gators, who were ineligible for the postseason in 2019, to a 42-12 overall record. After this season, he is set to join the Fire, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program.

The Fire also scored a commitment from Gators' left-handed pitcher Evan Hiatt, who had drawn quite a bit of interest this offseason.

Hiatt has sat at 89 to 91 miles per hour with his fastball and has displayed a plus change up and curveball.

While the Gators have a stacked pitching staff heading into 2020, Hiatt is expected to get his fair share of action before joining Southeastern University for the beginning of the 2021 season.

The Gators will begin their regular season late next month.

PISD hoops resumes play

Following a break for Thanksgiving, the Pasadena ISD's intermediate boys' and girls' basketball schedules resumed Dec. 4 after press time.

The league will also host play Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 before taking a break for the Christmas holidays.

After Christmas, the PISD schedule is set to resume Jan. 8, 2020.

The season will then run through January.

Pasadena ISD Boys' Intermediate Basketball

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

Game Scores

San Jacinto 49, Park View 7
Thompson 75, Queens 30
South Houston 59, Jackson 16
Southmore 33, Bondy 29

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

Game Scores

Beverly Hills 70, Miller 35

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

Game Scores

Thompson 52, Queens 12
South Houston 44, Jackson 5
San Jacinto 45, Park View 11

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

Game Scores

Beverly Hills 45, Miller 13
Bondy 29, Southmore 22

Pasadena ISD Boys' Intermediate Basketball

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

Game Scores

San Jacinto 61, Park View 5
Thompson 52, Queens 34
South Houston 54, Jackson 47
Southmore 53, Bondy 19

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

Game Scores

Beverly Hills 77, Miller 24

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

Game Scores

San Jacinto 22, Park View 18
Thompson 45, Queens 12
South Houston 23, Jackson 17

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

Game Scores

Bondy 37, Southmore 17
Beverly Hills 48, Miller 29

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com.
10 a.m.
Fun Bunch - for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call Ronn Canon at 281-610-8999 or the chamber at 281-481-5516.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200.

77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information, or drop in.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.
Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group - A national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families meets the second Monday at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. For information, call 281-538-4648.
6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., next to the fire station. For additional information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565 or visit https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.
Sagamont Civic Club - Meetings are

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for \$50, OBO. 281-481-9200. 12-5

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation of Christmas music. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50. 9:30 a.m.

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565. 10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 10:30 a.m.

Tri-County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Exact cash or a check requested. For reservations, call Susan Hooper at 832-723-7671. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For additional information, call 713-686-6300. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

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

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1300 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318. 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

Young at Heart Senior Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Jan Okumura at 832-298-9480 for details. 10 a.m.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Hometown Heroes Park - has Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to

assist learning dance moves. For details information on the activity card, call the city at 281-554-1180. 7 p.m.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243. **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 7:30 a.m.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Alledale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com. 9:30 a.m.

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org. 11:30 a.m.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South. There is no regular meeting in December (only a members-only Christmas gathering). The next regular meeting is Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, at Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seenabwa.org. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 7 p.m.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real. This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For more information, call 713-661-4200.

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CALENDAR

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JFD coach to be honored

Continued from Page 1B
Coach Moreno doing everything possible to promote the game publicly, grass roots lessons during the summer, and teaching his teams to win and lose with class.

"Of course, this is in addition to the work he puts in as regional representative of the TTCA."

As for Moreno, he says being given the Loretta Hrcir Dedication Award this particular year is fitting for a couple of reasons.

"I feel like I did my best coaching job in all of my 38 years this year, and this was also the most enjoyable and gratifying season that I've had at Dobie," Moreno said.

"Coming into this season, it really would have been satisfying to finish in the top three in our district given that Kingwood is one of the best programs in the state and Atascocita was also so talented.

"For us, the expectations were really up in the air in the beginning. We could have gone one way or the other, and the kids really came together, believed in one another and helped us finish second. On top of that, we got a bidistrict playoff win, so this season could not have

gone any better in terms of where we started and where we finished. I've said many times that I am proud to have coached these kids this season."

When Moreno reflects on what has now been a 38-year career in high school tennis with stops at his alma mater of O'Connell High School in Galveston, two years at Clear Lake High School and now 21 at Dobie, two specific names come to mind.

Moreno was set to take a position in the Parks and Recreation Department after college, but his high school coach Vince Stiglich, Jr., convinced him there could be other options.

And Moreno has in the past and continues to lean on the knowledge and values of Ron Westbrooks, his collegiate coach at Lamar University.

"Those two men really had such a tremendous influence on, first, me starting this career and then, of course, me getting to this point."

"Stiglich and Westbrooks both took us on out-of-town trips. Stiglich to Garland (Texas), where we stayed with Ursuline nuns. Westbrooks took us to San Luis Potosi, Mexico and to Memphis. I

learned the value of team work and team building that can be developed on road trips.

"First and foremost, I have a love of the game of tennis, and I want to do whatever I can to help grow the game and to help young players develop in this sport. It's always a great thing to see the growth of young players from year to year, from the start of their high school career to the end. It's what I have always lived for in my career.

"One of the things I always think about is how similar the kids at O'Connell and the kids at Dobie are. It's been special to be a part of both programs, of course as a player at O'Connell and as Dobie's coach."

And as he steps up to receive his award Dec. 6, Moreno knows exactly what will be on his mind.

"I will certainly reflect on what a special honor it is to be among all of these tremendous coaches and to share in all of the work we have all done," Moreno said.

"Really, we are all on the same page in this thing, and that is to help as many young players as possible develop within this sport we love."



Dobie High School tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (left) discusses in-match strategy with the girls' doubles duo of Megan Rodriguez (center) and Jennifer Ho during the bidistrict playoff round in October. Now in his 38th overall year of coaching, including the past 21 at Dobie, Moreno will be honored by the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Dec. 6.

Joey Longoria



Joey Longoria named Gagliardi Trophy Semifinalist

Attention all Friends and Family, Joey Longoria has been named a Semi-Finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy, an award presented annually to the outstanding College Football Division III football player in the country. The Gagliardi Trophy honors excellence in athletics, academics and community service. Joey is currently a Senior playing football for the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. Joey graduated from Pearland High School in 2016. He grew up playing Little League Football in the South Belt Area playing for the Ellington Rams. The Gagliardi Trophy is voted on by a Committee of College Football Coaches, Former Athletes, College Administrators, Business Leaders, Members of the Media, along with fan voting. That is where you all come in!!! We are asking everyone to go on-line to: <https://d3football.com/notables/2019/11/gagliardi-voting> and vote for Joey. Voting is open now through Monday, December 9th.

Joey is a two-time American Southwest Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year and was an All-American last season and he was voted a Team Captain this year by his teammates. He is also an Academic All-District selection and will be a three-time ASC All-Academic selection. Joey graduates in May 2020 with a degree in Computer Science. You can vote more than once but you have to vote from a different computer/device. Please go on-line and help vote for Joey at: <https://d3football.com/notables/2019/11/gagliardi-voting>. We appreciate everyone's support! The Longoria Family

CB, Dobie boys' hoops to tourneys

Continued from Page 1B
Clear Brook's roster makeup is a bit unique under second-year head coach Nathan Janak.

Guard Brandon Andrews, a senior, leads the Wolverines in scoring at 14.5 per outing.

Sophomore Kemo Millender is second at 13.8 per game, and freshman Ja'Michael Young is third at seven points per game.

Janak has two other freshmen and a sophomore on the varsity roster. Millender's brother, Marcus Millender, is one of those freshmen.

"Our kids have played hard in our first four games," Janak said.

"They are a very competitive group and like to play the game with high intensity. They have also committed to the defensive end of the floor."

"That is a great sign for our young group. We will use these next two weeks of tournament play to focus on offensive execution and continuing to build team unity."

The Wolverines have roughly a month to prepare for the District 24-6A race, with the locals going against Clear Springs Jan. 3, 2020.

Dickinson and Clear Falls look to be the front-runners for the crown, but anything can happen.

Longhorns, Wolverines battle on hardwood

Starting fast en route to an 18-7 lead after a quarter of play, Clear Brook's varsity boys' basketball team then got just enough stops down the stretch, holding off host Dobie 48-44 Nov. 3 at Dobie High School.

The win was the Wolverines' fourth in five games, but after blowing out South Houston by 30 points and getting 19 points from Kemo Millender in that one, Brook had to work much harder for this one.

Things went better than according to plan for Clear Brook and head coach Nathan Janak over the first eight minutes.

Limiting the Longhorns to one shot on five different occasions, the Wolverines were proficient at racing back the other way for buckets to the tune of an 18-7 lead after a quarter.

But with Dobie's

leading scorer, Marquice Scott, finding his shot in the second quarter, the Longhorns got right back into the game.

Outscoring Clear Brook 15-7 in the second stanza, the Longhorns fought back to within three points at the break.

The second half was a back-and-forth battle, with the Wolverines twice leading by seven points but no more.

In the fourth quarter, the Longhorns got it down to a one possession game but could not get closer. In fact, the Wolverines never trailed.

Finally, with nine seconds left, Scott went to the line for a 1-and-1 free throw. His try was off the mark, and Millender sank a free throw at the other end to ensue the win.

Scott, coming into the game as the Longhorns' leading scorer with nearly 15 per game, led the

Longhorns with 18 points. Teammate De'Marcus Carathers had 10 along the way, but the Longhorns shot just 31 percent from the field, including two of 19 from 3-point land for 11 percent.

Now it's off to tournament play for both teams, with Brook at the Carlisle/Krueger Classic in League City and Dobie at the Katy Tigers Invitational.

At right, Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball head coach Nathan Janak calls out a play during the first half of his team's eventual 48-44 victory over Dobie Dec. 3 at Dobie High School. The Wolverines won their fourth game in five starts, getting off to an 18-7 lead after a quarter and holding on from there for a 48-44 win.



Dobie guard Johnathan Baldwin (21) brings the ball up the floor in the first half against Clear Brook as the two teams battled Dec. 3. The Wolverines came away with a 48-44 win.



Senior and four-year varsity standout Marquice Scott (22) had a team-high 18 points as he tried to rally Dobie from a deficit, but visiting Clear Brook held on for the win in the final minute. On this first half play, Scott drives to the bucket while three Clear Brook defenders, from left, Kemo Millender, Brandon Andrews and Jordan Baker close in defensively.

At right, Clear Brook freshman post player Zyon Little (23) is challenged at the rim by Dobie's Simon Ward (11) as the action heated up in the second half between the Wolverines and Longhorns Dec. 3 at Dobie High School. The Wolverines got off to a fast start in the first quarter, only to see the Longhorns battle back to within 25-22 at the intermission. Dobie then had several chances in the second half to take the lead, but the Wolverines were able to hang on down the stretch for a 48-44 victory in the nondistrict affair. Ward led the Longhorns with eight rebounds. Also in on the play for the Longhorns was Damian Garcia (23) and Jalen Lendsey (1). Dobie, which will play in the Katy Tiger Invitational Dec. 5-7, is off to a 3-5 start, while the Wolverines have won four of five games to start the season. Clear Brook will next play in the Clear Creek ISD's Carlisle/Krueger Invitational Dec. 5-7 at Clear Lake and Clear Creek high schools.

Photos by John Bechtel

