



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 42 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, December 6, 2018 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 43, No. 45

### Highland Meadow parade set

The Highland Meadow Christmas Light Parade is set for Sunday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for the best entry in the adult and children categories. For information, contact Rudy Alafa at 281-415-8003 or at alafa20@yahoo.com.

### Dobie choir to perform

The Dobie High School Choir will present *Holiday Road* on Monday, Dec. 10, and Tuesday, Dec. 11, in the school auditorium at 7 p.m. All choirs will be performing. Admission is free.

### Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Dec. 13. City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Dec. 14. December is for junk waste. For additional information, visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste).

### JFD Early College meeting

Dobie will hold an Early College High School parent information meeting Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the main campus in the media room from 6 to 7 p.m. This meeting is for current eighth-grade students who will attend Dobie next school year.

### CrossRoads holds 2 events

CrossRoads UMC, 10330 Scarsdale, will host *The Chill*, a free community event featuring 10,000 pounds of snow in which children can play on Friday, Dec. 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Other attractions include a train display, hot dogs, cookie decorating, face painting, cocoa, crafts and photos with Santa Claus. Church youth will act out the nativity to end the event.

In another event, the church choir and orchestra presents the Christmas cantata *How Great Our Joy* under the direction of Wayne Browne on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m.

### Beltway closures planned

The eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Beamer will be closed continuously through 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16.

At least one outside lane on the eastbound frontage road of Beltway 8 will be closed from SH 35/Telephone Road to Pearland Parkway through 7 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16.

The northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Genoa Red Bluff will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The U-turn lane at Beltway 8 and SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 26.

The northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Preston will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Fairmont Parkway will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 11.

At least one inside lane on the northbound frontage road of Beltway 8 will be closed from Vista to Spencer Highway daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 19.

### Ellington e-recycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 3-1-1.

### TxDOT to hold meeting

The Texas Department of Transportation will host a public hearing Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center, 400 W. Walker in League City, to discuss proposed improvements to Highway 3 from Richey to FM 518. Displays will be available at 5:30 p.m., with a formal hearing starting at 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Brett McLeod at 713-802-5021 or email, [brett.mcleod@txdot.gov](mailto:brett.mcleod@txdot.gov).

### I-45 closures planned

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 Monday, Dec. 31. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

There will be a total closure of the northbound frontage road of the Gulf Freeway from NASA Road 1 to FM 518 through 5 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31.

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. Monday, 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.

## Arrest made in Dobie booster club theft

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.

Upon subpoenaing Escalera's personal banking information, investigators discovered several cash deposits into his own account were made on the same dates and in the same amounts as the ATM withdrawals from the

booster club's account.

Both the booster club's treasurer and current president provided investigators sworn statements saying that Escalera had admitted using the organization's funds for his personal use. The group's treasurer also provided investigators with copies of text messages from Escalera stating he was sorry for his actions.

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.

These were not Escalera's first bank-related crimes, as he was also charged in 2010 for theft by check. He was additionally arrested this past October for displaying a fictitious

motor vehicle registration.

Investigators said additional charges may follow in this latest incident.

### Friendswood booster club

The day prior to Escalera's arrest, a female suspect was arrested in connection to a theft from the Friendswood High School football booster club.

Kimberly Anne Nemetz, also known as Kimberly Halata, 48, of Friendswood, was charged with felony theft for allegedly stealing from the organization this past August.

The findings of a Friendswood police investigation were recently turned over to the Galveston County District Attorney's Office, and on Thursday, Nov. 29, Nemetz was indicted by a Galveston County grand jury.

She was booked into the Galveston County Jail on Sunday, Dec. 2, and was released on a \$20,000 bond on Dec. 3.

## Residents bid Bush farewell



Dozens of patriotic residents gathered outside Ellington Airport on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 4, to bid farewell to President George H.W. Bush, as his body was flown from the Air Force base to Washington, where a state funeral was held at the National Cathedral. Bush, who died late Friday, was then returned to Houston for a private funeral, before being laid to rest in College Station. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Clear Creek ISD celebrates 70th anniversary

As the Clear Creek Independent School District marks its 70th anniversary throughout this school year, there is a rich history of tradition and excellence to be celebrated.

The district was initially named the Clear Creek Consolidated Independent School District. Board members voted to change the name to the Clear Creek Independent School District on Jan. 11, 1965.

From initial consolidation in 1948 to the founding of the Johnson Space Center in 1961, and surpassing 40,000 students in 2014, the CCISD family has grown by leaps and boundaries throughout its history.

In 1948, the Kemah Independent School District, the Webster Independent School District, the Seabrook Independent School District and the League City Independent School District joined together to better serve the educational needs of 1,000 students.

Back then, there were 119 employees, five schools and nine school buses.

In 2018, Clear Creek ISD is leading the way with 5,191 staff members, a fleet of 400 buses and 42,082 students from the 13 cities of Bacliff, Clear Lake Shores, El Lago, Friendswood, Kemah, League City, Houston, Nassau Bay, Pasadena, Pearland, Seabrook, Taylor Lake Village and Webster.

The stories and history of CCISD lie within the memories of residents and stakeholders of these 13 cities.

Three longtime residents, educators and legends of CCISD recently shared their recollections of the district's history to share with others. To listen to the abbreviated conversation with former CCISD teacher, principal and board member, Ralph Parr; former CCISD educator, Sylvia Barker Streater; and former CCISD educator, Gaylynn Robinson Wenzel, visit [ccisd.net/70years](http://ccisd.net/70years).

### District seeks photos, stories

Parents and great grandparents, former teachers and bus drivers, mayors and community

## 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 36th 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 pro-

grams 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.

Continued on Page 4A

## Early voting continues through Dec. 7

Early voting is currently underway for the Dec. 11 special election to fill the state Senate District 6 seat being vacated by Sylvia Garcia.

Garcia is stepping down from the position after winning her congressional bid last month to replace outgoing U.S. Rep. Gene Green, who recently resigned after serving for more than two decades in Congress.

Vying to replace her are state Rep. Carol Alvarado, state Rep. Ana Hernandez, Martha Elena Fierro and Mia Mundy. Fierro is the lone Republican candidate in the heavily Democratic district. Senate District 6 encompasses most parts of

the South Belt community that are located within the city limits, rather than unincorporated parts of the county.

Should either Alvarado or Hernandez win the race, a second special election will need to be held to fill their vacancy in the House.

The closest early voting location for South Belt residents is the Harris County annex at 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer.

Early voting will continue through Friday, Dec. 7. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information or to see if one lives in the district, visit [harrisvotes.org](http://harrisvotes.org). See related questionnaire on Page 3A.

## Weber evacuated due to gas leak

Weber Elementary was briefly evacuated Tuesday, Dec. 4, after school officials detected a gas odor coming from a cafeteria closet. According to school officials, the incident took place at approximately 8:50 a.m. Students returned to class around 9:20 a.m. after officials from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department deemed the situation safe.

School officials sent a message to parents notifying them of the incident.

"Your student's safety is of utmost importance to us," Weber Principal Cheryl Chaney said in the statement. "This morning when a gas odor was detected at the school, we evacuated the building until the odor could be investigated. It was discovered there was a small leak from a heating boiler, which was immediately valved

off. With the use of their equipment, the fire department detected no gas and gave the all clear. However, in an abundance of caution, the gas has been turned off for the remainder of the day."

## City responds to construction

City officials have red-flagged a controversial home construction project in the Beverly Hills subdivision, after the contractor moved forward on the work, despite not having the proper permitting. Neighbors believe the homeowner is converting the property to sublet, which violates deed restrictions. See related photos on Page 6A.

## Woman's body found near Edgebrook

Houston police are investigating the death of a woman found in the 10300 block of Ney, near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway, around 1 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4.

The identity of the victim, believed to be in her 20s, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to police, a passerby found the victim unresponsive lying in the street at the aforementioned address. The victim had sustained an

apparent gunshot wound.

Paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene.

At press time, it was unclear if the victim was killed at the location or if she had been dumped there, as investigators reportedly found no shell casings at the scene.

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

## Driver killed in Beltway 8 crash

A man was killed in a crash on the service road in the 7800 block of Beltway 8 about 2:20 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3.

The identity of the victim is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to Houston police, the driver of a blue dump truck was traveling east on the beltway service road, ran the red light at the intersection

of Telephone Road and struck a silver Scion xA, traveling south on Telephone Road.

The driver of the Scion was transported to Clear Lake Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The driver of the dump truck was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where he was treated and released.

No charges had been filed at press time, as the investigation was continuing.

## Ditch erosion causes concern



Ground erosion along the Beamer ditch has caused a guardrail to collapse, worrying many drivers who question the stability of the adjacent street. County officials have inspected the problem and determined it is not an immediate threat, as the erosion has yet to go beneath the roadway. Nevertheless, it has been marked as an emergency repair and will be addressed in the near future. See related photo on Page 6A. Photo by David Flickinger

# Leader shares holiday photos entered for Facebook contest

The following photos were submitted to the *Leader* for a contest that was held on Facebook.



Walt Disney World in Florida is a popular family destination during the holidays. The Abarca family shown right was able to spend Thanksgiving at Disney. Enjoying the Disney experience are, left to right, (first row) Noah Abarca, Elliana Abarca, (second row) Jose Abarca, Isabella Abarca, Natalie Abarca, Kelvin Lopez and Ellie Flickinger.



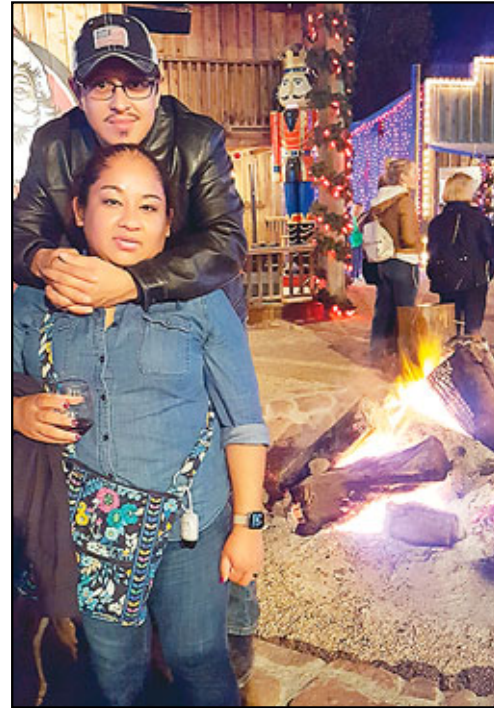
Santa is always on the lookout and keeps track of the naughty and nice lists. This time, the Perez brothers were busted for being naughty and had to take their mug shots with Santa. Shown above holding signs with their charges are, left to right, Santa Claus, Matthew Perez, Max Perez and Santa's ELF.



Vivieene Deal is shown above letting Santa Claus know she was a good girl this year. She is eight months old and is the granddaughter of Sherry Roberts.



The Gutierrez family had the opportunity to experience the Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Houston. Shown left are, left to right, Cassy Gutierrez, Isabelle Gutierrez and Pete Gutierrez.



Brightly lit decorations are visible all around as the holidays near. Shown above are Celina Martinez (front) and her husband Oscar Martinez at Santa's Wonderland.

## Local library events set

**Bracewell Branch Library**  
The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Thursday, Dec. 6, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Come see Santa! Meet at Bracewell Library to meet Santa Claus.  
Saturday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. Spanish computer class  
Saturday, Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m. Citizenship class  
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. Para los niños  
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. Playtime for all ages  
Note: Santa is scheduled to visit Bracewell Library Thursday, Dec. 6.  
Bracewell hours this week are: Thursday, noon – 8 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1 – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Call the library at 832-393-2580 for more information on events or classes.

**Parker Williams Library**  
The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. this week:  
Thursday, Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. Computer Basics: Editing and Organizing Photos. Learn some techniques and resources for cropping, resizing, touching up and organizing photos. Registration requested by calling the library at 832-927-7870.  
Friday, Dec. 7, 4 – 6 p.m. Gaming: Fortnite Tournament, for ages 8 and older. Meet at the library computer lab for a 2V2 playground match versus players. There will be timed rotations based on the number of players. Players with a USB Xbox One or PS4 controller can bring it and hook into the library computer if it has the USB cord attached or USB wireless charging cord.  
Saturday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Estate Planning with William D. Archer. Meet at the library to learn about estate planning, requirements to probate a will and how to avoid probate, what to do when a loved one passes, utilizing trusts, using Transfer on Death Deeds and more. Call 281-927-7870 or visit the library events calendar to register.  
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. Santa Storytime, for ages 3 and older. The library will be hosting the storytime with a special guest... Santa! Meet in the library community room for fun and festivities as the children spend time with Santa who will read a few books to them and shares a few heartwarming memories.  
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 5 p.m. STEM Time: Santa Radar, for ages 6 and older. While there is an app to track Santa as he crosses the night sky, learn how NORAD uses radar to track Santa and his reindeer throughout Dec. 24. Meet in the library community room for some seasonal science.  
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 5 p.m. Holiday Celebration with Apollo Chamber Players, a renowned ensemble based in Houston, will play folk-inspired holiday music from England, German, France, Turkey, Nigeria, Korea, Mexico and Jewish faith traditions.

Below are the programs that occur every week:  
Tuesday, Babytime lapsit, 10:30 a.m. For babies 0 to 18 months, featuring a mother-baby lap sit time with fingerplay, songs and playtime.  
Wednesday, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, 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. Classes begin at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.  
For more information on events, call the library at 281-484-2036.  
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.

## Elected officials share their words

### District E News By Council Member Dave Martin

On Wednesday, Nov. 28, Houston City Council approved a \$500,000 contract with Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP for professional legal services. I voted in favor of this item along with eight other colleagues. The original City Council item was for a contract with Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP in the amount of \$1,090,000. I proposed an amendment at the table to reduce the maximum contract amount for this item by \$590,000. My amendment was approved and reduced the final maximum contract amount from \$1,090,000 to \$500,000. I voted to support this item due to the complexity of language presented in Proposition B, and I believe that outside legal counsel is necessary to help City Council better understand how to implement the Proposition B ballot language.

Proposition B was placed on the ballot after a petition calling for a ballot measure that Houston firefighters be paid the same as Houston police officers, which was signed by more than 20,000 residents. The Proposition B ballot language in summation seeks to equalize pay between Houston firefighters and Houston police officers, both of which are dangerous and admirable professions. Unfortunately, the way that experience,

seniority, training, and education are weighed between these two departments differ drastically when calculating compensation. The existing ballot language does not provide a road map for implementation, requiring the assistance of outside legal counsel to execute the will of the people. Additionally, I support this item in the hopes that outside legal counsel could shine a light on comparing these two very different jobs. For example, the Houston Fire Department provides many services the Houston Police Department does not train for, creating an uneven playing field for comparison. How do you compare a paramedic or arson investigator with

a police officer working a beat? Paramedics and arson investigators have honed a special set of skills and obtained specific training needed to become an expert in their field. Is it fair to compare them to a patrol officer, SWAT Team or a Bomb Squad member? City Council does not know, which is yet another reason why outside legal counsel is necessary. During this same meeting, I proposed the City of Houston on January 1, 2019 implement a firefighter pay raise in the amount of 4% salary increase across the board. The people have voted to increase the pay of firefighters and this initial increase moves towards accomplishing the overall goal of Propo-

sition B, even before anything is decided in a court of law. Unfortunately, there was no action taken to enact my proposal during Wednesday's meeting. The voters very clearly voted to support Proposition B, which means that the voters have changed the City of Houston Charter to include "pay parity" or raises for firefighters contingent upon the pay of Houston police officers. According to attorneys for both the Fire Department Union and the City of Houston, State Law, which mandates raises be "collectively bargained", may supersede any City of Houston Ordinance/Charter Amendment. Collective bargaining is the negotiation of wages and benefits by an or-

ganized body of employees. The major issue that needs to be determined is if what voters supported with Proposition B is negated by State Law due to existing collective bargaining legislation. Proposition B in a way takes away the Houston Fire Department's ability to collectively bargain because their compensation, as a result of Proposition B, is tied directly to that of the Houston Police Department. The hiring of Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP allows the City of Houston to go to court together with the Houston Professional Firefighters Union to resolve these competing issues. Late Friday, Nov. 30, Houston Police Officers' Union (HPOU) filed a lawsuit against the City of

Houston and the Houston Professional Firefighters Association claiming that Proposition B, pay parity amendment to the City of Houston Charter, is unconstitutional. The State District Judge granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) at the request of the HPOU. The TRO blocks the City of Houston from taking any action to implement Proposition B at this time. I am a Council Member that believes in the democratic process and the privilege we as American citizens have as voters. The vote in my mind is not in question, what is in question is how do we begin to unpack all that was included in Proposition B to make sure that it is implemented legally.

## Sen. Paul Bettencourt holds property tax hearing

The Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform met last week at Lone Star College to study modifications to the rollback rate, evaluate the operations of appraisal review boards, and study the feasibility of replacing the property tax with a consumption tax. "No one should underestimate the resolve of Lt. Gov. (Dan) Patrick to get this issue resolved," said Chairman Paul Bettencourt. "We are on a collision course with reality when taxing jurisdictions increase revenues by 10, 11, or 12 percent year over year. Taxpayers cannot keep up." In one noteworthy exchange Sen. Kelly Hancock highlighted "Truth in Taxation at this point really does not give anyone a true picture of what is going on," Jennifer Rabb, a fellow at

the Baker Institute for Public Policy added, "Truth in taxation is not really truthful, it's more like a 'read my lips' – no new taxes truthful." Bettencourt concluded, "It really is an oxymoron." Sen. Eddie Lucio added, "The property tax process must be as transparent as possible." In a noteworthy exchange, the City Manager of the City of Mont Belvieu expressed his opposition to "tax caps and revenue caps" which limit the ability of local governments to provide necessary services. Sen. Brandon Creighton asked, "How is your revenue limited when you have the ability to raise your tax rate where the public can see that in a posted, public hearing?" Bettencourt followed up to ask him if he had any data on his actual property tax levy

increases, and he did not. The rollback rate was originally set at 5 percent in 1979 and the inflation rate at the time was over 10 percent. The Legislature modified this to 8 percent 1981 to reflect this high inflation rate and it has remained unchanged ever since, despite today's climate of low interest rates. In shocking data presented by Montgomery County's chief appraiser it was testified that his office

was unable to determine if 87 percent of the FEMA claims paid in Montgomery County following Hurricane Harvey were valid or not. "It shows that using FEMA data for automatic disaster reappraisal is not an example of best practices," added Bettencourt. Dale Craymer, president of Texas Taxpayers and Research Association testified about the possibility of eliminating the property tax

with a sales tax saying, "For all the talk about a sales tax swap, no one has yet come up with a legislative idea that would show how it would be accomplished." Bettencourt concluded, "No matter what revenue source you use you must have transparency and controls." Testimony highlighted that the platforms of both political parties also include property tax relief.

## Smart Cities Dive names Mayor Turner City Leader of the Year

Mayor Sylvester Turner has been named the nation's City Leader of the Year by the national business news publication *Smart Cities Dive*. "Since starting his four-year term as mayor in January 2016, Turner, a born and raised Houstonian, has prioritized the city's resilience and quality of life for all residents, which was especially apparent following Hurricane

Harvey. He said the city has faced three '500-year storms' in the last three years — two of which were under his administration — and with every natural disaster comes a deeper understanding of how to prepare for the next while still prioritizing residents," *Smart Cities Dive* wrote. "You need to be very candid and straightforward," Turner told *Smart Cities Dive*.

"We recognize that these storms are coming with more intensity... And if you're standing still, you're moving backwards. We're not interested in putting the city back where it was pre-Harvey." The 2018 Dive Awards recognize the nation's top innovators in business and government. The selection process starts with suggestions from Industry Dive readers.

## Our Family Has Grown!

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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 services are transferable should you move, and we also accept most existing policies from other funeral homes.

### BAC sets Christmas dance

The Bay Area Community Center, located at 5002 NASA Road 1, is hosting a Holiday Christmas Ballroom Dance on Thursday, Dec. 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. The community is invited to come and sway to the sweet sounds of DJ Pete Hoth. Refreshments will be served, and there will be no alcohol. There will be door prizes and the dress code is holiday festive. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information call, 281-326-2955.

### CCART holds meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its December meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 11. 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 by Tim Lee, executive director of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. He will be addressing the future of teacher retirement and health care financing. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas-retired school employees from the area are invited. The annual dues are \$50.

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

# State candidates answer *Leader* questions before election

The following questionnaire was sent to all candidates running for the special election for the office of Texas State Senate District 6. Answers appear as they were received and have not been edited. The candidates are in the order in which they are listed on the ballot.

## Martha Fierro



**NAME:** Martha Fierro  
**AGE:** 46  
**OCCUPATION:** Full Time Mother and Community Organizer  
**EDUCATION:** Certified Nursing Assistant - Houston Community College, and a Bachelors in Psychology and Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS) from the University of Houston  
**MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:** Married to Francisco Fierro, and mother to 4 children.

**What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of state Senate District 6? (100 words or less)**

I have a passion for helping my community succeed. I've mentored many kids and helped bring out their best. As a mother of four, I'm part of the Kipp Charter School PTA. During Hurricane Harvey, I directed a team of twenty volunteers and served 1,800 affected Houstonians of the SD 6 community. I've been an active advocate against human trafficking in our community, and have pushed for proactive solutions in fighting it. Now, after over thirty years of service to my community, I'm running for Texas State Senate, with the goal of being a citizen legislator. We must do better.

**Do you have any political experience? (100 words or less)**

I've been an activist for many causes in my community. I was also proud to be a field organizer for Greg Abbott's Re-Election. I've worked with many diplomats, politicians, and community leaders in advocating for Israel. I have also served as a precinct chair for the Harris County Republican Party, and was unanimously endorsed by them, which is a rarity.

**What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)**

I'm honored to have been endorsed by the Harris County Republican Party, Former Consul General Philip Aronoff, Texas Republican Party Chairman James Dickey, Republican National Hispanic Assembly, Rep. Briscoe Cain, Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Texas Conservative View, and many others.

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

During Hurricane Harvey I worked all throughout Houston, including the South Belt Community.

**If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)**

We need to look at proactive infrastructure solutions for flooding. The Coastal Spine Project could be a great answer, if done right, and with a sound budget. I will also start an initiative to educate our communities on flooding, how to better prepare and protect ourselves, if our safeguards fail.

**What main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (50 words or less)**

Improving our schools and educational opportunities is one of my primary goals. We need less administrators, and higher teacher pay. There needs to be a tighter relationship between charter schools and public schools. It should be a healthy competition that is mutually beneficial. We need to shift our approach.

**There are currently two proposed bills in the Legislature (Senate Bill 32 and Senate Bill 33) that would essentially make community college tuition-free for in-state residents. Do you support these proposals? (150 words or less)**

We need to include skilled curriculum into our high schools. A 2-year degree in English isn't nearly as effective as being a trained welder, diesel mechanic, or

computer programmer. We can partner with community colleges for this. This can strengthen our communities, and put food on the table, with high paying wages for high demand jobs. We have to spend our educational budget wisely and allow our investment to pay dividends.

**Do you believe the state needs to reform its public school funding system? If so, what do you recommend? (100 words or less)**

Unlike my opponents, I believe in vouchers and charter schools. Charter schools are hot beds for innovation in education. They are powerful tools that find out what does and doesn't work for our children's education. We can spend our money much more wisely in our public schools, and we also need to understand why some charter schools are so effective. We should be implementing their successes in our public schools. I do believe in a great reform, and it is something I will achieve as a state senator.

**There is currently an issue with some "early college high school" courses not being transferable to four-year universities. Do you support such programs? If so, would you work to ensure these credits are transferred more easily? (50 words or less)**

Yes, I support it. We should be working with 4-year and 2-year universities to find a solution to this. Schools within our state should be on the same page. We cannot require private universities to take the credits, but we can work on legislation to resolve this among public universities.

**Do you support the idea of sanctuary cities and what would you do if the Trump administration attempted to retaliate by blocking federal funds for such cities? (100 words or less)**

I do not support sanctuary cities. We need to allow federal agencies to do their job, so that they can better protect us and our children. I have no interest in the Cartels getting a free ride in Houston. Our communities are plagued with human trafficking as it is. ICE is one of the key agencies that help fight human trafficking. To interfere with that is evil. We should punish the bad apples in federal agencies, and hold them to a higher standard, but we must let the federal agencies do their job.

**Do you support the legalization of marijuana for medical reasons or recreational use? (100 words or less)**

I would consider comprehensive legislation for legalizing medicinal marijuana treatment. I don't condone recreational use, but I also want to ensure that a young person's life isn't ruined over a lapse in judgement. We should always be promoting clean living for our children. Rehabilitation should always come before incarceration, when regarding non-violent offenders, regardless of the drug. We should be fighting drug addiction instead of the addict. It is a disease, and we must find better solutions for our communities. Addiction is a serious issue in SD6, and I plan on fighting it with everything I have.

## Ana Hernandez



**NAME:** Ana Hernandez  
**AGE:** 40  
**OCCUPATION:** Attorney  
**EDUCATION:** B.S., University of Houston J.D., University of Texas School of Law  
**MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:** Single/Gregory Eli Luna - son

**What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of state Senate District 6? (100 words or less)**

As a mother of a 6-year old son, practicing attorney and immigrant, I understand the needs of the working families of Senate District 6. Over the past 13 years as a state representative, I've seen firsthand the difference a strong voice in Austin. Whether working to pass critical reforms to our foster care system or helping a constituent successfully connect

with state agencies, I'm committed to upholding a leadership standard that is both responsive and effective. My policy experience affords me a formidable skill set that I have successfully leveraged in the Texas Capitol to champion numerous pieces of legislation.

**Do you have any political experience? (100 words or less)**

My time in the Texas House of Representatives began over 20 years ago as a legislative intern while attending the University of Houston. I was elected as the State Representative for District 143 in a special election in December 2005. As an experienced legislator and attorney, I have a command of complex policy issues, from the challenges to our public pensions to inequities in our criminal justice system.

**What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)**

State Representatives: Mary Ann Perez, Armando Walle, Senfronia Thompson, Garnet Coleman; Shawn Thierry Mayor of Houston, Sylvester Turner Mayor of Jacinto City, Ana Diaz & City Council Harris County Constable Pet. 3, Sherman Eagleton Labor: Pipefitters, Plumbers, Teamsters, Sheet Metal Workers, HESP, UFCW, ILA \*and many other community leaders

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

Having grown up in Pasadena, I have spent a lot of time in the South Belt Community. My family and I frequent the restaurants, shopping and entertainment areas. We recently celebrated my niece's Sweet 15 in the South Belt area as we have many family and friends who live nearby.

**If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)**

I am committed to helping to strengthen the South Belt community's local economy by focusing on expanding workforce development programs, working with local law enforcement and the community to build stronger relationships, and working with transportation agencies to help address any traffic barriers.

**What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (50 words or less)**

You cannot have a strong community without a vibrant educational component that focuses on student success. As a mother of a young child and proud product of Pasadena I.S.D., I understand the transformation change of quality public education. I will continue the fight to adequately fund our public schools.

**There are currently two proposed bills in the Legislature (Senate Bill 32 and Senate Bill 33) that would essentially make community college tuition-free for in-state residents. Do you support these proposals? (150 words or less)**

Yes. During the past two legislative sessions, I have filed similar bills (HB1947 in 2017 & HB2517 in 2015), The Texas Promise Scholarship Program. My proposed legislation would help build a prepared workforce without requiring students to incur huge student loan debt. I have also proposed legislation that would create a student textbook sales tax holiday (HB242 in 2017 & HB491 in 2015).

**Do you believe the state needs to reform its public school funding system? If so, what do you recommend? (100 words or less)**

Our public school finance system is archaic and underfunded. The state needs to invest more in public education and stop passing off the expense to local taxpayers. The legislature must act to reform the public school funding formula so that all public schools are adequately funded. There is currently an issue with some "early college high school" courses not being transferable to four-year universities.

**Do you support such programs? If so, would you work to ensure these credits are transferred more easily? (50 words or less)**

Students in early college courses are bright, talented, and hardworking, and they should be rewarded for their efforts. I have proposed legislation (HB254 in 2017) to help make the credit transfer process within higher education institutions more transparent and streamlined so that students are better informed about transferring credits.

**Do you support the idea of sanctuary cities and what would you do if the Trump administration attempted to retaliate by blocking federal funds for such cities? (100 words or less)**

As a former undocumented

immigrant, I have experienced the fear and uncertainty of not knowing if my family would be torn apart by immigration officials. During the deliberations over the sanctuary cities legislation, we heard from law enforcement officials that communities are safer when people are given the ability to come out of the shadows and fully integrate into their communities without fear of being removed. I would work with our local Congressional delegation and other stakeholders to make sure that cities are not denied federal dollars by the Trump administration.

**Do you support the legalization of marijuana for medical reasons or recreational use? (100 words or less)**

I support decriminalization of marijuana.

## Carol Alvarado



**NAME:** Carol Alvarado  
**AGE:** 51  
**OCCUPATION:** State Representative and the principal for Girasol Consulting.  
**EDUCATION:** Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Houston  
**MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:** Single.

**What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of state Senate District 6? (100 words or less)**

The challenges confronting state government continue to grow, and the South Belt community deserves leadership with experience and legislative skills. I am recognized as an effective and respected leader in the Texas legislative arena who can best serve the residents of Senate District 6. My record of service includes leading the effort on the Houston City Council to pass the no smoking ordinance for restaurants. In the legislature, I passed the historic grand jury reform bill. As Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee, I have held hearings in communities damaged by Harvey on how to address post Harvey housing issues.

**Do you have any political experience? (100 words or less)**

Houston City Council Member, District I (2002-2008); Mayor Pro Tem (2004-2006); State Representative, District 145 (2009-Present); Chair, Urban Affairs Committee; Member, Higher Education Committee; Member, Select Committee on Opioids and Substance Abuse; Former Member, Democratic National Committee; Former, Harris Democratic Party Precinct Chair.

**What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)**

Houston Chronicle; UNITE HERE; County Commissioner Rodney Ellis; Houston Professional Fire Fighters; Houston GLBT Political Caucus; Area 5 Democrats; Planned Parenthood Texas Votes; EMILY's List; Iron Workers, Local 84; CWA Local 6222; former Houston Mayors Lee Brown, Annise Parker and Bill White; 46 Senate District 6, Democratic Party Precinct Chairs.

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

I have represented parts of the South Belt community in the Texas Legislature for the past ten years. It is a community I know well and that I am a part. I participate in civic and neighborhood activities and work with and support the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

**If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)**

Like many communities in the region, South Belt is still dealing with Harvey recovery. I have spent the last year holding committee hearings in communities damaged by Harvey. I will be at the forefront during the upcoming legislative session working on matters dealing with the state's response to Harvey recovery.

**What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (50 words or less)**

My goal is to have a public school finance system that

allows all the children to have access to a quality education. Teachers should be paid well so they don't have to go find second or third jobs to survive, and where teachers don't spend personal money on classroom supplies.

**There are currently two proposed bills in the Legislature (Senate Bill 32 and Senate Bill 33) that would essentially make community college tuition-free for in-state residents. Do you support these proposals? (150 words or less)**

Yes. I believe that low-income students often are denied access to higher education because of the rising costs of tuition. The Texas budget is essentially a list of priorities for the state and right now the numbers clearly show that Texas does not prioritize providing greater access to higher education for low-income students I have been fighting this fight as a member of the Higher Education Committee in the Texas House and I will continue to fight this battle if elected to the Texas Senate.

**Do you believe the state needs to reform its public school funding system? If so, what do you recommend? (100 words or less)**

Yes. The state needs to make a bigger investment in our public schools. The state has not adjusted its school formula funding since the early 80's. To make the state and local shares of public education funding equal without reducing local contributions would require nearly \$10 billion in additional state funding per year. We need to increase the basic allotment of per student spending and increase the state's share of public school funding from 38% to 50%.

**There is currently an issue with some "early college high school" courses not being transferable to four-year universities. Do you support such programs? If so, would you work to ensure these credits are transferred more easily? (50 words or less)**

I support early college high school for students to gain college credits without the cost of college tuition. This expands access to higher education for low-income students. As a member of the Higher Education Committee, I have heard testimony and have been briefed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Do you support the idea of sanctuary cities and what would you do if the Trump administration attempted to retaliate by blocking federal funds for such cities? (100 words or less)**

I staunchly opposed SB 4 the anti-sanctuary cities bill on the floor of the Texas House and I went before the Houston City Council and urged them to join the city of Houston in a lawsuit against the provision. I will not waiver in my resolve to fight against any form of discrimination because I believe Houston is a diverse city that needs to be inclusive rather than exclusive. I will be first in line to resist any type of federal retaliation through the courts and on the floor of the Senate if elected.

**Do you support the legalization of marijuana for medical reasons or recreational use? (100 words or less)**

Last session I filed HJR 111 that would have legalized marijuana for medical use because I met with countless parents who have children suffering from intractable epilepsy. I saw their desperation and I acted. It isn't right that these parents have no other option for their children other than leaving the state or breaking state law. Texas should be a more compassionate state and I will support any bill that will make our laws more compassionate.

## Mia Mundy



**NAME:** Mia Mundy  
**AGE:** 36  
**OCCUPATION:** Executive Search Consultant  
**EDUCATION:** Master's Degree in Education  
**MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:** Single and no children  
**What makes you best qual-**

**ified to serve the constituents of state Senate District 6? (100 words or less)**

I bring a fresh new perspective on the District. I am focused on making sure that people are first above everything else. I want to fight to ensure that all under resourced and marginalized groups have a voice at the table.

**Do you have any political experience? (100 words or less)**

I spent 1 year providing support to the Mayor's Education Liaison and the Neighborhoods department in a Civic Innovation volunteer role. We focused on making our Super neighborhood system even better through Education initiatives.

**What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)**

I have yet to obtain any endorsements.

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

My girlfriend currently resides in the area. I have spent quite a bit of time there over the last year. We enjoy running the trails near Sage-

gate Drive and Blackhawk Boulevard. I have enjoyed meeting people in the community as I have helped her successfully run a few garage sales.

**If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)**

First a foremost it is very important to me that everything I do is based on one simple principle "People First." I find out what the community desires and provide resources to under resourced areas and make sure ALL voices are heard and engaged immediately.

**What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (50 words or less)**

In SD6 three key areas have forged. 1. Sensible gun laws and safety for our children and youth. 2. Addressing the underserved needs of Senior Citizens. 3. Seeing and truly walking alongside the homeless and finding holistic ways to serve this underserved and resourced community.

**There are currently two proposed bills in the Legislature (Senate Bill 32 and**

**Senate Bill 33) that would essentially make community college tuition-free for in-state residents. Do you support these proposals? (150 words or less)**

I support making community college tuition-free for in-state residents.

**Do you believe the state needs to reform its public school funding system? If so, what do you recommend? (100 words or less)**

In short, yes, but there is so much that goes into that yes. I think public school funding should be more equitable and a system should be created and implemented that strives to create a more balanced playing field for funds across all schools, regardless of demographics or geography.

**There is currently an issue with some "early college high school" courses not being transferable to four-year universities. Do you support such programs? If so, would you work to ensure these credits are transferred more easily? (50 words or less)**

I support early college high school courses transfer-

ring to four-year universities. I would work make this process easier and ensure that these classes truly provide students the ability to get a "jump start" to college in high school.

**Do you support the idea of sanctuary cities and what would you do if the Trump administration attempted to retaliate by blocking federal funds for such cities? (100 words or less)**

I fully support the idea of sanctuary cities. I would craft and support legislation that would fight to ensure our state and cities gets to keep their autonomy in this area without being penalized by the federal government.

**Do you support the legalization of marijuana for medical reasons or recreational use? (100 words or less)**

I support the legalization of marijuana for medical reasons and recreational uses. The decriminalization of Marijuana is very important to me as well as ensuring Marijuana is made available for those were this is the most ideal medical necessity.

## Grand unveiling for Reid portrait a success



A portrait of Pearland's Mayor Tom Reid was unveiled on Nov. 29 at the Tom Reid Library. Library branch manager Kaitlyn Keever welcomed the gathering. Heidi Weiss and Naomi Stevens presented the mayor's bio. The artist Vicky Gooch mentioned that Reid wanted outdoor background for the portrait. Reid said that he

grew up spending time in Carnegie library in central Texas. City Council Members Adrian Hernandez, Trent Perez, Woody Owens; and city managers Jon Branson, Trent Eppson and others were present. Shown with the portrait are, left to right, Sam Kannappan, Stevens, Weiss, Gooch and Reid.

Photo submitted

## Meador celebrates College Week



During Pasadena Independent School District's annual College Week, held Nov. 12-16, Meador students learned about different colleges and participated in various activities promoting a college-going culture. Shown above displaying college pennants are fourth-graders, left to right, Fidencio Rodriguez III, Pretty McCoy, Jennifer Tran and Tylen Foster. Shown below Lauren Riojas (back row, far left) poses with

her kindergarten students who are holding their Baylor Bears coloring sheets. Left to right are, (first row) Imri Navarro, Victor Rachal, Ivan Estrada, Jayda Fletcher, Isaiah Gonzales, (second row) Cindy Nguyen, Elijah Rodriguez, Ky'Anta Mims, Arleth Garcia, Ashley Quijada, (third row) Riojas, Anijae Lott, Jayah Williams, Warren Pham, Anthony Brooks and DeUndres Robinson.

Photos by Tara Merida



# Christmas program begins

**Continued from Page 1A**  
 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 circumstances related to the storm are asked to contact the *Leader* at 281-481-5656 or mynews@southbeltleader.com.  
 See next week's *Leader* to find out when applications will be accepted.  
 First-time applicants must apply in person at 11555 Beamer. Applicants who have participated in previous drives may register online at www.southbeltleader.com.  
 All applicants must undergo a screening process to determine the family's need.  
 To qualify, one must be a South Belt area resident and possess one form of identification verifying their address.  
 Those wishing to donate items should visit the *Leader* office, located at 11555 Beamer.

# UHCL releases calendar briefs

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has released its calendar briefs.  
**Riders in the Sky performs at Bayou Theater**  
 Grammy-winning Riders in the Sky will bring its blend of cowboy comedy and Western swing to University of Houston-Clear Lake's Bayou Theater on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.  
 The quartet, performing together for more than 41 years, won Grammys for music written for two box-office successes, "Toy Story 2" in 2001, and "Monsters, Inc." in 2003. The group also provided the soundtrack for Disney Pixar's animated short, "For the Birds" in 2001. The film won an Academy Award.  
 To purchase tickets or for more information about the 2018-2019 Bayou Theater season, visit www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/events-tickets.  
**UHCL to close Dec. 24 through Jan. 1**  
 The University of Houston-Clear Lake will be closed Dec. 24, 2018, through Jan. 1, 2019, for winter break. Normal hours will resume Wednesday, Jan. 2.  
 For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu. In the case of an emergency during the break, call the UHCL Police Department at 281-283-2222.  
**Pearland campus hosts compassion fatigue seminar**  
 University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland campus will host a daylong seminar in January on compassion fatigue, specifically focused for health care professionals and first responders.  
 Compassion fatigue is characterized by exhaustion, anger and irritability, negative coping behaviors - including alcohol and drug abuse - reduced ability to feel sympathy and empathy, a diminished sense of enjoyment or satisfaction with work, increased absenteeism, an impaired ability to make decisions and care for patients and/or clients, the National Institutes of Health reports.

# ACA deadline Dec. 15

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Houston Area Urban League officials and Enroll Gulf Coast on Tuesday, Dec. 4 announced a public service campaign urging people to enroll in Obamacare before the Dec. 15 deadline, noting declines in enrollment.  
 A recent November report from the Kaiser Family Foundation found there is a 9.2 percent drop in Obamacare - also known as the Affordable Care Act - enrollment this year, prompting officials in Houston to initiate the billboard campaign to make people aware of enrollment and the deadline. The Kaiser report noted that nearly 60 percent of Americans who would benefit from the ACA enrollment were unaware of the deadline for open enrollment.  
 Reductions to the federal ACA advertising budget combined with a shortened sign-up period have been cited as significant factors contributing to the decline in enrollment, underscoring the need for local public service campaigns.  
 "Harris County has some of the highest uninsured rates in the country and those who lack insurance coverage typically enjoy far worse health status than their insured counterparts," Ellis said.  
 "This billboard campaign serves a critical need in our community by letting people know that affordable health care is available through Obamacare, but you need to sign up as soon as possible. Your health is too important," Ellis said.  
 Stephen L. Williams, director of Houston Health Department, said Enroll Gulf Coast has many agencies around the county ready to assist people for free and in person with their marketplace applications.  
 "I have one major message and that is: Enroll Gulf Coast is here to help," Williams said. "Partners are standing ready to help you sign up for the first time or to guide you through the renewal process. Our partners have devoted counselors who can help you in any language that you prefer."  
 He joined others in praising Clear Channel Outdoor for donating the 13 billboards - in English and Spanish - to the Urban League.  
 "Clear Channel Outdoor is proud to join Harris County Rodney Ellis and the Houston Area Urban League to remind citizens of this important deadline," said Lee Vela, vice president for public affairs at Clear Channel Outdoor-Houston.  
 "The public service outdoor advertising campaign in English and Spanish that began the week of November 12 will have created more than 10 million market impressions through Dec. 15. We hope that this message will remind people action is required for this important health option," Vela said.  
 Texas leads the nation in uninsured rates with over 4.5 million people uninsured, including over 800,000 children, according to a recent report from Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families. With the highest uninsured rate of any Texas county, Harris County is at the epicenter of the health care coverage crisis.  
 "It is critically important that people are reminded to sign up for ACA coverage and know that free, local enrollment assistance is available from Enroll Gulf Coast," Ellis said. "There is nothing more important than our family and friends. Encourage your loved ones to go to health care.gov to sign up before Dec. 15 or contact Enroll Gulf Coast."  
 Those in need of enrollment assistance can call Enroll Gulf Coast at 832-393-5423 or visit enrollgulfcoast.com.  
 To sign up directly for Obamacare, visit healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

# BASC schedules dance

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance will be held on Dec. 15, from 7 to 10 p.m., at VFW Lodge, Post 6378, located at 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson.  
 All area singles are invited to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring party snacks to share.  
 The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. For more information, call 832-483-3257 or 832-477-6778.

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**BEST WISHES, DAVID AND ELLIE!**  
 Greetings are sent to David Flickinger, South Belt-Ellington Leader president, and his wife, Ellie, who celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary Dec. 10 from daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Eliana 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. 6 through Dec. 12.  
**Atkinson Elementary**  
 Send a happy birthday greeting to Teniece Collins Dec. 10.  
**Burnett Elementary**  
 Alexander Aponte Rivera celebrates a birthday Dec. 6. Send a special birthday greeting to Mary Davitt who marks a birthday Dec. 6. Share in the birthday fun Dec. 10 with Lorena Osteguín Chavira.  
**Bush Elementary**  
 Enjoying a birthday Dec. 8 is Heather Biber.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
 Send a humorous 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. Send a happy birthday greeting Dec. 12 to Judi Rinehart.  
**Meador Elementary**  
 Enjoying a birthday Dec. 8 is Miriam Reyna. Join in the birthday fun Dec. 10 with Vanessa Guzman. Dec. 12 is the day for a double-layer cake for Filgia Norman and Vanessa Bristol.  
**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 Lehang Nguyen.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
 Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Dec. 8 are sent to Euneal Bauri. Send a humorous birthday card Dec. 11 to Sandra Medina.  
**Roberts Middle School**  
 Christopher Martin enjoys a birthday Dec. 9. Sing a happy birthday song Dec. 11 to LaShondra Evans. Celebrating a special birthday Dec. 12 is Hector Del Rio.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
 Dec. 8 is the day for a party for Maria Garcia. Blow out the candles on a double-layer cake for Louis Ciurca and April Roark as they celebrate a birthday Dec. 10.  
**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. Enjoying a birthday Dec. 12 is Faryal Shaukat.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
 The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to friends who celebrate a birthday this week:  
 Thursday, Dec. 6: Natalie Saucedo, and Billie Benson; Friday, Dec. 7: Matt Adams, Amber Clark, Edna Elizalde, Tim Allen, Holly Rhodes and Bill Hanson; Saturday, Dec. 8: Damon Miles, Adriana Garza, Shannon Sims, Mandy Bennett and Susanne Cook; Sunday, Dec. 9: Angela Preciado Melissa Gallegos, Mary Bogan, Paul Garza, Jacob Pena and Alex Blancas; Monday, Dec. 10: Carmela Swinnen, Rebecca Swartz, Henry Rubio, Betsy Urschel, Sherri Lindsey, Alexis Bursiaga, Yvette Johnson-Lightfoot and Jason Manriquez; Tuesday, Dec. 11: Kara Toro, Robert Summers, Sandra Medina, Amanda Meili and Robert Royal; and Wednesday, Dec. 12: Carolyn Starnes-Ontiveros, Joe Lewis, David Rojas Sr., Pepper Lowe and Diane Lakits Black.  
**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
 Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

# Clear Creek ISD pays tribute for military service

The Friday night lights shown brightly on all active and veteran military personnel at the Nov. 9 Clear Brook High School vs. Clear Lake High School football game held at CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium. During halftime, Clear Creek ISD also paid tribute to the service members and 100-year history of the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base.  
 The forces stationed at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base are a critical Department of Defense presence in this strategically vital region. As one of the largest metropolises in the United States, the greater Houston area is home to a quarter of the nation's petrochemical refineries and houses the largest medical care and research complex in the country.  
 The base celebrated its 100th anniversary last year marking its beginnings in 1917 as an Army airstrip. Today, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base is one of the few World War I installations still in use and is the home base of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Attack Wing. The League City Fire Department flew a giant American flag as backdrop to the Salute to Military Service game. As is tradition before all football games at Challenger Columbia Stadium, all active and veteran military service members were encouraged to stand and be recognized, and student groups made and hung spirit signs in appreciation of military heroes.  
 Clear Brook JROTC presented the colors and flags representing each service branch as Clear Brook High School's Company B choir performed the National Anthem. The Clear Brook and Clear Lake high school bands and dance teams performed a medley of patriotic pieces to mark the Veterans Day holiday and honor the men and women who serve and have served the nation.  
 After a videoboard feature spotlighting the history of the base, 147th Attack Wing Commander, Col. Matthew Barker was introduced to stadium fans along with Senior Airman Aaron Anderson, Senior Airman LeighAnne Rivera, Tech. Sgt. Van Pham, Master Sgt. Dwyn Dolgner and Staff Sgt. Kara Additon.  
 "I speak for everyone stationed at the base when I express my thanks to CCISD for recognizing the historic and strategic significance of the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base," said Barker. "I am proud to lead an extraordinary team of active and reserve service members who guard our nation, our waters and our region from this vital military installation every day," he said.  
 The base also boasts the unique distinction of serving all five branches of the U.S. military - Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.



Ellington service members display military-grade vehicles to fans entering Challenger Columbia Stadium. Shown above are, left to right, Maj. Joshua Lang and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Mills. At the game, fans cheered for Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base representatives introduced from the field. Shown below are, left to right, Col. Matthew Barker, Senior Airman Aaron Anderson, Senior Airman LeighAnne Rivera, Tech. Sgt. Van Pham, Master Sgt. Dwyn Dolgner and Staff Sgt. Kara Additon. Photos submitted



# Remember When

**40 years ago (1978)**  
 Sagmont resident Mario Herrada, 19, was awarded \$297,000 in a court case against the city of Houston. Herrada lost an arm in an accident in which he hit a chuckhole in the road and his car overturned.  
 Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees met with officials from the Houston district. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage other districts (of a strong majority of white students) to voluntarily participate in an intradistrict desegregation program.  
**35 years ago (1983)**  
 A temporary post office was set up at Alameda Mall as an experiment by the U.S. Postal Service to relieve congestion at the Alameda-Genoa station.  
 The board of regents at San Jacinto College voted to keep the tax rate at 10 cents per \$100 valuation.  
**30 years ago (1988)**  
 Students on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board told administrators they were tired of increased drug use on campuses and they wanted the district to get tougher.  
 Pasadena ISD high school and intermediate students were no longer required to receive detention for failing to return their report cards to school with a parental signature.  
**25 years ago (1993)**  
 Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Rick Schneider asked the board to approve a comprehensive school safety and discipline plan to put video surveillance cameras and metal detectors in secondary schools and a telephone in every classroom.  
 It was announced that San Jacinto College South's new library would bear the name of then campus president Dr. Parker Williams.  
 The Beverly Hills Bear Brains defeated San Jacinto Intermediate 52-37 to win the fall semester championship in Academic Games competition. Team members were Tracie Barnet, Ethan Block, Jennifer Bowman, Glorine Craven, Casey Heinickson, Darron Henson, Rachel Jones, Katie Laas, Jonathan Lindsley, Kabir Mohammed, Chris Moore, Nhu Nguyen, Patrick Nguyen, Emma Onwudiegwu, Cody Outlaw, Nick Radcliffe, Tina Sanders, David Scott, Russell Wilson, Amanda Zamora and coaches Samantha Usnick, Rene Perez and Susan Gause.  
**20 years ago (1998)**  
 Coby Cagle was honored as the Dobie football team's most valuable player at the team's annual banquet.  
 U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, City Councilman Rob Todd, state Rep. Robert Talton and state Sen. Jerry Patterson celebrated Pearl Harbor Day at Ellington Field.  
 Clear Brook lost 40-0 to Katy in the regional championship football game.  
**15 years ago (2003)**  
 Members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Ellington Field Task Force held a press conference to discuss steps to ensure the Texas Air National Guard stayed at Ellington. The two-fold plan was to keep Ellington off the Base Realignment and Closure list and have Ellington field become a joint reserve base.  
 Burglars stole approximately \$350,000 in jewelry, cash and loose diamonds from the Ngoc Mai jewelry store on Scarsdale.  
 The 1940 Air Terminal Museum opened on the west side of Hobby Airport. The building was the original airport terminal that opened in September 1940 as Houston Municipal Airport. It was used until 1954 when the larger terminal on Airport Boulevard opened. At opening, the museum was the only museum in Houston dedicated to civil aviation history.  
**10 years ago (2008)**  
 Sagmont Church held its second annual outdoor Christmas festival. The family event included a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree, simulated snow, arts and crafts, a petting zoo, a rock wall and games. The highlight of the festival was a presentation called *The Wonder of Christmas*. The program featured music and art teams from the church, plus aerial ballet and acrobatics (similar to Cirque de Soleil). Roughly 10,000 people attended the event over the weekend.  
 Clear Brook High School senior Cindy Au earned a perfect score on three SAT subject tests. Au scored a perfect 800 on chemistry, biology and physics. According to the College Board, more than 36,000 college-bound seniors take the SAT subject area tests in biology or physics each year, and 62,000 take the chemistry subject test. Of those students, the average score on these tests is just over 600.  
**5 years ago (2013)**  
 Police arrested three individuals involved in a check cashing scheme that targeted elderly South Belt residents. Ronald Thibodeaux, 57, Ronald Givens, 28, and Naomi Onezine Givens, 25, were charged with organized crime. The suspects were alleged to have stolen checks from area mailboxes and to have washed and rewritten them. They would then hire homeless people to cash the checks at local businesses in exchange for a percentage of the money. Authorities believe the criminal ring had operated since 2007. Local subdivisions affected included Sagelegen, Sagemeadow and Kirkwood South.  
 Dobie 2012 graduate Yesenia Munoz was selected to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery at a ceremony held to honor the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. An information systems technician seaman in the U.S. Navy, Munoz, 19, was the youngest sailor in the nation's history to be bestowed the honor, usually reserved for senior military officers and the president of the United States.  
**1 year ago (2017)**  
 Former Burnett Elementary student Thi Nguyen gave back to the school in a big way by hosting a Christmas festival at the campus on Saturday, Dec. 2. Nguyen - who later attended Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School, graduating in 2007 - said she organized the event in honor of her sister, Jennie Nguyen (also a former Burnett student), who drowned near Galveston in May 2000 at the age of 7. When Jennie Nguyen died, the family relied on donations from the South Belt community to help pay for funeral costs, inspiring Thi Nguyen to repay the favor. In addition to supplying thousands of Christmas gifts, Nguyen also provided synthetic snow, a bounce house, a human-sized snow globe, a photo booth and an appearance by Santa Claus.  
 Longtime South Belt resident C.J. Leslie died Saturday, Dec. 2, at the age of 81. As the first choir director at J. Frank Dobie High School, Leslie was responsible for composing the area campus's Fight Song and Alma Mater. He was also involved in multiple local church choirs. Leslie was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving in the 144th Infantry, 49th Armored Division. In addition, he served as an umpire for various youth baseball organizations.

# SJC calendar set

San Jacinto College has released its calendar briefs.  
**Spring 2019 registration open**  
 Registration for spring 2019 classes is now open for current and incoming San Jacinto College students through Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019. After Jan. 3, payment is due upon registration. The spring 2019 semester begins on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration.  
**2018 winter miniregistration**  
 Registration for the winter 2018 minimester is now open for all students through Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. Beginning Dec. 14, payment is due upon registration. The winter minimester begins on Monday, Dec. 17. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration.  
**Meningitis vaccinations**  
 The immunization clinic will offer incoming San Jacinto College students meningitis vaccinations on Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the following locations:  
 • Central campus - Building 1, room C1.110  
 • North campus - Building 6, room N6.108  
 • South campus - Building 6, room S6.152  
 Prices are \$20 for students 18 and under and \$90 for students 19 and older. Vaccination fees can be added to the semester fee bill. Students who are 22 and older are not required to provide evidence of a meningitis vaccination. For more information on meningitis vaccination requirements and upcoming campus vaccination dates, visit sanjac.edu/meningitis.  
**Community Creative Corner Holiday Program**  
 The San Jacinto College North campus will host a community Creative Corner Holiday Program on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in Building 1, room N1.103. For more information, call 713-450-3610.  
**Community Education Center event**  
 The San Jacinto College Central campus Community Education Center is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena in Building 1, room C-1.108. The San Jacinto College North campus Community Education Center is located at 5800 Uvalde Road in Building 2, room N-2.112. The community education centers will host the following December workshop that are free and open to the public. To register, call 281-478-2786 or email communityeducation@sjcd.edu.  
**Central campus**  
 Community fitness: Qi-gong for Balance and Weight Loss, Dec. 13, from noon to 1 p.m.

# CCISD approves rebuild project

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the schematic design for the Clear View High School rebuild project at the Nov. 26 regular meeting.  
 The schematic design is the first phase of the large-scale project and is based upon site conditions, programming requirements, and phasing considerations.  
 The Clear View High School building opened in 1938 as Webster High School. About \$45 million of the 2017 bond funds will be allocated for a rebuild of the new high school on vacant land beside the current building with a 350-student capacity. The district is working with the city of Webster to salvage the art-deco entrance from the old building for a possible visitor's center.  
 Actual construction is scheduled to begin in February 2019 with an anticipated completion in August 2020. PBK Architects is the architect for this project.

# Stuchbery names rolls

Stuchbery Elementary has named its honor and merit rolls for the first nine-weeks.  
**Honor Roll Third grade**  
 Marahi Aguilar, Nicholas Aguilera, Camila Lopez, Makayla Mendez, Julian Moreno, Alizae Munoz, Emily Nazario, Devin Smith and Chen Zide.  
**Fourth grade**  
 Tyler Albert, Kamron Fernandez, Anthony Lainez, Thong Luong, Stephanie Marquez, Nathaniel Padilla and Ana Reyes.  
**Merit Roll Third grade**  
 Miranda Aguilar, Liliana Escuadra, Jazbel Garcia, Olivia Joiner, Sophie Nguyen, Johnny Nguyen, Enijah Ploucha, Aliah Rivera, Shai Silva, Brianna Soto and Ca Tran.  
**Fourth grade**  
 Judith Andrade, Alexander Castillo, Chelsea Hua, Duy Lam, Ashley Martinez, Andrew Posey, Anne Tran and Rajanae Woods.

**Office Furniture Sale**  
*Everything must go!*  
 Desks, filing cabinets, reception desk, phone system with voice mail and ten phones, pictures, chairs, etc.  
**12929 Gulf Freeway, Suite 320**  
 (next to Las Haciendas) between Beltway 8 and Fuqua  
 Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.  
 Call 281-481-8062 for after hours appointment

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 League City  
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 M,T,W,Th,F 8:30am to 5:00pm  
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 All Services are Free and Confidential.  
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 Beltway 8 South  
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# Burnett Elementary announces first nine-weeks awards

Burnett Elementary has announced its awards for the first nine-weeks.

## Good Citizenship

Alma Argueta, Louisa Aviles, Allison Barahona, Jose Bonilla, Ashby Caniff, Mya Cantu, Celeste Casarez, Serenity Crabtree, Elijah Cruzado, Ariez Curtis, Santiago Diaz, Chloe Escobar, Jaeliana Espinoza, Valeria Espinoza, Argueta Flores, Yulissa Flores, Alicia Garcia, Emily Gonzales and Adan Hernandez.

Ezequiel Hernandez, Erik Hoang, Son Hoang, Daveyn Jackson-Little, Ximena Jasso, Derek Machuca, Marlon Machuca, Aylinn Maldonado, Ethan Maldonado, Brisa Martinez, Jacob Mendez, Jacob Miniel, Oswaldo Montecinos, Sebastian Negrete, Giselle Nguyen, Hau Nguyen, John Nguyen, Adam Pham and Andy Pineda.

Victoria Pineda, Alejandra Quintanilla, Kayla Quiroz, Jasmine Russell, Sarai Russell, Gabriela Salazar, Erik Sanchez, Geovanny Sanchez, JC Tamayo, Cayla Tang, Damien Torres, Isabella Villarreal and Jazlynn Wimbush.

## Perfect Attendance

Samuel Aguilar, Lorena Aguirre, Natalie Alfaro, Jay Amaya, Alma Argueta, Angela Argueta, Alfred Arias, Anderson Aviles, Leah Aviles, Lydia Aviles, Allison Barahona, Carlos Beltran, Julian Benedict, Jadier Benitez, Terry Betts, La'Dejah Bolding, Ashby Caniff, Torrie Caniff, Miriam Casas, Anderson Castillo, Destiny Cathy, Jonathan Chavarria and Genaro Chavez.

Lyla Coleman, Yarely Cortez, Serenity Crabtree, Elijah Cruzado, Ariez Curtis, Jeff Cuyuch, Alyanna De La Garza, Brianna Delcid, Joshua DeLeon, Anthony Dominguez, Cain Dominguez, Mari Carmen Dominguez, Edgar Douglas, Ruby Douglas, Naomi Duong, Paige Duong, Angelica Elizalde and Chloe Escobar.

Sebastian Esparza, Jaeliana Espinoza, Jaelynn Espitia, Sofia Figueroa, Giorgio Flores, Yulissa Flores, Brandon Galicia, Sara Galicia, David Gaona, Irvin Gaona, Stephanie Gaona, Adrian Garcia, Alicia Garcia, Samuel Garcia, Phenix Gomez, Gabriel Gonzales, Joseph Gonzales, Vanessa Gonzales, Carlos Gonzalez, Keira Gonzalez and Sebastian Gonzalez.

Indra Gregory, Manu Gregory, Caela Griffin, Mariana Guajardo, Alexia Guerra, Kayla Guzman, Skye Guzman, Ezequiel Henriquez, Adan Hernandez, Ezequiel Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Yaira Hernandez, Nicholas Hinojosa, Son Hoang, Jaxon Humphrey, Jacob Hurtado, Jayden Izaguirre, Nicole Izaguirre and Daveyn Jackson-Little.

Alfonso Jimenez, Gibson Jordan, Gerson Joya, Cheyenne Kelley, Jasara Key, Marcus Leavitt, Stephanie Ledesma, Javier Legaspi, Roy'Elle Lizcano, Sydney Lumsey, Derek Machuca, Marlon Machuca, Connor Maldonado, Ellie Maldonado, Humberto Maldonado, Calissa Marquez, Brisa Martinez, Kennedy Mejia, Barbara Melchor and Eliana Mendoza.

Elijah Metz, Jacob Miniel, Jose Montano, Oswaldo Montecinos, Ruth Moshia, John Muñoz, Aubrey Navarre, Ryleigh Navarre, Sebastian Negrete, Hau Nguyen, Jade Nguyen, John Nguyen, Nhan Nguyen, Ryan Nguyen, Sophia Nguyen, Thai Nguyen, Toby Nguyen, William Nnaji, Michael Nwosu, Miracle Nwosu, Isaiah Ochoa, Marie Onofre, Aiden Ortiz and Jyadelin Palacios.

Xavier Palomares, Emilio Palomo, Jasmin Pantoja, Adam Pham, Andy Pineda, Melany Pineda, Victoria Pineda, Vincent Pineda, Joy Premanand, Melany Rangel, Michael Rentas, Aliyah Rhodes, Lucero Rivera, Reyna Rivera, Javier Robles, Angel Rocha, Estrella Rocha, Maritza Rocha and Evan Rodriguez.

Christopher Romero, Jesus Romero, Jaylen Ruiz, Sarai Russell, Kaley Sagastizado, Gabriella Salazar, Erik Sanchez, Iker Sanchez, Nathaly Sanchez, Isai Saravia, Camila Serrano, Nawaf Sharif, Ian Silguero, Julian Silva, Diego Solano, Colten Tang, Cameron Taylor, Ayden Tejada Lopez, Abel Torres, Damian Torres, Jacob Torres, Benjamin Tovar, Isabella Tovar, Elinai Visuet, Minh Vo, Long Vu, Jazlynn

Wimbush, Xamira Zambrano and Liany Zarazua.

## All Star Readers Kindergarten

Maryann Balderas, Emery Banda, Elijah Cruzado, Noah Cubos, Sophia Cubos, Brianna Delcid, Ruby Douglas, Naomi Duong, Malek Elashheb, Vijay Green, Isabella Guerra, Kameron Joseph, Giselle Nguyen, Sophia Nguyen, Hamdan Odeh, Adam Pham, Maxwell Pion, Tony Rentas, Maritza Rocha, Sarai Russell, Elinai Visuet and Daniel Zanetti.

**First grade**  
Abedalbaset Abedrabbo, Sara Galicia, Son Hoang, Allie Lamb, Jacob Miniel, Xavier Palomares, Javier Robles and Aldo Velasquez.

**Second grade**  
Alyanna De La Garza, Christian Gomez, Marlon Machuca and Brisa Martinez.

## Honor Roll

**Fourth grade**  
Victor Alatorre, Paige Duong, Diego Garay, Caela Griffin, Samuel Moreno, Toby Nguyen, Kaden Ramirez and Xamira Zambrano.

## Merit Roll

**Fourth grade**  
Alisha Escobar and Andy Pineda.

## "On a Roll" Roll

### Third grade

Angela Argueta, Alfred Arias, Ayleen Briseno, Riddick Holiman, Jasara Key, Stephanie Ledesma, Antonio Lemos, Connor Maldonado, Humberto Maldonado, Nathan Moya, Aiden Ortiz, Richard Perez, Aliyah Rhodes, Nathaly Sanchez, Marley Strickney, Cayla Tang and Isabella Tovar.

### Fourth grade

Breniyah Brags, Mya Cantu, Gloria Castaneda, Angel Dominguez, Joanna Espinoza, Fabian Fraide, Brandon Galicia, Alicia Garcia, Skye Guzman, Ximena Jasso, Thomas Jones, Calissa Marquez, Nayeli Martinez, Rory Martinez, Elijah Metz, Ngoc Nguyen, Isaiha Ochoa and Minyur Odeh.

Mikeal Pantaleon, Andy Phan, Axel Pion, Kaden Ramirez, Abilyn Rivera-Martinez, Isaiha Romero, Gael Salinas, Erik Sanchez, Geovanny Sanchez, Damian Torres, Jacob Torres and Jazlynn Wimbush.

## Principal's Award

### Third grade

students get an early start on learning labs skills with state-of-the-art equipment so they can leave UHCL with valuable experience that will help them quickly find careers in the field of biotechnology. For his work in the classroom, Rhode was selected as UHCL's 2006-2007 nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Award.

At UHCL, Chandra teaches health care planning and marketing, foundations in health care administration leadership and health care ethics to undergraduate and graduate students. He has served as the chair of the Healthcare Administration department for four years, and is a prolific researcher in health care marketing, consumer behavior and health care ethics. He is among UHCL's most internationally known professors, having served as the program chair for 12 major international conferences as well as on the planning committee for 20 conferences worldwide. Chandra received the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award by the UHCL Chapter of the National Society of Leadership Success, and in 2015, he won the Outstanding Professor Award, given by the UHCL Alumni Association.

This fall's candidates will join more than 66,000 others who have graduated from the university. UHCL began as an upper-level university in 1974, admitting juniors, seniors and graduate students. The university expanded to admit undergraduates in 2014.

NRG Arena is located adjacent to NRG Stadium. Guests do not need tickets to attend. There is a cash-only fee for parking.

On Friday, Dec. 14, the UHCL Alumni Association will host Senior Send-off, a reception for graduates, friends and families formally known as Soaring Hawks Celebration, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Atrium II of the Bayou Building.

The event is free but advance tickets are required.

## Math Wizards Kindergarten

Torrie Caniff, Elijah Cruzado, Brianna Delcid, Ruby Douglas, Naomi Duong, Malek Elashheb, Vijay Green, Isabella Guerra, Kameron Joseph, Giselle Nguyen, Sophia Nguyen, Hamdan Odeh, Adam Pham, Maxwell Pion, Tony Rentas, Maritza Rocha, Sarai Russell, Elinai Visuet and Daniel Zanetti.

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### Fourth grade

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# Meador teachers bowl for turkeys



Meador Elementary held its annual staff Turkey Bowl on Nov. 15. Teams bowled with frozen turkeys and members on the winning team were able to take home their own turkey. This year's winning team was the third-grade teachers and friends. Shown with their winning turkeys are, left to right, Maria Gonzalez,

third-grade teacher; John Holder, third-grade teacher; Megan Mayes, third-grade teacher; Margo Ramirez, third-grade teacher; Sarah Rankin, third-grade teacher; Rose Ndebee, speech pathologist; and Melissa Moreno, Special Education clerk.

Photo submitted

# Annie Moses Band's Christmas concert tour comes to UHCL Bayou Theater

With award-winning, singer-songwriting parents, it's no wonder Annie Moses and her five siblings grew up with music in such a prominent role in their lives. Becoming a professional musical entity as a family felt organic and natural, said Moses. The classical-crossover Nashville-based Annie Moses Band, known for their virtuosic strings and vocals, will perform a Christmas concert at University of Houston-Clear Lake's Bayou Theater Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

"Our faith has always been very important to our family," said Moses, who is a violinist and the band's lead singer. "We glorify God in our craft, and it's the reason for the excellence we pursued."

Moses said that prior to formally creating a band in 2001, she and her next two siblings, violinist Alex and cellist Benjamin, were accepted into the Juilliard Pre-College Program in New York when they were 16, 14 and 11 years old, respectively.

"Our younger three siblings assimilated later," Moses said. "We changed and morphed, and the younger ones developed the skills they needed to incorporate into our sound."

Moses said it had been a wild, creative journey. Among the band's most important initiatives is the work of the Annie Moses Foundation, which seeks to empower

the next generation of young artists as they navigate their artistic development.

"The foundation grew out of our calling to music," said Moses. "So much of the world of music is consumed by darkness or ambition. It should be an expression of love and life. The goal in all the foundation's work is to raise up a new generation of artists who are deeply rooted in faith but highly skilled, and be a force for life and light in the world."

Moses added that the band has had three PBS specials, three Top 10 classical crossover albums, and has played Carnegie Hall as well as the Grand Ole Opry, where the band is kicking off this year's Christmas tour.

To purchase tickets or for more information about the 2018-2019 season at the Bayou Theater, visit [www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/events-tickets](http://www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/events-tickets).

"I've always said, our sound is New York trained but Nashville raised," Moses said.

The Annie Moses Band, said Moses, is known for its Christmas music and is in "full force at Christmastime."

"We are a genre-defying band," said Moses. "We are known for taking a traditional song and performing it in a new way. We have a string quartet, percussion and piano. It's high energy and emotional. We want to bring people to the excitement and the deep meaning of Christmas."

To purchase tickets or for more information about the 2018-2019 season at the Bayou Theater, visit [www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/events-tickets](http://www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/events-tickets).

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# UHCL holds commencement ceremonies at NRG Arena

More than 1,050 University of Houston-Clear Lake students are expected to graduate this semester. Of those, approximately 892 plan to cross the stage at two commencement ceremonies on Sunday, Dec. 16 at NRG Arena, 1 NRG Park. A total of 667 will receive bachelor's degrees, 377 will receive master's degrees, and 12 will graduate with doctorate degrees. Additionally, 164 of 294 summer 2018 graduates plan to receive their diplomas at this commencement.

At noon, the college of science and engineering will confer degrees to 210 candidates and the college of education will honor 194. Larry H. Rhode, UH-Clear Lake's associate professor of biology and biotechnology, will deliver the commencement address.

At 5 p.m., 277 candidates in the college of human sciences and humanities will receive degrees, as will 375 candidates in the college of business. The commencement speaker is Ashish Chandra, UHCL's professor of Healthcare Administration.

Rhode currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in general biology, molecular genetics, developmental biology, tissue culture and stem cell biotechnology. He has played a leading role in developing UHCL's STEM curriculum and has spearheaded and chaired a master of science in biotechnology program, which emphasizes laboratory training for graduate students. His goal is to ensure

students get an early start on learning labs skills with state-of-the-art equipment so they can leave UHCL with valuable experience that will help them quickly find careers in the field of biotechnology. For his work in the classroom, Rhode was selected as UHCL's 2006-2007 nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Award.

At UHCL, Chandra teaches health care planning and marketing, foundations in health care administration leadership and health care ethics to undergraduate and graduate students. He has served as the chair of the Healthcare Administration department for four years, and is a prolific researcher in health care marketing, consumer behavior and health care ethics. He is among UHCL's most internationally known professors, having served as the program chair for 12 major international conferences as well as on the planning committee for 20 conferences worldwide. Chandra received the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award by the UHCL Chapter of the National Society of Leadership Success, and in 2015, he won the Outstanding Professor Award, given by the UHCL Alumni Association.

This fall's candidates will join more than 66,000 others who have graduated from the university. UHCL began as an upper-level university in 1974, admitting juniors, seniors and graduate students. The university expanded to admit undergraduates in 2014.

NRG Arena is located adjacent to NRG Stadium. Guests do not need tickets to attend. There is a cash-only fee for parking.

On Friday, Dec. 14, the UHCL Alumni Association will host Senior Send-off, a reception for graduates, friends and families formally known as Soaring Hawks Celebration, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Atrium II of the Bayou Building.

The event is free but advance tickets are required.

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# Clear Brook debate keeps up reputation

Clear Brook High School's Wolverine debate team continued their competitive season this weekend at Alief Taylor High School.

Public Forum's newest team, Benjamin Eappen and his partner Adarsh Suresh, continued to excel by placing third overall, earning six state points for a season total of eight. Christa Westheimer and Fizza Dhanani, Clear Brook's most experienced PF team, placed second overall.

The team also kept up their reputation as being the best in the district in terms of speaking events, with Adarsh Suresh placing third in Domestic Extemporaneous speaking, and Sarvesh Subramanian placing sixth in Foreign Extemporaneous speaking. Isaiah Hall, Andersen French and Christa Westheimer all made it to semifinals in DX as well, garnering one point each.

In Lincoln-Douglas debate, Sarvesh Subramanian and Bennett Davies reached quarterfinals and double octofinals respectively.

The Wolverines plan to continue their journey to TFA state next week at the Clear Springs High School debate tournament.



The Clear Brook debate team continues its quest to TFA state. Shown are team members Adarsh Suresh (left) and Benjamin Eappen.

# Date set for annual golf tournament

April 15, 2019, is the date set for the 10th annual Keep Kids In School Golf Tournament, the premier Bay Area charity tournament benefiting Communities In Schools-Bay Area.

The all-inclusive shamble tournament has raised more than \$1.5 million since inception. CIS-Bay serves 26 campuses in Clear Creek

and Dickinson Independent School Districts.

The event will be held at Bay Oaks Country Club and will include hole-in-one opportunities, a putting contest, chipping contest, breakfast/lunch throughout the day, steak dinner, martini bar, margaritas and much more.

"Today, there are 21,908 children in Clear Creek

and Dickinson Independent School Districts who can potentially drop out of school. Reasons outside the child's control, such as hunger, homelessness and language barriers decrease their chances of success in school and in life. The number of children dealing with "adult" problems increases year after year," says Duane Bolpa,

chairman of this year's tournament.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information on the tournament contact Hillary Gramm, CIS-Bay Area resource development director, at [hillaryg@cisba.org](mailto:hillaryg@cisba.org) or 281-486-6698.

To learn more about Communities In Schools-Bay Area, visit [www.cisba.org](http://www.cisba.org).

"Today, there are 21,908 children in Clear Creek

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## Home renovations irk Beverly Hills residents



The front of the controversial house on Olentangy is shown above. Despite being issued a permit for a single-family dwelling with only one front door, the contractor has installed four front doors. A fence has been installed to hide the modifications.



Each of the apparent four front units of the house has an individual patio. At least one of the individual units has its own mailbox.

New construction on a house on Olentangy in the Beverly Hills subdivision (shown above and to the left) is concerning neighbors, who suspect the residence may be used to sublet, which would violate the community's deed restrictions and lower surrounding home values. The residential home now features four front doors with four separate patios. A fence has been added to block the view of the changes. The residence now appears to feature as many as eight separate living quarters all constructed in an 800-square-foot structure. Some neighbors suspect the house may even be used for human smuggling or prostitution. After being contacted by the Beverly Hills Civic Club, the Leader reached out to city officials regarding the project. Officials told the Leader the contractor had been issued a permit for the work, but construction was to be a single-family dwelling and to include only one front door. When confronted with evidence of four front doors, city officials red-flagged the property. See future editions of the Leader for follow-up information.

Photos by Marie Flickinger

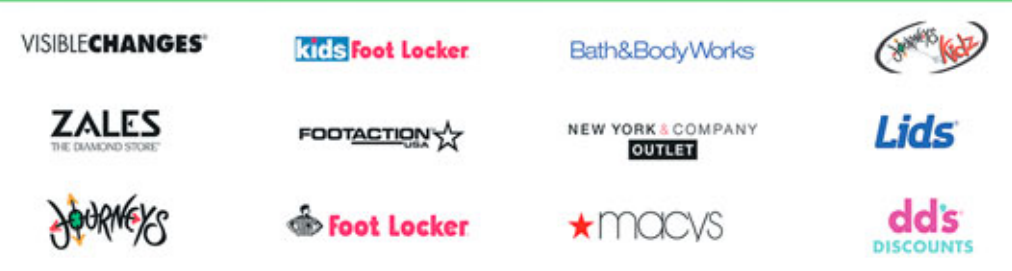


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## Guardrail, underground collapsing



A collapsing guardrail on the southbound lanes of Beamer just north of Scarsdale has concerned many South Belt residents. The collapse seems to be caused by ground eroding near the road. Harris County officials have deemed the problem an emergency and said it would be addressed in the next one to two weeks. See related photo on Page 1A.

Photo by David Flickinger

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# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

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## Area sports registrations SBGSA online sign-up

The South Belt Girls Softball Association has initiated early registration activities for the 2019 spring season.

Parents may register their children, ages 4 through 16 as of Jan. 1, 2019, online at www.southbeltsoftball.com.

The early registration session is running now through Dec. 31, 2018, and is \$70 per player in addition to participation in the league's candy fundraising effort.

There will also be an in-person sign-up day held at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park Saturday, Dec. 22. More details on that event are due soon.

Regular registration within the league begins Jan. 1, 2019, and will cost \$75 per player in addition to a \$135 candy fundraiser buyout fee.

For more details on the registration activities or the league itself, visit www.southbeltsoftball.com.

## Online registration at SBHLL

Online registration is currently underway within the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League as officials prepare for the 2019 spring season.

For players ages 3 and 4 (born between Sept. 2014 and Jan. 1, 2016), the cost is \$125, while those ages 5 through 16 (born between Sept. 2002 and Aug. 2014) will pay \$200 per player.

The league will also for the seventh season offer children ages 5 to 18 with physical and/or mental disabilities the chance to compete in the Challenger division free of charge.

While online registration is preferred, there will be additional in-person sign-up dates coming in Jan. 2019. For more information on sign-up opportunities, including documents required to be turned into the league during the sign-up process or the Challenger division, visit www.eteamz.com/sbhll.

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## District hoops: Summer Creek nips JFD girls

### Boys' play begins Dec. 7

Perhaps the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team didn't quite finish the job, but the Lady Longhorns did send a message along the way in a 50-48 loss to defending Region III finalist Summer Creek along the way.

Dobie built a 27-20 halftime lead Dec. 4 in the 22-6A opener for both teams at Dobie, only to see the Lady Bulldogs come away with the tight win at the final buzzer.

Summer Creek, which improved to 12-3 overall with the win, began league play with a win while Dobie, the two-time defending league champion, fell to 0-1 and 6-7 overall with the loss.

Dobie will return to action Fri., Dec. 7, at Pasadena. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

**JFD boys now 7-6**  
The Dobie varsity boys' team, currently 7-6 overall, will begin what prom-

ises to be a doozy of a 22-6A race Dec. 7, hosting the Pasadena Eagles at 7 p.m.

Including Dobie, six of the league's nine squads will enter 22-6A action with winning records.

Leading the way at this point is Atascocita at 11-2, with Sam Rayburn cruising along at 9-4. Summer Creek and Pasadena Memorial are both 8-4. South Houston is 8-6, with Dobie and Humble at 7-6.

Only Pasadena (5-8) and Kingwood (6-8) are

off the winning pace to date.

**Horns 2-3 at Katy**  
The Dobie boys faced off two very good opponents to start the Katy Classic, losing both but then bouncing back to close it out with two wins.

In pool play, Dobie lost 71-40 to Cinco Ranch and then fell 81-50 to Eisenhower. In the Eisenhower loss, De'Aubrión Taulton led Dobie with 15 points, and Larry Etienne scored 11.

The following day, the

Longhorns lost to Katy Taylor by a 62-50 count as Jalen Robinson made all of his seven shots en route to a team-high 18 points for Dobie.

The Longhorns jumped out to a 24-10 lead in the first quarter and downed La Porte 55-49 behind 15 points from Jalen Lendsey.

Another big 26-10 first-quarter run paced the Longhorns to a 65-48 victory over Richmond Foster as the locals went to the 7-6 mark.

## Brook, Dobie athletes score academic honors, more

The Houston Area Volleyball Coaches Association has released its all-academic team selections for 2018-2019, and several local performers merited inclusion.

To qualify for the honor, student-athletes must maintain an average of 90

or better in their collective courses over the duration of the school year.

Clear Brook came up big, landing nine Lady Wolverine varsity volleyball players on the team.

The players included Mayce Barker, Kennedy Crutchfield, Reagan

Dunlap, Kristenrose Le, Simone Lenoir, Kennedy Miller, Rebecca Simon, Kayleigh Schultz and Samantha Saladrigas.

From Dobie, senior Taylor Pleasants, the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player, also made the GHVCA's all-academic list.

**Newsome an All-Star**

Clear Brook junior Kailin Newsome, the co-Offensive Player of the Year as a junior this season in District 24-6A, has been selected as a Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Star and will compete later this summer.

**Brook all-state FB**

Four varsity football players from Clear Brook have scored academic all-state honors, including Collin Rhodes (first team), Nicolas Rogstad (second team), and Michael DeJesus and Isaiah Gundling (honorable mention).

## Dobie's Martinez wins MMA bantamweight title belt



At left, Dobie High School graduate Leomana "Manaboi" Martinez rejoices as a champion after claiming the Fury Fighting Club's bantamweight title with a second-round TKO via punches over the previous belt holder Nov. 8, in Humble. A lifelong martial arts enthusiast, Martinez played baseball at Dobie but admits he always had a dream of becoming an MMA fighter. He scored five wins in six tries as an amateur and now has five wins in six fights as a professional. After a brief break for the holiday season, Martinez is looking forward to defending his championship early next year. Ultimately, he hopes to one day be invited to join the sports ultimate organization — the Ultimate Fighting Championship. See related story on Page 2B.

## TTCA to recognize Dobie's Moreno Jr.

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

Manuel Moreno Jr. recalls not being very keen on the idea of playing the game as a youth all those years ago in Galveston, yet today he cannot imagine his life and subsequent career path having gone

any better, all because of

tennis. Moreno will be honored by the Texas Tennis Coaches Association for his 35 years as a coach Dec. 7, in Dallas, and he couldn't be any more

thankful.

"Tennis is the sport of a lifetime, and in many ways I've been blessed to have had the game in my life this long," said Moreno, who played high school tennis at O'Connell

High School in his hometown of Galveston before succeeding collegiately at Lamar University in Beaumont.

"I was involved in athletics from an early age, but back then it was a time of white shirts and white shorts, and I really often thought of tennis as a goofy sport," Moreno said.

"My mother actually made my first pair of tennis shorts, and she sort of forced me to go to that first youth camp between my eighth-grade and freshman years. From there, I was hooked on the



Manuel Moreno Jr. has spent 20 of his 35 years as a high school tennis coach at Dobie, where he says helping develop young student-athletes with little experience in the game into solid players has been his greatest joy.

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## Dobie legend Cobb to CF Hall of Fame

It's official. Trevor Cobb, first one of the greatest running backs at Dobie and then Doak Walker Award winner at Rice University, is in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame.

The 1988 Dobie graduate was officially inducted into the hall of fame Dec. 4, in New York City, one of a class of 10 former collegiate football stars and three noteworthy head coaches.

Cobb starred at Dobie before signing at Rice University.

Continued on Page 3B



Trevor Cobb

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# TTCA to honor JFD's Moreno

**Continued from Page 1B** sport and wanted to get better at it every day. And coach Vince Stiglich Jr. at O'Connell had a big influence on me in the sport. He pulled me aside one day and told me that he really believed I had potential in the sport as far as playing collegiately.

"At that point, I didn't want to let him down as far as what he thought I could do, so I worked hard every day to become a better player."

"I did go on to play at Lamar University, where coach Ron Westbrook had a similar influence on myself and other players. We had a lot of success on the court, but it was more about being a family, the team bonding and the relationships you build."

It is those lessons and more that Moreno has always endeavored to instill as a tennis coach in his own right.

He first coached for 13 years back at O'Connell, then was at Clear Lake

High School for another two years before interviewing at Dobie. Now in his 20th season at Dobie, he knows he doesn't have another 35 years remaining on the courts. But regardless of whether it's one, two or five more years, what a ride it's been.

Moreno was given a commemorative watch by the TTCA for 25 years of service, then landing another crystal award for 30. On Dec. 7, he'll add to his collection, but it's not about any of that for him.

"My greatest time has been here at Dobie High School, and it's funny because at the time I was only planning to stay one year and maybe move on to somewhere else," he said.

"But the kids have been terrific over the years, and the support we've received from the administration and faculty has always been the best."

"From Jerry Speer to Steve Jamaal and now

Franklin Moses as our principals, I've always had tremendous support for myself and the kids on the court. They've all basically let me do my job out there, and there's something to be said about that. It's just been an enjoyable run here, and I still love going out there every day with the kids and working together to get better."

Make no mistake. Dobie has rarely had the top-level talent that some of the other big-name tennis schools possess.

There are only a couple of handfuls of players who have reached superchampionship or championship level status on the USTA circuit.

There are four courts at Beverly Hills, Dobie's former home, and there are a select few around the neighborhood. But South Belt largely is devoid of a year-round tennis training facility.

Thus, most of Dobie's incoming freshmen want to play tennis but have

little playing experience to draw upon. It's up to Moreno to get them up to speed. He's okay with that.

"These kids over the years have built a family atmosphere here, and they rely on each other through other life issues outside of tennis," Moreno said.

"They work hard out on the court and will do anything you ask of them in an effort to improve. They trust in my ability to help them improve, and they also love the opportunity to represent their school and their community. I wouldn't trade that for anything."

Moreno is also appreciative of his longtime substitute tennis "teacher" Howard Ranft, who took a liking to the program during Moreno's second season and has remained one of the team's biggest fans.

"I really appreciate everything 'coach Howard' and his wife Linda did (Linda Ranft died in 2017)

and have done for the program. They are another reason I have been here at Dobie. The sense of family has been tremendous. I regret missing my children's basketball games over the years in Galveston, but I think they are of the age now where they understand the dedication that is necessary."

Kelsey Moreno has graduated college with a degree in communications and has been substitute teaching while seeking a permanent position.

Moreno's son, Mitchell, is a sophomore at Sam Houston State University and has entertained the idea of perhaps entering the coaching field upon graduation.

As for his future, Moreno is also looking forward to his continued involvement with the USTA, who has again asked Moreno to serve as a Texas high school board member for a two-year term.

"The game means a lot to me" Moreno said.



Dobie High School graduate Leomana Martinez (right) conducts a post-fight interview with media personnel after winning the Fury Fighting Club's bantamweight mixed martial arts championship with a second-round TKO via punches last month

in Humble. Now 22, Martinez won five of six amateur fights before becoming a professional. Since that time, he has also been the victor in five of six bouts. Now, he has his eyes fixed on greater goals.

## Martinez an MMA title belt holder

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

At 22 years of age and already a mixed martial arts championship belt holder, Leomana "Manaboi" Martinez certainly believes he very well could be on the fast track within the sport.

Now a month removed from his Fury Fighting Club bantamweight title victory over previous champion Ricky Turcios at the Humble Civic Center, the Dobie High School graduate is the winner of five of six professional fights.

For Martinez, the sky is the limit. He's not yet been invited to the bright lights of the MMA bigwig UFC organization, but believes a few more victories just may bring him an invite.

"I get goose bumps just thinking about (joining the UFC) it," Martinez admitted. "That's obviously the ultimate goal in this sport. As a titleholder, I feel like maybe two or three more

victories could turn some heads.

"But my goal is not only to get to the UFC, but to become a champion when I get and if I get there."

A former baseball player at Dobie, Martinez saw his career cut short by a knee injury. Yet, by that time he already knew what his true calling was.

Involved in martial arts since the age of 4 and growing up during a time when MMA has enjoyed its greatest age of popularity from a worldwide perspective, Martinez gravitated toward it quickly.

"To be honest with you, I always knew I was going to be a fighter in MMA," said Martinez, who runs a martial arts studio along with his parents. "It's a tough sport and can be both physically and mentally draining, but I just believe that if I put everything I have into it, then win or lose, I've done everything I can to achieve

my dream."

A winner of five of six fights as an amateur, including all five via arm bar submission, Martinez has since relied on MAJO by striking for the majority of his pro wins.

His biggest, the FFC bantamweight title showdown against Turcios last month, was decided by second-round TKO via punches.

"I just feel like I'm a well-rounded fighter," Martinez said. "Whether it's striking, wrestling, jujitsu or whatever need be, I'm going to bring it."

"At the end of the day, if I am as mentally and physically prepared as I can be, then things are going to go my way. I truly believe that. I believe in my team and I believe in myself. It's me in that cage and it's me fighting for my MMA life, and I'm always going to go out there and do my best."

Martinez said a typical day for him involves

weight work and conditioning before he spends afternoons working with youths at his family-owned martial arts facility.

Fast forward to 7 p.m., and it's time for sparring or wrestling against members of his training gym.

His title belt now in hand, Martinez will soon travel to Hawaii for a family vacation. By the dawn of 2019, he hopes to hear from fight promoters to see where and against whom his next bout will come.

"I'm well aware that when you are champion, you are going to draw the best of the best," Martinez said. "I've already gone against some solid fighters, so I know the road will only get tougher from here. I'm young. I have plenty of time to advance in the sport. But I also have goals I want to reach. So far, things have gone as well as I could have hoped for."

## SBYSC's Bandit 2K7 headed to state championships



The South Belt Youth Soccer Club's Bandit 2K7 12-under youth squad captured the district championship and will now compete at the state championships Dec. 8-9 in San Antonio. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Luis Deras, Daniel Avila, Kevin Argueta, Eliel Mendoza, Nathan Cruz,

Andres Cardenas, Brayden McClanahan, (back row) coach Jose Cardenas, Nicolas Martinez, Joel Reyes, Aaron Sanchez, Alejandro Molina, Jezreel Ramales, coach Jose Moran, Danilo Moran, Emad Awad and team mom Marisa Meza Martinez. Not pictured is Diego Flores. Submitted photo

## Dobie's Cole among UMHB football honorees

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor football team, poised with a 13-0 record and a berth in the NCAA Division III national semifinals, placed 10 players on the D3football.com All-South Region teams, released Dec. 4.

Among them was former Dobie High School standout Reggie Cole, who has thrived in his role at cornerback after playing receiver with the Longhorns.

Cole, now a senior with the Cru, has 31 tackles and two interceptions through 13 games, in addition to six pass breakups and a fumble return for a touchdown, which came this postseason against Hardin-Simmons as the Cru came up with a 27-6 win.

In that one, Cole scooped up a Hardin-Simmons fumble and raced 88 yards the other way as the Cru eventually rolled to the easy win.

For his play thus far this season, Cole was named a second-team all-region pick.

Also for the Cru, running back Markeith Miller was voted South Region Offensive Player of the Year, and the Cru had seven first-team selections and three second-team picks.

Miller, a senior running back from Garland High School, won South Region Offensive Player of the Year and also claimed a spot on the All-Region first team. He has run for 1,606 yards and a school and conference-record 27 touchdowns this season.

Miller also has two touchdown receptions on the year to set another UMHB and American Southwest Conference mark with 29 total scores.

Joey Longoria, a junior defensive tackle from Pearland High School,

leads the Cru with seven sacks and has 11 tackles for loss among his 56 total tackles.

Longoria was named the American Southwest Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year this

season.

Cole also has two interceptions, six pass breakups and a fumble return for a touchdown.

Jefferson Fritz, a sophomore safety from Kaufman High School, set

a new school and conference record with 10 interceptions this season. He also has seven pass breakups and 35 tackles and was named ASC Defensive Player of the Year.

UMHB is 13-0 on the

season and went 9-0 in ASC play to win its 14th consecutive conference title.

UMHB will host Wisconsin-Whitewater in the National Semifinals Dec. 8, at Crusader Stadium in a 2:30 p.m. kickoff.



Dobie graduate Reggie Cole (7) has made a big impact defensively for the Mary Hardin-Baylor football program, helping the Cru to a 13-0 record and a berth in the NCAA Division III national semifinals Nov. 8. The senior defensive back was named a

second-team all-region selection this season, courtesy of 31 overall tackles, a pair of interceptions and more to help pace the team's defense. Cole is also a two-time all-academic honoree in the American Southwest Conference. Photo by David Morris



Leomana "Manaboi" Martinez (left) has risen through the ranks in the mixed martial arts world, putting together a 5-1 overall record as a professional to this point, including winning the Fury Fighting Club's bantamweight championship belt with a sec-

ond-round technical knockout against previous title holder Ricky Turcios last month at the Humble Civic Center. Above, Martinez delivers a strike against an opponent earlier this year.

Courtesy photo

Entering 20th season at SJ

# San Jac baseball's Koehler earns ABCA honor

Expanding its reach into the junior college baseball ranks, the American Baseball Coaches Association, in conjunction with Baseball America, will honor longtime San Jacinto College baseball assistant coach Kory Koehler next month in Dallas.

Koehler, a native New Yorker, played catcher at San Jacinto College during the 1999 and 2000 seasons before finishing his playing career at the University of Houston.

Now entering his 20th overall season as an assistant with the Gators, Koehler has been named ABCA's first-ever recipient of the Assistant Coach of the Year in the junior college ranks.

Baseball America has partnered with the American Baseball Coaches Association for the last 20 years to present the Assistant Coach of the Year award.

Previous honorees have included Tim Corbin (Clemson) and Brian O'Connor (Notre Dame),



**Kory Koehler began his affiliation with San Jacinto College as a catcher (1999-2000) and is now set to begin his 20th season as an assistant coach with the Gators. Next month, Koehler will be recognized as an American Baseball Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year in the National Junior College Athletic Association ranks.**

who went on to win national championships as head coaches, Derek Johnson (Vanderbilt), who is now a major league pitching coach, and longtime assistants such as Dean Stotz (Stanford), Rob Fornasiere (Minnesota) and Mike Birkbeck (Kent State).

Duke associate head coach Josh Jordan in October was named the 2018 honoree after helping lead the Blue Devils to their first ever super regionals appearance.

This year, for the first time, Baseball America and ABCA have expanded the awards beyond the Division I ranks and are honoring coaches at the Division II, Division III, NAIA, junior college and high school ranks.

This year's honorees include a coach who this year won a national title, as well as some longtime assistants at premier programs from across the country, including San Jac's Koehler.

The winners will be

recognized at ABCA's 75th annual convention Jan. 3-6, in Dallas.

As a player, Koehler was fortunate enough to play in two JUCO World Series, and during his time as a coach, the team has made 12 trips to Grand Junction.

Obviously, Koehler appreciates the success he's been a part of as a coach. Winning at a consistent level certainly involves having talented players and crafted coaches, but Koehler has seen San Jacinto College go the extra step.

"For me, each year is a new start. I've been very fortunate in my time here at San Jac," Koehler told sanjacsports.com prior to last season.

"This is my alma mater and it means the world to me to continue to be a part of such a wonderful program and bring national championship back to SJ."

Koehler is also the college's lead health and wellness director on the North campus.

# NFF's College FB Hall of Fame welcomes former Rice, JFD great

Continued from Page 1B

Holding nearly every rushing record in Rice history, Cobb cemented his name among the all-time greats when he took home the 1991 Doak Walker Award as the best running back in the nation.

He becomes the seventh Owl player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A consensus First Team All-American in 1991, Cobb became the first Owl to win one of college football's major individual awards when he received the Doak Walker Award.

A finalist for the award again as a senior, he went on to be named the 1992 Southwest Conference Offensive Player of the Year and Male Athlete of the Year after leading Rice to its first winning season in 30 years.

A three-time all-conference selection, he completed his career ranked second on the SWC career rushing list with 4,948 yards, which ranked eighth on the NCAA career list at the time and now ranks 24th in NCAA history.

Cobb became the first Owl and fourth SWC player to rush for more than 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons, and he holds the top three season totals in school history, capped by his 1,692 yards in 1991.

Cobb's other conference career records include all-purpose yards (6,512), rushing attempts (1,091) and 200-yard games in a season (6).

He also set 17 school records, including season and career marks for rushing attempts (306/1,091), career rushing touchdowns (38) and career 100-yard games (24).

The recipient of the 1992 SWC American

Spirit Award for achievement on and off the field, Cobb held Rice's season and career scoring marks until 2008.

After his collegiate career, Cobb played in the 1993 Senior Bowl and the East-West Shrine Game with the Kansas City Chiefs and the Chicago Bears.

The Dobie High School graduate also played for the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europe in 1996.

A member of the State of Texas Sports and the Southwest Conference halls of fame, Cobb was selected as a 2017 "Honor Jersey" at Rice where a member of the current team wore No. 45 in his honor during the season.

He returned to college and received his bachelor's degree in 2001.

At Dobie, Cobb was elected to the school's Hall of Honor in 2014 and is also a member of the

Pasadena ISD's Athletics Hall of Fame, where he was part of the 2013 class of inductees.

The NFF's 2018 College Football Hall of Fame class also included former Penn State University quarterback Kerry Collins (1991-1994), University of Montana quarterback Dave Dickenson (1992-1995), University of Illinois linebacker Dana Howard (1991-1994), Georgia Tech University receiver Calvin Johnson (2004-2006), Temple University running back Paul Palmer (1983-1986), University of Miami safety Ed Reed (1998-2001), University of Georgia offensive lineman Matt Stinchcomb, University of Nebraska offensive lineman Aaron Taylor and University of Michigan cornerback Charles Woodson. Fomer Texas and now North Carolina head coach Mack Brown also entered.

## PISD Intermediate Boys' Basketball Through Nov. 27

8A Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
South Houston	1	0	0	2	1	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	2	1	0
Miller	0	1	0	1	2	0
Southmore	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Thompson 77, Miller 46  
South Houston 51, Southmore 27  
San Jacinto 54, Jackson 26

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	0	0
Queens	1	0	0	2	1	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	2	0
Bondy	0	1	0	1	2	0
Park View	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 44, Bondy 39  
Queens 50, Park View 22

8B Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
South Houston	1	0	0	3	0	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	2	1	0
Miller	0	1	0	1	2	0
Southmore	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

Thompson 32, Miller 28  
South Houston 33,  
San Jacinto 41, Jackson 8

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	0	0
Park View	1	0	0	1	2	0
Jackson	0	0	0	0	3	0
Queens	0	1	0	0	3	0
Bondy	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 44, Bondy 34  
Park View 32, Queens 23

7A Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
South Houston	1	0	0	3	0	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	1	2	0
Southmore	0	1	0	1	2	0
Miller	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Thompson 43, Miller 15  
San Jacinto 38, Jackson 21  
South Houston 51, Southmore 19

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	0	0
Queens	1	0	0	1	2	0
Jackson	0	0	0	0	3	0
Park View	0	1	0	2	1	0
Bondy	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 44, Bondy 30  
Queens 52, Park View 30

7B Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
Southmore	1	0	0	2	1	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	2	1	0
Miller	0	1	0	1	2	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

San Jacinto 35, Jackson 2  
Thompson 46, Miller 14  
Southmore 21, South Houston 15

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	0	0
Queens	1	0	0	1	2	0
Jackson	0	0	0	0	3	0
Park View	0	1	0	2	1	0
Bondy	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

Queens 27, South Houston 26  
Beverly Hills 30, Bondy 28

## PISD Intermediate Girls' Basketball Through Dec. 4

8L Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
Southmore	1	0	0	1	2	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	1	2	0
Miller	0	1	0	1	2	0
South Houston	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Thompson 37, Miller 15  
Southmore 37, South Houston 4

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	0	0
Queens	1	0	0	2	1	0
Jackson	0	0	0	3	0	0
Bondy	0	1	0	1	2	0
Park View	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 38, Bondy 18  
Queens 34, Park View 14  
Jackson 41, San Jacinto 27

8D Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
Southmore	1	0	0	1	2	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	2	1	0
Miller	0	1	0	2	1	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

San Jacinto 36, Jackson 17  
Thompson 28, Miller 10  
Southmore 22, South Houston 11

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Queens	1	0	0	2	1	0
Bondy	1	0	0	2	1	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	2	0
Beverly Hills	0	1	0	1	2	0
Park View	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Bondy 27, Beverly Hills 24  
Queens 19, Park View 18

7L Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Thompson	1	0	0	3	0	0
South Houston	1	0	0	3	0	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	3	0	0
Miller	0	1	0	2	1	0
Southmore	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

South Houston 28, Southmore 20  
Thompson 42, Miller 22  
San Jacinto 38, Jackson 8

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
Queens	1	0	0	1	2	0
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	1	2	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	2	0
Bondy	0	1	0	1	2	0
Park View	0	1	0	0	3	0

### Game Scores

Queens 35, Park View 8  
Beverly Hills 14, Bondy 12

7D Records	District			Overall		
Zone A	W	L	T	W	L	T
Miller	1	0	0	3	0	0
Southmore	1	0	0	1	2	1
San Jacinto	0	0	0	2	1	0
Thompson	0	1	0	2	1	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	2	0

### Game Scores

Miller 21, Thompson 19  
San Jacinto 13, Jackson 10  
Southmore 24, South Houston 14

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

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 28, Bondy 21  
Park View 24, Queens 17

# CALENDAR

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

**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 more information, or drop in.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

**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 713-856-1611.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

**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.

**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 jpochsner@aol.com for details.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 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 more information, call 281-484-

# LEADER READERS

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- \$10 for 1 week • 3 Weeks - \$27

25 Words - \$8 for 1 week - 3

Weeks - \$21; Business: 25 Words

- \$10 for 1 week • 3 Weeks - \$27

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**SOUTHBELT - Data-Systems - Hard Drive Data Recovery - Linux Installation.** 10909 Sabo, Suite 120, 281-481-0909. E-mail: sds@walkerlaw.com. TF  
**GARAGE SALE**  
 11102 SAGETRAIL. Fri, Dec. 7, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lots of boy's clothes and shoes, toys, household items, women's clothes

and much more. Please bring cash and no bills over \$20. 12-6  
**9903 KIRKDALE DR.** Sat & Sun, Dec. 8 & 9, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Clothing - jeans, baby clothes, shoes in good condition. Nike Hyperdunks, Dora items, baseball, softball equipment, household items. 12-6  
**HELP WANTED**  
**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED.** Twice a week, for four hours a day. Long-term employment. Call Fred at 281-788-5115. 12-6  
**LOST PET**  
 LOST - YOUNG, SMALL, black cat (with chip) in

Kirkwood South subdivision near Kirkvale and Kirkshire. Last seen on Sunday, Nov. 11. Please call 713-818-6049 if found. TF  
**MISCELLANEOUS**  
**FOREST PARK EAST CEMETERY:** Three spaces, choice location Section 206, lot 89, spaces 7, 8, 9. Call 281-487-7932. TF  
**SERVICE**  
**HANDYMAN.** 37 yrs. experience. South Belt Resident since 1985. Call David 832-434-8108. 12-13  
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## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT



**The Southeast VFD needs you!**

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

## REAL ESTATE

### Available Office Space

Located in the Leader office building  
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**281-481-5656 or 281-948-2714**

## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
 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 713-856-1611.  
**Sagemont Civic Club** - Meetings are held the second Monday, Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. 7:30 p.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org. 7:30 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the education bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Russell at 832-483-6715.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
 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. 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. 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, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
 Noon  
**Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For details, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
**Free dance lessons** - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180. 1:30 p.m.  
**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 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 bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
 7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.  
**Youth 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, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 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 bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.  
**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](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information. 8 p.m.  
**Bay Area New Democrats** - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit [www.bayareanewdemocrats.org](http://www.bayareanewdemocrats.org).

8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
 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 more information, or drop in. 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 [aglowlighthouse.org](http://aglowlighthouse.org). 10 a.m.  
**Fun Bunch** - for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the second 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 at jpochnsner@aol.com for details. 11:30 a.m.  
**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, 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.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org).

Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 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 Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For more information, 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 (inside youth building). For additional information, call 713-856-1611.

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## Brook's Routsas lands honors at UTSA



Yannis Routsas, a 2014 Clear Brook High School graduate and current senior on the University of Texas at San Antonio football team, was named to the Conference all-academic team, honoring his performance off the field this season as a mechanical engineering major with a 3.51 grade-point average. As a fifth-year senior this season, Routsas averaged a school-record 43 yards per attempt while landing 26 of his punts inside the opponents'

20-yard line. He was subsequently named to the Conference USA second team for his efforts on the field. As a junior in 2017, Routsas was one of 10 semifinalists for the Ray Guy Award, recognizing the nation's top punter. That season, he averaged 41.6 yards on 43 punts and put 28 of those tries inside the opponent's 20-yard line. At Clear Brook, Routsas handled both kicking and punting duties.

*Photo courtesy of UTSA athletics*

## Dobie's Mercado chooses Angelina baseball

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

So far, so good as Dobie senior baseball player Jeffry Mercado chases his dream of playing professionally one day soon. The three-year varsity starter will play his senior season at Dobie next spring before taking his talents to Angelina College in Lufkin.

Considering Mercado arrived here in the United States from the Dominican Republic roughly four years ago with little English-speaking skills and few baseball connections, he's come a long way in a short time.

"It's been my dream to play professional baseball my whole life," Mercado said, who added that he decided back during his sophomore season that he would verbally commit to Angelina College. I wasn't sure how any of this worked as far as college and when you can be eligible for the (professional) draft," Mercado said.

"I have had some friends play at Angelina (former Dobie standout Euro Diaz Jr. is a sophomore outfielder there now), and I just feel like it's a good spot for me."

Mercado said he and his father came to the United States following his eighth grade year.

With an uncle living nearby, Mercado considered playing at South Houston High School before he moved into the Dobie attendance zone.

Despite a wrist injury that slowed him a bit during his sophomore season in 2017, Mercado has steadily improved each season within head coach Miguel Torres' program.

A second-team all-district performer last season, Mercado led the league in stolen bases by a good margin and was solid at shortstop, a position he says "is my spot."

For his senior season, Mercado will likely return to the lead-off spot according to Dobie head coach Miguel Torres, where it will be his job to reach base, perhaps steal a base and score runs.

"I'm up there trying to work the count and see as many pitches as possible,

but if I get a first-pitch fastball down the middle of course I'm looking to turn on it," Mercado said.

"I want to work pitchers and let my teammates behind me (in the lineup) see as many pitches as possible. But at the same time, I'm looking to do damage when the time comes."

For Torres, watching Mercado's growth and development over these past three plus years has been special to see.

Torres said he had heard about Mercado's skill set prior to the student's arrival through Mercado's uncle. Yet when he first arrived at Dobie, Mercado was not involved in the baseball athletic period.

"Initially, I basically had to take his uncle's word for it that he was a pretty solid player as a freshman coming in," Torres remembered. "By this time, it's maybe October before we got him out there with everybody else.

And he told me he was an outfielder when he got here, but we quickly realized that with his skill set, he needed to be in the infield."

Mercado indeed got a chance to make a difference at the varsity level his freshman season due to an injury to Dobie starting shortstop Tyler Myers, now a pitcher at Ole Miss.

Torres started Mercado at shortstop in an eventual 6-1 loss to Pearland in the season opener. By his sophomore season, Mercado had transitioned into a first-team all-district second baseman.

Battling through an injury a season ago, Mercado still had second team all-district accolades come his way.

And as he approaches his senior season, Mercado surely knows what he brings to the table as the Longhorns get set to face the likes of Kingwood, Atascocita and Summer

Creek, among others, in league play.

"From day one, I've always liked Jeffry's energy, enthusiasm and confidence within the game," Torres said.

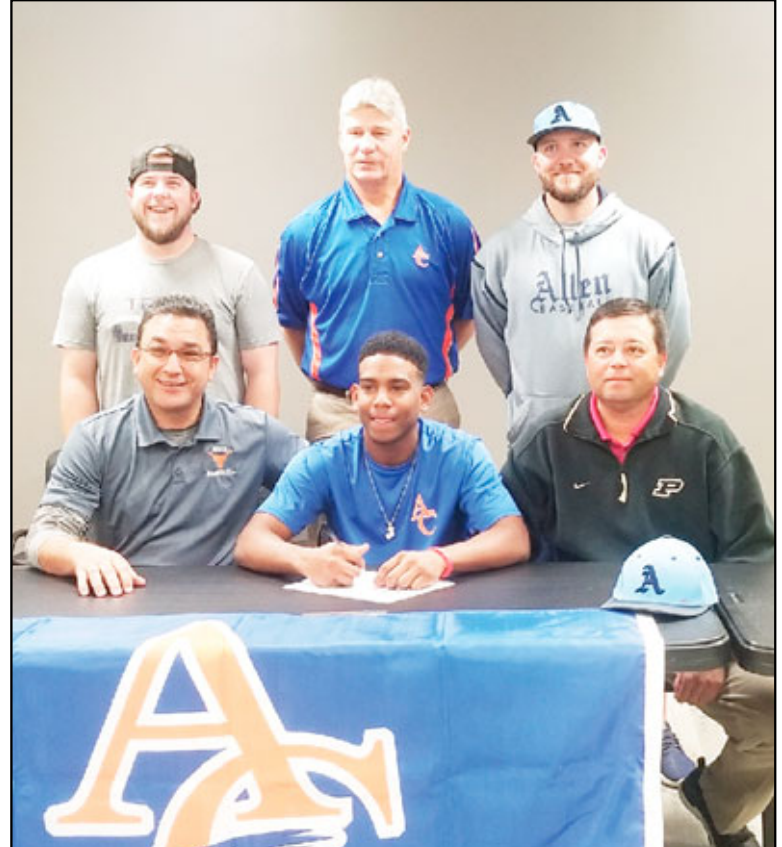
"He's at home on the baseball field, and he's been able to step up and provide leadership to some of the younger guys, particularly last season.

"Now you have to make sure that you are the type of leader that someone wants to follow, but Jeffry has really adapted well. He's passionate about the game and is full of energy and has been vocal. You need those types of players."

With Mercado's senior season coming soon, Torres said he expects nothing less than Mercado's best.

"He'll lead off for us and hopefully set the table for some of the other guys," Torres said. "He's a key piece to what we do out there."

At right, Dobie High School baseball senior infielder Jeffry Mercado (seated center) will continue his education and playing career at Angelina College in Lufkin after signing a letter of intent with the Roadrunners. A three-year starter at Dobie, Mercado will lead the Longhorns this season as a senior before joining Angelina for the 2020 season. Those with Mercado at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Miguel Torres (Dobie varsity baseball coach), Anthony Ponce (Dobie varsity baseball assistant coach), (standing) Ryan Henry (Dynamic Spots Training staff member), Angelina head baseball coach Jeff Livin and Jeff Allen (Mercado's personal hitting coach and manager of Houston-based Allen Baseball Club).



## Colleagues, friends funding Harris scholarship

Colleagues and friends of former longtime Dobie High School educator and athletics supporter Barry Harris have announced plans for a memorial scholarship to be named in his honor.

A career educator who also spent time at Pasadena High School as well as classrooms and athletic fields within the state, Harris had been teaching senior class English and assisting with all Pasadena ISD athletic programs at the time of his death in

June at the age of 65 after a battle with cancer.

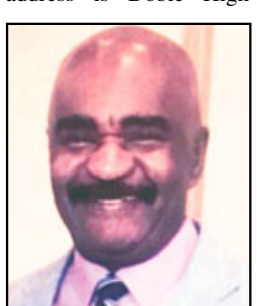
Harris was well-known to Dobie High School and PISD athletes while serving as the lead gymnasium monitor at Dobie, a primary game day administrator at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena during football season and as the game day administrator at the Pasadena ISD softball complex.

The Barry E. Harris Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving Dobie High

School student-athlete who does not have any other type of collegiate financial assistance forthcoming. The application process will be handled through the school's counseling department later this school year.

Former longtime Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach and current educator Shane Brown is leading scholarship funding efforts at the school. He can be reached via email at rbrown@pasadenaisd.org.

Donations will be accepted via cash, check or credit card. The school's address is Dobie High



Barry Harris

School, Barry Harris Scholarship, attention: Shane Brown, 10220 Blackhawk Blvd., 77089.

Those who wish to donate online can log onto [www.Pasadenaisd.revtrek.net](http://www.Pasadenaisd.revtrek.net). Click on the high schools tab and then on the Dobie tab. All contributions are tax deductible.

Details of the scholarship can be found on the Dobie website at [jfrankdobie.com](http://jfrankdobie.com). Click on the links tab to find access to the award and application process.



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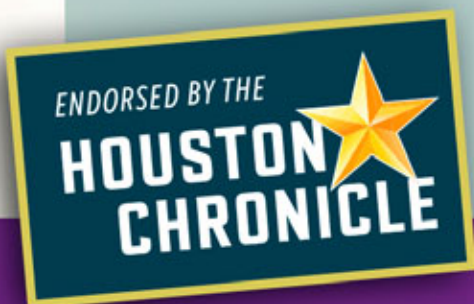
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