



South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, February 16, 2023 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 48, No. 3

Sagemeadow meets Feb. 16

The Sagemeadow HOA will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. For general inquiries, email info@sagemeadow.org or call/text 832-377-0847. For information, visit sagemeadow.org. <http://www.sagemeadow.org.

Cowboys/Cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls are registering area youths for their 2023 Bay Area Football League season. Football players ages 5, 6 and 9 as of Aug. 1, 2023, may contact Denny Wranich Jr. at 713-876-1491, while drill/cheer girls ages 5 to 13 as of Aug. 1, 2023, may contact Jemyre Felton at 832-309-7133.

Mandatory JFD Cheer meet

A mandatory parent meeting for all students trying out for Dobie Cheer will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 2, 2023, in the school cafeteria. For additional information, email Amber Allan at aallan@pasadenaisd.org.

HPD's PIP set for Feb. 21

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the CES Classroom on the first floor of the main building. PIP consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods. Guest speaker will be Solid Waste Department Director Mark Wilfalk. For additional information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org or 832-395-1776.

Kirkwood to meet Feb. 23

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 30, in the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For more information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Erica McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remained roughly on par with the previous week, according to county health officials.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 14, there were 99 active cases in 77089, down three from the previous week. To date, 137 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 19 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 81 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 29 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 90 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

This marked the eighth consecutive week with no COVID-related deaths in the immediate South Belt community.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

One middle northbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, May 22. Two outside southbound lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Texas City Railroad to SH 6/SH 146 in La Marque nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the next available northbound entrance ramp.

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

Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, March 31. Significant delays are expected. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Chamber of Commerce holds 37th annual gala

Volunteers recognized; 2023 officers sworn in

Dozens of community leaders and elected officials gathered at the Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland Friday, Feb. 10, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 37th annual banquet.

Titled *An Old Hollywood Whodunnit*, this year's event was themed around a murder mystery.

Southeast Volunteer Fire Department Chief David Cino was named the chamber's Volunteer of the Year for his selfless efforts in the South Belt community.

A 40-year SVFD veteran, Cino became fire chief in 2020, replacing longtime Chief Chuck Tylka who had held the position for 45+ years. Prior to becoming chief, Cino served in many positions at the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, including lieutenant, captain and assistant chief.

A lifelong South Belt resident, Cino attended Stuchbery Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School, where he graduated in 1981. Cino also attended San Jacinto College.

He joined the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department in 1982. That same year, he also started working at Spectrum Corporation, where he is still employed as an outside salesman.

Outgoing chamber chair Rebecca Lilley (Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital) presented incoming chamber chair Ezreal Garcia (Community Health Network) the inaugural Chair Award.

Garcia reciprocated the gesture and presented Lilley a plaque for her efforts as chair.

Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado was at the event to swear in all incoming 2023 South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce officers and board members.

In addition to Garcia, incoming chamber of

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Chamber honors Cino, Garcia

Southeast Volunteer Fire Department Chief David Cino (second from right) was named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Volunteer of the Year at the group's 37th annual gala, held Friday, Feb. 10, at the Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland. Shown to the left at the event with Cino are, left to right, incoming chamber chair Ezreal Garcia (Community Health Network), Chuck Tylka (SVFD) and outgoing Chamber chair Rebecca Lilley (Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital). Lilley presented Garcia the chamber's inaugural Chair Award. See related photos on Pages 3 and 4.

Photo by Bruce Summers

Martin warns of local prescribed fire

Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin would like to make the Clear Lake area aware of prescribed fire at Sylvan Rodriguez Park, 1201 Clear Lake City Blvd., through March 10, weather permitting.

A joint project between The Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the burn will take place within a portion of the restored prairie at the area park.

Prescribed fire is a useful tool in managing prairie habitat. It reduces undesirable woody plants and supports the growth of native vegetation. The prescribed fire will aid in reducing potential fire threats from accumulating vegetation and will reduce the wildland fire threat to the surrounding residential

community.

In 2019, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department began habitat restoration within a 70-acre section of Sylvan Rodriguez Park, clearing the invasive Chinese Tallow trees and replacing them with more than 14,000 native prairie grasses and wildflowers that have been grown in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department greenhouse.

Houston Fire Department's wildland firefighters will be performing the entire prescribed fire to establish continuity and the swift mitigation of potential life safety hazards. HFD will also be coordinating with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Houston Health Department to es-

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Residents warned of potential scams

Texas Attorney General Paxton is encouraging Texans in the Houston area to be cautious of scammers who may try to take advantage of consumers, including the elderly, in the wake of recent severe weather.

The personal, emotional and financial hardship that comes from dealing with flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters can be devastating. This is compounded by the fact that there

are often bad actors and unreliable contractors seeking to capitalize on vulnerable Texans that are trying to rebuild after severe storms.

Paxton is encouraging all Texans to be vigilant in looking into potential contractors, getting multiple estimates and only doing business with verifiably reputable individuals. Regarding contractors trying to sell their services by going

Continued on Page 3

Pct. 2 deputies make large drug arrest

Following a lengthy narcotics investigation, deputies with Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit recently executed a search warrant in the 10400 block of Sagevale, arresting a 23-year-old suspect on multiple drug charges.

The recent Feb. 9 bust stemmed from a previous October 2022 raid on a residence in the 5700 block of Laurel Creek Way, which yielded cocaine, magic mushrooms, Ecstasy, Xanax, morphine and marijuana.

Through the Laurel Creek Way investigation, deputies were able to identify several suspects. Among these suspects, deputies identified Oscar Perez as a primary target, prompting the recent

Sagevale raid.

Perez was located at the house at the time of the warrant execution and was arrested without incident. During the arrest, deputies seized multiple firearms, including one that had been reported stolen. Perez also had approximately \$4,000 in cash, believed to be proceeds from illegal activity.

Felony charges of engaging in organized crime and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute were filed on Perez in the original warrant.

According to Precinct 2 officials, the investigation is ongoing and additional arrests are expected.

Leader continues 2022 year in review

The Leader continues its look back on 2022 with a list of some of the significant stories of the year. For highlights up to Aug. 25, see the Feb. 9 edition of the Leader.

Aug. 25

Houston police arrested a third suspect charged in the fatal shooting of a man the previous June in the 12900 block of Nyack near Algoquin. The suspect, Javier Raul Contreras, 20, was charged with two counts of aggravated assaults with a deadly weapon. Two other suspects, Johnathan Rashon Carter, 18, and Damon W. Steber, 18, were previously arrested and charged with capital murder and aggravated assault in the incident. All three suspects are accused for their roles in the killing of Jorge Jaimes, 18, and the wounding of Julian Becerra, 18. Becerra sustained a gunshot wound to the leg.

Sept. 1

Thompson Intermediate celebrated its 50th

anniversary Saturday, Aug. 27, with an event at the area campus. Five former Thompson principals joined the festivities, including Greg Jones, who served from 1996-2007; Associate Superintendent Dr. Angela Stallings (2007-2009); Human Resources Associate Superintendent Toni Lopez (2009-2015); Associate Superintendent of Technology Melissa McCalla (2015-2018); and Tanis Griffin, who assumed the role of principal in 2018. Additional former Thompson principals include Frank Braden (1972-1974); E.J. Ritchey (1974-1989); Vicki Thomas (1989-1994); Cheryl Fowler (1994-1996); and Greg Jones (1996-2007). The campus suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Harvey in 2017, and Pasadena ISD officials decided to rebuild rather than repair. In October 2021, officially broke ground on a new Thompson 178,000-square-foot campus, to be located on a 21-acre plot of land on Hughes

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Competing leagues to share EFL fields

At a private Feb. 13 meeting facilitated by the South Belt Area Sports Association, an agreement was reached that will allow two competing area baseball leagues to each use

the county fields at El Franco Lee Park.

The topic had been controversial since the beginning of this year when it was announced that former local Little League President Johnny Ramirez was leaving the organization to join the national Pony League, taking hundreds of area players with him - many without their knowledge they had changed leagues.

The meeting was attended by two representatives from each league, representatives from the local sports association and Leader publisher Marie Flickinger. Ramirez and his local Little League counterpart, recently elected President Juan Herrera, were asked to not attend.

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Little League registration set

Little League registration will be held Wednesday through Friday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the next two weeks at the El Franco Lee Park. Cost is \$100 per child. Free Baseball Camp and clinics coming soon. All kids are welcome, Little League or Pony. Any child who paid for Pony League wanting to play Little League may do so without additional payment.

Sleeping driver charged with DWI

A driver found sleeping behind the wheel in a vehicle partially blocking traffic in the 11000 block of Beltway 8 at Beamer Road was charged with multiple felonies.



Oliver Cain III

Division responded to the incident to find the driver, identified as 29-year-old Oliver Wendell Cain III, displaying signs of intoxication. A standardized field sobriety test confirmed the driver was impaired.

Further investigation found this to be Cain's second DWI and that he was in possession of multiple controlled substances.

Cain was arrested on multiple felony charges.

City holds disaster-planning meeting

The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Avenue CDC Building, 3517 Irvington Blvd., to discuss updates to the city's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

Plans like the CEMP are important tools in helping the city provide services and support to residents before and after a disaster occurs.

The meeting will be part of a series of workshops with other city departments and outside partners to discuss topics such as the city's hurricane plan, flood plan, points of distribution plan, reunification and family assistance plan, access and functional needs and the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry and the evacuation plan.

Public input is critical to determine project needs and priorities for the plan.

The purpose of the CEMP is to help the City prepare for, respond to, and recover from disas-

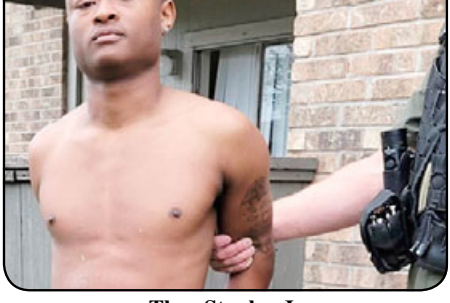
The Office of Emergency Management's mission is to help the city, its residents, businesses and partners prepare for, cope with and recover from the effects of natural and man-made disasters. Initiatives include the city's Emergency Management Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Operational Plans, Healthcare Emergency Plans and more.

The City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management is also updating the city's Hazard

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Pct. 2 helps execute federal warrant

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, deputies with the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit assisted the U.S. Marshals Office execute a search warrant at an apartment complex in the 11700 block of Beamer at Hall Road to arrest a suspected fugitive.



Theo Stanley Jr.

During the operation, deputies and marshals were able to locate 22-year-old suspect Theo Stanley Jr. hiding inside an apartment unit.

Stanley was found to have three open felony warrants out of Galveston County for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping and assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Stanley was arrested without incident and taken into custody.

Organized crime suspect arrested



On Thursday, Feb. 9, deputies with Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit executed a search warrant in the 10400 block of Sagevale, targeting 23-year-old suspect Oscar Perez. The bust stemmed from a lengthy narcotics investigation. During the arrest, deputies seized multiple firearms and approximately \$4,000. Perez was charged with engaging in organized crime and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Elected officials share their words

Ellis claims "obstructionists" are playing "political games"

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis issued the following statement in response to a statement from Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar's office today regarding Harris County law enforcement funding.

"The state of Texas' political propaganda machine is at it again - distorting Harris County's record on law enforcement for their own political gain even if it costs Harris County residents the safety and services they expect and deserve. While the obstructionists in Austin play political games, Harris County leaders are working every day to make communities safer. We've

rolled up our sleeves to create nationally recognized programs like our gun buyback program that has pulled thousands of guns off the street, the Harris County Holistic Assistance Response Team, and our violence interruption program that complement traditional law enforcement and free up resources for officers to focus on serious, violent crime. While some lawmakers in Austin think they can manipulate folks in Harris County, people here on the ground know that we are turning the tide on a national crime wave with robust investments in public safety."

Commissioner Rodney Ellis

Construction starting soon at Freeway Manor Park

Houston Parks Board (HPB) and Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) are excited to share an update on Mayor Sylvester Turner's 50/50 Park Partners initiative and the park improvements slated for Freeway Manor Park.

Construction will begin this month on projects that were identified by community input and balanced with available funding. As a reminder, a community listening session will be held on March 31. In-person surveys were conducted at the park, as well.

Construction activities will occur Monday through Friday, with occasional Saturdays, between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Earlier starts might be required for any concrete pouring in case of high temperatures.

Residents should be mindful of the active construction site and not enter areas surrounded by orange construction fencing.

The construction cost for this project is \$1,034,000. Landscape Art Inc. is serving as the construction firm, and Houston Parks Board is serving as the construction manager. The landscape architect was Lauren Griffith Associates.

City Council has approved two agreements between the city of Houston and Houston Parks Board that underscored the commitment to this public/private partnership by appropriating almost \$6.2 million from the city of Houston's Parks and Recreation Dedication Fund and General Fund for this work to begin on the first 11 parks of the 50/50 Park Partners initiative.

HPB and HPARD invite the community to spread the word about this announcement, and encourage all to share this information and include it in local newsletters.

Thanks to all for making Turner's 50/50 Park Partners initiative a success, and reach out with any questions throughout the construction process.

The improvements at Freeway Manor Park will include: resurfacing the parking lot, repairing the walking trail, replacing park benches, regrading the baseball field, updating the picnic areas, repositing the existing tennis court to a soccer minipitch and improving park lighting. Construction is expected to conclude in summer 2023.

Participants in mock lectures given by current professors at local law schools.

Hear from multiple panels of attorneys in a variety of practice areas (including corporate law, criminal law, family law, etc.).

Tour local law schools and courthouses.

"SLA is a safe space for young adults around Houston to come together and grasp a deeper understanding of the law field. Prior to my time at SLA I had never met an attorney, but SLA allowed me to network with and receive actual lectures from real professionals. The knowledge I gained at SLA and the friendships I created are ones I will keep with me forever," said

Carmen Cruz, a senior at Mill by High School who was part of the 2022 SLA cohort.

For more details on Summer Legal Academy and the application process, visit harriscountytexas.gov/students. Any high school student in Harris County entering grades 10 through 12 may apply. The deadline for students to apply is March 24. Applicants should submit a recommendation letter, a writing sample and a short essay. The program will be held Monday-Friday during a two-week period in July.

Questions about the program or requests for additional details can be sent to communications@harriscountytexas.gov.

Summer legal program opens

The office of Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee is now accepting applications for the 2023 Summer Legal Academy, a two-week educational readiness program for high school students to learn more about what it takes to become an attorney. The inaugural program launched in summer of 2022, yielding more than 250 applications. The 2022 class of 21 students came from 21 local high schools in six school districts (including HISD, Alief ISD, Klein ISD, and more). The program will allow students to:

- Learn about what it takes to succeed in college, on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), and in law school.

Participants in mock lectures given by current professors at local law schools.

Hear from multiple panels of attorneys in a variety of practice areas (including corporate law, criminal law, family law, etc.).

Tour local law schools and courthouses.

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City amends sidewalk ordinance

City Council voted Jan. 25 to adopt Sidewalk Ordinance amendments that give property owners and developers another option to comply with the city's existing sidewalk ordinance requirements, while still advancing the city's goals to create a safe, comfortable and accessible sidewalk network for all Houstonians.

The amendments establish the option for property owners and developers to opt out of constructing the required sidewalk and instead pay a Fee in Lieu of Sidewalk Construction for qualifying properties that meet certain criteria such as homes in neighborhoods without existing sidewalks. These fees will be collected for a Sidewalk Fund, which will be used to construct sidewalks that extend the sidewalk network to key destinations.

The ordinance amendments will go into effect March 1, 2023, and will apply to new residential building permit applicants and applicants previously approved for a sidewalk construction deferral.

"We recognize that not all parts of our city were built the same way," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "This balances our goals for multimodal transportation with the needs of pedestrians across the city who want and need sidewalks, and with the desires of property owners whose neighborhoods were designed without sidewalks and would prefer to remain that way."

Seventeen Sidewalk Service Areas have been established to collect the Fee in Lieu of Sidewalk Construction and to allocate sidewalk projects within each area. The funds will be divided in a 70/30 split between building sidewalks in the area the fee was collected in, and a city-wide network based on need.

This allocation will help to promote complete sidewalk network equitably throughout the city. The Sidewalk Fund will be managed by the Planning and Development Department and implemented by Houston Public Works.

The amendments aim to overcome challenges with the implementation of the Sidewalk Ordinance 2020-684, that went into effect on Oct. 1, 2020, and help achieve the goals of Plan Houston, Resilient Houston, Houston Climate Action Plan, Complete Streets, and Vision Zero.

"We looked at the previ-

ous ordinance and heard our customers. Simply put, if you are building or rebuilding in a neighborhood that doesn't have sidewalks, we're not going to build an unconnected segment of sidewalk that does not support Houstonians' needs," said Planning and Development Director Margaret Wallace Brown. "However, it is important to build out our sidewalk network, and this new fund will help make that possible."

For details, visit the Sidewalk Ordinance Amendment Website, https://houstontx.gov/planning/sidewalk-ordinance-amendments.html?fcid=IwAR1Y77jZhzJJoQ6zV1bP59kC048AIV3TccT-i0oQ5_BOPR8t9S6WpzRw.

Read the Sidewalk Ordinance Amendment FAQ's here, https://houstontx.gov/planning/docs_pdfs/Sidewalk-Ordinance-Amendments-FAQ-20221130.pdf. View a sidewalk ordinance presentation, https://houstontx.gov/planning/docs_pdfs/Proposed-Sidewalk-in-Lieu-of-Fee-Presentation-20221202.pdf and view the Sidewalk Service Area map, https://houstontx.gov/planning/docs_pdfs/Proposed-Sidewalk-Service-Area-Map-08232022.pdf.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Outdoors storytime for all ages. Plan to enjoy a good story at Bracewell in the fresh outdoors, weather permitting.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Seniors Helping Seniors

Organizers of the annual Seniors Helping Seniors event are seeking input in identifying local parties deserving of a free home overhaul.

Now in its 14th year, the charitable program pairs area high school seniors with local senior citizens in need of minor home repairs, primarily exterior painting.

The endeavor is a joint project between Dobie High and local sponsors, including Sagemont Church. Students provide the manpower, while sponsors provide the necessary materials. Each year, approximately 100 student volunteers step up to help re-



Maduzias celebrate 61 years

Johnny and Jackie Maduzia will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary. They were married on Feb. 17, 1962, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Houston. Johnny retired from Lubrizol Corporation in Deer Park and Jackie retired from Pasadena Independent School District. She was the cafeteria manager at Atkinson Elementary School. They have lived in the South Belt area since 1964 in the Beverly Hills subdivision. Their three children are Brenda, David and Greg Maduzia and three grandchildren are Austin, Kye and Bailey Maduzia.

In My Opinion

King discusses why streets are so bad

I had a friend from Austin in town over the weekend. We were talking about her visit and she said, "I just can't believe how bad the streets are here." Of course, those of us who live in Houston have been suffering through Houston's deteriorating streets for years.

But why? Why are Houston's streets so terrible? It turns out the answer is pretty simple. It is a lack of investment.

Houston has about 16,000 lane miles of streets and roads for which it is responsible for the maintenance. The useful life of a street can vary between 20 and 50 years depending on the type of soil and weather conditions. Houston's expandable clay soils and heavy rainfall climate is particularly hard on pavements.

If you assume a useful life of 40 years, which frankly is optimistic for Houston's conditions, that would mean that we need to be resurfacing about 400 lane miles per year. Anything less than that, and our street conditions will inevitably deteriorate.

The problem is that, according to the City's annual audits, the last time we rebuilt 400 lane miles was in 2004 and the number has been steadily declining ever since.

For the last five years, the City has averaged 146. Another indirect indicator is to look at the amount of asphalt the City purchases every year. In 2004, the earliest year for which we have data, the City purchased almost 19,000 tons of asphalt. That amount has also decreased steadily ever since. Last year, it hit an all-time low of just over 10,000 tons.

Of course, this collapse in street investment was supposed to be remedied by the Rebuild Houston program that imposed a new drainage fee in 2011. The money raised from that fee was supposed to be dedicated to street and drainage improvements. City officials repeatedly promised that the "pay-as-you-go" system would result in a growing investment in street reconstruction over time.

In a 2016 Houston Chronicle article, the City's Public Works Director conceded

that the City has only been doing 25-30% of the repaving necessary, but confidently predicted "being able to double the amount of work we do in five to eight years." But six years later, we are actually doing less.

So, it is hardly surprising that visitors are shocked at the condition of our streets.

In the early days of the 20th century, the then Progressive Movement introduced non-partisan local elections to combat partisan corruption and promote prioritizing local issues, like street maintenance, instead of local elections just being an extension of the national partisan tribalism.

But over the last few decades, that tradition has been undermined by both parties by injecting national issues into local elections.

By doing so local officials can keep the focus on issues over which they have no control, and distract the public's attention away from the sorry job they're doing in taking care of things for which they are actually responsible and the endemic corruption that now infects our local governments.

Bill King

Turner opposes subsidized apts.

To whom it may concern,

I live in Sagemont which is part of South Belt in the city of Houston. This area has many subsidized apartments. While we do not need more subsidized multi-family apartments, additional subsidized senior complexes should be built in this community.

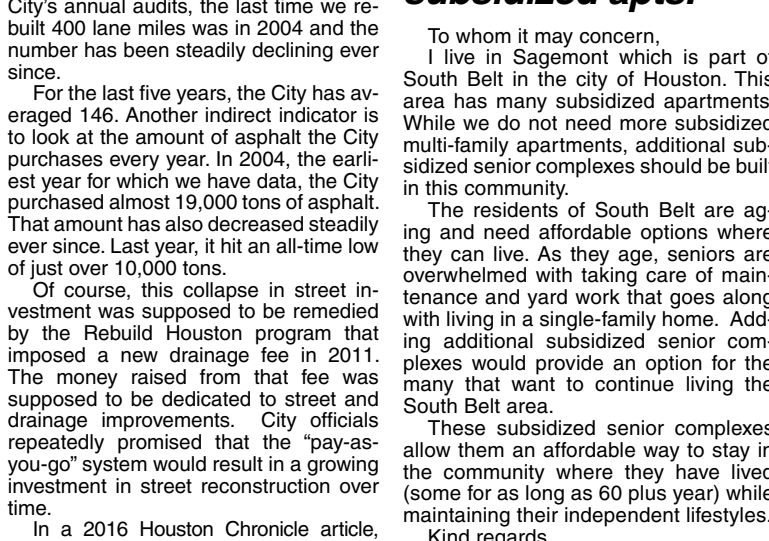
The residents of South Belt are aging and need affordable options where they can live. As they age, seniors are overwhelmed with taking care of maintenance and yard work that goes along with living in a single-family home. Adding additional subsidized senior complexes would provide an option for the many that want to continue living the South Belt area.

These subsidized senior complexes allow them an affordable way to stay in the community where they have lived (some for as long as 60 plus year) while maintaining their independent lifestyles.

Kind regards,

Sharon Turner

Heart month celebrated at Memorial Hermann



Shown, left to right, are Dr. Periyann Vaduganathan, cardiologist at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital; Dr. Cesar Nahas, cardiovascular surgeon, UTHealth Houston Heart & Vascular and Memorial Hermann; Kelly Ochoa, vice president of operations at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital; and Dr. Rohit Bhuriya, cardiologist at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital at a recent luncheon celebrating the fifth anniversary of the cardiac surgery program at Memorial Hermann Southeast.

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital is celebrating February as heart month.

Marla Carter, senior media relations representative of Memorial Hermann Health System says, "Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women. As we work to raise awareness about

cardiovascular disease this February, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital is celebrating a huge heart health care milestone. Five years ago, heart surgeons began performing cardiac surgeries, this includes open-heart surgeries and minimally invasive procedures. Memorial Hermann Southeast has been treating

heart patients since it first opened more than 35 years ago in 1986."

Dr. Cesar Nahas, cardiovascular surgeon, UTHealth Houston Heart & Vascular and Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital spearheaded the launch of the cardiac surgery program at Memorial Hermann Southeast. He states, "For the past

Deaths

Charles Chassay



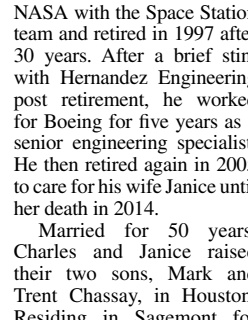
Charles Eugene Chassay, 80, entered into God's heavenly presence Feb. 10, 2023. His strong will to live a full life, unwavering faith in God, and the love and prayers of family, friends, and many supporters carried him throughout his recent courageous struggle.

Charles was born on April 24, 1942, in Chicago to Roger Paul Chassay Sr. and Ruby Ruth Taylor, the youngest of four children. The family lived in Columbia, Miss., and both DeRidder and Iowa, La. before settling in Lake Charles.

He was a first-class baseball player and played a significant part in his high school's appearance in the football state championship game. He was voted Most Likely to Succeed by his classmates. After graduating from LaGrange High School in Louisiana in 1960, he attended Louisiana State University. He was active in social life and occupational societies, and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Phi Omega. In addition, Charles was elected president of the College of Engineering.

He married his high school sweetheart, Janice Marie DeRouen, on Sep. 7, 1963, at St. Margaret Catholic Church in Lake Charles. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering August of 1964 and moved to the Houston area for his new position at Shell Chemical. In October 1966, he moved his pregnant wife and toddler son to Sagemont. In March 1967, he accepted his dream position at what is now NASA Johnson Space Center as an engineer in the Life Sciences Division. He was on the Space Technology Applied to Rural Papago Advanced Health Care (STARPAHC) Telemedicine System Project Team in the 1970s. He played significant roles in the Landing and Recovery Division with the Apollo flights programs. He spent most of his career at NASA as a payload integration manager for the Space Shuttle's Middeck. He successfully prepared a Saudi Arabian prince for flight as well as well as Teacher-

Roger Allen Holub



Roger Allen Holub, of South Belt, 54, died at Park Plaza Hospital due to heart surgery complications on Feb. 2, 2023. Services are pending at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road and potentially at a later date at Schwenke-Baumgartner Funeral Home in Schulenburg.

Holub was born on Oct. 12, 1968 in Freeport. His parents are Carolyn Genzer Friend of the South Belt area and the late Wilson August Holub. He received his GED and his vocation was that of engine mechanic whether it was gas, diesel or small engine repair. This was a trade he learned from his father in which they both excelled. He was single at the time of his death. Roger was an avid talker and enjoyed meeting new people.

He loved his family and friends and enjoyed social gatherings. His pastimes included playing pool, darts, and watching National Geographic and the History channels on television. (Heaven forbid if his mom was watching a Hallmark movie. He would go scurrying back to his room.) He also liked bantering with his brother of the heart, Brian Kelly, honorary big sister, Misty Hudson and his mom's best friend, Lisa Steward. He truly liked to help others.

Survivors include his mother, Carolyn Genzer Friend; step-mother, Nina Holub; half-brother, Richard Holub; honorary big sister Misty Hudson and husband Melvin Hudson; and honorary brother, Brian Kelly. Other survivors include an aunt, Bunny Genzer; honorary aunt and uncle, Mike and Lisa Steward; cousins Anthony Genzer and son A.J. Genzer; Nicholas Genzer and wife, Maggie Genzer and daughters Elie and Averie; Joyce Floyd and son Gaellan Gilbert and wife Anna Gilbert, all of the Houston, Porter and Kingwood areas; Larry Filipp of Schulenburg. He also leaves behind his former wife, Christina Melchor, of Schulenburg as well as many friends in Schulenburg, Houston and Austin.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wilson August Holub; step-father, Marvin "Charlie" Friend; step-brother, James Billy Friend; maternal grandfather, Alfons J. Genzer; maternal grandmother, Betty Genzer Walchar; paternal grandfather, Joseph Holub; maternal grandmother, Mary Jurak Holub; and younger brother, Russell Adam Holub.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Rd. with Rev. Sean P. Horriagan presiding. A reception will follow in the parish hall. The Rite of Committal will be at Goos Cemetery in Lake Charles, La.

In lieu of flowers and for those wishing, memorial donations may be made to Dobie Hall of Honor Scholarship Fund (check payable to Dobie High School; memo Hall of Honor Scholarship; mailing address Dobie High School, 10220 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, TX 77089) or Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (www.catholiccharities.org).

Leader obituary policy

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

Leader year in review

Continued from Page 1

1300 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Latise Lonyea Leonor, 29, was charged with murder in the Aug. 20 death of Dennis Leon Sharp, 27. To be continued in next week's Leader.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care

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

281.481.2003

www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com

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Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

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

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

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

Dobie High School recognizes 3rd 6-weeks honor roll students

J. Frank Dobie High School officials recently announced their honor roll students for the third six-weeks period of the 2022-2023 school year.

Ninth grade
Anderson Aguilar, Kayla Akinfenwa, Blessing Akinloye, Sural Alcorta, Lilah Alexander, Daniela Alonso Valtier, Joel Alvarenga, Emanuel Alvarez, Jaiden Alvarez, Angel Amador, Evan Amezcua, Hussai Arias, Avian Arredondo, Yarezi Arredondo and Jasmine Arreola.

Sean Arroyo, Kendall Ashworth, Lahnay Avendano, Ivan Ayala, Mikalya Bain, Kaitlyn Baines, Makayla Ballard St. Romain, Blue Banda, Zarean Barrientez, Piper Battarbee, Nathaniel Belleville, Suheyee Belman, Salah Ben Achour and Arihanna Berrones.

Christopher Berrum, Tanner Bo, Katia Boardman, Alexis Bonilla, Diana Bonilla, Yahir Bonilla, Jordyn Brown, Megan Bui, Isabella Byron, Victoria Caballero, Julian Calderon Vargas, Nicole Campos, Anthony Cancel, Omar Cantarero, Amber Cao, Sophia Carbajal and Sofia Careaga.

Alanah Carter, Kimberley Castillo, Mikalya Castillo, Yureimi Cazares, Alonzo Chapman, Daniel Chavez, Jaslyn Chavez, Zenaida Cisneros, Aubri Cole, Daija Collins, David Contreras, Steven Cooras Rodriguez, Isaura Correa and Cecilia Cruz.

Jonas Cruz, Hailey Cudob, Kaitlen Culppepper, Aidan Dang, Christina Dang, Kevin Dang, Arianna Davidson, Jeremiah Davis, Jordan De Robles, Daphney Deleon, Joselyn Delgado, Julie Delgado, Aidan Diaz, An Do, Hayden Do, Jeulis Domingo and Anthony Dominguez.

David Ekong, Diego Esparza, Chloe Estes, Cooper Estes, Kamillah Estrada, Cheyenne Evans, Norman Fabian Alba, Oliver Fabian Guzman, Emily Flores, Fernanda Flores, Gavin Flores, Jorge Flores, Valentin Flores, Savannah Flores-Lewis and Essence Gabriel.

Lexi Galindo, Reynol Galvan, David Garcia, Edward Garcia, Grant Garcia, Johnny Garcia, Alyria Garcia-Garza, Rebecca Gathings, Cedric Gillespie, Emily Golenko, Christopher Gomez, Frank Gonzales-Adame, Miranda Gonzalez and Pavel Gonzalez.

Salvador Gonzalez, Daniela Guerrero, Abel Gutierrez, Abigail Gutierrez, Harrison Henderson, Seanghor Heng, Jonathan Henton, Ashley Hernandez, Ava Hernandez, Luis Hernandez and Michael Hernandez.

Himabeli Herrera Conde, Morgan Hill, Aiden Ho, Trinity Hoang, Ami Johnson, Davion Johnson, Jordan Johnson, Siah Johnson, Edsel Juarez, Damarius Kelly, Isabella Labra, Cady Lagrone, Keyla Lara Villanueva, Alexis Lazcano and Alex Le.

Danton Le, Richard Le, Janiel Lebron Delgado, Jandel Leon Ortiz, Kevin Leon, Elena Lomeli, Rafael Lopez, Santiago Lopez, Joshua Lozano, Linh Luu, Peyton Lynn, Ava Macias, Kristin Madise, Johan Martin, Xavier Martinez, Ty Mata, Hania Matin, Katherine Matute and Tristan McKissick.

Isaiah Medina, Dulce Mejia Hernandez, Jaylene Melo, Kiara Merckerson, Mehreen Mir, Cristian Monge, Simon Montemayor, Nathan Montez, Jazliyah Moreno, Nevaeh Mosley, Anthony Moussambani Mandje, Jacoby Muniz, Angie Munoz and Addison Murdock.

Jawad Naser, Heidi Nganou, Ryan Ngo, Tommy Ngo, Andrew Nguyen, Anthony Nguyen, Chloe Nguyen, CJ Nguyen, Dan Nguyen, Diana Nguyen, Gia Nguyen, Hannah Nguyen, Harry Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen, Linh Nguyen, Mary Nguyen and Matthew Nguyen.

Minh Nguyen, Ngan Nguyen, Nhan Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen, Joell Nieves, Thu Ninh, Thalia Oddo, Kamillah Oliva, Jeffrey Ordenez, Jonathan Orellana Sarmiento, Edgar Orozco, Awele Ozieh, Juniah Paskel and Amairani Pena.

Isabella Pena, Jesus Perez, Stephany Perez, Lindsey Perret, Don Pham, Hannah Pham, Thi Pham, Cynthia Pineda, Emly Pineda, Jazmin Pineda, Wilson Ponce, Brianna Puga, Dyshaun Ragin, Jezreel Ranales, Joaquin Ramirez, Ricardo Ramos, Yvette Ramos and Lucas Reed.

Jaylyn Requeno Ortiz, Kaitlyn Resendez, Sebastian Rincon, Aileen Rivera, Camron Robertson, Luis Rocha, Carlos Rodriguez, Vania Rodriguez, Vincent Rodriguez, Genesis Roman, Alexander Salguero, Cristopher Sanchez, Melanio Sanchez, Alejandro Saucedo, Naven Scott, Jannelle Segueda and Kacee Senter.

Dayana Serrano, Kaitlyn Sherwood, Isaiah Solorzano, Cristal Sosa, Maite Sosa, Daniel Soto, Sarah Soto, Mia Sudario Garza, Thao Ta, Angie Tinajero, Anthony Tinajero, Jenna To, Kian Ton, Victoria Torres, Jose Tovar, Kaylanie Tran, Kylie Tran and Parker Tran.

Victoria Tran, Khang Truong, Keyli Vanhouten-Guerrero, Fernando Vargas, Juan Vega, Aidan Veitia, Kevin Velasquez, Armando Vergara, Theodore Villarreal, Thu Vo and Audrey Volper.

Bao Vu, Leon Vu, Zoey Vuong, Clayton Washington, Olivia Wheeler, Sy Wiggins, Xandria Williams, Kaedyn Woodard, Ta'mya Woods, Yuliana Zambrano and Jose Zuniga.

Tenth grade
Evangeline Adam, Juliana Aguirre, Juliana Aguirre, Rigoberto Alanis, Ariana Alaniz, Ashley Aldrete, Manal Aleem, Azeneth Aleman, Jonathan Alexander, Sophia Alonso, Abigail Alvarez, Khnum Amos, Artemio Andaya, Aysjha Anderson and Bryan Anderson.

Emma Arizmendi, Taylor Armstrong-Frizz, Kaleb Arredondo, Madeline Arredondo, Alexa Avila, Giselle Ayala, Brandon Balboa, Oscar Barajas, Valerie Barrera, Perla Bazan, Christopher Bellamy, Joselyn Benitez, Odalys Bermudez and Loriana Betancourt Mejia.

Didiene Boijeuxaneau, Bongalai Bongfen, Jared Bonilla, David Bonilla, Maurice Bryant, Jimmy Bui, Kaylie Bui, Stephanie Bui, Rosette Calvillo, Mia Campos, Kailee Canales, Emily Cano, Donny Canady, Syreya Cao, Arwen Cardona and Abril Carmona Saucedo.

Edward Carter, Ariana Castaneda, Jada Castaneda, Thomas Castelan, Johnny Castillo, Eugenia Caudillo-Fernandez, Kobi Conaway, Davia Constantino, Avangelina Cosse, Bryan-na Cruz, Kimberly Cumpian, Santiago Cuya, Galilea De La Garza, Miranda De La Rosa and Emely Benavides.

Johan Delapaz, Anthony Dinh, Kristin Do, Vyvy Do, Jocelyn Dominguez, Tyree Drumgo, Kirsten Duong, Sarah Espinal, Bethany Espinoza, Diego Flores Tejada, Jose Flores, Lindsey Flores, Ruby Fonyuy and Niyah Foster.

Gabriel Fuldago, Jenny Gallardo, Freddy Gallegos, Michael Gama, Elina Gamez, Andrea Garcia, Angel Garcia, Elizabeth Garcia, Brianna Garza, Jenna Garza, Lauren Garza, Nestor Garza, Tomas Gomez Silva, Alexandra Gomez, Victoria Gomez and Daniella Gonzales.

Alfonso Gonzales-Adame, Christian Gonzalez, Eduardo Gonzalez, Jakeline Gonzalez, Javier Gonzalez, Marcus Gore, Ke'myria Green, Emily Grimaldo, Isabella Guajardo, Francisco Gutierrez, Kianna Harris, Camille Haynes, Emily Henriquez, Ashley Hernandez

and Isabella Hernandez. Kevin Hernandez, Leonel Hernandez, Raymundo Hernandez, Lillian Herte, Juan Hinojosa Vasquez, Ruben Hinojosa, Valerie Hinojosa, Sophia Ho, Lena Hoang, Shalaci Hollis, Miah Hypolite, Jalissa Irvin, Ariecanna Jackson, Heaven Jackson and Nia Jackson.

Joelle Jagdeo, Gregorio Jaime, Zoey Janke, Melanie Jaramillo Zamora, Euric Javier Hernandez, Marvin Jerezano, Tiara Johnson, Willard Joiner, Jake Joslin, Genesis Joya Sanchez, Isabel Juarez, Samantha Kaisler, Iakovos-Panagiotis Kostikoglou, Maher Kotheiya and Jacob Lam.

Jaylon Lasker, Hailey Lazo, Nathan Le, Morgan Leach, Karyme Leal, Dominick Leija, Dezire Lewis, Isabella Liceaga, Christopher Lopez, Gabriel Lopez, Pablo Lopez, Sebastian Lopez, Valeria Lopez, Alexa Loredo, Dereon Lowe, Mia Lozano, Tatiana Luna and Gil Manzano.

Mayte Marfil, Wilbert Martinez Gamez, Alexandria Martinez, Leyla Martinez, Naomi Martinez, Priscilla Martinez, Rubi Martinez, Chloey Matthews, Aeriona Mccann, Zaniya McClain, Kianna McCombs, Quenton McCrae, Alexander Medina, Mariah Medina and Jose Mejia.

Joy Menahem, Daniela Mendoza, Maria Merino Gonzalez, Chanelle Mobley, Elisio Molina, Lucius Monarez, Isabella Monita, Diego Montelongo, Alisha Moore, Danilo Moran, Jeshua Moreno, Gisele Morgan, Shazia Mustapha, Charles Nash, Abriana Neco, Jack Ngo and Paul Ngo.

Peter Ngo, Riley Nguyen To, Allen Nguyen, Anh Nguyen, Cindy Nguyen, Dylan Nguyen, Jenny Nguyen, Kim Nguyen, Linda Nguyen, Nhi Nguyen, Nhu Nguyen, Quan Nguyen, Thuy Nguyen, Trish Nguyen and Isaac Nunez Dorantes.

Diego Nunez, Giovanni Nunez, Alfredo Ochoa Galicia, Dominic Ortiz, Hope Ortiz, Angel Padilla, Jabez Palma, Angelina Paquinto, Anya Parker, Sa'kai Patel, Nikolas Pelaez, Diana Pena, Adam Perez, Cassandra Perez, Julianne Pham, Michelle Pham, Khanh Pham and Tony Pham.

Jamare Philbert, Isabelle Pichardo, Uriel Polito, Richard Postel, Ilen Preza, Tahllon Provost, Madison Puente, Samantha Pulido, Tracy Quach, Mantho Quilantán, Jaden Quiroz, Lilli Ramirez, Ani Randolph, Matthew Rangel, Andre Reyes, Daniel Reyes and Domingo Reyes.

Angel Rhodes, Didarul Ridwan, Tariq Riley, David Rios, Diego Rios, Jayden Rios, Juleny Rivera, Marcus Robinson, Melanie Robles, Aniya Rodgers, Shaniya Rodgers and Barbara Rodriguez Salas.

Angelina Rodriguez, Christopher Rodriguez, Derek Rodriguez, Jaylee Rodriguez, Sydney Rodriguez, Caleb Romero, Alex Rostro, Katherine Sabillon-Velasquez, Joseph Salazar, Justin Salazar, Luis Salazar, Valeria Salinas and Aryanna Sanchez.

Brianna Sanchez, Evelyn Sanchez, Heidi Sanchez, Isabella Sanchez, Kettia Sanchez, Yahir Sanchez, Rhema Sanni-Thomas, Rebecca Santana, Omar Santos Fuentes, Omar Serna, Lizbeth Serrano, Daniel Silva, Mariangela Silva, Mckenzie Smith, Nicholas Soza Paris Spencer, Madison Stewart and Jocelyn Stringer.

Cindy Su, Isabel Suarez, Tristan Sudario, Jason Ta, Vinh Ta, Olivia Tamez, Jada Tayong, Jazmine Teissonniere, Julian Thomas, Patience Thomas, Leonard Thumann, Thuy Tieu, Andres Tolentino and Jared Toro.

Dayra Torres Zuniga, Cruz Torres, Jennifer Torres, Angelina Tran, Chloe Tran, Loi Tran, Kipp and Quynh Ky.

Angel Lagunas, Emely Lazo, Andy Le, Rachael Le, Ryan Le, Tommy Le, Vy Le, Jordan Leahman, Naima Leblanc, Dylan Lemons, Angel Limachi, Kyla Lobo, Joan Loera Coronado, Alejandro Lopez, Jonathan Lopez, Joshua Lopez, Roland Lopez and Trinity Lopez.

David Lozoya, Melanie Luengo Montano, Stephen Lukner, Atiana Luna, Kaleb Luna, Victoria Luna, Han Ly, Jennifer Ly, Julie Machado, Santos Magana, Aidan Maldonado, Hailey Maldonado, Ryley Malveaux, Cesar Martinez, Daisy Martinez, Daniel Martinez and Gabriel Martinez.

Jazmyne Martinez, Daniel Masoom, Jayzeon Medaniel, Frida Mejia, Darianny Mercedez, Matthew Merios, Shaina Miles, Seth Miller, Matison Mitchell, Yusuf Mohamad, Roselynn Molina, Frida Montreal, Michael Montano, Jasmin Mooney, Alexa Morales Acosta and Carlos Morales.

Jazmin Morales, Elia Moreno, Jesus Moreno, Kevin Navarro, Kameron Nettles, Jessica Ngo, Linh Ngo, Tran Ngo, Tri Ngo, Anh Nguyen, Cindy Nguyen, Crystal Nguyen, Dylan Nguyen, Elexy-Lyn Nguyen, George Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen and John Nguyen.

Kenny Nguyen, Mason Nolan Tran, Philip Tran, Thi Tran, Tristan Tran, Sarah Trinh, Andrew Ullman, Casandra Vagliente, Julian Valencia, Jose Valladares and Ariana Vargas.

Maria Vasquez, Alayza Vasquez Villalobos, Arturo Vega, Vivian Vega, Kennedy Villafana, Megan Vu, Sophia Vu, Tri Vu, Cameron Walcott, Mariel Watson and Isreal Whittaker.

Asca'el Wilbert, Karah Williams, Ray Williams, Aaliyah Wilson, Carter Wright, Maddison Wright, Niyata Yoel, Elli Yu, Abigail Zamarripa, Francisco Zamudio and Yuri-ana Zollocoffer.

11th grade
Ivan Acosta, Viviana Acosta, Aaron Aguilar, Maricela Aguilar, Rey Aguirre, Chelsea Akinloye, Hayden Alanis, Francisco Aleman, Imaad Ali, Alyssa Allen, Tiara Allen, Alexander Alonso, Bianca Amaya, Eva Appelt, Manlio Arango, Layla Araujo and Katherine Armenta.

Victoria Arnsworth, Samantha Arredondo, Michelle Avalos, Alicia Ayala, Kevin Ayala, Shaira Balanta Pachon, Houston Banda, Rosalyn Barber, Gianna Barreiro, Leonardo Barron Watson, Nancy Bazaldad, Obed Benavidez, Jayla Betancourt, Katharina Bleith Ramirez and Jaydon Bonilla.

Arianna Borrego, Derymi Bosquez, Arianna Brown, Yvette Brown, Alan Bui, Alyssa Burgess, Brooklynn Bush, Tristan Calderon, Jorge Camacho, Jill Canales, Ariel Cano, Carolina Cantarero, Yen Cao, Juan Carson, Maxwell Cash, Maya Castellano, Elianny Castillo, Julian Cavazos and Linh Chung.

Braulio Ortiz, Christopher Contreras, Amiyah Cotton, Christian Covarubias, Ashley Cruz, Johnavon Cruz, Madisson Cuyo, Pham Dang, Tyler Dang, Jordan Davis, Daniel De La Rosa, Melanie De La Rosa, Emiliano De La Torre Carlos and Andrew Deleon.

Azalea Deleon, Danielle Deleon, Maximiliano Delgado, Richard Diaz, Anna Dinh, Loi Doan, Diavio Dominguez, Francisco Dunn, Vivian Duong, Gracie Dykstra, Emmanuel Elizondo, Brian Erazo, Jorge Escobar, Romario Escobar, Oscar Espinoza, Zoe Espinoza and Aubri Estes.

Leslie Figueroa, Gizelle Flores, Kaitlyn Flores, Kelly Flores, Adriana Foreman, Da'shaun Foster, Haylie Foster, Fabian Franco, Aly Frias, Juan Galicia, Jesus Gomez Cepeda, Ziara Gaona, Kevin Garcia Zarco, Eliud Garcia, Hailey Garcia and Johana Garcia.

Justice Garcia, Mariana Garcia, Mcklaus Garcia, Victor Garcia, Yahir Garcia, Ariana Garza, Daniela Garza, Eloy Garza, Yazmin Garza, Titus Ganga, Surjume Givens-Fantenot, Kira Goeman, Lydia Golenko, Alexia Gomez, Catherine Gomez, Jose Gomez and Diana Gonzales.

Ayleen Arambula, Troy Arevalo, Angel Arias, Janet Armenta, Sidney Armstrong, Allison Arreola, Ruby Arriaga, Rabab Asif, Luke Auzenne, Giovanni Avila, Miguel Azua, Yael Azuara, Kennedy Baines, Lola Bascos, Olivia Batres, Sayra Beltran Fernandez and Houa Ben Achour.

Jennifer Ben-Smith, Dynasti Benson, Ethan Bishop, Gisele Bonilla, Isabel Bransfield, Noah Brock, Kyle Brossard, Hoa Bui, Theresa Burdfield, Belicia Burgett, David Caballero and Evelyn Cabello.

Jade Cabrera, Gabriel Calderon, Ernesto Calvillo, Dylan Campos, Sully Cantu, Keishirah Carathars, Brenda Carrico, Abigail Carreon, Jaiza Carrier, Linda Castelan, Gisselle Castillo, Jazlynn Castillo, Miriam Castillo and Samantha Cavazos-Ramirez.

Jasmine Cazares Corona, Kyra Cervantes, Nathanael Chapa, Aaron Charles, Bella Cisneros, Alexis Cline, Kenneth Collins, Isaiah Correa, Madison Creekmore, Liana Cruz, Sarah Cruz, Sofia Cruz, Mariana Cuevas and Anh Dang.

Diana Dang, Hieu Dang, Darion Davis, Raymundo De La Garza, Maria Diaz Ferrer, Nhi Dinh, Viet-joseph Dinh, Stefanie Djato, Andrew Do, Jenny Do, Mai Doan, Nam Duong, Brittany Duran, Jason Escobedo and Abel Espinoza.

Torey Falls, Alyssa Flores, Fernando Flores, Gisselle Flores, Iveth Flores, Lyzbeth Flores, Jeffery Floyd, Jocelyn Floyd, Kaylee Frank, Matia Franklin, Tristan Fuentes, Megan Gallegos and Alejandro Gama.

Justin Gansit, Gracie Garcia Nguyen, My-An Nguyen, Nghi Nguyen, Peter Nguyen, Quan Nguyen, Taylor Nguyen, Terry Nguyen, Troy Nguyen, Tuyet Nguyen, Tyler Nguyen, Malik Nguyen-Simmons, Cindy Ni, Aaryan Nizam, Jackelyn Ochoa, Yulissa Oliva Lopez and Axel Olmedo.

Jennifer Olvera, Diego Orta, Sabino Ortiz, Ashlyn Otero, Lacie Pace, Adrian Pantoja, Abigail Panza, Audrey Paredes, Prassidhi Pawani, Sabrina Pector, Brianna Pedraza, Mary Pelekamoyo, Alan Perez, Anthony Perez, Jazmin Perez and Belle Perridon.

Andrew Pham, Linda Pham, Loan Pham, Vina Pham, Annie Phan, Ricardo Pichardo, Saryyah Pickens, Kevin Pino, Sophia Posey, Javari Powell, Jaylin Powell, Haley Precella, Jacob Ramales and Gael Ramos.

Randy Reyes Chicas, Joel Reyes, Emily Reyes, Yoel Reyes, Isaac Reynolds, Ariznelly Rivera, Jackie Rochin, Ja'kayla Rock-Butler, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Rodriguez, Eva Rodriguez, Eyden Rodriguez, Jaretsy Rodriguez and Jeovany Rodriguez.

Juan Rodriguez, Sophia Rodriguez, Itzel Romero, Meadow Ross, Melania Salazar, Valerie Salazar, Emily Salinas, Gustavo Salinas, Aliyah Sanchez, Angelina Sanchez, Axel Sanchez, Renz Sanchez, Jacklyn Santos and Daniel Saravia.

Alyson Schwausch, Isabel Segovia, Madelyn Sepulveda, Anna Serpas, Melvin Serrano Aquino, Malcolm Sherwood, Minza Siddiqui, Sahalley Silva, Gabriel Smiley, Maddisyn Sockwell, Eric Solis, Nicolas Soto and Malaika Tapela.

Maximo Tapia, Hermynie Taylor, Jaime Tellez, Kenton Thai, Ian Thomas, Anthony Torres, Ariana Torres, Leyla Torres, Valeria Torres, Dulce Torres-Padilla, Evelyn Tran, Jimmy Tran and Kayla Tran.

Kyle Tran, Lilly Tran, Nghia Tran, Ngoc Tran, Thomas Tran, Vinson Tran, Y Tran, Hannah Truong, Blaine Turner, Abigail Unica, Vivica Valencia, Fernando Valenzuela-Garcia and Liam Vasquez.

Richard Vasquez, Julissa Vega, Jasmin Villela, Yihyen Visuet, Mai Vo, Misa Vo, Glory Vouffo, Dillan Vu, Hallie Vu, Iven Vu, Mathew Vu, Mia Vu and Teresa Vu.

Thomas Vu, Trang Vu, Khalia Whorton-Shorts, Ciara Williams, Antwoine Wilson, Giselle Wittenberg, Kayorie Wright, David Zelada, Leslie Zermeno and Denise Zuniga.

12th grade
Jordi Acosta, Joshua Aguilar, Ashly Aguirre, Evelyn Aguirre, Lizeth Aguirre, Valerie Akinloye, Kaitlyn Alexander Hamilton, Mia Alexander, Jose Alonso, Clarissa Alvarado, Carlos Alvarenga, Katherine Alvarez Benitez, Alize Alvarez and Xander Amparado.

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Jennifer Olvera, Diego Orta, Sabino Ortiz, Ashlyn Otero, Lacie Pace, Adrian Pantoja, Abigail Panza, Audrey Paredes, Prassidhi Pawani, Sabrina Pector, Brianna Pedraza, Mary Pelekamoyo, Alan Perez, Anthony Perez, Jazmin Perez and Belle Perridon.

Andrew Pham, Linda Pham, Loan Pham, Vina Pham, Annie Phan, Ricardo Pichardo, Saryyah Pickens, Kevin Pino, Sophia Posey, Javari Powell, Jaylin Powell, Haley Precella, Jacob Ramales and Gael Ramos.

Randy Reyes Chicas, Joel Reyes, Emily Reyes, Yoel Reyes, Isaac Reynolds, Ariznelly Rivera, Jackie Rochin, Ja'kayla Rock-Butler, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Rodriguez, Eva Rodriguez, Eyden Rodriguez, Jaretsy Rodriguez and Jeovany Rodriguez.

Juan Rodriguez, Sophia Rodriguez, Itzel Romero, Meadow Ross, Melania Salazar, Valerie Salazar, Emily Salinas, Gustavo Salinas, Aliyah Sanchez, Angelina Sanchez, Axel Sanchez, Renz Sanchez, Jacklyn Santos and Daniel Saravia.

Alyson Schwausch, Isabel Segovia, Madelyn Sepulveda, Anna Serpas, Melvin Serrano Aquino, Malcolm Sherwood, Minza Siddiqui, Sahalley Silva, Gabriel Smiley, Maddisyn Sockwell, Eric Solis, Nicolas Soto and Malaika Tapela.

Maximo Tapia, Hermynie Taylor, Jaime Tellez, Kenton Thai, Ian Thomas, Anthony Torres, Ariana Torres, Leyla Torres, Valeria Torres, Dulce Torres-Padilla, Evelyn Tran, Jimmy Tran and Kayla Tran.

Kyle Tran, Lilly Tran, Nghia Tran, Ngoc Tran, Thomas Tran, Vinson Tran, Y Tran, Hannah Truong, Blaine Turner, Abigail Unica, Vivica Valencia, Fernando Valenzuela-Garcia and Liam Vasquez.

Richard Vasquez, Julissa Vega, Jasmin Villela, Yihyen Visuet, Mai Vo, Misa Vo, Glory Vouffo, Dillan Vu, Hallie Vu, Iven Vu, Mathew Vu, Mia Vu and Teresa Vu.

Thomas Vu, Trang Vu, Khalia Whorton-Shorts, Ciara Williams, Antwoine Wilson, Giselle Wittenberg, Kayorie Wright, David Zelada, Leslie Zermeno and Denise Zuniga.

12th grade
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Ayleen Arambula, Troy Arevalo, Angel Arias, Janet Armenta, Sidney Armstrong, Allison Arreola, Ruby Arriaga, Rabab Asif, Luke Auzenne, Giovanni Avila, Miguel Azua, Yael Azuara, Kennedy Baines, Lola Bascos, Olivia Batres, Sayra Beltran Fernandez and Houa Ben Achour.

Jennifer Ben-Smith, Dynasti Benson, Ethan Bishop, Gisele Bonilla, Isabel Bransfield, Noah Brock, Kyle Brossard, Hoa Bui, Theresa Burdfield, Belicia Burgett, David Caballero and Evelyn Cabello.

Jade Cabrera, Gabriel Calderon, Ernesto Calvillo, Dylan Campos, Sully Cantu, Keishirah Carathars, Brenda Carrico, Abigail Carreon, Jaiza Carrier, Linda Castelan, Gisselle Castillo, Jazlynn Castillo, Miriam Castillo and Samantha Cavazos-Ramirez.

Jasmine Cazares Corona, Kyra Cervantes, Nathanael Chapa, Aaron Charles, Bella Cisneros, Alexis Cline, Kenneth Collins, Isaiah Correa, Madison Creekmore, Liana Cruz, Sarah Cruz, Sofia Cruz, Mariana Cuevas and Anh Dang.

Diana Dang, Hieu Dang, Darion Davis, Raymundo De La Garza, Maria Diaz Ferrer, Nhi Dinh, Viet-joseph Dinh, Stefanie Djato, Andrew Do, Jenny Do, Mai Doan, Nam Duong, Brittany Duran, Jason Escobedo and Abel Espinoza.

Torey Falls, Alyssa Flores, Fernando Flores, Gisselle Flores, Iveth Flores, Lyzbeth Flores, Jeffery Floyd, Jocelyn Floyd, Kaylee Frank, Matia Franklin, Tristan Fuentes, Megan Gallegos and Alejandro Gama.

Justin Gansit, Gracie Garcia Nguyen, My-An Nguyen, Nghi Nguyen, Peter Nguyen, Quan Nguyen, Taylor Nguyen, Terry Nguyen, Troy Nguyen, Tuyet Nguyen, Tyler Nguyen, Malik Nguyen-Simmons, Cindy Ni, Aaryan Nizam, Jackelyn Ochoa, Yulissa Oliva Lopez and Axel Olmedo.

Jennifer Olvera, Diego Orta, Sabino Ortiz, Ashlyn Otero, Lacie Pace, Adrian Pantoja, Abigail Panza, Audrey Paredes, Prassidhi Pawani, Sabrina Pector, Brianna Pedraza, Mary Pelekamoyo, Alan Perez, Anthony Perez, Jazmin Perez and Belle Perridon.

Andrew Pham, Linda Pham, Loan Pham, Vina Pham, Annie Phan, Ricardo Pichardo, Saryyah Pickens, Kevin Pino, Sophia Posey, Javari Powell, Jaylin Powell, Haley Precella, Jacob Ramales and Gael Ramos.

Randy Reyes Chicas, Joel Reyes, Emily Reyes, Yoel Reyes, Isaac Reynolds, Ariznelly Rivera, Jackie Rochin, Ja'kayla Rock-Butler, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Rodriguez, Eva Rodriguez, Eyden Rodriguez, Jaretsy Rodriguez and Jeovany Rodriguez.

Juan Rodriguez, Sophia Rodriguez, Itzel Romero, Meadow Ross, Melania Salazar, Valerie Salazar, Emily Salinas, Gustavo Salinas, Aliyah Sanchez, Angelina Sanchez, Axel Sanchez, Renz Sanchez, Jacklyn Santos and Daniel Saravia.

Ganje, Garcia receive plaques



Outgoing South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce chair Rebecca Lilley (center) was also honored Friday, Feb. 10, at the group's 2023 gala. She is shown presenting 2022 plaques to Clear Brook City MUD General Manager Cecelia Ganje and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia that were not ready on time for last year's event. Ganje and Garcia were named citizen and volunteer of the year, respectively. See related photos on Pages 1 and 4. Photo by Bruce Summers

Chamber of Commerce holds 37th annual banquet

The City of Houston, Office of Emergency Management is required to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan as a condition for receiving certain types of nonemergency disaster grants and assistance.

Continued from Page 1
Officers included Noble Alix Jr. (b1 Bank), vice president; Tristan Williams (Island Breeze Car Wash), treasurer; and Denise Burleigh (Burleigh Chiropractic), Kenny Fernandez (North American Shipping Agency), Emory Gadd (Sagemont

Church), Alyta Harrell (Pasadena ISD), Rosanne Kerr (H-E-B), Anthony Knight (San Jacinto College), Kristi Koncaba (Home Bank), Reyna Lara Lagunas (Shell Federal Credit Union) and Trae Morris (Texas Go 2 Realtors).

Disaster-planning meeting set

Continued from Page 1
recovery throughout Houston. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is important for the city to be safe and resilient. Public input is critical to determine project needs and priorities for the plan.

The City of Houston, Office of Emergency Management is required to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan as a condition for receiving certain types of nonemergency disaster grants and assistance.

General's Consumer Protection Division by calling toll-free 1-800-621-0508 or by filing an online complaint on the OAG website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/file-consumer-complaint.

Texans to stay safe whenever tornadoes are forecasted, and to take appropriate shelter when local authorities recommend doing so.

For additional information, visit recovery.texas.gov/preparedness/tornado-preparedness/index.html.

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Nfor crowned spelling bee winner



Congratulations are in order for Meador fourth-grader Samuel Nfor (center) for winning the district elementary spelling bee. There were 36 elementary schools competing in this 20 round tournament. His winning word was "Chinese." Shown alongside him, left to right, are Kevin Fox (assistant principal), Jennifer Chavez (principal) and Tara Merida (counselor). His friends, teachers and family are very proud of him.

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South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce event is a gala affair



Judge Jo Ann Delgado is shown above swearing in new South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce board members and officers at the group's annual gala Friday, Feb. 10. Being sworn in are, left to right, Kristi Konca-

ba, Denise Burleigh (secretary), Alyta Harrell, Lisa Haulbrook, Noble J. Alix, Jr. (vice president), Kenny Fernandez, Aaron Knight, Chris Clark, Ezreal Garcia (chair), Emory Gadd, Rebecca Lilley and Marie Flickinger.



Shown above at the annual South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce gala are, left to right, Alesia Caldwell Black, who serves as chamber director, Emory Gadd, member and Kristi Koncaba, who serves as committee chair for the event.



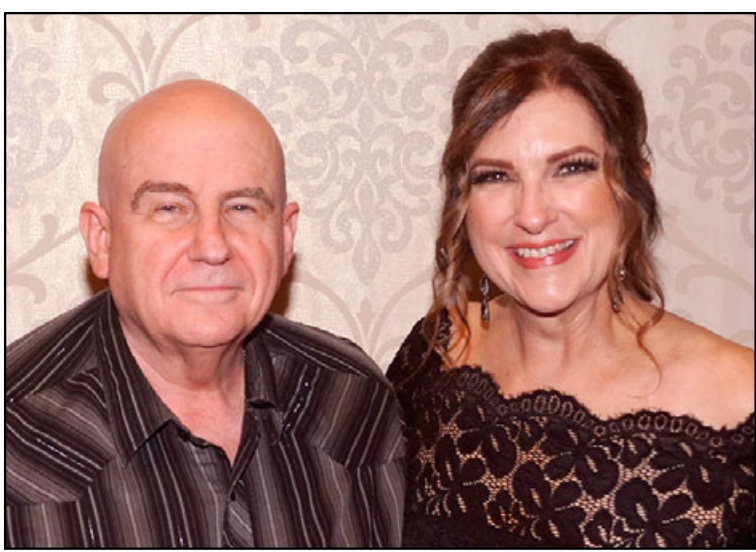
Shown above representing Pasadena ISD at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce 37th annual gala are, left to right, Pasadena ISD Board President Vickie Morgan, Pasadena ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeeAnn Powell and Pasadena ISD board member Marshall Kendrick. Shown below at the event are Bruce Summers who was honored for many years as the gala photographer and Rebecca Lilley.

All photos by Bruce Summers, excluding bottom left that features him



Shown above at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce 37th annual installation banquet are Danny Puento and wife Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace JoAnn Delgado. Pictured below at the event, held Friday, Feb. 10 at the Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland,

are, left to right, Pasadena ISD Associate Superintendent Alyta Harrell, Roberts Middle School Principal Citlali Guerrero, Thompson Intermediate Principal Tanis Griffin and Morris Middle School Principal Allison Lewallen.



Sharing EFL fields

Continued from Page 1
Both sides acknowledged that actions taken by Ramirez in the way he started the new league were done incorrectly bringing the baseball community to where it is today.
All agreed since Pony was so far along, a compromise was necessary.
Rick Newell, of the sports association was determined to do what was best for all the kids. It was decided at the meeting that both leagues will utilize the baseball fields for the 2023 season.
Flickinger expressed a similar opinion at the meeting. "Just because Johnny made such a mess of the situation doesn't mean the kids should suffer," Flickinger said.
As primary tenants of the fields, the Little League officials agreed they would allow the Pony League usage out of the best interest for the children making usage equal between both leagues as of now.
The reason Little League agreed to the sharing of the fields was for the benefit of the kids. The Pony players have already received their uniforms and started practicing.
Many who signed up did so through the Little League hub. Many who have contacted the *Leader* believed they were joining Little League.
While Little League is beginning registration at the park this week, at the meeting it was agreed that Pony would also be using the fields but on Tuesday Pony opted to cancel their activities at the park while Little League would be registering.
Some Pony parents expressed to the *Leader* they were upset because Little League caused them to cancel this week's activities at the park. This is incorrect Pony made that decision independently after the meeting.
Those trying to get the two groups to work together believe they should be able to work together as adults.
According to sports association officials, an election will be held later this year to determine the future of the two leagues.

KBP hosts dinner, show Feb. 24-25



Shown above, left to right, are cast members Mabree Cole as Gert Hoppelmeyer; Piper Fatter as Doc Poindexter; Emmerie Ricketts as June Hildebrand; Adrian "AJ" Estala as Darryl Burdett; Ariana Lim as Dolly Manfred; Helen Zhou as Myrna Fontaine; and Aria Townsend as Luann Sommers.

Kids' Backporch Productions announces its 89th show and murder mystery dinner theater production of "An Inconvenient Corpse" by Pat Cook. This production is directed by Amy Kennah-Ricketts and Jennifer Townsend and produced by Pioneer Drama Service Inc.
A dead body can be so inconvenient — especially when it's the corpse of the meeting's guest of honor, who drops dead. Nonstop hilarity begins as the ladies try to keep the corpse out of sight from unexpected guests. This fast-paced farce is packed with suspense and laughter. With comedic characters, amusing scenes, and lots of stage action, one can try to solve this hilarious mystery while enjoying dinner. This play is intended for the whole family to enjoy.
This show is appropriate for all ages and will be held at Shadycrest Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3017 Yost Blvd., Pearland. Dinner and performances will be Friday, Feb. 24 and Saturday, Feb. 25. Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner and show to follow at 6:30 and 7 p.m.
For the Saturday, Feb. 25 and Sunday, Feb. 26 matinee showings, doors open at 1 p.m. Lunch and show will follow at 1:30 and 2 p.m.
Tickets (\$20 per person) are available at <http://kidsbackporch.ticketleap.com>, but may be purchased at the door the day of the show. Attendees are strongly recommended to purchase tickets online ahead of time, though. All sales are final. There is no assigned seating though KBP will work to have parties seated together. All tables are first-come, first-served.
For more information, visit www.kidsbackporchproductions.org and www.facebook.com/KidsBackPorch.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)
Two Pasadena men were arrested and charged in the felony theft of twelve Doberman pinscher puppies.
Over a period of a couple of weeks, South Belt residents were plagued by nighttime visits from cows and bulls.
40 years ago (1983)
Demolition on four South Belt gas stations began. The demolition was contracted by the state highway department to clear land for the proposed South Belt.
Bank statements were stolen from several residents of Sagemark Street. The thieves then bilked several local banks for hundreds of dollars.
35 years ago (1988)
A year after a federal judge handed a discrimination ruling against the Pasadena Independent School District, the prosecutor in the case said the district is doing "very well" in complying with the judge's order to actively recruit African-American teachers.
Meador Elementary School celebrated its 25th anniversary.
30 years ago (1993)
The Park & Pool lot near Fuddrucker's was on schedule to open within six months, but the proposed much larger Park & Ride was on hold. The hold was the result of Metro conducting a study on a Clear Lake commuter rail line.
As a manager of the Apple Tree grocery store on Hughes Road approached a shoplifter, the man pulled a knife before fleeing.
A Sagemeadow resident was stabbed to death inside his home on Sageaspen. Several suspects reportedly kicked in the front door then handcuffed the resident before stabbing him. An undisclosed amount of marijuana was taken from the home; however, approximately 16 pounds were left.
25 years ago (1998)
A former South Belt resident was found shot to death in the trunk of a car. Owners of a business in South Houston called police after noticing blood on a car in their

parking lot. No motive for the shooting was known.
A motorcyclist attempting a left turn on Beamer at Beltway 8 suffered injuries to his leg after striking a van.
20 years ago (2003)
Faye Sansom and daughter Crystal got a sudden fright when a gas explosion set their home on Raming Trail on fire.
Billy Lee Arlen, 58, of Sagepike, was arrested and charged with indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a child under the age of 14.
15 years ago (2008)
A man was killed in an automobile accident when his car struck the back of another vehicle while west-bound on Beltway 8. Navid Seynafir, 42, was near the entrance ramp to the beltway just west of Beamer when he rear-ended a trailer attached to another vehicle. His car then rolled over before coming to a stop. Seynafir was pronounced

dead at the scene.
The Clear Creek Independent School District's School Boundary Advisory Committee announced it had revised its recommendations regarding the transfer of Weber Elementary students. Revised plans called for students who reside in Ashley Pointe to remain at Weber, while students who reside in College Place were to attend North Pointe Elementary.
Early voting for the primary elections began in Harris County, and voters showed up in record numbers. On the first day to cast an early vote, 9,233 people voted in the Democratic primary, while 2,914 people voted in the Republican primary. By comparison, in the previous presidential primary election in 2004, 849 Democrats cast their vote on the first day of early voting, while 678 Republicans voted.
10 years ago (2013)

A former math teacher at Beverly Hills Intermediate School was arrested and charged with five felony counts, the result of an investigation into allegations she was engaged in improper relationships with four students, all then enrolled in high school. LaShawn Simmons, 41, had resigned her position the previous month in lieu of termination. The five charges included one count of sexual assault of a child under 17, a second-degree felony. She was also charged with two counts of engaging in an improper relationship between an educator and a student, also a second-degree felony. The two other charges filed against Simmons — online solicitation of a minor and possession of child pornography — were both third-degree felonies. The students, two adults and two juveniles, were all enrolled at J. Frank Dobie High School.
5 years ago (2018)

A man was shot in the leg Wednesday, Feb. 7, during an argument at a convenience store in the 9200 block of Clearwood. The victim was transported to the hospital with a non-life-threatening injury. No immediate arrests were made.
The Dobie Lariatettes and Lasso drill teams excelled at a regional competition in New Caney, taking home multiple awards.
1 year ago (2022)
Dobie High School announced its 2022 Hall of Honor inductees. This marked the 10th annual class of inductees. This distinction recognizes graduates who have made significant contributions in the community and serve as role models to students. This recognition is the highest honor bestowed to Longhorn alumni or former faculty members. Dobie's 2022 Hall of Honor class included five individuals, four graduates and a faculty member. Inductees

included Larry Neumann (Class of 1970), David Jackson (Class of 1981), Alycia Raycraft (Class of 1986) and John Evans (Class of 1986). David Chollett is the lone faculty member being recognized. A star athlete at Dobie, Neumann returned to coach at his alma mater, as well as Nederland High School. Jackson became a longtime employee at NASA. Raycraft went on to become a filmmaker and costume designer for "The Office." Evans became an award-winning Texas musician and artist. Chollett served as the area high school's head track and field coach for nearly 30 years. An induction ceremony for the honorees was held at the area campus Feb. 25.
The Redford Apartments near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway was dubbed as a "hot spot" for violent crime by Houston police after it was the site of two shootings in a 48-hour period — one of which was fa-

tal. A man was fatally shot inside his apartment around 11:40 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, in the 1200 block of Redford. Alex Cantu, 21, died at the scene. According to police, patrol officers responded to a shooting call at the above address, and witnesses reported an unknown suspect forced his way inside the apartment and shot the victim multiple times after a physical altercation. The suspect then fled on foot. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded and pronounced the victim dead at the scene. Just two days later on Tuesday, Feb. 8, a 22-year-old man was critically injured after being shot in the face in broad daylight at the same complex. In that incident, a suspect again forced his way into an apartment complex, shot a sleeping victim, then fled the scene. Police said they believed the two shootings were related.



Over The Back Fence by Natalie

JADE CELEBRATES 15TH BIRTHDAY
Special happy birthday wishes are sent to **Jade Elizabeth Scarberry** who turns 15 years old Saturday, Feb. 18. Hugs and kisses are sent to her from dad **Austin**, wife **Tiffany** and little sister **Lily Scarberry**; mom **Nicole Scarberry**; grandparents **Jannie** and **Robert Scarberry**, former longtime South Belt residents; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Stacey Flowers**; uncles **Stephen Flowers**, **Joey Hayes** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno** and **Kennedy**, **Owen** and **Evie Flowers**. Jade's parents are both Dobie High School graduates.
SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 16 through the month of February.
Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Norma Flores** Feb. 21.
Bush Elementary
Remember to wish **Aide Buenrostro** a happy birthday Feb. 18.

Genoa Elementary
The day for a party for **Summer Bradley** is Feb. 18. Celebrating a special day Feb. 22 is **Maria Montelongo**.
Moore Elementary
Join in on the birthday fun Feb. 18 for **Ashley Evans**.
South Belt Elementary
Celebrating a birthday Feb. 19 is **Amber Morris**, assistant principal.
Melillo Middle School
The day for cake and ice cream for **Olivia Mah** is Feb. 20. Sing a chorus of a happy birthday song Feb. 21 to **Wanda Soto**.
Roberts Middle School
The day of celebration for **Jose Martinez** is Feb. 21.
Thompson Intermediate
Sandra Trevino celebrates a birthday Feb. 17. Sing a chorus of a happy birthday song Feb. 19 to **Yolanda Robinson**. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 21 is **Melissa Prestridge**.
Dobie High
The day for birthday balloons and party favors for **Willard Joiner** is Feb. 16. The day for a party for **Reema Shaukat** is Feb.

18. Birthday cake and ice cream are on tap for **Dendy Farrar** Feb. 20. Join in the birthday fun Feb. 22 with **Lori Sims**.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Friday, Feb. 17: **Jeannie Nelson**, **Monica Gonzales**, **Dawn Armstrong**, **Jeri Joslin**, **Donn Reichelt**, **Russell Janacek** and **Susan Slater**. Saturday, Feb. 18: **Sonja Britt**, **Jason Jaeger**, **Leslie Barr**, **Sterling Washington**, **Rose Pena**, **Tianne Bernal**, **LeRoy Peters**, **Shana Kiser**, **Daer Platt**, **Valerie Chavez** and **Troy Taormina**; Sunday, Feb. 19: **Jason Minck**, **Dalaina Rounsavall-Harris**, **Patricia Doran** and **Ryan Mint**; Monday, Feb. 20: **Paul Brantly**, **Heidi Samford**, **Judy Lucadou-Dooly** and **Jamie Baggett**; Tuesday, Feb. 21: **Michael Gabbard**, **Vonda Byars**, **Kellie Nelson** and **Richard Salinas**; and Wednesday, Feb. 22: **Gerald Maduzia**.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

North Shore girls' basketball eliminates Dobie girls, 64-39



The North Shore varsity girls' basketball program brought an end to Dobie's season in the bidistrict playoffs Feb. 13 at Phillips Field House, cruising to a 64-39 win in the game to advance to the area round at 28-8 overall. Jacque Giron had 16 points in her final game for Dobie to lead the way. North



Shore built an early 24-10 lead and kept a comfortable margin throughout the contest. At left, Giron, with ball, works against the Mustangs' Branasia Brazelton. Above, Dobie's Valerie Akinloye (34) protects the paint in her final game with the Longhorns. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie tops 22-6A boys' soccer as second half of action starts

A ninth straight district championship is well within hand as the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team gets set to play the six-match backstretch of the District 22-6A race beginning Feb. 18 against Deer Park at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The Pasadena Eagles have done enough to stay within striking distance of the Longhorns through the first half of the race, but head coach Justo Manrique's squad has shown few dents en route to earning 16 of a possible 18 points to date.

Continued on Page 6



At right, Dobie's Alex Escobar (8) erupted for 10 points against South Houston Feb. 10 at Veterans Stadium with a hat trick of goals and four assists as the locals ended the first half in first place at 5-0-1 for 16 points. The Longhorns return to action Feb. 18 against Deer Park at Veterans Stadium. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie girls earn three gold medals at Brown Relays

Ashlee Garcia and Stacie Harris won individual gold medals to lift the Dobie varsity girls' track and field program to a fifth-place finish at the Pasadena ISD's Brown Relays Feb. 10 at Auxiliary Stadium.

The girls' squad also got a gold-medal win in the distance medley relay as Garcia, the 2022 District 22-6A cross-country champion, took part in the

event. As for the sophomore Harris, she had a solid outing for the Longhorns as she led the way with a gold medal in the long jump at 16 feet, 5 inches. Teammate Bre'Yanna Williams, also a sophomore, placed seventh at 14-10 1/2.

Another sophomore cross-country standout, Lauren Garza, picked up a bronze medal for third place in a time of 6:02.90,

and Dobie's Valerie Salazar was fifth in the same event with her time of 6:09.90.

Harris just missed a medal in the 300 hurdles as her time of 50.29 was good for fourth place in the event.

The Longhorns championed the distance medley relay with senior Ashlee Garcia, junior Kyla Lobo and sophomore Lauren Garza teamed with freshman Christina Rodriguez at 13 minutes, 41.06 seconds.

In the triple jump, senior Sophia Perez went 31-11 for sixth, with sophomore teammate Tailin Curtis eighth at a distance of 31-4.

Senior Mia Sanchez joined sophomores Camille Steans, Harris and

Curtis for a fourth-place time of 51.71 in the 4x100 relay, and Perez was fifth in the final 400 results at 1:05.77.

Dobie's 4x200 relay squad was seventh in the event in a time of 1:55.09 as the local foursome in-

cluded Steans, Curtis, Williams and sophomore Lillian Herte.

Sanchez was fifth in the 200 in a time of 28.58 as she chipped in to the point total, and the Dobie girls' 4x400 relay was fourth in a time of 4:20.90. That foursome included Sanchez, Perez, Dunn and Harris.

The Dobie boys scored two points for 12th place in the final team standings.



From left, Dobie's Ashley Dunn and Ashlee Garcia start the 800 run alongside Deer Park's Peyton Collier (right) during the Brown Relays at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena Feb. 10. Garcia won the event at 2 minutes, 35.70 seconds, with Collier the runner-up at 2:36.10. At 2:41.60, Dunn was the fourth-place finisher. The Dobie girls were fourth as a team in the point standings. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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★New Listing! Sagemeadow - Beautiful 4-3-5 DET with study and game room! Updated kitchen, large bedrooms! #GAT

★New Listing! Pearland - Beautiful 4-3-5-2ATT, large formal dining, second floor game room with open access to den, covered patio! #FALL

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Sixth-inning run lifts Dobie over Clear Brook softball

Plating the go-ahead run in the bottom of the sixth inning, Dobie opened the 2023 high school softball season with an 8-7 victory over Clear Brook Feb. 13 at the PISD Complex.

A wild first inning saw Clear Brook score three times in the top of the first inning, only to have Dobie go in front with a four-run bottom half.

Dobie would lead 7-3 after three innings, but the Wolverines forced a tie courtesy of four runs in the top of the fourth.

Clear Brook outhit Dobie 14 to 10 but made five costly errors in the game.

Brianna Garcia led the Dobie offense with a three-hit night, scoring a run and driving in two

runs. Chloey Matthews, making her varsity debut as a sophomore, was 2 for 3 with three runs scored and also knocked in a pair of runs, and Marisa Perla had two hits and scored two runs. Bella Perez had

Freshman Vanessa De La Fuente pitched 3 2/3 innings in relief to earn the win.

The Lady Wolverines took out Dickinson 60-45 Feb. 8 to run its two-year league winning streak to 24, finishing at 12-0 for the second year in a row, this time under the guid-

ance of head coach Mileka Loydrake.

At 24-8 overall, Clear Brook is led by three sophomores, including Rezia Castillo, Chardel Terrell and Kam McLaurin.

In the Feb. 17-18 area round, the Clear Brook/Alief Taylor winner will face either Beaumont West Brook or Pasadena Memorial as the postseason continues.

Champion Brook plays Feb. 14

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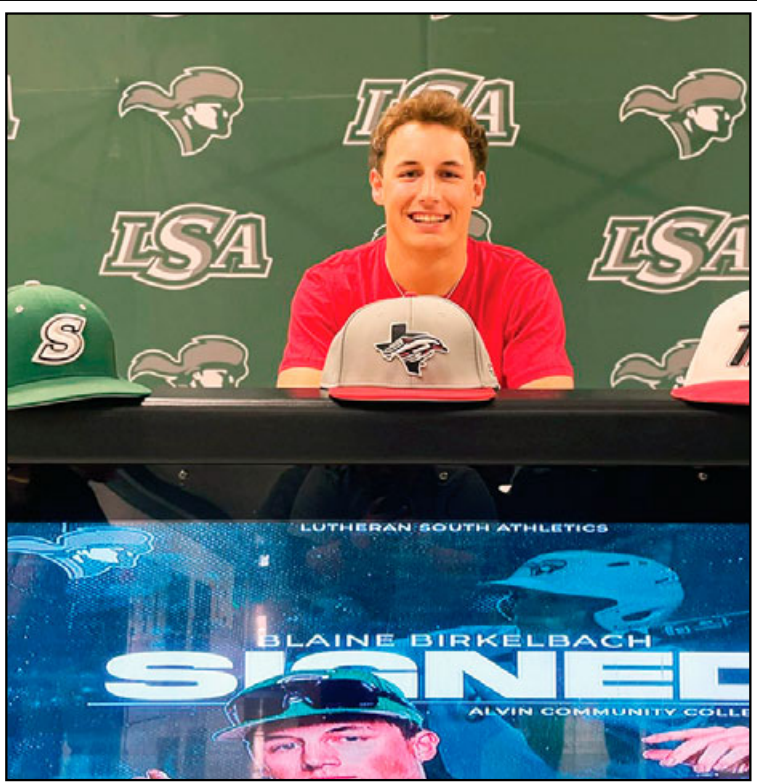
Dobie netters excel at Pearland spring invitational



Dobie tennis players excelled at the Pearland Invitational Feb. 10. From left, Natalie Vo and Tiffany Tran were second in girls' A doubles, Leena Pham and Kayla Tran placed second in girls' B doubles and Ashley Huynh and William Ho were consolation champions in mixed doubles.

Pioneers' Birkelbach to Alvin

At right, Lutheran South Academy outfielder/left-handed pitcher Blaine Birkelbach is set to continue his education and playing career at Alvin Community College after signing a letter of intent with the Dolphins earlier this month. As a junior in 2022, Birkelbach helped the Pioneers reach the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state semifinals. So far in 2023, Lutheran South Academy has picked up two wins, both by shutout, heading into play Feb. 14 after press time.



Lajaunie tennis welcomes players

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament will celebrate its 12th year with an exciting new format for 2023 that includes three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis and graduating senior class educational scholarships. As the sponsorship efforts start for 2023, various sponsorship levels are available to individuals or businesses at DLTennisScholarships.com, where the "Be A Sponsor" tab may then be selected.

For students applying for the tennis camp and college scholarships on the same site, deadline for submissions is April 7, 2023. The scholarships will be awarded to all honorees in the latter part of April. Dobie seniors who wish to apply for the college scholarships may do so by visiting the Lajaunie website or by picking up a packet in the school's counseling office. The deadline for Dobie senior scholarship submissions is April 6, 2023. The scholarship fund is

named in honor of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis enthusiast who died in 2011 after a lengthy cancer battle. Over the years, the fund has provided dozens of youth tennis scholarships and college education scholarships to deserving players. The three jamboree series events will be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the April 29, Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees. Players/teams will earn points for performance during each jamboree segment, with an emphasis placed on competing in each of the three three-hour Saturday events. The first segment - April 29 - will include a fun-filled April Fools theme. Players may register for play at DLTennisScholarships.com.

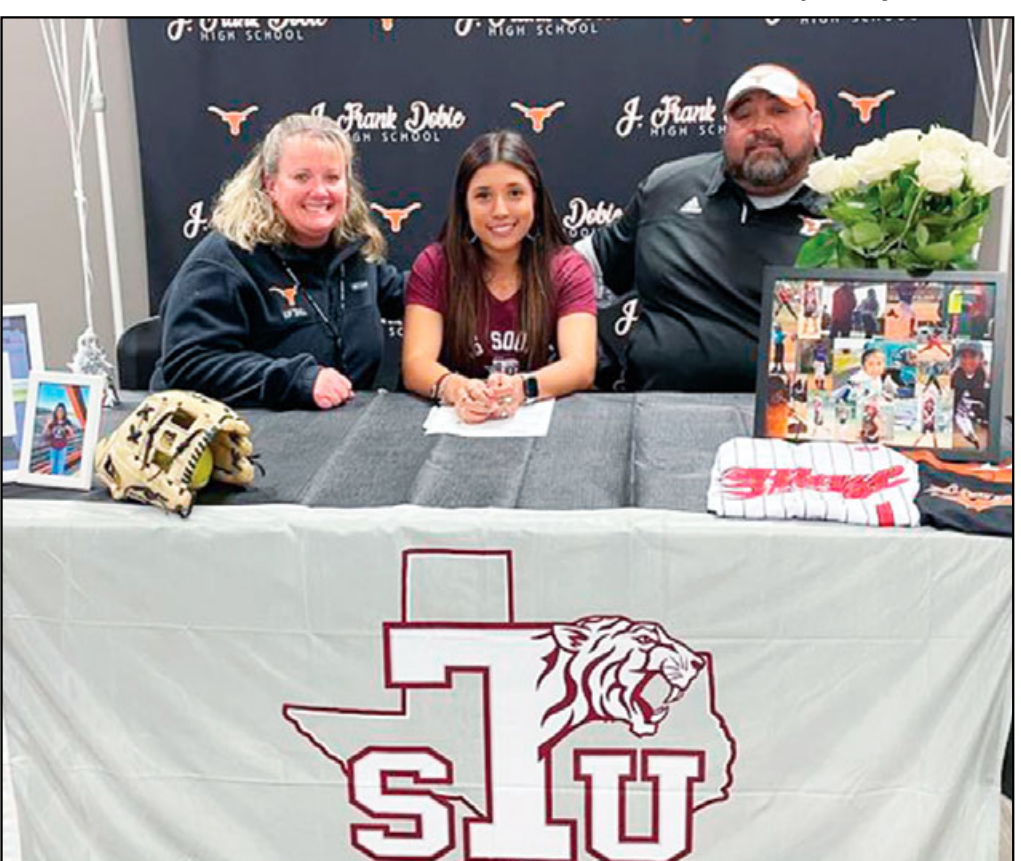
Pitt softball, Whaley to visit Houston Feb. 24-26

At right, Dobie graduate Yvonne Whaley is set to play her final collegiate softball season at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Panthers will make a trip locally as they compete in the University of Houston Invitational Feb. 24-26. Whaley was named Most Valuable Player in the District 22-6A ranks as a senior. She began her collegiate career at Texas Tech University and transferred to Pitt prior to the 2022 campaign. In her first season with the Panthers, she started in all 41 games at shortstop and led the team in batting average (.344), hits (45), runs (21) and stolen bases (8). Whaley tallied four doubles, two home runs, five RBIs and 10 walks and finished 14th in the ACC in conference play batting average with a .358 mark en route to third team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors.



Dobie's Perla chooses Texas Southern University softball

At right, Dobie Class of 2023 senior and varsity softball standout Marisa Perla (seated center) has signed to continue her education and playing career at Texas Southern University in Houston beginning this fall. A four-year varsity performer with the Longhorns, Perla won a team-best 13 games as a pitcher and hit .520 with 53 hits and 21 runs batted in as she helped guide Dobie to a 22-12 overall finish. Those with her at the signing included Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley (left) and varsity softball assistant coach Chris Swinnen. Texas Southern University plays in the NCAA's Southwestern Athletic Conference and has won 12 consecutive division titles, last winning the SWAC post-season tournament in 2017.



JFD boys' soccer again controls 22-6A

Continued from Page 5 The Longhorns delivered an emphatic statement to end the first half of league play, strumming South Houston 9-1 Feb. 10 at Veterans Stadium as Alex Escobar accounted for 10 points in all with three goals and four assists. The win just prior to an eight-day break gave the Longhorns a 5-0-1 run in 22-6A play, good for first place. At 14-0-2, this team is in the midst of putting together the best overall record in program history. With last year's league Offensive Player of the Year Ronaldo Guzman and his 20 goals as a junior on the sidelines all season to this point following knee surgery, this Dobie team has spread the wealth on the offensive end. Jordi Garcia leads the way with 16 goals and three assists, while Victor Hernandez is the team's top overall point-earner with 15 goals and six assists. With his explosion against the Trojans, Escobar now has 11 goals and seven assists. His team scoring 62 goals overall, Manrique

has seen 13 different players net goals, and 16 players have combined to deliver 46 assists. In goal, Geo Arango and Mauricio Leal have surrendered just 15 goals in all while handling the bulk of the duties for the Longhorns. While Manrique simply could not ask for anything more from his group through 16 matches, it's time to finish the second segment of the season with another title. It all starts Feb. 18 at home against Deer Park. Garcia had two more goals, giving him seven in three league wins and a team-high 15 overall as the Longhorns outlasted Rayburn 4-3 Feb. Alex Escobar also scored a goal to go with a goal and two assists from Victor Hernandez. The series between the two teams is always special as the Manrique brothers match wits on the opposing sides of the pitch. Justo Manrique has clearly built a Region III power at Dobie, while Carlos Manrique has helped the Texans get into playoff contention this season, his second as head coach.

With the second half of district play starting Feb. 18 for the Longhorns as they host Deer Park at home, there is more than just a possible ninth consecutive 22-6A championship at stake. But even as the Longhorns take a comfortable lead into the final six matches, the locals will go about their business one 90-minute segment at a time.



Jordi Garcia (10) leads the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team with 16 goals, while Kevin Guzman has played a key role for a defensive end that has allowed the fewest goals in league play. The first-place Longhorns have a plus-21 goal differential. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie boys host Deer Park Feb. 18, noon, Veterans Stadium
Dobie vs. Pasadena Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m. Veterans Stadium

Four straight victories have SJC softball at 8-3

Two-game sweeps of Hill and Kilgore boosted the San Jacinto College softball program to eight wins in 11 games to start the 2023 season. The Ravens are the defending Region 14 champions but have a roster loaded with first-time collegiate starters. The locals blanked Hill 3-0 and 13-0 in five innings Feb. 11, then returned Feb. 12 to turn back Kilgore 9-1 and 6-4, with all four games at the South campus. In the Feb. 11 opener against Kilgore, Hannah Benavides tossed a one-hitter and struck out 10, while Ella Casas drove in three runs in the fifth with a hit. In the 13-0 run-rule game, the Ravens got two hits, two runs scored and four runs batted in from Emma Garcia. Kylie Her-

nandez was 3 for 3 with two runs scored and Maggie Evans had two hits and scored twice. Sophomore pitcher Christin Haygood over-matched the Hill lineup, tossing a five-inning no-hitter with three strikeouts. As for the series sweep of Kilgore, the Ravens won the opener by run-rule as Izzy Farmer doubled and knocked in three runs, and Arianna Wright homered and drove in a pair of runs. Benavidez pitched four frames for the win, and Kristina Nash threw an inning to finish the game. San Jacinto won the nightcap 6-4 as Wright keyed a six-run inning with a homer and knocked in four runs in all. San Jacinto will next host Ranger Feb. 18 for two games at 5/7 p.m.

San Jacinto hosts Ranger Feb. 18, 5/7 p.m.
San Jacinto at Oxford Invitational Feb. 23-25, TBA
San Jacinto at NFCA March 3-4, TBA

22-6A Boys' Soccer Standings

Teams	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	3	0	1	16
Pasadena	3	0	2	11
Rayburn	2	1	2	8
Channelview	2	2	1	7
Deer Park	0	2	4	4
S. Houston	1	4	1	4
Memorial	0	4	1	1

Brook track competes at Pearland; Thompson gets gold medal in discus

The Clear Brook varsity track and field programs moved on to week two of the regular season with an appearance at the Pearland ISD's John Morris III Invitational at The Rig in Pearland. Senior thrower Kennedy Thompson, who earlier in the week signed to attend Mississippi College

(see Page 8), celebrated with a gold medal in the discus event as her throw of 123 feet, 10 1/2 inches was the best of the afternoon. The Lady Wolverines were second in the 4x400 relay at 4 minutes, 8.11 seconds and went 1:49.07 in the 4x200 for sixth place. A time of 4:39.67

placed the Wolverines eighth in the sprint medley relay. In the boys' division, sophomore Darwin Bolden was sixth in the discus as his best throw went 128-9, and the Wolverines' sprint medley relay four-some took seventh to add key points in the final team standings.

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7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - monthly dance at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. All area singles invited to attend. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drink-

ers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
7 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalananon.org/.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming. Jam-3:30/Bands-6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** - bluegrass music show and jam session at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Pickers may come early. For details, visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Dance lessons taught with different rhythm each month. 281-554-1180.
6 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For details, Call Margarita at 832-715-9658.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Friendswood chapter meets at 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
2 p.m. **Local NARFE Meeting** - NARFE Chapter 941 meets at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461 or 281-464-9708.
7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Contact Cathy@houstonsskyscraper shadows.org or call 713-332-6294.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club meets virtually. Visit south easthouston.toastmastersclub.org or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society** - for individuals interested in rocks, minerals, faceting and lapidary, a source for information on the earth sciences and supporting organizations. Meeting held at League City Library, 100 W Walker St, League City.

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Thompson headed to Miss. Coll.

At right, Clear Brook senior track and field standout Kennedy Thompson (seated center) signed a letter of intent to attend Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., where she will throw the discus and shot. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, (front row) Yolanda Milton (family friend), Betty Stacy (grandmother), Jessica Hicks (godmother), Jasmine Celestine (cousin), Joy Thompson (mother), (back row) Mark Milton Sr. (family friend), Kevin Thompson (uncle), Kenneth Thompson, (father) and Kooper Thompson (brother) Mississippi College competes in the NCAA Division II ranks, where the Choctaws are a member of the Gulf South Conference. Thompson plans to study biomedical sciences.



CB's Reitz headed to Dallas College volleyball

At right, Clear Brook Class of 2023 senior Brooke Reitz will play volleyball collegiately at Dallas College Cedar Valley beginning this fall, joining a Suns' program that is part of the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region 5 ranks. Cedar Park was runner-up in the postseason tournament and went 15-21 overall during the 2022 season. Reitz had 464 assists and 229 digs for Clear Brook as she closed out her high school career with the Wolverines last fall.



J.E. Williams, Pasadena's Legal Eagle, reaches PISD's Athletics Hall of Honor

Editor's Note: The following is the first of nine weekly features recognizing the Class of 2023 Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame inductees.

In the Feb. 23 issue of the *Leader*, Pasadena High School's Shane Nolen will be featured for his talents on the baseball diamond.

By Al Carter

PISD Hall of Fame

With broad shoulders, powerful legs and a rock jaw, John Eddie Williams seemed ready-built to excel at football – and perhaps one day even have his name installed in tall letters where thousands cheer.

Williams has experienced all that. The oddity is that football played only a circumstantial role in his

far-reaching fame – as a colossus of the courtroom.

The football field at Baylor University's McLane Stadium is named after the former lineman, a 1972 graduate of Pasadena High.

Williams' name now rings out in eight-foot letters under the scoreboard at the south end of the stadium.

The twist in the story is that Williams played only two years at Baylor before turning his full attention to academics and the field of law.

After earning a business degree from the school, he entered the Baylor Law School, where he graduated first in his class.

Then, through his

Hart law firm, he achieved superstar status in legal circles as a courtroom whiz in the art of mass-tort litigation.

Pasadena's "Legal Eagle" will be one of eight individuals inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame at a gala banquet on April 20 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Dobie High's 1981 state champion track team will also be honored.

Williams represented the State of Texas in a landmark case brought against Big Tobacco in 1995. The case resulted in a \$17.3 billion judgment – the largest legal settlement in U.S. history.

In 2002, in recognition of his achievements, Baylor named Williams

the school's lawyer of the year. Ten years later, the school selected him as an outstanding alumnus.

A contributor, along with his wife Sheridan, to numerous charitable causes, Williams ranks as one of Baylor's most effusive benefactors.

The couple helped finance two new law school facilities. His donation to help build the school's new football stadium still ranks as one of the top five capital gifts in the Baylor's long history.

In high school, Williams earned statewide recognition as a two-way lineman playing on the same team as quarterback Mike Kirkland, a Pasadena ISD Hall of Famer who went on to play in the

NFL.

Williams was twice named first-team all-district and was voted the Eagles' most valuable player as a senior.

But football was just one of Williams' assorted interests. A National Honor Society member, he was chosen president of his senior class and participated in a variety of school organizations – including the Junior Bar Association.

Still, during his teenage years, football was Williams' calling card. Considered one of the state's top line recruits, he was part of the first recruiting class assembled by Grant Teaff, who went on to become Baylor's winningest football coach.

Williams went on to big things, as well – studying the X's and O's of the American legal system.

General admission seats for the Hall of Fame banquet are available. For details, contact Kathy Richardson at the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation office; by phone, 713-740-0034, by email, KRichardson@pasadenaisd.org.

At left, a contributor, along with his wife Sheridan, to numerous charitable causes, Pasadena High School graduate John Eddie Williams ranks as one of Baylor's most effusive benefactors. In 2012, Williams was honored with a statue in recognition of being named a distinguished alumnus. The one-time Eagle football great will be inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame in April.

Williams family photo



A previous winner of Alumnus of the Year accolades at Baylor University, John Eddie Williams first starred on the football field at Pasadena High School and then played two seasons at Baylor

before choosing to focus on what would become a remarkable law career. He will be inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame in April.

CB's Griffin chooses Schreiner

At right, Clear Brook Class of 2023 senior Mackenzie Griffin will continue her education and tennis career at Schreiner University in Kerrville. A three-year varsity player at Clear Brook, Griffin has regularly played at No. 3 singles and No. 1 doubles on the girls' side of things. At Schreiner, Griffin plans to study criminal justice. The Schreiner program has previously included both Clear Brook and Dobie graduates. The SU Mountaineers compete in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference as part of the NCAA Division III ranks.



CB's Reid to Reddies' volleyball

At right, Clear Brook Class of 2023 volleyball player Bella Reid will continue her education and playing career at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark. after signing a letter of intent with the Reddies. A defensive specialist with the Wolverines during the 2022 campaign, Reid collected 480 total digs over 92 sets for the team, more than 14 per match. She also had 27 assists and 12 service aces to chip in during her final high school season. The Reddies, who compete in the NCAA Division II Great American Conference, were 10-18 in 2022 with head coach Phil McDaniel winning his 100th match with the Reddies during the regular season.



Dobie boys still in mix, Wolverines eliminated

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team went against Pasadena Feb. 15 after press time with the No. 4 playoff seed on the line.

South Houston, Deer Park and Memorial hold the top three playoff seeds, with Dobie and Pasadena both at 6-5 in the standings. Dobie owns a first-round win over the Eagles. Pasadena is 27-6 overall but could miss the

postseason. In the District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race, the Clear Brook Wolverines were headed for a fifth-place finish in the standings after a tough loss at Clear Falls Feb. 11.

Dickinson, Clear Falls, Clear Springs and Clear Lake have all qualified for the postseason, with the Wolverines at 5-6 with a game remaining against Brazoswood at press time.

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