

### Dixie Farm Road to close

The eastbound lanes of Dixie Farm Road/FM 1959 will be closed from the Gulf Freeway to SH 3/Old Galveston Road from 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, through 5 a.m. Monday Feb. 24, for necessary repairs.

### Sagemeadow meet changes

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will host its monthly meeting on a different day than usual for February. The meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Sagemeadow MUD building, 10755 Hall Road, at 7 p.m. Homeowners, residents and community members are encouraged to attend. For additional information, email info@sagemeadow.org or call and leave a message at 832-377-0847.

### SPCIA meeting Feb. 20

The Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association will hold a homeowners' meeting Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Items on the agenda for the meeting include proposed deed restriction changes and violations; and community improvement issues and actions. All Sagemont Park homeowners and residents are urged to attend.

### Life Church hosts class

Life Church is hosting a free conversational Spanish/ESL class taught by a certified bilingual teacher Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd. Email JoAnna De la Garza at islasdelagarza@gmail.com for more information.

### Beltway closures planned

At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to SH 288 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, March 23.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 21.

At least two alternate southbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 from Crenshaw to Grayson will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 21.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Sunday, March 1.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, March 1.

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

### Knights to hold fish fries

Knights of Columbus Council No. 9201 will sponsor a fundraising fish fry dinner on Friday, Feb. 28; Friday, March 6; Friday, March 13; Friday, March 20; Friday, March 27; and Friday, April 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Luke Catholic Church Social Hall, 11011 Hall Road. The menu includes a breaded catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea or lemonade. Cost is \$10 eat-in or take-out. Baked fish fillets will be available in limited quantities. All profits will go toward local and community projects.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be completely closed at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 until further notice.

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be completely closed at FM 518 until further notice.

There will be a total closure of the southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to FM 518 nightly from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Feb. 28.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, Feb. 29.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Feb. 29.

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.

### Lasso events planned

There will be a series of mandatory events for those wishing to join the Dobie High School Lasso JV dance team. A mandatory parent meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in the school cafeteria. Mandatory Lasso clinics will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. March 30, March 31 and April 1 in the school's Lariaette Room. Mandatory Lasso tryouts will be held Thursday, April 2, in the school's Lariaette Room beginning at 4:30 p.m. The program is open to all incoming freshmen. For more information, email Chelsea Henning at chenning@pasadenaisd.org.

# New 43-acre development comes to area

A massive 43-acre business park is being constructed along the 14100 block of the Gulf Freeway between Beltway 8 and Scarsdale.

Set to open later this year, the Gulfpoint Business Park will be a master-planned, multi-use development with easy access to both I-45 and the Sam Houston Parkway.

The park currently includes shovel-ready sites for medical, office, distribution, single tenant manufacturing, and multi-tenant flex space for sale and lease. The sites are available for design/build construction to purchase, as well as build-

to-suit lease options on all buildings.

Constructed by Wycoff Development, the project offers building spaces from 5,000 to 60,000 square feet.

The site's first anchor store has been claimed by Texas Injection Molding, a Houston-based manufacturer of plastic injection molded products.

Currently located on Frey Road, Texas Injection Molding will soon occupy 94,000 square feet at the new facility. The first phase of the \$6.5 million construction project will encom-

pass 64,000 square feet. Starting in 2013 with 10 molding machines and 22 employees, Texas Injection Molding has now evolved to include 23 presses and 94 employees.

"This is as state of the art as it gets," said Texas Injection Molding owner Jeff Applegate. "This facility will take us to the next level."

This point was re-emphasized by Texas Injection Molding President Scott Kelley.

"This investment in modern molding technol-

ogy and automation has put our team members and company in a position to advance the success of our customers businesses with competitive and high-quality injection molded components," Kelley said. "We are very proud of our team and are excited to see our customers and teammates prosper with the new manufacturing facility."

For additional information on the development, visit <http://wycoffdevelopment.com/properties?propertyId=483952-sale>.

## Early voting currently underway

Early voting for the March 3 primary elections is currently underway and will continue through Friday, Feb. 28.

Voters will decide on a number of different races, ranging from local judgeships to the position of president.

Local contests of importance to South Belt residents include U.S. House District 22, state Senate District 11, state House District 129, Harris County Precinct 1 commissioner and Harris County Precinct 2 Constable.

Nearby early voting locations include the Harris County annex at 10851 Scarsdale and Beam-

er; the east Harris County Activity Center at 7340 Spencer Highway in Pasadena; and the Freeman Branch Library at 16616 Diana Lane in the Clear Lake area. Residents may cast their ballot at any polling location, regardless of their precinct.

Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Feb. 22; 1 to 6 p.m. Feb. 23; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 24 through Feb. 28. To see a complete list of polling locations or a sample ballot, visit [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).

### Candidate questionnaire inside

See related congressional candidate questionnaire on Page 5A.

## Fuqua apartment complex catches fire

Houston firefighters responded to a fire at an apartment complex in the 10700 block of Fuqua around 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find light smoke coming from a two-story apartment building. Crews worked to find the source of the smoke. They pulled decking, ceiling and checked the attic space.

A resident stated they had power issues earlier, and a burn pattern was found under the decking of a first floor porch. No electrical wires were found in the area.

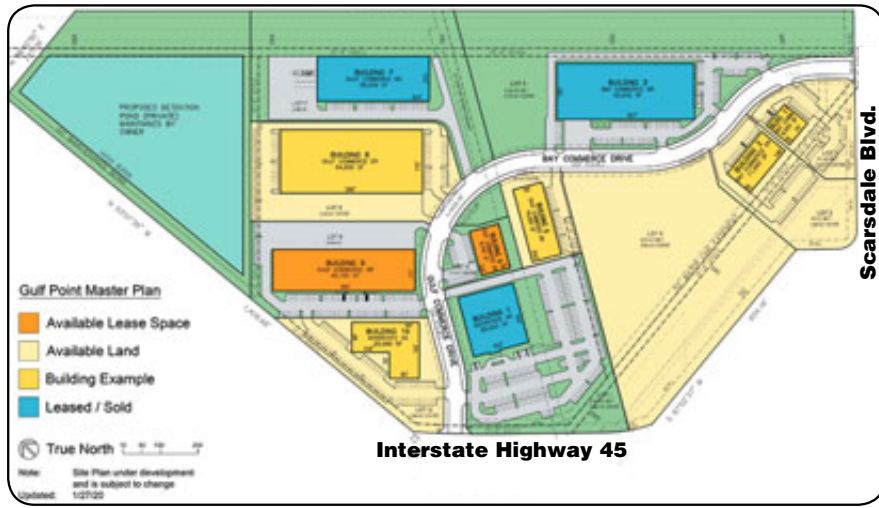
HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause of the fire and determined it was accidental in nature.

Damage was estimated at approximately \$8,000. Firefighters were able to save roughly \$812,000.

No injuries were reported.

Two units suffered damage, and crews offered to contact the American Red Cross to assist the families. Firefighters from Stations 26, 70, 52, 61 and 93 responded to this incident.

## Map of future development



A new 43-acre business park is currently being constructed along the 14100 block of the Gulf Freeway. Dubbed the Gulfpoint Business Park, the multi-use development will offer large and small retail and industrial space, with easy access to both the Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8. Texas Injection Molding will serve as the site's first anchor store. The endeavor is expected to open later this year.

# Sparks fly at constable candidate forum

A near-capacity crowd filled a banquet room at The Gardens Wednesday, Feb. 12, as dozens of residents and local law enforcement officers attended a Precinct 2 constable candidate forum hosted by a coalition of local homeowners' groups.

Democratic candidates participating in the event included Jerry Garcia, Alberto "Bert" Rivera and George Goffney Jr. Daniel Vela, the lone Republican candidate in the contest, also took part in the function.

While Democratic incumbent Chris Diaz was absent from the forum (he had been invited but declined to attend, citing previous engagements), his current job performance was an ongoing topic of discussion throughout the evening.

"I'm tired of accepting mediocrity. I'm tired of accepting what's given to us, when it's not what we deserve. We deserve better. Our kids deserve

better. You deserve better," said Garcia, who currently serves as a lieutenant with the Precinct 3 constable's office (not to be confused with a second candidate on the ballot who shares the same name, who has no police experience). "The leadership we have now is doing things to us - and I say 'us' because I am a part of this community - that has been harmful and detrimental to us. Constable Diaz's lack of experience and his decision-making again has caused great detriment to us and this community."

This sentiment was shared by Goffney. "Our present constable, Chris - and I'm not trying to knock but - has not done the job put forth," Goffney said.

All but Goffney, who made a private career in the oil and gas industry, are active law enforcement officers.

"I'm a man of integrity," Goffney said. "I left

my law enforcement career in 1980, and I left that to follow into the industrial world. And when oil was booming, I chose my family over this, but now, my heart and my passion is to come back and serve my community, as I have always been doing."

With 21-plus-years of total law-enforcement experience (half in criminal and half in civil), Garcia highlighted his clerical and bookkeeping experience, while Rivera emphasized his time spent on the streets.

"I don't know numbers. I know how to put people in jail. I know how to lead people, and that's what I'm going to do," said Rivera, who himself has 27 years criminal police experience. "Numbers? Jerry, I'm going to hire you to do my numbers."

Vela, who has 25-plus-years police experience with Pasadena, Galena Park, Shore Acres

and Spring Branch ISD, also touted his 24-plus-years as a Pasadena firefighter.

Garcia further stressed that his immediate ties to the South Belt community made him a stronger candidate.

"There is a disconnect between Constable Diaz and this community. I have a vested interest in this community," Garcia said, noting that he has been a local youth soccer coach for 18 years.

All candidates in attendance addressed Diaz's alleged improprieties in office, as he is presently the target of a lawsuit filed by 11 former employees that say the constable took illegal steps to maintain his current position, as described in a recent article published in the Houston Chronicle.

"There's this thing called integrity," Rivera said. "If you don't have it, you don't deserve to

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# Local high school music students make All-State

By Reesha Brown, Pasadena ISD

Six students from the Pasadena Independent School District have been named members of the All-State band, orchestra and choir - the highest individual achievement in a music competition that students can obtain at the high school level.

"These students represent the very best among Texas high school musicians," said Linda Fletcher, Pasadena ISD director of Fine Arts. "We are so proud of them for their hard work and dedica-

tion in securing this accolade."

Sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), the annual competition requires those vying for the distinction to audition at the district, region, and area levels. This year, over 65,000 students across Texas auditioned in the process, with only one percent receiving the All-State recognition.

Some of the students will audition once more for chairs in the All-State instrumental ensemble.

bles. "Then, they plunge into rehearsals for the weekend's final concerts," said Fletcher. "The

students recognized below have achieved the

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## Melillo, Thompson students excel



Pasadena ISD held its annual Spelling Bee, Feb. 11, with Melillo Middle School student Bryce Lartigue (left) being crowned this year's districtwide winner. Y Tran of Thompson Intermediate (right) was named 2020 runner-up. The two winners will now advance to represent Pasadena ISD in the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee Saturday, Feb. 29, at Houston ISD's Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan Middle School. The event will be televised and streamed online. To watch the broadcast, tune into PBS-Channel 8.1. Shown above with the students is Amanda Khan, instructional specialist for Gifted and Talented, Pasadena ISD. For more information, visit [www.houstonpublicmedia.org/education/spelling-bee](http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/education/spelling-bee). See related story Page 4A.

Photo submitted

## Coach charged with indecency

A softball coach and hitting instructor with ties to the South Belt community was arrested in Brazoria County by Pearland police Thursday, Feb. 13.

Carlos Morgan, 59, was charged with indecent assault after allegedly touching an underage female player in an inappropriate manner.



Carlos Morgan

Morgan, who resides in the 10900 block of Highland Meadow Village, has reportedly coached and instructed several girls connected with the local softball community and Dobie High School.

He was further said to be coaching multiple Dobie softball players (outside of school) at the time of the alleged crime.

Morgan is out on a \$25,000 bond.

Police are wanting to hear from any other possible victims. Anyone with any additional information is urged to call the Pearland Police Department at 281-997-4100.

## Store clerk shot multiple times

Houston police are searching for a man accused of shooting a store clerk multiple times the night of Friday, Feb. 14, at a smoke shop on the Gulf Freeway near Almeda Genoa.

According to police, the incident took place at approximately 11:45 p.m. at the Vitrum Smoke Shop 11500 block of the Gulf Freeway.

Investigators said a male suspect wearing a black hoodie and ski mask walked into the shop wielding a pistol and demanded a customer's wallet and money from the cash register.

When the female clerk reportedly reached for a weapon of her own from behind the counter, the man fired several shots, striking her in the torso, arms and hands.

The clerk was transported to the hospital in stable condition and is expected to survive.

The suspect is described as a black male, standing roughly 6 feet tall.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## Houston airport traffic increasing

Houston Airports closed out yet another record-breaking year with more than 59.7 million passengers arriving, connecting or departing George Bush Intercontinental (Bush) and William P. Hobby (Hobby) airports in 2019.

"With a strong local economy and confident consumers, we are seeing more people traveling for both business and leisure," Houston Airports Director Mario Diaz said. "At this rate, we will surpass 60 million passengers in 2020 and are already making plans for the continued growth we are experiencing."

That positive trend was also reflected at Hobby Airport, where 13.6 million passengers flew domestically, a 1.2 percent increase from 2018.

However, the total passenger traffic decreased by 21,000 passengers to 14.46 million in 2019, primarily due to the international passenger reduction that resulted from Southwest Airlines removal of its Mexico City route in March 2019 and Jet Blue relocating to Bush Airport.

Hobby Airport, with five-gate international concourses as well as 59 domestic and 12 international

destinations, contributed \$5.8 billion to the economy and secured 36,700 jobs. It ranks as the 39th busiest airport in the nation (ACI-NA rankings, 2018).

Ellington Airport/Houston Spaceport completed 75,397 flight operations in 2019, its busiest year to date. Key infrastructure upgrades were delivered, such as the new state-of-the-art air traffic control tower that supports general aviation and will be crucial for future operations at the Houston Spaceport.

The sprawling facility welcomed new world-class aerospace tenants into its 600 acres of prime land available for lease and real estate development. Construction of streets, water, wastewater, electrical power and distribution and communications facilities continues in the ongoing Phase 1 expansion of the Houston Spaceport.

Houston Airports stayed focused on its mission—connecting people, businesses, cultures and economies of the world to Houston. In that spirit, both Bush and Hobby airports were ranked in the Top 10 airports for their size groups in the J.D. Power 2019 North America Airport Satisfaction Study.

Houston continues to be the only city in the Western Hemisphere with two 4-star airports (according to Skytrax, an international air transport rating organization). The rating is determined through direct and professional analysis of industry quality standards. The airport star ratings are recognized as a global benchmark of airport standards.

Nearly 45.3 million passengers passed through Bush Airport in 2019, a 3.3 percent increase in traffic from 2018. The growth was primarily driven by domestic travelers, which increased by 1.07 million people. The airport also saw nearly 380,000 more international passengers in 2019. The air traffic connectivity provided by Houston Airports continues to be a fundamental catalyst for Houston's economy.

Bush Airport stood out for contributing \$27.3 billion to the local economy, securing 141,500 jobs and offering more flights to more Mexican destinations than any other airport in the United States. With 118 domestic and 69 international destinations, ACI-NA ranks IAH as the 16th busiest airport in the nation (2018).

## South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce honors Outstanding Students of the Month for January



Frazier Elementary first-grader Marie Sanchez (holding sign) has been selected as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school staff, Sanchez is kind and respectful to her classmates and teachers and she goes above and beyond to help her friends in the classroom. She works extremely hard in school, always putting forth her very best effort. Sanchez is an amazing student and friend. Shown with Sanchez are, left to right, Alyta Harrell, Pasadena Independent School District associate superintendent; Charly Boone, first-grade teacher; Rebecca Lilley, director of physician resources community outreach at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital; Marie Soria (Sanchez's mother); Chris Clark, chamber board member; and Wendy Wiseburn, Frazier principal.



School officials at Thomas Hancock Elementary have selected fourth-grader Melany Palos (holding sign), as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school staff members, who are so proud of Palos, she is a model student, always striving to do her best regardless of the obstacles. Her grit and perseverance to meet her goals motivate her fellow classmates and she is always willing to lend a helping hand to her peers. Shown with Palos are, left to right, Michael Saperstein, manager of Parker Williams Library; Rosanne Kerr, chamber member; Veronica Sandoval, Hancock principal; and Juliette Walsh, Hancock fourth-grade teacher.



Jessup Elementary first-grader Crystal Sonnier (holding sign), has been chosen by school officials as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school staff, Sonnier was nominated due to her hard work in reading and she is a good listener who follows directions. Teachers can always count on her to do her work. She has a smile on her face and raises her hand to participate. Shown above with her are, left to right, Rosanne Kerr; Ryan Pavone, Jessup principal; Michael Saperstein; and Jennifer Chavez, Jessup assistant principal.



The staff at Laura Bush Elementary have selected second-grader, Ayden Lima, (holding sign) as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Lima is a hard working self-driven student. He arrives with a smile every day and is always willing to help anyone in need. Being a friendly, courteous and considerate classmate, Lima gives it his all in everything he does. One of the qualities school staff members admire most is his perseverance. He may not always be successful the first time but he continues to try until he succeeds. Shown above are, Stephanie Miller, Bush principal; Marlynn Beltran, dual language second-grade teacher; Lima; Rosanne Kerr; and Michael Saperstein.



Melillo Middle School has chosen fifth-grader Morgan Momie (holding sign), as the Outstanding Student of the Month. School officials report that Momie is an example of kindness, thoughtfulness and respect who comes prepared for class and helps other students. Momie is a great example of Mustang guidelines for success, hearts that care, hands that serve and minds that think. Shown with Momie are, left to right, (front row) Jacqueline Carmona, counselor; Erika Jones, Frost Bank representative and chamber member; Chris Bui, assistant principal; Diane Wheeler, Melillo principal; Jennifer Saucedo, Melillo assistant principal; Denise Burleigh, chamber member and owner of Insurance for All Ages Agency; and (back row) Kenny Fernandez, chamber board chair and Pasadena ISD board member.

## In My Opinion

### Russi on nuisance newspapers

I too would like to see the throwing of these papers being stopped. I walk for exercise in my neighborhood and the problem that these papers cause is not good. I pick them up in the street (I don't pick up the ones in the driveways or yards, but they look bad make our neighborhood look trashy) because they make our neighborhood look bad and cause drainage problems. The people receiving them are not necessarily Houston Chron-

icle subscribers. I am not and I always get one. I pick mine up but lots of people don't. Today, as I was walking a burnt orange vehicle drove down the street randomly throwing them out. They all landed in the street. I picked up 12 in my block because when they get wet they are even a bigger problem. When they started throwing these out, all the houses received them, but now I think they just go down the street throwing them out. I think they must get paid for the number they distribute. Please help us get this nuisance stopped. Thank you.

Dorothy Russi

### Local library events set

#### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Book club: "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett. Call 832-393-2580 to reserve a copy and for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Spanish computer class for adults and seniors  
Monday, Feb. 24, 10:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. The classes cover the 100 civics questions and how to prepare for the citizenship interview. Other topics include the citizenship application and qualifications. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 10:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only. Call the library to sign up.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m. Para los niños, bilingual storytime.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime. Toddler around with the library staff for stories, songs, and activities that will help develop a toddler's social, motor, and literacy skills. This session is intended for children ages 6 months to 4 years and their caregivers.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Computer basics  
For more information, call the library at 832-393-2580.

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

#### Parker Williams Library

Note: Income tax help by AARP Foundation is available at Parker Williams Library Mondays and Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until April 13 with volunteer tax assistants. Bring all tax documents and Social Security card.

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

Thursday, Feb. 20, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sudoku for Adults. Learn the tricks of solving Sudoku puzzles from longtime aficionado Marie. Practice logical thinking skills and keep one's brain active. Games are provided and all levels are welcome.

Thursday, Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m. Love Your Dog Day: DIY Dog Treats, for ages 7 and older. It is national Love your Dog Day and time to show pups love and care by making them some yummy homemade treats! Things may get messy mixing up treats so plan to wear casual clothes. The fur babies will give a "million kisses" once they taste what participants whip up for them.

Friday, Feb. 21, 6 – 8 p.m. Anime club "My Teen Romantic Comedy" for ages 13 and older.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Community Health Walk, for all ages. Plan to attend this free health walk with the local Parker Williams Library staff. Wear comfortable clothes, pack a reusable water bottle and meet in the library meeting room to start the walk together through the neighborhood to the local park. Families are welcome to bring strollers for the little ones. Water for filling bottles and sunblock will be available in the meeting room prior to walk. Registration is required.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. "Estate Planning" with William D. Archer. Meet at the library to get answers in matters including estate planning, the requirements to probate a will, how to avoid probate, what to do when a loved one passes, how to utilize trusts, when to use transfer on death deeds and more.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 1:30 p.m. Learn Korean With Rhee, for adults. For those interested in learning another language, meet at the library and learn the language together. Registration is requested.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. Code Blue Documentary Film Screening. This film follows a passionate physician, Dr. Saray Stancic, as she reflects on a journey from a multiple sclerosis diagnosis to wellness through her own adoption of lifestyle medicine. Stancic introduces the audience to expert physicians and scientists who are paving the way to make meaningful and necessary changes in the health care environment and, in turn, empowering audiences to stand up and reclaim control of their health. This documentary is not yet available to the public, so take advantage of this screening.

Monday, Feb. 24, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Nintendo Night, for ages 11 and older. This event is a free-for-all and is a good time for a brawl. Plan to attend the event in the community room which features the Nintendo Switch. Play Super Smash Brothers Ultimate and Mario Kart 8 and plan for a night of victory.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m. Lariat List Book Club. February's reading is "Boy Swallows Universe" by Trent Dalton, a 2020 Lariat List selection. Pick up the book (or check out the eBook) and meet at the library to discuss it.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 5 p.m. Mardi Gras Jazz and Masks, for all ages. Since Mardi Gras means jazz, participants will celebrate African American Heritage month by learning about famous jazz musicians from the African American community as they make Mardi Gras masks. Plan to attend and enjoy the culture, fun and music in the library community room.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Quilting and Conversation Club. Join the 2020 quilting project. Each participant will create a section of a handmade quilt (a bookshelf design) and unite them at the end of the year. Club members meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on all other programs, call the library at 832-927-7870.  
Library hours are: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1 – 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

## Death

### Nancy Lynn Hewston



Nancy Lynn Hewston (Née Eckmyre), 61, born Nov. 26, 1958, in Key West died Feb. 12, 2020, at her home in Houston.

As a daughter to Austin Eckmyre and Eleanor Miller Powers, she lived in various countries in Europe during her youth through her father's naval stationing. As an accomplished young athlete, Nancy won multiple amateur tennis tournaments in Europe and later advanced to enjoy

many other athletic endeavors that included basketball, badminton and squash. She loved horses and was an avid equestrian, a passion that she passed along to her daughter.

After settling in England, she began her family in Kidderminster and then moved to Droitwich, where she remained for the next 12 years. In 1993 she moved her young family to Houston, seeking greater opportunities for them. She joined Tesoro Petroleum and continued with Martin Resource Management in the accounting group for 22 years.

Nancy was extremely family oriented and had the kindest heart, leaving an impression on everyone she knew. Her home was a welcoming place to others and friends' children were treated as her own. She was a great listener and would share her wisdom. Her positive outlook on life could be seen in her keen sense of humor and contagious smile. Nancy will be greatly missed by many.

She was preceded in death by brothers Keith Eckmyre, Alan Eckmyre, Kevin Powers; sister Kathleen Dumais; step-father Wilbur Powers; and father Austin Eckmyre.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 27 years, Raymond Hewston; children Henry and wife Jami Yu, Jason Yu, Judy and husband Bryan Elizalde; grandchildren Sami Yu, Jack Yu, Elli Yu, Logan Elizalde and Chloe Elizalde; mother Eleanor Powers of Gales Ferry, Conn.; stepmother Senyora Eckmyre of Lincolnshire, U.K.; brothers Stephen Powers of Boston, Mass., Glenn Eckmyre of Gales Ferry, Conn., Carl Eckmyre of Lusby, Md., Craig Eckmyre of Houston and James Powers of Lebanon, Conn.; sisters Sharon Wright of Middleburg, Fla. and Lisa Powers of Gales Ferry, Conn.; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at Niday Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Nancy's life.

## Sparks fly at candidate forum

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wear the badge."

This point was re-enforced by Vela.

"If you break the law, you go to jail. My highest priority right now is what we call internal affairs. That's the first thing I'm going to put in there. Internal Affairs is what keeps an honest cop. If you're a dirty cop, you don't need to wear a badge," Vela said. "If you have a dirty cop, he doesn't need to be in law enforcement. Simple as that. I'm not going to be your friend. I'm not going to look the other way. If you're a dirty cop, you're going to go to jail. Simple as that, folks. We don't need somebody like that. And the same way with the constable's office. If the constable is dirty, he needs to get out of office. If you want to look the other way, I think

you're wrong. So, if you're a dirty constable or a dirty police officer, it's a tarnish to the badge because I stand for the badge, and I respect the badge."

Goffney, however, took the strongest position of the evening, as he suggested that Diaz be arrested for his alleged actions. "Put someone in there who's not crooked, someone that you can trust and that has honesty," Goffney said. "If I was in office right now and worked under Chris Diaz, I'm going to tell you now, I'd arrest him."

Goffney continued by saying the community needed to return to a sense of normalcy.

"We have a problem in Precinct 2, and we need to clean it up. I'm not trying to sugarcoat anything," Goffney said. "We need to bring back

law and order."

Both Vela and Rivera urged attendees to vote for their opponents over Diaz, should they, themselves, not be the preferred option for residents.

"If you don't vote for me, vote for one of these candidates," Vela said. "Constable Diaz has not done his job. He has no experience."

This thought was reiterated by Rivera.

"My thing is real easy guys – anybody but Chris (Diaz)," Rivera said.

Early voting is currently underway and will continue through Feb. 28.

See related story on Page 1A. The general election will take place Tuesday, Nov. 3. The *Leader* has endorsed Jerry Garcia in the race. See related editorial in the Feb. 13 edition.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a post about an arrest of a local softball coach/trainer who has worked in Pearland, Southeast Houston, Alvin and Friendswood areas. The suspect is accused of indecent assault. The member advises that this is a hard lesson for parents on who one can trust with children, but most importantly this should teach parents to communicate with their kids more. Listen to them when they say they feel uncomfortable around people, trust and let them also know that one will always support them. Also, if anyone had dealings with the suspect and a child

is a victim, one should speak up to local authorities as the case is now pending. The post was shared by multiple people and other Facebook groups. For more information, see related story on page 1A.

On the same Facebook group a member shared a post of an armed robbery that happened on Friday, Feb. 14, around 11:45 p.m. The incident occurred at a smoke shop located near the Gulf Freeway and Alameda Genoa. Houston police are searching for a man accused of shooting a store clerk multiple times. Officers say a man entered the store wearing a black ski mask and holding a gun. The suspect demanded a customer's wallet, and

then turned to the register for cash. When the clerk tried to reach for a gun from behind the counter, the suspect shot her multiple times, hitting her in the torso, arms and hands. The victim was transported to the hospital in stable condition. For more information, see related story on page 1A.

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group posted a vehicle break in that occurred at Chili's on Gulf Freeway and Fuqua, on Feb. 15. The member stated that he did not have anything left in the truck so nothing was stolen but a suspect left a mess of papers all over the front seats. The member advises for others to be careful.

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# South Belt Chamber of Commerce honors outstanding students for January



Thompson Intermediate has chosen Gabriel Martinez (holding sign), eighth-grader, as the Outstanding Student of the Month. School officials state that Martinez is the type of student with whom teachers want to fill an entire class. Martinez is willing to help anyone at any time, and usually with a smile. He is not only a hard worker, he rarely complains about the work that it takes to maintain high marks in pre-AP classes. Martinez is reliable, dependable and any adult in the school will agree. Selecting Martinez for recognition was easy, because he is an all-around great student and valuable community member who has the potential to do so many great things today and in the future. Shown above are, left to right, Travis Teichelman, assistant principal; Kandace McMullin, teacher; Rebecca Lilley, director of physician resources community outreach at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital; Martinez; Chris Clark, chamber board member; and Christine Veltman, assistant principal.



Edward "Teddy" Garcia (holding sign), sixth-grader at Morris Middle School, has been chosen Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school staff, Garcia is a model student, a member of the Trailblazer Times and serves as a top reporter. He is also a member of advanced choir and he constantly works for excellence in his personal and academic life. Garcia is always willing to help a teacher or student, he shows up early for last year's teachers to assist them with setting up their classroom and any other task that might be required. Shown above are, left to right, Michael Saperstein, manager of Parker Williams Library; Rosanne Kerr, chamber member; Garcia; and Lindsay Jacobs, sixth-grade counselor.



Gabriel Borrego (holding sign), senior at Dobie High School, has been chosen as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Borrego is a great student with a fun, outgoing personality. He serves as treasurer of the student council and helps promote schoolwide programs, school spirit and is always up front and center at sporting events cheering on his peers. As a member of the student council, he has helped kick off the Harris County Promise initiative and even participated in a pep rally to inform his fellow senior classmates about the Promise. Borrego currently takes dual credit classes at San Jacinto College and plans to continue his education at San Jac to take advantage of the Harris County Promise. Shown above are, left to right, Erika Jones, Frost Bank representative and chamber member; Keley Davis, counselor; Kenny Fernandez, South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce board chair and Pasadena ISD board member; Borrego; Franklin Moses, Dobie principal; and Denise Burleigh, chamber member.



Alijah Banda (holding sign), fourth-grade student at South Belt Elementary, has been selected as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Banda has become a buddy to a student in first grade. He is helpful and responsible. He works with the student every day and is very encouraging. Banda shows a positive attitude and the staff find it a joy watching him help this younger student be successful. Shown above with Banda are, left to right, Kenny Fernandez; Jennifer Hernandez, South Belt teacher; Denise Burleigh; and Erika Jones.



Fred Roberts Middle School has chosen sixth-grader Devani Morales (holding sign) as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Morales is a talented second-year violist in the FRMS orchestra who is also helpful to her classmates and always prepared to play her part or lead, if necessary. She is smart, a natural helper, kind and always goes above and beyond. Morales has special qualities that make her a leader and good friend. Shown above are, left to right, Chris Clark; Rebecca Lilley; Morales; Rebecca Deitz, Roberts assistant principal; Citlali Guerrero, Roberts assistant principal; and Emily Ontiveros, counselor and parent coordinator.



Isabella Licon, pre-K student at Moore Elementary, has been chosen as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Licon (right of sign) is a kind, hardworking student who always tries to do her best, demonstrating great academic progress. Licon is example of good behavior to her peers and is always willing to lend a hand. She expresses herself very well and is an active participant in class. Shown above with Licon are, left to right, Erika Jones; Kenny Fernandez; Liliana Sanchez, teacher; and Denise Burleigh.



Phoebe Schlueter (front), third-grader at Stuchbery Elementary, has been selected as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Schlueter comes to class each day ready and prepared to learn. She has a great attitude and comes into the classroom each morning smiling. Schlueter never complains about what she can't do because she has such a great attitude. With her positive attitude, she takes on daily challenges and works to overcome them. The school staff have said she is a great student with a bright future, possessing an attitude of "I can" and the willingness to work hard to overcome any obstacles. Schlueter exhibits the Stallion Way. Shown above are, left to right, Alyta Harrell, Pasadena Independent School District associate superintendent; Rebecca Lilley, Jennifer Dowell, third-grade teacher; Shlueter; Jose Hernandez, Stuchbery principal; Chris Clark; and Shannon Garris, school counselor.



Dobie9 school officials state that freshman Theresa Burchfield (holding sign) has matured and shown significant progress as an AP student over the past few months. She uses time management to coordinate academics with her busy extracurricular schedule (theater and Engines of Change) and she takes the time and effort to complete her work in a timely manner. She is known to be kind and helpful to other students. Burchfield, is friendly, perseveres when challenged, and has an infectious sense of humor and positive disposition. Shown above are, left to right, Denise Burleigh; Adriana Robinson, assistant principal; Erika Jones; Burchfield; Kenny Fernandez; and Chad Kearbey, Dobie9 counselor.



School officials at Thomas Hancock Elementary have selected fourth-grader Melany Palos (holding sign), as the Outstanding Student of the Month and have said Palos is a model student. She always strives to do her best regardless of the obstacles. Her grit and perseverance to meet her goals motivates her fellow classmates. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to her peers. School officials are so proud of Palos. Shown are, left to right, Michael Saperstein; Rosanne Kerr; Palos; Veronica Sandoval, principal; and Juliette Walsh, fourth-grade teacher.



Marley Strickney, (holding sign), fourth-grade student at Burnett Elementary, has been selected as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Strickney has made so much progress this year in the areas of accountability, responsibility and academics. He takes ownership for his involvement in situations and is known to help his peers with their schoolwork and classroom behavior. He has worked hard to improve and maintain his grades in his coursework. The staff members are very proud of Strickney for all his hard work and consistency. Shown above are, left to right, Rebecca Lilley; Chris Clark; Strickney; and Esmeralda Paredes, Burnett assistant principal.



Hayden Vu, (front), first-grader, has been chosen as Atkinson Elementary's Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Vu is a wonderful role model for her peers and is always helpful and courteous. Vu is also a very respectful young lady who is careful with her words and actions and always considers others' feelings. She tries her best in all that she does. She was chosen due to her remarkable academics and character traits. Shown above are Erika Jones; Ha Bui, Vu's mother; Sheri Graham, teacher; Lena Ortiz, Atkinson principal; Vu, Denise Burleigh, and Kenny Fernandez.



Paten Schillaci (holding sign) was chosen Outstanding Student of the Month at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School and is a member of the EMT (Emergency Medical Technology) pathway. According to school officials Schillaci's hard work has led her to academic excellence awards and success in the dual credit program, with acceptance to the University of Houston and Lamar University. She has spent many hours volunteering with the EMT Explorer program. Schillaci has been able to "ride" with Acadian ambulance services to gain valuable experience. Her attention in class has been rewarded when, on her very first ambulance ride, she was asked to assist in administering CPR to a patient. She intends to continue her dream of becoming a doctor by attending University of Houston Downtown. CTHS teachers are very proud of Schillaci's commitment to being the best she can be and achieving her goals. Celebrating her recognition are, left to right, Steve Fleming; Tammy Gernander, counselor; Casey Crews, teacher; Michael Saperstein; Chris Clark; Rebecca Lilley; Schillaci; Kenny Fernandez; Denise Burleigh; Erika Jones; and Jessica McCoy, assistant principal.



Torry Chase, (second from right) eighth-grader at Beverly Hills Intermediate, has been selected as the Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Chase always follows class expectations, gets along well with his classmates and is respectful to his teachers. He displays a love for science and particularly excels in chemistry, atoms, and the periodic table. Torry has a "positive" attitude about atoms, and seems to be in his "element" when interpreting the periodic table. No "matter" how challenging the question, he "reacts" with the correct answer. He is a part of a special "group" of students that seem to realize hard work and effort are important to their teachers. His teachers would like to congratulate him for being a "PRO"-ton at BHI. Shown above are, left to right, Alyta Harrell; Chris Clark; Jennifer Teichelman, BHI assistant principal; Chase; and Rebecca Lilley.



Meador Elementary school officials nominated first-grader Aleishmarie Aponte-Muniz (holding sign), as the Outstanding Student of the Month. Aponte-Muniz is an outstanding citizen. She is well respected by her teachers and classmates alike. Her classmates chose her for the Citizenship Award for the first nine weeks. According to school officials, she makes good choices and is reliable to help when a fellow student is not sure what to do. Aponte-Muniz is not only respectful, polite, and helpful, she is also a hard-working student. She is very responsible, always completing her work and turning it in on time. Shown above with her are, left to right, Michael Saperstein; Rhonda Parmer, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent; Beverly Bolton, school principal; Anne Hamilton, teacher; Rosanne Kerr; and Iraida Muniz-Ortiz, her mother.

## Martin hosts CIP town hall

City of Houston Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin will host a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Town Hall meeting Thursday, March 5, 6:30 p.m., in the Destiny Theater at Space Center Houston, 1601 NASA Parkway. During this meeting, residents can plan to hear from Mayor Sylvester Turner and other city representatives about ongoing and future capital improvement projects. There will also be information tables available for those that arrive early, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Mayor Pro Tem Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or via email at [districtc@houston.tx.gov](mailto:districtc@houston.tx.gov).

## CCISD presents news, media club

Extra, extra! Read all about it! News and media clubs have cropped up on CCISD elementary campuses during the past few years and they offer students a great opportunity to cover activities happening in their own schoolyard.

Shaun Bright, fourth-grade teacher, started the News Club at Ross Elementary during the 2017-2018 school year and has seen it grow to 14 fourth- and fifth-graders in the past couple of years. They meet on two Tuesdays each month.

"I have always had a fascination with news and when a fifth-grader approached me about starting a news club, I jumped on the idea," Bright said.

She uses her iPhone and a tripod to record the club's broadcasts in the kiva of the school's library. Once recording is finished, she works with students to edit the video on her phone and then transfers it to a secure YouTube channel. Once uploaded, Bright sends a video link of the broadcast to the entire school.

While everyone participates on the production side, the broadcast itself only calls for two news anchors at a time so they take turns.

"I use an app on my phone that randomly selects students for every segment," Bright said. "That way, everyone has an opportunity to hone their on-air personality and the speaking skills."

Students at McWhirter Elementary are also keeping their classmates informed by participating in the Media Club, which started in October 2019.

Fifth-grade teacher Luce-ro Muñoz Raba and resource paraprofessional Angela Cancino-Burns currently mentor eight fifth-grade students, giving instructions on relaying news through video and print media in both English and Spanish. They cover school events and they interview members of the McWhirter community who have a story to tell.

"The media club opens up a space for students to express themselves, improve their writing and ask questions," Muñoz Raba said. "These are skills that students need for their academic and personal lives so this club gives them a great opportunity to practice them."

"During weekly afternoon meetings, members review the issues, discuss the next edition, and assign tasks to include story ideas, interviewing, recording and editing. Though Muñoz Raba and Cancino-Burns guide them, the students are ultimately responsible for completing all tasks themselves."

"The idea is that all students go through the different jobs and learn different skills," Muñoz Raba said.

Some students enjoy participating in the club because it allows them to acquire new skills. Others like Sabino Banaños like keeping their fellow students in the know.

"I wanted to join the media club because I like being able to tell other people what's going on in the news," he said.

A fellow classmate, however, saw it as an opportunity to brush up on his public speaking skills. "I knew that it would help me with my stage fright," said fifth-grader Jimmy Rodriguez.

Muñoz Raba says that they began with a broadcast version only, but then added a print component called "Bulletin Boards," which they post in the hallway for students and staff to read as they walk by.

If there is a schoolwide assembly at the end of the month, the video broadcast is presented to the whole student body. If there is no assembly, all teachers receive the link via email so they can share the broadcast with their students during their morning meetings.

Though the club just started recently, Muñoz Raba enjoys working with her students on how best to cover the issues going on in their community.

"All this is a learning process for them and for us, too," she said.

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GLOVER!**  
Special birthday wishes for a wonderful day are sent to Melvin D. Glover III, local businessman and longtime Sagemont resident, who turns "60" Thursday Feb. 20, from wife Shelia Glover, family and friends.

**JIM ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY**  
Birthday greetings are sent Feb. 25 from family and friends to Jim Muecke, an Edgebrook area resident active with community volunteer work on road and drainage projects.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 20 through Feb. 26, 2020.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles for **Andrea Luna** Feb. 20. Sing a happy birthday song to **Norma Flores** Feb. 21.

**Bush Elementary**  
The day for a birthday gift for **Martha Gomez** is Feb. 23. Celebrating a birthday Feb. 27 is **Kristi Emler**.

**Genoa Elementary**  
The day for a party for **Maria Montelongo** is Feb. 22. **Roxana Collazo** marks a birthday Feb. 25.

**Moore Elementary**  
Join in the birthday fun Feb. 22 with

**Carmen Chavez. Cindy Montemayor** celebrates a birthday Feb. 24.  
**South Belt Elementary**  
Celebrating a birthday Feb. 25 is **Yoo Yang Kum**.

**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**. Break out the balloons and party favors Feb. 25 for **Angelica Banda** and **Rosa Salinas**.

**Roberts Middle School**  
Marking a birthday Feb. 23 are **Jessica Ray** and **Tincy Varghese**.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Blow out the birthday candles on a double-layer cake Feb. 23 for **Joseph Fee** and **Quan Nguyen**. **Michael Arroyo** and **Gary Warner** mark a birthday on Feb. 25.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 21 is **Melissa Prestridge**. **Kristin Cortese** celebrates a birthday Feb. 24.

**Dobie High**  
Break out the party favors and balloons Feb. 24 for **Kevin Berneathy**, **Wendy Sharpless** and **Tamalar Whiting**. Sharing a birthday Feb. 25 are **Kha Nguyen** and **Derek Rochelle**. Light the birthday candles for **Betty Verrett** on Feb. 26.

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

Thursday, Feb. 20: **Paul Brantly, Heidi Samford, Judy Lucadou-Dooly and Jamie Baggett**; Friday, Feb. 21: **Michael Gabbard, Vonda Byars, Kellie Nelson and Richard Salinas**; Saturday, Feb. 22: **Gerald Maduzia**; Sunday, Feb. 23: **Mark Roberts, David Adkins, Brian Groff, Tonya Abel, Angie Abel, Charlese Richard, James Spence and Liz Cantu**; Monday, Feb. 24: **Wendy Sharpless, Andrew Belmarez, Ken Moore, L.A. Dalton, Michael Brown and Rebecca Cappello**; Tuesday, Feb. 25: **Frank Acosta, Carla Burbach, Kayla Ferrell, Rene Hernandez, Kobe Ruiz-Estrada and Luciana Serrano**; and Wednesday, Feb. 26: **Jimi Cebulla, Leah Williamson and Mark West**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

## South Belt shines at spelling bee

The Pasadena Independent School District held its annual district-level spelling bee, Tuesday, Feb. 11, to crown this year's spelling bee champion. (See photo Page 1A.)

Taking home the district championship trophy this year was Bryce Lartigue from Melillo Middle School and runner-up was Y Tran, of Thompson Intermediate. Both winners will move on to represent Pasadena ISD in the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee Saturday, Feb. 29, at Houston ISD's Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan Middle School.

The Houston Public Media Spelling Bee will televise and stream the spelling bee at a later date to be determined. To watch the broadcast, tune into PBS-Channel 8.1. Visit <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/education/spelling-bee> for more information.

## Black belts teach self-defense

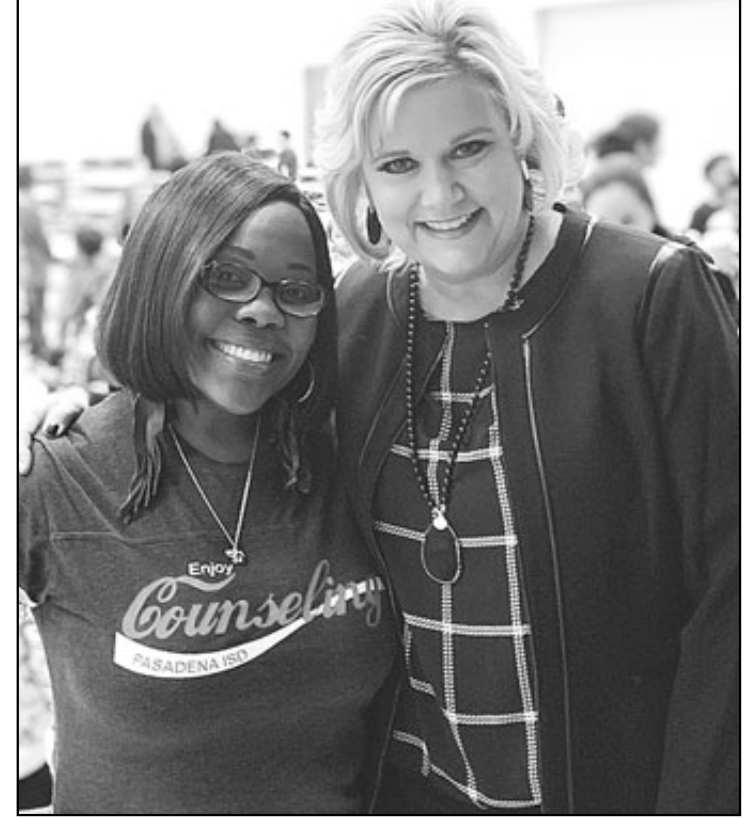
The American Society of Karate is offering one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center 11507 Hughes, Fridays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. For more information, email [Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com](mailto:Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com) or call 281-788-5930.

## Prayer walkers gather March 14

School Prayer Walks USA will host a prayer walk from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at Genoa Elementary, 12900 Alameda Genoa Road. This is a nondenominational gathering to pray for the protection and peace of students and staff. The community is invited to attend. For more information, call 281-484-0901.

## South Belt welcomes Powell



South Belt Elementary recently celebrated Muffins with Mom. Students, staff and parents proudly welcomed Dr. DeeAnn Powell (right), superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District, as the guest speaker for the event. The parents were "all ears" as she spoke about being a mom and the importance of education. Shown above with Powell is Lakitha Green, school counselor.

Photo by Isaiah Machado (fourth-grader)

## Andrews shares BETA news

A host of red umbrellas hanging from the ceiling as Beta Academy Superintendent Latisha Andrews took to the stage. It was National Umbrella Day, but that wasn't the reason for the decorations. Nathaniel Mendoza stood in the balcony with a fishing pole, ready to create a special moment for the audience.

Andrews walked to the front, and Mendoza's hand spun the reel. One more umbrella lowered over her head. She grabbed it like a modern-day Mary Poppins.

"This is us," she said. "We are the umbrella. The Beta community. Working together, we provide shelter for each other and the scholars."

Beta Academy services an underprivileged community and has been designated a Title I school. Each year of operation, the enrollment has grown and campus space is limited. Plans for a new facility were launched to address the need. At the parent night, Andrews gave updates for the new expansion being built down the road that was designed to inspire feelings of joy, fun, and playfulness.

To end the evening, Andrews read from a children's book by Amy June Bates titled "The Big Umbrella" that tells the story

of a big friendly shelter with room enough for everyone. She finished and looked out over the audience of parents and children. "The Beta community is a lot like the big umbrella," she said. "We want everyone to feel welcome. Even if you're tall, or

with six distinguishing academic awards, and received a Superior Financial Rating four consecutive years.

It has also been listed on the Texas Honor Roll, a distinction that only 7 percent of the 9,935 schools in Texas earn.



Shown above is Latisha Andrews, Beta Academy superintendent.

## CCISD awards Gold Key for art, writing

A total of 25 student artists and writers across Clear Creek ISD were named Gold Key Award recipients in the 2020 Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards by the Harris County Department of Education. Out of nearly 9,000 entries, these talented intermediate and high school students will now advance to the national competition round.

Adrienne Ross, a senior at Clear Creek High School, was also recognized as one of only five students across all categories and grade levels to receive an American Visions award for her digital art titled "Programmed Discovery."

Top-award Gold Key recipients advance to national judging to be considered for Gold and Silver Medals, and for Ross an American Visions Medal, which will be announced March 16 and awarded June 4 in a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, founded in 1923, provide students in grades 7-12 with the opportunity to showcase their art and writing talents to a national audience and encourage creative and career development. Gold Key Art Awards recipients were, Georgina Hayden, Clear Creek Intermediate School;

Shanja Akbar, Clear Lake Intermediate School; Hailey-McElroy, Clear Lake Intermediate School; Kara Clements, League City Intermediate School; Alisha Hou, Space Center Intermediate School; Cindy Nguyen, Clear Brook High School; Kim Franzen, Clear Brook High School; Reagan Canales, Clear Creek High School; Kelly Hendricks, Clear Creek High School; Adrienne Ross, Clear Creek High School; Angelina Yoon, Clear Creek High School; Grace Hawley, Clear Falls High School; Madison Hoffman, Clear Falls High School; Ciara Pratt, Clear Falls High School; Kelly Putnam, Clear Falls High School; Serena Sachdev, Clear Falls High School; Emma Campbell, Clear Springs High School; Tessa Domskey, Clear Springs High School; Isabella Pritchard, Clear Springs High School; Alaina Sibley, Clear Springs High School; Jessica Song, Clear Springs High School; Emma Thibodeaux, Clear Springs High School; and Jordan Thomas, Clear Springs High School.

Gold Key Writing Awards recipients were Hayley Bermond, Victory Lakes Intermediate; and Richard Xu, Clear Lake High School.

## Heroes Park "Mardi Gras" set

Everyone is welcome to a Mardi Gras party at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway Feb. 29 from 7 to 9:45 p.m. Coordinated by Bill and Neva Schroder, the event is sponsored by Let's Dance. Music will be selected by John Ruhberg.

Dress as you like and dance to a variety of rhythms. Tables are reserved for "Dancers without Partners" and everyone is welcome, regardless of skill level, age or status. This smoke-free, alcohol-free venue offers the opportunity to enjoy dancing on a large, floating hardwood floor. For only \$8, attendees will be dancing, eating king cake and letting the good times roll.

For more information, send a private message via Ballroom Dancers of League City on Facebook.

# Remember When

**40 years ago (1980)**  
The Sageglenn Community Association received approval of a 10 percent loan from First City Bank, Alameda Genoa, for construction of a swimming pool and tennis courts for its residents.

Projected plans for a 41.63-acre development to include a five-story bank building, office buildings, shopping facilities, a restaurant, a movie theater and apartments were announced. The project, Southpoint, was planned for the I-45 and Fuqua intersection.

Houston City Councilman Frank Mancuso announced the South Belt area within the Houston city limits would be getting water service from piped-in surface water instead of wells.

**35 years ago (1985)**  
Five-year growth rate figures for two-year Texas colleges showed the San Jacinto College South campus with the largest percentage of any two-year college in Texas.

Pasadena Independent School District had 19 undiscovered schools that showed a small amount of asbestos.

Home prices in the South Belt area finally stabilized after experiencing the largest drop in price in 1983 of any of the 17 neighborhoods surveyed by the University of Houston study.

The Pearland YMCA changed its name to the Pearland-South Belt YMCA in an effort to improve its local appeal.

**30 years ago (1990)**  
The proposed \$100 million Pasadena Independent School District Bond was facing intense resistance from taxpayers. The PISD board scheduled area meetings to explain their viewpoints on the bond.

Dobie students were collecting receipts from Apple Tree stores. The chain promised to donate a new computer for each \$70,000 in receipts the students collected.

Two Weber Elementary teachers were granted trans-

fers by the Clear Creek Independent School District citing their proximity to Brio as the reason.

For the first time in several years, two Dobie students qualified for state-level debate competition in the Texas Forensic Association. Senior John Dies earned a spot in oration, and senior Mike Scheschuk would compete in foreign extemporaneous speaking.

**25 years ago (1995)**  
J. Frank Dobie's Decathlon team placed second in the state large-school competition.

Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees accepted the resignation of Superintendent Ronald McLeod. McLeod agreed to stay on until his contract ended in July.

J. Frank Dobie junior Marty Blair won first place in the trail event at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce hired Sherry Trainer as its new executive director.

**20 years ago (2000)**  
Jerry Speer submitted his resignation as principal of J. Frank Dobie High School for the end of the school year. Speer sought an elected position on the board. A nationwide search was held for his replacement.

The car of Michael Holt, who was shot in the face in an area carjacking, was found on Van Zandt Street.

Campbell Family Practice announced plans to construct a new facility on a two-acre site at Resource Parkway and Highland Meadow.

**15 years ago (2005)**  
Harris County officials announced that local offices would soon be available for Commissioner El Franco Lee; Paul Bettencourt, tax assessor/collector; Constable Gary Freeman; and the juvenile probation department. The offices were to be built at the intersection of Scarsdale and Beamer in the existing annex next to the Parker Wil-

liams Library.

Morris Fifth-Grade Center student Catarina Johnson met former President George H.W. Bush as a result of her efforts in raising more than \$1,000 for the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund.

A \$25,000 reward was offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the homicide of South Belt resident Nolan Ryan LeBoube.

A parent of a student at Stuchbery Elementary assaulted an attendance clerk and an assistant principal after officials refused to release her child to her. The refusal was due to court orders issued over a custody case. PISD police were called and the woman then allegedly assaulted an officer. She was arrested for felony assault.

San Jacinto College South trumpet player Stephen Forse performed at the 47th annual Grammy Awards.

**10 years ago (2010)**  
Police arrested a suspect at the Scarsdale Park Apartments in the 11800 block of Algonquin for the killing of Texas City resident Teresa Marie Wright. Gifford "JJ" Johnson III, a 35-year-old La Marque resident, was reportedly dating Wright at the time of the incident. Texas City police reported that Wright was strangled to death in her home while her three children were asleep. Wright's body was discovered the following morning at roughly 11 a.m. by her 15-year-old daughter.

Police initially found no evidence of foul play, but the Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office concluded her death was a homicide after finding evidence of strangulation. There were no signs of forced entry, prompting police to suspect she knew her attacker. Wright, 33, was enrolled in the police academy at College of the Mainland in Texas City and was set to graduate in May.

The results from the primary elections were tallied

with few surprises. In the race for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, incumbent Rick Perry defeated challengers Kay Bailey Hutchison and Debra Medina. In the contest for the Democrat gubernatorial nod, former Houston Mayor Bill White handily defeated businessman Farouk Shami. State House District 129 incumbent John Davis maintained his seat, easily defeating challenger Mary Huls. In one of the day's few surprises, Harris County tax assessor-collector incumbent Leo Vasquez was defeated by challenger Don Summers.

The Burger King on Scarsdale near Beamer caught fire. It took roughly two hours for crews from both the Southeast and Forest Bend volunteer fire departments to extinguish the blaze. The fire was determined to be electrical in nature, according to officials. No one was injured.

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# Congressional District 22 candidates respond to *Leader* questionnaire

The following responses appear in the same order as they do on the ballot. Not all candidates responded.

## Republicans

### Aaron Hermes



**Name:** Aaron Hermes  
**Age:** 41  
**Occupation:** Artist and Musician  
**Education:** AAS in Audio Engineering from HCC and formal training in Indian Classical Music from master teachers here and in India.  
**Marital Status/Children:** Single, no children  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Congressional District 22? (100 words or less)**

I can empathize with a wide swath of people and backgrounds. I truly want to serve the great people of this district and am running on actual solutions to our most vexing problems. What makes me qualified is I'm a visionary, a free thinker and an amazing out of the box problem solver. What I'm not is a lawyer, career politician, poli-sci major or independently wealthy. We have enough of that in D.C. and Congress is broken. A great man once said the definition of crazy is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result.

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

The only political experience I have is supporting the Ron Paul campaigns in 2008 and 2012 and fighting hard for President Trump to win in 2016. This is my first official entry into the political arena as a candidate but I seem to be a natural.

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

I have many in the community who support me but no political endorsements to speak of as of this interview date.

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

Since 4 years old I grew up in Clear Lake in the shadow of Ellington Field in Camino South, as well as Webster and South Houston. My family moved to Clear Lake in the 70's and helped develop the area. I've lived in the Houston area my entire life.

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

Listen to the entire community and problem solve to address concerns. Fight to lower taxes and address human sex trafficking. Uphold my oath to protect and serve the U.S. Constitution. Strive for excellence in every aspect of the job and do my best to serve everyone. Build bridges.

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

I would like to solve the issue of Election Integrity on a national level. We need national standards and I have a multi-tier plan that addresses voter fraud with multiple redundancies including voter ID, hand written paper ballots, blockchain enabled tabulation

software and more. Details at MakeCongressGreat.com

**Do you support the House of Representatives recent efforts to impeach President Donald Trump? (150 words or fewer)**

Absolutely not. There was no legal or moral basis even. It was purely political and quite a waste of time and resources. In fact back in Oct. when Sheila Jackson Lee hosted an impeachment meeting in Houston with some Constitutional attorney guests I showed up and blew the roof off using facts and my understanding of Constitutional Law. Her guests verified what I said was correct, that it's the president's duty to investigate corruption, yet they glossed over many of my other more salient points. You can view a few video clips of the event by going to Youtube and typing in "Sheila Jackson Lee" and "Aaron Hermes" along with "impeachment" if you want to know what I really think.

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer. (100 words or fewer)**

Based on my current understanding I would support it but an in-depth analysis and talking to the experts on both sides of the argument would be required before I could say so with absolute certainty.

**The topic of immigration reform is currently a hot-button issue. What are your positions on the issues of DACA recipients, or DREAMers; President Trump's proposed border wall; so-called chain migration; and the existing "lottery" system? (150 words or fewer)**

We need immigration reform and I supported President Trump when DACA was on the bargaining table if Democrats would agree to border security and building a wall. We may not need a contiguous wall along the entire border but it's extremely effective as a deterrent and we need it in many areas along with high tech equipment, drones and quick response teams to deal with security threats. With weapons technologies developing as fast as they are border security is national security. I am pro legal immigrant and against so called open borders. I'm open to DACA recipients being able to stay if we can get a comprehensive border security package that addresses overall concerns, but in that case I believe those recipients should not qualify for chain migration.

**What changes, if any, would you make to the existing Affordable Care Act? (100 words or fewer)**

We need to completely abolish it. Keep pre-existing conditions. Allow for insurance companies to compete across state lines. Take the greed out of the equation. Cut income taxes for the bottom 50% of wage earners who only contribute 3% to the overall revenue so that the people who need their money the most can keep it for things like health insurance.

**Do you support the House of Representatives recent efforts to impeach President Donald Trump? (150 words or fewer)**

I did not support these efforts as I believe there were more important things, they should have spent their time on.

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer. (100 words or fewer)**

I do, anything that protects the citizens of district 22 is important.

**The topic of immigration reform is currently a hot-button issue. What are your positions on the issues of DACA recipients, or DREAMers; President**

Trump's proposed border wall; so-called chain migration; and the existing "lottery" system? (150 words or fewer)

Regarding DACA, I do not think that children should be punished for the actions of their parents as long as they are not committing major crimes. As for the wall, I believe in protecting American citizens first, so we do need some sort of successful broader protection. I am not opposed to chain migration though the current process needs to be restructured and limited to protect our resources.

**What changes, if any, would you make to the existing Affordable Care Act? (100 words or fewer)**

Not many, the goal for ACA was to get people that were uninsured, insured. If you look at the amount of people that are uninsured today many of them are eligible for Medicaid, CHIP, affordable employer coverage or a subsidy and still for whatever reason choose not to have coverage. The main thing I would work on is controlling the rising out of pocket costs of health insurance.

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

I do not support the idea of funding of sanctuary cities. I do not believe that the idea of sanctuary cities is in the best interest of American citizens.

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

For medical reasons I would support it, though for recreational it should probably be all or none. I truly think we as a country have more important things to worry about.

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

Attack the national debt. I believe it is our greatest threat, and we need to cut spending by 5-10 trillion dollars over the next 8-10 years, create a balanced budget amendment, and stop sending money to foreign countries that seek to do us harm. I also would like to see term limits on Senate, and Congress.

**Do you support the House of Representatives recent efforts to impeach President Donald Trump? (150 words or fewer)**

No!

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer. (100 words or fewer)**

Yes, I believe we should look to projects like this that are proactive, by way of flood mitigation, rather than be reactive. Had the coastal spine been in place just in the area of New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina (for a cost estimated at \$12.7 billion), we would have prevented the taxpayer from spending \$23

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

No, I could support it for medicinal purposes only.

**What changes, if any, would you make to the existing Affordable Care Act? (100 words or fewer)**

No; it was a total waste

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

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about separating families at the border (which Pres. Trump didn't start but signed an exec. order to stop), but what about the thousands of American families being separated over a plant that's never killed anyone in the history of mankind? Yet alcohol and cigarettes kill thousands per year and they are legal? It's a travesty MJ has been illegal for the last 100 years. Studies show a reduced dependency on opioids in states that it's legal. It needs to immediately be delisted as a Schedule 1 drug. Free up our justice system for crimes with victims.

### Brandon Penko



**Name:** Brandon Penko  
**Age:** 38  
**Occupation:** Owner of Local Business  
**Education:** Married/1 child  
**Marital Status/Children:** Married/1 child  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Congressional District 22? (100 words or less)**

As the voice of district 22 I would work and listen closely to the people of the district about what they want and need. I would work hard to fight for their liberties and ability to prosper. I do not come from a political background which I believe will help as well.

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

No.

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

None

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

I personally live about 20 minutes away, though have friends that reside in the South Belt Community.

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

My main objective would be to protect the Freedoms and abilities to prosper for everyone in the district. Though most importantly for the future generations to come.

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

To make sure that government does not abuse our tax dollars or strip away our Freedoms.

**Do you support the House of Representatives recent efforts to impeach President Donald Trump? (150 words or fewer)**

I did not support these efforts as I believe there were more important things, they should have spent their time on.

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer. (100 words or fewer)**

I do, anything that protects the citizens of district 22 is important.

**The topic of immigration reform is currently a hot-button issue. What are your positions on the issues of DACA recipients, or DREAMers; President**

Trump's proposed border wall; so-called chain migration; and the existing "lottery" system? (150 words or fewer)

Regarding DACA, I do not think that children should be punished for the actions of their parents as long as they are not committing major crimes. As for the wall, I believe in protecting American citizens first, so we do need some sort of successful broader protection. I am not opposed to chain migration though the current process needs to be restructured and limited to protect our resources.

**What changes, if any, would you make to the existing Affordable Care Act? (100 words or fewer)**

Not many, the goal for ACA was to get people that were uninsured, insured. If you look at the amount of people that are uninsured today many of them are eligible for Medicaid, CHIP, affordable employer coverage or a subsidy and still for whatever reason choose not to have coverage. The main thing I would work on is controlling the rising out of pocket costs of health insurance.

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

I do not support the idea of funding of sanctuary cities. I do not believe that the idea of sanctuary cities is in the best interest of American citizens.

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

For medical reasons I would support it, though for recreational it should probably be all or none. I truly think we as a country have more important things to worry about.

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

Attack the national debt. I believe it is our greatest threat, and we need to cut spending by 5-10 trillion dollars over the next 8-10 years, create a balanced budget amendment, and stop sending money to foreign countries that seek to do us harm. I also would like to see term limits on Senate, and Congress.

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No!

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer. (100 words or fewer)**

Yes, I believe we should look to projects like this that are proactive, by way of flood mitigation, rather than be reactive. Had the coastal spine been in place just in the area of New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina (for a cost estimated at \$12.7 billion), we would have prevented the taxpayer from spending \$23

billions took fix the area. The damage in the French Quarter was attributed to storm surge, which the coastal spine would have prevented saving us all that hefty bill.

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## New development comes to South Belt area



A new 43-acre commercial development called Gulfpoint Business Park is being constructed along the Gulf Freeway between Beltway 8 and Scarsdale Boulevard. Texas Injection Molding will serve as an anchor site at the new facility. Additional sites ranging in size from 5,000 to 60,000 square feet are still available. See related story on Page 1A.  
Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Local music students make All-State

Continued from Page 1A  
highest rank they are able to obtain at the high school level.”

Honorees include the following:  
**Dobie High School**  
– Patricia Medina, viola  
– orchestra, led by orchestra directors Angela Badon, Stephen Payne and Tam Duong.  
– Andrew Garcia, bass 2  
– Choir, led by Tyler Ruberg and Wendy Sharpless.  
**Memorial High School**  
– Madeline Blizzard, soprano 1 – choir, led by choir directors Daniel Jones and Christina Bartimmo.  
– Kiley Phillips, alto 1 – choir, led by choir directors Daniel Jones and Christina Bartimmo.  
– Colton Dement, cornet

and trumpet – led by band directors Jason Harvey, Mark Waldon and Nicole Davis.  
– Nicholas Russell, French

horn – led by band directors Jason Harvey, Mark Waldon and Nicole Davis.  
The All-State students at-

tended a three-day rehearsal and performed for TMEA Saturday, Feb. 15.  
To view the layout of pho-

tos, visit <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q5b9H8zarrJbBmJOVILC28xZ1FVKangv>.



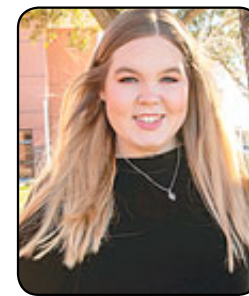
Patricia Medina



Andrew Garcia



Madeline Blizzard



Kiley Phillips



Colton Dement



Nicholas Russell

## Area candidates answer questions

Continued from Page 5A  
to promote competition and reduce insurance premiums. I would also vote that pre-existing conditions are covered.  
Do you support the idea of sanctuary cities and what would you do if the Trump administration attempted to retaliate by blocking fed-

eral funds for such cities? (100 words or fewer)

Sanctuary cities are illegal under the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution. If a rogue governmental entity decides to violate the US Constitution, I am in favor of refusing to give it our tax dollars.

We spend an enormous amount on entitlements for people that did not come here legally.

That is one of the reasons we are over 20 trillion in debt. Just today, we have spent almost \$560 million on illegal immigrant expenses. <https://www.oann.com/debt-clock/>

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

I personally do not support recreational use. If a doctor thinks it is in a person's healthcare regime, I would leave it to the doctor's professional opinion.

Continued on Page 3B

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**\$200 OFF** FOUNDATION REPAIR OR SEWER REPAIR  
(on jobs \$2,500 & up)  
Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per house.  
**FOUNDATION REPAIR UNDER SLAB SEWER REPAIR HOUSE LEVELING**  
**Allied Foundations**  
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# PISD Hall of Fame banquet sold out

By Reesha Brown  
PISD Communications  
Pasadena ISD's annual Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Banquet is once again a sold out event, organizers announced on Monday, Feb. 17.

Once tickets went on sale back in January, family and friends of the inductees, along with event sponsors and former inductees couldn't wait to take part in the action, selling over 450 seats in

only a month. Attendees and Pasadena ISD officials will gather for the Hall of Fame on April 4, at 6 p.m. at Phillips Field House, 2906 Dabney Road.

Headlining the Hall of Fame banquet this year will be Jason Bristol, anchor, reporter, journalist and Emmy award winner from KHOU-TV in Houston.

The following individuals are slated for induction at this year's ceremony:

- J. Frank Dobie Girls Softball Team (1993 state champions).
- Charlie Goehring - track and cross country coach (1971-2007).
- T.J. Mills (deceased) - football coach (1977-2005).
- Wilburn Raby - track coach (1952-1980).
- Steve Prentice - swim-

Continued on Page 6B

## Longhorns continue winning ways



A 3-2 victory over Memorial Feb. 15 at Memorial Stadium has lifted J. Frank Dobie's varsity soccer team to first place with 22 points through the first half of league play, as the Longhorns start the second half Feb. 21 at Summer Creek. The team is shown here celebrating the win.

# Defending champs get past Mavericks, seize first place

Midway through the District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer race, the challengers have thrown their blows, and the champions have answered

the call. Isaac Cortez scored two goals and Anthony Nery had a goal and an assist as five-time defending league champion Dobie downed rival Memorial 3-2 Feb. 15 at Veterans Stadium.

The win sends the Longhorns to the top of 22-6A mid-

way through the title chase, with Humble now having taken over the second spot.

The Mavericks, now 6-2-0 over the first half of action, are third as Kingwood and Atascocita trail as well.

But the story is these Longhorns. Cortez, Nery, Jonathan Mendez and others have ascended to the front row.

Cortez has become a true threat up top, and Nery and his teammates have been right there to help.

Yes, there is still half a campaign remaining but the Longhorns are right where they want to be.

The team has double-digit wins for the season and a single defeat.

Now it's the final stretch run. The leaders have come this far at 7-0-1 and the chase goes on.

## Horns beat Brook 11-0 in opener

Freshman Marisa Perla spun five innings of one-hit softball with eight strikeouts, and Yessenia Pena went deep to pace the offense as Dobie opened the 2020 varsity softball season by run-ruling Clear Brook 11-0 Feb. 17 at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

Pena, looking to carry a larger offensive load this season, homered and doubled, driving in three runs to get the Lady Longhorns their second straight opening night win. Leslie Longoria picked up where she left off last season, doubling among her two hits and scoring twice. Jasmin Benitez also had a pair of hits, scoring twice and driving in a pair.

Bella Perez, seeing her first significant varsity action, lifted the middle of the lineup with two runs batted in and a run scored.

Perla, bidding for a prominent role in the pitching mix moving forward, dazzled in her outing, surrendering a single hit and walk over the five frames.

Dobie, looking to build off its 2019 season that included 26 total wins and a regional quarterfinal berth, is now at the College Station Invitational, playing out Feb. 20-22. Clear Brook, meanwhile is at the Brenham Invitational, also Feb. 20-22.

## Helping Dobie Horns advance



Anthony Nery (11, top photo, had a goal and an assist as Dobie topped Memorial 3-2 in the battle for first-half supremacy in District 22-6A play. With six goals this season, Nery has been an ideal complementary member of the team's offensive game plan.

Eris Acosta (1, bottom photo, has been the Longhorns' primary keeper in the nets as 22-6A leader has leaped to the front of the standings at 7-0-1 through the first half.



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## Bechtle hospitalized

Leader sports writer John Bechtle was sidelined with an orthopedic-related problem this week, being hospitalized the morning of Monday, Feb. 17, through press time Wednesday, Feb. 19. The Leader staff apologizes for any related shortcomings in this week's sports reporting and wishes John a speedy recovery.

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# Pasadena ISD hosts 10th annual spring Chess Classic



On Saturday, Feb. 15, Pasadena ISD held its 10th annual Spring Chess Classic at Beverly Hills Intermediate. A total of 278 students participated, from 45 campuses, including nine high schools, 12 intermediate schools, nine middle schools and 15 elementary schools. Of the schools that participated 35 were from Pasadena ISD, five were from Deer Park ISD, two were from Clear Creek ISD, one was from Pearland ISD, and two were private or charter schools. In all divisions, stu-

dents received one point for each win and a half-point for each draw. The next tournament will be Saturday, May 18, at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School. Shown are third-graders, left to right, Adrian Gloria, Genoa; Robert Pheister, South Belt; Carmelo Gutierrez, Frazier; Santiago Vega, Genoa; Nevaeh Bumgarner, Frazier; Simon Nguyen, Frazier; Damian Garza, Genoa; and Alexis Perez, Genoa.

Photos submitted



Enjoying the winning moment are fourth-grade winners, left to right, Isaiiah Machado, South Belt Elementary School; Konner Cook, Frazier Elementary School; Alec Tamegnon, South Belt Elementary School; Jordan Garcia, Frazier El-

ementary School; Sasha Lewis, Frazier Elementary School; Bella Sherwood, Frazier Elementary School; Jessie Garza, Genoa Elementary School; and Carlos Vega, Genoa Elementary School.



Sharing the winning experience, fifth-graders posing for the photo are, left to right, Nadia Delavega, Schnier Middle School; Cesar Salazar, Deepwater Elementary School; Alexander Healy, Sablatura Middle School; Luke Duffey, Keller Mid-

dle School; Eduardo Sanchez, Melillo Middle School, Nathalie Garcia, Deepwater Elementary School; Amudhan Madhankumar, Sablatura Middle School; and Will Wang, Sablatura Middle School.



Celebrating the joy of victory are sixth-grade winners, left to right, Joshua Arredondo, Melillo Middle School; Marc Barrera, Milstead Middle School; John Tran, Roberts Mid-

dle School; Noe Rocha, Bonnette Jr. High; Aaron Hoppie, Creekside Intermediate; Quoc-Bao Ngo, Melillo Middle School; and Victoria Chioreanu, Roberts Middle School.



Shown above are the chess high school winners in the 10th annual competition held Feb. 15. They are, left to right, first place 12th-grader Adam Tran, of Pasadena Memorial High School; second place ninth-grader Dylan Campos, Dobie9; third place 11th-grader Matthew Montemayor, CTHS;

fourth place 11th-grader Chris Pineda, Deer Park High School; fifth place ninth-grader Oscar Garza, Dobie9; sixth place 12th-grader Victor Vargas, Sam Rayburn High School; seventh place 11th-grader Blake Danner, CTHS; and eighth place 12th-grader Tin Ly, Dobie High School.



Enjoying the winning moment are intermediate Pasadena Independent School District winners, left to right, eighth-grader Tam Nguyen, Thompson; seventh-grader Octavio Sifuentes, Bondy; eighth-grader Cindy Nguyen, Beverly Hills; seventh-grader Jimmy Bui, Beverly Hills;

seventh-grader Vinh Nguyen, Bondy; and seventh-grader Alan Olvera, Bondy. Winners also included seventh-grader Dylan Corona (second from right), Raul Yzaguirre School for Success; and sixth-grader Juan Vega (far right), Roberts Middle School.

## Fred Flickinger

Reliable Conservative

for County Dept. of Education Trustee Pos. 5

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**United Republicans of Harris County**; **Spring Branch Republicans**;  
**Dan Huberty** - State Rep. District 127, Chairman of House Committee Public Education;  
**Steve Kusner** - Precinct Chair 670; **Rich Stoitsits** - Precinct Chair 758;  
**Charles Blaine** - Founder "Urban Reform"; **Scott Bowen** - Senate District 11 Chair;  
**Jennifer Martin** - Precinct Chair #876; **Daphne Hager** - Precinct Chair #444

Pol. adv. paid for by Fred Flickinger for Harris County Department of Education School Board of Trustee Pos. 5

## JFD's Stanton succeeding at Prosper ISD

Dobie Class of 1997 graduate Shaun Stanton is continuing to build a name for himself within the Prosper ISD, having been named varsity baseball head coach at new PISD high school Rock Hill High School beginning next school year. Stanton, an all-district performer in both baseball and basketball at Dobie, is the youngest Stanton sibling born to Betty and Gloyd Stanton, with Betty still residing in the South Belt area. Pam, Keith, David, Brian and Dale all attended Dobie previous to Shaun.

An assistant coach in baseball and basketball early in his career, Stanton elected to join the legendary Rick Carpenter at Prosper, where he was first the junior varsity head coach and then varsity assistant at Prosper. The duo produced a state title in Class 5A in 2015.

"When I landed the job at PHS, I was very fortunate to start coaching with one of the state's best baseball coaches, Rick Carpenter," Stanton told the *Leader* this week. "I was the junior varsity head coach for three years and then he promoted me to the varsity assistant spot. Rick won three state

championships at Elkins, winning his first after beating Dobie in a one-game regional final in 1995 (my sophomore year). "We won our own state championship in 2015 at Prosper. During our six years together, I learned so much from him. How to get players to play for each other, how important the fundamentals are, handling parents with charisma, etc. When the prospect of something more within Prosper ISD developed and then became reality, Stanton was the clear choice.

"I never even thought of leaving this district to pursue a head coaching position. It truly is the best and we are supported like no other, in my opinion. Plus, the relationship that I had with coach Carpenter was second to none. "He allowed me to do things on/off the baseball field, to where I felt like I worked right alongside him and not under him. Once he retired last June, I had an important decision to make - apply for the Prosper High School head job or wait a year and apply for the Rock Hill job.

"Even though PHS has established itself as one of the premier 6A programs

in the state, I decided that I wanted to start my own legacy somewhere different but

still in Prosper ISD.

"I am super excited to start a program from scratch

and to build a culture similar, but unique, to that at Prosper High School."



### Stanton named head baseball coach

Newly named Rock Hill head baseball coach Shaun Stanton (center) is joined by his family, from left, Cooper, Maggie and Bennett as well as his wife Aimee. Stanton was raised in the South Belt area and graduated from J. Frank Dobie in 1997.

# Sports Calendar

## District 22 candidates give insight through questionnaire

Continued from Page 6A

### Pierce Bush



**Name:** Pierce Bush  
**Age:** 33  
**Occupation:** CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star  
**Education:** University of Texas at Austin  
**Marital Status/Children:** Married  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Congressional District 22? (100 words or less)**

Make no mistake, the 22nd District is a target for the Democrats who desperately want to add another seat under Nancy Pelosi's control. We must elect a Republican candidate who is capable of energizing our base and earning support from a broad coalition of people who believe in the values and principles of America—I believe I'm the best candidate to reach and earn support from all these communities. I've been a lifelong resident of this incredible region and I am one of the only candidates who can say they have served the entire district in their recent professional experience.

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

I have never run for office before but as the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star, I had the honor of working with thousands of people from across Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris Counties to help at-risk youth reach their God-given potential. As CEO, I also worked with our state legislators and local elected officials to help support our programs, giving me great familiarity with passing legislation and funding to support local needs. Service to our country runs deep in my family as my grandfather and uncle both served as President of the United States.

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

I am honored to be endorsed by Congressman Pete Olson, former Congressman Judge Ted Poe, former State Representative John Zerwas, the C Club of Houston, Houston area legend Mattress Mack, Friendswood Mayor Mike Foreman and numerous local elected officials and Republican activists.

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

My service to Big Brothers Big Sisters includes this community. My family

has been involved and lived in this region for decades. I know and treasure Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base as a vital regional asset where my grandfather and uncle flew into while they served as President.

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

The main issues I hear from people that they want our U.S. Representative to address are: continued economic growth and job opportunities, public safety that includes national and border security, and making sure infrastructure project, like Clear Creek flood control stay funded and are completed as quickly as possible.

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

For the South Belt community, the main project we must see moving forward and completed is the Clear Creek Flood Risk Reduction. Congressman Olson secured \$295 million for this project and it will be up to our next Representative to make sure this project is done correctly and on time.

**Do you support the House of Representatives recent efforts to impeach President Donald Trump? (150 words or fewer)**

By voting to impeach President Trump, Democrat leadership of the House of Representatives completely caved to the extremists in their party, who openly stated they were looking to impeach President Trump from the day he was elected. Despite the near universal cry from House Democrats that the President posed an immediate threat to the United States, Nancy Pelosi delayed sending the articles over to the U.S. Senate thereby exposing another sad example of what a farce and fraud this entire process has been. It is time for Congress to start working on the issues the American people actually care about: lowering the cost of healthcare, stopping the drug cartels and human traffickers from harming more of our citizens, passing an infrastructure bill, and expanding growth so our hard-working families have more job opportunities and higher wages.

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer. (100 words or fewer)**

I do support the proposed coastal spine project. We must do everything possible to protect our region from flooding. The Congressman from this district must make it one of their top priorities to work to fix our flooding issues. This needs to be a full-scale all-inclusive project, including all stakeholders.

**The topic of immigration reform is currently a hot-button issue. What are your positions on the issues of DACA recipients, or DREAMers; President Trump's proposed border wall; so-called chain migration; and the existing "lottery" system? (150 words or fewer)**

Many millions of people living in our country illegally are contributing to the growth, culture, and rich fabric of America. However, they have also broken our laws and enjoyed tremendous benefits of living in America where their children can go to schools, their families are safe, and the opportunities for work far outstrip the employees we have available at this time. I would support a pathway to legal status as long as these individuals passed criminal background checks, paid fines for breaking our laws, submitted to a probationary period during which they could commit no crimes and became proficient in the English language. For those who serve in the military and are honorably discharged, there should be a pathway to citizenship.

**What changes, if any, would you make to the existing Affordable Care Act? (100 words or fewer)**

The "Affordable Care Act", more commonly known as Obamacare was sold to the American public based on lies – "you can keep your doctor, you can keep your health plan, costs will go down". When the Washington Post calls that marketing gimmick "The Lie of the Year", you know it is a deeply flawed and dishonest program. But more than the utter dishonesty of Obamacare's origins, the program is failing stupendously and creating hardships for millions of other Americans who had better health insurance options before the mandates, taxes, and restrictions of Obamacare were forced on our country.

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

The combination of sanctuary city policies and DAs and judges being unwilling to prosecute criminals to take them off our streets contribute to more violence and danger in our communities. The President is right to call out local elected officials and law enforcement who refuse to hand over dangerous, criminal illegals for prosecution, deportation, or incarceration. I will be supportive of President Trump's efforts to stop the drug cartels, human traffickers, and secure our border – including building walls where we need them, using military to support border patrol efforts, and increased funding for more border patrol.

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

As long as peer-reviewed and medically proven research shows there are valuable uses to help people with issues such as intractable epilepsy or pain management that is not being helped by traditional means, yes, I would support the use of medicinal cannabinoids.



## 22-6A Girls' Soccer Standings

As of Feb. 19

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Atascocita	8	0	0	24
Kingwood	6	2	1	21
Summer Creek	6	2	1	19
Memorial	5	3	1	16
Dobie	4	4	0	16
Pasadena	3	6	0	9
S. Houston	1	6	3	3
Rayburn	0	7	0	0
Humble	0	8	0	0

## 22-6A Boys' Soccer Standings

As of Feb. 19

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	7	0	1	22
Humble	6	1	1	19
Memorial	6	2	0	18
Kingwood	4	1	3	15
Atascocita	4	4	0	12
Pasadena	3	5	0	9
Soho	1	6	1	4
Rayburn	1	6	1	4
Summer Creek	0	7	1	1

## Lajaunie tennis tournament moves forward

### Annual event held in honor of Dobie grad

The annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will return to the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3.

Now in its ninth year, the tournament – named in honor of former Longhorn tennis player Darren Lajaunie – offers scholarships to seniors on the Dobie tennis team, as well as qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

A co-valedictorian from Dobie in 1984, Lajaunie lost his battle with melanoma May 3, 2011. This scholarship fund and tournament is a way to honor his memory by helping junior tennis players enjoy the sport and assist with their college education.

Following graduation, Lajaunie went on to attend the University of Texas in Austin, before working as an electrical engineer for the Johnson Space Center. All 2020 players will

receive a free tournament T-shirt and goodie bag, as well as a complimentary breakfast and lunch.

Highlights include match play and complimentary drinks beginning at 3 p.m. Friday, May 1, with a silent auction ending at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

Organizers are currently seeking donors and silent auction items. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit corporation, and all dona-

tions are tax-deductible.

Donations may be made via credit at the organization's website at <https://dltennisscholarships.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/entryform.pdf>, while donations may be made via check or money order to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, TX 77059.

For additional information, contact Camille Lajaunie, committee chair, at [cjlajaunie@mail.com](mailto:cjlajaunie@mail.com).

## UH-Clear Lake announces calendar briefs

**UHCL member's study explores reality of 'underprepared' students**

Scott Richardson, Title IX Coordinator at University of Houston-Clear Lake, has co-authored an article focusing on the life and academic factors in college students' lives that impact their ability to persist through graduation. The article, titled "Addressing Misperceptions of Underprepared Students: A Case Study at a Public American University," will be published this year in the Journal of Global Education Review.

The article examines the faculty and staff's perceptions of underprepared students. Although most students

believe that their professors want them to succeed, they offered insight into where faculty could assist their progress even further.

"We will celebrate the 4.0 student, but not the 2.0 student," Richardson said. "In fact, that underprepared student is probably that institution's biggest population. The phrase I have coined is 'at promise.' These are students who have untapped potential, and they're resilient."

The study found that good advising and modeling are key factors in helping a student persist through to graduation.

**UHCL Bayou Theater and Art Gallery names new**

**cultural arts director**

University of Houston-Clear Lake named Eric Despard as its new cultural arts director, Feb. 3, 2020. Despard, who will oversee the university's Bayou Theater as well as its Art Gallery, has spent his 30-year career as a professional musician, a professor of music and art, a community music school and a director of university cultural arts programs.

Despard said that during the interview process, he could almost immediately see himself in the job. "When I was applying, UH-Clear Lake seemed very attractive to me. Everything about it was what I was looking for,"

he said. "I'm thinking about ways I'll be expanding the program, and finding opportunities to create community music programs. I love working with the community."

He has his Master of Music from Yale University and is an accomplished classical guitarist. In addition to his administrative work, Despard is an active performer, composer and champion of new music. His group, The Program Ensemble, has commissioned and premiered over 20 pieces by national and international composers.

For additional information about the Bayou Theater, visit [www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/](http://www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/).

# CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

**Rotary Club of Pearland** – Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email [nalix@texascitizensbank.com](mailto:nalix@texascitizensbank.com). 10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, 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 in the fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email [OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com](mailto:OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com) for details. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com). 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday,

Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com). 8 p.m.

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243. 11 a.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in. 11 a.m.

**StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter** – informational meeting about the link of teen sleep deprivation to depression and low academic performance. The public is welcome, 11 a.m., on the fourth Saturday at the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-229-1409. RSVP is requested for meeting attendance. 11 a.m.

**Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** – For women affected by an addict. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in. 1 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details. 8 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243. 1 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details. 2 p.m.

**Grief Support Group** – For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787. 5:30 p.m.

**Scleroderma Support Group** – Do you know someone with scleroderma? Join a support group on the fourth Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Waterford in the Blue Bonnet room, 201 McDermott St. in Deer Park, 77536. Contact Kathy Baker at 713-826-6214 or [KBaker58@comcast.net](mailto:KBaker58@comcast.net). 5:30 p.m.

**Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Almeda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or RSVP for child care. 8 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243. 10 a.m.

**Al-Anon Deer Park** – Mondays, 10 – 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in. 1 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

### 11:30 a.m.

**Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park** – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 6 p.m.

**Scrabble Club #511** – Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. No meetings on holidays. 6:30 p.m.

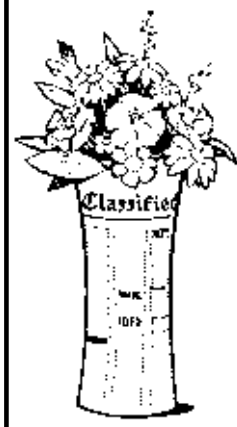
**Toastmasters** – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., next to the fire station. For details, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565 or visit <https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/>. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com). 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801. 7:30 p.m.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or [csh@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:csh@shaarhashalom.org). 7:30 p.m.

Continued on Page 4B



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## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

### Southeast VFD needs you!

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

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Turn those unwanted items in your garage and closets into cash. Bring ads into the Leader office by Tuesday or use the mail slot by the front door.  
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## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

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

10 a.m.  
**American Begonia Society** - Houston Satellite meets on the fourth Tuesday, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Pkwy. (on the lake side), Seabrook. No meetings during holiday weeks. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458.

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

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
**Free dance lessons** - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180.

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

1:30 p.m.  
**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

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

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church located at 11456 Space Center Blvd., between Pasadena & Clear Lake. As we "use up the lard before Lent" we will serve pancakes & sausage, no charge, but donations will be accepted.

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

9:30 a.m.  
**Young at Heart Senior Club** - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Jan Okumura at 832-298-9480 for details.

10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

Noon  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - Ash Wednesday services at noon and 6 p.m. with imposition of ashes & holy communion, at St Paul's Anglican Church located at 11456 Space Center Blvd., Houston 77059, between Pasadena & Clear Lake. We will continue our preparation for Easter with a Lenten Supper each Wednesday in March at 6 p.m., & a different guest speaker each week.

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

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For information on the activity card, call 281-554-1180.

6 p.m.  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - Ash Wednesday services at noon and 6 p.m. with imposition of ashes & holy communion, at St Paul's Anglican Church located at 11456 Space Center Blvd., Houston 77059, between Pasadena & Clear Lake. We will continue our preparation for Easter with a Lenten Supper each Wednesday in March at 6 p.m., & a different guest speaker each week.

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

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

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

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

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

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

7 p.m.  
**Kirkwood Civic Association** meets at the Sagemont Park and Community Center (new location), 11507 Hughes Road. For more information, call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

To submit items for the

## CALENDAR

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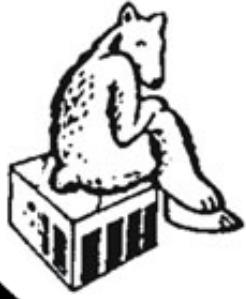
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## South Belt Bandits bring home 3rd place



The South Belt Bandits placed third in 14/16u at the Valentin's Day Sweetheart tournament. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Aubrey Gerardo, Avery Gutierrez, Carly Carpenter, Katelyn Carpenter, Ella Castillo, Gabrielle Morales, Gisele Ramirez (back row) Coach Karl Carpenter, Heaven Vargas, Laila Jack, Natalie Graciano, Samantha Lira, Sarah Tamez, Sildy Mireles, Ziara Gaona and Coach Harvey Morales. Photos submitted

## HoF banquet sold out

Continued from Page 1B  
-ming (South Houston, Class of 1970).

- Bryan Willingham - football (Pasadena, Class of 1971).

- Ron Schroeder - golf (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1975).

- Marlen Esparza - boxing (Pasadena, Class of 2007).

- Bo Snelson - football (Pasadena Memorial, Class of 2009).

- Snelson family, including Billie (deceased) and sons John and Andy.

**Dobie softball team (1993 state champions)**

Dobie's 12-member 1993 Lady Longhorn softball team made history after winning the school's first softball championship, 1-0, against Tomball. Christa Williams, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and PISD Hall of Famer, led the Lady Longhorns to the title, pitching a three-hitter and striking out 11, outdueling an equally matched Tomball pitcher and scoring on a fielding error. Dobie earned a seat on the road to state after pounding El Paso Bel Air for 17 hits in a 10-2 victory in the semifinals.

**Charlie Goehring - track and cross-country coach (1971-2007)**



An alumnus of Pasadena High School, Charlie Goehring coached track and cross country in Pasadena ISD for well over 30 years. While attending PHS, Goehring earned two varsity letters in football and was a wide receiver on the Eagles' state runner-up team. After graduating from the University of Houston, Goehring coached at various schools throughout Pasadena ISD and spent 16 years as the head boys' cross-country and track coach for South Houston High School and 10 years coaching boys' cross-country at Pasadena High School. Goehring retired in 2008 and was inducted into the Hall of Honor of the Gulf Coast Scholastic Track Coaches Association in 2009.

**T.J. Mills - football coach (1977-2005)**



As head coach of the Sealy Tiger football team, T. J. Mills became one of only two 11-man coaches in Texas HS football history to lead a team to four straight state titles from 1993 to 1997. The Tigers were 63-1 during that time, with a streak of 24-straight playoff victories. The four-peat consecutive winning streak produced 20 first-team All-State players. His Sealy team reached the title game again in 1999. Mills coached the Tigers for 14 years before moving on to Odessa HS and then La Porte HS. While Mills retired in 2005, he continued to earn multiple accolades including

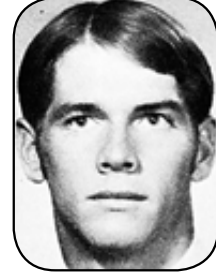
Coach of the Year by the Texas Sports Writers Association, also a four-peat victory. He was later enshrined in the Texas High School Coaches Association's Hall of Honor in 2014. Mills graduated from Pasadena High School in 1972 and played quarterback, receiver and defensive lineman on the football team, in addition to basketball. He married his high school sweetheart and classmate Becky Chambers Mills.

**Wilburn Raby - track coach (1952-1980)**



Wilburn "Willy" Raby coached track and cross-country in Pasadena ISD for 27 years. While growing up in Corsicana, he played football and basketball during high school. After bravely serving in the Navy during World War II, he attended Navarro College and Daniel Baker College, playing football for both schools. Raby went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sam Houston State and began his Pasadena ISD coaching career in 1953 with a two-year stint at Jackson Junior High. Raby spent 14 years as the head track and cross-country coach at Sam Rayburn High School, leading the Texans to two district titles and one regional team title.

**Bryan Willingham - football (Pasadena, Class of 1971)**



Bryan Willingham, a graduate of Pasadena High School, was the go-to receiver for the Eagles football team. While playing in the 1971 Texas Coaches Association All-Star Game, Willingham set a record with 11 catches for 166 yards and three touchdown grabs. After high school graduation, Willingham attended the University of Houston and lettered for three years as a receiver. He performed exceptionally well during his junior year of college, catching an impressive 83-yard touchdown pass and completing 16 catches for 328 yards.

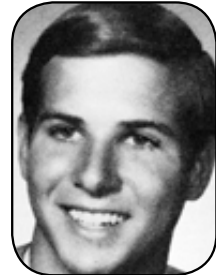
**Marlen Esparza - boxing (Pasadena, Class of 2007)**



Marlen Esparza is a barrier-breaking Olympic boxer who won the bronze medal in the Women's Flyweight Division at the 2012 Olympics in London. Esparza graduated from Pasadena High School in 2007, where she

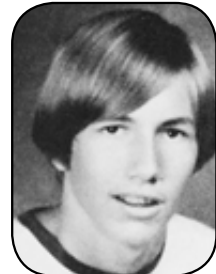
ran cross-country, participated in swimming and competed in debate. As a high school junior, Esparza won the bronze medal in the 2006 Women's World Boxing Championships. Today, she is an undefeated boxer with Golden Goy Productions and is a member of the PHS Alumni Hall of Honor.

**Steve Prentice - swimming (South Houston, Class of 1970)**



Steve Prentice is a graduate of South Houston High School's class of 1970. While attending SHHS, Prentice lettered in swimming all four years, earned All-American honors and was elected as the president of his senior class. After graduation, Prentice attended Texas A&M and quickly became known as one of the Southwest Conference's most accomplished swimmers. He qualified for the NCAA meet in each of his four years attending A&M, served as the team's captain for three seasons and set school records for three individual events.

**Ron Schroeder - golf (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1975)**



Ron Schroeder is a standout golfer who has played in amateur and professional leagues. During his high school career, Schroeder was known as the district's top golfer and he was the Pasadena ISD individual champion, district champion and an all-city honoree. As an amateur, Schroeder won the Greater Houston Amateur Championship five times. While playing professionally, he has won multiple tournaments and was named the Southern Texas PGA senior player of the year in 2017. In 2018, he won the Texas open and in April 2019, he won the PGA's Senior Series for the second time.

**Bo Snelson - football (Memorial, Class of 2009)**



Bo Snelson lettered in football, track and baseball before graduating in 2009 from Pasadena Memorial. After his senior season of football, he was named an Old Spice Red Zone National Player of the Year, a title given to only 50 players throughout the U.S. Snelson attended the United States Naval Academy after graduating from high school and was the

team captain of the football team, where he was known for his leadership skills, as well as, his statistical contributions. After receiving his commission, Snelson graduated from the Marine Corps Officer's School and he now serves as a series commander and infantry officer for the Marine Corps in San Diego.

**Snelson Family/Billie Snelson (deceased), and sons Andy and John Billie Snelson - former basketball and volleyball coach**

Billie M. Snelson graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1948, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Education. She played basketball at Oklahoma Baptist University, using that background to coach basketball, plus volleyball during her 31-year-long career in Pasadena ISD.

**Andy Snelson - football (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1974)**

Andy Snelson, a graduate of Sam Rayburn High School, was an All-State sprinter in track and three-year letterman in football, earning multiple All-District awards. Andy's record-breaking 9.4 seconds in the 100-yard dash and 21.6 seconds in the 220-yard dash are still among the top in Pasadena ISD history. At Sam Rayburn, he was coached by Odell Harrison and soon-to-be PISD Hall of Famer Wilburn "Willy" Raby. Coach Raby enjoyed taking his 1973 and 1974 track team all over the state, showcasing the talents of his boys. After graduation, Snelson attended the University of Houston, where he sprinted for Coach Johnny Morris and Tom Tellez. He also attended Odessa College for one year and was coached by James Segrest. Due to injuries, Snelson never finished up his career at University of Houston. He is now retired and resides in Pasadena.

**John Snelson - football/baseball (Sam Rayburn, Class of 1986)/ Memorial Football Coach**

John Snelson's Pasadena roots run deep. He graduated from Sam Rayburn High School with an impressive high school football resume. Coached under Charlie Lyles, John became of the football program's top players, starting three years. A four-year letterman in baseball, John was also a member of Rayburn's 1985 baseball team that played for the Class 5A state championship under head coach Al Campo as the team's defensive coordinator during the football program's inaugural year in 2003. In 2006, Tom Ed Gooden stepped down from his head coaching position at Memorial and John filled in. With John at the helm, Pasadena Memorial's football program was the first to advance to the third round of the playoffs for a district title since the 1960s in the Class 5A Division II regional semifinals. Memorial won their first district championship in 2009, going 6-1 in district 22-5A after winning against Pearland and La Porte. In 2006, John joined the Dickinson Gators football program as head coach, where he's tallied 112-55, some of the most wins in Gator history.

## Stonebrook now open in South Belt



**Stonebrook Senior Residences** is a 120-unit affordable housing community for seniors developed by Robinson Capital & Investment, Inc. Located at I-45 and Kurland Drive, Stonebrook contains 72 one-bedroom apartments and 48 two-bedroom apartments.

Stonebrook was designed with seniors in mind. The property has a variety of amenities including a swimming pool, covered pavilion with BBQ grills and tables, furnished community room, beauty salon, fitness center, movie room and much more. Scheduled transportation services, health and nutrition classes, financial planning, and other tenant services will be offered.

Stonebrook has three 4-story elevator equipped buildings with attractive stone exteriors. For the comfort of our residents, the units have microwave ovens, self-cleaning ovens, refrigerators with ice makers, washers and dryers in each unit, ceiling fans, island kitchens, walk in closets, 9-foot ceilings and green building features. The property is equipped with full perimeter fencing and controlled gate access, and is managed by Greater Coastal Management, LLC, a division of Robinson Capital & Investment, Inc.

Robinson Capital & Investment, Inc. has been developing, constructing and managing affordable housing communities in Texas since 1994, having completed in excess of 3,150 units.



### South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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