

Chamber Banquet March 8

Newly elected Houston Mayor John Whitmire will be the guest speaker at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's annual gala, set to take place Friday, March 8, at the Hope Village Event Center, 15403 Hope Village Road in Friendswood. For ticket information call 281-481-5516

Knights hold fish fries

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold a fish fry Fridays during Lent through March 22. Dinner includes fried fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea. Cost is \$15 a plate. Dine in or take-out will be available.

The fish fries is at St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church, at 11011 Hall Road, from 4 to 7 p.m.

In addition, the Catholic Daughters Court 2292 will be selling desserts throughout Lent during the Knights' weekly fish fries.

Kirkmont meets March 13

Kirkmont 1 HOA will meet, Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m., Wednesday, at Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk.

Homeowners and residents are urged to attend and invite another homeowner. Constable Jerry Garcia will be the guest speaker.

Pop-Up Shop March 3

There will be a Pop-Up Shop market Sunday, March 3, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held the first Sunday of each month, the markets feature a wide variety of local vendors. Vending space is available. For additional information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need. The next event is March 9. For information, call 281-484-4230.

Sagemont to meet March 5

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. All Sagemont residents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Local COVID cases reported

While the number of reported COVID-19 cases in ZIP 77089 increased slightly this past week, the figures remained stagnant in South Belt's remaining two ZIP codes, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 27, there were 259 active cases in 77089, up five from the previous week. To date, 141 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 16 active cases, up one from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 12 active cases, no increase from the previous week. To date, 94 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/Brittany Bay Boulevard to FM 519/Main Street daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

The U-turn lane on the northbound Gulf Freeway frontage road (north to south) at FM-519/Main Street in La Marque will be closed until further notice.

The U-turn lane on the southbound Gulf Freeway frontage road (south to north) at FM-519/Main Street in La Marque will be closed until further notice.

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

Beltway 8 closures planned

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway continuously until further notice.

No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

At least one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from SH 225 to Pasadena Boulevard continuously until further notice.

No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Historic moon landing has local ties

Intuitive Machines, San Jacinto College make aerospace history

By James Bolen

A commercial space mission with deep roots to Ellington Airport/Houston Spaceport made history Thursday, Feb. 22, when it safely landed a robotic probe on the moon – the first time for a U.S. expedition in 50+ years.

Led by local company Intuitive Machines, the IM-1, Nova C mission successfully placed a lunar lander called Odysseus near the moon's south pole at 6:23 p.m. ET after a few technical delays.

"Houston, Odysseus has found a new home," IM-1 Mission Director Tim Crain said on the NASA livestream following a short lapse of communication.

While backed by NASA, this marked the first time a private spacecraft successfully landed on the lunar surface. Commercial missions from both

Israel and Japan have crashed in recent years, and this past January, another NASA-backed mission from the company Astrobotics fell back to Earth after experiencing a fuel leak.

NASA officials had given the mission only an 80-percent chance of success.

It will likely not be the last private lunar mission, however, as it's just one of several recently purchased by NASA as part of its Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program. Intuitive Machines was paid approximately \$100 million by NASA to complete the endeavor.

"Today is a day that shows the power and promise of NASA's commercial partnerships," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, calling the feat a "landing of a lifetime."

Beyond its international significance, the suc-

cessful landing is a milestone in particular for the Ellington aerospace community, as it houses the Intuitive Machines headquarters, which served as a command center for the delicate operation.

Further, the IM-1, Nova C mission was made possible in large part through training offered by San Jacinto College at its EDGE Center, also located at the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport.

In recognition of this, a San Jacinto College seal featuring the names of all the students who contributed toward the project was aboard the Odysseus when it made its lunar landing.

The seal included the names of the following San Jacinto College aerospace students:

Employed at Intuitive Machines

- Kevin Baez*
- Nicole Delaune
- Oscar Gil*

- Guadalupe Hurtado*
- Greyson Netek*
- Jesus Murillo*
- Austin Sommers*
- Logan Swann
- Jose Ortiz
- Delores Vanhoose*
- Joseph Weaver*
- Christopher Garcia
- Alexander Villeda
- Cyrus Shy**

Only interned at Intuitive Machines

- Nicholas Russell
- Benjamin Tate
- Adrian Garcia
- Mary Faith Covey

*In San Jacinto College's Engineering Tech-

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Aerospace community makes history



Local company Intuitive Machines made history Thursday, Feb. 22, when its lunar lander Odysseus safely landed on the moon. This marked the first time in 50+ years that a U.S. spacecraft has successfully made such mission. Also making history were several San Jacinto College aerospace students, whose names were placed on a seal that was aboard the Odysseus when it landed. The lunar mission was made possible through training at San Jac's EDGE Center, located at the Houston Spaceport at Ellington near the Intuitive Machines headquarters. Photo courtesy of Intuitive Machines

Dobie inducts 2024 Hall of Honor

4 alumni, 1 former faculty among inducted

Dobie High School inducted its 2024 Hall of Honor members at a ceremony held at the area campus Friday, Feb. 23. (See photo on Page 4.)

Now in its 12th year, the Hall of Honor recognizes students and faculty who have made significant contributions to the community and serve as role models for current and future students.

Four alumni and one former faculty member were recognized at this year's event.

Alumni included professional dancer Mike Spencer, Class of 1981; businesswoman Laurie Sedita Baker, Class of 1982; professional dancer Michelle Manzanales, Class of 1993; and businesswoman Devona Fanfair, Class of 2003.

Former English and journalism teacher Ann Brannen was the lone faculty member inducted at this year's event. (See photos Page 4.)

Spencer was a standout athlete in high school, participating in the school's basketball and track programs. After being named an All-State Decathlete, Spencer attended San Jacinto College on a track scholarship. Following graduation,

Spencer became active in dancing, both as a teacher and as a performer. Spencer would go on to win multiple national and world championship awards before retiring from professional dancing in 2002. Spencer came out of retirement in 2017, going on to win the 2018 National Championship and was named World Champion in 2019 and 2023. Mike was inducted into the American Country Dance Association Hall of Fame. Spencer currently resides in Biloxi, Miss. with his wife, Celeste. The couple have one son and two grandchildren.

A cheerleader in high school, Baker went on to earn MBA in finance from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Sam Houston State University. She currently serves as executive vice president and Chief Operating Officer of Camden Property Trust. Before joining Camden, Baker was vice president at Walden Residential Properties and spent nine years at the Howard Hughes Medi-

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Work begins on Friendswood basin

Joint project to be located at Dixie Farm and Blackhawk

Work has begun on the future Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin, to be located on an undeveloped 105-acre site along the Clear Creek overbank at FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road and Blackhawk Boulevard.

On Dec. 19, 2023, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded a contract for rough grading at the detention basin formally identified as HCFCD Project ID: A500-09-00-E002. Preconstruction activities are underway, and excavation and removal of soil is expected to begin in February 2024. This is a partnership project between Harris County Flood Control District, the City of Friendswood, Galveston County and Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District. This project is utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds through our partnership with Galveston County. Check the project webpage at hcfcd.org/friendswood for updates, as the actual start date may be impacted by weather and other factors.

This preliminary excavation project will begin in an area where the Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin (HCFCD Unit A500-09-00) will ultimately be constructed in the future. The excavation site (outlined in red on the map) is located on an undeveloped 105-acre tract north of Clear Creek, south of FM 1959 and east of Blackhawk Blvd. The future stormwater detention at this location is part of an overall flood risk reduction project, which includes mitigation storage along Clear Creek (HCFCD Unit A100-00-00).

The purpose of the basin along Clear Creek is to

work in conjunction with future channel conveyance improvement projects to reduce flooding risks in the Clear Creek watershed. While the channel conveyance improvements will move the stormwater more efficiently out of an area, the stormwater detention basin will take in and temporarily store stormwater to ensure that the increased conveyance does not transfer the flooding risk to upstream or downstream communities. Typically, stormwater detention basins are constructed first and can provide flood risk reduction benefits on their own.

Preliminary excavation is a way to get started with the basin in advance of major project construction. The preliminary excavation contractor has an excavation target of more than 460,000 cubic yards (approximately 46,000 truckloads) in three locations within the A500-09-00 tract. Access to the work area will be off FM 1959. The contractor will use heavy construction equipment such as dump trucks, excavators and bulldozers. Motorists are urged to be alert to truck traffic when passing near construction access points and along truck routes.

The preliminary excavation is expected to cost approximately \$5.5 million. Work is expected to take 327 working days to complete.

The Flood Control District appreciates the patience of residents through the duration of this project.

For additional information on this project, or to submit a question or comment, visit hcfcd.org/friendswood.

Primary elections set for March 5

The Democratic and Republican primary elections are scheduled to take place Tuesday, March 5. Several key positions are to be filled, including seats at the county, state and federal level.

At the national level, President Joe Biden is facing Democratic challengers Cenk Uygur, Marianne Williamson, Gabriel Cornejo, Dean Phillips, Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato, Frankie Lozada and Star Locke. Competing for the Republican nomination are former President Donald Trump and Nikki Haley.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz is facing Republican challengers Holland "Redd" Gibson and R.E. "Rufus" Lopez. Democrats vying for Cruz's position include Mark Gonzalez, Carl Oscar Sherman, Meri Gomez, Roland Gutierrez, Colin Allred, A. "Robert" Hassan, Thierry Tchenko, Heli Rodriguez and Steven Keough.

In the 18th Congressional District race, Democratic incumbent U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee is being challenged by Amanda Edwards and Robert Slater for her party's nomination. The winner of the contest will face Republican opponent Lana Centonze in November's general election.

U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia has filed as a Democrat to keep her 29th Congressional seat. Republicans running for the position include Jose Casares, Alan Garza, Christian V. Garcia and Angel Fierro.

At the state level, Republican incumbent Dennis Paul filed to maintain his House District 129 seat.

Democrat Doug Peterson also filed to run for the seat.

Democratic incumbent Mary Ann Perez has filed to keep her House District 144 position. She is running unopposed.

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia is seeking re-election. Democrat David Garza has filed to challenge Garcia for his party's nomination. No Republican candidates are seeking the position.

Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado is being challenged by Oscar Salazar Jr. for the Democratic nomination. No Republicans filed to enter the race.

In the race for Harris County district attorney, Democratic incumbent Kim Ogg is being challenged by Sean Teare for her party's nomination. Republican Dan Simons has filed to run in the race.

Democratic incumbent Ed Gonzalez has filed to keep his job as Harris County sheriff. Other Democrats vying for the position include Jose Inocencio Vergil Ratliff and Dana Wolfe. Republican candidates seeking the sheriff position include Joe Danna, Glenn Cowan, Paul Day and Mike Knox.

Early voting is currently underway and will continue through Friday, March 1.

Nearly early voting locations include the Harris County Scarsdale Annex, 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer; and the El Franco Lee Community Center, 9500 Hall Road near Beltway 8.

Nearly Election Day polling locations include the following sites: Continued on Page 4

Chronic robbery victim misidentified

A story in Feb. 22 about a chronic string of liquor store robberies near Beltway 8 and Pearland Blackhawk incorrectly identified the business being targeted.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the liquor store being targeted is The

Liquor Tap, rather than Spec's, as identified in the previous story. The Liquor Tap is located north of the beltway in the 9200 block behind the Blackhawk H-E-B, as opposed to the south where Spec's is located. The Leader apologizes about any confusion.

HFD responds to Sagemont house fire

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, on Sagehurst near Sageglen.

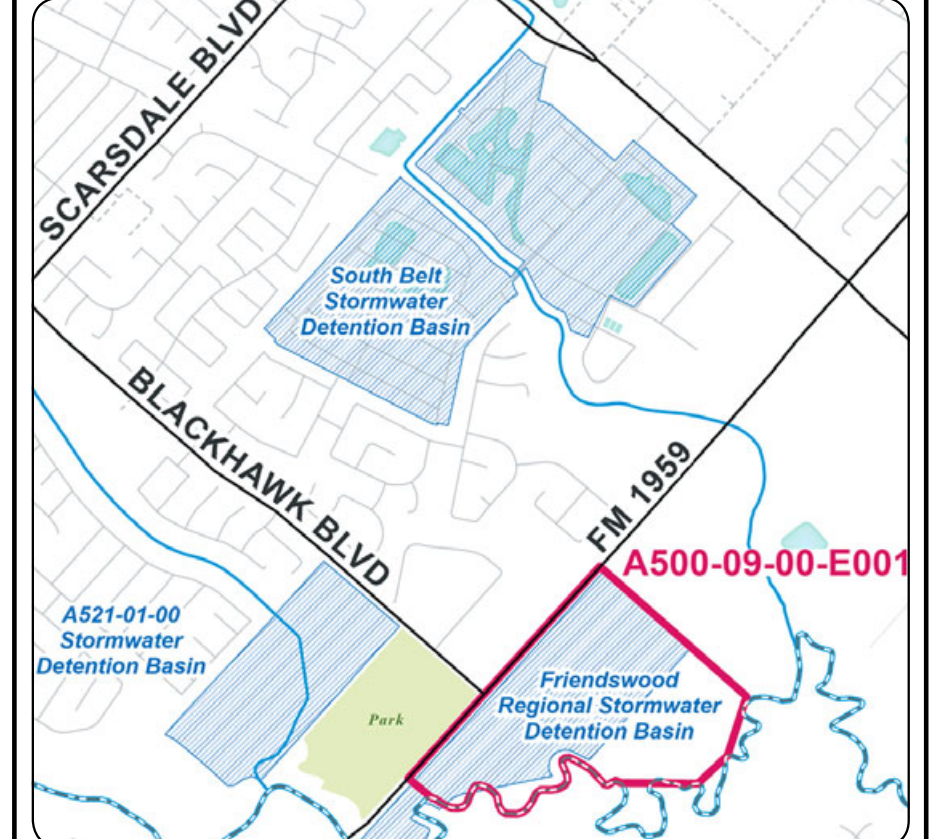
According to Houston Fire Department officials, the blaze had been reported by the neighbors as the home's residents were out to dinner.

No injuries were reported, as the house was vacant at the time of the incident.

At press time, the cause of the fire was unclear. There was a rash of recent house fires in the South belt community, with at least six significant house fires taking place in the area in the last three weeks.

Houston Fire Department officials, however, said there is no connection between the blazes and the incidents share no common characteristics.

Friendswood basin work begins



Work recently began on the Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin, to be located on a 105-acre property on FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road at Blackhawk. During this \$5.5 million excavation phase, workers are expected to remove early 500,000 cubic yards (50,000 truckloads) of dirt from the site. This phase of construction is expected to take approximately 327 working days to complete.

Seniors Helping Seniors

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

Now in its 16th year, the charitable program pairs area high school seniors with local senior citizens in need of minor home repairs, primarily exterior painting.

The endeavor is a joint project between Dobie High and local sponsors, including Sagemont Church. Students provide the manpower, while sponsors provide the necessary materials. Each year, approximately 100 student volunteers step up to help restore the homes of three to five local senior citizens. The event will take place Friday, April 26. Military veterans are also eligible to participate in the program.

Anyone who knows of a potential recipient may contact Sawyer at 281-382-1217.

In My Opinion

Former JP Risner supports DA Kim Ogg

Is Sean Teare running for Harris County District Attorney or head of the Criminal Lawyers Association?

He says he wants to release violent offenders on their own recognizance, but that means penny-free on nothing but their word, that they won't hurt anyone else and that they will show up in court. How could anyone who cares about public safety want a DA who says that to a woman who fears for her life after being slapped around by her boyfriend? Teare needs to keep his day job defending criminals because he isn't about protecting victims.

Let me get this straight. Some faction of Democrats are upset with DA Kim Ogg because she investigated fellow Democrats? Thank goodness we have a strong, independent District Attorney who kisses no rings and stands up for what is right. Thank you District Attorney Kim Ogg for putting your duty before politics.

George Risner

Mize shines light on DA election

I hope the South Belt - Ellington Leader endorses Kim Ogg. I am shocked that her opponent has any support since he obviously has the fix in for Lina Hidalgo.

He works for the lawyer defending Hidalgo's top three deputies on their criminal corruption charges. Hidalgo endorses him, and then he promises not to pursue the cases against Hidalgo's deputies.

This takes us back to the bad old days.

Katherine Mize

Cecelia recommends Garcia, Delgado

Whether you are new to the South Belt area or you have lived here your whole life, you will quickly discover our community works together and embraces a "small town" environment. The current primary election is extremely important in determining how crime will be addressed moving forward.

Constable Jerry Garcia and JP Judge Jo Ann Delgado both live and serve area residents, both display an admirable work ethic. They are truthful, possess honorable values and show their unending love and dedication to making our community safe. These elected leaders work together to make a positive impact. They are an unbeatable and unbeatable team.

Both are dedicated leaders that continue to work with area schools helping to guide our youth to successful accomplishments and lives. They give countless hours working events to celebrate our Seniors, organizing and working Annual Easter and National Night Out celebrations and working without breaks at Winter Wonderland.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Feb. 29, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Family story time.

Thursday, Feb. 29, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lap - computer class. Registration required.

Monday, March 4, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lap - computer class. Registration required.

Tuesday, March 5, 4 - 5 p.m. Retro games. Registration required.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 29, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.

Thursday, Feb. 29, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Friday, March 1, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. AARP Tax aid.

Friday, March 1, 1 - 2 p.m. Genealogy.

Monday, March 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.

Monday, March 4, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family story time.

Monday, March 4, 6 - 7 p.m. Passion pages romance book club.

Tuesday, March 5, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.

Tuesday, March 5, 1 - 2 p.m. Citizenship 101.

Wednesday, March 6, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Laser cutter orientation.

Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are: Monday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.

- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

Mind Trekkers at SJC Central March 7

San Jacinto College is inviting all area families to attend Mind Trekkers Family Night, taking place on Thursday, March 7 at the Central Campus LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology. The event is free, and open to the public and will be hosted from 6 to 8 p.m. Mind Trekkers is designed

to ignite curiosity and passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) among local students and their families. With over 100 hands-on STEM experiments planned, this promises to be an engaging and educational evening for all attendees.

The College, along with area partners, will bring thrilling experiments such as: liquid nitrogen explosion, liquid nitrogen ice cream, fire tornado, burning money, moment of inertia spinner and foam gnomes.

Mark the calendar now to attend Mind Trekkers at San Jacinto College's Central Campus.

St. Luke's to host movie March 9

See the moving life story of the Hollywood rosary priest. Come see "Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton," a documentary film about venerable Peyton, the famous, globe-trotting Hollywood rosary priest inspired millions of families to pray together and coined the famous phrase, "The family that prays together stays together."

"Pray" is more than a movie, it's a prayer campaign," said the Rev. David

Guffey, C.S.C., executive producer of "Pray." "We want to accompany families and encourage them to watch this remarkable movie that focuses on the transformative power of prayer. Venerable Patrick Peyton inspired millions with his message of family prayer, and all families throughout the world need this message now. Prayer changes things. Prayer brings hope. Prayer connects us to heaven."

This event will take place March 9, at 7 p.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

For additional information about the "Pray" event at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, visit www.stlukesatholic.com/events.

For more information on the film, visit www.PrayTheFilm.com or contact Veronica Garza, 281-481-6816, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church for more details.

Moore wins rodeo contest



Fable Mason, a Moore Elementary third-grader, showed her artistic talent by decorating a bee. Shown, left to right, are Beth Croix, HLSR Agriculture Education Committee member, Mason and Guadalupe Hudson, art teacher. Mason's entry was selected and is on display at Lobby B in the NRG Center near Miss Moos Barn from now to Sunday, March 17.

Moore art on display



Moore Elementary third-grader Ruby Salinas won four tickets to the Houston Livestock Show for her bee artwork. Shown, left to right, are Beth Croix, HLSR Agriculture Education Committee member, Ruby Salinas and Guadalupe Hudson, art teacher. Salinas' art will be on display at Lobby B in the NRG Center near Miss Moos Barn from now through Sunday, March 17.

Kids' present Sherlock Holmes mystery

Kids' Backporch Productions announces their 92nd show and third annual Murder Mystery production of "Baker Street Irregulars" by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus. "Baker Street Irregulars"

is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, and directed by Jennifer Townsend and Amy Kennah-Ricketts. Stage manager is Jaime Cole and assistant stage manager is Karina

Marquez. Upon investigating a mysterious murder at the Waiwright Circus, Sherlock Holmes mysteriously falls gravely ill and is unable to perform his usual duties. Luckily, the Irregulars show up and get the lockdown from the acrobats, clowns, and animal trainers, as well as the circus owner and his daughter. With their snooping and detective work, the Baker Street Irregulars solve the crime and discover the mystery behind Sherlock's illness. Performances are March 1 at 7 p.m., March 2 at 2 and 7 p.m., and March 3 at 2 p.m., and will be held at Shadycrest Baptist Church-Fellowship Hall, 3017 Yost Blvd, Pearland. For more information visit www.kidsbackporchproductions.org and www.facebook.com/KidsBackPorch. Tickets available for pre-purchase at <http://kidsbackporch.ticketleap.com> and can be purchased 30 minutes before the show.

SHSU announces local fall 2023 graduates

The following South Belt area students received degrees during the 2023 fall semester at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville:

- Sara Cortez - Bachelor of Science, kinesiology.
- Brandi Ford - Bachelor of Fine Arts, theatre, magna cum laude.
- Ezri Gonzalez - Bachelor of Science, animal science.
- April Kearns - Master of Arts, higher education admin.
- Bianca Lucio - Bachelor of Arts, criminal justice.
- Michael Oko - Bachelor of Science, public health.
- Victoria Reeves - Bachelor of Arts, communication studies.
- Zalea Wilson - Bachelor of Music, music, cum laude.

SHSU names fall 2023 dean's, president's list

The South Belt area students listed on the dean's list of academic honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

- Stephanie Alvarez.
- Payton Barkman.
- Megan Cook.
- Lillie Crow.
- Kaylee Frank.
- Sonia Lopez.
- Christian Mariscal.

The university has recognized the following students for earning the honor for the fall 2023 semester:

- Stephanie Alvarez.
- Payton Barkman.
- Kaylee Frank.
- Sonia Lopez.
- Ayanna Love.

Donna Cook Hausler Matthews



Donna Cook Hausler Matthews was born on April 22, 1965. She was raised in Texas City by her parents Dorothy and John W. Cook Jr. She attended Texas City High School where she graduated in 1983.

She moved to the South Belt area in 1985 where she raised her children and lived her life to its fulfillment, passing away on Feb. 17.

Donna is preceded in death by her parents, she is survived by brother John M. Cook of Texas City; son Matthew Hausler and wife Rebecca; and son Nathan Hausler and wife Alyssa. She served as stepmother to Nicole, DD and Josh Matthews.

Donna was a very proud Granny to 10 grandchildren: Jett Hausler and June Hausler, Greyson Schreier, Payton and Colton Quinn, McKenzie, Aubrey, Cheyenne, Deacon and Reed Matthews.

She is also survived by cousins Lisa Knight McCreery and Alice McCluskey Jensen; as well as numerous other cousins from Louisiana and Texas.

Donna attended business and accounting classes from 1983 to 1986 at San Jacinto College and College of the Mainland. She worked as an office manager, an accounts manager and an assistant controller for multiple automotive dealerships in the Houston area throughout her career.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 1, at Peevey Funeral Home, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow at Galveston Memorial Park Cemetery, 7301 Memorial St., in Hitchcock.

John Richard (Ricky) Richardson



John Richard (Ricky) Richardson, 66, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 17, with his family by his side. Rick was born in Houston and was the third of seven children of Jack and JoAnn Richardson. Rick grew up in the Sagemont area and attended J. Frank Dobie High School.

Rick met and married his high school sweetheart Julie King. They were blessed with two children Ricky John and Sean. Unfortunately, Ricky lost Julie in a tragic car accident in 1996. Ricky's life would be forever changed.

He is preceded in death by his wife; his father; and his brother, Danny Richardson.

He is survived by his mother JoAnn Richardson Lea and her husband Rob Lea; sons Ricky John and wife Edna and Sean and wife Marissa; siblings Tim Richardson and wife Diana, Kimbra Johnson and husband Dirk, Scott Richardson

Deaths

and wife Tami Lynn, Kip Richardson and wife Stacey, Tami and husband Rupert Jaso; nieces and nephews Parker Richardson, Katy Kovar, Tyler Holmes, Kassi Bolan, Cody Richardson, Micah Creighton, Loryn Elliot, Marah Richardson, David Richardson, Kynzi Patierno, Lexi and Bri Jasso. Grandchildren Jayden, Jordyn, Julie, Ian, Charlotte, Kingleigh and Peyton Richardson; and many cousins and friends.

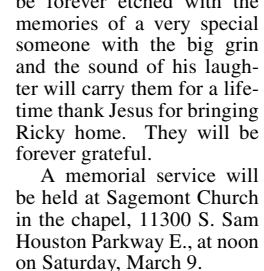
The family says their hearts are broken over the passing of Ricky but as they grieve his passing they find peace in knowing he is reunited with his one true love, Julie, his father and his brother.

Rick loved the lord and accepted him as his lord and savior. The family will rest in peace knowing he is with his savior and no longer in pain. Rick loved his family. His laughter, his love, his big grin and his kindness would make an impact on all who would meet him. Rick made lifelong friendships that brought much joy in his life.

The family says their lives will go on, but they will be forever etched with the memories of a very special someone with the big grin and the sound of his laughter will carry them for a lifetime thank Jesus for bringing Ricky home. They will be forever grateful.

A memorial service will be held at Sagemont Church in the chapel, 11300 S. Sam Houston Parkway E., at noon on Saturday, March 9.

Kelly Dean Whalen



Kelly Dean Whalen, 63, passed away Feb. 11, at home after battling liver cancer. He and his wife of 41 years, Debi, lived in South Belt for more than 30 years, recently moving to Alvin.

Kelly is survived by his wife; brothers William T. Whalen and Michael Whalen; sons William J. Whalen (Carly), Kelly Whalen II (Jamie), Jacob Terry (Carly); grandchildren Ethan Whalen, Riley Whalen, Orion Whalen, Konor Whalen, Harper Whalen, K.J. Whalen, Carly Terry, Kimber Terry; and many nieces, nephews and family friends.

Kelly loved his family above all else and would give support to help in any situation.

He loved to play guitar and fish, but spending time with his sons and family became his priority.

Kelly hosted many barbecues and was known to serve up the best steaks due to his "secret" barbecue sauce, a treat that will be missed by many. He took his family on many vacations, but the houseboat vacations were his favorite, spending time with his kids and grandkids on the water.

Kelly met his wife Debi while working at Harrisburg Inc. and would have celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on March 5. He worked extra hours so Debi could stay at home to provide a stable home life for the boys.

He attended his sons' games, often in his work uniform coming home or leaving for his shift, but he always made the extra effort to "show up" and support.

He opened his home to many young adults in need of a safe place, help in life, or just advice, and was seen by many as a "father figure" to be respected.

He offered great advice, tried to set a good example

and valued honesty above all. He demanded the same in return.

Kelly always tried to be fair to everyone, treating all with respect, setting the example for his children and grandchildren.

A self-made man, Kelly came to Houston from Kentucky in his early 20s seeking the opportunities of the city, finding work at construction jobs in the plants as a pipefitter.

He set a goal of working as an operator in the plants as the path for success and worked hard until that goal was reached.

He was a self-taught computer systems specialist and advanced as a nondegree engineer at LyondellBasell where he was a loyal employee for 30 years.

He was known as "Mr. Kelly," the man with the answers, evident by the many, "I hate to bother you, Mr. Kelly," in the middle-of-the-night calls.

Always eager and willing to help, no matter what time of day or night, or what activity was interrupted, he took the time to solve the problem or offer a path to the answer.

He always told young adults, "Take care of work and work will take care of you."

Kelly will be missed by many, but never forgotten and his many euphemisms will be remembered fondly.

Bobby Lynne Gilmore Newcomb



Bobby Lynne Gilmore Newcomb, age 86, of Huntsville, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in the comfort of her home on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024.

She was born Feb. 13, 1938, in Goose Creek, Texas. Bobby retired from Pasadena ISD in 2003 after 24 years respectfully representing the Pasadena High School Office Education department.

She was a lifelong resident of the Sagemont, Pasadena, and Goose Creek areas prior to retirement. Bobby, and her husband Bill, moved to Huntsville, after his retirement from PISD in 2004.

Bobby was passionate about her work with her students all those years. She was a dedicated member of Sagemont Church since moving to the Sagemont area in 1972. She could be found every Sunday morning greeting everyone, both young and old, with her beautiful smile as they walked through the doors. She was devoted to her family and cherished the time she could spend with them creating memories.

Funeral services will be held March 8, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. with funeral service immediately following, both at Peevey. Interment will be held following the funeral service at noon at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 8601 Alameda Genoa Road.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge.

They are edited to conform to the Leader style.

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

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

Siblings get in shapes



Meador Elementary siblings wearing geometric math shapes celebrating Math Spirit Week at Meador in honor of 100 days of school are, left to right, Elias Rodarte (third grade), Galilea Rodarte (second grade) and Clara Rodarte (pre-K).

Students turn 100 years old



Meador Elementary celebrated Math Spirit Week for the 100th day of school. Shown dressed up as 100-year-olds are, left to right, fourth-grader Zoey Robledo and third-graders Aylin Chairez and Araya Stuckey-McDaniels.

Rotary donates dictionaries



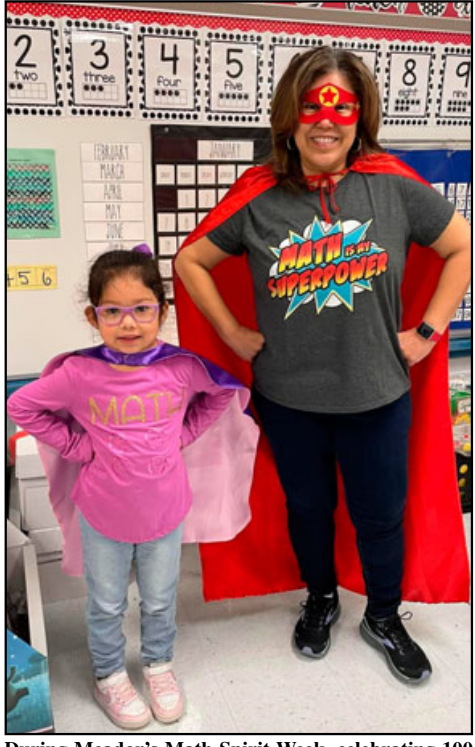
Moore Elementary received dictionaries from the Rotary Club. Rotarians delivered dictionaries to all third-graders. Shown are (front row) Raven Masone, Isa Javid, Eli Robertson, (back row) Gary Nickleson and Cecil Ghormley.

Attendance rewarded



Meador Elementary fourth-grader Ava Rodriguez received her 100th day shirt for perfect attendance through the first 100 days of school during Math Spirit Week.

Superheroes are real



During Meador's Math Spirit Week, celebrating 100 days of school, math superheroes are real according to kindergarten student Laila Alvarez (left) and math campus coach Connie Daumas.

CCEF holds community luncheon at field house

The Clear Creek Education Foundation (CCEF) hosted its community partner luncheon, Feb. 7, at the CCISD Challenger Field House. More than 180 guests helped celebrate "Together We Shine Brighter" with presentations from Megan Edlfsen, Clear Springs High School teacher and CCEF grant recipient and Dr. Karen Engle, CCISD superintendent.

"We're grateful to all the community partners who turned out to see our students showcase some of the best programs provided by CCEF. Many remarked at how impressed they were with the variety of programs impacted by CCEF funding raised and that's a true testament to our work," said Jennifer Garcia, executive director.

In addition, Melinda Mintz, chair of the Clear Creek Education Foundation, unveiled a new giving opportunity.

She shared the importance and the ability one has to unlock the potential of collective generosity through the Partner in Education Individual Giving Program (PIE). This concept was introduced

at the event and embodies the profound impact that a collective group can achieve.

Together, through PIE, we have the power to make substantial strides in educational support, transforming the lives of students and shaping a brighter future for our communities.

"Our goal for 2024 is to engage the community within CCISD. Clear Creek Education Foundation provides the bridge between community supporters who want to have a direct impact on CCISD classrooms.

"Our partner luncheon provided our donors the opportunity to renew their excitement about the foundation and allowed us to announce our new PIE monthly giving program for individual contributors. We look forward to a successful year of engagement," said Mintz.

Since its founding in 1992, CCEF has been a nonprofit dedicated to building public education in Clear Creek ISD through grants and programs that empower every student to achieve academic and personal success.

keeping our state and roadways clean and litter free.

Sponsored by Ozarka and iHeartMedia, the contest recognizes the creativity of high school seniors who are taking a leadership role in preventing litter in their communities.

"It's important that future generations feel empowered to create long-term, sustainable solutions to make their communities litter free.

"Our state is counting on these leaders to keep Texas litter free for decades to come," said Norma Rios, program coordinator for TxDOT's Don't Mess with Texas campaign.

Don't Mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes

annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

To apply for the Don't Mess with Texas scholarship contest, visit dontmesswithtexas.org.

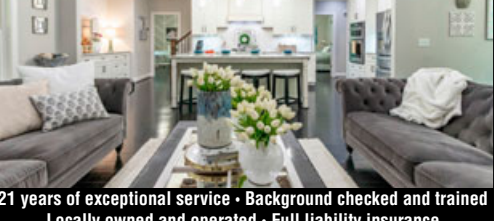
Applications must be received via online submission by 5 p.m. (CDT) on April 2, 2024.

For media inquiries, contact the Public Information Office for the Houston District at (713) 802-5076.

Don't Mess with Texas giving scholarships

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Judge Jo Ann Delgado

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR THE PEOPLE'S COURT



Rated "Excellent" in the 2023 Houston Bar Poll

- ✓ 46 years of Harris County Court experience
- ✓ 23 years of judicial experience, especially dealing with landlord/tenant issues, small claims, debt claims, Transportation Code, Penal Code and administrative duties
- ✓ Served on the faculty of the Texas Justice Court Training Center as a presenter for newly elected JP Judges and clerks of the Justice Courts of Texas
- ✓ Attends Civic Club, HOA and PIP meetings to give updates on changes in the law and court procedures
- ✓ Served on the Texas Supreme Court Task Force on amending the 500 Rules of the Civil Procedure in 2013 and rental assistance during the Pandemic 2020-2022
- ✓ Works with students, parents, and school administrators to help our young people successfully graduate
- ✓ Ensures her court operates effectively and efficiently while providing ACCESS to FAIR and EQUAL JUSTICE

Community Leaders, Labor Unions and Democratic Organizations All Agree: Vote To Keep Judge Jo Ann Delgado As Our Justice Of The Peace

- Carol Alvarado, State Senator
- Ana Hernandez, State Representative
- Mary Ann Perez, State Representative
- Armando Walle, State Representative
- Silvia Trevino, Constable Precinct 6
- Jerry Garcia, Constable Precinct 2
- Esmeralda Moya, Mayor, Galena Park
- Willie Rios, City Council, South Houston

- Houston Chronicle
- Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation – AFL-CIO
- The Latino Labor Leadership Council of Southeast Texas
- Area 5 Democrats
- Milby Hispanic Alumni Association
- Houston Apartment Association
- Bay Area Democratic Movement

ReElect Judge Jo Ann DELGADO

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE | PRECINCT 2, PLACE 1

Paid for by the Jo Ann Delgado Campaign, Daniel Puente, Treasurer
*The Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire does not represent an HBA endorsement or opinion of any judge.

Democratic Primary Tuesday, March 5
Early Voting ends Friday, March 1

RE-ELECT

JERRY GARCIA

★ COMPASSION ★ INTEGRITY ★ HONOR ★



Democratic Party Primary

Early voting ends March 1

Election Day is Tuesday, March 5

- ENDORSED BY:
- Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus
 - Harris County Young Democrats
 - Area 5 Democrats
 - Houston Black American Democrats
 - Mexican American Bar Association
 - Bay Area New Democrats
 - CLEAT
 - Harris County Democrats.com
 - Houston Chronicle
 - Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
 - Texas Coalition of Black Democrats
 - Harris County Deputy Constables Association
 - Harris County Tejano Democrats
 - BayArea Democrats Movement
 - National Latino Peace Officer Association
 - Harris County Afro-American Sheriff's Deputies League
 - Pleasantville Voters League

FOR HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2 EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Dobie alumni, former faculty inducted into Hall of Honor



One former faculty member and four distinguished alumni were inducted into Dobie High School's 2024 Hall of Honor at a ceremony held at the campus Friday, Feb. 23. Inductees shown above at the recent event are, left to right, former English and journalism teacher Ann Brannen; professional dancer Mike Spencer, Class of 1981; businesswoman Laurie Sedita Baker, Class of 1982; professional dancer Michelle Manzanales, Class of 1993; and businessman Devona Fanfair, Class of 2003. Photos by Marie Flickinger

Allan follows in mother's footsteps



Teaching runs in the family of 2024 Dobie Hall of Honor inductee Ann Brannen (right), who is shown above with her daughter Amber Brannen Allan, who followed in her mother's footsteps of becoming an educator. A 1992 Dobie graduate, Allan first taught at Dobie before taking a position at the new Dobie9 campus. The pair have a combined 40 years of teaching at the area high school.

Dobie inducts Hall of Honor

Continued from Page 1
cal Institute in Chevy Chase, Md.

Baker was the 2016 president of CREW Network, a past president for CREW Houston and was honored as one of the Top 15 Women in Commercial Real Estate in Houston.

She was recognized by Real Estate Forum as a Women of Influence in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2022.

She also received the 2022 Individual Corporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion award and received the Texas Executive Women on the Move award.

A track star and cheerleader in high school, Manzanales graduated from the University of Houston with a BBA in finance.

Following graduation, Manzanales dedicated herself to dance, spending over a decade dancing professionally in Houston and Chicago before moving to New York City.

In New York, Manzanales became a critically acclaimed choreographer, a sought-after dance educator and a co-founder of the Latin Dance Educators Alliance.

Manzanales' choreography has been featured at Lincoln Center and the New York City Center Dance Festival.

She has also set choreog-

raphies for many programs, including Rice University, Rutgers University, New World School of the Arts, Montclair State University and San Jacinto College South.

She has also served multiple terms on the National Association of Schools of Dance's Committee on Ethics, and as a juror for numerous dance programs, notable the Ailey BFA program's Independent Study in Choreography and the American College Dance Association.

Also a track star in high school, Fanfair went on to Rice University, where he earned a mechanical engineering degree and was recognized as a National Science Foundation Fellow. Following graduation,

Fanfair co-founded a venture fund called Devland that supports startups led by women and people of color. The fund is currently valued at \$85 million.

Under Brannen's direction, Dobie journalism students were regular winners of local and state awards, including many all-state and UIL awards.

Brannen also served as the Chaparral and Round-up adviser during her 22 years at J. Frank Dobie high school. Brannen's children Jeff and Amber attended Dobie, and Amber currently serves as a teacher at the campus.

Brannen currently works as an insurance agent and is active in the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Free concert March 3

Join BAC and the Bay Area Youth Singers for a free concert, March 3, at 4 p.m. held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church located at 18220 Upper Bay Road.

This concert is free to the public and features The Bay Area Chorus of Greater Houston, the Bay Area Youth Singers, and the scholarship applicants.

The main event will be a live audition performance by 10 local high

school seniors. The students are scholarship applicants who plan to study vocal performance, music education or music therapy in college.

As the judges deliberate, BAC and BAYS will entertain the audience with a variety of songs, including numbers from Broadway and Hollywood.

This will be the 44th annual scholarship event and concert.

Genoa students published in book



Genoa Elementary announced two of its students, Francisco Torres (left) and Lindsay Castro, were published in the book, "Viva la Esperanza" conversing through poetry. Publishing was under the leadership of ELAR coach Lauren Davis, second-grade teacher Macarena Araujo and fourth-grade teachers Maria Duran, Erika Gonzalez and Francisco Torres.

Historic moon landing involved SJC

Continued from Page 1
nology AAS Program.

** San Jacinto College's first aerospace student; no longer employed at Intuitive Machines.

Launched from Florida Thursday, Feb. 15, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, the Odyssey landed near the Malapert crater, located near the moon's south pole. This location was selected in part because its near-continuous sunlight can better power solar cells and the pole's dark craters are believed to contain water in the form of ice. The hydrogen and oxygen elements found in water could provide oxygen to breathe or be used to produce rocket fuel, as NASA's long-term goal is to utilize the moon's resources to enable further exploration into space.

Under NASA's Artemis program, the space agency plans to send the first woman and person of color to the moon by the end of 2026. From there, NASA intends to create a lunar base, laying the groundwork for a future trip to Mars.

"For the first time in more than half a century, America returned to the moon," said Nelson. "Congratulations to

Intuitive Machines for placing the lunar lander Odyssey carrying NASA scientific instruments to a place no person or machine has gone before, the lunar South Pole.

This feat from Intuitive Machines, SpaceX, and NASA demonstrates the promise of American leadership in space and the power of commercial partnerships under NASA's CLPS initiative. Further, this success opens the door for new

voyages under Artemis to send astronauts to the moon, then onward to Mars."

For additional information on the IM-1, Nova C mission, visit www.intu.itvemachines.com/im-1.

To learn more about NASA's CLPS initiative, visit www.nasa.gov/clps.

Additional information on San Jacinto College's EDGE Center can be found at www.sanjac.edu/about/locations/aero-space-edge-center.

2024 primary elections for Tuesday, March 5

Continued from Page 1

- Harris County Scarsdale Annex, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. - Stuchbery Elementary, 11210 Hughes Road.

- San Jacinto College South Campus - Fine Arts Building S15, 13735 Beamer Road.

- Weber Elementary, 11955 Blackhawk Blvd.

- Genoa Staff Development Center, 12900 Alameda Genoa Road.

- Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint Road.

- South Belt Elementary,

1801 Riverstone Ranch Road.

- El Franco Lee Community Center, 9500 Hall Road.

- Laura Welch Bush Elementary, 9100 Blackhawk Blvd.

- Clear Brook High School, 4607 FM 2351 in Friendswood.

- Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Harris County residents may now cast their votes at any polling location regardless of precinct.

To see a complete list of polling locations and a sample ballot, visit harrisvotes.org.

South Belt Area Cleanup planned

The annual South Belt Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 6. Volunteers are needed to help with the effort. Individuals and groups are

welcome.

All supplies will be supplied and lunch will be provided by St. Luke's Knights of Columbus following the event.

Tax deductible donations may be made to the Sagement Civic Club. For more information, contact Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Remember When

45 years ago (1979)
The Sagement Bobcats went undefeated in their season with the YMCA Youth Basketball League.

According to Officer Jack Simmons, there were 16 reported burglaries in the Sagement-Kirkwood area over the previous two months.

40 years ago (1984)
Two officer-manned cars provided by the county and operated under the jurisdiction of Precinct 2 Constable George Larkin began patrolling the unincorporated areas around Sagement.

Uniform school zone times for the city of Houston were announced.

Houston police were investigating the gunpoint robbery of a Scarsdale man, his wife and child. A man, dressed as a postal employee, and three accomplices put the family in a closet, cut phone wires and stole miscellaneous merchandise.

35 years ago (1989)
Jerry Chaffin, a 22-year-old South Belt resident, pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1985 murder-for-hire of Boyce Swaim.

Installation of a 96-inch waterline began, and Fuqua was squeezed into one lane in each direction from near I-45 west to C&D Burger.

30 years ago (1994)
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce sponsored the sixth annual Trade Fair at Alameda Mall.

The Environmental Protection Agency stopped all work involving the physical handling of contaminated materials until a new emergency plan was approved for the Brio Superfund Site and more efficient air handlers were designed for pit coverings.

25 years ago (1999)
Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team came in second at the state competition. Each team member received a \$1,000 scholarship for the second-place finish.

Eight Dobie High School students were invited to participate in the Houston Safari Club Youth Hunting Program.

varsity basketball team was headed for Austin to face Aline Westfield in the Class 5A Girls State Basketball Tournament.

Pasadena Independent School District police officers filed charges against five male Beverly Hills Intermediate School students for vandalizing the old Dobie High School campus on Beamer.

At the state academic decathlon competition in San Antonio, Dobie High School's team finished eighth overall and extended its Super Quiz winning streak to 29.

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved \$77,000 in professional and construction services for an additional three acres of mitigation.

15 years ago (2009)
Bald eagles were spotted flying in the wetlands at El Franco Lee Park on Hall Road near Beltway 8. While it is not unusual for bald eagles to winter on the out-

skirts of Houston, it is rare for them to venture into such a populated area. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service senior biologist Ron Jones, the birds were likely attracted to the park because of its 80 acres of water and abundance of food. The eagles eat other small migratory water fowl such as the rosette spoon bills, shoveler ducks and teal winged ducks that are now on the water of the wetlands. They also enjoy fish and slider turtles, which are common at the park.

State District 144 Rep. Ken Legler held his first town hall meeting at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

10 years ago (2014)
Dobie High School held its second annual Hall of Honor induction ceremony.

Distinguished alumni inducted included Malcolm Jacobson (Class of 1980), an expert in the field of alternative energy; Reginald

Godbolt (Class of 1987), a career military man; Robert Flores (Class of 1988), a national sports broadcaster; and Trevor Cobb (Class of 1989), a former NFL football player. Fallen heroes honored included Jerry Stowe (Class of 1971), a Houston police officer; Robert Bebee (Class of 1990), a Houston firefighter; and Danny Frye (Class of 1978), a member of the U.S. Coast Guard. Former Dobie basketball coach Scott Talton was the lone faculty member to be honored. Central Ace Hardware CEO Ron Williams was honored at the event as a community volunteer.

Dobie student Chazz Jenkins, 18, was pronounced dead in the 12800 block of Gotham. Former Dobie student Jeremiah James Pipkins, 17, was charged with manslaughter for his role in the shooting. According to police, the two men, along with two others, were sitting in a parked car in the cul-de-sac when

the Longhorn Hall of Honor, Friday, Feb. 22, during the school's annual induction ceremony. Honorees include Chip Hosek, Class of 1974 (business owner); Al Denson, Class of 1978 (Christian musician); Paula Herring Goodhart, Class of 1986 (judge, attorney); and former band director Bill Brawn.

A suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of a man at an apartment complex in the 10200 block of Windmill Lakes on Monday, Feb. 11, was arrested Wednesday, Feb. 27. Antoine Armstrong, 43, was charged with murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and felon in possession of a weapon in the 337th State District Court. Following the shooting, the victim, Samuel Phillips III, 26, was transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased later that day.

1 year ago (2023)
The Children at Risk organization recently recognized Meador Elementary as its top Gold Ribbon school in the Greater Houston area.

San Jacinto College recently announced a partnership with Nuro, a leading autonomous vehicle company, to create the first AV technician certificate program in Texas as part of Nuro's national Autonomous Upskilling Initiative.

Approximately 10 years in development, the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin is set to open this week, according to Harris County Flood Control District officials.

This project is located on a 174-acre site on Mud Gully, near the intersection of Beamer Road and Dixie Farm Road/FM 1959 in the Clear Creek watershed of southeast Harris County.

Charges have been filed against two suspects arrested in the stabbing of a man that took place about 3:35 a.m. Dec. 22, at an apartment complex in the 10910 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook.

The suspects, Jack Dean Hairston, 37, and Justin Edmond Salton, 36, are charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 208th State District Court.

The suspects are accused in the stabbing of Julio Rodriguez, 40.

According to Houston Police department officials, officers were dispatched to a cutting/stabbing call at the apartment complex at the above address and found Rodriguez with multiple stab wounds to his back and torso area.

The officers also located a female, 37, who sustained swelling, bruising and other facial injuries. Paramedics transported Rodriguez to the hospital in critical but stable condition. The woman was also transported to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Further investigation led to the identities of the suspects as Hairston and Salton. Officers arrested Salton on Wednesday, Feb. 15, without incident. Hairston was taken into custody without incident on Jan. 18.

Pipkins, a backseat passenger, pulled out a pistol, unloaded it and passed it around the vehicle for the others to see. When the gun made it back around to Pipkins, he attempted to reload the weapon, but it went off, striking Jenkins, a front passenger, in the back.

A South Belt woman was severely injured March 5 when she was mauled by two pit bulls while jogging on the hike-and-bike trail near Blackhawk. Monica Garza suffered lacerations over her entire body. Garza's father, Jeff Mack, credits Sagameadow resident, Charles Jordan, with saving his daughter's life. When Jordan heard the attack taking place behind his Sagecountry home, he jumped on top of Garza to prevent the dogs from getting to her. Jordan, himself, was bitten on the lip and suffered multiple scratches and bites.

5 years ago (2019)
Three Dobie High School graduates and one faculty member were inducted into

the Longhorn Hall of Honor, Friday, Feb. 22, during the school's annual induction ceremony. Honorees include Chip Hosek, Class of 1974 (business owner); Al Denson, Class of 1978 (Christian musician); Paula Herring Goodhart, Class of 1986 (judge, attorney); and former band director Bill Brawn.

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Over The Back Fence by Natalie

BRAYDEN CELEBRATES 22ND BIRTHDAY!
Brayden Espinosa turns 22 March 1. Lots of hugs and best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from proud grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; mom Jenny (Hayes) and stepdad Josh Laney; sisters Baylee Espinosa and Olivia Moreno; uncle Tyler Scarberry; aunt Stacey (Hayes), uncle Stephen and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers; uncle Joseph Hayes; and uncle Austin, aunt Tiffany and cousins Jade and Lily Scarberry.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR YOLANDA
Best wishes for a happy birthday March 2 are sent to Consuelo Yolanda Dominguez from sons Dr. Roland J. Dominguez and Capt. Richard A. Dominguez (USMC); daughter Laura Dominguez Chan, associate dean and director of Career Communities at Stanford University; as well as 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Yolanda's teaching career includes Stuchbery, Frazier and Jessup elementaries in PISD. All three children are Dobie graduates.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 29 through March 7.

Atkinson Elementary
Eveling Olvera celebrates a birthday March 5.

Bush Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for Marlynn Beltran is March 4.

Genoa Elementary
Birthday wishes go out to Mirabel Garcia March 3. Saul Fernandez enjoys a birthday March 4.

Meador Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles March 2 for Connie Aviles.

Moore Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 29 is Adriana Ramirez and Priscilla Nguyen-Vu. Nayeli Rodriguez enjoys a birthday March 1.

South Belt Elementary
Break out the balloons and party favors for the March 3 birthday of Charita McKibbin.

Stuchbery Elementary
Marking a birthday March 6 is Melissa Cardenas.

Fred Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a birthday March 1 is Valeria Franco.

Melillo Middle School
Best wishes for a happy birthday March 2 are sent to Maria Gonzalez. Birthday wishes

are sent March 4 to Raven Lowe. Break out the cake and ice cream March 6 for Patricia Rhoads.

Thompson Intermediate
Katrina Morris enjoys a birthday March 1. Remember to wish Jill Butler and Cynthia Lozano a happy birthday March 2. The day for a birthday celebration for Caleb Lopez is March 6.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Friday, March 1: Jacquie Farrey; Saturday, March 2: Sunshine Lane; Sunday, March 3: Craig Joseph, Kelly Pennington, Mike Chuter, Francesca Cash and Jonathan Herridge; Monday, March 4: Susan Rogers, Vanessa Murillo, Leslie Lytle, Gigi Childers, Chaunte Harvey, Linda Eckerman, Michael Krafa and Nan Laux; Tuesday, March 5: Laura Arnett, Marty Pendleton, Karen Gonzalez, Amy Tisnado, Chris Lively, Mary Granger and Camille Maloney; and Wednesday, March 6: Keith Kirby and Cydrque McMillian.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF as the subject by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

1 year ago (2023)
The Children at Risk organization recently recognized Meador Elementary as its top Gold Ribbon school in the Greater Houston area.

San Jacinto College recently announced a partnership with Nuro, a leading autonomous vehicle company, to create the first AV technician certificate program in Texas as part of Nuro's national Autonomous Upskilling Initiative.

Approximately 10 years in development, the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin is set to open this week, according to Harris County Flood Control District officials.

This project is located on a 174-acre site on Mud Gully, near the intersection of Beamer Road and Dixie Farm Road/FM 1959 in the Clear Creek watershed of southeast Harris County.

Charges have been filed against two suspects arrested in the stabbing of a man that took place about 3:35 a.m. Dec. 22, at an apartment complex in the 10910 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook.

The suspects, Jack Dean Hairston, 37, and Justin Edmond Salton, 36, are charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 208th State District Court.

The suspects are accused in the stabbing of Julio Rodriguez, 40.

According to Houston Police department officials, officers were dispatched to a cutting/stabbing call at the apartment complex at the above address and found Rodriguez with multiple stab wounds to his back and torso area.

The officers also located a female, 37, who sustained swelling, bruising and other facial injuries. Paramedics transported Rodriguez to the hospital in critical but stable condition. The woman was also transported to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Further investigation led to the identities of the suspects as Hairston and Salton. Officers arrested Salton on Wednesday, Feb. 15, without incident. Hairston was taken into custody without incident on Jan. 18.

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The Children at Risk organization recently recognized Meador Elementary

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dominant JFD boys' soccer eyes 10th straight crown

Ten straight district championships. Let that soak in for a moment, while realizing just how dominant the accomplishment is.

Okay, perhaps the top-tier Dobie varsity boys' soccer program can't bask in the joy of that 10th title just yet, but the time is near.

At 8-1-0 after a 4-0 blanking of Memorial Feb. 23 on the Mavs' home field, the Longhorns, atop the standings

in wire-to-wire fashion, have collected 24 points while building a near-insurmountable lead over second-place Deer Park and Channelview, which is third.

As of press time prior to the Longhorns' Feb. 28 home match against Channelview, the locals had played nine of their 12 district matches in getting to those 24 points.

Within District 22-6A, teams earn three points per win, one per tie and zero

for losses. While both Deer Park and Channelview had four remaining matches as of press time, including a head-to-head match, Deer Park can reach a max of 28 points, while the Falcons can get to 26.

Sorting through the numbers quickly, the Longhorns have a tight grip on first place and have shown no signs of slowing down.

Since a lone league loss to Channelview Feb. 2,

Dobie, 12-2-2 overall, has come up with four shutouts in five matches, all wins.

In the 4-0 win over the Memorial Mavericks Feb. 23, Dobie got two goals from Jefferson Aleman and a goal and an assist from Kevin Dominguez.

Fernando Garcia added a goal, while Daniel Campero, J.P. Rodriguez and Pavel Gonzalez contributed assists.

Whereas the 2023 Region III finalist Dobie

squad could rely heavily on the goal-scoring acumen of three players who combined for 68 goals and 29 assists, this year's squad has 34 goals scored total, led by Aleman's eight. Dominguez has five goals and a team-high eight assists.

The calling card for this team is a defensive end of the field that has surrendered just 11 goals in 16 total matches.

After taking on Channelview Feb. 27 after press

time, the Longhorns will close the regular season March 2 at Rayburn and March 5 against South Houston at Dobie main.

"Obviously, we are pleased to be where we are," Dobie head coach Justo Manrique said. "That said, it's still a match to match thing for us. It's an 11-man effort working in unison with one another."

"I'm very proud of the kids, but we still have work to do."

Longhorns' softball goes 3-3 during Haynie event

A 3-3 run through week-two tournament action at Dobie main while hosting play within the Pearlard ISD Haynie Spirit Invitational, the Longhorns' varsity softball team entered 22-6A action against Deer Park Feb. 27 after press time at 6-7 overall.

A 2-1 loss to a solid Brazoswood team ended a two-game Dobie winning streak, but the locals nonetheless continued to mesh as a young team while going head-to-head with some very good programs.

In the 2-1 loss to Brazoswood, Dobie got a run-scoring hit from Viviana Fernandez as she plated freshman Persephone Soria in the fifth inning before the Bucs held on for the win.

Dobie opened the third and final day of the tournament with a 6-2 win over Corpus Christi London. The locals scored three times in both the third and fourth innings to win as Soria tripled and drove in a pair. Junior Leslie Sarduy also scored two runs.

The Longhorns dropped an early 10-0 game to Katy Feb. 23 but then downed Fulshear 6-4. Soria drove in a pair of runs, while Karyme Leal and Alyssa Jones also knocked in runs.

JFD nips Shadow Creek A four-run third inning lifted Dobie to a 4-2, five-inning win over Shadow Creek in the tournament opener at Dobie main.

Soria had a double, knocked in two runs and scored a run, while Chloe Nunez and Jones, who doubled, also scored a run.

In the circle, Peralta scattered seven hits, allowing an earned run over

four frames for the win.

As for game two, Dobie fell 3-1 against Waller. Through the first third of the season, Soria has made quite a splash with a .419 average with team leads of 12 runs scored to go with nine runs batted in.

Jones, a senior, has hit .406, and leads the way with four doubles.

Nunez, a sophomore, has won three of four decisions with an earned run average of 2.49.

Dobie's final tourna-

ment of 2024 comes Feb. 29 through March 2 at the Lamar Consolidated event. The Longhorns take on Katy Taylor (10:30 a.m.) and Clear Springs (12:30 p.m.) the first day, then go against Terry March 1 at 12:30 p.m. before taking on Pasadena in 22-6A play at 6 p.m., at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

On the final day at Lamar Consolidated March 2, the Longhorns play host Lamar Consolidated at noon.



Senior J.P. Rodriguez (11) went into a Feb. 28 home match against Channelview after press time looking to avenge a first-half loss to the Falcons and take another big step in the league standings. Photos by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie's Kevin Dominguez (10) had a goal as the first-place Longhorns held off Pasadena 3-2, keeping their distance from the rest of the 22-6A field and very much in line for a 10th consecutive league championship.

Lamar Consol. Classic

Feb. 29-March 2

JFD vs. Katy Taylor

Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m.

JFD vs. Clear Springs

Feb. 29, 12:30 p.m.

JFD vs. Terry

March 1, 12:30 p.m.

JFD vs. Lamar Consol.

March 2, noon

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JFD tracksters turn in great effort at Pasadena Memorial

The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams reached the midway point of the regular season with an appearance at the Maverick Underdog Relays.

Hosted by Pasadena Memorial, the event featured many of the same programs and athletes who will soon be vying

for supremacy at the 22-6A championships.

Junior Stacie Harris again led the way for the Dobie girls as she was the gold medalist in both the 400 and the long jump.

Unbeaten this season in the long jump, Harris this time went 17 feet 6 3/4 inches for the gold medal, while teammate Aniya

Menifee was sixth at 14-10 1/2.

Harris' win in the 400 came in a tie of 1 minute, 01.71 seconds, with sophomore teammate Jessica Moise placing eighth in a time of 1:07.71.

At 5-8, Dobie sophomore Kylar Joseph placed fifth in the high jump, while Nina Walker, a

junior, took eighth at a height of 5-6.

A throw of 72-9 had Dobie junior Mia Hypolite seventh in the discus.

Longhorn junior Tariq Riley led his team on the boys' side as he took a silver medal for second place in the 400 and wound fourth in the 200 in a time of 23.50.

At 18-10 3/4, Riley was also seventh in the long jump.

Teammate Amari Taylor matched Riley as Taylor's time of 16.31 was second for a silver medal in the 110 hurdles, and Taylor went 42.60 for fourth place in the 300 hurdles.

Dobie sophomores Ti-

tus Randle and Marcus Jones placed 5-6 in the 100, with Randle at 11.37 and Jones across the line at 11.38.

Distance runner Francisco Dunn was in at 2:07.61 for sixth place in the 800, and teammate Christopher Lopez clocked in at 10:35.46 for sixth at the 3,200 distance.

Longhorns' varsity baseball continues toward league play

There is seemingly more to it than meets the eye when looking solely at win-loss records in sports.

Dobie varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres is quick to point that out as his squad continues to

navigate the tournament portion of the schedule.

Counting a 10-6 win over Goose Creek Memorial Feb. 19, the defending District 22-6A champion Longhorns went 4-1-1 during the first week of the

regular season.

Dobie went 3-1-1 at the Laredo Border Olympics, beating a state-ranked team but also settling for a tie and then losing 7-1 to Grapevine in the event finale.

No offense toward anyone, but Torres and his staff want to see a continued march toward consistency.

"When we play well, we can compete with anybody in the state," Torres

said. "When we don't, we can run the risk of the results not being what we hope. We have to continue to take care of the little things and perform to our capabilities."

Cruz Torres went five

innings, allowing just an earned run as the Longhorns defeated Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial 4-1 Feb. 23. Sanchez drove in two runs, and Liam Vasquez doubled and scored a run as the Longhorns improved to 4-0-1 overall.

Earlier in the second day of action, Dobie defeated Beeville 7-1 as A.B. Garcia covered five innings for the complete game, striking out eight for the Longhorns.

Continued on Page 8



Dobie co-captain Kelly Flores (15) and her teammates played Memorial to a 2-2 tie Feb. 23 and were at 6-1-2 in league play at press time. With 15 total wins, the Longhorns have estab-



lished a new high-water mark in all-time wins while still hopeful of catching the first-place Mavericks. Above, Genesis Roman (5) has excelled since her varsity arrival. Photos by Donna Alsdorf

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Dobie grad Nguyen thrilled to join PISD Athletics Hall of Fame

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Her career achievements and statistics earned her the best of honors across two sports in high school and to this day show her as one of the Army women's softball program's all-time greats.

Still, Amanda Nguyen Weston admits she couldn't quite fit the puzzle pieces together when notified via phone call that she is part of the Pasadena ISD's Athletics Hall of Fame prestigious 2024 class of inductees.

Nguyen, a two-time all-league star on both the volleyball court and softball field at Dobie and then a four-time all-conference softball player with the Black Knights of Army, is sure to be all smiles March 6 as she joins nine other former Pasadena ISD athletic greats as deserving hall of fame inductees.

Created in 2012, the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame has inducted nine other classes previous to now, skipping 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. Counting the 10 for 2024, 65 athletes have earned entrance into the hall.

adena High School graduate who died in 2006, represents the earliest inductee. Nguyen Weston, is the first inductee to have graduated in 2010 or thereafter. She is just the third individual softball player to be inducted.

Prospective candidates must have graduated high school at least a decade prior to being eligible for selection.

As a 2010 graduate, Nguyen never really realized she was eligible given her age and graduation year.

Karima Christmas Kelly, who starred on the basketball court at Dobie, was a multiyear all-conference performer at Duke University and went on to enjoy a lengthy career in the WNBA, is currently the youngest hall of fame inductee.

Christmas Kelly, a 2007 Dobie graduate, reached the hall of fame as part of the 2019 class.

"When I first saw a call on my phone, it showed as spam. I didn't answer it," Nguyen Weston said.

"Even when I spoke to Mr. (Al) Carter (hall of fame committee member), I didn't really think it

was real. Once I received the email from Mr. Carter with all of the event details and so forth, I realized it was happening.

"It's an incredible honor, and I feel so humbled to even be considered. It's really unbelievable to me that I'm going to be inducted. To be honest, I will use my moment to thank all of those who were responsible for my development.

"My travel ball coaches were great. They played a role. To be honest, I played travel ball so I could hopefully open some college doors for myself, but all of those coaches were great."

Nguyen also holds former Dobie volleyball head coach Joe Sabatell and Robin Rackley, herself a Dobie graduate who has for many years been the head coach of the school's softball program.

Rackley joined her 1993 Dobie softball teammates as the Longhorns, state champions of the UIL's debut season, reached the hall of fame in 2022.

Nguyen Weston was an All-District player under Sabatell's leadership during the 2008 and 2009 seasons.

"I played volleyball because I could play freely and just have fun with it," she said. "I basically knew that if I was going to have a college opportunity, softball was the way for me.

"So with volleyball, I could just have fun and really enjoy a break. Between travel ball in the summer to high school softball, it was a lot.

"Playing volleyball, I was still part of a team, but I could just have fun. Of course I took it seriously, but it was a release, an outlet for me.

"As far as coach Sabatell, he had an impact on me because he had the broader vision of what we could be not only as players and students then but also of what we could do in the future. Winning matches was important, but he also cared about our development in life.

"Coach Rackley expects a lot of you, and when you come into the program as a freshman, it could be tough at times, but also challenging. But it's because coach Rackley believes in you, she invests time in you and wants what is best for you.

"She is Dobie through

and through, and challenges and pushes you to be your best. I will always be grateful for her guidance."

As the 2024 PISD Athletics Hall of Fame evening nears, event officials have secured tables for the inductees and their families.

Nguyen Weston's parents, La and Vinh Nguyen, will for sure be there, and it's a great bet that her three siblings, Austin, Aaron and Amber, will as well.

"We've always had a great support system as a family," Nguyen Weston said.

"Without their support, I'm not where I am today. They certainly are part of this honor and everything else I've achieved in life."

Nguyen Weston particularly credits her parents for giving her the encouragement to stick with it during her early days at West Point.

It had been the Army coaching staff that had reached out to Nguyen during the recruiting process.

As daunting as she figured it would be, what with obligations within the Army, academics and

playing softball collegiately, Nguyen Weston endured an opening year of life-changing adjustments.

Still, Nguyen Weston successfully made the transition from second base to left field, earning All-Patriot League first-team honors her freshman season and each season that followed.

When Nguyen walked off the playing field at West Point in 2014, she was the program all-time leader in hits, runs scored, stolen bases, at-bats and games played. She has since been named to the Patriot League's All-Quarter Century team.

Now in her 10th year in the Army, on schedule to become a major next May and with surely many more ahead, the softball records are nice, but Nguyen Weston mostly remembers her teammates and coaches through the years and is proud of the grit, focus and determination she had to be successful.

It's those coaches, the teammates, family and all of the winning traits that she'll recall and be most proud of March 6.



When Amanda Nguyen Weston walked off the playing field at West Point in 2014, she was the program all-time leader in hits, runs scored, stolen bases, at-bats and games played. She has since been named to the Patriot League's All-Quarter Century team.



Amanda Nguyen (right) is shown with her mother, La Nguyen, during a special event at West Point. Through the years, Amanda Nguyen said she drew strength from the support of her family, whether it was on a volleyball court, a softball field or an Army-related event.

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S. Houston, Class of 1968
- Al Campo Sr.**
Pasadena, Class of 1958
- David Feazle**
Pasadena, Class of 1941
- Billy Hale**
Pasadena, Class of 1960
- Ruben Martinez**
Pasadena, Class of 1996
- Amanda Nguyen**
Dobie, Class of 2010
- Wesley Speights**
S. Houston trainer
- Chris Tremie**
S. Houston, Class of 1988
- Matt Wingo**
Dobie, Class of 1987
- Joan Walker Propp**
Rayburn cross-country



Amanda Nguyen (left) and her father, Vinh Nguyen spent many years together on South Belt area athletic fields and courts. Both have also supported the athletic endeavors of Amanda's siblings, including Austin, Aaron and Amber Nguyen.

PISD athletics hall welcomes Dobie football great Wingo

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

More than 30 years since he took his shoulder pads and helmet off for the final time, Class of 1987 Dobie High School graduate now knows there are plenty of influential people who still remember what a difference-maker he was on the football field.

Wingo, once a tackling machine at Dobie, went on to become one of the top all-time tacklers at Texas Tech University. Last June, officials within the Texas Tech University Hall of Fame called to let Wingo know that he was part of the 2023 Hall of Fame class.

In early December of last year, Wingo answered another call, this one welcoming him in as part of the 10-member Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2024.

The official induction evening will be held March 6 at the Pasadena Convention Center as Wingo will become one of just 65 inductees honored over 10 years.

Following a brief stay with the Denver Broncos in the late summer pre-season of 1992, Wingo focused on family and career.

These days he's much more involved in his son Kaleb's promising football/baseball career at Deer Park High School.

to know that memories of his play at Dobie High School and then at Texas Tech have not been forgotten.

"It's not a call that I think you can ever imagine coming your way," Wingo said. "Pasadena ISD has a lengthy history of achievement in athletics. To even be considered for an honor such as this is special. My family and I are so appreciative."

A standout baseball player within the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League and a pretty darned good youth football player with the Sagemont Cowboys, Wingo could have never guessed he would use those early-life beginnings as a springboard to all-time recognition, but here he is.

He's days within becoming one of just 65 PISD hall inductees ever, and Wingo still finds the entire experience humbling.

"It is truly an honor," said Wingo, who gave up his love of baseball for a chance to make it big on the football field. "I always had the dream of playing 10 years in the NFL and walking away with the pension.

"That didn't happen, of course, but I'm proud of some of the things I was able to accomplish. To even be considered for induction into the hall of fame is an honor, and I

don't take it for granted. I'm very thankful."

An All-District middle linebacker for Dobie under the guidance of head coach Buzzy Kieth and defensive coordinator Butch Thiele, Wingo was productive enough to draw the recruiting interest of several in-state programs, ultimately settling on head coach Spike Dykes' Red Raider program at Texas Tech University.

Wingo's decision to play at Texas Tech was life-defining. He went on to deliver consecutive All-Southwest Conference seasons as a junior and senior, climbing to No. 3 in all-time tackles with the Red Raiders. Today, Wingo is still sixth in the same category.

Just months later, Wingo will join the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame. While his parents, Linda and David Wingo, didn't make the trip to Lubbock last fall while dealing with health issues, Wingo hopes they will be in Pasadena for this special night.

"I don't think any of us do it for the fame or the accolades, and certainly not back when we were playing," Wingo said.

"I wanted to play in college, but it was much harder to get seen, to draw the attention of college coaches."

And given that more than three decades have passed since he starred

first at Dobie then with Texas Tech, Wingo is that much more appreciative of the recognition he's received of late.

"I think it's pretty special to be considered a hall of famer in your school district," Wingo said. "I've committed to having my letter jacket and some other items displayed in the hall of fame museum. It'll provide for more memories there than hanging in my closet."

At right, the Wingo family includes Matt Wingo (third from left) and his wife, Angie (third from right), as well as, from left, son Kaleb and daughters Kinley, Kyleigh and Brittany. The Wingos will celebrate Matt Wingo's induction into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame March 6 at the Pasadena Convention Center. A Class of 1987 Dobie graduate, Matt Wingo was a standout linebacker who today is still the No. 6 all-time leading tackler at Texas Tech University and a member of the Red Raiders' Hall of Fame.

Wingo family photo



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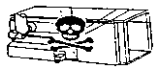
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.
9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Light-house** - 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. Call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.
11:30 a.m. **ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - Meetings are held at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seenabwa.org.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6:30 p.m. **Pearland Area Republican's Club** - meets at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W. Walnut St., Pearland. Email pearlandareaclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - free discussion about Judaism and religion in general at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real, Houston. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org.
FRIDAY, MARCH 1
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, MARCH 2
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalananon.org/.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 beforehand.
SUNDAY, MARCH 3
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship and Bible study programs at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 713-944-9186.
4 - 6 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Interfaith Call for Peace event. Members of different faith communities expressing their messages for hope and peace throughout the world. Participating faiths include Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Unity, Unitarian Universalists and many Christian denominations. Security will be present and there will be refreshments and fellowship.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, MARCH 4
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, MARCH 5
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10:00 a.m. **CCART** - Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway. Annual dues are \$50.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
10:30 a.m. **Tri-County Republican Women** - General meetings are held at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr. Exact cash or check requested for lunch (\$15). RSVP at www.tricountyrw.club/ or call 832-250-8901.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets in person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit sehouston.toastmasterclubs.org or call 832-722-9061.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.

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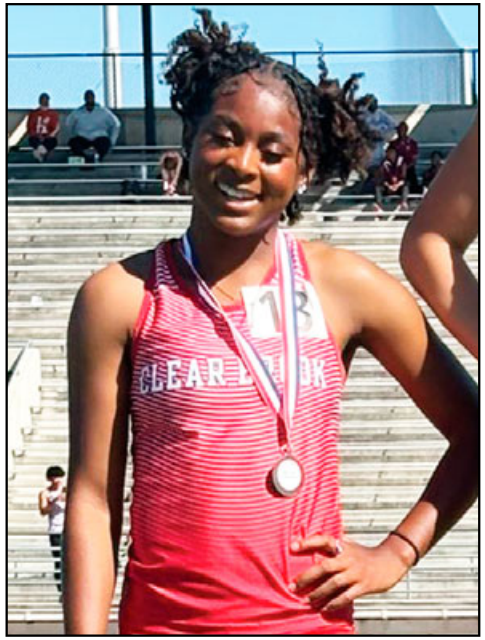
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Smith leads CB track



Clear Brook senior Azayla Smith (above) was one of several Wolverines to set personal records as the varsity girls' track and field team competed at the Sam Mosely Relays Feb. 24 at Turner Stadium. Smith, who earlier this month announced her intention to continue her collegiate running career at UT-Rio Grande Valley, was second for a silver medal in the 800 while coming up with a PR of 2 minutes, 14.19 seconds. Smith was also in the mix for a medal stand appearance in the 400 before taking fourth at 58.64. Junior Kamryn McLaurin made her 2024 debut following the completion of basketball season, clearing 5 feet, 4 inches for a silver medal in the high jump. Clear Brook sophomore Patricia Barnes set a personal record in the 800 at 2:25.31 for 14th place overall. Inayah Caldera also had a PR of 18.09. In the 100, Wolverines Journey Wilson (13.16) and Mya Bell (13.79) PR'ed.

Andrade earns 100th career win



Lutheran South Academy softball head coach Nicole Andrade (right) earned career victory No. 100 Feb. 20 as the Pioneers defeated Incarnate Word. Andrade, a former varsity softball standout at Dobie, took over the Pioneer program as its head coach prior to the 2017-2018 season and guided the team to a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A Division II state championship in 2019. At left is LSA senior Kat Maldonado, who has signed to play at Southern University beginning this fall.

Wolverine boys earn track hardware

Taking part in arguably their most competitive meet of the season, the Clear Brook varsity boys' track and field team came up with plenty of highlights at the Manvel/Shadlow Creek Invitational Feb. 22 at Manvel High. Senior Jaylon Owens was the gold medalist in the 200 at 21.50 seconds, and also medaled in the 100 sprint. Running out in front

with North Shore's Charles Ross and Devin Sanchez, who were 1-2 in the event, the Wolverines' Jaylon Owens took third for a bronze medal in the 100 at 10.91. Iowa Colony's Xavier Bellard won the long jump at 22 feet, 1 inch, with Clear Brook senior Joshua Akinola second at a distance of 22-1/2. The Wolverines' Cedric Barnes finished at 21-6 for sixth place.

2023 Region III qualifier Joshua Shelton grabbed a bronze for third place in the 400 at 48.53, and distance runner Joseph Trevino also excelled as he got things going following the completion of the basketball season. Trevino was in at 4 minutes, 36.51 seconds in the 1,600 for third place, and his time of 10:16.96 in the 3,200 earned Trevino a silver medal for second place.

Sophomore Ja'Darrell Brooks of Clear Brook went 42-11.75 for fourth place in the triple jump, and junior Jalen Erskine's time of 41.04 landed him eighth in the 300 hurdles. Junior Darwin Bolden threw the discus 146-7 for fourth place in his discus event debut for 2024, and sophomore Kenneth Christian had an eighth-place shot throw of 44-2 for the locals.

Dobie varsity baseball out to fast start

Continued from Page 5
Vasquez drove in a pair of runs, and Jeulz Martinez scored three runs. Junior Orozco had two hits and knocked in two runs.

The junior left-hander handled his part, and the offense got a home run and three runs batted in from A.J. Hernandez.

Junior Orozco scored twice, and Angel Garcia knocked in two runs as the area playoff round finalists started 2024 with a win.

Now it's on to the Pasadena ISD tournament, where the Longhorns have certainly enjoyed a great deal of success.

Pasadena ISD Baseball, Classic
Feb. 29-March 2, at Dobie main
Longhorns host Heights
Feb. 29, 12:30 p.m.
Longhorns host Galena Park
Feb. 29, 3 p.m.
Longhorns host Dickinson
March 1, 3 p.m.
JFD hosts Alief Hastings
March 2, 12 p.m.

Wolverines pick up key wins

Clear Brook's varsity baseball team got a key win over St. Thomas as the group prepares to play in the annual Clear Creek ISD Invitational.

Clear Creek ISD Classic
Feb. 29-March 2, at Clear Brook
Wolverines host Brenham
Feb. 29, 1 p.m.
Wolverines host Texas City
Feb. 29, 6 p.m.
Wolverines host Bellaire
March 1, 1 p.m.
Wolverines host Seguin
March 1, 6 p.m.
Wolverines host Katy Jordan
March 2, 1 p.m.

Clear Brook starter Ryan Benavides went 5 2/3 innings against St. Thomas in the win, and Trenton Flores came up big with a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning.

Patrick Perez was terrific defensively as the Wolverines scored a solid nondistrict win ahead of tournament play.

Clear Brook has drawn Brenham and Texas City on the opening day of the Clear Creek ISD Classic, facing the Cubs at 1 p.m., then closing the session with a 6 p.m. outing against Texas City.

On day two, the Wolverines will host Bellaire at 1 p.m., then go up against Seguin at 6 p.m. The two-game set on March 2 has the Wolverines hosting Katy Jordan at 1 p.m.

CB takes opener
The Wolverines walked off Pasadena Memorial 1-0 in nine innings Feb. 20 as Trenton Flores led off the home half of the ninth with a triple and scored the game's lone run moments later.

Benavides tossed seven innings of one-hit work to keep the game scoreless until Flores and his teammates delivered late for the win.

South Belt youth soccer registers
The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is continuing registration for the spring 2024 season, with U-4 through U-20 age divisions available to players at southbeltsoccer.org.

21-6A boys' hoops sweeps bidistrict
C.E. King, the fourth seed out of a deep pool of talent in District 21-6A, scored a 58-50 win over co-champion South Houston in the bidistrict boys' basketball playoff round as the four 22-6A representatives were swept for a second straight season.

Late registration prices are now in play. With many age group teams now filling quickly, families are urged to send an email to league president Alex Dokhani at adokhani@aol.com to check availability.

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 season, seven of the nine programs in the revamped 22-6A ranks advanced to the playoffs, including Dobie, Memorial and South Houston along with newcomers Dawson, Manvel, Pearland and Shadow Creek.

Players in the U-4 through U-8 divisions will pay \$95, while the fee is \$105 for the U-9 through U-12 divisions. The fee is \$115 for the U-13 through U-20 divisions.

Shadow Creek, the unbeaten champion of 23-6A with an overall record of 31-2, currently features nine juniors and a sophomore. The Sharks fell in the area round.

The fee includes a uniform shirt, socks and shorts while families must provide cleats, shin guards and a soccer ball. Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org for additional details.

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