

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 46 years of covering South Belt

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

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# Garcia pleads for increased Pct. 2 budget

By James Bolen

Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia recently pleaded before Harris County Commissioners Court seeking additional funding.

This marked the second consecutive year such a plea was made. Last year's plea fell on deaf ears.

"As I took office on Jan. 1, 2021 my administration was presented with many challenges," Garcia told Commissioners Court. "When we took office last year, our deputies lacked basic, fundamental equipment. The equipment that we did have was outdated, our fleet was depleted, and most importantly, many of our communities

lacked the law enforcement services that have been afforded to others. On Jan. 7, 2021 I requested from Commissioners Court 13 vehicles, 8 deputies and two dispatchers. Everything was denied."

At the time, a group called the South Belt Coalition petitioned Commissioners Court on Garcia's behalf, collecting more than 3,300 signatures from Precinct 2 residents.

The constable proudly told the court, however, he was able to make up much for much of the denied funds through budgeting and hard work.

"Through our own rollover monies and through our seizure fund, purchases were made and today every deputy is properly equipped with up-to-date equipment," Garcia said. "Again, through our own rollover monies and through our seizure fund, we purchased 14 vehicles."

There has long been a large disparity in the amount of annual funds received by each of the eight constable precincts, with Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 (which also covers much of the South Belt area) being the lowest two in the county.

In the 2021 county budget, Precinct 2 received \$10.2 million, and Precinct 8 received \$9.5 million. On the other end of the spectrum, Precinct 4 received \$59 million.

In 2016, Precinct 2 had a population of 343,514 and covered 108 square miles, bringing funding levels to \$29 per person and \$93,518 per square mile. Conversely Precinct 4 had a population of 981,369 in 2016 and covered 472 square miles, bringing funding levels to \$59 per person and \$124,576 per square mile. Precinct 6, which has fewer people and less land area, received \$75

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## Brook excels at Livestock Show



Clear Brook High School excelled at the 40th annual Clear Creek ISD Livestock Show and Auction, with several students taking home awards, including Chasitti Holt (left) whose animal won Grand Champion Steer. Clear Brook student Naomi Browning (right) also came home a champion, winning Reserve Champion Exotic Heifer and Reserve Champion Heifer for her animal. See related story on Page 8.

## Scarsdale bridge reopens to traffic

The Scarsdale bridge reopened to traffic Tuesday, Feb. 1, following approximately four months of construction to main drainage improvements beneath the structure.

A joint project between Harris County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the project was funded in part by a bond package approved by voters in 2018.

A component of the Clear Creek Federal Proj-

ect, the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements Project - also known as the Beamer Ditch Project - involves widening the channel and installing a concrete lining. All storm sewer system components will also be replaced.

The project is being broken down into three phases. Phase 1 will run from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 will run from Scarsdale to Asto-

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## American Legion holds chili cook-off

Proceeds help rebuild efforts; groundbreaking coming soon

American Legion Post 490, located 11702 SH 3/Old Galveston Road, will hold a chili cook-off Saturday, Feb. 12.

All proceeds raised will go toward rebuilding the American Legion building lost in a fire last year.

The blaze began in the kitchen around 10 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21. A few members were outside on the patio when the fire began and tried to extinguish the blaze to no avail.

No one was injured.

While the building's structure was not destroyed, nearly everything inside was.

Organization leaders opted to rebuild from scratch, given the building's conditions.

A groundbreaking on the new building will take place either late this month or early next month, Legion officials said.

Entry fee into the chili cook-off is \$25. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. A cooks' meeting will follow at 9 a.m. Turn-in will be at 2 p.m.

Raffle prizes will be given throughout the day. For additional information, call 281-481-1179.

A donation page has also been established to help fund construction of the new building. To contribute, visit [www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=J49EZZQ482TAC](http://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=J49EZZQ482TAC).

## Chamber holds 36th annual banquet

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host its 36th annual banquet Friday, Feb. 18, at the Palms Banquet and Event Center, located at 15301 Gulf Freeway near FM 1959/ Dixie Farm Road.

Titled *Friday Night Fever*, this year's event will have a disco theme.

Both a citizen of the year and a chamber member of the year will be announced at the event.

The event will also feature the swearing in of new chamber officers.

## Man fatally shot near Edgebrook

A man was fatally shot about 6:55 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook.

According to Houston police, the victim was near the service road at the above address and Hartsook when he was shot multiple times by an unknown gunman on foot.

The shooter then fled on foot to a waiting black, four-door sedan of unknown make or model. The vehicle left north on the Gulf Freeway service road.

Paramedics pronounced the victim dead at the scene.

The suspect is described only as a black male with dark complexion, 20 to 25 years of age, and mid-length black hair with twists.

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

## Forum for judge, not J.P. as reported

A pair of *Leader* stories promoting an upcoming candidate forum contained an inaccuracy.

The stories - published in the Jan. 20 and Jan. 27 editions of the *Leader* - both inaccurately said the forum being held at the Gardens Thursday, Feb. 10, was to be among candidates seeking the Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace position being vacated by George Risner in his bid to become county commissioner.

According to organizers, however, the forum

will actually be among candidates seeking the position of county judge, currently held by Lina Hidalgo. Other Democrats seeking the position include Erica Davis, Maria Garcia, Ahmad Hassan and Kevin Howard.

Republicans seeking the position include H.Q. Bolanos, Martina Dixon, Robert Dorris, Oscar Gonzales, Warren Howell, Randy Kubosh, Vidal Martinez, Alex Mealer and George Zoes.

The *Leader* apologizes for any confusion.

## Commissioner Candidates debate

Candidates competing for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 commissioner displayed far more similarities than differences when participating in a public forum Tuesday, Feb. 1, at The Gardens, despite being from different political parties.

While all eight candidates vying for the spot - three Democrats and five Republicans - were invited to take part in the event, only five agreed, with Democratic incumbent Adrian Garcia being noticeably absent.

Organized by a group of local homeowners associations led by the Sagemont Civic Club, the forum included Democratic candidates George Risner and Gary Harrison and Republican can-

didates Jack Morman, John Manlove and Richard Vega. Republican candidates Daniel Jason and Jerry Mouton, did not participate in the event.

Despite not being in attendance, all participants - from both parties - were squarely targeted on Garcia, whom they deemed unfit for the position.

"You have to vote for one of us. We have to get rid of Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia," said fellow Democratic candidate Risner, who is stepping down from his long-held job of Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace to seek the job of commissioner. "The criminal justice system is deplorable."

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## Hit-and-run driver kills pedestrian

Houston police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run accident that took place early Monday, Jan. 31, outside a bar in the 11000 block of Fuqua at Sabo.

The identity of the male victim, 32, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to police, two pedestrians - a male and a female - were leaving the El Buho Bar and walking through the parking lot at the above address when they were struck by a black pickup truck traveling at a high rate of speed.

Paramedics pronounced the male pedestrian dead at the scene and transported the female, 27, to a hospital for treatment of abrasions and cuts.

The driver fled the scene without stopping to render aid. The suspect, described only as a Hispanic male, was possibly intoxicated and, according to witnesses, had caused a disturbance in the parking lot prior to the crash.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4072 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## Annual South Belt Cook-off canceled

Future of other local spring events uncertain

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off has once again been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This marked the third consecutive year the event has been canceled due to disease.

Organizers said the decision hinged largely on Harris County not committing to allow the event to be held at El Franco Lee Park, where the event has been traditionally held for several years. The

event has grown significantly in size in recent years, making it difficult to relocate.

The cook-off is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt fireworks display, which is also held at El Franco Lee Park. The fireworks display was also canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the recent surge in active COVID-19

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## City offers \$1K vaccination incentive

The Houston Health Department is launching a new program to encourage more Houstonians to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The six-week initiative will award 12 people \$1,000 gift cards and provide \$50 gift cards to hundreds of additional people.

People who get their first dose or booster shot at eligible health department vaccination sites between Jan. 29 and March 10 will be entered into drawings for \$1,000 gift cards. Two \$1,000 win-

ners will be selected on Fridays starting Feb. 4 for a total of 12 winners over six weeks.

Fixed vaccination sites eligible for the \$1,000 incentive program include the following locations:

- Acres Home Multi-Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery Road.

Mondays, Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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## Truck catches fire on Sabo



A truck caught fire the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 26, on Sabo near Gulf Pointe Drive. At press time, it was unclear what caused the blaze. No injuries were reported. Black smoke from the fire could be seen for several miles from the scene.

Photo by James Bolen

### Pop-Up Shop planned

The Gardens Pop-Up Shop will be held Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Gardens Houston, 12001 Beamer at Hughes, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors will set up inside and outside the venue. The Pop-Up Shop is an opportunity for exhibitors, crafters and small businesses in the South Belt-Ellington and surrounding areas to sell and display merchandise and promote their services. Booths include arts and crafts, jams and jellies, clothing, jewelry and many other custom and handmade items. Prepared food vendors such as barbecue, funnel cakes and other sweets will be on site. For more information, contact Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### E-recycling event canceled

The City of Houston's monthly electronic recycling event originally scheduled to take place Saturday, Feb. 12, was canceled due to staffing issues associated with COVID-19.

The collection events will resume March 12, taking place from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport. For additional information, visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 311.

### SMF holds annual meeting

In accordance with its bylaws, the Sagemont Maintenance Fund (formerly known as the Sagemont Maintenance Committee) will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer and Hughes Road.

The meeting will be held to discuss SMF business and to elect two new directors.

### Major closures planned

There will be a total closure of all eastbound and westbound connector ramps from Beltway 8 to Interstate 45 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Feb. 4.

Eastbound motorists should continue east on the main lanes of Beltway 8; exit Genoa Red-Bluff; continue on frontage road to the Genoa Red Bluff intersection; then U-turn to the westbound Beltway 8 to the I-45 intersection.

Westbound motorists should continue west on the main lanes of Beltway 8; exit Sabo; continue west on frontage road to the Sabo intersection; then U-turn and travel east on Beltway 8 to I-45 intersection.

### COVID cases continue

As of Tuesday, Feb. 1, there were 11,656 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866) - up 419 from the previous week. Of those, 2,495 remain active, down 131 from the previous week. To date, 106 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), there were 8,271 confirmed cases, up 248 from the previous week. Of those, 2,238 remain active, up 236 from the previous week. To date, there have been 71 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034 (total population: 40,532), there were 8,097 confirmed cases, up 171 from the previous week. Of those, 1,746 remain active, up 151 from the previous week. To date, 81 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 825,426 total confirmed cases, up 26,465 from the previous week. Of those, 658,917 have recovered from the disease, while 159,530 cases remain active, down 1,126 from the previous week. A total of 6,941 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus).

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

One middle northbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, May 22.

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

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

### Beltway closures planned

Two northbound frontage road lanes and two southbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 will be closed at SH 225 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, Feb. 9.

At least one eastbound frontage road lane and one westbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Kirby to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, Feb. 7.

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

### Catholic Daughters sale set

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 2292 of St. Luke the Evangelist will have a baked potato sale Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 13, in the social hall after all Masses. Cost is \$10 with brisnet, \$8 without. Proceeds benefit various charitable funds.

# Texas Parent Pac endorses Bob Mitchell for Texas Senate seat SD 11

Jan. 31, Texas Parent PAC announced its endorsement of economic development leader Robert "Bob" Mitchell for the Republican nomination as state senator in Senate District 11. SD 11 encompasses parts of Galveston, Brazoria and Harris counties.

"Bob Mitchell has proven his commitment to the prosperity of Gulf Coast residents by devising and implementing major economic development projects. These projects bring together industry, public schools, higher education and government to create jobs and opportunity for local communities," said Julie Cowan, Texas Parent PAC co-chair. "He has worked with school districts and in-

stitutions of higher education to ensure the district's children become the skilled employees local businesses want to hire. None of his opponents have made such a positive impact as Bob."

Since 2007, Bob has been President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, overseeing efforts to bring additional jobs and recruit new companies to the region. In recognition of his achievements, Bob was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to serve on both the Gulf Coast Protection District Board and the Texas Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee. His wife, Joan, currently volunteers for the Clear Creek Education Foundation.

Many factors were considered by Texas Parent PAC before awarding Mitchell this endorsement:

- Bob recognizes local communities value and depend on excellent public schools.
- Bob has worked to improve educational opportunities for children by developing career and technology programs in public high schools and innovative skills courses in institutions of higher ed.
- Bob's dedication to the region has earned him the endorsement of 10 local mayors and the Mayor Pro-Tem of Houston.
- Bob has a successful track record of working with elected officials at the state

level (Abbott, Sen. Larry Taylor, Reps. Dennis Paul, and Greg Bonnen) and federal level (Sens. John Cornyn, and Ted Cruz, Reps. Brian Babin, Randy Weber, and Kevin Brady) to benefit the Gulf Coast community.

- Bob will not support sending taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private entities.

- Bob is a lifelong resident of SD 11 in southeast Texas, having graduated from Dobbie High School in Pasadena ISD (as did his children).

## Bridge reopens

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ria; and Phase 3 will run from Astoria to Beamer near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

The reopening of the Seaside bridge signifies the completion of the first phase of construction, and county officials said work on the second phase is expected to begin in begin mid- to late-February, weather permitting.

Work on the second phase of construction will require the closure of the bridge at Beamer and Astoria Boulevard. See future editions of the *Leader* for additional information.

For more information on the project and the traffic control plan, visit [hcfcd.org/Mud-Gully](http://hcfcd.org/Mud-Gully).

- Bob is an ethical, self-made man unafraid to take on a challenge to better his community.

Senate District 11 includes 17 independent school districts, including all of Alvin, Angleton, Clear Creek, Danbury, Dickinson, Friendswood, Galveston, Hitchcock, La Marque, La Porte, Pearland, Santa Fe and Texas City ISDs and parts of Brazosport, Columbia-Brazoria, Deer Park, and Pasadena ISDs. Public schools are a source of pride in every neighborhood of the senatorial district.

Texas Parent PAC was created by parents in 2005 with the goal of electing more state leaders who will consistently stand up for

public education. More than 1,200 families, business leaders, and public school supporters have contributed to support the PAC's grassroots campaign efforts, leading to 89 successful candidates. The parent organization describes its endorsed candidates as "men and women of integrity, open and responsive to parents, actively involved in their communities, and committed to investing in public education to achieve economic prosperity in Texas."

Public school supporters are encouraged to visit [www.bobmitchell4txsenate.com](http://www.bobmitchell4txsenate.com) to learn more about his candidacy. Early Voting begins Feb. 14 and Election Day is March 1.

## CCISD's 2022-2023 calendar now released

The Academic Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year for Clear Creek ISD was approved by the board of trustees during their regular meeting on Jan. 24.

Calendar Draft 4, which was passed unanimously, offers three weekends during the winter break, a midweek transitional start to school and consistent professional learning days and holidays.

Out of nearly 9,200 survey participants, it was also the top vote amongst staff, parents and community members.

The approved calendar has a phased-in approach with the start of school for pre-K, kindergarten, sixth grade and ninth grade students beginning Tuesday, Aug. 16, and the rest of the students beginning Wednesday, Aug. 17. The last day of school is Thursday, May 25, 2023.

Late arrival and early dismissal days will be announced at a later date. The 2022-2023 Academic Calendar can be viewed at [www.ccisd.net/calendar](http://www.ccisd.net/calendar).

## Commissioner Candidates debate Feb. 1

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This sentiment was shared by Republican candidate Morman.

"We all agree we have to get rid of Commissioner Garcia," said Morman, who formerly served as Precinct 2 commissioner from 2010 to 2018 – the first Republican to ever hold the seat. "We just have to put our best foot forward and find the best candidate to do that. And on the Republican side of the aisle, that candidate is me."

A similar stance was shared by Harrison.

"Any of us would do a better job than our current commissioner," Harrison said.

A common theme for the evening was crime, an area that candidates all agreed Garcia was failing at despite his experience as a career law enforcement officer and Harris County sheriff.

All attemptomg candidates further agreed that Harris County needs more deputies and prosecutors to combat the growing problem of crime, which they said has increased in Precinct 2 under Garcia's watch.

Morman declared the current commissioner had "defunded the police."

Under Garcia's direction,

the Harris County criminal court system is presently around 95,000 cases behind, according to Vega, who said his experience as a military veteran and pastor give him a unique perspective on the job of commissioner.

The candidates appeared to all be in unison in the belief that Garcia has focused far too much on the rights of criminals over victims and that more funds should be spent on prosecutors and less on public defenders, which currently outnumber prosecutors nine to one, Risner said.

Manlove, who formerly served as mayor of Pasadena, described this disparity as part of the current commissioners court's "liberal agenda."

All candidates additionally agreed there needs to be an overhaul of the bail system, which they said currently lets repeat and violent criminals out on little to no bond, and that previous efforts to improve the situation have been ineffective.

"We must take action," said Vega, who recently held a press conference with Houston At-Large Position 5 City Council Member Michael Kubosh re-

garding the 150+ murders the pair said were committed because the suspects were out on either low or no bond.

Harrison agreed. "Bail reform is a joke," said Harrison, who has 30+ years experience in law enforcement, working his way up from jailer to sergeant in the Harris County Sheriff's Office, before becoming a commander with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

While Harrison touted his law enforcement experience, both Risner and Morman emphasized their respective endorsements from local police groups and unions.

Manlove told those in attendance that crime decreased by nearly 24 percent under his leadership in Pasadena.

Another common theme purveyed throughout the evening was infrastructure, particularly that related to flooding in the precinct.

"This area has been neglected for decades," said Manlove, who claimed large portions of the county's flood mitigation funds go toward other pet projects.

Morman concurred, saying county officials often back-

## Deaths

### Margaret Ann Peake



Margaret Ann (Magana) Peake, 85, passed away Jan. 27, 2022, at Methodist Hospital. She was born on June 10, 1936, in Missouri City to Jose and Jesusa Magana. Her family moved to Houston when she was a child and where she resided the rest of her life.

After graduating from the LVN program, Margaret worked at Ben Taub Hospital for several years. She married Arthur E. Peake on Feb. 8, 1960, and they were married for 61 years before he preceded her in death last year.

Margaret went on to have a 30-year career with the United States Postal Service while raising her family. She was a highly specialized clerk and enjoyed the intricacies of her work. Margaret was a consummate mother, grandmother and great-grandma totally devoted to her family. Spending time

together with her family was a priority in her life.

In recent years, she was an active member of Freeway Baptist Church. She expressed her strong faith in how she lived her life every day. Margaret loved attending her weekly Bible study class and cared greatly for her friends there. She was a devoted and loyal friend to many individuals from her church and community.

Margaret had many interests that included travel, ballroom dancing (where she won an award for the waltz) and rooting for the Houston Astros and the Houston Rockets. She enjoyed listening to music from the 60s, especially Engelbert Humperdinck and Marty Robbins. A voracious reader, she was seldom without a book or her Kindle in the evenings. She loved literature and accumulated an extensive library consisting of a variety of genres, but especially mysteries. Her library has been donated to Harris County Freedom Library in her memory. Margaret very much enjoyed being a volunteer reading tutor at her grandchildren's elementary schools in the Pearland school district. Her granddaughter Grey has inherited her love for the written word and is a best-selling author of whom Margaret was very proud. Margaret was passionate about attending and rooting for her grandson's baseball events over the years.

This past fall she had the distinct pleasure of attending the wedding of her first granddaughter, Ashton Marie Peake to Brian Wilt, an honored guest. This memorable celebration brought her so much joy. "Grandma" will be deeply missed by her family, many friends, neighbors and all who loved her.

Margaret is survived by her children Arthur James Peake and wife Rebecca, Barbara Peake Mingarelli and husband Tom and Victoria Spieler and husband John; grandchildren Ashton (Peake) Wilt and husband Brian, Matthew Mingarelli, Ross Mingarelli, Grey Mingarelli, Ashley Spieler and David Spieler and wife Af-saneh; great-grandchildren John "Jack" Stadfield and Dahlia Victoria Spieler.

Margaret is also survived by her sisters Valentina Johns Mendoza and Barbara Magana; brothers-in-law Oliver Peake and Dallas Peake; and numerous nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at Freeway Baptist Church, 8702 Kingspoint Rd. Houston, TX 77075. Pastor Mark Butcher will preside over the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Freeway Baptist Church

### Bradley "Brad" Tinnemeyer



Bradley "Brad" Tinnemeyer, 50, of Alvin, (formerly of the South Belt area) passed away unexpectedly Jan. 29, 2022. Brad was born March 17, 1971 in Goshen, N.Y. to parents Charles and Jerri Tinnemeyer. Brad was a dearly loved husband, father, brother, son, Pepaw and friend. Brad was a master mechanic and loved helping anyone he could. He was well-known in the community for running his automotive shop, Bayou Diesel and Auto Repair. He enjoyed classic rock, family, friends and a good time. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchild were the lights of his life.

Brad is preceded in death by his father, grandparents Jim "Papa" and Lela "Sissy" McGraw and grandson Ryder Hawkins. Left to cherish his amazing life and memories are his wife, Jo Tinnemeyer; mother, Jerri Tinnemeyer; children Christopher Tinnemeyer and wife Raven, Justin Taylor, Alexandra Tinnemeyer, Kira Hawkins, Joshua Hawkins and wife Amber and Nick Hawkins and fiancée Sarah Ivy; sister, Andrea Tinnemeyer and husband Eddie King; grandchildren Dennis Courtright, Jolie Nestle, Angel Smith and Elizabeth, Elyssa, Emelia, Joshua Jr., Tanner and Hope Hawkins; great-granddaughter, Chloe Hawkins; niece, Magnolia King; and nephew, Riley King.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. at Crowder Funeral Home, 851 FM 517 Road West, Dickinson, TX 77539. Interment will follow at South Park Cemetery, 1310 N. Main St., Pearland, TX 77581.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagnont* 2 posted pictures and surveillance videos of a person in a truck passing multiple times in front of the member's parents' home. The member states that Tuesday, Jan. 25, around 11:12 p.m. her parents' trailer hitch mount was taken off the work van. The incident took place by Frazier Elementary and the member wanted to alert the community to be on the lookout for this person breaking into vehicles.

A member of the Neighbor's app posted a video of

a man in a hoodie and dark colored clothes trespassing onto several neighbors' front yards, porches and in between parked vehicles Saturday, Jan. 29, around 11 p.m., near Kingspoint and Sabo cross streets in the Beverly Hills subdivision.

Another member in the same app posted about a man who was caught on video walking around Thursday, Jan. 27, at 2:40 a.m. looking into the vacant home next door and is seen looking at the member's vehicle. The incident took place near Sagedowne Lane in the Sagemont subdivision.

## DA Ogg requests additional funds for more prosecutors

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg appeared before county commissioners Tuesday, Jan. 11, to request additional funding for 82 new prosecutors in 2022. Ogg seeks additional staffing to address three "crime drivers" spiking the County's homicide and criminal victimization rates: repeat violent offenders, domestic violence and gang crime.

"As the authority charged with both the administration of equal justice and the protection of public safety," Ogg said, "the District Attorney's Office plays a critical role in assisting police and prosecuting every (nonfederal) criminal case in the county."

With 134,800 pending criminal cases, Ogg says that the backlog of serious cases, especially those involving violence, should not languish.

To support her request, Ogg cited three recent studies recommending additional prosecutors. Two of those studies were funded by Commissioners Court and one by the Harris County District Attorney's Office. "Because Harris County has the lowest number of prosecutors per capita in America's major cities, Harris County commissioners must add more prosecutors to meet the public safety needs of the 5 million

people they represent."

Ogg and other county leaders were asked to present their departmental budget proposals to the Commissioners Court, the funding body responsible for all Harris County departments and services.

The four commissioners and county judge are scheduled to vote Jan. 25 on the county's 2022 budget. Because of a planned change in Harris County's fiscal year, this year's budget will end Aug. 31.

"The District Attorney's Office is key to public safety measures totaling more than \$10 million already adopted by the commissioners, including their violence interruption program, the targeted criminal hotspot strategy and even City Council's recent approval of ShotSpotter," Ogg said of the gunshot-detection system. "Without a sufficient number of prosecutors to handle the anticipated increase in criminal cases solved and filed, these programs will not make the public safer because a large percentage of offenders will be released on bail. The more violent repeat offenders released to the street while awaiting trial, the more violent crime will be inflicted on innocent people."

More prosecutors would

also permanently staff DA Intake, the 24/7, 365-days-per-year division in which prosecutors assist more than 13,000 police officers from 87 law enforcement agencies by reviewing evidence and filing criminal charges.

As part of her presentation, Ogg listed some of the major accomplishments of the District Attorney's Office during the past five years, including:

- An increase of service to crime victims from assisting approximately 2,300 people in 2017 to approximately 19,000 in 2021.
- The diversion of more than 4,400 mentally ill, nonviolent offenders to treatment instead of jail from 2018 to 2021, reducing recidivism by nearly 50 percent.
- The collection and distribution of \$30 million in restitution for crime victims since Jan. 2017.
- The diversion of approximately 20,000 drug offenders in low-level marijuana cases to case conclusions which do not leave them with criminal records.
- The continuation of quality prosecutorial services without interruption by essential employees through Hurricane Harvey, the pandemic and the freeze.

## Tri-County club meets Feb. 8

Join the Tri-County Republican Women's Club Tuesday, Feb. 8 at the Golfcrest Country Club from 10:30 a.m. - noon for their Judges Forum.

Get to know the candidates before early voting begins Feb. 14.

Tri-County serves Brazoria, Galveston and Harris counties but all are welcome.

Meetings are free and if one would like to stay for lunch, the cost is \$15.

For more information and to RSVP, visit <http://www.tricountyrw.club>.

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

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**  
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

\*Also Available on Facebook Live

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.

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Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
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## Meador celebrates fundraiser with fun

Meador Elementary's annual World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser was another success. The school was thankful for all who helped them in raising \$13,000. Students who sold one box of chocolate attended a

magic show, students who sold three boxes of chocolate attended a circus show and the students who sold four boxes of chocolate were allowed to silly string the principal.



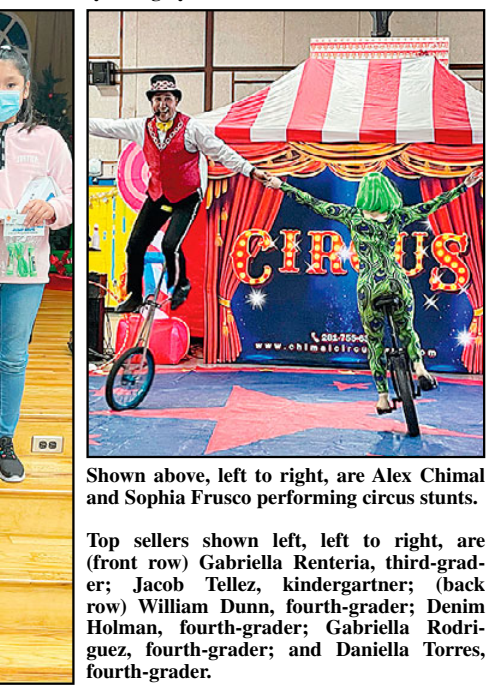
Shown above is William Dunn (fourth-grader and top seller) helping onstage at the Magic Show with Tommy Blaze.



Shown above is Beverly Bolton (principal) covered in silly string by the students.



Top sellers shown left, left to right, are (front row) Gabriella Renteria, third-grader; Jacob Tellez, kindergartner; (back row) William Dunn, fourth-grader; Denim Holman, fourth-grader; Gabriella Rodriguez, fourth-grader; and Daniella Torres, fourth-grader.



Shown above, left to right, are Alex Chimal and Sophia Frusco performing circus stunts.

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# SJC selected for NCAL project

San Jacinto College was selected by the Association of Community College Trustees and Education Strategy Group as one of 14 community colleges to participate in the Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab (NCAL). This initiative will develop new or improved pathways between noncredit and credit programs, allowing more students to pursue and eventually receive an associate degree.

San Jac was the only school in the state of Texas selected to serve in this two-year project.

"We are excited to be a part of this prestigious project," said Shelley Rinehart, acting assistant vice chancellor of instructional and program support efficacy. "We look forward to working with great minds from around the country to improve this process right here at San Jac and helping other colleges improve or implement the process as well."

Noncredit programs can be a starting point for workforce training and education that leads to higher earning potential and career sustainability. However, the current system needs to be redesigned to enable students in noncredit programs to achieve additional learning if they want to progress.

"COVID-19 has been both a barrier and an accelerator to the field of education. We recognize that displaced workers need to reskill and/or upskill to get back into the workforce as quickly as possible and San Jac wants to help them do that," said Rinehart.

San Jac will focus on the maritime and computer information technology (CIT) programs to capture data and gather feedback from faculty, students, administration and industry partners about the process and any barriers.

"San Jac already offers a pathway for noncredit students to earn associate degrees in several of our programs including maritime and CIT," said Rinehart. "Both of these programs offer credit for prior learning opportunities and certificates, but we want to expand the number of programs that offer the ability to earn the two-year degree."

Rinehart states that NCAL aligns with the mission of San Jacinto College. "Our goal is to ensure students know the opportunities available to them and intentionally advise them on the connections at San Jac. We always want to help our students find the best path to workforce success."

## CCART meeting set Feb. 8

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its February meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The gathering will feature a presentation by Kim Randle from Houston Methodist Hospital on stroke awareness. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a fried/baked chicken lunch will be served. CCART will provide the chicken and members are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

## Introduction to Judaism classes being held

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is offering an Introduction to Judaism class, through Zoom. The class gives participants an opportunity to ask any and all questions regarding Judaism and the Jewish community. It examines the Jewish beliefs regarding God, the nature of man, life, death, sin, sacrifice, atonement, forgiveness, Satan versus the devil, Messiah and the afterlife. It includes studying the Jewish holidays and holy days, the Life Cycle Events and how Judaism responds to the controversial issues of one's day.

This class is required for those who wish to convert to Judaism at Shaar Hashalom, but one does not have to be interested in conversion to take the class; the class is open to the public.

The class meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 to 9 p.m. and is conducted by Rabbi Stuart Federow. For more information and Zoom link, one can email [adulted@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:adulted@shaarhashalom.org). The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area.

# CCISD elections set for May 7

The Clear Creek Independent School District's board of trustees will hold regular elections for the following trustee positions on May 7:

- District 1 currently held by Dr. Laura DuPont.
- At Large Position B currently held by Scott Bowen.

To apply for a position on the ballot, interested individuals may pick up a Candidate Application and Information Packet at the CCISD Education Support Center located at 2425 E. Main Street or send a request to [elections@ccisd.net](mailto:elections@ccisd.net).

The first day to file for a place on the ballot was on Wednesday, Jan. 19, and applications should be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18.

Here is how one can file for a place in the ballot:

- Physical address is at Clear Creek ISD, 2425 E. Main St.
- If filing by mail, then the address is to Clear Creek ISD, Attn: Jena Brown, P.O. Box 799.
- Applications may be emailed to [elections@ccisd.net](mailto:elections@ccisd.net).

## Atkinson announces honor roll students

Atkinson Elementary announced their second nine-weeks honor roll and merit rolls.

**Honor roll**

Jesus Banda, Kathryn Botello, Tatiana Gamboa, Rogelio Gonzales, Jaythan Guzman, Valerie Hernandez, Aria Holcomb and Kira Jones.

Emily Martinez, Paige McMullen, Duy Nguyen, Ethan Pineda, Lyla Resendez, Samantha Rodriguez, Aaron Salas and Andrae Sampson.

Leslie Serrano, Roy Thomas, Rosalynn Vega, Sofia Vega, Michael Vu, Gabriel

Wotkyns and Maylen Zambrano.

**Merit roll**

Camiyah Adams, Alexia Bravo, Sophia Castro, Devo Cline, Mia Del Bosque, Zuri Dias, Rafael Espinosa and Miabel Fonseca.

Christopher Gamboa, Cesar Garcia, Edson Guevara, Brandon Huynh, An Nguyen, Angelina Nguyen, Cayden Nguyen and Tuyen O.

Raquel Obath, Arianna Rendon, Xavi Romero, Jose Rodriguez, Judith Rodriguez, Maddox Sanchez, Isaiiah Sonnen and Kimberly Yerena.

## CCISD students earn All-State

Band, choir and orchestra students across Clear Creek ISD's five comprehensive high schools were selected to participate in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State ensembles. There were 33 students, some of the highest-ranking musicians in the competition, who qualified to perform in one of 18 Texas All-State ensembles in their respective categories.

"We are so proud to continually see our students achieve high levels of success and expand their musical talents across the state," said CCISD Director of Visual and Performing Arts Greg Goodman. "The time each of them has dedicated to improve and perfect their skill and be named as an All-State member is an incredible accomplishment."

Beginning each fall, more than 70,000 high school students across the state enter the TMEA All-State competitive process through the region and then area rounds. Only around 1,800 total students advance from area to receive this honor.

The Creekside Intermediate brass choir was also selected to perform a musical showcase during the convention. They are the first band group in 10 years from CCISD and the first group from Creekside to perform.

"I am very proud of our students," said Thomas Macias, Creekside assistant band director. "They worked for an entire year to put a recording together, and that recording was selected from groups across the state of Texas. This year, they have worked to put together a fun program, and I'm excited for them to perform at this prestigious event."

All students will perform at the annual TMEA Clinic/Conference in February in San Antonio. This is the largest music education conference of its kind in the world.

Many students from different CCISD schools were acknowledged including the following from Clear Brook High School:

Corey Gutierrez, band; Alan Johnson, orchestra; Daniel LeCompte, band; Paige Richeson, band; and Samantha Yardley, band.

# Advertise in the Leader!

## Helpenstill twins choose TLU



Tyler Helpenstill (center) of the Lutheran South Academy state championship baseball program has signed to continue his education and playing career at NAIA Division III program Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. With Helpenstill at the signing were his parents, Matt Helpenstill (left) and Nicole Helpenstill.



Along with his brother, Garrett Helpenstill (center) of the Lutheran South Academy state championship baseball program has signed to continue his education and playing career at NAIA Division III program Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. With Helpenstill at the signing were his parents, Matt Helpenstill (left) and Nicole Helpenstill.

# South Houston announces third six-weeks honor roll

South Houston High School officials announced their third six-weeks honor roll.

**Ninth grade**

Dalilah Acosta, Agustín Aguilar, Omar Alfaro, Carolina Alvarez, Kevin Alvarez, Jose Aragon, Jocelyn Aranda, Joshua Arriaga and Amiah Atkinson.

Marcos Avelar Cruz, Maria Barboza Castro, Johana Barragan, Claudia Barrera Portillo, Aryanna Benitez, Jazmin Bocanegra, Suany Bonilla Acosta, Benito Cadeana and Yeison Carbajal.

Ramiro Cardenas, Cinthya Cardoza Garcia, Natalia Castillo, Lily Cavazos, Melanie Chaverria, Cesar Chavez, Da'jonea Citizen, Lev Cleaveland and Perla Colmenero.

Rosa Contreras, Lester Cortes Varela, Sherlyn Cosibel Santos, D'Asia Criswell, Jeady Cruz, Valerie Del Valle, Krystal Delgado, Lorenzo Delgado and Angelis Diaz.

Nathan Diaz, Nasly Dionicio Guerrero, Aleri Dominguez Perez, Valeria Duran Iracheta, Kayleen Erwin, Aaron Escareno, Ruby Espinoza, Dariana Fierro and Jennifer Flores.

Ariana Franco, Kylie Gale, Isbery Garcia Romero, Briahna Garcia, Brittany Garcia, Diego Garcia, Lupita Garcia, Xzavian Garcia and Rogelio Garibay.

Aldemy Garza, Alinna Garza, Giselle Garza, Isabella Garza, Samyra Garza, Mia Gaytan, Deborah Getu, Cecilia Gomez and Christopher Gomez.

Evelyn Gomez, Diana Gracia, Yenny Granados, Amy Guerra, David Guevara, Joselyn Hernandez, Moises Hernandez, Christopher Herrera Navarrete and Ana Herrera.

Camila Hill, Kaitlyn Houston, Destini James, Aniya Johnson, Marina Joya Campos, Adrian Juarez, Edward Juarez, Norma Lazo Saucedo and Elizabeth Linarez Cruz.

Emmanuel Llanos, Na'Tareious Long, Frankie Lopez Guevara, Francisco Lopez Tejada, Allison Lopez, Antonio Lopez, Jazmin Lopez, Juan Lopez and Luis Lopez.

Patricia Luna Argueta, Raquel Malbro, Emely Martinez, Joanthin Martinez, Ramiro Martinez, Raphael Martinez, William Martinez, Ximena Martinez and Jose Mejia.

Cindy Molina, Jonathan Morales, Kevin Morales,

Yazmine Moreno, Kiara Moya De La Rosa, Gerald Murillo, Camila Navarro Moran, Kimberly Negrete and Kristi Nguyen.

Leslie Oliveros, Eric Orellana, Vanessa Ortiz, Diego Osejo, Ilyan Pacheco Villafranca, Mayker Pacheco Zapata, Noah Zamudio Pararas, Vicente Payne and Kesly Pedraza.

Victoria Perrett, Thien Pham, Valerie Portillo, Jonathan Quezada, Jovanna Quezada, Emily Quintanilla, Camila Ramirez, Cierra Ramirez and Fatima Ramirez.

Nathaly Ramirez, Xiomara Ramirez, Tatiana Ramos, Inary Reyes, Lilisbeth Rios Diaz, Cassandra Rivas, Carlos Rivera, Jennifer Rivera and Chelsea Robertson.

Emma Robles, Jonathan Rocha, Mahia Rodriguez Agraz, Angel Rodriguez Castillo, Giovany Rodriguez, Evelin Rojas Garay, Aldamaris Roman Tellez, Rosalinda Salazar and Anthony Sanchez.

Lindsey Sanchez, Diego Santillan, Irma Sosa Villafra, Irene Soto, Rodrigo Tapia, Natalie Terrones, James Thomas, Xiomara Torres and Nancy Trevino.

Joaquin Vargas, Jonathan Vargas, Giancarlos Vazquez, Maniah Velez and Pamela Viera.

Sairah Villalobos, Mariah Vizzaino, Remona Washington, Yeira Zavalija Garcia and Ruby Zuviri.

**10th grade**

Mikaela Acosta, Andrew Alcantar, Jessica Alfaro, Christopher Almanza, Maria Alvarez Ramos, Pedro Alvarez, Daniel Arias, Jennifer Avendano Gaytan and Andrea Ayala.

Amy Becerra, Breana Benitez, Titeanna Broussard, Ovidio Bustillo, Dora Caballero, Rosa Campos, Jeremias Cantillano Pavon, Evelyn Carranza and Aaron Chavarria.

Rosana Correa, Angelina Damian, Jose Delgado, Paola Diaz Galvan, Aiden Diaz, Abraham Escareno, Syntrel Evans, Everth Flores and Jesus Flores.

Jonathan Flores, Monika Franco, Natalie Funes, Manuel Gamboa, Aldo Garcia Loya, Abraham Garcia, Alexia Garcia, Angela Garcia and Santiago Garcia.

Emily Garza, Ethan Garza, Isahias Garza, Edwin Hernandez Angeles, Cristian Hernandez, Frida Hernan-

dez, Martin Hernandez, Valeria Hernandez and Angela Herrera.

Elissa Herrera, Kayla Hughes, Yanelli Jimenez, Jose Labra, Abril Leon, Stormy Lindsey, Carlos Lopez Montoya, Carmen Lule Zamora and Jhosue Macias.

Daniela Maldonado, Arturo Martinez Valdez, Kassandra Martinez, Raul Martinez, Tristan McGuffery, Ariana Mendoza, Aldo Navarro Moran, Edgar Orozco and Michelle Perez.

Ryan Pham, Junior Pineda Zuniga, Adrian Pineda, Eryn Ponce, Fernando Pruneda, Giselle Quintero, Kaylee Ramirez, Joanna Ramos and Rachel Ramsingh.

Rosa Reyes, Kimberly Rivera, Stacey Rivera, Cheyenne Robertson, Jermaine Robinson, Karina Robledo, Josephine Robles, Silvio Rodriguez Suarez and Mansa Rogers.

Carlos Roman, Marc Rosales Blanco, Rigoberto Ruiz Mendez, Jose Salazar, Natalie Salinas, Alexa Sanchez, Brayan Sanchez, Roselyn Sanchez and Axel Saucedo Estrada.

Roselin Serna, Urva Shah, Bryanna Suarez, Kevin Terrell, Mariela Urias-Sarmiento, Gabriel Valenzuela and Jamieth Vasquez.

Noemi Vasquez, Daniel Vazquez, Oscar Vilchis, Angela Villafra, Ashley Zarate and Leslie Zavala.

**11th grade**

Edith Acosta, Denisse Aguilar, Destiney Alday, Juan Alfonso, Alejandra Arredondo, Jordy Arroyo Carrillo, Yaritzi Arvizu Pena, Edgar Banuelos and Stephanie Barrientos.

Samantha Beltran Gonzalez, Jacqueline Bocanegra, Cristian Briegas, Amaya Brown, Crista Camacho Natera, Isaac Camacho, Ariana Cantu, Daniel Carrillo and Gael Castillo.

Angeles Chamorro Hernandez, Daniel Chavez, Eric Chavez, Joseph Chavez, Cesar Conde, Moises Contreras, Monserrat Cruz Franco, Heidy Cruz and Hannian De Leon.

Stefanie Djato, Tiffanie Djato, Diego Espinosa, Joseph Ferguson, Heidi Franco, Sara Gaeta, Kimberly Garcia, Natalie Garza and Marisol Gomez Camero.

Aimee Gomez, Nathalie Gomez, Elizabeth Guadarrama, Lea Guzman, Kevin Hernandez, Maylyn Hernandez, Melanie Hernandez, Nicolas

Hernandez and Jeremiah Horton.

Christina Houston, Tuan Huynh, Kimberly Ibarra, Jacob Jaimes, Amy Jimenez, Jazlyn Jimenez, Carolina Julian, Ashley Lara and Sindi Lemus Ruiz.

Hakimuddin Lokhandwala, Joseph Longoria, Victor Lopez Morales, Aileen Lopez, Jesiel Lopez, Sonia Lopez, Jo Luque, Matthew Macias and Stephanie Maldonado.

Jaselyn Martinez Huerta, Amy Martinez, Isaiiah Martinez, Natalia Martinez, Daisy Mendoza, Tomas Meza, Emily Millan, Maribel Montalvo and Nathanael Morales.

Cristina Moreno, Antonio Negrete, Rigoberto Orellana, Cesar Pena, Jonathan Piche, Saul Quintanilla, Santos Ramirez Garcia, Govany Ramirez and Janeth Ramirez.

Maritza Ramirez, Jose Ramos, Juan Rangel, Erick Renteria, Vanessa Reyes, Amy Rios Del Cid, Katerin Rivera Diaz, Diana Rivera and Alyssa Rodriguez.

Angel Rodriguez, Cesar Rodriguez, Diego Rodriguez, Kathryn Rodriguez, Leslie Rodriguez, Leniz Romero, Karen Sagredo Galan, Astrid Salinas Velasquez and Destiny Sanchez.

Ingrid Sanchez, Valeria Sanchez, Shakia Scott, Jeremiah Sheppard-Rubio, Olufunmilayo Talabi, Maybel Tinoco, Robert Torres, Ashley Trujillo and Andrea Valadez Alvizo.

Evelyn Valdez, Alexandra Vazquez Garcia, Christian Vera, Hanson Vu, Makaiyah Walden, Demarcus Whitaker, Ariel Zamora and Josue Zuniga.

Esteban Abascal, Joselyne Acosta, Yanira Alfaro, Natalie Amaya, Ricardo Anaya, Taelyn Ansley, Anthony Arguello, Yessenia Argueta Lara and Jennifer Balleza.

Donato Barrientos Arredondo, Kensy Bonilla Lainez, Arianna Caballero, Jose Cabrera Ramirez, Alexis Calles, Alexander Cantareno, Hazel Canton, Evelyn Carrasco and Viviana Castaneda.

Alondra Chapa, Angel Chavez, Dayannia Colon Santiago, Seth Compean, Idalia Contreras, Damaris Cornejo, Rebecca Cortez, Jason Cruz Cardenas and Jeremy Cruz Gonzalez.

Kanirii Dearman, Maryella Diaz, Lizbeth Diaz-Alcantar, Alyssa Flores, Jasmine

Flores, Vanessa Forbes, Josue Galdamez, Luis Galeana Pineda and Katherine Gallardo.

Richard Gallegos, Joseph Galloso, Jorge Garcia Carreno, Jammia Garcia Carvajal, Susana Garcia Perez, Dixey Garcia Valenzuela, Lizeth Garcia, Saul Garcia and Yanelli Garibay.

Abel Garza, Daniel Garza, Elizabeth Garza, Leslie Gonzalez, Bianca Gutierrez, Alexandra Guzman, Evelin Hernandez, Jeslin Hernandez and Jesus Hernandez.

Josiah Horton, Latavia King, Seep Loma, Yariani Machado Mendez, Marium Macias, Lesly Maldonado, Andy Marban Peralta, Ivan Marquez and Alondra Marroon.

Destiny Marshall, Alazae Martinez, Brianna Martinez, Chrystal Martinez, Isaias Martinez, Luis Martinez, Wendy Martinez, Alejandro Mata and Destiny Mata.

Rosa Mayor Suarez, Trevion McGuffery, Gloria Mendez, Isabella Mendez, Katteri Mendoza, Natalie Mendoza, Nestor Meza, Henry Monasterio and Liliana Moncada.

Yesenia Monterroza, David Morales, Jesus Morales, Pablo Morales, Neyder Moreno Mendez, Jose Narvaiz, Yurely Negron, Joe

Orozco and Enrique Ortiz Guevara.

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Mitchell Valera, Yarisa Vasquez, Aldo Velasco Ruiz, Kristal Villa, Christopher Williams, Guangsen Xu and Wendy Zarate.

## Melillo recognizes Sanchez



Melillo Middle School congratulated Lauren Sanchez (center) as the December Teacher of the Month. Sanchez has a huge heart for teaching and is eager to encourage her students. She is willing to assist teammates with student tutoring. She has great relationships with her students. She is always cheerful and willing to offer support. Shown with Sanchez, left to right, are Diane Wheeler (principal) and Jennifer Saucedo (assistant principal).

## Meador honors good character students

Meador Elementary officials congratulated their students who were honored for good character at the second nine-weeks awards program. The staff is proud of all the hard work the students put in and out of their classrooms.



Shown above, left to right, are pre-K students Ricardo Lugo and Camila Lopez. Shown above with her certificate is Ava Williams.



Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Yessica Moreno, kindergarten; Faith Jimenez, kindergarten; Jaequin Hernandez, kindergarten; Akacia Rose, kindergarten; Eley Maldonado, kindergarten; (middle row) Angel Zavala, first-grader; Logan Bounds, first-grader; Aldo Seledon, first-grader; Parker Bounds, first-grader; Skyler Garza, first-grader; (back row) Dillian Huerta, second-grader; Terrance Morris, second-grader; Emiel Green, second-grader and Harlem Hendricks, second-grader.



Shown above, left to right, are Sky Ellegan, third-grader; Savannah Ollervides, third-grader; Arleth Garcia, third-grader; Dean Brewer, fourth-grader; Shae Ibarra, fourth-grader; Ethan Mancillas, fourth-grader; David Garza, fourth-grader and Jocelyn Servin, fourth-grader.

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# Constable Garcia pleads for increased Precinct 2 budget

**Continued from Page 1**  
per person.  
Precincts 2 and 8 have 81 deputies each, while precincts 1, 4 and 5 have between 350 and 450 deputies each.  
Despite Garcia's best efforts to make up the difference on his own, the constable said he still needs funding for additional workers.  
"In order to close the gap of inequity that Commissioners Court constantly talks about and to properly provide law enforcement services to every citizen and resident in our precinct, I am requesting eight deputies and two dispatchers," Garcia said to the court. "This will help in our effort to serve

and protect our communities that are unable to participate in the Harris County Contract Patrol Program due to lack of income. There has been talk of duplication of services. I guarantee you that no services are being duplicated. Our citizens and residents who live in municipalities that are supposed to provide law enforcement services pay Harris County taxes as well. Thus, they deserve equitable consideration for law enforcement services. Public safety is our number one priority as elected officials. Our citizens and residents are at your mercy and I ask that you not ignore their pleas. Deputies on the streets is the number one request of our citizens and res-

idents."  
Equity has been a common theme at Commissioners Court in recent years, particularly among its Democratic majority.  
"We are not asking that you take from another precinct and give to us," Garcia told the court in 2021. "That would merely place other citizens and residents in danger. What our people are asking is that you consider the fact that historically Precinct 2 has been neglected and underfunded. Equity is a very strong and powerful word that is constantly being used in this courtroom. This is our opportunity to show our people that equity is not merely a spoken word, but one of our core

beliefs."  
Garcia said the extra manpower is particularly needed during the pandemic because there has been an increase in violent crime.  
"Since I took office I have made every attempt to bring much needed resources to our citizens and residents," Garcia said. "We acknowledge the fact that we have been going through a very difficult period due to the pandemic. We also know and understand that our citizens and residents have seen a huge increase in violent crime during this same pandemic. I am requesting help in my attempt to provide our citizens and residents with the safety and security afforded to others. I humbly

ask that you take into consideration the fact that this past year my precinct was No. 8 out of eight precincts in reference to dollars per resident."  
The constable posted his presentation to Commissioners Court to his Facebook page and urges residents to watch it.  
"On Wednesday, January 12, 2022 I presented our budget request to Commissioners Court for the upcoming year," Garcia posted to his Facebook page. "Please take the time (12 minutes)

to look at the attached video as this is extremely important to you and your families. I have fought very hard for over a year to bring much needed resources to our precinct in my effort to provide you and your families with safer communities."  
Garcia further urged his Facebook supporters to contact the Democratic commissioners and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to let them know their feelings on the Precinct 2 budget.  
"You all know our precinct has been neglected for many years, and I need your help in fighting for more resources," Garcia said in a Facebook post. "Commissioners Court is funding projects that they deem most important. Let them know what you feel is most important. You all have been

telling me that your number one concern is the safety and security of your families. Please let them know what you have been telling me. Again, please take the time to see my request and let the commissioners and judge know that we expect equal services that others have been enjoying."  
A link to the officials' contact information is posted on the constable's Facebook page.  
A decision on Garcia's funding plea is expected to be made by Commissioners Court Feb. 8.

**NASA Aglow meets Feb. 10**  
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse will meet at 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 10, at Praise Chapel, 18516 Highway 3. Plan to attend and bring a friend. Send questions to lorene nieto@yahoo.com.

## Dr. Gyawali nominated for Piper award

San Jacinto College announced its 2021-2022 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee and the Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards recipients.  
Dr. Madhu Gyawali, San Jacinto College South Campus physics professor, is the college's Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee. Dr. Gyawali has been teaching at San Jac for six years, but has more than 20 years' experience at the collegiate level.  
"Dr. Gyawali has consistently demonstrated a student focus, excellence in the classroom, innovative thinking, and an unwavering willingness to donate his time and talents to make those around him better, especially his students," said Dr. Christopher Wild, dean of natural and health sciences.  
"Dr. Gyawali has proven himself as an amazing and dedicated teacher by the teaching and learning activities he practices here at San Jacinto College," said Arjang Geramifard, San Jacinto College alumnus. "He is a true believer in inspiring students for their academic success."  
Since 1958, The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation has recognized outstanding professors from two- and four-year Texas colleges and universities, both pub-

lic and private. As a nonprofit, charitable corporation, one of its biggest programs is the Piper Professor Program. Ten awards of \$5,000 are distributed annually to college professors for superior teaching based on submissions by each college or university.  
San Jac's Faculty Excellence Award recipients include Tonja Conerly, South campus sociology professor; Dr. Susan Eason, South campus Accounting/General Business; Yvonne Frear, Central campus behavioral and social sciences department chair; Dr. Tyler Olivier, Generation Park STEM department chair; and Tyra Rideaux, North campus nursing professor and clinical coordinator.  
Staff Excellence Award recipients include Claudia Alvarez, South campus liberal arts division operations coordinator; Brian Bui, North campus interim manager of admissions; Michelle Callaway, manager of quantitative data science; Olga Garza, North campus business and technology senior administrative assistant; and Abigail Ramirez, Central campus director of the Children's Center.  
The Administrator Excellence Award went to Jose Dejesus Gil, dean of enrollment services, and Martha Robertson, assistant vice chancellor of teaching and learning at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

"Our faculty and staff are committed to removing barriers and assisting students on their educational journeys," said Laurel Williamson, deputy chancellor and president. "They are passionate about creating better pathways to transfer institutions and high-demand careers. This results in an improved regional economy and improved workforce in our community. San Jac has spent years establishing a culture of student success through recruiting and retaining some of the finest and most forward-thinking faculty and staff members in the state. It is an honor to be able to recognize just a few of

those who have contributed so much to our students and our College."  
Criteria for the college's Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards nominations include addressing the nominee's last two years of work and service in the following areas: ability to serve as a role model and work collaboratively with others; possessions of exemplary attributes or qualifications; contributions to addressing or meeting the needs of students and/or employees; and dedications, service, and involvement in the college community.  
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Dr. Madhu Gyawali

## City offers vaccination incentive

**Continued from Page 1**  
- Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center, 3810 W. Fuqua St.  
Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
- La Nueva Casa de Amigos Health Center, 1809 N. Main St.  
Mondays, Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
- Magnolia Multi-Service Center, 7037 Capitol St.  
Thursdays: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
- Northside Health Center, 8504 Schuller Road.  
Mondays, Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
- Sharpstown Health Services, 6201 Bonhomme Road.  
Mondays, Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

- Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive.  
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
- Sunnyside Health Center, 4605 Wilmington St.  
Mondays, Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Fixed vaccination sites close at 11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month.  
Many of the department's pop-up vaccination sites are also eligible for the \$1,000 incentive program. Weekly schedules listing eligible pop-up vaccination sites are available at houstonhealth.org or by calling 832-393-4220.  
Once a person is entered into the pool for the \$1,000 drawings, their name will remain in unless it's selected. One may only enter the pool once.  
In addition to being entered into the \$1,000 drawings, those who get their first dose or booster shot at select pop-up sites will receive a \$50 gift card until

a total of 760 cards are distributed.  
Sites eligible for the \$50 incentive include the following locations:  
- Benavidez Elementary, 6262 Gulfport St.  
Feb. 5, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
- Brookline Elementary, 6301 S. Loop E. Freeway.  
Feb. 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
The program is a partnership with Houston in Action and Human Age Digital, which received \$50,000 in grant funds to support efforts to increase vaccination rates in Houston.  
Participants must sign a declaration affirming eligibility for the program, and verification will occur using the Texas immunization database.  
Ages 5 and up are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, while ages 18 and up are eligible for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. In addition, booster shots are available to ages 12 and up.  
Getting vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 at health department-affiliated sites is free and does not require proof of residency, citizenship or insurance.

## Dr. Garg performs new procedure



Interventional cardiologist, Dr. Nadish Garg, performed the first Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAO) device therapy procedure on a patient with atrial fibrillation (AFib) at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital on Jan. 10. The device is an alternative to the lifelong use of blood thinners for people with AFib not caused by a heart valve problem.

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## Remember When

**45 years ago (1977)**  
A petition was secured to require Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz to call an election to determine the establishment of a Houston municipal school district.  
A police force for the Scarsdale area was nearly reality, and the Scarsdale Association ordered a police car, other necessary equipment and commissioned officers.  
**40 years ago (1982)**  
Channel 8's Scott Arthur discussed flooding with Sagemont's Roberta Hicks and Harris County Flood Control Director Jim Green on the station's Houston Weekly program.  
Increases in damage from vandalism at Sagemeadow Park prompted the Harris County Sheriff's Department to put extra patrols in the area.  
**35 years ago (1987)**  
The Dobie Academic Decathlon team won first place in the Region VII competition held at Pasadena High School. Dobie earned a total of 39,130 points, 430 ahead of second place.

enrollment growth.  
Dobie senior Stephanie Coon made a 1600 on the SAT test, the highest score possible.  
**20 years ago (2002)**  
After considering 13 competitive sealed proposals submitted by several construction companies, the San Jacinto College Board of Regents approved J.E. Dunn of Texas as the builder of the new SJC South technology learning center and fine arts building.  
Marvin Corley, the head coach for the J. Frank Dobie boy's varsity soccer team, was arrested for sexual assault of a child.  
**15 years ago (2007)**  
The Clear Creek Independent School District received a \$600,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency to support the district's Early College High School. The program would allow CCISD students to take courses at San Jacinto College South

and graduate from high school with an associate degree.  
A town hall meeting that included state Sen. Mike Jackson and Reps. Robert Talton and John Davis was held at the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center. This was the first time that the three South Belt area representatives held such a meeting.  
**10 years ago (2012)**  
The United States Coast Guard broke ground on its new command center at the Ellington Joint Reserve Base. The facility will replace the current Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston headquarters located on Clinton Drive in Galena Park. The structure will be four stories in height and encompass 117,000 square feet of office/work space. When the command center becomes operational in June 2013, it is expected that the number of military person-

nel assigned to the Ellington Joint Reserve Base will be approximately 7,000.  
Plans were underway for the 16th annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, the sole fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display held at El Franco Lee Park. This marked the second year that the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department would organize the event.  
A federal court rejected a redistricting proposal presented by Texas Attorney General Gregg Abbott, that would likely push the state's primaries back a second time. In an effort to maintain the current primary date, Abbott had announced that a compromise had been reached between the state and some of the minority groups that had legally challenged the initial boundaries drawn by the GOP-led Legislature. Under the proposal, Hispanics stood to gain control of two of the four new

congressional seats Texas was awarded following the 2010 census.  
**5 years ago (2017)**  
The First Convenience Bank, located inside the Kroger grocery store at Beltway 8 and Sabo, was robbed at gunpoint on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 31. According to police, a man entered the store at approximately 9:45 a.m., approached a bank teller, brandished a pistol from under his waistband and demanded money. The man then fled the store on foot with an undisclosed amount of money. No immediate arrests were made.  
After 75 years of being known as Easthawn Church, the local place of worship, located at 13100 Beamer, changed its name to South Belt Church. According to the Rev. Kevin J. Rizer, head pastor at South Belt Church, the new name better reflects the community that it serves.  
Pasadena Independent

School District's Dobie and Memorial high schools' Academic Decathlon teams advanced to the state meet after earning top 40 spots in the Region 5 competition. Competing in the large school district division, Dobie's team ranked No. 5 in the state, with a combined total score of 4,623. Memorial's team placed 20th in the regional competition with a total score of 3,421. Top Dobie performers included Bill Huynh (Honors Division: 3rd place highest-scoring student, 3rd place economics, 3rd place language, 3rd place social science, 1st place art, 2nd place music and 2nd place science); Steve Nguyen (Honors Division: 1st place economics); Noelle Phan (Honors Division: 3rd place music, 3rd place science and 2nd place economics); Jay Do (Scholastic Division: 3rd place highest scoring student, 3rd place math and 1st place social sci-

ence); Gus Rodriguez (Scholastic Division: 3rd place music, 1st place economics, 2nd place music and 2nd place social science); Christine Perry (Varsity Division: 3rd place art, 3rd place music, 3rd place social science and 1st place language); and Adrian De Los Santos (Varsity Division: 2nd place highest scoring student, 3rd place economics, 3rd place science, 1st place art, 1st place social science, 2nd place language and 2nd place music).  
**1 year ago (2021)**  
Two separate fatal shootings took place Thursday, Jan. 28, at apartment complexes in the area near Edgewood and the Gulf Freeway. The first shooting took place in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway. Manuel Guzman, 33, was pronounced dead at the scene from a gunshot wound to the chest. No immediate arrests were made. That same day, a second shooting took place in the 1200 block of Redford. Ellis Williams, 39, died at the scene from multiple gunshots. In that case, Jarrett McClintock, 32, was charged with murder in the 183rd State District Court.

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## Over The Back Fence by Kenna

**OLIVIA CELEBRATES 9TH BIRTHDAY!**  
Olivia Moreno celebrates her ninth birthday Saturday, Feb. 5. Wishing her a wonderful birthday with lots of love, hugs and kisses are her mom Jenny (Hayes) and husband Josh Laney of Spring; big brother Brayden; big sister Baylee; proud grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former longtime South Belt residents) and Mike and Doris Hayes of Ada, Okla.; aunt Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; uncles Stephen Flowers, Joey Hayes, Austin and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers, and Jade and Lily Scarberry. Mom Jenny is a 1997 Dobie High grad.  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DANA!**  
Dana Lizik enjoys a birthday Feb. 6. Special birthday wishes are sent to Dana from her family, friends and former co-workers at the Leader.  
**DOUBLE BIRTHDAY WISHES**  
Bobby Griffin sends birthday wishes to two family members enjoying a birthday the same day. Grandson Kenney Griffin, son of Angela and David Griffin, and son-in-law Jim Giles of Kirkwood South celebrate their birthdays Feb. 8. Birthday wishes are also sent from Kenney's wife Lacie and daughter Ellie Vera; and Jim's wife Tracy and children Cody, Kristen and Aaron and his wife Ashley and sons Jaxson and Jace.  
**OWEN ENJOYS 13TH BIRTHDAY!**  
Owen Michael Flowers celebrates his 13th birthday on Thursday, Feb. 3. Best

wishes and lots of love, hugs and kisses are sent to Owen from big sister Kennedy, little sister Evie, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents and Mike and Karen Flowers of Dickinson; uncles Tyler, Austin Scarberry, Joey, Wesley, Travis and Josh; aunts Jenny and Christine; and cousins Brayden, Baylee, Olivia, Jade, Lily, Sierra, Ryker, Connor, Jesse, Christopher and Mason. Owen's mom is a 2005 Dobie High School graduate.  
**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 3 through Feb. 9, 2022.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Send a birthday greeting Feb. 4 to Melanie Thompson.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 3 to Amalia Sifuentes. On Feb. 9, Jennifer Wilson enjoys a birthday.  
**Fred Roberts Middle School**  
Celebrating a birthday Feb. 7 is Carey Thibodeaux.  
**Meador Elementary**  
Special birthday wishes are sent to Felipe Saucedo Feb. 5. Blow out the birthday candles for Maria Gonzalez Feb. 8.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
Sing a happy birthday song to Maria Martinez Feb. 7. The day for birthday fun for

Dawn Tomlinson is Feb. 9.  
**Moore Elementary**  
Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Debbie Pampell Feb. 4. Sharing a birthday Feb. 6 are Angelica Perez and Gerri Watkins. On Feb. 8 Maria Medina celebrates a birthday. Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 9 to Anita Nickelson.  
**Thompson Intermediate**  
Break out the birthday balloons and party favors for Mark Varian Feb. 5. The day for birthday fun for Emily Schwenk is Feb. 7.  
**Dobie High**  
Break out the cake and ice cream Feb. 4 for Chastity Hall, Shaqwan Scott and Kristi Vance. The day for a party for Derek Beckham is Feb. 8. Remember to wish Marisa Alexander a happy birthday Feb. 9.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Friday, Feb. 4: Bobby Kramer and Deborah Carmona; Saturday, Feb. 5: James Kelso; Sunday, Feb. 6: Lisa Jackson and Chastity Napper; Monday, Feb. 7: Paula Barnett and Lori McBride; Tuesday, Feb. 8: Kim Scott and Mark Stanley; and Wednesday, Feb. 9: Erica Rodriguez, Amanda Bergeron, Tracy Matthew, Anita Nickelson and Tammy Schweigert.  
**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, put "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Brook girls' hoops net first 6A crown

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**  
 A 54-41 victory and league sweep over Clear Creek set off a series of celebrations not seen or felt in more than 15 years at Clear Brook High School, yet the newly crowned District 24-6A champion Lady Wolverines are far from satisfied this varsity basketball season.  
 Heading into a Feb. 1 game at Dickinson after press time, state-ranked Clear Brook (28-4, 10-0 in 24-6A play) was still laser-focused on getting to 30 regular-season wins and therefore closing out league play undefeated.  
 That the Lady Wolverines may have a chance to run the table with a Feb. 8 season-finale win at Clear Springs seems fitting, especially since current Springs' head coach Pam Crawford formerly guided Clear Brook for many years, including 2004-2005, the last time Clear Brook hoisted a 24-5A title.  
 That's not a typo. Before this season, the Lady Wolverines' last won a

district crown 17 years ago.  
 The program has not even tested the postseason waters since 2012-2013, so this current run is quite the story.  
 Clear Brook head coach Warren Brooks was here last season when the Lady Wolverines went 4-8 in District 24-6A play. Clearly much has transpired since then.  
 Current senior Alyssa Berry has transformed into the leading scorer (15.5 points per game) and steal-creator (3.9 per game), while fellow senior Amanda Benjamin has led a team effort on the backboards at 5.5 caroms per game.  
 And Rezia Castillo certainly qualifies as one of state's top freshmen, averaging 12 points per game and adding a full-court dimension this team lacked before now.  
 Even freshman Charles Terrell has contributed nicely at nearly 10 points an outing since joining the varsity group a dozen games ago.  
 "The ladies came into

Continued on Page 6



The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team has jumped to the front of District 22-6A race with a lockdown defensive effort from Dylan Jackson (1) and others, winning five of their seven league games by double digits. After facing Pasadena Feb. 1 after press time, the Longhorns could close out the 22-6A championship while taking on Deer Park Feb. 4 and Pasadena Memorial Feb. 8.  
 Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Longhorn boys lead 22-6A race

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**  
 Winners of six straight games and owners of a 7-0 mark in District 22-6A, the Dobie boys have risen to the top of the varsity boys' basketball standings and appear headed to the championship trophy podium.  
 Prior to taking on a defending league champion yet struggling Pasadena team Feb. 1 after press time, the Longhorns, 17-8 overall, held a significant 2 1/2-game lead overall second-place Pasadena Memorial.  
 And with four other teams having lost four league games or more, quite simply it had become Dobie's title to lose.  
 Senior Deven Lendsey, one of just two seniors on the roster, has played big all season.  
 From there, numerous underclassmen have answered the call time and time again as head coach Franklin Paul has watched it all from the bench area.  
 In large part, the Longhorns have excelled in Paul's defense-first approach. In a 58-44 win over Channelview Jan. 25 to open the second half of league play, the host Longhorns led 16-5 after eight minutes and then went on an 18-5 push in the second quarter to take a commanding 34-10 lead.  
 Channelview used a big fourth quarter to make the final margin 14, but this one had long since been decided.  
 "Really, it's all due to hard work on the part of these guys," said Paul, who took over the program last season and led that 2020-2021 group to a 10-2 second-place finish in his debut.  
 Fast forward to today, and Paul is seeing even better results (15-11 over-

Continued on Page 6

## Lady Longhorns eye repeat crown

It hasn't been easy, but the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team has put itself in position to repeat as champion of District 22-6A as the regular season hits the back stretch.  
 After taking on Pasadena Feb. 1 after press time, Dobie will host Deer Park Feb. 4 and then close out the regular season Feb. 8 against Pasadena Memorial.  
 Dobie topped both Deer Park and Memorial on the road in the first half of league play, getting past the Deer 36-26 and edging Memorial 48-47.  
 Simply put, a Dobie win over Deer Park will secure the program's second straight crown.  
 Continued on Page 6

At right, the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team, including Aynaiya Jones (20) defeated Memorial by two points in the first round, and the rematch comes Feb. 8.  
 Photo by Donna Alsdorf



## Baseball scrimmages begin Feb. 5

The Clear Brook and Dobie varsity baseball programs have a full slate of scrimmages upcoming in preparation for opening day Feb. 21.  
 The Wolverines, champions of District 24-6A a season ago, travel to Shadow Creek Feb. 5 for an 11 a.m. start, then host La Porte Feb. 7 at 4 p.m.  
 Brook hosts defending 22-6A co-champion Pasadena Memorial Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m., then travels to Santa Fe to scrimmage the Indians Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.  
 Dobie, the third-place finisher out of 22-6A a season ago, scrimmages at Alvin Feb. 5 at 1 p.m., then hosts Angleton Feb. 7 at 4 p.m.  
 On Feb. 11, Dobie scrimmages at Baytown Sterling at 5:30 p.m., then is at La Porte Feb. 15 at 4 p.m.  
 Continued on Page 6

## LSA swimmers make state meet

The Lutheran South Academy swim team standouts will compete at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II State Championships Feb. 8 at the North East ISD Aquatics Center in San Antonio.  
 LSA's state qualifiers on the boys' side include Chase Ferguson (200 IM relay, 200 free relay, 100 free and 100 back); Tristan Haver (200 IM relay, 200 free relay, 50 free and 100 free); David Hensley (200 IM relay, 400 free relay, 200 free and 500 free); Catie Hergenrader (400 free relay); Audrey Pfeiffer (200 free relay and 400 free relay); and Haleigh Pham (200 free relay, 400 free relay, 50 free and 100 back); Elliot Miles (200 IM relay, 400 free relay, 200 IM and 100 breast); and Hunter Nolen (400 free relay, 100 Fly, 200 free, 100 breast and 400 free relay).  
 The Lutheran South girls' state qualifiers are set to include Rylee Dean (200 free relay, 400 free relay and 50 free); Erin Donnelly (200 free relay); Lauren Ferguson (400 free relay, 200 free and 500 free); Catie Hergenrader (400 free relay); Audrey Pfeiffer (200 free relay and 400 free relay); and Haleigh Pham (200 free relay, 400 free relay, 50

## Auxiliary the home for Brown Relays; Pasadena ISD programs host Feb. 11

The Pasadena ISD's long-running Brown Relays event returns to Auxiliary Stadium Fri., Feb. 11 as defending District 22-6A champion Dobie and the district's other four high schools host an exciting afternoon of track and field action.  
 The distance medley relay will serve as a kickoff to the day's events, with the field events coming thereafter.  
 The 4x800 relays begin the running session at 2 p.m., and the remaining running events are at 3 p.m.  
 As for each of the running events, the girls' races will precede those of the boys, with the 4x400 relay the final event prior to the team awards.

**Pasadena ISD Brown Relays**  
**Friday, Feb. 11**  
**Auxiliary Stadium, Pasadena**  
**Field events: Noon start**  
**Running events: 2 p.m. start**

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## Free soars for TSU



Clear Brook High School graduate and Texas Southern University long jumper Kenneth Pree, who advanced to the NCAA Championships in 2021, is off to a quick start with the Tigers. Pree went 23 feet, 6 inches to win top honors at the Texas A&M Indoors Jan. 14 in College Station. At the Texas Tech Red Raider Open indoor meet in Lubbock a week later, Pree went 23-10 3/4 for eighth place.

## Wolverines close in on 24-6A top spot

**By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor**  
Funny how a high school basketball team can win 27 overall games and be two-thirds of the way through the district schedule with just one loss, yet have very little solved as the postseason nears later this month.

Like it or not, that's the position both the Clear Brook and Dickinson boys found themselves in as the Wolverines hosted the Gators Feb. 1 after press time.

The Wolverines, who topped the Gators in Dickinson last month thanks to a second-half run, bounced back from a loss to Clear Falls to end the first half of league play.

The locals defeated Clear Creek 70-52 Jan. 25 as Marcus Millender eclipsed 1,000 career points with 16 points. His brother, Kemo Millender, already with 1,000-plus career points, had a game-high 27 points while Tosh Lyons added seven.

Fast forward to Jan. 28 as the Wolverines traveled to Lake Jackson, taking out Brazoswood 93-55 to get to 27 wins.

For the entire Brook team, it's about winning each time out at this point, and it all started with Dickinson.

The Millenders get plenty of ink, and rightfully so. But Brook head coach Nathan Janak said so many others deserve some credit, too.

"This group has done really well this season facing a great deal of adversity. We have had multiple players miss games due to injuries this season," Janak said.

"This team has always had someone step up when players have been missing due to injury. Since day one of the season, this team has exemplified the 'Iceberg' analogy. 'The tip of the iceberg

is the starters and what people see. But more importantly the base of the iceberg, which is our bench, is what keeps it afloat and what no one sees.

"In other words, our

depth has contributed to our success this season.

"Without our bench, we would not be in a position to make the playoffs for the third straight season. Key members of

our bench include, seniors – Tosh Lyons and Christian Pickney and juniors – Raymond Felton, Tristan Lisbony and Sam Thompson.

"We just have to keep playing hard."

### Upcoming Clear Brook Boys' Games

**Wolverines host Clear Springs Knights**

**Tues., Feb. 8, 7 p.m.**

**Wolverines at Clear Lake Falcons**

**Tues., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.**



Clear Brook's Marcus Millender (4) joined the 1,000 career points club as the state-ranked Wolverines bounced Clear Creek Jan. 25. The locals went against Dickinson, also state ranked, Feb. 1 after press time.

Photo by Andy Tolbert



Jaden Shanklin (13) helped the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team defeat Pasadena in the first round of District 22-6A courtesy of a big second-half surge. Dobie was 7-0 in league play as of Feb. 1.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Paul's Horns emerge in 22-6A

**Continued from Page 5**  
all last season, 17-8 now) with seven sophomores and two freshmen on the roster.

"It's about buying in and believing in the system, but also accepting a role," Paul said.

"Every player on any team wants minutes, wants to start or be the go-to player, but successful teams find a way to blend

and come together. To this point, the guys have done just that."

Paul will no doubt tell anyone listening that it's much more about the players than coach, but former Dobie principal Franklin Moses no doubt found a keeper in Paul when he signed off on hiring the former Beaumont West Brook assistant.

There's a ways to go.

Nothing is decided in the standings. But Dobie is looking more and more like a league champion deserving of a top playoff seed.

It's a nice thought, but neither Paul nor his players plan to look ahead.

"We've been successful with the mindset of playing every game like it could be our last," Paul said.

## Lady Wolverines are champs

**Continued from Page 5**  
the season with some pretty big goals, and while you certainly want to take things one game at a time, those goals kept getting bigger," Brooks said.

"At one point, we talked about winning the district title and thought, 'why not us?' It's been pretty special to watch and guide this group, and they deserve everything they've achieved."

Was the stage set in the second week of November when the locals lost a semifinal game at the Peggy Whitley Classic yet still secured third place in the event with a convincing win over Humble?

Or did more evidence come when Clear Brook

went to the Pflugerville tournament in December and reached the final?

How about a tournament championship win at the Pasadena Memorial post-Christmas event, complete with four consecutive convincing victories including a 28-point triumph over fellow 24-6A for Clear Falls?

The simple answer is that these Lady Wolverines have picked up believers at every turn, including the pollsters at the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, who had the locals ranked 14th as of its Jan. 24 state poll.

Clear Brook will en-

ter the postseason as the top seed in 24-6A and go against, in all likelihood, Alief Taylor (currently fourth in 23-6A). A win in the bidistrict round, and the challenge will increase.

But for now, these Lady Wolverines still have work to do in their 24-6A house. The challenges will get bigger very soon, but this team has been up to them.

"The camaraderie and teamwork with this group is special," Brooks said. "It's always one game at a time, and each individual is focused on doing what is needed for the team goal."

## Lady Longhorns in front

**Continued from Page 5**

The race has been tight all the way, with Deer Park (21-4) holding a Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class 6A

state ranking of No. 22 in its Jan. 31 update.

But the way Dobie sees things, a home win over the Deer will secure another 22-6A title.

## SJC softball squad starts season at 0-3

The nationally ranked San Jacinto College program uncharacteristically began the 2022 season with three losses.

The Coyotes, ranked eighth in the initial National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I poll, dropped 5-3 and 2-0 games to No. 16 Chipola Jan. 29, making five errors in the opener as part of an eight-inning loss.

San Jac's Kaurie Winters doubled and drove in

a pair of runs.

In the nightcap, Chipola limited the locals to just five hits, including doubles by Maddie Bailey and Abby Forrester. Christin Haygood debuted in the circle for the Coyotes, allowing just one earned run and fanning five.

San Jacinto played a single game against St. Thomas Jan. 30, falling 8-5.

Jules Garcia and Gabby Cantu had two hits each in the loss for the locals.

## Coyotes at Pasadena

- Feb. 3: Vernon College, noon**
- Grayson College, 2:30 p.m.**
- Feb. 4: Connors State, 10 a.m.**
- Jones College, 3 p.m.**
- Feb. 5: Mississippi Coast, 12:30 p.m.**
- Temple College, 5:30 p.m.**
- All games at Pasadena GSA facility**
- Crenshaw Park, Pasadena**

## Baseball scrimmages set

**Continued from Page 5**  
p.m. The Longhorns close out the preseason with a Feb. 18 scrimmage at Clear Brook beginning at 5:30 p.m.

As part of opening day

across the state Feb. 21, Dobie will host the Galveston Ball Tors at Dobie beginning at 2 p.m., while Clear Brook hosts Pasadena Memorial at 6:30 p.m. to start 2022.

## Dobie softball has remaining scrimmages

The Dobie softball program still has several scrimmages remaining prior to its Feb. 14 regular season opener at Clear Brook. The Lady Longhorns will scrimmage Feb. 4 at Friendswood at 4 p.m., and then play at Clear Creek Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. Dobie will then host Friendswood and Clear Springs Feb. 11 at the Pasadena ISD Complex at 4:30 p.m. The Lady Longhorns' annual day-long, four-team scrimmage at Dobie High School Feb. 12, beginning at 9 a.m.

## South Belt Youth Soccer Club registers

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is now extending early registration for the spring 2022 season as practices begin later this month. League games will begin in March. Those registering in the 8-under (uniform included) and 9-under (uniform additional cost) divisions will pay \$85 per player, while those in the 11-older (ages 10-18) divisions will pay \$95 each, with an additional cost for uniform. Families may register by credit card or debit card only at [www.southbeltsoccer.org](http://www.southbeltsoccer.org). Regular registration will be held from Feb. 15 to March 15, and a late registration fee of \$10 will be assessed after March 15. The league will host two weekday practices for the most part, and families will be responsible for providing shin guards, cleats and a ball. Games for most age groups will take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The league is always volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team parents.

## JFD boys' soccer opens with two victories

The top two varsity boys' soccer teams in 22-6A from a season ago met to begin league play in 2022, with the Longhorns beginning their title defense with a 2-1 victory at Veterans Stadium. Deiby Cortez and Victor Hernandez scored goals for the Longhorns on assists by Alex Escobar and Juan Lopez. On Jan. 31 against Pasadena, the Longhorns got a goal from Jordi Garcia in soggy conditions at Veterans Stadium, outlasting the Eagles 1-0 for three points and the win. Netminders Diego Torres and Eris Acosta combined for the shut-out in the nets as the defending league champions started off strong. At right, Levani Pelaez (15) and the Longhorns will look to keep their momentum going as they host Deer Park Feb. 4 at Veterans Stadium beginning at 4:30 p.m. Dobie also takes on Memorial Feb. 7 at Veterans in a 7:30 p.m. start. The Dobie varsity girls' team is also 2-0-0 after beating Channelview 2-1 Jan. 25 and edging Pasadena 1-0 Jan. 31.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



## JFD grad Martinez wins at Paris



Paris College sophomore left-hander Domenik Martinez Jr. spun 5 1/3 innings of one-hit baseball while fanning seven to lead the Dragons to a win over Brookhaven in the season-opening doubleheader between the two junior college programs Jan. 29. A 2020 Dobie graduate, Martinez was an all-district performer at Dobie and tossed 9 2/3 overall innings for the Dragons as a freshman.

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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meeting prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous, visit <https://aa-houston.org/>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit [www.hascona.com/](http://www.hascona.com/); for Al-Anon meetings, visit [www.houstonalanon.org/](http://www.houstonalanon.org/).  
Know someone who's contemplating suicide? Visit <https://afsp.org/> or call 800-273-8255.  
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - Activities daily. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> for face-to-face and virtual games. Email [jpochnsr@aol.com](mailto:jpochnsr@aol.com).  
Volunteers Jerry and Edith Sanford teach dance lessons Mondays, 1:30 - 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate the Humpday Dance on Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. for casual ballroom dancing. Park activity card holders attend free. Call 281-554-1180.

Call 281-484-9243.  
AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
7:30 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m.  
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.  
11 a.m.  
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787.  
1 p.m.  
St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
8 a.m./10:15 a.m.  
St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. Call 281-479-7285.  
2 p.m.  
Grief Support Group - Meets Sunday at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.  
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 - Meeting. See Friday's notice.  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
Noon  
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.  
5 p.m.  
New Directions Singles - Age 55+ meets at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 281-814-4750.  
6 p.m.  
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.  
7:30 a.m.  
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.  
Noon  
AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aa-houston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m.  
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, 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 Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Toastmasters - meets virtually, except the second and fourth Mondays (in person), at <https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>. Call 281-467-1880.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
AA - St. Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. Education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.  
7 p.m.  
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m.  
The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers - meets at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Pkwy. Annual dues are \$50.  
10:30 a.m.  
Tri County Republican Women - meets at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Exact cash or a check requested. To RSVP, visit [www.tricountyw.club/](http://www.tricountyw.club/) or call Gaylyn at 832-250-8901.  
11:30 a.m.  
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
Noon  
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m.  
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m.  
Noon  
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m.  
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
8 p.m.  
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.

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# Clear Creek ISD sets livestock record

The Clear Creek ISD community came out in full force last week for the 40th annual CCISD Livestock Show and Auction.

A record-breaking total of more than \$250,000 was raised for high school students in the FFA program.

Parents, staff, community members and local business-

es became buyers and raised their paddles as students presented their livestock and non-livestock projects during the auction. Money raised during the event goes directly back to the students and the FFA program.

The highest bid of the night was for the Reserve Champion Steer, raised by

Clear Brook High School student Naomi Browning, which sold for \$12,500 to Clint Jackson. (See related photo on Page 1.)

"The generous support shown, and record-high amount raised during the live auction and online donations is a testament to the community's belief in the work of

these young men and women," said CTE Program Manager and Show Chairman JT Buford. "They aren't just supporting the cost of the student's project, but also their future after they graduate."

Held at the CCISD West Agriculture Center from Jan. 18-20, this event is the culmination of many months of

hard work, practice and dedication for more than 200 FFA students and their teachers. The live auction portion of the event returned this year after having to be modified to an online donation system in 2021 due to the pandemic.

"After the many hardships these students have faced over the course of the last two years directly following the show in January 2020, they remained steadfast in their work," said Buford. "Local and state-wide events were impacted, and these students didn't get to show for nearly a year due to the pandemic. However, they raised animals in hopes that the show would go on, and we were very thankful we could make it happen for them in person this year."

Other Brook winners include the following:  
 - Naomi Browning, Reserve Champion Steer, sold for \$12,500 - again to Jackson. (See related photo on Page 1.)  
 - Rosemary Lin, Grand Champion Rabbits, sold for \$4,600 (a new record) to Katie Carter.  
 - Gabriela Ruiz, Best of Show Visual Arts, sold for \$1,000 to Diversified Vapor Solutions.

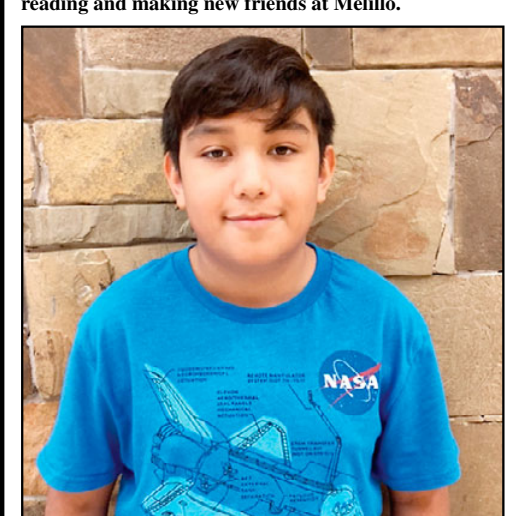
To view a photo gallery of the event, visit [clearcreekisd.smugmug.com/CCISD-Photos/2021-2022-School-Year-Photos/FFA-Livestock-Show-and-Auction](http://clearcreekisd.smugmug.com/CCISD-Photos/2021-2022-School-Year-Photos/FFA-Livestock-Show-and-Auction).

# Melillo honors students of the month

Melillo Middle School staff members announced its students of the month for December 2021. They are honored to celebrate each of these students' hard work at school, with their teachers and with their peers.



Shown above is Amanda Villalobos (sixth-grader) who is an excellent student and always willing to assist others. She enjoys setting goals in her Personalized Learning platform. She is kind, compassionate and empathetic. Her favorite subject is math, it's fun for her. Her favorite vacation spot is Lake Tahoe because she can hike, swim and learn about glaciers. Amanda enjoys reading and making new friends at Melillo.



Shown above is Tadeo Hernandez (sixth-grader) who is a role model for students. He enjoys playing video games on his free time. His favorite subject is science and creating experiments. Family is important to him and he loves to create memories with his sisters.



Shown above is Lucas Tulud (fifth-grader) who is a remarkable student. He exhibits outstanding character through his kindness and truly takes to heart Melillo's guidelines for success. He is polite, kind and respectful to everyone. Tulud is always prepared for class and helps other students. He also displays a great growth mindset by asking how to make improvements to his projects to raise his grades.



Shown above is Thu Nguyen (sixth-grader) who is an exceptional student. She is always ready to lend a helping hand to her teachers and to her peers who are in need of assistance. Nguyen helps her peers with studying and preparing for content assessments. She is a role model for others, showing her willingness to help. She exhibits outstanding character through her compassion and loyalty by helping to create a positive school environment.

# Tremont twins turn 3-months old



Jaelyn Tremont, former Leader employee and Dobie Class of 2003 graduate, had twins at the end of October. Tremont says they are a ton of work, but she and husband, Chad, love them anyway. Twins, Von (left) and Kyla Tremont are now 3-months-old. The Leader employees extend double congratulations to Jaelyn and Chad.

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# Moore students advance in science fair



Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Moore Science Fair on Jan. 21. The students with the top five projects who will be representing Moore at the Pasadena ISD Elementary District Science Fair on March 22 are, left to right, Jeanine Armenta, Maite Ortega, Jayden Tran, Sophia Chacon and Ivory Reyes.

# Dobie co-op hosting job fair

Local businesses are invited to participate in Dobie High School's Job Fair Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the school's gymnasium from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Employers will have access to hundreds of high school students seeking opportunities in a variety of job markets. On-site interviews are welcomed and Dobie instructors will also be there to help establish connections. To get involved, contact Shane Brown at [rbrown@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:rbrown@pasadenaisd.org) or call him at 713-740-0370, x 04350.

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