



South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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County holds flood meeting

The Harris County Flood Control District will hold a virtual meeting on the Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project (a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) Wednesday, March 27, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to inform residents about the project's status, share project information and gather important community input on this effort – including input on the project's Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA), which will be available for review during a 30-day public comment period from March 27 to April 26. Residents may join online at www.publicinput.com/C03 or by phone at 855-925-2801 with Meeting Code 6958.

Chamber to host Babin staff

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host a public event with U.S. Rep. Brian Babin's staff Wednesday, March 27, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the chamber office located at 10500 Scarsdale. Constituents of Babin's 36th congressional district are invited to speak directly with congressional staff to ask questions and address concerns involving federal matters.

Annual egg hunt March 23

The community is invited to South Belt's annual Easter Egg Hunt at El Franco Lee Park, Saturday, March 23, at 1 p.m. The egg hunt is set to start at 2 p.m. Bring Easter baskets and the whole family for a day of fun and complimentary food (while supplies last).

Knights hold weekly fish fries

Knights of Columbus will hold fish fries each Friday during Lent before Good Friday at St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall, from 4 to 7 p.m., through March 22. Dinners include fried fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea for \$15. Dine-in or take-out available. Desserts are available for purchase courtesy of Catholic Daughters Court 2292.

Sagemeadow HOA to meet

Sagemeadow's monthly HOA meeting is at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. For agenda or information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Knights to host blood drive

The St. Luke's Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive Sunday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 11011 Hall Road. For information, call Val Comeaux 713-582-5358.

Sageglen to meet March 18

The Sageglen Community Association will hold a homeowner meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 18, at the Community Building, 11610 Sageyork. Guest speaker will be Harris County's community liaison Susana Castillo. All Sageglen residents are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 281-481-2160.

HPD to host PIP March 18

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the CES Classroom, first floor of the main building. Guest speaker is HPD Sr. Officer Jason Curtis, who will discuss nuisance abatement and squatters procedures. Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Tuesday of each month. For information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776 or Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

Local COVID cases reported

The number of reported COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, March 12, there were 265 active cases in 77089, up three from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 12 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 78 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

Chamber of Commerce holds annual gala

Newly elected Mayor John Whitmire wows the crowd

Dozens of community leaders and elected officials gathered at the Hope Village Event Center in Friendswood Friday, March 8, as the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its 38th annual gala.

Newly elected Houston Mayor John Whitmire delivered an impassioned speech, vowing to address the myriad problems facing the city. Whitmire touted his early successes – such as reaching a tentative agreement with Houston firefighters over million of dollars in back pay – and promised to address current and ongoing issues, such as matters associated with the city's water billing and infrastructure.

The mayor pulled no punches when describing the city's status quo.

"Before we get out of here tonight, I'm going to criticize some operations in our city," said a determined Whitmire. "Because I'm going to be very transparent about what I've discovered in my two months and a couple days at city hall. First of all, I knew it was a mess and that's the reason I ran for office."

Whitmire praised the intimacy of the gathering and the community spirit associated with local organizations such as the chamber of commerce.

"I chose to be with the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce tonight because I wanted to be around some real people," said Whitmire.

"You're so nice, and you have this small town atmosphere. I'm going to tell why Houston's a great city. There's chambers of commerce; there's rotary clubs; there's institutions all across our region that our donating their time and resources, their volunteers, to really make Houston a great city."

Whitmire said it was this intimacy and sense of community that sets Houston apart from other major metropolitan cities.

"If you really examine Houston and how unique it is compared to other major cities, they don't have that community pride and unity. What if we had a city government that ran as well as the institutions I just named?" Whitmire said, having previously noted the successes of San Jacinto College, NASA and the Port of Houston Authority. "And we will make that happen."

A victim of gun violence himself, Whitmire said public safety is his top priority. The mayor said he also intends to address the city's homeless problem and suggested following a model used in San Antonio.

A member of the state Legislature for more than 50 years, Whitmire promised to work more closely with Austin than his predecessors. A closer relationship with state government would be financially beneficial for the city, the mayor said.

The event also recognized the chamber's Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Chairman Award recipient.

Citizen of the Year
Judge Jo Ann Delgado was presented the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Citizen of the Year award.

In January 2001, Delgado was elected justice of the peace, Precinct 2, Place 1 of Harris County, the fourth-largest county in the United States. She made history as the first Hispanic female to hold the office.

With more than 41 years of experience in justice court and county court administration, Delgado is a valuable asset to the bench. One of her primary responsibilities as a judge is to preside over school-related issues, as she is committed to ensuring that students achieve academic excellence and meet graduation requirements.

Delgado has been a champion for the South Belt-Ellington area and is always enthusiastic and eager to participate in the chamber and Clear Brook City MUD activities. Her favorite volunteer role is playing Mrs. Claus at the Winter Wonderland event held in early December.

Volunteer of the Year
Denise Burleigh was presented the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Volunteer of the Year award.

This year's recipient has worked tirelessly on many committees and the Executive Board. Burleigh, who makes up half of Burleigh Chiropractic, was responsible for organizing and chairing successful events, such as the inaugural Gold Star Luncheon. She was praised for being detail-oriented and always having the best interest of the community and chamber members at the forefront of her actions.

Chairman Award
Anita Eakman was presented the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's second annual Chairman Award.

Eakman, who works for the chamber and served on the event's planning committee, has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Since joining in April last year, she has taken ownership of many responsibilities, including overseeing accounts receivable and payable, creating marketing material on Canva and managing chamber events. Her meticulous attention to detail and hard work kept the chamber running smoothly, even during a transition between executive directors, presenters said.

Mayor speaks at chamber gala



Newly elected Houston Mayor John Whitmire (shown above) was the featured speaker at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 38th annual gala, held Friday, March 8, at the Hope Village Event Center in Friendswood. The chamber's 2024 officers were also sworn in at the event, including Noble Alix, who will serve as the group's new chairman. See related letters on Page 2; see additional photos in next week's Leader.

Photo by David Flickinger

SJC maritime nationally honored

Program recognized by U.S. Dept. of Transportation

The San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center is a 2024 Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration designated 32 Centers of Excellence on Feb. 22.

This prestigious recognition highlights institutions that equip students for maritime careers. San Jacinto College is the sole Texas institution among the 50 maritime training locations across 17 states and Guam, operating in 44 cities. San

Jacinto College was also named inaugural Center of Excellence designee in 2021. The application process for this recognition began in July of 2023 under the direction of Dr. Ken Tidwell, interim vice chancellor.

Established in 2016, San Jacinto College's Maritime Technology and Training Center spans 45,000 square feet along a turning basin in Port Houston. It boasts cutting-edge bridge and engine room simulators and offers more than 70

Continued on Page 6

County makes park improvements



Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia (front) hosted a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Feb. 29, to celebrate the completion of the Juneteenth Park Phase 1 Trail Improvement Project. The county spent roughly \$1.3 million on the endeavor, which includes a hike-and-bike trail. Pictured in the background are, left to right, Chris Clark, Clear Brook City MUD; Chuck Tylka, Clear Brook City MUD; Dennis Turner, Harris County; Seth Webb, Sagemeadow MUD; and Dr. Milton Rahman, Harris County.

Photo by Alonzo Guadarrama, Harris County

Pearland bridge repair to add traffic

Temporary Scarsdale traffic signal to alleviate congestion

A bridge repair in Pearland will have an impact on South Belt traffic, requiring a temporary traffic signal on Scarsdale and Bogey Way near Green Tee to alleviate congestion.

A Texas Department of Transportation endeavor, the project will make repairs to the bridge along Country Club Drive at Clear Creek near FM 518.

According to TxDOT officials, the bridge does not meet the standards needed for the future Harris County Flood Control District improvement project. TxDOT officials further said the purpose of the projects is to improve safety by replacing an aging functionally obsolete local bridge, owned by the City of Pearland.

The project will replace the bridge structure to increase the structural integrity and meet current design standards, as well as improve the roadway.

The project will bring the bridge up to current design standards and prepare for the upcoming \$18 million HCFCD Clear Creek Flood Management Project.

The new bridge structure will accommodate paved shoulders and a shared use path.

Originally scheduled for the fall of 2023, work on the project is now expected to begin in

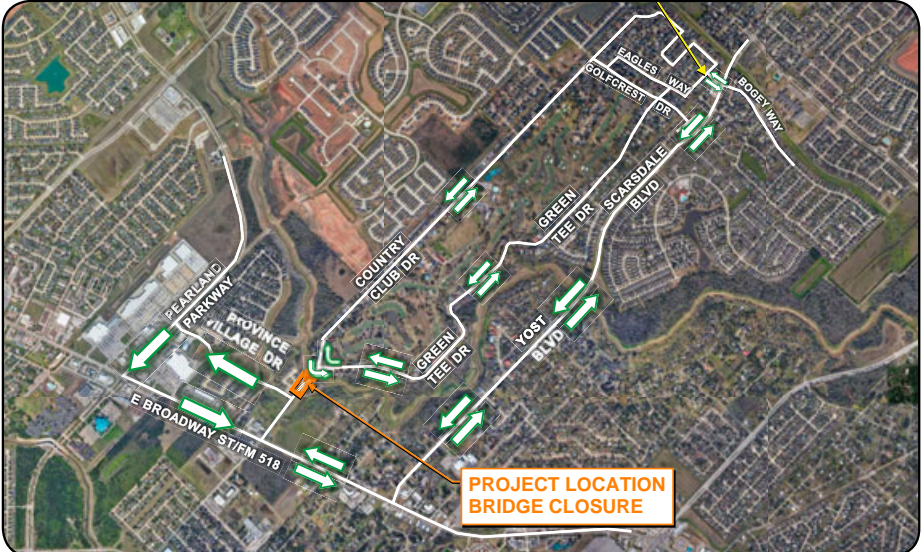
mid-March. The bridge on Country Club Drive at Clear Creek will remain closed for the duration of the project, which is expected to be approximately 12 months.

The closure will allow bridge construction activities such as demolition, foundation work and beam installation. TxDOT will work with the contractor to expedite construction.

Once the bridge is closed, the traffic signals on Scarsdale will be activated. The installation of the temporary traffic signal is being done at the behest of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, to help accommodate the additional traffic that is expected with the project. The traffic signals will remain in place for the duration of construction.

While TxDOT is spearheading the repair effort, cost of the \$3.17 million project is being divided three ways, with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the City of Pearland also contributing, \$2.2 million and \$530,000 respectively.

For more information, visit www.pearlandtx.gov/departments/engineering-and-capital-projects/projects-division/project-updates/txdot-projects/green-tee-bridge-closure.



Detours associated with the year-long Country Club Drive bridge repair project are shown above.

County seeks input on public health

Participating residents eligible for \$100 gift cards

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is asking all county residents aged 18 and over to share their insights in a community health survey, which runs now through April 12.

Participants can choose to be entered into a drawing to receive grocery gift cards. The drawing will give away 20 \$100 grocery gift cards following the survey period.

The survey is available online in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese at bit.ly/HCPHSurvey2024. The goal of the community health survey, de-

veloped by HCPH in partnership with Conduent Healthy Communities Institute, is to help HCPH understand how Harris County residents view the health status of their community.

The results from the survey will give the community information to stay informed about what is happening in their neighborhoods. Participation is completely voluntary and anonymous.

Every voice matters
The survey will take a few minutes to complete. **Continued on Page 6**

In My Opinion

Harrison: Houston has mayor who cares

I attended the South Belt - Ellington Chamber Gala Friday night was "wowed" by the Mayor of Houston, John Whitmire, who was the guest speaker. At most functions where an elected official speaks, we hear empty words and hollow promises.

Not Friday night! Mayor Whitmire was direct in identifying the issues the City of Houston is facing and how he proposes to find solutions.

He has already made peace with the firefighters, is addressing the police department's handling of thousands of cases that were deactivated, and has appointed an interim Head of Metro, just to name a few.

Mayor Whitmire listens. He is about improving our city and not about personal politics.

How refreshing. I have resided in the South Belt community for over 48 years and this is the first time in a long time that we have a mayor who cares about all communities, ours included.

Judy Harrison Community Activist Barbour appreciates Mayor Whitmire

I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to our new mayor, John Whitmire. In just a few short weeks, he's already proving that he not only listens to our concerns, but that he is proactive in making changes that have already had a positive impact in our community.

As a long time resident and advocate for maintaining this community, I've witnessed the impact of our city leaders failure to take action by making excuses, or making empty promises with no follow through.

Specifically, this lack of enforcement in city ordinances, has caused a decline in property values. However, since Mayor Whitmire took office, violations have been handled in a timely manner, and addressed properly.

This encourages accountability and is a step in making our neighborhood look great. A breath of fresh air- that's what John Whitmire has brought to Sagemont, and I'm looking forward to the future with him in office!

Kay Barbour
President, Sagemont Civic Club

Muecke on HPD, local Bluebonnets

To Chief Finner,
When you became chief you knew you had some issues to address. But nev-

er dreamed this was on the list. At this point you are handling it well with the manpower you have and support of the mayor and Me. I hope this is at the top of the new mayors list to get the manpower to HPD so they have the staff to protect we citizens and catch/convict criminals. I hope some council people step up with good recommendations to better staff HPD. Thank you. **James E. Muecke P.S.** Don't drive to Central Texas, just drive by 655 Eastlake to see the Blue Bonnets.

Webb works to unite area communities

My name is Seth Webb. I am a long-time resident of the South Belt and the chairman of the Sagemeadow HOA.

As a volunteer in my neighborhood, my team and I have struggled to identify and subsequently address problems that arise. Unfortunately, this is not an experience unique to Sagemeadow. I am certain that many of you or your community leaders have experienced similar issues.

Such unresolved issues weaken our ability to serve our communities as well as making it very difficult for volunteers to continue doing what they do when they cannot effectively help their communities thrive.

In the past few years, many of you have heard me talk about the need to create an organization whose primary function is to unify and strengthen our efforts as volunteers.

Further, such an organization would become a valuable resource to all volunteers just trying to help improve their respective areas, giving them the knowledge that they are not alone in their service.

I am excited to announce that after a lengthy delay, it is now finally time to make this organization a reality. Now is the time for the South Belt Community Partnership.

This is an invitation to EVERY volunteer who serves their community here in the South Belt. No matter the organization you serve, all are welcome to help us establish this new and important organization. Also, even if you do not currently volunteer but would like to be a part of this effort, please feel free to join us.

We are having a kickoff event on Tuesday, March 26, @ 5:30 pm. There is no cost to attend, however, we would like to be sure we have a spot reserved for you. We ask that all participants register for the kickoff on our website. <https://southbeltcp.org/>

I hope to see many of my fellow volunteers at our kickoff!
Regards,
Seth Webb
Chairman, Sagemeadow HOA

William Alan Coffman



William Alan Coffman, 72, was born Sept. 18, 1951, and died Feb. 19, 2024.

He was a longtime resident of the South Belt Ellington community. He was a native Houstonian born at Hermann Hospital to Dan W. Coffman and Mildred G. Coffman.

Alan grew up in the south part of Houston and graduated from Ross Sterling High School. He attended U of H and worked at a paper company after high school. He married Jan Coffman where they resided in Deer Park.

At the time he was involved in the Deer Park Optimist Club helping in the community affairs. As they started to raise a family he was working in the wholesale paper distribution industry.

He eventually retired from the International Paper Company. He had a keen interest in and supported his children's activities over the years.

He actively ran a fun fall ball program while his son Kevin played baseball for J.Frank Dobie High. He helped build all kinds of props for daughter Kellye's Larriette drill team competitions. He enjoyed attending Dobie basketball and football to watch son Craig play. He worked many a concession stand to watch his daughter Kelley play sports at Beverly Hills and activities at Dobie.

Alan is survived by his wife Linda of 36 years; daughters, Kellye Robinson, son-in-law Blake, grandchildren Andy Coffman, Maci Robinson, Kayla Robinson, Noah Robinson; daughter Kelley Brumfield, granddaughters Brianna Herald, and Payton Brumfield; son, Kevin Coffman, daughter-in-law Kourtney, grandsons Will, Cole, Tyler and Max Coffman; son Craig Mount, daughter-in-law Brittney, grandson Jackson Mount; sister Judith Kizer from North Carolina; nieces and nephews and friends.

Alan was an Astros' fan and loved the game of baseball. He attended games with his daughter Kellye and son Craig. In the past 12 years Alan was the vice president (for eight years) and the president (for the past four years) of the Galveston Bay Parrot Head Club. The motto being "Party with a Purpose." His calling was to help raise money, lend a helping hand, support

a charity and have fun all while helping charitable organizations in the area.

He was a kind and caring man who never met a stranger, always had a story and always made you feel welcome. As in life, with his death his body was donated to Life's Gifts.

His ashes will be celebrated in a private moment with his family members at a later time.

A celebration of life will be April 7 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Sunset Lounge in San Leon.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to any of the following charities in his name: <https://sailingangels.org/donate/> (501(c)(3) 1714 Festival Drive, Houston TX. 77062; www.sistertosternetwork.org (501 (c) (3) cancer victims or <https://bayareapetadoptions.org/donate/> (501(c)(3) pet adoptions.

Rosa Vasquez Tijerina



Rosa Vasquez Tijerina, 90, passed away Tuesday, March 5, 2024. A longtime South Belt resident, she was born July 7, 1933, in Houston, to Martin and Guadalupe Vasquez.

She engaged in holy matrimony on Nov. 20, 1955, to Esequiel Tijerina, celebrating a total of 68 years of marriage.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Charles Vasquez and Jesse Vasquez; and sister Carmen Hernandez.

She is survived by her loving husband; son Kim Tijerina and wife Reyna Cabrera; daughters Kathy Tijerina-Adams and husband James Adams, Rose Carey and husband Paul Carey; grandchildren Tiffany Tijerina, Nicole Ellinger and husband Kyle Ellinger, Esequiel Tijerina-Adams and wife Amber Tijerina-Adams, Riley Carey, Chelsea Carey and Ally Carey; great-grandchildren John Silas and Eliseo Tijerina-Adams; brothers Salvador Vasquez, Johnny Vasquez and wife Carol Vasquez; sister Socorro Aleman; numerous brothers and sisters-in-law; and nieces and nephews. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She loved spending time with her family and grandchildren. She was the sweetest person who never met a stranger and always had a kind

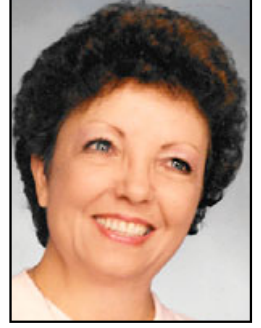
word. Although she is no longer with her family physically, she will always remain in their hearts.

The family will always remember her and shall never forget the amazing and loving woman they all knew her to be.

A visitation for Rosa will be Friday, March 15, from 6 to 8 p.m., with a rosary recited at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Park East Funeral Home, 21620 Gulf Freeway. On Saturday, March 16, a visitation will be at 1:30 p.m., and the funeral service at 2 p.m.

Her interment will follow at 3 p.m.

Mary Lena Smith



On March 9, 2024, Mary Lena Smith passed peacefully after a 15-year battle with dementia. Her pain was no more, her body and mind restored to new again. A loving reunion took place as she was welcomed into heaven by the loving arms of her momma and daddy; husband, George; and her son, Curt.

Mary was born in Elkhart, on April 22, 1938, to Bill and Opal Murdock. She was the second of three children.

In 1975, with her husband George and four boys, she moved to Sagemont where she lived until her passing. She lived and loved her simple life. She worked in retail until retirement. She loved to dance and spend time with her children and grandchildren. She attended Sagemont Church and later found her church home at New Hope Church in Friendswood.

Mary always had a smile on her face and kind and loving words for everyone she met. She loved being a mother and grandmother and she was a true blessing to everyone who knew her. She is survived by her brothers Billy and Frank Murdock; their wives Francis and Bertha Murdock; her sons Thom, Matt, and Chris Smith; her grandchildren Cameron, Deven, Mattie, Jake, Logan, Aiden, Vincent Smith; and several great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Visitation will be at 5 p.m. with the funeral service following at 6 p.m., at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, Monday, March 18.

Imelda Rafaela Garza



Imelda Rafaela Garza, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the age of 81. She was born on Oct. 24, 1942, in Higueras, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

She moved to Houston, in 1975 where she met her beloved husband, Larry J. Garza. They were married on Dec. 3, 1977, at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Together they raised three daughters.

She is survived by her sister Jacoba Cortes; her brother Jesus Gonzalez; and her three devoted daughters, Sandra Williams, Adriana Cena and Sonia Garza.

She is also survived by her six grandchildren who were the source of immense joy and pride in her life Nicholas Villareal, Erika Burrows, Juliana and Lilianna Williams, Lucas and Vincent Cena; as were her great-grandchildren, Elyana and Rowan Burrows and Alina Spurlock.

She is preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her sisters Virginia, Irene and Rogelia Gonzalez; and her brothers, Leopoldo, Gerardo and Daniel Gonzalez.

A devoted mother and wife, she touched the lives of many with her kindness, warmth and unwavering love.

Her wisdom, strength and faith served as a guiding light for her family, leaving an indelible mark on each generation.

The family would like to send a heartfelt thanks to the many friends and family who have offered prayers of love and support.

May she rest in peace in the hands of the lord, her memory forever in her family's hearts. The family welcomed friends at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, Monday, March 11. A celebration of Imelda's life was held at the Peevey Funeral Home March 12. Interment followed at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive.

Bobby Lynne Gilmore Newcomb



Bobby Lynne Gilmore Newcomb, 86, was born Feb. 13 1938 and died Feb. 27, 2024.

She followed Jesus up the trail of lights, joining the many family and friends that preceded her in the journey. She passed away at home surrounded by family.

The diagnosis came in 2004. At 65 years of age, Parkinson's disease had started to deteriorate the communication between her mind and body, slowly robbing her of independence.

In 2023, it had become difficult for her to sit up for any length of time and she would recline on the sofa. She watched "The Price is Right," Barker era, on a regular basis. One evening in January 2024, a prize up for bid was a cedar chest. She recalled and vocalized in no uncertain terms

about the cedar chest given to her as a graduation gift from her parents saying, "Me and Daddy went to Norman's Furniture in Pasadena to pick one out." Then she said, "I worked at Norman's for a little in high school."

Her mind remained strong. Her body began breaking down rapidly during the last two months. Many family members and honorary family members visited during her last few months living on this earth. She recognized every single one who walked through her door and greeted them with a big familiar smile.

Bobby always worked. During high school, she worked as a soda jerk at the old drugstore fountain on Spencer. In the summer of 1956, after graduation she went to work for Shell Oil Co. and remained there until getting married and moving to College Station in December 1956.

It was at the drugstore where the love of her life came calling, a second time. This time was a game changer. In her diary on Jan. 21, 1956, she wrote, "Tonight, Bill and I started going steady. I have been going with him exactly a month today. I believe I have liked him ever since I had my first date with him when I was a sophomore."

Bobby and Bill were married for 67 years and 67 days. He says she planned it that way to help him remember the exact length of time.

She went on to work at Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in College Station while he attended Texas A&M on a football scholarship. In 1957, a Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit was issued to her by the Federal Communications Commission.

After moving back to Pasadena, they lived at the Ann Street Apartments and then the Austin Street Apartments. She worked at Houston Lighting and Power while Bill worked at Mrs. Baird's Bakery. Her father worked for HL&P as a lineman. She affectionately recalled the memories of riding to work, up Allendale/Allen Genaol/Lawndale and into Houston with her daddy.

Bobbie, spelling changed to Bobbie by her, was born in Goose Creek, in 1938 to Mable Izora Crowson Gilmore and David Gilbert Gilmore. She had one older sibling, a sister, Betty Joan Gilmore King.

In the early 1940s, the family moved to Houston where she attended Houston Gardens Elementary. Then they moved to Vista Street in South Houston, where she attended South Houston Intermediate and Pasadena High School.

During several years at Pasadena High School, she was involved in the Booster Club and Girl's Athletic Association. In her senior year of 1956, Bobbie was elected class vice-president and was chosen class friendliest. Bobbie and Bill were married at Alta Vista Baptist church on Dec. 22, 1956, during a break between the fall and spring semester.

Her first child, David Vernon, was born in August 1960. She and Bill bought a house in Freeway Manor on Hinds Street. Despite having good jobs and a house, they decided they would continue to stack the odds in their favor. Bill would return to college because he needed to finish what he started.

Bobbie and Bill moved to Abilene, in 1962, where she worked for a locally owned family-run oil company. He was a "walk-on" at McMurry University earning a second football scholarship, completing his bachelor's degree in 1964.

The young family immediately moved back to Pasadena and into the house on Hinds Street. It had been rented out and managed by Bobbie's parents while they were away. She was expecting their second child.

With Bachelor of Science degree in hand, Bill was hired immediately as a teacher and coach for the Pasadena Independent School District. A few months later, Bobbie gave birth to Deandra Lynn. She told the story many times of being nine months pregnant at a football game "outside in the rain, jumping around," and a man "tapped me on the shoulder and said 'ma'am, you better sit down or you are going to have that baby right here.'" Bobbie was not a sitter, by any means, and continued releasing her excitement freely until completion of the contest. After getting home, her water broke and off to the hospital they went.

The mother of two stayed busy attending Alta Vista Baptist Church and served as an elected officer in the Pasadena Coaches Wives Club. Bobbie loved to throw a party and was a true fashion icon keeping up with the changing styles of the 60s and 70s.

During this period, she started taking classes at San

Jacinto College. She was, after all, an Aquarius, relishing change and challenge.

In 1970, she went to work for the U.S. Census. She proudly relayed going door-to-door counting heads. At the conclusion of this assignment, she made enough to buy a solid wood dining room table. She ate Thanksgiving dinner in 2023 at the head of this same table in her home with a house full of her family.

Although Bobbie was never one to avoid work, this is exactly what she did during the 1972 move from the Freeway Manor house to the Sagemont house. One can argue to call it selective labor. She was giving birth to her third child, Dena Leann. Bobbie and Dena came home to a new-to-the-family location. There she quickly picked up where she left off throwing birthday parties, supporting school and after-school activities, boosting everyone up at athletic events and attending classes. She would not be denied the opportunity to advance her education and continued as a part-time student in the midst of all the excitement of her beautiful life.

In May 1978, she graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in education and landed her first teaching job at Pearland High School. She taught typing for one year before taking a position at her alma mater, Pasadena High School, in the business education department.

She took the baton of the business professional office education department and ran with it. She consistently created and fortified the success of individuals and teams of students in the classroom, at competition and on the job.

Students under her watch held paying jobs at diverse companies. Some of the training stations were at Lyondell Chemical, Shell Oil Co., NASA and Villa de Matel. In 2001, she was nominated and subsequently awarded the District Teacher of the Year by the Region IV Education Service Center.

Bobbie served Pasadena ISD for 24 years, touching and influencing the lives of generations to come. She made a flawless handoff to Pasadena ISD's career and technology education in 2003.

Bobbie leaves behind her husband; son David Vernon Newcomb and wife Esther Gonzales Newcomb; daughter Deandra Lynn Newcomb McKinney; and daughter Dena Leann Newcomb Pratt and husband Shane Matthew Pratt.

Her legacy lives on through her 10 grandchildren: Kristi Gail Newcomb Endres and spouse, Talton Endres; Whitney Allard Bernard and spouse Terence Bernard; Joshua Daniel McKinney and spouse Whitney Parnell McKinney; David Vernon Newcomb Jr. and spouse, Megan Lucas Newcomb; Jeremy Newcomb McKinney and spouse, Elise Lubanko McKinney; Kelsie Newcomb Williams and spouse Josh Williams; Ryan Kyle Newcomb and spouse, Kaylon Nichols Newcomb; Chris DaSilva; Tyler Matthew Newcomb; Lauren Newcomb Townley and husband, Colby Townley; Jacob DaSilva; Savannah Newcomb Johnson and spouse, Dylan Johnson; Allison DaSilva; Tatum Pratt; Julia DaSilva; and Mable Addison Pratt.

The beat goes on through the 19 great-grandchildren, listed in order of appearance: Hadley and Ryan McClain, Barrett Williams, Connor Endres, Kyndal McClain, Cash Townley, Parker Endres, Spencer Newcomb, Holden Williams, Beaux Evans, Elliott Williams, Maddox and Nolan Newcomb, Cooper Johnson, Maui Townley, Peyton and Kamryn Newcomb, Layne Johnson and Everett McKinney.

Services were held, Friday March 8, at Peevey Funeral Home and interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The Newcomb Family has set up a savings account at Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union in Newcomb's name. The scholarship in her name will be awarded yearly to a Business Professional of America student from Pasadena High School.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the scholarship fund via cash, check or Venmo. Checks can be made out to Bobby Newcomb or Venmo to Bill Newcomb.

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

Elected officials share their words

Congressman Brian Babin Addresses Potential Big Thicket Expansion Bill

Congressman Brian Babin issues statement on bill to expand Big Thicket National Preserve.

The Big Thicket National Preserve is a treasure to our state and nation, and I'm certain all Southeast Texans will agree that it should be protected," said Babin. "I've heard various concerns from constituents, county and school officials, local industry, and others about potential expansion, and I share their apprehensions. Many Americans distrust the federal government - and under this administration, I don't blame them.

"I believe that decisions impacting our counties should be centered around the input of those who live and work there, from the ground level up - not with Big Government top-down mandates that bypass or ignore local concerns. For years, I've fought against proposals to disregard community feedback and clear-cut trees along the Big Thicket Parkway.

"All that said, and despite some reports to the contrary, I am not planning to sponsor a bill to expand the Big Thicket at this time without local support and buy-in."

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

ADRIAN GARCIA
COMMISSIONER

Mental Health First Aid: Veteran Orientated
Wednesday, March 20th | 8 AM - 4 PM

This training is meant for individuals who are a part of or support the military community, including service members.

What does this class cover?

- Relevance
- Risk Factors/Protective Factors
- Applying the action plan; A.L.G.E.E.
- Mental Health Resources

Why Mental Health First Aid?
Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based & early intervention training program developed for adults to learn how to assist and support members.

Scan to Register Now
Registration ends March 11th
Email: pct2safetydepartment@pct2.hctx.net

King speaks at governmental event



Local businessman and author Bill King was the guest speaker at the Clear Brook City MUD/South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce's monthly Governmental Affairs meeting, at the Pasadena Saltgrass Steak House. King spoke on a number of current issues, including METRO and mobilization efforts in the city. Shown above were some of the attendees, left to right, Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Cecelia Ganje (arm only), Constable Jerry Garcia, Luis Garza and Bill King, standing. Photo by Marie Flickinger

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)	
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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

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

Hawaiian puili sticks demonstrated at Moore



Second-graders from Moore Elementary performed "Music Across the States" Feb. 6 for students and parents. The program included special performances representing the culture and customs of several states. Sheryl Munn, music teacher, directed the performance. Moore students used puili sticks from Hawaii, to perform "Kapulu Kane." Shown above are (front row) Adrianna Portillo, Ava Whitaker, Isaac Valdez, Katalina Contreras, Jenaya Perez, (back row) Memphis Alvarez, Max Valles, Jacob Oviedo, Karla Ramos and Zoey DeLeon.

See related photos this page.

San Jacinto College, Chesmar offer scholarship

The Chesmar Foundation and San Jacinto College Foundation are proud to announce their partnership through the Chesmar Teacher Scholarship Fund, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at supporting Texas residents pursuing a four-year teaching degree at the college. This scholarship program not only provides financial assistance to aspiring educators but also addresses the critical need for qualified teachers in high-need school districts, particularly in urban areas.

The Chesmar Foundation has committed a total of \$900,000 to the Chesmar Teacher Scholarship Fund, with half allocated for direct scholarship support. These funds will cover tuition, fees, and other associated course materials for program completion. Additionally, \$450,000 will be allocated for Alternative Certification Program testing support, ensuring that graduating students can become fully

licensed to teach in the state of Texas. "We are excited about the Chesmar Teacher Scholarship Fund and the impact it will have on aspiring educators," said Robert Cage, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation. "Through this partnership with the Chesmar Foundation, San Jacinto College aims to empower students to become highly qualified teachers, addressing the shortage of educators in our community."

The scholarship program targets 100 students with financial needs enrolled in San Jacinto College's Bachelor of Applied Science in education. Scholars will have the opportunity for renewed funding each semester until the completion of their degree program, provided they meet established eligibility requirements.

The new bachelor in education degree curriculum at San Jacinto College is designed with built-in student teaching opportunities, preparing each student to enter the classroom immediately after program completion.

The college is also establishing partnerships with local school districts, including Crosby ISD, Deer Park ISD, Pasadena ISD and Sheldon ISD to promote scholarship opportunities and provide gainful employment opportunities for graduates.

For more information about the Chesmar Teacher Scholarship Fund and application details, visit the San Jacinto College website at www.sanjac.edu.

Bubba's Bingo Night

Bring a guest and have fun representing San Jacinto College at Deer Park Rotary Club's Bubba Bingo night Friday, March 22. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Deer Park Rotary will be presenting an evening of fun at Bubba Bingo. There will be 20 bingo games, door prizes, card draw and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 and tables of eight are \$500.

This event will be held at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center located at 500 W. 13 Street, Deer Park. Contact Justin League for more information at 832-493-1075.

Crayfish dance performed by Moore students



Performing the crayfish dance with their crayfish claw hats, are second-grade students from Moore Elementary. Left to right, are (front row) Abel Martínez, Devyn Brown, Arie Marron, Lorelai Mayorga, Zoey Hernandez, (back row) Lina Garcia, Leilani Garcia, Elle Lar, Canon Masone and Jessica Tran.



Students perform ribbon dance

Moore students enjoyed performing a ribbon routine to "Let's Go Fly a Kite" from the Broadway musical, "Mary Poppins." Shown are (front row) Briana Alba, Brittany Nunez, Leia Garcia, Edric Samayo, (back row) Emmanuel Barcenas, Joel Beteta, Allison Villarreal and Edwin Ortiz.

Attractions
Hotel
Golf

SUPER-SIZED Spring Break

MOODY GARDENS | GALVESTON ISLAND

This March: One-Day Pass with
Unlimited Entry to the Attractions

Super Hotel Deals
Pyramid Kids Camps

Spring Adventures for Adults, Couples, Families:
featuring guided VIP Tours
for a more immersive experience
at the Rainforest or Aquarium Pyramids.

Enjoy a Super Fun, Super Value, Super-sized Spring Break that offers maximum value. This March, the One-Day Value Pass provides unlimited admission to the Rainforest, Aquarium and Discovery Pyramids, Colonel Paddlewheeler, Ropes Course; MG3D, 4D and Audience Recognition Theaters, and the Discovery Museum. Check out the Pyramid Kids Camps as well as Spring Adventure experiences for the adults that provide a VIP Guided Tour to learn more and see more of the Aquarium and Rainforest Pyramids.

OPENS MARCH 9

BOOK NOW AND SAVE

Trio works on xylophone skills



Three students from Moore Elementary worked hard to perfect their bass xylophone skills. Second-graders, shown, left to right, are Jacob Martinez, Paiden Coleman and Lilly Cardenas.

Second-graders on xylophone



Moore Elementary second-graders practicing on the bass xylophone, are Mariana Anderson (left) and Noah Nguyen.

SJC's Arrowood one of top in maritime

Capt. Amy Arrowood, San Jacinto College's director of the maritime credit program, has been named one of the 2023 Top Women in Maritime by "Marine Log" magazine. With a career that spans more than 20 years, Arrowood served in the U.S. Coast Guard and sailed U.S. flag vessels coastwide and internationally. "This designation is an honor," Arrowood said. "I'm proud of the maritime network I've made for myself over the years and the professionals I call friends. I've received several awards for my work, and I'm honored by my recognition." Arrowood graduated from Texas A&M University-Galveston with a Bachelor of Science in marine transportation and joined the Coast Guard as a commissioned officer in 2002. Besides racking up many memorable experiences while being in port in 15 countries, she earned the U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation and Unit Commendation in 2004 and Commendation Medal in 2005. Arrowood's connection to San Jac began in 2014 when she joined an advisory committee for the Maritime Technology and Training Center as a port captain and marine operations manager for J.A.M. Marine Services. After signing on as a maritime transportation faculty member, she began to teach classes and curate the program's curriculum. "It was a small program that filled up quickly, and I knew each of my students well," Arrowood said. "If they ever missed class, I was checking up on them to see if they were OK. Even now, if my students are absent or miss assignments, I'm waiting at the top of the stairs to catch them to see how they are doing." Arrowood earned the college's 2018-2019 Administrator Excellence Award for serving as a role model, working collaboratively, meeting students' and other employees' needs, and exemplifying dedication, service and involvement in the college community. "Part of the joy of being an instructor is seeing the outcomes of our program," she said. "I have also enjoyed seeing some of my students achieving 'firsts.' I've seen the first female deckhand and tankerwoman for a few companies now. I'm proud to have helped my students get into those positions." Since Arrowood joined San Jacinto College, the maritime programs have grown. Two years after starting maritime training, the college introduced the state's first and only associate degree for maritime transportation. This degree program combines the Coast Guard and standards of training, certification, and watch-keeping-approved maritime training with the college level academics required of an associate degree. "We are so proud of Capt. Arrowood for her nomination and selection as one of "Marine Log" magazine's Top Women in Maritime for 2023," said Ken Tidwell, maritime interim associate vice chancellor. "As the maritime industry continues to increase diversity and bring more women into its ranks, her selection out of over 200 professionals is more than deserving. I cannot think of a better ambassador for excellence as a maritime transportation professional or greater champion for opening doors and breaking ceilings for future generations of mariners."

Tickets & Hotel Packages

MOODYGARDENS.ORG

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, March 14, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Family story time.
Thursday, March 14, 2 – 5 p.m. Mini birthday party.
Thursday, March 14, 3 – 4 p.m. Open Lap - computer class. Registration required.
Monday, March 18, 11 a.m. – noon. Open Lap - computer class. Registration required.
Tuesday, March 19, 4 – 5 p.m. Retro games. Registration required.
Wednesday, March 20, 6 – 7 p.m. Conversational living English lessons. Registration required.
Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Family Night Unplugged. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

Thursday, March 14, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
Thursday, March 14, 2 – 4 p.m. Tech help.
Friday, March 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.
Friday, March 15, 1 – 2 p.m. Genealogy.
Monday, March 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.
Monday, March 18, 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Family story time.
Monday, March 18, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Book buddies.
Monday, March 18, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult craft: Book display birdhouse.
Tuesday, March 19, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.
Tuesday, March 19, 1 – 2 p.m. Citizenship 101.
Wednesday, March 20, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Cricut orientation.
Wednesday, March 13, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi.
Wednesday, March 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Teen and tween game night.

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

– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.
Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

Pct. 2 County internships available

Harris County Pct. 2 Workforce Development announced the opening of the online application for 2024 Step-Up Internship Program. It is a yearly goal of Commissioner Adrian Garcia to offer students an internship position where they earn while they learn. The program will last nine to 10 weeks at \$15 per hour and 32 hours per week. Applicants must be a Pct. 2 resident, be 18 years old at the time of application, be a high school senior or enrolled in a college, university, or in a trade technical program. Applicants must pass a drug screen, background check and have reliable transportation. Interested students may apply at bit.ly/2024StepUp Internship. For information, call 346-217-5297 or email, workforce@pct2.hctx.net.

Atkinson students of the months honored

Atkinson Elementary officials recently submitted students of the month for November/December, January and February. The students are recognized for many different character traits by their teachers. These traits include citizenship, caring, fairness, honesty, kindness, helpfulness, integrity and respect. See Page 6 for more photos.

Rico is thoughtful



Isabella Rico, fourth-grader, is from Nancy Vasquez's homeroom at Atkinson. Vasquez claims, "Isabella is an honest and thoughtful student. She strives to make good choices and accepts responsibility when she is at fault. She is a great friend and we are proud to have Isabella as one of our fourth-grade students." She was selected as February's Student of the Month.

Nguyen works hard



Kara Nguyen is in Prachi Bhatt's third-grade homeroom and is a stellar example of an honest student. According to Bhatt, "She shows many qualities of an honest hardworking student through her work in class. When a chance to help a student arises she never leaves the student behind. She is honest with her true feelings." Kara was selected as February's Student of the Month.

Newton is honest



Gabriel Newton, pre-K student, at Atkinson, "shows honesty by answering questions truthfully when asked," claims his teacher Aushanay Banala. He was chosen to be February's Student of the Month.

Cardona is truthful



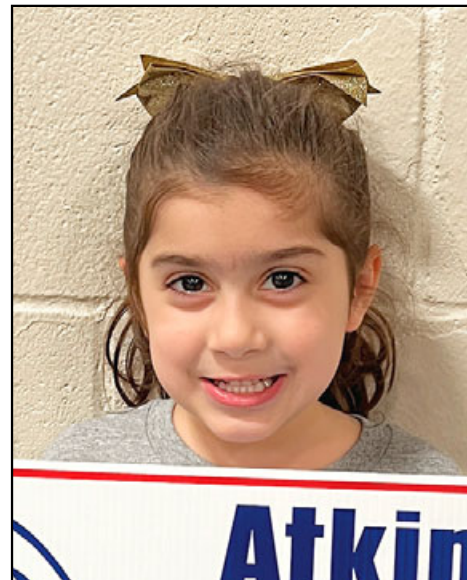
Gisselle Cardona, third-grader, is in Amber Watson's homeroom. "She is a very honest and trustworthy lady. She shows great leadership skills and is a friend to all. We can always count on Gisselle to tell the truth in any situation. She values the feeling of her classmates and teachers. Gisselle is a great example of what honesty means," said Watson. She was selected as February's Student of the Month.

Ibarra is fair



Alexa Ibarra, first-grader, was selected as January's Student of the Month by her teacher Jeannette Guerrero at Atkinson. "She demonstrates fairness consistently throughout the week," claims Guerrero.

Irizarry is helpful



January Student of the Month, Margaret Irizarry, is a kindergartener in Cheri Cundiff's class at Atkinson. "Margaret shows fairness by treating others with kindness and helping them be successful," said Cundiff.

Remember When

45 Years Ago (1979)
Pasadena Independent School District students Jay Rasco, Charles Farmer, Chris Dorflinger, Erin Walsh and Jeff Ehrlich had their artwork sent to New York for the National Scholastic Art Awards competition.

30 Years Ago (1994)
Because half of the Brio Superfund Site was in an unincorporated area of Harris County and half was in the city of Friendswood, complications had arisen over who would respond to emergency calls from the site.

25 Years Ago (1999)
The South Belt chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Members of the Thompson Intermediate School's academic team completed an undefeated season against the schools in the Pasadena Independent School District.

20 Years Ago (2004)
Burnett Elementary and Thompson Intermediate were recognized for their sustained high academic performance.

Genoa United Methodist Church celebrated its 110th anniversary.

Houston City Council member for District E Addie Wiseman hosted a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting at San Jacinto College South campus to discuss upcoming City of Houston projects.

Thompson Intermediate inducted 66 students into the National Junior Honor Society.

Local real estate agent Sandra Yandell was named "Top Dog" by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce for recruiting 16 new members.

Three young men were victims of a drive-by shooting on

the Alameda Chateau apartment complex reportedly committed suicide as City of Houston officials attempted to vacate the premises due to unsafe living conditions. Dimas Yanez was found hanging in his doorway by a city worker passing out fliers to residents of the complex. Yanez had reportedly told neighboring tenants he had nowhere else to go once the apartments were vacated.

10 Years Ago (2014)
The website for Haywood Management had gone blank, renewing concerns on the current state of the company that once oversaw the majority of homeowner associations in the South Belt area. The lone message on the website, www.haywoodmgmt.com, read "Please contact your Board of Directors or attend your next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for more information about your individual Association."

5 Years Ago (2019)
Two local crimes involved heroic dogs. The first incident occurred Friday, March 8,

when a dog named Hurricane spotted a dead female body in a field by the corner of Sandy Hook and Binghamton. The body was later identified as Angel Marie Peckham, 21. No immediate arrests were made in the case. The second incident took place two days later on Sunday, March 10, just a few blocks away in the 11700 block of Davenwood Court. In that case, three people suffered nonlethal gunshots. A heroic dog named Zero attempted to stop the shooter but was fatally shot, itself. Local firefighters attempted to save the dog, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Javian Castaneda, 17, was charged with three counts of felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

1 Year Ago (2023)
Approximately 10 years in development, the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin is set to open this week, according to Harris County Flood Control District officials.

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

The Children at Risk organization recently recognized Meador Elementary as its top

Gold Ribbon school in the Greater Houston area.

A Gold Ribbon school is characterized by the group as a campus that is "high-poverty, high-performing."

In order to qualify as a Gold Ribbon school, 75 percent or more of a campus's students must be classified as low-income, and the school must receive an A or B grade in Children At Risk annual school rankings. Meador recently received an A ranking from TEA, also.

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

San Jacinto College students will be able to start this unique, one-year certificate program starting Fall 2023. It includes hybrid coursework allowing students to merge computer design and automotive engineering skills, and prepare for jobs in the AV industry. The AV delivery service industry has the potential to create and sustain 3.4 million jobs annually between 2025-2035, according to a Steer report.

Elizalde is awarded



Atkinson Student of the Month for January, Bianca Elizalde, is in pre-K. "Bianca is thoughtful and makes a daily effort to treat her classmates the same," said Maria Hubley, teacher. "She helps others communicate when they are unable or timid to say they want a turn during an activity."

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

LARRY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Friday, March 17, are sent to local businessman Larry Morgan from his wife Mary Ellen, family, friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 14 through March 20.

Atkinson Elementary
Remember to wish Manuela Juarez and Maria Zavala a happy birthday March 15. Break out the balloons and party favors March 16 for Tiffany Aldridge.

Burnett Elementary
Light the birthday candles on a cake for Hong Doan March 15.

Frazier Elementary
Kaly Franco celebrates a birthday March 18. Break out the cake and ice cream for Jennifer Cantu March 19.

Genoa Elementary
Birthday greetings go out to Liz Zalce March 19.

Hancock Elementary
Blow out the candles March 14 for Myrssa Fruto.

Moore Elementary

Join in the birthday fun March 15 for Esmeralda Chacon.

South Belt Elementary
Meaghan Rivas celebrates a birthday March 14.

Stuchbery Elementary
Light the candles March 18 on a birthday cake for Linda Reyes.

Melillo Middle School
Birthday greetings go out to Troy Ralls and Crystal Polo March 14. Kara Ross and Lissnette Burgos enjoy a double-layer birthday cake March 18. Hannah Crowder enjoys a birthday March 19.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Carla Bradford enjoys a birthday March 14.

Thompson Intermediate
Tiffany Laday celebrates a birthday March 14.

Dobie High
On March 14, birthday wishes are sent to Robert McGill. Blow out the birthday candles March 16 for Clara Ullman.

Birthday greetings are sent to Karrie Valerio who celebrates a birthday March 17.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, March 14: Allison Weatherly, Chris Williams, Curtis Scope, Ron Shafer and Angelique Garcia; and Friday, March 15: Teri Posey, John Dies, Renee Guillot-Rodriguez, Jeanne Cook, Christopher Lozano and Melissa Robinson; Saturday, March 16: Brandy Pimental, Kelly Cobble, Nathan Lewis and Nikki Pullin; Sunday, March 17: Nickole Chapman, Yvonne Russell, Sherri Golightly and Larry Morgan; Monday, March 18: Orenia Craven, Gina Rodriguez, Meredith Jones, Derek Jones, Jodi Johnston, Charlene Hardin, Alicia Rodriguez, Josh Nance, Tristan Soria, Andre Rohman, Daniel Goeman and Andrea Charles; Tuesday, March 19: Tammie Little, Tonyka Smith, Cindy Dominguez, Shanna Young and Keith Pinchbeck; and Wednesday, March 20: Roxanne Wheeler, Ken Dittrich, Martinez Joaquin, Carol Dawkins, Al Vanek, James Leslie, Martha Heinrich and Sheri Rose.

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 issue.

CLEAR CREEK FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Join the Harris County Flood Control District for a virtual community engagement meeting to discuss the Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project, a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wednesday, March 27, 2024
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join online at:
PublicInput.com/C03

Or by phone: 855-925-2801 with Meeting Code: 6958

The project's Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)* will be available for review during a 30-day public comment period from March 27 – April 26, 2024.

*Note: A printed copy of the SEA will be available in English and Spanish at the Harris County Flood Control District's office, located at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77092, during the 30-day public comment period. A digital copy and a comment form will also be available at hccfd.org/C03.

For more information about the project or the public meeting, visit hccfd.org/C03.

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Longhorn softball moves to 3-1 with wins over Memorial, Channelview



Karyme Leal smacked her third home run of the season in Dobie's 9-3 win over Memorial as the locals continued to hold supremacy in the rivalry between the two programs. Leal has driven in 10 runs and scored seven more. The win was the Longhorns' third

straight in District 22-6A play. After a pause for spring break, Dobie is set to resume action March 19 against Rayburn at the Pasadena ISD Complex, then hosting South Houston March 22.

Photos by Gloria Wallace

A rematch with reigning District 22-6A champion Deer Park will have to wait for now, but things are otherwise going very well for the Dobie varsity softball team as it coasts through the rest of the league.

Heading into spring break week with wins over Memorial and Channelview, Dobie had quickly improved to 12-10

overall, with three straight 22-6A wins included in the mix.

The 22-6A ranks have paused for spring break, with Dobie set to resume action March 19 against Rayburn at the Pasadena ISD Complex, then hosting South Houston March 22.

In the final game for Dobie before the break, the Longhorns won at

Channelview 8-0 March 8, doing much of its damage during a five-run second inning.

Junior Viviana Fernandez had two hits, drove in three runs and scored twice while Karyme Leal doubled and drove in two runs.

Persephone Soria also knocked in a pair of runs as the locals erupted for 15 hits.

Jackie Peralta was brilliant in the circle for the Longhorns, shutting out the Falcons on three hits while striking out nine as Dobie improved to 3-1 in 22-6A action after an opening loss to Deer Park.

Down go Mavs
A four-run fourth inning combined with a solid complete-game performance from sophomore Vanessa De la fuente was enough to lift the Longhorns to a 9-3 win over rival Memorial March 5.

Allowing five hits and two earned runs while striking out seven, De la fuente went the distance for the win.

Leal smacked her third home run of the season, and Fernandez doubled and knocked in three runs. Amaya Corona doubled in a pair of runs as Dobie downed the Mavs.

At left, Amaya Corona (6) made a running grab in the outfield while Dobie's offense produced in a big way in a 9-3 win over Memorial as the Longhorns won a third straight game in league play. Corona has also delivered key hits on offense.



Dobie tracksters stand out at Texas City 409 Relays

With just one remaining meet prior to the District 22-6A Championships the first week of April at Auxiliary Stadium, the Dobie varsity track and field teams are gearing up for what very well could be two-team races against Deer Park.

The Longhorn boys took another step forward with a third-place honor at the 409 Relays in Texas City March 7. The Dobie girls, meanwhile, were sixth with 41 points.

Both teams will return

to action March 22 at C.E. King for the regular season finale.

Dobie's varsity boys' track and field squad continued its push toward the start of the postseason, putting together a great effort at the 409's.

Angleton did not score in the 4x400 relay, the final event of the meet, but still held on for the team championship with 111 points.

Host Texas City used a 4x400 win to secure second place with 110, while

the Longhorns compiled 99 points for third place.

Success in the relays once again lifted the Longhorns as they came away with second place in both the 4x100 and 4x200 as well as third place in the 4x400 for a total of 44 points.

As for the 4x100, the Longhorns' group included Ke'Lijah Jackson, Cameron Mathews, Marcus Jones and Titus Randle for the silver medal in a time of 42.64 seconds.

The Longhorns de-

livered a time of 1 minute, 29.11 seconds in the 4x200 for second place as that group included Jaylon Broussard, Mathews, Jones and C.J. Richard.

Finishing strong in the meet with a third-place clocking of 3:32.34, the Longhorns went with Johan Villavencio, Tariq Riley, Broussard and Richard.

Mathews flew to the tape in a time of 21.76 for the gold medal-win in the 200, and Roderick Drumgo threw the shot

50 feet, 3 1/2 inches for the victory. Drumgo also came up with a throw of 142-6 in the discus for third place and a bronze medal.

At 41-10, Dobie's Demarcus Hodges was second for a silver medal in the triple jump, with Villavencio grabbing a silver for second place at 2:03.39 at the 800 distance.

Riley delivered a clocking of 49.98 in the 400 for third place, while Justin Ray cleared 9-0 for third place and a bronze medal

in the pole vault. At 19-5, Hodges was sixth in the long jump.

Kyla Lobo made her season debut at Texas City following the finish of the varsity soccer regular season as she was second for a silver medal in the 3,200 at 13:13.59. Teammate Mariah Medina was fifth in a time of 13:43.10.

In a time of 5:57.37, Lobo took third place at the 1,600 distance, with Aracely Alvarado in at 6:07.70 for fifth place. Junior Stacie Harris was

fourth in the long jump with a best of 17-1, and she (12.78) and Kylar Joseph (12.91) were fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 100.

Harris also took part in the 300 hurdles, finishing fourth in a time of 50.65, while Joseph cleared 4-8 in the high jump for sixth.

Izelliah Williams, Christina Rodriguez, Joseph and Tailin Curtis wound up with a time of 1:50.03 for fourth place in the 4x200 relay.

Wolverines capture golds at Summer Creek

Jaylon Owens captured gold in the 100 and Clear Brook teammates Darwin Bolden (discus), Joshua Shelton (400) and Joseph Trevino (3,200) took silver medals as the Wolverines made several statements at the Generation Park Track and Field Invitational, hosted by Summer Creek High School March 7.

Azayla Smith led the Clear Brook girls as her 800 time of 2 minutes, 17.08 seconds earned her a silver medal.

With the District 24-6A Championships coming up early next month, the Wolverines and the rest of the league are preparing for what promises to be a highly competitive start to

the postseason.

Consider the Brook bunch ready to go after a terrific performance at Turner Stadium in Humble, again the host site of the Region III Championships.

Owens was first to the line in 10.66 seconds to earn gold in the 100, while Shelton, a 2023 regional

qualifier in the 400 as a freshman, was in at 48.93 for his silver medal.

Only a couple of weeks removed from the basketball court, Trevino was second in the 3,200 with a time of 10 minutes, 07.93 seconds.

Bolden, who like Trevino was delayed in the field events while playing

basketball, has performed very well since as his throw of 151 feet, 1 inch earned a silver in the discus.

Joshua Akinola was fourth in the 200 in a time of 22.50, and was eighth at 10.87 in the 100.

Akinola also went 22-3 in the long jump for sixth place. At a time of 41.04,

Jalen Erkin was seventh in the 300 hurdles.

A throw of 45-1 1/2 in the shot was good enough for Kenneth Christian to place fourth.

Triple jumper Ja'Darrell Brooks took seventh in the event at 42-6 1/2, and Camdyn Barnett chipped in with an sixth-place throw of 133-8 in the discus.

In addition to Smith's medal win, Jizzale Davis delivered more highlights for the Brook girls as she narrowly missed a top-three medal as her 100 time of 12.10 was fourth, and she was also in at 24.83 for sixth in the 200.

Kamryn McLaurin cleared 5-4 for fourth in the high jump, with teammate Galicia Bernard seventh at 4-10.

At 35-2 1/2, Kyra Freeman was seventh in the triple jump. Aailslyn Banks was ninth in the shot with a toss of 32-3 1/2.

Dobie legends enter PISD Athletics Hall of Fame



Dobie Class of 1987 graduate Matt Wingo was part of the 2024 induction class into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame. The group was honored as part of a special evening March 6 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Wingo was a star linebacker at Dobie and currently ranks sixth in career tackles at Texas Tech University.



Amanda Nguyen Westman, a 2010 Dobie High School graduate, was all smiles as she was inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame March 6. An All-District player in both volleyball and softball, Nguyen Westman went on to become a highly decorated softball player at Army. She is the youngest hall of fame inductee.

Photos by Gloria Wallace

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Continued from Page 1 nationally approved training courses approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers. Moreover, it is the sole provider in Texas of an Associate of Applied Science degree in maritime transportation, integrating

Excellence designation further strengthens these efforts, as the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration collaborates with designated institutions to enhance recruitment of students and faculty, improve facilities, and provide equipment and vessel usage support.

"We are honored to be recognized as a Center of Excellence," said John Stauffer, associate vice Chancellor, Maritime. "This recognition reflects the support of our maritime industry partners, which allows us to navigate the waters to provide academic excellence and career success for our students." More information about the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center is available on the college's website, while specifics about the Center of Excellence designation can be accessed on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration website, including the official press release and list of designees.

Maritime Technology and Training Center is available on the college's website, while specifics about the Center of Excellence designation can be accessed on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration website, including the official press release and list of designees.

one can play a vital role in shaping the future of public health in Harris County. The responses will be used to:

Harris County seeking input on public health

Continued from Page 1 plete and covers a wide range of topics, including:

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 - Mental and physical health concerns.
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The online survey will also be accessible at various HCPH locations, including the health services and mobile health clinics, as well as in various outreach events hosted by HCPH.

Information about future community outreach events will be available on HCPH's social media platforms. For additional information, visit HCPHTx.org

Mendez cares



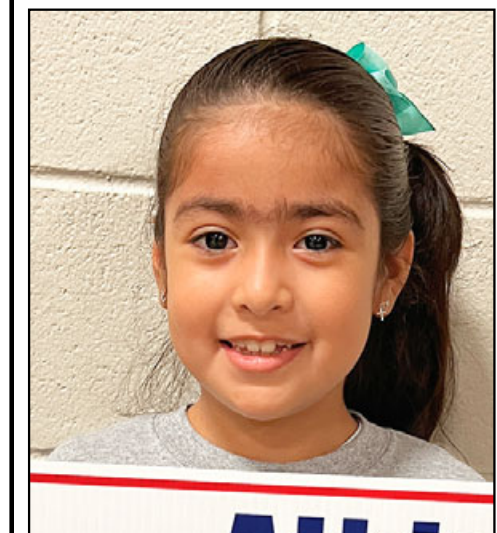
Atkinson Student of the Month for December is Mathews Mendez, in Sheri Graham's class. "He is a wonderful example of someone who has great citizenship traits. He listens well and is always respectful," said Graham.

Garcia is helpful



According to Chyna Zuniga, "Amaia Garcia, a pre-K student, is so caring to her classmates and teachers. She follows Atkinson's school rules and helps others to do the same." She was selected as Student of the Month for December.

Hernandez excels



According to her Atkinson teacher, Maria Moncada, "Second-grader Sofia Hernandez exhibits personality traits of a good citizen and is honest and trustworthy." She was selected as Student of the month for December.

Fuentes is role model



"Kindergartener Ayleth Fuentes (in Ludi Perez's class at Atkinson) is a role model to be followed by her classmates and friends. She follows school and class rules, and she cares that everybody in the classroom does the right thing," says Perez. Ayleth was chosen as Student of the Month for December.

Torres is kind



In Tulu Sarkar's fourth-grade class, Janelynn Torres was selected as Atkinson's December's Student of the Month. "She is kind, courteous, respectful and compassionate to her friends," said Sarkar.

Montgomery is caring



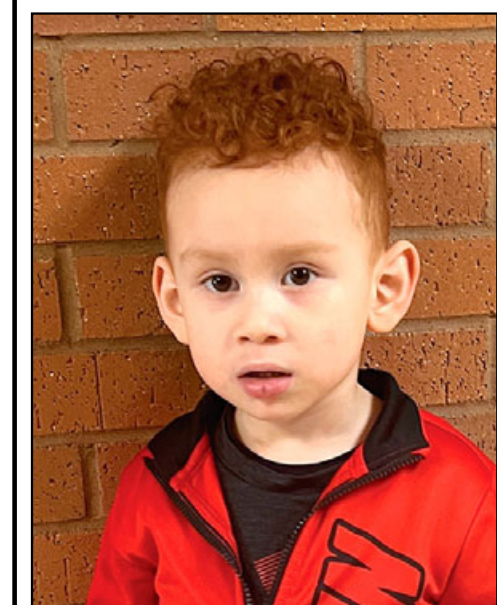
Avah Montgomery who was selected as December's Student of the Month, is a very caring third-grader according to her Atkinson homeroom teacher Diane Davis. "She exemplifies the traits of a good citizen and is respectful and responsible," said Davis.

Arrambide is kind



Olivia Arrambide was selected as December's Student of the Month by her teacher Aushanay Banaia at Atkinson. "She is always kind to her teachers and peers," said Banaia.

Rivera likes to share



Jaziel Rivera is in Velma Medina's pre-K class at Atkinson. "He is always fair and willing to share with his classmates. He always has a smile," said Medina. He was selected as January's Student of the Month.

SJC theater events set for March

The San Jacinto College music department presents a series of spring concerts from choir and percussion to guitar and piano. All events are free and open to the public, at the Central Campus Blue Music Building in Corbin Hall, (C5.151).
March 22 - Orpheus Concert - 3 p.m.
March 26 - Choir Concert - 7 p.m.
March 27 - Percussion Area Recital - 3 p.m.
March 28 - Neil Jody Exhibit - The San Jacinto College North Campus Gallery presents the Neil Jody Exhibit from March 28 through April 11 at the Grand Fine Arts Center (N1).
This exhibit will feature works from faculty member Neil Jody. Learn more at facebook.com/NorthGalLery.
The college will be closed on Friday, March 29, in observance of the spring holiday. The college will be open for normal operations beginning Monday, April 1.

Gonzalez finds solutions



Benjamin Gonzalez, Atkinson third-grader is in Kortnie Rieck's homeroom. "He is friends with all of his classmates and wants to make sure everyone is included. He likes to find solutions to problems, even when they are not his own." Benjamin was chosen to be Student of the Month for January.

Rendon is fair



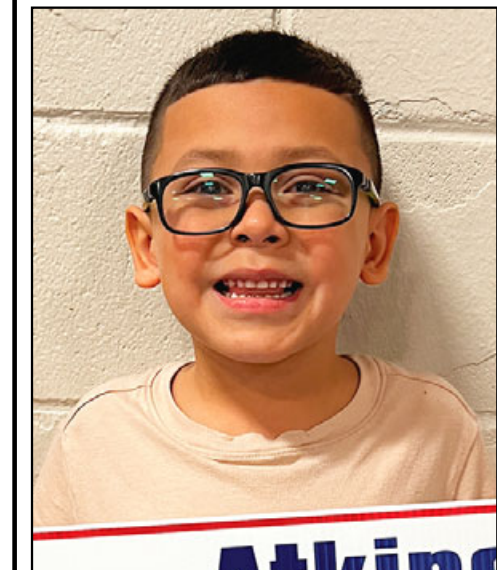
Adrian Rendon, Atkinson Student of the Month for January is in Stefanie Covarrubia's second-grade class. "He constantly demonstrates fairness in the classroom," according to Covarrubia, and "He treats everyone equally."

Huerta is inclusive



Alexander Huerta, is a fourth-grader in Andres Melchor's homeroom at Atkinson. "He is always fair and inclusive with his classmates. He is an excellent addition to our class," said Melchor. Alexander was selected as January's Student of the Month.

Guzman follows rules



Leo Guzman, first-grader at Atkinson, was selected as Student of the Month for January in Ashley Riley's class. Riley says, "He shows fairness in modeling the classroom rules and helping other students to follow the rules as well."

St. Paul's seeking crafts items

The annual On a Mission Craft Fair on May 4 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 11456 Space Center Blvd, is seeking churches, schools and individuals to sell craft items to support their mission's efforts.
The fair is a great way to raise funds for short-term mission's trips, fulfill student community service or provide support for a summer mission's project or agency.
Items offered could include crafts, art work, plants or homemade food items.
The fair was created to increase awareness of mission groups and provide an opportunity for them to sell handcrafted items.
Coming before Mother's Day and graduations, the fair provides an opportunity to purchase a variety of items not available at local retailers.
Last year's craft fair included jewelry from Nepal, embroidered and woven purses from China, clothing from Africa, intricately-cut pop-up cards from Vietnam and Cambodia, coffee from Guatemala, and olive wood bowls and stuffed animals from Africa, among many other items.
For more information, contact Marjorie Fowler, coordinator, at 281-381-6484 or at Marjorie.fowler@sbcglobeal.net.
St. Paul's is a parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church.
Services are Sunday at 8 and 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's is located in Clearpoint Crossing, just south of Genoa Red Bluff Road, between Pasadena and Clear Lake.

Esquivel is selected



February Student of the Month, Benjamin Esquivel is in Jennifer Chapa's pre-K class at Atkinson. "He shows honesty time and time again," said Chapa. "He is honest with his teachers and his friends, even when he has done the wrong thing. We are proud of his social emotional development."

Aguilar shows honesty



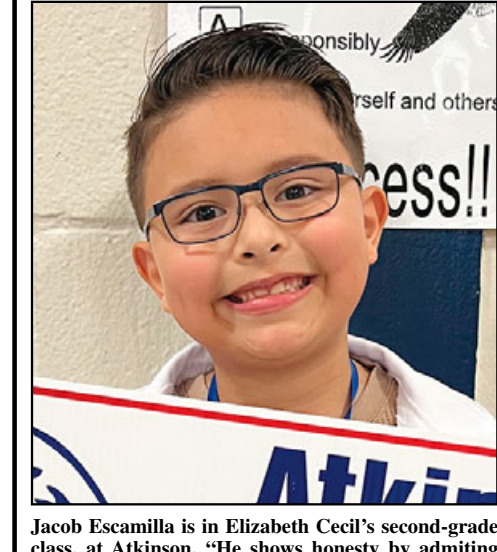
"Kaylani Aguilar shows honesty in our classroom by speaking and acting truthfully. She shows honesty by treating her classmates with fairness and respect. Kaylani is a great friend to all of her classmates and I love having her in my class," says her teacher Cheri Cundiff. She was selected as February's Student of the Month.

Martinez is honored



Giselle Martinez, third-grader in Lisa Byron's class is a role model for honesty. "Giselle will always tell the truth when asked. She will also make sure she keeps her friends honest by reminding them to tell the truth as well. She is a wonderful role model for her peers," says Byron. Giselle was selected to be Atkinson's third grade Student of the Month for February.

Escamilla is friendly



Jacob Escamilla is in Elizabeth Cecil's second-grade class, at Atkinson. "He shows honesty by admitting when he makes mistakes, and works to correct them even when it means accepting consequences. He values the truth and the feelings of others, and does his best to be a good friend to his peers. He is a great role model for his peers," said Cecil. He was chosen to be Student of the Month for February.

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District 22-6A Basketball Boys' All-District Selections

Most Valuable Player

Robert Miller III, Memorial, Sr.

Offensive Player of the Year

Jordan Buckner, S. Houston, Jr.

Defensive Player of the Year

Robert Miller III, Memorial, Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Xavier Muhammad, S. Houston, Fr.

Coaches of the Year

Frank Watson, S. Houston

Trent Oliver, Memorial

First-Team Selections

Gustavo Escamilla, Pasadena, Sr.

Josh Larry, S. Houston, Jr.

Chris Jones Jr., Memorial, Sr.

Julio Cisneros, Dobie, Sr.

Dylan Jackson, Dobie, Sr.

Josh Anderson, Deer Park, Sr.

Dylan Marbury, Deer Park, Sr.

Mike Mathews, Pasadena, Jr.

Kamron Webb, S. Houston, Sr.

Xavier Palmer, Channelview, Sr.

Second-Team Selections

Gary Brown III, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

Evan Goodson, Deer Park, Sr.

Jayden Baxter, Sam Rayburn, Sr.

Bryce Thomas, Channelview, Sr.

Malachi Hobbs, Dobie, Sr.

Josiah Ware, S. Houston, Sr.

Syntrel Evans, S. Houston, Sr.

Christopher Fultz, Jr., Channelview, Sr.

Lorenzo Delgado Jr., Memorial, Jr.

Isaiah Aguirre, Deer Park, Jr.

Jeremyah Vela, Sam Rayburn, Jr.

Damon Miles, Dobie, Fr.

Hector Manriquez, Pasadena, Jr.

Marcos Salinas, Pasadena, Jr.

Honorable Mention – Dobie

Kalaeb Helm, Sr.

Kyler Thomas, Sr.



Dobie senior Julio Cisneros (10) celebrated scoring 1,000 career points late this season while helping the Longhorns secure the No. 3 playoff seed out of District 22-6A at 8-4. A consistent threat from 3-point land during his three-year varsity career, Cisneros was a first team All-District selection following the season.

Photos by Gloria Wallace



Dylan Jackson, a four-year varsity performer with the Dobie varsity boys' basketball program, delivered his 1,000th career point as a senior en route to being chosen as a first team All-District player. Jackson will play collegiately at Lamar University in Beaumont beginning this fall.

Longhorns host Deer March 14 Dobie main, 11 a.m.

Longhorns host Pasadena March 19 Dobie main, 4 p.m.

At right, Dobie used a series split against Deer Park to key an 11-game win streak last season that led to the District 22-6A championship as Cruz Torres (right) went unbeaten on the mound through the regular season. Dobie took on the Deer at Deer Park March 12 after press time to start league play.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Thompson dominates PISD track championships

Thompson enjoyed two of its finest days of the intermediate athletics season, coasting to three of the four team championships March 4 and March 6 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena as the Pasadena ISD track and field season came to a rousing conclusion.

Thompson was far and away the top seventh-grade boys' unit over the two days, coming up with 170 points to win. Bondy was second with 125 points.

The eighth-grade boys' division was a bit tighter, with the Lions putting together 164.5 points to distance themselves from Bondy's 134.5 second-place points.

The Thompson seventh-grade girls strutted away with an equally impressive team championship, earning 170 team points to easily out-point Bondy's 125 second-place points.

Beverly Hills won the eighth-grade girls' championship with 129 points, and Thompson's 110 points were second.

GAT 7 boys dominate
The Lions' seventh-grade boys' team was in control much of the way at the championships over two days, scoring 170 points in all to coast to the crown.

Thompson came up big in the three relays to score 44 team points, taking the 4x100 gold medals at 48.63 as the group included Lance Goree, Kingston Auzenne, Mrius Winston and David Harris.

It was more of the same in the 4x200 relay as the Lions took the win in a time of 1:44.30 as Goree, Winston and Harris were joined by Jae'Bion Daniels for another 20 points.

The team championship already secured, the Lions were fifth in the 4x400 relay. In the finale, the Lions went with Daniels, Robert Phiester, Jayden McNair

and Garren Gardiner for a time of 4:26.37.

A time of 9:10.27 earned Phiester a silver medal for second place at the 2,400 distance, and teammate Grayson Riley finished at 9:29.46 for fourth place.

Ashton Wilson of Thompson was the gold medalist in the 800 in a time of 2:17.40, with teammate D'Marvia McVea in at 2:39.56 for fifth place.

Wilson secured another gold medal with a win in the 400 at 1:00.40, with Phiester sixth in a time of 1:10.30.

With golds in the 400 and 800, Wilson also championed the 1,600 run in a time of 5:25.93. McVea's time of 5:25.54 was fourth, with Riley sixth in a time of 6:06.29.

The gold medalist in the 200 was Harris as he came through with a time of 25.61, and Auzenne's time of 27.51 was fifth-best in the event. Harris also delivered a distance of 16-10 in the long jump for the gold medal.

Goree won the triple jump at 34-10 1/2, and Riley was sixth at 30-0 1/4. Daniels' high jump of 4-10 brought him a bronze medal for third place, and a time of 51.18 placed McNair fourth in the 300 hurdles, and Gardier's clocking of 51.22 was good for fifth.

Auzenne captured gold in the 100 hurdles in a time of 16.63, with McNair fourth at 17.94. Goree pushed for gold in the 100 and was ultimately second in a time of 12.30. The Lions' Nathaniel Gansit took fourth in a time of 12.74, with Ian Torres sixth in a time of 13.02.

McVea was also sixth in the pole vault after clearing 5-6. As for the discus, Chase Flower of Thompson was fifth at 75-10, with teammate Me'shai Alexander sixth at 72-11.

GAT 8th boys

Thompson got out to a quick start in the relays, taking gold in the 4x100 at 46.17 as that foursome included Ke'Mareun Adams, Allen Garza, Ethan Tran and Adrian Taylor.

At 1:38.30, the Lions were also victorious in the 4x200 relay as the group included Adams, Terry Betties, Garza and Taylor.

It was Taylor for the gold medal in the 100 as he clocked in at 11.68. The Lions' Betties was in at 11.92 for third place, and a time of 12.28 landed Tran fifth.

Adams and Garza went 1-2 in the 200 as Adams captured the gold medal in a time of 23.71, with Garza taking a silver medal in a time of 23.71.

Jaylen Aguilar cleared 7-6 in the pole vault as the district gold medalist, with Roberto Granados sixth at a height of 6-6.

In the long jump, the Lions' Adrian Taylor was the gold medalist at 17-10 1/2, with Ferrufino (15-11) fifth and Caleb Johnson (15-6 3/4) sixth.

Alec Alvarez was one of the Lions' many contributors as his time of 8:30.00 was second for silver in the 2,400 run, with teammate Alijah Banda fourth at 8:50.00.

Xavier Arizmendez and Alvarez crossed simultaneously at 1:00.60 for a fourth-place tie in the 400.

Adams won gold in the shot with a top throw of 42-1, and Harley Stewart was a bronze medalist for third place in the discus with a throw of 109-10. Stewart's best of 36-0 was sixth in the discus.

The Lions' Quintin Taylor posted a time of 47.04 for fourth in the 300 hurdles, and teammate Angel Ferrufino's time of 48.20 was fifth. Aguilar's distance of 34-11 was fifth-best in the triple jump.

In at 2:26.00, Devin Amanzor was sixth in the 800, and Banda's clocking

of 5:49.00 had him fifth at the 1,600 distance.

Ezekiel West was fourth in the high jump at 5-0, with Betties clearing 4-10 for sixth.

GAT 7 girls

A time of 54.94 for a gold medal in the 4x100 got the Thompson girls off and running as Jaila Bandy, Chelsea Garza, Maddison Campos and Durriyah Hill teamed in the event.

The Lions also won the 4x200 relay in a time of 1:55.52 as the group again included Bandy, Garza, Campos and Hill.

Makayla Franklin and Myah Moses finished 1-2 in the 800, with Franklin's time of 2:31.88 good for the gold and Moses in at 2:40.21 for the silver.

A time of 1:03.30 allowed Franklin to grab gold at the 400 distance, and Amber Corpeno's time of 1:10.90 was fourth-best. Moses was fifth at 1:11.10.

At 19.26, Thompson's Jade Rodriguez won the 100 hurdles gold medal, and teammate Mikki Gonzalez placed sixth in a time of 21.28.

Hill won top honors in the long jump at a distance of 13-4, and Garza finished at 26-6 in the triple jump for a gold medal. In the same event, Rodriguez won a bronze medal at 26-4.

Rodriguez and Gonzalez also carried the Lions in the 300 hurdles as Rodriguez's time of 58.34 was good for second place. In a time of 1:03.40, Gonzalez placed fifth.

The Lions also performed well in the 2,400 run as Dahlia Reyes was second in a time of 10:54.03, with teammate Corpeno taking third at 10:57.06.

Rodriguez cleared 4-0 in the high jump for fourth place, and Khaylin Mason made way over the 3-10 mark for fifth place.

Campos earned a point as she was sixth in a time

of 30.65 in the 200, and Demi Rodriguez finished the 1,600 at 6:58.34 for sixth place.

The Lions capped a dazzling relay sweep by taking the 4x400 gold medal in a time of 4:28.00, a win of more than 34 seconds, as Moses teamed with Garza, Hill and Franklin.

Mia Gonzalez threw the discus 55-10 for fifth in the event, and Jayda Lasker was sixth in the shot with a throw of 24-11 1/2.

GAT girls 8s
The Lions came away with the win for gold at 54.44 in the 4x100 relay, with the team including Natalia Uzoukwu, Yosselin Banegas, Trinitee Hines and Maleiyah Hoop.

The same foursome took to the track for the Lions in the 4x200 relay, also winning gold medals in a time of 1:55.51.

Angelina Amaya was in the hunt for the 2,400 lead before taking second place for a silver medal in a time of 10:25.00. In the 400, Thompson's Stella Kudrle was second for a silver medal in a time of 1:07.80.

Amaya earned another silver medal for second place in the 1,600 as she finished in a time of 6:34.00, with teammate Alayna Rodriguez fifth at 7:07.00.

A time of 19.94 was good for the Lions' Destanee Copeland as she was third in the 100 hurdles.

Thompson secured second place with a gold-medal run in the 4x400 relay as Uzoukwu, Kudrle, Hoop and Hines teamed for the win in a time of 4:30.00.

Taylor Palacios was the silver medal winner for second place at 33-10 1/2 in the shot.

Kudrle's high jump of 4-2 was fourth districtwide, and Rodriguez took sixth in the triple jump at 25-0 3/4. At 60-5, Thompson's Jurnee Davis was fourth in the discus. See Beverly Hills' results in the March 21 issue.

District 24-6A Basketball Boys' All-District Selections

Most Valuable Player

Qasim Boyd, Dickinson

Offensive Player of the Year

Alec Belter, Clear Springs

Defensive Players of the Year

Diego Sanchez, Dickinson

Jeremy Hinojosa, Clear Springs

Newcomer of the Year

Christian Brown, Clear Brook

Coach of the Year

Jason Wilson, Dickinson

First-Team Selections

David Chong, Dickinson

Emery Allen, Dickinson

Jerrick Guidry, Clear Lake

Jason Obert, Clear Lake

Julien Barclay, Clear Lake

David Emelife, Clear Springs

Izu Emelife, Clear Springs

Devin Nguyen, Clear Creek

Nathan Lueking, Clear Creek

Zion Norl, Clear Brook

Second-Team Selections

Logan Sariga, Clear Brook

Kenye Yzquierdo, Clear Falls

Kaden Solis, Brazoswood

Jeremiah Scoby, Dickinson

Diego Hernandez, Clear Creek

Allen Moody, Clear Creek

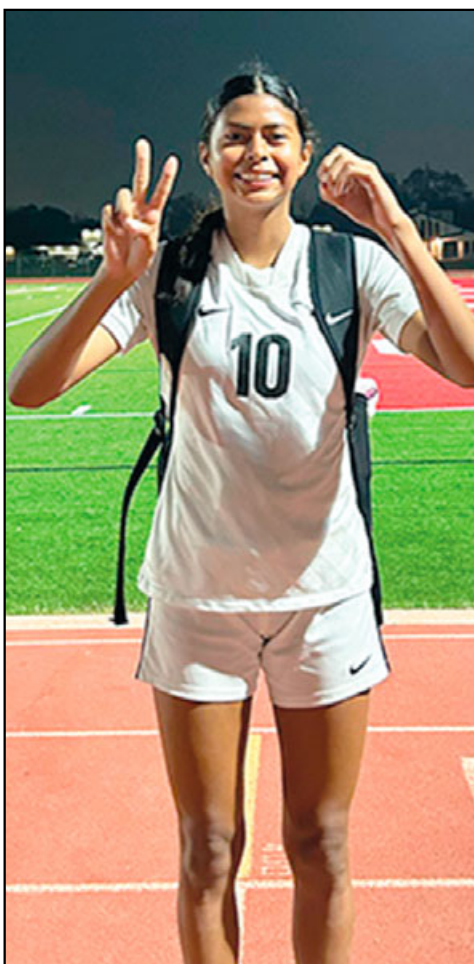
Sebastian Vivero, Clear Lake

Romulus Caroseli, Clear Springs

Honorable Mention – Brook

Abdiel Jimenez

JFD's Reyes nets 20 goals



The District 22-6A co-champion Dobie varsity girls' soccer team has delivered arguably its finest season in program history after finishing the regular season at 18-3-3. The 18 wins are the most ever for the Longhorns for a single season, and the team has combined to score 81 total goals while posting 13 shutouts. Senior Aylin Reyes (above) scored 20 goals to lead the way offensively. At 9-1-2 in 22-6A action, Dobie tied for first place with Memorial as the two teams played to a pair of ties. The bidistrict round of the playoffs is set for March 25-26, with the Longhorns facing a to-be-determined opponent from District 21-6A.

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