



South Belt-Ellington Leader

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The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, March 16, 2023 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 48, No. 7

St. Luke's to hold fish fry

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host its Lent Fish Fry Friday, March 17, from 4 to 7 p.m., at St. Luke's Catholic Church Social Hall, 11011 Hall Road, and via an outside drive-thru. Dinner includes fried fish, French fries, hushpuppies, ice tea and corn on the cob for \$15.

Sagemeadow meeting, election

The Sagemeadow HOA will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. For agenda, guest speaker or other information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Election

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold its annual election Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sagemeadow MUD building, 10755 Hall. Voters will decide who will serve as HOA's chairman for the next three years. Homeowners interested in submitting their candidacy may do so at the monthly meeting March 16 or by written on the day of the election. Proxy ballots and election information are available on the website at www.sagemeadow.org.

Knights hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, March 19, at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/354751.

Sageglen to meet March 20

The Sageglen Community Association will hold a homeowners meeting Monday, March 20, at the Sageglen Community Building, 11610 Sageyork, beginning at 7 p.m. Special guest speaker will be Precinct 2 Judge Jo Ann Delgado. All residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 281-481-2160.

Local COVID cases reported

While ZIP codes 77075 and 77034 reported roughly the same number of active COVID-19 cases this past week, ZIP code 77089 saw a sharp spike in cases, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, March 14, there were 152 active cases in 77089, up 56 from the previous week. To date, 141 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 24 active cases, up four from the previous week. To date, there have been 83 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 20 active cases, down seven from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, March 31. Significant delays are expected.

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

Privatization of city water plant stirs controversy

Contractor in consideration has checkered past in Kingwood

As City of Houston officials mull privatizing water-treatment operations at the city's Southeast Water Purification Plant, one of the two companies being considered for the contract has drawn opposition related to its involvement in a recent controversy at a Kingwood wastewater plant – a matter currently under criminal investigation.

The Southeast Water Purification Plant – responsible for treating the majority of water used by South Belt residents – is one of the city's three main facilities for treating drinking water. According to officials, the plant treats approximately 200 million gallons of water per day, providing potable water for roughly one million people, about a quarter of the city's consumer base.

The City of Houston is joined by 10 other local entities on the operating advisory committee of the Southeast plant.

With a 37-percent stake of ownership, the city serves as managing partner of the facility. Other partners include City of Pasadena (25-percent ownership), Gulf Coast Water Authority, Clear

Lake City Water Authority, City of Friendswood, City of South Houston, League City, La Porte, Baybrook Mall, Clear Brook City MUD and Harris County MUD 55. Any privatization plans must be approved by the majority of the committee.

The partners with the city invested in the establishment of the Southeast plants construction during the 1980s.

City officials are reportedly exploring the option of privatizing the plant in an effort to be more efficient. As part of the city's exploration efforts,

a company called Inframark has been asked to submit its "best-and-final" offer on the proposal. A second contractor, Jacobs Engineering, is also reportedly in consideration for the job.

This past month, Houston police and environmental investigators with the Houston Police Department and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality searched the Kingwood Central Wastewater Treatment Plant for evidence as part of a criminal investigation following allegations Inframark – the company that runs the facility –

Continued on Page 2

Beamer Ditch work resumes



Work recently resumed on the county's Beamer Ditch project after being dormant for months when the original contractor abandoned the job. In January, Harris County Flood Control District selected Rebel Contractors as the construction company to complete the project. Complete Concrete was originally awarded the low-bid contract to widen the ditch and install concrete lining from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. Photo by Marie Flickinger

City holds Ellington free pet-chip event

Houston District E City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin and BARC will host a free event to microchip pets Saturday, March 18, at the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center, located at 246 Loop Road. The event will take place 8 to 10 a.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Pre-registration is not required for this event, and no vaccination documentation will be required. All animals will need to have a collar and a leash but will not need to be brought in a carrier. Carriers are preferred, however, if an option.

In January 2022, City Council approved the requirement that all dogs and cats be microchipped. However, there was a year-long grace period allowing residents to have the time to get

their pets chipped. A city pet license will still be required; however, rather than issuing a physical metal tag for the pet's collar – which can easily be lost or damaged – BARC will use the microchip number as the proof of licensing. This change will allow BARC Animal Enforcement officers to scan and return a pet to its owner while the officers are in the field, eliminating the need to bring the animal back to the shelter for intake.

For additional information on the event, contact the District E office by phone at 832-393-3008 or by email at districte@houstontx.gov.

To be on the District E mailing list and receive updates and monthly newsletter, email districte@houstontx.gov with name and address.

Jones begins 1st full Congressional term

Freshman replaces longtime rep Coleman

Effective January 2023, Jolanda "Jo" Jones began her first full term as the state representative for House District 147, replacing Rep. Garnet Coleman, who retired last year after serving more than 40 years in the position.

According to the District 147 website, Jones rose from a childhood of poverty and tragedy to membership in numerous halls of fame, a CNN Hero, a four-time national



Jolanda "Jo" Jones

track and field champion, a basketball All-American, a Rhodes Scholar nominee, a successful businesswoman, author, an unapologetic human rights activist, a Houston City Council member and school board trustee.

Jones is a TV personality on CBS's Survivor Palau and was the star of WETV's Sisters in Law. Her second book, "Owning My S.H.I.T! (Suffering Hardship Internalizing Trauma)" is an Amazon bestseller. She also co-authored School Athlete's Survival Guide ~ Essential Study Skills for the Scholar Athlete. Jones has interviewed with Roland Martin, Tom Joyner, and Jacque Reid and has been featured on the cover of Curve **Continued on Page 4**

Speeding violation leads to DWI charge

A speeding violation led to a DWI charge for a 23-year-old male suspect March 5 in the 5400 block of the South Sam Houston Parkway East near Telephone/SH 35, according to Precinct 2 officials.

Toll road deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jer-



Jaime Torres

ry Garcia's office conducted a traffic stop at the above address on a speeding vehicle traveling 93 mph in a posted 65 mph zone.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized field sobriety tests were administered, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated.

The driver, identified as Jaime Alonso Torres, was arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail on misdemeanor charges of driving while intoxicated.

Hitchcock police fatally shoot suspect

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of an armed suspect by Hitchcock Police Department officers at 8406 Mosley Road about 2:05 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, in the 8400 block of Mosley near Edgemoor and the Gulf Freeway.

The identity of the deceased male, 54, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The Hitchcock Police Department officers who discharged their duty weapons were not injured.

According to Houston Police Department officials, Hitchcock police officers attempted to serve a felony warrant on a suspect in a parking lot at the

above location. As the officers approached the suspect, he pointed a pistol at them. Fearing for their safety, the Hitchcock officers discharged their duty weapons, striking the suspect.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and transported the suspect to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead.

As is customary in officer-involved shooting incidents that occur in the Houston city limits, this case is being investigated by the Houston Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

South Belt Cleanup set for March 25

Local volunteers are gearing up for the inaugural South Belt Cleanup, set to take place Saturday, March 25, beginning at 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate. (Rain-out date is April 15.)

A collaboration between the Knights of Columbus Council 9201 and the Sagemont Civic Club, the inaugural South Belt Cleanup has at-

tracted a wide range of local supporters. Additional partners include Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods, City of Houston Solid Waste Department, state Rep. Mary Ann Perez, Southeast Volunteer

Continued on Page 2

Teen shot at Redford apartments

A 13-year-old girl was shot around 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, at an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Redford Street near Edgemoor and the Gulf Freeway.

Contrary to online reports, an infant was not killed in the incident.

According to Houston Police Department officials, an adult male was in an argument with his girlfriend's mother when he pulled out a pistol and tried to shoot the woman. Police said the shot missed its intended target and struck the

nearby teen instead.

Paramedics transported the girl to an area hospital to be treated for a bullet wound to the leg. She is expected to be OK, police said.

The male suspect reportedly fled the scene after the shooting. At press time, he remained at large, police said.

Although the shooter's identity was known to police, it was not released to the public at press time. Charges were pending at press time, police said.

Robbery victim faces paralysis

A woman robbed after making a large cash withdrawal from Bank of America on Blackhawk and Beltway 8 may not walk again due to injuries incurred during the violent attack.



Suspect

According to Houston Police Department officials, Nhung Truong, 44, was robbed in front of a shopping center in the 9800 block of Bellaire. During the robbery, Truong was body slammed to the ground, causing severe spinal damage. Her family said doctors gave her a 50-percent chance at walking again.

Prior to the attack, Truong had withdrawn more

than \$4,000 from the local bank for an upcoming trip to her home country of Vietnam. Investigators believe she was followed by her robber for 24 miles to the Bellaire location.

The story made national headlines. Contrary to some national media reports, however, the cash withdrawal was not made from Chinatown.

Truong's family has set up a GoFundMe page to help defray medical costs. At press time, the page had more than \$70,000 in donations. To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/help-my-mom-recover-from-spinal-cord-injury.

The suspect is described as a black male in his early 20s, with a skinny build, standing 5 feet 8-9 inches, weighing around 140 pounds.

Anyone with information on this incident is urged to contact Crimestoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Drugs found hidden in Whataburger

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, at approximately 8:45 a.m., Precinct 8 Deputy Brinkley with Constable Phil Sandlin's Office was conducting narcotic interdiction and observed a 2009 black Ford Flex traveling in the 1000 block of Edgemoor near the Gulf Freeway.



Contraband

A check of the vehicle's temporary permit returned to a blue 2020 Toyota 4 Runner. Brinkley activated his emergency equipment and initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle failed to yield and ultimately pulled into a residence in the 2500 block of Rodney Street. The driver was identified as 27-year-old Jesse Abraham Silva. Silva stated this was his relative's residence, and he was delivering a Whataburger order to them.

Continued on Page 2

Thieves target Fuqua liquor store

Ralston Discount Liquors in the 10900 block of Fuqua at Sabo was burglarized around 6:15 a.m. Saturday, March 11.

The crooks reportedly entered the establishment by cutting a hole through a steel door in the rear of the building using an elaborate gas-powered saw, possibly stolen from the Houston Fire

Department.

The Family Dollar in the same strip center was burglarized Feb. 5, 2022, using the same method. In that case, two of four suspects were caught in the act, while two were able to successfully elude police. It is unclear if the two incidents are related.

Vehicle recovered, suspect arrested



A call about suspicious persons in the 8100 block of Wilmerdean near Hobby Airport March 4 led to a felony arrest and the recovery of a stolen vehicle. According to Precinct 2 officials, deputies were dispatched to above address after receiving complaints of individuals going through a neighbor's property. One of those individuals had an outstanding felony warrant and was arrested (inset) Further investigation discovered the stolen vehicle.

In My Opinion

Dr. Kirk Lewis shares endorsement opinions

To the Editor:
The best school board members are those who put children at the forefront of every decision they make. Their service can never be about politics or personal agendas. I had the privilege of working alongside Pasadena ISD's Board of Trustees for 10 years as Superintendent of Schools prior to my retirement in 2016. I can say through experience that Marshall Kendrick, Vickie Morgan and Kenny Fernandez have a heart for the children of Pasadena ISD. Their service on the board has been consistently centered on what is best for all students, our teachers and our community.

We all want a school system where our children and grandchildren flourish academically and gain confidence in their ability to achieve their dreams. If you check the achievement scores, various avenues toward college credit and career certifications and graduation rates, I think you'll find this to be true of Pasadena ISD. Our students have multiple pathways to find success. These three members of our school board helped create that kind of environment.

It is my pleasure to endorse these three incumbents for another term as school board members of the Pasadena Independent School District. I encourage you to vote for Marshall Kendrick, Vickie Morgan and Kenny Fernandez in the school board elections in May.

Let's keep good things going. Let's continue the success experience under their leadership.
Dr. Kirk Lewis
Superintendent, Pasadena ISD, Retired.

Bill King discusses Houston's revenue cap

One of my pet peeves is how frequently I hear some City elected official or someone in the media refer Houston's "revenue cap." Let me state this as clearly as possible: the City of Houston does not have, nor has it ever had, a cap on the revenues it can collect.

The easiest way to know that Houston does not have a cap on its revenues is to look at its revenues since Proposition 1, the proposition that is so frequently and incessantly mischaracterized as a revenue cap, was passed in 2004. Since that time, the City's revenues have increased by 159%.

That is about a 5.5% average annual increase, which has roughly been twice the rate of inflation and wage growth in the Houston area for the same period. And notwithstanding the commonly held belief that Houston is still rapidly growing, although

its population has only increased by about 15% since 2004, or less than 1% per year. What the voters overwhelmingly approved in 2004 was a charter amendment that prohibited City Council from raising property taxes by more than the sum of inflation and population growth or 4.5%, whichever is lower. The principle reason this proposition has not resulted in any significant limitation on the City's revenue growth is that property taxes only make up about 20% of the City's revenue. There is absolutely no limitation on the other revenue sources for the City. So, for example, Proposition 1 had no effect on the City imposing a new drainage fee on its citizens to the tune of over \$100 million per year in 2014, or say, doubling the water and sewer rates.

Ironically, Proposition 1 has not even been all that effective at tamping down property taxes, which have doubled since it was adopted. That is primarily because of some loopholes in Proposition 1. The most notable is that the property taxes collected by the TIRZs do not count against the limit. Property tax increases during a state of emergency are exempt. You will frequently hear City-elected officials lament Proposition 1 and call for its repeal, claiming that their hands are tied by it. What they never mention is that under Proposition 1's provisions, Council can raise property taxes by whatever amount they want (up to the State limit), if they first ask for the voters' approval. Of course, given the sorry state of City services, notwithstanding its record revenues, they know that would be a hard sell.

So, the next time you hear City officials whining about the supposed "revenue cap" and suggesting we should repeal it, just remember what they are really saying is that they want to increase property taxes by more than population growth and inflation without checking with you first.
Bill King

Water controversy . . .

Continued from Page 1
released inadequately treated sewage into Lake Houston, one of the city's largest drinking water sources, and concealed the problem by falsifying sample reports.

The inadequately treated wastewater released from the plant contained about 60 times the maximum E. coli bacteria allowed by the state, officials said.

The Southeast Water Purification Plant currently has 35 city employees and operates on an annual budget of \$13.5 million.

At press time, it was unclear if the city was moving forward with its privatization plans.

Garage sale set at Leader

A garage sale hosted by a local ministry will be held Saturday, March 25, at the Leader office, 11555 Beamer and Beltway 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All funds collected will be donated to the capital campaign of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Community Health family fair set

Community Health Network is hosting a family health and wellness fair at Hope Church Pearland, 4209 Broadway St. on March 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be fun activities for the kids and music, along with free health screenings and a blood drive. Activities include behavior health screening and medical health screening.

Elected officials share their words

Supreme Court denies HFRRF petition

On March 10, the Texas Supreme Court denied a petition for review by the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (in its second lawsuit challenging the historic pension reform championed by Mayor Sylvester Turner. In 2017, the Texas Legislature approved sweeping statutory reforms to the City's pension systems designed to save the City from fiscal crisis due to crushing pension obligations. The enacted statute ensures that the actuarial assumptions for determining the City's contribution rates are based on sound actuarial principles and establishes a process for setting the contribution rate when the City's and HFRRF's proposed contribution rates differ by more than two percentage points.

HFRRF twice challenged the statute's constitutionality in Texas state courts,

first by arguing that it was facially unconstitutional and, when that failed, by arguing that it was unconstitutional as applied. Twice now, the Texas Supreme Court has rejected HFRRF's arguments, making the pension system more secure for Houston's firefighters now and in the future.

"Following the Texas Supreme Court's latest decision, the City of Houston will continue to operate in a fiscally responsible and transparent way to protect all employee pensions. When I became mayor, the estimated unfunded pension liability reached as high as \$8.2 billion before the 2017 reforms. Currently, the unfunded liability of the City's three pension plans is less than \$2.2 billion. We cannot afford any setbacks. I am grateful for the court's decision," said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin shares newsletter

Dear residents,
The beginning of 2023 has flown by, we have successfully kicked off Houston Rodeo season and are now preparing for Spring Break with the annual kick off of our Lake Houston Safety Plan, reminding Lake Houston visitors how important it is to pay attention to where you are and #knowyourzone while enjoying Lake Houston. This safety plan identifies seven colored zones across Lake Houston allowing 9-1-1 dispatchers and first responders to identify and respond to emergencies more easily. The District E Office worked diligently with City of Houston Departments and Lake Houston residents to roll out the Lake Houston Safety plan over a year ago and we are excited to continue to learn of its success.

Since our initial kick off two years ago, Lake Houston Safety Plan Zone Maps have been placed at all public marinas, boat ramps, and docks as well as a private community-run boat ramps throughout the Lake Houston Area. Additional signage has been placed on the West

Lake Houston Parkway Bridge and FM 1960 Bridge for boaters to be able to easily identify zones as they move through the water.

The District E Office continues to actively work with communities located around the lake to circulate and distribute resources related to the Lake Houston Safety Plan. I highly encourage each Lake Houston resident review the Lake Houston Safety Plan, and print out your very own map to keep handy around the house, on your boat, or jet ski!

The Lake Houston Safety Plan has made such an impact on the community it has been used as a model for emergency response for other large bodies of water in the City of Houston. I am extremely proud of this endeavor, if your community could benefit from a presentation on the Lake Houston Safety Plan, please do not hesitate to reach out to the District E Office by emailing districte@houstontx.gov or by calling 832-393-3008.

Sincerely,
David Martin

Sen. Bettencourt files single largest homestead exemption bill

Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) filed Senate Bill 3, and SJR 3, the constitutional amendment which would put to the voters of Texas the single largest ISD Property Tax Homestead Exemption increase in Texas history. SB 3 is part of Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's Top 30 Priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session, and all 31 Texas Senators have signed onto them as Joint Authors.

SB 3 & SJR 3 will increase the Homestead Exemption amount from \$40,000 to \$70,000 if approved by the voters. The historic 75% increase in SB 3 will provide an additional \$341 in savings on a Texas homeowner's school tax bill at the statewide ISD average tax rate of \$1.136* each and every year.

"SB 3 & SJR 3 will save 5.72 million Texas Homesteaders on each and every homestead property tax bill by raising the ISD Homestead property tax exemption to \$70,000 from \$40,000," remarked Senator Bettencourt, Principal Author of SB 3 and SJR 3. The bill cost estimate is \$3.5 billion.

"The fact that unanimously every Senator in the Texas Senate signed on to these Lt. Governor Dan Patrick priority bills, speaks volumes about the Senate's commitment to property tax cuts. This bill will save every homestead \$341 a year on top of the existing exemption, \$454, totaling \$795 per year in these exemptions, driving down property tax bills." Said Author Sen. Bettencourt.

SB 3 and SJR 3 builds on top of the property tax relief legislation from previous sessions. In the 84th Legislative Session, the Legislature passed, and voters later approved, increasing the Homestead Exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000. In the 87th

Legislative Session, the Legislature passed SJR 2, which was approved by voters in May of 2022 increasing the exemption to \$40,000 from \$25,000.

"I'm thrilled that all 31 Senators have signed on as Joint Authors to SB 3 & SJR 3! I have complete faith in the Texas Senate passing this first bill out of \$15 Billion in the base budget of property tax relief, and full faith in Texas voters, who just approved increasing a Homestead Exemption by 85%, in May 2022." Added Senator Bettencourt.

"This is one of the keys to control the growth of property tax bills and in this case actually reduce them for as long as you own a home in Texas! Just the additional \$30,000 increase in a Homestead Exemption for homeowners will save them over \$10,000 plus in their lifetime and nearly \$25K overall." He concluded. Senator Bettencourt will be filing additional property tax legislation.

The bill will permanently fix crediting over 65 and disabled homeowners with these exemption increases in the future. Including, retroactively, the increase of \$15K from May 2022 approved by the voters. See previous Press Releases below.

Texas Taxpayers Save \$8 billion on Property Taxes this year!
Inflation is up, but Homestead ISD Tax Bills are Not Over 3.5 Million should see savings this Fall

*Source: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/rates/index.php>
2022 School District Rates and Levies Report

Statewide ISD average tax rate calculated by Local Government Committee staff
Senator Paul Bettencourt - SD 7 State Capitol, Austin, Texas (512) 463-0107

Court blocks constable issue

A Travis County District Court has temporarily blocked Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's determination that Harris County defunded the Precinct 5 Constable's office. If the ruling stands, it means the State of Texas may not block Harris County from setting a tax rate and budget.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has issued the following statement: "The Court looked at the facts, looked at the law, and made the right call: Harris County has only increased the budgets for our law enforcement since I joined Commissioners Court. In fact, I initiated many of these investments."

"The Comptroller should look at this order, see how future litigation will go, and withdraw this complaint. We have the facts

on our side, and we have the law on our side. We have important business to take care of in Harris County, especially when it comes to protecting the public by making smart investments in public safety, such as new criminal district courts."

"The Comptroller's actions are purely political and have created uncertainty that puts those efforts in jeopardy. It is time for him to withdraw his inaccurate findings and stop playing politics with budgeting, let us get back to serving the nearly 5 million people of Harris County."

The next hearing is set for March 23, 2023. A copy of Harris County's lawsuit is available here <https://files.constantcontact.com/50cc5a01901f3dc4ec8-fb52-4d4f-8ec9-844c61701e0c.pdf?rdr=true>.

Drugs hidden in Whataburger

Continued from Page 1

A check of Silva's information revealed several prior arrests for possession of a controlled substance. Brinkley directed Silva step out of the vehicle to conduct a consent based search of the vehicle. During the course of the investigation, Silva's relative came

out of the residence and was standing in the driveway. Silva asked Brinkley if he could hand over the Whataburger order to his relative before it got cold. Brinkley opened the bag and recovered 0.80 grams of methamphetamine and 0.56 grams of Xanax hidden with the food.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted felony possession of a controlled substance for the methamphetamine. Silva was transported the Harris County Joint Processing Center, where his bond was set at \$1,500.

South Belt Cleanup scheduled

Continued from Page 1
Fire Department and the Leader. Sponsors include Pepsi and Los Niños Party Rental. Beverly Hills Intermediate and Dobie High School will also be participating in the cleanup.

Volunteers will clean up from the Gulf Freeway to Blackhawk, east to west, and from Fuqua to Dixie Farm Road, north to south. Volunteers will not clean Dixie Farm Road out of safety concerns. The

encompass an area approximately 6.25-square miles. Organizers are currently seeking volunteers. All volunteers must sign a waiver. For more information, contact mrwork2@att.net or 832-338-5156.

Deaths

Ida Akin McDowell



Ida Akin McDowell, resident of Bacliff, passed away on Sunday, March 5, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband John McDowell, son-in-law Doug Heller and granddaughter Amber Black. She is a longtime South Belt resident.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Linda Heller; son Kevin Deubner (Chris); grandchildren Monika Harper, Barrett (Isabelle) Harper, Kyle Deubner, Jordan Terrell; and eight great-grandchildren Dallas Turner, Shelby Black, Cheyenne Turner, Briley Mahon, Natalie Harper, Nolan Har-

per, Kruze Deubner and Brody Terrell.

Ida made and kept many friends along her life's journey including her classmates in the Galveston Ball High School Class of '53, and all the ladies of her "Lunch Bunch." She will be dearly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 25, at 11 a.m. at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 14045 Space Center Blvd., Houston, TX 77062.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Bacliff Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 751, Bacliff, TX 77518

FFA gets record-breaking funding

The 41st Annual Clear Creek ISD Livestock Show and Auction raised more than \$312,000 for high school students in the FFA program. This is the highest amount raised in program history.

There were also seven individual sales records set for top winners, including the Grand Champion steer, pig, turkey, broilers, rabbits and Best of Show for floral design and visual arts.

"As we close out the 41st annual CCISD Livestock Show, I am blown away by the tremendous amount of support that was on display throughout the week and especially at the auction," said JT Buford, CCISD Technical Education Program manager and show chairman. "To break seven Grand Champion auction records, and smash the total sale record is a lot to take in."

Held at the CCISD West Agriculture Center from Jan. 18-19, this event is the culmination of many months of hard work, practice and dedication for more than 200 FFA students and their teachers. Parents, staff, community members and local businesses bid on numerous livestock and nonlivestock projects.

"It just showed me that all of the hard work really does pay off," said Addi Shannon, a junior at Clear Springs High School who broke two individual sales records with her steer and pig at the auction. "I was so grateful for this experience."

Shannon received the highest bid of the night for her Grand Champion Steer that sold for \$21,100 to Norman Frede Chevrolet. This was her first year raising a steer for the show. All money raised during the live auction goes directly back to the students and the CCISD FFA program.

"The agriculture science department is so thankful for everyone that showed up in person and online to celebrate the success of our FFA exhibitors," said Buford. "The CCISD Livestock Show is all about making a lifelong impact on students through agriculture education, and a large part of that impact comes from the investment sponsors and buyers make in our great students."

Below is a list of 2023 top winners and the top 10 buyers for the event:

Top winners
- Grand Champion Steer - Addi Shannon, Clear Springs High School

City offers free money, water-saving workshops

Houston Public Works is hosting several events to highlight ways to save water and save money on your water bill, including events to learn how to fix common water leaks at home.

More than a trillion gallons of water are wasted every year in homes across the country, and 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons of water or more per day. Fixing the most common water leaks can save customers about 10 percent on their water bills.

Fix-A-Leak week
The City of Houston is teaming up with Dallas, Fort Worth, Tarrant Regional Water District, San Antonio, Frisco and the North Texas Municipal Water District to teach people how to fix common water leaks in homes as part of Fix-A-Leak Week March 20-24.

The free virtual events will feature expert plumbers to demonstrate how to make repairs for both indoor leaks and outdoor leaks.

Free registration for March 21 indoor leaks workshop at 6 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fix-a-leak-week-indoor-registration-551484514027>.

Free registration for March 23 outdoor leaks workshop at 6 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fix-a-leak-week-outdoor-registration-551472648537>.

High School; Norman Frede Chevrolet, \$21,100.00.
- Grand Champion Pig - Addi Shannon, Clear Springs High School; Diversified Vapor Solutions, \$11,500.00.
- Grand Champion Lamb - Sophia Dykes, Clear Springs High School; Traffic Systems Controls, \$7,000.00.
- Grand Champion Goat - Sophia Dykes, Clear Springs High School; Travis Kauffman, \$5,000.00.
- Grand Champion Turkey - Zachary O'Brien, Clear Springs High School; The Jackson Family, \$7,000.00.
- Grand Champion Broilers - Kristin Wiley, Clear Creek High School; Joe and Jeanie Engle, \$6,000.00.
- Grand Champion Rabbits - Avery Robinson, Clear Springs High School; Katie Carter, \$9,000.00.
- Grand Champion Ag Mechanics - Kaitlin Horacefield, Clear Brook High School; A Cut Above Consulting, \$4,000.00.
- Best of Show Floral Design - Faith Doza, Clear Falls High School; Cindy Bohannon, \$2,600.00.
- Best of Show Visual Arts - Gabriela Ruiz - Clear Brook High School; Joe and Jeanie Engle, \$3,000.00.
- Best of Show Food Science - Raegan Ball, Clear Springs High School; Traffic Systems Controls, \$1,500.00.
- Reserve Champion Steer - Madison Cook, Clear Springs High School; Assured Partners, \$15,000.00.
- Reserve Champion Pig -

Vanessa Ekstrom, Clear Fall High School; Diamond Hydraulics, \$3,500.00.
- Reserve Champion Lamb - Sarah Conner, Clear Springs High School; Jerry Hamilton, \$8,500.00.
- Reserve Champion Goat - Audrey Martin, Clear Falls High School; ABC Supply, \$3,000.00.
- Reserve Champion Turkey - Ashlynn Luedecke, Clear Springs High School; Diversified Vapor Solutions, \$1,000.00.
- Reserve Champion Broilers - Jack Volesky, Clear Falls High School; Clint and Shannon Jackson, \$2,000.00.
- Reserve Champion Rabbits - Rosemary Lin, Clear Brook High School; Katie Carter, \$2,500.00.
- Reserve Champion Ag Mechanics - Ryan Hall, Clear Falls High School; The Jackson Family, \$1,200.00.

Top Ten Buyers
- Norman Frede Chevrolet, \$21,850.00.
- A Cut Above Consulting, \$18,575.00.
- Diversified Vapor Solutions, \$18,500.00.
- Assured Partners, \$15,000.00.
- Katie Carter, \$13,500.00.
- Traffic Systems Constructions, \$13,500.00.
- Travis Kaufmann, \$11,700.00.
- The Jackson Family, \$10,700.00.
- Joe and Jeanie Engle, \$9,625.00.
- Diamond Hydraulics, \$9,000.00.

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.

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care

Now Enrolling

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

281.481.2003

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

ST. LUKE YOUTH

PASSION MIME

A DRAMATIC TELLING OF GOD'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR US.

APRIL 2ND

7:00PM - FREE ADMISSION

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

UHCC students visit legislators

A delegation of about 45 University of Houston-Clear Lake students, faculty, staff, alumni and UH System leaders visited Austin to engage with state legislators on behalf of the university during the new legislative session. Legislators declared March 7 "University of Houston-Clear Lake Day at the Capitol Day."

District 29 Rep. Ed Thompson and District 129 Rep. Dennis Paul met with students and administrators and spoke about the importance of university students connecting with legislators and communicating their priorities in person.

The UH-Clear Lake Day

at the Capitol event, which occurs every biennium, is a unique civic engagement opportunity and allows UHCL ambassadors to share the impact of the university's efforts with legislators with the goal of continuing to secure the needed funding for its upcoming priorities, which include increasing financial aid through funding to Texas Grants, expansion funding and comprehensive regional university funding.

The delegation broke into groups and visited offices of more than 25 legislators to advocate for these initiatives.

Nancy Arellano, a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Sci-

ence in biological sciences, is part of UHCL's Executive Council for Student Government and was among the student delegates on the trip. "Advocating for UHCL is a way to actively leave an imprint on the people we were able to reach," she said. "Sharing our involvement, our achievement and our goals for the future with our state representatives' staff keeps them informed that the funding we receive goes toward the growth of the whole student body. We students are the living testimonies of UHCL and in order to be recognized, we need to stay active in supporting our university."

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. 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 16, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Thursday, March 16, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime. Registration required.
Monday, March 20, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Tuesday, March 21, 4 - 5 p.m. Tween craft. Registration required.
Wednesday, March 22, 6 - 7:30 p.m. English class. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. 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 16, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
Thursday, March 16, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Friday, March 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.
Monday, March 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.
Monday, March 20, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family storytime.
Monday, March 20, 5 - 6 p.m. Nostalgia night: coloring.
Monday, March 20, 6 - 7 p.m. Laser cutter orientation.
Tuesday, March 21, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

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

Super Steers celebrated at South Belt Elementary



Shown are South Belt Elementary's Super Steers for the month of February for the 2022-2023 school year. The pictured students were chosen by their teachers, based on their ability to display the character trait of the month, citizenship. Left to right are (first row) Vincent Smith, Eli Sutton, Ayvah Rios, Bentley Phan-Do, Mia Pesina, Shams Adi, Alivia Bhakta, Alex Jimenez, (second row) Penelope Castellanos, Bryce Garcia, Max Lei, Shirley Wallace, Abraham Ortiz, Kaila Espinoza, Samantha Reyna, Evalinh Moore, Chris-

topher Santos, Niko Katsikes, (third row) Nicholas Simpson, Gabriel Cavazos, Arianna Correa, Jacques Adams, Parva Zabihpour, Mila Maldonado, Isabella Davila, Camila Berton, Dominic Mendoza, Clint Nguyen, Mason Campos, Alice Duong, (fourth row) Leona Senter, Ethan Perez, Chelsea Huynh, Marleen Melendez, Sofia Garcia, A'riyana Hemmings, Naomi Duong and Dannie Nguyen. Not pictured are Irene Gurung and Nicholas Torres. Photo by Lakitha Thomas, counselor

Clear Brook recognizes valedictorian, salutatorian



Clear Brook High School officials recently recognized the valedictorian and salutatorian of the Class of 2023. Principal Sharon Lopez stands between valedictorian Helen Jiang (right) and salutatorian Husam Dweik. Their friends and families are very proud of their accomplishments and hard work.

CCISD crowns spelling bee champ

Clear Creek ISD crowned Luke Nguyen, a sixth-grader from Brookside Intermediate, as the 2023 Spelling Bee Champion on Feb. 11. Nguyen won in the 20th round of the competition against 34 other students after correctly spelling the word "rictus." Mirelle Amalaman, a Greene Elementary fourth grader, was the runner-up. The next round of competition for Nguyen will be the 2023 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on March 25. Top winners will advance to the National Spelling Bee in May.

Second-graders become grammar surgeons at Beta Academy



Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Ava Gavidia, Rosie Rios, Aram Torres, Meadow Saldana, Gavin Galvan, Damian Morales, Matheo Velazquez-Lopez, (middle row) David Flores, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Charles Faison, Josue Rodriguez, David Pompa, Rainey Blanton, (back row) Dash Carter, Samantha Schuman, Gigi Tukes, Arabella Levy, Kortney Duncan, Ariana Rivera, Stella Escobar and Kyrie Arredondo. Somebody call a doctor. Beta Academy second-graders came to the aid of Contraction Jackson, an imaginary patient with an allergy to commas. In order to save

him, they sorted words, cut out unnecessary letters, and inserted apostrophe band-aids. When the operations grew difficult, Kristen Flaherty's class had a "Beta Blood Bag" filled with red fruit punch to provide a pick-me-up. It was touch-and-go for some grammatical patients in Mrs. Heather Lu's class. "One of mine died, sadly," said second-grader Nicholas Garza. But his classmate Raelynn Long declared, "All of my words survived." Lu found the imaginative learning exercise on TikTok, and her scholars enjoyed the challenge.

Thompson Intermediate names its fourth six-weeks honor roll



Brookside Intermediate sixth-grader Luke Nguyen (left), 2023 Spelling Bee Champion stands alongside runner-up Mirelle Amalaman, a Greene Elementary fourth-grader.

Thompson Intermediate names its fourth six-weeks honor roll

Thompson Intermediate officials recently released the honor roll students for the fourth six-weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Seventh grade
Aaden Aguilar, Miranda Aguilar, Alec Alvarez, Emily Barrera, Leyla Brenskie, Kayla Briscoe, Aileen Castillo, Diana Chiccas Lopez, Jeff Cuyuch Ordonez, Trinity Dang, Brooke Davis, Yenzi Gomez, Samuel Gonzales, Jady N. Jaso, Crysta Keim and Paige Martinez.
Janise Mcrae, Emme Mejia, Ava Morin, Hailey Naughton, Emily Nazario, Hana Nguyen, Yen Nguyen, Starling Oviedo Ayala, Heidi Padron and Trinity Pafford.

Eighth grade
Aiden Aguilar, Reemas Alazeh, Syed Aljafari, Isabella Allen, Kaleigh Antoine, Jaslyn Arredondo, Adeliz Barahona, Adelle Bongfen, Naiven Buendia, Hadassah Burgett, Jasmine Cabrera and Barbara Chapa.
Cuthbert Chau, Khloe Coronado, Leslie Costa, Mariah Davis, Aidan De La Rosa, Kyleigh Dorsey, James Duncan, Anahi Echeverria, Emma Espino, Alana Espinoza, Alyssa Espinoza and Alina Faraok.

Ninth grade
Macy Figueroa, James Flores, James Fortson, Fabian Fraide, Ariel Gallegos, Kaylah Gibson, Caela Griffin, Jaylyn Guevara, Vivian Hang, Muzna Hasan, Mykah Havard, Julian Hernandez and Julius Hernandez.

Tenth grade
Kingston Hernandez, Alexia Hoang, Chelsea Hua, Anthony Jennings, Marina Kostikoglou, Duy Lam, Anthony Le, Huy Le, Kim Le, Sheyla Le, Hayden Limas, Leyla Limon and Ava Lopez.

Eleventh grade
Esther Lopez, Allyson Marquez, Aaden Martinez, Ashley Martinez, Adlin Mena, Karen Mier, Nikolai Miranda, Dylan Mohwin-

kel, Aden Moore, Evan Mora, Alena Moya, Junied Munshi, Zainab Naveed, Anh Nguyen, Hayly Nguyen and Jeffery Nguyen.
Nicholas Nguyen, Quynh Nguyen, Ijeoma Nmezi, Louisa Obah, Lilly Olivia, Nathaniel Padilla, Dakaria Parker, Michael Pettis, Jonny Pham, Queana Pham and Andy Phan.

Andy Pineda, Cullen Ponder, Isabella Ramirez, Kendrick Ramos, Jazalynn Randall, Jeremy Rangel, Olivia Razo, Kaylee Robles, Aubree Rodriguez, Maylene Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez, Christopher Rubio and Jasmine Russell.

BHI recognizes 4th six-weeks honor roll students

Beverly Hills Intermediate faculty recently released the honor roll for the fourth six-weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Seventh grade
Lilah Aguayo, Coraline Alcalá, Daniel Alvarez, Giovannie Alvear, Chloe Anderson, Ian Avalos, Joshua Barboza, Amiyah Barnes, Angelica Barragan, Zadié Battarbee, Jihan Ben Saoud, Hailey Bonilla and Darryl Campbell.
Javanni Capuchino, Damien Chavez, Alondra Cruz, Phidang, Ricky Doan, Jacqueline Enriquez, Angel Escobar, Jessica Escobar, Kimmie Escudra, Emily Espinoza, Karla Fernandez and Carlos Flores.

Eighth grade
Janisleidis Aguilá, Arlette Aguirre, Marianne Aiello, Vianka Alanis, Victor Alanis, Carlos Albarán, Kevin Alfaro, Katherine Alvarez, Brooke Anderson and Sunisa Anderson.

Ninth grade
Kobe Arredondo, Maria Arredondo, Roy Azinge, Giselle Barba, Arianna Bermudez, Qumaine Bernard, Vanessa Blanco, Charles Bruno, Jose Bucio, Hermallony Campos and Nicholas Cantu.
Aaliyah Carter, Alonah Carter, Gabrielle Castilleja, Britny Cedillos, Lucas Cena, Ashlyn Coleman, Jordyn Cooper, Sebastian Cordova, Leneth Cruz and Sophia Cruz.

Tenth grade
John Dang, Katelin Dang, Gabriel Darby, Angel Davis, Kiahna Davis, Tahj Davis, Ashley De Arcos, Natalie De Paz, Aden Dejesus, Sadie Dias, Elizabeth Dinh, Matthew Dunn, Devin Duong, Kevin Duong, Joel Esparza, Ailey Espinoza and Tonilyn Esquivel.
Ruben Flores, Makayla

Flowers, Cesar Garcia, Diego Garcia, Giselle Garcia, Gerardo Garza, Valeria Garza, Orlando Gomez, Jady Gonzalez, Marcos Gonzalez, Laticia Grier, Angelina Guajardo and Wendy Guerrero Celay.

Eleventh grade
Eniko Sanchez, Johnathan Saucedo, Noah Serna, David Shaffner, Deshaun Singleton, Jacob Solis, Jonathan Solis, Alina Sosa, Nehemiah Stepany, Cecilia Suarez, Jennifer Tan, Eva Taylor and Aiden Tellez.

Twelfth grade
Marlee Tillman, Tiffani Tillman, Janasia Tompkins, Miriam Torres De Leon, Ximena Torres-Zuniga, Daniel Tran, Kaylie Tran, Alex Truong, Tuyet Truong, Thomas Turubiarates and Cynthia Vagliente.

Royal Valentine, Ruben Vasquez, Julian Villaseñor, Tina Vo, Novyanna Von Dran, Minh Vu, Christopher Wickliff, Courtney Williams, Amaya Wilson and Lily Yam.

Eleventh grade
Eniko Sanchez, Johnathan Saucedo, Noah Serna, David Shaffner, Deshaun Singleton, Jacob Solis, Jonathan Solis, Alina Sosa, Nehemiah Stepany, Cecilia Suarez, Jennifer Tan, Eva Taylor and Aiden Tellez.

Twelfth grade
Marlee Tillman, Tiffani Tillman, Janasia Tompkins, Miriam Torres De Leon, Ximena Torres-Zuniga, Daniel Tran, Kaylie Tran, Alex Truong, Tuyet Truong, Thomas Turubiarates and Cynthia Vagliente.

Royal Valentine, Ruben Vasquez, Julian Villaseñor, Tina Vo, Novyanna Von Dran, Minh Vu, Christopher Wickliff, Courtney Williams, Amaya Wilson and Lily Yam.

Harris County Tax rendition help available

The Harris Central Appraisal District has begun mailing personal property rendition forms to businesses known to have been operating in Harris County during 2022.

The appraisal district will continue offering free rendition workshop sessions to help business owners complete the required personal property rendition forms before the April 17 filing deadline.

The deadline, usually is April 15, but since that is on a Saturday, the filing deadline is April 17. This year the district will conduct eight workshops between March 8 and April 17 - four online virtual workshops and four in-person workshops at the appraisal district office. Registration is open at www.hcad.org > Online Services > Rendition Workshops, with virtual and in-person workshop dates listed. No registration is needed for the in-person workshops. Participants can sign up for a 30-minute time slot to meet individually with appraisal district staff who will answer questions and provide one-on-one help completing the form. There is no charge for this service. Anyone who owns tangible personal property used to produce income, must file a rendition with the Harris Central Appraisal District by April 17. A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable personal property owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. Business personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business such as furniture and fixtures, supplies, raw materials, and business vehicles, vessels and aircraft. "Those who attend these workshops will consult individually with appraisal district staff who will explain personal property taxation and rendition requirements, as well as answer questions about completing the rendition forms," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "These sessions have been very successful in the past and have helped business owners complete their renditions on the spot." All business owners are required to file renditions whether or not they have received notification. Businesses that fail to render or that render late are subject to a 10 percent penalty. Filing a fraudulent rendition carries a 50 percent penalty if guilty. State law permits business owners to obtain an automatic extension of the filing requirement by submitting a request in writing by the April 17 filing deadline. The extended deadline for such businesses would then be May 15. Rendition forms are available on the appraisal district's website at www.hcad.org under the "Forms" tab with information on rules of the process or on the rendition workshops sign-up page mentioned above. Business owners with questions about the requirements are encouraged to attend any of the workshop sessions, call the appraisal district's Information Center at 713-957-7800 or email help@hcad.org.

SoHo High School fourth six-weeks honor roll named

South Houston High School officials recently recognized their honor roll students for the fourth six weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Freshman class
Yessenia Acevedo, Melody Acosta, Za'nyah Agege, Ludvin Aleman Retana, Arlen Alvarado Ordonez, Abel Alvarez Recendiz, Jose Angulo, Audel Arellano Duarte, Yefferson Argueta Argueta, Francisco Avila Contreras, Christopher Avila and Isabella Avila.

Ruby Ayala, Devon Barnwell, Natalia Barreira, Alan Bello, Christiani Bonilla, Isaiah Bonilla, Brown Bonilla, Ronald Brown Toirac, Alejandro Castillo, Arellyn Castillo, Luis Castro and Sonia Chavez Ortega.

Katia Chavez, Jeovanny Corral, Tiana Costa, Angel Cruz Mejia, Kristal Delacruz, Kenia Diaz-Rivas, Hennesis Duarte Luna, Raul Duran, Oscar Escamilla Barrientos, Nicole Escobar, David Flores, Gideon Fowler and Diego Franco Morales.

Alejandro Galindo, Jacinto Gallego Cobo, Joheli Garcia Gonzalez, Yoandri Garcia Gonzalez, Dayana Garcia, Korina Garza, Ladarious Glover, Jose Godoy, Arianna Gomez, Carlos Gomez, George Gonzalez Agulla, Antonio Gonzalez and Delilah Gonzalez.

Joel Gonzalez, Raul Gonzalez, Megan Grays, Brianna Grimaldo, Sumayah Guadalupe, Ana Hernandez, Saleste Hernandez, Dayanis Hinojosa, Ann Hounmetin, Anthony Jaime Fraga, Alexia Lacio-Wardrop, Averie Lasalle, Anahi Ledesma and Axel Lopez Carbajal.

Jaqueline Lopez, Anahi Lule, Dayris Malasquez Montalvo, Tekayla Mann, Helen Maradiaga Munoz, Dylan Martinez, Gerardo Martinez, Yair Martinez, Maximiliano Mendoza, Kinereth Meraz Zelaya, Beatriz Meza, Jonathan Mojica, Isai Morales, Juan Morales and Tasia Nickerson.

Arianda Ortiz, Ra'tavia Osborne, Lita Otero Uza, Genesis Palma Romero, Madelaine Palma, Ria Pandya, Andrea Patino, Adrian Pena, Hector Pena, Jayden Pena, Wendy Perez Morales, Gabriela Portillo and Kentrell Price.

Jessica Pulido, Johana Ramirez, Jazlin Ramirez-Rivera, Reggie Rangel Quinones, Alexis Rangel, Cesar Rasso, German Realejo Morataya, Katherin Realejo Morataya and Salome Re-

strepo Gamba. Michelle Reyes, Yasmine Reyes, Martha Reyes-Lechado, Benjamin Reyna, Samir Rivera Garcia, Evelyn Rivera Mena, Jacob Rivera, Grecia Rodriguez Agraz, Junior Rodriguez Ramirez and Alexy Rodriguez.

Valerie Rodriguez, Alexia Romero, Marivel Rosales, Rubi Rosario Cruz, Jade Ruiz, Evelyn Sainz, Fredy Sanchez Lopez, Sheryl Sanchez Ortiz, Jhazmany Sanchez, Ricardo Sanchez, Alexandra Santiago and Sophia Saucedo.

Emily Saucedo, Gabriel Serrato, Shannon Shaw, Andrea Silva, Eric Silva, Julio Soledad Rivera, Grace Sonnier, Sarah Suarez and Errendira Torres.

Hayden Tran, Valery Trevino, Diego Valdes Legra, Vanessa Vargas, Isabel Vasquez, Amairani Vega, Bryan Velasquez Chavez, Jayden Victoria, Clarity Villanueva, Annethe Zacarias Trevizo and Estrella Zavala.

Sophomore class
Dalilah Acosta, Agustín Aguilar, Ghisell Agurto Toapanta, Kelvin Alvarez Jandres, Carolina Alvarez, Kevin Alvarez, Anderson Amaya Urias, Jocelyn Aranda, Xavier Arizaga, Amiah Atkinson, Galia Barbosa and Aryanna Benitez.

Jazmin Bocanegra, Reginald Brooks, Jordan Buckner, Carlos Burgos Reyes, Reynaldo Cabrera, Benito Cadena, Michelle Cano, Yeison Carbajal, Gabriella Castaneda, Emiliano Castilleja, Adamari Castillo, Natalia Castillo, Eric Centeno and Selina Chamorro.

Melanie Chaverría, Manuel Chavez, Da'jonee Citizen, Perla Colmenero, Rosa Contreras, Victoria Contreras, Lester Cortes Varela, Nataly Coto-Chong, Jeady Cruz, Bryan De Leon, Valerie Del Valle, Krystal Delgado, Lorenzo Delgado and Nathan Diaz.

Jesus Dimas, Elizabeth Erwin, Kayleen Erwin, Aaron Escareno, Kevin Espinal Lemus, Dariana Fierro, Jennifer Flores, Ariana Franco, Kylie Gale, Briahna Garcia, Diego Garcia, Joey Garcia, Lupita Garcia and Xzaviana Garcia.

Rogelio Garibay, Alinna Garza, Giselle Garza, Mia Gaytan, Deborah Getu, Cecilia Gomez, Christopher Gomez, Evelyn Gomez, Rachel Gonzalez Rodriguez, Francisco Gonzalez and Diana Gracia.

Jonathan Guerra Chacon, Amy Guerra, David Guervara, Karina Guillen, Jade

Guzman, Rayne Hale, Alexia Hernandez, Mario Hernandez, Ana Herrera, Kaitlyn Houston, Rosa Huerta, Aniya Johnson, Marina Joa Campos, Adrian Juarez, Edward Juarez, Navya Karunaratne and Norma Lazo Saucedo.

Jayden Leos, Emmanuel Llanos, Dulce Lopez Canseco, Antonio Lopez, Jazmin Lopez, Juan Lopez, Felix Lozano, Patricia Luna Argueta, Raquel Malbro, Alonso Marquez, Emely Martinez, Joaquin Martinez and Ramiro Martinez.

Raphael Martinez, Ricardo Martinez, William Martinez, Pricilla Mendiolala, Cindy Molina, Jonathan Morales, Kevin Morales, Yazmine Moreno, Kiara Moya De La Rosa, Guadalupe Murillo Galloso, Gerald Murillo and Camila Navarro Moran.

Kimberly Negrete, Kristi Nguyen, Leslie Oliveros, Vanessa Ortiz, Diego Osejo, Leonardo Otero Cuza, Axel Otto, Ilian Pacheco Villafra, Noah Parras and Kelly Patel.

Christopher Pena, Christian Perez, Victoria Perrett, Thien Pham, Jack Phu, Jovanny Portillo, Valerie Portillo, Jovany Quezada, Christy Ram, Camila Ramirez, Fatima Ramirez and Xiomara Ramirez.

Jason Ramos, Tatyana Ramos, Hugo Rangel, Davian Revuelta, Inary Reyes, Yaneli Reyes, Cassandra Rivas, Carlos Rivera, Jennifer Rivera, Chelsea Robertson, Mahia Rodriguez Agraz, Angel Rodriguez Castillo and Giovanni Rodriguez.

Aldamaris Roman Telliez, Alexis Romero, Anthony Salinas, Carlos Salinas, Deevanie Sanchez, Lindsey Sanchez, Diego Santillan, Madison Scott, Katie Solano, Leonardo Solis, Irma Sosa Villafra, Natalie Terrones, Betzabet Trinidad Yezpe and Joaquin Vargas.

Jonathon Vargas, Maniah Velez, Ruby Vences, Pamela Viera, Sairah Villalobos, Mariah Vizcaino, Courtney Wright, Marlen Zavala, Evelyn Zavaleta and Yeira Zavalija Garcia.

Junior class
Mikaela Acosta, Lynkon Alexander, Jessica Alfaro, Elizabeth Almager, Christopher Almanza, David Alvarado Paz, Georgianna Alvarado, Pedro Alvarez, Daniel Arias, Milton Arias and Andrea Ayala.

Jonathan Barrientos, Amy Becerra, Christopher Bowshier, Ovidio Bustillo, Dora Caballero, Marissa Caballero, Ashley Cadena,

Rosa Campos, Gustavo Cano-Mercado, Jose Cardoza, Abel Castellano, Daniel Castillo, Jenny Chau, Aaron Chavarria and Angelina Damian.

Dalia De La Rosa Pantoja, Arlet Delgado, Olga Diaz Camacho, Paola Diaz Galvan, Abraham Escareno, Syntrel Evans, Everth Flores, Jayden Flores, Natalie Funes, Manuel Gamboa and Aldo Garcia Loya.

Abraham Garcia, Angela Garcia, Naomi Garcia, Nathalie Garcia, Alexis Garza, Emily Garza, Ethan Garza, Elias Gauna, Julie Gonzales, Angel Gonzalez Torres, Nefertiti Guzman and Edwin Hernandez Angeles.

Cristian Hernandez, Valeria Hernandez, Angela Herrera, Elissa Herrera, Ruby Herrera, Kayla Hughes, Ciara Jackson, Jose Labra, Natalie Leon Jordan, Abril Leon, Stormy Lindsey and Francisco Lopez Tejada.

Yair Lopez, Daniela Maldonado, Genesis Marin, Kassandra Martinez, Raul Martinez, Tristan Mcguffery, Ariana Mendoza, Josue Miranda, Jazlyn Montes, Edgar Najera and Aldo Navarro Moran.

Rogelio Palma, Michelle Perez, Ryan Pham, Junior Pineda Zuniga, Adrian Pineda, Evyn Ponce, Fernando Pruneda, Giselle Quintero, Kaylee Ramirez, Joanna Ramos, Gerardo Reyes and Rosa Reyes.

Maria Rivera Robles, Stacie Rivera, Cheyenne Robertson, Karina Robledo, Josephine Robles, Silvio Rodriguez Suarez, Mansa Rogers, Carlos Roman, Victoria Romano, Monika Romero, Jose Salazar and Natalie Salinas.

Eytzel Sanchez, Julian Sanchez, Roselynn Sanchez, Axel Saucedo Estrada, Urva Shah, Alan Solis, Adrian Soto, Miracle Soto and Bryanna Suarez.

Andrew Trancoso, Gabriel Valenzuela, Jamileth Vasquez, Noemi Vasquez, Oscar Vilchis, Angela Villafra, David Villarreal and Leslie Zavala.

Senior class
Edith Acosta, Denisse Aguilar, Jamie Aguirre, Juan Alfonso, Nevaonna Alfred, Benjamin Anaya Cruz, Alejandra Arredondo, Steve Ayala, Nelson Banks, Stephanie Barrientos, Samantha Beltran Gonzalez and Roland Benavides.

Jacqueline Bocanegra, Cristian Briagas, Jocelyn Caballero, Krystela Cabrera, Isaac Camacho, Ariana Cantu, Guillermo Cardenas, Ami Cardona, Daniel Car-

riello, Gael Castillo and Angeles Chamorro Hernandez. Daniel Chavez, Joseph Chavez, Cesar Conde, Monserrat Cruz Franco, Heidy Cruz, Griselda Cuadros, Hannian De Leon, Diego Espinosa, Joseph Ferguson and Heidi Franco.

Danielle Fuentes, Sara Gaeta, Manuel Galindo, Cecilia Garcia Velasquez, Kimberly Garcia, Natalie Garza, Marisol Gomez Camero, Angel Gomez, Nathalie Gomez, Xavier Gonzalez, Elizabeth Guadarrama and Elver Guzman.

Ashley Hernandez, Maylyn Hernandez, Melanie Hernandez, Nicolas Horton, Jeremiah Horton, Kimberley Houston, Kimberly Ibarra, Amy Jimenez, Jazlyn Jimenez, Jacob Juarez, Carolina Julian, Ashley Lara, Sindi Lemus Ruiz and Aileen Lopez.

Jesiel Lopez, Sonia Lopez, Joel Luque, Matthew Macias, Stephanie Maldonado, Natalia Martinez, Daisy Mcgarrity, Angel Mejia Mercedes, Daisy Mendoza, Richard Mendoza, Esmeralda Meza, Tomas Meza, Mi'jai Mickles and Alejandra Miranda.

Maribel Montalvo, Nathanael Morales, Cristina Moreno, Brittany Muniz, Kevin Murillo-Gallos, Juan Nava, Antonio Negrete, Rigoberto Orellana, Viet Ham, Jonathan Piche and Saul Quintanilla.

Santos Ramirez Garcia, Govany Ramirez, Janeth Ramirez, Maritza Ramirez, Pamela Ramirez, Sebastian Ramirez, Jose Ramos, America Regin, Natalie Reinot, Erick Renteria and Mauricio Reyes Chapa.

Vanessa Reyes, Lilisbeth Rios Diaz, Angel Rivas, Diana Rivera, Alyssa Rodarte, Fernanda Rodriguez Limas, Angel Rodriguez, Cesar Rodriguez, Kathryn Rodriguez, Leslie Rodriguez and Leniz Romero.

Jailyn Saldana, Leiby Sanchez Lopez, Nicolas Sanchez Ramirez, Destiny Sanchez, Ingrid Sanchez, Josue Saucedo Sorto, Shakia Scott, Jeremiah Sheppard-Rubio, Ximena Solis Rodriguez and Mark Tabor.

Olufunmilayo Talabi, Maybel Tinoco, Robert Torres, Ashley Trujillo, Zariya Turner, Andrea Valadez Alviso and Isaac Valdez Gonzalez.

Evelyn Valdez, Alexandra Vazquez Garcia, Christian Vera, Kristal Villa, Hanson Vo, Demarcus Whitaker, Ariel Zamora, Cynthia Zavala, Josue Zuniga and Angie Zuviri.

Roberts MS hosts Dudes and Donuts



At left, Fred Roberts Middle School students were encouraged to invite an important male figure in their lives to eat breakfast and listen to the guest speaker, Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, during the event Dudes and Donuts. Garcia spoke to the students about growing up in the South Belt area, as well as the importance of a male figure in a child's life. Afterward, they attended the school book fair. Shown at left are Mark (center) and James Cruz with their father, Mark Cruz, at the book fair.

Photo taken by Crissy Higham

CCISD board of trustees election upcoming

During a general election to be held on Saturday, May 6, Clear Creek ISD's board of trustee positions for districts 2 and 3 are up for voter consideration to serve 3-year terms.

The candidates for District 2 are Glencora Rodgers and Jamieson Mackay. For District 3, the candidates are Arturo Sanchez and Peter Lauzon.

This year, the Clear Creek ISD board of trustees election will be operated by Harris County for the District 2 and District 3, and by Galveston County for the District 2 election.

For a full list of polling places in Harris County, voters may visit harrisvotes.com. To find one's polling place in Galveston County, visit galvestonvotes.org.

Early voting will take place Monday, April 24, through Tuesday, May 2. Election day is Saturday, May 6. Polling location dates and times vary by county of residence.

Voters may visit the voting single-member district lookup app at ccisd.net/elections to determine in which district they live, beginning March 27.

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce invites the public to attend the CCISD Board of Trustees Candidate Forum Thursday, April 13, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Nassau Bay City Hall, 1800 Space Park Drive, Ste. 200.

The voter registration deadline for the May 2023 election is April 6. Visit

votetexas.gov to register to vote.

For the latest updates on the 2023 CCISD board of trustee election, visit ccisd.net/elections.

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Jones congressional term begins

Freshman replaces longtime rep Coleman

Continued from Page 1 Magazine.

A highly sought public speaker, Jones attended University of Houston, where she was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at UH's Epsilon Lambda in the fall of 1987. She remains a current dues-paying member of Mu Kappa Omega.

Jones was raised by her single mother after her father committed suicide in his daughter's presence. According to Jones' website, she was confronted with multiple evictions; houses burning

down; rape; domestic violence; being shot at; seeing dead bodies; lack of food, gas, water, and electricity; and bullying. Jones overcame the murder of her brother, aunt and numerous cousins; the AIDS death of her niece; and survived death threats related to her legal practice.

Jones has distinguished herself legally, garnering prestigious legal awards. Her courtroom expertise helped shut down Houston Police Department's Crime Lab that faked lab results that convicted innocents and allowed

the guilty to go free. Her legal acumen has won multiple murder cases and serious felonies. Her business is 24 years old.

Jones prides herself on being the moral conscience and the voice of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised. She is a fighter for the oppressed, her page touts.

A child of a union household, Jones believes in the invaluable power of unions. She is a proud supporter of small businesses and minority businesses and works to create job opportunities in these areas.

– A hit-and-run victim.
– A victim passed out on a busy street.

– A teenager whose car fell approximately 100 feet off a freeway interchange, caught fire and exploded seconds after Jones and her son extricated her. Jones ran to with the teenager in her arms. For this life-saving effort, Jones was presented a HERO Award.

– If someone is in danger and Jones is near, she will be the person who rushes in to save whoever needs saving." the House District 147 page states. "Jones feels compelled to save people due to the many times she was a victim of circumstance and in need of help, combined with her mother's teachings that she must have the courage to do what is right when it's easier to do wrong and that she must help people who, but for her help, would be helpless."

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)
The city of Houston approved the purchase of 44,250 square feet of property on Beamer Road for a future fire station.

The Sonny Encinia family got quite a surprise at their home on Sageglove when an old, abandoned car was uncovered by a man who was grading their backyard. The car had somehow been buried in the yard, apparently two or three years earlier.

40 years ago (1983)
The Choate Road USA ballpark construction was finally finished with the installation of an \$80,000 lighting system.

Dobie student Lawrence Mitchell won the Steve Bledsoe Award for most outstanding athlete at the Brown Relays.

35 years ago (1988)
A new task force composed of private citizens was formed to work with the cleanup of the Brio waste site.

A South Belt Security Alliance officer arrested a rape suspect who was apparently running from the scene of the crime. Taken into custody was a 17-year-old identified as R. Jackson of the South park area.

30 years ago (1993)
Houston Police SWAT officers arrived at the 11700 block of Kirkmeadow in response to a report that a possibly armed, hostile man was barricaded inside.

Metro board members approved plans to build the 800-space Fuqua Park & Ride.

South Belt resident Al Carter was named best sports writer in Texas by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors.

25 years ago (1998)
The baseball fields at El Franco Lee Park were officially dedicated to former Houston City Councilman Frank Mancuso.

Frazier Elementary student Jon Lowery won a gold medal in physics at the elementary school science fair sponsored by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The possibility of termination of term-contract teachers caused the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees to pass a reduction in force resolution.

15 years ago (2008)
Clear Lake Tactical Unit made two drug-related arrests in the Kirkwood subdivision following an investigation which began earlier in the month.

Homeowners with homes with a history of flooding in the South Belt area were the most recent to get an opportunity for a Harris County Flood Control District and Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout.

Some residents who had experienced substantial repetitive losses were asked to participate in the Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot program.

Vandals painted graffiti on the concession stand of the recently opened Blackhawk Park.

After six months of meetings, five public hearings and countless hours of work by the members of the School Boundary Advisory Committee, the board of trustees approved new school boundary zones for the Clear Creek Independent School District.

10 years ago (2013)
The Pasadena ISD officially broke ground on its future career and technical high school. To be located on Beltway 8 at Genoa Red Bluff Road, the new 246,000-square-foot campus was set to open in August 2014. Approved in a 2011 bond vote, the \$37 million facility would offer students career and technical training.

A unit in the Park Center Apartments in the 12300 block of Beamer caught fire. Two apartments were completely destroyed in the blaze, and six others suffered water and smoke

damage. Fire department officials believed the incident was the result of arson. No immediate arrests were made.

5 years ago (2018)
Allen M. Sory, 96, who served as the first principal of Dobie High School died Tuesday, March 20. Sory served as Dobie principal from the campus's opening in 1968 until his retirement in 1979. Sory came up with Dobie's name, mascot and colors. Prior to his time at Dobie, Sory taught science at South Houston High School from its opening in 1957 until 1963. He also taught at Pasadena High School and served as assistant principal at Sam Rayburn High School.

1 year ago (2022)
A third suspect was charged in connection to a 2019 fatal shooting that took place at an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Daniel Cisneros Leyva, 22, was charged with capital murder.

Two other suspects, Cristofer Ernesto Perez, 20, and Juan Castillo, 20, were arrested shortly after the crime in 2019 and charged with murder. All three suspects are accused in the killing of Edward Guerrero, 21, on Feb. 18, 2019. According to Houston Police Department officials, at the time of the original crime, patrol officers responded to a shooting call and found Guerrero suffering from multiple gunshot wounds in a parking lot at the above address. Houston Fire Department paramedics arrived and pronounced him dead at the scene. A witness stated Guerrero and another male appeared to exchange gunfire, while a third male, armed with a pistol, fled the scene on foot. A sedan of unknown make and model was seen fleeing the scene, possibly with three males inside. Further investigation identified Perez and Castillo as suspects in this case, and both were taken into custody on March 5, 2019,

without incident and subsequently charged for their roles in the shooting. Additional investigation identified Leyva as a third suspect involved in this incident. Leyva was arrested March 1 and subsequently charged for his role in the shooting.

On Tuesday, March 1, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operation Unit and District Patrol assisted numerous other law enforcement agencies finished up a 14-month investigation led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration dubbed Operation Twisted Tea. The operation was one of the largest in the region in several years, according to federal officials. During the undertaking, the Special Operations Unit has assisted in numerous warrant services, narcotics investigations and seizures regarding this case. This investigation has led to the seizure of more than 150 kilograms of cocaine, 140 kilograms of meth, 500 ki-

lograms of marijuana, as well as 6 kilograms of heroin and 18 kilograms of fentanyl. The operation also resulted in the recovery of 39 firearms. The multistate collaborative effort resulted in 50 arrests, two in which the Special Operations Unit assisted. The charges alleged the crimes occurred between Dec. 10, 2020 and Dec. 15, 2021. The alleged crimes primarily took place in the Houston and Galveston areas. The indictment, returned Feb. 10, alleges the individuals engaged in a variety of fentanyl, cocaine, meth, heroin and marijuana transactions. Some also allegedly conspired to commit money laundering and illegally transferred or transported money from the United States to Mexico to promote the illicit drug smuggling activities. If convicted, some could face up to life in prison.

Family is why WE DO IT ALL.

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 16 through March 22, 2023.

Atkinson Elementary
Break out the balloons and party favors March 16 for **Tiffany Aldridge**.

Frazier Elementary
Break out the cake and ice cream for **Jennifer Cantu** March 19. **Bertila Guerrero** celebrates a birthday March 20. Birthday greetings go out to **Maria Campos** March 21.

Moore Elementary
Birthday wishes go out to **Alicia Carrizal** March 22.

Stuchbery Elementary
Light the candles March 18 on a birthday

cake for **Linda Reyes**. **Fred Roberts Middle School** Marking a birthday March 22 is **Shelby Willis**.

Melillo Middle School
Kara Ross and **Lissette Burgos** enjoy a double-layer birthday cake March 18. **Hannah Crowder** enjoys a birthday March 19.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Berenice Mejia enjoys a birthday March 21.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles March 16 for **Clara Ullman**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Karrie Valerio** who celebrates a birthday March 17. Birthday greetings are sent to **Karrie Valerio** who celebrates a birthday March 17.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, March 16: **Brandy Pimental**, **Kelly Cobble**, **Nathan Lewis** and **Nikki Pullin**; Friday, March 17: **Nickole Chapman**, **Yvonne Russell**, **Sherri Golightly** and **Larry Morgan**; Saturday, March 18:

Orenia Craven, **Gina Rodriguez**, **Meredity Jones**, **Derek Jones**, **Jodi Johnston**, **Charlene Hardin**, **Alicia Rodriguez**, **Josh Nance**, **Tristan Soria**, **Andrea Rohman**, **Daniel Goeman** and **Andrea Charles**; Sunday, March 19: **Tammie Little**, **Tonyka Smith**, **Cindy Dominguez**, **Shanna Young** and **Keith Pincbech**; Monday, March 20: **Roxanne Wheeler**, **Ken Dittrich**, **Martinez Joaquin**, **Carol Dawkins**, **Al Vanek**, **James Leslie**, **Martha Heinrich** and **Sheri Rose**; Tuesday, March 21: **Suni Ballard**, **Jamacia Zabala-Gonzalez** and **Joseph Block**; and Wednesday, March 22: **Kristy Poole**, **Maria Ybarra**, **Michael Hansen**, **Edwin Watson** and **Gary Hooks**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations, and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

24-6A girls' hoops CB's Castillo is again MVP; McLaurin is top defender

At right, having led the Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball program to a first-ever Class 6A regional quarterfinal appearance following a 12-0 undefeated run through District 24-6A play, Wolverines' sophomore guard Rezia Castillo (24) was named as the league's Most Valuable Player for the second straight season. Castillo, one of three players to average 12 points per game scoring, has been one of the state's top all-around performers while guiding Clear Brook 57 total victories and a 24-0 district record over her two seasons. See more All-District on Page 6.

Photos by Andy Tolbert



Clear Brook sophomore Kamryn McLaurin (with ball) led her team in scoring this season but also went all out on the defensive end en route to being

named the Defensive Player of the Year in District 24-6A as she helped her team to the league championship.

Hold second place Fire-hot offensive production leads JFD softball to three wins

A rematch with Region III champion Deer Park will come soon enough, but for now the Dobie varsity softball team is rolling along just fine heading into a pause for spring break with three straight wins.

Dobie, now 13-7-1 overall, rebounded from a loss to Deer Park in the 22-6A opener, crushing Pasadena, Memorial and Channelview by a combined 51-8 to move to 3-1 for second place.

After beating Channelview 10-1 on the road March 10, Dobie remains off-field until taking on Rayburn March 21 at Dobie in a 4 p.m. start.

Dobie will also go against South Houston March 24 at the Pasadena ISD Complex in a 6 p.m. start.

Falcons fall
Looking forward to spring break, Dobie made

a quick trip to Channelview and defeated the Falcons 10-1 as Miriam Castillo homered and drove in two runs.

Bella Perez, Sandra Quiroz and Alyssa Jones all drove in two runs.

Marisa Perla went the first three innings for the win, and Vanessa De La Fuente pitched four hitless frames for the save.

Down goes PMHS
Having defeated Memorial 20-3 at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association tournament the

first weekend of the season in College Station, the Longhorns continued their domination of the Mavs March 7 with a 17-0 win over just three innings.

Claire Ramirez, a San Jacinto College signee, homered and doubled while driving in a career high five runs and also scored twice.

Bella Perez and Perla both doubled and drove in three runs each, and Brianna Garcia had two hits, drove in a pair

Continued on Page 6

Dobie hosts Sam Rayburn
March 21, 4 p.m.
at Dobie main

Dobie vs. South Houston
March 24, 6 p.m.
PISD Complex



Dobie catcher Bella Perez (5) and her teammates were in a celebratory mood after routing Memorial March 7. The locals have now won three straight in league play.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie baseball pockets 10 wins; District 22-6A race gets started

Cruz Torres struck out four over five shutout innings to improve to 4-0 on the mound as the Dobie varsity baseball team highlighted its four-game trip to the Goose Creek ISD Invitational with a 9-0 win over Galveston Ball March 10.

Junior Orozco drove in three runs and Eduardo Loera had two hits as the Longhorns cruised to the win, their 10th overall thus far with four losses.

The 22-6A season began March 14 after press time with the Longhorns going against state-ranked Deer Park. The Longhorns will play at the Deer March 16 at Jim Kethan Field, with first pitch set for 11 a.m.

Deer Park is the defending league champion, while Dobie was 9-3 a season ago for a second-place tie with Memorial.

Dobie also played two games to time-limited ties

in Baytown, including 1-1 against Goose Creek Memorial and 5-5 against Atascocita.

Before taking down Galveston, the Longhorns lost a tough 7-6 decision to Texas City.

The Longhorns began their week on a high note, taking down Dawson 5-3 as Torres earned the win and Juelz Martinez had the save.

Omar Serna paced the offense with a double and a run batted in, while Loera scored twice to lead the Longhorns.

Dobie at Deer Park
March 16, 11 a.m.
at Kethan Field
Dobie vs. Pasadena
March 21, 6 p.m.
Maguire Field
Dobie vs. Pasadena
March 24, 4 p.m.
at Dobie main

Dobie girls collect medal haul at La Porte

Sophomore Stacie Harris won gold in the long jump and was second in the 400 as she paced the Dobie varsity girls' performance at the Bayshore Olympics at Bulldog Stadium in La Porte March 9.

Harris went 17 feet, 7 inches to easily champion

the long jump event. In the 400, Alvin's Randi Beckham, who also claimed gold in the 200, led the way at the 400 distance at 1 minute, 00.03 seconds.

Continuing her stellar day, Harris was second for a silver medal in a time of 1:03.61.

Dobie's Ashley

Dunn finished at 1:05.61 for fifth place.

Host La Porte dominated the team standings with 171.5 points, followed by second-place Deer Park with 112 points. Dobie's 86 points were fifth-best.

Sophomore Cameron Mathews stood out for the

Dobie varsity boys, who were ninth in the team standings with 37 points.

Strake Jesuit held off Clear Lake for the varsity boys' team crown, with the Crusaders earning 130 points. Clear Lake had 125 at meet's end.

The Dobie boys' group continues to build momentum with the District 22-6A championship meet set to play out early next month.

Mathews was the gold medalist in the 200 at 22.06 as he produced the program's top medal of the meet.

Dobie sophomore Lauren Garza was a silver medalist in the 3,200 run

Continued on Page 6

JFD's Harris shines bright at Bayshores

At right, Dobie sophomore Stacie Harris had herself a memorable day at the Bayshore Olympics in La Porte, taking a gold medal in the long jump at 17 feet, 7 inches and placing second in the 400 in a time of 1 minute, 03.61 seconds. Harris also anchored the Longhorns' 4x100 relay team to a second-place finish. See more coverage of Dobie track and field on Page 6.



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★New Listing! Pine Hollow - Beautiful 5 bed on corner lot! Formal dining, game room, covered patio, carport! #FALL
★New Listing! Sagemeadow - Beautiful 4-2-2 DET with study and game room! Updated kitchen! #FALL
★New Listing! Pearland - Beautiful 4-3-5-2ATT, large formal dining, second floor game room with open access to den, covered patio! #FALL
★NEW! Ashley Pointe - Gorgeous 4-3-5-3 one story on the lake in gated section!! Formal dining, beautiful chef's kitchen, plantation shutters throughout! #Ana

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Clear Brook girls' basketball lands 24-6A All-District accolades

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

Most Valuable Player

Rezia Castillo, Clear Brook

Offensive Player of the Year

Amirah Gray, Clear Springs

Defensive Player of the Year

Kamryn McLaurin, Clear Brook

Newcomer of the Year

Raleigh Hairston, Clear Creek

Coach of the Year

Mileka Loydrake, Clear Brook

First-Team Honorees

Chardel Terrell, Clear Brook

Ja'Delle Major, Clear Brook

Morgan Williamson, Clear Brook

Danielle Porter, Dickinson

Jazmine Hansley, Dickinson

Ciara Williams, Dickinson

Olivia Shaw, Clear Creek

Sierra Woods, Clear Creek

Bria Jackson, Clear Springs

Alyssa Freeman, Clear Springs

Second-Team Honorees

Alexa Smith, Clear Brook

Bella Robbins, Clear Brook

Ja'Ron'Ey Lymuel, Dickinson

Jewel Bradley, Dickinson

Darriah Rooph, Clear Creek

Katrina Smith, Clear Creek

Bria Bierschwale, Clear Springs

Caela Trivitt, Clear Springs

Carmen Evans, Clear Lake

Ayah Palomares, Clear Lake

Kyndall King, Clear Falls

Cassidy Rodriguez, Clear Falls

Reagan Blank, Brazoswood

Honorable Mention - Brook

Nalani Smith, Sr.

Kailyn Hitch, Sr.

All-Academic - Brook

Rezia Castillo, Soph.

Ryleigh Hackman, Soph.

Kim Hingle, Soph.

Kailyn Hitch, Sr.

Bella Robbins, Fr.

Ja'Delle Major, Sr.

Kamryn McLaurin, Soph.

Emily Pham, Jr.

Morgan Williams, Fr.



At left, Clear Brook senior Ja'Delle Major (12) was a 24-6A All-District first team selection as she averaged eight points per game and helped the Wolverines to 26 overall wins this season. Major was a three-year varsity performer at Clear Brook.

At right, Mileka Loydrake was the top assistant a season ago before taking over as the head coach of the Clear Brook girls' basketball program last spring. Loydrake guided her group through the transition seamlessly as she earned Coach of the Year honors in District 24-6A while the Wolverines went 12-0 for a second straight season. Loydrake then led to Clear Brook to the regional quarterfinal playoff round for the first time in the Class 6A ranks.

Photos by Andy Tolbert



At left, freshman Morgan Williams (32) stepped into a key role for the Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team, playing in 23 games overall as she wound up with a District 24-6A first team all-league role for her efforts. Williams was able to add scoring, rebounding and solid defensive play as she helped the team to a 12-0 undefeated run through district play. Williams also excelled as Clear Brook reached the regional quarterfinal playoff round.

At right, sophomore Chardel Terrell (5) continued her rise as one of the Houston area's top second-year players, averaging 12 points per game to make the 24-6A first team. Terrell has been a key player for a Clear Brook program that has now won 24 straight district games dating back to last season.

Photos by Andy Tolbert



Dolphins registering FB, drill, etc.

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League are currently registering players each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at Blackhawk Park for football and drill/cheer and mascot members for the 2023 season, with activities beginning in July. Football players ages 5 through 12 as of Aug. 1, 2023 may register at \$275 per player, with full uniform included for the 10-game schedule. There is a \$50 discount available to those who recommend a registered first-year player. Drill team/cheer members in the 8 to 13 age group are welcome, as are mascot candidates ages 5 to 7. The Dolphins are also set to play an 8-game spring flag football 9 on 9 season at \$35 per player. For football opportunities, contact Raoul Garza at 281-818-7880. Reach out to Delores Garza for drill/cheer/mascot at 713-459-4721.

Dobie graduate Garcia gets a win

Dobie graduate A.J. Garcia earned his first collegiate win at Wiley College as he finished off a 9-8 win over Arkansas Baptist March 7. Garcia, a left-handed reliever for the Wildcats, went two frames, allowing three hits and an earned run. Wiley used a seven-run eighth inning to steal the win.

Carpio sets St. Thomas record

Jhancarlos Carpio, a Class of 2021 Dobie graduate and current sophomore distance runner at St. Thomas University in Houston, set a program record in the 5,000-meter run at 15 minutes, 05.52 seconds at the Occidental Distance Carnival in California March 11.

Dobie softball cruises to three straight wins

Continued from Page 5
of runs and scored twice as the locals coasted to the win.

Perez is hitting .545 to lead the batting average leaders, with Quiroz at .509 and Perla carrying a

.486 mark.

Quiroz leads in runs batted in with 22, and Perla has 20 runs driven in. Perla, who also paces the team in runs scored with 22, also has a team-best of 34 hits.



Dobie's Marisa Perla has again come up big both in the circle and in the middle of the lineup as the locals have now won three straight games within the 22-6A varsity softball race. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

JFD track teams take on field at Bayshores

Continued from Page 5
with a clocking of 12 minutes, 44.63 seconds as she also led the varsity girls' performance.

The Longhorns also took second behind Stafford in the 4x100 relay in a time of 50.77 as the foursome included Mia Sanchez, Tailin Curtis, Chloye Matthews and Stacie Harris.

Dobie was fourth in the 4x200 relay in a time of 1:49.42, and the 4x400 relay group was also fourth in a time of 4:19.45.

Dobie girls are fifth
Senior Mia Sanchez continued her solid spring on the track as she went 27.35 in the 200 for sixth place, with sophomore teammate Tailin Curtis eighth in a time of 27.80.

At 2:36.37, Dunn was fifth overall in the 800 to go with her sixth in the 400.

A time of 5:49.62 earned Garza fourth place in the 1,600, with teammate Kyla Lobo eighth in a time of 6:03.52.

A best of 33 feet placed Curtis seventh in the triple jump. Junior Jordan Davis was one of three athletes to clear 4-8 as she was eighth in the high jump.

Dobie boys net 37
Dobie junior Rodrick Drumgo led the way in the field events as he was third for a bronze medal at 133-11 in the discus.

The Longhorns' Jeremiah Davis was fifth in the 100 as he clocked in at 11.17, and while Matthews took the win in

the 200, sophomore teammate Jacobi Booker was eighth in a time of 23.09.

At 2:07.20, Dobie's Johan Villavicencio was eighth at the 800 distance, and Yohander Mercado finished at 16.11 in the 110 hurdles for eighth

place.

Dobie finished in a time of 11:36.75 to take fifth in the distance medley relay. Dobie's Jeremiah Jackson was sixth in the long jump as he reached 21-3 1/2, and teammate Charles Richard went 20-9 for

eighth place.

Freshman Demarcus Hodges posted a distance of 41-8 for fourth place in the triple jump, with Jackson fifth at 41-6. Dobie's Richard was eighth with his best of 40-3.

The Deer Park varsity

girls' program appears primed to be the front-runner at the District 22-6A championships next month, but the Longhorns have also proven that several standout performers are set to make a difference, too.



The Dobie girls' 4x100 relay team was second for a silver medal at 50.77 seconds to pace the school's relay finishes at the Bayshore Olympics in La Porte at Bulldog Stadium March 9. Dobie's 4x100 team included, left to right, Mia Sanchez, Tailin Curtis, Chloye Matthews and Stacie Harris.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 16
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - A social group focused on the heritage of Texas German immigrants. Visitors welcome. Meets at the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.
9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalananon.org/.
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
Jam-3:30 / Bands-6:30 p.m. Bay Area Bluegrass Association - bluegrass music show and jam session at 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Pickers may come early. Visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. Parker Williams Genealogy Group - meets at Parker Williams library, free and open to the public. Email erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Bay Area Singles Club - monthly dance, at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3. For attendance and pricing information, call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. For details visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
8 p.m. Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of addicts share, learn they are not alone. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
7:30 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, MARCH 20
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment / tour.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. Hometown Heroes Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Dance lessons offered. Call 281-554-1180.
6 p.m. New Directions Singles - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 832-715-9658.
6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
2 p.m. Local NARFE Meeting - Chapter 941 meets at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461 or 281-464-9708.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - meets virtually at southeasthouston.toastmastersclub.org or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m. Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club - meets at Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church. Contact Cathy@houston skyscrapershadows.org or call 713-332-6294.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance - See Monday's notice
7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

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Lutheran South track and field excels, Klein sets mark

Wilson Klein snatched the school record in the pole vault, clearing 15 feet, 1 inch to win the event at the Pioneer track and field programs hosted the LSA Track Night Un-

der The Lights March 9 at Glassel Stadium. Ben Hughes won a gold for his leap of 20-04 in the high jump, and teammate Jaylin Lowery was eighth with a distance of 18-10

3/4. Lutheran South also excelled in the three relays, winning the 4x200 in a time of 1:31.41 and also taking the gold medal in the 4x400 at 3:28.39.

The Pioneers' 4x100 relay group took third place and a bronze medal in a time of 43.91.

A time of 16.03 in the 110 hurdles got the Pioneers' Alec Salerno to the medal stand with a silver for second place, and junior Noah Robert was eighth in a time of 18.02. Robert's time of 45.73 placed him eighth in the 300 hurdles.

In other events, freshman Reid Toner finished the 800 at 2:07.00 for fifth place, and junior Ben Hughes cleared 5-6 for fifth in the high jump.

The triple jump had Lutheran South's Jacob Howard seventh at 36-11, and teammate Shamon Madison placed eighth with an effort of 36-5.

Four different competitors earned silver medals for second place to lead the Pioneer girls.

Makynna Robbins was second in the discus with a throw of 110-6, with teammate Emily Bell fourth at 102-4. Bell was third in the shot put with a best of 32-1 3/4, and Robbins took eighth with a best of 28-11 1/2.

Sophomore Elli Stoeck-

el cleared 4-8 in the high jump for a silver medal, and freshman Anna Schepmann went over the 4-6 mark for third place.

A best of 15-11 3/4 earned Schepmann a silver medal for second place in the long jump.

Sophomore Alma Martin was one of three athletes to clear 11-00 in the pole vault as she was second, with teammate Lanie Ward over the 7-00 mark for fifth place.

Junior Cassidy Pfeiffer finished at 18.20 for third place and a silver medal in

the 100 hurdles, and a time of 52.50 earned Pfeiffer fifth place in the 300 hurdles.

The Pioneers clocked in at 1:3.09 for third place in the 4x200 relay, while the 4x400 relay group placed sixth in a time of 4:36.93.

Schepmann clocked in at 27.81 in the 200 for sixth place, and junior Lydia Ward went 2:34.04 in the 800 for sixth place.

At 28-11 1/4, senior Caroline Schepmann was fourth best in the triple jump as she contributed to the LSA effort.

Lajaunie Scholarship tennis accepting player registration

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament will celebrate its 12th year with an exciting new format for 2023 that includes three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis and graduating senior class educational scholarships.

As the sponsorship efforts start for 2023, various sponsorship levels are available to individuals or businesses at DLTennisScholarships.com, where the "Be A Sponsor" tab may then be selected.

For students applying for the tennis camp and college scholarships on the same site, deadline for submissions is April 7, 2023. The scholarships will be awarded to all hon-

orees in the latter part of April.

Dobie seniors who wish to apply for the college scholarships may do so by visiting the Lajaunie website or by picking up a packet in the school's counseling office.

The deadline for Dobie senior scholarship submissions is April 6, 2023.

The scholarship fund is named in honor of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis enthusiast who died in 2011 after a lengthy cancer battle.

Over the years, the fund has provided dozens of youth tennis scholarships and college education scholarships to deserving players.

The three jamboree series events will be held at

the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the April 29, Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees.

Players/teams will earn points for performance during each jamboree segment, with an emphasis placed on competing in each of the three three-hour Saturday events.

The first segment - April 29 - will include a fun-filled April Fools theme.

Players may register for play at DLTennisScholarships.com.

Berry stars at Hill basketball



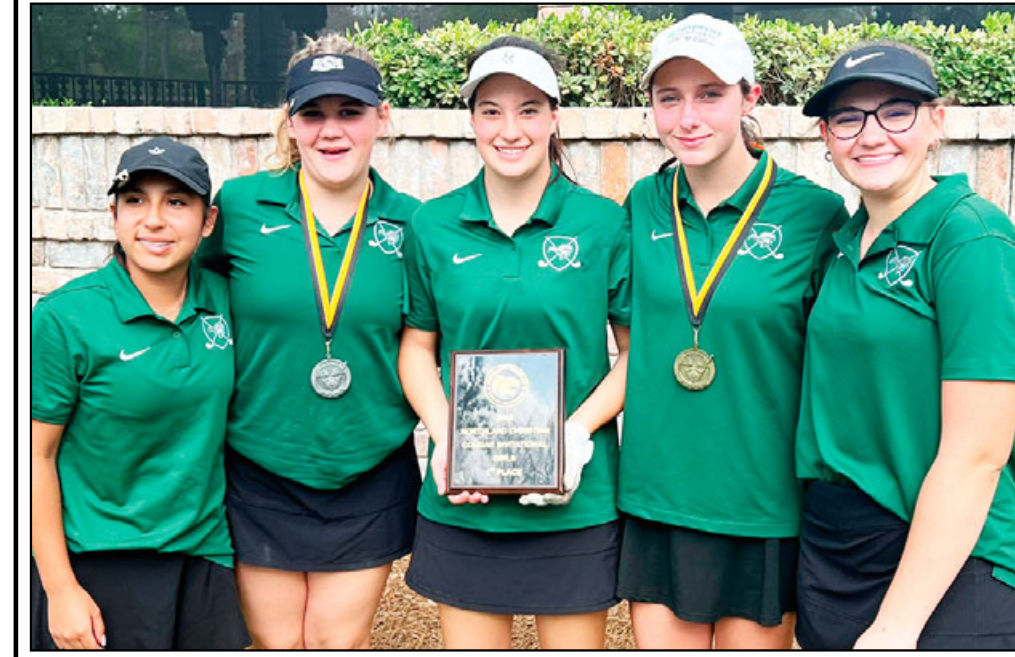
Clear Brook High School Class of 2022 graduate Alyssa Berry has finished off a strong first season at Hill College, a National Junior College Athletic Association program. Berry led Hill in scoring at 17.4 points per game, which was 29th nationally. Hill was 18-13 overall as Berry also averaged 5.2 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game.

LSA girls' linksters win; Trahan wins

At right, Lutheran South Academy's Addison Trahan (far right) fired an 18-hole round of 79 to win top overall girls' medalist honors at the Northlands Christian Invitational earlier this month. Teammate Emma Poffinbarger took second overall with a 93 as the pair combined to lead LSA to the team championship.



Below, the Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' golf team won the Northlands Christian Invitational with a low of 388 as the team continued a terrific spring season of play. Members of the Pioneers' squad include, left to right, Olivia Rivas, Emma Poffinbarger, Lucia DeLuca, Addison Trahan and Audra Poffinbarger.



Vipers' 10-U unbeaten at March Madness



The 10-under Vipers of the South Belt Girls Softball Association won eight games and went unbeaten by a combined 50 runs to 19 to capture the March Madness Invitational in Friendswood. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Dori Hood, Janelle Augurson, Victoria Del Angel,

Abigail Orozco, Olivia Gutierrez, Kelsie Bolling, (middle row) Jesselyn Vargas, Brooklyn Jefferies, Victoria Perez, Olivia Bailey, Amber Saldana, Patricia Longoria, (back row) assistant coaches Jessie Vargas, Johnny Orozco, Robert Bolling, Cesar Longoria and head coach Daniel Del Angel.

SJC Ravens' softball prepared to defend

San Jacinto College will begin a stretch of 12 consecutive Region XIV games as the softball program takes aim at a third consecutive title.

Thus far in 2023, the locals have put together 16 wins against 10 losses as an offensive lineup with plenty of first-year players has adjusted on the fly.

Freshman Arriana Wright has been the Ravens' top run producer through 28 games with a team-high 15 extra-base hits, including seven home runs.

She also has a team-best 26 runs batted in to go with a .485 batting average.

Chloe Foster has hit .400 to this point, and five different players have double-digit runs batted in.

San Jacinto has pitched very well to this point, with returning regional Pitcher of the Year Christin Haygood having been terrific.

The sophomore right-hander is 7-1 with a 1.14 earned run average over 10 starts, while sophomore Hannah Benavides is 4-2 with a 1.94 earned run average in nine appearances.

Freshmen Rianna Nieman and Kristina Nash have also pitched well in their first seasons with the Ravens, with Nieman pitching to an ERA of 2.69 and Nash at 3.20.

San Jacinto will host Coastal Bend March 18 for a pair of games starting at 2 p.m., then will play two games at Alvin March 22 at 2 p.m.

Dobie runner Lengefeld was a multisport star

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

In the March 23 issue of the *Leader*, Sam Rayburn star softball pitcher Charla Moore will be featured.

**By Al Carter
PISD Hall of Fame**

It seemed only natural that nearly everyone who watched him grow up called him "Legs."

It wasn't that Scott Lengefeld was ripe for any kind of beauty contest or a future with the mob. It's just that his legs never stopped moving.

His days at Dobie High School would usually begin with some kind of running, usually for the cross-country team.

After school, he would bolt to the track behind the high school, usually to train with the track team.

That done, he would sprint back to his locker for a change of gear before a dash to baseball practice. Lengefeld wasn't traceable by trained blood hounds. But the path he took was unmistakable - and also unprecedented.

It led to All-America honors at Texas A&M in both cross-country and track. Of all the Aggies ever to put on track spikes, Lengefeld was the first to accomplish such a double feat.

A 1995 Dobie graduate, Lengefeld will be one of eight individuals induct-

ed into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame at a gala banquet April 20 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Dobie High's 1981 state champion track team will also be honored.

Lengefeld earned three varsity baseball letters at Dobie and made a significant contribution to one of the best teams in school history.

Still, Lengefeld's signature skill as an athlete was always running. He earned four letters in cross-country, emerging as one of the area's best almost from the time he left Thompson Intermediate.

Twice he reigned as the District 23-5A cross-country champ. As a junior, he finished 15th at state. As a senior, he finished 12th, earning all-state honors.

Then it was on to track, where he claimed district titles in the 1,600 and 3,200 both his junior and senior years.

Oddly enough, Lengefeld attracted almost as much attention for his baseball achievements.

Conflicts with cross-country in the fall and track in the spring forced him to make decisions about which sports to play.

As a young football player, he stood out as a talented receiver and place-kicker, once booting a 43-yard field goal in a freshman game.

Eventually, he narrowed his list of sports to year-round running and

baseball in the spring. As a sophomore and junior, he started at shortstop for Dobie teams that reached the regional quarterfinals each season.

As a senior, he moved to second base and earned second-team all-district honors for a squad that stormed to the 1995 regional finals. Only two other Dobie teams had ever advanced that far.

College baseball inquiries came and went. Lengefeld signed early to continue his running career at Texas A&M.

Slowly, he found his niche as one of the top three-sport runners in the newly formed Big 12.

Lengefeld finished fourth at the Big 12 cross-country meet as a senior and then 14th at the NCAAs to earn All-America designation.

In both indoor and outdoor track, he left an imprint in the Aggie record book that included a Big 12 championship in the 10,000-meter indoor run as a senior.

Indoors, among all A&M runners, Lengefeld still ranks No. 2 in the 10,000 meters, No. 4 in the 5,000 and No. 11 in the 3,000.

Just before his graduation in 2000, Lengefeld set an A&M record in the outdoor 10,000 that still stands.

His time of 29 minutes, 02.12 seconds is still more than a half-minute faster than any Aggie ever to

compete in the event. General admission seats for the Hall of Fame banquet are available. For details about the evening, contact Kathy

Richardson at the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation office, by phone: 713-740-0034, or email: KRichardson@pasadenaisd.org.



Twice reaching the state cross-country meet while at Dobie, Scott Lengefeld also enjoyed a storied career at Texas A&M University and still holds a university-best time in the outdoor 10,000 run.



Former longtime Dobie High School coach Rhonda Foster, who coached two of the school's athletic programs to state championships, is shown with Dobie Class of 1995 graduate Scott Lengefeld, who twice reached the Class 5A state cross-country meet. Both are part of the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 inductees set to be honored April 20 in Pasadena.

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