

Holiday closures set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The *Leader* offices will be closed Friday, March 29, for the 2024 Easter holiday. Offices will reopen Monday, April 1, at 9 a.m. Potential news stories may be emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Clear Brook City MUD

The offices of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will be closed Friday, March 29, in observance of the Easter holiday. They will reopen Monday, April 1, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents whose trash service pickup falls on Friday will have service Good Friday, March 29. All trash should be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Tuesday, April 2. MUD Residents with Monday/Thursday service will not be affected.

Confetti eggs prohibited

Clear Brook City MUD reminds residents that confetti eggs are prohibited within the district. While the eggs are a fun tradition for many, they are harmful to pets and area wildlife. Cooperation from MUD residents is appreciated by district officials.

Sagemont meeting rescheduled

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Sagemont Civic Club's April meeting, originally scheduled for April 2, has been rescheduled for 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. While this month's meeting will focus on the upcoming April 6 South Belt Cleanup, residents are welcome to address other Civic Club concerns. Tuesday meetings will resume next month.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event will be Thursday, March 28, with another event happening the following Thursday, April 4. For information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour, 713-419-3545.

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need. The next event is April 13. For more information, call 281-484-4230.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

Local COVID cases reported

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

As of Tuesday, March 25, there were 267 active cases in 77089, up one from the previous week. To date, 136 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 137 deaths the previous week.)

In ZIP code 77075, there were six active cases, down six from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034, there were six active cases, down five from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 93 deaths the previous week.)

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.

Beltway 8 closures planned

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway continuously until further notice. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

At least one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from SH 225 to Pasadena Boulevard continuously until further notice. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

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

Harris County constable program under fire

Reporting on controversial topic called into question by critics

A recent series published by the *Houston Chronicle* about the Harris County constable program has gained widespread attention from critics who accuse the local newspaper of having a political agenda and doing the bidding for a certain faction of the Democratic Party.

The lengthy eight-part series – approximately

25,000 words written by at least three reporters – suggests the constables and their departments have grown in power and revenue but rarely investigate major crimes and are somehow shielded from legal action unlike their counterparts in the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

"Constables in Harris County under scrutiny this week in an exhaustive ... some would say 'hostile' series ... published by the increasingly and overtly activist daily newspaper here in Houston," said Fox 26 host Greg Groogan, who devoted an entire segment of his What's Your Point? show on the subject. "Readers with no personal experience or exposure could easily conclude from the series that the constable's primary role in Harris County is providing 'security' patrols for neighborhoods prosperous enough to pay for the service. I don't want to be accused of being cynical, but some could see this as laying the foundation for yet another stab at constable force reduction and consolidation."

This point was reiterated by former *Houston Chronicle* reporter Bill King.

"Frankly, I'm just sickened at what the *Houston Chronicle* has become. It is no longer an objective newspaper. It is a political agenda machine, said King, a guest on Groogan's March 24 show. "This is absolutely another political agenda, just like getting rid of Kim Ogg."

Houston attorney and conservative political commentator Gary Pollard also agreed, using his time on the show to praise the existing constable program.

"The response time in unincorporated areas (of the county) is 5 minutes; the response time in the City of Houston is whenever, if ever," said Pollard, noting the crime rate in the unincorporated areas is one third that in the city. "This is a political attack orchestrated by (Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner) Rodney Ellis in con-

junction with the *Houston Chronicle* because he's one of their fellow travelers."

In addition to Ellis, the verbose *Chronicle* series also included numerous attributions to fellow Democratic commissioner Adrian Garcia, who represents Harris County Precinct 2.

A former Harris County sheriff and Houston Police Department officer, Garcia has been a vocal opponent of the constable program for several years.

Last December, the commissioner proposed an agenda item at Commissioners Court that would have halted county contributions toward local constable patrol contracts. The item was later removed after being met with fierce opposition.

In 2020, Garcia proposed a study to evaluate the efficiency of the county's constable patrol program. That, too, was dropped as an agenda item after a crowd of 100+ community leaders and law enforcement officers filled a standing room only Commissioners Court in opposition.

At the time, all eight constables and current Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez spoke out against the plan.

"It's part of the community policing DNA in our Harris County law-enforcement community," said Gonzalez. "In no way should the contract program ever go away."

The local Precinct 2 constable patrol contract has been in place with the Clear Brook City MUD for approximately three decades, and district officials praise its effectiveness and focus on

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Pct. 2's Kritzler promoted



Pictured at the March 25 ceremony (left to right) are Capt. Zerick Guinn, Capt. Marcus Anderson, Mario Leal (who was promoted from lieutenant to captain), Mike Kritzler (who was promoted from captain to assistant chief) and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia. Kritzler will be second in command to Garcia and will oversee the department's day-to-day operations.

Charter school thefts lead to charges

Investigation leads to drugs, weapons charges

An investigation into two recent thefts from the construction site of a charter school in Riverstone Ranch led to multiple felony charges, according to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office.

On both Feb. 2 and Feb. 21, Precinct 2 deputies responded to thefts at the future Elite College Prep Academy in the 9800 block of Riverstone Ranch Drive. These two thefts involved expensive construction equipment, valued at more than \$100,000.

The case was handed over to the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit, and with the help of surveillance footage from local businesses, investigators were able to track the suspects to a residence in the Clinton Park neighborhood located in the northeast portion of the precinct.

With assistance from the Houston Police Department Auto Theft and Precinct 8 constable's office, deputies with the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit executed a search warrant on the residence Thursday, March 7.

During this search, four stolen vehicles, a sto-

len Polaris all-terrain vehicle and a stolen trailer – totaling approximately \$200,000 in value – were all recovered from the residence. In addition, numerous illegal weapons (handguns and rifles) were located at the residence along with narcotics in the form of marijuana and counterfeit Adderall.

Alberto Tovar, 31, was arrested and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, a felon in possession of a firearm and felony theft. Brittany Garza, 29, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Precinct 2 officials said the investigation is ongoing.

Construction of the campus has been a controversial topic for years, as work has been halted numerous times, leaving behind what neighbors describe as an eyesore. The campus has also been the target of multiple civil and criminal cases.

Work has recently resumed on the charter school. At press time, however, its future plans were unclear.



Alberto Tovar



Brittany Garza

Voter registration deadline approaches

Clear Creek ISD, county, MUDs to hold elections

Residents have until Thursday, April 4, to register to vote in the upcoming May 4 elections.

Contests include a Clear Creek ISD board election, as well as multiple MUD board elections.

Voters will also decide who will sit on a newly created board of directors to oversee the Harris County Appraisal District. Scarcely reported on in the media, formation of the three-person board was approved by voters in a minor down-ballot November election.

To be eligible to vote in Texas, residents must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be a resident of the county in which the application for registration is made.
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must not be convicted of a felony, or if a convicted felon, one must have fully discharged their punishment, including any incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation or be pardoned.
- Must have not been declared mentally incompetent by final judgment of a court of law.

Potential voters in Texas may register by mail or in person at any Harris County tax office. To

register, one must first fill out an application. These are available online from the Texas Secretary of State at votetexas.gov or at any county tax office, Texas Department of Public Safety location or U.S. Post Office branch.

The completed applications are to be returned to any county tax office at least 30 days prior to the election, or they may be mailed to the following address:

Ann Harris Bennett
Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar
P.O. Box 3527
Houston, TX 77253-3527

For additional information on registering to vote in Harris County or to see a list of local tax offices, visit www.hctax.net/Voter/Registration.

In the Clear Creek ISD election, District 4 incumbent Jeff Larson is being challenged by Albert Wittliff.

District 5 incumbent Jay Cunningham and At-Large Position A incumbent Jonathan Cottrell are both running unopposed.

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce will host a candidate forum from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at Nassau Bay City Hall.

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Annual South Belt Cleanup nears

Approximately 250 volunteers expected to take part

The second annual South Belt Cleanup is set to take place Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, located at 11111 Beamer.

A collaboration between the Sagemont Civic Club and Knights of Columbus Council 9201, organizers are expecting approximately 250 volunteers to take part in this year's event.

Volunteers will clean up from the Gulf Freeway to Blackhawk, east to west, and from Fuqua to FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road, north to south – an area covering approximately 6.25-square miles. Volunteers will not clean Dixie Farm Road out of safety concerns.

Additional partners include the City of Houston, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner

Adrian Garcia's office, Pasadena ISD, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office and the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, as well as other elected officials, local businesses and organizations.

According to Sagemont Civic Club president Kay Barbour, tax-deductible donations are being sought to offset expenses.

Organizers are currently seeking volunteers. All supplies will be provided and lunch will be served by the Knights of Columbus following the event. To sign up as a volunteer, visit forms.gle/SSfjNH9A2JfGGUts9.

For additional information on this year's South Belt Cleanup, visit www.facebook.com/events/245260951983130.

PISD open enrollment underway

Program allows neighboring students to attend tuition-free

Pasadena ISD's open enrollment is currently underway, which allows students from neighboring areas out of district to attend local campuses.

"We empower students to choose an educational pathway that fits the learning styles of each student," said Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell. "This is our way of increasing access to those opportunities. We want to extend an invitation to all students across the Greater Houston area to join Pasadena ISD."

The program will allow out-of-district students to attend Pasadena ISD schools tu-

tion-free.

Begun at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, the district's Power of Choice campaign was originally intended to be temporary but was expanded after Pasadena ISD's enrollment significantly dropped following Hurricane Harvey.

At the beginning of the 2017 school year, Pasadena ISD saw enrollment numbers hovering above 56,000. After the storm, however, nearly 2,000 students were displaced or relocated due

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County hosts Easter egg hunt



Local Harris County officials on Saturday, March 23, held their annual Easter egg hunt at El Franco Lee Park, providing fun for dozens of area families. Constable Jerry Garcia (back row left) and Judge Jo Ann Delgado (back row center) served as hosts of the event and are shown above with egg hunt winners Luke Pantoja, 4, (front row right) Luz Maria Tinajero, 7, (front row center) and Frank Arthur, 3 (front row left). Also shown above back row is Susana Castillo of Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Valdez writes on fund-raising for Knights

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 with St. Luke the Evangelist Church located at 11011 Hall Rd. would like to thank the parishioners and the community for your support for our just completed Lenten Fish Frys. It was a great success.

We have started a new project where we plan to raise \$100,000 to \$200,000 to help our Church' Capital Campaign, by building a 2,000 SF storage building. The storage building will be used by all church ministries at our future church's location at 1750 Riverstone Ranch Dr., Pearland, TX 77089.

The KC's are planning several different fundraisers, such as: casino bus trip to Naskila Casino on April 27, for a \$30 donation you will receive a bus ride to the casino and \$25.

We will meet at the rear parking lot of the church at 8 AM.

Then, Saturday May 18 at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall of St. Luke the Evangelist Church we will hold another Free Movie Night with free snacks. Donations for our building fund will gladly be accepted.

We plan to show a movie produced by the Knights of Columbus "For The Greater Glory" about the history of the Catholic Church during the 1920s and their fight with the government to stay opened. To enter this movie you must be 17 years old and over, or with someone 18 years or older. If you wish to donate now to our Storage Building Fund, please make your tax-deductible checks payable to St. Luke the Evangelist Church and in the subject line Please show for KC Storage Building Fund. Mail to St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Rd., Houston TX 77089.

Thank you all for your continued support to all our events and to our Church,

May God Bless you all. **Arthur Valdez**, Grand Knight Council 9201 361-739-5035

Voter registration deadline approaches

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1800 Space Park Drive, Suite No. 200.

To view the District 4 election boundaries, visit ccisd.net/elections/boundaries.

For the latest updates on the 2024 Clear Creek ISD board of trustee election, visit ccisd.net/elections.

Pasadena ISD will not hold an election this cycle.

In the Clear Brook City MUD election, candidate Yen Rabe filed to challenge incumbent Chris Clark, who currently serves as secretary.

Assistant Secretary Da-

vid Flickinger and Vice President Chuck Tylka are both running unopposed.

In the Sagemeadow MUD election, candidates Chuck Miracle and Rene Benavides filed to challenge incumbents David Montgomery and Glenn Williams. Unlike the Clear Brook City MUD, candidates in the Sagemeadow election don't challenge a specific incumbent, as the two open positions will go to the two candidates who receive the most votes.

Montgomery currently serves as the district's secretary/treasurer, while Wil-

liams serves as assistant secretary/treasurer.

There will be no Kirk-mont MUD election, as Vice President Lonnie Piquet and Assistant Vice President Jean Ann Williams are running unopposed.

In the HCAD board elections, there are three separate contests.

Candidates in the Place 1 contest include Ramsey Isa Ankar, Katherine Ballard Blueford-Daniels, Era N. Ford and William Reinhardt Frazier.

Place 2 candidates include Jevon German, Janice W. Hines, Melissa Lou-

ise Noriega, Austin Ryan Pooley and Kyle Anthony Scott.

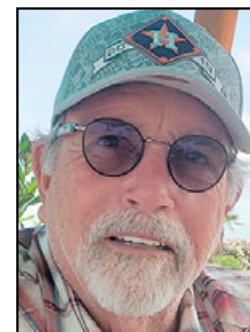
Competing for the Place 3 position are Oluwapelumi Adebola Adeleke, James J. Bill, Melody Genneane Ellis, Mark V. Goloby, Amy Ngo Lacy and longtime South Belt resident Erica McCrutechon, who also serves as president of the Kirkwood Civic Club.

Early voting will begin Monday, April 22, and continue through Tuesday, April 30.

For more information on the May 4 elections, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

Death

James Winthor Davis-Hebert



James Winthor Davis-Hebert, 73, was born May 17, 1950, in Lake Charles, La. and passed peacefully March 14, 2024, after a lengthy battle with ILD-pulmonary fibrosis. He was a longtime resident of Kirkwood South and a member of Sagemont Church.

James attended La Grange High School and McNeese State University in Lake Charles.

He retired from ATOFINA after 42 years. After retiring, he worked part time for Enterprise. The friendships he made with those with whom he worked remained until his death.

James married Estella Valdez one month after they met in 1980 their love story is original. During their 43 years together, they enjoyed many outdoor adventures: hull flying on the Nacra catamaran; fishing in Galveston Bay on their Wellcraft Fisherman; dove hunting in rice fields around Texas; golfing at some of the most beautiful golf course resorts in the Texas Hill Country and San Antonio area; and shooting at the Pearland Gun Club. But most of all, fun memories were made traveling the back roads of Texas on their 2019 Harley touring bike with family and friends.

James is preceded in death

by his parents Mabel Lee La-Fleur and Joseph Harry Hebert; Clarence Edward Davis; brother Robert Davis; and sister JoNellwyn Davis Clifton.

He is survived by his wife Estella Valdez Davis; stepsons Christopher P. and Shawn Michael Alldredge; stepdaughter Stephanie E. Alldredge Beal and husband Robert; and grandchildren Austin W. Vickers, Madelynn E. Vickers, Vincente N. Alldredge and fiancé Alissa Roberts and Madison Beal. Before his death, James met his new-born great-grandson, John Alister Alldredge.

James will miss his daily phone conversation with his sister Jackie A. Goodfriend and husband David Friend of Austin. He was an uncle to Robby and Rachel Davis of Austin, Jo Lee Clifton and husband Steve Day, Merrell Clifton and wife Jackie; and many nephews and nieces in Zavalla.

The family thanks the Sagemont Church pastoral volunteers, friends, neighbors, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department medical crews; TheraCare Home Health Care; and also, the Harbor Hospice (Kirby location) and the medical professionals for their compassion and skilled care. James experienced dignity and peace in his last moments.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at South Park Funeral Home, 1310 N. Main St., Pearland, on March 30 at 11 a.m. in the chapel. Details are available on the funeral home's website.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Pearland Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, 8311 Freedom Drive, Pearland, in James's name, or a center of one's choice.

"Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy." Psalm 28:6.

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34

Elected officials share their words

Brian Babin: Remain in Canada Act

U.S. Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement on his new bill, the Remain in Canada Act (H.R. 7739), which applies former President Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy to the U.S.-Canada border.

"Due to the current administration's actions - complete negligence at best or, more likely, an intentional mass-replacement effort - America's borders are being overrun by millions of unvetted immigrants from around the world," said Babin. "A record number of illegal aliens have crossed our southern AND northern borders - and something must be done."

"According to the CBP's own data, the 2023 Biden-Trudeau agreement on asylum has failed to lower the number of encounters at the U.S.-Canada border. It's also done nothing to prevent or combat the Biden administration's ridiculous parole policies, allowing unchecked illegals to pour into and across our country. Under

former President Trump, we had the most secure borders seen in decades. President Trump's 'Remain in Mexico' policy worked to mitigate unlawful entry, secure the southern border, and hold Mexico accountable.

"My new bill, the Remain in Canada Act, will implement the same policy at the northern border. Instead of blindly allowing parolees into our nation, my bill will add an important tool to stop illegal immigration: ensuring illegal entrants or asylum seekers coming from Canada are not allowed to freely roam our country and burden American taxpayers."

To view the bill text, visit https://babin.house.gov/uploadedfiles/babin_rica_final_text.pdf.

To read Fox News' exclusive on the bill, visit <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-gop-eyes-putting-trump-era-migrant-policy-place-northern-border-re-main-canada>

Weekly ballroom dance lessons offered

The public can attend a weekly ballroom dance at Hometown Heroes Park's ballroom. This facility at 1001 East League City Parkway, League City, has a floating hardwood floor. This casual dance is from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and includes everyone's favorite rhythms.

These daytime hours, al-

low dancers to enjoy dancing without the need for night driving and enables them to miss heavy traffic.

This dance is offered as one of League City Park System's activities, and the volunteers accept zero pay. Neva and Bill Schroder have been responsible for providing this opportunity since mid-January, 2013.

Attendance is strong and dancers without partners are very welcome to attend and share partners.

This ballroom dance activity does not include lessons but encourages all levels of ability, or lack thereof, to join the fun. The purpose of this activity is to provide a free opportunity for fun, physical activity and

fellowship. Lessons are provided by the League City Park System on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the same ballroom taught by Jerry Sandford. Participants are not charged for either of these Monday lessons or the Wednesday dances.

The League City Park System requires participants of park activities to register for an activity card. The activity card price ranges from free for League City seniors to different prices for nonresident seniors and youth. For details on the activity card, call the park desk at 281-554-1180.

For information about the Wednesday dance, email neva@letsdanceballroom.org.

Constable program under fire

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community.

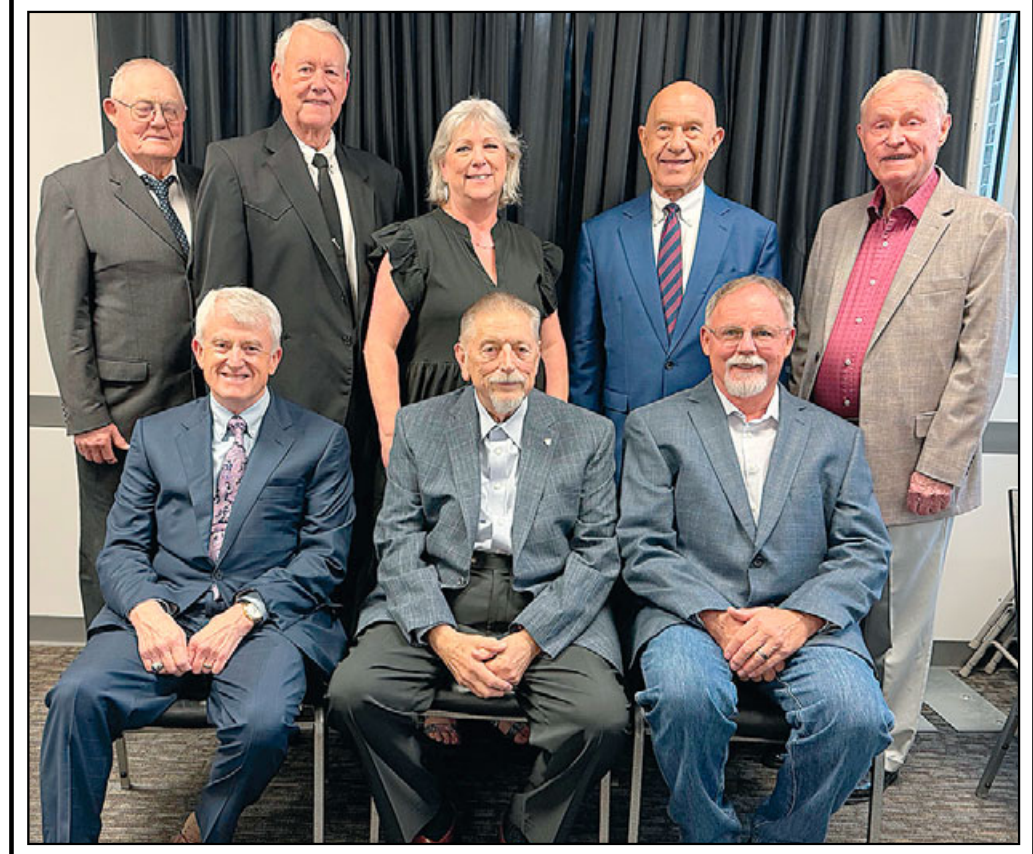
"We chose the constable program because the management covers a relatively small area and it has been very responsive to our community's safety and needs," a statement from Clear Brook City MUD read. "The contract officers work only our small area and many of the officers have been raised and/or live in our community. They have a stake in our area. Local employment of these officers results in great professionalism, consideration and response to our community."

Chamber changing of the guard



Chamber outgoing chair Ezreal Garia, right, is shown here with incoming chair Nobel Alex Jr. at the recent South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce dinner which featured Houston's new mayor, John Whitmire. Photo by Marie Flickinger

CBCMUD visits Houston mayor, Whitmire



Shown during their visit with City of Houston Mayor John Whitmire (second from right) are, left to right (front row) Jim Tooley, Jim Bishop, Dean Baier (CBCMUD operations manager), (back row) David Flickinger, Chuck Tylka, Cecilia Ganje (CBCMUD general manager), Whitmire and Chris Clark. Photo by Marie Flickinger

PISD open enrollment underway

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to flood damage. As a result, enrollment declined to roughly 54,000. Powell said the district's funding is largely dependent on how many students are in the classroom, and several Pasadena campuses have space to spare. "Our ADA (average daily attendance) drives our funding, and some of our schools have a lot of extra room," Powell said.

The district accepts as many students as space will allow at the elementary, middle and intermediate levels (kindergarten through eighth grade).

The open enrollment period

has begun and will last as long as space allows.

Students in Pasadena ISD's open enrollment program will allow incoming students to take advantage of the district's following programs:

- dual language
 - advanced placement/College Now-dual credit.
 - Career and technical pathways.
 - Early College high schools.
- "For families who want to find the best schools, the best programs and the best educational experience for their child, then Pasadena ISD is the place to be," Powell said. "We are putting education in the hands of students."
- Incoming Pasadena ISD students will need the following documents:
- A copy of the student's final report card
 - Attendance record from student's previous school
 - Conduct and discipline report
 - If a student received Special Ed services at their previous school, then the most recent ARD document is required.
- For information on enrollment, call 713-740-0000 or visit www1.pasadenaisd.org/parents_students/enrollment.

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://houstonslibrary.org>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonslibrary.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 28, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Family story time.
- Thursday, March 28, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lap - computer class. Registration required.
- Monday, April 1, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lap - computer class. Registration required.
- Tuesday, April 2, 4 - 5 p.m. Retro games. Registration required.
- Wednesday, April 3, 6 - 7 p.m. Conversational living English lessons. Registration required. Visit <https://houstonslibrary.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.houstonslibrary.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. 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. The library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonslibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. 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 e-book or audio book are on the site.

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

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

- The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, March 28, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
- Thursday, March 28, 2 - 4 p.m. Tech help.
- Monday, April 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.
- Monday, April 1, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Book buddies.
- Tuesday, April 2, 1 - 2 p.m. Citizenship 101.
- Wednesday, April 3, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Laser Cutter orientation.
- Wednesday, April 3, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

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

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

Dignitaries at dinner



Sage Glen board member Sam Weeke (left) is shown here with developer Billy Burge (center) and Mayor John Whitmire at the South Belt-Ellington chamber annual dinner.

Free tour of Genoa Garden

A free tour of Genoa Friendship Gardens, at 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road, will be offered Monday, April 15, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. One can tour a variety of plant exhibits and meet with Harris County Master Gardeners.

Learn how to get a spring

vegetable garden started and see how easy it is to grow one's own vegetables Friday, April 19, at 10 a.m. at Harris County Precinct 1, 9500 Hall Road. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, visit hem.ga.tamu.edu.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care



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

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Leader obituary policy

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

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Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
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(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.

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The Voice of Community-Minded People

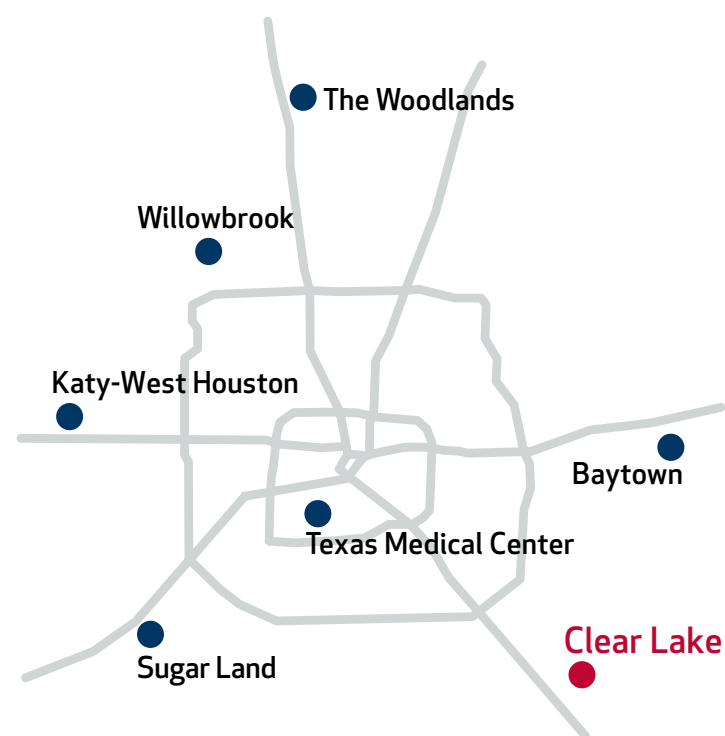
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The Clear Creek Education Foundation seeks nominees

The Clear Creek Education Foundation is seeking nominees for annual awards. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 1, 2024.

Nominations are being accepted for annual awards for the 2024 Citizen of the Year, George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service, Distinguished CCISD Alumni, Valor Award and the Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award. Recipients are selected by the Clear Creek Education Foundation.

The Citizen of the Year Award is given each year to honor an outstanding community member for their support of CCISD programs and activities. The nominee must have demonstrated a commitment to CCISD through volunteer efforts; contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of CCISD; maintained a reputation across the CCISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public education and voluntarily served the district and its students and patrons over an extended period of time.

The George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service Award is the highest award the foundation gives to a community member. The nominee must have made exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District; is widely

known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education; exemplifies public service; and has served the district, the students and patrons over an extended period of time.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a CCISD graduate who has excelled in their chosen profession and has made a significant contribution to his/her community. One grad from each CCISD high school can be honored annually.

The Valor Award is awarded to an individual, living or deceased, that through their actions has demonstrated unselfish dedication to protect others; and has sacrificed for the well-being of others. The nominee must have made exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District, is widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education, and has served the district, the students and families for a lengthy period of time. This award can be awarded posthumously.

The Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award, created in 2013, is the award the Clear Creek Education Foundation awards to a small business or franchise in recognition of its owner's exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District; is widely

District. Nominees should be widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education and should have served the district, the students and families for a lengthy amount of time.

Last year recipients included Jill Reason who was selected for the George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service Award.

The distinguished Alumni Award was presented to individuals who are CCISD alumni and are now accomplished professionals who support their community: Brian Freedman, Clear Lake High School, 2000; Dr. Jeremy Holzabach, Clear Brook High School, 2002; Connor Tomkies, Clear Springs High School, 2011; and Ross Wycoff, Clear Creek High School, 2003.

Misty Ryan received the Valor Award and Carl Joiner was selected for the Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award. The 2023 CCISD Citizen of the Year was Dr. Laura Dupont.

Nomination forms may be found on the Education Foundation website www.ClearCreekEducationFoundation.org. Nominations may be mailed to the Clear Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1631, League City, TX 77574 or emailed to CCEF@ccisd.net.

Awards will be presented at the Education Foundation

Annual Awards Dinner on Saturday, August 24 at the Lone Star Flight Museum.

Established in 1992, the Clear Creek Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization located in League City. Comprised of volunteers considered to have a passion for

AARP plans meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 invites seniors to attend the 10 a.m. meeting, Thurs., April 11, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway. The meeting is in the building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

All are invited to come to the meetings to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Each month features entertainment or a speaker on topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

Thurs., April 11 the speaker will be Dr. Hani Jneid, Chairman of Cardiovascular Services at UTMB. There will be no social event in April so he will have additional time to show informational slides and to have an extended question and answer session.

UTMB will be doing blood pressure screenings and have product giveaways. This AARP Chapter organizes day trips for the AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost.

The next bus trip will be April 24. The group will tour the Neches River in Beaumont on the "Ivory Bill" boat. Lunch will be at Golden Coral. The maximum number of

CCART meets on April 9

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will meet April 9 at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway.

The speaker, local author James Kingsmill, will discuss his book, "At the Top of the Lighthouse." There will be a book sale with proceeds going to the Children's Book Project. The gathering starts at 9:30 a.m. with a social for coffee and cookies. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m.

All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

excellence, the Foundation raises funds to enrich academic achievement within (CCISD). While the foundation operates independently of the school district, it is aligned and collaborates closely with CCISD to promote excellence in education.

members for this trip is 32. One may register for this trip at the April 11 AARP meeting. One must be a member of the local chapter to participate in the bus trips.

If those interested in joining the AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show their current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For information, contact President Veronica Stanford, 409-256-1195, or veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.com.

Singles 55+ hold meetings

New Directions Singles Social Group is a singles group for those ages 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will be a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For information, call Jill Macomber at 646-489-4367. See Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.

Aglow meets

NASA Aglow Lighthouse will welcome Desiree Dantas to minister at the Thursday, April 11, meeting at Praise Chapel, 18516 Highway 3, at 10 a.m.

Desiree is originally from Brazil and will be sharing her visitation encounter with the Lord through which she was anointed by the Lord to operate in a deliverance and prophetic ministry. Desiree is an author and does Facebook videos weekly titled "She, Jesus and Coffee" to encourage the body of Christ and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ without compromise.

All are invited to attend and to bring a friend and be blessed. There is a nursery for child care provided at each meeting.

Brad Paisley surprises Abigail Koplin

Local resident and Dobie student Abigail Koplin was all smiles as she got a surprise visit while at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Country music singer Brad Paisley approached her as he was working the east side of the NRG Stadium and started to sing to her. He reached out to her and got a hug. Abigail is the daughter of South Belt residents Scott and Stacie Koplin.



Science fair winners recognized



Dr. DeeAnn Powell (left), superintendent of PISD, congratulates students from Laura Bush Elementary on their winning science fair projects. Shown above with Powell, (left to right) are fourth-graders Santiago Garza, Adriel Velazquez and Mario Moreni III; third-graders Benjamin Varner and Anthony Contreras and Tori Lopez, deputy superintendent of staff and academic achievement.

Keels-Wheels calls for exhibitors of classic automobiles, boats

Keels-Wheels is currently considering registration applications from owners of classic or exotic automobiles and wooden or glass boats for the 28th Annual Concourse d'Elegance to be held at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook. This year's event will be Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5.

If one has an entry that could qualify for this event and would like to submit the vehicle or watercraft for review, visit www.keels-wheels.com and select Become an Entrant. The registration fee is \$75 per entry. After an application is submitted, the Keels-Wheels committee will notify exhibitors of acceptance via email. Prospective registrations will be accepted until March 25.

The website has more information such as participating hotels for out-of-town

exhibitors. One may call 713-521-0105 with questions.

Other dates of importance for the show are the following:

—Friday, May 3, exhibitors check in and sponsors set up.

—Saturday, May 4, judging begins at 9 a.m., gates open to the public at 10 a.m. with boat awards at 2 p.m.

—Sunday, May 5, gates open to the public at 9 a.m. with car awards at 2 p.m. and the show closes at 4 p.m.

This year Keels-Wheels will be honoring 60 years of Donzies, and Restomods "The Ride Reimagined." As usual the Keels-Wheels event will have a variety of hot rods, race cars, unique vehicles, trucks and motorcycles as well as vintage watercraft. Keels-Wheels is the largest gathering of classic automo-

biles and vintage boats in the nation. Lakewood's kept grounds and 100-year-old oak trees make a backdrop for displaying the hundreds of vintage cars.

The large inner harbor and marina is the place to show off the wooden boats and other watercraft restored to pristine condition. Boats on trailers can also be accommodated.

Being an exhibitor at Keels-Wheels can be a fun and rewarding experience. It's an opportunity to meet and socialize with others who share an interest in the hobby of restoring and preserving the wonderful engineering achievements of a time gone by. Many of the entries come back year after year. If one wants to participate, call 713-521-0105 or go to info@keels-wheels.com.

Remember When

45 years ago (1979)
In excess of \$100,000 worth of damage was done to Frazier Elementary School on Hughes Road in a fire, which was ruled arson. A pipe breaking during the fire caused the entire school to be flooded with approximately three to five inches of water.

The *South Belt Leader* office formally opened at 12007 Beamer Road.

40 years ago (1984)
Two left-turn signal boxes on Fuqua and Beamer were confusing drivers. Some city traffic officials said two lanes could turn, while others reported only one lane could turn. Police reportedly gave tickets to those turning from the middle lane.

A husband and wife in Scarsdale were charged with possession of a controlled substance after being arrested by Houston police.

Having a constable patrol the unincorporated sections of the South Belt area resulted in the confiscation of \$7,000 in stolen property during the first three weeks.

35 years ago (1989)
With more than 730 concerned parents and teachers looking on, Clear Creek ISD board members answered the

question of Weber sixth-graders attending Webster Intermediate by rejecting proposed administration solutions and leaving the situation at status quo.

An aggravated robbery and an attempted capital murder left one man wounded in the foot following a holdup and shootout at the Texaco station at Fuqua and Sabo.

30 years ago (1994)
Dobie graduate C. Mark Chassay, M.D., was one of 50 young medical professionals to receive the American Medical Association/Glaxo Achievement Award and a \$900 grant to attend educational sessions at the AMA National Leadership Conference in San Francisco.

Part of Beamer Road and Scarsdale would be blocked off for the Saturday morning fun run held at San Jacinto College South and sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

25 years ago (1999)
The *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, in an attempt to catch up with modern technology, established an email address for news submissions.

Atkinson Elementary

School was recognized as a Title I Distinguished School at the Association for Compensatory Educators of Texas' spring workshop.

20 years ago (2004)
Senior Department of Defense officials agreed in principle to a plan offered by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, to move 2,300 Army, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve troops from the Old Spanish Trail Reserve Center to Ellington Field, creating a Joint Reserve Base that would allow the military to operate more efficiently and better utilize the base.

Eight South Belt elementary schools in the Pasadena Independent School District scored 90 or better on the third-grade reading section of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Academic Skills test.

15 years ago (2009)
Capt. Michael Mayfield, a former longtime Sagemeadow resident, was injured when two Houston Fire Department trucks collided at Dunlavy and Westheimer while responding to a call. Mayfield broke his femur in two spots, broke multiple ribs and suffered other mi-

nor injuries. He had a plate implanted in his wrist and screws installed in his elbow. Ten others were injured in the collision, including eight firefighters.

The Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist held a celebratory blessing of its land on Riverstone Ranch Road that would house its future church. The move was necessary because the area church had outgrown its location on Hall Road.

10 years ago (2014)
A Whataburger employee was taken to the hospital after getting cut by an attacker at the fast-food restaurant in the 11000 block of Fuqua at Park Fuqua near Sabo. The incident took place shortly after 3 a.m. when a masked man entered the establishment. While the suspect reportedly didn't make any specific demands, he got into a physical altercation with the employee. During the brawl, the suspect produced a knife and slashed the employee's hand. The employee was transported to the hospital and treated for his wounds. No immediate arrests were made.

5 years ago (2019)
Two armed robberies took

place in a two-day period, as residents were outside their own homes. The first incident occurred Saturday, March 23, in the 9400 block of Tree Bridge near Blackhawk, while the second occurred the following day on Sunday, March 24, in the 11900 block of Sagecliff. Police did not believe the two incidents were related. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2023)
As part of its ongoing improvement efforts to the Clear Creek watershed, Harris County Flood Control District announced that construction on the final phase, Phase 3, of the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin was substantially complete.

A controversial company reportedly under consideration to operate the city's Southeast Water Purification Plant has been terminated from an existing contract to operate a similar facility in Kingwood.

Houston police are investigating the fatal stabbing of a man that took place around 8:45 p.m. Monday, March 20, in the 16300 block of El Camino Real near El Dorado Boulevard.

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

JUDY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent March 30 from friends and the *Leader* staff to **Judy Harrison**, longtime South Belt area resident.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLINT!
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to former Precinct 2 Officer **Clint Brown** who celebrates a birthday Monday, April 1, from friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 28 through April 3.

Atkinson Elementary
Special birthday greetings are sent to **Melissa Chapman** April 2.

Genoa Elementary
Birthday wishes go out to **Livinia Johnson** April 2.

Hancock Elementary
The day for a celebration for **Diamond Buckley** is March 31.

Meador Elementary
Blow out the candles March 29 on a birthday cake for **Cecelia Stewart**.

Moore Elementary
Birthday wishes go out to **Leydi Bonilla** March 28.

South Belt Elementary
Mackenzie Watson celebrates a birthday March 28.

Stuchbery Elementary
Remember to wish **Laurie Chmarney** a wonderful birthday April 3.

Fred Roberts Middle School
Maribel Delafuente enjoys a special birthday March 31. Happy birthday wishes go out to **Noah Boldt** April 1.

Melillo Middle School
Lola Martinez enjoys a birthday March 31.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Brandon Bryant celebrates a birthday April 1.

Dobie High
Birthday wishes are sent to **Maria Martinez** on March 28. Warm birthday greetings are sent to **Clarence McNeill** for his birthday April 2.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, March 28: **Moses Mondragon, Jennifer Blake** and **Zina Corpus**; Friday,

March 29: **Melissa Oliviea, Marquice Scott, Adam Stringer, Mary Wilms, Veronica Rivera** and **Bobby Rodriguez**; Saturday, March 30: **Marilynn Kiel, John Berlitz, Gina Escobar, Michelle Matzahn, Walter Luna** and **Kristin Baxter**; Sunday, March 31: **Sabita Harnamji, Beth McDonald, Marsha Flournoy, Ami Havivy, Sabine Jones, Eric Schwab, Gilbert Marlowe, Cheryl Padora, Eliza Gillock, Gloria Bustamante** and **Sandy Cline**; Monday, April 1: **Sharon Lay, Carol Baccaro, Charlie Heaton** and **Natasha Logan**; Tuesday, April 2: **Raven Brooks, Minerva Segovia, Stephen Hooper, Mona Valerio, Suzette Corona, Yvette Cheatwood, Cathy White, Edward Gish** and **Lisa Bourque**; and Wednesday, April 3: **Erika Saavedra, Lillian Lee, Aimee Salazar-Arroyo, Maria Keim** and **Sharon Rhoads**.

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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Saturday, March 30th
6:00 p.m.
with Pastor John Morgan



Sunday, March 31st
7:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m. Servicio en Español, Pastor Nathan Rocha y un concierto con invitado especial Alex Rodriguez
6:00 p.m.



Praise Chapel
18516 HWY 3, Webster, 77598
PraiseChapelHouston.com

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie soccer teams take on Summer Creek Bulldogs

The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' soccer teams went up against Summer Creek in bidistrict round of the playoffs March 26 at Turner Stadium in Humble. The first match featured the 22-6A co-champion Dobie girls, who set a single-season record for wins with 18. Meanwhile, the Dobie varsity boys' team won a 10th straight 22-6A championship this season prior to

the start of the playoffs. The Dobie boys shut out Summer Creek 3-0 and will meet Alief Elsik in the area round. Meanwhile, the Summer Creek girls defeated Dobie 4-0, ending the locals' season at 18-4-3. The Leader will post updated boys' playoff details to its Facebook page as they become available.



Dobie's Rackley earns 400th career win

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley achieved yet another career milestone March 20 as her team defeated Rayburn 11-1 in five innings at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

The win, No. 400 in Rackley's career, allowed the Longhorns to improve to 4-1 in District 22-6A play.

A subsequent 16-0 win over South Houston March 22 pushed Dobie to 5-1 in the first half with a rematch coming March 28 against first-place Deer Park, also at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

Rackley no doubt is always most concerned about her team's achievements from year to year, with both the team and individual accomplishments of her players the primary focus of the longtime head coach.

At right, Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley reached 400 career wins as her team defeated Rayburn 11-1 March 19 at the Pasadena ISD Complex. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Still, it's important to honor the achievements of Rackley, a true Dobie lifer.

An All-District and All-State catcher for the 1993 Dobie state champi-

onship squad, she joined her teammates as inductees into the Pasadena ISD

Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022. Continued on Page 6



Junior Leslie Sarduy (1), a three-year starter at second base, is now a veteran on a Dobie varsity softball team that includes just four seniors. Through the first half of district play, Dobie went 5-1 and was 13-10 overall. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Longhorn softball wins five straight ahead of rematch against Deer Park

Heading into a rematch with Deer Park that will decide the District 22-6A championship, the Dobie varsity softball team was riding a five-game winning streak and aiming to build momentum for the postseason.

Dobie head coach Robin Rackley, having secured her 400th career win with an 11-1 win over Rayburn March 19, then waved runner after runner around third base in a 16-0 win over South Houston March 22 as the Longhorns improved to 13-10 overall.

Deer Park defeated Dobie 9-2 in the first round of league play and has shown no signs of surrendering a league crown it has owned for two alignment cycles.

As for Dobie, very little resistance exists as the locals roll toward no worse

than the No. 2 postseason seed.

Coming off a fifth straight season of 20 or more overall victories, the youth movement hit Dobie quickly following the final out of 2023.

In the bidistrict series finale 5-2 loss to Summer Creek, seven of the 13 players who took at-bats for the Longhorns were seniors.

Three players, three-year infield starter Leslie Sarduy is among two returning juniors who played in that last game, including Amaya Corona. Alyssa Jones and Aidan Johnson are two of seniors on the 2024 roster who started in the playoffs a season ago, and sophomore Natalie Dehoyos played often as a freshman and is now in her second season.

While top starting pitcher Marisa Perla is now at Texas Southern University, sophomores Vanessa De La Fuente and Chloe Nunez as well as junior Jackie Peralta all pitched in the bidistrict finale last season and have shared time in the circle to this point.

"I'm proud of the kids and the effort they have put out there on the field this season so far," Rackley said.

"We have quite a few freshmen and sophomores who have given us a big lift. Our juniors and seniors have provided leadership and shown the younger kids the Dobie way.

"Really, it's about the players understanding the roles and going out there and executing, and they have done a great job of

that. We will see how it all plays out, but given our youth and inexperience at this level, I'm very proud of the kids."

Dobie will host Deer Park March 28 at the Pasadena ISD Complex. First pitch is at 6 p.m.

The Longhorns will then host Pasadena April 2 at the Dobie main campus, at 4 p.m.

Wolverines eye district track finals

Consider the Clear Brook varsity track and field teams ready for the District 24-6A Championships after the Wolverine boys ended the regular season with a great showing at Clear Springs' Charger Relays March 22.

Despite not competing at full strength in all of the events, the Wolverines used 36 points in the relays to pave the way to a second-place team total of 112.

Host Clear Springs led the way with 153 points to take top honors, while the other Clear Creek ISD programs were in close proximity.

The Wolverines were first to the tape in the 4x100 relay in a time of 41.73 seconds as the four-some included Thurston Roberson Jr., Jaylon Owens, Joshua Akinola and Joshua Shelton.

In the 4x200, Thurston and Shelton teamed with Malik Merrick and Thomas Daugherty for second place and a time of 1 minute, 32.68 seconds.

Senior Joseph Trevino was the gold medalist in the 3,200 at 10:07.60, and Trevino was in at 4:36.23 for third place in the 1600. A time of 39.72 was good for Thomas Erskine to win the 100 hurdles, while teammate Phong Le was third at 43.52.

Camdyn Barnett second for the silver medal at a distance of 134-2.

Teammates Cedric Barnes and Akinola both went 21-9 in the long jump, with Barnes taking second and Akinola then third. Clear Brook's

Ja'Dein Carter went 20-7 1/2 for fifth place.

In the 200, Brook's Shelton was second for a silver medal in a time of 21.87.

In the varsity girls' division, Clear Brook posted 117 points for second

place, with Clear Springs also winning the division with 164 points.

Jizzale Davis, Journey Wilson, Azayla Smith and Patricia Barnes teamed for the gold medal in the 4x400 relay for 20 points

Continued on Page 8



Dobie softball hosts Deer Park
March 28, 6 p.m.
Pasadena ISD Complex

Dobie offers physicals April 9

Dobie student-athletes, including members of the ROTC and Lariat drill teams, are encouraged to take care of their athletics physical obligation as the school's Sports Medicine department will host an open session April 9, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the main campus gymnasium. The physicals cover the 2024-2025 school year and are \$25 cash per student. Students may also pay online via Rev Trak. A pre-physical form is available in the training rooms on either campus and must be submitted April 9.

At left, Jaylon Owens (left) of Clear Brook has positioned himself to be one of the area's most discussed athletes with the track and field postseason soon coming as he is on a roll of late. Owens clocked in at 21.64 seconds to win a gold medal in the high school boys' 200 and also won gold in the 100 in a time of 10.78 at the 72nd TSU Relays March 15-16 at Texas Southern University in Houston. Wolverine sophomore Joshua Shelton (right) captured gold in the 400 with the win at 49.61, and sophomore Darwin Bolden (not shown) was fourth in the discus with a throw of 139 feet.

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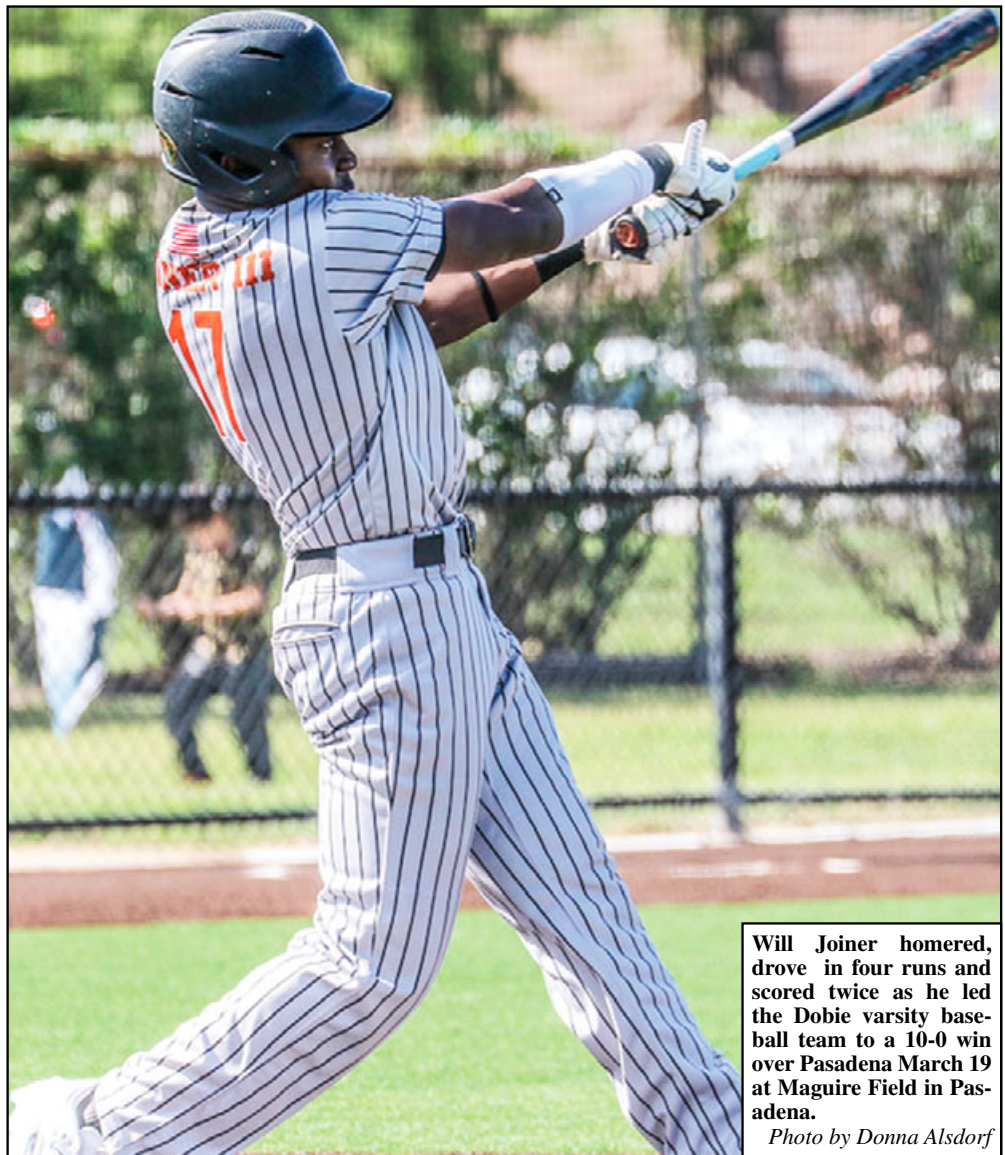
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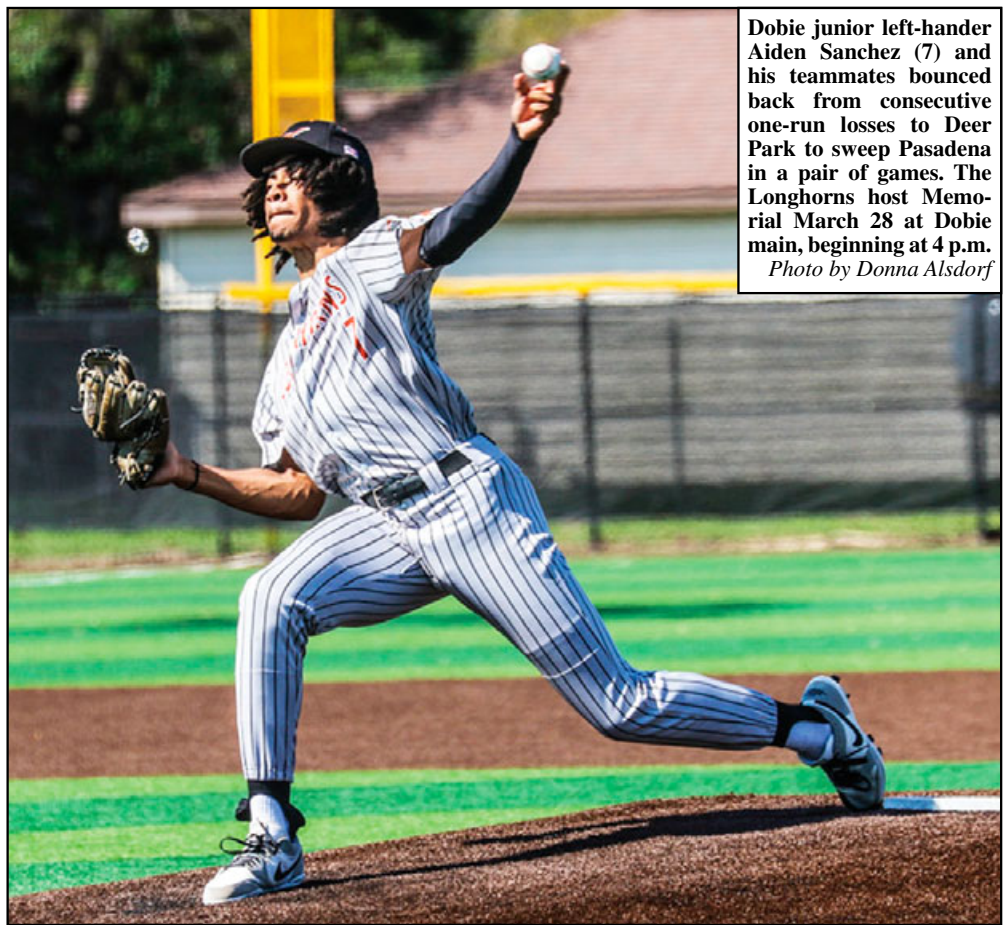
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Will Joiner homered, drove in four runs and scored twice as he led the Dobie varsity baseball team to a 10-0 win over Pasadena March 19 at Maguire Field in Pasadena.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie junior left-hander Aiden Sanchez (7) and his teammates bounced back from consecutive one-run losses to Deer Park to sweep Pasadena in a pair of games. The Longhorns host Memorial March 28 at Dobie main, beginning at 4 p.m.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie's Rackley now has 400-plus career wins

Continued from Page 5

Following a standout playing career at Centenary College in Louisiana, she coached state title high school teams at St. Amant (La.) and at Bryan before becoming an assistant to Rhonda Foster, another PISD Hall of Fame inductee, for two seasons.

When Foster left Dobie after the 2005 season, Rackley was clearly the right choice to lead the Longhorns.

Now in her 19th season and hundreds of wins collected, Rackley is among the longest tenured head coaches at the school as she also was an assistant on the school's volleyball staff when she first arrived.

"I was young when I came back, and even though Dobie has always been home, I don't know that I expected to be able to get to a number like 400 wins," Rackley said.

"But it's never been about me. These kids are the ones putting in the hard work to achieve our goals.

"And (assistant coach Chris) Swinnen has been with me almost the entire way. The credit goes to them. Coach Swinnen and I put them in the best possible positions to have success, and it's up to them to go do it.

"All of the players who have been part of this program have contributed to our success over the years. Maybe we haven't won state, but our kids are gritty and they are going to battle all the way to be successful.

"We have had the star players like Taylor Pleasants (currently a senior at Louisiana State University), Yvonne Whaley (Texas Tech then Pittsburgh), Amanda Nguyen (inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Honor earlier this month) and others, but for the most part our success has come from battling until the last out, doing whatever it takes to win and playing for each other."

Today's athletic programs work year-round in an effort to be as best prepared as possible come opening day of a given season. Dobie is no exception.

Rackley challenges her players to push their limits whether off-season or in-season, and the results on the field usual are a

mark of that. To date, Dobie has just one playoff miss dating back to 1993.

"Softball, and really any sport, is a lot like life itself," Rackley said.

"You're not always going to have success (wins), there are going to be setbacks (losses), but you have to be able to get back up, dust yourself off and find ways to come back stronger the next time.

"I feel like our kids have done that during my stay here. We've always been in the role of the underdog, but I like that. We have had to hang in there, play with that grittiness and battle to be successful.

"That's what makes 400 wins special to me. Dobie will always compete hard and push the best of the best to the limit, and that's what I'm most proud of."

Now in her 19th season and hundreds of wins collected, Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley is among the longest tenured coaches at the school.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Marathoner Anderson-Blair completes rare feat, completing six Abbott World Marathon Majors

By John Bechtle

Jetola Anderson-Blair never intended for things to get carried away like this, yet they did.

Now, just over a dozen years since taking up competitive running seriously, Anderson-Blair is the proud owner of one of the most coveted medals in marathoning.

What a special few days it was earlier this month in the capital of Japan for the longtime South Belt resident, who completed the Tokyo Marathon as the final leg of the Abbott World Marathon Majors.

Perhaps for many of the prestigious Six Star Medal Anderson-Blair now owns appears to be little more

than just another medalion, yet it means so much more to her.

Fewer than 14,000 runners worldwide have completed the Abbott World Marathon Majors.

"Among many things, I think it is a display of resilience, determination and commitment that I can use as an example to my daughter and others that you can achieve anything you put your effort into if you refuse to give up, you are willing to stay the course and push yourself.

"By no means was this an easy journey. I suffered a broken ankle off course in New York last year and had to rehabilitate extensively from that.

"I made rookie mistakes early on in my career, and of course sometimes life gets in the way, but I did it. I'm incredibly proud of myself. It took several years to get to the finish line, but here I am."

The Six Star Medal is awarded to those who complete the world majors of marathons, which includes the 26.2-mile

events in Boston, Chicago and New York as well as those of Berlin, London and Tokyo.

Anderson-Blair also has earned the "legacy" honor for having completed the Boston Marathon event in 10 consecutive years, with No. 11 to come April 15. The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest marathon.

Runners do not simply register for the World Major marathons and travel to compete.

Age group qualifying times must first be met, and runners are frequently encouraged to fundraise for events.

"I originally got into running for the simple fact of it being good for my health, but I've also enjoyed the friendships and such that I've developed within the running community," Anderson-Blair said.

"Being able to raise funds for worthy and wonderful causes make it that much more special. But to say I ever imagined completing the majors is not

true."

It all began in 2011 as Anderson-Blair ran a half marathon in as what she described as a one-and-done deal, yet in 2012 she completed five full marathons, including Houston in a time of 5 hours, 00.23 seconds.

For 2013, she finished six marathons, including Chicago, the first of her World Marathon Majors, at 3:55.13.

Anderson-Blair had a busy schedule in 2014 with eight events, including the first of her Boston Marathon events in a clocking of 4:29.05.

In November of that year, Anderson-Blair crossed the finish line at the New York Marathon at 4:27.53.

The 2015 marathon season for Anderson-Blair included another seven events, including a time of 3:58.52. The Boston event highlighted a five-marathon tour in 2016.

In 2017, Anderson-Blair ran the Boston Marathon on April 17 then completed the London Marathon on April

23 among six events that year. It also gave Anderson Blair four of the coveted six majors.

The Berlin Marathon happened for Anderson-Blair in September of 2018 as her season also included Boston, Chicago and New York.

She completed marathons in Anchorage and Honolulu in ensuing years and achieved the world six earlier this month in Tokyo.

Since becoming a marathoner in 2012, Anderson-Blair, now part of the age 60-64 division, has completed 86 events, including those in five countries and 14 different states.

Having already run in Houston, Surfside Beach, Tokyo and Seabrook this year, Anderson-Blair has marathon No. 87 set for Boston.

"It's a proud achievement to have finished the world six, not to mention the wonderful experiences along the way. It's been a rewarding run for myself," Anderson-Blair said.



What a special few days it was earlier this month in the capital of Japan for longtime South Belt resident Jetola Anderson-Blair, who completed the Tokyo Marathon as the final leg of the Abbott World Marathon Majors. On her left arm are medals from her 10 consecutive runnings of the Boston Marathon, and she has also completed marathons in Berlin, London, Chicago and New York.

Dobie football standout Stacey shows steer at rodeo

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

BMOC has been a moneker that has long stood for something else, yet in the case of Dobie junior Hunter Stacey, the words "busiest man on campus" certainly come to mind.

Those who follow the Longhorn football program may indeed recognize Stacey as an All-District defensive lineman who played a key role for the 2023 District 22-6A championship squad.

Dobie will begin spring football practices next month, and with the defensive side of the field set to graduate at least four

players who have signed letters of intent to play collegiately beginning this fall, Stacey will return for his senior season as one of the team's key returnees for the 2024 season.

Football is definitely important to Stacey, and he looks forward to providing leadership and guidance as the Longhorns prepare to enter a revamped District 22-6A alignment that includes seven programs that qualified for the post-season in 2023.

But Stacey has much more on his plate, including his presidency within Dobie's FFA program, his secretarial duties within

the Gulf Coast District of the FFA and the seemingly round-the-clock work involved while handling his own animals within the agricultural barn.

Stacey has in recent days taken a bit of a break after showing his steer "Sting" at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo earlier this month.

In terms of awards during the grand finale showing, Stacey nor Sting walked away with ribbons or medals, but the lessons were well learned and Stacey has moved on to the next role, likely showing a calf at the Pasadena show in September, yes, during

football season.

"My uncle has property in Alvin, and I've been working with and around animals for as long as I can remember," Stacey said.

"I've been very fortunate to have a lot of family support helping out at the barn with everything and everything. One person can't do it alone. It's an every day job. Early hours, late hours. Whatever it takes."

As busy as his life can be, Stacey truly is in his element in the barn, out on the farm and in and around livestock shows. He envisions attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock and

eventually earning a master's in agriculture. Stacey also believes a career in the field as an instructor could be in his future.

"I've been around animals for my whole life, so it's what I do. Yes, it's a lot of work but I enjoy it and truly am at my best when I'm at the AG barn."

Spring football practices will get Stacey's full attention next month, but he will have already tended to things at the barn and will likely be headed back there after practice. It's all part of his life.

"I'm used to being busy and staying active," Stacey said.



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.

9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Light-house** - 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. Call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.

11:30 a.m. **ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - Meetings are held at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seenabwa.org.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.

6:30 p.m. **Pearland Area Republican's Club** - meets at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W. Walnut St., Pearland. Email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - free discussion about Judaism and religion in general at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real, Houston. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See

Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>.

1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 beforehand.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship and Bible study programs at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.

2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 713-944-9186.

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, APRIL 1

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.

7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

10:00 a.m. **CCART** - Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway. Annual dues are \$50.

10:30 a.m. **Tri-County Republican Women** - General meetings are held at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr. Exact cash

or check requested for lunch (\$15). RSVP at www.tricountyrvw.club/ or call 832-250-8901.

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit sehouston.toastmastersclub.org or call 281-467-1880.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.

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7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - free discussion about Judaism and religion in general at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real, Houston. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org.

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Jackson headed to St. Thomas



The University of St. Thomas men's basketball program in Houston has welcomed Dobie senior Dylan Jackson (left) after he signed a letter of intent with the Celts. A four-year varsity player at Dobie, Jackson eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for his career during his final season. At right is Jackson's father, Jeremiah Jackson.

Lamar football gets Dobie's Kelley



Dobie senior safety Derrick Kelley, a three-year varsity starter during his stay with the Longhorns, is set to continue his education and playing career at Lamar University in Beaumont after signing a letter of intent with the Cardinals. Lamar is an NCAA Division I program at the Football Championship Subdivision level and competes within the Southland Conference.

JFD's Orozco picks SJC baseball



Dobie varsity baseball player Junior Orozco has signed a letter of intent to continue his education and playing career at San Jacinto College after signing a letter of intent with the Ravens. A season ago, Orozco was an All-District outfielder as he helped the Longhorns to the District 22-6A championship and a berth in the area playoff round. At San Jacinto College, Orozco will join a Raven program that has ranked among the nation's best in the National Junior College Athletic Association for decades.

JFD's Jordan to Sul Ross St.



Evan Jordan (right) of Dobie, a three-time All-District offensive lineman for the Longhorns, will continue his education and collegiate football career at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, after signing a letter of intent with the Lobos. The Lobos, who were 4-6 overall in 2023, compete in the NCAA Division III ranks as part of the American Southwest Conference. The Lobos will open the 2024 regular season Aug. 29 at home against West Texas A&M. With Jordan, at left, is Dobie offensive line coach Mark Chappa.

SJC softball hot as conference opens

There's a long way to go, but the San Jacinto College softball team is off to a fast start in conference play in search of an eventual title run. The locals defeated Alvin 6-3 in the first game of a twin bill March 23 to run their conference mark to 5-0 before a 7-5 loss in the second game.

In the opener, Madison Carr had two hits, and drove in three runs. Kiren Diaz went 4 2/3 innings in relief for the win. Despite the loss in the second game, Wright and Diaz drove in two runs each.

In a 6-5, 10-6 home sweep of Coastal Bend at home March 20, the Ravens broke a 5-5 tie with a solo run in the bottom half of sixth to win the opener, then used a seven-run fourth inning to win the finale.

Farmer stunned defending conference champion Galveston with a three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning of the league opener March 13 as the Ravens rallied late to win 4-3.

Galveston scored a pair of runs in the top of the inning to lead 3-1 before Farmer victimized Tors' starter Jenna Johnson for the eventual game winner. Gianna Carrion went the final 1 1/3 innings to get the win for the Ravens.

San Jacinto then used the momentum of that win to run-rule Galveston 15-7 in the nightcap. Maggie Evans and Arriana Wright both homered and knocked in five runs. The Ravens, who entered conference play at

just 18-14 overall, scored seven runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to lengthen its edge, then closed out the win to sweep the two games.

Brook track programs take second at Springs

Continued from Page 5

Aailslyn Banks was the gold medalist in the shot with a throw of 31-10, and Kyra Freeman went 17-0 in the long jump for second place and a silver medal. Davis and Smith were 1-2 in the 200 for 18 total team points as a time of 24.45 earned Davis the win while Smith's time of 25.62 was second in the event. A time of 2:19.77 was good enough for the gold medal at the 800 distance, with Barnes third for a bronze medal at 2:25.58. A time of 1:01.64 earned Barnes the silver medal in the 400, and Davis' clocking of 11.65 gave her the silver in the 100. Freeman's time of 12.30 was fourth.

Dobie graduate Ortiz gets 300th victory at UH-Victoria

UH-V head softball coach Lindsey (Ferguson) Ortiz is a UHV softball lifer.

The League City native has been a part of the Jaguars since the program's inception in 2008 as a player, helping UHV win its first Association of Independent Institutions conference title and first NAIA Tournament appearance in 2009. She became the team's

assistant coach in 2010 before being named UHV's second-ever head softball coach after Keri Lambeth ahead of the 2014 season.

With a sweep of Texas A&M-San Antonio, Ortiz recorded her 300th career win. She is the quickest UHV head coach to reach 300 wins, doing so in the middle of her 11th season at the helm. The previous mark was held by UHV baseball

JFD's Richard set to join Illinois St.

At right, Dobie varsity football co-captain and first team All-District selection C.J. Richard will continue his education and playing career at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., after signing a letter of intent with the Redbirds. Illinois State is an NCAA Football Championship Subdivision program. Richard is a three-year letterwinner who helped lead Dobie to the 2023 District 22-6A championship.



ing coaching the program to their first Red River Athletic Championship in 2016 and the university's first-ever World Series appearance in 2021.

The Jaguars (16-4, 8-0) have reached six consecutive RRAC semifinals under Ortiz's guidance.

"It speaks to her ability to recruit and field competitive programs year in and year out," said UHV Director of Athletics Ashley Walyuchow.

"I'm proud of what she's accomplished."

But, while the team is celebrated for its on-field accomplishments, Ortiz is prouder of the off-field impact the program has had on Victoria and the Crossroads region.

From graduation, to volunteering time at the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent, to the team's Mentor Program at Hopkins Elementary School, to the Keep Victoria Clean initiative by the City of Victoria and many other volunteer opportunities, UHV softball makes sure to leave its mark.

"Honestly, the highest accomplishments on my all-time list are the things we've done off the field," Ortiz said.

"Averaging 400-500 service hours per year, graduating our softball student-athletes at a high rate and then keeping up with them as they take that Champions of Character mindset into life after college. Going to the World Series was pretty cool, too."

Ortiz boasts a .645 career winning percentage, which ranks second only to Lambeth of all UHV coaches. In her first 10 seasons, Ortiz has six 30-win seasons under her belt.

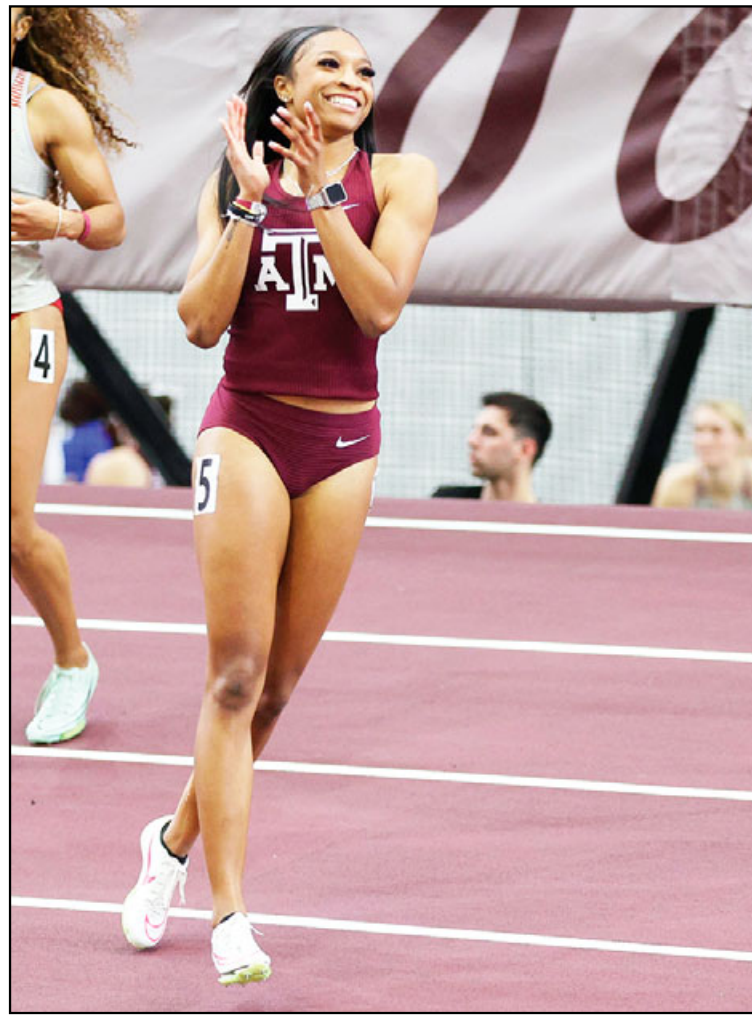
"Reaching this milestone just gives me an opportunity to reflect on my career and how lucky I am to have a job I love so much," Ortiz added. "I am surrounded by people who love and support me. My family sacrifices so much to allow me to follow my passions and I work every day to make them proud. I have had amazing assistant coaches and could never say enough about what Mac (Christensen) has brought to our program."

"I have friends and alumni who continually cheer for us and celebrate our victories."

"But most importantly, I'm thankful for all of the student-athletes who have put on a Jaguar jersey and allowed me to be a part of their journey."

Dickson wins 100 sprint, 4x100 relay

At right, Texas A&M University sophomore and Clear Brook High School graduate Camryn Dickson and many of her Aggie teammates enjoyed a banner weekend as one of the nation's top track and field programs hosted the Texas A&M Invitational in College Station. Dickson won the 100 at 11.31 seconds and teamed with Nissi Kabongo, Jermaisha Arnold and Joniar Thomas for a first-place finish of 3 minutes, 37.14 seconds in the 4x100 relay. In all, Texas A&M athletes won 16 different events and delivered four all-time program marks and 17 personal best showings at the event.



UH-Victoria head softball coach Lindsey 3Ortiz, a Dobie graduate, has now collected 300 career victories with the Jaguars since taking over the lead role in 2014. At right is Jaguars' catcher Kenzie Chambers.

Story courtesy of UH-Victoria athletics. Photo by Sam Fowler

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