

Legion hosts crawfish boil
 American Legion Post 490, 11702 Old Galveston Road, will host a crawfish boil Saturday, April 2, beginning at 2 p.m. This will mark the first major event at the legion's new building, which replaced one destroyed by fire last September. DJ Kemlite will provide entertainment from 5 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$25 for 3 pounds. For more information, call 281-481-1179.

St. Luke's holds fish fries
 St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall, hosts a drive-thru fish fry Fridays through April 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. (or until sold out). Dinner consists of a breaded USA catfish fried fillet, hush puppies, corn on the cob, French fries, tartar sauce and a drink. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities. Cost is \$12. Cash and credit are accepted. All money raised will benefit community projects. All are invited. Guest are welcomed to dine-in at the Social hall.

County holds Easter egg hunt
 Harris County will hold its annual Easter egg hunt at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at El Franco Lee Park, 9500 Hall Road. Hosted by Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado and Constable Jerry Garcia, the event will feature complimentary hot dogs, snow cones, drinks and popcorn.

KWS holds egg hunt April 16
 Kirkwood South Christian Church, 10811 Kirkfair, welcomes the community to an Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m. Crafts and snacks will be provided for children.

COVID cases decrease
 Active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community continue to decrease, with numbers declining for the seventh consecutive week.

As of Tuesday, March 29, there had been 12,562 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866). Of those, 111 remain active, down 48 from the previous week. To date, 129 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up nine from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), there had been 9,125 confirmed cases. Of those, 52 remain active, down 28 from the previous week. To date, there have been 74 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034 (total population: 40,532), there had been 8,653 confirmed cases. Of those, 59 remain active, down 50 from the previous week. To date, 89 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there had been 879,861 total confirmed cases. Of those, 865,245 have recovered from the disease, while 6,956 cases remain active, down 2,745 from the previous week. A total of 7,617 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit pub.el-health.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus.

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

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

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

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

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

City to pick up heavy trash
 City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 14 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, April 8 (second Friday of the month). March is for tree waste only. Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Ellington e-recycling April 9
 The City of Houston's monthly electronic recycling is Saturday, April 9, at the Recycling Center at Ellington Field from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials out of the waste stream and the environment. Items accepted include PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, faxmachines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, phones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. The event is held the second Saturday of the month. For information, visit www.houstonstolidwaste.org or call 311.

Sagmont Civic meets April 5
 The Sagmont Civic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagmont residents/homeowners are invited. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

Tri County women meet
 Tri County Republican Women's Club will host a candidate forum Tuesday, April 12, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Golerfest Country Club to familiarize voters with those running in the May 7 City of Pearland and Pearland ISD elections. TCRWC serves Brazoria, Galveston and Harris counties. All are welcome. Meetings are free. Lunch is available for \$15. For information and to RSVP, visit www.tricountywomensclub.com.

Hidalgo responds to bid-rigging accusations

County judge denies wrongdoing, refuses to fire staffers under fire

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo recently broke her silence following allegations that three of her top staffers helped steer a controversial COVID-19 outreach contract to small company with Democratic ties.

"I know that there are a lot of allegations swirling around and I'd love to respond to them," Hidalgo said during a press conference Tuesday, March 22, outside Harris County Commissioners Court.

Hidalgo stopped short of sharing any specifics, however, citing the ongoing investigation.

"Because it's an ongoing investigation, I can't address many of the misleading and sometimes

false allegations that are swirling around as much as I'd want to and you guys know that I'd be the first one to want to do that," Hidalgo said. "What I can say is this, I followed the law."

The controversy surrounds an \$11 million vaccine-outreach contract that was awarded this past June to a company called Elevate Strategies.

The one-woman firm Elevate Strategies beat out other entities for the bid such as UT Health, even though its \$11 million bid was \$4 million higher, and the company scored lower on key evaluation criteria.

Elevate Strategies was also found to have Democratic ties, and its founder Felicity Pereyra

had worked on the mayoral campaign of Adrian Garcia, who currently serves as Precinct 2 commissioner.

After the controversial news broke, the contract, originally intended to encourage residents to get COVID-19 vaccinations, was subsequently canceled by the county — after already paying the company \$1.4 million.

Elevate Strategies has since repaid \$200,000 and is planning to repay another \$500,000. Harris County said the company is expected to keep around \$200,000 that it incurred through legitimate expenses.

On March 11, a search warrant was executed by Texas Rangers on the county offices of three of Hidalgo's senior staff members, including Alex Triantaphyllis, Hidalgo's chief of staff; Wallis Nader, a policy director; and Aaron Dunn, a top advisor.

During the raid, Rangers seized phones, laptops and desktops.

The three Hidalgo staffers also sat on the five-person committee tasked with selecting the contractor.

Rangers said seized documents indicate the

Two schools hit by power outage



Wednesday's rainstorm caused a transformer wire to break loose and partial power was lost at both Thompson Intermediate and Stuchbery Elementary. Personnel at both schools took control. Stuchbery classes were moved into classrooms where power remained and school operated normally. At Thompson, due to most of the students having cellphones, many students were picked up after parents were called. The power went out at 6:30 a.m. When CenterPoint arrived about 10:15, it only took about half an hour to restore power. School officials were very pleased with how both schools handled the situation, enacting procedures designed for such emergencies.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Store offers Black Friday deals all year

By Cervantis Pounds II
 While it may not be November just yet, the Black Friday Discount Store brings the holiday bargains year-round to the South Belt community.

What started as a Mega Gallery Furniture store in 2019, expanded to a discount store that

offers discount prices for a variety of merchandise that includes furniture, phones, phone accessories, electronics, toys, gifts and many other products. The store has 29 locations across the United States and three in Houston including the local location on Fuqua, which is the store's

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CCISD announces May 7 election info

Clear Creek ISD has announced the final details regarding its upcoming 2022 Board of Trustees election, set to take place Saturday, May 7.

To be decided are the District 1 seat currently held by Board Secretary Dr. Laura DuPont, and the At Large Position B seat currently held by incumbent Scott Bowen.

DuPont is not seeking re-election, while Bowen is.

Most South Belt residents will be allowed to vote in only the at-large race, as the community is primarily located in Clear Creek ISD District 4.

Candidates seeking the District 1 School Board Trustee position include Jessica Cejka and Misty Dawson.

At Large Position B School Board Trustee candidates include Kyrsten Garcia, Carl Nunn and Bowen.

(Candidates are listed above in the same order that they have drawn for position on the ballot.)

Early voting
 Early voting will take place from Monday, April 25, through Tuesday, May 3.

Early voting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 25 - 29; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 30, May 2 and May 3.

Early voting sites include the following locations:

CCISD Education Support Center
 2425 E. Main Street
 League City, Tx 77573

CCISD Learner Support Center
 2903 Falcon Pass
 Houston, Tx 77062

Creskide Intermediate School
 4320 W. Main Street
 League City, Tx 77573

Westbrook Intermediate School
 302 W. El Dorado Blvd.
 Friendswood, Tx 77546

Election Day
 Election Day will take place Saturday, May 7. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election Day voting sites include the following locations:

District 1
Robinson Elementary
 451 Kirby Dr.
 Seabrook, TX 77586

Clear Falls High School
 4380 Village Way
 League City, TX 77573

District 2
Ferguson Elementary
 1910 Compass Rose Blvd.

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Pasadena ISD CFO settles SEC lawsuit

CFO accused of misleading investors while at Crosby ISD

Pasadena ISD's chief financial officer Carla Merka is currently on administrative leave after recently settling a civil lawsuit with the Securities and Exchange Commission related to her previous time spent in Crosby ISD.

Pasadena ISD issued a statement saying the district was not a party to that matter, nor did the SEC seek its input in the case.

Carla Merka, along with Crosby ISD itself, is accused by the SEC of knowingly misleading investors about the school district's finances when it sold \$20 million in bonds in 2018. Merka reportedly falsely claimed \$5.4 million in general fund reserves and failed to report \$11.7 million in construction and payroll liabilities.

When the school district later disclosed it was facing a deficit, its bonds were downgraded by rating agencies. Crosby ISD's financial status led to the layoffs of more than 100 employees.

"The SEC is committed to holding bad actors in municipal securities offerings accountable for their misconduct and will continue to provide protections for investors," SEC Regional Director David Peavler said in a statement.

A similar stance was taken by LeeAnn G. Gaunt, chief of the SEC's Division of Enforcement's Public Finance Abuse Unit.

"Crosby and Merka misled municipal bond investors regarding the truth of Crosby's financial health, and Shelby Lackey's deficient auditing practices further exposed investors to harm," said Gaunt.

The SEC also charged Crosby ISD's former auditor, Shelby Lackey, with unprofessional conduct. Merka, Crosby ISD and Lackey all agreed to settlements with the SEC, without admitting wrongdoing.

Merka must pay a \$30,000 fine and is prohibited from any future involvement in municipal bonds.

Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson, who joined the school district after the scandal, said she is happy to have the issue put to rest.

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Stafford named new Dobie football coach

At its March 29 meeting, the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees approved Demond Stafford as Dobie High School's new varsity football head coach.

He will become the 11th head football coach in the high school's 54-year history.

Stafford will replace Kevin Berneathy, who



Demond Stafford

now serves as head coach at La Porte High School. Under Berneathy's leadership, Dobie made the playoffs four consecutive years from 2018 to 2021.

Most recently, Stafford was head coach at Sam Rayburn, where he had served since 2019. He previously served as an assistant coach at Dobie.

Stafford will make his debut appearance as Dobie's new head football coach next fall when the Longhorns take on the Clear Brook Wolverines in the 2022 season opener.

See related story on Page 5.

Pct. 8 deputies battle area crime

Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office recently released the following highlights for the week of March 7, through March 13:

- More than 380 traffic stops were conducted.
- 29 traffic accidents were investigated, including six major accidents.
- 24 subjects were arrested on outstanding warrants.
- Six drivers were arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Deputies responded to the following:

- Six disturbances.
- One discharge of firearm.
- One telephone harassment.
- One road rage.
- Two assault calls.
- One terroristic threat.
- One missing person.
- Two thefts.
- Four burglary of a motor vehicle.
- One criminal mischief.
- Five child custody disputes.

On March 7, evening shift deputies assisted Webster Police Department with a pursuit involving a stolen vehicle. The suspect's vehicle came to a stop after colliding with a vehicle on Bay Area Boulevard and Saturn Lane. The driver was taken

into custody by Webster Police Department. The crash was investigated by Precinct 8 deputies.

On March 7, 2022, Deputy Self conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of the E. Sam Houston Parkway S. The driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication and performed poorly on the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. The driver was charged with driving while intoxicated.

On March 8, 2022, Deputy Villalon conducted a traffic stop in the 12000 block of the S. Sam Houston Parkway E. on a possible DWI driver. The driver displayed multiple signs of impairment. Upon a probable cause based search of the vehicle, deputies located Xanax, marijuana and a handgun. The driver was charged with driving while intoxicated and unlawful carry of a weapon.

On March 9, 2022, Mitchell was conducting narcotic interdiction in the 12000 block of E. Sam Houston Parkway. Mitchell observed a vehicle displaying a fictitious temporary tag in an area known for high narcotic activity. Deputy Mitchell continued to monitor the vehicle and observed it exit the parking lot. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle in the 14300 block of the Gulf Freeway. Upon approaching the vehicle, Mitchell detected the odor of

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City launches digital climate interface

To celebrate the two-year anniversaries of both the Resilient Houston strategy (released February 2020) and Climate Action Plan (released April 2020), the City of Houston has released a two-year, combined update and a new digital interface to track progress on ongoing initiatives. (The digital interface may be found at resilience.rice.edu.)

"I am proud to report on the progress of our last two years for both resilience and sustainability. We have taken strides, despite the challenges and roadblocks that Houstonians have faced. It is yet another demonstration of our resilience as a city," stated Mayor Sylvester Turner. "With 3 out of 18 targets completed in Resilient Houston and 3 out of 12 targets completed for the Climate Action Plan, I have no doubt that we are positioning Houston as a leader in resilience and demonstrate our commitment to build forward and build better."

Resilient Houston and the Climate Action Plan helped cement the foundation for the Mayor's vision of making Houston into a more resilient and sustainable city. Built on existing efforts, the plans recommend new programs, projects, and policies that will help Houston prepare, adapt,

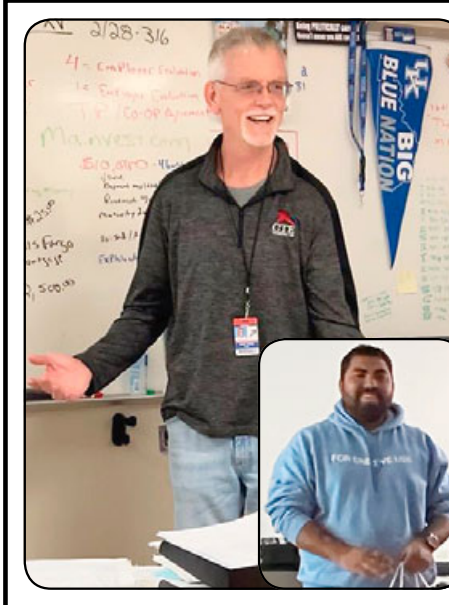
and recover from shocks and stresses—like the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather, systemic inequities and more. The plans outline specific actions for the city, partners, and communities to come together and solve the city's and the region's challenges together, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable populations.

"What makes these plans different from other efforts is the focus on implementation," said Priya Zachariah, Houston's chief Resilience and Sustainability officer. "We intentionally worked across departments as well as with the community and partners to develop measurable goals and targets that allowed us to track progress to make a difference and transform the city."

In October 2021, Turner merged the two city offices — Resilience and Sustainability — to align endeavors and identify the most expeditious paths to deliver on the city's goals. It is one of the first combined offices that exists in the nation that brings both portfolios together. To date the following targets have been completed:

Resilient Houston completed targets
 - Target 5: Invest \$5 million in local artists to create resilience awareness projects across the

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Dobie selects teachers of the year

Dobie High School recently selected its 2022 Teacher of the Year and New Teacher of the Year. Dobie English teacher Shane Brown (left) was chosen as the school's Teacher of the Year, while Hector Saldivar (inset) was picked as the campus's New Teacher of the Year. A post on the school's Facebook page about Brown read "He is literally the voice of Dobie. You can't go to any event held on this campus and not run into or hear him. He's the biggest supporter of providing the ultimate high school experience for the students. He goes above and beyond."

In My Opinion

Ovalle: No president should be above the law

Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree that no president, regardless of party, should be able to obstruct and undermine the will of the American people or exploit weaknesses in our political system for personal gain.

That's where the Protecting Our Democracy Act comes in. If passed, it would prevent future abuse of presidential power and corruption, increase transparency, and ensure

presidents of either party can be held accountable.

Strengthening the guardrails on presidential power is just common sense. If the average person used their office for personal gain, they'd go to jail. If the average person could pardon themselves, there would be no rule of law.

No president should be above the law. That's why I'm urging Congress to pass the Protecting Our Democracy Act. We must prevent future presidents of any party from abusing the power of their office.

Paul Ovalle

Unique store comes to South Belt

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The store's bargains drop each day throughout the week starting at \$7 on Friday, then drops to \$5 on Saturday, \$4 on Sunday, and goes as low as 50 cents on Wednesday.

Thursdays the store closes to restock on their merchandise then starts another week of bargains on the following day.

The store also does a raffle with some prizes. The store gives out a ticket to each customer and if one's ticket is called, they may walk away with a new iPhone, an iPad, new HD flat screen or any number of the many items that are sold in

the store. The prizes may vary but they are never dull.

The employees fill each bin to the top with items that range from electronics to shoes to beauty supplies. There are a multitude of different items across the store with up to 140 different tables containing different items that may catch one's eye.

If one is in search for home decorations to brighten the room or seeking a new flat screen television for them and their family, then look no further. Why pay \$200 for a new flat screen television when you can get it for less than \$100 at the Black Friday Discount Store?

While the environment may have a true Black Friday-like feeling with a bit of a frenzy and commotion, it is every bit of worth it with the store's commodity with their customers and its low deals that get better by the day.

Don't wait till November to get the Black Friday shopping deals. The store opens at 9 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday with an hour later opening time on Sunday at 10 a.m.

The store is located at 11021 Fuqua. Those who don't want to miss out on these deals should get an early start on their holiday shopping at the Black Friday Discount Store.

San Jac South Spring Fine Arts Events

Doin' the Most: 2022 Juried Student Exhibition celebrates the work and creativity of the San Jacinto College South Gallery students. This exhibition will be open from March 28 to May 6. The reception and awards ceremony will take place Thursday, March 31.

The Spring Dance Concert is a live dance concert produced by the San Jac Dance Performing Arts Company. The concert features works from guest artists and San Jac Dance faculty. Discounted tickets are available for San Jac students, faculty and staff. The concert will be performed May 6, - May 7. Doors open at 7 p.m. in the Proscenium Theatre. Dance event tickets can be obtained at <https://sanjacdance.ticketleap.com>.

"A Wish for Hope" is a play in two acts featuring refugee student stories. The genre of the play is a Theatre in Education (TIE) dramedy. The play will be presented April 21 - 23 and April 28 - 30. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. in the Blackbox Theatre.

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.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Outdoors (weather permitting) storytime for all ages.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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>.

Friday, April 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. AARP Tax Aid. AARP volunteers will be assisting with tax questions and filling out returns in the Library Community Room. Bring a driver's license, Social Security Card and any relevant tax information for everyone included on the tax return.

Friday, April 1, 1 p.m. Genealogy. Come to Parker Williams Classroom 3 to discuss family history research (beginner to advanced). Meetings are free and open to all adults.

Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m. Vietnamese Classes for Beginners. Learn how to speak and read Vietnamese. For adults and kids aged 8 years and older. To register and receive more information about classes, call 832-927-7870 or visit the Parker Williams website.

Monday, April 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. AARP Tax Aid. AARP volunteers will be assisting with tax questions and filling out returns in the Library Community Room. Bring a driver's license, Social Security Card and any relevant tax information for everyone included on the tax return.

Monday, April 4, 1:30 p.m. Family Place Parent and Play Workshop. This workshop is meant for parents and their children from 3 months to 3 years old. Features toys, art and resource professionals experienced in literacy, growth and development. Registration is on the Parker Williams website.

Wednesday, April 6, 3:30 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons Online. Adventure awaits with Dungeons and Dragons online. Join Tanner Adams over Discord for swords, sorcery, and high adventure. This program is available to patrons 16 and older. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information.

Wednesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m. Book Buddies. Help your children grow a love for reading in the Library Community Room. Book Buddies is for children from Kindergarten to third grade.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Leader

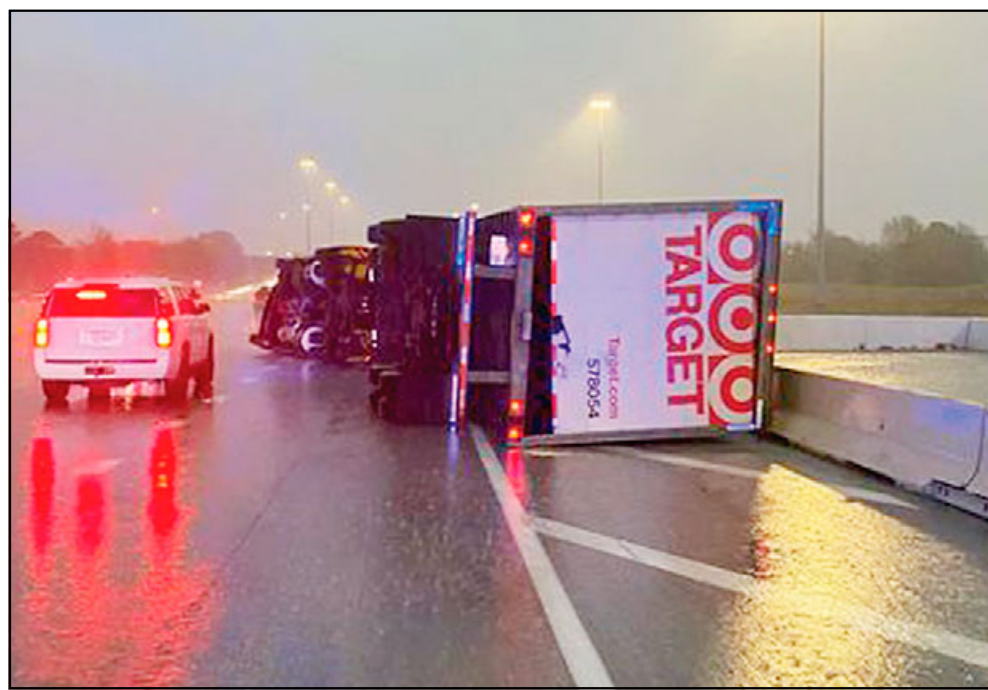
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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Extreme weather strikes area



The South Belt community was struck by extreme weather early Tuesday, March 22, with strong gusts of wind still wrecked havoc in the area. Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin shared the above photo on his Facebook page, showing an overturned 18-wheeler on Beltway 8 in Pasadena, caused by the extreme wind conditions.

Surprise for Burleigh's 80th birthday



The Burleigh family recently celebrated the 80th birthday of its matriarch Eleanor Burleigh with a surprise party in advance of the momentous April 1 occasion. Shown above at the party are, left to right, (front row) Andrea Burleigh, Alaina Burleigh, Beau Burleigh, Britt Burleigh, Brycen Henry, Peyton Watson, Bethany Burleigh, Devon Watson, (middle row) Victoria Burleigh, Carrie Burleigh, Janie McDaniel (holding baby Couper McDaniel), Dasia Pena, Ashley Aguirre, Lauran Burleigh, Sandy Burleigh, Joel Burleigh, Denise Burleigh, Barry Burleigh, Krissy Watson, Chad Watson, (back row) Larry Burleigh, Sherry Czerwinski, Blake Burleigh, Troy Burleigh, Chase McDaniel, Zack Burleigh, Margie Brock, Norman Brock, Eleanor Burleigh, Larrol Burleigh, Christopher Burleigh (holding baby Jayden Burleigh), Kaylee Henry and Allen Burleigh.

Hogg celebrates 82nd birthday



Friends of Patsy Hogg (left) recently surprised her with yard signage at her home on Sagelin in honor of her 82nd birthday on Sunday, March 27. The yard signage includes symbolism, as the Bible she is holding represents her connection to Sagemont Church, where she taught Sunday school for 24 years, and the rocket her husband David Hogg is holding represents his career at NASA, where he worked 30 years on such projects as Mission Control.

Melillo excels at STEAM Fair



On Thursday, March 24, Melillo Middle School took 15 students to the District STEAM Fair for Pasadena ISD. These students were the top projects at the campus fair and moved on to compete at the district. The students had various projects related to science and competed in three different divisions - Traditional Science Fair, STEM Challenge and 2D/3D Art Challenge. Melillo officials are proud of the Mustangs for going above and beyond to show what they have learned in science and make connections to the real world. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Jaylyne Hernandez, Lauren Tran, Samantha Barraza, Zadie Battarbee, (middle row) Peyton Dowell, Alayna Rodriguez, Lexi Rodriguez, Gael Diaz, Robert Pfeister, Edmundo Bravo, (back row) Ms. Ingersoll (sixth Grade-Science Teacher), Kelvin Wiley, Samuel Alexander, Alice Lam, Carlee Guerrero, Grayson Riley and Rebecca Castañeda (science instructional coach).

Death

Moises Correa Alcocer



Moises Correa Alcocer, loving son, husband, father, grandfather, godfather and brother passed away March 19, 2022. Born April 20, 1938 in La Paz, Mexico, he grew up surrounded by a large and wonderful family.

He married Maria Elena Avila April 30, 1965. As happy and excited new-laws, they started a new chapter of life together in Chicago.

He was a welder by trade in both Chicago and Houston. He worked for Fusion Fabricating for 15 years. As a 42-year resident of Houston, he was a loyal employee of Gulf Precision Industries.

Moises attended St. Helen Catholic Church, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church and Grace Community Church.

Moises dearly loved his family and was referred to as "Pops" by his wife, children, grandchildren and godchildren.

He truly enjoyed grilling and cooking his "Pop's breakfast." He loved keep-

ing busy with projects around the house. As a Houston resident, he was a lifelong fan of the Houston Astros and the Texans.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Servando Ramos Alcocer and Raquel Correa Alcocer.

To cherish in his memories, he leaves behind his wife of 56 years; daughters Maria Rutherford (husband Jeff) and Raquel Alcocer; son Servando Alcocer (wife Yeltiza); sisters Elva Morales, Ofelia Ovalla (husband Santos), Martha Cisneros (husband Jesus) and Raquel Flores (husband Oscar); brothers Servando Alcocer (wife Patricia) Salvador Alcocer (wife Lidia); brother-in-law Jose Avila-Rangel; sister-in-law Francisca Avila Vasquez (husband Mario); son-in-law Gregory Box; grandchildren Tyler Rutherford, Trenton Rutherford, Trey Rutherford, Claudia Box and Christian Alcocer; and many nieces, nephews, other extended family members and friends.

As an excellent example to all who knew him, Pops will be greatly missed. His home, full of peace and harmony, was his castle and a refuge for his family.

A visitation will be held Thursday, March 31, from 5 - 8 p.m. in the chapel at Crowder Funeral Home, 2421 E. Broadway St., Pearland with a rosary to be recited at 6 p.m.

Mass will be held Friday, April 1, at 10 a.m. at St. Helen Catholic Church, 2209 Alvin Rd., Pearland. Burial will follow at South Park Cemetery, 1310 N. Main, Pearland.

First Christian Church egg hunt set

First Christian Church of Pasadena, 4848 Preston Road., is hosting an Easter egg hunt April 9 at 10 a.m.

The public is invited to attend. For additional information, one may call or text 832-725-6456.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member from the Next door app posted a picture of a young man that went to the member's home Saturday, March 26, in the Sage-meadow subdivision. The member states that the man said he was from Center-Point and was asking for the member's phone number but could not provide a business card and had no CenterPoint

uniform nor vehicle. The member wants to alert the community to stay cautious and be safe.

A member of the Neighbor's app posted that their catalytic converter was stolen off their vehicle some time during the night of Monday, March 28, and early morning of Tuesday, March 29, near Fuqua Street and Sabo Road.

Leader

obituary policy

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

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

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

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.

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

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



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

South Belt-Ellington Chamber honors Jan./Feb. stellar students

Working with administrators from area Pasadena Independent School District schools, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding area students monthly. The group of students for January and February were combined and honored recently and are shown here with a brief description of why they won the award. Future Leader editions will feature students from the other area schools who were also recognized in February. See related photos on Page 8.



Andre Castelo (holding sign), Jessup Elementary student, is a selfless, caring and dedicated student. He is making significant progress in reading and math. He is responsible for his learning by reading and completing homework, doing the reading/math assignments, and actively participating in class. He is respectful and honest. Castelo is a good friend to all and helps any student in need. His teacher says it has been a true pleasure to have him in the class. Shown with Castelo, left to right, are Bilalah Turner (counselor), Derek Duckett, Ryan Pavone (principal), Jennifer Chavez (assistant principal), Kevin Fox (teacher) and Daniel Hoppie.



Mari Gutierrez (holding sign) is a senior at Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School. Gutierrez is very involved in various campus activities and in her pharmacy technician pathway. She is a member of several campus groups such as Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and National Honor Society. She has held several leadership positions throughout her high school career including vice president of her senior class. Outside of school, Gutierrez has participated as an intern with the Acadian Ambulance Explorer program. She also works at Walgreens Pharmacy as a pharmacy technician trainee gaining valuable knowledge and experience in the pharmaceutical field. Her future goals consist of obtaining a doctorate in criminology while also studying forensic science or psychological behavior. Shown with Gutierrez, left to right, are (front row) Steve Fleming (principal), Christina Flores (counselor), Desiree Gomez (teacher), Rebecca Lilley, Chris Clark, Derek Duckett, (back row) Toni Lopez, Daniel Hoppie, Graylin Beals and Angela Stallings.



Arleny Maldonado (holding sign), Meador Elementary student, is a wonderful example of everything a Meador Mustang should be. She starts each day with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. She is a member of safety patrol, Name that Book and runner-up in the spelling bee. Maldonado's eagerness to learn and give 100 percent to all tasks have led to her academic success. Shown with Maldonado, left to right, are Beverly Bolton (principal), Tara Merida (counselor), Blanca Maldonado (mother), Chris Clark and Toni Lopez.



Student of the Month for January at Melillo Middle School was Hana Nguyen (third from left) who displays leadership qualities and serves as a role model for her peers. She demonstrates exemplary character through her compassion, honesty, trustworthiness, and loyalty. Nguyen is an excellent student and shows a strong academic understanding in all subject areas. She is very interested and involved in classroom discussions and has insightful comments. She has the desire to do things well, to the absolute best of her ability. Nguyen is careful, efficient in her efforts toward her schoolwork and learning. Her favorite memory at Melillo is making new friends. Student of the Month for February was Layla Davila (second from right) who demonstrates great leadership qualities and serves as a role model for her peers. She is always willing to help when they ask for her assistance. Davila enjoys being active and loves sports, especially soccer. Her favorite vacation spot is Florida. Celebrating their achievements, left to right, are Kelly Jurek (assistant principal), Jennifer Saucedo (assistant principal), Jacqueline Carmona (counselor), Rebecca Lilley and Diane Wheeler (principal).



Diego Flores (holding sign), Moore Elementary student, works hard in all aspects of school. He is a role model in the classroom and is always helpful to his classmates. He strives for success in all areas. He goes above and beyond and is kind to everyone. He is the true definition of a leader. Shown with Flores, left to right, are Angelica Moreno-Perez (counselor), DeeDee Pitts (assistant principal), Jennifer Dowell (teacher), Kathy Young (teacher), Rebecca Lilley (chair of Chamber) and Jill Lacamu (principal).



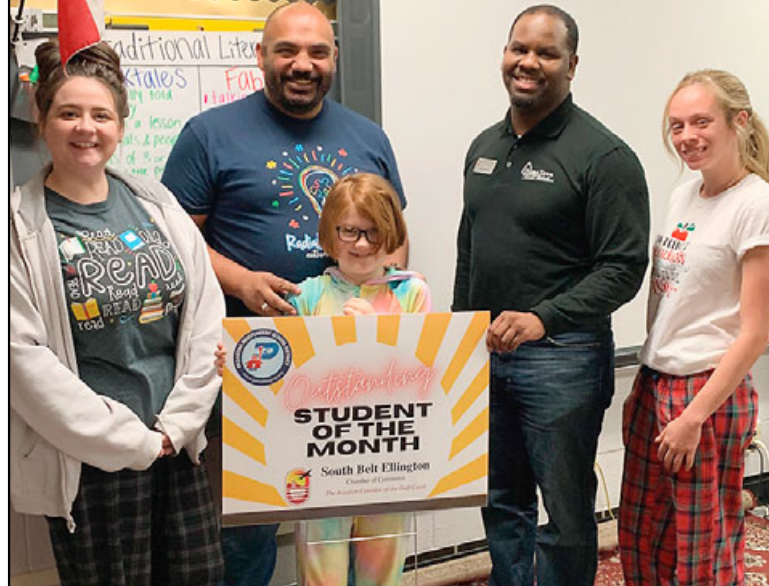
Idalis Villegas (holding sign), Morris Middle School student, is a kind, compassionate and hardworking student who reminds everyone every day to keep going. She encourages those around her to follow directions. She attentively listens to all of her lessons and works hard to take the best notes she can. She is a friend to everyone and a positive light in the classroom. She has a quiet and gentle demeanor with a big heart. She wants everyone to feel welcomed and included. Shown with Villegas, left to right, are Kim Edwards (teacher), Jamie Otto (teacher), Allison Lewallen (principal), Lindsey Fagan (counselor) and Chris Clark.



Victoria Arredondo (holding sign), Fred Roberts Middle School student, demonstrated academic tenacity in January. She didn't allow setbacks to hinder her ability to reach goals. She showed perseverance through challenges rather than giving up and has strong self-confidence. Shown with Arredondo, left to right, are Erika Schwarz, Krystal Herrera (teacher), LaShondra Evans (teacher), Graylin Beals, Lali Guerrero (interim principal), Britney Subinsky (counselor), Ashlie Haas (teacher) and Lyndsi Price (assistant principal).



Simone Jones (holding sign), South Belt Elementary student, has been a student at South Belt since she was in kindergarten and staff members have watched her grow into a lovely young lady. Her music teachers note that she is always kind and respectful. She also is always willing to try new things and help others. She shows a positive attitude each day. Jones is a dedicated student who is involved in extracurricular activities both in and out of school. She is a pleasure to work with at South Belt. Shown with Jones, left to right, are Angela Stallings, Rebecca Lilley and Candy Howard (principal).



Charlotte Kearby (holding sign), Stuchbery Elementary student, exemplifies the Stallion way. She is always a friend and always willing to help. Kearby is an avid reader, mathematician and runner. The school is proud to say that she is their Stallion of the Month. Shown with Kearby, left to right, are Jennifer Marshall (teacher), Jose Hernandez (principal), Graylin Beals and Natalie Glenn.



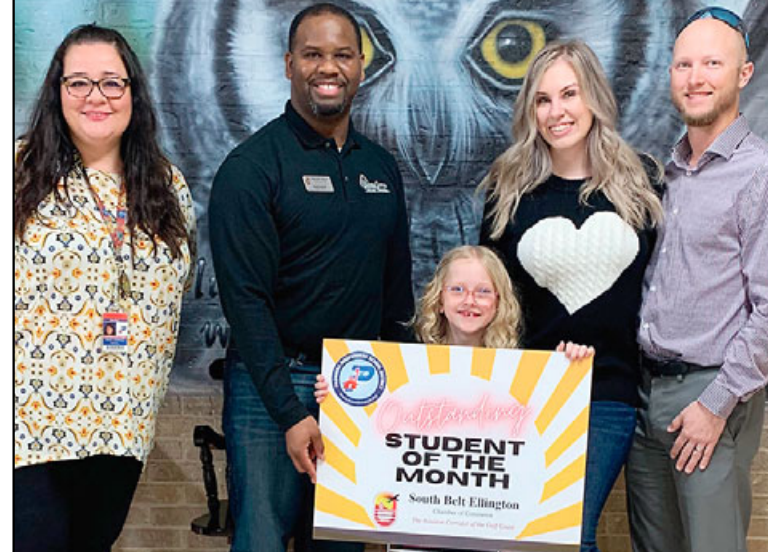
Paige McMullen (holding sign), Atkinson Elementary student, has made tremendous growth this year in all subjects. McMullen shows her thinking, strategies and asks for help when needed. She is always willing to help students who need help with understanding assignments, station work and any other tasks. She takes pride in her work and enjoys participating in group discussions. Shown with McMullen, left to right, are Derek Duckett (principal), Amber Newman (teacher), Regina Barnes (assistant principal) and Daniel Hoppie.



Victoria Villatoro (holding sign), Burnett Elementary student, has been at the school since kindergarten and the staff has seen her grow in so many areas. She is very helpful in her classes and takes her classroom responsibilities seriously. She is amazing at modeling how to self-regulate, a skill she has worked on herself over the years. She is a great friend and works very hard in her learning. Shown with Villatoro, left to right, are Graylin Beals, Melissa Hickman (assistant principal), Kasi Al Ayoubi (teacher), Shannon Roberts (teacher) and Alyta Harrell.



Mario Oswaldo Quilantan (holding sign), Dobie9 student, is a great and curious student. He always strives for the best and he is able to ask for help or ask more in-depth questions on topics. As a recent arrival from Mexico, he is overcoming adversities, but he is always kind to others in his ESL classes and never bats an eye at helping his peers. His determination to learn English is evident by his willingness to push himself to having conversations in English and ask questions to learn more. This perseverance is also shown in him where he is the captain of the freshman boys' soccer team. In both academics and sports, he is self-aware and willing to learn from his mistakes to achieve success in the future. Shown with Oswaldo Quilantan, left to right, are Derek Duckett, Adriana Robinson (assistant principal), Neal Brownlee (assistant principal), George Cervantes (principal), Kristen Alexander (testing coordinator) and Daniel Hoppie.



Harmony Stephens (holding sign), Frazier Elementary student, is a well-rounded student and is well loved by her peers. She has a very positive attitude and is very kind to everyone. She is very patient in assisting an AU/Sped in class. She is an active chess player, part of the NTB team and a consistent honor roll and merit roll awardee. Shown with Stephens, left to right, are Wendy Wiseburn (principal), Graylin Beals, Christine Milner (mother) and Cody Stephens (father).



Rylynn Cope (holding sign), Genoa Elementary student, goes out of her way to help other students. She is always up for a challenge and finds creative ways to solve problems. Most importantly, she doesn't give up when things are difficult. Shown with Cope, left to right, are Lauren Davis (teacher), Tiffany Bennett (principal) and Chris Clark.

Hidalgo responds to bid-rigging accusations

Continued from Page 1
 staffers were in regular contact with Elevate Strategies founder Pereyra and appear to show that Pereyra was privy to advance information regarding the specifics of the county outreach campaign.
 Such advance contact with a potential bidder on a contract is grounds for disqualification for the firm, investigators said.
 Records further indicate that Elevate Strategies' initial bid was \$19 million – approximately \$8 million higher than its later official bid of \$10.9 million. At press time, it was unclear why the company had reduced its bid by so much, so late in the process.
 Hidalgo said much of what has been presented to the public by investigators is taken out of context.
 "I would love to be able to get into specific facts. A lot of what was released this past Friday was out of context. It was private messages, private emails, presenting a single side of what took place and there's a reason why you're not supposed to do that," Hidalgo said. "That is information that is supposed to be confidential until there's an opportunity for both sides to come out."
 Without citing specifics, Hidalgo repeatedly stressed there were two sides to the story.
 "I'd love to say more, but

I can't," Hidalgo said. "What I will say is that what was presented was one-sided. Of course, it sounds alarming because it's meant to sound alarming because it's one-sided. But there are certain pieces where we need to wait for the process."
 Hidalgo said she will not be terminating any of the staffers at this time, while the investigation continues.
 "I will keep looking and digging and trying to get a grasp on everything that took place and everything else that comes out," Hidalgo said. "But right now, I don't believe (letting anyone go) is warranted. I believe that the decisions my team made (were) based on fighting against COVID-19. I believe, from where I'm standing, that that was the intention behind the decisions made in my office. But, you know, we'll continue looking at the facts."
 At press time, no criminal charges had been filed.
 Up for election November, Hidalgo believes the investigation is political.
 "It is the political season," Hidalgo said. "I may be relatively new to politics, but I know politics when I see politics. I may be young, and I understand some of this is coming from that, but I am battle-tested, and I am not deterred."
 The possible bid-rigging scheme is also under investigation by the Harris County

District Attorney's Office, and D.A. Kim Ogg – also a Democrat – denies any political agenda.
 "There's no political ploy," said Ogg, who also spoke at Commissioners Court Tuesday. "When we investigate public corruption, we're doing our job."
CCISD announces May 7 election info
Continued from Page 1
 League City, TX 77573
Parr Elementary
 1315 Hwy 3 South
 League City, TX 77573
Nassau Bay City Hall
 1800 Space Park Dr #200
 Houston TX 77058
District 3
Clear Lake Intermediate
 15545 El Camino Real
 Houston, TX 77062
Learner Support Center
 2903 Falcon Pass
 Houston TX 77062
District 4
Westbrook Intermediate
 302 W. El Dorado Blvd
 Friendswood, TX 77546
Ward Elementary
 1440 Bouldercrest
 Houston, TX 77062
District 5
Creekside Intermediate
 4310 West Main St.
 League City, TX 77573
Bauerschlag Elementary
 2051 League City Parkway
 League City, TX 77573
Candidate forums
 Additionally, the following organizations are hosting a Clear Creek CISD Board of Trustees Candidate Forum:

– **Clear Creek Community Council of PTAs**
 Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.
 Seabrook Intermediate School
 2401 E. Myers Road
 Seabrook, TX 77586
 Visit www.facebook.com/CCCofPTAs for more information.
 – **Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce**
 Thursday, April 7, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
 Nassau Bay City Hall
 1800 Space Park Drive, Suite 200
 Houston, TX 77058
 Visit www.clearlakearea.com for more information.
 – **League City Regional Chamber of Commerce**
 Wednesday, April 13, 5 – 7 p.m.
 College of the Mainland, League City campus
 1411 W. Main St.
 League City, TX 77573
 Visit www.leaguecitychamber.com for more information.
 For the latest information on the 2022 CCISD School Board General Election, visit ccisd.net/elections.

Frazier students perform in district musical



Frazier Elementary students performed as part of a xylophone ensemble in the Pasadena ISD Music Festival, "Many Hearts, One Beat" March 10. The school staff, and especially the music teacher, are so proud of the students for giving their all during their performance. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Bella Ponce, Presley Shelton, Zylah Vargas, (middle row) Adrian Aiken, Daphne Montilla, Mia Martinez, Alexia Alcalá, Kyle Sciba, Arian Guerrero, (back row) Vincent Castoreno, Kobee Rodriguez, Kayleigh Mitchell, Camille Lilly and Cecilia Bogany.

Photo taken by Daniella Webster

Precinct 8 deputies battle area crime

Continued from Page 1
 The vehicle displayed a fictitious temporary permit. The driver was charged with tampering with a government document.
 – On March 10, 2022, Deputy Claunch conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for running the red light at Galveston Road and Conklin Lane. The driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Claunch administered the standardized field sobriety tests. The driver performed poorly and was charged with driving while intoxicated. Upon an inventory search of the vehicle, deputies located an open bottle of whiskey.
 – On March 11, 2022, Deputy Humphrey attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a motorcycle with no license plate at Galveston Road and Genoa Red Bluff Road. The motorcycle failed to stop and a pursuit ensued. The driver accelerated to speeds over 100 mph and disregarded numerous red lights. Ultimately, the driver lost control of the motorcycle and was apprehended. The driver was charged with evading arrest/detention with vehicle.
 – On March 9, 2022, Deputy Humphrey conducted a traffic stop in the 16400 block of Buccaneer Lane.

The vehicle displayed a fictitious temporary permit. The driver was charged with tampering with a government document.
 – On March 11, 2022, Sergeant Gerrish observed a vehicle failing to maintain a single lane of traffic in the 11700 block of Fairmont Parkway. Sergeant Gerrish conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver who displayed multiple signs of intoxication. The driver was charged with driving while intoxicated. Upon further investigation, it was found the subject was released on bond earlier that day on another case.
 – On March 12, 2022, Sergeant Toliver conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of the E. Sam Houston Parkway S. Toliver made contact with the driver who displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Deputy LeMelle arrived on scene to proceed with the investigation. The driver performed poorly on the standardized field sobriety tests and was charged with driving while intoxicated.
 – On March 12, 2022, Deputy Morgan conducted a traffic stop in the 900 block of Edgebrook Drive. Upon contact with the vehicle, Morgan observed an unsecured child in the

backseat. When asked for identification, the driver provided false identifying information. Sergeant Toliver arrived on scene and verified the driver's identity by using a mobile automated fingerprint identification system device. A check of the driver's information revealed an open felony warrant through Harris County Sheriff's Office. The driver was arrested for the warrant. Additional charges for fail to ID to peace officer were accepted.
 – On March 12, 2022, Deputy Morgan conducted a traffic stop in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway. Upon contact with the vehicle, Morgan detected the odor of marijuana. Morgan proceeded to conduct a probable cause based search of the vehicle and located drug paraphernalia and .6 grams of methamphetamine. The passenger was charged with possession of a controlled substance.
 – On March 12, 2022, deputies J. Gomez and Rabago conducted a traffic

stop in the 11800 block of the S. Sam Houston Parkway E. Upon contact with the driver, Gomez observed a white substance scattered in the vehicle. Deputies conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle and located drug paraphernalia, 2.3 grams of methamphetamine, marijuana, and multiple social security cards, passports, identification cards and pieces of mail. The driver was charged with possession of a controlled substance. charges for fraud/possession of identifying information were declined by the DA's office.
 – On March 13, 2022, deputies J. Gomez and Rabago conducted a traffic stop in the 18300 block of the Gulf Freeway. Upon contact with the driver, deputies detected the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. Deputies conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle and located 2.2 grams of marijuana and a handgun. The driver was charged with unlawful carry of a weapon.
Moore scholarships available
 Moore Elementary scholarships are available to graduating seniors at Dobie High School or Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School who attended Moore in fourth grade. Applications can be accessed through the Dobie senior counselor's website and Moore Elementary's website. Applications must be returned via email to Demetria Pitts by Tuesday, April 19, to be considered.

Meador students place in science fair



Meador Elementary congratulated their science fair winners who represented the school in the District Science Fair and STEM Expo on March 22. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Nathalie Mai (3rd-Gold medal), Gabriella Renteria (3rd-silver medal), (back row) Ana Elizalde De Leon (4th-silver medal), Daniela Torres (4th-silver medal) and Aya Bahar (4th-silver medal).

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
 Marvin Jerry Heckert of Pasadena was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Anne Barker Loftis, a South Belt resident.
25 years ago (1997)
 Scott Duncan Williams, 17, died while awaiting a heart transplant. He had battled heart problems all his life.
40 years ago (1982)
 Three juveniles, each of whom attended the Houston Independent School District, were arrested in connection with several assaults to South Belt area youngsters who were walking home from school. A 15-year-old Dobie student had been previously arrested which led to the arrest of the other three.
 A company owned by state Rep. Randy Pennington filed suit against political opponent Bob Graham and others to stop the allegedly pending publication of misleading information about the company and Pennington.
 Paramedics from Houston Fire Department Station 70 delivered a baby girl during one of the 25 calls for service during the week.
35 years ago (1987)
 Dobie High School's production of "Volpone" was ranked first at a district competition. John Ivy and Mike Wisbrock were named to the district all-star cast, and Danella Blanco and Leslie Morris received honorable mention.

former staff members filed a lawsuit against the South-bend developers and various chemical companies.
25 years ago (1997)
 Scott Duncan Williams, 17, died while awaiting a heart transplant. He had battled heart problems all his life.
 Clear Creek's school board named Clear Brook High School principal Sandra Mossman one of three cluster directors. A cluster director is responsible for a high school and all of its feeder schools.
 Dobie senior Carolyn Nedderman signed a scholarship agreement to play soccer for the University of Vermont.
 Thompson's eighth-grade pentathlon team won the district championship.
20 years ago (2002)
 Two of three court cases had conclusions that supported the J. Frank Dobie Academic Decathlon Team.

The cases stemmed from a competition in which one Dobie student's scores were not included in the final totals, costing Dobie the state championship.
 Three South Belt residents broke into portable buildings at Dobie High School and stole numerous televisions, VCRs, computers and other items. Unfortunately for the burglars, they left a trail of stolen property from the buildings to the back yard of one of those involved.
15 years ago (2007)
 Controversy brewed over the new Pasadena Independent School District school hours. PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis said the changes were necessary to save money on bus usage. Teachers Yen Rabe and Charlotte Manning argued that making high schoolers start their day earlier was a bad idea since many students have night jobs, and many take care of younger

siblings in the morning hours.
 The proposal to charge local sports groups park usage fees was rejected thanks to the efforts of local advocates and City Councilmember Addie Wiseman.
 Kirkwood South residents complained about loose pit bulls and the lack of response from Harris County agencies.
 Eighth-grade Beverly Hills Intermediate student Jeremy Morris won the Pasadena Independent School District's annual spelling bee.
10 years ago (2012)
 The Sagemeadow Municipal Utility District board of directors voted to institute a \$10 per month maintenance fee to help pay for expenses related to its aging water and sewer infrastructure. The district, which has one of the lowest tax rates in the state, took a big hit the previous year due to extreme drought conditions in the area, according to board member Glenn

Williams. The new charge, which Williams referred to as a drought recovery fee, appeared on residents' water bills as an additional line item.
5 years ago (2017)
 Strong winds ripped through the South Belt area late Friday, March 24, and early Saturday, March 25, causing extensive damage to several area homes and businesses. The worst of the damage was focused at the intersection of Sagegreen and Sagevale in the Sagegreen subdivision, where the storms snapped several trees in half, destroyed fences, tore bricks off homes, knocked a chimney off a house and caused a garage to collapse on a vehicle. Despite multiple reports online that attributed the damage to a tornado, the National Weather Service said the local destruction was likely caused by straight-line winds. According to the

NWS, winds of 35 mph, with gusts of 45 mph, were recorded. Several area homes were left without power following the storm. No injuries were reported.
 Neal Brownlee and Adriana Robinson were named assistant principals for Dobie High School at the Pasadena Independent School District board meeting Tuesday, March 28. Brownlee had been with the district 19 years, first serving as a special education and physical education teacher at Southmore Intermediate, before becoming assistant principal at Kendrick Middle School. A 2005 Dobie graduate, Robinson had been with the district six years, first serving as a social studies, science and special education teacher at Beverly Hills Intermediate, before working as a peer facilitator at Roberts Middle School. Brownlee replaced longtime Dobie assistant principal Donna

Branch, who was promoted to assistant athletics director earlier in the year, and Robinson replaced Ryan Peel, who was promoted to dean of the Dobie Early College program the previous year.
1 year ago (2021)
 More than 120 concerned residents showed up at Meilillo Middle School Friday, March 26, to attend a public meeting hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul on the future of the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision. Despite the widespread interest in the meeting, however, attendees left with few questions answered since representatives of the school refused to attend. To be built on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, has remained half-constructed for several years, causing complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore. The campus has been the target of multiple criminal investigations.
 In April 2019, Houston Gateway Superintendent Richard Garza, along with an IT tech from the campus, was indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing more than \$250,000 from the school. The school has also been the target of multiple civil suits for lack of payment. The school recently hired a new contractor to reportedly complete construction of the area campus.
 The Texas Department of State Health Services announced that as of Monday, March 29, all adults in Texas are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccinations to everyone who fell under the Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations to protect as many Texans as possible.

Over The Back Fence by Kenna

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLINT!
 Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to former Precinct 2 Officer **Clint Brown** who celebrates a birthday Thursday, April 1, from friends and the *Leader* staff.
ELLIANA TURNS FIVE!
 Happy birthday wishes are sent April 4 to **Elliana Abarca** who turns five years old from parents **Natalie** and **Jose Abarca**; brothers **Kelvin Lopez** and **Noah** and sister **Isabella Abarca**; grandparents **David** and **Ellie Flickinger**; and great-grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger**.
SCHOOL DAZE
 The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 31 through April 6.
Atkinson Elementary
 Special birthday greetings are sent to **Melissa Chapman** April 2.
Frazier Elementary
 Birthday wishes go out to **Felicia Olivares** April 5.
Meador Elementary
 Break out the cake and ice cream April 4 for a celebration for **Jenna Dollens**.
South Belt Elementary
 Special birthday wishes go out to **Candy**

Howard, South Belt principal, March 31.
Kristian Drees celebrates a birthday April 6.
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. Birthday greetings go out to **Salma Cortez Mora** April 6.
Melillo Middle School
Wanda Ortiz enjoys a birthday April 2. Birthday wishes go out to **Maria Barron** April 3. The day for a celebration for **Bertha Cantillo Salas** is April 5. Enjoy a double-layer cake April 6 with **Genesis Torres** and **Charlene Gronewold**.
Thompson Intermediate
 Break out the balloons and party favors for **Kevin Cowart** April 6.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Brandon Bryant celebrates a birthday April 1.
Dobie High
 Warm birthday greetings are sent to **Clarence McNeill** for his birthday April 2. Give a birthday shoutout April 6 for **Tracie Richeson**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
 Thursday, March 31: **Sabita Harnamji, Beth McDonald, Marsha Flournoy, Ami Haviv, Sabine Jones, Eric Schwab, Gilbert Marlowe, Cheryl Padora, Eliza Gillock, Gloria Bustamante and Sandy Cline**; Friday, April 1: **Sharon Lay, Carol Baccaro, Charlie Heaton and Natasha Logan**; Saturday, April 2: **Raven Brooks, Minerva Segovia, Stephen Hooper, Mona Valerio, Suzette Corona, Yvette Cheatwood, Cathy White, Edward Gish and Lisa Bourque**; Sunday, April 3: **Erika Saavedra, Lillian Lee, Aimee Salazar-Arroyo, Maria Keim and Sharon Rhoads**; Monday, April 4: **Debbie Pitre, Monika Sandridge, Jenn Copeland, Wendy Banh Nguyen, Travis Doe and Katie Burns**; Tuesday, April 5: **Chris Gehringer, Davis Borsché, Jennifer Smith, Teri Polluck, Debbie Trelue, Cindy Russell and Don Adam**; and Wednesday, April 6: **Carol Barber, Jason Weston, Lena West and Jerry Devila**.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 Email announcements etc., 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.

Could I be Pregnant?
 I need a pregnancy test
 I need to know what to do
 We are here for you. We care!
 All Services are Free and Confidential.
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 Beltway 8 South
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Best Friends Boutique
Groom & Board

Tues.-Sat. 7am-6pm 11506 Hughes Rd. South Belt @ Hughes

BFBGrooming.com Family owned and operated since 1985

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Stafford Dobie's pick

Demand Stafford is Dobie's new varsity football head coach after he gained the necessary Pasadena ISD board approval March 29.

Stafford, previously an assistant coach on the football staff at Dobie in the 2000s, comes over from Sam Rayburn after leading the Texans' program from 2019 through this month.

Prior to his lead role at Sam Rayburn, Stafford was for six years an assistant coach at Pasadena Memorial.

Dobie made four consecutive playoff appearances from 2018 to 2021 under head coach Kevin Berneathy, who last month took over the La Porte football program.

Now Stafford becomes the 11th head coach in program history and will make his sideline debut at Dobie as the Longhorns face Clear Brook in the 2022 regular season opener.

For more on Stafford and his hire at Dobie, see the April 7 *Leader* edition.

JFD's Nguyen leads netters at 22-6A tourney; Region III postseason event berths at stake

Dobie boys' singles star Brian Nguyen led the Longhorns into the District 22-6A Championships at press time as the locals aim at medals.

At stake are Region III tournament berths, which automatically go to the finalists in each of the boys' and girls' singles, boys' and girls' doubles and mixed doubles draws. The Region III tournament is set for April 12-13 at Deer Park High School.

Capitalizing on a terrific spring season to this point, Nguyen enters 22-6As as the top seed in the boys' singles draw and enjoyed a first-round bye. The finals in each of the draws will play out March 31 at Deer Park.

Also in the boys' singles draw, the Longhorns' Ryan Le is seeded fourth. Hailey Maldonado of Dobie also had a first-round bye in the girls' singles bracket as the No. 2 overall seed entering play. In the boys' doubles

22-6A Tennis Finals March 31

Deer Park High School

draw, Dobie's Andrew Huynh and Dominic Ortiz represent the No. 3 seeds, with the Longhorns' Aaron Charles and Thang Tran the fourth-seeded pairing.

Dobie is also well-represented in the girls' doubles draw, with the duo of Tracy Tran and Violet

Tran at No. 3 and Tiffany Tran and Natalie Vo the fourth-seeded pair.

As for the mixed doubles, Lael Martinez and Megan Rodriguez opened the tournament seeded second overall, with William Ho and Ashley Huynh the fourth-seeded duo.

Locals face Strake Guzman's hat trick barrage lifts Dobie boys over Eagles

Dobie met Strake Jesuit late March 29 in a varsity boys' soccer area round playoff match as the two programs looked to advance in the Region III playoffs.

The Longhorns (17-2-3) opened the postseason March 25 with a 5-2 victory over Atascocita in Deer Park, getting a hat

trick from Ronaldo Guzman to get past the Eagles at Abshier Stadium.

Meanwhile, Strake Jesuit (14-2-6) used a 2-1 victory over Dickinson to advance. In 2018, Dobie met Strake Jesuit in the same area round, with the Crusaders taking the win.

Guzman goes wild
Guzman scored twice

within 27 seconds just after halftime and added a third later in the second half to tie the program's school best of 22 goals in a single season.

While Guzman was the focal point, the Longhorns also got goals from Jordi Garcia and Levani Pelaez as they claimed

Continued on Page 6

Lady Longhorns get rivalry win over Mavs

A six-run seventh inning provided a cushion as Dobie got past Memorial 11-6 in a rivalry clash at the Pasadena ISD Complex as the Lady Longhorns secured sole possession of second place in District 22-6A with the

win March 23. Dobie led 5-4 entering the top of the seventh inning before plating six runs to extend the edge to 11-4.

Lady Longhorns' starting pitcher Marisa Perla closed out the win in the

bottom half even as Memorial scored twice.

Hailey Hernandez delivered a key blow for Dobie with a two-run homer and was 2 for 4 overall with three runs batted in and a run scored.

Bella Perez was 3 for

4 with a double among her hits, scored twice and drove in a pair, while Gabby Galvan had two hits, scored two runs and drove in another.

Dobie, 4-1 in 22-6A play entering a March 29 matchup with South Hous-

ton after press time, also got three hits, a run scored and a run batted in from Aliyah Barajas.

Caidence Martin doubled in a run and scored to add to the offensive effort.

The Lady Longhorns needed just four innings to

defeat Sam Rayburn 15-0 March 25, also at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

A 10-run second inning was big for Dobie, which saw Martin homer and drive in three runs. Karlie Barba also knocked in three runs.

Hernandez's home run lifts Dobie

At right, Dobie senior Hailey Hernandez (6) rocketed a two-run homer to help the Lady Longhorns get past Memorial 11-6 March 23 at the Pasadena ISD Complex as the locals secured sole possession of second place behind Deer Park. Dobie, now 4-1 in league play prior to a matchup with South Houston March 29 after press time, also downed Sam Rayburn 15-0 over four innings March 25 as Caidence Martin and Karlie Barba both knocked in three runs in the easy win. With the win, Dobie improved to 16-8 overall.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Ronaldo Guzman (9) of Dobie scored a second-half hat trick to lead Dobie to a 5-2 bidistrict playoff soccer win over Atascocita March 25 at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park. The three goals allowed Guzman to tie a program single season record with 22 thus far in 2022. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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Region 14 champions still rolling

Defending Region 14 champion San Jacinto College has continued its roll into conference play and is very much looking like the team to beat yet again.

The Coyotes have heated up offensively over the past month, winning six straight prior to its series with Lamar-Port Arthur.

In a 5-1, 9-1 doubleheader sweep of Angelina to get to 6-0 in conference play, Juls Garcia and Maddy Bailey both had two

hits and two runs driven in, and Ronni Grofman homered and scored twice in the opener.

In the second game, San Jacinto enjoyed a five-run fourth inning to close out the win in five innings.

Grofman scored three runs and had two hits, with Taniece Tyson going deep and driving in a pair.

Hitting .339 as a team and averaging just over six runs a game, the Coyotes have also benefited from a pitching duo of Christin Haygood and Grofman that has led the way to a

low team earned run average of 1.86.

Haygood, a freshman from Huffman Hargrave High School, has dazzled with a 12-1 overall record, 11 complete games and an ERA of 1.59.

Kingwood Park High School 2020 graduate Grofman was a key contributor to San Jacinto College's third-place finish at nationals in 2021.

Now a sophomore, she has gone 7-3 with a 1.79 ERA and has also stepped into the middle of the lineup to the tune of a .472

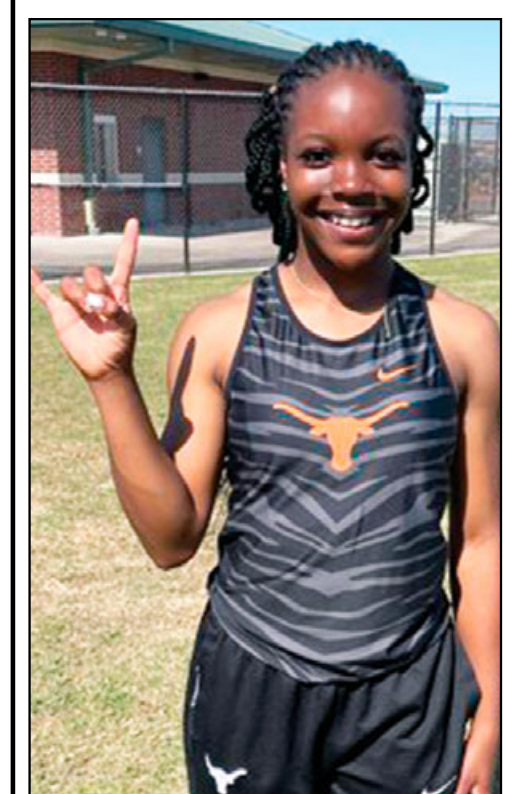
batting average, a team-high nine doubles, five home runs and 20 runs batted in.

Garcia has team-highs of 19 stolen bases and 37 hits and has hit .402 along the way, and Maggie Childs leads San Jacinto College with 30 RBIs. Both players are Santa Fe High School Class of 2020 graduates.

Tyson, a freshman transfer from McNeese State University, has given the Coyotes a big lift offensively with a .427 average, a team-best seven homers and 27 runs batted in.

Kaurie Winters has hit .359 with eight extra-base hits and 24 runs batted in, while Maddy Bailey has returned to the lineup to hit .429 over 14 games his season.

Natalie O leads Dobie



Natalie Onozie won the long jump at the Purnell Relays March 25 at Angleton, going 16 feet, 10 inches for the gold medal. See the meet results on Page 6.

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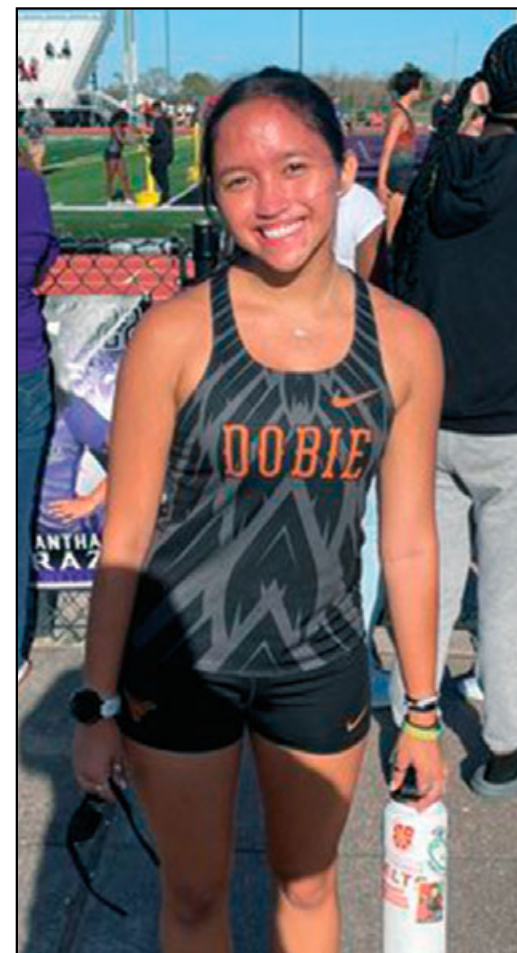


Dobie's Emily Delgado (10) snags a pop-up on the infield against Memorial March 23 at the Pasadena ISD Complex in Pasadena. Dobie won the game 14-6 and stood at 4-1 in District 22-6A action before facing South Houston March 29 after press time. *Photo by Donna Alsdorf*



The Dobie varsity girls' track and field team was fourth overall at the Purnell Relays March 25 in Angleton as the locals continued to prepare for the 22-6A Championships early next month. Above, the

Lady Longhorns' 4x100 relay squad was second at 50.17 seconds in the event for a silver medal as, from left, Stacie Harris, Denim Boone, Mia Sanchez and Donyea Porter combined.



The Lady Longhorns' Victoria Ramirez was the gold medalist in the 1,600 at the Purnell Relays in Angleton. The distance standout finished at 5 minutes, 37.15 seconds for the win.

Longhorn boys to area soccer playoffs

Continued from Page 5

The Dobie/Strake Jesuit regional quarterfinal round, set for March 31 through April 2.

Dobie, the eight-time running champion of District 22-6A, will be ready.

Distance runner Victoria Ramirez and long jumper Natalie Onozie turned in gold medal performances at the Purnell Relays in Angleton March 25 as the Lady Longhorns took fourth place overall in the team standings.

The Dobie boys' squad also competed in Angleton, ultimately grabbing ninth place. Both the varsity boys' and girls' teams will finish the regular season March 31 at the Gator Relays at Dickinson ISD's Sam Vitanza Stadium.

The District 22-6A Championships will serve to open the track and field postseason April 13 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

Ramirez, a key performer on the Lady Longhorns' District 22-6A cross-country team championship squad in the fall, has also excelled on the track this spring.

At the Purnells, a time of 5 minutes, 37.15 seconds in the 1,600 was plenty good enough for Ramirez to secure gold as she aims to finish strong this 2022 season.

Ramirez also snagged fifth place at 2:34.50 in the 800.

Onozie, the 22-6A Most Valuable Player on the volleyball court in the fall, has medaled in the long jump each time out this spring.

At the Purnells, Onozie went 16 feet, 10 inches for the victory as she also looks to cap her senior year in style.

A time of 50.17 was second best for Dobie in the 4x100 relay as Denim Boone combined with Stacie Harris, Mia Sanchez and Donyea Porter in the event.

Individually, Boone

also landed silver medals for second place in the 100 and 200 events. Boone was in at 12.85 at the 100 distance and 26.14 in the 200.

Ninth overall as a team at Angleton, the Dobie boys excelled in a pair of relays to lead the group.

In the 4x200, the Longhorns were third overall

for a bronze medal in a time of 1:31.17 as Terrand Booker and Trajan Davis teamed with Jeremiah Jackson and Brandon Miranda.

Dobie was fourth in the meet finale, the 4x400, in a time of 3:34.14. That foursome included Emmanuel Drain, Jackson, Trevon Johnson and Josh-

ua Rodriguez.

Drain was across the finish line in a time of 40.93 in the 300 hurdles for fourth place, while Charles Richard went 39-11 1/4 for sixth in the triple jump.

Jackson was sixth with an effort of 20-0 in the long jump as he helped Dobie's point total.



Dobie junior midfielder Daniel Blanco (5) advances the ball during the second half of the Longhorns' 5-2 bidistrict playoff victory over Atascocita March

25 at Deer Park ISD's Abshier Stadium. The Longhorns reached the area round to face Strake Jesuit. *Photo by Donna Alsdorf*

Dobie Track/Field at Gator Relays Dickinson High School March 31, noon
22-6A Championships April 13, Auxiliary Stadium

At right, Dobie's Denim Boone had a trio of silver medals to show for her outstanding effort at the Purnell Relays March 25 in Angleton as she was second in both the 100 and 200 sprints and joined the Lady Longhorns' 4x200 second-place relay squad.



Clear Brook's 4x100 relay team of, from left, Julisa Hudson, Ja'Delle Major, Jizzale Davis and Camryn Dickinson highlighted the program's appearance at

the Victor Lopez Relays at Rice University, clocking in at 47.42 seconds for second place at the prestigious event.

TABC tabs Brook's Millender, Dobie's Lendsey All-Region



One of the all-time leading scorers in Clear Brook boys' basketball history, Kemo Millender (5) averaged 23.4 points as he was named to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class 6A All-Region III squad. *Photo by Andy Tolbert*



Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class 6A All-Region III honoree Deven Lendsey (3) had a terrific all-around season as he was named Most Valuable Player of District 22-6A while leading the Longhorns to an unbeaten title run. *Photo by Andy Tolbert*

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
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AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aa-houston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
FRIDAY, APRIL 1
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.
Call 281-484-9243.
AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
7:30 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787.
1 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
SUNDAY, APRIL 3
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - Meets Sunday at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m.
AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, APRIL 4
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
5 p.m.
New Directions Singles - Age 55+ meets at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. Call 281-814-4750.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.
AA - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, APRIL 5
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
National Association of Retired Federal Employees - meets at Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Pkwy. Lunch is \$6. Call 713-944-2461.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 713-253-2521. Visitors may attend two meetings free.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Carmelites - meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake. Meetings are open to those 55+, with no dues. Call 713-444-6744.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
8 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.

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Dobie relishes NAT Month each March

Pre-game warmups precede the National Anthem, and then tip-off, the first pitch, kickoff or first serve comes.

That's most of what the casual high school sports fan sees, yet there is much more to it than meets the eye.

It's called a school's Sports Medicine department, which annually includes many of said school's prominent supporters.

Well before the school year starts, and certainly before the school day begins or ends, Dobie's student athletic trainers are

in action, ensuring injury prevention, support and recovery of injury and taking care of pregame and postgame setup, whether large or small.

"It's a tremendous obligation, a tremendous duty, and it's all something we take very seriously," said longtime Dobie Sports Medicine department head Jesse Lopez.

Yet Lopez and permanent staff members Lori Mahan and Rachel Poe always stop to relish National Athletic Training Month.

According to the National Athletic Training

Association website at www.nata.org, "National Athletic Training Month is held every March in order to spread awareness about the important work of athletic trainers.

"In addition to providing logos, posters, press releases, sample media alerts and PR toolkits, NATA also sponsors contests for its members."

It may be a small gesture of the course of a very busy school year, yet it means so much to those performing the duties, which for 2021-2022 has numbered about 30 at Dobie High School.

During the football season, Dobie utilizes an all-hands-on-deck approach with all staff members involved, while the other sports usually require two-person crews.

"These athletic trainers are our eyes and ears for the various sports," Lopez said.

"They are the ones who are around and in the presence of our athletes every day, so we rely on them for an honest assessment of what is going on out there," Lopez said.

It's easy to manage or treat an injury that maybe we see happen out there

on the field in front of everybody, but there are so many minor or nagging issues that we try to address before they become bigger problems.

"Communication is the key in our department, so we work to ensure an open dialogue."

Ironically, National Athletic Training Month falls during the ever-busy spring sports season.

While basketball has largely concluded, there's tennis, track and field, baseball, softball, soccer and more still going. And where there's action, ath-

letic trainers won't be far behind.

"Our student trainers deserve all of the credit and support they can get. In our eyes, they are part of the victories, the trophies and the championships," Lopez said.

"We take this very seriously, as I'm sure all athletic training departments do. It's not easy. There is so much to stay on top of, and you have to trust that kids are going to handle their responsibilities."

National Athletic Training Month has been as busy as ever, and the Dobie staff enjoys it.



The Dobie Sports Medicine Student Athletic Training staff for the 2021-2022 school year includes, left to right, (first row) Maria Martinez, Frida Mejia, Samantha Salazar, Cierra Hall, Liana Cruz, Gisele Morgan, Isabella Rios, Victoria Gonzalez, Loren Martinez, (second row) Kassandra Paz, Izzy Segovia, Emily Cano, Valeria Quiroz, Bella Cisneros, Isabelle Perez, Jasmine Fonseca, Nya

Sanford, (third row) Jordan Leahman, Jalissa Irvan, Jaqueline Saucedo, Leila Henry, Gianna Barreiro, Chloey Matthews, Alyssa Hernandez, Alayla O'Neal, Ashley Martinez, (fourth row) Daniel Silva, Sophia Perez, Andre Reyes, Santos Magana, Rhema Sanni-Thomas, Arianna Jackson, (fifth row) staff athletic trainers Rachel Poe, Jesse Lopez and Lori Mahan.

Brook's Galicia earns scholarship



Clear Brook bowler Nathan Galicia was a big winner at the Texas High School Bowling Club's state finals as he was awarded the 2022 Dick Atkinson Memorial Scholarship. An accomplished state-level bowler, Galicia is set to continue his education at Newman University beginning this fall.

Wolverines' Myers blanks Bucs

Cody Myers tossed a complete game shutout, striking out 11 during a three-hit, no walks masterpiece as the Clear Brook

varsity baseball team took down Brazoswood 2-0 March 25.

Chris Maldonado drove in a run for the Wolver-

ines and Adrian Longoria had two hits and scored a run, while Myers needed just 81 pitches to blank the Bucs.

Lajaunie tennis event is April 29

Registration is ongoing for the 11th annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament, returning April 29 through May 1 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

Event organizers are also continuing event sponsorship and fundraising efforts as the 2022 tournament nears, with auction items being collected to assist with opening-night activities.

The tournament honors Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and adult tennis enthusiast who died following a bout with cancer in 2011.

The tournament scholarship fund annually provides college scholarship monies for Dobie graduates/varsity tennis players as well as youth camp scholarships for HTTC candidates.

11th annual event, visit the tournament website at DLtennisscholarships.com or go to universaltennis.com/events/82455.

Fees for singles are \$35 and fees for doubles teams are \$45. There is an additional \$10 fee for non-UTR members. Sponsorship opportunities are also available on the DLtennisscholarships.com website, or call 281-480-6933.



Student of the Month for January for Dobie High School was senior Robert Byrd (third from right). He excels both academically and in his extracurricular commitments. Byrd is a dedicated four-year member of the Dobie band program and part of the wind ensemble. He also is a four-year JROTC member. Byrd has a bright future and plans to enlist in the Air Force after he graduates in May. His unwavering devotion to his academics and extracurricular activities exemplifies his strong character. He also incorporates good morals and values to his everyday life

PISD students honored

Working with administrators from local Pasadena Independent School District campuses, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce is recognizing outstanding January and February students of the month. Da'Marcus Hodges from Thompson Intermediate (holding sign) influences others with his positivity and sets goals for himself to be the best he can be. Hodges is an outstanding athlete and works very hard to make sure his grades are always good. He is helpful to teachers and staff on campus as well as to his peers. He is always smiling and is a joy with whom to work. Shown left with Hodges, left to right, are Sherrie Orr, Tanis Griffin (principal) and Graylin Beals.

and is a good role model for his peers. Student of the Month for February was Makenzie McElhane (third from left) who is a great stage manager for the Theater Arts Department. She is a leader and always looks out for classmates. She is a mature young woman who uses her voice for good and shines behind the scenes. Celebrating with the students, left to right, are Jennifer Haynes (counselor), Kelcey Davis (counselor), Jorly Thomas (principal) and Rebecca Lilley (chair of Chamber). See related photos on Page 3.

Pasadena ISD CFO settles SEC lawsuit

Continued from Page 1 tax dollars for the benefit of our community's children," said Patterson.

After leaving Crosby ISD in 2018, Merka was hired as Pasadena ISD's CFO. Under her leadership, Pasadena ISD's finances have improved dramatically, with the school district's fund balance growing significantly.

During Merka's tenure, Pasadena ISD's financial team has been recognized multiple times and won numerous awards.

Just last month, Pasadena ISD was named one of 13 school districts in the state to earn the prestigious Award of Excellence in financial management by the Texas Association of School Business Officials.

In November 2020, the Pasadena ISD Finance Department earned a perfect score of 100 by the School Financial Integrity Rating

System of Texas (FIRST) for the first time since the Texas Education Agency changed the indicators in 2015-2016.

FIRST ratings are based on 14 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures, the accuracy of a district's financial reporting and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses as determined by an external auditor. The district's score for 2021 was a 96.

Pasadena ISD attorney Christopher Tritico of Tritico Rauney defended Merka's recent performance and said he wishes to put the matter to

rest.

"It's a shame that Carla's job at Pasadena ISD is being called into question when she's done such a fantastic job since leaving Crosby ISD," said Tritico. "The issues at Crosby ISD have nothing to do with what she's doing at Pasadena ISD, where she's been a quality CFO, who has increased the fund balance, among other things. She's been able to move on from the tragedy at Crosby ISD and go on to do great things. Hopefully, we can put these things to rest and just move on."

Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell said Merka will remain on leave while the school district conducts its own investigation. Pasadena ISD Executive Director of Finance Derek Gillard will perform

Merka's duties in her absence.

"Every employee in Pasadena ISD deserves and is granted due process, regardless of their position," said Powell.

JFD Class of 1992 reunion

The Class of 1992 will celebrate its 30-year reunion July 30 at Chapman and Kirby, 2118 Lamar St., Suite 100. For more information and to join the class page, one may visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/305984622788781/>.

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Digital climate...

Continued from Page 1 city by 2025.

Target 13: Appoint Department Resilience Officers in every city of Houston Department in 2020.

Target 14: Attract or incubate 50 Energy 2.0 companies in Greater Houston by 2025.

Climate Action Plan completed targets

Target 5: Attract or incubate 50 Energy 2.0 companies in Greater Houston by 2025.

Target 8: Double the current number of PACE projects by 2025.

Target 12: Adopt long range solid waste plan in 2020.

The two-year combined report outlines goals and targets, but also provided a web-interface to dive into the details of each target. This was accomplished through the partnership with the Kinder Institute.

To access the two-year report, visit www.houstontx.gov/mayor/Resilient-Houston-Two-Year-Report.pdf.

To access the web interface, visit resilience.rice.edu.

AARP meeting April 14

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes all to join them at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 14, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway. They meet in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

Everyone is invited to attend and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the 10 a.m. meeting. Each month they have entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest. The program this month will feature the Freeman Library along with a hands-on presentation of the library 3D printer. There will be giveaways for each member present. A free bingo event sponsored by Hegwood Law Group will begin at 10:30 a.m. after the chapter business meeting ends.

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